

WHEN I DREAM TOO SLOW

LAWRENCE MILLER, Terminal Moraine, St. Louis, Missouri, paperback, (256p)  
ISBN: 0-976523-0-0-0

"Oh, who dreams with me / when I dream my dream my dream of life? / Who dreams me high, / when I dream too low? / Who dreams me fast, / when I dream too slow?"

Lawrence Miller's "When I Dream Too Slow," is an ingeniously crafted fable that captures timeless wisdom in a simple, easy to understand manner. It follows a philosophical odyssey of self-discovery, attained by exploring the power of dreams and experiencing them in reality. The story also explores conquering fear, guilt, and hatred; the willingness to forgive; and the quest for love and happiness. The inhabitants of the Slow - the world of space and time, are addressed by one of the dwellers of the Fast - the world of thoughts and dreams.

At the start of this enchanting tale, two children rescue a hungry, scared kitten that is lost in the Friendly Forest near Panga. To express his gratitude to the family that provides him a home and affection, the kitten, named Nickel by the children, decides to "dream good things for them." After all, when he was alone and desolate in the forest he dreamed of a safe haven, and didn't it materialize?

However, Nickel's idyllic existence is short-lived. Somewhere in the Unfriendly Forest lives the beautiful, cold-hearted, and self-loving Narcee, who despises unselfish love and the idea of anyone being happy. One day, along with her vicious evil army she sets out on a mission to destroy Nickel's domestic bliss. Though his whole family falls prey to Narcee's vile intentions, Nickel somehow manages to resist her.

Initially, the little kitten is filled with remorse because he was unable to protect his family, but later he overcomes his guilt and realizes that to restore his loved ones' happiness, he must remain focused. He must "hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a falling cat that cannot fly." Nickel courageously sets out into the Unfriendly Forest to confront the perpetrator of the vicious attack. Along his journey, he learns several valuable lessons, including the importance of making good choices, controlling hatred, and substituting unforgiving emotions with forgiving ones. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The Big Dreamer discovers the healing properties of love and that learning to love is the gateway into the Fast world.

Miller has created a highly imaginative, fascinating story with a powerful message that inspires readers to enhance their lives. The author has skillfully woven a treasure trove of profound insights of mystics and famous people into the tale, and yet the language, story, and message remain simple and down-to-earth. "When I Dream Too Slow" is a touching story that will encourage readers to keep dreaming even in the face of hardship.

*BookWire Review*  
*June 21, 2005*