

Don't Take Bets

"The Path Through the Cemetery"

By Leonard Q. Ross

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"The Path Through the Cemetery" by Leonard Q. Ross, is about a timid man named Ivan. Ivan doesn't have any friends. People call him, "Pigeon" or "Ivan the Terrible." Every night he goes to the nearby saloon. The saloon was very close to the village cemetery. Ivan's house was on the other side of the cemetery. To walk home, he could walk through the cemetery, but instead he decides to walk around it. One night while Ivan was at the saloon a few men challenged him to walk through the cemetery. He would receive five gold rubles. Ivan would also have to stick a saber into the ground in front of a big tombstone. Does Ivan cross the cemetery or back out? Read the short story "The Path Through the Cemetery" to find out!

The author, Leonard Q. Ross leaves the reader on the edge of their seat throughout the whole story. During the middle of the story I was thinking, "Is Ivan going to take the bet, or is he going to turn down the deal?" At the end of the story I was wondering how he died, it took me a while to figure it out. For example, "Ivan started to rise from his knees. But he could not move. Something held him." That had me on the edge of my seat because it kept me wondering why he wasn't moving. The author kept me drawn into the story by having mature language. For example, the author used the word "howled" instead of yelled loudly. If the author didn't have detail in his story I would have probably gotten bored with the story. Good and detailed vocabulary helps me as a reader picture what is happening in the story rather than having boring language.

I give "The Path Through the Cemetery" a five out of five stars because it had me drawn in the story the whole time. I would compare this story to the show, *Timeless* because they are both very suspenseful. One of the main characters in *Timeless* is timid, just like Ivan. Rufus is his name, sometimes Rufus has to be brave, when he is brave he rises/is very brave. Ivan "rises" in the story when you wouldn't expect him to as well. If you like mystery books/stories i'm sure you would like this book, it has you questioning your thoughts about the events in the story constantly. *Timeless*, and "The Path Through the Cemetery" are different as well. *Timeless* is about time travel, and "The Path Through the Cemetery" is about Ivan trying to overcome his fear. I would definitely recommend the short story, "The Path Through the Cemetery."