

It's A Sneaky Fight For Rights In "The Sniper"

"The Sniper"

Liam O'Flaherty

★★★★★

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"The Sniper" by Liam O'Flaherty is about a Republican sniper fighting in the Irish Civil War. He wants the English rule in Ireland to be overthrown. The sniper, who had been watching from the roof for a long while, hasn't eaten since morning. While pleasing himself with a sandwich and whiskey, he debates whether or not he should light his cigarette. Taking the risk, a Free Stater sees the match and fires. While realizing he's been hit, another Free Stater in a car drives up the road and an old woman, an informer, came to greet the man. Using his other arm, he shoots and kills the man and the informer runs away. With that task done, the sniper needs to clean his wound and do something about his original enemy. What will happen to the Republican and the Free Stater? Who will survive? Read "The Sniper" to find out.

Liam O'Flaherty is great at setting the scene. He introduced the setting in poetic, yet understandable manner. It sounded like this:

"The long June twilight faded into night. Dublin lay enveloped in darkness but for the dim light of the moon that shone through fleecy clouds, casting a pale light as of approaching dawn over the streets and the dark waters of the Liffey." - Liam O'Flaherty, "The Sniper", Page One. That beginning tells the reader where the story is and what time it is, with descriptions that makes the reader feel like they're actually there.

Another thing Liam O'Flaherty did well was build suspense. At the end of the story, he wrote this:

"When the sniper reached the laneway on the street level, he felt a sudden curiosity as to the identity of the enemy sniper whom he had killed. He decided that he was a good shot, whoever he was. He wondered did he know him. Perhaps he had been in his own company before the split in the army. He decided to risk going over to have a look at him. He peered around the corner into O'Connell Street. In the upper part of the street there was heavy firing, but around here all was quiet." - Liam O'Flaherty, "The Sniper", Page Five. The quote starts with a small curiosity that quickly turns it into a big suspense, which makes the reader fear for the sniper's health and ask many questions like: "Are there any other snipers around? Will he even know the other sniper?" Setting the scene and building suspense is very important for readers, because they need to see the story and feel the suspense. They need to feel this to be able to feel like they're there, that they are the character in action, so they can ask

questions like: “What would I do if I were there? What would I choose to do?” When trying to set the scene and build suspense, Liam O’Flaherty definitely succeeded.

“The Sniper” by Liam O’Flaherty undoubtedly earns five out of five stars because of **it’s** great story that illustrates the Irish Civil War beautifully. If you like Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry, you’ll like “The Sniper”. Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry is about an African American girl named Cassie living during **the** Civil Rights Movement who wants her rights. Even though “The Sniper” is set in the Irish Civil war, both the Irish Republican and Cassie want their rights and are willing to fight for them. Although both stories are great, I definitely recommend “The Sniper” by Liam O’Flaherty.