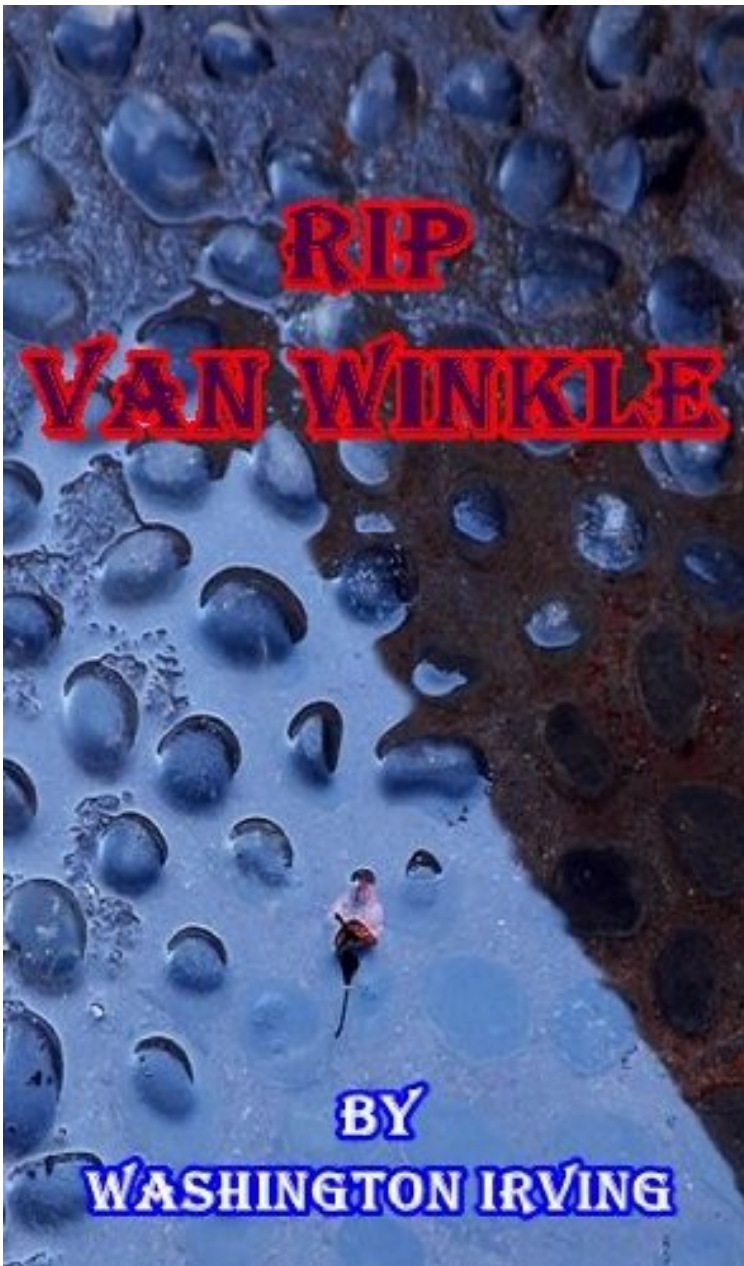


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Prsentation de l'diteurThe telling of this tale is leisurely, as was Irvings habit. He was in no hurry, and he liked to linger by the wayside. He said that he considered a story merely a frame on which to stretch the materials; and he aimed at the play of thought and sentiment and language and the familiar exhibition of scenes in common life. This is why his stories, delightful as they are, lack something of the swiftness, of the directness, and of the compactness which we find in the later masters of the short-story form. And yet Irving

has here attained the fundamental unity of tone; and Rip Van Winkle marks a distinct step in the development of the short-story. Irving had pointed out the path; and those who followed in his footsteps were able to attain a more vigorous simplicity by avoiding the digressions in which he delighted. Presentation de l'auteur The telling of this tale is leisurely, as was Irving's habit. He was in no hurry, and he liked to linger by the wayside. He said that he considered a story merely a frame on which to stretch the materials; and he aimed at the play of thought and sentiment and language and the familiar exhibition of scenes in common life. This is why his stories, delightful as they are, lack something of the swiftness, of the directness, and of the compactness which we find in the later masters of the short-story form. And yet Irving has here attained the fundamental unity of tone; and Rip Van Winkle marks a distinct step in the development of the short-story. Irving had pointed out the path; and those who followed in his footsteps were able to attain a more vigorous simplicity by avoiding the digressions in which he delighted. Biographie de l'auteur Washington Irving Was born in New York City in 1783. He lived in the United States, England, and Spain (where he served as an American diplomatic attaché). A prolific author, Irving wrote *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.*, *Diedrich Knickerbocker's History of New York*, *The Alhambra*, and biographies of George Washington and Christopher Columbus, among other works. He is best remembered, however, for his two most famous stories, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle." N[ewell] C[onvers] Wyeth is one of the most famous and beloved American illustrators of the twentieth century. A student of Howard Pyle's Brandywine School of American Illustration, Wyeth became known around the world for his work. His powerful, romantic illustrations for such classics as *Treasure Island*, *Robin Hood*, and *Robinson Crusoe* have shaped the imaginations of four generations.