

Matt Bixler

Planting Seeds Review

The most difficult thing about reading this story is fighting through the very basic errors. Words are either misspelled or misused, commas are placed in places they shouldn't be, and sentences are broken up into fragments. It's clear that the draft wasn't proofread, and ends up being very distracting.

The story itself was good in concept, but was dragged down by the awkwardness of the narrative. The narrator was villainized to such an extreme to a point where it became unbelievable, detracting from the rest of the story. In the same vein, the reveal of a perfect loving household at the end seemed too saccharine and did more to make me roll my eyes than feel sympathy for the family.

Most of this is a shame because the story itself and its message have real merit, and were simply dragged down by the rushed writing and lack of planning. All in all it's a good story that deserved a better attempt than what it got.

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Every Second Review

I liked the concept behind his story though, I think it started to shine through only as it ended. The introduction felt a little awkward and was tied down a bit by some grammatical and structural issues. It also felt a little bit stale and forced in it's dialog between Thomas and his Seth. The scene itself had merit, but could stand to go through a rewrite in order to inject some naturalness into the conversation.

After Seth's suicide, though, the story became a lot more interesting. I really liked looking into the mind of a golden boy who felt lost after the death of his 'lesser' brother. I liked the relationship between Seth and Thomas' father, and thought that exploring that would have been a better way of hinting at Seth's adoption than the remarks about the family pictures.

All in all the story is there, and it's sound, but I think the real story is Thomas' introspection after the loss of his brother, and think that warrants more exploration than much of the time spent with Thomas' relationship to his parents.