

ARTS & VARIETY

Holiday Events in Minnesota (Continued)

Event	Description	Date/Time	Location	Admission Fee
Rice Park Tree Lighting Ceremony	All ages are welcome. This is the grand opening of Rice Park and the unofficial kickoff to the holiday of twinkling lights. The tree lighting ceremony will be preceded by festive music and followed by fireworks.	Saturday, Nov. 23 4pm – 7pm	Rice Park, St. Paul	Free
Tree Lighting + Movie Night	This annual Christmas Tree lighting comes complete with Christmas movie magic. The tree lighting ceremony at 6:30 will be followed by not one, but two festive films; Elf at 7 pm and The Polar Express at 8:30. While you are at the Depot, make sure to stop by the European Christmas Market. You can pick up the last gifts on your shopping list. Shop for unique and handmade holiday gifts and decorations from local vendors. Sate your hunger with European inspired food and drink.	Friday, Dec. 6 6 pm – 10 pm	Union Depot	Free
Grand Meaner Tree Lighting	Stroll the day away and take in the charm of historic Grand Avenue. With tons of family-friendly activities to enjoy, you are sure to find the right thing for you. Some of the fantastic activities and entertainment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit with Santa • Strolling Carolers • A Soup Tasting Contest • Vulcan Opens in a new tab. Truck Rides • Petting Zoo • Local Art Fair • Salvation Army Bell Ringers • Craft Booth • Vintage Trolley Rides • And so much more! 	Saturday, Dec. 7	St. Paul	Free

Book Review: "Poison for Breakfast"

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

NOSTALGIA IS THE FEELING of your childhood self returning to your side and handing you a book written by your favorite author. You read the words, fall back into the familiar rhythm and syntax of the words. You are home again.

My favorite author from childhood, Lemony Snicket, has returned to bookshelves with his new investigation "Poison for Breakfast." In this less than a 200 page novel, Snicket investigates his own murder and reflects on his life and his love of literature. The book does take place in the same universe as his previous series "A Series of Unfortunate Events," however, its place in the timeline is not clear. So, reading the original children's series is not required, but it is helpful.

"Poison for Breakfast" is a highly introspective story focusing on Snicket's life, philosophies and ideologies on the human conditions known as life, death, and everything else. Plot and conventional

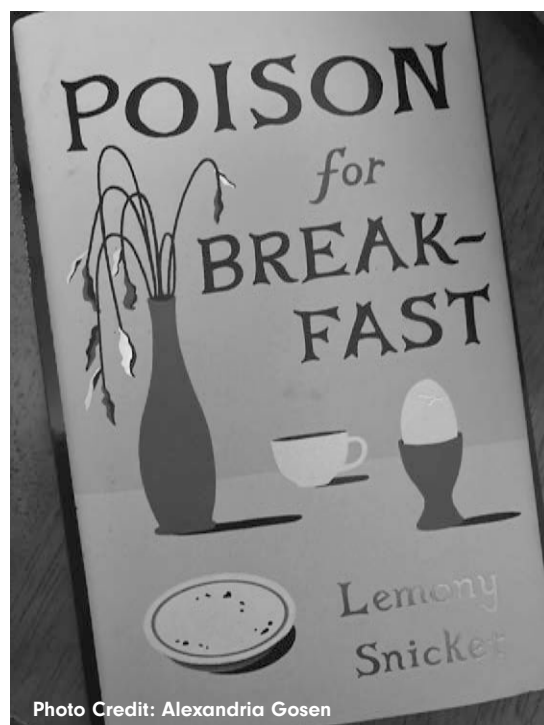


Photo Credit: Alexandria Gosen

storytelling are not the focus of this story. This book takes place predominantly in Snicket's unfocused, scattered mind.

Snicket struggles to focus on his investigation as he reflects on his life. This true story – as true as Snicket himself– begins with a puzzling note under his door: You had poison for breakfast. Following a winding trail of clues to solve the mystery of his own demise, Snicket takes us on a thought-provoking tour of his predilections: the proper way to prepare an egg, a perplexing idea called "tzimtzum," the sublime pleasure of swimming in open water, and much else.

A classic in the making, this simple beautiful story is for those who Snicket describes as foolish enough to love literature, and Snicket says, "unless you are that sort of person, I recommend reading something else entirely."