The Persecuted Tew

"S ILBERMANN", translated from the French of Jacques de Lacretelle (Boni, Liveright), seems to me to be a remarkably powerful study of adolescent friendship and motivation. The story of a French boy's devotion to a Jewish classmate, and the tragic consequences, is dramatic and told with an unusual power of unbiased characterization. I do not remember ever having read so clever a study of schoolboy affection and cruelty of parental misunderstanding, of worldly bitterness. The portrait of Silbermann himself, conscious of his unpleasant traits, a brilliant, egotistical, shy, lovable figure, is a penetrating one. Here is a book that should be read by every member of the Ku Klux.

-J. F.

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