



Cirque Du Soleil: The Spark: Igniting the Creative Fire That Lives Within Us All

John U. Bacon , Lyn Heward

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Creativity and innovation are widely recognized as essential to success in business, and so many aspects of our lives. For over two decades, Cirque du Soleil has been a world-renowned laboratory of creativity, enthraling audiences around the world by fusing dazzling acrobatics, staging and choreography, and music, along with beautiful costumes and technical effects to inspire and create magical, almost otherworldly theatrical experiences. In "The Spark," Cirque's former president of creative content, Lyn Heward, invites readers inside the world and ideas of Cirque du Soleil through the story of an ordinary man searching for meaning in his work and life.

Like so many other people in their careers, sports agent Frank Castle has lost the passion he once had for his job. But a chance encounter with an inspiring Cirque du Soleil director takes him inside Cirque du Soleil to meet the artists, directors, designers, and technicians who create, shape, and perform in their acclaimed shows. As the story unfolds, the artists reveal surprising secrets about the sparks that ignite their creativity -- from the pressure of deadlines and the exhilaration that comes from risking it all, to the chance encounters and everyday occurrences that have changed the way they live and work. As Frank comes to discover, every one of us is creative -- wherever we work or whatever our job title is -- but it's up to us to tap into that powerful force.

As "The Spark" makes clear, there is no single formula for creative success--each of us must unlock the power of our imagination in our own way. An inspiring tale that draws on behind-the-scenes stories from the most creative people in entertainment as well as some out-of-this-world Cirque du Soleil magic, "The Spark" is an unparalleled guide on how to make creativity a part of everything you do. Lyn Heward is the former President and COO of Cirque du Soleil's Creative Content Division and is currently acting as executive producer for a variety of special projects. John U. Bacon, a veteran journalist and public speaker, has won numerous national writing awards and is the author of three books.

Cirque Du Soleil: The Spark: Igniting the Creative Fire That Lives Within Us All Details

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From Reader Review Cirque Du Soleil: The Spark: Igniting the Creative Fire That Lives Within Us All for online ebook

Jon says

This book starts off as though the author is trying to hard. The dramatization of his story telling lessens up the further I read. I just remembered; Its sister Jenny's book. I need to get it back to her.

Flavio Guell Casalvolone says

If you've ever been to a Cirque du Soleil show, you can tell their performers are unusual human beings who infuse an ecstatic passion to the audience, not only because of their stunts but -most importantly- because of the passion they emanate. Is there something that we can learn from them in order to lead more creative lives and enlighten others with joie-de-vivre? Well, there is. And a lot.

In order to live fully, you need to take risks: you have to trust that real feats come from taking leaps of faith. How do you jump off a cliff without worrying? It's simple, you got to get rid of all your preconceptions. Then, you'll set the mood for a real change. That's why you need to embrace adversity as a chance for enhancement because when an obstacle arises, your plans fall apart and that's when real creativity surges. To build something new, the old has to collapse.

Regarding work life, you need to make sure you're in a position that truly ignites the fire within you. If your current work environment doesn't allow you to be yourself, then something's wrong with it. Try and change your mindset about it; however, if all the imagination in the world doesn't transform the ordinary into extraordinary, if you still feel you're not in an ambiance that allows break your own boundaries, then, it's time to move on... Life's not about being in a cage, it's about flying and singing a different song every day.

Jackie says

How do you say "Hokey" in French?

Byron says

Not a bad little book. There were a few moments where I felt a little twinkle of inspiration. Unfortunately, however, they were short-lived, and in the end I couldn't get over the self-congratulatory tone of the whole thing. I'll admit - Cirque is pretty cool. But I've heard Lyn Heward speak, so I can't say I was terribly surprised to find out who the heroine of this story was. In the end, it's a very quick read, and it wasn't too bad. But I can't give it more than 3 stars...I just can't.

Magdelanye says

what an inspiring blueprint for a creative life!
I enjoyed reading about the behind the scenes at Cirque de Soleil.
Would have appreciated pictures!

Cecillia says

A little book that helps us re-ignite that tiny spark inside every one of us :)
For those who feel stagnant in their daily lives and works, or for those who are simply big fans of Cirque du Soleil, i recommend this book. I happened to be both, but i give only 3 stars for this book. Actually i want to rate this 4 stars, but i hate the cover design...hahaha...well, not something i expect from a book that bear the name Cirque du Soleil on it, in my opinion :p

Anna (The Bursting Bookshelf) says

Didn't finish.

Ben says

A fun imaginative look at the behind the scenes of Cirque Du Soleil and how one can learn creativity from things, and inspiration into one's creativity. Not much else there to this, and mostly (most likely) fabricated stories of composite characters. But still entertaining and quick.

Neal Smith says

Two stars may be harsher than I intend. If I judged by the number of times I stopped to re-read a powerful sentence, then the short and impactful book would garner loftier praise. Unfortunately, I felt that much of the inspiration that is communicated in the book gets lost in the premise. ??Although the coupling of the "Big Idea" of the book with the fringe mystery and depth of Cirque Du Soleil is a fantastic pairing for story-telling, I actually found the story unbelievable, droll, and a little condescending. If the book had taken the tact of outlining qualities of embracing inspiration and creativity, the Big Idea, and correlated that to the people at Cirque, then it would have succeeded. If the book had taken the opposite approach to giving insight into the world of Cirque without directly calling out each point the Author made, it would have succeeded. As it is, the faux memoir of a fictional person interacting with real Cirque employees is highly unbelievable and a little annoying. No one speaks so formally and immediately expresses the depth that each of the interviews with the Cirque employees express. Their monologues are pedantic and, although truly insightful, don't play well with the story created to express them.??If you can set aside the wrapping of an unbelievable story with the lessons therein, this is a great book. It has many highlight-worthy passages, and accomplishes its objective of causing you to question the routine and stagnancy in your life or profession. It was impossible for me to read without having serious reflection about where my creative energy has gone lately.

??Worth the read, especially if you're feeling introspective or less creative, inspired, or passionate about your work than you used to. Also it is a very quick read. Just don't pay too much attention to the awkward story the lessons are presented in.

Mark Rast says

Crap.

Diego Parada Herrera says

The world of Cirque Du Soleil is fascinating. The way it is presented in this book is not my favorite thing. This is a self-help-motivating book that uses a fictitious storyline to present Cirque Du Soleil, at times losing the story of Cirque and dedicating a lot of paragraphs to the personal story of the protagonist (which is not real). If you are looking for the history and strategies of Cirque Du Soleil, this book is not for you. On the other hand, the book leaves you with the overall feeling of the people and culture of Cirque explained through many angles and personal stories. This is the best part of the book.

Amy says

Thoughts about how to challenge yourself every day to keep yourself motivated and loving what you do (making your career your calling). Presented in a novel format about a sports agent looking for ways to bring back the joy to his work. He ends up going to the Cirque du Soleil headquarters and working with many of the people responsible for the shows. Each person brings a new perspective, such as how to learn not to be afraid of success, how tighter deadlines can sometimes lead to more creative solutions, the importance of trust in yourself and others, and the importance of feeling totally responsible for your part of the job. Most of these can translate to any kind of work. This was an interesting presentation of some good ideas.

Rebecca says

What I enjoyed: A glimpse behind the scenes of how Cirque du Soleil works and what goes into their creative process. While nothing new was presented in regards to creativity, it was a good reminder of how deadlines and other restrictions can be a good thing, be open and honest, and be childlike when creating.

What I disliked: The conversations came off as preachy and didn't sound at all like how people really talk. Sometimes it felt like a hard push to advertise Cirque, which the book didn't need at all since most anyone picking it up will be a fan.

Also, I'm jealous of John U. Bacon for getting the chance to experience what it's like to train for Cirque du Soleil.

Kamy says

liked it just enough to pass the 2-star mark. reads like a self-help book. interesting to learn about cirque du soleil. mildly inspiring passages. not worth it unless you are slightly desperate for inspiration.

Sabareesh Sundaravel says

Reinventing a dead industry aka Circus for this generation is among the greatest feats happened in the business world.

The author, based on his visit into the belly of the beast, gives us a chance to vicariously explore the versatility of this innovative company.

Teamwork, Passion and Vision! The culmination of all these three virtues is Cirque du Soleil!
