



# The Spirit of Imagination

*S.A. Tawks*

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## **The Spirit of Imagination** S.A. Tawks

What if you could bottle creative juices?

Emily Rainn is seeking employment. A career would be ideal but any job will suffice. She desperately wants a position that can transform her unutilised time into currency. Progressing to the next stage of one of her many job applications, Emily meets bestselling author John Crawford and the bygone writer offers her an opportunity far greater than any ordinary job or career.

Join Emily as she is introduced to the secret world of imagination and meet the men and women with differing ideas concerning the proper use of the spirit of imagination.

Has Emily been introduced to a marvellous, magical world or has she entered into something that is beyond her wildest imaginings?

Suspend disbelief and indulge yourself with a taste of The Spirit of Imagination.

## **The Spirit of Imagination Details**

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Author : S.A. Tawks

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# From Reader Review The Spirit of Imagination for online ebook

## Tamsien West (Babbling Books) says

In a sentence: Great concept in need of a thorough and professional edit.

\*note\* This book was gifted by the author in return for an honest review.

The idea behind this book is really wonderful. Linking imagination with a kind of physical 'elixir' that can be distilled from the pages of great books. There are also some nice devices used, like fighting against your imagination by asking logical questions.

However there were so many typographical errors, punctuation errors and a couple of glaring plot holes that I couldn't give it more than 2 stars for the great concept.

One example of a confusing gap: Early on Emily is shown a room filled with 'thousands of bottles' that have been collected for 'years'. Then a few pages later (8 days in the book world) there is only 3 days supply remaining despite only half a bottle being drunk per day.

There was also a tendency towards overuse of adjectives, and the word 'smile'. I suspect a 'find' search would reveal upwards of a hundred uses of the word. While it is not something which ruins the story it is something any editor should pick up and flag for revision.

Overall I think there is the beginnings of a great story here, but it still needs some work before it reaches the kind of quality I would be willing to recommend.

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## Jack says

When I first heard about this story, I really wanted to read it. So, like most, I looked through the reviews. The majority were quite positive, however, a few of the not so positive put me off a little. I began, foolishly, to judge the story by its reviews. I totally forgot that I had initially really wanted to read it. I assumed that Tawks had had a great idea but her execution had let her down...But (no pun intended) there is a saying about assuming things and I was definitely made into one on completion of this book.

The story is brilliant. Actually, I think it's flawless. It's a celebration of the imagination, and those who don't fully understand what it is trying to say...well, perhaps you need a dose of the spirit to get your imagination working properly again. But I think, as a more realistic solution, if the first read doesn't inspire you, read it again. Only this time read it using your imagination. Don't be a critic and worry about nonsense such as characterisation. Pretend you're a child again and focus on the story that is being told. Great stories are exactly that: great stories!!!

Tawks has done a wonderful job because she hasn't offered to hold your hand and carefully take you through the magical world that she has created. She presents you with just the right amount of information. She's painting the picture but you're giving her the instructions of how exactly she should paint it.

The Spirit of Imagination in a sentence: A wonderful work of imagination about imagination for the

imagination!

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## **Eve says**

**\*This book was gifted by author in exchange for an honest review\***

Your imagination is a powerful, fantastic, magical thing, as proven in this book. I'm impressed with how this was carried out.

This short story starts off with Emily Rainn, a young woman who is looking for work. She applies for a few jobs, and then receives a call by an older man named John Crawford aka JC, asking her to arrive at his home the next morning for an interview.

It turns out he and his butler, Walter use the "juicing method" which is taking the spirit from the most juiciest of books, they then bottle the juice, and take it when they want to expand the imagination more.

A librarian knows what JC has been up to, and comes to confront them after Emily and Walter take books out from her library when they realise the supply of spirit is getting low.

She makes up a story, and leads them someplace, where they come face to face with a group called the Spirit-Crushers, led by a not-so-smart guy named TAS (The Almighty Spirit-Crusher.)

Over all, this was an enjoyable story. I wasn't expecting to breeze through it as I did, but what do you know.

*"Too much thought can find fault in anything, even if there is no fault to be found."*

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## **Amie says**

I was kindly gifted this short novella from the author.

When I first read the premise I was very intrigued. It sounded like nothing I'd read before and I couldn't wait to read it.

After having read it in one sitting I was very much satisfied. The plot kept me interested the whole way, most of the plot twists caught me off-guard, the characters were very likeable and each had their own distinguishable voice and characteristics. It did feel a little rushed in places, but seeing as though this book is only 135 pages, S. A. Tawks managed to get across everything that needed to be for readers to have a full understanding of the situation. All in all it was a very fun, quick read. Although, I do think younger readers around the ages of 10-15 would enjoy it most, but nearly everyone will get enjoyment from it and will appreciate it for what it has to offer.

I'll definitely be continuing on with this story!

On a side note, my favourite quote from the book would have to be "Too much thought can find fault with

anything, even if there is no fault to be found". It was too hard to simply carry on and overlook the amount of truth it holds!

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## **Sam says**

This was a fun fantasy adventure, around novella length and a fast and easy read.

Emily has applied for many, many jobs, and is delighted when she finally hears she has an interview for a post as a courier. But when she goes for the interview, she meets her potential employer, John Crawford—an author—and his trusty gentleman's gentleman, Walter, and discovers that there's something more to this job than meets the eye. For John and Walter extract the stored imagination from the yellowed pages of books, turning it into a spirit which, when consumed, lets the drinker's imagination fly free.... Throw in several Librarians, a whole horde of Spirit-crushers and the enigmatic "Mystery", and this is an entertaining adventure.

This was a quick, light read. I suspect the author has been extracting Spirit herself, to come up with the idea for the story ;) It's certainly unusual! The writing is quite minimalistic, leaving it up to the imagination of the reader to fill in fine detail. I find it quite enjoyable to read something like this once in a while, although I do still prefer lots of characterisation and description—but that's just my preference. There's a nice parallel story which crops up here and there, as Emily is away in her imagination, and I would have quite liked to have read more of that.

I particularly liked Walter, who seems to be able to teleport (or at least wears stealth socks) since he appears and disappears without anyone else noticing him do it. And he manages to save the day on several occasions. Definitely someone you'd want to have on your side!

One thing I wasn't entirely certain of was who this book was aimed at. It probably wouldn't be suitable for younger kids, as I think much of the story would go over their heads, and there are a few 'scary' scenes in it. But for older kids upwards, it should be fine.

Finally, in the interests of full disclosure, I received a free digital copy of this book from the author—thanks S.A.! The author has had no input to or preview of this review.

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## **Rachael says**

I read this as part of The Imagination Initiative. I enjoyed it and think that my tween daughter would too. There were a couple of typos and I did think that it could have been expanded as everything was rushed through but overall I enjoyed it. I would certainly look to read a longer version of this and will look out for the Spirit of Pessimism.

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## Ash ? says

4.5/5

This book had a really interesting and unique storyline that I absolutely loved reading. The idea of 'the spirit of imagination' being trapped inside books really excited me because, as I want to be a writer and am already addicted to reading, I am exposed to endless supplies of imagination. The story was fast paced and never had me bored.

It was a rather quick read and would be absolutely perfect to curl up in bed with a cup of tea with. Would recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in fantasy. Can't wait to read the next book!

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## ??Jülie ? says

The Spirit of Imagination by S.A. Tawks

Read from 19th-19th July 2014

Fantasy for the young and the young at heart, this story reminded me of Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory at the same time as Alice at The Mad Hatters Tea Party...whilst all the time maintaining its own unique theme.

The concept of extracting the spirit of imagination from all the best books ever written, and bottling it in a concentrated liquid form for the purpose of which will become clear upon reading this short story, is a very visionary one.

This is a well invented plot with lots of suspense and action in equal measures, and very endearing lead characters that will captivate you.

(view spoiler)

Many thanks to the author, S.A. Tawks for sending this copy as a part of "The Imagination Initiative", per Goodreads Aussie Readers Group.

4★s

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## Ange says

**\*\*This book was given by the author in exchange for an honest review\*\***

I finished this book last night. I went to sleep thinking about it. I woke up this morning thinking about it. It's popped up in my thoughts several times during the day. I can't stop thinking about this awesome story! What a brilliant tale it is. I wonder whether the author, themselves, has had a taste of the spirit of imagination to come up with such a concept! Genius!!

Nineteen year old, Emily Rainn, is in need of a job. She answers many ads in the paper and finally gets an interview for a courier job.

She arrives at the mansion of the employer, John Crawford, to find that the job isn't as described, but a fabulous opportunity to become an apprentice of sorts.

John is an elderly best selling author at the end of his career and is looking to share the secret to his success with a younger "model" with a catchy name that will sell books. His secret? Extracting and bottling the spirit of imagination (I know! genius, right?!) with help from Walter, his kickass butler. (Think Macgyver in a suit! I never really grasped how old he is, but I think I'm kinda crushin' on him!)

Have I peaked your interest yet? Well your going to have to read to find out more because I hate to give away story lines, but let's just say that there is a truckload of intrigue, some action and suspense and a whole lot of fantastical imagination involved that's left me hanging and hoping for a book #2!!

I really enjoyed how this was written. The story was mainly told by Emily but then when something important was happening to another character, you'd get their feelings or an explanation of what was going on with them from their POV. It was perfect!

There were a few editing issues, but more like autocorrect jumped in and screwed around like it does when your texting on your iPhone!

If S.A Tawks' writes a sequel, I put both hands up to read and review it!!!

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## **Sandra says**

Wow-oh-wow! Pure, brilliant imagination!

My partner and I only ever use Goodreads as a means to browse for new books and books to read. A few nights ago I stumbled across this title while surfing through Goodreads and purchased it on iBooks. I wrote a review on iBooks and wanted to post it on here using our account but my partner got funny about posting the review using that account because we've had it for years and have never rated nor reviewed a book. So, I created my very own personal account to submit my review because I want this great story to get as much praise as possible...Below is my review.

I stumbled across this story on Goodreads and checked it out because the title caught my eye. After reading a handful of positive reviews, I went further and checked to see if it was available on IBooks. I was more than willing to pay \$1.99 after reading the and sample and once I had the full thing I didn't stop until 4 hours later...looks like I'm going to be a little sluggish tomorrow morning at work.

The concept: being able to bottle creative juices...LOVED IT!

The story and writing style: absolutely brilliant and beautiful!

The characters: Emily, John, Walter, Meredith a.k.a The Librarian, TAS and the Spirit crushers, the regional

reps of the sisterhood of librarians and Edmund...I thoroughly enjoyed them all and how they'd been constructed.

Overall: 5/5

Not often do I plow through a story like I did with this. I usually like to savour them. I guess I'll just read it again and donate more of my imagination to its pages...does it still work with ereaders? I'll stop right there because this book taught me that questions can drain the magic from the imagination.

Favourite quote: There were quite a few to pick from but I think I'll go with: 'Libraries have been becoming less and less popular as the years go on. Most would put it down to movies, video games and the Internet being more entertaining. But those things are not the problem. It is that kind of thinking that is the problem; that movies, video games and the internet, devices that simply amuse the imagination, are more interesting than what a library stocks.'

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### **Sally906 says**

Emily Rainn was looking for a job and an elderly writer takes her on after interviewing her. Her job description is not all that clear – but she does get to be part of a big adventure that includes a shortage of liquid imagination spirit and huge quantities of the imagination that is left in books being stolen by the evil Spirit Crusher!! JC is Emily's new employer; his right hand man is Walter who is the butler, come bodyguard, come cook, come spirit maker. Later on we meet a rogue librarian and the head of the librarian council which is a sisterhood - only daughters of librarians can become librarians. Not sure what the two delightful male librarians at my local library will make of this! After Emily finally finds out what her role is, she has to decide if this is what she wants to do. Despite what follows Emily gives it a crack but by the end of the story she is still finding her way and working out who to trust. THE SPIRIT OF IMAGINATION is the first in a series.

Author S.A. Tawks has an amazing imagination; and I really liked the idea of extracting imagination from a book and converting it to liquid form and bottled. Then a whole secret underground cellar filled with the bottled spirit. The whole concept then takes on a faint icky feeling as the liquid becomes a drug to manipulate and even kill to possess. JC is addicted to the liquid spirit and tells Emily that the supplies are running out. Not sure if this would ever happen as there are thousands of books being published every day so imagination will ever run dry. I also couldn't really understand where the author was going with her story as was a bit of a mishmash, maybe this is because it the first in a series and I am not supposed to find out yet what the point is. I did wonder what age group the story was aimed at - seemed to be all over the place, marketed at YA it seemed to be adult one minute, then almost primary school level the next. I guess this is what being a teen is about. There were some real continuity issues for me - like how quickly the liquid spirit ran out - and where did the librarian disappear to once they got to the forest. But these are teething problems I am sure.

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### **Jay says**



I was the first reader of this copy, provided by the author for the Tasmanian leg of The Imagination Initiative.

WOW! I loved this fast paced, highly imaginative story. I'm pretty sure that nothing in this story is as it appears. John's house, and his & Walter's ability to move around it so quickly, leads me to imagine that something extraordinary is going on there. What is Edmund really up to? Are the librarians involved? Is Walter possibly involved too? The questions could keep coming & coming...

And the amazing "realities" that are seen under the influence of spirit make me wonder if the author really has been extracting spirit from her local libraries :)

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## **Skye Burling-Briggs says**

Book gifted by author, in exchange for an honest review.

After reading the blurb for this book, I originally thought it would be a somewhat religious read, I couldn't have been further off had I tried!!!

Emily Rainn is a young lady looking for a job.

John Crawford or JC for short is a Lovely older gentleman, looking for someone special to continue on his work.

Walter is the butler/spirit maker/bodyguard ( you can see where I'm going with this!)

The tale of these three is a beautiful journey of imagination and spirit.

I almost felt like I was reading a new and improved version of ' Alice in wonderland'

"ISN'T IT TRUE THAT A WELL-READ BOOK SEEMS MORE ALIVE TO YOU, MS RAINN?"

Giving Bottled spirit a brand new meaning, this book sucks you into the world of the unknown, the world of the imagination, the world of fantasy.

I enjoyed the relationship between the characters, they were very natural, It flowed effortlessly.

After learning the real reason behind the job, Emily must decide if this is something she wishes to be a part of. After the first session I was excited to find out what was happening.

When Meredith the local librarian and member of the 'Sisterhood' comes to confront JC on his use of local public books, things take an unexpected turn. Coming face to face with some not so friendly spirit crushers leaves the trio in a bad way, somewhat, deep inside the fear of themselves. But all is not as it seems <--- this seems to be the theme of the book!

Enter Edmund Ellis. I didn't agree with the way he went about things, however I understand it. I would want to help anyway I could.

Emilys imagination was brilliant. I was right there along side her, with every twist and turn, every new revelation. That dream like state ( or more of a nightmarish one )made for some amazingly detailed story lines. I found myself waiting for this side of the novel more so then, the 'real life' side.

I am hoping for more in this series!!

I thoroughly enjoyed ' The spirit of imagination ' it's a solid 4 stars!

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## **Brenda says**

Desperately searching for a job, Emily Rainn had sent many applications to different places, so when she received a phone call asking had she applied for a courier position, she agreed she had, but searched her mind for this particular detail. Agreeing to an interview, she went along to the magnificent house of the elderly John Crawford, or JC as he liked to be known. And so began a life-changing event for Emily, as she was drawn into the intrigue and mystery of JC and his butler cum spirit maker, Walter, and the saving and making of the spirit of the imagination, drawn from juicy books everywhere!

Join Emily, Walter and JC (who was also a well-known and popular author) as they worked to save the spirit of the imagination and tangled with the spirit-crushers, as well as being drawn into the most amazing imagination and fantasy that could possibly be written about. The dangers they faced as the bottled spirit became scarce, the librarians and their "Sisterhood", plus realizing everything was definitely not as it seemed!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, the characters are extremely likeable, the imagination of the author is amazing and the plot delightful. A great book for the young, and the young at heart!

With thanks to debut Aussie author, S.A. Tawks, for my copy to read and review.

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## **Kirstie Ellen says**

First of all, that you Tawks for sending me a copy of this book, it's a treasure.

### **The Spirit of Imagination**

The Spirit of Imagination by S.A. Tawks is a really fun little book. And when I say little, I mean it - at only approximately 100 ish pages (varying on the version and/or format you read) it's a story that is quickly dusted and packed to the brim with Ms Emily Rainn and Mr Crawford (and of course their butler Walter). The story is all about the imagination captured (in the literal sense) within the pages of old books (hence they turn yellow), and good and evil characters who harvest this "creative juice", or "spirit", for their own intentions. The only problem is that in the wrong hands it can be, well, not good.

The book is essentially pushing the idea that a catastrophe is bound to follow where people stop reading, as reading stimulates the creation of this spirit. When Mr. Crawford discusses his problem of being unable to produce great works any more, as he is an author, he concludes,

"I thought back over the time and the thing that I began to dwell on was that I'd stopped reading as much."

'Tis beautiful no? Truly, this is a fabulous book for *anyone* who loves books. I would go as far as to say *this book is the embodiment of everything we love about books and the fictional worlds they bless us with.*

## The Good, The Bad, and the Hilarious

There's a range of emotions to be felt and questions to be demanded from this book. Let's start with the questions (read: problems). Two words, gas masks. The strong fumes from the *spirit of imagination* can cause an imagined stupor for any individual that gets a whiff of it. As taste of this spirit drives one's imagination into a hyper-like existence (hence Mr. Crawford being a fantastic author). So, this means certain situations arise that call for the characters to be wearing gas masks to remain within reality. And then the masks are suddenly not there when they are, say, punched. \*Thoughtful hmph\*. It's a minor annoyance but I thought a major hiccup in the sense of, how are these characters not tripping out?

The good encompasses just about everything else. The characters are lovable, likable, fun, witty, and Emily is 100% easy to relate to. Beginning with a desperate hunt for a job to get some money, I was hooked into her character (who hasn't applied for those ridiculous jobs when you were desperate!) and nodding along with her deductions in agreement. Walter, the butler, is brilliant. He is everything you expect a butler to be - he practically belongs to a cast of the murder-mystery game *Cluedo*. I loved him. Full stop.

There are many a brilliant quote to be taken from within these pages. I often laughed out loud, there's no doubting this book was sired by a booklover.

"Your imagination latched onto your fear and that is why you experienced something terrible."

"What did you see, Mr Crawford?"

"A library whose shelves were only stocked with biographies and self-help books."

\*Gasp\* See what I mean? Re-late-able! It is this point in particular that has me keen to find out what happens next in the story; an original idea and a book that is aimed at the perfect target audience: those who love to read. I don't know about you, but I often slag off technology and phones, and it certainly doesn't go amiss here (just in case you were doubting my argument, point proven, phones need *to go away*),

"If one constantly has [their phone] on them, one is always organising and never truly experiencing."

Amen sister, Amen.

## Recommendations

My recommendations of this book go far. If you love books, read it (trust me, you'll *love it*). If you like original ideas (duh?!), read it. And if you like books that you can pull many, many quotes out of . . .

\*indicates towards this book\*. I found the writing style of The Spirit of Imagination to be very similar to that of Martha Wells in her series *Emilie*, another enjoyable collection of new stories, so if you've read Well's work, I suggest you give this one a try too.

## Summary

Feeling slightly guilty that I read this in a ebook format, I will conclude with a suggestion to find a hard copy of it. Any book that casually uses fantastic words like "balderdash" (one of my *favourite* words) can only mean good things and the interpretation of dreams and the state they leave you in are to die for. Perhaps aside from some doubtful instant-trust between Emily and Mr. Crawford this book is completely believable for anyone who loves to entertain their imagination. A delightful little book that is well written, has well-developed characters and a joyously original plot - what's not to love?

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