



# Spidersilk

*Akutra-Ramses Atenosis Cea*

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Mark Khiop is a highly successful, creative contractor who develops video game worlds down to the last detail. Sometimes his imagination even pours into his night life, where he experiences extremely realistic lucid dreams that feature repeat characters. Word of Mark's skill travels fast, and he is soon offered a new contract with Applied Dynamics. Meanwhile, thieves are running amok amidst Mark's friends. Crimes begin simply enough: some items go missing, while other homes are ransacked. However, the thieves soon escalate as people become their targets. Who would want to steal from Mark's friends? Who would want to kidnap them? Mark is left to ponder as he settles into his new contract. However, something is wrong with Applied Dynamics, in particular, Mark's boss, Dek Plator. Mark begins to suspect that somehow Dek is involved with the missing people. Genius that he is, Mark knows he can unravel Dek's game. Solid objects will not keep anyone safe in this conflict, and if he's not careful, Mark could end up among the brilliant missing.

## **Spidersilk Details**

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Author : Akutra-Ramses Atenosis Cea

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Genre :

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## From Reader Review Spidersilk for online ebook

### Tracey says

I got this book through the Author it is probably not a book I would get myself I'd give it 2 1/2 star more then a 3 star. It was ok not a book that rocks your socks off or anything, it had a lot of words in it that I didn't like or hear very often some words were used over and over which was very irritating. If you read the back of the book it more or less tells you what the whole book is about and inside the book there is not much else that happens from what's written on the back. It is a small book which normally with this size book you could read it in a few hours but this book takes longer as it is hard to really grasp what's going on I had to reread the first 20 pages as I got a bit confused on what I read. Overall it was ok but not really for me if you like books about dreams and video games you'd probably enjoy it.

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### Chad says

Thank you to the author and Firstreads for my free copy of Spidersilk.

Unfortunately, this little novella just didn't do it for me. The synopsis lured me in and the concept of the story seemed promising but there was a distinct lack of narrative. I just couldn't get the feel of any kind of flow to the story.

I usually don't pick books apart on technicalities but I will suggest a thesaurus in this case. The amount of "smirking" and "relocating" was beginning to get tiresome by around the middle of the story and was downright annoying by the end.

Again, my apologies for not giving this story a positive review but I can't in all honesty lead an indie writer on by saying it was great when it truly was not. Many thanks for the opportunity to read your work and I wish you well in your future endeavours.

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### Venus Smurf says

The good:

The plot itself was imaginative and clever. If the book had been longer--I think it was less than sixty pages--it could have been really good. The main character was also interesting and crazy enough to be all sorts of fun...again, if the book had been long enough to really give him room to act.

The bad:

The author tried to cram far too much into such a short piece, and he didn't use what space he had wisely. For one thing, while the physical characteristics of each of the characters was really intricately described, the author spent so much time focusing on their clothing and features that he must have forgotten to give us anything about their personalities. I couldn't really get anything on them through their dialogue or actions, either, because none of them really had any of that.

The plot also fell short for lack of detail. Descriptions of events were too brief or non-existent, so I never felt like I had a handle on the story.

Overall:

Too short, and too much detail in the wrong places. The author could make something great out of this if he'd just expand the novel and work on areas beyond the characters' clothing and hair.

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### **Jean Brandenburg says**

I liked this book, but it has some deficiencies, in my opinion. #1 is the language, it's not dirty at all, but I think maybe english is not the author's first language. He used smirk and jabbed a lot and mostly incorrectly, if I was getting the vibe right.

#2 is the story didn't adequately come together at the end, for me.

#3 it was not in the proper format (not sure that's the right word) for instance, when a new person would speak a new paragraph didn't start. The paragraphs that were there didn't seem to begin in logical places. It was an interesting premise that just wasn't followed through.

The main character wrote alternate reality programs and was being stalked and friends were being robbed by "non-entities" (my word, not theirs) Often it was hard to tell if he was in an alternate or real place, but that was ok, because of the story. I wish the author would rewrite it and make it longer and really finish the story, and have an editor clean up the whole thing. It could be very interesting.

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### **Iqbalshuvo says**

Spidersilk is a very distinctive from any other ordinary stories. Its laid out with very easy to understand. It involves mysterious events that draws the readers attention. Its mainly about a guy named Mark Khiop who is very creative and a successful contractor, who develops video games. He gets offered a new contract at a time when some burglary is going around Mark's friends house. As the plot gets intense, along with the missing items, there are occurrences of kidnapping of people as well. Mark then establishes, there is a connection between these missing people with his new contract. As he tries to solve this mystery, he takes the risk of being among the missing people. The story is very detailed and informative. Should definitely go for it if you are a mystery solver lover as I am!

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### **Chele says**

I received this book as a review copy from the author and Goodreads. Thank you.

The novella would benefit from being pared back to short story format, with minimized dialogue and descriptors. The plot, therefore, would need to be tighter, and the book more of a 'non-smirking zone'.

I wanted to love this book - new author aspiring to master cyberpunk. Unfortunately it was not to be. The outline seemed promising - video games designer finds reality and games interwoven with conspiracies.

After reading the outline things deteriorated. There can be no "willing suspension of belief" with this work. The inadequacy of text revision, and the author's evident lack of a thesaurus, made reading this something of a trial.

The book is, however, highly evocative. It evoked hysterical humour, disbelief, and horror. Regrettably, it

seems unlikely that any of these reactions were intended by the author.

One of the drawbacks with self-published books is the lack of objective editing - and the book needs some aggressive editing. There are basic typographical and grammatical errors, along with disjointed narrative phrasing and nonsensical dialogue. The characters seem incapable of communicating via dialogue. Dialogue gives the opportunity for the author to speak directly to the reader and it is constantly wasted in disjointed babble.

At one point I developed the theory that the text had been computer generated using a stack of lifestyle magazines and catalogues for a vocabulary source, combined with the warmth and sincerity of a real estate agent, then run through a couple of less-than-efficient language translators.

Disappointing - reach for the Raid.

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### **Mya Murphy says**

All I can think of in this book is it felt, to me, disjointed.

This guy had dreams where he would pick up magical things, but never did anything with them.

The book is very short due to the fact that there's hardly any descriptions.

The "voice" or whatever was never mentioned about who it was, or anything.

It was a very confusing book with NO plot, NO answers, no conclusion on anything...

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### **Rebecca Supinger says**

Spidersilk is packed full of suspense and surprises that will keep you turning the pages for more. Laid out in an easy to read format. Great book that I would recommend to any mystery sleuth!

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### **Adam Dicker says**

This book was a great buy! Full of suspense along with some mysterious events. The events are depicted in very well manner, makes you want to know what happens next. I enjoyed reading the book. Must say, the subdivision of the contents was an excellent idea. Made reading much easier knowing the main focus of that individual sections. It sections out every part of the book like, the party, moving in, friends etc, which to me was very helpful. The author has superior choice of words for detailing each situation. Great choice while traveling, won't put you to sleep. It's very catchy, not hectic at all as some books can really give you a hard time. Simply just loved the book! Would definitely recommend to buy.

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### **Bella Grace says**

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\*looks at Palice's review\*

No nope.

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## Lucy says

~A free pdf of the novel was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review~

Mark is a man who works. During his time working, someone attempts to threaten him.  
...yeah, that's all of the plot I can get from reading this.

So, I had no idea what was going on for most of this novel. We're introduced to Mark, who works in Applied Dynamics (whatever that is), who gets threatened by a weird voice. He talks to some friends who all try to get robbed too, and then someone dies. Also, someone gets kidnapped or something?!

Mark, and indeed all of the characters in this novel, made *absolutely no impression on me*. I didn't know or care what place they had in the novel, nor did I care what happened to them and why. Also, they had a tendency to use incredibly outdated slang which nobody even uses ironically anymore. Weren't they mid-30's or something? They sounded like a bunch of teenagers who'd just had a *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* marathon and thought it was God's Gift to Television and that every phrase in it was *Totally Up To Date And Awesome To Use*.

And even when they're not using cringingly bad slang, their interactions are very basic. It's very much a Person one: "Hello, [character], here's exactly what's happening and what I'm doing about it"  
Person two: "Okay, [character], here's my reaction and whether or not I agree" affair.

The writing was, simply put, pretty awful. The language ranged from very simple and juvenile to over complicated. I got the impression that the first draft was written in basic English, and then was edited with heavy reliance on the Thesaurus function on Microsoft Word. Things like someone's expression was described as "serious" twice in the same paragraph. The sentence structures too were quite basic. They either all started with "the" or "[character]" or "[adverb], this happened", often using an adverb for one sentence and then using the adverb in the middle of the next sentence to describe the exact same situation.

There's also a lot of tell-not-show going on. If something happens, it's okay, we'll be told exactly what it is and what it means.

Yet for something that tells a lot, it doesn't tell you anything. The police called a few times, and Mark got threatened a few times, but problems seem to sort themselves out whilst Mark is busy fantasising about a woman (I think?!).

And as for what I can make out of the plot, it's meant to be a mystery? I'm not sure, but it definitely wasn't mysterious. I think we're told what all of the ~mysterious~ phone calls are in aid of, but I'm not sure. They're pretty tame anyway, mostly "we're gonna fuck shit up lol" and then some money is taken. Even the whole missing-girlfriend sorts itself out in about five pages when the girl returns and explains everything. I think there was a falcon...?

And finally, new line for a new character speaking! A solid block paragraph could have two or three people having a conversation, I'm not kidding.

I think this book would be best for someone who is learning English as a second (or third, or fourth, or fifth...) language, and they want to test their skills on a novel for the first time. I found more plot, intrigue and writing quality in *Stained* (review). This book has something there, with the ideas of all of the friends being targeted, but it needs a complete overhaul of plot and characters, and it needs one *hell* of an editor. 1/5

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### **Julianne Niespodziany says**

First, AWESOME graphic for the cover! Second, an easy read! My mind didn't wander and I was able to read it straight through!

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### **Chelseynam says**

If you're looking for a book to escape into then *Spidersilk* is definitely for you. The book is certainly a page turner, not simply because of the unique writing style, but also because the mystery of the story takes you by the hand and strings you along page after page. Before you know it the book is over and you're still going over the fine details.

This book is perfect for anyone who loves to read about dreams as well as other dimensions, may they be fictional, spiritually or parallel to the one we live in now. The book utilizes the dreams of the main character to give the reader an unattached feeling to any world. At times it even seems as if the dreams of this character are truly real opposed to the reality that seems to be spiraling out of control.

One of the best aspects of this story is the character development. Everyone mentioned in the book tends to take on a life of their own, and before the end of the story each had registered at least once on my potential suspect list. Apart from the characters seeming like people that might be in my own inner circle, the topic of conversations, dialogue and interactions with one another had an entirely natural feel that made this book feel real, opposed to the scripted dialogue of many stories.

This book is perfect for a rainy afternoon read and will definitely have you hooked by the first page. Good luck figuring out the mystery before the last chapter though, as there is so many great things going on in this book that your head will be spinning days after you finish it.

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### **Ian says**

I received this book from the GoodReads Giveaway scheme.

I did not win it but the author contacted me to offer an e reader version and when I declined as I do not read electronic books he generously offered to send me a paperback in return for a review.

I recognise this generosity and expense and as I was brought up with the ethos of not speaking unless I have something good to say, it was tempting to simply rate the book one star and move on.

However I had a draft review in progress when the author contacted me to ask for constructive criticism to accompany my rating.

At the risk of seeming unnecessarily apologetic I am willing to recognise that I am not a writer merely a reader and therefore can only approach the review of *Spidersilk* from the possibility that I missed some points or failed to perceive some qualities therein.

Although Spidersilk is a short read, it felt much longer than its 87 pages and was difficult due to the quirkiness of the writing which I found mostly incoherent and with a number of literary tics such as repeated words in sentences, the overuse of simplistic descriptive words such as smooth or smoothly, and most irritatingly the incessant use of the phrase 'a bit'.

The author often attempts to describe a situation or a character's physical appearance in flowery terms and then spoils things (more than a bit) by finishing with the phrase 'a bit'; he drove for a bit, the ground shook a bit, he brushed his teeth a bit (not actual phrases used, just to illustrate the sentiment). The author fails to employ the richness of vocabulary available to him and the impression is that the book did not receive a qualified proof reading prior to committing for publication.

I am quite used to dialogue being written as true to life and reflecting a specific culture, colloquialism, or youthful use of language however in Spidersilk this extends seamlessly to the narrative and does not appear to be a consciously stylistic statement, the overriding impression is that the book is written by an author for who English is a secondary language which is of itself no literary crime but in Spidersilk what could be made a virtue becomes an abomination.

To be fair none of these foibles detracts from the plot, and are in keeping as if you have read the blurb then you already have the plot, there's nothing to add, the rest is just so much padding.

When it becomes apparent that the house of Spidersilk contains more filler than building blocks you realise it will wobble and collapse at the first challenge, which is saying something for a work which is barely more than a novella.

Those mysteries as the plot aspires to contain, such as the revelation of the friend's disappearance and apparently ransacked home, turn out to be massively deflating and of the snigger behind the hand variety. I have read some quality dream reality, time shifting, work recently, some which I like some which I don't, and this extension of dream reality to include virtual reality does not achieve even pale imitation status. If the author truly aspires to write quality work in that genre there is a lot of talented writing out there to live up to.

Equally there appears to be a nod to American Physcoesque character description whereas in Easton Ellis' classic there is serious purpose and attention to detail, in Spidersilk the descriptive narrative is trite and banal.

I received this book with genuine interest and gratitude, as I enjoy new work and variety in my reading. The hope was for something smart and fast paced, it being just 87 pages in length, yet it turned out to be 87 pages too long.

I don't get any pleasure out of writing a negative review and was brought up not to be hurtful, however, as with so much art these days, whether written, drawn, painted, photographed, we can now easily put our work out there for consumption with few if any critical barriers before publication, and in so doing we have to be prepared for what comes our way, whether we choose to agree or not, and yet sometimes junk art has its place and finds a market, therefore I fully expect there may be those who can enjoy Spidersilk, it remains to be seen.

As an amateur reviewer I am conscious that I get things wrong, and very willing to be challenged and educated as to my shortcomings, however in the case of Spidersilk the flaws in the writing are so serious that any plot misunderstandings I may have seem of little or no consequence, which really is a shame.

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**Krazykiwi says**

This is a slim volume, and the main problem with it is it's still too long.

There is the core of a really good story here, buried in some really dense over-description. Cut ruthlessly and honed, it'd be a pretty good short story.

But it's a little hard to get to that core story, when there's so much description to wade through. There is literally no context I can think of where it's important to spend a paragraph describing the hair cut of a minor character who is just passing through a scene, nor do we need to know the fabric of the shirt our hero is wearing while driving to work. The effect is like burying a designer dress under a bunch of sweats and a winter parka; I can't quite tell what's underneath, but I can tell it'd look a lot better without all the trivia and extra layers. It needs editing and pruning and a serious attack of kill-your-darlings.

Also, this may seem damning with faint praise, but the cover is really quite nice, and I do appreciate that.

Anyway, while I would really love to rate this higher, I do tend to rate to what the stars tooltips say, and so "it was ok" is still a good high step above a 1 star.

Disclosure: I won this book in a GR Giveaway, in return for an honest review.

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