



## **The Caretaker of Imagination (The Caretaker Series, #1)**

*Z.R. Southcombe , Jane Thorne (Illustrator)*

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Bored with his real life, John Carroll runs away with his faithful cat in tow seeking adventures vast and amazing. But when he meets a real-life pirate he realizes that there is more to life than he'd ever believed possible – magic is real, and in need of a hero.

John must convince the (once fearsome) Captain Simon Peabody to help him find the only person who can save magic from being lost forever: the Caretaker of Imagination.

This wondrous tale harks back to the style of classic children's literature. Perfect as a read-aloud, it is sure to delight readers of all ages.

## **The Caretaker of Imagination (The Caretaker Series, #1) Details**

Date : Published March 21st 2015 by ZR Southcombe (first published March 20th 2015)

ISBN : 9780473293

Author : Z.R. Southcombe , Jane Thorne (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback

Genre : Fantasy, Adventure, Pirates, Magic, Childrens



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## **From Reader Review The Caretaker of Imagination (The Caretaker Series, #1) for online ebook**

### **Vinay Leo says**

Review @ A Bookworm's Musing: <http://wp.me/p2J8yh-2PR>

Children's fiction is a genre that needs quite a lot of fun to go with, if it is there, a moral. The Caretaker of Imagination provides that for sure. I admire the author for going a different route and having a 42-year old man as the primary character, and not a child in the children's fiction. And the other characters were quite interesting too. Jane Thorne's illustrations also deserve a big mention, because they helped the story to come alive! Here's wishing this book success & hoping to read more of Zee in the future.

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### **Patricia Kajihara says**

Out of the many children book I've read since I was little, this must be one of my favorites.

The search for treasure, Pirates, Storytelling, and the idea of the story? Using your imagination. For some time I've been wanting to read this book, not only because of the story, but the rather catchy title. I mean wow, reading a story called "The caretaker of imagination" must be really interesting and I'm sure it gets you right at the start.

I would rate this book a: 4.0 over 5 stars

Synopsis:

"Bored with his real life, John Carroll runs away with his faithful cat in tow seeking adventures vast and amazing. But when he meets a real-life pirate he realizes that there is more to life than he'd ever believed possible – magic is real, and in need of a hero. John must convince the (once fearsome) Captain Simon Peabody to help him find the only person who can save magic from being lost forever: the Caretaker of Imagination."

It must be a really great book especially for children, it involved food fights, talking animals, and pirates too. A reason why I gave it a 4 over 5 because it gets you from the start of the book, and too is very child friendly that makes them venture in and out the book.

It gave me too a sense of *deja vu* when my mom would read me story books before I go to bed, since stories like these are a hit wonder. Because I read it at my age, I was able to finish it in one sitting, commentary like word usage, some words children might not understand, but aside that it was a great read – the illustrations captured each idea too. This book brought me to my childhood, an open door to my past and it made me remember, when was the last time I became a kid again and started imagining the most craziest things?

And again, I would like to thank Z.R Southcombe for sending me her book and giving me a chance to review it. I'm excited for the next books I'll read from her. Remember, you're never too old to read books as good as this. Pack your bags, are you ready for an adventure?

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### **Grant says**

I realize I am not the target audience for this book. That being said, I have enjoyed many middle grade books. This was just a little too simple. There was no suspense at all.

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### **Alex McGilvery says**

John wants to run away from home and live great adventures, only he is forty-two. He decides to do it and soon meets a pirate and a story telling mouse named Edgar.

Edgar sends John on a quest to find the caretaker of imagination to learn why the stories are disappearing.

This easy read is an odd story, not quite children's literature and not quite adult. It is a little like Roald Dahl, but with no children. I would really like to have seen a little more done with the plot to go with the intriguing tone of the book. While I enjoyed reading it, the ending left me asking "Is that it?"

I'm not sure who to recommend the book to, but if you like small oddities, this is your kind of book.

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### **iamjenai says**

Let me start by saying that my kids rate the books that I read to them. They loved the story though they're surprised to learn that the main character is actually around 40-ish already. Had a hard time explaining the child-like attitude of the man, it did bother them for a while but eventually they liked him and the cat! They find the illustrations cool as it helped them visualize the story. Pirate story is all new to them and it was really, really nice to see them imagining the story while I read this to them.

Mommies, if you are looking for a good adventure book for your kids, pick this up!

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### **Inger Kenobi says**

The characters are lively, the plot is intriguing, and the illustrations are adorable. This book makes me wish I had young children to read for. I read the entire book in one sitting, totally immersed in the storytelling. Buy it, read it, cherish it. I'm already looking forward to Ms. Southcombe's next book.

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### **Tracy Terry says**

The first in a series. I liked this book, really liked it - after all, a story about the quest for magic featuring a pirate, a dragon AND a cat, what is there not to like? However I felt that it had a lot more potential, that at only eighty six pages long it could leave all but the youngest of readers disappointed that it wasn't a longer

story.

Still, a fun read. With its imaginative plot, great illustrations and a wonderful mix of colourful characters it should appeal to children and is traditional enough to be a hit as a bedtime read with parents/grandparents.

Copyright: Tracy Terry @ Pen and Paper.

Disclaimer: Received for review from the author, no financial compensation was asked for nor given.

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### **Ruth B says**

The Caretaker of Imagination is a colorful, vivid and sweet story about never forgetting about the magic in the world. John decides to leave his old life, escape the routine and goes away to find some adventures. Accompanied by his cat he will meet a real pirate and will discover that magic is in danger.

This is a really fast, engaging and well written book. I can assure you that both adults and children will enjoy it. The author creates a dynamic story where it's easy to get lost. The illustrations are really good. They capture the essence of the story and they help to picture it better.

I really liked that the main character is not a typical kid. This is the story of a child soul in an adult man's body because John is a forty something man who refuses to abandon adventure and imagination.

Overall, this is a really good fantasy book. It's perfect for people of all ages and it surely is a refreshing and tender story.

\*\*\* I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review. \*\*\*

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### **Arjun Randhawa says**

\*Note: A copy of this book was provided to me by the author in return for an HONEST review.

I want you guys to know that I can rate a book very poorly and I won't care at ALL about what the author would say. But, this was a case in which I REALLY liked/loved this book.

Children's books really are imagination boosters for the readers. This book is not the usual one. It is based on the story of a 42 YO man, John Carroll, who is really in the need to escape his Über-boring lifestyle and seek an adventure. So, he sets off along with his cat, Theo, in his car to go wherever destiny would lead him. He enters a café and suspects his waiter, Simon, as a pirate. Being the stubborn person that he was, he pestered the waiter to confirm it. After much of hard work, he finally reveals the truth.

A series of events take place during his adventures which he goes to along with the retired pirate. These are so fun to read and elate the readers'/listeners'minds to an amazing extent. My the middle, he understands why the world is losing its imagination and people don't believe in magic, which actually exists in the world.

Thus, he takes the responsibility upon himself, to restore the dimming magic from the people's lives.

Most of the situations in the story that are related to the real life situations, seem to be humorous and smart. But, a few could be replaced with another ones, like this one -

"His disappointment could only be compared to waking up on Christmas morning to find out that Santa isn't real (which he is, ofcourse)". I also feel that some points which are meant to seem plausible (even though this book is a children's fantasy *fiction* are going very much OverTheTop...

**CONCLUSION:-** This book is a package prepared by wizards, dragons, pirates, bakers, forest creatures and Theo (the cat) filled with lots of fun for the little ones to savor. It will give a message on how important stories are for people. Indeed, one of the best children's book I've ever read.

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

A fantastic Juvenile's Fantasy Book. Pirates, magic, and adventure. In need of a hero? Read this book, I adored John and the rest of the crew. Lots of imagination. If you can imagine it, it can be possible. I hope to read the next in this intriguing series. A great book! I think both Young and old readers alike, will love this book. Great for children of all ages.

Thanks Ms. Southcombe for allowing me the opportunity if reading this book.

\*Received for an honest review from the author\*

\*\*Cross-posted on My Book Addiction Reviews dot com\*\*

Rating: 5

Heat rating: N/A

Reviewed by: Baby Girl, courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

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### **Paul Magnan says**

A great book for children to enjoy, and for adults to rediscover the child's imagination they used to have.

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### **Nicholas says**

I reason I decided to read this book is because I had read the first draft and I wanted to see what the final finished copy was like as well as the fact that I find the idea of book fascinating along with

The character I found the most interesting was the (ex?) caretaker of the imagination. I found him fascinating in the way he was such a hypocrite. "Imagination is dead" is his opinion that he tells our main character... While playing chess with a stuffed bunny rabbit. He is a tragic character but in some way I find him funny. Maybe I'm a just twisted but I enjoy demented characters and seeing how insane and far gone they are.

"But", said a confused John, "you have a dragon." ... "Oh," said the wizard, stepping back from the window. "No, no, Midnight's not a dragon. She's a cat.

This is one the best and funniest lines in the entire book.

Something this book made me think differently about was pacing and story development. Honestly when I write I think pacing is my biggest flaw. I have grand idea's but do not spread them out properly. I either pace to slow or to fast. This book is very well paced. I speed off and does not slow down till the very end of the story. The way it develops and introduces character while not breaking the story to do so is very well done. This not helped make this a excellent story helped me think about my own sense of pacing and what I could do to improve my own works.

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### **Chris The Story Reading Ape says**

John is a rather unusual hero, he's a 42 year old accountant who would much rather still be a child. Then one day, he decides to give in to his childlessness, wear his most outrageous shirt, take his cat, Theo, and go on an adventure.

The first person he meets is a Waiter called Simon, who seems to say "ARR" quite a lot.... Thus begins a tale involving Pirates, an unusual Dragon and other magical beings. A thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable read with great little illustrations.

See my review also at:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Caretaker-Im...>

<https://www.amazon.com/Caretaker-Imag...>

<https://www.amazon.ca/Caretaker-Imagi...>

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Caretaker-I...>

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### **Mike says**

[I read a copy of this that was given to me by the author.]

This is an interesting book. I'm not sure that it's quite focused enough on who it's aimed at, however: the main character is a 42-year man, rather than a child (which is all right; not all children's books have a child at the centre), but he's fairly childlike in his behaviour. (If he was in an adult book he might be accused of having a mid-life crisis!)

His adventures are certainly likely to please children: there are cute animals, a retired pirate, a dragon and the Caretaker himself, who seems a bit of a fraud. It's all a bit of a crazy mix, but then that's what the imagination can sometimes be!

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**Kathleen Dixon says**

This book has pirates and food fights and a dragon - all great components in a children's book. It also has a 42-year-old protagonist, which I still can't get my head around. The grandchildren listened happily to this story, and gave it the thumbs up when I asked if they were enjoying it, so I guess that's all that matters.

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