



## Imperial Spy

*Mark Robson*

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Femke, a gifted and resourceful young spy, is entrusted with a vital foreign mission by the Emperor. Her adversary, Shalidar, frames Femke with responsibility for two murders while she is visiting their neighbouring court. Femke is isolated in an alien country, being pursued both by her enemies and by the authorities. Only her sidekick, Reynik, a young military trainee, can help. Together, they must outwit the evil assassin Shalidar and prove Femke's innocence so they can complete the imperial mission.

## Imperial Spy Details

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Author : Mark Robson

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## From Reader Review Imperial Spy for online ebook

### Laurence says

I got this book some time ago, when our school was lucky enough to actually have Mark Robson come in to talk about, sell and sign Imperial Spy and Imperial Assassin. (I still really want Imperial Traitor but don't know where to find it) And I can honestly say that I'm glad that my mum decided to give me the money to buy it. Even if you've never picked up a fantasy book in your life, like I hadn't, I recommend that this is definitely the book to start you off. I haven't read it in some time so I can't say much about how brilliant the story and the characters were, but I do know that I absolutely loved it.

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### Ennio says

Gli unici due motivi che mi hanno spinto ad acquistare questo libro, di un autore a me precedentemente sconosciuto, sono stati una breve recensione di Licia Troisi (autrice delle Cronache e delle Guerre del Mondo Emerso) trovata su di un segnalibro e la splendida immagine di copertina.

Il problema che ora si presenta è la mia incapacità di trovare altri punti a favore da elencare per questo libro che, in tutta sincerità, non ho particolarmente gradito.

Buona la scorrevolezza delle pagine, fattore che forse mi ha portato a leggerlo fino in fondo, nonostante la trama poco originale e interessante.

A differenza di quanto accaduto con gli altri libri fantasy da me letti, il metodo utilizzato dall'autore per caratterizzare i personaggi e lo svolgersi delle situazioni non è riuscito a coinvolgermi e farmi entrare nella giusta ottica per godermelo, lasciandomi costantemente con una sensazione di leggero distacco da quanto accadeva con l'evolversi della trama.

Leggera ripresa e slancio di coinvolgimento verso gli ultimissimi capitoli, comunque non abbastanza da convincermi a proseguire la lettura dei successivi volumi.

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### Lya06 - Lettrice notturna says

Qui la recensione completa: <http://bookland89.blogspot.com/2011/0...>

La storia ruota intorno alle attività di spia della protagonista, Femke, che dopo essere stata inviata dal nuovo imperatore in veste di ambasciatrice in un territorio vicino, viene accusata ingiustamente di una serie di omicidi. La giovane spia, ricordando gli insegnamenti del suo defunto maestro (questo mi ricorda tantissimo Dubhe delle Guerre del Mondo Emerso della Troisi), deve riuscire a fare chiarezza e a mostrare le trame del suo nemico volte a distruggere sia la sua carriera di spia, sia a portare il suo paese, Shandar, sull'orlo della guerra.

Devo certamente dire di essere stata attratta da questo libro non tanto per il suo titolo o per la sua trama (che ho letto solo una volta acquistato), ma per la copertina disegnata da Paolo Barbieri che, come al solito è splendida. Devo dire di non essermi pentita dell'acquisto perché ho trovato la storia molto fresca e godibile nella sua semplicità, è scritta molto bene ed è quindi possibile seguire la trama, di per sé non molto articolata ma abbastanza avvincente.

Però non posso fare a meno di elencare un paio di difetti che mi sono saltati all'occhi durante la lettura.

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### **C. says**

When I first opened this book, I thought "this is all my childhood day-dreams come true!" Which indeed it was, a smart, clever girl working as a spy for the emperor, wandering about the court keeping tabs on the nobles, chasing after assassins... Even the way the author described the motions of the spy was the exact same way I imagined my alter-ego's actions. The story could have been better, the writer could have given his characters more background, there were quite a few things that could have been improved, but as light reading, it's good. There was one thing I disliked at the end, but I'm not planning to spoil it.

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### **Michaelcheng says**

I love spies. Stealth, assassins whatever, the sneaky stuff, I love it. So naturally, I was attracted to the book. But the book fulfilled my need for some sneaky action and more. The book is based in a medieval world, where magic is rare and feared. Femke, a spy, has just finished overthrowing an evil imposter. So, the general takes the throne. It's not to say he's not a bad ruler though. He's a great ruler, thinking more about his country than any other true-to-the-bloodline king. But that's the problem. The families of the country think that one of them should be the new king. A secret underground war spawns in the country and all the while, the general has to apologize to the country in which they had just warred with. (all because of the impostor). Oh, and she has a guy on her tail.

This book is very good. It is original, and is written well. The author is good at describing the action, making you feel as though you're in a movie.

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### **TØny Hine says**

I bought it for my daughter 14y and as I read the 1st few pages I was drawn in. I ended up reading it all, the book finished, unfinished, leading nicely into the next book of the trilogy. I don't feel the urge to read the next book as I understand it is targeted at a younger audience, and I did find the story a bit predictable. However I reckon it's an ideal book for my daughter.

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### **T.I.M. James says**

It's very hard to read a book by a 'new' author, directly after you have written a run of top books by some of your favourites; especially when the book in question is a young adult tale. Through no fault of its own it just might not live up to what has just gone before.

Fortunately this book worked quite well, it was an easier read than some which made it a comfortable follow on to the previous books, and the story was one that grew as the book progressed. The last 100 pages were brilliant, a great conclusion to a story that had built as it went., giving likeable characters, and a couple of surprise deaths that really made all the characters seem vulnerable.

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## Rhys says

This review was originally posted on ThirstforFiction.com

Set in the lands of Thrandor and Shandar, Femke, a spy, has been framed for murder on a much needed ambassadorial meeting. When peace is necessary, this is the last thing you need, and Femke is trying to prove she did not commit the crime. But the murderer is always two steps ahead...

The fact that this book is in the fantasy genre, may put some of you off, with hundreds of clichéd high fantasy novels around. There's no need to worry, though. Imperial spy is highly original, and certainly I have never read anything similar, and I am well read in the fantasy genre. This isn't one of those hero-farmboy vs evil lord which result in an epic battle, it is an interesting rivalry that involves trickery, revenge and a lot of wit. [read more...](#)

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## Werehare says

2,5/10

Sciatto e banale, più noioso che altro. Scritto, poi, in una maniera davvero infame per essere edito: le similitudini ridicole si sprecano (quella del ragazzino dal preside, per dire la peggiore di tutte), i dialoghi grondano infodump e falsità nel tono, lo stile è elementare e le situazioni in cui ci veniamo a trovare (processo, ricevimenti) sono tali e quali se le potrebbe immaginare un ragazzotto del duemila cresciuto a pane e TV, che di documentarsi aveva poca voglia. Femke è una bella Mary Sue, ma non tanto da divertire davvero; la trama è piuttosto cliché e prevedibile nei suoi svolgimenti, i personaggi trasparenti, l'ambientazione inesistente. Passiamo attraverso una serie di avventure rocambolesche e scenografiche praticamente indenni, e per un libro di avventura non è un gran merito. Arrivata alla fine più per uno sforzo di volontà che per altro.

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## jannaphia says

2.8 ??? - 0,5 ? for the god awful german translation

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## Paula says

This one was a total chance encounter, as I picked it up as the third in a '3 for 2' deal and wasn't quite sure what I was getting. It's a young adult book, first of a trilogy, but as all three books are in print I figured it was worth a try!

The basic premise of 'Imperial Spy' is that it's the story of Femke, who has overcome the requisite Tragic Past to become a spy for the emperor - she's tasked with leading an embassy to another country, one with which they'd recently been at war, and finds herself framed for murder.

The positives are that Femke is a fairly self-reliant character, quite able to get herself both into and out of trouble (though tending a little towards the MarySue in her being fantastic at everything) and that the author is not afraid to bad things to significant characters. The downside is that initially it feels a little like you've been dropped in the beginning of book 2 of a series, since the first few scenes are so full of plot development and worldbuilding.

All in all, not a bad read and I couldn't quite see how the author was going to sort everything out, which kept my attention - the series continues in 'Imperial Assassin', which appears to focus more on one of the supporting characters in this book, and I will certainly be keeping an eye out for it.

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### **Sibil says**

3.5

If I had read this book some years ago probably I would have liked it better.

I love books about spy, assassin and thief, so I was happy to read this one, and it's a good reading. Fast paced, full of action, and Femke and co. are really good characters (even the emperor, and this is an unusual thing, because usually the people who have the power are bad with the main character... it's a simplistic point of view, because there are reasons for this, obviously, but it's functional for the here and now). It was a good reading, but there is a big but (view spoiler)

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### **Carmel says**

[I was disappointed when Femke developed feelings for Dunar because I wanted Reynik and Femke to get together but after read

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### **emma says**

I fully expected to enjoy this book, but I found myself bored throughout most of it. I don't know if it was me or the book, but I struggled to finish it. The characters seemed flat and I didn't care enough for them, with the exception of Reynik. I also found Shalidar interesting but he seemed the typical 'bad guy'. My major complaint was the romance - it seemed so forced. There was no build up, and they didn't even seem to really like each other that much, it was straight to the whole "i want you so much i'll do anything for you". I think I will read the second, in hope that the series and characters improve.

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