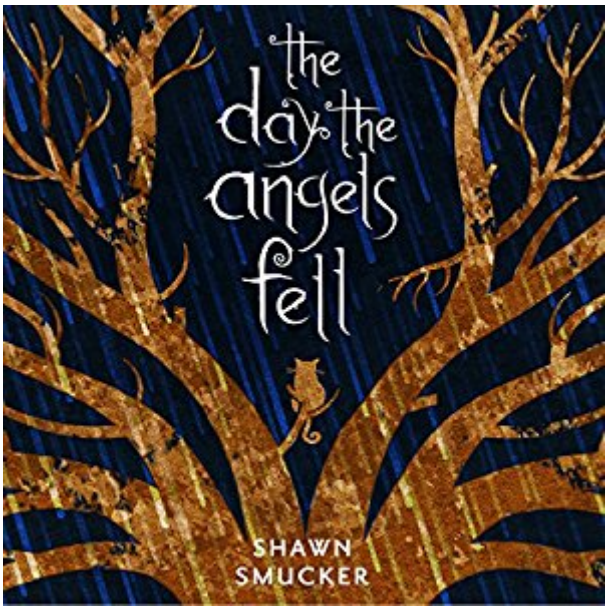
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The Day The Angels Fell



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Synopsis

It was the summer of storms and strays and strangers. The summer that lightning struck the big oak tree in the front yard. The summer his mother died in a tragic accident. As he recalls the tumultuous events that launched a surprising journey, Samuel can still hardly believe it all happened. After his mother’s death, 12-year-old Samuel Chambers would do anything to turn back time. Prompted by three strange carnival fortune-tellers and the surfacing of his mysterious and reclusive neighbor, Samuel begins his search for the Tree of Life - the only thing that could possibly bring his mother back. His quest to defeat death entangles him and his best friend Abra in an ancient conflict and forces Samuel to grapple with an unwelcome question: could it be possible that death is a gift? Haunting and hypnotic, The Day the Angels Fell is a story that explores the difficult questions of life in a voice that is fresh, friendly, and unafraid. With this powerful debut, Shawn Smucker has carved out a spot for himself in the tradition of authors Madeleine L’Engle and Lois Lowry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It does a disservice to the value and impact in my life of Shawn’s writing to simply say that I’ve been a fan and follower and friend (his work has been a friend to me) of his work for five years or so now, though it’s true I have. It’s closer to the truth to say that Shawn’s writing has inspired and encouraged me. I’ve laughed and shed tears. I’ve learned about courage and faith, loss and love, being a man and being a human, all from the talented pen and open heart apparent in Shawn’s nonfiction. Nonfiction was how we knew Shawn Smucker, but with the release of "The Day the Angels Fell", a story for older children (and at almost fifty, I still qualify....and so do you), Shawn

invites us into his first fiction. I was sure it would be good (hey wait, a half remembered Tv ad: with a name like...) because Shawn's such a talented writer, but, honestly, I wasn't confident because it was fiction aimed at a younger audience. Annnnd, just as others have said: I couldn't put it down. It was a page turner for me also. I was honestly surprised by how compelling it was. Here is a rich story told from the innocence, wonder, and faith of a twelve-year old wrestling with the questions everyone I know still does: questions about death, fear, and loss and the Love that winds its way through all of it...from 'the day the angels fell' to the resurrection of the hope of a child. The writing is, of course, beautiful and engaging. (I've called or texted friends lines that I Had to share) I always welcome one more story to help me answer the hardest griefs and sorrows in this life; another story to point me back to the Truth of Love - this is the gift that Shawn Smucker shares in "The Day the Angels Fell". A treasure sure to be shared, gifted, and passed on until it wears its way into the generations.

This book is a struggle against good and evil at its core. It is a spiritual battle that is in the background and sometimes comes to life during the story. The book is told by an older man looking back at his childhood. His memories are triggered by a coming present-day event, one that he is dreading.The book has mystery to it. The deeper the story unfolds, the clearer things become or they become more mysterious.It has more than one ending. The main ending of the climax of the story, another ending that is surprising.If you like mysteries, spiritual warfare, and adventure and the dark side of carnivals, you will like this book.The violence in the book is the type of fighting mythical creatures (or perhaps spiritual ones - you decide) and not as much as people type other than a hint of possible violence if things didn't turn out well.

The Day the Angels Fell is a fast-paced adventure that succeeds in having a depth of emotion, thought AND excitement. While my kids are a bit young yet for the book, I found it to be great reading and believe it will be one to return to again and again as they get older and questions about life and death become more frequent and emotionally fraught. I have to admit to hesitancy about reading a book about death with my kids, but somewhere along the way I realized (and remembered from my own childhood) that children are already aware of and wrestling with the idea of death. This story, with its lovable characters, suspense and adventure offers a great opportunity to enter into deeper conversations with your kids. I also really appreciated the shorter chapters that keep the story moving along and make it a great read-aloud.

Most satisfying about reading this book was the mood it evoked from moment one. I was impressed by how the author maintained the tone throughout the story: every time I returned to reading it, I was instantly transported to a different mood, as if someone was suddenly placing the same filter over the visual scenes playing out in my mind.Although this is in no way a difficult/lofty read, there were some rather profound quotes that gave me pause, and the exploration into the struggle to come to terms with death is worth consideration. In many modern cultures, death is ignored as much as possible, despite the obvious fact of its inevitability and the benefit that could come from learning how to accept and cope with it.Overall, The Day the Angels Fell was both an enjoyable read and a thoughtful experience.

Loved this story, I couldn’t put it down!An effortless read that makes you feel breathless. It gets down to the stuff of life, of relationships, choices that are made bad or good, the consequences...about death, not denying the hard parts but seeking the purpose and the good, in a delightful and sweet story.An adventuresome bedtime story. •Or daytime story. One I would recommend to anyone.

my 10 year old called this an "awesome, really dramatic and interesting book. The action in each chapter makes you want to keep on reading."This has been my favorite fiction read this year and ranks up there next to the Giver and The Book Thief on my shelf. Shawn weaves a good story that makes the reader think deeply. I highly recommend this book.

This book had all the qualities I love: fully-developed and interesting characters, intrigue (what’s up with this tree? and cherubim?), friendship, and change-of-life character development, and suspense. I’m looking forward to the sequel.

The descriptive imagery of this novel provides the perfect story that can entertain all ages. Smucker is able to capture childhood innocence, the struggle between good and bad, and friendship. I am looking forward to the sequel.

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