



# Spore

*Tamara Jones*

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**Spore** Tamara Jones

*The dead are coming back.*

Ten naked people walk from a cemetery into artist Sean Casey's backyard: ten Spore People who used to be dead. One, Mindy, stays with Sean while trying to reclaim her life, but her ex would rather she return to her grave. Sean struggles to protect Mindy and other Spores while battling his recurring—and worsening—nightmares. Meanwhile, the media feeds a panicked frenzy that leads both the hopeful and hateful to Sean's front door.

As the Spore fungus spreads, so does the fear. When mutilated children match Sean's nightmares, he realizes his own worst terror may be closer than he thinks.

## Spore Details

Date : Published June 2nd 2015 by Samhain Publishing

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Author : Tamara Jones

Format : Paperback 264 pages

Genre : Horror, Mystery, Science Fiction

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# From Reader Review Spore for online ebook

## Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/mini-rev...>

The dead return, but with a twist. From the synopsis I thought I would like it but not love it, but I did love it! There's so much going on and Tamara Jones is an excellent storyteller, and manages to combine multiple storylines into an amazing tale.

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## Nev Murray says

A copy of Spore was sent to Confessions of a Reviewer by the author Tamara Jones in exchange for an honest review. This is said review. This book is published by Samhain Publishing.

I seem to be saying this a lot lately, but, I have seen the name Tamara Jones floating around but I never read her stuff before. I can only ask myself why the hell not. I will be rectifying that mistake by adding more of Mrs Jones to my ever growing "To Be Read" pile.

Sean Casey is an artist. He draws the pictures for a comic called Ghoulbane. On a normal day he takes a break from his sketching and goes to his back yard for a breather. One after another, ten random people appear out of nowhere and walk onto his property. They are all naked and confused.

It transpires these people are all dead and have been for varying amounts of time. Something has happened to the water by the local cemetery and they have all "Spored". Brought back from the dead in perfect condition, better, in fact, than they were when they died.

Sean has to try and deal with this phenomenon the best way he can. He finds fame from television interviews he gave. He finds scorn when he allows Mindy, one of the Spore's to move into his house until she can get settled and rebuild her "life". He finds violence when Mindy's ex tries to put her back underground. He finds constant torture from his nightmares about his troubled childhood. Old evils come to life again. Quite literally. Who will survive? The living or the dead?

Think zombie story. Now scrap that and think of a zombie story with a difference. Living, breathing zombies that are trying to earn their place back in society. Do they deserve it? Should they be scorned? This story raises a lot of questions about our society in general. What we believe in. What we have faith in. What, some you may consider to be insane, believe in. Interesting? It is when it's told as masterfully as this.

Tamara Jones has created a story that turns most zombie / horror stories on their heads. It is a fascinating idea. It's been done before where alien species have come to earth and tried to integrate into "our" society. What is it like though for someone to literally come back from the dead trying to catch up with technology? Trying to deal with friends and family who have died while they were dead? Trying to deal with living relatives that want nothing to do with them, believing it's all just one big con? Mix this in with murder, growing disease, years old secrets and vicious, evil people and you have a story that is gripping from the first page right to the last.

Characters wise in this book? Brilliant. All of them. Our main character, Sean is just a normal guy trying to make a living to keep his head above water and keep his girlfriend Mare. They fit together so well. Sean's mother? I just wanted to slap her at the beginning. By about three quarters of the way through I wanted to punch and kick her. The spore Mindy? I just wanted to cuddle her and tell her everything would be ok. Other smaller characters all have their own gifts to bring to the story. The policeman Todd who grows as the story grows into a man you would trust with your life and cheer to the end. Sean's uncle Paul, also a spore is quite possibly one of the most hateful characters I have ever read but again, his role fits perfectly into the story.

I really do not want to tell you much more about the plot itself. I must admit I wondered what you could possibly do with this sort of scenario but, believe me, Tamara Jones does it perfectly. This book has thrills and spills. It has murder. It has zombies. It has intrigue. It has disgustingly harrowing scenes that at times made me feel sick to my stomach but they just added to the story and the level of hatred you will end up feeling for one of the characters.

Is it horror? This is my only negative. I didn't find it that scary. But, and this is a big but, I mean scary in the jump out of your seat or hide behind a cushion type of scary. It is scary in so many other ways though. When you sit back and think about what is actually happening as the story progresses, your mind works overtime in trying to figure out how you would deal with things. Above all for me this is a very thrilling read.

To summarise: honestly? Just buy it when it comes out. You will love it. When I do my end of year list of favourite books, this will definitely be in it.

General rating:

★★★★★ Perfect story.

Horror rating:

★★★ Could have been a lot scarier for me.

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## Jon says

First, I have an autographed, prerelease copy of Spore shipped directly to me from Tambo, one of my previous Facebook profile pics is used in a couple of the chapter header graphics, I was in on the beta reading for this novel and, prior to that I was (and still am) a huge fan of her Dubric Byerly mystery/fantasy novels before becoming friends with her via FB. So!! (lol) I might be a bit biased, but given the quality of her work here, with Dubric, and with some of her unpublished works (you'd better hope a publisher feels the same or you'll miss out on some awesome stories), I tend to think it's just simple recognition of talent instead of any particular fanboi-ism/bias.

Spore, in it's simplest form, is, well...there is no simple form. Like all of her other work, Tam writes what she feels is a good story without adhering to or even acknowledging genre boundaries. As her Dubric novels are often reduced down to "CSI meets Terry Brooks", you're only grazing the surface in order to catch the attention of the least common denominator. Her characters are permutations of everyday life, rendered in

easily accessible and completely human squabbles, foibles and something that you can't measure without cracking open the spine of one of her books.

If you enjoy a good story, read this book. If you want to be introduced to an author that you will most likely come to love, read this book. If you have a shelf called "Mystery/Drama/Comedy/Revenge/Rebirth/Not-Zombies/Sorta-but-not-really-Horror/Love-Stories" then you really, really, really need to read this book.

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### **Angela Crawford says**

I received an ARC of this eBook in exchange for an honest review. This is in no way reflected in my opinion of this novel.

Spore is a fast paced story that will have you glued to the pages. Some of the subject matter in Spore is very dark and disturbing so I can't say it was a fun read but it was a very good one. The characters were very believable and realistic. I couldn't wait to find out what was happening with Sean, Mare, and Mindy. Parts of this story made me feel both anger and sadness, and others made me laugh. This was my first book by Tamara Jones but it won't be my last, I can't wait to see what she does next! A solid 4 star read.

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### **Dana says**

I really liked this book. It was like a cross between "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" mixed with a bit of "Pet Cemetary" and then toss in a bit of mystery. The characters were believable as well, talking like you or me. Would definitely recommend this if you're in the mood for a thrill!

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### **Lisa Cromwell says**

Riveting! Different! Unique! Thrilling! Edgy! Terrifying!

If you want a book that you literally have trouble putting down and will keep you on the edge of your seat, this is the book for you! With characters that draw you in and rip at your heart strings! I was entranced from beginning to the end! I cannot wait to read more books by this very talented author! I am officially a huge fan!!

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### **Meghan says**

I really got into this book from the very first page. Why? The main character. I have this thing about the sarcastic anti-hero and really don't think it can ever be overdone, as long as it's done well. That and the fact

that there are ten naked people in his backyard. I mean, does that actually happen?

The story itself is really good - different - and I couldn't stop reading because I wanted to know what was going to happen next. There are a lot of amazing moments, and some memorable twists, in this book. The nightmares that Sean has are well written and freaky, especially when reality starts to look like those dreams.

I loved the way she expresses how people are feeling, the confusion, the fear. She does a good job getting into their heads and helping the reader to feel what her characters are feeling. I enjoyed how she wrote Sean, not just because he's sarcastic and not the one you would expect to be the hero, but because there are a lot of levels to him, and I liked how he took charge and protected these people, some that he didn't even know until this began.

I have to give her a standing ovation - She took zombies and made them fun for me again. She did it in a different way and made them enjoyable. I've grown so tired of the way that most authors depict them, and the fact that so many include them in their stories anymore, but she did a fantastic job. And I very much enjoyed the ending. I can't wait to read more from her.

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### **Corrina Hicks says**

5.0 out of 5 starsSpore people you can love and relate to.

ByCorrina Hicks on September 20, 2017

Format: Kindle Edition|Verified Purchase

I am not a zombie style fan at all but I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Written with some amazingly diverse characters and the story kept me intrigued throughout.

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### **Marvin says**

Tamara Jones' ambitious novel *Spore* has a great not-a-zombie premise. Horror comic artist Sean Casey wakes up to find ten naked people wandering in his back yard. They are disoriented and are not aware they died years ago. They look and act just like when they were originally alive. Sean become sort of a reluctant hero to some of them as they and the world find out what is happening.

There are many layers to this novel. It is not a spoiler, since the title sort hints at it, to say that a fungal outbreak is responsible which inspires the naming of this people "spores". Where it comes from and what else happens though will remain a mystery until you have read the novel. The author has packed a lot of ideas and sub-plots in her novel. Yet most of it centers on Sean Casey who is troubled himself due to a childhood kidnapping that not only never been solved but seem to be related to a new outbreak of child murders and to his dreams that features mutilated children. Sean is the moral center of the novel, often seeming to be the only one who cares about the spores while other consequences of whatever is infesting the waters is becoming evident.

It's a really interesting plot nicely weaved together by the author. Jones has a skill with this type of quiet horror novel that also brings up social concerns. There is a nice touch where a reporter calls the newly revived people,"Fungaloids". Sean bristles at this, saying they should be called spores, and chiding the reporter for using a thinly disguised insult related to other demeaning words. It is touches like that that

brought the novel to Earth for me. At other times, Sean becomes so involved with the spores, it endangers the person he loved and also blinds him to more devastating aspects of the outbreak.

There is a lot to think about in *Spore*, perhaps too much. The downside of this novel is Jones, despite her skilled ability to bring many things together, is trying to do too much. It starts out as a science-fiction based horror tale. Then it morphs into a mystery involving child murders. There is also a sub-plot about a spore person whose husband is terrorizing her. There is so much that when the global stakes become higher, that global crisis is almost an afterthought. The author does bring it together at the end yet the various sub-plots slows down the basic idea that, for me, in the appearance of the spores and how it affects a troubled man.

Yet when all is said and done, *Spore* is an effective horror thriller bordering on science fiction rather than the supernatural. It is one of those novels that will entertain most people although it should be cautioned that there are some mentions of child abuse and mutilation that may be hard for some people to handle. All in all, despite what I would call an overcrowding of plot, it is well worth reading.

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### **Geoff says**

A rare five-star read.

Get. This. Book.

Even though the plot is what drives this to a large degree, for me the characters were the best part.

I believed them. I felt like I knew them. And I HAD to find out what happened to them.

I read the last third of the book in one sitting. Could not put it down.

Read it. You need to.

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### **Aaron Bunce says**

Spore: "A primitive usually unicellular often environmentally resistant dormant or reproductive body produced by plants, fungi, and some microorganisms and capable of development into a new individual either directly or after fusion with another spore" (Merriam-Webster).

I included the Webster's dictionary definition to emphasize one very important point: Spore is not about zombies. In fact, if anything it is about the exact opposite. As a novel, *Spore* doesn't try to cash-in on current fiction trends. It isn't riding the coattails of the last great book as so many attempted with *Harry Potter* or *The Hunger Games*. Instead, Tamara Jones has presented us with a gripping and wonderfully singular novel. A not-zombie novel.

As we know, a book is only as good as its plot and its characters. I can honestly say that *Spore* earns the highest marks on both. We meet Sean Casey in quick order. He is a wonderfully sympathetic main character that you can't help but fall in love with. Sean is relatable and well-layered. We share in his triumphs and his defeats, and through him glimpse the darker side of human nature. Jones doesn't leave Sean Casey to drive the narrative alone however. She introduces us to two of my new favorite female characters. Mare, Sean's girlfriend is a loving, no nonsense young woman. I love that she doesn't shrink from conflict, or suffer from catastrophic indecision as so many female characters do. Instead, she is only too willing to meet adversity head on, aluminum baseball bat in hand. To contrast Mare, we are introduced to Mindy. Without a doubt,

Mindy was my favorite character. She is wonderfully complex and provides the greatest range of character development from cover to cover. Through trials of life and death, Mindy becomes the standard bearer for the oppressed and mistreated, all the while proving that a person really can reforge their identity.

Spore's plot is crisp, clean, and well-paced, sparing us from needless exposition. There is no run up either, as the intrigue starts right away. Perspective transitions often and seamlessly, providing each of Jones' characters ample time in the humid Iowa sunshine. Jones also integrates some wonderful and very subtle elements to this book. Each chapter header contains bits and blurbs from social media mainstays such as Twitter and Facebook. These inclusions aren't simply cosmetic. Through these small social glimpses you are afforded a deeper, or in some cases a wider grasp of the plot as it unfolds. The premise, although decidedly complex, is not bogged down by the science at work behind the scenes. But that doesn't mean that the science is disregarded either. It comes into play when it matters most, and oh boy, will you have some revelations! Like so many good novels before it, you learn on the fly with Spore, and as soon as you think you have it figured out, Jones pulls the rug out from underneath you. Speaking honestly, I can say that Spore has some of the best hooks and twists I have seen in fiction, period. Yes, this is a lofty statement, but I stand behind it. I was fully invested in this book within 5 minutes, and struggled mightily to put it down.

I highly recommend this book. And by highly, I mean you should read it!

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### **David Bernstein says**

Spore really surprised me. There is sooooo much going on I wondered how in the heck Ms. Jones was going to bring it all together--and satisfyingly. Well, she damn well did. This book has it all, terror, mystery, great characters, murder, hints of sci fi and excitement. It's small town horror, but there's a huge scale here. When you read it, you'll see what I mean. And the "concept" is wonderful and you don't get all bogged down with scientific details. There's just enough to explain things satisfactorily. This one kinda reminds me of Body Snatchers, but with a totally new spin, almost a reverse. If you're looking for an original tale of terror, grab this one now.

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### **Tina K says**

As wonderful this time as it was the first! Love the new cover.

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### **Frank Errington says**

When Geoff Brown, the publisher of Cohesion press raves about a new work of horror, one that he isn't even responsible for, I tend to pay attention. I'm so glad I did, the end result was getting to read Spore, the new novel by Tamara Jones, a new author for me, but one I hope to revisit soon.

Sean Casey is just an ordinary guy trying to get by as an artist for the Graphic novel Ghoulies. He and his longtime girlfriend, Mare, live in Pinell, Iowa right by the Hobson Holiday Farm. What comes out of the farm on a Sunday morning in July will change their lives forever.



Spore is one of those novels filled with extraordinary circumstances, but with completely believable reactions.

There is so much going on in this story. People long dead, living again. Children being abducted, tortured, and killed. The twenty-year-old secret behind most of what is occurring, finally seeing the light of day.

The characters are so well conceived and brought to life brilliantly. Some you can love and want to become friends with, others are so sick you just want to kill them yourself. I particularly liked the fight scene between Mare and Sean's overbearing mother, Helene. Brilliant.

Spore is like a really good B-Movie filled with twists I never saw coming and an unforgettable ending.

Available now in both paperback and as an e-book from Samhain Horror.

Highly recommended.

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## **Stephanie says**

“Fear drives most people...Change. Uncertainty. When known rhythms suddenly shift, it knocks a lot of beliefs out of whack and makes people doubt their faith and beliefs. This is a very unusual time. A frightening time.”

Sean Casey is a struggling comic book artist with enough problems of his own including recurring nightmares from an abduction during his childhood and a germaphobe mother who hates his girlfriend. When naked people start coming out of the woods and onto his property, Sean can't think of anything to do but help them. When the naked people turn out to be people who have all died, including his own Uncle, Sean still attempts to help any way he can. As the media storm gathers, stories of zombies, dangerous chemicals and possible miracles ensue and the fungus that has helped people come back to life is spreading, helping some and hurting others. Sean is trying to help one of the Spore people, Mindy, get back on her feet; but Sean's nightmares about his childhood abduction worsen and the killer that kidnapped Sean all those years ago seems to have resurfaced.

I really liked that this is not a typical horror story and definitely not a normal zombie story. The dead are rising, yes, but the method behind the reanimation is discriminatory. The people reanimated by the spores are also not out for your brains, they are just confused and scared. Most of the horror comes from the living who wanted their dead to stay dead and their secrets to stay buried with them. I really liked the spores as a method of the reanimation, adding a science fiction aspect and a bit of a mystery. The addition of the kidnapper's reappearance adds another dimension. The characters were all well done and I'm glad that the focus was only on a few as opposed to all of the reanimated characters. Sean's mother Helene was great, although I had guessed one of her secrets a little early. Sean's girlfriend Mare and Helene's interactions were awesome. There were a variety of reactions to the Spore people showcased by each character; also the social media coverage was really interesting. Overall, a unique genre-bending horror/science-fiction/mystery read that displays all facets of human nature.

This book was received for free in return for an honest review.

