



Delusional

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When rising marketing executive Patricia Fowler falls for Paul Blast, a married co-worker, she tries to put her life into perspective—a task that becomes increasingly difficult when she starts having eerie hallucinations. Patricia's dreams of a happily ever after turn into one nightmare after another as she battles threats that go beyond her imagination.

Is her new love behind the torment? After all, his former girlfriend ended up in an asylum.

Or could Paul's wife be more than a bored, spoiled, rich girl?

Meanwhile, the FBI is trying to track down a thief who magically appears and disappears, taking priceless gems and artwork with her.

“Delusional” is a fast-paced thriller that blurs the lines of reality and fantasy, leading to an explosive climax where what you see isn’t necessarily what you’re going to get!

Delusional Details

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Author : Scott Spotson , Sue Publicover

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From Reader Review Delusional for online ebook

Simon Okill says

Delusional by Scott Spotson is a superior psychological thriller with paranormal overtones that simply swept this reader away with its fluent style and ingenious plot.

Businesswoman Patricia Fowler leads a dull mundane life until her boss, Paul Blast joins her in a hot tub. The chemistry is startling and immediate. But Paul is married so he's a no-go area. They become friends and workout together during breaks from the tedium.

The FBI are puzzled by art thefts that are perpetrated right under security's noses. The impossibility of the crimes leave them chasing their own tails.

Then Patricia's life unravels at the seams and all the stuffing spills out. The more she falls for Paul the more her mind becomes confused with dangerous hallucinations, physical attacks and delusions as a psychiatrist puts it. Her suffering is heart-rending and well fleshed out by the author.

This reader especially enjoyed the author's talent for relationships, the should we or shouldn't we situations, the concealed look of lovers' glance, a brief touch, a passionate kiss. Then the other side of the coin rips that apart with brutal beatings, attempted murder which brings in a PI. I loved that character and the detective added so much more to the story. But most of all it is the author's intricate weaving of seemingly unrelated characters and stories that captured my attention and the ending is a classic gasp, and I did gasp.

FIVE STARS go to this brilliant thriller of the psychological kind with a hefty dose of spookiness as in X-Files.

Anna says

I received this book from the author for free in exchange for an honest review

I only have one word to describe Delusional and that is: **WOW!** This book was not what I was expecting at all and I was completely blown away by how into the story I was. Delusional captivated me from the beginning, and I would find myself not wanting to stop because I just wanted to find out what would happen next. This book is definitely a thriller that contains elements of mystery, suspense, psychopaths, and the supernatural all wrapped into one.

What I liked the most about this book was the budding attraction between Patricia and Paul. I felt as though I was living vicariously through Patricia and the excitement of new love kept me turning the pages. There was that uncertainty of whether the feeling was mutual, the guilt of Paul being a married man, and the sexual tension between them that made for an entertaining read. Then add in the jealous wife and things definitely take an interesting turn. Once terrible and in-explainable things start happening to Patricia, you can't help but have this increasing feeling of hysteria as we try to pull apart the weirdness and work out whether someone is truly going to great lengths to torment Patricia or if the guilt of carrying on with a married man is really getting to her head and making her hallucinate. Are Patricia's hallucinations real? Or imagined? The author does an amazing job at having the reader sympathize with Patricia and her inner struggles of questioning her sanity and the frustration of no one believing her. The mystery of these strange events are what truly makes this book a page turner because you want to get to the bottom of who is really doing these things and how. Even if you know the culprit, which is not that hard to figure out once you think about motive, you still want to see how these characters get to that conclusion and sometimes that is the best part of a mystery. You also get sucked into how this situation is going to get resolved which I will admit, does get really weird at the end but it does make sense and somehow works. The final chapter was the most creepy and I can definitely see

this open ending developing into a second book.

Delusional is definitely an exciting read but it's not without its faults. The things that didn't work for me were the chapters surrounding the thefts, I just don't think they were necessary to make the story work and I also wished that Paul's wife, Wendy was further developed and her behavior further explained. I felt as though I still had a lot of questions surrounding her. Regardless, I would highly recommend Delusional for anyone who is in the mood for a great thriller that will keep you up all night reading.

James Hockley says

This is a crime novel; and a fantasy novel; and a thriller. And also a romance. A book of many genres, then. The fantasy aspect is small really, but it is important – adding a whole other challenge to the crime aspect (which itself is really a smaller part) and also the thriller aspect (which is the biggest part). But this is really a romantic story of love impeded by the barrier of a wife, and the retaliation of that wife against the burgeoning relationship. It's a well-worn template (I suspect!), but here it is embellished with some great colouring. It's a good book.

Now, I'm fairly liberal in my reading – I like most genres. But two genres that I'm really not a fan of are romance and crime. So at outset, I was unsure how I would get on with this. But I was pleasantly surprised; I enjoyed it. It didn't leave me turning pages ravenously – it was never going to – but I read it comfortably and was happy with the experience.

And as any good book reviewer should, I shall now attempt to appraise this book as objectively as possible.

To give a bit of colour (but without giving too much away, obviously) here's a bit of a summary: our protagonist is a young woman who's successful in her career, but unsuccessful in love. And then she meets the perfect man – the only problem being that he's already married. Damn. Will his wife roll over and let true love flourish? Not a chance. Otherwise there would be no story, would there?

But beyond this template, we have some impossible crimes occurring, crimes that bamboozle the greatest detective minds in the land. They're impossible, surely, but then those detectives don't know that this is a fantasy novel! The fantastic is suddenly the norm, and this adds another dimension. But we are still left with a question: how are they linked?

So what does this intriguing mix leave us with? Here are my thoughts.

The overarching taste of the story is really the rather mundane – the corporate world is the corporate world. For me, there was perhaps a little too much 'everyday office' referencing – I am bored of powerpoint presentations and don't need them in my literature too! I like to read to escape, and this was a little too close to the everyday to be escapist – for me at least. But in the context of this story, it is all in place, and some people may actually like that tangible link – so this is certainly just a matter of taste. And in actual fact, if I think about it, this ordinary backdrop with the extraordinary sheen worked quite well overall, so I'm not sure I'd even recommend changing anything.

From a prose perspective, I did struggle a bit with the point of view to start with. The narration seemed to follow a character in each chapter à la multiple third person; but then there was a mid-chapter switch of POV later on, and this confused me. It was only even further into the novel that I realised that it is actually omniscient, and hence the switch was fine. It certainly didn't ruin the read, but I noticed it, and it would have

been useful to have known that from the outset.

The read itself was good – easy going and fluid as you would expect in this contemporary thriller genre. It is well edited and well formatted. The only thing I would note is that for me it felt a little shallow, but I think that is a construct of the omniscient POV – it is much harder to really get into characters when narration is from outside. That being said, we do get clear character thoughts via italic text, and I gather this is probably a common setup in this genre, so much of this is probably a taste thing.

Another taste thing is the descriptive detailing early in the book. I think it only really cropped up in the first few chapters, but there was quite extensive descriptive passages. This certainly died down, but when it arose it left me wandering a bit. But as I say, this is a taste thing, and it is really only present early on.

But overall this was a decent story, with a clear trajectory and "pinch points", interesting characters (though not characters I found I cared intensely for), and a big enough sprinkling of the exotic to really keep you engaged. Not a book I would naturally pick up, but one I enjoyed nonetheless.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

<http://www.jhockley.com/epic-fantasy/...>

Dan Gillis says

Delusional is a thrilling ride, which confronts the mundane and typical lives of people today with strange unexplained events. Spotson crafts the mystery in an exciting and entertaining way. I was drawn into the character's plight and was eager to see the outcome of the story when all things were revealed to the characters.

I enjoyed this form of storytelling, which gives the reader knowledge but thrusts ignorant characters into dangerous circumstances. The heightened tension was evident through these parts of the story where you were anxious for Patricia and Paul. This was well done by the author and kept me gripped to the story.

Spotson's writing was descriptive enough to keep the story clear but also entertaining in the banter between the characters. I also enjoyed the relationship building between the main characters. A nice twist was included which explained the events and motivations connected to the protagonist. I found the overall story satisfying and recommend the author's work to any who enjoy a good mystery set in the modern world but dealing with supernatural elements.

One area that troubled me occasionally was the antagonist and the abilities given to manipulate the events and other characters. I was looking for a guiding parameter that would set limitations or boundaries for what was possible. This did not occur and in the end, I felt the characters abilities too strong without a means to give the protagonists a chance. This may be likely due to my experience with the fantasy genre were most times, abilities are explained and understood from a mechanics point of view. This then typically allows the opposing force to exploit a weakness if possible. In Delusional, I did not perceive this and the character seemed to operate outside of any structural laws in terms of magic. The strength of the story is not impacted by this minor point, but it is worth noting that the reader be aware of the antagonist's somewhat overpowered and erratic ability set.

Overall, I was entertained and would gladly read more by this author.

I received a free copy for a fair non-reciprocal review.

Christoph Fischer says

"Delusional" by Scott Spotson is a strong and gripping thriller. It focuses on a woman who falls for her married co-worker and soon after they start seeing each other she starts to experience delusions or visions, messing with her mind and judgement. At the same time a series of high profile and inexplicable thefts are puzzling the FBI. As the two storylines start to intertwine it becomes increasingly difficult to know what is reality and what is delusion.

Well plotted and perfectly set up the book has a great story and an original concept at its heart. The characters are also very well developed and interesting to watch. The omniscient narrative allows us to take a look into the different motifs and thoughts of the main players which enables the author to blend various flavours and styles into one novel. Part psychological thriller, part 'supernatural' thriller and part romance this should appeal to a wide audience.

A.A. Bavar says

The premise for the book is quite intriguing, and I was looking forward to reading how the mystery of the Hope Diamond theft would unravel. However, almost immediately it became apparent that the prose needed further editing on all levels: structure, formatting, spelling, etc. That, plus excessive expository, descriptive passages made it very difficult to become fully immersed in the story. The need to describe what the characters were feeling and thinking instead of showing the reader was a constant source of frustration. There was no tension buildup and the dialogue in general was unrealistic and woody.

Some plot points completely threw me and didn't make sense. For example, the relationship between Samantha and Wendy was very undeveloped. I had the impression that Wendy caused Samantha's delusions in order to steal Paul from her. Later, however, we find out that they were actually close friends. Furthermore, we never get any background information about Wendy and her powers, or who she really is. In summary, the characters need more development. I enjoyed Ray the most and felt no sympathy for Paul or Patricia.

Delusional has the foundation for an intriguing thriller, but needs major polishing. Presently, I would not recommend it.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest non-reciprocal review.

Galit Balli says

Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Review

Plot/Story:

I must say that this story was surprisingly quick read and even though I am not a fan of Romance based stories, this story did make me fall in-love with the story and the characters.

At first you have two stories that slowly being combined together. From the beginning of the story you are kept in suspense of who is the thief of the Hope diamond and why or how Patricia has her hallucinations and delusions.

Characters:

The characters are well written and well plotted out. The author placed so much thought and care for the characters that as a reader you get deeply involved with their lives and thoughts.

Romance/Kills:

This book has forbidden love of Patricia and Paul, passion and violence all written in such a way that left you thinking of what will happen next.

Writing:

This book is very well crafted and well written. It has a very interesting plot with lots of mystery and suspense. This book has a few cliffhangers that made you turn the page and see what will go wrong next or will things get better.

Beginning:

The beginning of the story was a bit slow for me. The two separated stories made it a bit harder to get into the story, but after that the story takes a hard grip of you and you are hooked.

Ending:

The story ended in a perfect way (I will not spoil it for you) but I will say that nothing was left unsolved.

Cover Art:

I love the cover art. Its simplicity makes it more pretty.

Blurb:

The blurb is very accurate in the story's plot and of what the characters will have to deal with. I think it's witty and very engaging. After reading the blurb and saw the beautiful cover, I really wanted to read this book and overall was not disappointed.

You can also read this review at Goodreads and Amazon.

Other Stuff

Opening Line: The Hope Diamond, a perfect cut, 45.52 carats of glittering violet-blue, shone in the floodlights, perfectly ensconced inside its display case in the Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Highlights: I loved the mystery in this book. It made me think of reading more mystery types of books. The details the author wrote about the characters and their environment is so well done that it was as if you are watching a movie. I also loved Patricia so much. She is well written to such a wonderful character, that I loved getting to know her better.

Lowlights: There were a few odd things in the story, especially in the beginning of the story that were a bit confusing, like the paranormal parts were left a bit unresolved although it has the feel for more (maybe a sequel).

Final Thoughts: I enjoyed reading this book and even though the paranormal here was a bit undeveloped, it still made the story so much better and more unique and I am sure you will enjoy reading this book.

Read the original review at: [The Reading Bud](#)

Kathryn Dionne says

#1 REASON TO AVOID MARRIED MEN . . .

. . . WENDY JEWETT!

Patricia Fowler is an organized and practical woman with a good head on her shoulders. But when she falls in love with her married co-worker, Paul Blast, her good judgement vanishes, along with her sense of reality. She starts seeing wild and weird things that make her wonder if she is having hallucinations, or if someone is messing with her mind. When the hallucinations start causing her bodily harm, she realizes that she must find out who is behind the attacks before these delusions end up killing her.

This was such a great read. Scott Spotson does a terrific job pulling a reader in and holding their attention right to the very end. The story is imaginative and the characters believable. Aside from a few misplaced words, I found this story to be extremely entertaining and deserving of a 5 star! I look forward to reading Mr. Spotson's other books.

Terrific job!

Jennifer says

(language, adult situations, adultery) Where to start? Yes, this book had some good things about it: the plot was new and about halfway through it really picked up and began to draw you into it. However, there was so much that just didn't work. Primarily there was a lot of unnecessary fluff. Sometimes sentences were thrown in describing things that had nothing to do with the rest of the story.

I guess I could sum it up by saying the book just needed more polish. Frequently, the author was talking directly to the reader instead of telling a story or he would give the reader a clue about something only to immediately spell it out in case the clue was missed. For example, "The priceless gem rotated counter-clockwise every ten seconds, one-quarter turn at a time," is immediately followed by "Every forty seconds, the diamond returned to its original position."

Words were repeated even in the same sentence. Even entire phrases were repeated – "as she watched the

security video for the” and one paragraph later, “as they watched the security video for the.” Even more disturbing, the first sentence ends “eighth time” and the second one “umpteenth time,” leaving the reader to wonder which it is.

It felt like the author did little research to write the book, which made it a struggle to suspend belief.

All this made the book feel more like a rough draft than a final book. I understand the author is self-published and it is expensive to hire editors, but the story is too muddy as it is now. With a lot of cleaning up, the plot would be solid.

Finally, all the men described in detail in this book are portrayed as nice guys – perfect fathers, kind, caring, a little on the wimpy side. Even the Patricia’s first ex, who is a loser when she is with him, becomes great with another woman. In contrast, many of women are crazy or have only a loose hold on their sanity even when not affected by the supernatural. I am sure this is unintentional, but as a woman it bothered me.

I received this book free from the author for an honest review.

Lee French says

This book starts slow, but once it finds its rhythm, it’s really entertaining. The first few chapters are full of a lot of explanation about the various characters’ backstories. While the information is important, it’s told to us instead of related by a character or revealed by the story.

I had a little bit of trouble with suspension of disbelief about the magic. Not because magic can’t be in the real world, but because of how everyone reacts to it. If magic exists, it’s hard to wrap my head around the idea that no one has ever seen it used before or would suspect it, especially experienced FBI agents.

Other than those two points, this book is a good time. After the beginning, it was a quick read I had a hard time putting down. I actually stayed up well past my bedtime to finish it, enjoying how the characters confused themselves and got things right and wrong (sometimes at the same time). The relationships are satisfying, and the characters are well rounded.

Allison Kohn says

This is a bewitching thriller - an adventure, a love triangle, and a mystery all in one. The pace is good and the characters are individuals we can all relate to. i was spellbound.

Gabriela Popa says

I will start by saying that Mr. Spotson is a talented writer. The text flows smoothly, the characters are alive and the plot carries a nice amount of intrigue.

That being said, (and others may feel differently here---) I had a problem with the basic assumptions

supporting the plot of this particular book. Without disclosing the gist of the story, I really felt that witchcraft felt a bit of an easy way out, and did not do full justice to the main thread of the story, the romance between Patricia and Paul.

I also had trouble with this book's mixed allegiance to many genres (which, in itself, should not be a problem if harmony is created in the end.)

My final comment has to do with the writer himself: again, I believe Mr. Spotson could create truly profound books, with real depth and a more realistic bend. This is my challenge to him, which I hope he will consider in the future.

C.E. Clayton says

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

“Delusional”, at its core, is the story of a professional young woman who has her head down, focused only on her work, constantly trying to remove herself from office drama in order to exceed in her career. Which gives her a rather bland personality, Patricia’s only vice is adhering to a strict exercise regimen, and pining to find a new romantic partner because, according to her life plan, it’s about time she start hunkering down and start a family. Then Patricia sets her sights on a married man, and things start getting weird, leaving Patricia to wonder if she’s losing her mind, or if someone is tormenting her, and if so, who, and how? For Patricia’s symptoms and visions are so outlandish, that they can’t possibly be real, right? Right.

This book falls into a lot of genres. It’s a fantasy, and a thriller, and a mystery, and a romance novel all crammed into one, which means certain aspects of those genres have greater importance both to the stories presentation, but also its plot. The fantasy is rather small, but crucial to the story because it’s the villain who wields all the fantastic elements. Whereas the crime part is more a convenient blip for certain characters that gets added in for more of a taste of intrigue then actual plot. The thriller and romance genres are the most important in the book, and the mystery of “what’s going on? Who is tormenting Patricia, and why?” wasn’t all that mysterious. Part of that could be due to the confusion with POV. Spotson appears to be using a close third person POV, showing us one character’s state of mind per chapter, but somewhere along the line that changes to an omniscient POV, which is never as interesting in my opinion, because as soon as a little tidbit gets tossed about for the crime or mystery aspect of the book, it gets immediately answered in the next paragraph by another character. So just be aware of those POV switches, because it can be a little jarring otherwise.

I’ve read other books by Spotson, and I always have to commend his imagination, he likes to blend a lot of different genres and formulas together to make something unique with a creative twist. It always just falters a bit in the execution. Patricia is not a character I really liked, she’s rather bland and robotic in her drive for success, and her instant willingness to let herself fall for a married co-worker (who isn’t making a pass at her to begin with, so it starts rather one sided) rubbed me the wrong way. As did most portrayals of women in the book, who all come off as a hot mess, and fall into stereotypical tropes. As a woman, this irked me because it felt overly one dimensional for no real reason, and Paul himself—Patricia’s love interest—seemed more spoiled and ungrateful than anything else most of the time. That does change, but initially, he wasn’t all that swoon worthy.

I believe that if more time had been spent fleshing out the thriller and fantasy aspects of the book, this would have really shined, for there were mild tones of “Gone Girl” strewn about, especially around the main villain, that I was really hoping would develop more, but it never did to a point where I was satisfied. The page-turner thriller aspect of the book didn’t pop up until about 60% in, after the mystery was gone, and the romance was pretty established, so if it had appeared earlier, this book would have been better-rounded in all its genre blending.

Even so, I was willing to just go with it for a few of these points, I was willing to let go that the villain’s motivations are rather shallow, and you don’t get to know enough about them to understand why they fixate on Paul so much when they don’t seem all that happy to begin with. I was willing to just shrug off the high-end art thefts because Spotson did have a reason for their inclusion, even if just marginally. But then the story wraps up, and the characters get their “happy ending”, which is okay, but felt a bit hurried on Paul’s end considering what happens—I can’t say how because of spoilers. But then the final chapter rolls around, and it just felt like an unnecessary bait-and-switch cliff-hanger that comes out of nowhere, and has no real impact on the story, so I’m left baffled as to why it was included in the first place. It leaves a bad taste in my mouth as there doesn’t appear to be any plans for a sequel that would explain, or make sense, of that final chapter.

I did enjoy this book more than I did the other book, “Seeking Dr. Magic”, that I read by the same author. Spotson does have a very creative imagination, and he is always best when he’s showing off the fantastic powers of his fantasy characters, but despite the thriller aspect, this was a slow burn for me, and I’m still a bit upset about that last chapter, so this is still a 3.25 stars for me, but I think it’s worth giving a read!

James McCormick says

Spotson states that he always takes meticulous care when plotting his novels and this is clearly evident in *Delusional*, an intricately crafted work that draws together the threads of romance, supernatural, thriller and crime.

I must confess I have very little interest in stories that specifically focus on romance or interpersonal relationships but there is so much more to this novel. Despite being rather long it nevertheless kept me gripped throughout with constant cliff hangers and reveals. In my case I simply had to learn who the mysterious Hope diamond thief was and the cause of Patricia’s hallucinations. I promise you won’t be disappointed by either explanation.

The only real criticism I have is I found it a little difficult initially to relate to the ambitious and materialistic Patricia or actually like her to any significant degree. This works when we have a character like Wendy who is intended to be overtly unpleasant but not when we are asked to follow a main character from the first to last page. Luckily this is not the case later on as we do begin to empathise with her suffering but I feel the story might work a little better if the author could have found a way to make me engage with his protagonist at an earlier stage.

Overall though an excellent novel and one that works on multiple levels and across several genres. I have no hesitation in recommending *Delusional*.

Ayer Feanix says

‘Delusional’ is a supernatural thriller with elements of romance. Easy style with varied vocabulary provides an enjoyable reading experience. With few exceptions, description is minimal, which helps achieve a fast-paced, gripping effect, desirable in all novels of the genre.

The story starts with Patricia falling for a married colleague, Paul, and then it escalates into Patricia’s worst nightmare. Visions, scary near-misses, and other spine-chilling occurrences punctuate the next few weeks, driving her insane. But the insanity is not the usual type – she knows the unnatural events come from outside rather than being a figment of her imagination.

Although the identity of the culprit is obvious relatively early (by design), I was compelled to read until the very end to see how the story developed and concluded. At some point after the middle, this book became unputdownable, and I had to finish it at that sitting.

The only thing that detracted from the story was a far-from-likeable protagonist. Patricia is portrayed as a boring, empty bimbo and – as such – she is well written. It is not compulsory to furnish every novel with likeable characters, and many authors have pulled it off (e.g. Gillian Flynn with *Gone Girl*). This strategy often works, but a little bit more soul in Patricia would have made a big difference.

Patricia only waits for a man to turn up, obsessively keeps fit, reads the *Inner Self* magazine (apparently only recently, but I don’t believe it), and gets all agitated over little things like a stain on her blouse. There is no sense of humour in Patricia, but attraction to muscular good looks she has aplenty. If her man hunger was a direct result of some deep childhood trauma, I might have sympathized with her, but she is after a married guy because of several preceding years of being single.

Hence, I didn’t really care that much what was going to happen to her.

On the other hand, Jocelyn, Patricia’s friend, and Ray, the private detective she hires to resolve her delusional problem appear to be much more sensible and likeable.

My penultimate observation concerns a detail that perhaps needs to be corrected.

Wendy: “*You know, I remember something about exponents from math class. Do you know the power of two, Mr. Yurka?*” “*Excuse me?*” “*You multiply a number by itself. Like two times two. Let’s say, for example, one bee becomes two.*”

Er, no – one times one is one. Not sure if this one is intentional or not; if it is, I would expect some sort of mockery directed at Wendy’s ignorance to ensue, either provided by her interlocutor or the narrator himself, but that did not happen.

To finish...

“*Buzz off, Dale,*” she hissed, as she made a beeline to the door.

Said when Dale is in death throes following a number of bee stings – a bit cheesy, but in a good way. I really liked that.
