



A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read

William Rabkin

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Based on the hit usa network TELEVISION series

A tie-in readers will be totally psyched ?about...

Shawn Spencer has convinced everyone he's psychic.

Now, HE HAS TO either clean up--or be found out...

After the PSYCH detective agency gets some top-notch publicity, Shawn's high-school nemesis, Dallas Steele, hires him to help choose his investments. Naturally, their predictions turn out to be total busts. And the deceptive Dallas is thrilled that he has completely discredited and humiliated Shawn once and for all--until he's found murdered.

But the police have a suspect found--at the scene with a smoking gun. And she says Shawn took control of her mind and forced her to do it. After all, he is a psychic...

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read Details

Date : Published January 6th 2009 by NAL (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9780451226358

Author : William Rabkin

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Mystery, Humor, Fiction, Media Tie In, Tv

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From Reader Review *A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read* for online ebook

Honya says

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read was a surprisingly good TV-show tie-in novel. All too often, these sorts of books are clearly written by someone who has only a minimal grasp of the show (if that), and the characterizations and writing suffer because of that. This book, on the other hand, actually read essentially like an episode of the show—down to the flashback at the beginning! The plot is as convoluted and unpredictable as ever, driven on by Shawn's random grasping at ideas. But then, when is the plot ever actually the point of this show anyhow? Shawn's randomness, goofiness, and unexpected (to all but the readers) brilliance and the whole Shawn-Gus dynamic were well done; they felt true to the characters that I know and love from the show. For those who love the rest of the gang (and I do), this story does leave a bit lacking in that department. You've got a smattering of Henry and a touch of Chief Vick and Lassie, but just barely that. And Juliet's part doesn't bear mentioning; it's sad, that's what it is. And I do love some Shules in my *Psych* stories, so I missed her. But despite the lack of some of my favorite characters, I think *A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read* was well written and enjoyable—recommended for those who like the show.

Grace says

Aside from the not-very-appropriate comments that the author thought had to be in the book, I really liked this *Psych* story. It was funny and had a good plot with an interesting reveal.

Ryan Burt says

If you like *Psych* you will probably like this book. It isn't super deep but then neither is the show. Fun spin off of the series.

HFK says

Okay, I want to have me a *Psych* marathon.

I swore not to do these tie-in books other than with the *Murder, She Wrote*, but when I came across this being on sale, I just could not resist. I enjoy me some *Psych* time to time, mostly when the episodes are on late night reruns, which means I am not fully devoted to every twists and turns it had to offer during its running years. Nevertheless, what little I do know about it, I have enjoyed quite a much. I adore the characters, I adore the chemistry, I love the mystery and the humor that is one of the best parts of the TV-show. It is dope, light and entertaining.

A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Read starts the book series, which is obviously aimed to an audience that already has a basic knowledge of what the TV-show stands for. I would not swear it to be a sure deal for a person to really get a hold on with the story if there is no background info inside their brain.

To my surprise, this book is mainly from the POV of Gus, which is mixing up the usual dynamic a bit. Gus gets the role of the super-whiner and Shawn the role of the witty clown. Both of them are all that in the show too, but I think the balance there is much better and less highlighting. Overall, the characterization is shallow and only scratches the thin surface of what *Psych* has to offer on the screen.

There is perhaps too much humor (if this is possible), most of the dialogue is filled with it. It gives you some laughs, but also gives you some frustration at times because nothing is done easy and simple, everything has to be done through delaying humor.

The mystery itself is solid, fun and easy to follow. I would recommend this to the fans and the followers, but the others, just check out the show, and then decide do you want to dwell inside the books too.

Jamea says

Mr. William Rabkin has done an excellent job at keeping Shawn as Shawn and Gus as Gus. To the very reactions, sayings and overall mannerisms were kept in tact as how it would be portrayed in the show by the actors of which I love dearly! xD

I couldn't stop laughing, scratching my head or stop my heart from beating so fast.

The storyline was very interesting, and i felt like I was actually watching the show(At which I try to figure out the mysteries).

Nothing was overdone, or underdone regarding the rest of the plot with it's twists and turns.

I felt that they were unexpected, and welcomed adding new elements to the story and keeping in place the general premise of PSYCH.

Overall I really enjoyed reading this!

I can't wait to read the next book!! =D

Teresa says

I am now on page 186, Chapter 16. This book is all over the place, the plot and storyline is so unrealistic. I was hoping to fall in love with this series, however the characters are over the top. You have Gus who has no spine and lets people walk all over him, so you have no regard for this character. Then you have Spencer who is so conceited, so self-centered you hate his character. I have never watched the show and maybe I should start there. I will not continue with the series. The author narrative is babbling on and on about situations that have no meaning to the plot, and I find myself have to go back and re-read to figure out the language. It is so obvious that the two characters are fake and phony in their psychic abilities which makes the storyline even weaker.

I assumed Spencer would be like a Monk, who could come on a crime scene and immediately solve it, however I don't see this in the book and feel very disappointed.

So I finally finished this book in hope it would turn around, however my feelings have not changed. I try my

hardest not to abandon books because I want to give the author a chance, however this book left me confused, it tried to pull in through the climax of Spencer solving the murders, but his intense babbling is so annoying that you find it hard to focus on the storyline. I will probably not read book #2 because I really did not even find this book to be a true mystery crime solver. I could not get into the characters at all, not one character held my interest through out the whole book!

Kati says

Excellent. Told mostly from Gus' point of view, it was funny, even hilarious in places. Sometimes, I laughed out loud, it was that good. The mystery was intriguing, one of the best that I've read in a long time. Both Gus and Shawn were true to their TV selves - Gus was frantic most of the time, Shawn on the other hand was laid back to the point of acting like an airhead from time to time, but never missing a thing. The only thing that I didn't like much was the revelation of the murderer itself, that felt a bit overdone - too much craziness is just too much sometimes.

Jacob says

Not great, but not terrible either.

Everyone seemed slightly out of character, but still a fun read if you like the TV show

Vikas says

It was fun diving back to the world of Psych. I loved the absurd series and Shawn and Gus's adventures playing detectives and may be I will have myself another marathon of all the 8 seasons when I am done with these 5 little books. Out of those the first one goes down.

The main characters are down pat and Shawn is all bit brilliant and childish as the TV series same for Gus but I would say that the complain about the minimal roles for Jules and Lessiter are true. This book was mainly focused on Shawn and Gus. Mystery was good and it felt like that it would have easily covered couple of episodes if it was part of the series.

I haven't covered the story because you may read that in the book description and also in other reviews.

I liked it as it's a while since I finished the series but I still remember it fondly. So do give the series a chance and then read these books and Keep on Reading.

Michael Bates says

Overall it's not bad. There are a lot of worse T.V. series to books, and I want to believe there is better. Little things are off that you notice if your a big fan of the series but take it with a grain of salt.....shot of whiskey.....

Would I read the next book? What are you not psychic?.....

Anthony Yvonnica says

Cute, fun, entertaining, true to the television series

Deb Davis says

Mock me not. Every brain needs a break.

Jamie says

I'd like to start off by stating that the reason I read this was because my wife, during the whole time she was reading it, kept saying how horrible it was. I was curious to find out just how horrible.

My verdict: not that bad.

For me, my main complaint was that the narration sucked (e.g., lengthy, pointless filler observations, that added little - if anything - to the story) An example from page 36:

"When Shawn shouted, Gus was at least thirty feet in front of him. Since sound travels at seven hundred seventy miles per hour, it took his voice at least one thirty-fifth of a second to reach Gus. Maybe a fraction more, since he was accelerating away from Shawn, and there was the Doppler effect to consider. Even after Gus heard Shawn's voice, it would have taken another .028 of a second for the meaning of the word to penetrate his brain..."

...and on like this for 50+ more words! [Also, one thirty-seventh of a second would have been more accurate, but why not just say 0.0265 seconds or some other ridiculous split-second conversion of feet divided by the speed of sound in mph?]

Not the only example, but definitely the most egregious, and would probably win a Bulwer-Lytton award if it were the opening line of the book.

Also, this particular writer obviously has a penchant for emphasizing and dwelling on the physical assets of the female minor characters (while, ironically/hypocritically, criticizing Shawn for objectifying the main female characters in the show).

I did, however, enjoy most of the book, especially by challenging myself to read the dialogue as quickly (i.e., snappy repartee) as they do in the show. Unlike most episodes, it had multiple storylines/cases going on concurrently, which made it a little difficult to follow what was going on, but also served to divert attention long enough to make you wonder if any of them were red herrings.

Overall, it was not the most solid read, but it was a decent novelization of a TV show.

Rebecca Workman says

I felt like I got to spend some secret extra time goofing off with SB's biggest goof-offs. Rabkin hit the mark. I was reliving episodes of Psych I had never even seen. was this high ranking literature? of course not. It was fun. And it renewed me to a peppy and relaxed state I sometimes lose as an adult.

Juliezs says

Based on the fake-psychic detective show on USA, this book reads just like you're watching an episode of the show. Which is snappy dialogue, funny pop-culture references, with some great twists and turns in the story. I enjoyed reading this book, it gave a bit more insight into the two main character's minds than you can gather from watching a tv episode.

Perry Reed says

I'm going to repeat this review for all of the Psych books that I've read, since they're essentially all the same.

If you like the TV show, and it is one of my favorites, then the books aren't bad. Unfortunately, they're not very good either. I expected them to read more or less like an extended episode of the show, but they don't, really. Instead they almost entirely ignore the characters of Detectives Lassiter and O'Hara and focus pretty much exclusively on Shawn and Gus. Mostly Gus, actually, as the books are written almost entirely from his point of view. Shawn, of course, is the lead character on the show, and in my view, the most entertaining and interesting. In the books, he is almost a minor character at times. Worse, the author has made Gus very whiny and insecure; very different than on the show, and definitely a change for the worse.

But there are good points, too. The mysteries are mostly decent and the trademark humor, particularly the pop culture references, is there.

I'd recommend them if you REALLY like the TV show and have nothing better to read. Otherwise, pass.

Tracy says

Thank god that's over. This book was more an eye roller than a good story of any kind. The character of Shawn was horrifying childish and whiny, and seemed to be the worst friend in the world. The story was sort of told from Gus's point of view (still in third person). The story and writing were on par with Supernatural: Bone Key—utterly ridiculous and not at all related to what dimensions the characters actually have on the TV show. (Now, I understand this was separate from that, but you'd think the author would have tried harder to make this an actual mystery rather than a trashy Mass Market airport read or such. Maybe that's just me. And to make this even sicker, the author apparently has writing credits for the Psych TV show.) There were a few funny lines, but for the most part the whole thing was a great big mess. Albeit, a fast read that was much lighter than the depressing Like Water For Chocolate, but if you're going to read it, here's a warning: Read it

at your own risk.

Lena says

Reminds me of the tv show! Awesome mystery!

Mith says

Sheer fun, people!

Psych, for those who have been living under a rock till now, is an American whodunit comedy series wherein the wise-cracking protagonist, Shawn Spencer, pretends to be a psychic (long story) and solves crimes that baffles even the police, thanks to him being hyper-observant. He is aided by his best-friend-since-kindergarten, Gus, who also works as a pharmaceutical rep when he is not being coerced by Shawn into doing things he DEFINITELY did not sign up for. The show's awesome and hilarious. You should watch it.

This book is a tie-in for the show and William Rabkin, one of the show's writers, does a brilliant job of transferring the characters beautifully onto the printed page without losing any of their essence.

When Gus' car gets impounded while he and Shawn are out wrapping up a case, our story begins. They realise something's amiss when the guy at the impound lot whips out a shotgun and shoots at them, while they are trying to get Gus' car released. Right after that, they run into a beautiful woman, Tara, who claims that Shawn is giving her instructions "psychically" which she has no choice but to obey.

It is amusing for Shawn and Gus, at first, to play along with Tara and make her do their errands, but things take a serious turn when people start turning up dead around Tara and she claims that Shawn told her to do it. Shawn has to now clear his name before anyone else gets murdered. Meanwhile, there's a billionaire benefactor in town who may not be what he seems.

The book is a HILARIOUS roller-coaster ride from start to finish! The witty banter between Shawn and Gus is a delight to read (it's even better when you imagine the actors playing the scene out!). I really enjoyed the book as the plot was more detailed and fleshed-out here.

Very enjoyable even if you aren't familiar with the TV show!

Melissa Archibald says

The mysteries were fine enough, but the characters were exaggerated versions of themselves. Shawn's recap of the crime was far grander and more annoying than usual (Typically I enjoy his prolongation of the summary, but in the book it was tedious).

My biggest complaint was the amount of misogyny. Shawn, Gus, and show more generally don't objectify women. Sure they fight over a girl or make a few comments here and there, but in this novel there was some

very overt (borderline offensive) oogling and sexualization of female characters that made the men in the book creepy. And poor Jules was reduced to a side-kick who forgave Shawn after he spouted out some random, memorized feminist rant.

Overall, not a great representation of the show.
