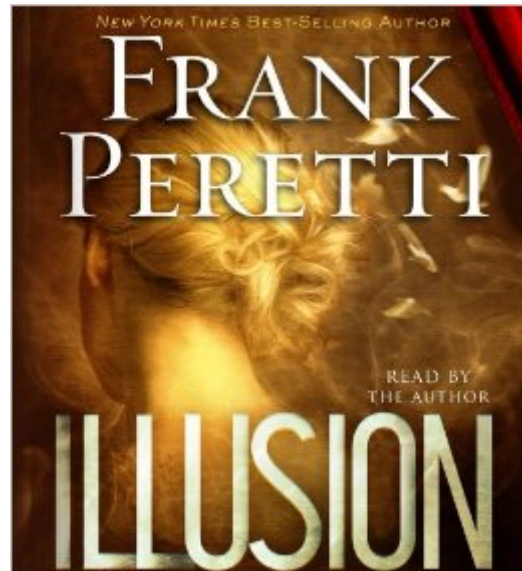


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# Illusion: A Novel



## Synopsis

A stunning new thriller from the father of Christian fiction—a grieving husband encounters a teen identical to his dead wife—in face, name, and magical skills. Dane and Mandy Collins have been a popular magic act for close to thirty years. They plan to retire but soon devastation strikes and Mandy is killed in a fiery car wreck. Reeling from his wife's death, Dane reluctantly agrees to see a new magic act on the advice of a friend. Dane is transfixed by the magic he sees, illusions that even he, a seasoned professional, cannot readily explain. But more than anything, he is stunned by the nineteen-year-old magician who is in every respect identical to his wife, forty years ago. Little does he know that his wife has somehow traveled through time. When Mandy and Dane reunite, they must decide what their future is and uncover the conspiracy behind their meeting, the supernatural bent to Mandy's magic, and who is following them. Once again, Frank Peretti has crafted a riveting novel full of twists and mystery. This rich, rewarding novel depicts a love story that transcends time and space, to discover what death and life mean.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One minute magician Dane Collins is tooling down the road with his beautiful wife of forty years, Mandy, the next he stands beside her badly charred body as the doctor takes her off life support. A tragic car accident separates him forever from his one and only love. One minute a 19-year-old Mandy is traipsing through the county fair with her best friends, the next finds her at the fair - 40 years later, a teenager dressed only in a hospital gown - trying to convince everyone around her she isn't crazy. I am happy to be the bearer of good news. Peretti is back. It's been six years since

his last book where he matched metaphors with Ted Dekker (House) - an experiment in "You write then I'll write" which left me feeling embarrassed for two of my favorite authors. Before that was *Monster* (2005), which was so weak I couldn't get beyond page 50. So when I say "Peretti is back" I mean the Peretti of novels I can't put down. *Illusion* is the story of married magicians Dane and Mandy Collins who have decided to retire from Vegas to start a new chapter in their lives. But when Mandy is killed, Dane struggles to continue living life without her. So when a teenage Mandy doppelganger appears on the streets of his small town, he thinks he's one rabbit short of a magic trick. Mandy is no less perplexed when she's snatched out of the 1970s and thrust into the present. Peretti's newest book is a sort of a Siegfried and Roy Meet Quantum Physics. He skillfully blends the worlds of platform magic and stage illusions with an inter-dimensional, time travel slight of hand - "now you see it; now you don't", sci-fi style. But the real magic of *Illusion* comes from the time-altered romance between Dane and Mandy.

What can you say about Frank Peretti that hasn't been said? That man is a legend, and one of the biggest forces that the Christian fiction industry could've dreamed of, and beyond. I thrived off of "The Oath," which was my first Peretti read, I shot through "Prophet," was awed and inspired by "This Present Darkness" and "Piercing the Darkness," and the list goes on and on, doesn't it? But before this, before "Illusion," there was "Monster," and for me, it was a major stumbling block. So when "Illusion" was announced, there were question marks. Does Peretti still have what it takes to awe and inspire like he did all the other times? The answer is a refreshing YES, and as a magician might make it out to be, in spades! Peretti hasn't gone anywhere, and he's still got some magic left in his hat! Dane has said goodbye to his beloved wife, Mandy. To the world of magic and entertainment, Dane and Mandy were the names to watch, and you loved them, plain and simple. But no more Mandy. Now, what? Oh, really? See, there is a Mandy, and the mental ward has been keeping an eye on her, until she finds a way to get out of there. Now, this Mandy thinks the year should be 1970, and thinks she's 19 years old. But discovering that things aren't what they appear to be, Mandy lives in this world, and picks up a gig at a coffee shop, and shows off some magic that she has up her sleeve. And then a man walks into that coffee shop, only to be reminded of his beloved wife! What is this? What's going on here? Well, what's going on is that Dane begins talking to this young prodigy, learning about her, growing to love her, as a mentor, despite the age being obvious. And oh yeah, they are being watched, and they are being watched carefully. Just thought you should know.

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