



Fallen Spirits

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Fallen Spirits is the second book in the Mind Monster series. It doses its plot with rollicking adventure, humor, and insights into distressing behaviors and situations that could impact sensitive readers ... especially those adverse to ongoing descriptions of bodily functions.

Diane Hatz covers further experiences of Alex (the main character of her first book, *Rock Gods & Messy Monsters*) as Alex continues her perhaps-futile search for happiness while confronting messy situations that immerse her not in joy, but in dangerous, challenging situations. Having lost her fiancé and her job, Alex finds herself on a road trip from hell with a woman she calls Crystal and involved in the unlikely scenario of an underground network attempting to return wayward spirits to their dimension.

Crystal and Alex no sooner form uncertain new bonds than circumstances threaten to tear them apart.

Many characters enter the fray to affect her pursuit of happiness. One is super-billionaire Jackson Thomas Wilson (known worldwide as 'JT'), who is not only fixated on controlling the world, but threatens everyone around him with his relentless pursuit of power and money. The global kingpin may be powerful—but that doesn't translate into an effective leader. JT can't even break up with a girlfriend without a crib sheet of notes in hand.



As villainous as he is, JT also struggles, in a manner eerily similar to Alex, to understand the world and his place in it ... especially when it comes to women, who only seem to covet him for his wealth. JT *hates* weakness in others and in himself—but his betraying body and uncertain ability to achieve trillionaire status indicates that he may ultimately not be able to effectively control everything around him.

Alex's involvement with JT and the revelations that stem from this association lead her deeper into both an inner journey of growth and a disconnection between what she really wants, and her ongoing experience of feeling frustrated and lost. Meanwhile, JT dances between power and egotistical pursuits.

His involvement with inter-dimensional travel and confused spirits introduces more angst into his life, muddying the waters of his goals as he teeters between success and complete disaster.

With wry satirical social commentary steeped in Alex and JT's psychological and spiritual development and Crystal's true identity, the story moves into realms of speculative fiction in a novel way. Each character proves flawed and desperate—but likeable in sometimes-odd ways ... even villain JT.

This will delight readers seeking stories that are difficult to neatly fit into a given genre. This multifaceted tale offers many twists and turns most readers won't see coming, defying any inclination to bill it as sci-fi, a thriller, or anything else easily defined or narrow in scope.

While it rests upon the history and experiences of Alex's previous encounters, this zany romp requires no prior familiarity with *Rock Gods & Messy Monsters*. *Fallen Spirits* will thus captivate newcomers as well as prior fans ... but, be prepared for a wild ride as personalities clash.



Libraries should consider acquiring and recommending *Fallen Spirits* to a wide audience of readers seeking creative stories packed with satire, intrigue, and adventure. Book clubs, too, will find *Fallen Spirits* lends to debates over many issues, from billionaires and lovers to spiritual matters as Alex struggles with disparate forms of monsters.

When dreams morph into nightmares, how is rebuilding possible? By honing attempts to discover what is truly valuable in life and self.

(Spoiler: the story's cliffhanger ending requires readers and libraries to make the third book a 'must have' acquisition.)

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