

BRANDI REEDS TRESPASSING 2018

Is this novel about demented schizophrenia or horrible entrapment in a crazy marriage ?

In this novel of psychological suspense, a young mother follows a dangerous path to find her missing husband.

Veronica Cavanaugh's grasp on the world is slipping. Her latest round of fertility treatments not only failed but left her on edge and unbalanced. And her three-year-old daughter, Elizabella, has a new imaginary friend," Nini " , who seems much more devilish than playful.

So when Veronica's husband fails to return home from a business trip, what's left of her stability begins to crumble.

Given her family's history of mental illness, and Elizabella's insistence that her daddy is dead, Veronica starts questioning herself.

Every move she makes is now suspect.

Worse still, Veronica is positive that someone wants her and her daughter dead, too—unless it's all in her mind...

Somewhere beneath her paranoia is the answer to her husband's vanishing.

To find it, she's led to a house in the Florida Keys. But once there, she isn't sure she wants to know the truth.

"Trespassing combines the creeping dread of a gothic novel with the page-turning suspense of a contemporary grip-lit thriller. A drip-feed of revelations forces the reader to question their theories in time with the narrator, as she is tipped over the edge of sanity by the eerie predictions of her daughter's imaginary friend. This sinister atmosphere makes for a sleep-stealing novel; it is hard to put down and even harder to put out the light." —**Jo Furniss, bestselling author of *All the Little Children***

"It's all in your mind." These are not the most comforting of words.

When I'm scared, the last thing I want to hear is that I'm making it up—that *I'm* crazy, not the situation itself.

But "it's all in your mind" is exactly what Veronica, the panic-stricken wife and mother in *Trespassing*, keeps hearing from everyone—her psychiatrist,

those closest to her,

and the police.

Veronica is already worried about her stability when her husband goes missing. She's off-kilter from her most recent round of fertility drugs.

She has a family history of mental illness—she lost her mother to it in a violent delusional episode.

And now her daughter has become overly involved with an imaginary friend who somehow knows things she shouldn't.

It's no wonder she's questioning her sanity—it has become impossible for her to tell friend from foe. Has she become completely deranged?

Or is there something more at play here?

Should she sit tight or trust her instincts and run?

At every twist and turn, Brandi Reeds makes Veronica's fear and self-doubt absolutely palpable.

I could feel her deepening dread,

the prickles of doubt,

and, worst of all, her terror of potentially losing both her daughter and her mind

As I whipped through the pages, I kept wanting to grab Veronica and insist over and over, "It's *not* all in your mind, Veronica. Run!"

This is a true mystery/thriller... I was pulled into the plot right away.

Prose is tight and engaging.

Dialogue is real and flows effortlessly.

There are twists and turns in the plot line but it always pushes the story forward in a logical fashion...until...the final hundred pages or so.

The reader loses focus somewhere around that point. The constant questioning of events as real or imagined starts to make the reader question his own sanity.

Micah is a critical character, but you just don't see him much at all and that's a disappointment which continued right up to the book's conclusion.

This one was definitely not what I expected going into it! What a suspenseful, psychological thriller. I honestly couldn't turn the pages fast enough as my mind raced with what-ifs only to be proven wrong, time & time again.

"I wish they understood that no one in her right mind would choose to go through what I'm going through."

In *Trespassing* we meet Veronica, a mom to 3 year old Bella who is struggling to get pregnant again via IVF. When we first meet Veronica & Bella they are at an appt with their family therapist. Bella has developed an "imaginary" friend, Nini, who resides in a strand of her hair and tells her things. Veronica, whose mom suffered from schizophrenia is very concerned about her daughter's mental well being.

At the onset, things were creepy with Bella and Nini. When Veronica's husband, Micah, goes missing it seems as if Bella knew things before they happened. Of course, the police suspect Veronica and given her family's mental health history we are in for a ride as even she begins to question her self and her own sanity. Should she listen to Bella? Might she actually know something? Or are her words the ramblings of a little girl with an overactive imagination?

"A pause. Static. A whisper: "Veronica." I can't identify the voice. "Who's calling?" I say again. "Listen to your daughter."

The book really kept me guessing as to what was "really" going on. There was a gradual reveal that I honestly did not have all figured out. I figured out bits & pieces but not everything. Though I felt like the ending didn't really tie up all the loose ends - it fit within the story line and made sense.

Veronica being the narrator was definitely what kept me reading. Her history, her

anxiety, the lies, the insecurity & feelings of paranoia - they all worked well to keep me turning the pages.