



The Endorphin Conspiracy

Fredric Stern

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In the late 1950's, the CIA, at the height of communist paranoia, established PROJECT MK ULTRA to develop drugs that could be utilized to effectively brainwash foreign enemies. In 1963, the project came to an abrupt halt when several of the CIA's own agents were unwittingly given high doses of LSD at a weekend retreat, and later suffered severe flashbacks, depression, and in one case, suicide as a result.

Thirty-five years have transpired since the fateful MK ULTRA project was shut down. A group of zealots, including several of the original participants, now in highly placed government and academic positions, has kept the program, known as the SIGMA PROJECT, alive. Shifting their focus to the development of highly potent synthetic endorphins and utilizing PET (positron emission tomography) scan technology, they are on the threshold of a major breakthrough in the ability to understand and control the brain's thought processes. And they will let no one get in their way.

Dr. Geoffrey Davis, a former medic in the Navy Seals, is the chief resident on the neurosurgery service at the New York Trauma Center. From his first day back on the job after spending a year in the PETronics Research Laboratory of Dr. Josef Balassi, strange events begin unfolding. A crazed janitor, a former head injury patient at the NYTC, explosives in hand, takes a little girl hostage at the Central Park Zoo. A respected Hasidic rabbi opens fire with a machine gun on a crowded subway train. Several of Geoff's patients die under mysterious circumstances while on his neurosurgery service, and key aspects of their medical records, including their PET scans, vanish, leading Geoff inexorably toward the frightening conclusion that all of these events are in some way connected to activities at the NYTC's PETronics Institute.

As the deadly conspiracy swirls around him, Geoff becomes increasingly isolated, on the run from the CIA, the police and his own medical staff. At stake is the ability to control the human brain, and Dr. Geoffrey Davis is the only one with the knowledge, courage, and ability to stop THE SIGMA PROJECT!

THE ENDORPHIN CONSPIRACY is a first rate medical thriller, a chilling story rooted in today's medical technology. A breathless ride from start to finish, it's a novel you won't want put down until you turn the final page!

The Endorphin Conspiracy Details

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Author : Fredric Stern

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Michael says

Be prepared for medical terminology in this fast-paced thriller!

Character development was quite well done. Having lived through the era of MK-Ultra and heard of abuses of ordinary citizens by our own government, this book was not far fetched in its plot. The editing was well done and errors were minimal. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the notion of what might happen when rogue elements in our intelligence community aren't kept in check!

Nancy says

This was a pretty good read with an interesting hero and support cast. However, there were way too many medical detail and a loooooong explanation of how to break a numeric code...easy to skim over, but somewhat irritating!

Marina Fontaine says

It's an OK book. The beginning, with all the buildup is better than once it finally gets going. The old trope of evil corporation in cahoots with the CIA is, well, old. An intern worrying about ethical implications of receiving free stethoscopes from corporations sounds fairly laughable in these days of Obamacare on the march. The choreography of the final confrontation between the baddie and the hero is, once again, laughable in practical terms (yeah, make it possible for the immobilized hero to move, why don't you?), not to mention the "talking killer" trope being done to death and then some. HOWEVER, it's a quick read, entertaining enough, and has some good emotional scenes. Not enough for the "like" rating, esp. considering how many better books have gotten only 3 stars from me, so just "OK" it is.

NOTE: I don't understand all the complaints about medical terminology. Any fan of ER or House (or anyone who had visited a hospital more than once) should have no problem, and if you are not into medically themed stories, why would you pick this one up in the first place?

Christina Relis says

Gripping and fast paced

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and found it hard to put down. It had very detailed and specific information regarding code breaking and neurological chemicals.

Sue says

No stars would be appropriate. With my retirement income, I have started getting free books for the Kindle. They are free for a reason: nobody would pay money for these! Guess I need to get a library card!

Pat aka Tygyr says

Geoff is starting in neurosurgery at a trauma center. He had done some research with the staff there regarding PET scans and head traumas and is very excited to continue working with them. But he is getting emails he doesn't understand. People who have had head traumas, PET scans, and seemingly much better are murdering people or committing suicide. What is Geoff missing about these patients? He enlists the aid of a Medical Examiner. She has a secret. She was suspicious of these deaths before Geoff brought them to her. Her father died about 40 years ago when a secret government experiment went very wrong. She thinks the experiments have been restarted. Is she just a conspiracy nut? Now more than just patients are turning up dead or badly injured. Geoff has amassed critical information, can he get it to someone he trusts in time. Who can he trust? Then Geoff is hit by a car and ends up in his own hospital with head trauma and having the same treatments as those patients he has been losing. What will happen?

Liquid Frost says

This medical thriller is a casual read for entertainment. To me, it is what I envision a "Dime Store" novel to be, which is not negative in the slightest sense. It is simply my way to express a book that moves along, has some action and suspense, and can be read without a huge commitment from the reader.

Brainwashing and its carry-over from the CIA's Project MK ULTRA has led to SIGMA Project, which is still nefarious but is run by high-level government and academic officials. There is some fun science (medical thriller after all) and decent characters. Of course, the main character, Dr. Geoffrey Davis is a former Navy Seal medic so you know he is going to get to the bottom of why patients with head injuries are doing crazy things.

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Jacob Peled says

I like medical thrillers, but this one contain too much unnecessary technical data. A thriller is not supposed to be a textbook. When describing an incident in the MEI or PetScan room, a full description of the way a MRI machine is working is unnecessary. The book is full with such detailed technical and surgical details. The main story behind the scene is very shallow and unbelievable, making the all story superficial. The author tried to use stereotype heroes in order to attract the reader.

- A doctor that is an ex-navy seal using its knowledge to defend himself from the bad guys

- An unclear CIA involvement in a confused story. Not very clear who is the bad guy and why.
- A computer hacker.
- A poor attempt to create a love story etc..

Unfortunately these typical ingredients that usually work in a suspense spy thriller didn't work properly in that story.

Michelle says

Good book

You people should just read this book yourselves and write your own review on this novel yourself and I really enjoyed reading this book very much so. Shelley MA

Virginia says

A great medical thriller! This book was written by an M.D. It was a great story that took several chapters to grab me but when it did, I was hooked. I love reading/learning about the brain & the possibilities. This work of fiction was suspenseful & engaging. I look forward to reading this author again.

Monica says

Fabulous read!! Loads of medical terminology, but it doesn't hinder the flow of the story. Hard to put down..looking forward to more from this author.

Tabitha Chamberlain says

A decent read, but the plot and characters aren't quite believable. You're not going to get lost in the story line. It's still overall a good read if you want something that is going to challenge you without straining you. However I do think this author has the potential to do some great things once he gets a few things ironed out.

Linda says

MEDICAL CONSPIRACY EXPOSED! would be the newspaper headline IF it were possible to expose all the conspiracy players. The doc with the balloons and the cop with the balloons both showing up in the head trauma unit at different times to visit different patients tells me that the entire conspiracy is yet to be solved.

The book was a good quick read. The author's writing mechanics were excellent! The characters were all multifaceted personalities with figurative and literal skeletons or corpses in their closets. The protagonist was the ONLY person I trusted, and I could spin some questions about the government sanctioned and funded

research going on in the hospital department where he served as chief resident. There is something about those balloons that niggles my brain.

Thank you, Mr. Stern, for a good read.

Joyce says

A GREAT MEDICAL THRILLER!

If you love medical mysteries this one will keep you reading even when you shouldn't be! A talented neurosurgical resident becomes the chief resident at a NY trauma center and uncovers a conspiracy that spans 40 years. I won't give the story line away. That would ruin your enjoyment. But do read this terrific book!

James says

I really enjoyed this book. Have not read a medical thriller in a long, long time. The pace and the writing were very good. The only thing against the book is it is a bit predictable with regard to the antagonists. But the writing makes up for this and held this reader's attention through to the end.
