



# Delusions of Grandeur

*Jason Najum*

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## **Delusions of Grandeur** Jason Najum

A book that asks the big questions facing today's generation

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR is part dark and humorous memoir, part relentless cultural critique. How can a people who have so much still feel dissatisfied? How does an educated but jaded society reconcile what they know with what they see happening around them? These and other big questions are examined and updated for today. If you have ever felt that more should be happening – in your life, in this culture we give ourselves to – then this book is for you.

Thousands protesting in the streets of New York. Revolutions across the Middle East. Millions of people plugged into social networks, searching for a connection, longing for a sense of community. This is not the trailer for a movie, not the hook of an epic novel; this is what's happening today, all around us.

Using a familiar backstory and well-known cultural examples, revisiting our history to better see where we came from, DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR is a passionate and personal examination of that “something” that is missing in our lives, why this something continues to eat at us, and why we need a different approach to how we deal with it.

In a modern and fast-paced style, a compelling and common sense argument is presented for the next stage in our cultural evolution.

A must-read for anyone who's ever felt sure that there must be more than this

## **Delusions of Grandeur Details**

Date : Published April 25th 2013 by Jason Najum (first published January 7th 2013)

ISBN : 9780991872800

Author : Jason Najum

Format : Paperback 152 pages

Genre : Nonfiction

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# **From Reader Review Delusions of Grandeur for online ebook**

## **Matthew Timion says**

An interesting memoir/rant on society. It is highly personal and entertaining.

The second half of the book more or less talks about WHY we are where we are as a society. I agree with the author's assessment - although he never comes out and offers a solution - and think that things like this need to be acknowledged on a more public scale.

At the end of the day I feel the solution the author alludes to - evolution of society - is the best and only way for our culture to repair itself.

Thought provoking for sure.

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## **A.L. Harris says**

Disclaimer, I am not an avid reader of memoirs, so bear with me. I felt deeply immersed in Najun's suffering and as I read on I felt as anxious as he did to know what was wrong and how to fix it. The pacing was hypnotic; as if I were being magnetically pulled along and couldn't break away from the lines. I believe that everyone will find something to connect to in this story and parts of it made me nostalgic. I was there for Najun's pain, all the things he tried just to make the connection. There is a lot of searching in this memoir. Style-wise, it was amazing. Because of my lack of memoirs to compare it to, I can only say that I really liked it because it had the flow of spoken word poetry, which is something that I really enjoy. I got caught in the rhythms and flow of the lines, of life and searching for something. Perhaps I read this at the right time in my life and deeply connected with it because of that, I don't know. But I believe we all have something to say, and Najum says his piece very powerfully. A must read!

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## **Patti Ibarra says**

The book baffled me because I thought I was going to read a self help book. Instead it was more of an autobiography or novel ( I am really not sure). It was written okay, but not what I was hoping to read. Once I got into the plot, I was excited to find out the ending. However, I am not sure I understood the ending. Still wondering what I read.

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## **Roxanne Reyes says**

Jason Najum hits the nail on the head and asks the tough questions that the majority is afraid to ask because by doing so we are forced to face reality- that we are a society ruled by consumerism, capitalism, advertising, laziness, beauty, greed and materialism. That many celebs expect to be worshipped and adored, that we are defined by what we drive, where we live, our bank account, etc. The author very eloquently and honestly discusses how human beings have the power to change the status quo, have the power to change their

dissatisfied lives into meaningful lives. This book hits a nerve and hopefully will open your eyes. Well written, clear, and will make you think about it long after you have finished it. Highly recommended!!

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### **Christoph Fischer says**

“Delusions of Grandeur” by Jason Najum was given to me by the author for an honest review. In parts written as a memoir about the writer’s pain, in parts a stream of consciousness about life, morals and ethics this is an ambitious and inspiring effort.

Son of divorced parents the author / character develops an ambiguous relationship towards his environment which he wants to be a part of and then doesn’t at the same time. It is most characteristically seen in his favourite writing location in the corner of a café.

Once we have an idea about his past and character forming background Najum takes us on towards his philosophical ramblings about his life and the state of the world, picking up the many issues we neglect, conflicts and contradictions we yet have to resolve and his take on how to live in this challenging environment.

As society we “swim in a half full glass” but have lost our gratitude and happiness and are now looking for new meaning in life. The latter part of his book focuses on possible solutions to bring back that missing element, such as commercialism, spiritualism, altruism and family.

It would be unfair to shorten and summarize his complex and personal message of culultural evolution.

Najum himself admits that there is no easy answer. I must admit I do not share or could follow all of his views but I found his reasoning intriguing, interesting and very stimulating. There is no doubt that we deal here with an author of great analytical ability, intelligence and talent. I agree with the author in that there are no easy answers to life’s manifold problems but under this premise the book leaves us more aware thanks to the great observations and analysis but left me with a little bit of confusion about its message, which may or may not have been the point of it all.

The writing is confident, skilful and easy to follow, despite the heavy theme.

Delusions of Grandeur is a great achievement in writing and I certainly did not regret giving it some time to engage with it.

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### **Donald Huizinga says**

A fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants critical evaluation of our society and what ails it. I think (outside the occasional use of coarse language) that this would be a good entry point for younger readers concerned with where society is going..

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### **Ana says**

What would you say if you were to be born in our world today being conscious of all human history that there is, and you’d have to spill it out and tell the truth and give in to your emotions in order to create something else, something different, something bigger and better than what there already is? There’s a name of a great book about that that I could give you. This one right here, *Delusions of Grandeur*.

Yeah, we have them. These delusions, these unstoppable thoughts about our world, the one we inhabit

without a permit, oh yes, we know all the facts. But then comes a man that decides to write about this, to write the truth. And, what's even better about this, he does so in our time. This book wasn't written 50 years ago, when Kerouac was telling the truth. This book isn't created in the times of liberation. It's actually created when we are becoming more and more sure of our imprisonment. Jason Najum kind of reminds me of Palahniuk. Palahniuk is a phenomenal writer, but he goes a lot on the dark side, he chooses to gross people out and remind them of the beasts they are, acting like they are not. Kind of like gorillas dressed in ballerina gowns. Najum doesn't go there. He keeps it positive, he keeps it calm and decent and still delivers the same ideas: it's time for a fuckin' change.

There are moments in this book that I absolutely loved. Take these for example:

I knew that boy was still around. I could still hear his laugh. Problem was that I was beginning to feel he was someone I used to know rather than someone I used to be.

...;making me step back from the events in my life and feel dislocated, separated;looking back down at myself, as if I was not the one doing any of this. I ask myself - is this a test? I look around. It has to be.

I too have a secret identity. I too burn with an innate belief that I am meant for something more, for something big and beautiful. But I stop there. That is as far as I'll go with the comparison. Because no matter how epic I wish my story was, no matter how much I suffer and struggle and hope, I know that Superman was not this much of a pussy.

Peel the layers off until you get to its core. And you will find us. We live and suffer in a world of our own creation. The systems that cause so much harm are built by our hands. The structures that confine us sit on foundations that we have laid. The corrupt political systems, the greedy corporations, the empty culture, the wasted lives. All of it made of people, by people. Almost any part of our misery can be reduced down to us. Choose something, anything, and if you reduce it down far enough you will find us sitting there, blood on our hands and dumb looks on our faces.

See my point? These are beautiful parts, written from a deeply intellectual point of view, from up the hill where Najum is watching humanity. I'm not putting him on a pedestal; I have read books a thousand times more thrilling and a million times more enchanting, but this is very good on its own. It's so good I think it deserves to get out there and create a big fuss and change something.

The 4 star rating comes from my guilty but unchangeable idea that the writing must be more complex. I rarely like scarce sentencing, and this was not a rare case of those.

Still, a beautiful read, filled with amazing ideas and some damned good writing! Well done, sir, well done indeed!

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### **Kandy Scaramuzzo says**

This review is from: *Delusions of Grandeur* (Kindle Edition)

Working where I do, I spend a lot of time with young people who have been in some kind of trouble or

another. They all share some of the same issues. They are not happy and they are looking for something, even though they don't have any idea what it is that they are looking desperately for to make the pain of unhappiness go away. When I saw the ad for this book it reminded me of my kids that I work with on a daily basis.

The book is a trip down the river of social issues. It states that we have not evolved, I think we are actually going backwards. I like to think we live in a civilized society, there was no mention of true civility in the book just polite play acting. This was a trip into a kind of writing I am not really used to reading. It was just there, raw, honest and in your face. The tortured feeling of desperation reminded me of one of my favorite authors, Edgar Allen Poe.

This is a good book to read if you are in the mood for raw, honest emotion and a very interesting idea of what is wrong with society today!

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### **Carson hall says**

BRAVO!

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### **Paul Seneca says**

Delusions of Grandeur is a thoughtfully memoir about Jason's life. I found, that while reading through this story, I related to many of the events that happened to author as well. I found the book both inspirational and enlightening. Living is about so much more than daily "stuff" or striving to find that one thing that will "make us happy". It's about living in the moment and taking time for oneself and enjoying the moment. I love reading this and it deserves 5 stars for sure!

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### **Jenny Karraker says**

This book describes many of the paradoxes and struggles that confront us as we face of world of tremendous technological advances yet worldwide poverty that seems incurable despite the millions of dollars invested in "poor" countries. We have opportunities to attend college like no previous generation, but graduates can't find jobs or don't find satisfaction in the ones they do find. Life is filled with the endless pursuit of happiness, but is illusive, always lurking just around the next corner. Despite the fact that we have more things materially than any other generation, we are more unhappy. We fantasize about the past, remembering only the good parts. We enjoy life but want more out of it, don't find that, so become cynical and jaded. I think these are questions that all thinking people have struggled with throughout the ages. I don't think the author's conclusion that we are just evolving and so be patient with ourselves as we seek to become better gives me much hope. Could the fact that I have dreams and aren't satisfied with life as it is point to the fact that there is more to life than meets the eye? The author throws out religion and spirituality, but these questions and struggles are all spiritual--Who am I? What brings me life and satisfaction? How can I really make a difference in the world? Where do I find my significance and worth? These are not questions that are easily answered, but we must find our purpose or else we become cynical, manipulative, and bitter without hope or purpose. That's not the road I want to go down.

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**Joel Adams says**

This was recommended to me as a part of life portrayal of a stage we all must go through I think.

It's a well written and honest portrayal of one person's view on the condition of the world today.

I really highly recommend this. Jason Najum is an excellent writer and his enthusiasm is evident throughout!

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