



The Manuscript

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The Delphi Chronicle is a serial trilogy that chronicles the saga of NY private eye Michael Derrigan, as he unwittingly comes into possession of a manuscript that will change the world order if its secrets are aired. Clandestine factions of the U.S. government will do anything to keep the secrets buried, and a trail of butchery follows Derrigan as he races for his life in a chase that takes him from New York, to Mexico, to Havana. An epic roller-coaster ride of a thriller, The Delphi Chronicle's unflinching and often disturbing twists and turns question the nature of reality in a post-modern world of lies, deceit and betrayal.

The Manuscript Details

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Author : Russell Blake

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From Reader Review The Manuscript for online ebook

Gina says

This is a really quick read and made me go ahead and buy the last 2 books in the trilogy. This book focuses on a literary agent getting a mystery email attachment with an explosive story...if it indeed real. But someone doesn't Sanford that manuscript out there because it will cause disastrous effects on the global community. The email mysteriously disappears and Michael Carrigan is called into help find it. Michael is an ex -navy Seal who now does security contracting. Once he has the printed manuscript in his hands people start dying and it looks like some very high powered people want it kept under wraps. Michael realizes the danger he is in when the members of his team and employees of the literary agent's start dropping like flies. Michael decides to go underground and try to stay one step ahead of those who want him dead. 3 stars with a higher potential if the author keeps up the adrenalin and fast paced writing style.

C.p. Bialois says

One of the things I was struck by when I began reading this was how well the description and character development are married to the speed and ease of reading. It's one of the more interesting feelings to feel the weight of a world created by a fellow author but still flow through it like you would a short story. It's a talent that's rare and enticing for those wanting a quick read.

As a fan of Tom Clancy, I was intrigued by the layout and feasibility of the world created by Russell Blake where nothing is as it seems and the most powerful country in the world is among the most corrupt. The manuscript is woven together in a way that gives the reader the feel of realism while the certainty (or hope) that it's a work of fiction.

The story opens with a series of murders, or assassinations happening at various parts of the world in the mid 1980's and 90's. After leaving the reader on sure footing as to the intent of the novel, we're brought to modern day New York where we meet the head of a security firm, Michael Derrigan, as his offer to help a friend quickly descends into a flight for his life.

Akil says

Conspiracy Junkie

This is my second time reading this book and I enjoyed it even more than I did the first time!

Mary says

the story for this book is good... so far. the problem is it ends at a really weird spot.and it's not that i have a problem with series, I just like each book to have a good story arc with a climax and at least a little resolution. This book was only buildup. I felt like i had read only half or less than half of a book. It ends just

where it gets interesting and the action should be starting. It makes me wonder what happens in the next books, but I don't know if i'm interested enough to buy them because i didn't get connected enough to the story.

Bob Stenberg says

Interesting read although most characters were killed off and I felt there were certain story lines that were not finished.

Nancy Silk says

This author always writes a gripping story that drives me to read into the late hours. He is so talented in writing and telling his story boldly. This account begins with highlights from earlier events of assassination/murder. It moves forward in time and reveals a manuscript written years later that, as a PDF file, is attached to an e-mail sent to well known publisher, Abe Sarkins, from an anonymous person. Mysteriously, the e-mail and file disappear overnight from his computer; but he has made a paper copy of the file. He calls his friend and hopeful author, Michael Derrigan, who has his own business dealing with security and has several part-time talented consultants. Abe needs help to find that file on his computer because he knows he did not delete it. Michael meets with him and arranges for one of his techies to check out the computer the next day as Abe hands him the printed PDF file. Michael plans on scanning it back onto a disk. The next morning Abe is found dead in his apartment of an apparent heart attack. Needless to say, Michael now questions the death of Abe and reads the manuscript. He realizes that even his own life may be threatened. Read on to learn what those pages contain and who wants these facts hidden. Author Blake describes his characters very well pointing out their strengths and weaknesses. His story provokes thought about conspiracy theories and which are false and those that may be factual. He's a good analyst of how our world spins around power and greed. I highly recommend this story. Just make sure you have book 2, "The Delphi Chronicle (The Tortoise and The Hare) loaded up to get the rest of the story.

Jim A says

The first of three parts, The Manuscript gets the series off to a good start. Looking forward to the continuation of the serial novel.

New readers be advised: This is NOT part of a "trilogy". There is nothing 'stand alone' about this. It is part one of a three part serial novel that requires all three parts to enjoy the work. Other reviewers have called it a trilogy in error.

Mike says

This book was well written, characters well developed and loaded with action and suspense. This is book one

of a trilogy and I'm looking forward to reading books 2 and 3.

T.W. Dittmer says

"The Manuscript", by Russell Blake, is the first book in a three book conspiracy/thriller trilogy.

The characters in the work are likeable and well fleshed out. I particularly liked the literary agent in the story, who kicks the story off by receiving the manuscript of the book's title from a mysterious writer.

The author's writing style is quick and to the point. He embellishes the action with enough descriptive writing to put the reader at the scene, but not so much that the imagination flags altogether.

The plot flows well and is easy to follow, with enough twists and point-of-view jumps to keep the reader on their toes. Blake's skeptical viewpoint of the socio-economic power structure is very evident in the main theme.

The story halts rather abruptly, and the reader must then go on to the second book of the series to continue. Some may be put off by this strategy, but I can see the method in Blake's madness.

All in all, I enjoyed the book, and am looking forward to completing the series to see what happens next.

Cathleen says

If you enjoy political thrillers then this is a must read. This story brought to life all my worst thoughts and fears about the government and how corrupt it truly is. I know this is a work of fiction, but I would not be surprised if the government did do any of the things this author writes about.

Great story with such well developed characters and plot. The main character, Michael, who is ex-military and operates a security company, is asked to help out a literary agent friend. Michael becomes embroiled in a government conspiracy regarding a missing manuscript after his friend is murdered. If this manuscript becomes public knowledge, America would discover how corrupt the government is and exactly what the "War on Drugs" is really about. The government does not want this to happen and will kill everyone they think may have knowledge of it.

I can't wait to read the next book in this story to see what happens next.

Scott Whitmore says

"The Delphi Chronicle" (Books 1-3) by Russell Blake is a great thriller that neatly balances action, suspense and intrigue with interesting characters that the reader quickly becomes invested in. Like Ludlum? You'll love Blake.

I must admit, I've never been much of a "black helicopters" conspiracy fan; having served 20+ years in the

U.S. military I always took a dim view of ideas centered around our government being able to successfully run a large-scale extra-legal operation -- much less keep it secret for decades!

Having said that, I greatly enjoyed the premise of "The Delphi Chronicle," which involves a manuscript detailing what I came to call the Mother Of All Conspiracies. This manuscript outlines how governments, terrorist groups, Big Business and organized crime have worked together over many years to enrich and empower a select few. Unlike many stories built around conspiracies, "The Delphi Chronicle" doesn't labor over the hows and whys, but rather addresses the results of such a massive operation -- and the widespread damage that revealing it could bring.

After a brief and interesting overview of the bloody results of this grand conspiracy, the main narrative kicks off when a New York literary agent receives the manuscript anonymously. Former SEAL and security consultant Michael Derrigan gets drawn in when the agent's electronic copy of the manuscript mysteriously disappears. No spoilers, but trust me there are twists and turns aplenty.

The shadowy forces behind the conspiracy will stop at nothing to keep it from the public eye and the bodycount rises as Derrigan goes underground while trying to understand what and who he's dealing with. But this is no empty-calorie actioner. In fact, the evolution of Derrigan throughout the three books is one of the things I enjoyed most; the man you meet in Book 1 might not recognize the one at the end of Book 3.

Blake's clear prose rings with authority whether describing an action sequence or a Central American airport. So much so that I almost -- almost -- heard the sound of black helicopters while reading "The Delphi Chronicle." Almost. I wholeheartedly recommend this trilogy, and look forward to diving into more of Blake's novels.

Frenchie says

My Amazon.co.uk review:

As soon as we start the book, we get in the heat of the action.

July 1995 - 4 executions in the cover of the night (but more than 4 people die), in four different places. They do not seem related.

Present Day - Michael Derrigan is an ex-SEAL operative who operates a security freelance business in New York. He is also an aspiring author. Out of the blue, he receives telephone call from an old acquaintance Abe, who is also a publisher. Abe has received a manuscript as an email attachment, and this manuscript, if true, is the dream that every conspiracy theorist would love to stumble upon. The problem is, the manuscript and the email have vanished overnight from Abe's inbox. As if it never existed. But Abe knows that he has not dreamt it, as he had printed a hard copy.

Michael calls on his team to help his old friend. But everyone who has been in contact with Abe last ends up dead or missing. First Abe himself, who apparently died of a heart attack, then Mona the receptionist disappears, then Jim, Michael's security expert apparently committed suicide by jumping off his window and Koji, Michael's internet expert, apparently dies from an overdose and is found with a syringe still in his arm. Michael goes AWOL.

Yes, action all the way, but as you just get more and more into it, the story stops at 83%. Be warned and

make sure you have the second book The Tortoise and the Hare ready. Even better, you could get books 2 & 3 together, The Delphi Chronicle, Bundle Book 2 & 3 - The Tortoise and the Hare, and Phoenix Rising, thing I should have done instead of buying them all separately.

I got a bit disappointed to have it finish at 83%. I am glad that with Kindle, you can just get the rest instantly, so , no break in my reading, but it felt like an unfinished delicious meal.

Having said that, if you are a fan of action, then get this trilogy. You will not regret it. Mr Blake kindly enough offers The Manuscript free for long periods. Take advantage of it and buy the other two books (and be a bit forgiving when No1 finishes before 100%).

As for me, I am off to read The Tortoise and the Hare. I can't wait to carry on...

R.G. Phelps says

A Perfect Cliffhanger

Russell has presented "A Perfect Cliffhanger" and I think you will enjoy it as much as I have. The secrets had to stay silenced; the world could never know the truth – too much would be destroyed, too many of the country's powerful would be humiliated and revealed to be monsters and thugs. Whatever it took, whatever the cost, that unthinkable outcome could never be allowed to happen. He would scorch the earth and crush whatever stood in his way, but the unspeakable realities of history would stay hidden. The ghosts of the past and the sins of necessity needed to stay buried, no matter what it took to keep them in the grave. It is obvious to me that when a writer sucks you in like Russell has in Book 1 you will seek out Book 2 of The Delphi Chronicle...

Cheryl A. Swift says

Very good

Good story, fast moving with interesting characters. Plenty of action to keep me glued to the book. I did think that it was an odd place to leave the book ... On to Book 2!

Susan says

Reality or fiction? Who's in the shadows!

The story has the conspiracy aspect down to a tee! It's just so damn plausible! The reality of "The Matrix" in our lives today! Don't be fooled, is this story really fictional???
