



## Legion

*Brandon Sanderson*

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## **Legion** Brandon Sanderson

*A novella from #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, Legion is a fast-paced, witty, and supremely fun thriller with a psychological bent.*

Stephen Leeds is perfectly sane. It's his hallucinations who are mad.

A genius of unrivaled aptitude, Stephen can learn any new skill, vocation, or art in a matter of hours. However, to contain all of this, his mind creates hallucinatory people—Stephen calls them aspects—to hold and manifest the information. Wherever he goes, he is joined by a team of imaginary experts to give advice, interpretation, and explanation. He uses them to solve problems...for a price.

His brain is getting a little crowded, however, and the aspects have a tendency of taking on lives of their own. When a company hires him to recover stolen property—a camera that can allegedly take pictures of the past—Stephen finds himself in an adventure crossing oceans and fighting terrorists. What he discovers may upend the foundation of three major world religions—and, perhaps, give him a vital clue into the true nature of his aspects.

## **Legion Details**

Date : Published September 11th 2012 by Dragonsteel Entertainment (first published 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Brandon Sanderson

Format : Kindle Edition 88 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Science Fiction, Fiction, Mystery, Urban Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Legion for online ebook

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

**2015 reads : Give me a flood of crazy people, 'kay?**

*Now, that was pretty awesome.*

Wow. **Stephen Leeds is the most intriguing and fascinating character I've read about for a very long time.** Slightly disturbing - but in a good way, if that's possible, as he kept my interest with his multi-layered personality that we can't easily simplify. Now that I think about it, he gives a whole new meaning to the word *multi-layered*.

**"The thing is, I'm really only the reclusive part. And maybe, admittedly, the jerk part. When you have that mix, people generally assume you don't have morals either."**

I was hooked at this : *"I didn't know what would happen if one of my hallucinations shot me."*

Oh, yeah, that's on page *two*. **That was *that* striking.** \*nods vigorously\*

Moreover, that was **fast-paced**, and the thriller kept me enthralled, despite the fact that what enraptured me the most was definitely his hallucinations.

*Can I have some hallucinations too?* What? I'm so jealous right now. I totally want :

- **Ivy** to tell me if my pupils are lying
- **Tobias** to help me remember of all the books I read - and to help me during some dinners, yes, that would be great. Oh, and he could totally be useful as a travel guide.
- **Audrey** to run writing investigations.
- **Kalyani** or any translator to - well, The possibilities are endless, right?
- **Armando** because. Hum. Not sure I want him actually. I don't think that I have room for Megalomania in my life.

*"Can I shoot him?" JC asked me softly. "You know, in a place that's not important? A foot, maybe?"*

- *Sigh.* Yeah, **JC**, you can come too because you cracked me up. But **NO GUNS IN THE HOUSE**. No, I don't know how we'll deal with intruders. No, even not that little one. I said no gun. End of story. You can have darts if you want. I know that's not the same thing, I - Oh, whatever.

**"I'm *not* going more mad, " I said. "I've stabilized. I'm practically normal. Even my non-hallucinatory psychiatrist acknowledges that."**

Basically, it is a short story which does not fall into the traps of the lack of characterization or others shortcuts, and that's why I loved it. Oh, and because that was deliciously funny.

### **What is it that decides you're insane by the way?**

***Edit** : For all the French readers out there who want to read in French for a change, I ordered the French version for my BF and you know what? **The translation is pretty good** (yeah, because that's not always the case, by far). So **no excuses**. Read it.*

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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### **Emily (Books with Emily Fox) says**

(3.5?) My main problem with novellas is that too often my review consist of "way too short".

I love any Brandon Sanderson's book, so I obviously enjoyed this one but it's the first time I felt like something was lacking.

Super interesting premise and characters, I'm hoping that reading the second book will make it better!

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### **Paige Bookdragon says**

#### **Why so shooort?**

Legion is a short story about Stephen Leeds who has multiple aspects.

***My name is Stephen Leeds, and I am perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad.***

I'm a Sandersonitis for life and when I saw this book in a book sale, I immediately grabbed it. (Of course I paid for it.) I know this book wouldn't disappoint because it's **A BRANDON SANDERSON BOOK**. His name alone is guarantee.

Although this book is only 88 pages (sooo shooort), it's still as awesome the way a Sanderson book goes.

The banter between Stephen's hallucinations are hilarious.

***"You may approach His Majesty," Armando said. He stood at his window. Which was triangular-he occupied one of the peaks of the mansion. He'd demanded the position.***

***"Can I shoot him?" J.C asked me softly. "You know, in a place that's not so important?A foot, maybe?"***

***"His Majesty head that," Armando said in his soft Spanish accent, turning unamused eyes our direction.***

And...

*"Can I shoot her?" J.C. asked.*

*Ivy rolled her eyes. "Remind me why we keep him around?"*

*"Rugged good looks," J.C. said.*

Really, I love everything about this book. The mystery, the characters (even if some are just hallucinations) and just pure old Sanderson.

Time for book 2..

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**XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

**"My name is Stephen Leeds, and I'm perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad."**

Brilliant. This is just brilliant. And cool. Very cool.

Do I really have to review this story? It's too awesome for words. You really should just read it.

**"Your hallucination . . ." "Yes?" "Your hallucination has hallucinations." "Yes." She settled back, looking disturbed.**

Brandon Sanderson I love you. The premise of this story is pure genius.

**"I'm not a hallucination," J.C. snapped. "I have state-of-the-art stealthing equipment."**

Legion is about insanity, religion, science, faith... and a very special camera. Mix it all up, shake well, add a good dose of humour, a dash of action and voilà!

**"The truth is, Monica, I don't want any of this. I'd gladly be free of it, so that I could live a more simple life. I sometimes think the lot of them will drive me insane." "You . . . aren't insane, then?" "Heavens no," I said.**

The "lot of them"? The aspects! J.C. the trigger-happy navy seal (I think I'm in love), Ivy the tryphobic therapist, Tobias the schizophrenic historian, Armando the megalomaniac emperor... I love them all.

**"I'm not going more mad," I said. "I've stabilized. I'm practically normal. Even my non-hallucinatory psychiatrist acknowledges that."**

This was good. Really good. So do yourself a favour and read it.

- **Book 2:** Skin Deep ★★★★★
  - **Book 3:** Lies of the Beholder - *to be released Sept. 20, 2018*
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## **Robin (Bridge Four) says**

### **4 I see Imaginary People Stars.**

Quick Re-read before Legion: Skin Deep is released.

*My name is Stephen Leeds, and I am perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad.*

If that isn't a great opening line to a story I don't know what is. Brandon Sanderson is great at thinking outside of the box and congratulations again on coming up with an incredibly unusual premise to write a story on.

I really like that the main character is a functional crazy person. Sure he has hallucinations but at least he knows they are hallucinations, so how crazy can he actually be. It seems more like he is a genius that has just found a creative way to make compartments for all his knowledge.

*"Believe what you will," I said. "But I'm not a genius. My hallucinations are."*

*"Thanks," J.C. said.*

*"Some of my hallucinations are," I corrected.*

*"You accept that the things you see aren't real?" Monica said, turning to me.*

*"Yes."*

*"Yet you talk to them."*

*"I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings. Besides, they can be useful."*

This was just a quick mystery of sorts to figure out and a nice introduction into Stephan's world. The actual mystery was only so/so for me although how much can you pack into less than 100 pages. But, I loved the characters and the weirdness that was Stephan's mind.

I'm intrigued by some hints about his Stephen's backstory and how perhaps he wasn't as well adjusted with his hallucinations as he is today. There seems to be a deeper mystery there that I'm hoping Legion: Skin Deep might delve into a little.

P.S. The audio version of this was great!

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## **edge of bubble says**

My first Brandon Sanderson book -if we don't count WoT- and I was expecting to be thrown into an epic fantasy world, for some reason. I hadn't read anything about it beforehand.

*It went more along the lines of this;*

And caused me to start the story, feeling disoriented.

It was different, well written and didn't feel rushed despite being a novella. I loved the interactions between the hero and his imaginary friends.

But... I didn't enjoy the story. \*it's not your book, it's me\* I am left with with no wonder, no anger, no feelings. Narrator didn't help either. While he had a lovely voice and he did good job with the nuances of different characters, he mostly sounded lifeless to me. Just droning on...

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## Armina says

Buddy reading book #2: Legion: Skin Deep tomorrow November 25th with the **usual suspects**. :) If you still haven't read this one, **now is the time!**

### 4.5 STARS

One of the best opening lines ever: *"My name is Stephen Leeds, and I'm perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad."*

This was a hilarious read not less amusing than Steelheart hence the rating I'm giving it.

Stephen Leeds, a.k.a. "Legion", is a genius whose unique mental condition allows him to generate a multitude of personalities or *aspects* as he calls them: hallucinatory entities with a wide variety of personal characteristics and a vast array of highly specialized skills (we have an ex-Navy seal /not a marine!)/ who gives him military action, weapons and strategy advice; a scholar who knows more than any (net) encyclopedia; an Indian linguist and several others no less fascinating ones). As the story begins, Leeds and his 'aspects' are drawn into the search for the missing Balubal Razon, inventor of a camera whose astonishing properties could alter our understanding of human history and change the very structure of society.

I very much loved the concept behind this story. I'm always fascinated by the way Sanderson ties religion, or rather faith with science into his books. And this means a lot coming from an atheist like me.

I highly recommend the audio. Oliver Wyman did a fantastic job with the different voices and accents for all the characters.

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## Kells Next Read says

"Your hallucinations has Hallucinations"

*Well, Well, Well, this was such an intriguing read. It goes without saying that I love Legion and his band of weird but loving personalities/aspects, that comes along with him. JC I must admit was my favorite. He had me in stitches.*

*This concept is amazing. The only downfall was that this was way too too short. I'm speeding off too read*

*Skin Deep. I want more from these characters and Mr Leeds.*

~~Sanderson Never Fails~~

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## Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Reread as part of Sanderson's upcoming *Skin Deep*, which will collect all three Legion novellas (the two previously published ones and a new, concluding one) under one cover. Heads up for NetGalley members: the "Read now" excerpt on NG for *Skin Deep* consists of this entire first novella, which is kind of nice. So if you haven't read "Legion" and are interested (or just want a copy), grab it!

Upping my rating from 3.5 to 4 stars on reread, because the psychological elements in this story are just so clever and enjoyable.

*Legion* is a nifty science fiction/mystery novella, with the detective role played by Stephen Leeds and his legion of hallucinatory, brilliant alter egos. In the *Skin Deep* preface, Sanderson comments:

Psychology-as-superpower is a recurring theme in my works. I've always believed that the personality traits that make us each distinctive (the way we process information, the way we motivate ourselves, the way we shelter our psyche from the bad while learning to cherish the good) can be either our greatest strengths or our most dramatic limitations...

The premise was simple: What if a man's hallucinations proved beneficial to him in his life, rather than the typical distraction?

Such a fun concept!

The mystery in this first story involves a search for a mysterious camera that can take pictures of people and events at any time in the past. Various shadowy groups get involved in the fight to control the camera and its inventor, pulling Stephen Leeds into the case. The time-shifting camera is a device that's been used before in at least a couple of classic SF works that I know of, Isaac Asimov's short story "The Dead Past" and "E for Effort," a novella collected in *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume 2B*. *Legion* doesn't really add anything new here, from a science fictional point of view. The story points out some of the problems with the theory of time travel (branching paths of reality; Earth not being in the same place in space as it was in the past you are traveling to, or taking pictures of) ... but it doesn't ever try answer those questions.

But the real attraction of this story is the main character, Stephen, and the hilarious and colorful cast of characters hallucinations surrounding him:

J.C., the trigger-happy Navy Seal and weapons expert;

Armando, the trick photography expert who thinks he's the rightful emperor of Mexico;

Tobias the schizophrenic historian and philosopher; Kalyani the linguist; and so on. Stephen's hallucinations all are brilliant in different fields, all have their own different mental issues, and all are utterly real to him (even though logically he realizes they aren't real, somehow Stephen is able to compartmentalize that realization). Someone points out to Stephen:

"You create these delusions so that you can foist things off on them. Your brilliance, which you find a burden. Your responsibility -- they have to drag you along and make you help people. This lets you pretend, Mister Leeds. Pretend you are normal. But that's the *real* delusion."

But real or not, Stephen's legion of invisible experts is a whole lot of fun to read about.

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### **Tessy Nightblood Ijachi says**

I've wondered for days and nights, trying to figure out where Brandon Sanderson gets his ideas from. He took a simple thing and turned it into a master piece that's actually less than a hundred pages. The first line I read from this novella was enough to make me very interested. This is by far the best novella I've ever read in my entire life.

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### **Dana Ilie says**

Another story that is too short... Damn!!!

I enjoyed Legion. As always, I thought Sanderson's writing was top notch and not boring. The imagination involved and the detail that went into each of the characters — Stephen Leeds as well as his aspects were astounding. Not only does Legion have a cool plot, but it also has fascinating, multi-faceted characters. Typical Sanderson though, and I definitely mean that in the best possible way.

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### **Patrick says**

I've yet to be disappointed by any Brandon Sanderson story I've picked up, and this novella continues his winning streak.

This is a cool take on a detective story, and honestly, I'd be surprised if someone in LA hasn't grabbed the rights to turn this into a TV show. It's a show I'd love to watch.

I only have two quibbles with this book, and it only relates to the Audio version, not with the story itself.

1. There were only two tracks on the audio version of the book, each about an hour long. That makes for awkward navigation of the book.

2. (And I recognize that this is *\*extra\** quibbly) The audio narrator sounded like Bob Newhart to me.

Don't get me wrong, he did a good job. He's a pro. But I couldn't get over the fact that his voice sounded like Bob Newhart. I kept thinking, "Wow. He sounds like Bob Newhart." and it would pull me out of the story.

But that's probably just my own mental damage, and shouldn't keep you from picking it up, either in print, or on audio... As I said, I really enjoyed it.

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Note on Rating: While a fun concept (I know, I can't stop saying "fun"), it's not my favorite of his. I can see this concept expanding into more, but I think it really worked well with this shortened format. I think I would have tired of it were it any more. I'm sure I'll have the opportunity to find out.

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### **Michael says**

I've been a big fan of Brandon Sanderson for a number of reasons. His excellent Mistborn (he really knows how to develop a magic system and kick off a story with a bang). His participation with readers (such as him stopping in on reddit), his desire to bundle print and ebooks, and for his excellent writing classes (which have been video taped and posted).

So when I heard about this short story I picked it up immediately and read it in a single sitting. It was nice seeing the humor of this piece and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Plus it has one of the best opening lines ever..."My name is Stephen Leeds, and I'm perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad."

Some have complained it was too short, I disagree. I think it was the perfect morsel and I look forward for more tidbits in the future.

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### **Deborah Obida says**

Another great book by Brandon Sanderson, I love it and am not surprise because he is yet to disappoint me, I love all his books that I've read so far.

The world building and writing is amazing, perfect depictions of everything, The characters are cool too, both Steven and his hallucinations, can't wait to see what they do in the next book.

*My name is Stephen Leeds, and I am perfectly sane. My hallucinations, however, are all quite mad.*

So he says, He thinks he is normal which is so not true.

*"You accept that the things you see aren't real?" Monica said, turning to me.*

*"Yes."*

*"Yet you talk to them."*

*"I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings. Besides, they can be useful."*

*"Thanks," J.C. said.*

*"Some of them can be useful," I corrected.*

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### **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

4 Stars!

I am quickly becoming a HUGE Brandon Sanderson fan. I only recently become introduced to Sanderson a couple of months ago when I read Steelheart and I am starting to realize that I have really been missing out. This story was completely unique and entertaining. I love how different this story was from anything I have ever encountered before. This story is short but it is highly complex and detailed.

I decided to read this story because I thought I had the audiobook already in my audible account, I discovered that I actually had the second book in the series so I quickly remedied that situation and started listening right away. I think that the narrator did a fantastic job with this story. His voice was soothing to listen to and he did such a fantastic job with a wide range of characters.

Steven Leeds is probably one of the most interesting characters that I have encountered in a book. He is never alone. He lives with his aspects, otherwise known as his hallucinations. Each one of his aspects is an expert in a certain area. Steven claims that he is not a genius and that his aspects are the intelligent one. Of course, he also claims that he isn't crazy and to be honest he acts completely sane if you ignore the fact that he spends most of his time talking to his hallucinations.

Steven is quickly enlisted to help locate a missing camera. This isn't just any camera. This camera takes photos that should not exist. When he thinks about what this camera means to society, he feels he has no choice but to try to find it. Steven and his aspects make quite the formidable team as they work to achieve their goal. There are moments in the story when I just need to stop and think for a bit, moments I laughed a little, and other times where I could find out what was going to happen next fast enough.

The characters in this story are unbelievably good. Sanderson was able to create a man with a mansion full of hallucinations who appears to be completely sane. Every single aspect that were involved in the story had a distinct personality. While everyone around Steven saw a man talking to nobody, we, the reader, got to see exactly what Steven saw and it was amazing. I never experienced a moment of boredom during the story. Of course, how could I? J.C was running around with guns and hallucinations having hallucinations - I simply had no idea what could possibly be next.

I would highly recommend this story to others. I cannot wait to spend more time with Steven and his aspects. I will definitely be reading more from Brandon Sanderson in the not too distant future.

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## **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Legion

By: Brandon Sanderson

Narrated by: Oliver Wyman

Series: Legion, Book 1

This is a fascinating book about a man with multiple personalities, who is rich, and extremely intelligent. He is asked to help with a special project that is super awesome...to find it and the man who made it. Super intriguing!

The narrator does a wonderful job with this short novel!

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## **Khurram says**

Another great book by Brandon Sanderson as usual. Insanity, madness and genius go in hand in hand. There is a thin line between each of these and they probably more intersection between them them people want to admit.

Steven Leeds has been call all three. He is a hot property to be studied as he is for his services. When a world changing price of technology goes missing he is recruited to get it back. This is a detective story with a twist on the deductive principle. I really like the clever ways Sanderson show the power of our subconscious mind at work in this story and perceptions as our reality. This is a great little book I can't wait to read the next one.

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### **Elizabeth Sagan says**

[ Oh, and the fact that He was looking right in the camera... (hide spoiler)]

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