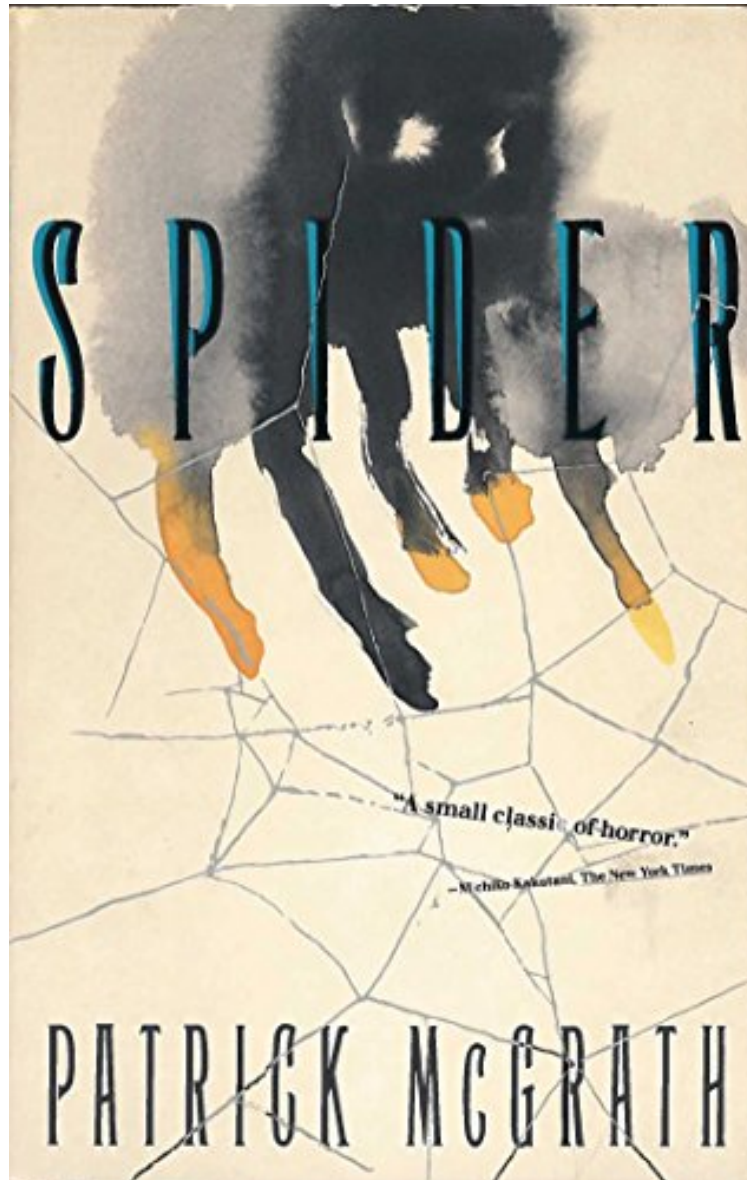


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Spider (English Edition)

Von Patrick Mcgrath

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Von Patrick Mcgrath : Spider (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spider (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A harrowing novel Von HORAKI In "Spider", Mr McGrath tells the harrowing story of a schizophrenic character called Dennis Cleg. He suffers from hallucinations - visual, auditory and olfactory - and from body delusions, he is

physically regressed and has ideas of persecution. At the beginning of the novel, set in 1957, he lives in a shabby house along with other tenants, a "cargo of dead souls" as he calls the place, the landlady of which is a matronly figure, Mrs Wilkinson, who terrifies Cleg. As the story unfolds, the reader gets to know the circumstances which brought Cleg to live in this grimy place where "desolation prevails", in an area of London resembling "a clotted web of dark compartments." He feels that he would relish his solitude and memories were he not so easily thrown into turmoil by the latter. His existence is loveless, monotonous and grey as he often drifts further and further into the back parts of his mind where the reader follows him and tries to discern reality from delusion. A man like Cleg constantly lives in isolation, he has no friends, doesn't want any, doesn't like any. How could he, being permanently nagged by the certainty that others can destroy him with just a glance? From early childhood, being seen created in Cleg a deep sense of unease and he recalls imagining being "a coal-black boy who could move through darkness without being seen." Even years later "the misting and blurring of the visible world gave such comfort to the boy, and to the creature I have since become." Another reason for Cleg avoiding people is the frightening prospect of their thoughts invading his mind. "If I'm not careful these thought patterns of theirs crowd out my own, and I can't have that, I can't have other people's thoughts in my head." Apart from a brilliant psychological portrait of the schizophrenic mind, "Spider" is designed almost like a detective story in which the reader slowly discovers what happened to Cleg in his childhood, the time he spent in a mental institution and the subsequent years at Mrs Wilkinson's house. Highly recommended.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Chilling, truly horrific, brilliant piece of work
Von Ein Kunde
I'm not sure how Mr. McGrath would feel about being compared to Stephen King or Clive Barker. If I were the author of this chilling portrait of absolute insanity, I don't think I'd be flattered. King and Barker are fantasists. McGrath is not. He is an enormously talented writer, gifted with the remarkable ability to present, in first person, a devastating portrait of a child/man who, as a child, was either irretrievably lost in the most unfathomable regions of acute mental illness; or was driven there by two exceptionally cruel people who played an unspeakably vile trick on a fragile and confused little boy. McGrath, unlike King (an excellent plotter, not a particularly good writer), has access to imagery that pins twisted thoughts, images, sensations, appearances like so many repellent but compelling specimens. Each one a beautifully worded, evocative bit of horror; each one all the more frightening because they could so easily be real. No vampires, bogeymen, banshees, or nameless oozing horrors here. A Spider could be anywhere. And McGrath- that very rare thing in this age of slick, mannered, safe, cookie-cutter best-selling fiction, is a real writer, capable of producing powerful, wonderfully worded original work. "This is a good thing." Read it.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a must read for lovers of gothic novels and/or 1930s London
Von lazza
Spider is an excellent mix of the plausible, and the surreal view of reality by a very disturbed young man (named Spider). While the story starts off in a straightforward fashion, it gradually pulls the reader into the mind of Spider ... someone who is anything but straightforward. It's like the story from the movie Psycho being told by Norman Bates. Very creepy. Spider takes place in 1930s/1950s east London. McGrath captures the atmosphere of this environment very nicely - it greatly enhances to the sense of gloom. Finally, McGrath is a very 'economical' writer. His narrative is rather easy to follow, and his novels are short (yet complete). Other authors (such as Stephen King) should take notice.

Produktbeschreibung
Spider is gaunt, threadbare, unnerved by everything from his landlady to the smell of gas. He tells us his story in a storm of beautiful language that slowly reveals itself as a fiendishly layered construction of truth and illusion. With echoes of Beckett, Poe, and Paul Bowles, Spider is a tale of horror and madness, storytelling and skepticism, a novel whose dizzying style lays bare the deepest layers of subconscious terror.