

Book Review: I Died on a Tuesday  
By Jane Corry

Thanks to NetGalley and Penguin Random House Canada for this advance reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. "I Died on a Tuesday" has an expected publication date of December 17, 2024.

In 1977, Meat Loaf released the mega hit "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad." That philosophy may work in some life situations, but it's not what I expect when I read a novel. And in the case of Jane Corry's "I Died on a Tuesday," two out of three comes up short – especially when the missing third is in the latter stages of the book.

The book has a powerful flashback opening to twenty years prior. Janie White is an 18-year-old about to embark on a potentially bright future in publishing. While riding her bicycle after an early morning swim, a van plows into her and leaves her for dead in the street.

Fast forward to the present, where music megastar Robbie Manning is arrested for the assault on Janie that happened two decades ago. He has a wife and two young children, and we quickly learn that he has been dreading this day since the morning of the devastating crash.

The third main character we meet early on is Vanessa, 69, a witness support officer who is haunted by events in her past.

These three perspectives make for a very interesting and lively narrative. Janie's thoughts while lying in the street are compelling as they're interspersed between the chapters. Robbie's recall of the morning in question as well as the events leading to his rise to stardom give light to the dilemma he faces. And Vanessa's position as a witness support officer, combined with being the widow of a local police officer, offer a unique vantage point from which aspects of the mystery unfold.

I was pulled in from the get-go.

Then I got to Part 3 and it was like falling off a cliff. The narrative that flowed and easily captivated quickly unraveled and confused. Plot twists are fine; in fact, they're welcome. But Corry seems determined to throw as many wrenches in the works as possible. At times I experienced whiplash at how quickly the story changed direction.

It didn't help that parts of the narrative, like the court room scenes, are glossed over, making them seem unrealistic. And the connections offered up between the myriads of characters introduced late in the story are faulty. It all becomes too convoluted too quickly, coming in the latter third of the book and almost wiping away the positive anticipation I had early on.

I'm not down on the story. I'm just disappointed at being *let down* at the point in the narrative where I expected more. Instead of holding together, it frays badly.

Three out of five stars for "I Died on a Tuesday." If you check it out, perhaps you could let me know the significance of that day of the week. I'm still trying to figure that out.