

The Day of the Accident by Nuala Ellwood

4 stars

A mystery thriller with many twists.

The nightmare for Maggie begins when she wakes from a coma to be told that she nearly drowned trying to save her young daughter Elspeth who was locked in a car that rolled into the river. This is not all; her husband Sean has now disappeared, the money has been cleared from their bank account and their house has been sold.

This harrowing story traces Maggie's efforts to piece together what happened on the day of the accident. Her task is made frustratingly difficult by the fact that she has no memory of that day and only glimpses of memory from her past. She is aware that something dreadful happened when she was a teenager and her doctor knows she had severe mental problems at that time. There are so many questions that need answering. Did the event of the past have a bearing on this terrible accident? Was it her fault that her daughter died? Where is her husband and why has he left her with nothing? Slowly, with the help of a few friends, she starts to piece together what actually happened but her nightmare is made worse when a letter from her daughter is delivered to her and then one of her daughter's little cardigans is left on the doorstep. Although everyone tells her Elspeth is dead she becomes convinced her daughter must still be alive.

There is tension and suspense right to the end and the dialogue is well written but I did find the final chapters rather implausible and feel this was a clever idea that became a little far-fetched.

A good read with plenty of surprises.

Jane

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.