



The Trouble With Dying

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When Faith Carson wakes up on a hospital ceiling looking down on her body in a coma, it's a bad start to the week. A very bad start. She has no idea who she is or how she got there or why, and the biggest mystery of all is why she married the schmuck who wants her ventilator switched off.

As if that's not enough Faith has a dead gran haunting her, a young daughter missing her, and one devilishly delicious man making her wish she could have a second chance at life. And maybe she can, if she finds a way back into her body and wakes up by Friday. But if she doesn't, this will be her last bad week--ever.

Nate Sutherland decided long ago he'd settle for friendship if he couldn't have Faith's heart. But now, as she nears death, he's going to have to listen to his feelings in a whole new way--and act. Because if he doesn't, this week will be the worst damn week of his life. He'll lose everything he's ever loved.

(This book is intended for readers aged 18+.)

The Trouble With Dying Details

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From Reader Review The Trouble With Dying for online ebook

Nicole says

Received book in exchange for honest review

Faith Osbourne is having an out of body experience. Literally. She lies in a coma in a hospital and she's left watching, and figuring out what happened to her to land her in that state. With the help of her dead grandmother and some friends with psychic abilities, Faith needs to figure out exactly what happened to her to put her in a coma and fast, she only has 7 days until she's supposed to be pulled off life support. In those 7 days she learns a lot about herself, her husband, her supposed best friend that maybe is ok with Faith being out of the way and her former lover. But does she learn enough? Will she be able to get a second chance at life, and if she does will she take advantage of it??

There were a few things I struggled with in this book, but for the most part I enjoyed it. There was an intimate moment that reminded me a slightly more vulgar scene from "Ghost" where the other person was able to kiss Faith and touch her and I had some trouble seeing that s the other person kept saying that she was in their head and yet they were able to do things like take her face in their hands and kiss her. I struggled with that scene in the book. It also took me a little to accept that Faith's daughter would just openly talk to Faith and her grandmother, in front of other people, and no one thought it was weird. Like full on conversation, question and answers. Granted they were a child, but still I would pick up on my grandchild seemingly talking to the air. Besides those two big issues, I really enjoyed this book. I found it different from other things I would typically read and just as Faith, I kept thinking it was different people who were responsible for putting her in a coma. I feel like it should have been more obvious to me once her friend offered to be her daughters other mother, but I just chalked it up to the husband was a jerk. I felt the end was satisfying and readers got the end that they deserved

Laura says

This story hooked me straightaway. I found it very intriguing.

Faith Carson wakes up on a hospital ceiling looking down on her body in a coma and then sees her dead Gran who is there to assist her and help her prove that she deserves another chance at life but she only has 7 days to do this or else she will die. Faith has no idea what has happened nor does she even know what Country or City she is in. She knows nothing about her life and she's as much in the dark as the reader. The first person Faith sees in the hospital room is a man called Nate. It's easy for the reader to assume he's her husband but we soon find out he's not. Her husband is Geoff and they have a daughter called Tess. Amazingly, Tess is able to see and hear Faith who appears 'ghostlike'. Other characters are Faith's Mum, Nate's mother and Tess's best friend Cynthia.

Faith has to work out what has happened to her and who are the good people in her life and who are the bad (it's not hard to work out who the baddie is). The story has a paranormal feel and was enjoyable. Towards the end, Faith does get a bit annoying as she becomes a bit too paranoid about who is good and who is bad and at certain points it got a bit OTT.

There are lots of clues to the reader as to what is going on but by the end, there are still quite a few

unanswered questions. We get a few flashbacks of Faith and Nate in the past but it's not enough to understand what went wrong between them and obviously the timeline between her and Nate ending and Faith marrying Geoff and having Tess doesn't really add up but it's not explained well enough. From the snippets we get about what happened with Faith and Cynthia, it made me feel like Faith can't have been a good friend or a nice person to be honest! It's all a bit confusing! I had my thoughts about a lot of things but it's not really clarified as some aspects weren't expanded on.

At the end of the book, the author suggests a sequel is up to the readers but this book was written a while ago and I see no sign of any follow on book but having checked the authors Facebook page, it appears she is going to write the sequel but I'm still confused as to why she didn't plan on it from the get go after she finished this one as it definitely feels 'unfinished' to me.

As I say, it's an intriguing story and it was a good read but I dropped a star because the story dragged a bit towards the end but then the ending is too sudden and Geoff's character seemed to do a complete U-turn that seemed out of character. We didn't hear what happened with Cynthia and most of all, there is quite a big reveal near the end that was never explained properly and even in the epilogue, everything is hunky dory between all parties which seemed a bit odd.

This book was something different to what I normally read and I enjoyed it BUT, it definitely needs a sequel and I look forward to reading it.

Kathryn Biel says

This book had me. The beginning built up with a slow, agonizing suspense that had me wanting to yell, "Just wake up, Faith!" Such an interesting premise, the idea of an out-of-body experience while laying in a coma, attempting to figure out how you got there. Wonderfully suspenseful, romantic and steamy, and gripping. Ms. Le Page is an excellent writer, and I anxiously await her next book. I cannot recommend this book highly enough!

Vicki says

After reading one book last week by Maggie Le Page and loving it, I decided I wanted to read another. With #ComedyBookWeek in full swing, I did pick up another book by her and wow. I was taken to places I had never been before, and I loved the journey. There was not falling down laughs, but there was so much humor and so much just emotion. The story is filled with spirits that are not sure what they are supposed to do other than just watch her comatose body. The fact that Faith calls the body in the hospital bed breathing with the aid of a machine, Faith -in – the -bed. I smiled and chuckled each time I saw it. She only knows her name is Faith, because she was called it by the man that makes her spirit react even from across the room. . She accepted that having no memory of her life was like a jigsaw puzzle. She just had to put those pieces together as best she can.

I loved the characters. Tess was adorable and acted exactly like an intelligent six year old would. But there is more to Tess that meets the eye. Nate was faithful to come in day and night and sit with the Faith – in -the -bed and talk to her. Keeping her tethered to this world.

Maggie Le Page has a real way with words. She knows just how to use the ones that are quirky and trip off your tongue in a delightful manner. I found myself repeating some of her phrases and words just to hear them out loud.

Well written and good solid mystery kept me totally involved and engaged. It seemed to Faith, that there were villains around every corner. Villains that were free to come and go into her hospital room. The best character kept popping in and out. That was her dead grandmother, Gran. She kept things moving along in a less paranoid way. She also brought in some creepy guests.

Jamie says

3.75 stars for me actually.

The story was interesting. It was definitely not a traditional love story but I think it was still a love story. It took dying (or almost dying) for her to get back to the person she did actually love in the first place. She was fooling herself all along with Geoff as her husband. After waking up as a ghost of sorts her first instinct was that Nate was her husband and she should have gone with her gut even if the evidence was not correct.

As far as the plot it doesn't really seem like even someone who is psychic or even partially psychic could have sex with a ghost. That part of the book seemed like it was not meant to be there. That was the only part though. I liked the way she went through everyone around her as suspects she was trying to find the truth to get herself back to where she needed to be which was in her own body. I also really loved the flashbacks. They gave the reader insight into what her life was like before the incident and they also gave her insight into the memories that were locked away.

Tony Parsons says

Faith Carson (narrator, aka Pixie, nee Osbourne) was in a very serious accident & in the hospital lying in her bed in New Zealand.

2 police officers come to her room & ask her husband Geoff Carson to speak with them.

A conclusion was made; attempted suicide?

Faith has lots of visitors: Tessabelle Tess (Faith/Geoff 6+ little girl) & Kathy Osbourne (Faith mum). Gran (Grandmother, deceased) speaks to her quite frequently.

Several days in a row Geoff is seen eyeballing Cynthia (Faith BFF). Hhhmmmm, they look awful chummy!/? In a comatose state there is all kinds of medical equipment: wires running everywhere, drips, a ventilator, a heart monitor, that seem to be keeping Faith alive?

Nathan Nate Sutherland (investigative journalist) comes to visit Faith also?

Tess calls Nate Uncle & Cynthia J. Barton-Wilde Aunt?

Bridget (nurse) comes to check all of Faith's vitals.

Faith begins to ponder did she really try to commit suicide or is Geoffrey behind all of this?

Detective Inspector John Brady suddenly pays a visit to the hospital room.

It is day 6 time is running out, funny Faith needs to make a decision.

The Death Council along with Creepy Guy (assessor) & Mr. Glum have only given her 7 days. Then it could be check-out time!

Faith must now appear before the Reincarnation Board.

Sylvia de Luciano (Nate mother, clairvoyant) pays a visit to Faith's room.

Day 7, what will Faith destiny be?

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written psychological mystery book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great paranormal mystery movie, or mini TV series. This was bizarre, kind of a what-if! I you must read to the very end. A very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free (Goodreads; PDF) book

Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Natalie TBGWP says

When author Maggie Le Page emailed me out the blue asking me to read *The Trouble With Dying*, I was not taking on requests. For some reason though, after reading her email; I just couldn't say no, and that was before I'd even read the blurb! Maggie was open honest respectful funny and sincere and I was instantly drawn to her. I responded straight away after reading the blurb – which didn't sway me much as I'd read two books with VERY similar plots in 2015 that didn't excite me greatly, but I somehow knew this was going to be completely different. Her personality shone so much from the emails we traded, I was very excited to see if she could convey that within her fiction.

I was so right to take a chance on this book. Dipping in and out of genres (chick-lit, mystery, crime, rom-com, paranormal suspense) it is a book that has absolutely every emotion under the sun within and has you going backwards and forwards more times than you can count. It most certainly does give a fantastic read. And, for a book so serious and delicate in subject, it was so refreshing to have an outgoing easy upbeat and humorous narrative to it. Of course there were tense and heart stopping times, but the way in which Maggie Le Page's epigrammatic writing skills held it all together is pretty bloody spectacular.

I have to be honest here, as usual, and say, I did unfortunately have a few tiny niggles. Don't get me wrong here at all, it wasn't nearly enough to spoil anything for me, but I obviously have to mention them to be fair. There are a few things that we're told at the start of the book about that seemed to be forgotten near the end and some that may have been overlooked. Many readers may not even get on to this, but I did and it seemed to take just a bit of authenticity away from everything. Like I said though, it made me stop and think and question things but it didn't take away from the read itself.

The whole paranormal side to this book was absolute heaven for me. I am from a spiritual and very open-minded family, I have a psychic/medium uncle who I talk to about his abilities on a regular basis, so for this book to be so drawn to this subject I was wrapped up and most definitely in my element. I love books like this and I haven't found many I truly respond too.

I won't really say anything about plot or characters here because fresh eyes and mind are definitely needed when going into this read, but what I will say is that you will be in for one hell of a journey. A journey that will take you into some strange paranormal situations, one in particular so hot and heavy you will laugh and shake your head at yourself for getting into it much more than you would some erotica novels, but it's a journey, in my opinion, well and truly deserving of your time.

Be prepared for a rumble of paranormal static shock straight to your heart and your sense of humour.

4/5

P.S.. A saying from the book that I thought was fabulous and which I've now stolen and will use in my everyday life is one I thought I should share with you guys.

Books, Chocolate and Wine says

Faith wakes up floating on the hospital ceiling, looking down on her lifeless body hooked to an array of machinery in intensive care. With no memory and only a dead grandmother for company, Faith has to work out through her visitors and memory flashbacks - who she is and how she ended up here.

Her visitors range from her loving but worn out mother to a husband who seems cold and unfeeling. Then there is a woman who appears to be her best friend although she cannot possibly fathom why along with a man who is clearly in love with her and, most important of all, her daughter Tess, a beautiful and bouncy 6 year old.

Having deduced that she fell from a third story balcony, she struggles to determine if was it a suicide attempt, an accident or something more sinister altogether. With the clock ticking, Faith has seven days to work it all out and return to her body.

This book is so unique and had me hooked from the very beginning, although I just wasn't prepared for how good it is - it completely blew me away. Maggie le Page managed to seamlessly blend urgency and drama with an air of suspense and a large helping of humour. The story compelled me to sacrifice sleep in order to see it through and ensure Faith got her happily ever after. This is a book that will stay with me for a very long time.

Cathie Whitmore says

Wow! This is definitely a story with a difference! I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the heart-in-the-mouth, jaw dropping rollercoaster ride the author plunged me into from the very first page. I have an open

mind when it comes to ghosts, physics and other out-of-body experiences, believing anything is possible, and I have to say this one really has me thinking. It is emotion personified. I felt the love, the anger, the longing, the regret, and the fear, holding my breath at every turn of the page. But in all of that there is humour overriding the underlying tragedy, and the author's way of making it all come together is brilliant.

The story is told from the first person perspective; a young woman in a coma fighting for her life in an Intensive Care Unit. As Faith looks down from the ceiling at the almost lifeless body she refers to as Faith-in-the-bed, reality sets in. Desperate to live, with no chance of her body springing into action at any time soon to help her, Faith certainly has some quick thinking to do before it's all too late. I found myself up there with this never-give-up tenacious spirit on the ceiling, biting my nails and holding my breath as the story twists and turns with more moves than a snakes and ladder board. For me, I found it a highly entertaining read that kept me guessing from cover to cover.

A very well written novel I would highly recommend to those like me who sit on the fence, unsure whether they believe or not. "You'll never never know...if you never never go," as they say. "Jump in the deep end and enjoy!"

Samantha March says

I received a review copy

I remember reading this synopsis in my Youtube mail call video recently, and cracking up laughing while I did. While clearly there is a serious topic here – dying is no joke, of course, I could tell right off the bat that there was going to be some humor involved. This book was filled with laughs yet so many touching moments and it was such a terrific balance throughout. This is my first book from Maggie Le Page but I know it won't be my last. I loved the mystery throughout – what really happened to Faith? Was there a culprit behind her mysterious fall? And I'm such a fan of magical realism, which was prominently featured throughout. Fabulous chick lit and a one for your beach read list!

4.5 stars

N.N. Light says

I loved the premise of this book immediately and jumped in with two feet. Boy, did I love this book! The author thrusts us directly into Faith's mind and I became a part of her. Told in first-person, the author pushes us into the paranormal without pulling any punches.

Faith wakes up looking down on a woman in a hospital bed. She soon discovers (thanks to her Gran appearing) the woman is her and she's in a coma. Faith doesn't remember anything and she has limited time to figure it out, so as her Gran says, get cracking.

With each passing day, Faith learns a little more about herself and her life choices. She's made some huge mistakes and must prove her life is worth a second chance to the Death Council. Gran helps when she can but in all reality, it's up to Faith.

Nate Sutherland is Faith's childhood friend and he is constantly at Faith's bedside. He suspects foul play and is determined to find the one responsible. Nate, though, must trust in something he can't explain in order to save the woman he loves.

I loved that this book was more than just a paranormal with dashes of romantic suspense thrown in. I got to discover bits and pieces of Faith's life as she did through flashbacks and memories. The narrative was superb, the characterizations were deep and intense, the love Nate feels for Faith (or Pixie as he affectionately calls her) almost stopped my heart and the spiritual realm fired up my imagination.

There were many twists and turns which I did and didn't see coming. I rooted for her to end up with Nate the whole time and even swore at some of the villainous tendencies a character (won't reveal who) had. I was hooked into this story and Maggie Le Page wouldn't let go.

Whether you believe in life-after-death or out-of-body experiences or not, this book is an addictive read! I highly recommend it!!!

Favorite Character:

Gran. From the moment Gran first appears, I was totally in love with her as a character. She reminded me of my wild and crazy aunt who rides a Harley. Colorful, wacky and in-your-face honesty brings this character to life. She's Faith's guide in the after-life, so to speak, and every time she appears, she's in a different hair color and clothing. It's a riot and I love how fiercely she loves Faith!

Favorite Quote:

I'm so hot for him I'm a god-damn health and safety hazard. ~Faith

My Rating: 5 stars

Suzy Manning says

received this book free for review. . Read it straight through without stopping.

quirky, suspenseful, not putdownable

Faith wakes up in a hospital room, floating just below the ceiling. Below her she sees an unconscious young woman, attached to machines. The woman is her. Her grandmother is there with her telling her she needs to wake up and figure out what is happening and how she got there (her 7 years dead grandmother). Throw in a best friend, an estranged husband and an ex-boyfriend, Add a six year-old daughter and the ex-boyfriends mother who are both psychic.

Light, and fast moving. Will have to try more by her.

Jackie says

Faith Carson wakes up looking down at her self. Only she doesn't know she is Faith and she doesn't remember any of her past except that her dead grandmother is there with her too and she is dressed in a very unusual outfit. Soon she realizes that it is up to her to decide whether she wants another chance at this life. She must also prove she wants it. As the important people in Faith's life visit her she soon realizes mistakes she's made and that she needs to live to make things right. But, can Faith prove to those above that she truly wants another chance at this life or will her week fly by without her proving just how much she wants to continue living.

This was such an engrossing and unique story. I think the idea of proving you want to continue living while in limbo is such a great idea. Everyone questions what happens when you die, but few question what happens when you're on the cusp of dying. Not only was such a heavy topic treated with a great mix of respect and brevity but it also mixed in a suspense filled mystery of who caused Faith to be in the state that she is in. You really get the great mix of emotions in this book. Everything from sadness to guilty to hope to happy. It really runs the gamut while making you want to turn every last page until you find out what happens. I would highly recommend this book for those looking for a refreshing read.

Heather Balog says

I read this fast paced chick lit novel in less than 24 hours. It was the perfect combination of funny, heartwarming, and surprise. Very well done story about a woman hovering between life and death. The choices she has made in her life have brought her to this point, the brink of a death that she's not ready for. She has amnesia (even coma patients get amnesia apparently) so she needs to work out the details of her life while floating above her body in the hospital bed with her long dead Gran at her side. Gran was my favorite character, by the way...a real feisty old broad with impeccable fashion sense. The pacing was perfect...the mystery unfolded as Faith was figuring out who everyone was in her life. I loved all the characters, even the flawed ones. My only complaint was the shower scene. It felt a little out of place and I don't think it was necessary to further the storyline. I actually skipped over most of that scene, but I know some people look for that sort of thing in a novel. Otherwise, brilliant novel. Well done Maggie!

Deborah says

3.5 stars Original and Interesting but I wanted more at the end.

I started reading this book the minute I'd finished the blurb, I was intrigued. It starts really well, Faith is having what could be described as a bad day her body is in a deep coma while she looks down from the ceiling and as if the coma wasn't bad enough she's lost her memory as well. Faith hopelessly stares down from above trying to piece together what's happened, who everyone is and what on earth went wrong she's aided by her dead grandmother and through her visitors comments, reactions and interactions we slowly form a picture of her life and we hope she gets another chance to do it right this time but of course there's no guarantee she'll get another chance because time is running out and she's still so much to learn she has to be strong and prove she deserves another shot at life. With so many books out there it's not often I come across something different and this is, I loved the idea but....

It was too long. There I said it, I know the reviews are really good and there's a lot here to like but it was just

too long. I'd worked out who the 'baddie' was (not difficult) and all the relationships and I looked down and I wasn't even half way into the book. Was I wrong? Would there be a huge twist?

The answer is no and therefore it dragged a bit and I started skimming.

Also Faith is annoying and yes I know she's having a bad day/week but she's still annoying.

One scene didn't really work for me I don't want to make this a spoiler review but if you read this book you'll know the one I mean.

I also felt a little cheated at the end especially considering the book had seemed so long at times, the end was too short I wanted more and considering that we'd been through everything with Faith I felt we deserved to be there for her at the end.

How did everything work out?

Did Geoff know?

Surely Nate must have known or at least suspected?

I have other questions which were left unanswered, admittedly they're small ones but still.

Despite the above this is an original and interesting read and well worth a look.
