



Midnight

Kevin Egan

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Midnight is a compulsively readable legal thriller by Kevin Egan that keeps tightening the screws with every page.

How long can you hide a death?

The New York County Courthouse, in Lower Manhattan, has its own rules and traditions. When a judge dies, the members of his staff keep their jobs until the end of that calendar year. So when Judge Alvin Canter quietly expires in his chambers on December 31st, his loyal clerk and secretary find themselves in a difficult situation. Their jobs will vanish at closing time—unless they can conceal the judge's death until after midnight.

Neither Tom Carroway nor Carol Scilingo can afford to be out of work. Tom is deeply in debt to an impatient loan shark, while Carol is a struggling single mom whose young son and aging mother depend heavily on her. And both Tom and Carol have secrets they're desperate to keep hidden.

Their plan seems simple enough: make it look like the judge died at home on New Year's Day. But that's before other people get involved: a crooked union boss, a brutal mob enforcer, and Carol's suspicious ex-boyfriend. . . .

Pretty soon, Tom and Carol find themselves over their heads in an increasingly dangerous conspiracy. And if they're not very careful, more than one body may be discovered in the new year.

"Alfred Hitchcock would have loved *Midnight's* twisty, original plot."—Phillip Margolin, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sleight of Hand*

Midnight Details

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From Reader Review Midnight for online ebook

Stuart Hopen says

Two courthouse employees plot to conceal the fact that a judge has died. At first they are simply trying to hold onto their jobs, relying on a quirky custom that dictates they will serve out the remainder of the calendar year. The task begins with a sardonic jollity, but slowly grows darker until it becomes pitch noir. This novel's greatest strength lies in its atmospherics, conjured with vivid descriptions of the iconic New York County courthouse, with its quirky traditions, secrets, and curious inner workings that are vulnerable to corruption. With overtones that harken back to the works of James M. Cain and Jim Thompson, the novel is operates like the courthouse itself, fitted with contemporary trappings, but steeped in tradition.

Bames says

This is a very exciting book that starts with the character of Judge Alvin Canter arriving at his chambers on Ney Year's Eve. He told his secretary that he would be taking a nap in his office. The secretary, Carol Scilingo, goes about her work and the same goes for Tom Carroway, the law clerk, after he arrives at work. After receiving a phone call inquiring about a case, Tom goes into Judge Canter's office to ask a question and finds the Judge dead on his couch.

When a judge dies, the members of his or her staff get to keep their jobs until the end of that calendar year. But it is Ney Year's Eve. Carol has a son and a mother who are totally dependent on her -- she needs her job. Tom has debts to pay and the economy is very bad. Finding another job is next to impossible. They both desperately need to keep their jobs. If only the judge waited till the next day to die; their jobs would be secure for at least the entire of the following year.

Because of their desperation, they decide to keep the judge's death a secret till the following day. So they decide to make it look like the judge died in his apartment after midnight. The plan seemed simple enough but things get really complicated. Tom's debts to a loan shark gets called in and he needs a lot of money right away. Enter the corrupt union boss who would do anything to stay in his position. There is also a man named Foxx. Then the judge disappears!

Midnight is one very exciting mystery novel that is just so thrilling to read. You will never guess where the story is headed because there are constant twists and turns that will keep you absolutely glued. Kevin Egan is definitely a good writer and also extremely creative. This book is a must read.

Don says

It's hard not to quip that this is "Weekend at Bernie's Courthouse." A clerk and assistant conspire to hide their judge employer's body for a day; once the new year starts a judge's staff is kept on for the calendar year even if they die or leave their position. So when they find him dead mid-day on Dec 31st they decide, given the current economic condition, to hide his death for a day. This works out not as well as they'd like; thus the

book.

The book suffers from this summary; it's hard not to think "who the hell would know that?" But it's not at all out of character for a detail-oriented lawyer working for a fairly elderly judge, and within the book the characterizations never seem forced. Nobody acts in a way they need to in order for the plotline to advance - they act the way you would expect them to, based on their personalities as described.

The book is an okay read; if I have any problem with it it's the fact that this is such a noir story that doesn't seem willing to fully embrace the genre. There's also a mid-book reveal about someone's professional responsibilities that DOES seem a little too convenient, though it flows fine within the story.

V.S. Kemanis says

The unique plot in *Midnight* is built around the relationship between a law clerk and his judge in a setting I know very well, the courthouses in lower Manhattan. Unlike many crime novels, *Midnight* opens not with a murder but with the judge's death from natural causes, which serves as the catalyst for a series of progressively serious crimes. You won't anticipate the many twists and turns in the domino spiral, set in motion by the slowly unfolding secrets of the characters and their conflicting motivations. Fans of noir and legal thriller will thoroughly enjoy this compulsively readable tale of desperation and consequence. To read my full review and my conversation with the author, [click here to go to my blog](#).

James Robinson says

I was enjoying this book, well on its way to a 4-star rating but then the author did something stupid. He had a character unable to see the time on his cell phone because he was in the subway and couldn't get a signal. This is ridiculous. The clock is built into the device, it can use the signal to sync but does not need it to show the time. And I was two-thirds through too!

I have since discovered a workmate who read my review on Facebook had a phone that would not give the user access to normal functions while searching for a signal. Four stars.

Albert says

I have to admit, I absolutely loved the premise of this book. It hooked me when I read the jacket sleeve. I have never heard of Kevin Egan or *Midnight* before I saw this book at the local library and picked it up. It wasn't the positive reviews on the front and back by established authors, it was this:

...The New York County Courthouse, in Lower Manhattan, has its own rules and traditions. When a judge dies, the members of his staff keep their jobs until the end of that calendar year. So when Judge Alvin Canter quietly expires in his chambers on December 31, his loyal clerk and secretary find themselves in a difficult situation. Their jobs will vanish at closing time--unless they can conceal the judge's death until after midnight...

The dilemma for Tom Carroway and Carol Shilingo is this; how far will you go to keep your job?

Tom is an aspiring lawyer with a gambling addiction. Loan sharks are showing up at the courthouse to collect. Carol is a single mom trying to put herself through college. Neither can afford to be out of a job. So all they have to do is hide the body until the next day. The problem is they are in the county courthouse, surrounded by guards and police. How are they going to pull it off?

To add to the problem, the final item on the judges docket is a decision on a litigation between the courthouse union and the city to increase or decrease pay for the courthouse employees. Everyone in the courthouse wants to know how the judge is going to rule. Union bosses and their henchmen are calling and pounding on the door. The Inspector General is looking into it for tampering and there is an ex-boyfriend of Carol's who happens to be a courthouse guard who just won't go away.

In *Midnight* no one is exactly what they seem and the simple act of hiding the truth spirals quickly out of control and into something much bigger. I won't go into what, because it is just that good of a novel that it is worth the read.

The question remains. What would you do to keep your job? And are you prepared for the consequences?

Patrice Hoffman says

Midnight by Kevin Egan begins on New Year's Eve as an uneventful average day in a Manhattan courthouse where the loyal civil servants are finishing work before the new year. Judge Cantor goes into his chambers as usual and is accompanied by his court clerk Tom Carroway and secretary Carol Scilingo. All is well until Judge Cantor quietly passes away in his sleep. Upon discovering he's deceased, his "brainiac" team comes up with the idea that if they can prolong his actual time of death, they will be able to keep the jobs they so desperately need. Tom encourages Carol to go about business as usual since they only need until midnight to secure their jobs for the next year. All is well until it isn't anymore.

Kevin Egan writes an extremely fast paced novel that can be devoured in one sitting. Of that I'm grateful. Things begin to go awry almost immediately when their "well-hatched" plan involves way too many separate interests besides Tom and Carol's.

Based on Tom's issues he's the perfect catalyst to keep this thriller/mystery moving forward, even after the goal of reaching midnight. The only problem with Tom is that he's possibly the most unlikeable character among the plethora of unlikeables. I disliked him with a passion and Carol is too boring to even consider. She's the quintessential single mother that adds nothing to enthusiasm for her. And the rest are cardboard thin.

Despite my gripes with character development I was hooked to *Midnight*. Kevin Egan wrote an interesting thriller that barely allows readers to digest one shock before supplying another. I can't wait to read what's next from this author. I only urge him to give us characters likeable enough to rally behind and really root for.

JodiP says

This was a completely unbelievable, preposterous tale that I just tore through! I usually don't have much patience for out-there plot lines, but this just zipped along, and the problems encountered kept mounting,

keeping me thinking how the heck are they going to get out of this mess? At times, it worked to read it as a farce, increasing the entertainment value. The ending was pretty hokey--I really doubt that coyotes would attack someone unless they were rabid, but it made for a funny read. I also think the re-kindled relationship between Foxx and Carol wasn't very well thought-out. I think it would have been better had they remained friends, with Foxx being a great presence in her son's life.

Darren Ashley says

I chose MIDNIGHT by Kevin Egan off the display shelves at the library, finished it today, happy I found it easy to read with short chapters and a plot I could stick with. Tom Carroway and Carol Scilingo work for Judge Canter in a New York courthouse as law clerks but after the judge dies in his chambers, Tom and Carol realize they will lose their jobs at the year's end unless they can keep others oblivious of his passing until midnight on New Year's Eve. A gambling problem leaves Tom in debt and he turns to Dominic, a loan shark, who threatens Tom's as time passes and he hasn't been repaid until Tom learns he will keep his job enabling him to repay Dominic by rewriting a decision favoring the union.

Maureen says

This is a really fun book based on a unique concept. When Judge Canter dies on New Year's Eve in his courtroom chambers, his staff is in quite a dilemma. As it is the last day of the year they will find themselves unemployed come New Year's Day unless they can make it appear that the Judge died after the year end. His law clerk and secretary decide to hide the body so it appears that he died in the new year, thus saving their jobs for the next year. Complications arise and (so as not to give too much away) I will leave it at that. It is a super quick read that you will not want to put down. I love reading a book that you can feel you are a part of. Kevin Egan does such a good job making the courthouse and lower Manhattan another character in the book. He captures the cast of characters perfectly. As we all know the simplest of plans do not always go smoothly. I enjoyed the twists and turns as you watch the characters learn this for themselves.

Amy says

There are some nights when insomnia actually pays off.

I received an AR copy of *Midnight* yesterday, and, thanks to a convenient break in my reading line-up, could slip it in right away. The premise is Judge Alvin Carter happens to die in his chambers on December 31. While that might seem a tidy way to end a year, it puts his law clerk and his secretary in a bit of a bind; by the traditions of the New York County Courthouse their jobs would be safe until the end of the year a seated judge dies, but the end of the year is only hours away. Not much help for a financially strapped single mom and a fellow up to his ears in gambling debts. What to do? Simple. Make it look like the good Justice kicked off on January 1 instead.

The plot gets convoluted -- ham-fisted loan sharks, crooked politicians, nasty enforcers, even an ex-boyfriend. Plus, the dead judge goes on a bit of a walk-about.

The author has spent his career in the New York law system, so the scenarios and specifics of the culture

rang true. There were only a few moments where my attention wandered because of small details.

So, when I found myself wide awake at half past stupid last night, rather than struggle to resume sleeping, I crept downstairs, made a nice cup of herbal tea, wrapped myself in an afghan, and finished the book. Like Carol and Tom, I tried to turn a losing proposition into a winning one. Only my case was much less of a struggle.

Monica says

A great mystery. I was taken from a few pages in. The end was unexpected too. Grey characters all around, who to root for?

msleighm says

Not the typical type of thriller that I pick up, however I was at a Literary Festival in Millbrook, NY, last weekend, met the delightful author, and my mom was kind enough to purchase it for me. As I said, not my usual fair, of murder mystery/horror - this was more what's going to happen next, suspense. Though I do love the lawyer genre, I generally don't go for suspense and I'll admit to putting it down several times over the last few days to let it sit. But I think that's really a compliment, as it was so suspenseful, I had to take a break and walk away. It was very readable, the writing flowed, the characters made sense, and I understood their motivations. I'm really looking forward to reading more of Kevin's work.

Karen & Gerard says

When a judge dies on New Year's Eve, Tom and Carol fear they might lose their jobs so come up with a plan to keep the judge's death quiet. But for how long? Soon they find themselves in more trouble than just that! I liked this book more than I thought I would. It kept me entertained and the ending part was really good! You should read it.

(Gerard's review)

Richard says

Meh. It was ok. Wasn't the best plot but it did have it's twists and turns, and kept the pace/action going to the end, but it felt like it was going nowhere, and the characters were a little wooden, I never really cared for them that much. 3 stars, maybe 2 and a half.
