



## Crossroads Road

*Jeff Kay*

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Jovis McIntire's quiet life in the suburbs is turned upside down the day his mother-in-law wins \$234 million in a multi-state lottery. She quickly makes an identical offer to all her children and their families: a large, custom-built home, and two million dollars cash.

But there's a catch, a nasty hook hidden inside the bait. If the deal is accepted, they will be required to live together on a newly-created cul-de-sac in southern California, for the remainder of the matriarch's life — a woman Jovis sarcastically calls Sunshine.

Not a chance!

And that would only be the beginning of it, he knows. The rest of his wife's family is no prize, either. Nancy the bohemian earth child with organic, free-range armpits, Kevin the pompous scarf-wearing intellectual, Sue the 400-pound attention junkie who throws herself down flights of stairs for sympathy... Jovis sees them all as kooks, in one way or another, and they want him to live amongst them? Not for a million bucks! Or two million, even.

But his defiance begins to fade when Jovis returns to his job, and realizes he's now there by choice.

Crossroads Road is the first novel by Jeff Kay, proprietor of the popular humor site The West Virginia Surf Report! It is a rollicking comedy, perfect for fans of National Lampoon's Vacation, Curb Your Enthusiasm, and It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia.

An early reader called the book "relentlessly hilarious."

## Crossroads Road Details

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Author : Jeff Kay

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## From Reader Review Crossroads Road for online ebook

### **Karen Fowler says**

Imagine being offered brand-new house, free and clear, and two million dollars to boot, would you take it? Just to make things interesting, there's a little catch. To get the money and the house, you have to move into a family-compound of sorts with a cast of crazy, egocentric, borderline-certifiable in-laws. So would you do it? More importantly, would you be able to hold on to your sanity if you did?

That's the crux of this rip-roaring journey into the land of insanity. Add to that a controlling Matriarch, a four-hundred pound sister-in-law who throws herself downstairs for attention, a wealth of paranoia and two cerebral professors that can't find their own way out of a paper box, and what you have is a side-splitting journey into a situation so absurd that it's hard to believe someone could just make this stuff up. Kay has done a fantastic job with this slightly-cynical, definitely hysterical novel. Although I'm not a big fan of the cover art for this novel, the content more than redeems itself. I'll be on the lookout for Kay's next novel, in the event I require a STAT-dose of comedic relief!

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### **Amy Siggelow says**

I won this book from LibraryThing's Member Giveaways.

This is one of the funniest books I have read in a very long time! This is a book about a seemingly "normal" family of four living in Pennsylvania. Jovis (which is a name his younger brother came up with when he couldn't pronounce Joseph) and his wife Tara live with their two sons in a suburban Pennsylvania town, both working to make ends meet. Out of the blue, Tara's mother wins the lottery and makes a deal for Tara and her brother and sisters to come live in California on a newly constructed development exclusively for their family, plus receive \$2 million per sibling. Sounds like a dream come true to Jovis, except that Tara seems to be the only "normal" one out of her whole family. From the way Jovis describes, this is the beginning of a huge family fiasco, and it seems what he predicts comes true.

Dysfunctionality is a "nice" term describing this family. Between Tara's mother's crazy demands, her sister's weird family and her second sister's flair for the dramatic, this is a great and easy read! I truly enjoyed this book and read it easily in a day and a half. I would love to read more from this author!

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### **Bill Thibadeau says**

You are at the cinema really enjoying a movie and, BAM, it is over and you are not ready for an ending. You swear the movie was only 30 minutes long even though it was two hours. Deja Vu - Crossroads Road fits this scenario completely. I was in no way ready for it to end.

This book is an insight into a hilarious dysfunctional family through the eyes of a wannabe writer Jovis (Joseph) McIntire. He is probably the only sane adult member of this extended family and is the narrator of this hopefully fictional story. The saga centers on the family matriarch who wins a lottery and uses these

funds to assemble her brood and others in a custom built neighborhood in SoCal where she can oversee EVERYTHING.

If you are wondering where your sense of humor has gone and are having trouble finding it, look no further than this book. The story is hilarious. It is very clever, imaginative, and bright. Make sure that you have a generous block of time to devote to reading because you will have a hard time putting it down.

This is Jeff Kay's first novel and hopefully the first of many. He has a humor website, The West Virginia Surf Report, that you can visit to get a glimpse of his writing style and sense of humor.

Question for Jeff: Is Andy really the kind of a name you would give to a dog?

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### **Harold says**

Pure fun, an enjoyable book. I can't wait for the movie.

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### **Darcia Helle says**

This is a fun, light read that had me laughing and held my attention throughout. Despite the absurdity of the people and situations, the plot had substance. Beneath the craziness is the question of how much of your privacy - and sanity - you would give up for financial comfort.

The characters are well developed lunatics. Jeff Kay's writing has a great flow and I could see the scenes playing out in my mind as I read. This book has the added benefit of making you appreciate your own crazy family a little more!

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### **Karen says**

I kept putting this book down and walking away for a while. This wasn't because it's a terrible book or because I hated it. I did it for the opposite reason: I didn't want the story to end.

As a long time "Surf Reporter" (WVSR fan), I am familiar with many of the characters in this novel. Some are predictable in their insanity, others in their strength and humor. This book will remain on my shelf for years to come, and will be an old 'standby' to re-read for comfort, fun and distraction as needed.

I really hope there's a sequel; Jovis needs to exact his revenge against that entire family. Especially Kevin, Jr. That boy needs a beating.

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### **Lance Carney says**

I first read Jeff Kay's Ridiculous Adventures in Suburbia: Best of the West Virginia Surf Report, Volume One which is a collection of posts from his on-line journal/zine/blog before buying this book. The funniest

parts involved the true adventures of his mother-in-law and her husband, Sunshine and Mumbles. So what does Jeff Kay do for an encore, he creates a fictional Sunshine and Mumbles, has them win the lottery and wreak even more havoc on their families.

Sunshine (with her husband mumbling beside her) offers custom-built homes and two million dollars to each family member. But there is a catch. The homes are in California in a cul-de-sac near Sunshine and Mumble's house in a new development cleverly named Crossroads Road by Sunshine. As the lead character Jovis says, "The whole thing made my sphincter wink."

Crossroads Road is every bit as funny as the Best of the West Virginia Surf Report with bathroom humor flowing throughout. The family characters are eccentric, wild and kooky.

And in the end, who knew Stevie Guitar Miller was so promiscuous? So take a trip to California and visit Crossroads Road—I guarantee you will be entertained as Sunshine and Mumbles make you feel right at home.

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### **Donna Brown says**

Crossroads Road by Jeff Kay is the very funny tale of what happens when the answer to all your hopes turns out to be the key to a whole new set of problems. Imagine you're desperate to start again, to break away from the humdrum banality of life and enjoy a quieter existence. Imagine a relative wins millions of dollars and offers to buy you a house and give you enough money to make sure you can have a substantial break from work, as long as you're careful with the money. Wouldn't it be a dream come true?

Well, not if you're going to be living on Crossroads Road. With interfering relatives. With mayhem and madness at every turn.

It's not often I read books that I find genuinely funny but Jeff Kay's novel is certainly full of laughs. From the millionaire control freak who still insists on smuggling fried chicken into venues on a day out to her frankly utterly odd children and grandchildren, Crossroads Road is so chock full of bizarre characters and their unusual antics that it's a bit like 'car wreck TV' in book format! You can see it coming... you know you shouldn't read on... but you do!

This is very entertaining and the caricatures in the book serve to point out some important facts: it's hard living with family. It's even harder when your family are so far from normal it's almost beyond belief. And – of course – the grass is not always greener on the other side! Very amusing, very easy to read and very good fun.

*Originally published on Book Bags and Cat Naps.*

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### **Pop Bop says**

A Cheerfully Amusing Quirkfest

Sometimes when you have a sitcom style book loaded with quirky characters the edge gets dull pretty quickly and you end up with a bit of a slog. The beauty here is that Kay has taken an excellent setup and just

keeps piling on without running out of gas. The "incident" that ends the book is as amusing as the earlier chapters that set everything up.

It helps that our hero/narrator is just nuts enough himself and just grounded enough that he can tell the story and keep it on the rails without squeezing it dry. It especially helps that the book is loaded with deadpan throw-away lines that go beyond the main plot and add spice and variety to the otherwise manic tale.

This was an amusing and cheerfully nutsy find. I picked it up when it was a Kindle freebie and I'm glad I did.

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### **Sarah Marlowe says**

Hysterical. Very hard to turn written words into laughter, but I was cracking up the whole time!

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### **Courtney says**

Everyone has heard that winning the lotto is bad luck, whether it was on Lost or in general conversation. Crossroads Road is the hilarious tale of what could happen when your crazy mother-in-law wins the jackpot.

The main character and narrator, Jovis, is like anybody you meet on the streets today. The story was written in a way that made Jovis feel as though he was sitting across a table from you, retelling the story of what happened to him in his own words. The story keeps moving and has crazy thing after crazy thing happen to Jovis, so he gets no chance to breath throughout the whole book. At one point I forgot that I was reading because everything was playing so clearly in my mind (I would love to see this brought to a big screen)

I loved this book. It's a great find and perfect for a light, fun beach read.

\*I won a free copy this e-book in a LibraryThing Member Giveaway\*

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### **Jill Masterson says**

I loved MAD magazine but I didn't understand the point of this book. I did not like the main character and he was supposed to be the 'normal' one of the family. I found him to be self-centered and judgmental. And I could not believe some of the phases that the character was saying.

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### **Domonique says**

#### **Too funny!**

This was freaking hilarious! I thought my family was a little crazy but they got nothing on this family. They seemed like they were a nightmare, crazy and didn't even know how nuts. I'm surprised Jovis didn't get crazy after a few weeks, I probably would have. The mother in law was the ringleader of the group and not even a new house and the promise of \$2 million would make me live near her or follow her ridiculous rules. If

you're looking for a laugh, definitely check this out!

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### **Ellie says**

Crossroads Road was offered free as a Kindle edition, and for this reason alone I began reading without high hopes. However, once I started to read I couldn't stop! Jeff Kay's first novel revolves around Jovis and members of his wife's extended family. When his crazy mother-in-law wins the lottery, the entire brood moves in when she offers two million dollars and a new house per family as an incentive.

This novel is incredibly witty and humorous. I think my favorite parts were in relation to the nicknames Jovis gave to his larger-than-life family...particularly amusing was his trio of nephews whom he called the "Translucents." Additionally, I had to refrain myself from laughing out loud at the wild metaphors and insane imagery--Kay really knows how to keep an audience interested.

I feel that Crossroads Road ended almost before it really began. Nothing really seemed to get resolved, and I would feel much better about the conclusion if I knew a sequel was in the works. Don't let that stop you from reading though. Crossroads Road was a real standout novel for me, as the story didn't drag along and I was entertained by every single page.

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### **Joy says**

I picked up this short novel on the recommendation of a friend of mine, and read it in an afternoon. The premise is simple - is it worth putting up with your crazy inlaws for a free amazing house and two million dollars in the bank? That's the question that Jovis faces after his nutso mother-in-law wins \$234 million in the lottery, and how he and his wife Tara live with the consequences of their decision is the focus of the book. The different characters are well fleshed out and quite descriptive in places, with some of the supporting characters being the strongest. Some of the behaviors and decisions weren't as well explained as I would like, especially following how the MIL chooses who will live in her subdivision. There are also a few odd subplots that don't really resolve, such as one involving Jovis' son, but there are also some good subplots that add a little interest to the story. I enjoyed the read and it's definitely entertaining, so worth picking up if the premise intrigues you.

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