

Book Club Reading Guide **THE JORVIK PROPHECY**

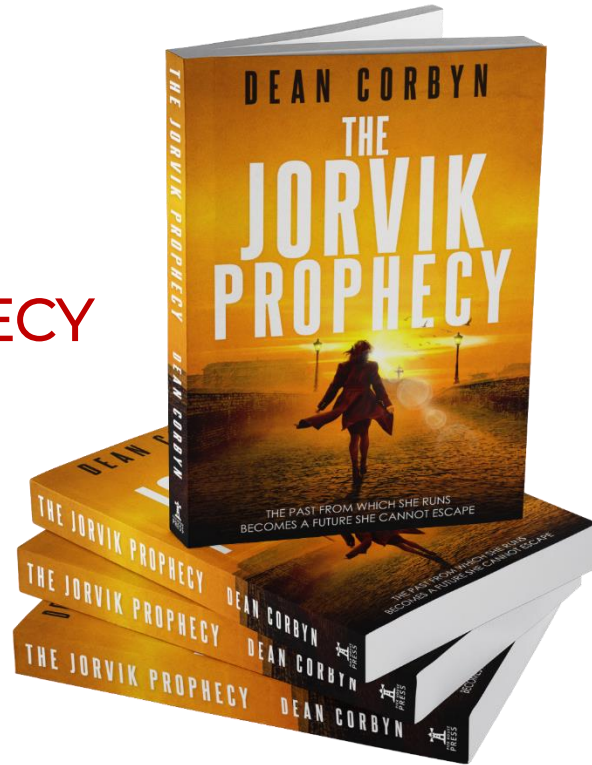
by *Dean Corbyn*

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Genre: Suspense / Mystery



ARE THE BONDS OF LOVE, LOYALTY, AND FRIENDSHIP POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REWRITE DESTINY?

You may think she's just another prosperous New York dentist with her beautiful Greenwich Village home and all the trappings of success.

But you're mistaken.

Doctor Theia McDormand's world is unraveling, her grip on life slipping away as fear consumes her, driving her deeper into seclusion. Obsessed with researching her family's mysterious past, it occupies her every minute.

Her best friend, Audree, has tried everything. Convinced that Theia's tales of ominous cults and ancestral murders, along with her belief that she's their next target, are mere figments of imagination, she sets out to prove her wrong. Yet strangely, Theia resists her help.

As sinister forces emerge from the shadows, Theia's moment of reckoning arrives, compelling her to break her one cardinal rule and reveal a secret so profound, it transcends the understanding of any ordinary human being. But there's a reason she has guarded it so closely.

THE TRUTH MAY NOT BODE WELL FOR THOSE WHO DARE TO HEAR IT.

Questions for Discussion

1. In chapter one, Reginleif is ruthlessly hunted by a group of armed men. Naturally we all root for her, but at the end when she is gunned down and presumably dead, the leader of the men, Karl, shows regret. Did it deter you from believing they were still the bad guys here?
2. In the bible, Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son -- commit murder -- to appease his God. If you were a devout member of a highly religious order with the knowledge of an ancient prophecy foretelling the coming of the antichrist, could you kill the purest soul on Earth to stop it from happening? If not, what alternative solutions are there?
3. While most stories have clearly defined protagonists and antagonists, (though Mr. Goodwin is clearly a despicable person), The Jorvik Prophecy mars the lines: Monks are good – but they commit murder, The MiB are bad – but they protect Theia. The potential storyline sacrifice is not knowing who to root for. Did this add to the mystery, trying to figure out who to trust, or did you decide early who to champion? Were you right?
4. The premise of the story is based on fate and determinism. All our futures are mapped out and there is nothing we can do to change them. Or is there? Everything has a cause and effect. A tipping point. What was the tipping point for the prophecy?
 - a. Matthew and Audree convince Theia to return to England – to seek the truth, but was that prophesized? Did that *cause* the prophecy to be fulfilled?
 - b. Or was it when DeRose from the MiB, disobeyed orders and entered Theia’s apartment?
 - c. Or was it because David, the young boy, witnessed him doing so?
 - d. Or was it something else?
5. Matthew’s astute research and keen mind discovered a great deal of facts in short order (incidentally, all are factually accurate). His conclusion that Theia was on Earth to birth the second coming of Christ was way off base, as it turned out to be the antichrist she would birth. But was he incorrect? Perhaps, it’s a game of chance. Yes, conceiving a child from Mr. Goodwin, a.k.a. De Atta, brings about Armageddon, but if Theia, the purest soul on Earth, could have a child with Matthew (the real Matthew please stand up) would Matthew’s prediction be correct? Would their child be the second coming of Jesus? But she couldn’t conceive a child with anyone except De Atta –we know that; that was in the prophecy, right? But if De Atta is dead, then there is no prophecy. Hmmm.
6. The last two chapters summarize the lives of those that were part of this journey. They all lived happily ever after! Right? How many of you suspected a less than perfect ending was on the horizon? What did the final line in the book mean to each of you?
 - a. Is Matthew now De Atta? Or is De Atta just lurking somewhere inside without Matthew’s knowledge?
 - b. Can Matthew’s kind heart overcome that which stirs within?
 - c. If Matthew is infected with the soul of Satan, who will their child be?
 - d. What will Theia do, if and when she finds out?
 - e. How many would want to continue the journey – a series?

Other Activities

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Discuss the main characters, sub-plot characters and groups, their arcs, their personalities and how they relate to each other and the story as a whole. Who was your favorite?

Individual Main Characters

- Thiea McDormand
- Matthew Colombo
- Audree Shaw
- Bill Kowalski
- Sheila Wilson
- David Wilson
- Asma (Mr. Goodwin) De Atta
- Father Douglas Chandler
- Father Jerry Huckabay

Groups or Sub-plot Characters

- Father Thomas
- Father Timmons and Father Andrews
- The Monks
 - Current Day
 - 1945 (Karl Hoffmann)
- The MiB
 - Griffin and DeRose
- Father Adrian Jacobs (St. Peter's Church)
- Miss Morgan Holloway (The Old Minster Archives)
- Mr. Thompson (Groceries)
- The Medium (Grave Danger)

HISTORICAL & FACT ANALYSIS

Discuss the historical references and facts, and how they were weaved into this fictional story.

1. Did the references and facts enrich the story, or did it slow the pace?
2. How many of you researched the facts mentioned throughout the book to see if they were indeed real?
3. How does the book's use of historical fact challenge or reinforce your own understanding of history (particularly if you're not a history buff)?
4. The book encompasses several genres: historical, romance, mystery, fantasy or surreal. If you had to summarize the genre into one, perhaps when describing the book to others, which would you choose?

PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

Discuss the themed essences of the story and the paradoxical ramifications.

1. Like the 'Butterfly Effect,' one small change can lead to catastrophic change in the future. At which point in the story would one single change have altered the outcome?
2. Only at the end of a journey can we draw a conclusion if what was written or predicted became a reality, that determinism wins over causality. But there is a third option. The multiverse. Although the term "multiverse" was first coined by American philosopher William James in 1895, recent scientist Brian Greene further developed the theory. It proposes that there are an infinite number of universes, each with its own set of laws of physics and its own history. Every decision we make (our own causality) branches off into another universe, creating an infinite number of universes. One of those universes will inevitably mirror in exact detail any predictions. In this case, predeterminism is merely a coincidence. Agree? Disagree? Discuss this theory.
3. In conclusion, do you feel that the story reflects the position of determinism or causality. Is fate still at play, where chance and free will are illusions? The prophecy and its articles were true? Or, has the story simply not concluded, and there is still hope... in Book Two?