Book Review: Nobody's Hero
By M.W. Craven

Thanks to NetGalley and Flatiron Books for this advance reader's copy, in exchange for an honest review. "Nobody's Hero" has an expected publication date of December 2024.

"Nobody's Hero" is the second book in the Ben Koenig series. I had not previously read the first, but took a chance and was not disappointed. Sufficient backstory is seamlessly weaved into the narrative early to enable readers to hit the ground running. And trust me, this story hits the ground running.

At the outset, a woman thought to have died ten years ago murders two London pickpockets. This sets off a chain of events that trigger the Acacia Avenue Protocol. What is that? Craven doesn't immediately give it away, but instead leads the reader through a series of plot twists and turns to eventually uncover – right around the same time Koenig does – the global repercussions that are at stake.

Craven also establishes three separate, yet related, storylines that will keep readers wondering how and where the myriad narratives and assorted characters will intersect. At times you may find yourself shaking your head and wondering what an old woman dying of cancer has in common with father-daughter contract killers. But trust me, it all comes together.

Koenig is a likeable, though sometimes annoying, character with a dry sense of humor. A rare genetic disorder called Urbach-Wieth disease makes it impossible for him to register fear. The result is a character who seems part James Bond, part Indiana Jones, with a little bit of John McClane (the "Die Hard" movie series) thrown in. His long-

winded, sometimes meandering, explanations can test your patience. But stay with it, because they're important.

As is often the case with these types of stories, the ending can get a bit bogged down when the key antagonist, believing he's at a point where he can't be stopped, helps put all the pieces together for the protagonist through some long-winded dialogue. That's where some of the storyline becomes a bit of a stretch, but it doesn't detract too much from a fast-paced, highly entertaining read.

Four out of five stars for "Nobody's Hero." If you're looking for an action-packed mystery, check it out when it's released in early December.