

Every Day Study Guide

Every Day by David Levithan

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Every Day Study Guide..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Plot Summary..... | 3 |
| Day 5994..... | 4 |
| Day 5995-5997..... | 6 |
| Day 5998-6002..... | 9 |
| Day 6003-6005..... | 12 |
| Day 6006-6007..... | 15 |
| Day 6008-6015..... | 17 |
| Day 6016-6019..... | 20 |
| Day 6020-6023..... | 23 |
| Day 6024-6029..... | 26 |
| Day 6030-6034..... | 29 |
| Characters..... | 32 |
| Symbols and Symbolism..... | 35 |
| Settings..... | 37 |
| Themes and Motifs..... | 38 |
| Styles..... | 40 |
| Quotes..... | 42 |



Plot Summary

A is an undefined being who wakes each day in a new body. A is neither male nor female. For the purpose of continuity, A is referred to as “he” throughout this guide. He is a thinking being but not human and apparently not demonic. He has his own memories but is able to tap into the memories and knowledge of the person whose body he inhabits. That means he is able to get through most days without arousing suspicion as to his presence. As a rule, the friends and family of the inhabited person simply chalk A’s presence down to distraction or an off day. A doesn’t know why he is in this situation, but he chooses to be very conscientious about the lives of the people he inhabits. He seeks to maintain a low profile throughout the day and goes out of his way to avoid making decisions that will affect the life of the person he inhabits.

He also avoids making real connections with people because he knows he’ll be gone the following day. As a child, he is infuriated when people talk about “tomorrow” because he knows he will be in a different body living a different life with different people. As he ages and realizes he is different - that most people don’t hop from one body to the next - he keeps a distance from the people around him in an effort to avoid the pain of losing them at the end of the day.

That changes the day he meets Rhiannon. From the beginning, A feels that Rhiannon is in a bad relationship though she seems to honestly care about her boyfriend, Justin. Over the course of the day he is in Justin’s body, A connects with Rhiannon and falls in love. Over the next few days he finds ways to be near her and confesses his true nature. While Rhiannon does accept that A is what he claims to be, she realizes she can never have a normal relationship with him. She struggles with his changing appearance each day but continues to feel a growing love for A.

A has made a mistake by leaving access to his email on the computer of one of the boys he inhabits - Nathan Daldry. A leaves Nathan’s body on the side of the road well after his curfew. Nathan has the distinct memory of having been not quite in control of his body the day before and claims demonic possession. With access to A’s email address, he contacts A and demands answers. A eventually confesses his true nature to Nathan who calls on his priest for help. When they meet for the first time, A discovers that the Reverend Poole is actually being inhabited by another being, apparently someone similar to A, though inherently evil.

Realizing that he can’t give Rhiannon the relationship she deserves and that he can never remain in any body more than a day, A does the next best thing. While in the body of a boy named Alexander, A plants the memory of meeting Rhiannon for the first time and falling in love with her, almost at first sight. He begs Rhiannon to give Alexander a chance, knowing that Alexander is a good guy and that he can make Rhiannon happy. The next day, A wakes in the body of a girl named Katie and plans to leave the area in order to fully break off contact with Rhiannon.



Day 5994

Summary

Day 5994

On day 5994, A wakes up in the body of Justin. A notes that Justin doesn't take care of himself. A takes stock of his surroundings and feels from the beginning that he doesn't like Justin very much. However, he knows that he'll feel bad about it later if he doesn't do his best to take care of Justin's life for the day. He has the ability to access the memories of the person he inhabits, but he doesn't know how they feel about things. He is in a different body each day, and he doesn't keep a lot of those memories because to do so would mean he couldn't remember his true identity. A asks if Rhiannon is alright and realizes from her reaction that Justin would never ask that. Rhiannon asks if they can have lunch together. A agrees, realizing that Justin is never enthusiastic about spending time with Rhiannon, though she obviously adores him.

When A arrives at school as Justin, he encounters Justin's girlfriend Rhiannon. A immediately decides she's pretty but notes that she doesn't realize how pretty she is. They meet for lunch at Justin's locker. On a whim, A puts all of Justin's books in the locker and suggests that they skip school to "go somewhere." He lets Rhiannon choose, and she decides they will go to the ocean. A notes that if she'd suggested they return to school, go to the mall, or return to his house, he would have "disconnected." But, her choice to go to the ocean catches his attention, and they begin to drive.

A soon realizes that Justin is not good to Rhiannon, and he knows that allowing himself to become attached to her is dangerous. He wants to tell her that he isn't Justin, but he knows that he can't. They arrive at the ocean and build a sand castle together. They spend the day on the sand, sometimes splashing a little. Rhiannon suggests they should spend everyday on the beach, but A says they would eventually grow tired of it. They meet some people, but no one questions their presence.

Analysis

The story becomes convoluted from the opening pages because the main character is a being known only as A. A inhabits the body of a different person each day. For example, on the first day of the story, A is in the body of a boy named Justin. He goes through Justin's day as Justin would, and the people around him see and interact with him as Justin. Other people - even those very close to Justin - don't realize that A is in control of Justin's body and actions for the day. For the sake of clarity and continuity, each chapter will be presented from A's perspective, though the reader will be informed of the identity of the person A is inhabiting that day.

A makes note of a fact early on Day 5994. He says, "We all want everything to be okay." Though he is only sixteen, A has seen a great deal of human nature and probably



knows more about people than most teens. He has realized already that people want their lives to be on an even keel. Another important fact is revealed in this chapter about the workings of A's existence. He says that he learns constantly. When he leaves a body, he leaves behind the connections and physical aspects of that person's life; but, he retains anything he's learned. Using that, he is able to know the rules of soccer and the academics he would need as a sixteen-year-old student.

One of the overriding themes of this book is seen in the first chapter. A says that he "craves" friendship and relationships - a basic human need. He says that when he was younger, he tried to forge friendships but could never make a real connection because he never stays in one body for more than one day. With that handicap, he has been unable to make any friends or to have the basic human connection of a child to his parents or siblings.

Rhiannon obviously realizes there is something basically different about Justin on the day they go to the beach together. She questions Justin about it the following day, saying that they'd had a wonderful day but that Justin again seems angry and she wonders why.

Discussion Question 1

What makes A unique?

Discussion Question 2

Describe the relationship between Rhiannon and Justin.

Discussion Question 3

Describe the first day that A spends with Rhiannon

Vocabulary

Haunted, recognize, responsibility, agonize, conscientious, grace, prolong, navigates, vulnerability, intersection.



Day 5995-5997

Summary

Day 5995-5997

On day 5995, A wakes up in Leslie Wong's body, thinking about the body. He wakes up to Leslie's grandmother yelling at her for sleeping through the alarm then rides to school with Leslie's brother, Owen, who immediately lights a joint on the ride to school. Near the end of the school day, Owen asks A to drive his car home. He has been accused of selling drugs and has been in a fight with the accuser. Owen claims to be only buying the drugs, not selling, but he gets scared of what will happen when the school calls home and runs away. Leslie's mother, father, and grandmother are ready to confront A when he returns home, trying to get answers. A takes a call from Owen and agrees to meet him at the park. At the park, Owen says the fight broke out because he was trying to buy drugs and the seller is saying that Owen owes a previous debt. A convinces Owen he has to come back home. Upon returning, Owen's father hits him as soon as he walks in, and they begin yelling at him for being involved in drugs. Owen lies and tells his family that the fight was about a girl, not drugs. Owen's parents calm down after this, and Owen is sent to clean his room. That evening, A checks Justin's email, and he's received an email from Rhiannon. She wants to know why yesterday was so perfect and today, he's mad again.

On Day 5996, A wakes up as a boy named Skylar Smith, who lives about four hours away from Rhiannon. The day is mostly uneventful. The most difficult part is soccer practice, where A has to access Skylar's memories as fast as possible to figure out who everyone is. After school, A plays video games with Skylar's friends, which would be a good evening if he wasn't wishing to be back with Rhiannon.

On Day 5997, A wakes up as Amy Tran, who lives an hour away from Rhiannon's town. Breaking the rules A has established, he skips everything Amy has planned for the day and drives to Rhiannon's school. A views that as some strange form of kidnapping, but suspects that Amy would not mind. A tells Rhiannon that Amy is expecting to change schools, and is there to check out her possible new school for the day. Rhiannon agrees to let Amy tag along for the day. At lunch, A, Rhiannon, and Justin have lunch together. Rhiannon tells A about going to the ocean with Justin. At the end of the day, A asks Rhiannon to share a memory that she's never shared with anyone else before. Rhiannon tells A about unsuccessfully trying to pierce her own ear. A tells Rhiannon about stealing the book "Forever" by Judy Blume when A was eight, and that A named his personal parts (at that time female) Helena, and introduced her to everyone at dinner that night.



Analysis

The dramatic differences of A's life each day is a recurring theme in the story. The fact that he is sometimes male, sometimes female, and faces a myriad of challenges may be disconcerting to some readers. Today's society is so focused on gender and the roles of the genders in daily lives that imagining a being who is a sexual and who truly has no sexual orientation or preference is almost unbelievable. The reader has to keep in mind that A has never held a true gender role. When he is in the body of an individual, that role lasts only a single day. He has been in the bodies of both boys and girls, but still doesn't truly identify with either gender.

A has a slight misstep on the morning he wakes in the body of a girl named Leslie the day after being in Justin's body. An adult is trying to wake him and he refers to the woman as his mother though he quickly figures out that she is really Leslie's grandmother. A has the information completely at his fingertips but when he is distracted he has trouble accessing the data quickly enough.

A makes the comment that he feels as if his life is a "waste of time." He may have been aware of it all along but he seems to be feeling that more acutely now that he spent an afternoon with Rhiannon and believes he has fallen in love with her.

There is a great deal of information about A's day in Leslie's body as Leslie's brother gets in trouble for using drugs and the situation spirals out of control. After this point, most of A's focus remains on his relationship with Rhiannon but he will always have to deal with the minor situations that arise in the lives of the people he encounters.

While A is in the body of Amy Tran, he comments that he "tries to hold on to as few mundane, everyday memories as possible." If the reader considers the enormous amount of knowledge A would have encountered, the sheer volume is staggering. One day he is in the body of a boy who plays soccer and A knows the rules but also has access to the boy's deeper understanding of strategy. Another day he's a football player and would have that same influx of information about a different game. One day he enjoys video games and another day he plays the clarinet. It's easy to understand the frustration of never being able to hone a skill A likes or to participate in a school play playing the role of himself. He does note that he takes some pieces of information with him but has to work hard to commit anything to memory because his surroundings are always changing and he is faced with a vast amount of new information on any given day.

A has the opportunity to question Justin about the day he spent at the ocean with Rhiannon. A is fascinated by the way Justin seems to remember the events as if he was there but doesn't have access to the finer points of the day.

Discussion Question 1

What lie does Owen Wong tell his parents? What is their reaction to the lie?



Discussion Question 2

How does A feel about Siblings? Why?

Discussion Question 3

Why does A apologize to Amy Tran?

Vocabulary

Introduced, pierced, continuity, foundation, establish, rendered, bravado, posture, inhabited, sensation.



Day 5998-6002

Summary

Day 5998-6002

On Day 5998, A wakes up as a drug addict. A refuses to give into any of the body's addictions, but it's all that he can do. He spends the entire day locked in the room that he woke up in, hungry and going through major withdrawals. He refuses to come out at all for fear of giving in to the body's wishes.

On Day 5999, A's mind is completely exhausted from the rough previous day but the body A awakens in the next day is well and rested. It is the body of Nathan Daldry, a kid who gets up early on the weekends, does all his homework, and follows all the rules. A immediately checks his email on Nathan's computer and writes himself notes about his day with Rhiannon. He then checks Justin's email and finds out about a party at Steve Mason's house, ninety miles away. Nathan's mother interrupts and tells A that today is not a computer day.

A gets permission from Nathan's parents to borrow their car and go to a school musical, and promises to be home by midnight. He then goes to the party in hopes of finding Rhiannon. A finds Rhiannon and Justin and tells them that he is Steve's cousin. He lets them think that Nathan is gay. Justin does not want to dance, but he lets Rhiannon dance with A because of the misconception. A and Rhiannon dance until they hear the cops are coming, and they exchange email addresses, although the address A gives Rhiannon is fake and he knows he'll have to set it up later.

When A gets into Nathan's parents' car, it's 11:15, and A realizes there is no way to get home by midnight. A drives as fast as possible, but it's not enough. A feels guilty as 11:50 arrives, and he is forced to pull over to the side of the road as he is about to switch bodies. He is able to fall asleep and let the process take over, but feels bad for Nathan, who will wake up on the side of an interstate, an hour away from home.

On Day 6000, A wakes in time for church in the body of Roger Wilson. As Roger's family is getting ready for church, A boots up the family computer and creates the fake address that he gave to Rhiannon as Nathan. After church, A logs into this new email account and sends Rhiannon a message, telling her it was great to meet her, and please keep in touch. A then opens his own email account, and finds a message from Nathan. It is a warning that Nathan knows he was possessed and will not remain quiet about it. A realizes that he must not have cleared the history on Nathan's computer, as he always does when he is finished, because Nathan's mother interrupted him.

On Day 6001, A wakes up the next morning in the body of Margaret Weiss, who is four hours from Rhiannon. A uses Margaret's laptop to check emails. In the account he gave



to Rhiannon, there is a message. Rhiannon says she was glad to meet him as well and hopes they will meet again.

In A's email account, there is another message from Nathan. It says that Nathan has given A's email address to the police. A does a search for Nathan's name. A news article dated for today appears. The headline reads, "THE DEVIL MADE HIM DO IT." The story explains that police found Nathan on the side of the road sleeping. Nathan claimed he had no idea how he got there, so he must have been possessed by a demon. Nathan said the day was like sleepwalking, having no control of his body. He said when he returned home, someone else's email was on his computer. Nathan is asking others who have experienced the same to come forward. A decides that he can no longer check this email account from people's houses, just in case the emails can be traced to the places he has been.

A really wants to check the emails again later in the day, but it is difficult due to Margaret's boyfriend Sam, who is completely smitten with Margaret, and wants to be together, touching and kissing all the time. During the one class they don't take together, A tells the teacher that he needs to go to the nurse, and then goes to the library. A forwards all remaining emails the old account, except for the two from Nathan. A doesn't delete the account because of feeling responsible to Nathan. A wants Nathan to be able to make contact.

A then checks his new email address. He has another message from Rhiannon, who has found out that Steve has no cousins named Nathan, and asks for an explanation. A replies that he can explain in person. A thinks that avoiding an immediate answer may help him think of a good lie.

On Day 6002, A wakes up in the body of Megan Powell, an hour away from Rhiannon. He immediately checks her email, and finds a message from Rhiannon, who says that she will be at the Clover Bookstore at five. A replies that he will be there.

Rhiannon asks A's name, and A says that today it is Megan Powell. Rhiannon asks for A's real name. It is the first time that A has revealed it to anyone or to the reader. He says he chose A when he was a kid in order to maintain some constant connection in his life and to avoid losing his own identity.

Analysis

On Day 5998, A is in the body of a drug addict. While A is not a drug user, the body's addiction makes the entire day torture for him and he struggles to avoid using drugs over the course of the day. It's interesting that he refuses to allow this body to get high while he is in it but at other times insists that the person has the right to make his own



decisions. A makes the point that there are times when the physical body has a great deal of control over the situations.

A has begun using email as a means of keeping in touch with himself. The reader has to remember that there is nothing constant in his life. He is not able to make a note of something he wants to remember. He is flooded with the memories and thoughts of the people he inhabits and there is little time for him to make or hold to memories that are important to him personally. He uses an email account to help on this front. While A is in Nathan's body, he checks his email but Nathan's mother enters the room and he has to hurriedly shut down the program. He has learned to erase all signs of the email account from each computer he uses but the interruption will later prove crucial as Nathan discovers that email account and uses it to contact A.

As a rule, A is careful not to disrupt the lives of the people he inhabits. He doesn't make decisions that will affect them after he's gone, and he avoids actions with long-term consequences. He usually does nothing that would cause a person to be in trouble. The fact that he leaves Nathan Daldry in a bad situation is evidence of A's infatuation with Rhiannon.

Discussion Question 1

How does A's night as Nathan end?

Discussion Question 2

What explanation does A give Rhiannon when he shows up in a different body?

Discussion Question 3

Describe Nathan's reaction to the day A was in his body.

Vocabulary

Topic, irrational, incredibly, pronoun, incapable, dangerous, exhilarated, nervously, peripheral debate.



Day 6003-6005

Summary

Day 6003-6005

On Day 6003, A awakens the next day in the body of James, a large football player, in a poor, large family, in a small house, over an hour from Rhiannon. James does not have a car. At school, A sends an email to Rhiannon, letting her know what body he is in today, and where he is. A receives another email from Nathan, asking for answers. Later, A gets a reply from Rhiannon. She offers to meet A in the town he is in.

Nathan's story has spread in the school, and kids talk about it all day, and other media outlets have picked up the story.

When Rhiannon meets A, he tells her his whole story, and about his life. Although she is still skeptical, she comes to accept A's story, but reminds him that she has a boyfriend, although she agrees to see him again.

On Day 6004, A wakes the next morning in the body of James' twin, Tom. James has no memory of Rhiannon, nor does he act like the day before was anything out of the ordinary, unlike Nathan, whose story is widespread on the internet, and gaining attention. Nathan continues to email A, and A finally answers, telling Nathan that he has made a mistake and blaming the devil is not the answer.

On day 6005, A wakes up in the body of a girl named Kelsea who suffers from depression. She has never been diagnosed. She lives with her father, who does not recognize the problem. A can't shake the gloom that hangs over the day, and finds a journal pointing to the fact that the girl is planning on killing herself. A calls Rhiannon to ask for advice. He generally tries to not disrupt the person's life. Rhiannon comes over, and she tells A that the outside of a person is important as well as the inside. She is not used to the change. A kisses Rhiannon, but Rhiannon doesn't respond in the way A hopes. It matters to Rhiannon that A is now a girl, and that A is different every day. After Rhiannon leaves, A breaks one of the self imposed rules, and tells the girl's father that she needs help. A says it is now Kelsea's father's responsibility to ensure she gets the help she needs, even if she claims the following day that she doesn't need help.



Analysis

A tells Rhiannon that he'll meet her to explain why he lied about being Steve's cousin. He tells himself he did it to give himself more time to figure out what to say. It seems more likely that he plans to tell her the truth from that moment. The fact that he's willing to risk that is an indication of his deep feelings for Rhiannon, especially considering that Nathan's story of demon possession has become a media frenzy.

When A is explaining the details to Rhiannon on Day 6003, she seems to quickly zero in on the fact that the life is bound to be difficult. While A has thought some of those things, he quickly asserts that it's not all bad. He points out that he's seen some amazing things because he is in a different body each day.

A is excited when he wakes up on Day 6004 in the body of Tom, the twin of the body he inhabited on Day 6003. He quizzes James about the previous day, seeking to figure out exactly how much James remembers. It's the first time A has really been given this opportunity. Another important aspect of A's life is seen as the day draws to a close. James and Tom share a room and they talk quietly just before falling asleep. The fact that A has been able to experience that quiet time between the brothers two nights in a row gives him a little glimpse at what life would be like if he were constantly in the body of a single person.

As Nathan continues to press for answers, A is in a quandary. He feels responsible for Nathan's situation, at least to a degree, but he doesn't know how much he can safely tell Nathan. An interesting aspect of this situation is that A wants to do what's right. He's afraid of the consequences of telling Nathan the whole story because he fears that his very existence might somehow be in danger if Nathan knows the truth. However, A says that his life won't be worth living at all if he becomes a bad person. Much later, A meets the entity that is in control of Reverence Poole's body and senses evil in that being. A has managed to avoid becoming evil even though he has no one to teach him about right and wrong. It would have been easy for him to become evil, uncaring of the damage he does to the lives of other, but he hasn't.

A struggles to figure out what to do for Kelsea. he wants to adhere to his rule of non-interference and tells Rhiannon that he usually believes that the person has a choice to do whatever he or she wants without interference from A. However, in this case, A agrees with Rhiannon that Kelsea needs help and that it's up to A to help her get it.

Discussion Question 1

What makes A think that Nathan's story is spreading during class while he is in the body of James?



Discussion Question 2

When A wakes up in the body of Tom, what questions does he ask James and why?

Discussion Question 3

Describe A's meeting with Rhiannon when he is in James' body.

Vocabulary

Oblivion, bafflement, emerges, falsetto, adaptation, concocted, alternate, paradoxically, mundane, nonsensical.



Day 6006-6007

Summary

Day 6006-6007

On Day 6006, A wakes up in the body of a gay boy, and spends his day with his boyfriend at a gay pride event. Tabloid stories by Nathan and others have taken off, and Rev. Anderson Poole is quoted in these stories as saying these cases are demonic possession. A sends Nathan an email that says "I am not the devil." Nathan responds "Prove it."

On 6007, A wakes up in the body of a gorgeous girl he likens to Beyonce. A is only fifteen minutes from Rhiannon, who picks her up and takes her on a picnic in the woods. They spend the day talking about their lives. Rhiannon tells A that they can't be together the way A wants because A is always changing bodies and because of Justin. A continues to believe Justin is not good for or good to Rhiannon. A says Justin would respond if a girl who was as pretty as Ashley flirts with him. Rhiannon invites Justin to dinner to prove A wrong. A comes onto Justin at the restaurant, and Justin turns her down. A went too far, though, and has to apologize to both Rhiannon and Justin.

Analysis

On the day A is in the body of a boy named Hugo, he attends a gay pride event with Hugo's boyfriend, Austin. A says that Austin stops to kiss Hugo at a crucial moment when protestors are looking on. A says he is with Austin on a "philosophical" level but can't put his heart into the kiss. A later says he "hasn't been a very good guest" for Hugo. A fully supports the rights of a person to live as he or she chooses. He believes that gender truly doesn't matter and doesn't, as a rule, care whether he is in the body of a boy or a girl. He does, however, believe it's his job to act like the person would act. He believes that Hugo would have - and should have - responded fully to Austin's kiss but A's mind is too focused on Rhiannon and he is missing her too much to play the part.

A says that Ashley is beautiful and that he likes his life better when he is in the body of an ordinary person. As Ashley, A would expect a lot of attention which makes it more difficult for him to fully play the role of the person.

As Ashley, A sets out to flirt with Justin. He believes that Justin would cheat on Rhiannon, given the right opportunity, and he takes the flirtation too far, suggesting that Justin leave Rhiannon and meet up later with Ashley. Justin refuses and is angry over the situation. While A doesn't like Justin's attitude toward Rhiannon and believes that Justin isn't the right person for Rhiannon, there seems to be little doubt that there is some level of commitment between them. It could be that A's jealousy is in the way of



seeing that. While Justin isn't perfect, it seems possible that he and Rhiannon might have grown into a compatible couple without A's interference.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Rev. Anderson Poole and where does A learn about him?

Discussion Question 2

What does A say in his first email to Nathan?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Rhiannon get angry with A while they are out to eat with Justin?

Vocabulary

Fluent, skeptical, compromising, uncharacteristic, convenient, ragtag, obvious, oblige, defiant, afflicting.



Day 6008-6015

Summary

Day 6008-6015

On Day 6008, A wakes up in the body of a boy named AJ who goes to school with Nathan. Nathan is the butt of jokes and is now basically friendless. At lunch, A sits with him and asks him about the night A was in his body. Nathan recounts the story. There are parts he doesn't remember, and feels that his body was being used for something evil. He says he fought the devil and won, and that's why the devil left his body. A tells himself that he is not the devil, but he understands how scary it would be for Nathan, and that he could, in fact do harm while he was in charge of another body.

On Day 6009, A wakes up as a boy named Adam Cassidy the next morning. He skips school and drives to Rhiannon's school. She immediately recognizes him, even in the new body. She says it is the way that he looked at her. She skips class so they can talk. A wants to be in a relationship, but she doesn't feel she can give up Justin and her normal life for the uncertainty of a relationship with A. She asks A to stick to email for now and goes back to class.

On Day 6010, A wakes as Chevelle. There are no messages from Rhiannon and A feigns an illness in order to skip the ordeal of getting through a day at school. On Day 6011, A wakes up in the body of an underage, illegal maid, who doesn't speak English. A does not fluently speak another language, and as all of the thoughts and the speaking around him is in Spanish, A is not able to communicate or understand well. The day is long and physically exhausting. On Day 6012, A is a girl named Sally Swain. He can't skip school, believing it would be unfair for Sally to miss a cross-country meet. On day 6013, A is a boy named Daniel Stevens, part of a happy family who spends their Saturday together.

On Day 6014, A is a boy named Orlando and discovers Reverent Poole has set up a website for people to tell their stories of being possessed. There are hundreds of stories and videos, and as A looks through them, he finds a story from a boy in Montana, who says he was possessed, but only for one day. Nothing major happened, but he knows that he wasn't the one controlling his body. A knows that it wasn't him, but it seems very much like what A does.

A wakes up on Day 6015 in Rhiannon's body. He knows that he is in a very tricky situation as Rhiannon would not want her in control of his body. A is very aware that anything he says or does could affect his relationship with her. A is very cautious and even skips showering and changing underwear in an effort to respect her privacy. For the most part, A accesses only those thoughts and memories that are absolutely necessary to make it through the day, with one exception. He only allows himself one



unnecessary memory through the day, of Rhiannon working gum out of a peer's hair when it got thrown into it.

A has lunch with Justin, who seems very inattentive, and doesn't notice anything amiss with Rhiannon. A does learn that Justin calls Rhiannon "Silver," in reference to a book they read together. At the end, Justin decides that if nothing gold lasts in this world, they will just have to be silver.

At the end of the school day, A lies to Justin and tells him he is taking his mother to the doctor. Justin tells him to bring him back some of her pills, and then they kiss goodbye.

After school, A goes hiking and hopes that Rhiannon will remember the view and the afternoon. Before going to sleep, he leaves her a note, telling her that he didn't choose this, but that he tried to respect her and not disrupt her life too much. Then he maps out the day for her, to compare to her memory.

Analysis

A has the opportunity to spend a little time with Nathan. A suggests that Nathan might be over-reacting to what he is now openly calling a demonic possession. It's not clear whether Nathan's reaction is only because A left him on the side of the road - an action that is completely out of character for Nathan - or if he would have recognized something amiss even if he had been home by midnight. It's clear Nathan didn't expect the media storm and the ridiculing he's received since telling his story. Most people are now avoiding Nathan completely. While A is sympathetic about Nathan's current situation, there is a side of A that believes Nathan brought the situation on himself and that nothing would have happened if Nathan had kept quiet.

Rhiannon recognizes A when he is in the body of a boy named Adam Cassidy even before A announces his presence. A believes it could be this way all the time and can't imagine that Rhiannon doesn't feel his presence, regardless of the body he inhabits.

The chapter of Day 6011 is an example of the erratic life A leads. On this day he is still just sixteen but is an illegal immigrant who works as a maid, even though she is underage for a full time job. This is just one of the many days in which A is put down in an entirely strange situation over which he has no control. On this day, A has no opportunity to check his email in an effort to reach out to Rhiannon, let alone to visit her in person as he has managed to do many days.

One day A receives an email from Rhiannon. The message is brief, and she asks about A's activities of the previous day. Interestingly, she doesn't ask who he was that day but asks what he did. This almost seems as if Rhiannon has taken another big step toward accepting the situation. A wonders if she is really interested or if she's just asking as a means of making small talk.



A continues to watch the website devoted to those who claim to have been possessed by demons, just as Nathan continues to claim. While many of the posts are obviously rants of those with delusions, there is one very brief post from a boy in Montana. A reads that post and recognizes that it could have been written by any of the boys he has inhabited over the years. A has never been to Montana and doesn't believe this boy could literally be talking to him, but it does make A stop and think. It's the reader's first clue that A isn't the only one of these beings.

Discussion Question 1

A sees a chance to communicate with Nathan other than through email. When and how?

Discussion Question 2

When A is in Adam Cassidy's body, how does Rhiannon recognize him?

Discussion Question 3

Describe A's fears when he wakes in Rhiannon's body.

Vocabulary

Obliterate, encounter, cautious, enormity, gleam, thermodynamics, frustrated, periphery, habitat, urge.



Day 6016-6019

Summary

Day 6016-6019

The morning of Day 6016, Rhiannon emails A and arranges to meet him after school. He is in the body of a boy who lives two hours away. They meet at a bookstore and discuss the previous day. She tells him that she does remember the day, but that she felt different that morning and knew that it was true. She feels like she knows him better but still feels a relationship between the two of them is impossible.

Rhiannon asks A if it's true that A is really not a boy or a girl. She wants to know if he feels more comfortable in male or female bodies. A tells her that he is just himself, he feels at home in either body, and the same goes for when he is kissing someone. As the conversation begins to turn serious, he asks her to stop what she is about to say about not being able to be together and "stay on the nice note." They talk until it's time to go home.

On Day 6017, A wakes up and checks his email. He finds that Nathan has sent him multiple emails asking for proof, and asking why A isn't talking to him. A remembers that Rhiannon was glad that he wouldn't be taking over her body again, as he only inhabits a person once. A feels that he owes Nathan the same reassurance that he gave to Rhiannon, so he emails back that it will not happen again. They share multiple emails, and A tells Nathan that his name is Andrew, and tells him details of the night in question as his proof that what he's saying is true. He tries to reassure him, and tell him that he is not the enemy, but Nathan has more questions and is not satisfied with the answers provided.

On day 6018, A wakes up only 45 minutes from Rhiannon, but he is in the body of a boy named George who is homeschooled by a very stern and slow speaking mother. He starts asking her question after question for over an hour, which flusters her as she has to look up the answers. Then he asks her if he can go to the library and look up books on the topic. His mother drops him off.

At the library, A pretends he doesn't know Rhiannon as a joke, but she is not laughing. She lets it go, but is angry. They go to a Chinese restaurant and talk. Then they go back to the library, and he points out good books to Rhiannon, and recommends which ones she read next. Books are one of few constants in his life. She picks out "Harold and the Purple Crayon" for him to read next.



As Rhiannon and A kiss, George's mom walks in. She starts yelling at Rhiannon and calls her a whore. She then grabs George's ear and drags him out of the library, and lectures him about "sins of the flesh."

A thinks of an alternate truth to leave with George. It is basically the same story, except that the meeting with the girl in the library wasn't planned, and they didn't exchange names.

On Day 6019, A meets Rhiannon at the bookstore after school. She has made plans that will let her be available for the weekend, and that she'd like to go somewhere tomorrow. They go to the park, and A notices that she is less affectionate when he is in a girl's body, but otherwise have a good visit.

Analysis

A has another opportunity to view the effects of inhabiting the bodies of others on the day after he is in Rhiannon's body. He questions her about her memories and it's through the knowledge he has gained up to this point that he'll later arrange for a boy named Alexander to fall in love with Rhiannon.

The day after Rhiannon's body is inhabited by A, she tells him that he now has the ability to look at their relationship from Rhiannon's perspective. She calls on him to come up with a plan for a long-term relationship that will actually work. A continues to say he believes it can be worked out though he doesn't know how at this point.

Nathan continues to flood A with emails. He obviously wants answers and it seems as if A begins to believe that Nathan will be satisfied if he learns the truth. A should have known better. He knows human nature, having seen it from hundreds of perspectives. Nathan is not the kind of person who would allow himself in a dangerous situation where the devil is concerned.

A says that he continues to confide in Rhiannon about the things that worry him. He says that when something happens, he wants to tell Rhiannon. This is a natural sight of their developing relationship and of a friendship, which is something A has never had before.

The situation in which A is a home schooled teen is somewhat humorous. George's mother is very annoying, and A can't seem to keep from rattling her as the monotony of the morning's lessons drone on and on.



There's a funny scene in which Rhiannon goes to the library to meet A. She sees George and approaches him, instinctively deciding that he must be A. However, A makes a joke, pretending that he doesn't know Rhiannon. Rhiannon quickly doubts herself and believes she's made a mistake. She's angry with A and he realizes that she doesn't appreciate the humor. He has to do fast apologizing in order to mend the situation.

Rhiannon and A go to a Chinese restaurant and when they get their fortune cookies, Rhiannon's fortune is not a traditional fortune. She asks the waiter for a different cookie and he provides one that says, "Adventure is around the corner." Rhiannon accepts that fortune and when A opens his cookie, the exact same fortune is in his cookie. This seems to be a foreshadowing. From this, the reader might assume that the lives of A and Rhiannon are permanently linked but that's not to be the case.

Discussion Question 1

How does Rhiannon remember her day when A was in her body?

Discussion Question 2

What proof does A offer Nathan as the proof that he asked for?

Discussion Question 3

Compare and contrast A and Rhiannon's views on gender.

Vocabulary

Issue, stumble, impossibilities, susceptible, sartorial, dictated, genuinely, venomous, suspicious, ire.



Day 6020-6023

Summary

Day 6020-6023

A wakes up in the body of a boy with play practice on Day 6020. He fakes being sick and meets Rhiannon. She takes him to a hunting cabin that her uncle uses. They make out and want to have sex. A chooses not to, though. The boy whose body he is in has never had sex, and A feels like it would be wrong for him to take his virginity without his permission.

Rhiannon asks A who his favorite person to inhabit was. He tells her that when he was 11 or 12, he was in the body of a blind girl, and that while he doesn't know if she was his favorite, he learned the most from her. A leaves her at the cabin and promises to be back the next day.

On Day 6021, A wakes up to deal with terrible pain, nausea, and a complete lack of memory of what happened. He is in the body of a girl who is not dealing well with the death of her brother. The night before, she got drunk, bit a friend, almost ran over her dad, and wrecked her car into a telephone pole. Memories slowly begin to come back, and a doctor gives him some medication. A feels the need to get to a phone or computer and let Rhiannon know he won't make it, but the girl's family have locked her in her room.

A wakes up on Day 6022 as Michael, a boy whose older sister is getting married in Hawaii. The family is to be going there today. Since A stays in the same geographical area, he will be stuck in Hawaii for good, unless he happened to wake up in the body of someone heading to Maryland on that day. A knows he is going to get Michael in a lot of trouble, but he leaves an apology note, and runs away. He goes to Rhiannon's school. When he finds her, she is more angry than he has ever seen her since she waited at the cabin all day and he didn't show up. To make matters worse, an 80 year old man came to the cabin. Rhiannon answered the door in her underwear and he accused her of trespassing.

Rhiannon is frustrated with trying to figure out how to make a relationship work, so A hugs her. Justin walks in to find them hugging. He calls Rhiannon a bitch and a slut, and beats A up. Rhiannon tells Justin that she doesn't love either one of them. A leaves with Rhiannon crying.



A and Rhiannon meet at a Starbucks that night. She tells him that she wants him to be with her when she can. She then drives him back to Michael's house to face his furious father. A creates a memory of the best concert Michael has ever been to in attempt to make up for part of the pain and trouble he caused him.

On day 6023, A wakes up as Vic, who is biologically female, gendered male. A feels a kinship to the feeling that you've been born into the wrong body. He drives to Rhiannon's school and finds that she has now been labeled as a "metalhead slut," due to their encounter the day before, and is gaining a lot of negative attention. They go to a diner for lunch, and Rhiannon tells A that she doesn't think that kidnapping the people whose body's A inhabits is fair. They may be missing important things in their lives because they want to meet up. She tells him that she only said she didn't love him in reference to Michael, not to A. A tells her that he loves her too.

That evening, A meets up with Dawn, Vic's girlfriend. He envies their relationship, and they have a good night, and make out in the bushes.

A receives an email from Rhiannon saying that she's not sure how, but she does want things to work, so they should meet up again.

Analysis

Rhiannon and A meet up for the day in the cabin on Day 6020 and have a wonderful day together. They plan a repeat performance on Day 6021 but A wakes up in a situation that's out of his control. Rhiannon waits the entire day in very uncomfortable circumstances but A is unable to get away to even let her know he isn't coming. This is something of a wake-up call for Rhiannon who continues to seriously doubt that she and A could have a long-term relationship.

A's day as Dana is filled with emotion and pain. It's another example of the lack of control A has on his own life and how much control is exerted by the lives of the people he inhabits.

The day A is in the body of Michael becomes a serious situation for A's relationship with Rhiannon. A knows that if he goes to Hawaii with Michael's family, he'll probably never again see Rhiannon. Ironically, it's A's appearance at Rhiannon's school on this day that causes Justin to break up with her. An interesting aspect of this scene is that A is becoming more proficient at implanting memories into the minds of the bodies he inhabits. He notes that he puts the false memory of an incredible rock concert in Michael's mind as a means of helping to make up for putting Michael at odds with his family.



A has been both male and female and seems indifferent as to which gender's body he inhabits other than noting that Rhiannon is more receptive to him as a boy. A notes that when he was younger, he was often more attached to some physical feature than to either gender. He says that he went through a period in which he liked long hair and was always upset when he woke to find his hair was short.

Discussion Question 1

What relationship barriers do Rhiannon and A face?

Discussion Question 2

Why doesn't A have sex with Rhiannon?

Discussion Question 3

What happens to Rhiannon when A can't make it back to the cabin?

Vocabulary

Hesitation, sensation, eaves, haze, vise, sorrow, wattage, collapse, abrupt, invalid.



Day 6024-6029

Summary

Day 6024-6029

A spends Day 6024 at the funeral of the grandfather of the boy whose body he is in. He ends up sobbing. Not for the loss of life, but because he is jealous of people who live normal lives and can make others care so much about them.

A is in the body of a boy who is at least 300 pounds on Day 6025. He doesn't want Rhiannon to see him like this, but doesn't feel that he can cancel for the second day in a row. They meet at the bookstore, and then go to dinner and the movies. The night is awkward to due her reaction to his size. She says that she can usually see him inside, but she can't this night.

A and Rhiannon meet at a park on Day 6026. Rhiannon tells him that they can't have a relationship together because she can't love every single person that he is equally, and they'll never have a normal relationship. She wants to be friends, but that is all. They tell each other they love each other.

On day 6027, A wakes up as a girl with a broken ankle and reads the newest 20 messages that Nathan has sent him. He agrees to meet him. They meet at a diner, and A tells him the whole truth about who he is over lunch. Nathan asks to meet again the next day, and A says that he'll try.

A wakes up in the body of a girl named Ainsley on Day 6028. He drives to Nathans house, as his parents are away. When Nathan walks out of the room, Reverend Poole walks in. Poole won't allow him to leave the room. He tells A that there are others just like him. A realizes that it's not really Poole talking to him, but another being inhabiting Poole's body. Poole tells A that he has more power than he knows, and is amazed he hasn't learned to be in the same body for more than one day. A sees menace and danger in the man, and feels that the real Reverend Poole is warning him. He starts screaming and rips his shirt open, and pretending like Poole is physically attaching him so that Nathan will run back in. It works, and A runs while Nathan holds the door open for him. The encounter leaves A with many questions.

On Day 6029, A does internet research and finds more accounts that point to others like him existing. A wants to live his life in the same body, but can't help but think about what would happen to the person whose body he took over.



Nathan apologizes to A. A tells him that it's okay, but that he needs to get away from Poole and try to get back to his normal life. He also lets him know that he won't be emailing him anymore, and then closes that email account.

Analysis

A spends a day in the body of a boy who is going through the ritual of a funeral with his family. The boy's grandfather has died and A finds himself mourning that day along with the family. He doesn't know the grandfather, so he isn't sad about that. But he does get yet another glimpse at yet another aspect of normal lives. A realizes during the funeral that all these people are grieving for the loss of this grandfather but that no one would even notice if A were to die, other than Rhiannon.

A doesn't understand why appearances matter but there's no doubt Rhiannon is repulsed by his appearance when A is in the body of the obese teen named Finn. This is one of the examples of an important theme in the book, that appearances do matter. The next day, Rhiannon says she doesn't think she can continue the relationship with A but A is angry and accuses her of not truly trying.

The confrontation between A and the being that's inhabiting Reverend Poole's body is tense and it seems that A may be in serious trouble. A calls out, pretending that Poole has attacked her, and Nathan rushes into the room. Though Nathan has perhaps accepted most of A's explanation, Nathan is still an honorable person and won't allow Poole to attack the body he sees A inhabiting that day. A senses something truly evil in charge of Reverend Poole's body but he also sense Reverend Poole is still inside the body and that the Reverend is trying to warn A to get away. The nature of this being is never revealed and it's left to the reader to decide what or who this is. The next day, A begins to do research and spends more time thinking about the possibility of remaining for a longer period of time in a single body. He wants that desperately for himself but is concerned about what it would do to the person he replaces. He believes that person might "wink out of existence" but considers that person might then have to lead A's life, jumping from one body to the next in his place. While he wants to remain in a single body, he thinks that it wouldn't be fair to someone who might have to take his place.

Discussion Question 1

Why does A cry at the funeral?

Discussion Question 2

How does A get out of the room with Rev. Poole?



Discussion Question 3

Rev. Poole gives A information that raises many questions about A's future and options. What information does he give him?

Vocabulary

Feebly, accessing, equivalent, humanity, meticulousness, pathological, sphere, submarining, respite, traumatic.



Day 6030-6034

Summary

Day 6030-6034

A wakes up as a girl names Zara, with another girl in her arms on Day 6030. It is her girlfriend Amelia, and as the day goes by, A envies the closeness between the two. After school, he drives to Rhiannon's school, but just looks at her, without approaching. When he is back with Amelia, he asks her if she would love him even if he woke up in a new body every day. Amelia assures him she would, but A knows it's easy to say when it can never be true. A realizes that Rhiannon is right. He can never have the consistent, normal, happy relationship that Zara and Amelia have.

A feels that although he deserves a life like Zara's, he doesn't deserve it at her expense, and he wants to give her life back to her.

On Day 6031, A isn't well. He's either sick or heartbroken, but isn't sure which, although he has no fever. On Day 6032, A gets an email from Rhiannon. It says that she loves him, but knows that he will always leave her.

A wakes up in the body of Alexander Lin on Day 6033. A really likes Alexander, who is well liked, has quotes all over his room and his locker, and is the kind of person that A tries to be. A is tempted by Poole's offer to stay in a body for more than a day. He emails Nathan and asks for Poole's email address. He emails Poole questions and gets the answers. Then he tells Rhiannon he is stopping by that afternoon.

They meet at the bookstore and A asks to pretend like they are just meeting so that they don't have to talk about everything else. Alexander's parents are away, so they go grocery shopping, and tell each other stories. Rhiannon calls and tells her mother that she is staying at a friend's house that night.

A and Rhiannon go back to Alexander's house, cook, and take the food to Alexander's favorite place – his treehouse. A kisses her, and reflects that she is both his first love, and his only love. He won't let himself fall in love again.



After they eat, he tells her about Nathan, and finding out that he can stay in a body longer than a day. A's conscience would never let him do that to a person. He feels it would be the same as murder. Since Poole did not acknowledge the destruction to the person's life, A felt he needed to run. A tries to convince Rhiannon to date Alexander. He feels that Alexander is a good guy, and a little like A. He assures her that Alexander will remember this day as the first date they were pretending it was.

On Day 6034, A wakes up in the body of a girl named Katie. Although it will be a complete disruption of her life, A is going to go far away. He knows that it won't make much difference in Katie's life but he is running away.

Analysis

A spends a day in the body of a boy who is going through the ritual of a funeral with his family. The boy's grandfather has died and A finds himself mourning that day along with the family. He doesn't know the grandfather, so he isn't sad about that. But he does get yet another glimpse at yet another aspect of normal lives. A realizes during the funeral that all these people are grieving for the loss of this grandfather but that no one would even notice if A were to die, other than Rhiannon.

A doesn't understand why appearances matter but there's no doubt Rhiannon is repulsed by his appearance when A is in the body of the obese teen named Finn. This is one of the examples of an important theme in the book, that appearances do matter. The next day, Rhiannon says she doesn't think she can continue the relationship with A but A is angry and accuses her of not truly trying.

The confrontation between A and the being that's inhabiting Reverend Poole's body is tense and it seems that A may be in serious trouble. A calls out, pretending that Poole has attacked her, and Nathan rushes into the room. Though Nathan has perhaps accepted most of A's explanation, Nathan is still an honorable person and won't allow Poole to attack the body he sees A inhabiting that day. A senses something truly evil in charge of Reverend Poole's body but he also sense Reverend Poole is still inside the body and that the Reverend is trying to warn A to get away. The nature of this being is never revealed and it's left to the reader to decide what or who this is. The next day, A begins to do research and spends more time thinking about the possibility of remaining for a longer period of time in a single body. He wants that desperately for himself but is concerned about what it would do to the person he replaces. He believes that person might "wink out of existence" but considers that person might then have to lead A's life, jumping from one body to the next in his place. While he wants to remain in a single body, he thinks that it wouldn't be fair to someone who might have to take his place.

As Zara, A asks Zara's girlfriend about the importance of appearances. A asks if Amelia would love Zara even if she looked different. Amelia answers that she would love Zara



regardless of Zara's appearance. While Amelia is able to say that and she certainly seems to believe it, it's probably less true than she claims. A holds onto that claim, seemingly in an effort to help himself believe that he can build a relationship with Rhiannon.

A talks with Reverend Poole and then says he wants to see Rhiannon. It seems that A now has a solid plan and the reader is probably expecting a happily-ever-after ending that includes a long-term relationship with Rhiannon. That's not the case but the details that lead A to decide he has to leave are never revealed.

A has become quite proficient at implanting memories by now and he makes certain that Alexander is going to remember meeting Rhiannon and beginning to fall in love with her. An aspect of this that A isn't considering are the emotions of Rhiannon's heart. She truly cared for Justin and there hasn't been much time since she broke up with him. When A announces that he now wants her to turn her attention to Alexander, Rhiannon revolts a little. She says A can't expect her to turn her emotions from one person to another in this manner. A responds that Alexander is a "good guy" and urges Rhiannon to give him a chance to win her over. He continues to implant the memories that ensure Alexander will want to try to win Rhiannon's affection.

Discussion Question 1

On A's date with Rhiannon, while he's in the body of Alexander, they play a game of pretend. What are they pretending?

Discussion Question 2

While A is in Zara's body, what question does he ask Amelia, and why?

Discussion Question 3

Why does A choose not to stay in the same body for longer than one day?

Vocabulary

Enfolds, experiment, groggily, coordination, approaching, interaction, incorporate, chords, appendage, discontent.



Characters

A

A is a being of unknown origin who does not remember a time when he didn't hop from one body to the next each night at midnight. He has grown progressively older though the years and inhabits the body of someone about his age in the same general area of his current body. By this means, he has aged to become sixteen years old mentally and inhabits the bodies of teens who are also about sixteen. He has no control over when or how he finds his way into a new body. He says that he'd tried remaining awake in the hope of putting off the change but that experience was horrible and he never tried it again. A is careful with the lives of the people he encounters. When he inhabits the body of someone, he has some of their memories and is able to function normally throughout their day. He instinctively knows their vital information such as the combination of their lockers, the way to school, the names of their pets, and the people he encounters in their lives. But he also has a bank of personal knowledge that hops with him from, one body to the next. For example, at one point he is taking a science test while in the body of a girl who doesn't know a great deal about science. A has the information and does well on the test on his own. He says it's the girl's lucky day. Personal information he chooses to remember is sometimes difficult for him to hold onto and he creates an email account to literally keep in touch with himself. A wants desperately to find a way to have a relationship with Rhiannon but comes to the conclusion that the only fair thing to do is to set her on the path to happiness with a boy her age. He does so and leaves the area, apparently planning to cut all ties with Rhiannon.

Rhiannon

Rhiannon is a sixteen-year-old girl and the girlfriend of Justin, who is inhabited by A on Day 5994 of A's life. Rhiannon is intelligent and pretty but lacks the self-esteem to believe in herself. Her relationship with Justin is not fulfilling, but she has a connection with him that, in her mind, overrides the kindness that is lacking. She is a kind person and believes A has a responsibility to see that Kelsea gets help for her suicidal thoughts. Rhiannon is initially unwilling to believe A's story but eventually does accept that he is what he claims to be. Rhiannon battles with herself though when A shows up in different bodies. She is somewhat repulsed when A is in the body of an obese teenager and she is never fully able to allow physical contact with A when he is in the body of a girl. Though Rhiannon comes to believe she could be involved with A if he were consistently one person, she has trouble imagining a life with A hopping from one body to the next every single day. Rhiannon is excited when A says he has a plan, but she is heartbroken when that plan is to leave. She says she can't simply decide to love Alexander but agrees to give him the chance to win her heart.



Nathan Daldry

Nathan is a sixteen-year-old boy who is host to A on a Saturday. He is very conscientious and formal, making it completely out of character for him to attend a party and be found on the side of the road by the police. Nathan is furious with the situation and believes from the beginning that he was possessed by a demon. He goes public with his story and causes a great deal of controversy in the media frenzy that follows. He is also able to contact A through an email account A forgot to wipe from Nathan's computer. Nathan insists on A explaining the situation and is increasingly angry when he doesn't get the answers he wants. Nathan is the catalyst that brings A together with the being that inhabits Reverend Poole.

Justin

Justin is a self-centered teen who seems to care very little about anyone or anything that doesn't directly impact him. This attitude makes him careless with his relationship with Rhiannon though he is probably genuinely hurt when they break up. He is obviously capable of deeper thought and caring as seen in his reaction to the book, "The Outsiders."

Reverend Poole

A preacher who becomes involved with Nathan Daldry's story, it's unclear whether the Reverend is truly in charge of his own body from the time of Nathan's first claim of possession. What is clear is that Reverend Poole is inhabited by another being similar to A when A meets him for the first time. A senses something evil in that being and it's the conversation with that being that prompts him to leave the area, breaking off contact with Rhiannon.

Alexander Lin

Alex is a very conscientious boy who has many friends and interests. He is happy in his home life and devoted to his parents. A is in Alexander's body when he realizes that a relationship with Rhiannon will never be possible. He arranges to meet Rhiannon as Alex and is careful to plant the memory of that meeting, along with his deep love for Rhiannon, in Alex's memories. It's unclear what happens to Alex after A leaves his body.

Kelsey Cook

A girl who hosts A on Day 6005. Kelsea is seriously suicidal but is unable to reach out to anyone for help. A struggles with the situation because he tries, as a rule, not to interfere with the lives of anyone he inhabits. He tells Rhiannon that he isn't certain he has the right to tell someone about Kelsea's situation because he believes the decision



to commit suicide is something only Kelsea has the right to make. After talking with Rhiannon, he realizes that he has to take action and he tells Kelsea's father that Kelsea needs help.

Finn Taylor

The overweight teen who has come to accept the snide remarks and tormenting he receives for his appearance. A is in Finn's body on Day 6025 and he invites Rhiannon to dinner and a movie. Rhiannon accepts that A is in that body but she is obviously put off by Finn's appearance and is unusually distant during their evening together.

James and Tom

A set of twins, these are the first people A has inhabited that gave him a chance to talk to someone he had previously inhabited. A is James on Day 6003 and Tom on Day 6004. As Tom, A questions James about his memories on the previous day and discovers that James does remember going through the motions of the day though he has lost some of the details. It's a revelation to A and he questions James as far as he can without raising question himself.

Ashley Ashton

The girl A inhabits on Day 6007, she is very attractive and it's disconcerting to Rhiannon when they meet up to spend time together. A, as Ashley, has the idea of flirting with Justin to make Rhiannon see that she should break up with Justin. However, Justin is offended when Ashley flirts with him and leaves abruptly.



Symbols and Symbolism

A's name

The fact that A doesn't have a name is an indication that he truly knows nothing of his own origins. He says he chose to call himself A in an effort to create some continuity in his life.

A's email

A has an email account set up so that he can literally keep in touch with himself. He uses it to make notes and send himself information he wants to retain. He accidentally fails to delete the information from Nathan Daldry's computer and it's through this email account that Nathan first contacts A with his theory of demonic possession.

Silver

The nickname Justin has for Rhiannon. The term came from a conversation in which they were discussing the idea that gold is not permanent, a line from the book, "The Outsiders." Justin tells Rhiannon that their relationship will have to be silver instead, and the nickname sticks.

Memories

The memories of an individual are vital to A's ability to make it through each day. He accesses the memories of the body he is in at any given time but notes there is a limit to how quickly he can get the information. For example, when the parents of the boy he has inhabited are speaking a foreign language, he can only try to avoid conversations with them. Ironically, A has to work very hard to implant memories of his own.

Midnight

The time of day when A leaves the body he is currently in and hops to a new body.

The Mother/Daughter Fashion Show

An event Rhiannon attends with her mother, she holds it as one of her dearest memories because her mother attends to make Rhiannon happy and it is completely out of character for her.



The Side of the Highway

Where Nathan Daldry is found by police, asleep in his car. The fact that he is not home by curfew and has lied to his parents about his plans for the evening is so out of character for Nathan that it makes him realize he was not in control of himself the previous day. This leads to the story of demonic possession that makes life difficult for Nathan and that makes A worry he might be discovered. It's also the event that lets A know he is not alone.

Hawaii

A wakes on Day 6022 in the body of a boy named Michael. Michael's sister is to be married in Hawaii and the family is supposed to be catching a flight to Hawaii that day. A knows he cannot go to Hawaii because he never jumps far from his location at midnight. That means he will likely remain in Hawaii for years or even forever, and will never see Rhiannon again. This is one of the symbols of powerlessness A has to contend with on a daily basis.

The Journal

The manuscript A reads while in Kelsea's body that makes him certain Kelsea is serious about committing suicide.

New York

Where A believes he and Rhiannon can live a relatively normal life. He believes that if they lived in a huge city - like New York - he could simply be with her each day regardless of what body he inhabited that day. He holds to this as a way of believing they could have a "normal" relationship but Rhiannon realizes it's a pipe dream from the beginning.



Settings

The Ocean

Where A takes Rhiannon when A is in Justin's body. A offers to take Rhiannon somewhere and she agrees to skip school and go with him. While he waits for her to make a decision, he considers that she might ask to go to the mall or back to his house, and he knows he will "disconnect" if either of those happens. She asks to go to the ocean instead, and he says that he finds himself connecting with her on a deeper level than he'd expected. The ocean, as a setting is not described in great detail other than as part of the action. The water is too cold for swimming, though they do splash each other some and spend time on a mostly-deserted beach.

Steve's House

This is where A spends time with Rhiannon while in the body of Nathan Daldry. The house is not described in great detail other than the fact that there is a basement where a party is in full swing.

Nathan Daldry's House

Where A spends the day as Nathan and where he accidentally leaves an email account which leads Nathan to believe A is the demon who possessed him. The house is also the setting of the place where A first meets Reverend Poole only to discover that Poole is also being inhabited by someone and that someone seems to be truly evil. The house is apparently typical of middle-class homes of the time and place.

Maine

The overall setting of the story. A jumps from one body to the next, making the move each night. However, he never jumps very far in physical distance and throughout the weeks he spends with Rhiannon is typically no more than a few hours from his location on Day 5994. The specific towns and schools are not identified but they are a reasonable distance from the ocean.

Alexander's Treehouse

Literally a tree house at Alexander's home, this is where A takes Rhiannon for a romantic dinner on the last night he spends time with her. It is childish on the surface but serves to create a connection between them that A hopes will lead to a happy relationship.



Themes and Motifs

The Importance of Appearance

A is in a different body every single day. This is his life and he has come to expect that appearance truly doesn't matter. The truth is that it does, and A has to admit that as he sees the reactions of those around him to the different bodies he inhabits. A prime example of this is when A is in the body of Finn, an obese teenage boy who has apparently come to accept his appearance. A notes that Finn has "retreated from the world," which is probably his way of coping with the reactions of other people. When A is walking down the hallway at school in Finn's body, A notes that everyone around him moves out of the way and lots of people stare. Some are disgusted by his appearance, but most are afraid of becoming someone like Finn. The opposite happens when A is in the body of Ashley, a beautiful girl who is also cruel in her interactions with the world. A notes that his life is easier when he's in a body that is ordinary in appearance. He can easily see that having a very beautiful appearance attracts a lot of attention that he doesn't really want. A tries to make Rhiannon accept that he is inside, regardless of the body he inhabits on any given day. While she accepts that as fact, she obviously has trouble getting past some of those bodies. For example, while A is in Finn's body, Rhiannon is more distant than she is when he is in the body of an attractive teenaged boy. Likewise, she is unable to become physically close to A when he is in the body of a girl. A claims not to understand the reaction but he is bound to have a grasp of the problem Rhiannon faces. When A is in the body of a girl named Zara, he asks Zara's girlfriend if appearance matters. Amelia claims that she would love Zara no matter what, and A holds to that claim.

The Importance of Friends, Family, and Love

A wakes each day in the body of a new person. He doesn't remember his life being anything other than this routine but there is a side of him that realizes he is missing out on the personal connections of friends and family. A remembers that, as a very young child, he sometimes became angry and upset when someone would mention plans for the coming day. He would scream out that he wouldn't be here on the following day and the adults in the family of the body he possessed that day would try to reassure him otherwise. It's not until A comes to the conclusion that most people remain in their own bodies all the time that he realizes what he's missing. He is happy when he spends two consecutive days in the same house, in the bodies of a set of twins. Even though he is one of the twins one day and the other on the second day, he says it is a tiny taste of the connections he's missing. A is also careful not to allow himself to become too close to the boyfriends and girlfriends of the people he inhabits. He sometimes kisses them but otherwise keeps some distance because it is painful to have that relationship only for a single day. He allows himself that connection with Rhiannon and finds it is too difficult to let go of her once he is no longer in the body of her boyfriend, Justin.



Doing What's Best for Another

A has control of and responsibility for another person for an entire day. He has learned a few things over the years and has come to realize that he has a responsibility to do what's best for the people he inhabits. He talks about a time he was on a ski trip and decided that he would try to ski. He wound up breaking the leg of the body he inhabited that day and said it was a valuable lesson. As a rule, A is careful to make no promises or decisions the person will have to live with. For example, he is in the body of a boy named Hugo who is in a relationship with a boy named Austin. Austin wants Hugo to make a deeper commitment to their relationship but A puts it off. A believes it should be Hugo's decision, and he can't be certain that's what Hugo wants. A faces a real dilemma when he is in the body of a girl named Kelsea. Kelsea is suicidal, and A realizes she's serious about it. He believes he should tell someone that Kelsea needs help but has always held to the idea that he should not interfere. When A asks Rhiannon for her opinion, he realizes that doing what's best, in this case, means he has to make a decision for her. He does, telling her father that he has to find a way to get her the help she needs. A takes the ultimate step in this direction as a girl named Katie. He always hops into the body of someone nearby; and, on this day, he plans to leave the area so that he'll be out of Rhiannon's life.



Styles

Point of View

The story is written in first person from the perspective of a being who calls himself “A.” It should be noted that A considers himself neither male nor female but is referred to as “he” for the sake of clarity and consistency in this study guide. The perspective is even more limited than is typical with a first person story. The reader doesn’t know anything that A doesn’t know but in this case, some pieces of information A has are not revealed to the reader. For example, A apparently has a conversation with another being similar to A who is currently inhabiting the body of Reverend Poole. That conversation is not revealed to the reader but A apparently comes to the conclusion - based on that conversation - that to remain in the body of anyone for more than a day would be the equivalent of murder. The limitations are, at least to some degree, frustrating for the reader who wants answers. That conversation with Poole is never revealed and the exact nature of A as a being is also never revealed, leaving the reader to question those points. It is possible that A doesn’t know anything more about his origins, even after the conversation with the being inhabiting the body of Reverend Poole. The limited perspective is, however, acceptable to the story and the lack of some pieces of information lends to the mystery of the book.

Language and Meaning

The overall story is written in an informal style divided into dialogue, narrative, and written notes, usually in the form of emails. From early on, the reader is likely led to believe that A and Rhiannon will find a way to make a relationship work. The tone is one of hope until the story ends with A leaving the area, breaking off his contact with Rhiannon for good. Even with that surprise, the reader is left with the hope that Rhiannon has found a good match in a teenaged boy named Alexander. The dialogue seems realistic for the setting and characters. The story flows quickly, and the reader is drawn into the action from the first pages, making the book relatively easy to read. There are some challenges to the story line itself, including the fact that A’s origins or true nature is never revealed. The fact that not all the readers’ questions are answered may be disappointing to some readers but the author was likely unable to form an answer that would satisfy the story. Leaving those details a mystery seems acceptable for the story and the intended audience. The fact that A inhabits bodies of both boys and girls may be difficult to follow in some instances. The author combats this by making it clear who A is inhabiting early in each chapter. A is not referred to as either male or female by the author. Another interesting aspect of the language is that A often refers to the people whose bodies he inhabits in the third person. For example, when he is in the body of Kelsea, the young girl who is suicidal, A wishes Kelsea’s father would learn that “Kelsea needs his help.” While he is inhabiting the body, he does not think of himself in terms of being that person for the day.



Structure

The book is divided into forty-one chapters. Each chapter covers a day in the life of A and each is titled by the number of that day in A's life. For example, the book picks up at Day 5994. Considering there are three hundred, sixty-five days in a year, that means that the first chapter of this book is in A's sixteenth year. That corresponds with the age of the teens with whom he interacts. There are chapters for each day through Day 6034. The chapters vary greatly in length. As the story opens, A is in the body of a sixteen-year-old boy named Justin. In that chapter, he first meets Rhiannon and the chapter is longer than most of the others. A spends a great deal of time with Rhiannon as he falls in love for the first time. Later, A inhabits the body of a girl named Kelsea who is suicidal. A great deal of emphasis is put on this chapter as well and it is also lengthy. By contrast, A wakes in the body of a girl named Judy on Day 6031. Judy is ill, and the entire chapter is six sentences. The chapters vary greatly though many of them begin with a note indicating how far A is from Rhiannon on this particular day. He is thrilled when he's no more than an hour from Rhiannon's town and disappointed when he's a greater distance away or has no transportation to reach her. The overall story is written in chronological order with a few memories presented by A and Rhiannon as they get to know each other.



Quotes

The body is the easiest thing to adjust to, if you're used to waking up in a new one each morning. It's the life, the context of the body, that can be hard to grasp.

-- A (Day 5994 paragraph 1)

Importance: The reader is immediately alerted to the narrator's situation of jumping into a different body each day but is also urged to look at one of the minor themes of the book - that a life is more than appearances.

I only remember a handful of people, and in order to do that, I have to hold tight, because the only repetition available - the only way I am going to see them again - is if I conjure them in my mind. I choose what to remember and I am choosing Rhiannon.

-- A (Day 5997 paragraph 12)

Importance: A points out that most people have a vast array of knowledge including pieces of data such as where the silverware is kept and the name of a favorite pet. He has learned to slough off all the information from the previous day's body and that's bound to be necessary for his sanity.

It is a mistake to think of the body as a vessel. It is as active as any mind, as any soul.

-- A (Day 5998 paragraph 45)

Importance: A is pointing out that he suffers along with the body he inhabits. In this case, he is in the body of a girl who is abusing drugs but he says he has experienced other addictions as well. The point he is making is that he has to keep the body safe while he's in it and that the condition of the body impacts his mental state.

I don't know who you are or what you are or what you did to me yesterday, but I want you to know you won't get away with it. I will not let you possess me or destroy my life.

-- Nathan Daldry (Day 6001 paragraph 20)

Importance: This is the first indication that Nathan realizes something wasn't right about the evening before when A was in control of his body. A is rattled by the information but doesn't know what it means at this point.

It is Kelsea's life, not mine. It is unfair of me to do something that limits her choices, that makes up her mind for her.

-- A (Day 6005 paragraph 56)

Importance: A is referring to his personal rule regarding the time he inhabits the bodies of others. He has lived with the rule that he doesn't dramatically change the lives of any of the people he inhabits but in this case he believes that Kelsea will truly kill herself. His only question is whether that gives him the right to interfere.



And I think: It's my fault. I'm the one who did this to him.
-- A (Day 6008 paragraph 13)

Importance: A's first instinct is to say that Nathan could have just "let it slide" when he realized he'd been possessed for the day. However, A quickly comes to the opposite conclusion. He must share the blame for Nathan's situation.

I have never been to Montana. I'm sure of it. But what he's describing is a lot like what I do.
-- A Teen in Montana (Day 6014 paragraph 8)

Importance: A finds a post from a teenager in Montana and his story is very much like the story others would tell about A. This teen says nothing outstanding happened to him during the day, but he knows he wasn't in control of himself for that entire day. This makes A wonder - though not seriously - if there are others.

You have to be the devil. Only the devil would leave me like this.
-- Nathan (Day 6017 paragraph 6)

Importance: Nathan has made contact with A and is now furious that A won't answer his questions. A is struggling to find a way to reassure Nathan that it will never happen again but Nathan says he can't sleep for worrying about it. A becomes angry to some degree but he also feels a sense of responsibility for Nathan.

If I were in a different body, she would see me inside. She would see what she wanted to see.
-- A (Day 6025 paragraph 51)

Importance: A is in the body of an obese teen named Finn Taylor and Rhiannon is put off by his appearance. While there's no doubt she can recognize A to some degree regardless of the body he inhabits, there's also no doubt that appearances are at least somewhat important to her. She's less forthcoming with physical affection when A is a girl as well.

Just because you're different, it doesn't mean you're unique.
-- Reverend Poole (Day 6028 paragraph 45)

Importance: A has just realized that someone is inhabiting Reverend Poole's body. This being tells A that there are others like them, but A immediately senses a malevolence that frightens him.

If I woke up in a different body every day - if you never knew what I was going to look like tomorrow - would you still love me?
-- A (Day 6030 paragraph 47)

Importance: A is asking this of Amelia and he seems to be seeking an assurance that



he can work things out with Rhiannon. Amelia answers that she wouldn't care at all, but A later realizes that isn't really true.

Let's pretend this is the first time we've ever met.

-- A (Day 6033 paragraph 36)

Importance: A says this to Rhiannon and suggests that they play out roles in which they are meeting for the first time and discover they like each other. He will later ensure that Alexander remembers that encounter and sets it up as a basis for his relationship with Rhiannon after A is gone.