

The Eyre Affair: A Novel Study Guide

The Eyre Affair: A Novel by Jasper Fforde

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



Contents

[The Eyre Affair: A Novel Study Guide.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Plot Summary.....4](#)

[Chapter 1, A Woman Named Thursday Next, Chapter 2, Gad's Hill, and Chapter 3, Back at my Desk.....6](#)

[Chapter 4, Acheron Hades, and Chapter 5, Search for the Guilty, Punish the Innocent.....8](#)

[Chapter 6, Jane Eyre: A Short Excursion into the Novel, Chapter 7, The Goliath Corporation, and Chapter 8, An Airship to Swindon.....10](#)

[Chapter 9, The Next Family, and Chapter 10, The Finis Hotel, Swindon.....12](#)

[Chapter 11, Polly Flashes Upon the Inward Eye, Chapter 12, SpecOps-27, The Literary Detectives, Chapter 13, The Chapel at Capel-y-ffin, Chapter 14, Lunch with Bowden, and Chapter 15, Hello and Goodbye, Mr. Quaverley.....14](#)

[Chapter 16, Sturmey Archer and Felix7, Chapter 17, SpecOps-17: Suckers and Biters, and Chapter 18, Landen Again.....16](#)

[Chapter 19, The Very Irrev. Joffy Next, Chapter 20, Dr. Runcible Spoon, Chapter 21, Hades and Goliath, and Chapter 22, The Waiting Game.....18](#)

[Chapter 23, The Drop, Chapter 24, Martin Chuzzlewit is Reprieved, and Chapter 25, Time Enough for Contemplation.....20](#)

[Chapter 26, Earthcrossers, Chapter 27, Hades Finds Another Manuscript.....22](#)

[Chapter 28, Haworth House, Chapter 29, Jane Eyre, Chapter 30, A Groundswell of Popular Feeling, Chapter 31, The People's Republic of Wales.....24](#)

[Chapter 32, Thornfield Hall, and Chapter 33, The Book Is Written.....26](#)

[Chapter 34, Nearly the End of Their Book, Chapter 35, Nearly the End of Our Book, and Chapter 36, Married.....28](#)

[Characters.....30](#)

[Objects/Places.....34](#)

[Themes.....37](#)

[Style.....39](#)



Quotes.....41
Topics for Discussion.....43



Plot Summary

The Eyre Affair is a unique detective novel by Welsh writer, Jasper Fforde. In this novel, Thursday Next is a detective with SO-27, the LiteraTec division. Thursday's job is to solve crimes related to literature. When the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens disappears under impossible circumstances, Thursday finds herself drawn into an investigation that is more deadly than anything she has experienced thus far in her career. Thursday finds herself on the track of Acheron Hades, a one-time college professor who is now a criminal with powers beyond even Thursday's experiences. When the investigation brings Thursday home, she must face not only the nightmares of Hades, but the nightmares of her own past as well. The Eyre Affair is a detective novel that is both fantastical in its altered reality and all too real in its heroine's struggles.

Thursday Next gets word that the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens has disappeared from the Dickens' Museum, despite the fact that she designed its security herself. Thursday is baffled by the case until she is approached by Tamworth from SO-5. Tamworth suggests that the manuscript was taken by Acheron Hades, a criminal mastermind with powers almost unimaginable. Thursday can identify Hades because he was once one of her college professors, so Tamworth asks Thursday to join SO-5 until Hades can be apprehended. Thursday quickly agrees as this is a big step up in her career.

Thursday waits weeks before receiving the call from Tamworth. When she does, Thursday identifies Hades as he enters his brother's apartment. Thursday and Tamworth storm the apartment, but Hades is ready for them. Hades kills Tamworth and runs away despite the multiple bullets Thursday shoots into him. Thursday follows Hades outside the apartment building where she discovers he had killed another of Tamworth's men. Thursday confronts Hades and he shoots her, leaving her for dead in the street. If not for a mysterious man, Thursday might have bled to death.

After telling her story to SO-1, and leaving with the feeling that they do not believe anything she has said, Thursday returns to her room where she encounters herself from the future. This future Thursday tells her to take a LiteraTec job in Swindon, her home town. When Thursday leaves the hospital and is given her things, she finds evidence of the mystery man's identity. It seems Edward Rochester stepped out of the pages of Jane Eyre to save her life. This is not the first time Thursday had met Mr. Rochester. When Thursday was a small child, she went to Haworth, where she stepped into the novel herself and caused Rochester's horse to trip the day he met Jane at the stile.

Thursday returns to her hometown of Swindon, where she takes up the job with LiteraTec. Thursday immediately begins searching for Hades while at the same time dealing with her past. Thursday's ex-fiance still lives in Swindon. He comes to see her at the hotel. Thursday is shocked by her strong reaction to him, but discovers that she still cannot forgive him for turning on her brother in an inquest regarding the ambush that killed Anton Next and nearly killed both Thursday and her ex-fiance.



Thursday's uncle, an inventor, has created a Prose Portal that allows him to open a doorway into literature. On the morning Uncle Mycroft tries out the portal with his wife, Polly, Hades comes to steal the portal. Polly is trapped in a Wordsworth poem, forcing Mycroft to help Hades steal a minor character from Martin Chuzzlewit. A few days later, Thursday witnesses the character's autopsy. Hades then makes a demand for money in exchange for the life of Martin Chuzzlewit. The SpecOps makes a drop, but the money is fake. However, Mycroft has burned the manuscript of Chuzzlewit, barring Hades from killing anymore characters.

Hades steals the original manuscript of Jane Eyre from Haworth. Hades kidnaps Jane from the pages of the book in the part where Jane saves Mr. Rochester from a fire. The narration is first person, therefore the book ends at that point without Jane to narrate. Thursday figures out where Hades is hiding and rushes there to save her uncle and her favorite book. Thursday manages to get back into Jane Eyre with Jane in tow, but Hades has followed. Thursday must wait till the end of the book, out of sight of Jane to prevent changes to the narration. At the end of the book, Hades confronts Thursday in an attempt to get her password to leave the book. Thursday refuses to give it and a fight breaks out. Soon Thornfield catches fire. Mr. Rochester is crippled and blinded while attempting to help Thursday. Hades kills Mrs. Rochester, but Thursday finally figures out how to kill Hades.

While waiting to find a way to escape from the book, Thursday changes the ending of the book by whispering Jane's name outside her window, causing her to come to Thornfield one last time. Jane sees Mr. Rochester and decides to marry him now that his wife is dead, despite his injuries. Jane and Rochester live ten happy years in this new ending of the book. Thursday, in the meantime, returns to her own reality in time to stop her ex-fiance's wedding. However, when she arrives, Thursday loses her nerve and is unable to stop the wedding. The lawyer from Jane Eyre arrives just in the nick of time and stops the wedding by revealing that the bride is already married to someone else. Thursday and her ex-fiance get married a month later.



Chapter 1, A Woman Named Thursday Next, Chapter 2, Gad's Hill, and Chapter 3, Back at my Desk

Chapter 1, A Woman Named Thursday Next, Chapter 2, Gad's Hill, and Chapter 3, Back at my Desk Summary

Thursday Next is a detective with the LiteraTec, or SO-27. Thursday investigates crimes dealing with literature and helps design security for precious literary artifacts, such as original manuscripts. Before this, Thursday served time in the Army, including a tour in Crimea, and was a police officer with the Swindon Police Department.

In chapter one, Thursday Next is having a meal in a local diner when her father suddenly appears. Thursday's father worked with the ChronoGuard and has learned how to slow time to a trickle. When he appears to her and her family, time stops for everyone but them. Thursday's father greets her and asks her a few questions before begging her to discourage her mother from painting their bedroom mauve. Thursday's father leaves then and time returns to normal. The news is on the television and the reporter is talking about new fighting in the Crimea. The war between the British and the Russians has been going on for more than one hundred and thirty years. Thursday served there and lost her brother there. Now Thursday would like nothing better than to see the war end, but not everyone agrees, including the diner owner who is watching the news with her.

In chapter two, Thursday is called to the Dickens's Museum at Gad's Hill Palace. The original manuscript of *Martin Chuzzlewit* by Charles Dickens has been stolen. Thursday designed the security at Gad's Hill herself after the manuscript was stolen once before by a security guard who wanted to read the book in its original format. Thursday takes a look at the display case and notices that the glass is slightly warped, but that there does not seem to be any other damage or evidence. A look at the security cameras seems to suggest the manuscript simply vanished into thin air. There seems to be nothing to go on.

In chapter three, several days have passed and Thursday still has no clue as to who took the manuscript. Thursday sits at her desk and reflects on her past, taking a moment to look at a picture of her ex-fiance, Landen Parke-Laine. As Thursday is staring at Landen's picture and thinking of their past together, she is called to her boss's office where someone from SO-5 wants to speak to her. This man, Tamworth, tells her that his job is to find and jail a man named Acheron Hades, a name they never say aloud for fear that he will hear and know they are getting close. As a past student of Hades, Thursday is one of a few people who can identify him. Tamworth asks Thursday to join SO-5 temporarily to help locate Hades. Thursday quickly agrees, as SO-5 is a huge jump for her career, and goes home to wait for Tamworth's call.



Chapter 1, A Woman Named Thursday Next, Chapter 2, Gad's Hill, and Chapter 3, Back at my Desk Analysis

In these early chapters the reader is introduced to the main protagonist, Thursday Next. Thursday is a detective with a special division of the SpecOps that investigates crimes dealing with literature. This job description alone introduces the reader to the unique setting of this novel. While the novel takes place in England in 1985, it is not an England the reader will fully recognize. This England is a place where literature is hugely popular with the public, almost like a music star might be in the reader's reality. Not only this, but England is at war with Russia over a small piece of land called Crimea. On top of all this, time travel is an everyday occurrence and there is even a special section of the SpecOps that deals with time crimes and distortions. Thursday's father works for this division but has himself become something of a rogue cop by learning to slow time to a trickle. The way Thursday reacts to this unusual setting shows the reader how normal this setting is to her.

The main conflict of the novel is introduced in the second chapter. The original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit is stolen without the criminal leaving any trace he was there, even on video tape. This shows the reader that the criminal must be in possession of a unique set of powers. In chapter three, Thursday is pulled in on an investigation looking for a man named Acheron Hades. This man is so powerful that the man in charge of the case refuses to say his name aloud in fear that he will hear and know they are searching for him. This suggests Hades has in his possession a great number of powers, pointing to him being the man who stole the manuscript. Now Thursday is given a promotion that gives her high security clearance and pulls her into the chase for Hades, suggesting this chase will propel the story line as the plot continues to develop.



Chapter 4, Acheron Hades, and Chapter 5, Search for the Guilty, Punish the Innocent

Chapter 4, Acheron Hades, and Chapter 5, Search for the Guilty, Punish the Innocent Summary

In chapter four, Thursday is forced to wait several weeks before she finally gets the call from Tamworth. Finally Thursday is called to a stake out on the apartment of Hades' brother, Styx. Thursday arrives at the stake out location and meets Snood, another detective with SO-5. Snood appears to be the father of a man Thursday once dated who worked with the ChronoGuard. Thursday got a call several years ago telling her that Snood had been unavoidably detained. Thursday had a great deal of affection for Snood and tells his father so. Another man joins them, Bucket, a young man with a family. Tamworth leaves and Thursday finds herself stuck with two gentlemen with few skills at small talk. A man comes to the door attempting to promote the idea that Sir Frances Bacon wrote the Shakespearian plays. Thursday allows him to make his argument, but cuts him short by pointing out that Shakespeare mentioned several people from London in his will. Soon after closing the door on the Baconian, Snood points out a new man who has entered Styx's apartment. Thursday immediately recognizes him as Acheron Hades. Thursday grabs Bucket and heads for Styx's apartment, but Bucket begs off, citing his small child. Tamworth returns and joins Thursday on the raid on Styx's apartment.

In chapter five, Thursday wakes in the hospital recovering from gunshot wounds. Investigators from SO-1, the internal affairs division, interrogate Thursday in a makeshift boardroom. Thursday tells them how she and Tamworth arrived at Styx's apartment and found him dead inside. In the hallway was an old woman whom they quickly dismissed. However, this old woman turned and shot Tamworth dead. Thursday chased the old woman to the stairs, firing several rounds that she was sure hit the woman. Thursday then followed the old woman through a downstairs apartment and outside the building where she found the body of Snood. Hades stole the first car he found, which happened to be Thursday's. Thursday fired on the car, successfully disabling it. Hades got out of the car and confronted Thursday, appearing as Bucket. Thursday saw through the disguise and shot him. They spoke for a few minutes. Thursday tells the investigators that Hades recalled the time they shared as student and teacher. Thursday does not tell them, however, that Hades also announced to her that the Snood she thought was her ex-boyfriend's father was actually her boyfriend, aged in an accident with the ChronoGuard. Hades then shot Thursday twice, once in the chest and once in the arm. A copy of Jane Eyre Tamworth had given Thursday during the stakeout saved her life.



While lying in her hospital bed thinking about Snood, a car engine startles Thursday. A car appears in the hospital bed and a woman, Thursday herself, gets out and tells her that Hades is still alive despite claims by the SO-1 that he was killed in a fiery car crash. The future Thursday also tells Thursday that she should take a job with the LiteraTec in Swindon. Then the car, the future Thursday, and an unknown man, disappear. Shortly afterward, Thursday is discharged from the hospital. Among her personal affects, the hospital gives her a package of things belonging to a man who attempted to stop her bleeding before the ambulance arrived. Among these things are a handkerchief with the initials EFR on them and an overcoat. In the overcoat's pocket is a receipt from a milliner made out to Edward Rochester. Thursday realizes the man who saved her after she was shot was the same Mr. Edward Rochester from the pages of *Jane Eyre*, a man she has met once before.

Chapter 4, Acheron Hades, and Chapter 5, Search for the Guilty, Punish the Innocent Analysis

Thursday waits impatiently for Tamworth to call, showing the reader her depth of devotion and excitement for her job. When the call finally comes, Thursday drops everything even though it is only a stakeout that will most likely prove to be long and boring. It begins with little excitement, the only excitement being a discussion with a Baconian who tries to convince Thursday Sir Francis Bacon was the author of the Shakespearian plays. Thursday, who clearly is not sure Shakespeare wrote the plays himself, is also not willing to accept that Bacon wrote them based on evidence from Shakespeare's will. Thursday is a keen investigator and has clearly checked into all the possibilities, and has dismissed Bacon as one. This is an amusing subplot to the novel that will be visited again and again as Thursday is confronted several times by people who believe someone else wrote those plays.

Thursday recognizes Hades and rushes to confront him, determined to arrest him despite the danger his magical powers present. Tamworth joins her after Bucket, a young father, backs out in fear for his own life. Thursday believes they have the element of surprise, unaware that Snood, Thursday's ex-boyfriend, has spoken Hades' name. Hades has the power to make people see him as other people, forcing Tamworth and Thursday to see him as a little old lady, allowing him the element of surprise in order to get the better of Tamworth. Tamworth, Bucket, and Snood are all murdered by Hades. Thursday is left to bleed to death in the middle of the street except for the help of a good Samaritan who comes to her aid. This good Samaritan turns out to be Edward Rochester, the male protagonist from *Jane Eyre*. The reader is shocked, aware that fictional characters do not walk around in the real world, but Thursday is not. In Thursday's world, almost anything is possible, it seems. This includes an appearance of Thursday herself, somehow traveling from the future to the past, to tell herself to take a job in Swindon. Thursday takes the advice under consideration, leaving the reader curious how leaving London will help Thursday find Hades, something she clearly is hoping to do.



Chapter 6, Jane Eyre: A Short Excursion into the Novel, Chapter 7, The Goliath Corporation, and Chapter 8, An Airship to Swindon

Chapter 6, Jane Eyre: A Short Excursion into the Novel, Chapter 7, The Goliath Corporation, and Chapter 8, An Airship to Swindon Summary

In chapter six, Thursday remembers a trip she took to Haworth House with her Aunt Polly and Uncle Mycroft. At Haworth House, the home of the Bronte sisters, is an original manuscript of Jane Eyre. Thursday lingered near this manuscript and was listening to another tourist read from the open pages when she found herself transported into the narration. Thursday saw Jane sitting near the stile and Rochester coming toward it with his horse. Thursday's presence caused the rider to have to swerve to the left, right onto a patch of black ice. The horse fell. Thursday expected the man to become angry with her, but instead he winked and smiled at her in such a way that the young woman could not see. Thursday then returned to reality. Over the years, Thursday convinced herself that the episode never happened, but now with the evidence of Rochester from the night she was confronted by Hades, Thursday begins to believe in the episode once more.

In chapter seven, Thursday goes to visit the graves of Snood and Tamworth. A man comes up to her and introduces himself as Jack Schitt, the head of Goliath Corporation's internal security service. Goliath Corporation is a large company that helped rebuild England after the Second World War and has become an intricate part of its government. Schitt tells Thursday that he knows she believes Hades is still alive and he suspects she plans to continue looking for her. Schitt wants to know what Thursday knows about Hades and what he might be planning to do with the Martin Chuzzlewit manuscript. Thursday claims she does not know and is only going to Swindon to recover from her injuries. Schitt does not believe her, but he will not tell her any more, including what his interest in Hades is about.

In chapter eight, Thursday flies to Swindon on an airship. On board, Thursday runs into Colonel Phelps, her commanding officer from her days in the Crimea. Phelps is a strong supporter of the war and is coming to Swindon to make a speech about it. Thursday is against the continuation of the war, but keeps her opinion to herself. At the airport, Thursday runs into a couple of war protesters who want her to speak at the same rally Phelps is scheduled to appear at on their behalf. Thursday refuses. A short time later, Thursday is picked up by a man named Spike who runs the SO-17 division in Swindon, dealing with vampires and werewolves. As they drive through town, Thursday sees the



car she was driving from the future when the future she came to her hotel room. Thursday has Spike drop her at the car lot so she can purchase the car.

Chapter 6, Jane Eyre: A Short Excursion into the Novel, Chapter 7, The Goliath Corporation, and Chapter 8, An Airship to Swindon Analysis

Thursday describes a time in which she went into the novel *Jane Eyre*, which the reader will note has a much different ending to the ending the book has in the reader's reality, and causes Mr. Rochester's horse to fall, making his first meeting with Jane more dramatic. This suggests two things to the reader: first, that it is possible for people and characters to move in and out of great fiction, and second, that it is possible to alter a novel from its original plot if the original manuscript is manipulated. These are two important factors for the reader to believe because they will be the basis of future conflict within the novel.

Thursday visits the dead before leaving for Swindon. In the cemetery, Thursday meets Jack Schitt, a man who works for Goliath Corporation. Goliath is a large corporation that practically runs the English government. Schitt's interest in Thursday and Hades suggests something mysterious, perhaps suggesting that Goliath knows what Hades is up to and either wants to stop him or wants to become involved with Hades. Either way, it seems Schitt is not a friend to Thursday and could complicate her further investigation into Hades. Finally, Thursday travels to Swindon. On the airship, Thursday runs into her commander from her time in Crimea, allowing the reader to discover more information about Thursday's time there. Included in this information is the fact that her brother died in a massive ambush there and that Thursday was a hero by defying orders and returning to the battle to collect the wounded. This gives the reader insight into Thursday's personality and suggests that Thursday is a strong person who will not stop when she sees something that needs to be done.



Chapter 9, The Next Family, and Chapter 10, The Finis Hotel, Swindon

Chapter 9, The Next Family, and Chapter 10, The Finis Hotel, Swindon Summary

In chapter nine, Thursday arrives at her mother's house. Thursday has not been home in ten years, but all seems the same to her. Uncle Mycroft and Aunt Polly live with Thursday's mother and are parked in front of the television when she arrives. To drag him away from the television, Polly suggest Mycroft take Thursday out to his workshop while she and Mrs. Next finish dinner. In the workshop, Mycroft shows Thursday his latest inventions, including a Rolls Royce that has a paint job that uses liquid crystals to change colors. There are also translating carbon paper, an olfactograph that can smell out a criminal's specific scent, and bookworms that feed on words, giving back synonyms of the words they are given. These bookworms are used in another device, but before Mycroft can show it to Thursday, Polly calls them to dinner. Over dinner, Mrs. Next brings up the subject of Landen Parke-Laine, who has become a famous novelist, but it is a subject Thursday finds unpleasant so she lies and says she has a boyfriend.

In chapter ten, Thursday checks into the Finis Hotel where a John Milton convention is going on. After settling in her room, Thursday goes down to the hotel bar where she has drinks with her new boss, Victor Analogy, and her new partner, Bowden Cable. Thursday quickly realizes that Analogy and Bowden believe she has come to Swindon to solve the murder of Bowden's last partner, Jim Crometty. Crometty was shot to death while investigating the sale of a stolen manuscript. Thursday plays along when she learns that Schitt has shown up in Swindon as well. Later Thursday sits at the piano to play and is joined by Landen. Just as Thursday is about to admit she still has feelings for Landen, her father slows time and makes an appearance. The interruption allows Thursday to get her emotions under control. Landen invites Thursday to a play but she puts him off, refusing to commit to a date. Afterward, Thursday goes up to her room and unpacks while listening to a news report about a violent protest in Chichester over a debate on surrealism.

Chapter 9, The Next Family, and Chapter 10, The Finis Hotel, Swindon Analysis

It turns out that Thursday is one of the only sane people in her family. Going along with the humorous tone of the novel, the reader meets Thursday's family and discovers that her uncle is an absentminded inventor. Thursday's mother is quirky, but similar to most mothers in the fact that she would like to see her daughter settled down and married. Landen Parke-Laine's name comes up, suggesting he will become an important part of the developing plot and an emotional speed bump for Thursday. This fact is

underscored when Landen himself appears in the following chapter and Thursday reacts to him like a love sick teenager.

Thursday meets her new boss and discovers that they think she is there as an SO-5 investigator to learn who killed one of their agents, Jim Crometty. This is the first Thursday is hearing of this death, but she decides to play along when she learns Schitt has arrived in Swindon as well. Now Thursday and the reader are both convinced that there is something more to Schitt's interest in Hades and that he plans to use Thursday to find him. The reader is unclear at this point what Schitt's interest in Hades might be, but suspects it has something to do with Hades' motive in stealing the Dickens manuscript.



Chapter 11, Polly Flashes Upon the Inward Eye, Chapter 12, SpecOps-27, The Literary Detectives, Chapter 13, The Chapel at Capel-y-ffin, Chapter 14, Lunch with Bowden, and Chapter 15, Hello and Goodbye, Mr. Quaverley

Chapter 11, Polly Flashes Upon the Inward Eye, Chapter 12, SpecOps-27, The Literary Detectives, Chapter 13, The Chapel at Capel-y-ffin, Chapter 14, Lunch with Bowden, and Chapter 15, Hello and Goodbye, Mr. Quaverley Summary

In chapter eleven, Polly has become Mycroft's assistant after an accident that killed Mycroft's last assistant. Mycroft wants to open a door into a Wordsworth poem with his Prose Portal and have Polly go inside for two minutes. Polly is hesitant, but Mycroft promises her it is safe. Mycroft transported himself into a work of literature just that morning. Polly agrees and finds the poem fascinating, although Wordsworth himself seems depressed. However, when it is time to leave again, the poem suddenly collapses around Polly. In chapter twelve, it is Thursday's first day at work. Thursday goes to the SpecOps building where all the Swindon SpecOps are housed. The LiteraTec offices are smaller than Thursday is used to. Analog gives Thursday a tour of the office and introduces her to all the detectives working there. Afterward, Thursday is directed to the office of the SpecOps director, Braxton Hicks. Hicks gives Thursday a lecture about the budget and insists she not ask for overtime. As Thursday is leaving, she sees Schitt go into Hicks' office. The receptionist allows Thursday to use the intercom to hear what they are saying. It appears that Schitt is in Swindon to allow Thursday to lead him to Hades. Thursday then goes back to the office where Bowden tells her he has a lead in the Chuzzlewit case.

In chapter fourteen, Bowden and Thursday go to a small diner for lunch where Thursday runs into a waitress who recognizes her as Anton Next's sister. Thursday automatically defends her brother. Bowden and Thursday get to know one another a little over lunch. Bowden talks about a job in Ohio he has been offered and how he hopes it will lead to marriage and children. As they finish up, Bowden and Thursday get word that Uncle Mycroft and Aunt Polly have been kidnapped. They rush to the house and find Schitt already there. Schitt warns Thursday off the investigation, at the same time asking her



to point out anything that might be missing. Thursday notices the bookworms and the Prose Portal are missing.

In chapter fifteen, Hades forces Mycroft to use the Prose Portal to open a door into Martin Chuzzlewit. Hades has the copy of the Wordsworth poem with Polly locked inside, telling Mycroft unless he cooperates, he will burn it. When Mycroft opens the door, Hades sends one of his fiends inside to take Mr. Quaverley, a minor character, out of the novel. Then Hades instructs another fiend, Felix7, to kill Quaverley and leave him in the streets where he will be easily found.

Chapter 11, Polly Flashes Upon the Inward Eye, Chapter 12, SpecOps-27, The Literary Detectives, Chapter 13, The Chapel at Capel-y-ffin, Chapter 14, Lunch with Bowden, and Chapter 15, Hello and Goodbye, Mr. Quaverley Analysis

Following along with the events of a previous chapter, the reader is introduced to the Prose Portal, a device that allows people to enter literary works of art. Uncle Mycroft has invented this device in order to give people the chance to experience their favorite book or poem literally in person. This device works, as proven when Polly goes into a Wordsworth poem. However, Polly is then locked inside when Hades breaks into Mycroft's workshop and steals both Mycroft and the portal. Hades uses Polly as a hostage to encourage Mycroft to help him. The fact that Mycroft is heartbroken by his own actions shows the reader the depth of his respect for literature and his regret in inventing something a criminal mind could exploit and use to his advantage. Only Mycroft's love for his wife has allowed him to act in this way, otherwise he most likely would have refused despite threats of bodily harm, so deep does his love of literature go.

At the same time, Thursday begins her first day at the LiteraTec in Swindon and meets her co-workers. Thursday also meets the commander whose biggest concern is the budget. Thursday also discovers that Schitt is in town and he is hoping to use her to find Hades. This again underscores Schitt's determination to find Hades, but the reader still has no clue as to why. Schitt is the lead investigator on the kidnapping of Mycroft and Polly, telling Thursday that Hades is clearly behind the kidnapping, adding to her urgency in finding her relatives. This investigation has now become more personal for Thursday, increasing her determination to stop Hades.



Chapter 16, Sturmey Archer and Felix7, Chapter 17, SpecOps-17: Suckers and Biters, and Chapter 18, Landen Again

Chapter 16, Sturmey Archer and Felix7, Chapter 17, SpecOps-17: Suckers and Biters, and Chapter 18, Landen Again Summary

In chapter sixteen, Thursday and Bowden go to see a man named Sturmey Archer, whom Bowden has information on and believes he could force to reveal the whereabouts of the Dickens manuscript. When they arrive, Archer is reluctant to share any information. As Bowden attempts to use his information to force Archer to speak, Felix7 arrives. Archer turns to Felix7 for help, but instead is shot for his efforts. A gun battle erupts, ending in the death of Felix7. Before he dies, however, Felix7 admits to killing Crumetty. Schitt arrives as Felix7 dies, suggesting to Thursday that he was waiting outside for the shooting to stop. Thursday manages to hide Felix7's wallet from Schitt, but its contents reveal nothing. Back at the office, Thursday hears a call for help from Spike and insists on going even though Analogy warns her not to. In chapter seventeen, Thursday arrives at an abandoned school where Spike is in need of his medication. Thursday finds a janitor in the school hallway who shows her to the room where Spike is waiting. However, this janitor is a vampire who attacks Thursday. Thursday manages to get Spike his medication, and in return Spike kills the vampire.

In chapter eighteen, Thursday returns to her hotel and finds tickets to Richard III waiting for her. Thursday quickly changes and meets Landen at the theater. The performance is a unique one in which audience members are chosen moments before the play is to begin to perform it. The remaining audience members then play along with the drama, calling out responses to the dialogue. Thursday and Landen once attended the regular Friday performance often when they were dating. Afterward, Landen takes Thursday to dinner. They discuss the play, their past, and their break up. Finally Landen asks Thursday if she could ever forgive him for testifying that her brother led the soldiers up the wrong road and thus led them into the ambush that ended his own life. Thursday admits that she cannot. Landen tells her he must move on with his life. Depressed, Thursday returns to her room where she has troubled dreams. Amidst these dreams, Thursday has a conversation with Mr. Rochester in which he tells her that her visit into the narration of Jane Eyre years before improved the book. Mr. Rochester also asks her to use her fortitude on the next occasion in which they are to meet.



Chapter 16, Sturmey Archer and Felix7, Chapter 17, SpecOps-17: Suckers and Biters, and Chapter 18, Landen Again Analysis

Thursday and Bowden attempt to get information about Martin Chuzzlewit from a known literary criminal, but their interview is cut short when the informant is killed by one of Hades' men. Thursday is shocked when Schitt arrives, and it appears that he had hoped the man would kill her and Bowden before running into Schitt and his men. This makes it seem as though Schitt is willing to do whatever it takes to find Hades, again making the reader wonder about his motive. Thursday does not learn what she had hoped, except that Crumetty was killed over Martin Chuzzlewit.

Thursday has a date with Landen and it seems like everything is going well until Landen asks if Thursday can forgive him for testifying against her brother at an inquest. It seems Landen saw Anton point the soldiers down the road that led to the ambush that killed nearly their whole squadron, left Landen without a leg, and killed Anton. Thursday saw this as a betrayal, a theme of the novel, and broke their engagement. Thursday now admits that she cannot forgive Landen this betrayal, causing Landen to tell her that he intends to go on with his life without her, suggesting he plans to eventually marry someone else. Thursday is hurt, but angry as well.

Thursday has a dream that features Mr. Rochester from Jane Eyre. Rochester tells Thursday that she changed the narration of the novel for the better when she entered it as a child, helping her to see that she added needed drama to the first meeting between Mr. Rochester and Jane. Mr. Rochester then asks Thursday to use all her fortitude to protect the narration in the future. This request comes in a dream; therefore, it could have no bearing on the plot development. However, the reader suspects from previous events in this novel that Mr. Rochester is warning that something bad might happen to the characters of Jane Eyre, leaving the reader to believe that Hades will target Jane Eyre in the same way in which he targeted Mr. Quaverley in Martin Chuzzlewit.



Chapter 19, The Very Irrev. Joffy Next, Chapter 20, Dr. Runcible Spoon, Chapter 21, Hades and Goliath, and Chapter 22, The Waiting Game

Chapter 19, The Very Irrev. Joffy Next, Chapter 20, Dr. Runcible Spoon, Chapter 21, Hades and Goliath, and Chapter 22, The Waiting Game Summary

In chapter nineteen, Thursday runs into Colonel Phelps, who asks her to attend his speech later in the week, assuring her that the new plasma rifle will change the tide of the war. Phelps promises to send a car for her. Later in the day, Thursday goes to visit the memorial erected in a church yard to her brother Anton. While there, Thursday runs into the church pastor who happens to be her other brother, Joffy. As they talk over tea, Thursday learns that Landen comes often to the memorial and keeps it nice for Anton.

In chapter twenty, Thursday meets a man in her office who has come to complain about a change in the Martin Chuzzlewit novels. One of the minor characters in the novel is missing. As Thursday listens to the complaint, she receives a call from Analog telling her about a body in the morgue that was found in the car of the man who assassinated Archer. Thursday rushes to the morgue where she is able to identify Quaverly from the professor's description. Thursday discusses the situation with Analog and Bowden, suggesting perhaps it is a prelude to a larger disaster awaiting the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit.

In chapter twenty-one, Thursday finds a letter from Hades on her desk making a ransom demand. Hades threatens to remove Martin Chuzzlewit from the novel if he does not get ten million pounds, a Gainsborough painting, a Macbeth run for an actor friend, and a change of name of the motorway service. A meeting is called in Hick's office to discuss the situation. Schitt demands control over the drop, insisting that the drop be made his way with Thursday only acting in the part Hades has outlined. Thursday argues, afraid of what might happen to her uncle, but she is overruled. Back at her desk, Thursday attempts to call Landen but the phone is answered by a woman claiming to be his fiancée.

In chapter twenty-two, the ad is placed to let Hades know they agree to his terms. At the same time, Thursday learns about the face sewn onto the assassin and suggests that Hades might want it back, but they are too late, the face is already gone. As they wait for Hades to make his move, Thursday and Bowden debate the possibility that Kit Marlowe is the real writer behind the Shakespeare plays.



Chapter 19, The Very Irrev. Joffy Next, Chapter 20, Dr. Runcible Spoon, Chapter 21, Hades and Goliath, and Chapter 22, The Waiting Game Analysis

Phelps reappears in the story, again insisting that the war in the Crimea can be won now that the Goliath Corporation has come out with some new plasma rifles. This character seems like just a nuisance to Thursday at this point, but he offers some information that might prove important later in the novel. First, he introduces the plasma rifles, which have been mentioned before in the narrative, but only briefly. These rifles are said to be the one thing that will guarantee an English win in Crimea after more than a hundred years. Second, Phelps promises to send a car for Thursday the day of the rally even though she does not really want to attend. This will prove important on the day of the rally when the car does show up.

Thursday learns about the death of Quaverley when a professor notices the change in all copies of Martin Chuzzlewit. This again underscores the fact that a change in the original manuscript means a change in all of the books. It also helps Thursday identify the body when it appears and to further embrace her own experiences jumping into the pages of a book. Later, Hades makes a ransom demand, holding Martin Chuzzlewit as his next victim. This finally reveals to everyone why Hades stole the manuscript and why he kidnapped Mycroft. Finally, Thursday learns that Landen has already become engaged to another woman even though she has come to a place where she is beginning to think she might be able to forgive his betrayal. Thursday's change of heart has come too late, at least it seems to the reader.



Chapter 23, The Drop, Chapter 24, Martin Chuzzlewit is Reprieved, and Chapter 25, Time Enough for Contemplation

Chapter 23, The Drop, Chapter 24, Martin Chuzzlewit is Reprieved, and Chapter 25, Time Enough for Contemplation Summary

In chapter twenty-three, Thursday arrives at the designated drop point alone, as instructed. Schitt and his men are hidden all along the train depot, ready to block the entrance as soon as Hades arrives. Thursday waits a long time and finally becomes bored, so she gets up to take a closer look at the place where Hades instructed her to leave the money. Just as Thursday realizes the set up, Hades arrives in an airplane. Hades snatches the money up with a cable that has been carefully strung, escaping without ever touching ground. Thursday follows in her car, but is stopped when Hades crosses a river into Wales. Wales is a republic, therefore she nor any other SpecOps officers can enter without permission or risk a full scale war. That night, Landen comes to see Thursday at her mother's house, assuring her that he will get what he wants from his new bride. Thursday wishes him luck, telling him she is going to Ohio to work LiteraTec there with Bowden. Unfortunately, Thursday does not realize Bowden invited her to go as his wife, not his partner.

In chapter twenty-four, Mycroft is allowed a short visit with Polly where he becomes concerned about her growing relationship with Wordsworth. While there, Mycroft tells her that he burned the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit to prevent Hades from altering it any further. Polly is shocked, but proud of his action. Hades, on the other hand, is pleased with the nerve Mycroft has shown, but stuck to find another original manuscript to use now that he has discovered that the money and the painting given to him as part of his ransom were fakes.

In chapter twenty-five, Hicks is infuriated because the press has somehow gotten the information that Quaverley was taken from the manuscript and murdered. No one seems to know how this happened. Back at the office, Thursday discusses the case with Analogy and Bowden, explaining how she made a connection between the assassin and several other known criminals. One of these is a doctor who was a founding member of the Earthcrossers. Thursday suggests they put Analog undercover at one of the Earthcrossers meeting to see if he can root the doctor out.



Chapter 23, The Drop, Chapter 24, Martin Chuzzlewit is Reprieved, and Chapter 25, Time Enough for Contemplation Analysis

The drop in response to Hades' ransom demand is made, but it goes badly. The only information Thursday and her team are able to get from the drop is that Hades is hiding out in Wales somewhere. Wales is a republic; therefore, this information only complicates things. Thursday knows they need to find Hades' hideout, so she comes up with a scheme to root out one of his minions, foreshadowing an undercover operation in the following chapter. At the same time, Hades is on the lookout for another original manuscript because Mycroft burned Martin Chuzzlewit. This shows bravery and intelligence on Mycroft's part, because he risked his life and Polly's by defying Hades, and he also figured out that it was the fact that the manuscript was an original that made it possible for Hades to alter it.

At the same time, Thursday is struggling with her private life. Landen is getting married to someone else even though Thursday is beginning to realize she would rather forgive him and have him for herself. Instead, Thursday gives Landen her blessing, giving up her hold on him. Bowden, meanwhile, is hoping Thursday will go to Ohio and marry him, but Thursday only sees him as a colleague. It seems Thursday is becoming a part of a love triangle that is growing by the minute and adding tension to her private life even as her career is taking too many twists and turns to follow.



Chapter 26, Earthcrossers, Chapter 27, Hades Finds Another Manuscript

Chapter 26, Earthcrossers, Chapter 27, Hades Finds Another Manuscript Summary

In chapter twenty-six, Analog reluctantly goes undercover to infiltrate an Earthcrossers meeting. Analog has trouble getting into the meeting because the guards at the entrance insist on questioning him in detail. However, Analog does get in and discovers that he is expected to help catch pieces of a meteorite with a baseball glove. As the meteorite begins falling to the ground, Dr. Muller confronts Analog and attempts to have him thrown from the meeting. Instead, Analog arrests him. Schitt arrives at the station soon after Analog arrives with Muller. Schitt throws everyone out of the interrogation except Thursday, who insists her SO-5 badge gives her the clearance to stay. The interview does not go well because Muller is more afraid of Hades than Schitt. However, Thursday convinces him they will protect him. As Muller begins to talk, he begins to writhe in pain. The only information they get from him is one word, Penderyn. Unfortunately, Penderyn is a common name in Wales. Thursday goes back to the hotel defeated and ends up arguing with the bartender over the idea that Kit Marlowe wrote the Shakespearian plays.

In chapter twenty-seven, Hades breaks into Haworth House, walks past the security cameras without being seen, kills two guards, and escapes with the original manuscript of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. Thursday is woken from a fitful sleep and rushes out to pick up Bowden before going to Haworth House. On the way, Thursday gives Bowden a synopsis of the plot of *Jane Eyre* because he has never read it before, including the ending in which Jane goes off to be a missionary with St. John Rivers. Their trip is brought to an end, however, when they come across a time vortex in the middle of the highway. Thursday can see that several cars are in danger of being pulled into the vortex. When she learns the ChronoGuard is still several hours away, Thursday decides to close the vortex herself. Thursday takes a basketball from a child and drives toward the vortex. Just as the vortex pulls her car inside, Thursday has Bowden through the ball at it, effectively plugging it up. However, Thursday and Bowden are inside the vortex. They travel back in time to the day Thursday was in the hospital and had a talk with her future self. From there they go into the future where Thursday is being escorted out of a diner at gunpoint. Thursday leaves behind her gun to help her future self. Finally, they land back in the present and learn that they have lost thirty-one years from a Colonel Rutter with the ChronoGuard.



Chapter 26, Earthcrossers, Chapter 27, Hades Finds Another Manuscript Analysis

Thursday, Analog, and Bowden capture a man working with Hades after an undercover operation that nearly gets Analog killed. The man is killed during the interrogation through some sort of implant that detects when he is about to reveal information on Hades, once more underlining the powers that Hades has. Thursday witnesses the interrogation and hears the man say Penderyn, but this clue is so vague that it leads to nothing. However, the reader hopes that the clue will actually help at some point as the plot continues to develop. At the same time, Hades steals the original manuscript of Jane Eyre, a theft that has been foreshadowed since Thursday's first encounter with Hades and Jane Eyre saved her life.

Thursday and Bowden are on their way to Haworth House to investigate the theft of Jane Eyre when Thursday summarizes the plot for both Bowden and the reader who might not be familiar with it. Those readers who are familiar with the book will recognize that the ending is not quite the one they might know. This suggests that something will happen later in the novel that will change the ending of Jane Eyre. At this point, Thursday and Bowden find themselves in the position to fix a time vortex that takes them through time, allowing for Thursday to visit her past self and to also leave her gun to protect her future self. When they come back to reality, Thursday and Bowden are told they are thirty-one years in the future, leaving the reader astonished and curious how they are going to stop Hades from the future.



Chapter 28, Haworth House, Chapter 29, Jane Eyre, Chapter 30, A Groundswell of Popular Feeling, Chapter 31, The People's Republic of Wales

Chapter 28, Haworth House, Chapter 29, Jane Eyre, Chapter 30, A Groundswell of Popular Feeling, Chapter 31, The People's Republic of Wales Summary

In chapter twenty-eight, Thursday and Bowden learn they have actually only lost seven hours. They arrive at Haworth House behind the press and local cops. Thursday takes a look around and discovers that everything is exactly the same as the theft of Martin Chuzzlewit, suggesting the same person took both manuscripts. Back at the office, Thursday reads in the paper that there has been an increase in military presence on the border of Wales, suggesting that Schitt is maneuvering to find Hades. Thursday also relates to Bowden everything Muller said, realizing that he tried to tell them Penderyn was a hotel. Analog shows them the location of a Penderyn Hotel that has been closed for some time. In chapter twenty-nine, Hades sends one of his men into the pages of Jane Eyre to kidnap Jane at the point in the narration where she saves Mr. Rochester from his burning bed. Mr. Rochester attempts to save Jane by pulling a gun, but is no match for Hades' man.

In chapter thirty, people begin to notice a change in Jane Eyre which helps Hicks' agree to anything Thursday and her team need to rectify the situation. In chapter thirty-one, Thursday goes to the shop of a bookseller who is her Welsh contact. Thursday offers the man 18 Poems by Dylan Thomas in exchange for a ride into Merthyr, but the man refuses. His assistant, on the other hand, agrees. Thursday and Bowden are hidden in the woman's trunk until they reach their destination. There, Thursday and Bowden attempt to locate Jane without alerting anyone to their presence, but underestimated Hades. They are taken into a sitting room where Hades' henchmen, Uncle Mycroft, and Schitt wait. Thursday accuses Schitt of joining forces with the criminals and learns that he has made a deal with Hades in order to enter a book on plasma rifles. The plasma rifle the Goliath Corporation has manufactured does not work, but Schitt hopes to take a working one from a manual on the guns and mass produce it. Schitt turns his gun on Hades and insists Hades give him the instruction manual for the Prose Portal and the poem in which Polly is trapped. Hades refuses and attempts to use his powers on Schitt, but they fail. A gun fight erupts, in the middle of which Thursday's father appears. Hades, unaffected by the father's time tricks, disappears into the novel, Jane Eyre. When time returns to normal, Schitt escapes from the room. Thursday grabs Jane and jumps into the novel to stop Hades. Schitt is forced to wait for her return and the instruction manual.



Chapter 28, Haworth House, Chapter 29, Jane Eyre, Chapter 30, A Groundswell of Popular Feeling, Chapter 31, The People's Republic of Wales Analysis

There is no doubt in Thursday's mind that Hades is behind the disappearance of Jane Eyre. All she needs now is to figure out where Hades is located, and thanks to Bowden and Analog, Thursday does just that. The fact that in this setting Wales is a republic poses a small problem, but Thursday is able to work around that thanks to a contact she has in Wales. This man is not willing to help, even with the return on a Dylan work, but his assistant is.

Thursday wants to rescue Jane without conflict, but is unable to do so because of Hades' powers. Thursday is confronted not only by Hades, but by Schitt as well. Finally the reader learns Schitt's motivations, to use the Prose Portal to get a working version of the plasma rifle he and his company has promised will change the tide of the Crimea War. Schitt is not concerned about the Crimea War, but is eager to sell the working weapon to the highest bidder. Thursday has always suspected there was something criminal about Schitt and now she knows for a fact. A fight breaks out ending in Hades escaping into Jane Eyre. Thursday follows, the only person able to return from the novel, in the hopes of stopping Hades once and for all.



Chapter 32, Thornfield Hall, and Chapter 33, The Book Is Written

Chapter 32, Thornfield Hall, and Chapter 33, The Book Is Written Summary

In chapter thirty-two, Thursday and Jane arrive shortly before the point where Jane was rudely snatched from the narrative of her novel. Jane returns to the narrative while Mr. Rochester, who is not currently in the narrative, takes Thursday to the housekeeper and instructs her to make Thursday comfortable, but away from Jane so as to not change the plot of the novel once again. Thursday sleeps. The following morning, Thursday goes into Millcote to see if she can find Hades. Thursday runs into a couple of Asian people and learns that the woman can transport herself into the book just by thinking about it and runs a business giving people tours of the book. Thursday warns her that Hades is there and that she should leave before he realizes she can get him out of the book. Thursday then visits the Millcote, the local inn, and learns that Hades is there. They speak for a few minutes. Thursday refuses to help Hades leave the novel until he hands over the instruction manual and the poem, but Hades refuses, leaving them at an impasse. Hades agrees to wait until Jane leaves Thornfield before opening negotiations.

In chapter thirty-three, Thursday settles down to wait for the book to come to its end. Rochester spends time with her whenever he is out of the narration, but Thursday strives to stay out of Jane's way so as to not affect the novel's plot in any way. During one of these visits with Rochester, Thursday learns that he is aware of the Asian woman's visits and that he actually accepts pay to give them tours of the house when Jane is away. Thursday is fascinated by this and all other aspects of Rochester's life, finding it more intense than she at first imagined.

As Jane leaves Thornfield after the interrupted wedding between herself and Rochester, Thursday learns that Hades has left the inn. Thursday goes to see for herself and then returns to the house to find Rochester in the study. Thursday tells him what has happened and is about to tell him the password to leave the novel when she realizes it is not Rochester, but Hades. Hades runs from Thursday, going up the stairs to the attic. As Thursday and Rochester give chase, Bertha, Rochester's insane wife, steals the instruction manual. Hades chases after her and they fight, causing candles to overturn. Bertha stabs Hades with a pair of scissors, causing Hades pain. Eventually Hades overwhelms Bertha and throws her over the stairs. Hades pulls a gun and fires at Thursday and Rochester, wounding Rochester through the hand. Thursday fires back at Hades, but her bullets do no good. Then Thursday realizes that the reason Bertha's scissors hurt Hades is because they are made of silver. Thursday puts a silver bullet Spike gave her in her gun and fires at Hades' chest, killing him. Rochester then helps Thursday down a back stairway, but the stairway collapses under them.



Chapter 32, Thornfield Hall, and Chapter 33, The Book Is Written Analysis

Thursday returns Jane to the book and returns the narration back to normal. Thursday then finds Hades, but they come to an impasse and neither can leave the book. Instead, they live in the book until the ending, living for months in what only takes a few hours in their reality. During this time, Thursday learns a great deal about Rochester's reality and finds it fascinating, suggesting to her that everyone has their own reality and that almost anything is possible.

Eventually the book comes to an end and Hades makes his move. A fight begins, causing Thornfield to catch fire. Bertha is killed, but before she is, Thursday figures out how to kill Hades through the scissors Bertha uses to attack Hades. Thursday is finally able to kill Hades, ending the main conflict of the novel and winning over evil. However, Thursday is still stuck in this alternate reality because in order to be rescued she must have a phrase appear in the narration, but the novel is written in the first person, so Jane has to say or hear the phrase. Unfortunately, Jane has left Thornfield. Thursday has also caused the destruction of Thornfield and caused bodily harm to Rochester, a man who has become a dear friend to her. These new problems foreshadow a resolution in the following chapters, one the reader who is familiar with Jane Eyre might already suspect.



Chapter 34, Nearly the End of Their Book, Chapter 35, Nearly the End of Our Book, and Chapter 36, Married

Chapter 34, Nearly the End of Their Book, Chapter 35, Nearly the End of Our Book, and Chapter 36, Married Summary

In chapter thirty-four, Thursday wakes to discover Thornfield burned to the ground and Rochester blinded and crippled. Thursday is desperate to find a way to make it up to Rochester and to get out of the book. Thursday finds the answer to both her problems when she goes to Jane's window and whispers her name in a way Rochester himself might do, causing her to return to Thornfield. Thursday tells Rochester what she has done, but he does not seem pleased. Rochester does not want Jane to see him this way, but Thursday assures him that love will overcome any obstacle. To return her kindness, Rochester speaks the password to Jane when she comes into the room and Thursday is able to return to her reality. As soon as Thursday is back, Mycroft rescues Polly from the Wordsworth poem. Schitt then insists on entering The Plasma Rifle and retrieving his weapon. The moment he steps through, Mycroft turns off the machine and he and Bowden destroy it, trapping Schitt in the book forever.

In chapter thirty-five, Thursday rushes to the church to stop Landen's wedding. However, when she arrives, she loses her nerve and is able to go through with it. Fortunately, Mr. Briggs has arrived with the Asian tour guide. The Asian woman tells her that the ending of the book has changed, that Jane and Mr. Rochester got married and have ten blissful years together before the final sentence. At the same time, Mr. Briggs announces that the bride is already married and therefore the wedding cannot continue. The bride admits the truth and storms out of the church with her family. Thursday approaches Landen and admits her love for him. Landen proposes and they agree to marry in a month's time. They celebrate all night. The next morning, Thursday is woken by two Goliath men who take her into custody to answer for Schitt's disappearance. In the lobby, Thursday makes a scene with Landen's ex-fiancee, distracting the Goliath men long enough to escape. A car stops and picks her up on the corner and rushes to the rally where Phelps is to speak. Thursday uses the opportunity to announce that the plasma rifles do not work. Within hours, the war in the Crimea ends.

In chapter thirty-six, Thursday and Landen are married. Many bizarre things happen at the wedding, including several surprise visits from Thursday's dad as well as the men hunting him through time. Thursday also gets a visit from a man who asks her to discourage any future sons not to join the ChronoGuard. Finally, Thursday learns that the book Schitt is permanently locked into is not The Plasma Rifle, but a collection of



poems by Poe. Fortunately, it is not an original, so changes Schitt makes do not affect anything but the one book.

Chapter 34, Nearly the End of Their Book, Chapter 35, Nearly the End of Our Book, and Chapter 36, Married Analysis

Thursday feels so bad about ruining Rochester's house and leaving him hurt that she arranges for Jane to return to him rather than leaving to be a missionary with St. John Rivers. This act helps Thursday leave the book, but it irrevocably changes the ending of the book, giving it an ending that readers familiar with this book will recognize, fulfilling suggestions made earlier in the book. Now Hades is dead and Thursday's uncle and partner are able to trap Schitt in a collection of poems by Poe. It seems all the bad guys are dealt with except Felix8 who managed to disappear during the chaos in Wales.

Thursday goes to the church to stop Landen's marriage and to announce her own feelings for him, but chickens out despite the courage she has showed in other situations. This is rectified, however, by Rochester, who sends the same lawyer who interrupted his wedding to Jane to interrupt Landen's wedding. Landen is saved and Thursday becomes his wife, satisfying this plot line in a happy, romantic way that amusingly parallel's that of Jane Eyre in a unique way.

Thursday also finds it within her power to end the war in the Crimea. Thursday accidentally arrives at the rally for and against the war, driving there in an escape from Goliath Corporation thugs who seem intent on making her pay for Schitt's disappearance. This conflict is not concluded in this novel, suggesting to the reader that it might appear again in another Thursday Next novel. At the rally, Thursday announces that the plasma rifle, the English's last hope in Crimea, does not work. The war ends within hours. Finally Thursday has all she has wanted and is left to start her life anew, as well as to enjoy new adventures in future novels.



Characters

Thursday Next

Thursday Next is a detective in the SO-27. This division of the SpecOps is the LiteraTec, a group of police officers who investigate crimes dealing with literature. One of Thursday's jobs is to design security for one-of-a-kind original manuscripts. When one of these manuscripts is stolen, Thursday knows that no simple criminal is involved. A few days later, Thursday knows her assumptions were right on when a detective from the top secret SO-5 comes to see her. It seems SO-5 suspects that a man named Acheron Hades is behind the theft and only Thursday can identify him. Thursday goes along on a stake out and leads a team that intends to arrest Hades. However, the team under estimates Hades's powers and a gun battle ensues. Thursday is the sole survivor of the shootout.

Urged on by herself from the future, Thursday decides to return to her hometown of Swindon in order to continue her own investigation of Hades. In doing this, however, Thursday is forced to face her past. Thursday left behind a broken engagement when she moved to London ten years before. Thursday meets up with her fiancé now, and discovers that she is still as angry with him regarding a betrayal he perpetrated on her brother as she was all those years ago. Thursday does not know how to put the past behind her. Even as she continues to investigate the crimes of Hades', she is faced with a decision that could change her future forever. At the same time, Thursday's uncle and aunt go missing and Thursday finds herself in a position to bring her family back together or failing and leaving them broken forever.

Acheron Hades

Acheron Hades was once a college professor who liked to date his students. One of his students was Thursday Next. Thursday particularly remembers Hades because he attempted to draw her into this collection of female students but she refused. Hades has turned to a life of crime. Hades has stolen the original manuscript of Martin Chuzzlewit. Hades hopes to use the manuscript to force the government to give him ten million dollars. To encourage the government to do this, Hades kidnaps Thursday's Uncle Mycroft and his Prose Portal invention. Hades uses the Prose Portal to allow one of his men to enter the Chuzzlewit manuscript and remove one of the minor characters. This character is later found murdered on the streets of Swindon.

Hades is a very powerful man who has the power to make people see what he wishes them to see. The first time Thursday comes face to face with him in this novel, Hades almost escapes her notice by forcing her and her partner to see an old woman. However, after Hades shoots Tamworth, Thursday realizes what he has done and takes after him. They end up on the streets and Hades shoots Thursday after revealing to her that the old man he has just killed is really a young man she once cared a great deal



about. Thursday is especially careful around Hades after this incident but is still caught off guard by his unique talents. When Hades steals the original manuscript of Jane Eyre and removes Jane from the pages, it changes the entire novel. Thursday finds where Hades is hiding and forces a standoff that could end in disaster, both for Thursday and Jane Eyre fans everywhere.

Aunt Polly and Uncle Mycroft

Aunt Polly is Thursday's aunt. Polly lives with Thursday's mother. A few months before Thursday returns to Swindon, Uncle Mycroft's assistant was killed in a lab accident, so Polly has become his assistant. Polly enjoys the work most of the time, but is often hesitant when Mycroft needs a guinea pig for his experiments. When Mycroft asks Polly to enter a Wordsworth poem, she is both frightened and fascinated. The poem is exactly as she always pictured it, though the man is somewhat more morose than she would have liked. Polly becomes trapped in the poem when Hades kidnaps Mycroft, leaving her ample time to get to know Wordsworth. Mycroft begins to worry that Polly might begin a flirtation with Wordsworth.

Mycroft is Thursday's uncle. Mycroft is an inventor who has invented almost anything from changing paint colors for cars to bookworms. Mycroft's latest invention is the Prose Portal, a device that opens a door through which a person might enter a work of literature. This Prose Portal is intended for people to feel closer to literature, but Hades kidnaps Mycroft and the portal to use in a dark scheme to get money from the government. Mycroft is horrified by Hades' intentions but fears for Polly's life, at the same time anxious to steal her away from Wordsworth before she becomes involved with the man.

Mom and Dad Next

Thursday's father is a rogue ChronoGuard agent who travels constantly through time and often pops in on his family without notice. Thursday often finds her father standing before her in awkward moments and he asks strange questions, such as the name of a banana that has just been invented. Thursday loves her father, but has felt abandoned by his decision to remain moving in time rather than with his family. At the same time, Thursday has a typical strained relationship with her mother in which she puts off calls home so that she does not have to answer awkward questions, like when she might get married and have children. However, Thursday and her mother do share a love of dodo birds, thus giving them common ground.

Landen Parke-Laine

Landen Parke-Laine was Anton Next's best friend in the army. Thursday met Landen during her time in the army. The three of them were very close. When Anton died, Landen was just as heartbroken as Thursday, but felt it was his duty to tell the truth to an inquiry regarding the ambush that led to Anton's death. Landen, unbeknown to



Thursday, told the inquiry that Anton pointed the soldiers in the wrong direction, leading them directly into the ambush. Thursday became so upset at this news that she ended her engagement to Landen and moved to London.

Landen has become a successful novelist in the time that Thursday has been away. Landen comes to visit Thursday when she returns to Swindon, but makes it clear that he does not want to reunite with her. Later, Landen asks Thursday straight out what she wants from him. When Thursday announces that she does not think she can ever forgive Landen his betrayal, he tells her that he must move on with his life. Landen becomes engaged to another woman. Thursday arrives at the wedding to break it up, but loses her nerve. The lawyer from Jane Eyre comes to the church and breaks up the wedding much the same way he ended the wedding between Jane and Mr. Rochester. Landen discovers Thursday and reveals his feelings to her. The couple are married a few weeks later.

Jack Schitt

Jack Schitt works in the weapons division of the Goliath Corporation. Schitt begins following Thursday around, hoping she will lead him to Hades. Thursday is unclear at first why Schitt wants Hades, but eventually realizes that he wants the Prose Portal in order to use it to develop new weapons for the war in the Crimea. Thursday attempts to block Schitt in every way she can, but as part of the Goliath Corporation, Schitt has more power than Thursday. Eventually they come head to head at Hades' hideout. Thursday is able to delay Schitt long enough to return Jane Eyre to her novel and to kill Hades. When Thursday returns, she and her friends lock Schitt in the book he has entered in order to extract working weapons. However, the book is not the one Schitt thought he was entering and instead he finds himself in a book of Poe stories.

Victor Analogy

Victor Analogy is the leader of the LiteraTec in Swindon. Analogy is an older man who has run a simple organization for many years that rarely does more than chase down forgers. However, when one of his men is killed investigating the rumor of an original Dickens' manuscript that has been stolen, Analogy becomes frightened by the idea of violence in his department. Analogy is happy when Thursday applies to come to the Swindon branch of the LiteraTec, believing that she has come to hunt down his agent's killer. Thursday did not even know about this murder, but soon realizes it is connected to Hades. Analogy works closely with Thursday despite his fears and even participates in an undercover assignment that brings in the big break they have been looking for in the Hades case.

Spike

Spike is the entire SO-17 department in Swindon. Spike hunts down vampires and werewolves. Spike arrives at the airport to pick up Thursday on her first night back in



Swindon. Thursday immediately likes Spike, finding him inhibited and friendly. When Spike makes a call for help over the radio one night, Thursday rushes to his aid despite the fact that she is warned against it. Thursday helps Spike recover from an attack that has caused him to revert to his baser instincts and he saves her from a vampire.

Fillip Tamworth and Filbert Snood

Tamworth is the leader of SO-5, a division of SpecOps whose only purpose is to hunt down Acheron Hades. Tamworth comes to Thursday and asks her to join their team temporarily because she is the only person in the area who knows what Hades looks like. This request means a jump in Thursday's career; therefore, she is excited by the prospect. However, it is weeks before Thursday is again contacted by Tamworth. When she is, it is to go to a stakeout with Tamworth and two other officers. One of these officers is Filbert Snood, an old man who claims to be the father of a young ChronoGuard officer Thursday once dated. Thursday later learns that he really is the man she dated, aged by an accident with the ChronoGuard.

When Thursday spots Hades in his brother's apartment, she immediately rushes to the apartment. Tamworth accompanies her. When they reach the apartment, they find the brother dead. An old woman is out on the landing, but Thursday does not realize it is Hades until he shoots Tamworth. Thursday shoots him and follows him out of the building where he confronts Snood and shoots him as well. Thursday finally catches up to Hades where he shoots her twice, leaving her for dead.

Jane Eyre and Mr. Edward Rochester

Jane Eyre and Mr. Edward Rochester are characters from the novel, *Jane Eyre*. By some magical occurrence, Thursday was once transported into the novel as a small child and met Mr. Rochester in the part of the book where Rochester and Jane meet for the first time at the stile. Thursday startles Mr. Rochester's horse and causes it to fall, adding drama to the bland scene. Later, when Thursday is shot by Hades, Mr. Rochester somehow comes to her rescue and keeps her from bleeding to death.

Hades steals the original manuscript of *Jane Eyre* and kidnaps Jane from its pages at the part of the book where Jane saves Mr. Rochester from a fire on his bed. The novel is written in the first person point of view, so the narration ends at that point. Thursday finds Jane and returns her to the book. However, Hades has followed her into the book. Mr. Rochester helps Thursday hide from the narration, protecting the book from further changes, while she hunts down Hades. Eventually Thursday and Hades fight, causing a fire in Thornfield that cripples and blinds Mr. Rochester. However, Hades is killed. Afterward, Thursday tricks Jane into returning to Mr. Rochester before leaving to marry Rivers, causing the end of the book to change irrevocably. Jane and Mr. Rochester are forever grateful to Thursday for reuniting them and allowing them ten happy years of marriage at the end of the book rather than having it end with Jane going off with Mr. Rivers.



Objects/Places

Bookworms

Uncle Mycroft invents worms that feed off of words. These bookworms are essential in the operation of Mycroft's Prose Portal.

Prose Portal

Uncle Mycroft invented the Prose Portal, a book that opens a door that allows a person to enter a literary work. Uncle Mycroft uses this to send his wife, Polly, into a Wordsworth poem where she becomes trapped when Mycroft is kidnapped by Hades and unable to help Polly return to reality.

Plasma Rifle

The Goliath Corporation has developed a plasma rifle it claims is more powerful than any weapon known to man and will change the tide of the Crimea War. However, these weapons do not work and Schitt hopes to enter a book about plasma rifles in order to extract a working version of the weapon.

356 Speedster

Thursday buys a 356 Speedster after experiencing a visit from herself driving the same exact car.

LiteraTec

LiteraTec, or SO-27, is the division of SpecOps that investigates literary related crimes. It is this division that Thursday works for.

ChronoGuard

The ChronoGuard is a division of SpecOps that deals with time, time distortions, and crimes related to time. Thursday Next's father was a member of the ChronoGuard, but has gone rogue and is being hunted by SO-12, the division that polices the ChronoGuard.



SO-5

SO-5 is an ultra secret, highly classified division of SpecOps whose sole purpose is to find and imprison Acheron Hades. Thursday joins this division temporarily when it is discovered that she knows what Hades looks like. A gun fight ensues and several people are killed, leaving Thursday determined to find Hades and bring him to justice.

SpecOps

SpecOps is a special police force in England in the reality of this novel. SpecOps is divided into many divisions, each division specializing in a specific type of crime. The lower the number of the SpecOps division, the more power and secrecy the division commands.

Goliath Corporation

Goliath Corporation is a company that helped rebuild England after the Second World War. This company has become so engrained in the English government that they have more power than even the SpecOps.

Martin Chuzzlewit

Martin Chuzzlewit is a novel written by Charles Dickens. The original manuscript of the novel is stolen from the Dickens Museum in London under mysterious circumstances. Later, a minor character from the novel is found murdered in the London streets.

Jane Eyre

Jane Eyre is a romantic novel written by the English writer Charlotte Bronte and published under the pseudonym Currer Bell. Acheron Hades steals the original manuscript with the intention of kidnapping Jane out of the pages unless the police pay his ransom demand.

Haworth House

Haworth House is the name of the home where the Bronte sisters lived when they were actively writing. This house is now a museum where the original manuscript of Jane Eyre is displayed. As a child, Thursday Next has a strange episode while visiting this museum in which she was transported into the pages of the novel and caused Rochester's horse to fall, adding drama to the first meeting between Rochester and Jane. Later, Hades steals this manuscript from Haworth House with the intention of taking Jane from its pages.



Thornfield

Thornfield is the name of Mr. Rochester's estate in the novel, Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.

Crimean War

There has been a war going on between the English and the Russians in the Crimea for more than one 130 years. Thursday fought in the war and was part of a battle that ended in massive casualties, including the death of Thursday's brother. Later, Landen Parke-Laine told an inquiry that Thursday's brother sent the soldiers up the wrong path, leading to the ambush and deaths. Thursday ended their relationship over it and refused to forgive Parke-Laine for more than ten years.

Millcote

Millcote is the small town near Thornfield where Jane Eyre lived with the Rochester family and fell in love with Mr. Rochester.

Swindon

Swindon is the small village where Thursday grew up. Thursday left Swindon ten years before the novel begins because of a love affair gone wrong, but returns after being visited by herself from the future while in the hospital recovering from bullet wounds. It is in Swindon where Thursday is forced to enter Jane Eyre in order to save Jane.



Themes

Love of Literature

This novel centers around the idea that literature is one of the world's most important commodities. Literature is revered by all, including the simple man on the street. A person can find machines on street corners that will recite Shakespeare for a nickel and buy Shakespearian busts at local markets. Criminals sell forged manuscripts and paintings that depict famous writers. Inventors create machines that will transport people into great works of literature where they can interact with the characters on a one on one basis.

Thursday Next, the heroine of the novel, is a detective whose job it is to solve literary crimes. This includes tracking down forgers and finding stolen manuscripts. In this novel, Thursday is confronted with a criminal who can transport himself into works of literature and change whole novels by removing characters from the original manuscripts. Thursday's favorite novel, *Jane Eyre*, has become a short story that ends abruptly on the night Jane saves Rochester from a fire in his room. Thursday works diligently to track down the kidnapper and return Jane to the novel.

Literature is an important aspect to life. It reflects the morals of many generations of people and teaches newcomers of a world that has long since disappeared. Thursday recognizes this and embraces it by devoting her life to tracking down those who might want to alter or take credit for the great literary works of all time. It is for this reason that a love of literature is a major theme of this novel.

Loyalty and Betrayal

Thursday Next was once a young woman who joined the army to fight for her country against the Russians in the Crimea. A war has been waging over this small piece of land for more than 130 years. As a young woman, Thursday believes it is her duty to serve. Thursday is joined in this belief by her brother, Anton. They are in the same regiment and it is through her brother that Thursday meets Landen Parke-Laine, the man who would one day become her fiancé. However, during the war, there is a battle in which Thursday's regiment is ambushed. Hundreds of men die. Thursday disobeys direct orders and returns to the area in a transport vehicle to pick up the wounded. Thursday's brother is among these men, but there is no more room. Thursday promises to return for him, but her vehicle is bombed and she cannot get access to another one. Anton dies.

Upon their return to Swindon, Thursday and Landen become engaged. However, Landen testifies in front of an inquiry that Anton made a mistake that led to the ambush and all those deaths. When Thursday learns of this testimony, she cannot forgive Landen for turning on her brother. Thursday sees this as a betrayal. Thursday breaks the engagement and moves to London. Ten years later, Thursday returns to Swindon



where she runs into Landen again. Thursday still cannot forgive Landen until Mr. Rochester encourages her to look beyond the past. Thursday returns to Landen and tells him she forgives him.

Thursday is a woman of great character. Thursday is fiercely loyal to her friends who died and to her brother. However, Thursday cannot see through her loyalty, her hurt, and her grief to see that what Landen has done is only be true to his character. Thursday eventually realizes that honesty is one of the things she always admired about Landen. However, it still feels like betrayal to make her brother out to be a villain in the massacre. Eventually, though, Thursday is able to put the past behind her. Her struggle is what makes loyalty and betrayal a theme of the novel.

Family

Thursday was once very close to her family. However, when her brother died in the Crimean War and her father disappeared with his job for the ChronoGuard, Thursday drifted away. Thursday returns home to Swindon in the course of her investigation of Hades and reconnects with her mother. Thursday and her mother share a love of the dodo bird, helping them to reconnect on several levels. At the same time, Thursday becomes reunited with her aunt and uncle. They played a major role in Thursday's childhood, taking her to Haworth House where she first met Mr. Rochester.

When Thursday arrives home, her uncle takes her to his shed to show her his newest inventions. Among these is the Prose Portal, a book that opens doors into great literature. Uncle Mycroft is kidnapped for this invention and Thursday must spend a great deal of time attempting to rescue him. Thursday is successful, reunited her aunt and uncle and destroying the Prose Portal. In the end, Thursday's family proves to be deeply important to her and become more of a major part of her life.

Style

Point of View

This novel is written in the first person point of view, but also includes sections of the third person objective point of view. The book is written similar to the Sam Spade-type detective novels popular in the early part of the twentieth century. The main character, Thursday Next, is the first person narrator. Thursday allows the reader in on her internal monologue, often talking out her theories on the crimes that take place in the plot as well as her personal feelings regarding her ex-fiance, Landen Parke-Laine. However, the reader's access to Thursday's thoughts and feelings is often hampered by a lack of the omniscient view point. At the same time, the novel occasionally is narrated by another person, someone outside of the novel, who reports on events that are important to the plot but take place outside of Thursday's point of view. This point of view is third person, but rather than taking on the omniscient view that many popular novels utilize, the narration of these sections tends to have the same arm's length quality as Thursday's narration.

The point of view of this novel works because it is fast paced and amusing. The point of view gives the reader access to Thursday Next's impressions of the investigation, but does not complicate the plot with unnecessary information. The fact that the point of view tends to be more objective than omniscient simply keeps the reader focused on the important points of the plot rather than becoming mired in the feelings of the various characters. The novel is very amusing and fast paced, and has more than enough access to the characters in order to become involved in the plot. The point of view works well in this novel and with these characters.

Setting

The novel is set in 1985 in an alternate reality. Most of the novel takes place in England, especially London and the small village of Swindon. In London, Thursday is a member of the LiteraTec team that investigates crimes involving literature. In this reality, literature is highly regarded and well respected. The common man can hear snippets of Shakespeare read on street corners by placing a nickel in a machine. Criminals take advantage of the high respect for literature and often commit crimes against it, including stealing original manuscripts of popular novels. As Thursday investigates this crime, she finds herself going back home to the small village of Swindon where she works with the small LiteraTec office there. Later, the crime takes Thursday to Wales, a new Wales that has become a country of its own and requires one to present a passport to cross its borders. Finally, there is a war waging in the Crimea between the Russians and the British, causing a great deal of death and despair for many people on either side of the conflict, including Thursday who lost her brother there.



The setting of this novel is fascinating. It is set in the reader's past, but has many advanced technologies, including the ability to time travel. Literature is of high importance and it seems that everything revolves around literature in one way or another. Even inventors center their expertise on literature. This setting is perfect for the plot of the book because the book revolves around a detective who specializes in literary crimes. The plot would be unbelievable if the author had not created such a fantastic, but easy to believe setting. Thursday's world is humorous, fascinating, and intelligent, creating the perfect backdrop for Thursday's investigation into the kidnapping of Jane Eyre.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in simple English. Thursday Next lives in England, therefore there are some slang words that might be new to American readers. However, most of the language is somewhat formal, reflecting the literature that plays such a large part in the plot of the novel. There are some foreign phrases in the novel, some of which are not explained to the reader. However, these phrases are few and far between, causing little disruption to the overall flow of the novel.

The language of the novel is appropriate to the plot because it uses a somewhat formal language that is common to the literature discussed in the novel. However, the language is not so formal that it might scare away a less educated or experienced reader. The novel's language flows well with the plot and allows the fast paced aspect of the plot to continue unimpeded. Overall, the language only serves to enhance the plot of the novel and to leave the reader with a satisfying grasp of the themes and characters.

Structure

The novel is divided into thirty-six chapters. Each chapter has a title that refers to a character or event that takes place in the chapter. The chapters range in size from short to long, with each covering a specific number of scenes or events that allow the plot to continue in a linear fashion. The novel is told with both exposition and dialogue, including great snippets of internal dialogue on the part of the main character, Thursday Next.

The novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Thursday Next in the hunt for Acheron Hades, a criminal who has stolen several original manuscripts of much beloved novels and plans to take characters from their pages, thus changing the plots forever. As Thursday tracks this criminal, she returns to her hometown where she finds herself pulled into the lives of both her family and her ex-fiancé, Landen Parke-Laine. The subplots focus on Thursday's relationship with her family members as well as her struggle to forgive Landen for what she sees as a betrayal against her brother's memory. The subplots come to a satisfying conclusion along with the main plot.



Quotes

"My father had a face that could stop a clock. I don't mean that he was ugly or anything; it was a phrase the ChronoGuard used to describe someone who had the power to reduce time to an ultraslow trickle." Chap. 1, p. 1

"My pager had delivered a disconcerting message; the unstealable had just been stolen."
Chap. 2, p. 11

"Buckett nodded. His conversation had pretty much dried up." Chap. 4, p. 41

"The SO-1 officials shuffled slightly as I concluded my story. They swapped looks, but I had no interest in whether they believed me or not. Hades had left me for dead but my time wasn't yet up. The copy of Jane Eyre that Tamworth had given me had saved my life." Chap. 5, p. 55

"Ordinarily I would not have believed that Rochester could have torn himself from the pages of Jane Eyre and come to my aid that night; such a thing is, of course, quite impossible. I might have dismissed the whole thing as a ludicrously complicated prank had it not been for one thing: Edward Rochester and I had met once before..." Chap. 5, p. 62

"From subsequent readings of the book I was later to realize that the dog Pilot had never had the opportunity to fetch a stick, his appearances in the book being all too few, so he was obviously keen to take the opportunity when it presented itself. He must have known, almost instinctively, that the little girl who had momentarily appeared at the bottom of page eighty-one was unfettered by the rigidity of the narrative." Chap. 6, p. 67

"They may have rebuilt England after the Second War, they may have reestablished the economy. But sooner or later the renewed nation had to stand on its own and Goliath was seen now as less of a benevolent uncle than a despotic stepfather." Chap. 7, p. 76

"The train may have been faster, but like many people I love to fly by gasbag."
Chapter 8, Airship to Swindon, pg. 77

"Dr. Muller read a paperback of Martin Chuzzlewit to check Hobbes's progress, Felix kept an eye on Mycroft, and Delamare looked at something sticky he had found inside his ear." Chap. 15, p. 160



"I hugged him on an impulse. It seemed the right thing to do. He returned it gratefully; I didn't expect that he had touched another human for a while. He had a musty smell about him—but it wasn't unpleasant; it was like damp earth after a spring rain shower." Chap. 17, p. 177

"I had made a mistake. Jane Eyre was written in the first-person narrative. Whatever was being read by Bowden and Mycroft back home was what Jane was experiencing—anything that happened to us didn't appear in the book and never would. I hadn't thought of this." Chap. 33, p. 339

"I made it back to Ferndean and Rochester just before Jane did. I met Rochester in the dining room and told him the news; how I had found her at the Riverses' house, gone to her window and barked: 'Jane, Jane, Jane!' in a hoarse whisper the way Rochester did. It wasn't a good impersonation but it did the trick. I saw Jane start to fluster and pack almost immediately." Chap. 34, p. 347



Topics for Discussion

Who is Thursday Next? What is unusual about her name? What does Thursday do for a living? How does Thursday do this? What crime takes place in the opening pages of the novel? Why does Thursday feel somewhat responsible for this crime? What makes this crime personal to Thursday? Who does Thursday believe is responsible for this crime? Why? What does Thursday agree to do to solve the crime?

What is SpecOps? Which department of SpecOps is Thursday in? What is the difference between the different divisions of SpecOps? Which departments are the important ones? Which are the least important ones? Where does Thursday's division rest in this scale? Why is Thursday transferred to SO-5? How long is this transfer intended to be? Why?

Who is Acheron Hades? Why is SO-5 looking for him? How does Thursday know what Hades looks like? What was their relationship? What proposal did Hades make to Thursday? Why did she turn him down? When does Thursday see Hades? What does she do about it? What is the outcome of this action? Is Thursday blamed for this outcome?

Who is Landen Parke-Laine? What is his connection to Thursday? Why did Parke-Laine testify against Thursday's brother? How did Thursday react to this testimony? Why does Parke-Laine come to see Thursday when she returns to Swindon? What does he hope to learn from Thursday? Does Thursday give the response Parke-Laine was looking for? What does he do next? How does Thursday react to this?

What role does the Crimean War play in the novel? Why is it introduced? How did it affect Thursday's life? How did it prepare her for her current job? How did it impact her love life? How has Thursday dealt with that? What, in reality, compares to this war in the Crimea? How does it compare? How is it different?

Discuss Jane Eyre. Who is Jane Eyre? Who is Mr. Rochester? Why are they characters in this novel? What kind of life do they live? How are their lives different from Thursday's? What do they think of these differences? Is Rochester happy with his situation? Why is Jane Eyre kidnapped from the novel? What happens to the novel? Why? How does Thursday live in this novel for months at a time? Why? What is the intended result? What is the actual result?

What is the ChronoGuard? Why does her father pop in and out of her life? How does he stop time? Is this a common ability in Thursday's world? Why or why not? What is the LiteraTec? What do they do? What is Thursday's role in this organization? What might their equivalent be in reality? What would the reader's world be like if literature was as important in reality as in this novel? Should literature be more important in the real world? Why or why not?