

Thursday Next in Lost in a Good Book: A Novel Study Guide

Thursday Next in Lost in a Good Book: A Novel by Jasper Fforde

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Plot Summary

Lost in a Good Book is one in the series of Thursday Next novels by Jasper Fforde. Thursday Next is employed by Literary Detectives in Swindon. She appeared on a television talk show and became somewhat of a celebrity with many people interested in her. The Adrian Lush Show wanted to question her about the Jane Eyre "rebookment." Her coworker, Cordelia Flakk had asked her to do the interview, telling her that her request for a transfer would be given serious consideration after the completion of the interview.

Thursday Next becomes a celebrity because of her role in the Jane Eyre affair. In the course of her role in the assignment, she kills the evil Acheron Hades which changed the ending of the novel. Her television interview is deeply censored by Goliath people or the company that she works for. Goliath is a company that employs eight million people and affects the lives of everyone in this fantasy novel.

Recently married to Landen Park-Laine, Thursday learns that she is pregnant. She is also caught up in a series of coincidences that result in three attempts on her life. Her father, an experienced time traveler, rescues her at various times. Landen, a writer, tells her that she does not have to work. He is concerned about her safety. When Landen fails to meet Thursday at a café, she finds that he has been eradicated by Lavoisier and Schitt-Hawse.

In this world of fantasy, characters travel through novels. Her Uncle Mycroft has invented a prose portal that allows interlopers to enter novels but he retired and disappeared with it. Jack Schitt, the half-brother of Schitt-Hawse is stuck in Poe's 'The Raven.' They have eradicated Landen to force Thursday into rescuing Jack Schitt. Thursday however does not know how to enter a novel without the assistance of Uncle Mycroft and the prose portal but she has to find a way in order to rescue her husband.

She enters the strange world of Jurisfiction by using a book and information provided by Mrs. Nakajima, who was an experienced book-jumper. Thursday is assigned as an apprentice to Miss Havisham, a character from Charles Dickens Great Expectations. She has to help Miss Havisham on various assignments while trying to help her father save the world which is to be destroyed on December 12 by a mysterious pink slime which turns out to be strawberry Dream Topping. She learns enough from Miss Havisham to rescue Jack Schitt but Goliath refuses to honor its part of the agreement. She now needs a place to hide until the birth of her baby.

The reader will enjoy the creativity of Jasper Fford in this fantasy novel. It is quick and easy reading and holds the reader's interest.



Chapter 1-2

Chapter 1-2 Summary

Lost in a Good Book is one in the series of Thursday Next novels by Jasper Fforde. Thursday Next is employed by Literary Detectives in Swindon. She appeared on a television talk show and became somewhat of a celebrity with many people interested in her. The Adrian Lush Show wanted to question her about the Jane Eyre "rebookment." Her coworker, Cordelia Flakk had asked her to do the interview, telling her that her request for a transfer would be given serious consideration after the completion of the interview.

As she was preparing for the show, Commander Braxton Hicks appeared. He is Thursday's divisional chief and introduces her to Colonel Rabone and Mr. Chesterman of the Bronte Federation. Also present is Captain Marat. They are all there to observe the interview.

She meets Adrian Lush and is told she can say whatever she wants in the interview but she must follow the guidelines of the Goliath Corporation which owns Literary Detectives and the network. They discussed what topics should not be mentioned, including saying that the new ending of Jane Eyre is an improvement over the original. Due to the censorship of the company, Thursday and Lush had problems finding a topic they could discuss.

Chapter Two explains the purpose of the Special Operations Network and the Literary Detectives. Thursday is not happy with the airing of the show, which she watches some of before leaving for work at Swindon headquarters of Special Ops. She describes the show as a disaster to Cordelia who tells her she did a good job. Cordelia wants her to do more interviews, but she does not want to. The journalists are waiting for her in the canteen.

While Thursday is talking to Cordelia, a voice in her head is talking to her, saying that he is the defense attorney assigned to her case. He says his name is Akrid Snell. Her hearing is next Thursday and he is communicating with her through footnotes. Thursday and her co-worker Borden figure that it is the effect of stress.

While they are talking, Victor Analogy, the Swindon LiteraTechs, asks them to investigate the finding of Cardenio. Someone has been trying to forge and sell the piece.

Chapter 1-2 Analysis

The Literary Detectives rewrite books. They enter the book through the use of a prose portal which was invented by the uncle of Thursday Next. When Thursday wants to talk about this at her interview with Adrian Lush, a member of the Goliath staff tells her not



to, telling that it isn't something they want people to think about. The purpose of the Goliath people is to control the content of her interview, something she doesn't like, especially when they tell her that she is there as a Special Ops agent, not there to tell the truth.

While Thursday is talking to Cordelia, she hears a voice in her head telling her that he is her defense attorney, Akrid Snell. Her case will be presented to a magistrate. Thursday knows nothing about a case against her or what charges have been brought. When she mentions it to her coworker Bowden, they both agree that the voices are due to the stress of her job.



Chapters 3-4

Chapters 3-4 Summary

Bowden and Thursday are assigned to investigate attempts to forge Cardenio. They do to talk to Mrs. Hathaway who filed the claim. She is a serious fan of Shakespeare. They look at the copy of Cardenio she has recently purchased and tell her that they think it is a forgery.

On the way out, Thursday point out a black Pontiac that she spotted outside the Special Ops building. The car follows them as they drive. They find that the two men in the car are from Goliath's SO-5 division, search and containment. The two agents introduce themselves as Phodder and Kannon. They tell Thursday that her name has been mentioned in some inquiries and to contact them if anything unusual happens.

Bowden and Next drive to Vole Towers to interview Lord Volescamper, a friend of Braxton's. They examine his copy of Cardenio. They decide to test some of the text in the Verse Meter Analysis. They both know that Cardinio has been missing for more than four hundred years.

After leaving Vole Towers, the car has a double-blowout. They try to call Special Ops and find their wireless is dead. Thursday finds a Skyrail ticket in a phone booth. Thursday, feeling that something is going to happen, decides to ride the shuttle alone, since there is only one ticket.

In Chapter Four, Thursday thinks that there is a reason for what has happened. It was too much to just be coincidence. Thursday boards the Skyrail. She talks to some of the passengers. The Skyrail does not make any of the scheduled stops so Thursday asks the driver, a Neanderthal, why. The Neanderthal, the result of genetic sequencing experiments, said they want to be a protected species. Thursday alerts Special Ops of the situation. All of the women on the train are named Irma Cohen. A negotiator from Special Ops calls Thursday and she relays the demands of Kaylieu, the driver. The negotiator, Dave Thuntress, tells Thursday that they will divert the train to Cricklade where the agents will take Kaylieu.

As the Skyrail approached the Cricklade station, power to the train goes out. Thursday tries to keep the driver from being killed. She hears a popping sound and then everything goes dark as she falls to the ground.

Chapters 3-4 Analysis

While Bowden and Next are investigating the Cardenio case, Thursday notices that they are being followed by a black Pontiac. She finds out that they are Special Ops investigators. When she asks why they are pursuing her, they tell her that her name has been mentioned in several inquiries and to contact them if anything unusual occurs. She



does not mention the voice of Akrid Snell saying he was her defense attorney for a case she knows nothing about.

Strange things continue to happen. Two tires blow out of the car and their wireless is dead so they cannot call Special Ops. In a nearby phone booth is a ticket for the Skyrail shuttle, which Thursday decides to ride alone. She doesn't know if someone what to meet her or what, but she feels that something is going to happen. She is brave enough to follow the trail.

Thursday's adventure continues on the Skyrail which is hijacked by the driver who is protesting the treatment of Neanderthals. In addition to this, all the women on the train are named Irma Cohen. This is too much coincidence for Thursday. While trying to keep the authorities from shooting the Neanderthal, she collapses, after hearing a sharp popping sound. Are the double blowouts, dead wireless and hijacked train all part of some plot? Thursday has the feeling that she is going to become involved in something.



Chapters 5 and 4a

Chapters 5 and 4a Summary

Thursday awakens on the Marlborough Downs. She sees her father standing by a Goliath Corporation billboard and tells him that she thinks she has been shot by a Special Ops marksman. They talk about the number of Shakespearean plays since her father had been in the same profession as she was. He tells her that on December 12th, all human life will turn to a pink slime such as that which he has in a specimen bag. A cyclist has been hit by a motorist near where they are standing. Her father feels the cyclist is the key to saving the human race.

Thursday's father says they have to save the cyclist. He has the ability to move through time and change the outcome of events. He goes back in time replays the event, with the motorist stopping to give a ride to Thursday. When they round the curve, he swerves to avoid the cyclist. Thursday then returns to a time right after the double blowout. She tells Bowden that she will ride the Skyrail because there is a Neanderthal in trouble. This time she knows what will happen.

Chapter Four (a) is a rewritten version of Chapter Four. Thursday thinks of her father telling her to ignore coincidences. This time when Thursday boards the Skyrail, she pulls the emergency lever and handcuffs the driver.

Later that afternoon, she is explaining her actions to Victor. She had been arrested for her actions on the train. She claims that she was set up to be killed. She explains how her father saved her. Victor tells her not to discuss the alternative future when she appears before the magistrate on Thursday.

Thursday learns from Bowden that the Verse Meter Analysis tests indicate that there is a ninety four percent chance of Shakespeare being the author of Cardenio. If that is true, it will be the biggest literary event ever.

Bowden suggests that an old enemy might be trying to execute an act of revenge against Thursday. When Thursday tries to contact Phodder and Kannon, she finds that they have both been killed in a freak accident. She gives Bowden the bag of pick slime to have it analyzed.

Chapters 5 and 4a Analysis

Thursday awakens in Marlborough Downs and sees her father. He apparently has the ability to travel back and forth in time and can place her at different points in time. He can also change the outcome of events. He replays the event of the cyclist so the driver avoids hitting the cyclist. Thursday asks him to place her in time thirty minutes before the Cricklade station shooting. When she boards the Skyrail this time, she knows what is going to happen, or so she thinks.



Chapter Four (a) is a rewritten version of Chapter Four in which Thursday tries to prevent her own death by handcuffing the Skyrail driver before he can skyjack the train. She is arrested for her actions. It does not work out the way that she thought it would. Thursday is warned by Victor that they will have to be to the magistrate to clear her. She wants to know who set her up.



Chapters 6-7

Chapters 6-7 Summary

Thursday arrives home to tell Landen that she is pregnant. She tells Landen about her day. They attend her uncle's retirement party that night. Thursday learns that a Thursday Next line of fashions is evolving from her appearance on the Adrian Lush Show. They talk to Thursday's brother, Joff, and mother, Wednesday. Her uncle Mycroft was testing a new invention, a car driver ejection system. He shows Thursday some of the inventions and gadgets that he has.

Thursday tells her uncle about the coincidences of seven Irma Cohens on the Skyrail with one of them working on a crossword puzzle with the words meddlesome, Thursday and goodbye right before someone tried to kill her. Uncle Mycroft explains that coincidences occur when there is a decline in entropy.

In Chapter Seven, Thursday and Landen are home after the party. They discuss the events of the day. Landen tells her that she does not have to work. Their discussion is interrupted by a news reporter. Thursday tells him that interviews have to be cleared through Cordelia Flakk.

Three men from Goliath, Schitt, Chalk and Cheese, appear to talk to Thursday. Thursday is threatened when she proves to be uncooperative. After the men leave, Thursday and Landen wonder how the men knew where their picnic site was.

Snell contacts Thursday, again through footnotes, and tells her not to discuss the case. Landen watches as Thursday has the conversation. When old friends start appearing, Thursday becomes nervous about the coincidences and shakes the jar that Uncle Mycroft gave her. It indicates that the entropy is falling. All of the names of the friends are different ways of saying goodbye. Thursday has everyone move away from the picnic spot and they watch as a car falls from a plane and lands on the spot. She shakes the jar again and the contents indicate that the danger has passed.

Thursday thinks that Hades, one of the characters she killed, is trying to kill her.

Chapters 6-7 Analysis

This section introduces the reader to members of Thursday's family as they all attend the party for Uncle Mycroft's retirement. Thursday tells Uncle Mycroft about the attempt on her life and about the coincidences on the Skyrail. Given the futuristic high tech age in which they live, Mycroft explains coincidence in terms of physics. Coincidence, according to Mycroft, occurs when there is a drop in the level of entropy. Thursday listens, but does not question his explanation.

Goliath is a huge corporation with more than eight million employees. It has more than six thousand subsidiaries and controls many aspects of people's lives, which some people, like Thursday, resent. Goliath is used to getting what it wants and when Thursday is not cooperative, she is threatened with becoming a victim of corporate impatience.

Fforde is very creative in Snell's conversations with Thursday. The contexts of their conversations, the voice in Thursday's head, are given by footnotes.

Uncle Mycroft had given Thursday a jar filled with lentils and rice in a fluid that is used to measure entropy. The gadget is called an entroposcope and Thursday is learning to use it to identify dangerous situations.



Chapters 8 - 10

Chapters 8 - 10 Summary

When Thursday walks in the Special Ops building, she is met by Agents Walken and Dedmen of SO-5. Since Phodder and Kannon died before filing a report, the men want to know what they were working on. They had found her name and the name of Hades written on fragments of paper. She tells them about the odds things that have been happening.

In the lobby, Thursday became dizzy and is helped by a Neanderthal named Stiggins. He tells her that they will help her with her case. They go to an interview room to talk. When the hearing begins, Thursday finds it has nothing to do with hitting the Skyrail operator. It has to do with her father who had left Special Ops many years earlier. They want to know if he moved her to a different place her in time. They tell her that they have somehow lost communications past December 12. She learns that the Skyrail hijacking occurred that morning and the Kaylieu was dead. The agents threaten to stick Thursday in a time loop if she does not tell them about her father. Stiggins clears up the situation for her.

After the meeting Landen fails to meet her at the café so she goes home.

In Chapter Nine, Thursday is worried about Landen missing their meeting. She notices the curtains and other things are different in their house and the door is opened by an elderly man. Landen's mother walks up behind her but doesn't recognize her. Thursday realizes the man is Landen's father who died when Landen was two.

As Thursday talks to them, she realizes that Landen has been eradicated. The old man says that Landen was buried at the Swindon Municipal Cemetery at the age of two. Thursday talks to them about Landen for a few minutes and then leaves.

She sees Schitt-Hawse, Chalk and Cheese and remembers their threat. They want Jack-Schitt released from the book he is stuck in in exchange for Landen.

In Chapter Ten, Thursday decides her first priority is to find a way to enter 'The Raven' and release Jack Schitt. She stops at the doctor's office, gets confirmation of her pregnancy and the address of her apartment. She calls Bowden and explains the eradication of Landen. Bowden understands the situation and says he will do what he can to help her. He thinks she has a boyfriend names Miles Hawke.

Chapters 8 - 10 Analysis

Thursday is caught in a strange situation. She seems to be more the object of investigation than to be investigating. She finds that the hearing has nothing to do with the Skyrail operator. The SO-1 agents want to know about her father and if he replaced



her in time. The Skyrail operator hijacking incident occurred the day after she was on the Skyrail. They also cannot make any contact in time after December 12. This is the day that the world would end according to her father, but she does not tell them that. She refuses to tell them anything.

Thursday learns that Landen has been eradicated by the Goliath team of Schitt-Hawse, Chalk and Cheese. They will not free him unless she gets Jack Schitt released from 'The Raven'. This is almost an impossible task but Thursday knows that she has to find a way for Landen's sake. Bowden says he will help her as much as he can when he hears about the eradication. He knows that these things happen at Goliath.



Chapters 11-13

Chapters 11-13 Summary

Thursday meets Spike Stoker of SO-17 while she is in the park. She says that she was suspended by Flanker. She also tells him about her husband being eradicated. Spike says they did that to his uncle but left memories with his aunt. She files a complaint and has him reactualized.

Thursday goes to visit Granny Next. They play ping-pong as they talk. Thursday tells her about Landen being sideslipped. Granny tells her to be careful about helping them. They only care about Jack Schitt and not her or Landen. Gran does not know how she can enter 'The Raven' without Uncle Mycroft and the prose portal. She tells Thursday to try to bookjump. Mrs. Nakajimi was able to do that and Granny recommends that Thursday try to find her.

In Chapter Twelve, Thursday's landlord at the apartment wants three months rent in advance because of her pet dodo, Pickwick. He then says he will give her four months free rent if he can have the bird. When she refuses, he gives her two days to pay her bill.

Miles Hawke calls her and she tells him she is busy. She begins to read Robinson Crusoe, hoping to bookjump. Falling asleep, she has a dream in which she meets Landen on an island. The island disappears and they are in a tearoom in Winchester. She tells him that she is trying to find Mrs. Nakajimi. She looks up and sees Acheron Hades, a man she killed on a case. He joins them for tea. Both men exist in her memories. The tearoom disappears and Landen and Thursday are in Crimea where they first kissed.

Chapter Thirteen begins with Thursday waking up. She tells her pet dodo that she is going to Osaka for a few days and then looks around the room. She sees a coconut and sand on the floor that means she might have entered Robinson Crusoe.

Chapters 11-13 Analysis

Thursday is adjusting to her situation and beginning to cope with it. She decides her first priority has to be to rescue Jack Schitt and she has to find a way to enter 'The Raven' without the use of the prose portal, since Uncle Mycroft is not around to help her. Her grandmother reminds her of a way called bookjump. The only person that Thursday knows who is familiar with this technique is a Mrs. Nakajimi and she plans on going to Osaka to try to find her.

Thursday tries to figure out how to enter a book by reading Robinson Crusoe. After waking up from a dream, she finds a coconut and sand on the floor of her room. She

might be making some progress and be able to save her husband whom she met in her dream, along with Acheron Hades, the man she killed in one of her cases.



Chapters 14-16

Chapters 14-16 Summary

Thursday learns from Bowden that it is becoming known that Volescamper's Cardenio manuscript is genuine. He also tells her that she has been cleared of any wrongdoing on the Skyrail case. She can't report for work now because she is going to Osaka.

Thursday travels to Osaka via Gravitube. At the terminal she buys a ticket to Deep Drop to Sydney. A man sits next to her and introduces himself as Akrid Snell. He says that he is fictional from a crime series of books. Thursday is charged with a fiction infraction for changing the ending of Jane Eyre. The hearing is the next morning. They separate and she goes on to Osaka.

In Chapter Fifteen, after phoning several hundred Nakajima's from the phone book, she went out and walked around. A lot of people wearing the same tee-shirt were all walking in the same direction. Her entroposcope indicated that entropy was falling. She decides not to run from the coincidences and notices an old man seated near the coincidental epicenter. He is a fortune teller and is struck by lightning just as she decides to talk to him.

Thursday goes to the Nakahima apartment and finds it empty with four books on the table. The top book, which is labeled Jurisdiction, will not open and neither will the second. The third book has her name on it. There is a note from Mrs. Nakajima which she reads telling her that Schitt-Hawse, Chalk, and Cheese are outside in the hall. She begins reading the books as they break in. Thursday entered the book before they could reach her.

In Chapter Sixteen, Thursday meets a talking cat while in the book's library. He tells her the size of the library and that it contains every book that has been written or will be written. The cat tells her that she is in Jurisdiction and that Miss Havisham will help with traveling through books.

The cat librarian tells her not to try to enter 'The Raven'. People can be woven into the story in the works of certain authors and cannot get out. He tells her how to find Miss Havisham in Great Expectations.

Chapters 14-16 Analysis

Thursday finally meets Akrid Snell on the Gravitube. He says he only exists in fiction and that Thursday is charged with a fiction infraction for altering the ending of Jane Eyre. The hearing is the next morning and the magistrate is the judge from Kafka's 'The Trial'. Snell tells Thursday to enter through Chapter Two and is gone before she can ask how. Thursday's problem is that she has to enter 'The Raven' to get Jack Schitt out to

save Landen, and she doesn't know how. If she can enter 'The Trial,' she will be able to enter 'The Raven.'

Thursday has another experience with coincidence in Osaka. Instead of running from it, she decides to see if she can make it work for her, and she does. She finds the Nakajimi apartment and successfully enters a book Mrs. Nakajimi left for her, just as Schitt-Hawse, Chak, and Cheese break in. It dawns on her that Goliath might be more interested in finding a novel entry system than they are in rescuing Jack Schitt or Landen. She never really considered the motives of Goliath.



Chapters 17-19

Chapters 17-19 Summary

From Great Expectations, Thursday arrives in a room where a wedding feast had been. Thursday introduces herself. Miss Havisham takes Thursday through the library and to 'The Trial' for her hearing.

Thursday's trial takes place in Chapter Eighteen. She finds Snell in the room along with a man who had presented himself to her as a reporter and tricked her into saying she had changed the end of Jane Eyre. Since Thursday was somewhat familiar with Kafka, she knew how to handle the judge. The prosecutor ends up being arrested for not knowing that Thursday had worked as a housepainter and that green was the most popular color for painting houses at the time. The judge then granted a postponement because there was no prosecutor.

In Chapter Nineteen, Thursday is back in the care of Miss Havisham, who wants to go to a book sale. Thursday must figure out how to get them to the book sale. She uses the Jurisdiction book to take them to her apartment. When questioned by Miss Havisham, Thursday does not tell her the truth about her reasons for learning bookjump.

Miss Havisham insists on driving Thursday's Porsche. Her reckless driving has the police after them. At the book sale, Thursday is separated from Miss Havisham but finds the Red Queen. She introduces herself. They find Miss Havisham in Fiction. Miss Havisham shoots at them with a small pistol and disappears. They find her. She wants a set of Daphne Farquitt novels. When Thursday refuses to fight for them, Miss Havisham tells her that her apprenticeship has ended. Thursday beats the Red Queen to the boxed set and returns to Miss Havisham with the books.

Outside they meet the police officers who are towing Thursday's car. Miss Havisham disappears with a bookjump. Thursday's is arrested.

Chapters 17-19 Analysis

Thursday meets Miss Havisham, who is to be her teacher in Jurisdiction. The characters move around by entering different books. She takes Thursday through the library to Kafka's 'The Trial' where Thursday's hearing takes place. Since Thursday is familiar with the works of Kafka, she knows how to handle the judge and doesn't panic. They get the postponement that Snell wants. Thursday seems to be unconcerned with the situation.

Miss Havisham says she wants to go to a book sale and Thursday has to figure out how to get there. This is Miss Havisham's way of teaching her bookjumping. After a series of driving violations, Miss Havisham escapes the police by bookjumping. Thursday, whose car is being towed, isn't experienced enough to do this and is arrested.



Chapters 20-22

Chapters 20-22 Summary

After receiving a citation from the police, Thursday goes to her office and tells Bowden that she thinks she has been entering novels. He had the pink specimen analyzed and there is a report of the substances it contains, but it means nothing to either of them.

Thursday has to take the report about Cardenio to Lord Volescamper. While she is there, she learns he is giving the play to the Whig Party and Yorrick Kaine. This is confirmed by both Kaine and Volescamper at a press conference.

In Chapter Twenty One, Thursday retrieves her car, goes home and then on to her brother Joff's art exhibition. Cordelia is there and introduces her to different people. Harold Flex, who is in the movie industry, wants to make a movie based on Thursday's life. Her mother, a member of the Women's Federation, is handing out canapés. She tells her mother that Landen has been eradicated. Her mother understands because of her father's eradication.

As Thursday is talking to Gran, two agents appear who are looking for her. She learns that Walken and Dedmen have been reassigned, which means they are dead. She looks over the documents they have with them. The men have orders to stay with her. She tells them they are being used as bait.

In Chapter Twenty-Two, Thursday's father arrives the next morning. He says the world will still end next week. He looks at the forensic report on the pink slime and doesn't understand it either. Thursday says that she thinks his giving her the pink slime was the key event. When she tells about the eradication of Landen and the blackmail by Goliath, he tells her that no one is really gone unless they are forgotten. He says that he will help her with Landen.

They time travel to Henley-on-Thames in November 1946. This is where Landen's car accident occurred. They are six months earlier than the accident. They accelerate through time fast enough so they won't be seen. When they arrive at the time of the accident, Lavoisier and the ChronoGuard are there. The Guard interfere in the accident so the baby Landen isn't rescued. Lavoisier tells Thursday's father that if he turns himself in, her husband will be returned. Thursday and her father escape into time and Lavoisier follows them. When they go beyond December 12, 1985, everything is covered with pink slime. They keep going through time and the pink slime disappeared. They return to her apartment and he tells her that they will find a way to rescue Landen.

Chapters 20-22 Analysis

There are two different SO officers assigned to Thursday. Apparently Dedmen and Walken are dead. This means that there are four agents dead in one week and nobody



knows the specifics of the case they are working on. They know that it involves a woman shopping with a stolen credit card. Each time there was a mishap with the documents pertaining to the case. Thursday tells agents Blake and Slorter that they are being set up and used as bait. She doesn't know what the case is about either.

Thursday's father is an experienced time traveler and they travel to the time of Landen's childhood accident but they are thwarted by Lavoisier and the ChronoGuard. Lavoisier wants Thursday's father to turn himself in. Colonel Next wants Lavoisier's corruption exposed. Colonel Next tells Thursday that they will find a way to rescue Landen.



Chapters 23-24

Chapters 23-24 Summary

Thursday patrols with Spike to earn some extra money. A supreme evil being or SEB was let loose from his jar. Spike is trying to catch him. The chill on their necks means that the SEB is in the area. Spike decides the SEB spirit is in his temple and has to be expelled. He tells Thursday to kill him and then vacuum the spirit with the special vacuum cleaner he has. She refuses. They hear noises outside the church. He had placed a dud-bullet in her gun and told her he was trying to get the SEB to appear. Thursday shoots Spike. The bullet grazes him but the SEB exits Spike's head. Spike uses the vacuum and traps the spirit in a jar. Thursday earned enough to pay her landlord.

In Chapter Twenty-Four, Thursday has her performance review. The board is chaired by Braxton Hicks. He commends her for the work on Jane Eyre and all the publicity work she has been doing. Hicks rates her performance for the past two weeks as not satisfactory. He gives her a grade of 'F.'

On the way out, Flanker mentions that they know she was moonlighting the night before and they want to know where her father is. She complains about Lavoisier eradicating Landen. When she returns to her office, she discusses the situation with Bowden. He tells her to consult one of the stressperts especially about the voices. Just as she tells him that the voices will never happen again, Miss Havisham contacts her that way. She has to bookjump to meet Miss Havisham and goes into Sense and Sensibility.

Chapters 23-24 Analysis

Since Thursday needed money to pay her landlord, she does patrol work with Spike one night. The next day her moonlighting is mentioned by one of her superiors.

Thursday receives a bad performance review. Instead of her usual 'A,' she receives an 'F.' She thinks that Braxton is under pressure from the higher ups, even though she has been acting strangely since Landen's eradication. Bowden tells her that he checked the records and her father is dead and Landen died as a baby. He suggests that she see a stresspert. She is losing the only support that she has enjoyed among her coworkers.



Chapters 25-26

Chapters 25-26 Summary

Thursday goes to Norland Park in *Sense and Sensibility* to meet Miss Havisham. This is where the Jurisdiction offices are and she sees Akrid Snell when she enters the ballroom. Miss Havisham introduces her to Mrs. John Dashwood, the owner of Norland Park. The Red Queen arrives and she and Miss Havisham have an angry confrontation which ends when the Jurisdiction session begins. Thursday is introduced as Miss Havisham's apprentice. The only one who objects to her is Harris Tweed. They discuss interlopers and assign people to catch them. Seems that Uncle Mycroft is one of the interlopers. Poe is closed to booksploring. They discuss the problems with the boojums and bawdlerizers.

In Chapter Twenty-Six, Thursday talks to some of the characters after the session ends. She learns about the Well of Lost Plots and the Word Womb. Miss Havisham allows Thursday to try out some of the technology gadgets that they have and tells her that here isn't much expected of her on her first assignment. She will mostly just observe.

They go to a counter to obtain the supplies they need for their assignment. They then sign the outings book and then secure a copy of *Great Expectations*, which they enter at the beginning. From there, they go back to the pre-book story, with Miss Havisham showing Thursday how. They close the bloophole by fastening a boat's rope to a projectile ring. Thursday then returns to her home.

Chapters 25-26 Analysis

Thursday attends her first Jurisdiction session as the apprentice of Miss Havisham. She is learning how Jurisdiction works and the things that they do. They assign several characters to catch interlopers, one of whom is her uncle Mycroft. She also receives her first assignment with Miss Havisham - to close a bloophole in *Great Expectations*. For the most part, Thursday just watches and listens during the session. She is learning how things work.

Thursday is learning how to enter and move around in books. That is the purpose of her apprenticeship with Miss Havisham, who still does not know of Thursday's real purpose. At some point, Thursday will have to enter 'The Raven' to release Jack Schitt, but she does not know how she will do it. Entering the works of Poe is unauthorized by Jurisdiction but that is her only way of rescuing Landen.



Chapters 27-28

Chapters 27-28 Summary

Agents Lamme and Slorter are still following Thursday, the agents following them had died of carbon monoxide poisoning. It is three days to the end of the world. She thinks of Landen and talks to him for a while, telling him of her work. He doesn't want her to risk her safety or the baby's and says he is happy existing in her memories.

Landen reviews the coincidences and the attempts on her life with her, looking for a common denominator. They find a woman wearing red shoes at all three incidences. She also seems to be the woman the dead agents were following. Thursday thinks that she may be the sister of Acheron Hades. The she awakens from her dream.

Joff comes to pick up Miles' clothing. He tells her that they use her apartment. Now she knows that the baby is Landen's and calls Schitt-Hawse to tell him she will enter 'The Raven.'

In Chapter Twenty Eight, Thursday tells Agents Lamme and Slorter about Aornis Hades, sister of Acheron. They arrest her for possessing illegal cheese. Thursday escapes from them to the waiting car of Schitt-Hawse. They take her to the Goliath Research and Development Facility at Aldermaston. Lavoisier is at the facility. Thursday wants a guarantee that they will reactualize her husband, she wants her Jurisficion travelbook returned, and she wants a signed confession that Lavoisier eradicated Landen. They don't agree to the confession.

Thursday enters 'The Raven' and finds Jack Schitt and return to the Research Facility with him. The men won't reactualize Landen until she does some other work for them. Thursday realizes that she is trapped and that she should have followed Landen's advice. They will not let her out of the Research and Development Facility alive.

Chapters 27-28 Analysis

Landen still exists in Thursday's memories and dreams and tells her that he doesn't want her to endanger herself or the baby by entering 'The Raven', but when Joff tells her that he and Miles use her apartment for their meetings, she knows for sure that the baby is Landen's and that it is possible for him to be rescued. She tells Schitt-Hawse that she will enter 'The Raven.'

Landen was concerned about the attempts on Thursday's life and was investigating what he could in her memories. He finds a woman in red shoes present at all three incidents. She is also the woman that the dead agent had been following. Thursday believes her to the sister of Acheron Hades.



Even though Schitt-Hawse and Lavoisier don't agree to all of Thursday's conditions, she enters 'The Raven' and brings Jack Schitt out. They will not allow her to leave the research facility and say they plan on holding her for the rest of her life because they can use her skills. Even if they do reactivate Landen, she will never see him. Thursday now wishes she had listened to Landen because she is not trapped.



Chapters 29-30

Chapters 29-30 Summary

Thursday is rescued by Miss Havisham. While locked in the vault, Thursday thinks of Landen, Miss Havisham, the baby, and her situation. There were no books that would help her escape. Miss Havisham arrives and they escape by reading the washing instruction in Thursday's trousers.

Miss Havisham tells Thursday that Volescamper's copy of Cardenio is a Great Library copy. From the washing label, they went to the instructions on Thursday's washing machine, and from there to the Great Library. Back at Great Expectations, Thursday tells Miss Havisham the whole story.

In Chapter Thirty, Thursday tells Harris Tweed the story of her rescue. He says that Miss Havisham took a big risk in jumping into something of less than one hundred words. They then discuss the Cardenio play. They bookjump to Volescamper's library and a safecracking team arrives. As they are working on the safe, Kaine and Volescamper arrive. A loud crunching sound indicates the arrival of the Questing Beast. This tells the group that either Kaine or Volescamper is fictional and they find that it is Kaine. Kaine and the Questing Beast disappear. The play is retrieved and Thursday returns to her apartment.

Chapters 29-30 Analysis

Thursday, who is in an impossible situation in the Goliath vault, is rescued by Miss Havisham, who needs her help in retrieving the Volescamper play, Cardenio. According to Miss Havisham, the book was stolen from the Great Library. Thursday finally tells Miss Havisham the whole story about her situation. Things might have been different if she had done that at the beginning.

Thursday helps the team recover the Great Library's copy of Cardenio and she returns to the apartment. She knows that Landen hasn't been reactualized because she still has an apartment. She also knows that teams from Goliath are looking for her and sleeps under the bed to avoid them. She still has not found a way to rescue Landen.



Chapters 31-32

Chapters 31-32 Summary

The next morning, Thursday spots two surveillance cars outside her apartment. The televised new contains a censored story about the theft of the Cardenio script. Cordelia appears and tells her there is an order for her arrest but they hope she will turn herself in. She agrees to entertain Cordelia's friends. As she talks to them, she checks the entroposcope and finds the entropy is falling.

Thursday notices Aornis sitting outside her apartment. Just then, a jar falls off the shelf breaking the specimen bag, splattering the pink slime. One of the visitors, James, identifies the substance as Dream Topping in strawberry flavor. Cordelia agrees to change clothes with Thursday so she can avoid the watchers waiting outside. In exchange, Thursday had to agree to three months of publicity work. They are less than half an hour until the end of the world.

In Chapter Thirty Two, Thursday goes to the warehouse of Consolidated Useful Stuff and meets her cousin Wilbur, who lets her in. All the phones are dead and entropy is falling. Wilbur tells her that they have an experiment that continuously makes Dream Topping that they are having a problem with. It can cover the planet with Dream Topping in less than a week.

Thursday calls for Aornis and asks if she is manipulating coincidences and she says that she is. She also says that she is using recollection erasure mechanism on Thursday. The invention that Uncle Mycroft intends to feed the world has been rigged to destroy it. With ten seconds remaining, Thursday puts her gun to her temple.

Chapters 31-32 Analysis

Thursday is still having her problems with Cordelia. While she is trying to avoid the people looking for her, Cordelia arrives with visitors for her to entertain. Luckily, James, one of the visitors, identifies the pink slime as strawberry Dream Topping.

Thursday is now trying to save the world. At the Consolidated Useful Stuff warehouse, her cousin Wilbur tells her about an invention of her uncle's that he thought would provide food for the world. A problem with it has it producing continuous Dream Topping and they can't stop the machine. Thursday also learns that Aornis Hades is behind all of the coincidences and attempts on her life.



Chapters 33-34

Chapters 33-34 Summary

Thursday's father arrives and takes the gun from her hand. The Dream Topping nanodevice begins to replicate itself. When asked what else is in the Dream Topping, she tells him it contains chlorophyll, the one substance it should not contain. He tells her he is going to travel far into the past and then disappears.

The entropy returns to normal. Her father had gone back into time to save the world.

In Chapter Thirty-Four, Thursday spent the night at her brother's house and went to see her mother the next morning. After seeing her mother, she planned on turning herself into Flanker. At her mother's house, she is greeted by a woman with a gun. Thursday finds the woman knew her father and had also had her husband eradicated by Lavoisier's men. The woman is Emma Hamilton. As they talk, Thursday's mother and father walk in the room.

Her parents want Thursday to take some time off, especially with the baby on the way. Her father can sideslip her to a place in time where Landen did not drown but he won't know her. Thursday will have no memories of her present life. Thursday refuses. If she loses her memories of Landen, she loses her contact with him.

Thursday needs a place where she can go to hide from Lavoisier. She goes to Miss Havisham in Great Expectations. Miss Havisham agrees and Thursday is enrolled in the Character Exchange Program.

Chapters 33-34 Analysis

Thursday and her father save the world from the pink slime but she hasn't succeeded in having Landen reactualized. Her father, who she thought had given his life to save the world, appears at her mother's house the next morning. She agrees with them about needing a safe place to hide from Lavoisier but she does not accept her father's idea of side-slipping in time because she would lose all memory of her present life, even if it is only for a year. She does not want to lose any memory of Landen but she needs a hiding place from Lavoisier and Goliath. She figures out the perfect place and returns to Great Expectations where Miss Havisham agrees to help her.



Characters

Thursday Next

Thursday Next is the heroine of the novel. She works at the Literary Detectives and is married to Landen Parke-Laine. They had been married for the week before her appearance on the Adrian Lush Show. Thursday works in the Special Ops department and is trying to secure a transfer. She is a Special Operative Agent. Thursday had fought in the Crimean War in which her brother died. As a Special Operative agent for Literary Detectives, Thursday uses a prose portal to enter a novel and to investigate the characters and events and the author. This sometimes leads to a new ending for the novel, as in the case of *Jane Eyre*, which Thursday worked on. She investigates things like forgery of different works. Thursday discovers that she is under investigation. She is set up through a series of coincidences to be killed. Her father rescues her by pulling her to a different point in time. He then returns her to a point thirty minutes before the shooting. She relives the incident on the Skyrail to try to save the Neanderthal. Thursday punches him and handcuffs him. For this, she is arrested. She must appear before a magistrate on Thursday, just as the voice in her head that of Akrid Snell, the defense attorney, told her she would, before the incident happened. Thursday and Bowden, her partner, attribute the voice to stress. On the same day as the Skyrail incident, Thursday learns that she is pregnant. The hearing is for the fiction infraction of changing the ending of *Jane Eyre*. Goliath has her husband eradicated to force her to find a way to enter 'The Raven' to free Jack Schitt who is stuck in the poem. She must learn to bookjump.

Landen Parke Laine

Landen Parke Laine is the husband of Thursday Next. They have been married one week at the opening of the novel. Landen is a veteran of the Crimean War in which he lost a leg. He is a writer by profession. He was the best friend of Thursday's brother who was killed in a military blunder. Thursday did not talk to him for ten years. Landen is delighted to learn that Thursday is pregnant. He is concerned for her safety and the charge brought against her and tells her that she doesn't have to work. Landen's mother is named Houson and she raised Landen. His father died when Landen was two years of age while rescuing the boy from a submerged car. When Landen fails to meet Thursday at the café after her meeting, she returns home and finds that he has been eradicated and the team from Goliath will not restore him until Thursday helps release Jack Schitt from 'The Raven', which he is stuck in. Landen reappears in a dream along with the character of Hades. He is totally dependent on Thursday to free him but tells her that he does not want her to enter 'The Raven'. It is too dangerous and she has the baby to think of also. He is there whenever she thinks of him. Landen helps her find a common denominator in the attempts on her life, which is something that would not have happened if she did not think and dream of him. Landen is caught in the eradication trap because Lavoisier and Schitt-Hawse trick Thursday and refuse to



reactualize him according to their agreement. Thursday will not let go of her memories and vows to somehow rescue him after the birth of their baby.

Miss Havisham

Miss Havisham is a character from Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. She resides in Jurisdiction and her purpose is to help Thursday, who was recommended by Mrs. Nakajima, travel through books. In the end, Miss Havisham agrees to help Thursday hide in Jurisdiction until after the birth of her baby.

Aornis Hades

Aornis Hades is the brother of Acheron who was killed by Thursday in the *Jane Eyre* case. She masterminds the coincidence that led to the attempts on Thursday's life. Landen spots the woman at each of the events in Thursday's memories and Thursday identifies her.

Schitt-Hawse

Schitt-Hawse is an employee of Goliath Corporation whose half-brother is stuck in Poe's 'The Raven.' He, Lavoisier, Chalk and Chase, trick Thursday into rescuing Jack Schitt, the half-brother, and then refuse to reactualize Landen.

Colonel Next

Colonel Next is the father of Thursday. He was eradicated by Goliath and is an expert in time travel. Wanted by Lavoisier, he tried to help Thursday rescue Landen.

Acheron Hades

Acheron Hades is a character that Thursday killed in her *Jane Eyre* assignment. He exists in her memory and reappears in her dream with Landen.

Branden Cable

Branden Cable is Thursday's coworker and partner. He is the one that she tells about Landen's eradication and he keeps her informed of what is happening while she is suspended from duty.



Braxton Hicks

Braxton Hicks is the area commander of Spec Ops and Thursday's superior. He gives Thursday a failing performance review.

Akrid Snell

Akrid Snell is the Jurisdiction lawyer who represents Thursday Next in the fiction infraction case.



Objects/Places

London

London is the capital of England and is located in the southeastern part of the country.

Swindon

Swindon is an English city approximately sixty miles west of London.

The Skyrail

The Skyrail is a public train which forms a loop around Swindon.

Network Toad Studios

Network Toad Studios is the television studio where the Adrian Lush Show was taped.

Special Ops Headquarters

Special Ops Headquarters is the building where Thursday works and is located in Swindon.

Marlborough Downs

Marlborough Downs is the highway where Thursday awakened after being shot.

Spec Ops Twilight Homes

Spec Ops Twilight Homes is the residence of Granny Next, Thursday's grandmother.

Osaka

Osaka is a city in Japan southwest of Tokyo.

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction is an alter reality in which there is a huge Great Library containing every book ever written and every book that will be written.

Aldermaston

Aldermaston is the location of the Goliath Research and Development Facility where Thursday enters 'The Raven.'



Themes

Fantasy

Fantasy is a dominant theme of the book. Lost in a Good Book has many characters that are from Great Fiction such as Miss Havisham who is from Charles Dickens book, Great Expectations. People are able to enter novels and change the events that occur as Thursday Next did with Jane Eyre. When she killed Acheron Hades, she changed the outcome of the novel. For this, she faced charges before a judge in Jurisdiction. The judge came from Kafka's 'The Trial.' The world of Jurisdiction contains the Great Library that contains every book ever written and every book that will be written. The characters use the library to travel through novels. There are a whole host of crimes that apply to literature such as interlopers. These are people like Thursday, Uncle Mycroft, and Jack Schitt who enter a work of fiction. Uncle Mycroft invented a prose portal for this purpose. Jack Schitt was stuck in 'The Raven' and Goliath tricked Thursday into rescuing him by eradicating her husband, Landon. Eradication meant traveling back in time and altering an event, such as an accident, so the person died. Crimes against fiction include boojum, which results in the deletion of a character or part of the text. Bowdlerizes removed profanity and obscenity from novels. Grammasites fed on the words of fiction. The characters of Jurisdiction tried to protect the fiction and solved problems that occurred such as bloopholes. Thursday learned to bookjump in an attempt to rescue her husband.

Thursday-Landen Relationship

A second theme of the novel is the relationship between Thursday and Landen. They are newlyweds at the beginning of the novel. He is a writer and she is a Literary Detective. Her job involves some danger. A series of coincidences result in several attempts on Thursday's life. In addition, the people at Goliath want her to enter 'The Raven' to rescue Jack Schitt who is stuck in the work. She is being followed by various people. She learns that she is pregnant and Landen tells her that she does not have to work. He is concerned about her safety. When Landen fails to meet her at the café, she returns to their home and finds his mother and dead father telling her that their son Landen died at the age of two. She realizes that Landen has been eradicated. Lavoisier and Schitt-Hawse traveled back in time and change the events of an accident in which Landen's father was killed. Now, Landen only exists in her memories and dreams. She can communicate with him in this way and he uses her memories to find a common denominator in the series of coincidence and attempts on her life. He helps her identify the woman in the red shoes who turns out to be Aornis Hades, the sister of the character she killed in the Jane Eyre case. He also exists in her memories. Thursday's priority is to rescue her husband. Against his wishes, she learns to bookjump and rescues Jack Schitt from 'The Raven' and then finds Goliath won't abide by their part of the deal. He plans to hold her prisoner. She keeps her husband alive in her mind by



escaping to Great Expectations to await the birth of their child. Thursday will figure out how to rescue her husband later.

Deceit

Deceit is another theme of the novel. Jack Schitt was stuck in 'The Raven' and the Goliath personnel could not get him out. They wanted Thursday's help in freeing him since she had entered Jane Eyre on her last big case. But Thursday was able to enter Jane Eyre with the help of her Uncle Mycroft and his invention of a prose portal. Mycroft was retired and gone, taking the prose portal with him. This meant that Thursday had to learn to "bookjump," which she did under the apprenticeship of Miss Havisham of Jurisficiton. When Thursday felt confident enough she made the mistake of contacting Schitt-Hawse, telling him that she was ready to enter 'The Raven'. He took her to the Goliath Research and Development Facility where they told her they would "reactualize" Landen when she rescued Jack Schitt. After she freed Jack Schitt, they refused to reactualize her husband. They wanted her to perform several more tasks. They also said that her bookjumping abilities would be very valuable to Goliath and that they would never allow her to leave the Research Facility. They planned to hold her prisoner there for the rest of her life. If they did reactualize Landen, she would never see him. Her mistake was in trusting Goliath. If it hadn't been for Miss Havisham, Thursday would have been held prisoner at the Research Facility. Thursday decided to hide with Miss Havisham until after the birth of her child and then resume her attempts to rescue Landen.

Style

Point of View

Lost in a Good Book is presented in the first-person point of view with the narrator being Thursday Next. Thursday is a Literary Detective and the main character of the novel. Thursday tells the story of the event as they occur and happen to her. Since she is the main character of the novel, it is appropriate for her to be the narrator. The limitation of the use of the first person is that the knowledge of the reader is limited to the knowledge of the narrator. There is no third person narrator to fill in the background information or to tell of events that happen outside the purview of the storyteller. This means that the reader learns of events, such as the eradication of Landen when Thursday learns of them. However, the character of Thursday Next is well informed and present at most of the important events in the action of the novel. As a result, the reader is well informed, so the limitation of the first-person point of view is avoided. From this standpoint, the use of the first-person point of view is appropriate for the novel.

Setting

There are numerous settings for the action of the novel. Most of the action takes place in and around the city of Swindon, England, which is approximately sixty miles west of London. There are the opening scenes of at the Network Toad Studios where Thursday is appearing on a television talk show. The Skyrail is a train that travels in a loop around the city. This is where the hijacking scene and the arrest scenes occurred. The Spec Ops Headquarters, where Thursday works, is located in Swindon and there are many scenes there in different offices. Thursday and many of the characters live in Swindon and there are scenes in their homes, parks, doctor's offices, and various other locations, like the Spec Ops Twilight Homes where Thursday visits Gran. There are also some scenes outside of Swindon. After Thursday is shot, she awakens to meet her father on the highway of Marlborough Downs. Thursday travels to Osaka, Japan by Gravitube to find Mrs. Nakajimi. There, she enters the Great Library and Jurisfiction. Aldermaston is the site of the Goliath Research and Development Facility where Thursday is held hostage until rescued by Miss Havisham. There are also scenes at different points in time and the characters travel though time and works of fiction.

Language and Meaning

The language used in the novel, Lost in a Good Book, shows the creativity and imagination of the author, Jasper Ffode. According to the Goliath Book Ratig chart at the beginning of the novel, there are forty-four made-up words. These include words like booksporing and bookjumping. Ffode exhibits a clever use of the language with terms like Jurisfiction and grammasites. When a made-up word is introduced, it is well defined and the reader comes to feel comfortable using the world. Aside from the made-up



words, the novel is written in easy-to-read and everyday style of English. The book is fast to read and the only thing that slows the reader is learning the new words and terms. Fforde writes in a style that holds the reader's interest. His creativity and imaginative use of the language is amusing and entertaining for the reader. The language, meaning of terms, and writing style are appropriate for this kind of novel. They add to the atmosphere of fantasy in the novel.

Structure

The structure of the novel is informative and contributes to the atmosphere of the novel. The action of the novel is divided into thirty-four chapters. Chapter Thirteen is not defined in the body and appears as the bottom half of page 154. There is no title or chapter number in the text. Thirteen is considered an unlucky number by some people and the author teases the reader with this. All of the other chapters have a title and chapter number. The title informs the reader of the subject of the chapter. Each chapter is prefaced with a long quote that pertains to the subject of the chapter. In some instances, these are relevant to the subject matter of the chapter.

There is a Table of Contents that lists the chapter number, titles and page numbers. There is a chart before the title page called the Goliath Book Rating. This provides information in keeping with the character of Goliath Corporation, such as content, the amount of violence, swearing, sexual content and the number of made up words. The structure of the novel works well for the novel and contributes to the character of the novel.



Quotes

"I didn't ask to be a celebrity. I never wanted to appear on The Adrian Lush Show" (Chapter 1, pg. 1.)

"You see, Shakespeare never wrote on lined paper with a ballpoint, and even if he did, I doubt he would have had Cardenio seeking Lucinda in the Sierra Morena mountains driving an open-top Range Rover whilst playing 'It's the Same Old Song' by the Four Tops" (Chapter 3, pg. 36.)

"Someone manipulated events to try and bump me off with a stray SpecOps bullet - maybe that was their idea of a joke. If it hadn't been for Dad taking me out I'd be playing a harp by now" (Chapter 4a, pg. 64.)

"'Well,' I began, 'we found Cardenio, I was shot dead by an SO-14 marksman, became a vanishing hitchhiker, saw Yorrick Kaine, suffered a few too many coincidences and knocked a Neanderthal unconscious'" (Chapter 6, pg. 76.)

"He didn't turn up, so I left a message with the café owner and drove home, musing that with death-by-coincidence, the world ending in a fortnight, charges in a court for I didn't know what and a lost play by Shakespeare, things couldn't get much stranger. But I was wrong. I was very wrong" (Chapter 8, pg. 115.)

"'I'm not exactly sure,' he replied with a confused look. 'Strictly speaking I don't think I'm anywhere - just here, alive in your memories'" (Chapter 12, pg. 147.)

"But something was happening. Something new, something other. My utter loathing of Goliath, the urge to get away, the knowledge that without entry to books I would never see Landen again - all of these things gave me the will to soften the barriers that had hardened since the day I first entered Jane Eyre in 1958" (Chapter 15, pg. 174.)

"'I don't often take apprentices,' she carried on, disregarding me completely, 'but they were going to allocate you to the Red Queen. The Red Queen and I don't get along, I suppose you've heard that?'" (Chapter 17, pg. 188.)

"But thank the Lord for small mercies - at least you got to remember him. Many of us never do - just vague feelings of something that might have been" (Chapter 21, pg. 229.)

"'Yes,' he replied, his demeanor changing abruptly. 'Despite all of that, your conduct over the past two weeks has been less than satisfactory'" (Chapter 24, pg. 269.)

"I remember. To jump forwards we have only to concentrate on the page number or, if you prefer, a specific event. To go backwards before the first page we have to think of



negative page numbers or an event that we assume had happened before the book began" (Chapter 26, pg. 308.)

"'I'm afraid, my girl,' said Schitt-Hawse as they started to file out the vault door, taking my travelbook with them, 'that you are a guest of the corporation for the rest of your natural life. But it won't all be bad. We will be willing to actualize your husband. You won't actually meet him again, of course, but he will be alive - so long as you cooperate, and you will, you know'" (Chapter 28, pg. 340.)

"Miss Havisham's extraction of Thursday from the Goliath vault is the stuff that legends are built on. The thing was, not only had no one ever done it before, no one had even thought of doing it before. It put them both on the map and earned Havisham her eight cover on the Jurisdiction trade paper movable Type, and Thursday her first" (Chapter 29, pg. 341.)

"It didn't look like the world was about to end in twenty-six minutes, but then I don't suppose it ever does" (Chapter 31, pg. 374.)

"You're wrong, Dad. There is somewhere. A place where no one will ever find me - not even you" (Chapter 34, pg. 396.)



Topics for Discussion

What is the purpose of the Literary Detectives? What kind of work does Thursday Next perform?

In what way was Thursday set up to be killed? What was the role of coincidence leading to the Skyrail incident?

What is Goliath Corporation? What business is the mega-corporation in? In what way does it control the lives of people?

What is the role of coincidence in the novel? What does coincidence come to mean to Thursday?

In what ways does Landen assist Thursday after his eradication? How is this possible?

What is going to cause the end of the world on December 12? How do Thursday and her father prevent the event?

Why does Thursday need a safe place to hide until after the birth of her baby? Where does she go and why?