

Lucinda's Secret Study Guide

Lucinda's Secret by Holly Black

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Contents

Lucinda's Secret Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1.....	5
Chapter 2.....	7
Chapter 3.....	10
Chapter 4.....	12
Chapter 5.....	14
Chapter 6.....	16
Chapter 7.....	18
Characters.....	20
Objects/Places.....	24
Themes.....	27
Style.....	30
Quotes.....	33
Topics for Discussion.....	34



Plot Summary

Lucinda's Secret by Holly Black details the adventures of three siblings' in their quest to learn about and find a way to protect their family from the other "fantastical" world their Great-Great Uncle chronicles in a book.

Jared and Simon are twin brothers. Along with their older sister Mallory, they move into their family's old house in the country. Clues lead Jared to a book hidden in the house that was written by their Uncle Arthur from his firsthand knowledge of this other world. The book is called Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You and describes creatures that are mythological. The creatures of the Fantastical World want the knowledge contained in the book kept secret and some of them want the book to gain power from information about the other races in their world. All try to get the book by any means, including violence, which places the children and their family's lives in danger. Their mother is unaware of the children's adventures with the fantastical world.

A Brownie who is angry with the children, lives in the house and plays pranks on Jared. Mallory wants Jared to give the book to the fairies so that the creatures will stop trying to harm the family. Simon sides with his sister against his twin brother. Angry that they are ganging up against him, Jared points out that even if they give up the book, they are now aware of the fantastical world and that knowledge is unable to be removed from their minds. Their knowledge puts them in danger with or without the book. Also, their previous adventures lead them to hide an injured Griffin who all the siblings love and want to keep. All of this puts them in danger of losing their lives without the book as a bargaining tool.

In an attempt to learn more about the creatures and the books, the children visit their Great Aunt in an asylum. Her father wrote the book and they know she must have some knowledge of the fantastical world and hope she may have a solution that will keep their family and the book safe.

Their Aunt Lucinda is not insane and is fully aware of the fantastical world. She fears for the children's safety and tells them to convince their mom of the danger and flee the area. Lucinda explains that the book is dangerous and it is good that it went missing. Jared tells her they found the book and opens his backpack to show her the book, only to discover it has been replaced and is now missing. Their Aunt and the kids start yelling, which causes Lucinda to be sedated by the hospital staff.

Back at the house, they realize the Brownie has taken the book as his latest prank and while searching for it, they find a map marked by Arthur. The siblings decide to retrace their Uncle's steps in an attempt to learn what happened to him on the day they think he disappeared. Their quest reveals that their Uncle may be alive and the same age as when he left because the Elves can keep people from aging. The Elves want the book from the children and previously wanted the book from Arthur. The fact that their Uncle may be alive and being held hostage by the elves, as well as the dangers that has

befallen them since moving to the house, anger Mallory and Simon enough to side with Jared. They decide to keep the book while fighting the creatures of the fantastical world.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Jared Grace is reading a field guide that is lying on his bed while turning his clothes inside out. He is unable to turn his jeans inside out and put them back on but he does get his shirt on inside out. Jared is reading the section on protective devices as he is having pranks played on him by the house brownie and he hopes the suggested magic will help stop the harassment.

Thimbletack, the house brownie, is playing pranks on Jared by putting mud in his shoes, cutting his eyelashes and peeing on his pillow. Jared's sibling, Simon has a new kitten that is getting the blame for the last prank by their mother. Jared forces Thimbletack to give up a seeing stone to save Simon from a goblin camp and the nasty pranks start soon after this event. In an attempt to make peace with the brownie, he offers to give the stone back to Thimbletack but this does not appease him.

Jared's sister Mallory calls him downstairs to talk to him. He grabs the Field Guide, and trips and falls, hurting himself because his shoelaces are tied together. Downstairs, Mallory is looking at water in a glass she is holding up in front of the kitchen window. Simon, Jared's brother is watching her appearing fascinated.

Mallory asks Jared to taste the water in the glass and Simon seconds her request. Simon grabs a big piece of meat out of the kitchen microwave for Bryon, the griffin while Mallory continues to ask Jared to drink the water. The water tastes hot and burns Jared's throat and he spits out the rest.

Jared asks Mallory why she made him drink it and learns that all of the tap water tastes bad. She tells him that the fact that they have possession of the Field Guide is the reason for all the weird things happening to them. Mallory tells Jared that she wants to give the Field Guide to the goblins. Mallory and Jared argue about the guide and if they should give it back to the goblins.

Simon sides with Mallory and tells Jared they should give the Field Guide back. Simon agrees that they would not know about the brownie if not for the guide; however he is worried that the goblins may harm them or their mom if they keep the book.

Jared tells them that giving the Field Guide back does not remove their memories of what is in the book. Also, he asks them if they want to give up Bryon since he is also part of the other world. Simon and Mallory both agree that they cannot give Bryon back and he has nothing to do with the issues they are having because of the guide.

Jared Grace realizes that he does not know why the creatures want the guide. He knows Mallory and Simon also have no idea why the guide is sought and realizes he needs to find out why they all want the book before they can even consider giving it up.



Jared knows that the only person who may know why everyone wants the guide is Arthur.

Unfortunately, Arthur is presumed dead and cannot explain the reasons for the guide. Suddenly, Jared realizes that their Aunt Lucinda might know about the guide and may be able to advise them as to what they should do with the book. Mallory and Simon ask who may aid them and when he tells his siblings that Lucinda may have inside knowledge of the other world from Arthur. Jared realizes he must keep the guide safe until they can ask their aunt's help.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Jared is reading the section on protective devices in the Field Guide and turning his clothes inside out. He seems to be worried about himself and attempting to see if any of the protective spells may help keep him safe.

The youths bring a griffin home and ever since they have returned with him, the house brownie, Thimbletack, has been playing multiple pranks on Jared. Maybe the brownie saw Jared as "his" and is jealous that the kids now have another creature from the Fantastical World that may steal his thunder.

The question would be is Jared trying to protect himself from the brownie or from the other creatures in the Fantastical World? While the brownie is annoying, he does not seem to be doing anything that would actually endanger Jared.

In the kitchen, Jared is confronted by his angry sister Mallory. The tap water burns Jared's throat and Mallory blames Jared's desire to keep the Field Guide for the nasty water and the other weird things that are happening to the family. Mallory seems to have the best intentions and wants to protect her family. Simon agrees with Mallory but is also slightly afraid of his twin's reaction. Simon appears to be more unsure and quick to follow the strongest personality in the room.

The trust and bond between the siblings is seen when Mallory and Simon agree to allow Jared to consult their Aunt Lucinda for advice instead of immediately taking the book from him.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

The children are being driven to visit their Great-Aunt by their Mom. They make sugar cookies for their Aunt, which causes Mallory to comment on the fact that they are actually made from frozen dough. Mallory is at fencing practice when her siblings make the cookies and her Mom tells her she didn't make anything for their Aunt. Jared and Mallory start fighting in the car, and their mother reminds them that they are all grounded for an additional week and they don't want any more time on their sentence.

In the car, Jared checks to make sure the Field Guide is safe in his backpack. Feeling the guide in his pack, Jared is relieved that neither his sister nor the Faeries have taken the book from him. He hopes his Aunt is the one that has left the guide in the chest for him to find and will agree that the family needs to keep the book.

They approach the asylum, which looks like a huge manor. The asylum is extremely old and made primarily of brick. The grounds are huge and well manicured with stone paths and flowers. They pull into the gravel parking lot and wonder if their Aunt has any regular visitors.

Walking into the asylum, they check-in, look around, and notice the strange scenery. Jared has images of strange people wandering around in bathrobes and straightjackets, weird laughter echoing the halls, and a creepy flicker on several TVs like in the movies. In reality, there is some creepy laughter, some crazy dancing and weird people who scare Jared.

The nurse leads the family to Lucinda's room. Inside, is a small, old woman who is connected to an IV. She seems to be alert as well as bright-eyed and looks at the children with interest. Helen Grace reintroduces herself to Aunt Lucy and then presents each of the children. Helen also tells Lucinda that she is staying at the Spiderwick Estate and is making repairs to make the home safe.

The children give their Aunt Lucinda the cookies that they have made for her but she is not hungry and refuses to eat them. The nurse tells them that she never eats food in front of other people and not to take it personally. Helen attempts to get her to eat at least one but she refuses again. Worried about her Aunt Lucy, Helen asks to speak to the nurse in the hallway.

The minute their Mom is out of the room, the Grace children immediately ask their Aunt Lucinda about the Faeries. Mallory knows that when their Aunt said their house is dangerous she did not mean from the current construction. She asks Lucy what she knows about the Faeries and Jared quickly chimes in saying it is ok to acknowledge seeing Faeries because they too have seen them.



Aunt Lucinda did mean the danger is from the Faeries and asks them to fill them in on what is going on at home. She orders them to sit on her bed while they chat about the Faeries.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Mallory and the twins are bickering in the car on the way to see Aunt Lucinda. She is angry because their Mom is giving them so much credit for doing something nice like baking cookies when all they did is put frozen dough on a pan and put it in the oven. Mallory seems to be partially angry because she has not done something special for her aunt and also feels the twins are getting more attention and credit than they deserve.

Simon is quick to join in on picking on his sister and their truce over the book seems to be only in relation to the book, which shows that most of the time he is firmly on his twin's side. When their Mom tries to stop the arguing by mentioning additional grounding, Mallory quickly points out she was at fencing practice when the cookies were being made. Jared notices her ears turning slightly red when she talks about fencing, which may mean that Mallory is hiding something from her family. Is she infatuated with someone or is she doing something else instead of fencing? The reader is unsure what Mallory may be hiding.

Jared is checking on the Field Guide in his backpack and feels the outline of the book in his bag. This reassures him that the guide is safe, which foreshadows the substitution of another book. He does not actually see the book, only feels the outline of a book. Jared also wonders who hid the book for them to find and speculates that it may have been his Aunt Lucinda.

Before they get out of the car, Jared wonders if anyone ever visits Aunt Lucinda and speculates that they are the first visitors in a long time. Their Mom gets instantly angry, which seems slightly defensive on her part as if she feels guilty about not visiting and feels badly about how the family is treating Lucinda. Mallory asks if Grandma visits, which she does but only infrequently. At one point they were so close but she does not know how to deal with Lucinda's condition.

Once inside the asylum, the children and their Mom are quickly escorted to Aunt Lucinda's room. Lucinda looks revolted by the cookies that they have brought and is quick to push them away and refuses to eat any. When the nurse comments on how Lucinda never eats in front of others, the reader knows there is more to the story than simply a refusal to eat in public. Also, Lucinda is extremely insistent about not letting the nurse close the window, which means she is hiding something that is outside of her window.

When Helen Grace tells Aunt Lucinda that they are living in her old house on the Spiderwick Estate she is visibly upset and comments on how dangerous staying at the house is to the family. Helen is quick to assure her that she is making repairs but this does not seem to appease Lucy, which indicates she knows about the danger from the

faerie world. Once their Mom is gone from the room, the Grace children discover that she knows about the Faeries and the danger from having knowledge of the Fantastical World.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Jared tells Aunt Lucinda about the goblins, trolls, and griffin that they've seen from the Fantastical World. He hopes she is as enthralled with the world and its creatures as he is so that she can convince his siblings to keep the guide.

Mallory eats the sugar cookies and mentions Thimbletack, the brownie, that lives in the house. Lucinda is thrilled to hear about Thimbletack and asks how the brownie is doing. Lucinda grabs a bag out of her side table, which contains stone and clay marbles. Jared asks Lucy if the marbles belong to Thimbletack, but she says they are hers but the brownie loved playing with them when they were younger.

Simon asks Lucinda if Arthur is her dad, to which she says yes and mentions the artwork in the house. Lucinda comments on all the wonderful art in the house and how her father used to make dolls for her when she was a child. She wonders if they are still in the house and Jared says they may be in the attic.

Lucinda says none of it matters because Arthur is gone anyway. She tells them how he left when she was young. Jared is surprised by the information that Lucy's mom knew Arthur planned on leaving for awhile and volunteers information about their father. Apparently, the Grace's children father left them as well.

Mallory is quick to change the subject and asks why Aunt Lucinda is in the hospital when she is not crazy. Lucinda explains that she moved in with Melvina, the Grace children's grandmother once Arthur left. Lucinda told Melvina all about the Fantastical World and its creatures but she is unsure if Melvina believed her stories.

After Lucinda's mother died, she moved back to the Spiderwick Estate, where she lived with Thimbletack. She said that creatures from the Fantastical World would sneak into the house to try to force her to give them the Field Guide. Lucinda says she had no idea where the Field Guide is located but the creatures never believed her.

After endless torture at the hands of the faeries, they bring Lucinda a piece offering in the form of fruit. While the fruit is not poison, it makes the human who eats the fruit unable to eat human food. Sprites that Lucy used to play with as children make sure she will not die by bringing her a constant supply of faerie fruit on which to live.

Outside Lucy's room in the asylum, she calls the sprites to introduce the creatures to the Grace children. Mallory interrupts the introductions and asks Lucinda to continue her story about how she ended up in the asylum. Lucinda explained that Melvina decided she is unwell, when she refused to eat food and is found covered in scratches and bruises. The creatures from the Fantastical World attack her one night and scratch, claw, and bite her, causing her back to be permanently hunched. Melvina assumes that Lucy is hurting herself and commits her to the asylum.



The sprites buzz around after this revelation and drop a piece of fruit near Simon. Simon is fascinated by the fruit and almost takes a bite before Lucinda snatches it from his fingers. Aunt Lucinda again comments on how dangerous the house is and now they know just how deadly it can be to a human, especially if they think the children have the Field Guide.

Jared tells her they do have the Field Guide and grabs the book out of the backpack to show Lucinda. Instead of the guide, he pulls out a cookbook and angrily accuses his sister of stealing the book.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Anytime Thimbletack is mentioned by the Grace children, they seem unsure of whether to call him a brownie or a boggart. It seems that even the more friendly beings from the Fantastical World have slightly shady motives. The fact that Thimbletack does not injure the children means he is probably an unhappy and lonely brownie who would like some more attention. Aunt Lucinda seems to confirm this theory when she comments on how excited the brownie must be to have the company of the Grace children. Thimbletack seems to have been one of Lucy's only friends as a child.

It is obvious that their Aunt Lucinda is not insane and the story she tells the about how she ends up in the asylum is depressing. Lucinda feels abandoned by her father and seems to be angry that her mother knew that Arthur planned on leaving and did nothing to stop him. The Grace children empathize with her because their own father left them. Simon seems to believe a lie that he left for another job, showing his naiveté about how the real world works. Mallory and Jared seem jaded and Simon's belief in the lie about their father anger's his siblings.

Lucinda and her Mom move in with Melvina and her father, which means that Melvina, the Grace children's grandmother and Lucinda grew up like sisters. When Lucinda claims to be continuously tortured by the faeries, Melvina believes the worst. Melvina makes a tough decision to commit someone that she thinks of as a sister but in some ways it must have been an easy way out. If she puts Lucinda in a home, she no longer has to deal with the crazy Lucinda's fantasies. Maybe it is also easier for Lucinda because she is no longer tortured by the creatures from the Fantastical World and she does not seem to feel any resentment towards Melvina.

Aunt Lucinda tells the children to leave the house before the creatures start torturing them for the Field Guide. She is upset when she learns they have the book and Mallory is quick to point out that Lucinda agrees they should get rid of the guide. When Jared discovers the guide is missing, he immediately gets mad at Mallory. His anger clouds his judgment because there is no reason for Mallory to agree to visit Aunt Lucinda unless she is genuinely interested in making an informed decision. This foreshadows that someone else has the guide and that the family may be in great danger.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Jared is crying in the car on the drive home. Simon grabs him just before he hits Mallory who insists she did not steal the Field Guide. Their mother is furious that they are yelling and arguing in Aunt Lucy's room. Lucy has to be sedated from all of the fighting that occurs and their Mom is so mad at Jared she tells him that he should be glad he is not locked up in the asylum.

Simon suggests to Jared that Thimbletack stole the guide, which Jared realizes makes the most sense as the ultimate prank. When Jared and Mallory get out of the car, Mallory tells him again that she did not take the book. He believes her and tells her that he thinks Thimbletack stole the book.

Mallory is glad the guide is missing but Jared is quick to point out that the faeries did not believe Aunt Lucinda when she said the guide was gone, so why would they believe that the children no longer have the guide. The Grace children discuss why their Uncle Arthur left the book but can't figure out a reason so they talk about going to visit the griffin in the barn.

Before they have a chance to visit the griffin, they find a note from Thimbletack that says he has the book. They decide to trade Aunt Lucinda's marbles for the guide and write a note to the brownie.

Inside the barn, they watch the griffin sleep and decide not to wake him. Instead, they head back to the house and try to figure out where the Field Guide might be hidden. Jared decides that the most logical place for the brownie to hide the guide is in the library so they all search that room.

By the desk Simon finds a sketch of their Dad that was drawn by Jared and comments on how realistic the picture looks. Jared tells him to throw out the picture just as Mallory calls them to look at her discovery.

Mallory finds a map of the "real world" and the Fantastical World. On the map is a note written by Arthur with a time and date for a meeting about the guide. They speculate that Arthur may have disappeared because of the meeting or vanished before he even had a chance to attend the meeting.

Jared is excited and wants to show the note and map to Aunt Lucinda. He thinks she deserves to know that her father may not have left her as she and her Mom have always thought. Mallory disagrees saying the map does not prove Arthur did not leave them.

Simon suggests they follow the map to the meeting place in an attempt to learn more about what happened. Mallory protests following the map because it might be



dangerous but the brothers convince her that they need to learn more. Finally she agrees to go with them as long as they go during the day.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Jared is so mad at Mallory that he almost hits her and if not for Simon grabbing his arms he may have hurt his sister. His crying seems to be because he is angry and frustrated but also because he is afraid at how close he came to hitting his sister. Jared is frightened by the anger that sometimes seems to overwhelm him. He seems to have some problems controlling his emotions and temper so many times he is not willing to listen to the people that he loves. Some part of Jared knows that his sister did not take the guide but he wants to have somebody to blame.

Thimbletack leaves an angry message for the Jared about what harm he might be doing to the book. Jared is relieved to hear the brownie has the guide even though he does worry about what damage he may do to or with the book. He knows without the guide they do not have any leverage against the faeries. Aunt Lucinda is tortured even though she never had the book because they don't believe her. Her story confirms Jared's fears that with or without the guide their family is in danger.

In the library when the children search for the hidden Field Guide Jared starts crying while looking at a picture of Arthur. He is angry at Arthur for leaving his family and some of the anger seems to be because he is still mad at his own father for leaving them. When Simon finds a picture of their father that Jared has drawn, the resentment that Jared feels against his own father is evident when he grabs the drawing and crumples it up yelling at Simon to throw it out.

When Mallory finds the map with the note about Arthur's meeting, it gives Jared hope that he might have had a reason to leave the family. He wants to immediately tell Lucinda because if she has hope, then he can believe that maybe the Grace children's father also left for a good reason.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

The children ask their Mom if they can take a quick walk outside and she agrees. Helen thinks that if they get some exercise and fresh air, they will stop fighting as much. Each sibling grabs an item to take on the trip, Mallory takes a fencing sword, Jared his backpack, and Simon grabs his butterfly net.

Mallory asks Simon why he is bringing the butterfly net and he implies that he hopes to catch more creatures from the Fantastical World. Mallory threatens to feed them to the griffin and Jared interjects before they can fight.

Simon looks at the map and they walk up the hill talking infrequently. As they get closer to the top of the hill, Simon suddenly decides to start walking back down the hill. Jared questions why they are heading back down and hears distant laughter. Following Mallory and Simon, they go back down the hill and then back up.

Jared is confused by the path they are taking and is desperately trying to remember what the Field Guide said to do on this path. He notices the type of grass and remembers a page out of the Guide that talked about sod and how it makes people lose their way.

Yelling at his siblings, he orders them to turn their shirts inside out to protect them from continuing to be misdirected by the grass. Jared tackles Simon but is unable to get his shirt on inside out. Mallory shoves Jared aside and forces Simon's shirt inside out.

The minute his shirt is inside out, Simon wonders about their location. The children hear laughter and a strange rabbit, monkey animal is on a tree talking to them. Mallory threatens the creature with her sword and it irritates the animal who is surprised to see someone with a sword.

They ask the creature what it "is" and receive no definitive answer. Jared realizes that it is a phooka or shape shifter but is unable to tell his siblings if the creature is dangerous. They tell the phooka that they are looking for their uncle and the shifter mentions that humans live a long time when they are held captive in his world.

Mallory is irritated with the conversation and insists that they ignore the phooka and continue with their quest. Simon asks the phooka what is ahead and after several more evasive answers he tells them there are Elves on the path.

The Grace children continue walking on the path and suddenly the woods become silent. The lack of noise makes them nervous and as they try to leave but the trees weave together and trap them inside the silent meadow.



Chapter 5 Analysis

The Grace children show how much they respect their mother by asking permission to take a walk. While they are not being completely honest about their purpose, at least they do not sneak out to do whatever they want. Helen is happy to agree and must be extremely stressed by how much fighting is going on between the siblings. She does not know how much pressure each of her children must feel to protect their mom who is unaware of the danger to their family.

Following the path of their Uncle frustrates Jared when Simon refuses to explain why he appears to be backtracking on the path. Mallory continues to follow without question and when Jared finally tries to ask Simon where they are going, Simon snaps at Jared. While Simon is under a spell, his angry words show that he is sometimes resentful of Jared's need to be in charge all the time and somewhat jealous of Jared who seems to always be able to find a solution to a problem. Mallory is not blinded by the twin relationship and obeys Jared when he tells them they are under a faerie spell.

Once they are correctly on the path again, they are stopped by a strange creature called a phooka. The phooka speaks in riddles but gives them a clue that their Uncle Arthur is a captive of the faeries. The children are excited to learn about the fact that Arthur might be alive and it inspires them to keep going.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

The trees separate and three creatures from the Fantastical World enter the meadow. The three beings were very small and only about Mallory's height, two of which have green skin and green eyes. One of them is slightly different with brown skin and red hair. Simon asks if they are elves but nobody answers. The green-skinned female is the first to speak to the siblings.

She is surprised that someone is able to follow the path and find their way to the meadow. Very few humans have apparently made it past all the Faerie tricks. The red-haired elf introduces himself as Lorengorm and tells them that the elves would like to make a bargain with the siblings.

Jared nervously asks them what they want. He is nervous because despite their beauty the elves did not show any emotion on their faces. The elves tell him that they will exchange the children's freedom for Arthur's Field Guide.

Mallory asks what they are getting their freedom from and the elves say they will keep them as guests until they give up the book. Jared refuses to give them the book and asks them why if their Uncle did not give them the book, the elves expect the children to give up the book.

The elves get angry and start ranting about how humans are horrible creatures that destroy everything they touch. Lorengorm continues to state how humans hunt them and destroy their land and if humans knew all the secrets found in the Field Guide the destruction would be worse.

Jared argues that nobody believes in Faeries or Fantastical Worlds anymore, so the Elves and other creatures are no longer in danger. Lorengorm does not believe Jared and says soon their entire race and their forests will be extinct.

Looking around, Jared notices a number of Faerie creatures gathered around watching the Elves and humans speak. Out of the forest comes a white animal that looks like a deer. Mallory is struck by the creature and reaches out to touch the unicorn.

The minute Mallory touches the unicorn, her eyes close and she falls to the ground. Jared and Simon run up to her and Jared touches her and is drawn into the vision that made her collapse.

In the vision, the unicorn shows the siblings about humans hunting unicorns and killing them for sport. Each child reacts differently to the horrors shown to them by the unicorn. Mallory and the unicorn continue to nuzzle each other and the elves tell them they know what they saw in the vision. They forcibly tell the children that they need the Field Guide to protect the faerie world from additional horrors shown in the vision.



Jared asks the elves why they sent the Goblins after the humans if they were determined to stop violence between the two worlds. The elves deny any involvement with the Goblins and say that they are also trying to protect the contents of the book from the Goblins. There are things in the book that may give the Goblins too much power and the elves do not know everything that is in the book.

Finally, the children explain they do not have the book. The elves accuse them of lying until they explain the brownie stole the guide. The elves badmouth humans and the children get angry and ask about what happened to their Uncle. The elves explain they did not harm him but that Arthur lied to them about what happened to the guide. Lorengorm orders the trees to hold Jared prisoner and tells his siblings to bring them the guide or they will keep Jared in Faerie forever.

Chapter 6 Analysis

The children have the right idea to be afraid of an area in the woods that is so quiet. The grove is controlled by the elves. The elves are extremely angry at humans for damaging their world and for lying to them.

Jared feels that the fact that the elves show no visible emotion makes it difficult to feel sympathy for them and it makes him more afraid of them. Their lack of outward emotion seems to repress a deep, passionate nature about their world, their forests, and the creatures in the woods. Passionate people who appear calm always seem to be the most dangerous because they spend so much time repressing how they feel.

When the children see the vision of the destruction that the humans have caused in the Fantastical World, some of the elf anger seems justified. The problem is that humans should not assume all the creatures in the Fantastical World are bad and elves cannot assume all humans are faithless and out to cause mass destruction. Absolutes are not good about anything as there are generally exceptions to most extremes.

The elves order the humans to give them the Field Guide and are furious to learn that they let the book slip through their fingers. Their violent reaction shows how far they will go to secure the book. This demonstrates to the children that the elves more than likely are holding Arthur hostage. When they take Jared hostage, it confirms the violent tendencies of the elves to the three siblings.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Mallory goes on the defensive and waves her rapier around in protection of herself and Simon. Simon is unsure how to defend them and tries to use the net as a weapon. The unicorn runs away and the elves comment on the violent nature of the humans.

Jared yells his own name at his brother trying to hint that he has a plan. Simon is confused at first and then realizes that his brother has a reason and goes along with the name switch.

Simon tells Jared that they will come back with the guide and Jared stops them before they leave. He says that the elves need to promise to let them all go safely if they do bring the guide back to the forest.

The elves try to circumvent the deal but Mallory points out they have not given their word yet. Jared makes the elves swear that Jared and Mallory can safely leave the grove and can come and go without being held hostage.

The elves reluctantly agree and tell the children that if the guide is not brought back, they will keep Simon ageless as their prisoner. Mallory does not want to leave but finally Simon and she leave the grove.

The minute they are safely away, Jared tells the elves that he must be set free. Jared explains that the elves gave their word that Jared could leave the grove and he is Jared. The elves are furious and demand proof and when he shows them the monogrammed initials on his backpack, they free him from the trees.

Jared races from the grove when he runs into the phooka who comments on the fact that the children never found their Uncle. Jared stops only briefly to listen and then continues running home. Mallory and Simon are thrilled to see him and hug him asking for an explanation of his escape. He explains the reason he switched Simon and his names and then tells them that he is sure that Uncle Arthur is still alive. After listening to his theory, Simon and Mallory agree that Arthur must be alive..

Inside the house, the brownie setups another trap for the children and it is the last straw for Mallory. She agrees to keep the guide if they find it again and does not want to continue to be at the mercy of the Faeries.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Jared's intelligence is clear in this section when he forms a plan to save them despite the fact he is terrified and being held hostage. Neither of his siblings understands his plan but after a few moments of confusion they follow along.



Jared knows that the elves have said honor and keeping their word is extremely important to them. They do not want to act like the humans that they hate so much. Jared calls his twin by his own name and then makes a carefully worded deal with the elves.

The first half is that the elves will let Jared and Mallory leave the grove right now unharmed. The second part of the phrasing is that Jared and Mallory can return without any harm befalling them.

The elves agree not realizing that they are holding Jared hostage and Simon exits the grove safely. Jared uses the letter of their word against them, which shows his quick and crafty nature. Also, in the future, Jared ensures that Mallory and he can return if they need to without harm befalling them from the elves. This foreshadows that in the future he plans on returning to the grove.

After all the children safely escape, Jared is sure their Uncle is alive and being kept ageless like the elves threatened to do if they were to hold him hostage. When they walk inside the house and trip over the Thimbletack's carefully laid trap, Mallory gets mad. She is being pushed to her limit of patience by the continued harassment by the Faeries. Mallory now wants revenge and agrees to keep the book and fight the faeries.



Characters

Jared Grace

Jared Grace is the twin brother of Simon Grace. He is intelligent, quick-tempered, and an excellent artist. Jared's intelligence is immediately evident when he is preparing for his day by reading the Field Guide to find a spell to help protect himself and his family.

His temper is evidenced briefly when his siblings try to return the Field Guide to the Goblins. Mallory, his sister, calls Jared selfish, which may be somewhat true. He refuses to give up the Field Guide, partially because it makes their life exciting, which is selfish and partially because he really believes that giving up the Field Guide means they do not have a bargaining chip with the bad creatures threatening them in the Fantastical World.

In the asylum, when Jared discovers the Field Guide is missing, the bad side of his temper is seen. He almost hits his sister and only stops from doing so because Simon physically restrains him. Jared is sorry for his actions. However, he still seems to have a great deal of trouble controlling his temper throughout the novel. He is quick to admit his mistakes and apologizes to his sister but Jared is lucky that his sister loves him and understands his anger.

Part of the reason for his temper is seen when the children are searching for the Field Guide in the library. Simon discovers a sketch of their father and Jared is furious at displaying his weakness for his desire for his father's love. He obviously misses their father but is angry at his abandoning them. Jared yells at Simon to throw away the picture and angrily crumples the paper.

Jared is obviously close to his siblings and they are quick to fight and make-up and do whatever the must to help each other. They discover and follow a map drawn by their Uncle right before he travels to the Fantastical World. The children encounter strong magic trying to get them to turn around and not go to this other world. Jared is quick to attempt to protect Simon and Mallory when they are backtracking on this path.

Finally, Jared makes the ultimate sacrifice for his siblings when they are captured by Elves. Jared makes a deal with the Elves that allow Mallory and Simon to leave the grove in exchange for his freedom. If the Elves do not honor the letter of their word like he hopes, Jared may have been trapped by the Elves forever. Jared is willing to give up his freedom and potentially his life for his siblings.

Simon Grace

Simon Grace is the twin brother of Jared Grace. He is more soft-spoken and calmer than his twin. Simon sides with his sister when it comes to the decision to get rid of the Field Guide, which shows he has own opinions and does not always listen to his twin.



He could just be intimidated by his older sister and follows the stronger personality so that he can stay out of the battle.

Simon seems to care more about the welfare of others, especially animals than he does about his own safety. His agreeing to get rid of the Field Guide may have been motivated only by his desire to protect his family. Simon seems to be less self-centered than his brother. He is sometimes defined by things he feels he is good at, one of which is his ability to charm most animals. When a unicorn likes his sister more than him, he seems extremely hurt. Simon seems to lack the self-confidence of his twin and his sister.

When Jared points out that they may have to get rid of their pet griffin, Byron, Simon is quickly swayed to consider another option. Both Simon and Mallory agree to consult their Aunt Lucinda about the book. Simon's twin appears to know how to manipulate his brother.

Simon seems to have to keep control of his brother's temper when Jared almost hits Mallory. Simon needs to be the level-headed twin otherwise Jared's hot-head will lead them all into trouble. While under a faerie spell, Simon's resentment of following his brother's lead while keeping a calm head is seen. He yells at Jared that sometimes he just wants to be followed.

In the end, the bond between the siblings, especially the twins is stronger than ever. Simon is able to trust his brother's plan to save all of them, even though he does not understand it, and places his trust in his brother. His giving nature outweighs the resentment that he sometimes feels towards his family.

Mallory Grace

Mallory Grace is the oldest child of the Grace children. As the eldest, she seems to be bossy and protective of her family and younger brothers. While there seems to be some reluctance to obey her, the siblings all seem to get along fairly well.

Mallory tries to get her brother Jared Grace to return their Great-Great Uncle's Field Guide to the Fantastical World. The various creatures in the Fantastical World, such as the Faeries and Goblins are threatening their family and she assumes if they return the book, the creatures will leave them alone. She shows her naiveté with this thought process.

The creatures of the Fantastical World may want the guide. However, just the children's knowledge of the world makes the fey nervous. More than likely the family will still be in danger if for no other reason than the creatures will worry the siblings will record their own adventures thus revealing the other world.

Mallory is apparently quite athletic and is taking fencing classes. This old-fashioned sport shows why Mallory is so quick to get involved with her siblings adventures in the Fantastical World. Mallory is involved in a romanticized sport that is often seen in



fantasy adventures. When they get in danger in the Fantastical World, she is quick to pull out her rapier to defend her brothers.

Despite the older sister's protective attitude earlier, when Jared tells them to turn their clothes inside out, she is quick to respect his knowledge. Mallory even turns Simon's clothes inside out when he protests. She is not unreasonable and respects her sibling's intelligence despite wanting to be the all-knowing older sister. Mallory seems to have a fairly close relationship with her brothers despite their age difference and is willing to do anything to protect their family.

Great Aunt Lucinda

Great Aunt Lucinda is cousin to Melvina, the Grace children's grandmother. Great Aunt Lucinda's father wrote the Field Guide and as a result Lucinda is tortured as a child by the creatures of the Fantastical World as they want the Guide.

She is physically damaged from the torture and seems to be relieved to be in asylum and away from the evil creatures. Lucinda is unable to eat human food having been tricked into eating Faerie fruit. Ironically, her few friends are sprites, friendly creatures she used to play with as a child. Her love/hate relationship with the creatures in the other world is confusing.

Lucinda is extremely damaged by the perceived abandonment by her father. She does not realize that her father did not intend to go away forever and that he is being held by faeries and being kept alive by magic. Lucinda does not seem to be upset by Melvina putting her in an asylum. In fact, she seems to be quite happy with her life protected by the walls of the hospital.

The effect of the Field Guide, Arthur's abandonment and the torture by the creatures is still evident when she becomes extremely upset when she learns the Grace children have the guide. Lucy has to be sedated after the events that occur between the children and

Thimbletack

Thimbletack is a house brownie that lives in the Grace children's home. He appears to be jealous of their new pet griffin and is taking his anger out on Jared Grace in the form of pranks. Thimbletack even steals the Field Guide from Jared, causing the siblings a great deal of stress.

Helen Grace

Helen Grace is the Grace children's Mom. She is unaware of the Fantastical World that is on the Spiderwick Estate and is oblivious to the adventures of the children in the other world.



Elves

The Elves are angry at the Grace family for keeping the Field Guide from them. They imply that Arthur is still alive because they hope he will eventually reveal the location of the guide. They hold Jared hostage but he negotiates better than them and the children escape.

Phooka

A Phooka is a magical creature in the Fantastical World. He appears in the form of part-monkey and part-rabbit creature to the Grace children. The Phooka is a shape-shifter who speaks in riddles and seems to have a great deal of knowledge about the secretive activities of the other creatures in the Fantastical World.

Great-Great Uncle Arthur

Great-Great Uncle Arthur wrote a Field Guide that details the Fantastical World, its creatures, and spells that work in the real world and the Fantastical World. The Field Guide has caused others to be in danger in the past and is causing the Grace family to be in danger now. Arthur leaves one day and is never heard from again and it is assumed he abandoned his family. The children learn that he is being kept alive by the Elves in the Fantastical World.

Byron

Byron is a griffin that the children discover in the Fantastical World. The children are hiding him on the Spiderwick Estate and he is their pet who they keep secret from their mom. They are feeding him meat while he heals from previous injuries.



Objects/Places

Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Aro

The book called Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You details the different areas and creatures inside the Fantastical World. The book is originally created by the children's Great-Great Uncle Arthur. The Fantastical World's creatures bombard the children for possession of the book. The book's contents provide detailed knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses as well as spells that may give the owner power over other people and creatures.

Jared Grace is determined to keep and protect the book while his siblings, Simon and Mallory prefer to return the book to the Fantastical World, assuming that the creatures will leave their family alone once it is relinquished. The book seems to have caused their family a great deal of distress over the years and is the cause of their Great Aunt Lucinda's being placed in an asylum and her inability to eat human food.

The field guide seems to be causing more harm than good for the family and for the Fantastical World. Destroying the book would be the best solution for everyone.

Asylum

The asylum is made of brick, with an expansive green lawn and numerous windows. The building is quite old but seems to be well-maintained. Inside, the asylum does not look as nice and has stark white walls, numerous rooms of strange acting people, and stale air.

The asylum is the hospital where the children's Great Aunt Lucinda lives. She is placed in the asylum by her sister who thought that her constant ramblings about mythical creatures and her refusal to eat indicated that she is crazy.

Sugar Cookies

The children bring sugar cookies to their Great aunt Lucinda in the asylum. Her refusal to eat the cookies is brought on by her interactions with the faerie world. Lucinda is unable to eat the cookies because she no longer has a taste for any food but the fruit brought to her by the sprites.



Jacks

The jacks are a set of shiny marbles made of stone and clay in a green cloth bag that Lucinda used to play with as a child. She gives the children the marbles to give to Thimbletack as a gift.

Fruit

The fruit seems to entice people to eat it. When Simon holds the fruit, he is unable to tear his eyes away from it until Lucinda snatches it from his hands. The fruit has a thin skin and is red inside. Anyone who tastes the fruit is unable to eat human food again, which is what happened to Lucinda. The sprites provide her with the fruit so that she does not die from starvation.

House

The house where the children live is rundown and very old. Their mom is currently making numerous repairs so that the house is physically safe for the family. Their mom does not realize that the house may be physically safe. However, the creatures from the Fantastical World place the entire family in danger the longer they stay in the house.

Rapier

Mallory owns a Rapier, which is a small sword that she uses to defend the children when they venture into the Fantastical World.

Roots

The roots are used to hold Jared captive in the grove. The elves command the roots to wrap around the boy and imprison him until his siblings bring the Field Guide to the grove.

The Grove

The Grove is where the children find a group of elves. The elves are shocked that the children manage to find the grove because it is usually hidden from humans. The elves attempt to hold Jared hostage in the grove to get his siblings to give them the Guide.

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Themes

Rivalry and Support Among Siblings

In the beginning of the book, Jared Grace is hurt and feels isolated by his siblings. He wants to keep the Field Guide but Simon and Mallory want to return it to the Fantastical World. Jared seems to be especially shocked that his own twin sides against him.

Despite their differing opinions, they allow each other to state their own defense for or against the book. Mallory and Simon decide to consider Jared's proposal to ask an adult who may have a knowledgeable opinion about what to do with the Field Guide.

After Lucinda tells them to leave the house to protect their family, Mallory and Simon appear more convinced to get rid of the book. They start fighting in the asylum and Jared almost hits Mallory. Their rivalry is noticed by their mom who drives them home in angry silence.

At home, they unite again to search for the missing book. Mallory finds a map that gives them a clue as to what happened to their Great-Great Uncle Arthur. Deciding to venture into the other world, they use the map to follow the previous path of their uncle. Once again, they put their rivalry aside and work together to safely walk the path in the other world.

In the woods, they find themselves in danger of roaming the path endlessly lost. Jared orders his siblings to turn their clothes inside-out as a protection against the magic. Despite Mallory's irritation with Jared, she ultimately loves and trusts her brother and immediately obeys. Simon refuses and her faith in her brother is such that she tackles Simon and turns his clothes inside out.

When they are captured by Elves who want the Field Guide, Jared is willing to stay as a captive to protect his brother and sister. Jared devises a way to save all of them and Simon comprehends his plan through their twin understanding. Even though the twins have been disagreeing, they are still close enough to read each other's thoughts and willing to trust each other.

Ultimately, the siblings may disagree but they always protect each other. Their rivalry is only on the surface and finding the Fantastical World and Field Guide and being forced to protect each other, forms a bond that withstands any disagreements and fights.

Affect of Being Abandoned by a Father

Jared, Simon, and Mallory's father left when they were younger. This seems to be something that happens to members of their family, because their Great Aunt Lucinda's father, Arthur also leaves when she is young.



When the children go to see Aunt Lucinda, she explains that her mother knew that one day Arthur would leave them. Despite the number of years that have passed, Lucinda is still extremely angry that her father abandoned her and her mother. Soon after, Lucinda and her Mother move in with her Mother's brother and daughter Melvina.

Obviously, as close as Lucinda is to her cousin, Melvina, there is some resentment at the fact that her father's disappearance uprooted her family from their Estate. Now, Lucinda is forced to leave everything she knows to live in a strange place with extended family. In an attempt to be close to her cousin, Lucinda tells Melvina all about the Fantastical World; however, Melvina does not believe her stories.

At the age of 17, Lucinda moves home to the Spiderwick Estate where she is tortured by the creatures after her father disappears for his Field Guide. No matter what she does, they do not believe her when she tells them she does not have the Field Guide. So her anger at her father is exasperated by the fact that Arthur left her alone with the creatures of the Fantastical World without knowledge of the Field Guide.

Eventually, the events that occur because of her father's abandonment, which include being tortured by the creatures and telling stories of a Fantastical World cause Melvina to put her in an asylum. In her mind, Lucinda is living in an asylum not because of Melvina but because of her father's actions.

Jared, Simon, and Mallory also seem to be angry with their father who left them recently. Jared is angrier and is taking his anger and temper out on his siblings. Simon still believes the lie that is told to him that their father is forced to leave for work. Mallory and Jared get angry with Simon for being able to believe the lie and continue to believe in the "good" in their father.

The one benefit of their father leaving is the three siblings are extremely close. Even when they react badly and almost hurt each other, like when Jared almost struck Mallory, they still forgive each other. Unlike in Lucinda's case, they believe each other when they tell one another tales of the Fantastical World. Their adventures in that world also bring them closer and form a bond that enables the other to be willing to risk their lives to save one of their siblings.

Humans Behavior Versus Faerie Behavior

On a small version, the book appears to just be about the children versus the faerie creatures over the Field Guide. However, on a larger scale it seems to be humans versus faeries.

The Grace children think that most of the faerie creatures are evil and out to kill them for the book. In reality, a majority of the creatures are just trying to live their lives and protect their version of reality. Most are no more good or evil than most humans.

Unfortunately, the information contained in the Field Guide is extremely dangerous for both humans and faeries. The children are being attacked for the guide and their Great



Aunt Lucinda is tortured every night when she is younger for the book as well. Even if they return the book or deny knowledge of the guide, the faeries do not believe or trust the humans.

Even the "good" faeries such as the elves use extreme measures to secure the book. They say they want to protect themselves from humans but they also seem to want to protect themselves from their own kind to prevent them from acquiring too much power.

The elves show the children visions of their harsh treatment at the hands of humans but they seem to be extremely hypocritical. The Goblins are trying to get a copy of the guide to increase their power.

The elves' and the human's behavior is no better and no worse than the other. Both perform bad acts in the hopes that they can help themselves, their people, and their families. In the book, the siblings are trying to help protect their family and the elves are trying to protect their people and land. Neither always knows how to go about it in the best way.



Style

Point of View

Lucinda's Secret is written from the point of view of a young boy who is learning about a Fantastical World from a Field Guide written by his Great-Great Uncle. The book is a letter from the children to the authors of the book telling them their adventures in the Fantastical World.

The viewpoint and opinions of Jared influence the descriptions and personalities of the characters, including his twin brother and older sister. Jared does not put a great deal of time into describing or analyzing his family. However, he does give detailed descriptions about the creatures from the fantastical world.

A novel written from the point of view of a child, does not have the amount of character development as one where the author describes people and their motives in depth.

Jared is more interested in his wants and needs and does not consider his siblings' opinions and perspectives. He spends his time attempting to convince them that they all need to keep the book. Jared never considers why he might want to keep something that endangers his family.

In the end, his siblings agree to share his adventures and keep the book. Ultimately, each child finds their own reason for justifying keeping the book. Their lives are more interesting albeit dangerous with the book in their lives. As children do not usually believe in their own mortality, it would probably not seem life-threatening to them to make such a risky decision.

Setting

This novel is set in the present day in the United States as well as the Fantastical alternate World that the children discover. Most of the book takes place on or around the Spiderwick Estate, which is where the siblings, Jared, Simon, and Mallory Grace live with their Mom.

The home in which the family lives is slightly rundown and their Mom is working hard to make the home physically safe for the children. Their Mom is unaware of the danger from the Fantastical World that surrounds them because she is unable to see the other world.

The youths ask to visit their Aunt Lucinda who lives in an asylum, which is a reasonable drive from the Spiderwick Estate. The Fantastical World seems to overlay the "real world" because the sprites are in the asylum and bring Lucinda food from their world. It appears that you can only see the Fantastical World and its creatures once you are aware they exist.



After fighting in front of their Aunt, the Grace children go home with their frustrated and angry mother. Inside their home, they look for clues to the location of the missing Field Guide and discover a map of the Fantastical World.

After discovering the map, the children enter the Fantastical World and discover new creatures and learn their Uncle Arthur may be alive. The book ends with the children escaping the world and finding their way safely home.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to be simple and something that a child can easily understand. The book is geared for children and the words and the behavior exhibited by them are easily understood and relevant to their lives.

There are words used that are not in everyday speech that relate to the Fantastical World the Grace children discover. The magical land descriptions still contain common words that most children would understand such as elves, sprite, and faerie. Occasionally a made-up word such as phooka is used but the text provides a description so that it is clear what is being discussed.

There are a few descriptive passages; however, much of the book consists of dialogue. The dialogue and passages provide descriptions of the interactions between the siblings, the children, and creatures in the Fantastical World and between the children and the adults in the book.

The dialogue is very important to give the reader an idea of what the children are thinking and feeling. Also, their interaction with each other, the adults, and the creatures of the other world give the reader insight into the children's personalities.

Overall, the book is easy to read, fast-paced, and keeps the reader engaged until the end. The constant danger to the children creates suspense that motivates the reader to want to continue pursuing the book to learn the final outcome of the story. The only problem is that if you have not read the first two books, the reader might feel left out of some of the unexplained events that are alluded to in the third book.

Structure

This novel is seven chapters long and has 108 pages. The chapters are all approximately 10 to 16 pages long. The chapters are numbered and have a brief descriptive passage so the reader has a foreshadowing of what might happen in the chapter. The book spans a short period of time of approximately a week. It is a short but exciting time in the life of the Grace children and their adventures with a Fantastical World. The novel is a quick read because it proceeds in a linear fashion and has very simple language.



There are several illustrations in the novel and the majority of which are in black and white. The pictures give the reader a sense of what the main characters look like while a map gives one an idea of the local landmarks.

The plot of this novel is about what the children plan to do with the Field Guide that gives them inside knowledge of a Fantastical World and its' sometimes dangerous inhabitants. The three siblings disagree on what should be done with the book. Since the discovery of the guide all the families' lives have been placed in great danger.

The subplot in the book relates to the origins of the Guide, which was initially written by the children's Great-Great Uncle Arthur. The children seek advice on what to do with the book from their Aunt Lucinda, Arthur's daughter who now resides in an asylum. She emphatically tells them to get rid of the book. When they wish to show the book to her, they discover the Guide is missing and think it is another prank by the brownie.

They search and find the book as well as a map of the Fantastical World drawn by Arthur. The Grace children follow the path of their Uncle and discover that he may still be alive. They may need to rescue him.



Quotes

"Since the morning after the Grace kids had returned with the griffin, Thimbletack had been out to get Jared" (Chapter 1, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 1.)

"If Mallory and Simon destroyed the Guide, then everything they'd done would have been for nothing!" (Chapter 1, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 11.)

"So long as he kept it with him, there was no way that Mallory could get rid of it and no way the faeries could take it" (Chapter 2, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 16.)

"The old women looked at the plate as though it were piled with cockroaches" Chapter 2, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 24.)

"He went out for a walk one day and never came back. Mother said she had known he was going to leave for a long time: (Chapter 3, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 32.)

" 'One bite, just one little taste, wouldn't hurt,' he said softly" (Chapter 3, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 41.)

"Simon had grabbed his arms while Mallory kept insisting that she hadn't taken the guide" (Chapter 4, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 45.)

"We can follow the map and see where it leads. Maybe there'll be some clue about what really happened" (Chapter 4, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 62.)

"Then, to Jared's surprise, she sat down on Simon and tugged off his sweater. He immediately noticed that she'd already turned her own inside out" (Chapter 5, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 70.)

"Anyone can live that long — all they have to do is keep from dying. But I understand that humans live much longer in captivity than they do in the wild" (Chapter 5, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 74.)

"The elves were beautiful, but the only emotion on their faces was a strange hunger that unnerved him" (Chapter 6, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 83.)

" 'The book is dangerous in anyone's hands,' said the green-eye elf" (Chapter 6, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 92.)

"Then Simon smiled at him, his eyes lighting up with understanding" (Chapter 7, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 98.)

"Your word is your bond. You have to let me go" (Chapter 7, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 102.)

"Maybe Arthur hadn't run out on his family. Maybe he was a prisoner of the elves" (Chapter 7, Lucinda's Secret, pg. 107.)



Topics for Discussion

Why do you think Jared is determined to keep the Field Guide? Do you think his motives are selfish? Why or why not?

Why do you think that only Lucinda was aware of the Fantastical World, even though both siblings grew up together in the same household? Explain.

Do you think the Grace children's grandmother should have placed her sister Lucinda in an asylum? Why or why not?

Do the elves have the Fantastical World's best interests at heart? Is the elves behavior towards humans justified? Explain.

In the end, Mallory agrees to keep the book. Do you agree with her decision? What do you think motivates her? Discuss.

Arthur's Field guide seems to tear his family apart. Should he have destroyed the guide? Why or why not?

Why do you think the Grace children get along so well? Explain.

Do you think the children should have confided in their mother when they found the book? Would she have believed that the guide could be a true account of another world? Would you have told your parents about such an unbelievable thing and do you think they would believe you?