

Thursday Next in First Among Sequels: A Novel Study Guide

**Thursday Next in First Among Sequels: A Novel by
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Plot Summary

The "Thursday Next" series follows the life of Thursday, an ex-special operations agent who deals in the fictional, the surreal and the weird. She is an agent for Jurisfiction, the police of the BookWorld. At the beginning of "Thursday Next: First Among Sequels," Thursday is leading a double life. She has a middle class domestic life in the town of Swindon, with her husband Landen and her two children, and she owns a carpeting business. Landen is a stay at home dad, working on a novel, but makes his money ghost writing odd self-help books. Britain, where Thursday lives, is in trouble because the government has a stupidity surplus. The politicians are arguing about how to use up all the extra stupidity.

An old nemesis, Felix8 shows up at Thursday's house and is captured by one of her special operative agents. Thursday's son is avoiding joining the ChronoGuard, a regulatory agency that controls the sequence of time. And people are continually trying to steal her pet Dodo, Pickwick. Thursday has been lying to Landen about her work for fourteen years, because she made a promise to him that she would quit her dangerous job and settle down.

Thursday tells Landen she is going to work, but she really is going into the BookWorld. Thursday's uncle Mycroft, who died years ago, was a genius inventor who made it possible to enter the BookWorld. Thursday is surprised to see his ghost appear and asks one of her operatives to find out why Mycroft would come back after all this time.

In the BookWorld there are tensions over borders between genres and Thursday tries to keep Racy Novel from going to war. A mysterious probe is found in Pinocchio with the inscription of the evil company Goliath Corporation and Thursday's fictional self, Thursday5 from the book "The Great Samuel Pepys Fiasco," is training to be a Jurisfiction agent with Thursday5. Thursday is a meek version of Thursday, who is generally incapable of acting violently or thinking fast in the dangerous world of fiction. Thursday hesitates to fire her only because she knows that Thursday's heart is in their right place, and because she feels responsible for the way that Thursday5 was written.

Thursday's son Friday is supposed to become a ChronoGuard because the end of time is coming and according to history, Friday is the only one that can save it. But Friday doesn't want to be involved in the time industry.

Thursday is assigned a second cadet in training, her other fictional self, Thursday1-4. Thursday 1-4 tries to sabotage Thursday. She is bitter about her life in books and blames Thursday. The real Thursday is suspended for a mistake made by Thursday1-4, who is then fired from the cadets. To get revenge, Thursday enters the real world and impersonates Thursday. She makes love to Thursday's husband Landen and steals Thursday's Travelbook. Without her book, Thursday is trapped in the outland, the real world.



In order to get rid of the stupidity surplus, the government is going to destroy classic books by letting a poll of readers re-write the plots. The only way Thursday knows to get back into the BookWorld is by helping the evil corporation Goliath perfect their book travel technology. They transport Thursday to a distant oral story and abandon her there. But, Thursday escapes and goes after Goliath. They are searching for a mathematical equation that will enable the ChronoGuard to truly control the past and future. With the help of a cab driver, Thursday5 and Bradshaw, Thursday is able to destroy the equation and escape again. Meanwhile, Thursday1-4 has been impersonating Thursday in the BookWorld, wreaking havoc on the Council of Genres. Thursday defeats Thursday1-4 by erasing her in one of the books. The book ends with a teaser for the next book, as Thursday tries to uncover a serial murder in the BookWorld.



Chapters 1-4

Chapters 1-4 Summary and Analysis

The beginning of the book introduces us to Thursday's family life as well as the political situation of the day. She is married to Landen, a failed writer who works from home. He is currently working on a book called, "Bananas for Edward," but also writes self help books on a variety of strange topics. They are at breakfast discussing the stupidity surplus. In the world of the novel, stupidity is under government control, and when not enough stupidity is used up, there is a surplus. The Commonsense party is currently in control of the government and everyone is discussing different ways to get rid of the extra stupidity. Landen and Thursday get a letter from the Dodo Fancier's Society offering them thirty thousand for their pet dodo, Pickwick, the oldest dodo in existence. They jokingly consider it to make the dodo nervous, but have no intention of selling their pet. Thursday is currently attempting to knit a sweater for Pickwick, who has lost his feathers. Landen gives Thursday a necklace for her birthday. Thursday hates her birthday.

Landen and Thursday also discuss their son, Friday. They have met versions of Friday from the future and believe Friday is supposed to join the ChronoGuard. Friday shows no interest in working for the government agency that controls time and history. Thursday goes to wake him up and learns that he has a new band, that he is doing badly in school and that he is still uninterested in joining the ChronoGuard. They have a meeting for interested members that evening that Friday has promised to attend, though with no real enthusiasm. Thursday jokes that Friday is not the son she is supposed to have. The future version of Friday, came back in time to save Thursday's life and the world many times, but according to the Standard History Eventline, Friday should have already been working for the ChronoGuard years before. Thursday can't understand why her son is not living up to his future self and is afraid that if he doesn't join the ChronoGuard it will disrupt history, past and future, besides ending her own existence.

On the way to work Thursday visits her mother and her Aunt Polly. Polly is the wife of the important inventor, now dead, Mycroft who invented the portal machine that has allowed Thursday to enter and work in the BookWorld. Polly gives Thursday a CD of garage rock for Friday. Thursday's real purpose in going to her mother was not to visit, but to pick up a bag of Welsh money that she had hidden in Mycroft's old workshop out back. The money is for a Welsh Cheese deal that Thursday has coming up. Cheese has been outlawed, and buying and selling it is very lucrative. While in the workshop, Mycroft's ghost appears. Thursday speaks with him for a moment, and then he fades away. She is not sure why he should reappear all these years after his death and makes a mental note to talk to one of her colleagues, who has contacts in the dead world, in order to find out what Mycroft could want.

Work for Thursday is the carpet company she owns, Acme Carpets. But the business is just a cover. Thursday used to be a special agent for the Special Operations Network, a



government organization that policed the extreme, the unusual or extremely dangerous. Of the many divisions that dealt with everything from vampires to cheese enforcement, was the Literary Detectives, SO-17, where Thursday worked. SO-17 was shut down in the 1990s but Thursday continues to run the agency, outside of government control or financing, with other ex-operatives. When Thursday gets to work that day, she finds her employees trying to catch a Dyatrima, a supposedly extinct and very dangerous bird. After capturing the loose Dyatrima, Thursday runs through the daily jobs with her manager, Bowden Cable. Spike Stoker, a vampire hunter, approaches her about some top secret detainee he has. He leads Thursday down to the "containment suite," or the "weirdshitorium," where he has chained Felix 8, a nemesis of Thursday and a minion of Hades. Whenever a Felix dies, Hades take their face and puts it on a new body, then controls them with his evil powers. Felix 8 once tried to kill Thursday, and Spike tells her that he found Felix8 hiding around her house in Swindon. Spike wants to kill Felix8, but Thursday asks him to give her time to investigate. It's been years since Hades tried to kill her, but since Thursday had defeated three of Hades family already, she knows that they want revenge. On the other hand, she wants Felix8 alive, if only to find out why he is after her after so many years Thursday asks Spike to ask around the underworld to find out why her uncle Mycroft is appearing as a ghost.

Thursday then takes out her TravelBook and after reading a few lines it transports her inside the BookWorld, to the set of "Sense and Sensibility," where Thursday's real day job begins. As soon as Thursday arrives in the book world her trainee cadet, Thursday5 approaches her. Thursday5 has been a failure in training. She is a fictionalized version of the real Thursday, which is an embarrassment to Thursday. Bradshaw checks in with her boss in Jurisdiction, Bradshaw. Thursday tells Bradshaw that Thursday5 is unsuitable for the job. She doesn't have the grit. But given that they are deeply in need of new agents, Bradshaw asks that Thursday at least give her the full three days of training before firing her.



Chapter 5-8

Chapter 5-8 Summary and Analysis

While waiting for a taxi that will take them to the Council of Genres, so that Thursday could show Thursday5 around, Thursday notices a group of Mrs. Danvers. Characters are created as genetic blanks, then housed temporarily until they are sent to character school and put in a novel as a replacement for old characters or for characters in new books. Six thousand generics were temporarily housed in the novel "Rebecca" and turned into the creepy housekeeper Mrs. Danvers. Now there are Mrs. Danvers clones all over the book world. The taxi doesn't arrive so the two Thursdays go to the Great Library, a kind of Central Station of the book world, with every book ever written accessible.

The Council of Genres is the legislative oversight for all of fiction. They control the use of irony, word use and decide which novels should be published and which should not. All genres are represented, and for genres that are large and have sub genres there are multiple representatives. The book world exists in a giant nothing, kind of like space. Books that are similar tend to be in their own galaxy. Currently there are tensions between Racy Novel and its neighboring genres, Ecclesiastical and Feminist. The CofG gave Racy Novel its independence if it would agree to sanctions on metaphor, characterization and generally good writing. Currently Racy Novel is threatening to develop a dirty bomb and wage war on its neighboring genres. The dirty bomb would explode leaving bits of dirty sexual writing in works of fiction all over BookWorld.

Thursday takes Thursday5 back to the Great Library to show her how imaginotransference-the relationship between the reader and the writer- actually works. Thursday tells Thursday5 to put her hand on the books. She can feel the emotions, hear voices and sounds coming from the book. That is imaginotransference energy. The books are alive. They jump into the story of "Pinocchio". Since no one is reading "Pinocchio" at that time, the characters are sitting around waiting to be read. Pinocchio is asleep, the cricket and his stunt double are talking. Thursday was told to go to Pinocchio to check out a metal sphere that had landed in the scene. Thursday reads the side of the sphere and sees the logo for Goliath Corporation. Suddenly, warning comes that a reader is approaching their scene. The reader is so powerful that they read at an impossible speed while still taking in every detail. Thursday realizes it was a legendary super reader. The problem with a super reader is that the intensity at which they read can strip a book bare.



Chapter 9-12

Chapter 9-12 Summary and Analysis

Before returning to the Great Library, Thursday takes Thursday5 to the core of the book. They run into a stray riddle, which is being kept in the background of Pinocchio's kitchen. The riddle is run like a game show, in which there are two doors, guarded by soldiers. One soldier always tells the truth and the other one always tells a lie. Behind one door is what Thursday wants, behind the other a hungry tiger. Thursday outsmarts the riddler and they continue down into the basement where a spark burns. When the book is being read the spark spits and jumps like fireworks.

Thursday reports to Bradshaw on the Goliath probe. Her probe is the only evidence they have, though there have been sightings and rumors of Goliath's incursion on the BookWorld for the last few months. The Goliath Corporation lies in the real world, so Bradshaw can't do anything about it, except wait and see. Bradshaw asks Thursday to investigate in the real world, and to check up on the routine refitting of Jane Austen's works.

The two Thursdays proceed to the Well of Lost Plots (WOLP). Underneath the Great Library there are twenty seven floors devoted to the creation of books. Periodically, classic books get refitted and tidied up. This process happens every thirty years or every million readings, whichever comes first. Right now the refitting of Jane Austen's works is taking place. While working on the refitting of a novel, a standby novel is made available should anyone read the book. The standby is less detailed and not as good as the original, but most readers don't notice. Thursday and Thursday5 are taken to "Pride and Prejudice", where the characters are being refitted. Mrs. Bennett tries to get Thursday to find a rich man to marry one of her daughters. The domineering Lady Catherine tries to get Thursday to give her sick daughter Anne a job in Jurisfiction. Thursday gets out of it by offering her a job in Racy Novel. The engineer in charge of the refitting is Thursday's friend and colleague, Isambard Kingdom Buñuel. Isambard is a genius. He is famous for his plot twists and narrative devices, but he is a bit odd. He has asked to see Thursday because the Council of Genres is asking that they upgrade the imaginotransference conduits on Jane Austen's works to allow for far more readers than it actually has. Thursday promises to try and find out why, as reader rates are falling, the CofG would want to waste money on such an expansion of an old book.

The two Thursdays duck into a store that sells plot devices, backstories, dialogue and other narrative elements. Thursday has remembered that Landen is struggling with his novel. She buys an ex-military uncle who comes to stay, intending to send him to Landen's book. She notices a person standing near her. Something tells her that he means her harm and she reaches into her back for her pistol. She smells him before she sees him, it is the Minotaur. He is a killer who has attempted to kill Thursday many times. Thursday can't be sure that this is the same Minotaur, until she hears his name, Mr. Johnson. The Minotaur suddenly attacks Thursday with a frying pan, knocking the



gun out of her hands. Thursday attempts to talk to him, to stall time. When from behind her she hears the Uncle she had bought for Landen's novel interrupt. The uncle has a polite upper class voice, so it is a surprise when he suddenly pulls a sword out of his walking stick and chops off the Minotaur's hand. The Minotaur disappears and Thursday thanks the uncle for saving her life. Meanwhile, Thursday5 is ashamed. The gun that the Minotaur knocked out of Thursday's hand had landed at Thursday5's feet, but she had frozen and not helped. Thursday knows that she cannot let Thursday5 become an agent with such bad instincts. But Thursday will not let her give up, and demands that she stay a cadet until her trial period is through.

The working day is over and Thursday goes to pick up her daughter, Tuesday from school. Tuesday is a child prodigy in mathematics and is tutoring the greatest mathematicians in Britain, who she thinks are simpletons. Tuesday has inherited the intelligence of Mycroft, Thursday's uncle. Thursday takes Tuesday to her mother's house, where her operative Spike is waiting for her to give her information on Mycroft's haunting. Spike has found out that Mycroft is haunting because there was something he had left to do when he died. But, the hauntings only come in threes, each times shorter than the first. Spike advises Thursday to figure out what to ask Mycroft before the next haunting or the chance will be lost.

Landen switched the novel that he was working on so the uncle that Thursday bought is in the wrong book. Thursday, Landen and Friday prepare to go to a meeting of the ChronoGuard to try and convince Friday that he should join.



Chapter 14-17

Chapter 14-17 Summary and Analysis

The ChronoGuard knows who Friday is and they know that he is supposed to be one of their best operatives. No one can understand why Friday is defying his destiny, or how. Most people are unable to break free of the timeline. Thursday, Landen and Friday attend the ChronoGuard meeting for new recruits. Friday is immediately recognized by the hostess, who starts to congratulate Friday on things he has done in the future, before stopping herself and pretending to be in the present. The agent leading the presentation shows the crowd a small plastic bar and asks the crowd if anyone knows what it is. The agent points to a man in the crowd and answers his question before it's been asked. The agent explains that time is an illusion and that the present is actually in the future. What people are living as their present is actually the distant past. The way that time is described is similar to the way that books are described, as happening according to the reader and existing somehow outside of a linear time frame. The BookWorld and the real world function in the same way. Friday raises his hand, and it is clear by the reaction of the ChronoGuard agents, that the question wasn't anticipated. The ChronoGuard wants Friday because he is a natural talent. Friday gets aggravated and frightened by the idea of being in the time industry and he walks out. The agent pulls Thursday aside to explain to her that as long as Friday is not involved in the ChronoGuard in the present, he is not in the future. The ChronoGuard has been using technology that doesn't exist yet, based on time travel. But in a few days, if time travel isn't invented everything will end.

When Landen and Thursday arrive home that night, Thursday's receives a call from her stalker, Millon de Floss, who warns her that there are men trying to break into her house. Thursday warns Landen then sneaks around back where she overtakes the head of the Dodo Fanciers Society who was there to steal Pickwick. Landen, meanwhile, has tied the bumper of their get a way car to a tree. When they try to escape, their car is totaled. Thursday finds a block of burning cheese on her doorstep, which is a warning from the Cheese Mafia.

Thursday and Millon have an illegal cheese business on the side. Thursday has a backpack full of cash from the Welsh Republic and she and Millon go to meet the underground Welsh cheese sellers. They buy their normal types of cheese, but Thursday notices there is a suitcase chained to the truck. When she asks about it the cheese seller won't tell her any details, just that it's not her type of cheese.

Thursday goes home and finds Spike in her front yard. Thursday finds out that Felix8 has disappeared from custody.

The next morning there is more news on the stupidity surplus and how to get rid of it. Thursday goes to the Special Ops to find out if anyone knows anything about Felix8. She wants to question Aornis Hades, who is serving a life sentence. The man at the



front desk is her son Friday, only it isn't Friday, it is a potential Friday. Friday tells her that it is not just Friday's behavior that is out of joint. The entire world is off kilter according to SHE. The population is in a fog. The potential Friday warns his mother that if the real Friday doesn't join the ChronoGuard in forty-eight hours, the ChronoGuard will dispose of him and replace him with the potential Friday.



Chapter 18-21

Chapter 18-21 Summary and Analysis

Aornis Hades is trapped in a loop of time, eight minutes long. It is a form of prison that is cost effective, as the prisoners don't need food or water, and don't take up space as they are trapped in ordinary places, like shops, bus stops, and dentist offices. Aornis Hades is trapped at the register at a TJ Maxx store. Aornis is a Mnemonomorph: she can manipulate memory. Thursday is the one who put her in prison, so Thursday is not expecting Aornis to be very helpful in her search for Felix8. Friday offers to expand her loop of time by twenty minutes if she gives information. According to Aornis Felix8 was killed in 1986. Aornis also says that she plans to break out prison with someone's help, but she erased that from Thursday's memory.

In order to find out why there are probes landing in the BookWorld with Goliath Corp written on them, Thursday makes her way to the Isle of Man, where Goliath has its headquarters. Goliath and Thursday have been enemies for years. They are an abusive corporation that had Thursday's husband eradicated for a number of years. So, it surprised Thursday when the head of the corporation, John Henry meets her and has a band playing in her honor. Henry tells Thursday that given her history of costing them money, they had decided on a completely honest approach with her. She doubts his sincerity. She asks him if he has perfected the technology for transfictional travel. Henry then takes her to the laboratory. They have figured out many things and have a prototype for travel, a bus they call the Austen Rover, but they are completely ignorant of how the BookWorld is set up. Thursday refuses to help them, but finds out that they are planning to offer vacation trips to classic novels in the BookWorld as soon as the technology is perfected.

Back in the Book World a policy meeting is scheduled in the Council of Genres. Thursday writes a letter to the uncle she bought for Landen's novel and tells him to go to the book Landen is actually working on. Bradshaw, the head of Jurisfiction holds a meeting to talk about new cases. Sherlock Holmes has been murdered before his time. Bradshaw denies Thursday the chance to join any of the new projects. After the meeting, Bradshaw tells the indignant Thursday that she has to take on another trainee because all the other agents have gotten sick of her. Thursday protests, but is forced to agree to at least a day with the new recruit, who is another fictional version of Thursday, Thursday1-4. As opposed to Thursday5, Thursday1-4 is a violent, aggressive, selfish and unpleasant character.



Chapter 22-25

Chapter 22-25 Summary and Analysis

When the new trainee arrives, the two fictional Thursdays are horrified to be working together. They are the complete opposites of each other. Thursday1-4 is sarcastic and disrespectful. She makes fun of Thursday5 until she is close to tears. Thursday tries to maintain control. She fires Thursday1-4 on the spot. It is only then that Thursday1-4 agrees to behave and do as she is told. The three Thursdays go to Text Grand Central. TGC is located in a massive gothic castle taken from an unfinished book. TGC is the bureaucratic aspect of Book World. They pass the Imaginotransference Storycode Engines, which are responsible for transmitting the books into the reader's imagination. They are giant machines, running constantly. The three Thursdays are assigned to Piano Control.

There are only fifteen pianos in all of BookWorld, so a handful of technician keep track of where they need to be and move them from book to book as readers pass through the pages that require a piano in the scene. But, due to paperwork mistake half the pianos are out of commission. The piano techs are working with only seven pianos for all the books in the world. The three Thursdays are there to give the technicians a lunch break, so Thursday settles in and begins teaching her two cadets how to send pianos to other books. Thursday5 and Thursday1-4 get in an argument over who gets to sit where, and Thursday1-4 pulls a gun out. Thursday recognizes the gun. It is a Browning twenty-six-caliber automatic and it was in the piano bench that just was just sent to "They do it with Mirrors. "

The gun is essential to the plot. So leaving Thursday1-4 to man piano central, Thursday and Thursday5 run to the Great Library in order to book jump and replace the gun before the reader gets to that scene. When the two Thursdays return to piano central, Thursday1-4 had created chaos. There are bells and warnings going off. The other techs had come back and were restoring order, but Thursday1-4 was not ashamed. She had deleted all the references to pianos in Melville, Scott and Defoe, and had dropped a piano into a scene in Emma for no reason. Bradshaw arrives and chastises Thursday for leaving her recruit. He suspends her.

Thursday admits that she did it all to try and get fired. She knew she wasn't going to make it, so in a childish revenge, she caused chaos to bring trouble on herself and Thursday. She harbors a lot of hatred for Thursday, who she is based off of, but who Thursday scorns. Thursday, understanding that Thursday1-4 can't be held responsible for the way she was created, sends her home.

Thursday5 is excited about the council meeting. Famous fictional characters like Harry Potter are supposed to be there and Thursday5 wants an autograph. Jobsworth chides Thursday on her recent suspension. Thursday responds by asking why Jobsworth is spending so much money on the Jane Austen refit when the readership is down.



Jobsworth is suspiciously vague. The first item on the agenda is the grammasite problem. Grammasites are pests of the book world that can't be destroyed because the Naturalists are against it. The other item on the agenda is the falling reader rates. The council suggests that new interactive books are created, in which the readers get to vote on the plot. They are calling it a reality book, similar to reality TV. Thursday claims that the answer to falling reader rates is better, more interesting books. Thursday gives a speech about the necessity of stories and vetoes the move to create interactive reality books. The final item on the agenda is Speedy Muffler of Racy Novel's threats of a dirty bomb. Dirty words have been found in classic books. The Council wants to go to war, but once again, Thursday vetoes this plan and calls for diplomacy. Thursday5 speaks up and says that the dirty words were actually not intended as dirty words in their times, and that Speedy Muffler was bluffing by using these old examples. It is the end of Thursday5's trial period as a cadet and Thursday feel that she isn't suitable. She sends Thursday5 back to her book, though she feels badly about it.

Thursday visits a tea house called the Paragon, where she runs into Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, a hedgehog and Zhark and evil dictator. They are both agents for Jurisfiction trying to figure out the Sherlock Holmes case. A woman approaches Thursday asking for help. She is a character from an anthropological thriller series and thinks that someone is out to kill her. Thursday promises to look into it. Next, Bradshaw arrives, giving Thursday back her badge. He had suspended her to please the CofG, but needs her on a case. Thursday1-4 had been changing things in her books. Bradshaw wants Thursday to go find out what is going on in the series and fix the irregularities.



Chapter 26-29

Chapter 26-29 Summary and Analysis

Thursday is not the writer of the novels about her life. Mostly they were written based on newspaper articles about her and a few interviews about her life in Swindon. Thursday calls for a taxi, but they are unavailable, so she book jumps into the first of the series about her, "The Eyre Affair." Thursday waits in the background until the scene is over then approaches Thursday1-4 from behind. But it is a stand in. Thursday quizzes the other characters to find out what Thursday1-4 is up to, but they are all terrified of her. Eventually Thursday finds out that Thursday1-4 often leaves the books and had left this time in order to get revenge on Thursday for firing her. She is going to the real world, to meet Landen.

When she arrives out her house in the real world the place is quite. She is severely dehydrated from the book jump, but is unsure of where Thursday is. Then she hears Landen upstairs, having sex with Thursday1-4. Thursday drops the pitcher of juice she is holding and the sound of it crashing alerts Thursday1-4 that she is there. Thursday 1-4 comes out with a gun. They shoot at each other and miss. Then Thursday runs, her gun is a single shot and she has to re-load. Thursday1-4 escapes with Thursday's travel book, which means that Thursday cannot get back to the BookWorld.

The police come to investigate. Thursday has connections with the police due to her Special Ops work, so they take a statement and promise her that it will all blow over. Thursday doesn't want to tell Landen that it was the fictional Thursday he had just made love to, so she says that Felix8 was the one that shot up the house. Landen was upstairs so to him Thursday left and Thursday came back upstairs after shots were fired. The officers tell her that the remains of Felix8 were found recently. Thursday admits to Landen that she had already known Felix8 was after her and tells him about her conversation with Aornis. That night at dinner, they try again to convince Friday to join the ChronoGuard. Friday explains to them that time is catching up with itself and that soon peoples will have no real memory.

The potential Friday visits Landen and Thursday to try and convince them to let the ChronoGuard take away the lazy Friday and take him instead. Both Landen and Thursday are against it. After the potential Friday leaves, Landen reminds Thursday that a future version of Friday once told them to keep him out of the ChronoGuard no matter what. Thursday goes back to work at Acme Carpets. Flanker, an ex-operative, pays her a visit warning her about cheese smuggling. He is in charge of the cheese regulation, and there is a new type of cheese that is a killer cheese, called X-14. Thursday remembers the cheese chained to the van. Thursday's manager Bowden bets her that no one even knows what books are anymore. IF she loses the bet she has to actually work as a carpet layer. If she wins she gets the cookies Bowden keeps hidden. They visit a bookstore, where the manager takes her to a single table in the back covered with dust where the only remaining books are for sale.



Having lost the bet, Thursday goes off to a carpet job with Spike, for a little old man name Mr. Pickles. A demon named Raum had taken Mr. Pickles hostage and hidden him in a closet, while assuming his identity. In an attempt to tempt people to steal from him, the demon makes it really easy for people to take the old man's money. They when they do they are damned to hell. But the demon figures out that Thursday knows and is on the verge of killing her and Spike, when the real Mr. Pickles saves them by stabbing the demon in the back. Mr. Pickles had dug himself out of the toolshed, where the demon had kept him, using a teaspoon. Thursday and Spike do Mr. Pickles entire house for free.

The potential Friday shows up again with other ChronoGuards to try and intimidate Thursday, Landen and Friday. But, Friday is no there. They believe that Friday is causing the non-discovery of time travel. Thursday and Landen search for Friday and find out that his band was a cover. Tuesday tells them that Friday has been working with is future self while pretending to be a lazy teenager. He is hiding at his grandma's house. Mycroft came up with an equation that can turn back the nature of things called the recipe for unscrambled eggs. Friday is trying to find it and destroy it, so that the ChronoGuard can't use it. The ChronoGuard has been using up time in the present, causing people to become less and less capable of abstract thought, memory or forward thinking. With the recipe for unscrambled eggs, the ChronoGuard could have complete control. Without the recipe, time will slowly heal itself.

Thursday realized that Mycroft must be haunting in order to tell them where the recipe is. Thursday takes Friday out back to the workshop, along with her Aunt Polly. Mycroft appears and tells them that the recipe is in his checked suit. Polly remembers that he left the checked suit in the poem "Wreck of the Hesperus," in the BookWorld



Chapter 30-33

Chapter 30-33 Summary and Analysis

That night, Landen tells Thursday that her daughter Jenny is really a figment of her imagination, a memory worm put in her brain by Aornis Hades. Every day she panics because she can't find Jenny, and everyday Landen and the kids have to explain to her that Jenny doesn't exist. Thursday is overwhelmed by how much her family cares for her.

The government has thought of a way to get rid of the stupidity surplus. They are going to allow for reality television books. The characters of a classic novel are set to task, then the readers get to vote on who wins the task, and how the plot will go forward. The re-write will be permanent, losing the original classic. They could have alternative versions, rather than destroying the classics, but it wouldn't be stupid enough to get rid of the surplus. They plan to begin with "Pride and Prejudice", by Jane Austen. Thursday learns of this on the news. Thursday cannot get to the BookWorld without her Travelbook, which the other Thursday stole. So she tries and think of a way that Bradshaw would contact her. She goes to the books written about Bradshaw and finds that a passage to her has appeared as a dedication at the beginning of the book. Bradshaw writes that Thursday5 is impersonating her in the BookWorld, has suspended all the Jurisdiction agents. Thursday5 has also agreed to a war with Racy Novel, and given the green light to the reality book idea. Bradshaw also tells her that her Travelbook has been hidden in Dark and Stormy Night. The letter erases in two reading. Thursday realizes that the only way into the BookWorld without her Travelbook is by working with the Goliath Corporation, fixing their technology and teaching them how to access the BookWorld in return for a ride.

Thursday leaves immediately for Goliath, getting John Henry out of bed and spends the entire night perfecting their prototype for book travel, the Austen Rover. Thursday draws them a map of the book world, and asks that she be dropped off in Dark and Stormy Night. But when the Austen Rover lands on a ship, Thursday knows immediately that it isn't the right story. Turning around, the Goliath Corporation's inventor, Dr. Wirthlass, is pointing a gun at her. The ChronoGuard went back in time to start funding Goliath on its fictional travel project in order to access the BookWorld and find the recipe for unscrambled eggs. They know that it has been left in "The Wreck of the Hesperus." Thursday tries to warn Wirthlass that poetry is a dangerous place, but stops herself. Wirthlass is the wife of Jack Schitt, who Thursday once imprisoned in "The Raven." The ship leaves, and Thursday is abandoned in a book she doesn't know, with no way to get out.

Upon exploring the ship, Thursday finds out that she is Captain, and that bad things always happen on the ship. The first is a squabble over money. A woman is dying and the doctor with the antidote wasn't more money than the young couple has. Thursday forces the doctor to give them the antidote for less. Then the troubles get more difficult.



Thursday has to decide whether or not to save a group of diseased castaways, whether or not she should kill some of the passengers because there is not enough food for everyone and whether or not to torture a man who claims to have hidden a bomb on the boat. Thursday finds out that she is trapped in an oral tradition, a lecture on morality called Moral Dilemma. Knowing that in the oral tradition any changes to plot will kill the speaker, Thursday jumps off the boat to save the ship and tries to think of a way to escape.



Chapter 34-37

Chapter 34-37 Summary and Analysis

Her mobilefootnoterphone starts ringing. She knows she is out of signal, but in hopes that they be able to hear her she tells whoever called to find her near the rainstorm of text. Thursday then shoots the sky, and letters and words fall down like rain. A taxi appears.

Text Grand Central sends Danverclones to try and capture Thursday, having seen the rainstorm of text. She bribes the taxi driver with merchandize from the outland, the real world, and tells him to take her to "The Wreck of the Hesperus." Danverclones start falling from the sky, trying to get into the taxi. When they arrive in the poem, they are overwhelmed with a sense of tragedy and loss. Poetry is strong and can turn your emotions. They find Dr. Wirthlass tied to a mast, frozen to death. Wirthlass gave the little girl who in the poem is supposed to freeze to death her coat. But, the little girl has another coat too, given to her years ago by Mycroft. IN it's pocket is the recipe for unscrambled eggs. Thursday eats the recipe just as a legion of Danverclones arrives to arrest her. Thursday1-4 shows up too and tries to take Thursday for herself, but the Danverclones won't disobey orders to take Thursday in themselves. Thursday1-4 grabs hold of Thursday and they book jump. When they arrive in "Pride and Prejudice" Thursday finds out that it was Thursday5 who had impersonated Thursday1-4 to save her from the Danverclones.

Thursday goes to the Council of Genres to expose the fake Thursday. The two Thursday's fight in the corridor and one of them is arrested. They send Thursday to exile in the final book, but it is the wrong Thursday. Bradshaw sends the imposter, Thursday1-4, to the books to get rid of Thursday. He realizes that the wrong Thursday is imprisoned, but plays along to help Thursday escape.

When Thursday1-4 arrives in her book, there are no characters. She finds Thursday inside the house, calm and composed. Thursday has conspired with Bradshaw to destroy the book. All around the book world is disappearing. Thursday1-4 is amazed that Thursday would let herself and her book die to defeat her. She has a change of heart and helps Thursday get out. Thursday1-4 is erased along with the book.



Chapter 38-39

Chapter 38-39 Summary and Analysis

When Thursday arrives home, Landen is waiting for her. The reality book idea has been abandoned. People were so into the idea that suddenly "Pride and Prejudice" is selling out, and people are reading again. Thursday confesses that she has been working for Jurisdiction behind his back for fourteen years. Landen tells her that he already knew, but that he believes in her work and wants her to keep doing it. The future Friday is there to talk to her as well. He tells her that without the unscrambled egg recipe the ChronoGuard will not be able to time travel or control time anymore. They are turning off all their machines and he will no longer exist. The Friday of the present will be able to choose his own future.

Meanwhile, Thursday5 no longer has a book and Thursday1-4 no longer exists, so Thursday is training Thursday5 to become the replacement character in the first four books. When the ChronoGuard disappeared, Thursday's father was able to re-actualize and come home. Thursday's last job is finding out where Felix8 is. He wasn't the real Felix8 but the character from the book. She finds out that the Minotaur and Felix8 were both sent to kill her. The book ends with Thursday trying to figure out who would try and kill her. It must be the same person that killed Sherlock Holmes. Someone was trying to kill off main characters in the BookWorld.



Characters

Thursday Next

The heroine of the novel, Thursday Next is a literary detective for Jurisfiction, the police of fiction in the BookWorld. Formerly a government agent in the real world, Thursday Next has continued her work freelance. She owns a carpeting store in Swindon, but it is a front for ex-operatives to continue their work, capturing exotic creatures and protecting the real world from villains of fiction who have escaped their books. Thursday Next has a strong relationship with her husband Landen, a writer, but has been lying to him for fourteen years about her special ops work in BookWorld. In a previous book, Thursday promised Landen that she would quit the dangerous business and settle down.

Thursday is the daughter of a ChronoGuard rebel, who was forced out of existence for rebelling against the system of controlled history. Her uncle, now dead, was an inventor who made travel between books possible for outlanders, i.e. non-fictional characters. Her son Friday has a natural talent for time travel and her daughter Tuesday is a child genius mathematician. Thursday is a quick thinker and a risk taker. She enjoys her life as an agent because of the adrenaline rush just as much as she loves the simplicity of her home life with Landen.

Thursday5

The literary version of Thursday from the fifth book of the series on Thursday Next's life, "The Great Samuel Pepys Fiasco," Thursday5 is training as a cadet to be an officer in Jurisfiction. After the first four books based on Thursday Next, in which Thursday was portrayed as a violent, sexual predator, Thursday had Thursday5 be a softer individual. The result is an annoyingly kind and gentle, hippie that is too weak to be a Jurisfiction officer. However, despite almost getting the real Thursday killed many times, Thursday5 saves Thursday's life.

Thursday1-4

Where Thursday 5 is too emotional to become a Jurisfiction agent, Thursday1-4 is a heartless, obnoxious, violent woman. Thursday1-4 is not a real person, but a fictional version of Thursday from the first four books about her. Thursday1-4 is a more popular character than Thursday5, but harbors a hatred for the real Thursday for being made such a despicable human being. She steals Thursday's travel book, trapping Thursday in the real world, then impersonates her in the Book World in order to destroy Thursday's life work. She then attempts to kill the real Thursday, but is outsmarted.



Landen

Where Thursday5 is too emotional to become a Jurisdiction agent, Thursday1-4 is a heartless, obnoxious, violent woman. Thursday1-4 is not a real person, but a fictional version of Thursday from the first four books about her. Thursday1-4 is a more popular character than Thursday5, but harbors a hatred for the real Thursday for being made such a despicable human being. She steals Thursday's travel book, trapping Thursday in the real world, then impersonates her in the Book World in order to destroy Thursday's life work. She then attempts to kill the real Thursday, but is outsmarted.

Polly

Polly is Thursday's aunt and the wife of Mycroft, the famous inventor. She lives with her sister-in-law, Thursday's mother, now that her husband Mycroft is dead. She is a very modern and intelligent old woman. Her musical tastes are similar to Thursday's son Friday's. When Friday is hiding from the ChronoGuard he stays in Polly's house. Polly and Thursday's mom spend their time playing games with door to door salesman, pretending to be insane.

Friday

Friday is Thursday and Landen's oldest child. He is described as a lazy, smelly teenager only interested in rock music. Friday, like Tuesday, appears to have no interest or talent in school. He sleeps in late and rarely bathes. Thursday has met the future Friday. According to him, and according to the SHE, the timeline that governs history, Friday should have been trained as a ChronoGuard officer years before. Friday refuses to join, to everyone's dismay. Should Friday not become an agent in the ChronoGuard history is disrupted. Friday is afraid of what happened to his grandfather, who was also a ChronoGuard and whose existence was erased for disobeying orders. Friday believes that the control of time and events is morally wrong, as did his grandfather. As it turns out, Friday has been working in secret with his future self to bring down the ChronoGuard and keep them from discovering how to undo time. There is an equation, written by Friday's great Uncle Mycroft that explains how to undo time, and Friday and his future self are trying to keep the ChronoGuard from finding it.

Tuesday

Tuesday is Thursday's daughter. It was thought that Tuesday was a terrible student until one day she saw a complex unsolvable equation on the chalkboard and solved it. Tuesday is still a child but she tutors the greatest mathematicians in the country.



Jenny

Jenny is the third and youngest daughter of Thursday and Landen. She is actually a memory worm placed in Thursday's head by Aornis Hades. Only Thursday doesn't realize that Jenny doesn't exist. Every time that she is told, she immediately forgets. Landen, Friday and Tuesday try and keep up the pretense that Jenny is real in order to spare Thursday's sanity.

Pickwick

The oldest dodo in existence, at twenty nine years old, Pickwick was genetically cloned by Thursday and is a household pet. Pickwick goes around in a sweater knitted by Thursday, having lost her feathers in an earlier book. The Dodo Fanciers Society continually tries to buy her and occasionally attempts to steal her.

Felix 8

Felix8 is the eighth of his kind. Hades took the face off of the first Felix and put it on another person's body then subjugates them to his will. When that person dies, Hades puts Felix's face on a new person. Felix 8 was killed by one of the Hades clan but shows up at Thursday's house in an attempt to kill her. It is one of the running mysteries of the book as to why Felix 8 would be after her, and how he could come back from the dead.

Aornis Hades

Aornis Hades is of the family Hades and was captured by Thursday in an earlier book of the series. Aornis is serving her sentence in a time loop, where a prisoner is trapped in an eight minute time loop that continually repeats. These time loops are located in shopping marts and bus stops. There is no escape and the monotony is punishment. Thursday visits Aornis in her time loop to find out why Felix8 is trying to kill her. Aornis tells her that Felix8 has been dead for years. Aornis has the ability to manipulate people's memory. She plants a memory worm in Thursday's mind that makes Thursday believe she has a daughter, causing her family to pretend that the third child is out of the room or at a friend's house twenty-four hours a day.

Jobsworth

Head of the council of genres, CofG, Jobsworth is constantly at odds with Thursday over how the BookWorld should be governed. He is her boss, technically, but being an outworlder Thursday has veto power on any legislation and uses it often against Jobsworth's ideas.



Redmond van de Poste

Poste is the current Prime Minister of England. He is leader of the Commonsense Party and is looking for a way to use up a stupidity surplus. If there is not enough stupidity in government and the population, stupidity builds up and creates a surplus. It takes incredibly stupid government action to use up the surplus. One of Poste's ideas is to re-write the classic books of fiction as reality TV. shows in which the viewers can vote on tasks, which will overwrite the original story line based on popular vote.

Mycroft

Mycroft is Thursday's uncle and the husband of Polly. He has been dead for six years at the start of the book, but he begins appearing to Thursday as a ghost. He doesn't know why he is coming back. Thursday asks her vampire agent to ask around and find out why a dead man would suddenly reappear. As it turns out, Mycroft who was a genius inventor wrote a mathematical equation that could undo time. The ChronoGuard is after it, and Mycroft wants it destroyed. Mycroft hid the equation in his jacket which he then gave to a character in the poem, "The Wreck of the Hesperus."



Objects/Places

The BookWorld

The BookWorld is similar to outer space. It is a great void of space where books float like planets, linked together with similar types of books in genres. Access to the BookWorld by real people was made possible by Thursday's uncle Mycroft who invented the Prose Portal. Travel between books is possible by reading specific passages that transport you into the BookWorld. The BookWorld is governed by a legislature called the Council of Genres. Thursday is the only outlander on the Council because she has a greater capacity for original thought and reason than the characters that inhabit the book world. There is also a policing force, called Jurisdiction that handles crimes within the BookWorld. Thursday is also an agent of Jurisdiction.

Swindon

Swindon is the normal little town where Thursday's family lives. Thursday believes that her suburban lifestyle is a cover for the work she does for Special Ops and in the BookWorld. Thursday has a carpet business in Swindon. Her mother and aunt also live in Swindon.

Goliath Corp

The Goliath Corporation played a major role in the former books. Goliath is one of Thursday's greatest enemies, once responsible for obliterating her husband for a number of years. Goliath is responsible in this book for sending probes into the BookWorld. Not having the technology that would allow them to enter the BookWorld, Goliath is sending probes to try and find out how the BookWorld works. They plan to do a fictional tourism business, where people can pay money to be transported to their favorite novels. Thursday is distrustful of Goliath's interest in books, and is proved right when Goliath tricks her into helping them with the technology, then leaving her to die in an obscure oral story far away from other books. Eventually their technology is lost, when they visit the Wreck of the Hesperus, an old poem, and die in the attempt.

Textual sieve

The Textual Sieve is constantly referred to in the book and is rarely explained. This comedic technological device can block characters within a book, or depending on the setting, strain the text of a book so as to get exactly what the user is looking for. The Textual Sieve was made by Jurisdiction's technology department, JurisTech.



Acme Carpets

Acme Carpets is the name of Thursday's business. They don't actually sell or install carpets, or very rarely. The business is a front for the ex-Special Ops forces. They handle vampires and dangerous extinct creatures as well as have links in the BookWorld where Thursday also works. Acme Carpets is the job that Thursday tells her husband and kids that she does, when really she is working in dangerous operations in the fictional and real worlds. In order to supplement the income, and keep Acme running, Thursday also does illegal cheese trading on the side.

ChronoGuard

Also known as Special Operations-12, ChronoGuard is a regulatory government department that tries to keep the Standard History Eventline (SHE) pure. They control time, and try to maintain stability in the present by making sure the past and the future are in line with the SHE. Thursday's father was a high operative in the ChronoGuard but went rogue when he decided that it was unethical to control events. Friday, Thursday's son, is supposed to join the ChronoGuard, according to SHE, but he refuses to, causing ChronoGuard to believe that Friday is destroying the stability of the present and the course of the future. The technology that the ChronoGuard uses depends on the discovery of time travel, which in the present day of the book, hasn't been invented. The future ChronoGuard comes to the present to try and force Friday to join and solve the problem of time travel.

TravelBook

The TravelBook is Thursday's access to the book world. It is essentially a travel guide, with maps, information and advice on the BookWorld. The travel book is issued to all Jurisdiction agents, it has various gats like textmarker, but also has an emergency alert function or an auto deconstruct function.

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction is the policing agency within books. Just like the Police in the real world. Jurisdiction handles crime in the BookWorld. Jurisdiction is Thursday's favorite job. Jurisdiction works with the intelligence given by Text Grand Central, to try and keep the narratives of all the books in BookWorld in line with the author's original intention. Sometimes this means chasing after rogue characters, arresting villains that have escaped their books and keeping things in line with the guidelines set out by the legislative body of BookWorld, the Council of Genres.



Council of Genres

CofG "looks after Fictional Legislature...The council governs dramatic conventions, strictly controls the use of irony, legislates on word use and, through the Book Inspectorate, decides which novels are to be published and which ones scrapped" Every genre has at least one senator representing them in the CofG. IF there are subgenres, they may have several senators representing them.

Footnoterphone

Footnoterphones are the main way to communicate in the BookWorld, working like telephones. Many, like Jurisdiction officers, carry a mobilefootnoterphone with them. There is signal within the more read books in the book world, but in genres or books less visited there may be only a payfootnoterphone, or no communication at all.

Text Grand Central

Text Grand Central is an intelligence agency. They oversee everything that happens in BookWorld. When collect data on everything that is read, as well as the status of all the characters that inhabit the books. Text Grand Central is the most powerful organization in BookWorld. There is no hiding from them within BookWorld.

Themes

The power of the imagination

The book is built on the idea that the imagination has tremendous power. The BookWorld is in existence, and the telling of stories works because of the reader's ability to imagine. We see this take place in many instances in the novel, such as the existence of an idea room in every book that contains energy. That energy is an idea that can be imagined by a reader. Imagination is also where sympathy comes from. The reader can see Thursday's relationship to fictional characters is just as strong as her feeling for her friends in the real world.

The reflection of ourselves in characters in books

Another theme in "Thursday Next" is how characters in books reflect ourselves. The most obvious symbol of this is in Thursday's fictional selves. Despite the restrictions of free will that the fictional versions of Thursday have, they are a constant reminder to Thursday of her good and bad qualities. Stories and books function that way, though on a less intense level. The reader sees himself in his favorite characters. Stories are like mirrors that show the reader themselves.

The effect of new technology on books and reading

One of the central story lines in the book is concerned with the falling reader rates. People are reading less and less as television and computers take up so much time. One of the downsides to this is that people's attention spans are getting shorter and shorter as are their ability to understand time. The characters in the book world are looking for ways to enhance stories, make them more interactive in an attempt to draw new readers, but it isn't working. Eventually the Council of Genres suggests that they allow people to vote on the plots of the classics, destroying the original story forever. The responses of the people in Thursday Next is important symbolically because the decrease in reading is a current issue today

Style

Point of View

"Thursday Next" is told almost completely in the first person from the point of view of the heroine Thursday Next. All the descriptions of BookWorld come from Thursday's internal dialogue. At the beginning of each chapter, Thursday explains a different aspect of BookWorld or of the technology being talked about in the story. There are glitches in this point of view. When Thursday1-4 takes over Thursday's identity, the reader is inside Thursday1-4's head.. There are also some discrepancies in Thursday's memory. A memory worm planted by Thursday's enemy Aornis, makes Thursday believe she has a third daughter. This is explained to Thursday towards the end of the book by her husband Landen. But, because of the memory worm, Thursday immediately goes back to thinking that she has a third daughter. The reader has more information than the narrator in that instance.

Setting

There are two predominant settings in the book, the real world and the BookWorld. Thursday is an outlander, a real person, but she works as a Jurisdiction agent in the BookWorld. BookWorld is a massive space in which books float in a vacuum, held together by gravity according to genre, like little solar systems. Every book that has been written, whether good or bad, published or forgotten, exists like a planet in the BookWorld. Thursday spends her time jumping from one book to another.

The other setting is the "real world." The real world represents modern day, except that there are more technological advances. There are also comic elements to the setting, such as the existence of a stupidity surplus under the power of the Commonsense party, the decline in reading, and the existence of strange and magical creatures that have to be caught and contained by special agents. There is also a ban on cheese, making the illegal buying and selling of cheese products a criminal offense, and a very lucrative venture. Most of the cheese comes from across the border in Wales.

Language and Meaning

Full of invented technical terms relating to the BookWorld and the technology that keeps it running. A lot of terminology based on computer science but given a creative twist is used, such as "imaginotransference." The book is partly satirical, in that it criticizes the diminishing interest in books as opposed to television. The population of the world has stopped reading, and the book reflects what that would mean if the BookWorld really existed.

Structure

The book is made of thirty nine chapters, although chapter thirteen is left out for superstitious reasons. Each chapter has a title or phrase that sums up the theme in the chapter, tells us the main character in the chapter or tells the reader where the chapter takes place. At the beginning of each chapter there is a short paragraph that explains different aspects of the world that the reader may not understand, having not read the previous books in the series. These introductions explain technology, or the various organizations that exist in the book. They also serve to explain the distinctions between the BookWorld and the real world though the main characters live in both.



Quotes

"Reading, I had learned, was as creative a process as writing, sometimes more so. When we read of dying rays of the setting sun or the boom and swish of the incoming tide, we should reserve as much praise for ourselves as for the author. After all, the reader is doing all the work—The writer might have died long ago." Ch. pg. 52

"I'd come to realize over the years that anything created by mankind had error, mischief and bureaucratic officialdom hardwired at inception, and the fictional world was no different."
Ch. pg. 54

Unlike the real world, where practical difficulties in civil engineering might be a defining factor in the scale of a facility, here it was not a consideration at all. Indeed the size of the plant could expand and contract depending on need, a little like Mary Poppins's suitcase, which was hardly surprising, as they were designed by the same person."
Ch.11, pg. 90

"Humans like stories. Humans need stories. Stories are good. Stories work. Story clarifies and captures the essence of the human spirit. Story, in all its forms—of life, of love, of knowledge—has traced the upward surge of mankind. And story , you mark my words, will be with the last human to draw breath."
Ch24, pg. 204

"The only way to win the game is not to play."
Ch. 34, pg. 303

"Whereas story is processed in the mind in a straightforward manner, poetry bypasses rational thought and goes straight to the limbic system and lights it up like a brushfire. It's the crack cocaine of the literary world."
Ch. 34, pg. 305

"Her personal vanity condemned you to the slow death of being unread, unreviewed, undiscussed and out of print. The real Thursday is a single-minded as I am—even to the ultimate vanity of rewriting herself into the guise of little Miss Granola Tree-Hugger here—with no other reason than to protect her own fragile vanity." Thursday1-4 on the real Thursday. Ch. 22, pg. 177

"The obscenely complex technologies that the ChronoGuard uses to power up the time engines contravene one essential premise that is at the very core of science: that disorder will always stay the same or increase. More simply stated, you can put a pig in a machine to make sausage, but you can't put a sausage in a machine to make a pig."
Ch. 30, pg. 263



"Books suffer wear and tear, just the same as hip joints, cars and reputations. For this reason books have to go into the maintenance bay for a periodic refit, either every thirty years or every million readings, whichever comes first." Ch. 11, pg. 88

"Some factions argued that the Bookverse was constantly expanding as new books were written, but others argued convincingly of a steady-state Bookverse, where ideas were endlessly recycled. A third faction who called themselves "simplists" argued that there was a single fundamental rule that governed all story: If it works, it works." Ch. 33, pg. 286



Topics for Discussion

Why did a taxi arrive just in time to rescue Thursday in "Moral Dilemma"? Who could have ordered it?

Why did the author not include a 13th Chapter?

Landen and Thursday have a close relationship, why does she not tell him that she is involved in Jurisfiction and why does he not tell her that he knows?

Is Thursday's daughter Jenny real? What is the backstory? Why is Jenny always absent from the family scenes?

Thursday1-4 tries to get revenge on Thursday by impersonating her and taking over her life. What are the difficulties of having fictional characters whose life is not decided by them?

They are many scenes in the book where an outworlder is overcome by compassion for a fictional character, what is the writer saying about the nature of books, if such strong bonds exist between his 'real' characters and his fictional ones?

The book is set in 2002, but there are advances in technology that do not exist yet. Does this have something to do with the Standard History Eventline?

Why does Friday not want to join the ChronoGuard? Why can he do and say things that aren't written in the Standard History Eventline?

How does Thursday1-4 convince people that she is the real Thursday? Where does the author give the reader a hint that it is not the real Thursday narrating?

Do the characters who suffer and die in fiction feel pain? Why are they important for readers?

The Goliath Corporation wants to create a business where people can vacation inside their favorite books. If that technology were possible could that business be successful in our world? Why or Why not?

What are some differences between the BookWorld and the real world in "Thursday Next"?