

# **Thursday Next in the Well of Lost Plots: A Novel Study Guide**

**Thursday Next in the Well of Lost Plots: A Novel by  
Jasper Fforde**

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# Plot Summary

"The Well of Lost Plots" is the third book in the ongoing series by Jasper Fforde. It centers around the protagonist, literary detective Thursday Next, who is the narrator.

Thursday is an operative with SpeOps-27 in the real world, but as "The Well of Lost Plots" opens, she is taking a much-needed vacation inside the BookWorld. She is pregnant by her husband, Landen Parke-Laine, who was eradicated in the real world and exists only in her memories. Aornis Hades, an enemy from a previous book, infiltrates Thursday as a mindworm, trying to get her to forget her husband. If Thursday forgets him, there is no hope of his return to the real world.

Thursday is in the BookWorld as part of the Character Exchange Program in the unpublished novel Caversham Heights. It is an unpublished book, and the protagonist, DCI Jack Spratt is afraid it will be disassembled. He hopes to use Thursday's influence in the BookWorld to appeal to the Council of Genres to prevent it from happening.

While in the BookWorld, Thursday is continuing her apprenticeship into Jurisfiction under the guidance of Miss Havisham of Great Expectations. Jurisfiction is on edge because Yorrick Kaine, a fictional character, has escaped into the Outland, while an Outlander is in the BookWorld and has teamed up with Kaine and Text Grand Central to release BOOK v.9, code-named UltraWord.

Living with Thursday in Caversham Heights are two Generics from St. Tabularasa's, Ibb and Obb. They are undergoing training to become characters, and be assigned books. As they go through training, they begin to develop distinct personalities, which Thursday likens to going through puberty.

The Minotaur escapes, killing Perkins and Mathias. Snell is killed by a misspelling virus. After Thursday is sworn in as a full agent, Miss Havisham and Thursday are looking into the deaths when Miss Havisham is killed as a result of an accident during a land speed attempt in the Outland. Just before she dies, Miss Havisham gives Thursday an UltraWord(TM) copy of The Little Prince she had been testing, and tells her the formulaic is the enemy.

Thursday battles Aornis's mindworm in a final nightmare and is victorious, gaining her memories back, particularly of Landen. Thursday is assigned to work with Solomon, essentially as a bailiff. More of the witches' prophecy comes true.

Thursday decodes Snell's nonsense message and Tweed reveals himself as the murderer of Perkins. When he accuses Thursday of killing Perkins with the motive of becoming the Bellman, Deane helps Thursday escape her arrest, and the two of them come up with a plan to keep UltraWord(TM) from being voted in at the BookAwards. They cut Tweed off from Text Grand Central, and Thursday explains the problems with UltraWord(TM). However, Tweed gets the connection back and the Bellman is calling for a vote, so Thursday pulls the emergency lever in her TravelBook.



The Great Panjandrum appears and freezes all the text in the room, calling for a vote right then, which votes down UltraWord(TM). The Great Panjandrum also appoints Thursday to be the next Bellman. Thursday saves Lola from being auctioned, reuniting her with Randolph, then saves Caversham Heights by setting it up as a sanctuary for worn out characters, which also ends the nursery rhyme characters' strike.

The final chapter is exclusive to the U.S. Edition of "The Well of Lost Plots", and describes how Thursday handles a WordStorm in the BookWorld.



# Chapter 1: The Absence of Breakfast

## Chapter 1: The Absence of Breakfast Summary

Chapter 1: The Absence of Breakfast opens with a pregnant Thursday in Caversham Heights. She explains what it is like to live in a fictional world, focusing on some of the benefits, such as not needing to refuel cars or needing people to repeat themselves. She explains that the first notable difference noticed in her normal routine was the absence of breakfast.

Thursday explains the origination of the Character Exchange Program, which led her to be able to take up residence in Caversham Heights, which she chose because she knew it was unlikely to be published, which meant it was unlikely she would have to leave before she was ready.

Thursday reads herself into Caversham Heights and meets Mary Jones, the character she will be standing in for. Thursday explains she is an Outlander, which impresses Jones. Jones shows Thursday around the flying boat that is to be her home, and introduces her to her responsibilities in Caversham Heights. Jones tells Thursday she'll see her in about a year, and takes a TransGenre Taxi out of the book. Thursday lets Pickwick out of her bag. She loses herself in thoughts of the life she left behind, but is interrupted when a motorcyclist approaches. The rider is Arnold, who was trying to catch Jones before she left.

Arnold and Thursday talk, and he is as impressed as Jones was that Thursday is an Outlander. He tries to sell her from verbs from the Text Sea, but Thursday tells him she's a Jurisdiction agent, but that she won't report him this time. Arnold leaves on his motorcycle, driving as erratically as when he arrived.

Thursday goes into the flying boat and starts to settle in, which includes placing Pickwick's egg in a safe place, describing it as she goes. While she is exploring, she hears voices from the living room, and is unable to tell their genders. She goes down to the living room, gun drawn, and finds two Generics: TSI-1404912-A and TSI-1404912-C. They explain they have been manufactured in preparation for a large Vikram Seth book, and are being stored in unpublished novels until needed. They are waiting for character training at St. Tabularasa's. To avoid confusion, Thursday names them ibb and obb.

Thursday unpacks and looks at her sketch of Landen. She wonders if she should be in the Outland looking for him instead of hiding in the BookWorld, but decides that her pregnancy made it necessary. Her plan is to stay where she is until the baby is born, then go back to the real world and get him back.

Thursday explains some cooking basics to obb, and gives it Mrs. Beeton's Complete Housekeeper to study. Three hours later, it had roasted a perfect leg of lamb.



## Chapter 1: The Absence of Breakfast Analysis

In Chapter 1, Fforde sets the stage for the rest of the story of "The Well of Lost Plots". In this first chapter, the reader learns that Thursday is a real person living in an unpublished novel, that she is a literary detective in the real world and a Jurisfiction agent in the BookWorld, she is pregnant by her eradicated husband, her pet dodo has an egg, and that bookpeople are fascinated by Outlanders. Chapter 1 gives a great deal of important background information, particularly information that was revealed in previous books. This gives the reader somewhere to start as the story begins to move forward.

The way of life in the BookWorld is important to the story of "The Well of Lost Plots". Things are different for Thursday than they are in the real world, and she has to adjust to thinking and living in fictional terms. She suggests some of this adjustment in the opening of the chapter when she highlights some of the differences that exist, such as the absence of breakfast.

The two Generics Thursday finds in her home introduce the reader to the behind-the-scenes creation of stories from the perspective of the BookWorld. While a writer puts words to paper in the real world, the story is created in the BookWorld with characters and settings. The Text Sea provides the words that are put together to create the world of the story, and characters, who develop from Generics, provide the characters. Fforde's use of the BookWorld as a physical place that creates stories written in the real world gives it an element of reality for the reader. That is, the BookWorld is not an abstract place of only words. Instead, the reader sees the words come together to create a setting and story.

This begins to introduce the themes of identity and the blurring of fiction and reality in The Well of Lost Plots. The two Generics initially have no identity, but as the story progresses, they grow and develop into distinct personalities and identities. The blurring of fiction and reality comes in the fact that the BookWorld seems to be a real place. Thursday is a real person—an Outlander—and is in the BookWorld. If it did not exist, she would not be able to be there. However, the people of the BookWorld know they live within the world of fiction, and that they are different from the people of the real world.

In terms of the overall story of "The Well of Lost Plots", Chapter 1 serves as exposition. Not only does it provide setting and introduce key characters, but it gives background information about previous Thursday Thursday books to allow the reader to follow the current story. While The Well of Lost Plots is part of the Thursday Thursday series, the background information given allows it to stand alone.



## Chapter 2: Inside Caversham Heights

### Chapter 2: Inside Caversham Heights Summary

Chapter 2: Inside Caversham Heights opens the next morning at breakfast. Thursday is explaining breakfast to Ibb and Obb. A copy of "The Toad" is delivered, which includes a story pertinent to the plot of Caversham Heights, and reminds Thursday that she will soon have to stand in for Jones. Wyatt arrives. Throughout the conversation between Wyatt and Thursday the grammatical construction of the narration relating to Wyatt is awkward, which embarrasses Wyatt. He tells her that even though Caversham Heights has a demolition order, she should do her best to play Jones's part well.

Thursday drives Jones's car into Reading across the M4. As she is driving, she notices that while the road seems busy, there are only half a dozen or so cars that appear over and over to give the appearance of traffic. When Thursday first arrives, the story is with Jack, so DCI Briggs chats with her. Briggs asks if she knows when the Council of Genres Book Inspectorate will be in since Caversham Heights has a demolition order.

Unnamed Police Officer No. 1 asks Thursday a few questions about being an Outlander, but doesn't believe she is from the Outland based on her answers. Thursday covers her eyes and tells them to speak to her without using speech designators. Since she recognizes their voices, she is able to discern who is speaking.

In Thursday's scene in Caversham Heights, Jack Spratt enters the crime scene. Briggs briefs Spratt on the case, then introduces him to DS Mary Jones. Thursday goes on with the scene, but Spratt stops, sitting down and saying he can't do it anymore. He explains that he has tried to improve the narrative, but it does not seem to be helping.

When Spratt finds out who Thursday is, he gets excited. He asks if she knows when the Book Inspectorate are going to read the story. Thursday says she does not know, and asks what the Council of Genres is. Spratt explains. Spratt asks if Thursday knows anyone at Text Grand Central. Thursday suggests that he make changes to the story from within.

Spratt agrees to make changes. They move to the top of the previous page, just as Briggs was leaving. They begin the scene, but instead of going through the case and the body, Jones tells Spratt his wife called and that it was very urgent, so Spratt exits, leaving Dr. Singh to go through the explanation of the crime scene with Jones.

### Chapter 2: Inside Caversham Heights Analysis

The awkward grammar in the conversation between Wyatt and Thursday draws the reader's attention to the fact that the characters in Caversham Heights know they are characters. This classifies "The Well of Lost Plots" as metafiction. Rather than attempting to draw the reader into the world and use the reader's willing suspension of





disbelief, Fforde draws attention to the fact that the reader is reading a story. This helps develop and deepen the culture of the BookWorld.

Thursday's journey on the M4 also draws attention to the behind-the-scenes aspect of stories. The road has the appearance and feel of being busy, but there are only about half a dozen cars that keep reappearing. In the Outland, a reader simply knows that the M4 is busy, but not all the individual vehicles that are on the road. Caversham Heights saves money and resources by reusing the same cars on the M4 rather than using enough cars to create true traffic.

This chapter reveals some of the politics of the BookWorld. Caversham Heights is not written well. In the Outland, it is unpublished. That means there are no readers. Since there are no readers, no additional resources are being directed to the book, which means the book is unable to improve. Since the book is unable to improve, it is likely to be demolished. Like many books in the Well, Caversham Heights is caught in a catch-22 that prevents the situation from improving. Jack wants to improve the book and save it from demolition, but feels hopeless because of the limitations put on him by the politics of the BookWorld. He has tried to go through the proper channels with no success, and feels he has no other options for saving the book. Thursday's suggestion is radical—it goes against policies and regulations. However, Jack's desire to save the book outweighs the risks involved.



## Chapter 3: Three witches, multiple choice, and sarcasm

### Chapter 3: Three witches, multiple choice, and sarcasm Summary

In Chapter 3: Three witches, multiple choice, and sarcasm, Thursday is sitting with Dr. Singh and several other trainee pathologists to get as much information from her as they can. Four hours later, she goes home to the flying boat.

In the kitchen, ibb and obb have been studying the cooking book all day, and ibb is making steak Diane with french fries. Thursday remembers that Landen used to make that for her, and she feels lonely and very far from home. Thursday tries to talk to obb, but due to obb's literal way of speaking, she ended the conversation.

Thursday receives the Jurisdiction Standard Entrance Exam from Miss Havisham. However, Thursday is sure that she is not ready for full membership in Jurisdiction. The exam is self-invigilating. While she is taking the exam, there is a knock at the door accompanied by a peal of thunder. When Thursday opens the door, she sees three ugly, old crones, who give her a cryptic message, indicating she will become a full Jurisdiction agent, and then the Bellman. She closes the door and goes back to her exam, but is once again interrupted by another knock at the door. It is the three witches again, asking for money for the prophecy they gave her. She goes back to the exam and there is another knock. This time, however, it is Granny Thursday, dressed in her usual blue gingham.

Granny says she is there to look after Thursday. ibb and obb note that she is old—one hundred and eight—and ask what it is like being old. She makes a comment about missing her own funeral, which confuses ibb and obb, but they figure out what she means. ibb and obb go into the kitchen. Granny tells Thursday she needs to be there to remind Thursday of things she might forget, such as Landen. She says her husband was eradicated, too, and the one thing she needed was someone to help her through it.

Thursday tries to have a conversation with ibb and obb, which was difficult. She tried to tell a joke, but they didn't understand. Thursday tries to explain sarcasm to them. Granny tries a different tack by explaining sarcasm through humor, which is successful.

### Chapter 3: Three witches, multiple choice, and sarcasm Analysis

The three witches in Chapter 3 is one example of the numerous literary allusions used throughout "The Well of Lost Plots", as well as the entire Thursday Next series. The three witches are from Shakespeare's "Macbeth". Their prophecy is foreshadowing



events to come in the story, but because of how they come across to Thursday, as well as how they are seen by other characters in the BookWorld, they are not taken seriously. This is another example of Fforde's use of metafiction. He draws attention to the witches' prophecy as foreshadowing, almost making it farcical rather than taken seriously. This creates a comic element in the prophecy, but when the prophecy is later revealed to be true, it changes the reader's perspective on the witches, as well as other events in "The Well of Lost Plots".

Granny Next arrives to take care of Thursday. She is an odd character in the story, though she is also a protector and guide for Thursday through a difficult time. Granny seems to know more about Thursday's situation than she lets on, but the reader gets the sense that Thursday has to go through the events in a certain way in order to be successful. This stands in stark contrast to the foreshadowing given by the witches, allowing them to play off each other in Thursday and the reader's minds.

The fact that Granny is able to explain sarcasm to ibb and obb when Thursday is unable shows that Granny provides Thursday with a different perspective. It is implied that this will come in useful as the story progresses and Thursday faces the challenges of dealing with Aornis and addressing problems as part of her work in Jurisdiction.



# Chapter 4: Landen Parke-Laine

## Chapter 4: Landen Parke-Laine Summary

Chapter 4: Landen Parke-Laine opens immediately after the end of Chapter 3 with Thursday dreaming about the Crimea, where she met Landen. Thursday gives the circumstances of her service in the Crimean War, which had been going on for 120 years at that point.

The dream was about the first time Thursday and Landen spent any time together. Thursday was to drive Landen in an armored scout car to an observation post. They referred to the incident as their "first date." As the dream progresses, Thursday knows what is coming, and how many words a soldier has left before he is killed in action. However, the dream does not go the way it is supposed to. Instead of the soldier dying, Landen does. This wakes Thursday and she bolts upright in bed. She is trying to remember something, and Granny reminds her that the officer from her dream is named Landen, and that he did not die in the Crimean, despite her incorrect memories. Granny helps Thursday remember that she married Landen, but he was eradicated by Lavoisier and Goliath.

Granny explains that Thursday was forgetting Landen because of Aornis, a mnemonomorph who is changing her memories. Granny tells Thursday that she has to get rid of Aornis on her own, but that they will speak often to help. Granny then asks Thursday to tell her Landen's full name, and she cannot remember. This scares Thursday, and Granny tells her that when she remembers, she knows she will have won.

## Chapter 4: Landen Parke-Laine Analysis

Chapter 4 focuses on the theme of identity in "The Well of Lost Plots". Thursday's identity is challenged because Aornis' mindworm is changing her memories. Since her memories are almost all she has of her life in the Outland—aside from Granny—by changing them, Aornis is changing who Thursday is. This is particularly dangerous since she is having trouble remembering even her husband.

The biggest aspect of the theme of identity addressed in Chapter 4 is Landen. Since he is eradicated in the Outland, he exists only in Thursday's memories. If she has any hope of getting him back in the Outland, she has to hold on to his existence in her mind. However, due to Aornis' mindworm, Thursday is struggling to remember him. When Thursday wakes from her nightmare, Granny has to remind her who Landen is and why he is gone. In fact, when asked, Thursday is unable to remember Landen's full name. This is attributed to Aornis' mindworm. While Landen's identity is tied in with the plot line of Aornis's mindworm creating chaos in Thursday's subconscious, it is also important in itself. Landen is the strongest relationship Thursday has in the Outland, as well as being

the father to her unborn child. Without him, every aspect of her life in the Outland would be different. In fact, she states that the reason she is hiding in the BookWorld is to take care of herself during her pregnancy so she is able to go back to the Outland and fight to get Landen back. However, if she cannot remember him, he no longer exists, and there is nothing to fight for.



# Chapter 5: The Well of Lost Plots

## Chapter 5: The Well of Lost Plots Summary

Chapter 5: "The Well of Lost Plots" opens the next morning. Akrid Snell, who is appointed to represent Thursday on her Fiction Infraction for changing the ending of "Jane Eyre", arrives at the flying boat. He tells Thursday her trial will probably be in the next week, but the place and time are not decided.

Snell tells Thursday that Miss Havisham asked him to show her the wonders of the Well, but he is fascinated by the breakfast Thursday has made and sits for a cup of coffee first. He explains that there are thousands of Mrs. Danvers in the BookWorld, and that they are being used for anti-mispelling duty. Thursday asks Snell what it is like to be fictional. It is a sensitive topic for Snell, and while he answers her question, he advises her not to dig too deeply into characters' pasts in that way. Snell finishes his coffee and transports himself and Thursday out of Caversham Heights and into the Well of Lost Plots.

"The Well of Lost Plots" is similar to the Great Library in some ways, but there differences, as well. "The Well of Lost Plots" is like a marketplace where tradesmen, artisans, technicians, and Generics walk around, appearing and vanishing. They move from book to book to build, change, and delete things according to the author's wishes. Thursday picks up some junkfootnoterphone messages, but Snell tells her to ignore them.

Snell explains that there are twenty-six floors in the Well, most of them chaotic factories of fictional prose. The twenty-sixth subbasement has an entrance to the Text Sea where the scrawltrawlers off-load words. He tells Thursday how books are "written" from the perspective of the BookWorld, using imaginotransference technology and storycode engines. He explains that the BookWorld is currently using Book Operating System V8.3, but that Text Grand Central wants to upgrade to BOOK V9, called UltraWord(TM), which is being tested.

Snell tells Thursday that the Well of Lost Plots is where the writer's imagination is interfaced with the characters and plots in order to make sense in the reader's mind. Snell remarks that reading is far more creative than writing. He says that books are a kind of magic.

Thursday asks Snell about unpublished books. He says most languish in the Well until they are broken up for salvage, while others are simply demolished, the words thrown into the Text Sea.

Garcia approaches Snell and wants to sell him a head-in-a-bag plot device. They barter and finally settle on the head-in-a-bag, a case of mistaken identity, a pretty female double agent, and a missing microfilm for two hundred.



While Snell and Thursday are in a backstory shop, Miss Havisham calls Snell on his footnoterphone. He steps out to speak to her, and Mr. Grnksghty explains backstories to Thursday. Snell and Thursday leave, and as they go through the Well, he tells Thursday where they are. They stop at the twenty-second subbasement, which is the roughest place in the Well, to meet a contact of Snell's at the Slaughtered Lamb. At the Slaughtered Lamb, Snell points out Emperor Zhark, a Jurisfiction apprentice, and Mrs. Tiggy-winkle, a full agent.

Snell steps away from the table, and Thursday has an altercation with a Thraal, but Harris Tweed shows up to help. Harris Tweed is a Jurisfiction agent and an Outlander. He tells Thursday they tracked Yorrick Kaine to London, but the bookhounds lost his scent, and the Council of Genres' attention is focused on UltraWord(TM).

Snell returns with a stolen freeze-dried plot device, which he tells Thursday to log in as evidence when she gets back to the office. Emperor Zhark approaches and asks Snell how his defense is going. Snell tells him it is not going well. Zhark sees Snell's head-in-a-bag, and tells him they are forty for half a dozen at CrimeScene, Inc. Snell rushes off without the head and Zhark leaves.

Thursday leaves the bar with the bag and four large cats are following her. She comes to a clearing in the wooden buildings, and sees a cat four times the size of a tiger. The other cats ask if they can eat Thursday, and the enormous cat says they should wait for Big Martin. Suddenly, the cats are scared off by something, leaving Thursday alone in the corridor.

## Chapter 5: The Well of Lost Plots Analysis

Chapter 5 gives the reader a great deal of insight into the BookWorld. As Snell takes Thursday through the Well of Lost Plots and explains things to her, the reader gets to read about how things work. Fforde's choice to give this exposition to the reader at the same time Thursday is learning it helps create a connection to the protagonist, further drawing the reader into the story. The reader can relate to Thursday in that both are learning about the BookWorld together.

The plot device that Snell buys draws a parallel to backdoor deals in the real world. Fforde uses this frequently in his books. He uses the framework of the story to highlight behavior that exists in reality and draw attention to his commentary of it. This can also be seen in the state of Caversham Heights and other poorly written, unpublished novels. In the BookWorld, resources are given to the stories that generate readers. However, without resources, the stories are unable to improve to be able to generate those readers. This catch-22 keeps certain novels in the forefront of the BookWorld, while others struggle to keep from being demolished. For those on the margins of this society, turning to illegal practices simply to survive is not uncommon. Keeping the marginalized population on the edges is a practice that takes place in many societies, and by putting it in the context of the BookWorld, Fforde is able to draw attention to the catch-22 endured by the marginalized people.



# Chapter 6: Night of the Grammasites

## Chapter 6: Night of the Grammasites Summary

Chapter 6: Night of the Grammasites begins immediately following Chapter 5. Thursday goes to the elevators and tries to call one, but nothing happens. She senses something strange coming, and hears a noise. A grammasite appears. The grammasite goes by without noticing Thursday. She hears a noise from beyond the Slaughtered Lamb and tries to call the elevator again as the noise gets louder. A few seconds later the main flock arrives. Thursday starts killing them with her gun, and as she turns to reload, silence fills the corridor. When she turns back around, about a hundred grammasites are staring at her. As they start to attack her, she is pulled roughly backward into the elevator by Miss Havisham. Thursday starts to push the button to close the elevator doors, but Miss Havisham stops her, telling her they never run from grammasites.

Thursday and Miss Havisham fight the grammasites while Miss Havisham scolds Thursday. Miss Havisham launches into a rendition of William Blake's "Jerusalem." The grammasites stop and stare at one another. Thursday joins in, and the grammasites back away in fright, and then leave completely.

They strip the waistcoats from the dead grammasites for the bounties, which is unpleasant due to the strong smell of ink on the corpses. The bodies would be boiled to distill any verbs that could be gotten from them.

Miss Havisham hands Thursday her TravelBook, which had been taken by Goliath. When asked how she got it back, Miss Havisham does not answer. Miss Havisham explains that Verbisoids hate and fear irregular verbs, so strong irregular verbs, such as to sing, affect them.

Miss Havisham and Thursday go up to the library itself. On the elevator, Thursday tells Miss Havisham the characters of Caversham Heights are afraid they'll be demolished, and Miss Havisham tells her it happens frequently. Miss Havisham says not to waste sympathy on them, and to keep to herself. Miss Havisham tells Thursday she has her practical Jurisdiction exam scheduled for the day after tomorrow.

Mother Jaguar is having trouble getting her son to remember the difference between a hedgehog and a tortoise, so Thursday helps him by making it into a rhyme.

Thursday and Miss Havisham get out of the elevator on the fifth floor because Miss Havisham told Perkins Thursday would help him feed the Minotaur. Just as Thursday sits down to read herself into a handwritten manuscript, the Cheshire Cat appears. He is the librarian of the Great Library. He and Thursday talk briefly, and he slowly fades out from his tail to his nose. His grin stays longer than the rest of him before it, too, fades away. Thursday turns back to the book, says the password, and reads the first paragraph aloud.





## Chapter 6: Night of the Grammasites Analysis

The creatures in "The Well of Lost Plots", particularly the grammasites, are reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's creatures in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass". They are fantastic and bizarre creatures, but within the context of the story, they are quite appropriate. The grammasites, as well as other creatures in the world of fiction, add to the whimsy of "The Well of Lost Plots", as well as creating an element of danger for Thursday and the other characters. While the grammasites do seem ridiculous, they can cause damage, even to Thursday, who is an Outlander.

The way the grammasites are defeated helps highlight the differences in Thursday's world and the world of fiction. As an Outlander facing an enemy, Thursday's instinct is to use a gun. However, the BookWorld is a world of words. Weapons can do damage, but words are more powerful. The grammasites are unable to handle the irregular verb "to sing," so singing to them allows Miss Havisham and Thursday to defeat them. This scene is a play on the idea that "the pen is mightier than the sword." In the BookWorld especially, words are more powerful than weapons.



# Chapter 7: Feeding the Minotaur

## Chapter 7: Feeding the Minotaur Summary

Chapter 7: Feeding the Minotaur opens as Thursday has read herself into the book. She describes what she sees, and her observations are interrupted by Perkins, Snell's partner at Jurisdiction and in fiction, who introduces himself. He explains that the story was bought from the fantasy division of the Well of Lost Plots, written for a novel called *The Sword of the Zenobians*. It was only the setting that was written and abandoned. It is used to keep grammasites and other weird beasts who cannot live within their own books. It is a sanctuary, as well as an area for study and containment.

As they walk, Perkins tells Thursday a little more about the area, including some of the creatures that can be found there. Perkins asks if Thursday is an Outlander, and then asks her if anyone has realized that platypuses and sea horses are fictional.

Perkins takes Thursday to his office and laboratory and introduces him to Mathias, a large chestnut horse who is taking notes in a ledger. Perkins takes Thursday to where the Minotaur is being kept. Perkins puts yogurt and bran in a steel bowl and pushes it into the Minotaur's cage with a mop handle. Perkins shows Thursday the Jurisdiction bestiary, which includes grammasites, nounfish, and bookworms.

Perkins shows Thursday the misspelling virus, which causes their dialogue to become spelled incorrectly, and transforms a letter opener into an operetta. Perkins explains the history of the virus, and tells Thursday that every misspelling has to be reported to the Cat.

Miss Havisham appears in the book in a car, indicating Thursday's time with Perkins is up.

## Chapter 7: Feeding the Minotaur Analysis

In Chapter 7, Fforde once again introduces an aspect of the BookWorld to the reader by introducing it to Thursday. As Thursday learns about the bestiary, the reader learns about the different creatures and beasts found in the BookWorld that are under the protection of *The Sword of the Zenobians*.

The bestiary is a parallel to animal preserves and conservation areas found in the real world. These areas are used to protect animals, as well as study them, as is the case with the creatures in "*The Sword of the Zenobians*". Drawing parallels with the real world like the bestiary to animal preserves creates a familiarity in the BookWorld that the reader can relate to. This helps feed into the reader's willing suspension of disbelief, allowing the reader to accept what happens in the story, regardless of how outlandish it may seem in the context of reality.

Perkins's explanation of the mispeling vyirus foreshadows its use later in "The Well of Lost Plots". Perkins introduces the vyirus to Thursday, and the reader, and hints at how dangerous it can be. The need for every instance of mispeling to be reported to the Cheshire Cat underscores that the mispeling vyirus is a serious concern in the BookWorld, and must be dealt with carefully.



# **Chapter 8: Ton sixty on the A419 and Chapter 9: Apples Benedict, a hedgehog and Commander Bradshaw**

## **Chapter 8: Ton sixty on the A419 and Chapter 9: Apples Benedict, a hedgehog and Commander Bradshaw Summary**

Chapter 8: Ton sixty on the A419 begins immediately following Chapter 7. Miss Havisham picks up Thursday, and when Thursday asks where they're going, she says they're going to Thursday's home. Miss Havisham reads them into the real world just as Thursday thinks they're driving too fast to jump out. Miss Havisham is looking at a map, and Thursday grabs the steering wheel. Thursday recognizes where they are and gives Miss Havisham directions. Miss Havisham drives along and is met by Mr. Toad, who she says is trying to steal the speed record out from under her.

Miss Havisham is going to have a run in her car, and she instructs Thursday to open up the speed camera and get the film out when she's done. While Thursday is waiting, she is lost in thought and suddenly thinks that she has forgotten something. She remembers Granny and Aornis' mindworm. She concentrates until she remembers Landen. She realizes she has not thought about him all day, which is unusual.

Thursday calls her mother and they talk briefly. Her mother knows about Landen and is sympathetic because of the situation with Thursday's father. Thursday considers calling Bowden, but decides against it. Miss Havisham finishes her second run, and Thursday waits for her to come back to pick her up.

A SpecOps airship approaches as Miss Havisham looks under her bonnet and Thursday takes the film out of the speed camera. The PA system tells them to halt, but Miss Havisham seems unphased. Thursday convinces Miss Havisham they have to leave, and they get in the car. Miss Havisham jumps them back into the lobby of the Great Library.

Miss Havisham leaves Thursday in the library. Thursday goes back to Snell's head-in-a-bag plot device then makes her way home. She takes the elevator instead of bookjumping.

Chapter 9: Apples Benedict, a hedgehog and Commander Bradshaw opens as Thursday arrives home in Caversham Heights. obb tells Thursday that a tortoise and hedgehog showed up to see her, and that Granny is in the Outland.



That night, Thursday does not have any dreams. She sleeps deeply and misses the alarm. There is a knock at the door and Thursday manages to get out of bed to answer it. There is a hedgehog and tortoise there. They are angry that Thursday gave the Painted Jaguar the rhyme to be able to tell them apart. Thursday suggests that the hedgehog could learn to swim, or that the tortoise could learn to curl. They thank Thursday and leave.

Thursday goes to the Well of Lost Plots, which is just as busy as the day before. Thursday sees Commander Bradshaw and says hello. She notices that he is taller than the last time they met. Thursday asks if he has seen Miss Havisham. They walk together, with Bradshaw introducing Thursday to a holesmith, then Bradshaw reads them into "Sense and Sensibility" for Jurisdiction roll call.

## **Chapter 8: Ton sixty on the A419 and Chapter 9: Apples Benedict, a hedgehog and Commander Bradshaw Analysis**

Chapter 8 is the first of two scenes in "The Well of Lost Plots" that takes place in the Outland. This scene helps develop Miss Havisham's character beyond what is known about her from "Great Expectations". This helps the reader to understand that, from the perspective of the BookWorld, the characters in books are more like actors. While they do have many of the traits and mannerisms in their characters due to being written that way, they are more complex than the character on the page. Miss Havisham serves as an example of this. Despite her character in "Great Expectations", she is determined to beat Mr. Toad by racing fictional cars in the real world.

This is also the only scene in which Thursday actively reaches out to her support system in the Outland. Granny is in Caversham Heights with her, which provides her with support during her pregnancy and in fighting the mindworm, but aside from Granny, Thursday is completely alone in the BookWorld. What's more, she is unable to simply call home to talk to her family and friends for advice or a connection to that part of herself. Even when she calls her mother while in the Outland, she knows the phone is likely to be tapped and that she is putting herself at risk by calling.

Thursday's loneliness only strengthens the fact that she has to hold onto her memories. Since she is unable to have a physical connection with her family and friends while in the BookWorld, holding on to her memories likely gives her some comfort while she is away from them. Defeating Aornis' mindworm is the only way Thursday can keep her memories intact, and keep a connection with her loved ones while she is in the BookWorld.



# **Chapter 10: Jurisfiction session number 40139 and Chapter 11: Introducing UltraWord(TM)**

## **Chapter 10: Jurisfiction session number 40139 and Chapter 11: Introducing UltraWord(TM) Summary**

In Chapter 10: Jurisfiction session number 40139, Thursday is at the Jurisfiction offices, which are located at Norland Park. The Dashwoods lend the ballroom to Jurisfiction on the unspoken condition that Jane Austen books are an area of special protection.

As Thursday approaches the home, she sees some kind of demonstration. The Bellman is trying to persuade the crowd to calm down. The crowd is made up of nursery rhyme characters, demanding the same rights as other characters in the BookWorld. Bradshaw and Thursday go around to the back door to avoid the protest. They see Marianne Dashwood, and Thursday gives her the Marmite, Mintolas, and AA batteries she promised from the previous visit.

Bradshaw and Thursday meet the Bellman as they make their way to the ballroom. He comments that the nursery rhyme characters are becoming more militant, and if they give in to them, everyone else will want to renegotiate their agreements. Thursday meets up with Miss Havisham in the ballroom. She tells Thursday that when she meets Melanie Bradshaw, she should not stare.

Thursday tells Snell she still has the item he bought, and he tells her he will pick it up after work. She sees two agents she does not recognize, and Miss Havisham tells her they are Ichabod Crane and Beatrice. The Red Queen is nowhere to be seen.

The Bellman starts the meeting. The group wonders if they should wait to start until Godot arrives, but since no one knows where he is, the Bellman decides to continue without him. He explains that the reserves of the letter U are dangerously low and asks for suggestions of how to decrease consumption until the stocks are brought back up. King Pellinore suggests dropping the letter U from words with an "our" ending, such as labour or neighbour. Snell suggests confining it to a geographical area in order to claim it as a local spelling idiosyncrasy.

The Bellman asks Tweed for an update on Kaine. The Council of Genres is reluctant to sanction Jurisfiction work in the real world. He says Kaine will be added to the PageRunners' register and textual sieves will be added to every floor of the library in case he tries to return to the BookWorld. The Bellman asks Miss Havisham about the Outlander company attempting research into fiction. Thursday reminds Miss Havisham that the name of the company is the Goliath Corporation. Miss Havisham tells the Bellman Goliath's technology is still quite a ways away from success.



The next item on the agenda is the lack of punctuation in the final chapter of Ulysses. Vernham Deane explains that the theft was noticed two days prior, but that the readers regard it not as a lack of punctuation, but as a mark of genius. The Bellman reminds the agents he is retiring in two weeks, and needs a replacement. He says all nominations should be given directly to the Council of Genres for consideration.

The Bellman then brings up the Text Grand Central upgrade, which elicits groans from the agents at the meeting. He introduces WordMaster Libris to the group, who is there from Text Grand Central to explain the upgrade.

Chapter 11: Introducing UltraWord(TM) opens with Xavier taking his position on the dais. He says he is going to explain BOOK Version 9, which is code-named Ultra Word (TM). He gives a brief overview of the BOOK system and how it has evolved. He explains that, the way he sees it, BookWorld has between a year and eighteen months before the well of fiction runs dry. He explains the enhanced features of the UltraWord(TM) system. The Bellman thanks Libris for his presentation and starts to clap his hands. The agents join in applause, except for Falstaff and Bradshaw. The Bellman adjourns the meeting.

Libris vanishes before anyone can ask him additional questions, and Bradshaw tells Miss Havisham he is tired and does not want any new technology. Miss Havisham tells Thursday that he has retired about twelve times a year since 1938. The Bellman gives Miss Havisham and Thursday the assignment to chair the Wuthering Heights rage-counseling session.

Thursday runs into Deane at the refreshments table. He complains about his character always drinking himself to a sad and lonely death toward the end of the Farquitt novels, and says he has applied for an Internal Plot Adjustment many times, but was turned down. He says that Miss Havisham is on the Plot Adjustment subcommittee and asks Thursday to speak to her on his behalf.

Thursday follows Miss Havisham to the second floor of the library. Miss Havisham asks if Thursday has met the three witches, and instructs her to ignore everything they say. They read themselves into Wuthering Heights.

## **Chapter 10: Jurisdiction session number 40139 and Chapter 11: Introducing UltraWord(TM) Analysis**

The demonstration outside Norland Park is very similar to union protests in reality. Workers who are being taken advantage of, or not being given all the rights and benefits they deserve, stand in protest or go on strike in order to get what they want. In the case of "The Well of Lost Plots", the protesters are nursery rhyme characters who have been marginalized because they are not taken as seriously as other fictional characters.

The spelling changes suggested due to the low stock of the letter U implies that the American spellings of those words, and others, arose out of a problem in the world of



fiction. Fforde uses this in other areas in "The Well of Lost Plots" to draw a connection between the story being read and the reader. This allows the line between reality and fiction to blur, suggesting that this fictional world has a strong influence over the real one.

The Jurisdiction meeting begins to reveal threads of the story of "The Well of Lost Plots". The overall story begins with seemingly unrelated plots and subplots, and by the end of the story, Fforde brings them together in a way that reveals them as all part of the larger plot. This meeting begins to hint at the threads that will come together later. The reader may not realize that these threads will weave together by the end of the story, which allows Fforde to use them as points of suspense throughout the story by raising questions about the individual threads.

UltraWord(TM) is one element of "The Well of Lost Plots" that is significant. It is a controversial upgrade in the BookWorld. Many see it as too good to be true, including many Jurisdiction agents. Text Grand Central appears to be thinking of the best interests of the BookWorld, but many suspect there is more to it than that. The fact that Libris disappears immediately after his presentation suggests he knows there is more to it, as well, and it not prepared to answer the hard questions about the system.

Fforde's use of UltraWord(TM) in the BookWorld is his address of technology in the real world. Technology is constantly moving forward, and people can be resistant to it. And, at times, technology is developed and appears to be for the benefit of the people, but really serves a greater purpose for the people who create the technology. The reader is meant to suspect that this is the case with UltraWord(TM), and the reader can draw a parallel between UltraWord(TM) and technological companies in the real world.





# Chapter 12: Wuthering Heights

## Chapter 12: Wuthering Heights Summary

Chapter 12: Wuthering Heights opens as Thursday and Miss Havisham arrive in the story for the rage-counseling session. All the major characters in the story are required to attend. Miss Havisham explains to them that Thursday is observing the session. Heathcliff is missing. Miss Havisham decides to have characters introduce themselves while they are waiting for Heathcliff. All of the characters give reasons they hate Heathcliff except Catherine Earnshaw, who professes her love for him.

After the introductions, the characters launch into an argument centered around Catherine's love for Heathcliff. Miss Havisham regains control of the session and Heathcliff arrives. Miss Havisham reprimands him for being late and aggravating the other characters, but Heathcliff is arrogant and reminds her he is the star of the story.

Heathcliff gives Thursday a signed glossy photo of himself. She realizes he is Buck Stallion, a successful Hollywood actor.

Miss Havisham tells Heathcliff he is required to attend the sessions, and that the emotions in the story have to be kept under control or the mayhem would completely take over. Heathcliff tells Miss Havisham he does not care about the book because he believes he has outgrown his role within it.

The door explodes inward and a masked man with a machine gun jumps through. Miss Havisham fires at him, and he crumples. One of Heathcliff's minders is injured. Another masked man comes in the door and Thursday fires at him, along with the other minder and Miss Havisham. The masked man is hit, but one of the bullets catches the other bodyguard in the head.

Miss Havisham tells Thursday it is a ProCath attack supporting Catherine and against Heathcliff. It is a movement that runs deep in the Bookworld. Miss Havisham says she has never seen anything so well-planned. She tries to jump out of the book with Heathcliff, but is unable, likely due to a textual sieve. Her mobile footnoterphone has no reception.

A barrage of machine-gun fire rains down on the house for about five minutes. A voice from outside calls in and tells Miss Havisham to surrender Heathcliff and no one else will be hurt. Thursday tries to get to the footnoterphone in the kitchen. Miss Havisham calls out to them that she has a better deal. She says if they leave she will be merciful when she finds them. Thursday finds the footnoterphone destroyed.

There is commotion from outside, as if the ProCaths are being attacked, and then silence. Thursday looks outside. She sees only the snow that has dinner-plate-sized footprints in it. Miss Havisham finds claw marks in some stonework in the barn. Thursday says it was Big Martin.



Heathcliff says he is still leaving the book, and Miss Havisham threatens him if he does not stay. Heathcliff agrees to stay, and Miss Havisham ends the session.

## Chapter 12: Wuthering Heights Analysis

In Chapter 12, Fforde draws another connection between the Outland and the BookWorld. Heathcliff of "Wuthering Heights" is revealed to be Buck Stallion, who Thursday recognizes as a Hollywood actor in the Outland. Once again, Fforde is blurring the line between what is fiction and what is reality. In this instance, an actor who is believed to be a real person is revealed to be a fictioneer. This is similar to Perkins's observation that no one in the Outland has realized that seahorses and platypuses are fictional creatures.

The rage counseling session in "Wuthering Heights" shows how the roles the characters play influences their personality outside of being read. That is, the characters of "Wuthering Heights" are angry and tumultuous just as they are in the story because that is how they are written. There is some flexibility in their personalities, such as Miss Havisham's love of racing and the characters of "Sense and Sensibility"'s love of items from the Outland, but the major personality traits that make the character remain even between readings.

The attack during the counseling session reveals more of the politics of the Outland, this time as related to the characters of "Wuthering Heights". This is presented as a sort of gang war, with characters against Heathcliff and in favor of Catherine. This parallels the conflict found in the first book of the series, "The Eyre Affair", in which the two factions argue over the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. Once again, Fforde draws a parallel between the Outland and the BookWorld to show the reader that, despite the BookWorld being fictional, there are many similarities between them.



# Chapter 14: Educating the Generics

## Chapter 14: Educating the Generics Summary

As Chapter 14: Educating the Generics begins, Thursday explains that Big Martin made a mess of the ProCath fanatics that attacked during the rage-counseling session, and that the mess was easily cleaned up. Since the rage-counseling session took place between chapters, the readers did not notice anything. Thursday explains that the only evidence seen in *Wuthering Heights* that the attack occurred is Hareton's shotgun, which accidentally exploded in chapter 32, likely as a result of a ricocheting bullet damaging the latching mechanism.

Thursday returns home to the flying boat and Granny asks her how her day went. Thursday explains that it started very expositional, but ended very dramatically.

As Thursday makes omelettes and tea, she tells Granny she cannot remember Landen's second name. Granny asks if Thursday remembers what he looks like. She says yes, but that she still remembers him dying in the Crimean War. Granny says he did not die, and that that proves he is not gone any more than the day before. As they talk, Granny gives Thursday instructions and correction about her cooking.

Granny asks Thursday if she managed to get a list of the dullest books she could find. Granny is 108 years old, and convinced she cannot die until she has read the ten most boring classics. Thursday had suggested several, which Granny had read, among others, but was still alive. Thursday suggests *Silas Marner*.

Ibb and Obb come in. Thursday congratulates them on becoming capitalized. Ibb says they will finish gender training the next day, and by the end of the week will be streamed into character groups. Obb says it wants to be a male mentor figure.

Obb has combed its hair into a part, and Ibb has put on one of Granny's gingham dresses. Ibb explains it would like to be female, and would like to be a sort of damsel in distress character. Obb reminds Thursday that she was going to teach them about subtext. Thursday explains what subtext is, and gives them a few examples.

There is a knock at the door and Arnold is standing there in a suit and holding flowers. Before he can speak, Thursday closes the door on him. Thursday tells Ibb and Obb to figure out the subtext in their situation, then opens the door again. Throughout the conversation with Arnold, Thursday closes the door in his face to ask Ibb and Obb about the subtext of it, which they are able to figure out. Thursday asks Arnold he misses "her," and Arnold's denial of love tips Ibb and Obb off to the fact that he wants a date with Thursday as a rebound. Thursday apologizes to Arnold for being rude and explains she is teaching subtext, inviting him in for coffee. Arnold gives his concert tickets to Ibb and Obb, which they awkwardly accept.



Arnold and Thursday talk about love, and she tells him about Landen. Arnold tells Thursday about the Well, and she tells him about the Outland. They talk for about an hour before Arnold leaves.

Thursday goes to bed, but is still awake when Ibb and Obb return from the concert, giggling, and make a cup of tea before going to bed themselves. Thursday tries to go to sleep, hoping she will dream about Landen, but Aornis has other ideas.

## Chapter 14: Educating the Generics Analysis

"The Well of Lost Plots" has no Chapter 13. The same is true of all of Fforde books.

Chapter 14 presents Thursday as a mother figure. This is important since she is pregnant and in the previous two books is seen as a more typical detective figure instead of a nurturing figure. Helping guide Ibb and Obb as they go through their character training shows how she may handle guiding her child as he or she grows and matures.

It also reveals the budding relationship between Ibb and Obb. They are like teenagers going through puberty, and are unsure how to handle the strange feelings they have for each other. This is a subplot that runs through The Well of Lost Plots. As Ibb and Obb grow and develop, they must sort through how they feel about each other. This underscores the analogy Thursday uses of Ibb and Obb as teenagers going through puberty.

Thursday also seems to get to know Arnold better in Chapter 14. This shows that Thursday is becoming more comfortable in her community of the BookWorld, and is beginning to forge relationships with those in that new community. She is beginning to establish connections to make the BookWorld her home. This is important since she is unable to have contact with her family and friends in the Outland.



# Chapter 15: Landen Parke-Somebody

## Chapter 15: Landen Parke-Somebody Summary

Chapter 15: Landen Parke-Somebody opens in Thursday's dream. She is on the roof of Thornfield Hall in "Jane Eyre". Thursday looks around for Aornis, who initially spoke to Thursday in her dream. Thursday plays out the scene with Acheron half-heartedly as she talks to Aornis. Aornis tells Thursday, "Welcome to the museum of your mind!" (pg. 139).

The roof at Thornfield vanishes and is replaced by the abandoned church where Spike and Thursday did battle with the Supreme Evil Being stuck in his head. Aornis says she is the curator of Thursday's museum as she moves them to the dining room in her home when she was eight years old, before her father's eradication. She then takes them to the banks of the Thames when her father failed to keep Landen from being eradicated. She then takes them to Swindon when she is on a date with Darren. Aornis tells Thursday she can take them anywhere in her memories, including the charge during the Crimean War, which Thursday describes as it happens. Just as Thursday thinks Aornis will let the memory continue forever, they are back on the roof at Thornfield Hall. Aornis and Acheron talk about Acheron's murder of Styx and the fact that Aornis plans to get revenge for Thursday killing Acheron.

While Aornis is distracted, Granny appears, takes Thursday by the hand and leads her away. They go in through a window and appear on the sidelines of a SuperHoop. Thursday tells Granny she does not remember the match, and Granny explains it is one of her own memories, and that Aornis will not find them there.

Granny asks if Thursday wants a night of dreamless sleep, to which Thursday says yes. Granny promises to watch over her that night. Granny approaches a one-eared croquet player and talks to him, then points at Thursday. Thursday turns and looks in the crowd to see Landen who is bouncing a young child on his lap. Landen sees Thursday and waves, then holds the child's arm up to wave. Granny gets Thursday's attention just in time for a mallet to hit her in the head.

## Chapter 15: Landen Parke-Somebody Analysis

Chapter 15 takes the reader back to Thursday's memories. However, due to the mindworm, the reader does not know whether the memories seen are accurate or not. This may present Thursday as an unreliable narrator in the reader's mind. An unreliable narrator can cause a reader to question everything that occurs in a story. The reader does not know what to believe as the story progresses. Because Aornis is altering Thursday's memories, the reader does not know what else is being altered by the mindworm. This calls into question even the most basic accounts of the story of "The Well of Lost Plots."



The theme of identity is once again addressed in Landen. The title of the chapter: "Landen Parke-Somebody" reminds the reader that Thursday must remember Landen's full name in order to defeat Aornis's mindworm. Once again, Landen's existence depends on Thursday's memories since he is eradicated. It is imperative that Thursday defeats the mindworm so she can fight to get the real Landen back in the Outland.

Though the title of this chapter addresses Landen's identity, it is only one part of the theme that is important in the chapter. It also touches on the theme of identity as it relates to Thursday. If her memories and experiences are altered or erased because of Aornis, even Thursday does not know what is true about herself and her past, which calls into question her entire identity.



# Chapter 16: Captain Nemo

## Chapter 16: Captain Nemo Summary

Chapter 16: Captain Nemo begins late the next morning when Thursday wakes up. She notices the Generics are beginning to show sensitivity to others, which is a sign of personality. She asks them where Granny is, and Obb tells her Granny is off to the Medici Court for a few days, but left a note.

Thursday continues the written exam to become a full Jurisdiction agent. After half an hour, she stops and looks at Granny's note, which simply says, "REMEMBER!" Thursday is not sure what she is supposed to remember, and decides to go for a walk.

She walks along the banks of the lake. The three witches are suddenly there and give her a prophecy, which is the same prophecy she was given previously. They give her another prophecy, but are interrupted by Captain Nemo, who scares them away, and invites her for coffee.

Nemo tells Thursday he has been moved around the Well a lot. He was supposed to be in a sequel, but after Verne's death, the manuscript was destroyed. When Nemo appealed to the Council, he and the Nautilus were spared. He is under a preservation order, but that, when Caversham Heights is demolished, he intends to allow himself to be broken down into text along with it. Nemo goes below, leaving Thursday, and after twenty minutes, she goes home. On her way, Miss Havisham calls on the footnoterphone. The Minotaur has escaped, and Perkins is not responding to footnoterphone calls.

## Chapter 16: Captain Nemo Analysis

Thursday's inability to remember Landen is getting worse. Granny is not there, and left a note for Thursday saying "REMEMBER," but she is not even able to remember what it is she is supposed to remember.

The three witches reappear to Thursday and give her the prophecy again. Others have told her the three witches are hacks and should not be believed, but when they appear, they give her the same prophecy. This is an obvious foreshadowing of events to come in "The Well of Lost Plots", but because the characters dismiss the witches, the reader may dismiss the prophecy.

Chapter 16 reveals the aftermath of the demolition of a book in Thursday's conversation with Nemo. Though Nemo and the ship were spared because of the author of the manuscript—Jules Verne—this is a rarity in the BookWorld. This brings the reader's attention back to the concern of Caversham Heights. It is likely to be demolished, and when it is, the characters will not be afforded the same consideration that Nemo was.

This reminds Thursday that something has to be done to save the novel in order to save the characters.





# Chapter 17: Minotaur Trouble

## Chapter 17: Minotaur Trouble Summary

Chapter 17: Minotaur Trouble opens with Thursday reading herself into the Well. She heads to the library and buys a copy of "The Word", which has a story about nursery rhyme characters going on an indefinite strike. The issue also contains a report of the attack on Heathcliff and information about a group wanting "Hamlet" to win the Most Troubled Romantic Lead BookWorld Award. Text Grand Central also writes an open letter about UltraWord(TM), explaining how nothing would change and jobs and privileges would be protected.

Thursday reads herself into "Sense and Sensibility". There are still protests taking place outside Norland Park. They begin talking to her. Humpty-Dumpty explains that the Council sent them to talk to Text Grand Central, who referred them to the Great Panjandrum, but that no one seems to know if the Great Panjandrum even exists. Thursday suggests they talk to WordMaster Libris, but Humpty-Dumpty says he will not speak to them. Thursday explains she cannot help them, and Humpty-Dumpty asks her to pass their demands on to WordMaster Libris.

Miss Havisham is upset that Mr. Toad beat her speed in the last race. She explains she needs a longer stretch of road or sand.

Miss Havisham tells Thursday they think the Minotaur has escaped, and if she meets it, she should evacuate as quickly as she can. Thursday checks her gun, but Bradshaw explains that the only ammunition that works in the BookWorld is Boojum-tipped, which they call eraserheads. Once everyone is ready, Thursday, Miss Havisham, Bradshaw, and Snell jump into "The Sword of the Zenobians".

The group starts to move forward. They see a Yahoo fleeing in terror. As they come on the building where Perkins and Mathias were working, they see the door broken and the hinges gone, replaced by light burn marks. The group is not sure whether to go into the lab due to the possible presence of the misspelling virus. Snell decides to go in, putting on his MV mask. Miss Havisham pins a carrot to the front of his jacket. The rest of the group puts on their masks and pins carrots to their jackets.

The lab is chaotic inside due to the virus. They move to where the Minotaur was kept. They find Perkins' remains. Bradshaw says they now know the Minotaur is loose, so they should leave and return with more people and ammunition. Thursday's carrot is starting to sprout feathers. Bradshaw wants to stay and hunt the Minotaur, despite the risk.

Snell tells the others there is not enough virus to cause the extensive problems they are having. Bradshaw opens a cupboard shielded by what looks like telephone directory pages to reveal a dozen broken jars of misspelling virus. Bradshaw immediately ejects



from the book, as does Miss Havisham. Thursday tries to eject, but her hat does not work, so Snell gives his to her.

Thursday runs from the lab and trips in front of the Minotaur. The Minotaur picks up Snell's hat and ejects from the book. Bradshaw and Tweed reappear. A small army of Mrs. Danvers arrive as the clean-up crew. Miss Havisham appears, as well. When Thursday tells her the Minotaur ejected from the book, she disappears again.

Bradshaw pulls Snell from the keep and takes him to the Jurisdiction sick bay as Miss Havisham returns. What remains of Perkins's lab is covered with dictionaries in preparation for burning to destroy the virus.

Thursday asks about evidence of Perkins's death, and Tweed says it is clear he was killed by the Minotaur. The fire is started, and Thursday is sure Perkins was murdered because when they went in, she had noticed the key missing from the hook, indicating someone had let the Minotaur out.

## Chapter 17: Minotaur Trouble Analysis

In Chapter 17, Thursday is approached by the nursery rhyme characters and given some insight into their demands and the deeper politics of the BookWorld. She has been told numerous times to stay out of politics, but she seems to be drawn into it anyway.

This chapter also begins the process of tying threads of plots together in "The Well of Lost Plots", though the reader does not yet see how they go together. However, the reader does learn at the end of the chapter that there is more to Perkins and Mathias's deaths than Tweed suggests. The Minotaur was let out, which implies that someone intended for Perkins, at least, to be killed. The fire destroys any evidence that existed of foul play, including the missing key to the Minotaur cage, which suggests that the mispeling virus may have been released on purpose to cover up the crime.

This is the first case like this that has occurred in the BookWorld in "The Well of Lost Plots". To this point, the policing Thursday has done has been instruction, such as her tour of the Well and bestiary, and the rage counseling session. However, Perkins's death appears to be murder—with the Minotaur as a weapon—and is Thursday's first opportunity to do some real sleuthing. This is ironic since she draws a parallel earlier in the story between her role in Jurisdiction and her job in SpecOps in the Outland. It is because of Thursday's experience as a literary detective in the Outland that Thursday's mind immediately starts working on the puzzle, and she notices the key missing from the hook. In this way, Fforde is able to reveal a great deal about Thursday without her specifically telling the reader anything. He shows the reader who she is instead. This subtle way of adding expositional facts into the story helps draw the reader in and get a fuller picture of Thursday's character.



# Chapter 18: Snell Rest in Peece and Lucy Deane

## Chapter 18: Snell Rest in Peece and Lucy Deane Summary

In Chapter 18: Snell Rest in Peece and Lucy Deane, Thursday tells the reader that the Minotaur was last seen headed toward the works of Zane Grey. Snell lasted three hours, kept in an isolation tent. Thursday visits Snell, who tries to tell her something before dying, but due to the virus, it comes across as nonsense to her.

The Bellman wants a report on the incident, and Miss Havisham advises Bradshaw to lose the report in the pending tray for a while, implying she thinks it was not accidental. Thursday mentions that the key was missing from the hook. Miss Havisham tells Thursday to meet her on page 523 of "Mill on the Floss" in twenty minutes for an assignment.

About half an hour later, Thursday is inside the book with Miss Havisham for their assignment. Miss Havisham mentions she noticed the missing key to the Minotaur's padlock, as well. She mentions that since the book is code-word-protected, only Jurisdiction agents can get in or out. Miss Havisham explains that whoever did it also tried to kill Thursday, as well, by sabotaging her homburg. She tells Thursday to take it to Professor Plum to look at it.

Miss Havisham sees Lucy with a sniper rifle. She refuses to tell Miss Havisham where she got it, and is placed under arrest. She is taken to another book which serves as a prison for 795 other Lucy Deanes who have committed similar offenses. Miss Havisham tells Thursday the average life of a Lucy is about a thousand readings.

Miss Havisham tells Thursday they need to find evidence of Perkins's murder, but that they need to keep it to themselves. She tells Thursday her practical exam will be that day.

On her way to take the homburg to JurisTech, Thursday runs into Tweed, who tells her the Gryphon will be representing her in her upcoming trial. She is also introduced to Uriah Hope, who has just been assigned as Tweed's apprentice.

Professor Plum looks at the homburg. He explains that the broken cord actually saved Thursday's life. She asks him to get her a list of people who could have done the rigging on the hat that would have caused it to overheat.

Miss Havisham is given an assignment for the day by the Bellman. He also tells Thursday her practical exam has been set up. Her assignment is to give "Shadow the



Sheepdog" a happy ending. She and Miss Havisham get their supplies from the store. Miss Havisham goes to her assignment and Thursday prepares to read into hers.

## Chapter 18: Snell Rest in Peece and Lucy Deane Analysis

Chapter 18 shows the limitations of characters who are written a particular way in Lucy Deane. Whereas some characters are able to stretch beyond the way they are written on the page, others, like Lucy Deane, are so constricted by the way they are written that they become a problem within the book. The sanctuary for Lucy Deane is a humane way of handling them; it is better than reducing them to text. A parallel can be drawn between the sanctuary for Lucy Deane and the way some people in the real world who are problems are sent away rather than really being helped. The difference, however, is that the Lucy Deanes are restricted by the way they are written, and there is little hope for improving their situations. However, by pointing out the way the Lucy Deanes are sent away and comparing them to livestock in how they behave when Thursday and Miss Havisham arrive, the reader can see some of the absurdity of the way people are treated in the real world.

It is revealed that Miss Havisham also noticed the missing key, and she points out that since "The Sword of the Zenobians" has a password, only a Jurisfiction agent could have gotten in to release the Minotaur. This bumps the investigation to a new level, as it has suddenly become an inside job. The investigation takes another turn when Thursday discovers from Professor Plum that when the Eject-O-Hat failed, it actually saved her life. Rather than the failing of the hat killing Thursday, the homburg was rigged to overheat. This would have made the death look like an accident rather than sabotage, which implies that the same person who arranged for Perkins to be killed by the Minotaur may have been behind the sabotaging of Thursday's hat. The challenge Thursday has is discovering why anyone in the BookWorld would want both her and Perkins dead.



# Chapter 19: Shadow the Sheepdog

## Chapter 19: Shadow the Sheepdog Summary

Chapter 19: Shadow the Sheepdog opens as Thursday has read herself into the story, giving herself time to do a little reconnaissance first.

Thursday sends the "smoother" to Johnny's father, then goes to the auction to buy the pigs. The auctioneer does not want to sell Thursday the pigs at the rate she wants because it goes against the formula of the story. She passes the auctioneer's teacup to him from Miss Pittman. Thursday tries to pull rank with him, but it does not work. She offers to fix the narrative to allow him to have all the tea he wants, moving the table to the window. Thursday tells him if he does not sell her the pigs at the price she wants, she will move the table back to its original position. The auctioneer agrees to sell the pigs.

Thursday tries to find the vet. She tries to ask someone for directions. She reaches out and touches his hand to stop him, and the townsfolk suddenly become animated individuals, and the man whose hand she touched is stunned. Someone else directs her to the vet's office. She convinces the veterinarian to help her by telling him there is a conspiracy to kidnap Shadow, and he agrees. The new scene plays out as planned.

Thursday opens the door to leave and sees locals gathered, staring at her. They tell her that touching the man's hand betrothed her to him, and she is going to marry him, according to the law. They take her gun and TravelBook, forcing her into a wedding dress. One of the townspeople says there's nothing like a good wedding except something, but he is stopped from finishing the sentence. They force her to the wedding site, her arms tied and mouth covered. After the wedding, Thursday's funeral begins. She discovers they force people to marry and then kill them for the emotional fix that comes with it. Thursday offers to give them better fixes in exchange for her freedom. She gets them "high" on emotion, then leaves with Shadow, taking him to Rabbit Grand Central.

## Chapter 19: Shadow the Sheepdog Analysis

Chapter 19 parallels the incident with Lucy Deane in underscoring the limitations of characters based on how they are written, but it takes it to a deeper extreme. When Thursday deals with the veterinarian and the auctioneer, they do not want to work with her to change the story because the way the story is written is how it has been. They cannot imagine a world any different than the one they are in. When Thursday moves the table that the secretary uses to set down the tea, both the auctioneer and the secretary are stunned that things can be different. The auctioneer suddenly has access to all the tea he wants, and he is able to connect with the secretary in a way that was never before possible.



Thursday's quick wit is put to the test in "Shadow the Sheepdog". Not only does she have to think quickly to make the necessary changes to the story, but she has to think quickly to keep from being killed after she is forced to marry the townspeople. However, she is successful, and is able to escape from the story after switching out the dogs.

This chapter is an important moment in the story of "The Well of Lost Plots" because it is Thursday's practical test to become a full Jurisdiction agent. She has been working as an apprentice under Miss Havisham, but becoming a full agent in Jurisdiction will give her more responsibilities and privileges. Becoming a full agent is another way Thursday is establishing the BookWorld as her new home. Just as she is making friends in the fictional world, such as Arnold, she is advancing her career. More and more she seems to be letting go of her life in the Outland, leaving the reader to wonder about Landen and the rest of her family and friends she is leaving behind.



# Chapter 20: Ibb and Obb Named and Heights Again

## Chapter 20: Ibb and Obb Named and Heights Again Summary

Chapter 20: Ibb and Obb Named and Heights Again begins three days after Thursday's practical exam. Granny is still at the Medici Court and Thursday still does not know what her note means. She sees a sketch of a man next to her bed and knows she sketched it, but does not recognize him.

Ibb comes in to show Thursday it is a female, and asks to be called Lola. Thursday brushes Lola's hair while she talks about dieting and men, then Thursday goes into the kitchen. Obb is there, and has developed into a male named Randolph. Lola and Thursday make plans to go shopping after lunch. Randolph implies Lola is fat, and she dumps a glass of water in his lap. Thursday tells Randolph he should apologize.

Granny returns. Thursday asks if she is really there, or if she is a memory. Granny reminds Thursday about Aornis and Landen. She assures Thursday they will cure her of Aornis, and then she will have to battle Aornis in the real world. Granny tells Thursday about Landen until she has to go stand in for Mary.

Thursday drives to Reading, thinking about the investigation of Perkins's death. Deane is missing after an excursion into "Ulysses" to try and figure out what happened to the stolen punctuation in the last chapter. The time of the UltraWord(TM) upgrade has been set to coordinate with the 932rd Annual BookWorld Awards.

As Thursday is driving, she encounters an accident in Caversham Heights, which is unusual. The truck that caused the accident looks different than normal; it is flat white with no detail, and the driver is pink and cubist. The truck driver is unable to speak and simply goes through the motions of driving, even though the truck is stationary. Thursday takes charge and as she is working to get the accident sorted out, there is a crackle and the cubist truck vanishes, leaving only the smell of cantaloupes. Thursday finds a bolt left behind from the cubist truck and keeps it.

Thursday meets Jack at Mickey Finn's Gym, and he says he is going to call her Mary in case there is a slip of the tongue when they are being read. He says things are on the mend with his wife. However, he received a threatening letter from the union that could hasten the demolition of Caversham Heights. Jack is worried about the other characters in the book, but Thursday points out that this would give the book a fighting chance at survival, and tries to reassure him that her suggestions would improve the narrative more than damage it.





Jack and Thursday start the fight-rigging scene in the story, but the gym door opened into the Text Sea. Jack tells Thursday the scene was likely taken for another book by the same author, and it proves they will not be in the Well long. Thursday suggests they just jump ahead to the next scene, but Jack tells her the deleted scene contained important information. Jack wants to give up, but Thursday suggests that they rewrite the scene as if Jack did it on his own, and he brief Mary about what he finds out before moving to the next chapter. They jump back and redo the scene with Thursday's changes.

Thursday returns to the flying boat, surprised at herself for getting involved with internal politics. Lola asks if they are going shopping, which Thursday finds more fun than she expected. As they shop, Lola asks Thursday what she thinks about Randolph.

The Cheshire Cat calls Thursday's footnoterphone. He tells her that her hearing is set for three o' clock in "Alice in Wonderland", just after the "Alice's Evidence" chapter. The Gryphon is representing her.

## **Chapter 20: Ibb and Obb Named and Heights Again Analysis**

Chapter 20 seems to continue the idea of Thursday establishing the BookWorld as her home. Not only is she much more comfortable in her community and career, but when she sees the picture of Landen that she sketched, she does not remember him. In fact, when Granny returns from the Medici Court, she has to be reassured that Granny is real, and has to be told again about Landen and Aornis. As Thursday becomes more settled in the BookWorld and Caversham Heights, it is easier to forget Landen.

This chapter also shows Thursday taking further action to help Jack save Caversham Heights. She is able to help him alter the narrative to cut the scene in the gym when it is revealed to have been taken out of the book. The alteration Thursday makes gives the reader hope that Caversham Heights can be saved. This is another example of Thursday considering the BookWorld her home. If she did not consider it her home, she would have no problem staying out of the politics of the fictional world.





# Chapter 21: Who Stole the Tarts?

## Chapter 21: Who Stole the Tarts? Summary

In Chapter 21: Who Stole the Tarts?, Thursday arrives in "Alice in Wonderland" at her trial, which gives the trial an bizarre atmosphere. The first witnesses called are Mrs. Fairfax, Grace Poole, Bertha Ingram, and St. John Rivers, all explaining how Thursday changed the narrative of "Jane Eyre". Thursday is called by the prosecution, but the Gryphon explains that she will not be giving evidence against herself. The prosecution rests.

The Gryphon's defense is that while Thursday did change the narrative of the story in the technical sense, she did it for motives of love, and improved it. He calls Edward Rochester to the stand. His testimony explains that Thursday's actions did everything for his relationship with Jane. Thursday is found guilty, which was expected, but the Gryphon does not know what form the sentence will take.

Thursday goes to the Jurisdiction offices and sees Miss Havisham. She tells Thursday the sentencing may take years. She passes Thursday the report she wrote for Shadow the Sheepdog. Miss Havisham's mark is an A-plus-plus Hons. She tells Thursday the same assignment has been given to every apprentice for over thirty years, and she is the first to pass.

There is nothing new in the Perkins case, and Deane is still missing. Miss Havisham says the Bellman is going to talk to the agents about Deane.

## Chapter 21: Who Stole the Tarts? Analysis

Chapter 21 is Thursday's trial for the Fiction Infraction that occurred when she changed the ending of "Jane Eyre" in the first Thursday Next book, *The Eyre Affair*. It is a bizarre trial set in the bizarre world of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". There are many bizarre elements to Fforde's story that are reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's works, making this homage to the classic author very appropriate.

Thursday receives news that she passed her practical exam in Shadow the Sheepdog, and that she is the first agent to pass this particular assignment. The exam itself could be referencing the Kobayashi Maru from *Star Trek*, which is a test students who want to be in command positions take. However, the test is designed in such a way that all students fail, regardless of what actions they take. It seems that the Jurisdiction exam is designed in the same way. Thursday, however, manages not only to complete the assignment, but escape the wedding/funeral scenario at the hands of the characters. This implies that Thursday is not an ordinary Jurisdiction agent, and that there is perhaps something about her that takes her above and beyond the others.



## Chapter 22: Crimean Nightmares

### Chapter 22: Crimean Nightmares Summary

Chapter 22: Crimean Nightmares begins as Thursday returns to the Sunderland after the trial. Granny suggests Thursday goes to bed early, but she does not want to because of Aornis.

Granny advises Thursday to lull Aornis into a false sense of security. She starts to tell her how when Randolph and Lola have a fight. Thursday stops the fight, and goes back to her conversation with Granny.

Granny tells her she needs to go back to her memories about Anton in the Crimean in order to get stronger. Thursday says she will not, and goes to have a bath. After she does, she is ready to follow Granny's advice.

Thursday is awake long after Granny falls asleep, but eventually finds herself back at the Crimea, and Aornis is there. She reminds Thursday that she went back during the charge not out of a sense of duty, but for Anton. The memory plays out, and she sees her brother killed. Afterward, Aornis takes her back to the battlefield to go through the memory again. Only this time she sees a different soldier coming toward her.

Granny wakes Thursday. Thursday thinks it was Landen who died, and Anton is alive, but Granny tells her it is just Aornis in her memories, altering them. Granny reminds her about Landen, but it does not quite register. She writes "Landen" on Thursday's hand with a felt pen, and Thursday goes back to sleep thinking Anton is alive and Landen was a fling during the Crimean before he died in the charge.

### Chapter 22: Crimean Nightmares Analysis

The way Thursday handles Randolph and Lola in Chapter 22 is another example of her developing motherhood. She has become a sort of mother figure to the Generics, whether intentional or not, and handles them well. This suggests that when her own child is born, she will be well prepared for motherhood.

Once again, Aornis is altering Thursday's memories. However, since Thursday is having even more trouble remembering Landen, it seems to be getting easier for Aornis to do damage. Even when Thursday wakes up and Granny tells her about Landen, his significance in her life does not quite sink in. This is the first time that when Granny tells Thursday about Landen, the true memories do not return. However, by altering such a heart-breaking memory—the death of Thursday's brother—Aornis has made it less painful to forget Landen. After all, if it was Landen who died in the Crimean War, it means her brother is still alive. In this memory, it is easier for Thursday to accept the lie than to face the pain of having lost her brother. However, Granny is determined to help Thursday win her memories back from Aornis, and writes Landen's name on her hand.



# Chapter 23: Jurisfiction Session No. 40320

## Chapter 23: Jurisfiction Session No. 40320 Summary

Chapter 23: Jurisfiction Session No. 40320 opens the next morning. Dr. Fnorp visits. He praises Lola and says she is getting a leading role in a romantic comedy novel. However, he is worried about Randolph, who is not putting in enough effort. He asks Thursday to speak to Randolph.

Thursday wakes Randolph and asks him to help her run one of the Sunderland's engines. As they are going through the checklist, Thursday mentions that Dr. Fnorp was concerned about Randolph's performance at the school. Randolph wants to be a minor character so he has a chance at the novel Lola is going to be working in. He confesses his love for Lola to Thursday, who tells him to tell her, but he is afraid to. She convinces him to tell her, even for his own sake, and goes to roll call.

The Bellman starts the meeting with two minutes of silence for Perkins and Snell. Commander Bradshaw takes over the bestiary, and the Perkins and Snell series is taken over by B-2 clones from the tribute book.

Commander Bradshaw updates the group on the investigation into Perkins's death, which he concludes was an accident, as was Snell's, but the case is not closed because he says he needs to speak to Deane. The Bellman tells the agents Deane is officially listed as a PageRunner, which means he has participated in illegal activities. Deane's book is suspended until questions are answered. However, the case seems to be building against Deane. Evidence of the missing punctuation from Ulysses has also been found in Deane's locker.

The Minotaur is still missing with the possibility of having crossed over into nonfiction. The Bellman has assigned Falstaff to take care of security for the Book Awards. Thursday is welcomed as a probationary Jurisfiction member. The Bellman ends the meeting with a discussion about the had had/that that problem in literature.

The Bellman instructs Miss Havisham to take Thursday to be sworn in right away, then go to The Squire of High Potternews to look for clues of Deane.

Miss Havisham gives Thursday a shard from the Last Original Idea as a gift for becoming a full agent. She asks why Thursday has "Landen" written on her hand, but Thursday does not remember. She tells Thursday to wash it off.



## Chapter 23: Jurisfiction Session No. 40320 Analysis

The budding subplot between Randolph and Lola is escalating when Thursday discovers that Randolph has feelings for her. This explains a lot of his behavior toward Lola, and Thursday urges him to tell Lola how he feels before she leaves to start work on the new book. However, the reader does not know if he will or not. This romantic subplot in "The Well of Lost Plots" is another thread that connects in the larger story. However, it is also a thread that connects to Fforde's larger body of work, which is revealed later.

Story threads in Jurisfiction are beginning to tie together, as well. The disappearance of Deane looks to be linked to the deaths of Perkins and Snell, and Deane also appears to be responsible for the missing punctuation in Ulysses. At this point in the story, it appears that finding Deane will provide the answers Jurisfiction needs to what has been happening. However, there is still a question in the reader's mind as to what is going on with UltraWord(TM), and whether or not it plays a role in the Perkins and Snell's deaths. The fact that so much of the evidence points to Deane may be too easy an ending for the reader, leading the reader to think that, once again, there is more to the situation than the Jurisfiction agents realize. This use of suspense in The Well of Lost Plots helps propel the story toward the climax and keep the reader wondering about the unanswered questions Fforde has raised.



# Chapter 24: Pledges, the Council of Genres and Searching for Deane

## Chapter 24: Pledges, the Council of Genres and Searching for Deane Summary

Chapter 24: Pledges, the Council of Genres and Searching for Deane opens immediately following Chapter 23. Miss Havisham and Thursday take the elevator because Miss Havisham thinks it is vulgar to jump to the lobby of the Council of Genres.

Thursday asks where the libraries are situated, and Miss Havisham says no one really knows. Thursday asks who the Great Panjandrum is, and Miss Havisham shows Thursday the statue. She explains the Great Panjandrum is the architect of everything and controls all that is done.

Miss Havisham shows Thursday the Council in meeting before taking her to be sworn in and get her Jurisdiction badge. Miss Havisham reveals that Tweed, Perkins, Deane and she were given an Ultra Word(TM) book to test, which creates a link between Perkins and Deane. Miss Havisham says the new operating system works well, but that something seems off, and she could not figure out what despite doing everything she could think of to get the book to fail. She believes something is wrong with the system, though, because of the call she got from Perkins the night before he died.

Miss Havisham and Thursday arrive at the copy of *The Squire of High Potternews*, which is marked off with Jurisdiction tape. Tweed is there and says he can find no clue as to Deane's whereabouts. Thursday tells him about the UltraWord(TM) connection, and he says the operating system ran beautifully, no matter what he did. He suggests they keep their knowledge to themselves, and Miss Havisham agrees. Miss Havisham sends Thursday back to Professor Plum for an update and vanishes to keep an important appointment.

## Chapter 24: Pledges, the Council of Genres and Searching for Deane Analysis

Miss Havisham addresses some of the more philosophical aspects of the BookWorld. The Great Panjandrum seems to be a creator of the world, but no one knows what he or she looks like, and some doubt the Great Panjandrum's existence. This can be seen as a parallel to religion in the real world. Many people believe the earth was created by an intelligent being, but there is no evidence as to who or what that being is, and because of the lack of evidence, some people do not believe in the being's existence. This aspect of the BookWorld is addressed again later, but Fforde introduces it in Chapter 24



to put it in the back of the reader's mind. That way, it will be another thread of the story that is picked up and tied together later in *The Well of Lost Plots*.

Miss Havisham reveals the connection between Perkins, Deane, and UltraWord(TM), which shows the reader that UltraWord(TM) may be involved somehow in Perkins's death. Miss Havisham is convinced that something is "off" about the operating system, but is not sure what. This raises suspicions further, since it adds to the idea that UltraWord(TM) is "too good to be true." However, there is no specific connection between UltraWord(TM) and Perkins or Deane other than the fact that the two were testing the system. This does not give a motive for Perkins to be killed.



# Chapter 25: Havisham—the Final Bow

## Chapter 25: Havisham—the Final Bow Summary

Chapter 25: Havisham—the Final Bow opens as Thursday arrives at Professor Plum's office. It is revealed that the homburg was actually Miss Havisham's, not Thursday's. She jumps to the Great Library to ask Wemmick where Miss Havisham is.

He tells Thursday she's making another land speed attempt, but he does not know where. Thursday calls Mr. Toad and gets the information from Ratty. She jumps to Wales in the Outland and gets a ride to Pendine. She gets to the sand just as the race begins and is unable to stop Miss Havisham.

The race goes well, but when Miss Havisham decelerates, a front wheel breaks loose and causes the car to roll end over end, then the gas tank explodes. Thursday pulls Miss Havisham from the wreckage, badly burned. Miss Havisham asks to go home, and Thursday dual jumps for the first time, taking them both to Miss Havisham's bedchamber in "Great Expectations".

Thursday tells the Cheshire Cat to clean up the fictional mess on the sands. Thursday tells Miss Havisham what she found out about the Eject-O-Hat. Miss Havisham says that since it is the BookWorld, the culprit is someone close they do not suspect.

Jurisdiction medics appear and try to push Thursday away, but Miss Havisham will not let them. She says she has enough strength to make peace with Pip and Estella, and warns Thursday that she will be the next target.

Miss Havisham tells Thursday that the formulaic is the enemy and gives her the Ultra Word(TM) copy of "The Little Prince". The Bellman, Bradshaw, and Thursday say goodbye to Thursday before she improvises the new ending with Pip.

## Chapter 25: Havisham—the Final Bow Analysis

Another connection in Perkins' death is made when Thursday finds out that the Eject-O-Hat was actually Miss Havisham's. This means that Thursday was not the target, but Miss Havisham was, and she was one of the agents testing the new operating system. This makes it more likely that UltraWord(TM) is somehow a part of Perkins's death. Even Miss Havisham is convinced that something having to do with UltraWord(TM) is the culprit, and in her last words to Thursday, tells her the formulaic is the enemy, and gives her the UltraWord(TM) copy of "The Little Prince" she was testing. Giving Thursday the book suggests that she now has what she needs to solve the mystery surrounding Perkins's death and what is wrong with UltraWord(TM).

The death of Miss Havisham is a major turning point in "The Well of Lost Plots". Until this point, Miss Havisham has been a support and guide for Thursday as she learns to



be a Jurisfiction agent and gets acquainted with living in the BookWorld. However, now Thursday is alone in her career. She will likely get support from other agents, particularly Bradshaw, but any relationship she may have with other agents will not be the same since Miss Havisham was her mentor in the BookWorld. There is a much more emotional connection for the reader in Miss Havisham's death not only because of how Thursday tells it, but because of the character's connection to Thursday in the story.

In addition, Miss Havisham's death is a turning point for the mystery, as well. With Perkins and Miss Havisham dead, only the missing Deane remains of the Jurisfiction agents who were testing UltraWord(TM). It is unknown if Deane has been killed, as well, if he committed the murder of Perkins—and the attempt on Miss Havisham's life with the Eject-O-Hat—or if he is in hiding, knowing he is a target, as well. However, the reader does not know where Deane falls in the situation, or who else can be trusted in Jurisfiction, since the murder had to have been committed by a Jurisfiction agent.





# Chapter 26: Post-Havisham Blues and Chapter 27: The Lighthouse at the Edge of My Mind

## Chapter 26: Post-Havisham Blues and Chapter 27: The Lighthouse at the Edge of My Mind Summary

Chapter 26: Post-Havisham Blues opens an hour after the end of Chapter 25. Thursday goes into the Jurisdiction offices where Tweed, Bradshaw, and the Bellman are looking at two pieces of broken and scorched metal on a desk. The Bellman tells Thursday the evidence shows it was an accident. The Ultra Word(TM) reports written by Perkins, Deane, and Miss Havisham show that if they were murdered, it was not over Ultra Word(TM).

Thursday is given some time off from Jurisdiction due to Miss Havisham's death. She is also offered a permanent position in Jurisdiction. Thursday considers it, thinking she has nothing in Swindon to go back for. However, she asks the Bellman if she can take some time to think about it.

At the flying boat, Thursday reads the improvised ending to "Great Expectations". She pours herself a large glass of wine. She feels there is a reason she should not be drinking, but cannot think of what it is. She sees the remains of something written on her hand and thinks it was "Lisbon." Thursday pours another glass of wine and opens the copy of "The Little Prince" that Miss Havisham had given her. She plays with some of the features, then reads the book, taking note of the experience of it.

Arnold arrives. They talk and drink together, with both of them getting drunk. As they talk, Thursday has flashes of memories. Granny arrives, and Thursday does not know who she is, nor does she remember Aornis or Landen, or even that she is pregnant. Randolph and Lola come in, and Granny enlists their help with Thursday. Granny forces Thursday to throw up, then they put her to bed. She remembers who Granny is, but when Granny tells her she will win her memories back in her dreams, she does not understand. Thursday falls asleep.

In Chapter 27: The Lighthouse at the Edge of My Mind, Thursday is in a dream. She goes into the lighthouse and sees a woman. Thursday does not know who the woman is there or why Thursday is there. The woman says all Thursday needs to know is that she killed this woman's brother.

The woman tells Thursday she is forgetting everything. The lighthouse is the last of her memories cobbled together. The woman shows Thursday a handmirror with memories, and forces her to watch her brother's death. As she is watching, she sees something on the edge of her mind which is her true worst nightmare. The woman is losing confidence



and Thursday begins to gain strength. Thursday refuses to hide it from the woman, forcing her to face it with Thursday.

Thursday realizes the woman is Aornis, and some of her past begins to return to her. A form appears in the doorway and Aornis is uncontrollably terrified. Thursday leaves the lighthouse and takes a boat to escape. The lighthouse collapses, taking Aornis with it.

Suddenly, Landen is in the boat with her, and Thursday remembers him, enjoying the time with him.

## **Chapter 26: Post-Havisham Blues and Chapter 27: The Lighthouse at the Edge of My Mind Analysis**

Chapters 26 and 27 are another major turning point in "The Well of Lost Plots", this time for Thursday and Aornis. Since Thursday does not remember Landen in Chapter 26, she also does not remember that she is pregnant, leading her to get drunk and make poor decisions regarding Arnold. In fact, her memories are fading so much that she does not even recognize Granny when she sees her. It could be that due to the intensity of her duties at Jurisdiction and the death of Miss Havisham, she did not take time away to try to remember Landen, which allowed her to forget him.

In Chapter 27, Thursday is finally able to defeat Aornis's mindworm, which brings resolution to the theme of identity in "The Well of Lost Plots". In the dream, the reader sees just how close to losing her memories and identity she was. In fact, all that is left of her memories is a lighthouse cobbled together from other memories, and even that is on the verge of collapsing and slipping away forever. Just as Landen does not exist without Thursday's memories of him, it is Thursday's memories and experiences that have shaped who she is. Without them, she has no identity, either. There is irony in the fact that Thursday's identity is saved by a memory that is unidentified, but seen only as a shadow in the door.



# Chapter 28: Lola Departs and Heights Again and Chapter 29: Mrs. Bradshaw and Solomon (Judgments) Inc.

## Chapter 28: Lola Departs and Heights Again and Chapter 29: Mrs. Bradshaw and Solomon (Judgments) Inc. Summary

Chapter 28: Lola Departs and Heights Again opens the next morning. Thursday is hung over, but remembers Landen's full name now that Aornis has been defeated.

Lola is leaving Caversham Heights to start work on "Girls Make All the Moves". Randolph did not get the male-mentor part he wanted. Randolph does not really say goodbye, and tells Thursday he did not tell Lola his feelings for her.

Granny calls for Thursday to help her downstairs. Granny assures Thursday that defeating Aornis in the Outland will be much easier than getting rid of the mindworm.

Thursday goes into Caversham Heights to see how Jack is doing. He tells her he has been thinking about a full makeover. He introduces Thursday to Nathan Snudd, a plotsmith, who tells her the plan for revamping the book. Prometheus asks if there could be a part for him. A disagreement between Snudd and Prometheus prompts Snudd to leave without helping Jack. Thursday suggests they have lunch, and Prometheus suggests they go to Zorba's.

Chapter 29: Mrs. Bradshaw and Solomon (Judgments) Inc. begins the next morning. She is given some condolences about Miss Havisham. The Bellman asks where she stands about staying on permanently, and Thursday tells him she can stay for a year. He tells her he is moving her to less demanding duties in the wake of Miss Havisham's death. He tells her the Council of Genres has taken a personal interest in her case. He tells her to report to Solomon on the twenty-sixth floor.

Bradshaw stops Thursday on her way out and asks her to have tea with him in "Bradshaw Hunts Big Game". Bradshaw tells Thursday Miss Havisham's death looked like an accident, but that a real one and a written one are pretty similar. She tells him someone wants her off the active list, and it is not the Bellman.

Bradshaw introduces Thursday to his wife, who is a gorilla. When she goes to get cake, Bradshaw asks if Thursday noticed anything unusual about her, and she says that she noticed Mrs. Bradshaw is a gorilla. Melanie asks Thursday if it is the hair that gave her away. They are nervous because they are invited to the Bookies. Thursday tells them anyone who does not accept their marriage is not worth having as a friend.



Thursday goes to Solomon's office to start her new assignment. She is essentially a court bailiff. The first judgment reminds Thursday of the prophecy of the three witches. Four of them had already come true, and there were two more.

The next case is several characters from "Wuthering Heights" arguing that none of them wants the first-person narrative of the story. Kenneth decides they will all take the narrative at different points in the story. The next case is Emperor Zhark, and he and Kenneth are old friends, though Kenneth's decision angers Zhark.

## **Chapter 28: Lola Departs and Heights Again and Chapter 29: Mrs. Bradshaw and Solomon (Judgments) Inc. Analysis**

Commander and Mrs. Bradshaw's marriage may be seen as Fforde's commentary on same-sex or non-traditional relationships. Throughout the first part of "The Well of Lost Plots", Thursday is told not to laugh or stare at Melanie Bradshaw when she meets her. This symbolizes people's refusal to talk about non-traditional relationships or ignoring that they exist in society. The couple knows they are not a traditional relationship, and Melanie tries to disguise herself as a human by wearing a pinafore. When Thursday points out that she is a gorilla, both Trafford and Melanie are relieved that she said something so Melanie can be herself around Thursday instead of putting on a show in order to be in hiding. When the Bradshaws express concern about being seen in public at the Bookies, Thursday tells them anyone who does not support their relationship is not a true friend. This may be interpreted as Fforde's stance on non-traditional relationships. This is another example of Fforde using seemingly bizarre situations to comment on aspects of society in the real world.

Thursday's assignment with Solomon Judgments brings up the three witches again. Though she has been told repeatedly that they are hacks, it appears as though parts of their prophecy are coming true. This raises the question in Thursday's mind—as well as the reader's—as to whether or not there is something to the prophecy, or if it is just coincidence that these parts have come true. If the entire prophecy will come true, this raises the additional question of how, exactly, it will play out, and what the prophecy has to do with Perkins's death and UltraWord(TM).



# Chapter 30: Revelations

## Chapter 30: Revelations Summary

In Chapter 30: Revelations, Thursday is looking for the three witches, but cannot find them. Two days later, Arnold is at the flying boat, and Thursday apologizes to him for her behavior when she was drunk. Randolph did not get the part in the Amis, but is shortlisted for a minor appearance in the next Wolfe. He plans to do standing-in work until then. Tweed is up for the next Bellman; Jurisdiction favors an Outlander.

Thursday smells the Ultra Word(TM) copy of "The Little Prince" and smells cantaloupes. She takes out the bolt from the truck in the accident in Caversham Heights, and it smells the same. Randolph tries to open "The Little Prince", but is unable to open the cover. Thursday and Arnie open it without any problem. Thursday realizes this is the Thrice-Read Rule that was in the witches' prophecy, as well as the effect it will have on the reading community.

Thursday thinks about the pieces of the puzzle, trying to make a connection. Randolph suggests Thursday recites Snell's nonsense words near a source of misspelling to try and figure out what he meant by his message to her.

Thursday goes to the Anti-misspelling Fast Response Group for help. She is looking for a misspelling virus and finds it just as Tweed comes up behind her, startling her. She tells him she thinks something is wrong with Ultra Word(TM), and he agrees, suggesting it uses a faster "memory fade" utility, so readers will want to reread the book more often. He asks what she has discovered, and she tells him about the thrice-read capability.

Tweed offers to help her unmisspell Snell's nonsense message. As they work, Tweed pushes to find out who Thursday has told about the thrice-read rule. The message turns out to be "Kaine—Ultra Word—Don't trust!" (pg. 283).

Tweed tries to infect Thursday with the virus but she jumps out of the way. She pins Tweed and forces him to tell her what is going on with Ultra Word(TM). He tries to get Thursday to join him, but she refuses. Uriah Hope attacks Thursday to save Tweed. She gets away and Tweed yells for the Danvers to kill her. She reads herself out of the way.

Thursday arrives in Norland Park. She grabs Benedict's pistol and the Red Queen misinterprets her actions. She is tackled. She starts to tell the Bellman about Ultra Word(TM), but Tweed interrupts, saying she is a murderer. Tweed says he has evidence and brings in the head-in-a-bag plot device Snell had bought. It had been hidden in her broom cupboard. The head is Godot's.



## Chapter 30: Revelations Analysis

Chapter 30 reveals the puzzle pieces beginning to fall into place in the story. The Thrice-Read Rule becomes apparent: an UltraWord(TM) book may not be read by more than two people. The effects of this rule will change the face of reading in the Outland. Libraries and second-hand bookstores will close, and people will not be able to lend their books to more than one person. Instead, people will be forced to purchase their own copies of books they want to read. This could either drive the book market up, or the reading population down. Either way, it is not a favorable outcome.

Thursday is able to "decode" Snell's message by reciting it near a misspelling virus. Unfortunately, Tweed is with her when she decodes it, and since he is working with Kaine to make sure that UltraWord(TM) is launched, he is revealed as the antagonist. When Tweed accuses Thursday of being a murderer, he produces the head-in-a-bag plot device Snell bought, and the head is revealed to be Godot's. This ties up the ongoing thread of Godot missing from the Jurisdiction meetings, which was a nod to Samuel Beckett's play, "Waiting for Godot". This is another example of the numerous literary references and allusions throughout "The Well of Lost Plots".

The changing of Uriah's last name from Hope to Heep by the misspelling virus is another example of the blurring of fiction and reality in "The Well of Lost Plots". The character is from Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield", and the character's name is spelled "Heep" in the book. Fforde's story implies that it is because of the events in "The Well of Lost Plots" that the name is spelled "Heep" instead of "Hope."

This chapter shows the plot picking up speed, and accelerating toward the climax. Fforde helps emphasize this acceleration by shortening the chapters, as well.



# Chapter 31: Tables Turned

## Chapter 31: Tables Turned Summary

In Chapter 31: Tables Turned, Heep restrains Thursday to arrest her. She tries to explain that Snell bought the head, but they do not believe her. Tweed says he has evidence of her involvement in at least three other murders. Tweed claims that Thursday's motive was to get the position of Bellman. He produces a report by the three witches' which he claims is evidence of Thursday's motive. Tweed tells Thursday she will be permanently expelled from the BookWorld. Thursday tries to provoke Tweed so she can make the plot device globe go off.

Suddenly, a shot rings out. A bullet frees Thursday from her chains and she runs for the door. She goes out the door and runs into Deane, pistol in hand. He takes her hands and they jump into the footnoterphone conduits. Deane explains that Tweed tried to kill him, so he and the maidservant escaped. He shows her an Ultra Word(TM) skylark, which Perkins had told him is the evidence they need.

While Thursday and Deane are in the conduits, Tweed convinces the Bellman to sign an Extremely Prejudicial Termination order, which would order Thursday's death.

Thursday and Deane jump back into the Jurisdiction offices, where Tweed and Heep are alone with the Bellman. They play out the charade with Deane as the killer. Deane claims to have killed because he wanted a happy ending. The Bellman tears up the termination order against Thursday.

When the Bellman asks Thursday what is wrong with Ultra Word(TM), she tells him there is a flight manual conflict because she knows she has to go over his head. He tells her it has been resolved, and she asks to be excused.

Thursday reads herself to Solomon's outer office.

## Chapter 31: Tables Turned Analysis

Chapter 31 is another example of "The Well of Lost Plots" as metafiction. When the "shot rang out" plot device breaks, it is incorporated into the plot and frees Thursday from her chains. The plot device is meant to be used in a book, but when it goes off, it is used in the story of "The Well of Lost Plots" rather than "Sense and Sensibility", where the Jurisdiction offices are located.

Deane's role in the events of the story is revealed when he jumps with Thursday out of the Jurisdiction offices. He is a victim as much as Perkins and Miss Havisham were because Tweed tried to kill him, as well. When he takes Thursday with him, he reveals another piece of the puzzle regarding UltraWord(TM) when he shows her the skylark from Perkins. It is clear when Thursday and Deane jump back into the Jurisdiction offices



that they have a plan for how to defeat Tweed. When Deane pretends to be the killer, Tweed knows he is lying, but cannot let the Bellman know without revealing too much or admitting to the killings himself. Instead, he must stand by and let events play out.

Fforde makes the story even more abstract when Deane and Thursday jump into the footnoterphone conduits. They seem to be the equivalent of sewers, except the footnotes are whizzing by throughout the conduits. Fforde uses footnotes to give the narrative of what is happening with Thursday and Deane in the conduits while simultaneously telling the story of what is happening in the Jurisdiction offices on the main part of the page. While it may be confusing to see on the page, it is a clever device to give the simultaneous scenes in two separate locations. The abstractness of this scene is reminiscent of Thursday jumping into the laundry label of a garment in *Lost in a Good Book*.





# Chapter 32: The 923rd Annual BookWorld Awards and Chapter 33: UltraWord(TM)

## Chapter 32: The 923rd Annual BookWorld Awards and Chapter 33: UltraWord(TM) Summary

Chapter 32: The 923rd Annual BookWorld Awards begins with Thursday offstage at the Starlight Room waiting to read nominations. She is being followed, and when she asks Heep why he is following her, he claims it is for her protection. She had two attempts on her life after Deane was arrested.

Thursday presents her award. There is an hour until the Most Troubled Romantic Lead (Male) is announced. She sees Bradshaw, who tells her he has the "thing" she wanted him to keep for her, and she only has to tell him when she wants it. She goes to the Jurisdiction table. Randolph tells Thursday he is going to tell Lola he likes her, if he can find her.

As the final category is announced, Mimi is in the footnoterphone tube entrance to Text Grand Central. She gestures to Quasimodo who places "Das Kapital" next to "Mein Kampf" held together by rubber bands and separated by a thin metal sheet with a string attached to it. He steps back and they wait for Thursday's signal.

WordMaster Libris is announced and has a few words to say about the new operating system. Thursday gets her bag and heads to the exit, Legree following her. She walks to the side of the stage toward the doors that lead through the hospitality lounge. She meets Tweed at the entrance to the stage and tells him Ultra Word(TM) will not be voted through. He is cocky that she will not be believed by the audience.

Thursday is granted the stage to offer a counterpoint. She gives Mimi the signal to go. The steel plate is removed from between the two books and their conflicting ideologies generate heat until there is an explosion, cutting Libris and Tweed off from Text Grand Central.

In Chapter 33: UltraWord(TM), Thursday takes the stage to speak to the BookWorld. She tells them about the thrice-read rule, and how it has been covered up. She explains how there will be no need for the Well. Libris demands proof, and Thursday has Bradshaw bring up a skylark. It has a rich description, but it is not an UltraWord(TM) skylark. That one is also brought up, and its description is cold and clinical.

The Bellman demands a vote right then. Tweed has his connection to Text Grand Central back. Text Grand Central rewrites the BookWorld constitution to allow a rebuttal



of a rebuttal before the vote is taken. Libris threatens the Bellman. Thursday discovers Kaine's link to what is happening.

When he refuses to agree quietly, the Bellman is rewritten in order to refute Thursday's rebuttal. Thursday opens her TravelBook and breaks the emergency glass to pull the lever.

## **Chapter 32: The 923rd Annual BookWorld Awards and Chapter 33: UltraWord(TM) Analysis**

Chapter 33 is the climax of "The Well of Lost Plots", with the action of Chapter 32 serving as a way to progress the story to Chapter 33. The plot threads have come together, and this chapter is Thursday's attempt at "fixing" everything. The antagonist has been revealed to be Tweed, who has a connection with UltraWord(TM). Perkins's murder is solved because of finding out who Tweed really is. Thursday and Deane have a plan. They sever Tweed's connection with Text Grand Central, preventing him from rewriting things to refute Thursday's speech, and she shows everyone in the BookWorld the UltraWord(TM) skylark. The problem with UltraWorld(TM) is finally revealed. Not only does the Thrice-Read Rule keep books from being shared more than once, but the text itself does not have the depth and richness of detail it once had. The UltraWord(TM) skylark is described coldly. This is what Miss Havisham meant when she spoke to Thursday against the formulaic. UltraWord(TM) is the formulaic, and it takes the spirit out of stories.

The scene at the Bookies once again uses the footnotes to reveal the action occurring in the footnoterphone conduits, with Quasimodo and Mimi waiting for Thursday's signal. The simultaneous scenes give the chapter an even more fast-paced feel than it already has, increasing the intensity for the reader.

When Tweed is reconnected with Text Grand Central and the Bellman calls for a vote, Thursday has no choice but to pull the emergency lever in her TravelBook. She does not know what will happen, but she is in a hopeless situation, and has no choice. Within the climactic scene of Chapter 33, this moment is the true climactic moment of "The Well of Lost Plots". The fact that Fforde places this integral moment at the end of the chapter highlights the suspense for the reader.



# Chapter 34: Loose Ends

## Chapter 34: Loose Ends Summary

In Chapter 34: Loose Ends, Thursday recounts what happened at the end of the Bookies. When she pulled lever, the Great Panjandrum appeared, froze all the text in the room, and decreed a vote to be taken there and then. UltraWord(TM) was voted down unanimously. She spoke to Thursday three times, one of which appointed her as the Bellman's successor. After the party, Thursday reads herself back to Caversham Heights.

Thursday falls asleep on the couch next to Granny. The next morning Pickwick wakes her and leads her upstairs to show her the egg has hatched. Randolph tells Thursday Lola's book's author burned the manuscript in a drunken rage, so Lola is going to be auctioned off. Thursday goes to the auction.

Thursday bids the shard of the original idea given to her by Miss Havisham for Lola, which wins her.

Thursday proposes to the Council of Genres that Caversham Heights be used as a sanctuary for characters who needed a break. It is approved, as it has the added bonus of solving the nursery rhyme problem. Thursday gives Jack the new outline, then goes to the nurseries to discuss it with Humpty-Dumpty. He says he will take it to the membership, but he thinks it will go through.

Thursday explains the long aftermath of UltraWord(TM), and she and Lola talk about Randolph as the new characters are welcomed into Caversham Heights.

## Chapter 34: Loose Ends Analysis

Chapter 34 is the denouement of "The Well of Lost Plots". The immediate aftermath of the climax—what happens when Thursday pulls the emergency lever—is told as a reflective rather than in the moment. Because Fforde writes the end of the Bookies in this way, it is part of the denouement rather than the action of the climax.

The Great Panjandrum freezes the text in the room and UltraWord(TM) is immediately voted down. In addition, Thursday is named the next Bellman, which fulfills the final part of the prophecy by the three witches.

When Thursday pulls the lever, the Great Panjandrum appears. This is a classic example of *deus ex machina*, which is an unexpected event or character that saves a hopeless situation. Throughout *The Well of Lost Plots*, there are hints of the Great Panjandrum, but no appearances by the creator of the BookWorld. When the Great Panjandrum appears, Thursday sees someone like her. However, others who see the Great Panjandrum see characters like themselves.



From a philosophical or spiritual perspective, this could be interpreted as the Great Panjandrum appears in a form to which the characters can relate, or because the Great Panjandrum is the creator of the BookWorld, those in the BookWorld see themselves in the Great Panjandrum. This plays into the comments previously made about the Great Panjandrum. Miss Havisham told Thursday that no one had ever seen the Great Panjandrum, leading some to believe he or she did not exist. This parallels the real world in the belief or disbelief in an intelligent creator. No one has seen a supreme being or god, which leads people to believe there is no supreme being or god.

From a literary perspective, the Great Panjandrum is the author of the BookWorld. Since authors draw from themselves to create characters for stories, the characters see the aspect of the Great Panjandrum that created them.

Thursday uses the shard of the original idea to save Lola from the auction. She and Randolph are reunited, and both know their feelings for each other, giving them a happy ending. Thursday's proposal to use Caversham Heights as a sanctuary for characters solves the problem with the book and saves it from demolition. The book is rewritten. This ties up the loose ends of saving Caversham Heights as well as the nursery rhyme character strike. In addition, this solution is the basis for "The Big Over Easy", which is another book by Jasper Fforde. This creates a connection between the Thursday Next series and the Nursery Crime series by the author.

The only unresolved issue that remains in The Well of Lost Plots is the missing Minotaur, which is addressed later in Fforde's series.



# Chapter 34a: Heavy Weather

## Chapter 34a: Heavy Weather Summary

Chapter 34a: Heavy Weather is a bonus chapter exclusive to the U.S. edition of "The Well of Lost Plots". It begins not long after Thursday is inaugurated as the Bellman. The Cheshire Cat wakes Thursday in the middle of the night because of the possibility of a WordStorm.

Thursday goes to Text Grand Central and the technicians explain what has been happening with the TextWind. She tells the Cat and Bradshaw to take action to prepare, and watches as the winds move, and the storm is expected to hit Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter". Thursday plans to protect Hemingway and shut down Hawthorne to keep it from being hit. The storm hits "The Scarlet Letter" just as it is shut down, then bounces around in Hemingway, as planned, before subsiding. At the last minute, the storm picks up, embedding a Bride Shot at the Altar plot device in Lorna Doone.

Thursday returns home and goes back to bed.

## Chapter 34a: Heavy Weather Analysis

Chapter 34a is exclusive to the U.S. edition of "The Well of Lost Plots". Thursday is the Bellman, and there is a WordStorm coming. This chapter gives the final example of the blurring between fiction and reality. The WordStorm bounces around in Hemingway, altering the plot of Lorna Doone. Throughout "The Well of Lost Plots", Fforde makes references to changes made to stories, turning them into the stories as they are known to the reader and the real world. In this final example, the reader once again is faced with the idea that because of events in the book he or she is reading, another book is the way it is.

The way Thursday handles the WordStorm shows how comfortable she is in her role in the BookWorld now. She knows exactly what needs to be done to minimize damage, and when she is finished, she returns home and goes to bed.



# Characters

## Thursday Next (also appears as Mary Jones)

Thursday Next is the protagonist and narrator of "The Well of Lost Plots". In the Outland she is a literary detective, but she is in the BookWorld as part of the Character Exchange Program, playing the role of Mary Jones in Caversham Heights. She is married to Landen Parke-Laine and pregnant with his child. She is an agent in Jurisdiction as an apprentice to Miss Havisham. Aornis Hades is in her mind as a mindworm, trying to get her to forget her memories, specifically of Landen.

## Pickwick

Pickwick is Thursday's re-engineered pet dodo. She laid an egg prior to the beginning of "The Well of Lost Plots", which she protects. The egg hatches toward the end of the novel.

## ibb and obb (also appear as Ibb and Obb, and Randolph and Lo)

Ibb and Obb are two Generics from St. Tabularasa's that live with Thursday in Caversham Heights. Over the course of the story, they mature and grow into distinct characters named Randolph and Lola. Thursday likens their development to puberty. Randolph develops deep feelings for Lola.

## Harris Tweed

Harris Tweed is an Outlander who is a Jurisdiction agent. He is revealed to have partnered with Yorrick Kaine in the Outland, as well as Text Grand Central, in the launch of UltraWord(TM). He is the antagonist of "The Well of Lost Plots".

## The Great Panjandrum

The Great Panjandrum is the creator of the BookWorld. No one has seen the Great Panjandrum, so no one knows what he/she/it looks like. At the end of "The Well of Lost Plots", Thursday pulls the emergency lever in her TravelBook, which summons the Great Panjandrum to the Bookies.



## **Aornis Hades**

Aornis Hades is the younger sister of Acheron and Styx Hades, and one of Thursday's enemies in the Outland. She is a mneumonormorph, and exists in Thursday's mind in the BookWorld as a mindworm. She causes Thursday to forget her memories, especially of Landen. In addition, Aornis can manipulate Thursday's memories to cause further havoc in her mind. She attacks during Thursday's dreams.

## **Granny Next**

Granny Next is Thursday's grandmother. She is 108 years old and wears blue gingham from head to toe. She tells Thursday she cannot die until she reads the ten most boring stories. Granny goes into the BookWorld to keep an eye on Thursday, help to keep her from forgetting her eradicated husband, and help her defeat the mindworm.

## **Landen Park-Laine**

Landen Parke-Laine is Thursday's husband who was eradicated in the Outland. In "The Well of Lost Plots", he exists only Thursday's memories.

## **The Bellman**

The Bellman is the leader of Jurisfiction. He is the equivalent of a precinct captain. He is due to retire as the Bellman, and Jurisfiction is looking for a replacement.

## **Miss Havisham**

Miss Havisham is a character from "Great Expectations". She is an agent in Jurisfiction, with Thursday as her apprentice. She is very close friends with Commander Bradshaw.

## **Commander Trafford Bradshaw**

Commander Trafford Bradshaw is a character a boys' adventure series. He is one of the early booksplorers in the BookWorld and a highly-regarded agent in Jurisfiction. He is close friends with Miss Havisham and married to Melanie Bradshaw.

## **The Minotaur**

The Minotaur is a mythical creature being kept in "The Sword of the Zenobians". He escapes from his cage and kills Perkins and Mathias before escaping the story with Thursday's Eject-O-Hat.



## **DCI Jack Spratt**

DCI Jack Spratt is the protagonist of Caversham Heights. He knows his story is very poorly written, and is worried about the impending destruction because of what it would mean for the rest of the characters. He enlists Thursday's help to improve the story before the Book Inspectorate visits.

## **Arnold (Arnie)**

Arnold is a character in Caversham Heights. His character expresses unrequited love for Mary Jones. He becomes friendly with Thursday throughout the course of "The Well of Lost Plots".





## Objects/Places

### Caversham Heights

Caversham Heights is the book where Thursday is living as part of the Character Exchange Program. It is a poorly written detective story with DCI Jack Spratt as the protagonist. The book is likely to be demolished.

### BookWorld

The BookWorld is the world of fiction. It is where books are created using plot devices, settings, and characters. It was created by the Great Panjandrum.

### Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction is the policing agency of the BookWorld. They address issues such as plot holes and grammasites to larger issues such as genre conflicts and character strikes.

### Norland Park

Norland Park is the estate from "Sense and Sensibility". The Jurisdiction offices are housed in Norland Park's ballroom. This is where the meetings are held that give the agents their assignments by the Bellman.

### The Well of Lost Plots

"The Well of Lost Plots" is similar to a town with shops where characters peddle their wares for the stories in the BookWorld. Just as in the Outland, there is illegal trading and selling that occurs in the Well. The Well is also where the Text Sea is located, which is where words are essentially fished for stories. When books are demolished, they are broken back down to words and cast into the Text Sea.

### The Great Library

The Great Library is where all the books ever written (in English) are housed. Thursday uses the books in the library to read herself into the stories. The Cheshire Cat is the librarian of the Great Library.



## **UltraWord(TM)**

UltraWord(TM) is the newest operating system for the BookWorld set to be launched at the Book Awards. It has been extensively tested, but the Jurisdiction agents are wary of it. Miss Havisham, who tested "The Little Prince", feels that something is wrong with it, but can't figure out what. Thursday discovers that things in the BookWorld written in UltraWord(TM) smell like cantaloupes.

## **Council of Genres**

A fictional legislative council. A representative from each genre sits on the Council, and they determine the conventions of storytelling, as well as whether an unpublished book is to be kept or demolished. It is similar to a congressional body.

## **Footnoterphone**

The footnoterphone is a device in the BookWorld that allows characters to contact each other. It is similar in idea to a telephone, but the conversation appears on the page in footnotes. Deane and Mimi hide in the footnoterphone conduits when they hide from Tweed.

## **The Outland/Outlanders**

The Outland is the "real world" outside of BookWorld. Real people, such as Thursday, are called Outlanders. Outlanders generate a lot of curiosity from fictioneers.

## **Text Grand Central**

Text Grand Central is an agency that monitors the books in the Great Library and passes any textual problems on to Jurisdiction. It is the agency behind the launch of UltraWord(TM).

# Themes

## The role of the Outland in the Bookworld

The Outland and the BookWorld rely on each other. The Outland is important to the BookWorld in that books need readers in order to exist, and the Outland relies on the BookWorld to create and manage the reading experience.

The Outland has a form of political hold on the BookWorld. Books rely on readers in order to continue to exist. A book that drops off in popularity in the Outland does not get the resources put into it that it may need to be maintained. This is at the heart of the problem with Caversham Heights. Because it is poorly written, it is not read in the Outland. In fact, it is not even published. Because it is not read in the Outland, there is virtually no budget for the characters to improve the story. This puts Caversham Heights and other stories like it in a catch-22 position that leads to the demolition of many books. In addition, the popular books, regardless of how well their written, carry a sort of prestige in the BookWorld. Though Daphne Farquitt novels are "just" lit. chick stories, they are very popular in the Outland, so Generics are proud to work on them.

On the other side of the issue, the BookWorld manages the reading experience for the Outland. When readers lose interest in a book or think they see something that is not there, it is the work of the BookWorld. Books can be shut down completely, which means no one in the Outland can read them. This is manifested in losing interest in the story or being unable to find the book to pick it up.

If changes are made to a book, it is seen in the Outland. This is best seen in Thursday's alteration of "Jane Eyre" which occurred during Fforde's "Eyre Affair", the first book in the Thursday Next series. Thursday created a different ending to the story, and faced trial in the BookWorld for her Fiction Infraction. All aspects of stories are controlled in the BookWorld, so even changes that are made to stories must be regulated.

## The blurring of the line between reality and fiction

"The Well of Lost Plots" greatly blurs the line between reality and fiction. This is best seen in the fact that Thursday is residing within an unpublished novel. She is a real person, but she is living in what Outlanders consider to be an abstraction. This raises the question in the reader's mind about where fiction ends and reality begins, and vice versa.

Fforde further blurs the line between fiction and reality in the way the BookWorld can alter the Outland. For example, the characters in the BookWorld can make changes to their stories, which then are seen as changes by the Outland as the stories are read. Miss Havisham changes the ending of Great Expectations, Thursday changes Shadow the Sheepdog, and a misspelling virus changes Uriah Hope to Uriah Heep. These changes that occur in "The Well of Lost Plots" change those stories to the way the



reader knows the stories. This suggests that without the events of "The Well of Lost Plots", the stories would not be the way they are known today.

Another way Fforde blurs the line between reality and fiction in "The Well of Lost Plots" is by the use of metafiction. The written characters in the story know they are written characters; their faults are the result of the way they are written. At times, Fforde draws attention to these faults, even by the characters themselves, making the reader very aware he or she is reading a story. In other books, this might distance the reader from the events of the story, but in "The Well of Lost Plots", it helps add depth and richness to the BookWorld and draw the reader further into the fictional world within the fictional story.

## Identity

The theme of identity is probably most prominently expressed in the development of Randolph and Lola throughout "The Well of Lost Plots". The two characters begin as flat, featureless, and nameless, and by the end of the story have developed into distinct characters with individual personalities. They begin to develop individual personalities as they take classes, which suggests that education brings people depth and individuality.

Landen Park-Laine is another character Fforde uses to explore identity. Due to his eradication in "Lost in a Good Book", Landen only exists in Thursday's memories. It is only those memories that shape his identity. When she forgets him, he no longer exists. When Thursday defeats Aornis and remembers him again, Landen regains his identity.

Thursday's identity is addressed in a different way throughout the story, as well. As part of the Character Exchange Program, she is taking on the role of Mary Jones in Caversham Heights, which may call her identity into question for the reader. However, on a bigger level, she is an Outlander in the BookWorld. This raises the question of where she fits in with her new life as a Jurisdiction agent, as well as in Caversham Heights. This is a new experience for her, and she must find her way in a new home.



# Style

## Point of View

"The Well of Lost Plots" is written in first-person point of view from the perspective of Thursday Next, who is the protagonist.

## Setting

The majority of "The Well of Lost Plots" takes place in the world of fiction. Thursday travels to different locations within the BookWorld, including the Great Library, the Well of Lost Plots, Sense and Sensibility, and Caversham Heights. She makes two brief trips to the Outland during the course of the story.

## Language and Meaning

"The Well of Lost Plots" is written in language that is a cross between a crime/detective story and a literary novel. Fforde uses heavy allusion to help create the BookWorld. There are words used for the purposes of the BookWorld, such as Jurisdiction and grammasites, as well as invented creatures, such as grammasites. Fforde draws from real words and ideas to create his new words and ideas.

## Structure

This book is structured as a typical novel, arranged chronologically and divided into chapters. It is told in past tense. Fforde includes excerpts from fictional writings at the beginning of each chapter. These excerpts provide insight to the reader into some aspect of the action of that particular chapter. There is no chapter 13 in "The Well of Lost Plots". The U.S. edition of the book contains a bonus chapter, which addresses Thursday dealing with a WordStorm during her tenure as Bellman. Fforde also uses footnotes as a way of communication in the BookWorld. Toward the end of the book, he uses footnotes to reveal action in scenes occurring simultaneously, when one of the scenes is occurring in the footnoterphone conduits.



## Quotes

"'Books'—Snell smiled—'are a kind of magic.'  
(Chap. 4, pg. 53)

"'Thirsty!' he squeaked. 'Wode—Cone, udder whirled—doughnut Trieste—!'"  
(Chap. 18, pg. 164)

"'If you don't make mistakes, you're not trying hard enough.'  
(Chap. 22, pg. 234)

"'I swear by the Great Panjandrum that I shall uphold the rules of Jurisdiction, protect the BookWorld and defend every fictioneer, no matter how poorly written, against oppression. I shall not shirk from my duty, nor use my knowledge or position for personal gain. Secrets entrusted to me by the Council of Genres or Text Grand Central must remain secret within the service, and I will do all I can to maintain the power of storytelling within the minds and hearts of the readers.'  
(Chap. 24, pg. 238)

"'I have yet to meet a more extraordinary woman, either real or imagined, and she would always have a place in my heart.'  
(Chap. 25, pg. 247)



## Topics for Discussion

Discuss the role of the Outland in the BookWorld, specifically as it relates to the events of "The Well of Lost Plots". Why are Outlanders important to the BookWorld? What role do they play in the creation of the books? Why are the characters in the BookWorld so fascinated by Thursday's status as an Outlander in the BookWorld?

What influence do the characters have in their own stories? Can they change their stories? How is this regulated?

Discuss the structure of the BookWorld. How is it ruled? How is order kept? Is it an effective method? Why or why not?

What parallels does Fforde draw between the BookWorld and the real world? What statements does he make about politics, religion, etc., using the BookWorld? Is this effective? Why or why not?

How would you classify the genre of "The Well of Lost Plots"? Is it difficult to classify? Why or why not? Why do you think Fforde draws from multiple genres for his story?

Discuss the literary allusions found throughout The Well of Lost Plots. How does Fforde use references to other works of literature to strengthen the story?

Discuss the characters' abilities to change their stories. Give at least two examples of changes made to stories in the BookWorld. Did Fforde change the original story into something different, or did he imply that the story was changed into what it is now? Why does he use this tool in "The Well of Lost Plots"?

Discuss the reliability of Thursday as a narrator. What effect, if any, does Aornis's mindworm have on Thursday's reliability? Why or why not does the mindworm affect her reliability?