



Lost in a Good Book

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If Thursday thought she could avoid the spotlight after her heroic escapades in the pages of Jane Eyre, she was sorely mistaken. The unforgettable literary detective has another think coming." The love of her life has been eradicated by the corrupt multinational Goliath, and to rescue him Thursday must retrieve a supposedly vanquished enemy from the pages of "The Raven." But Poe is off-limits to even the most seasoned literary interloper. Enter a professional: the man-hating Miss Havisham from Dickens's Great Expectations. As Miss H's new apprentice, Thursday keeps her motives secret as she learns the ropes of Jurisfiction, where she moonlights as a Prose Resource Operative inside books. As if jumping into the works of Kafka and Austen, and even Beatrix Potter's Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies, weren't enough, Thursday finds herself the target of a series of potentially lethal coincidences, the authenticator of a newly discovered play by the Bard himself and the only one who can prevent an unidentifiable pink sludge from engulfing all life on Earth.

Lost in a Good Book Details

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Author : Jasper Fforde

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From Reader Review Lost in a Good Book for online ebook

Arnis says

<https://poseidons99.wordpress.com/201...>

Jenny says

I like The Eyre Affair better but only because it's slightly simpler. I love the allusions, but the plot has too many side plots going on. Sure, Fforde wraps them all up nicely, but it's a little convoluted for me.

That being said, I love continuing with these characters and this world. Thursday is a great narrator, and the allusions are fun. I really enjoy the concept of this series, and the way the story moves forward is interesting and slightly unexpected.

I recommend this book only to people who really liked The Eyre Affair. If you didn't like it much, you really won't like Lost in a Good Book, where everything distinctive about TEA becomes even more developed in this book. But if you like post-modern surrealist magical realistic science fiction fantasy, give this a shot.

Jon says

3.5 stars

Serena.. Sery-ously? says

Dopo "Il caso Jane Eyre", che ho adorato tantissimo, non pensavo che Jasper Fforde avrebbe potuto sorprendermi ancora.. E invece c'è riuscito alla grande con questo secondo volume che si dimostra parimenti intelligente, raffinato, irriverente e soprattutto geniale!

E' un libro che contiene TANTE cose, ci sono mille piani di lettura e gli elementi più disparati che possono accontentare qualsiasi lettore: garantito, con Jasper Fforde e la sua Thursday non avrete modo di annoiarvi!

La cosa più meravigliosa però è come i libri la facciano da assoluti padroni all'interno della storia: autori, libri pubblicati, libri ritrovati, libri che non hanno mai visto la luce del sole, personaggi che si muovono a loro piacere all'interno del loro libro e negli altri, agenzie letterarie, espedienti letterari.. STUPENDO. Mi ha ricordato a volte "La città dei libri sognanti" di Moers, ma d'altronde tanta genialità mica si trova ovunque! :D

Mi è presa una gran voglia di scoprire e approfondire tutto il marasma di autori e libri che Fforde, dando prova di grande cultura in modi anche spesso sottili (E chissà quante chicche nascoste mi sono persa!!), ha tirato in ballo nella sua storia.. *_*

Lightreads says

Sequel to *The Eyre Affair*. Literary Detective Thursday Next is dealing with her sudden fame, pregnancy, the eradication of her husband from the timeline in order to force her to work for megacorp Goliath by going into books, the thing where someone is trying to kill her, her training as a Jurisfiction (hee) agent to ensure the integrity of books, and the impending end of the world.

Weird, fun, metafictional. Thursday slides in and out of books and her brand of reality, and there are some great little touches like communication via textual footnotes between people in fiction and people in reality. Mostly, these books are a big conglomeration of “hey, isn’t this neat?” saved by the fact that actually, yes, most of the things really are pretty freaking neat (though I say again, WTF with the random vampire subplot?).

I do want to say, though, that these books are a perfect exemplar of the ways our IP and copyright systems are broken. Thursday does her Jurisfiction apprenticeship with Miss Havisham, and every other “real” fictional character she interacts with is in the public domain. I should also point out that these characters are explicitly extra-textual, with lives and personas outside the pages of the books they hail from – Fforde’s Miss Havisham drives motorboats, enjoys high-speed chases, and wears running shoes. But Fforde’s publisher would never permit him to work in a character who isn’t in the public domain, as it would be economically prohibitive even just to use a well-known name, irregardless of the personality attached. Fforde, being no fool, likely knows better than to even try. And if that isn’t a chilling effect, I don’t know what is.

James says

Book Review

Jasper Fforde had a stroke of brilliance with the "Thursday Next" series of adventure books. *Lost in a Good Book* is the second release in the series and I've given it a very high 3 of 5 stars. As it's a very difficult book to truly wrap your head around, it couldn't get a 5 from me. When I compared it to the first one, *The Eyre Affair*, I had to give it a slightly lower rating just because I enjoyed the first one more. A few really cool things about these books:

1. Thursday is a literary detective who can jump into a book to try to solve whatever crime has occurred within the book.
2. Crimes can include changing plot lines, removing characters, introducing chaos...
3. You have to be mad or brilliant, or both, to come up with these kinds of stories. In this one, "The Raven" and "Flopsy Bunny" are major character arcs. Can you imagine dealing with that?
4. The book has footnotes on every page, but they're not real footnotes. They are commentary or thoughts about what's being said in the book that the person talking wouldn't necessarily know, but the reader needs to know them. I'm sure you're confused if you've never read one of these books. So am I from time to time, and I've read three of them.
5. It's such a great concept, and sometimes well-executed. And it's got your typical romance component in it too.
6. But it can get very confusing if you don't read slowly and think about every single action. There are so many made up words, actions, histories... it's an alternative fantasy universe and you never know what might

actually happen.

7. At times, I think it's one of the best stories I've read. At others, it's still confusing me. But I focus on the little parts surrounding the realities of the characters and what they are doing.

Phew.... complicated to write this review. It can't be a normal one without it going on for pages about what is actually going on. All you need to know is if you have a huge imagination, don't need structure, and love books... you must give it a chance.

About Me

For those new to me or my reviews... here's the scoop: I read A LOT. I write A LOT. And now I blog A LOT. First the book review goes on Goodreads, and then I send it on over to my WordPress blog at <https://thisismytruthnow.com>, where you'll also find TV & Film reviews, the revealing and introspective 365 Daily Challenge and lots of blogging about places I've visited all over the world. And you can find all my social media profiles to get the details on the who/what/when/where and my pictures. Leave a comment and let me know what you think. Vote in the poll and ratings. Thanks for stopping by. *Note:* All written content is my original creation and copyrighted to me, but the graphics and images were linked from other sites and belong to them. Many thanks to their original creators.

[polldaddy poll=9729544]

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Stephen says

3.0 to 3.5 stars. Not quite as enjoyable as Fforde's other novels (my favorite being *The Big Over Easy*) but still a good read. I really like the "world" of *Thursday next* and will certainly visit it again by reading the next book in the series.

Lena says

Though I'm not generally a big fan of book series, the *Thursday Next* books are really growing on me. This second book picks up shortly after *The Eyre Affair* ended and follows Thursday as she again tangles with Goliath, tries to figure out why she is experiencing life-threatening coincidences, and begins to learn more about the fine art of book-jumping.

Though character development does not seem to be Fforde's priority and the bad guys in particular a little too thinly drawn, the underlying premise of this book was so interesting to me I was able to overlook the occasional clichéd moment. As someone who has always gotten easily lost in books, I really love the idea of being able to literally enter books and explore the world behind the story on the page. Fforde has created an endlessly interesting world of possibilities with his oddball alternate reality, and I am most curious to see where he will take it next.

Sandi says

Curses! About 40 pages from the end, I had to run out and get the next book in the Thursday Next series, "Well of Lost Plots." This book doesn't have an ending! Even worse, I got sucked up into it and had to keep going.

"Lost in a Good Book" is the sequel to "The Eyre Affair" starring spec ops officer Thursday Next. To say that Thursday's life is complicated is an understatement. I'm not going to get into the plot or characters of this book. To do so would spoil this book, the preceding book, and the following book. I will say that, unlike "The Eyre Affair", "Lost in a Good Book" does not stand on its own. You must have read the first book to understand it. Then, you will have to read the next book to get any resolution. (I rather suspect that there won't be any resolution in the next book either.)

Now, I rarely read series. It's even more rare for me to read books in a series back to back. But, Jasper Fford is such a compelling writer with such a weird imagination, that I'm breaking my usual rules.

If you like weirdness and literature, and don't mind spending a lot of time on a series, go ahead and read the Thursday Next series. They are a lot of fun.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

I read Lost in a Good Book when it was first published but decided to read the whole series again before burying myself in its last instalment, The Woman Who Died a Lot.

I was a bit disappointed after reading The Eyre Affair for the second time (it wasn't as enjoyable as I remembered it) so I wasn't sure what to expect from Lost in a Good Book. Still, I shouldn't have worried as this is such a great read!

The book is packed with wild, hilarious ideas : Thursday Next becomes an apprentice to Miss Havisham (from "Great Expectations" and incidentally a mad driver) in order to become a Jurisdictional Prosecution Resource Operative (agents whose job is to maintain the integrity of popular fiction), she is prosecuted in Kafka's "The Trial", someone tries to kill her through coincidences, there are grammasites that live inside books and feed on grammar, a Character Exchange Programme so that characters can vacation in a book other than the one they belong to, the Cheshire Cat is the librarian for The Great Library... These are only a few of the great ideas that make this book a fantastic read! Now on to read The Well of Lost Plots again :)

Jim says

Maybe only a 3.5 star, but it was another fun trip into such a strange world filled with literary references, slippery characters, murder, & mayhem. There's plenty of wry humor, puns, & ridiculous situations to make sure things don't get too serious. I'd call it a cozy mystery, except that belies just how fantastic the world is & there is no way the reader can figure out what is going to happen. I sometimes wonder if the author knows. He writes the way Mrs. Havisham (Yes, the lady from Great Expectations.) drives - with complete abandon & sheer joy. 'It's a mixed up, muddled up, shook up world except for ~~Lola~~ Thursday. Oh, oh, ~~Lola~~ Thursday...' OK, I'll quit singing now, but if this series had a theme song, that wouldn't be a bad one.

It was a bit uneven, but I put that down to the high points striking me as so funny. There's a great scene at a book sale, for instance. I didn't quit chuckling for several minutes. Reminded me of the time I stood in line at 5am in 20 degree darkness to get Ghost Buster backpacks for the boys for Xmas. That was 30 years ago, so I can laugh about it now. The savagery of mostly mothers on the prowl was shocking & a lot of fun to watch, once I got the backpacks, of course.

Very well narrated which added to the atmosphere. I'm definitely up for another at some point.

Alexandra says

Der zweite Teil von Jasper Ffords Paralleluniversum gefiel mir großartig und noch besser als der erste Teil, da ich mich nicht mehr die doch zu Beginn verwirrende Welt einleben musste.

In diesem Roman wird ein Feuerwerk der grandiosen Ideen gezündet, das von der ersten bis zur letzten Seite anhält. Sogar die kleinen Nebenhandlungen in diesem Werk sind von atemberaubender innovativer Gedankenkraft und Tiefgang z.B. die Nachzüchtung von Neandertalern und die ethischen Fragen die der Status einer solchen ?Person, Sache? aufwirft oder der Einsatz von Nanotechnologien. Auch unser Universum kommt in der Nebenhandlung als alternative Welt vor, in der man sich verstecken könnte. Im Literaturbereich werden wieder viele Anspielungen eingebracht von Dickens über Poe und Carroll bis Kafka. Oh der Prozess ala Prozess von Kafka in der die Hauptprotagonistin des Romans Thursday Next als Angeklagte verwickelt ist, war wirklich für mich eine der witzigsten Szenen in diesem Buch. Wunderbar manchmal wünscht man sich in so einer Welt zu leben, in der man ganz einfach von Buch zu Buch reisen kann.

Fazit: Für Liebhaber von Science Fiction und Fantasy auf jeden Fall Pflichtlektüre. Es hilft auch, wenn man die zitierten Bücher schon mal gelesen hat, da man die Anspielungen dann noch witziger findet.

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

This is one of those books that I wanted to like so much more than I did. Hell, it's one of those books that I feel like I *should* like more than I do. I mean, with the little literary cameos and the wry humor (and occasionally groan-inducing puns), with the jumping through books and really just the whole thing - it should be right up my alley. But it just doesn't work for me.

Part of it is that I feel it has a little bit of the Un Lun Dun problem - it seems more a showcase for all the nifty ideas and wordplay that Ffode can throw in, but he seems less concerned with developing interesting and/or likable characters and an actual plot line with any sort of momentum.

And part of it is that while I really like the idea of Jurisfiction and it seems like a really cool premise, I'm less enthralled with the execution. Parts of it just don't make sense. For instance, (view spoiler)

And maybe there are answers to all these issues, and I just don't care enough to remember them. Or whatever.

There were some things I liked. As I said, I do enjoy some of the puns and wordplay (even if some of it's a bit, erm, low-brow. I mean, I'm ok with low-brow, but it's a little bit said when characters with the names of Schitt-Hause and Mr. Dedman and Mr. Walken are the height of humor.)

And I did like the bits with Mycroft. He's still my favorite character, I think.

Anyway - these books came highly recommended from a trusted source, and they really do seem like they should be something I should enjoy far more than I do, and I wanted to be able to give it at least a 3 star rating, but when about 3/4 of the way through I realized I just wanted it to be over already, I realized that I just couldn't.

And so... I don't know if I'll continue with the series or not. If I do I'll definitely be getting it from the library.

Megan Baxter says

I love the sheer inventiveness of Jasper Fforde's books, and in this series, the madcap way that he messes with literature, with both love and a childlike glee, and it makes me happy to have spent some time rereading this book.

Note: The rest of this review has been withdrawn due to the changes in Goodreads policy and enforcement. You can read why I came to this decision [here](#).

In the meantime, you can read the entire review at [Smorgasbook](#)

Petra says

A helluva lot of fun. I didn't mean to read this book right now. Having been rather lukewarm about the first book in this series, I wasn't sure whether to continue but some have said the series gets better. I thought I'd scan the first few pages and decide what to do.

Then, like Thursday Next, I fell into this book. It was clever, delightful; entertaining with lots of plot twists and turns, including an end-of-the-world scenario.

Miss Havisham is interesting. She's assertive, in charge, smart and resourceful. I wonder what Dickens would think of Fforde's rendition of his stern, revengeful character.

I'm looking forward to the rest of this series now. Fforde has an amazing imagination.

I also want a Dodo. Plock-Plock.

Dany Burns says

I really, really liked this sequel! I liked the first book in this series but I thought this one was incredible. I felt like this one really drove home the bookish element to this series that the first one only touched on. Some of

my favorite parts about this book was the book jumping, the conversations in the footnotes, all the bootstrap paradoxes, and this books funny self awareness. In the last book we got a glimpse of Thursdays power to jump into the events of any book, but it wasn't the main plot line. In this book we really get to see how it all worked and I loved the imagery of a library that contains every book ever written as well as every idea for a book. I would love to just go hang out there for a while. I really liked the way the characters developed in this book. Last book I found the characters to be interesting but they didn't really grab me and I was way more interested in the alternate world the author created and not so much the characters. In this sequel I loved all the characters just as much as I loved the world building. I also enjoyed the mystery of this book a little more than the last one and I like seeing the Goliath Corporation take more of a front seat as the villain of these stories. Speaking of Goliath, my book had a little approval rating at the front of the book from Goliath which I thought was really cute and I love when books have those sort of things in them. I also loved how there were parts of this book that tied it to the titles of the previous books and to the sequels. And on top of that any book is made better in my mind with quotes at the beginnings of chapters. I loved this book a lot and to be honest I was a little surprised at that because the first one to me was good but not great. This book definitely convinced me to pick up the next book in this series and I would encourage anyone who read the the first book and liked the concept but thought some of the delivery was only meh, to definitely try this one because I think this one is a great sequel and a great improvement over the first one and I hope I like the next detective Next book as much as I liked this one!

Carmen says

This is the 2nd book in the series, after THE EYRE AFFAIR. Read that first, or you might be a bit lost.

Thursday Next is now married to Landon. They are so in love. Both veterans of the Crimean War, they have put the past behind them and started a new future together.

Thursday is a Special Operative. She is a LiteraTec, someone who deals with stolen and forged books. But Thursday is also blessed with a rare special power - she can travel INTO books.

In this book she visits, among others, Sense and Sensibility, Great Expectations, The Raven, and. The Trial by Kafka.

She lives in an alternate universe, one where every average Joe and Jane on the street has vast literary knowledge to rival one of our dimensions English Professors. People literally kill each other while arguing who Shakespeare REALLY was. Parents name their kids after famous authors, so, for example, there might be 2,000 or so women named Jane Austen in London, each with a tiny number after their name so that the government can keep track of them.

Technology is also a bit different. People ride in dirigibles instead of jetliners. Extinct species are brought back to life (Thursday has a pet dodo named Pickwick, who is very cute). Neandrathals have been brought back and are now fighting for their rights (the government forced sterilization on all of them).

Thursday herself is one of my favorite characters in a long time. She's about 35. She dresses frumpy, is a war veteran, is smart, witty, and world-weary. I really enjoy reading about her. She seems like a "real" woman to me. Fforde never even mentions her breasts or her body - ever. And Thursday never wastes her time thinking about men and love, except for her own husband, Landon. And that's a sweet and real relationship, not just a jealousy-fueled-sex fest. SO REFRESHING.

I was so, so angry reading this book. I was in a state of rage. Those f*cking bastards from Goliath (view spoiler) The only problem is that Thursday (view spoiler)

I adore Thursday's sweet father, a time-traveler on the run from Special Ops, who cares about her and always shows up in the nick of time to help her and guide her. They have a great, sweet, father-daughter relationship. Aw.

And her crazy, genius uncle Mycroft and patient aunt Polly. And her brother, Joff, who in this book is revealed to be a gay man. Just very casually. He doesn't conform to any "gay stereotypes." He's just a bloke who happens to like men. VERY REFRESHING, FFORDE.

This book is for people who love books and love literature. If you are not familiar with the classics, a lot of the jokes and references will go right over your head. That being said, it is funny, witty, fantastical, and smart - like a mixture of Alice in Wonderland and Hitchhiker's Guide. It's more serious than Hitchhiker, though. The stakes are higher, and you actually get very anxious and angry when bad stuff happens to the characters you've come to care about.

BrokenTune says

'Bad boy!' she added in a scolding tone. The Tasmanian tiger looked crestfallen, sat on its blanket by the Aga and stared down at its paws. 'Rescue Thylacine,' explained my mother. 'Used to be a lab animal. He smoked forty a day until his escape. It's costing me a fortune in nicotine patches. Isn't it, DH-82?'

This is such a clever book and there are so many quotable passages, but the problem is that many favourite parts contain spoilers of either this book or of pretty much any classic work of literature worth reading.

I really admire the level of detail and research that Fforde put into this book, but I didn't think it lived up to the enjoyment of the first book, The Eyre Affair, tho. Maybe the novelty of Thursday's world has worn off a bit already, maybe the incessant puns and jokes were just a bit too much.

However, Thursday is still one of the best protagonists out there - kickass and kind.

The only real problem I have with this book is that it was so obviously written with the idea to continue the story in book #3 and therefore doesn't even attempt to be a standalone story - which makes me feel somewhat cheated and tricked into having to get the next book to find out what happened to my favourite characters.

I NEED TO KNOW THAT THE EGG IS OK!

Seriously, not cool, Mr. Fforde. But I guess, now I know how Scott's or Dickens' readers must have felt when they had to wait for the next installments of their stories.

And, yeah, I obviously am still in denial that Harry Potter worked the same way - except that I wanted to read the other books for their own sake, not to find out what happened to one particular character.

Ugh.

(Changed my mind about the rating and going to go with 3*, not 3.5*.)

Phrynnne says

This was a reread and I still loved it just as much as the first time around.

Pickwick the dodo gets so many mentions in the early books. The way she looks after her egg and makes "plock plock" noises is delightful. And of course this is the book where something happens to poor Landon. Disappointing because he is one of my favourite characters but still very typical of Fforde's clever, funny and crazy ideas.

Thursday is developing her skills at book jumping and we start to meet all the wonderful characters at Jurisfiction. Miss Havisham, the Cheshire cat, Marianne Dashwood and the Queen of Hearts are just a few of them.

I always love a book about books and this one is brilliant:)

Algernon says

Super fun for book geeks like me. Even if I am unfamiliar with some of the books and characters mentioned here, as in the first Thursday Next book, I had no problem laughing out loud on occasion and following the plot. Having read this after Christopher Moore's "You Suck!" it is interesting to note the different approaches to creating humorous situations. Moore relies rather heavily on teenage angst and sex jokes while Fforde borrows from the English tradition of word play, absurdism (is this even a word?) in the manner of Lewis Carroll and Eugene Ionesco, plus a healthy dose of straight slapstick.

One small peeve about this book is in the rather thin plot. We have here something in the manner of an episodic novel, with a string of loosely connected set pieces and an overall arch that doesn't advance much and is left to be resolved in a future book.

But all is forgiven in the sheer exuberance of wrecking havoc on timeline continuity and of playing loose with established literary characters. So if you are interested in finding about tensionolists, entrosopes, bloopholes, mnemonomorphs, oozemosis and so on ... this is the place to come to.

to give an example of the Next style:

"Time is the glue of the cosmos, Thursday, and it has to be eased apart ? try to force events and they end up whacking you on the frontal lobes like a cabbage from six paces."
