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One of Our Thursdays is Missing

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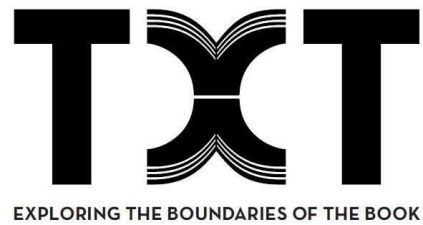
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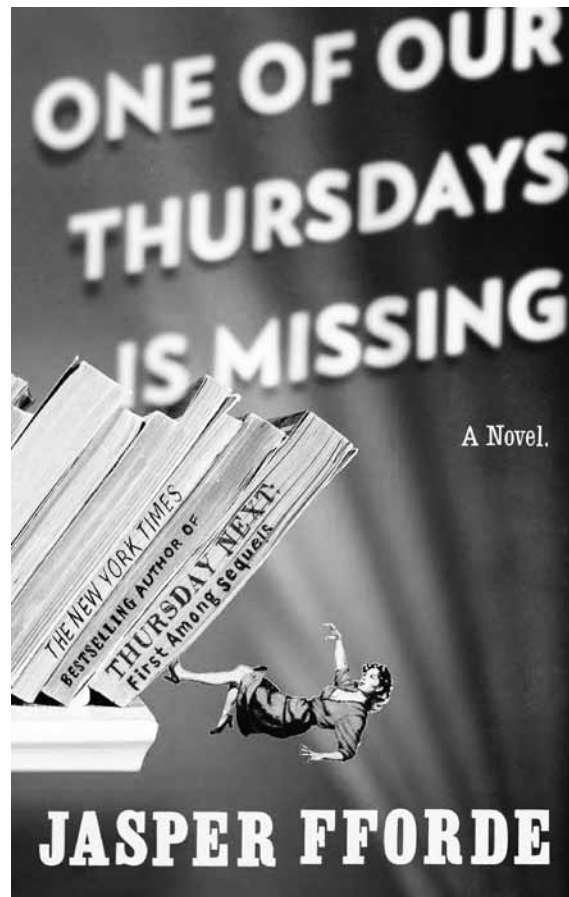
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One of Our Thursdays is Missing

ASA BRYANT

I picked up *One of Our Thursdays is Missing* as I am a fan of another book by Jasper Fforde, namely *Shades of Grey*. Little was I aware at the time that the book was one in a larger series of books pertaining to the topic of the BookWorld and Thursday Next. However, having not read any of the previous books, I was still capable of picking up the book and enjoying the read without any prior information.

BookWorld is the setting of the book, and is a world in which every character and setting in the books written gain a corporeal existence. Alongside the real world, the BookWorld exists. The Thursday Next series revolves around the real Thursday Next, a literature detective who fights crime in the BookWorld, and her BookWorld counterpart who is based on the real Thursday Next. In *One of Our Thursdays is Missing*, the real Thursday Next has gone missing, and to prevent chaos in the BookWorld, the other Thursday Next decides to find her real world counterpart. Throughout the book, Fforde makes a point of emphasizing how in comparison to the real Thursday Next, her counterpart is not as adventurous, or as daring. However, a major point of the novel is to show how the other Next develops, and how she becomes a heroine in her own right. Eventually, BookWorld

Next does what is needed to gain the recognition from the BookWorld police force.

What makes this book stand out is the quirkiness of the topic. Any genuine bibliophile can appreciate the idea that for every book that is being read, there are characters in another world acting out that very scene. How often do we wish that what we read was real? In the Thursday Next series, it is. However, Fforde goes beyond simply envisioning a world where books exist as reality, but adds adventure to the world.

Jasper Fforde is a British novelist, with his first work published being *The Eyre Affair*, the first novel in the Thursday Next series. Since then, he has published six other novels in the Next series, along with multiple novels in other series. For more information, visit: jasperfforde.com

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