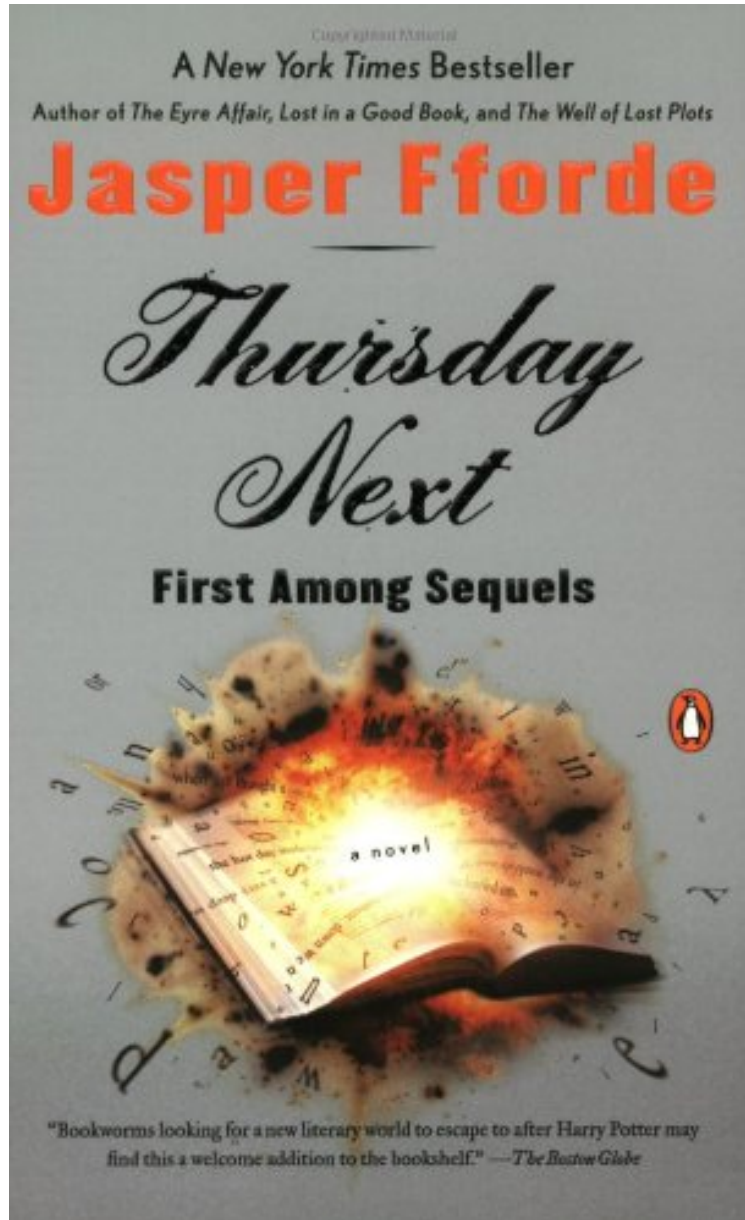


[PDF] First Among Sequels (Thursday Next, Book 5)

First Among Sequels (Thursday Next, Book 5)

Jasper Fforde

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#427073 in Books Fforde, Jasper 2008-07-29 2008-07-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.73 x .64 x 5.04l, #File Name: 0143113569384 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Jasper Fforde : First Among Sequels (Thursday Next, Book 5) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Among Sequels (Thursday Next, Book 5):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You know what they say about sequels By Evil Overlord I thought the first of Jasper Fforde's Thursday Next novels, The Eyre Affair, was fantastic. Funny, literate, clever - a wonderful

book, especially for voracious readers. I recommended it to others, bought it for them, and just generally enjoyed it. While the next three books in the series weren't quite as magical, they were also a lot of fun. By the time I reached the end of *Something Rotten*, though, I felt the joke had run its course. Not that there's not a lot more material to be used - there is - it just seemed that Fforde's particular approach to was losing its edge. Fforde may have felt the same, since the series paused for several years. I think both he and I were right. *First Among Sequels*, while showing all the same cleverness and literary in-jokes as the earlier books, feels forced. It's clever, but it's just not as funny as it should be. I felt somewhat the same about the first book of the Nursery Crime series - more clever than funny. I still think Fforde has a lot going for him; I expect to pick up the first books of some of his (many) other series. And I very strongly recommend the first Thursday Next quartet. This book, however, I think is best suited to true aficionados or to newcomers.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Has anyone seen the recipe for unscrambled scrambled eggs? By Mr. Joe "Boy, was this book ever crap." - In *FIRST AMONG SEQUELS*, Thursday Next's judgment upon the first book in the series, *THE EYRE AFFAIR* The Thursday Next series by Jasper Fforde must rank as one of the greatest flights of imagination in the annals of fiction. For the bibliophile, the imagery contained in the narratives is mind-boggling and addictive. Next lives in the English town of Swindon. In the first four volumes of the series (*The Eyre Affair: A Thursday Next Novel*, *Lost in a Good Book (A Thursday Next Novel)*, *The Well of Lost Plots (Thursday Next Series)*, and *Something Rotten (Thursday Next Novels)*), it's the mid-1980s. In *FIRST AMONG SEQUELS*, it's 2002. But Fforde's United Kingdom isn't the one we know; mammoth herds roam the island, cloned Neanderthals comprise a subclass, Thursday has a pet dodo bird, and long distance travel is by Gravitube. But the author's most ambitious imaginative construct is Bookworld. Existing in an alternate universe, it's where books exist as physical entities, where the plots - and, most importantly in the Next series, the fictional plots - exist as something akin to stage sets on which the literary characters are actors that play their roles when the book is read by someone in Outland, i.e. Thursday's "real" world. You can get a sense of the place from a description of Hanger Eight in Bookworld's Book Maintenance Facility: "... there was room on the hanger floor for not only Darcy's country home of Pemberly but also Rosings, Netherfield and Longbourn as well. They had all been hoisted from (*Pride and Prejudice* (Penguin Classics)) by a massive overhead crane so the empty husk of the novel could be checked for fatigue cracks before being fumigated for nesting grammasites and then repainted. At the same time, an army of technicians, plasterers, painters, carpenters and so forth were crawling over the houses, locations, props, furnishings and costumes, all of which had been removed for checking and maintenance." Next has the capability, unique among Outlanders, to travel between her world and Bookworld. As such, she's the super-agent of Jurisfiction, Bookworld's enforcement agency tasked with keeping order within the fiction genre. Disorder includes such things as book characters attempting to escape to Outland, the inexplicable seepage of humor from comedic novels, improvised and unauthorized dialogue by mischievous character understudies, outbreaks of the MAWk-15H virus in works by Dickens, the buildup of irony on dialogue injectors, malicious narrative corruption, and plot disruptions caused by a shortage of the pianos used as props. Thursday also smuggles Welsh cheese; an underground cheese market rose in response to the England's hated Cheese Duty which levies taxes ranging from 1300 to 1500 percent on the smelly foodstuff. Personally, I'd like to see *Machynlleth Wedi Marw*, a "really strong cheese", stocked in my local supermarket. "It'll bring you up in a rash just by looking at it. Denser than enriched plutonium, two grams can season enough macaroni and cheese for eight hundred men. The smell alone will corrode iron. A concentration in air of only seventeen parts per million will bring on nausea and unconsciousness within twenty seconds ... Open only out of doors, and even then only with a doctor's certificate and well away from populated areas." *FIRST AMONG SEQUELS* is the best yet of the Next series. It compels me to suspect that the author is on some mind-expanding substance; it's that inspired. A brilliant plot development is Thursday's encounter with Thursday 1-4 and Thursday 5, the former being the lead character in the first four installments of the series (described as being "the violent ones, full of death and gratuitous sex"), and the latter the timid and yogurt-loving Next of *THE GREAT SAMUEL PEPYS FIASCO*. (Am I confusing you? Never mind; it makes perfect sense within the pages, just as will the part played by the recipe for unscrambled scrambled eggs in the prevention of the End of Time as we know it.) I've always considered myself a linear-thinking, down-to-earth kind of guy. But the tremendous appeal of the Thursday Next series to my reader's appreciation has challenged that self-assessment. If you're a book-lover like me determined to read until the last gasp, do yourself the great favor of devouring *FIRST AMONG SEQUELS*, and indeed the entire series if you haven't yet done so. Lose yourself in a good book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thursday For Prez! By C. Posley This may be my favorite Thursday Next novel. I can't exactly place why without spoilers all over the place. I just like the pacing, the situations, and the fantastic fun that Fforde puts into his novels. I HIGHLY recommend anything by Jasper Fforde, and if you want to read the Thursday Next series, start with *The Eyre Affair*. They're just so much more fun when you get to live along with Thursday and just watch how she's handling stuff.

The fifth installment in Jasper Ffordes New York Times bestselling series follows literary detective Thursday Next on another adventure in her alternate reality of literature-obsessed England. Jasper Fforde has thrilled readers everywhere with his gloriously outlandish novels in the Thursday Next and Nursery Crime series. And with another genre-bending

blend of crime fiction, fantasy, and top-drawer literary entertainment is Thursday Next: First Among Sequels, Fforges famous literary detective is once again ready to make the world safe for fiction. Thursday Next is grappling with a host of problems in BookWorld: a recalcitrant new apprentice, the death of Sherlock Holmes, and the inexplicable departure of comedy from the once-hilarious Thomas Hardy novels, to name just a few while captaining the ship Moral Dilemma and facing down her most vicious enemy yet: herself. Thursday's many investigations continue with Our Thursday is Missing. Look for the five other bestselling Thursday Next novels, including Jasper Fforde's latest bestseller, The Woman Who Died A Lot. Visit jasperfforde.com for a full window into the Ffordian world! Watch a Windows Media trailer for this book.

From Publishers Weekly: Full of bizarre subplots, many of which don't go anywhere, bestseller Fforde's fifth novel to feature intrepid literary detective Thursday Next (after 2004's *Something Rotten*) blends elements of mystery, campy science fiction and screwball fantasy à la Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*. With the Stupidity Surplus reaching dangerously high levels all over England, Acme Carpets employee and undercover SpecOps investigator Next has her hands full trying to persuade her 16-year-old slacker son, Friday, to join the ChronoGuard, which deals with temporal stability; if Friday continues to sleep away his future, the end is near for everyone. To complicate matters, a malicious apprentice begins making classic works of literature into reality book shows (*Pride and Prejudice* becomes *The Bennets*), a ruthless corporation tries to turn the Bookworld into a tourist trap, and the Cheese Enforcement Agency tries to bust Next for smuggling killer curd. The fate of the world may lie in a Longfellow poem. Fans of satiric literary humor are in for a treat. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Bookmarks Magazine*: Set in a world where books are more fun than television, more serious than the CIA, and more important than proper diet and exercise, the Thursday Next novels continue to grow in popularity—which is a good sign. In the fifth novel of the series (after *Something Rotten*, ***1/2 Nov/Dec 2004), Jasper Fforde again shows off his delicious British wit (and occasionally heavy-handed use of puns) in another zany romp. If you're already a fan, *First Among Sequels* is sure to thrill. If you're new to the series, you might as well dive right in. Either way, you'll soon have a new appreciation of Henry Longfellow. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. a Playful . . . It's not hard to see what this enthusiasm is about. . . . It's easy to be delighted by a writer who loves books so madly. a Janet Maslin, "The New York Times" a What keeps this series humming is Fforde's lively engagement with books and the indefatigable woman he's created to defend them. a John Freeman, "People" a Richly crammed with jokes, ideas, and action. Brainier silliness is hard to find. a "USA Today" a The BookWorld seems to have encouraged Fforde's rogue imagination to escape all fetters and really go wild. a Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post" Playful . . . It's not hard to see what this enthusiasm is about. . . . It's easy to be delighted by a writer who loves books so madly. Janet Maslin, "The New York Times" What keeps this series humming is Fforde's lively engagement with books and the indefatigable woman he's created to defend them. John Freeman, "People" Richly crammed with jokes, ideas, and action. Brainier silliness is hard to find. "USA Today" The BookWorld seems to have encouraged Fforde's rogue imagination to escape all fetters and really go wild. Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post"? Playful . . . It's not hard to see what this enthusiasm is about. . . . It's easy to be delighted by a writer who loves books so madly.? Janet Maslin, "The New York Times" ? What keeps this series humming is Fforde's lively engagement with books and the indefatigable woman he's created to defend them.? John Freeman, "People" ? Richly crammed with jokes, ideas, and action. Brainier silliness is hard to find.? ?"USA Today" ? The BookWorld seems to have encouraged Fforde's rogue imagination to escape all fetters and really go wild.? ?Michael Dirda, "The Washington Post"