

Chapter 1 : Just in Case Summary - blog.quintoapp.com

This second novel Just In Case, shows that it was no beginner's luck Meg Rosoff is the Queen of Weird." Meg Rosoff is the Queen of Weird." â€”Los Angeles Times.

When you are 15 years old, living in Luton and the wider world beckons with a force that cannot be resisted, the possibilities can become terrifying. What can possibly happen next? What choice do I have? The question of survival looms from the outset. Toddler Charlie Case is looking for amusement in the room of his teenage brother David when a blackbird flies by the window and suggests to the child that he might like flying too. The boy is almost off the window ledge before his brother notices what is happening and leaps to his rescue. But David is not flooded with relief that disaster has been avoided. The fabric of his consciousness is shattered and the extent of all likelihood and unlikelihood suddenly yawns. The experience catapults him into terror. How can he bear to contemplate the limitless, appalling possibilities that life holds? Any second, something terrible could happen. Fate is on his heels and baring its lethal fangs. David had better do something before it pounces. The first thing that David does to protect himself is to resort to disguise. He changes his name to Justin in the firm belief that this sounds "suave, coolly ironic, hardbodied, rigorously intelligent". Of course no disguise is complete without the outfit to match. A trip to the local charity shop yields more than a turquoise flowered shirt and skinny brown cardigan. These items are handed to him by an older girl with a fine line in arty chic, a camera forever at her side. If he is a boy in search of a makeover to save his life, then Agnes is the creative force to take him in hand to make her reputation. A full-blown art exhibition is soon to follow. Justin becomes the embodiment of teenage angst, a lost soul struggling to avoid being sucked into the black hole of his despair, desperate for love and sex, unable to handle either. And the world around him becomes a reflection of this inner turmoil as destructive events happen all around him. Finally, after a series of second-hand brushes with death, a very unfortunate encounter with a woman with an infected eye leads to his own direct struggle with mortality. All the while, a disembodied being watches and toys with this vulnerable and also strangely resilient life. Rosoff writes with overtly cruel and silently compassionate boldness. Her take on the oft-explored rite of passage from sweet, open-eyed childhood, as evoked here in the wise and loving form of little Charlie, into the dark, self-obsessed realms of adolescent turmoil, is distinctive. She also takes care not to generalise about all youth being whirled in the maelstrom of doom. Justin makes a friend, Peter, who is centred, focused, enquiring and modest. This other teenager studies hard and asks the big questions more consciously through ideas, science especially. The writing veers seamlessly between metaphysical musing, everyday normality and the unbelievable realms of the imagination. When he first transforms himself from his old identity, Justin wishes that he had a greyhound. Hey presto, Boy appears, his faithful friend. Peter is quick to apply this question "to the thinning boundaries between reality, that is to say active expenditure of energy, and thought, or passive energy. Either way, the existence of the act, or in this case, the dream, is not in doubt. At once great fun and rather disturbing.

Chapter 2 : HiBROW - Meg Rosoff

Meg Rosoff, the author of Just in Case wrote a ground breaking novel, with a complex plot through the intriguing believable mind of a teen age boy. Meg Rosoff won the Carnegie Medal in for the novel Just in Case.

Books 0 Press Quotes Magic realism comes to middle England in this brilliantly original little book, with suburban Luton supplying the unlikely setting for a battle of wills between a teenage boy and the forces of fate. There, with a great deal of effort, he pulled himself onto the windowsill, scrunched up like a caterpillar, pushed into a crouch, and stood, teetering precariously, his gaze fixed solemnly on the church tower a quarter mile away. He tipped forward slightly towards the void just as a large black bird swooped past. Below them on the street, a greyhound stood motionless, his elegant pale head turned in the direction of the incipient catastrophe. Calmly the dog shifted the angle of his muzzle, creating an invisible guyline that eased the child back an inch or two towards equilibrium. Safer now, but seduced by the fact that a bird had spoken to him, the boy threw out his arms and thought, Yes! A finger on his shoulder. The brush of lips against his ear. One boy on the verge of death. Another on the verge of something rather more complicated. Charlie squeaked with outrage but David barely heard. The little boy explained all this slowly and carefully, so as not to be misunderstood. David turned away, heart pounding. It was useless trying to communicate with a one-year-old. My god, David thought. Just two seconds were all that stood between normal everyday life and utter, total catastrophe. David sat down hard, head spinning. Why had this never occurred to him? He could fall down a manhole, collapse of a stroke. A car crash could sever his spinal cord. He could catch bird flu. A tree could fall on him. There was buried nuclear waste. Suddenly, everywhere he looked he saw catastrophe, bloodshed, the demise of the planet, the ruin of the human race, not to mention to pinpoint the exact source of his anxiety possible pain and suffering to himself. Who could have thought up a scenario this bleak? Whoever whatever it was, he could feel the dark malevolence of it settling in, making itself at home like some vicious bird of prey, its sharp claws sunk deep into the quivering gray jelly of his terrified brain. He became enmired in what if. The weight of it wrapped itself around his ankles and dragged him under. I know what a baby looks like. But then they were in his room, grinning and making inane noises in the direction of a small, serene-looking creature with jet black eyes. David sat up with a groan and peered at his new brother. OK, seen him, he thought. His brother repeated the question slowly, politely, as if to a person of limited intelligence. Who, exactly, are you? The baby inclined his head, his face registering something that might have been pity. Such a simple question, he thought. But if his brother knew the answer, he gave no sign. Over the next few months, he tried approaching his parents for answers, but his father was always at work and his mother seemed strangely ill informed on the subject of her older son. And when she caught Charlie staring intently at David, she merely thought, How sweet. Charlie was comparing the David he knew with the Davids he saw displayed around the house in family pictures. The younger Davids looked cheerful and carefree; they held books or bikes or ice creams and gazed at the camera with expressions of trust. The younger Davids kicked balls, swung from trees, blew out the candles on birthday cakes. They had clear edges and cloudless eyes. But the David that Charlie knew now was wavery and fizzy with nerves. Charlie had spent a good deal of his short life worrying about his older brother. Now he paused in the middle of playing Monkey Rides in a Car with Donkey to gather his thoughts. He saw that his recent attempt to fly had been a mistake. It seemed to have nudged his brother past some invisible tipping point and this filled him with remorse. Charlie wanted to make amends, to offer advice on how David could regain his footing. Or perhaps he was listening, but somehow lacked the capacity to understand. This worried Charlie most of all.

Chapter 3 : Just in Case Book Review

Just In Case is the sort of book that in the right hands at the right time could do this, offering an ironic metaphysical and philosophical meditation on life's big topics - love and sex, faith and free will, illusion and reality, packaged into a short and genuinely sweet coming-of-age story.

Pullman and Haddon have been described as cross-over writers and reflect not a cultural dumbing-down, where adults lose themselves in childish fantasy, but a case where the books written for a teenage audience have grown in stature and sophistication. The central figure may be a teenager, but that does not mean the book can lack seriousness or beauty. In her two strongest novels, Rosoff shows an adult narrator reflecting on childhood experience, thus widening her appeal. Contemporary writing has made much of the chaos of the new millennium. The war in Iraq has influenced Ian McEwan and David Hare, and, in *How I Live Now*, Rosoff joins company with her peers and, by way of an imaginary war fought in England, forces us to consider the universality of suffering and the effect of war on children: The strongest of these is *Daisy*, the cynical, sassy heroine of this outstanding first novel: There is little that is consolatory about *How I Live Now*, and the place where Daisy makes her home with Edmond is neither cosy nor innocent. As in *Jane Eyre*, the characters have seemed to communicate by telepathy, have had their love tested. And like the earlier novel, there is a strongly visual, almost hallucinatory feel, chiefly in the sections where Daisy and Piper travel by foot across rural, deserted, war-ravaged England. Rosoff keeps up a narrative excitement equal to Romantic predecessors such as Ann Radcliffe or Rider Haggard. The novel, then, is both an engrossing read, and a stern reminder to inhabitants of Western Europe to remember the benefits they have. The feel is episodic, and the concerns below the surface more sophisticated, in fact, than at first apparent. With *What I Was*, Rosoff returns to narrating a story through the eyes of an adult, who this time is years old, recalling events that took place when he was 16; the sense of a long life lived brings a bittersweet quality far away from the comic jerkiness of *Just In Case*, or the darkness of *How I Live Now*. It is, in many ways, a Romantic novel: This is a book characterised by inevitable loss, figured by the setting on the crumbling coast of East Anglia, by the visits to a submerged Roman fort, and by the references to a lost abbey, and a lost medieval town: The themes and setting seem reminiscent of German poetic realists such as Theodor Storm. The misty coastline and its marshland is also a suitable place to stage a drama of sexual ambivalence. *What I Was* is not a queer novel; the twist is that the boy Finn, loved by the boy Hilary, is in fact a girl. Yet the ambivalence remains. The author is punishing the selfish hero. The simple, lyrical prose is matched by a both a seriousness and an ability to enthrall a reader: Dr Nick Turner,

Chapter 4 : Just in Case : Meg Rosoff :

Meg Rosoff's young adult novel Just in Case opens with a voice we soon discover is fate, addressing the reader in the first person. Fate says it can "look out across the world and see.

The novel then moves into a third-person narration that shifts rapidly between the viewpoint of different characters; the third person will continue to alternate with short, first-person asides from fate throughout the novel. David spots his brother just in time and rescues him seconds before he falls to his death. In the next chapter, the narrative briefly shifts back a year, to when Charlie was born and first came home from the hospital. We learn that Charlie was self-aware from birth, and the baby contrasts a younger, carefree, happy David he sees in photos to the incredibly anxious teenager David has become. Back in the present of the story, David, thanks to the windowsill incident, becomes convinced that fate is out to get him. He decides to remake his entire life, beginning with his name, in an effort to trick fate and escape its notice. Justin heads to a thrift store to find new clothes for his new persona; there, he meets an outlandishly dressed nineteen-year-old named Agnes Bee. He explains his obsession with fate to her, and Agnes, a photographer, takes pictures of him in different outfits she suggests. Justin wakes up on the first day of school and wishes he had a dog—specifically, a sleek, elegant greyhound—so he imagines one and names it Boy. Boy follows Justin to school, where only one student, Peter Prince, actually talks to him; the others make fun of him for wearing odd clothes and insisting his name is now Justin, not David. At school, the cross-country coach asks Justin to join because the team needs more runners. He has always hated sports and is reluctant, but then he realizes joining will be a perfect way to change his identity. At first, he can barely make it through practice, but he is determined and quickly improves. He thinks of his greyhound for motivation and wonders if perhaps he could outrun fate. Agnes asks him to go to London with her on the Saturday after next, and he agrees. After an uneventful two weeks, Justin is on the way to the train station to meet Agnes. He is lost in a fantasy about a sexual encounter with Agnes when he walks straight into a lamppost and falls to the ground. In London, Agnes leads Justin to a clothing shop run by an eccentric designer named Ivan. Ivan gives Justin a long, outlandish, gray shearling coat—he explains the coat is too small to fit anyone rich enough to buy it. In the days that follow, Justin wears his new coat all the time, feeling that it protects him and helps establish his new identity. Afterwards, Agnes hands him a magazine, but he throws it away without looking at it. The next day in school, a girl approaches Justin while holding the same magazine and asks him to go to a party with her. He is interested but says no, afraid of all the things that could possibly go wrong. The girl ends up going to the party with a different boy and dating him, and even though Justin does not particularly like her, he feels defeated by his The entire section is 2, words. Unlock This Study Guide Now Start your hour free trial to unlock this page Just in Case study guide and get instant access to the following:

Chapter 5 : Meg Rosoff - Literature

Just in Case by Meg Rosoff † Carnegie Medal Winner † From the recipient of the Astrid Lindgren award and author of international bestseller *How I Live Now*, National Book Award finalist *Picture Me Gone*, and most recently *Jonathan Unleashed*.

Searching for streaming and purchasing options Common Sense is a nonprofit organization. Your purchase helps us remain independent and ad-free. Get it now on Searching for streaming and purchasing options A lot or a little? Educational Value Teens will enjoy reading this compelling book and having debates about the idea of fate: Are our lives governed by fate? Or do we have free will? Positive Messages This book plays with some provoking ideas about the role fate plays in our lives. They will also love his wise baby brother who longs "to offer advice on how David could regain his footing. A man is run over and killed by a car. Sex Sexual references and fantasies. The main teen character has sex, not described. Language A variety of moderate slurs -- "dickhead" and the like. Consumerism Teens smoke and drink. British term "fag" used for cigarettes. What parents need to know Parents need to know that there are sexual references and fantasies here, and the main character, a very troubled teen, has sex not described. There are accidents in which people are killed, and moderate slurs are used. But teens who are mature enough for the content and the ideas here will enjoy reading this compelling book and having debates about the idea of fate: Stay up to date on new reviews. Get full reviews, ratings, and advice delivered weekly to your inbox.

Chapter 6 : Just in Case by Meg Rosoff

"I'm sorry I started all this by trying to fly and I'd take it back if I could but I can't, so please think of it from my point of view: if you die I will have a dead brother and it will be me instead of you who suffers. Justin thought of his brother on that warm summer day, standing up on the.

Chapter 7 : Meg Rosoff | The Guardian

Extract. David Case's baby brother had recently learned to walk but he wasn't what you'd call an expert. He toddled past his brother to the large open window of the older boy's room.

Chapter 8 : How I Live Now, Meg Rosoff - Reading the End

Just in Case. by Meg Rosoff. pp, Puffin, £ Sometimes it's worth taking a look at human existence from a grand perspective, rising up and seeing the bigger picture.

Chapter 9 : Review: Just in Case by Meg Rosoff | Books | The Guardian

Just in case. Meg Rosoff won the Michael L. Printz Award for young adult literature for her first novel, How I Live Now, the story of a year-old girl who goes to live with relatives in England, only to find herself caught up in the outbreak of the third world war.