

The book was found

S.



## Synopsis

The chronicle of two readers finding each other, and their deadly struggle with forces beyond their understanding--all within the margins of a book conceived by Star Wars: The Force Awakens director J.J. Abrams and written by award-winning novelist Doug Dorst. The book: *Ship of Theseus*, the final novel by a prolific but enigmatic writer named V.M. Straka, in which a man with no past is shanghaied onto a strange ship with a monstrous crew and launched onto a disorienting and perilous journey. The writer: Straka, the incendiary and secretive subject of one of the world's greatest mysteries, a revolutionary about whom the world knows nothing apart from the words he wrote and the rumors that swirl around him. The readers: Jennifer and Eric, a college senior and a disgraced grad student, both facing crucial decisions about who they are, who they might become, and how much they're willing to trust another person with their passions, hurts, and fears. *S.* contains 22 inserts and will be delivered in a sealed slipcase.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read a lot of books, and I often love what I read, but I literally (no pun intended) have not been this excited about reading a book since I was a kid. It's not just the story (or should I say stories), or all the ephemera and the clever, well-produced presentation. It's how it all combines to actually make you feel like you're in on it. That you're trying to figure it all out right along with Jen and Eric.

Reading and re-reading *The Ship of Theseus* for clues and inferences to what's happening in the "real world". The whole time watching as J&E's relationship evolves. Then, if you're really adventurous, and you start tapping Google to expand your research, you'll find that the experience

goes beyond the book. (Google: Eotvos Wheel) \*\*\*I HIGHLY SUGGEST YOU DO THIS\*\*\*I'll admit: when I opened the book for the first time, the second thought that went through my mind (after "How frigging cool is this?") was, "How the heck am I gonna read this?"So, for those of you asking that same question, let me tell you how I went about it:As cool as all the inserts are, trying to keep them from falling out of the book as you're reading is a pain, so take them out and use post-it notes to mark what page they came from, then put them in an envelope that you can easily access.Now, J&E's notes are not entirely in chronological order. You can generally go by the color of the ink between them to tell what phase of their story you're at.First, there's Eric's pencil notes to himself about the actual book. Then, the convo between J&E begins when Jen picks up Eric's book and sees his notes and begins commenting on them in the margins. He sees this and writes back. Those early messages are Jen: Blue Ink - Eric: Black InkAt some point after they go through the book a first time, they go through again. This time Jen: Orange Ink - Eric: Green Ink.Then a third time Jen: Purple Ink - Eric: Red InkFinally, a fourth time (which seems to be after the denouement, in which they retrospectively discuss what has transpired). These are less frequent, and both Jen and Eric are in Black Ink.\*\*\*Read each chapter of the main text of SoT, ignoring all of Jen & Eric's notes. Upon finishing each chapter, you're going to want to go back and read only the blue/black notes and any referenced inserts. Then, move on to the next chapter. After you finish the whole book, go back and read only the orange/green notes and referenced inserts. Then purple/red, then black/black.\*\*\*However you choose to approach it, you're in for a treat. Even after finishing it, I'm still going back and looking for anything I may have missed. The journey was fantastic and the the destination was, well you'll see.C.

S. is one of the best books I've read. Period. But I believe I feel differently than the average reviewer because I made the conscious decision that I was going to believe before I started reading. You see, you can only enjoy this book if you go in accepting that you are not its first owner and that what you are reading was not intended for your eyes. The ability to become an active participant instead of a passive reader, I would imagine, is the difference between loving this book and hating it. I fall so far onto the love side of the spectrum that I simply cannot wait to read it again.S. is really a story about 6 principal characters: S. The main character in the novel "Ship of Theseus" who is suffering from amnesia. The novel follows S. as he desperately tries to figure out who he is and what his significance is to both the Ship of Theseus and the various ports at which it docks. V.M. Straka an enigmatic author of the novel Ship of Theseus, the book which serves as stage to this mystery. The Translator (FXC)

“ a historian of Straka’s works who not only translates his novels into a variety of different languages but also pens commentary in the form of footnotes throughout Ship of Theseus. Eric “ an exhausted theorist who believes the mystery of “Who is V.M. Straka” can be solved via subtext clues cleverly embedded throughout Ship of Theseus Jen “ a student who stumbles upon Eric’s copy of Ship of Theseus and who’s penchant for researching the obscure and who’s fresh perspective on the tale helps reveal that the initial question of “Who is V.M. Straka” is only the tip of a very, VERY large iceberg. YOU “ You are the 3rd handler of this book. Jen and Eric have taken extensive notes in the margins and left dozens of pieces of ephemera tucked into the pages that serve as clues. You will use these clues to not only help solve the mystery of V.M. Straka, but also explore the mystery of why it is that you now have this book in your possession. By reading S., you essentially become a character. In the same way that Eric and Jen attempt to solve a mystery about FXC and VM Straka, you must solve the mystery of Eric and Jen. Eric and Jen will often express frustrations over how they are not privy to the conversations and events that took place outside the pages of Ship of Theseus. This is not dissimilar to frustrations you, as the reader, will experience when Jen and Eric engage in meetings and ongoings outside of the book’s margins. It’s a brilliantly complex and maddeningly open-ended plot hurdle that you will regularly encounter throughout S. The quantity of information that is thrown at you all at once is alarmingly difficult to comprehend. This is, of course, intentional. You may reach a page that has a postcard tucked into the binding, has 2 footnotes from FXC, has 11 margin notes from Eric and Jen (in 4 different ink colors), and, obviously, the continued Ship of Theseus novel. There is no good way to digest all of this, you simply have to read through it and absorb it as best you can before moving on. As you progress through the book, you pick up tricks for understanding when a note was written, who wrote it, and what the meaning is. Unfortunately, you’ll gain this perspective just in time to realize that “ at some point “ you’ll have to start the book all over again. However, while this is undeniably frustrating, it lends authenticity to the overarching plot of S., pulls you deeper into the story, and makes you feel like you really are solving a mystery. In this way, Eric and Jen become very real and you’ll feel like you can help them in the same way they are trying to help V.M. Straka. S. is so much more than a book. It’s an experience. I continue to obsess over every detail, every clue, and every word contained in these pages. But, what’s funny about S., is that I wouldn’t recommend this book to most of my friends and family. Simply put, I just don’t think many people will “get it.” I don’t know how many people have the tolerance for ambiguity in the same way I do. I

don't know if other people will appreciate the complexity, the depth, or the details like I do. If The Da Vinci Code was the pizza of the literary world, then S. is the sushi. Most people probably won't like it, but it will be passionately loved for by a few. I could go on about this book for days. I would write more, but I have to go Google how to read a rail-fence cipher so I can continue solving this mystery :)

Even with that as the background, the book is a bit overwhelming when you try to tackle it. There are all the clue pieces, the dialogue between Eric and Jen and then the story itself. I was having a tough time trying to read the story and the banter while keeping it all together in my head. I decided to pull out the clue pieces (catalog the pages they are stuck between, it's important) and just read the story ignoring Jen and Eric. It's hard to do but I think it helps. The idea being I will read the story first, as Jen did, then go over it a second time reading Jen and Eric's banter at which point the clue pieces will be introduced. This will give me a greater depth of knowledge when trying to put the clues together. I have not completed the story and don't want to drop any spoilers so this review is more of a guide book on how I thought the best way was to tackle the mystery. I'm sure other people will have different ideas and my plan may change as I progress so I will add updates as I move through the process. If anyone reading this has a better idea or thoughts to share please comment below, would love your feedback. EDIT:1 If you elect to read the book as I am (story first), DO NOT read Eric and Jen's banter. Clues are dropped that you will not want revealed.

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