**Week 3 Chapter Summaries**

**00:00:00**

* Nora found herself walking on a path leading towards a big and beautiful building.
* While she was admiring the building, she looked down at her watch that read midnight. While she stared for the time on her watch to change, it never did. She was confused.
* She decided to enter the building for some answers and as she explored, the building seemed to magically change from her original impression.
* The building was full of bookshelves and gave off a warm and comforting smell.
* When she tried to leave and retrace her steps, she got lost.
* She realized that all of the books had no authors or titles.
* As she picked up a book from the shelf, she heard a voice behind her and jumped back saying “be careful”.

**The Librarian**

* Nora realized the voice she heard was Mrs. Elm, her beloved school librarian. She recognized her almost immediately.
* Seeing her brought back memories of her rainy afternoons in the library playing chess.
* It was revealed that Mrs. Elm broke the news of Nora’s father's death to her. He died of a heart attack while playing rugby. Mrs. Elm was very supportive and comforted her of the tragic news.
* When her mother picked her up, her mother and brother were both preoccupied with their own grief. Mrs. Elm was there for her.
* Nora is questioning if she is dead and in the afterlife. Mrs. Elm tells her she will explain.

**The Midnight Library**

* Mrs. Elm explains where Nora is:
  + *“Between life and death there is a library. And within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be different if you made other choices… would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?”*
* She explains that Nora is not dead and it cannot be her choice to die.
* Nora is sad and feels incomplete because she couldn’t become anything that she had the chance to be. She says with all the opportunities left unfulfilled, it’s pathetic.
* Mrs. Elm tells her she won’t die yet. She now needs to decide how to live.

**The Moving Shelves**

* All of the books on the shelves can move on their own and Nora was scared.
* Mrs. Elm told her it’s time to look at her life decisions. Each book has a portal to a life she could be living. She tells her if she made one different decision, her whole life would be different. These are “perpendicular” lives.
* Nora admits she did everything in her life wrong.
* Mrs. Elm tells her that this is her chance to see how things could be. She took the grey book from the shelf and handed it to Nora.
* Mrs. Elm reveals that every book, except one, is a version of Nora’s life. Each book starts at the same point in time.
* The grey book is the source of all of Nora’s problems: her book of regrets.

**The Book of Regrets**

* The book of regrets holds every regret Nora has had since she was born. It was very heavy and each chapter was a year of her life, even though not all the regrets were chronologically placed because they float around and can be continuous.
* Nora reads the regrets. Some are more faint than others, but the boldest one was “I regret not yet having children”. A lot of her regrets surrounded her ex-fiance, Dan.

**Regret Overload**

* Nora reveals that Dan had a big smile, was fun, studied art history and dreamed of owning a pub in the countryside with Nora.
* She was carried away with enthusiasm but called off the wedding when she realized she didn’t want to marry him.
* Nora’s mom died three months before her wedding. Her grief fused with depression and anxiety.
* She felt like she needed to control the chaos, so she called off the wedding. She thought she was doing the right thing, but instead it was the opposite of freedom.
* She began to sob and could hardly breathe. The pain was too much. Mrs. Elm instructed her to close the book, and Nora needed to do it herself. When she did, she felt relief.

**Every Life Begins Now**

* Mrs. Elm asked her which regret stood out the most. Nora had a hard time realizing the point of all this because of the pain she just experienced.
* Mrs. Elm tells her that now that her old life is probably over, she needs to figure out somewhere to go now.
* Each life lasts a different time, but if she found a life she wants to live, then she can until Nora dies of old age. Once she chooses a life, she will have no memory of the Midnight Library.
* The lights overhead indicate how much time she has “between lives”.
* Once she feels unsatisfied with the life she is trying out, she can come back by the power of Mrs. Elm. She will find her and bring her back.
* Nora reflects on the regrets and decides she wishes she hadn’t left Dan. She wants to live the life where they are together.
* The bookshelf began moving and it suddenly stopped.
* Mrs. Elm grabbed the book and told Nora to open to the first page.
* She stared at the first line about walking out of the pub and the text became indecipherable and she was about to embark on her first life.