**Week 11 Chapter Summaries**

**Equidistance**

* Nora contemplates the meaning of the word equidistant in her current situation, not aligned with one bank or the other
* She felt this way most of her life, caught in the middle and struggling

**Someone Else’s Dream**

* Mrs. Elm consoles Nora about her brother being pulled back from the water’s edge and how she acted fast when it really mattered
* Nora discusses how she has always felt Joe was better than here, especially her parents
  + Their parents supported Joe’s dreams more
* Mrs. Elm tells Nora she needs to stop worrying about other people’s approval
* Nora does not want to give up; she wants to keep searching for a life worth living in the library
* Mrs. Elm uses chess as a metaphor; before the game starts everything is safe and peaceful; as the game goes on, there become endless opportunities for possible moves
* Nora expresses she wants a gentle life where she worked with animals

**A Gentle Life**

* This life was easy to slip into
  + She slept in, drove an old hyundai
  + Spent the morning feeding and walking the dogs
* Nora met Pauline at the shelter, a down to earth woman with brown curly hair and Yorkshire accent
* Nora wanted to live in a world with no cruelty
* Nora meets a guy her age named Dylan who also works there
* He tells her how dogs can smell when rain is coming
* She realizes Dylan is her boyfriend
* They discuss their dinner plans for the night, and choose to eat at a place called La Cantina

**Why Want Another Universe if This One Has Dogs?**

* The restaurant is near where String Theory was, except String Theory is no longer in business
* She asks Dylan if he believes in parallel universes
  + Nora says why want another universe if this one has dogs
* She sees a man running near the restaurant; she realizes it is Ash
  + She says hi to him, but he doesn’t seem to remember her.

**Dinner with Dylan:**

* Nora thought about the time (years ago) she had margaritas and talked about her future with Dan in la Cantina
  + First time Dan mentioned his dream of owning a pub in the country
  + He was rude to the server
* One of Nora’s life’s rules: Never trust someone who is willingly rude to low-paid service staff
* Dylan loved La Cantina
* Dylan remembered Nora from high school for swimming, and sitting in the library during lunch
* Dylan mentioned seeing Mrs. Elm with a nurse walking into a care home

**Last Chance Saloon:**

* Nora went back to Dylan’s to watch “Last Chance Saloon”, the Ryan Bailey movie
* Nora’s justification for going back to Dylan’s was that he was sweet and she would not have to pry too much to find out this life
* The house was full of dogs
* A chihuahua tried to hump her leg as another dog next to her was licking her ear
* Dylan sat on the floor because the dog took up his spot
* She realized she had a high tolerance for alcohol in this life and poured herself another glass of zinfandel left over from the restaurant
  + On the back of the bottle was a story of the people that owned the vineyard, and how they made their dream come true
* She realized this life full of dogs was not for her

**Buena Vista Vineyard**

* Mrs. Elm helped Nora find a life closest to the couple on the back of the wine bottle
* This life took place in America
* Nora was married to Eduardo Martinez and had a son named Alejandro
* She met him in a gap year she wanted to take after leaving university
* They owned a vineyard together called Buena Vista Vineyard
* they were able to start due to an inheritance Eduardo received after his parents died in a boating accident
* She would follow Edwardo’s lead on what to say when people came in for tastings
* Nora felt that this was a successful marriage
* She felt like she was living the life of the people on the bottle
* After the people left Nora enjoyed a glass of wine outside with her husband
* She had him reassure her that they are happy
* Nora felt content with the silence between them while they sat looking at the sky
* Nora found nothing wrong with this life other than the fact that she still craved other things
  + She found herself feeling like Hugo Lefevre: flipping through lives like pages in a book
* She closed her eyes and waited to disappear back to the library

**The Many Lives of Nora Seed**

* Nora found that undoing regrets was a way of making wishes come true
* Nora reminisced on many lives that she has experienced from the library
  + Different experiences she has had in each life
  + Different relationships/family in each life
  + Different ways of feeling emotions in each life
* By experiencing all of these different lives, Nora came to the conclusion that she did not try to end her life because she was miserable, but because she convinced herself that there was no way out of her misery
* The more lives she visited, the harder it was to feel at home in any of them
* Nora admitted to Hugo that she was not him and she needed somewhere to stay permanently
  + At that moment he went back to his video store, and she went back to the library