



The Book of Tomorrow

By Cecelia Ahern
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Introduction

Raised in the lap of luxury, spoiled and tempestuous sixteen-year-old Tamara Goodwin has never had to think about tomorrow. But when her world is irrevocably shaken by her father's self-imposed death, she and her mother are left drowning in debt and forced to move in with Tamara's peculiar aunt and uncle in a tiny countryside village.

Lonely and bored, Tamara's sole diversion is a traveling library. There she finds a large leather-bound book with a gold clasp and padlock, but no author name or title. Intrigued, she pries open the lock, and what she finds takes her breath away for what's written inside is not only impossible and magical . . . it's her future.

Questions for Discussion

1. Moving to County Meath removes Tamara from her privileged, socially connected, overcommercialized life in Dublin. How does the teenager mature as a result of being away from her friends and the trappings of city life? Is the author of *The Book of Tomorrow* arguing for a more old-fashioned way of life, including books?
2. What were your first impressions of Sister Ignatius? Why does Sister Ignatius keep secrets? Is she a good friend to Tamara?
3. In chapter 15, Tamara has to make a tangible decision to go with or against the diary's reaching for either sugar or salt and the chapter finishes open-ended on page 190. What did you expect her to do? Explain why.
4. The plot twists make *The Book of Tomorrow* an unexpected mystery. How does the diary serve as a map for Tamara to find answers? Is it always a faithful guide?
5. On page 43, Tamara states, "And that is how the Goodwin problems were always fixed. Fix them on the surface but don't go to the root, always ignoring the elephant in the room." In what ways does the diary exacerbate or mend this family trait? Do you think this is common to many families?
6. How do Tamara's friendships change over the course of the novel? In what ways do you think she outgrows her friends? How might her life have been different if they had kept in better touch?
7. How do you explain Tamara's relationship to Kilsaney Castle? Why do you think such a modern girl feels such a connection to an ancient ruin? Explain why she might feel so at home there.
8. How does Rosaleen's character develop over the course of the book? How did you feel about her at the beginning? Did your impressions change by the end? Were you surprised by what you discovered? What hints did the author provide in the story that may have pointed to the truth?
9. At the end of the novel Tamara discards the diary, saying, "I'll have to find my own way." Do you have faith that without the diary Tamara can try to live her tomorrows better? What, ultimately, has the diary taught her? Do you think she would have found her way without it?
10. On page 100, Tamara says, "What if we knew what tomorrow would bring? Would we fix it? Could we?" How do you think Tamara answers this question throughout the novel? What is your answer?
11. Having a book of tomorrow is an intriguing and alluring idea. Do you think that you would enjoy having a diary predict the future's outcome? Would it take away the pleasure of the unknown or would it alleviate anxiety?

About the Author

At twenty-one, Cecelia Ahern wrote her first novel, *P.S. I Love You*, which became an international bestseller and was adapted into a major motion picture starring Hilary Swank. Her successive novels *Love, Rosie*; *If You Could See Me Now*; *There's No Place Like Here*; *Thanks for the Memories*; *The Gift*; and *The Time of My Life* were also international bestsellers, published in forty-six countries and selling more than 15 million copies collectively. The daughter of Ireland's former prime minister, Ahern lives in Dublin, Ireland.