

By Neil Shepperd

When the stars clear, the Terminator is gone. A band is setting up on stage. You wave at the guitarist and ask what time and day it is. She tells you that it's 2:59 on Thursday.

"Then maybe it's not too late!" you say.

"Too late for what?" says a voice. You turn around and see Hermione. In the distance, you can hear the clocktower chiming three o'clock.

"Hermione!" you shout, hugging her, "I thought you were—"

She cuts you off suddenly.

"If you were about to reveal information about my future, you'd better stop *right* now," she snaps, "that could destabilise the whole timeline!"

You fall silent.

"Did you bring the book?" she asks.

You nod and hand her the book. She flips through it, muttering under her breath.

"Aha!" she says. "Here it is. Your next clue!"

You look at the sentence she is pointing out.

The dial indicated by dial 6

will increase by 1 next time it ticks.

"That's a terrible poem, and it makes no sense to me," you say.

"It will," says Hermione, "or we're all doomed. Now you have to get out of here. *He's* coming."

You pause.

"Hermione," you say, "you should really come with me."

She pulls out her wand and laughs.

"Don't worry," she says, "I'll be fine. Now go!"

You start to run. The Device starts to vibrate once more. "How can this get any worse?" you wonder as the band behind you starts to play.

