



**“Nobody has ever successfully escaped from anywhere
in an open-back hospital gown.”**

Sounds bleak, but maybe for once sixteen-year-old Jasper will have to be the first at something, even if it's the unlikely escape from a secret underground lair in the Swiss Alps without his pants on.

Things seemed dicey (if still supremely exciting) when Dad vanished and Jasper had to fight the ninja girl, dupe the police detective, and flee the murderous plumber, all while coming to terms with his freshly-manifested time-bending powers.

But this recent escalation? *No, gracias.* Waking up shackled to a hospital gurney and primed for nefarious medical procedures really had Jasper long for his normie SoCal existence. High time to skedaddle and find Dad.

Before heading out, he really needed to locate some pants, though. No need to tempt fate.



“Thrilling and suspenseful... [A] fabulous story containing fascinating characters, a complex plot, and an engaging storyline that builds to a shocking and explosive conclusion. The plot's clever twists and turns create a web of intrigue that had me glued to the pages until I reached the exciting finale.”

– Reader's Favorite, 5 stars

An exciting YA adventure for ages 13+ with elements of sci-fi and superhero origin stories that remains grounded in present-day teen protagonists and a classic coming-of-age vibe. Class discussion topics include:

- The nature of time and time perception.
- Growing up and navigating new relationship dynamics, from how to deal with the loss of a parent to juggling friendship and first love.
- Superpowers and their potential burden.
- The blessing and curse of the latest information technology.
- Story structure of heroic fiction.



**PROUD
TO BE:**



Part of the BiblioBoard
Indie California collection

JASPER FAULKS

AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME

Questions and prompts. Let's talk about:

RELATIONSHIPS

- How do Jasper's relationships with his dad, his friend Clarence, and Maya change over the course of the story? How might they change again going forward?
- How would Jasper and Maya's relationship be different if their genders were reversed?
- Have any of your relationships to family or friends changed over time? How and why?

TIME

- What is time?
- Would you want to be a time bender? Even if you were the only one in your family? How about the only one on earth?
- How does time perception differ in your life? Think about boring vs. exciting times, happy vs. sad, yesterday vs. years ago. How does the mind play tricks on us and why?

STORY STRUCTURE

- All heroic narratives share a number of story elements. What are some similarities between *Jasper Faulks* and other books or movies you know that follow a hero's journey? How about differences?
- What did Jasper, Maya, and Eva want at the beginning of their journeys and what did they get at the end? Are they better off or worse?
- If you think of your own life as a hero's journey, what do you want and what stands in your way? How could you achieve your goal?

SUPERPOWERS

- What are the limits of Jasper's powers? Without cheating, could he beat Usain Bolt in a sprint? World Champion Magnus Carlsen at chess? Heavyweight Champion Tyson Fury in boxing? What Olympic sports would he dominate and where would he fail?
- Do you think Jasper should use his powers in public and become a superhero? How could he and other time benders change the world for the better?
- How would you spend your time as a time bender?

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- How did information technology change the life of the time benders?
- Imagine your life without modern information technology. What would be better?



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