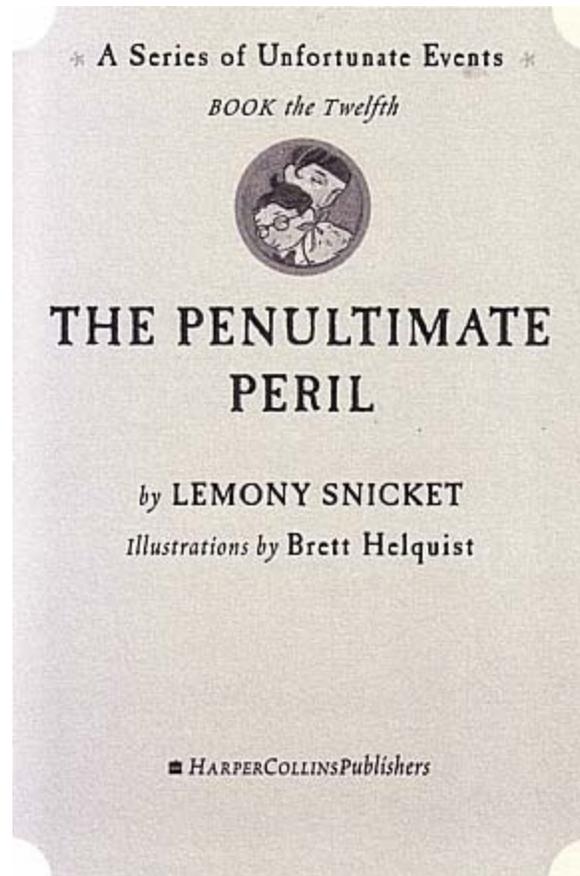


Excerpts

Lemony Snicket, *The Penultimate Peril*
(*A Series of Unfortunate Events* - Book the Twelfth)
(New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005)



- Certain people have said that the world is like a calm pond, and that anytime a person does even the smallest thing, it is as if a stone has dropped into the pond, spreading circles of ripples further and further out, until the entire world has been changed by one tiny action.
- A great man once said that right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant. Do you understand what that means? ... [It means] that good people are more powerful than evil people, even if evil people appear to be winning.

- VFD - Volunteer Factual Dispatch; Verbal Fridge Dialogue.
- 'To be daunted by no difficulty; to keep heart when all have lost it; to go through intrigue spotless; to forgo even ambition when the end is gained -- who can say this is not greatness?'
- "*La Forza del Destino*" is an Italian phrase meaning "the force of destiny," and "destiny" is a word that tends to cause arguments among the people who use it. Some people think that destiny is something you cannot escape, such as death, or a cheesecake that has curdled, both of which always turn up sooner or later. Other people think destiny is a time in one's life, such as the moment one becomes an adult, or the instant it becomes necessary to construct a hiding place out of sofa cushions. And still other people think that destiny is an invisible force, like gravity, or a fear of paper cuts, that guides everyone throughout their lives, whether they are embarking on a mysterious errand, doing a treacherous deed, or deciding that a book they have begun reading is too dreadful to finish.
- Life is perplexing enough without thinking about other worlds staring back at you from the mirror, which is why people who spend a great deal of time looking in the mirror tend to have trouble thinking about anything except whatever secrets they discover after so much reflection ...
- In every other place on Earth, nobility and integrity are vanishing quickly. ... If we are not careful, they'll vanish completely. Can you imagine a world in which wickedness and deception were running rampant?
- ... if only one had a little more time to do some important reading, all the secrets in the world would become clear.