

Title

Save the Date

Fabula

Main Plot

A doctor discovers how to calculate the day and month of each person's death. This can be done on adults as easily as it can on newborns. This information quickly starts to be recorded on a person's birth certificate.

Then one day it is brought to the world's attention, by the same doctor, that all new babies are being born with the same death date. What could be causing this?

Point of Debate

In this world should the ability to calculate the death date be something that has always been known, or something that has just recently been discovered?

Main Themes

Certainty vs. Meaning

Does knowing the date of your death make life more meaningful — or does it hollow it out?

Individual Fate vs. Collective Fate

What happens when death stops being personal and becomes shared?

Ritual as Survival

How repeated cultural practices can stabilize societies — or quietly reshape reality itself.

Structure

3 units * 3 sections * 3 chapters

~500 words per chapter

Total words: ~13,500 or about 50 pages per thread

Mundi

Counterfactual Mechanics

At birth, the **day and month** of their death (but never the year), is calculated and formally recorded. This date's accuracy has been proven again and again, and the mechanism of the calculation leads to many other technical leaps forward.

What physical, biological, or informational principles could plausibly allow such a calculation to exist?

What technology could be spawned to this new calculation?

Philosophical Knot

Is knowledge of one's death a moral obligation — or an ethical harm?

Who bears responsibility for carrying, withholding, or enforcing that knowledge?

Psychological Twist

How does the annual anticipation and survival of one's death day shape daily behavior, risk-taking, and emotional regulation?

Is communal celebration of survival more psychologically stabilizing than private reckoning — or does it amplify collective anxiety?

Anthropological Themes

Since the date is known but not the year there are very different ceremonies performed leading up to the death date than those performed afterwards. How does each culture absorb and reflect this knowledge?

Populi

Axis Characters (1-3)

The Famous Doctor

Incredibly competitive and deeply invested in their legacy, they struggle to relinquish ownership of the narrative.

The Small Town Waitress

At 32 most of her friends are now having kids, and one by one they all confide their children's death date (which is usually kept within the family in her country's culture). She quickly realizes that something is gravely afoot as all of the death dates come back the same and tells the famous doctor about it.

The Pregnant best friend

Her best friend, the small town waitress, tells them about the converging death dates which leads to the two of them theorizing why this might be. To her surprise their baby, once born, does not have the same date. What makes this baby the exception?