



Magazine  
Issue 2. December 2016.

**A STARRY  
NIGHT AT  
HOGWARTS**

**THE BLUE  
CARPET  
THE LONDON  
PREMIERE**

# FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE LATEST FILM**

**THE POTIONS PUZZLE + FANTASTIC NIGHT AT CARNEGIE HALL + AND MORE**



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**December 2016**  
**Issue 2 - Year 1**

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

First of all, I want to thank everyone who read the magazine. We did not know what we were doing when we decided to create a digital magazine, but your comments and feedback proved to us that we were on the right track. Thanks to all who sent their messages and their positive reviews. We did not get any negative feedback, which still surprises me! There were some crazy readers who even printed it, so thank you all!

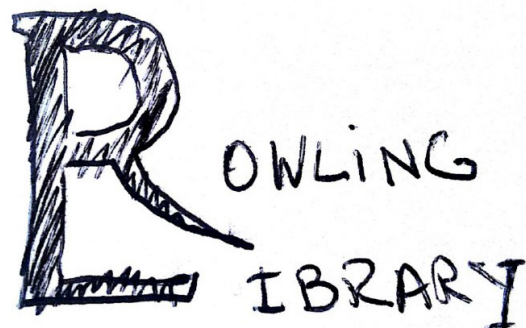
For those asking if the magazine will remain free, it will. We have been thinking about some methods like “pay-after-read”, where you can decide after you finished it, based on the quality of the issue, how much should it cost and pay that. You could also decide to pay nothing if you decide that it has no value. Or perhaps before downloading, pay what you like, but always with the option to do it with zero cost, for free.

We will give this more thought in the future. Meanwhile, enjoy the magazine without paying for it (if you truly believe you should pay for it, you could donate whatever you think to our Paypal email address and we

would be eternally thankful for it).

This has been a hectic month. Not only because of the release of *Fantastic Beasts* (you will read about it on this issue), but also because two weeks ago we published the news that *The Cursed Child* will debut in New York City in 2018. It almost caused our web server to crash, and thus our hosting costs were higher than usual.. Today December 1st, the play producers confirmed that the play will be going to Broadway and Americans will have the chance to see the play in the United States. So, good news for our American Wizard friends!

I hope you enjoy this issue as much you did with the first one. We've put a lot of effort into this issue. I also hope to see you again in January for the first issue of 2017!



## COLLABORATED ON THIS ISSUE

**BELÉN SALITURI + LIEZEL FOURIE + EMMANUEL OQUENDO  
+ LAURENT GARCÍA + ALLY WARING**





# A FANTASTIC NIGHT AT CARNEGIE HALL



**Ally Waring attended the special event in New York on November 12th, where J.K. Rowling and Eddie Redmayne discussed Lumos organization and *Fantastic Beasts*, just before watching and advanced screening of the film. Read her report of the event.**

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**ALLY WARING (NEW YORK CITY)** Walking into Carnegie Hall, the feeling was electric. The buzz of excitement and anticipation was contagious. Everyone in the room had that Potter craze; you could see it in their eyes, and especially in their clothes. The costumes were outrageous and amazing. I must have walked by a dozen Newts, each costume better than the last. The crowd kept growing, soon the entire lobby was filled with crazed fans, all waiting for the clock to strike six.

As everyone found their seats, you were met with a beautiful sight; hundreds of Potter fans with smiles plastered on their faces, talking animatedly to their neighbors and sharing their love for the magical world. The sense of community and togetherness was truly inspiring. As the lights began to dim, a thick silence fell over the crowd. When Eddie Redmayne stepped out of the wings, the crowd was cheering with utmost enthusiasm. Though the excitement was great for Eddie, nothing could compare to the wave of energy released when he announced J.K. Rowling. The hall instantly erupted into claps and cheers, and when she made her appearance, the entire crowd was on their feet.

Here was the woman who gave us an entire world of magic; the gratitude and love expressed by the crowd could not be contained. Eventually the crowd was settled and Eddie engaged Rowling in a conversation about her incredible organization, Lumos. She explained that it all started with a newspaper article of a child locked in a cage in a very dangerous orphanage.

She flipped past the article on the boy, trying to ignore the terrible sight, but instantly felt "ashamed." She realized that she couldn't let these awful orphanage situations continue;

and Lumos was created. Rowling described how early childhood is a crucial time for brain development, and children in orphanages were not developing as they should. Additionally, most orphanage systems are extremely corrupt, and involve dangerous business such as child trafficking. Lumos was created to stop these systems, and to place children back with their families, or families that can take care of them.

Rowling aimed to emphasize the importance of relaying the message that orphanage systems are unhealthy and often run for the wrong intentions. She kept repeating the idea of spreading Lumos' message about orphanages, and getting the word out about the misconduct of these institutions. With each word she said, you could feel how connected and passionate she was to this cause, and how determined she was to end orphanages.

She stated that Lumos' goal was for the world to be completely orphanage free by 2050. Rowling stressed that while this goal seemed impossible, she holds hope that we can make this dream a reality. She ended her talk on Lumos with a video featuring actress' Bonnie Wright and Evanna Lynch. Both young ladies had recently traveled to Haiti to aid the people there with the rebuilding process after Hurricane Matthew. The women were shocked, by not only the way people were living, but the horrible conditions of the orphanages and children. The video not only supported the message Lumos was trying to spread, but gave a voice to the orphanage problems that Lumos is fighting against.

After putting down her Lumos notes, and noticeably relaxing; Rowling and Eddie began to discuss the film. Eddie asked her about her first time writing a screenplay to which Rowling responded, "I learned how to write a screenplay, while writing a screenplay." She admitted



## A FANTASTIC NIGHT AT THE CARNEGIE HALL LUMOS SPECIAL EVENT IN NEW YORK CITY

that *Fantastic Beasts* began as story for her. A story about the famous textbook author Newt Scamander; a character Rowling had fallen in love with. As she discovered Newt's story, she turned it into a screenplay, which according to Eddie was unlike any screenplay he had ever read. She claimed that it was difficult for her to limit her descriptions, as she could see how she wanted everything so clearly in her mind. The audience was hanging on to every exchange between the two. Listening to these

two important figures animatedly discuss the magical world was incredible. The room was filled with a special warmth that could only be created by such passion and love for our magical community. The discussion ended, with the entire cast of *Fantastic Beasts* invited on stage to greet the Potter fans and introduce this spectacular movie. Overall it was a wonderful night, filled with magical moments, and a new story for the wizarding world.

Lumos works to help the millions of children in institutions worldwide regain their right to a family.



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[www.wearelumos.org](http://www.wearelumos.org)



# IN LONDON WITH THE FANS

On 15 November, Laurent Garcia was invited by Warner Bros UK to attend the **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** European movie premiere in London on behalf of **The Rowling Library**. He met with the fans there and here is his report from the event.

**LAURENT GARCIA (LONDON)** I'm glad it wasn't the first time I went to London. I'm not sure how I could have enjoyed this beautiful city while checking my cell phone every two minutes to see if anything had happened in the Potterverse.

I was eating breakfast near Camden Market the morning before when I saw on Twitter that fans were invited to come right away to the Odeon at Leicester Square to pick up bracelets for the Premiere. Apparently, a limited number of fans would be granted access to the event, and the bracelets were a good way to prevent fans from waiting at Leicester Square all night long.

All they had to do (had they gotten a bracelet) was to come back on the 15th at the beginning of the afternoon and their bracelet color and number would give them access to some areas of the square where they could see the cast and crew from the film walk the red carpet. It was a better and organized way for the fans to be able to attend the premiere and meet the cast and crew.

Though the invitation stated we were expected to arrive at Leicester Square at 5pm on November 15th, we were way too excited and decided we would arrive early and take a chance to speak





## IN LONDON WITH THE FANS THE FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM PREMIERE



with fans and take pictures. We met with people from all around the world and asked them a few questions.

After going through a few bag checks, we were allowed access to the red carpet. As our invitations stated, we would be seated in the Empire theater, right in front of the stage on which all the cast and crew were to be interviewed. We can't express how beautiful the red (actually blue) carpet was. We had about an hour before the doors of the theater would close, so we decided to walk around, try to see part of the cast, and listened to the interviews.

During our time at the *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* London premiere, we met with some really cool fans who agreed to share their thoughts on the movie, the premiere and their expectations with us.

What surprised us the most when talking to the fans in the queues was how only very few of them had read the 2001 book *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Just like any other Harry Potter event, some fans had travelled from very far away to attend the premiere. For them, that was proof enough that despite what

some can say, the Harry Potter phenomenon is definitely still alive.

We asked the fans if they had any expectations concerning which cities they would like Newt Scamander to visit in the upcoming movies. Paris was the first choice, which is good news as it is Newt's next destination. Amsterdam, Berlin, Boston and Rome were also amongst the most wished for cities. Time will tell us if Newt is planning to set foot in one of these.

As the bracelet system to access the premiere seemed quite new, we asked the fans what they thought of it. Most of them agreed that it was well organized and they appreciated how Warner Bros made sure they wouldn't have to spend the night outside in the cold to get the best spots. However, some pointed out they would have appreciated if the news that they could come pick up bracelets the day before had been more widely communicated.

After a while, it started raining and we decided it might be time for us to walk into the theater. The decor both in and outside the theater were thrilling: torches to light up the red carpet, a fake broken brick wall to remind us of the beginning



**IN LONDON WITH THE FANS THE FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM PREMIERE**

“Only very few of the fans had read the 2001 book *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.”

of the movie and a gigantic case just like Newt's, were among others set props.

We watched the end of the red carpet from the enormous screen inside the theater, with all the other guests. On each of our seats was a little message from J.K. Rowling, thanking us for being here, wishing us a fantastic screening

and promoting her charity Lumos. We won't say much about the content of the interviews from the red carpet, as the whole event can be re-watched online and if you haven't watched it yet, we invite you to do so immediately. Soon after the end of the red carpet, the lights in the theater went off as the movie started.



# FANTASTIC CLUES



# AND WHERE THEY LEAD US

Emmanuel Oguebo  
2016



## FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE MOVIE

After watching *Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them*, one seems to leave the theatre with more questions than answers. The first movie in this five-part series is more of an introduction to this new era of the Wizarding World than anything else, so it is natural that it leaves some loose ends. But, will we know everything? Here are some questions - with our own attempt to answer them.

### Who is Percival Graves?

It may be not important after all, but we are really curious about his real identity. Was he a European Auror and Grindelwald took his identity? Maybe he was one of the fallen from the first scene in the movie?

There is also a chance that Percival Graves is no one, just an identity Grindelwald created when he arrived in America. That would be a much more interesting case, since we could discuss why Grindelwald chose one of Albus Dumbledore's middle names for it.

*Note: After finishing this article, David Heyman (Producer) confirmed that Percival Graves was a real man and Grindelwald used Polyjuice Potion, and that we will not see Percival Graves in the future movies.*

### Why does Jacob remember something?

We will see Jacob again - Dan Fogler (the actor) already signed on to be in the second part of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, so we can be sure he will remember his friendship with Newt and the Goldstein sisters. However, at the end of the movie he realises he remembers something - or at least some of the creatures. But why? There are two possible reasons for this.

Inside Newt's workshop (inside the suitcase), the Magizoologist explains the Swooping Evil venom properties, and how it can be used to make a person forget their worst memories. Though it can be ignored, we must stop at "worst

memories". If that is the case, Jacob would not have completely forgot his experience with the wizards, since they are not bad memories.

If that explanation does not convince you, there may be another one. In the original *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* textbook, there is something interesting about the Murtlap: "It has a growth upon its back resembling a sea anemone. When pickled and eaten, these Murtlap growths promote resistance to curses and jinxes." And Jacob is bitten by a Murtlap in his apartment, which could have caused resistance to Swooping Evil venom. In fact, this explanation could be added in the next movie, and even Newt would discover a new property about the Murtlaps through Jacob's case and he could add it to his draft.

### What happened to Credence?

Almost every fan finished the film believing Ezra Miller's character had died. But David Heyman and David Yates (producer and director) confessed there was a deleted scene where we can see Credence boarding a boat - maybe the same one Newt took at the end. This could mean that Credence will probably encounter the Magizoologist in Europe, but it also confirms what Heyman and Yates said about Credence being one of the main characters in the upcoming films.

But then, what happened to him? We have no idea, but there must be an interesting explanation of how the obscurus left his body without causing his death. Besides, he is not an obscurial anymore, right?

### The name of the publishing house of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is...

... Obscurus Books. Is that a coincidence? The editor Augustus Worme commissioned the original edition of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* in 1918. But could Augustus Worme be obsessed with Obscurus? This leads us to the next question...

## FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE MOVIE

### Why does Newt have an Obscurus in his case?

The Obscurus is a strong force, a magical entity, but it is not, from any point of view, a creature, an animal. So, why is Newt interested in it? Why is he keeping one for research? Could it be that Augustus Worme funded Newt's trips in exchange for the Obscurus investigation?

### Was Ariadna Dumbledore an Obscurial?

This may be the most important foreshadowing/question that this movie left us. It connects both worlds: *Fantastic Beasts* and *Harry Potter*. The answer to this question is 99% affirmative, and if it is not, it would be a real waste by Rowling.

In fact, it seems that the Obscurial idea was already in Rowling's head from the times she wrote the books. Let's recapitulate what we knew about Grindelwald from the seventh *Harry Potter* book: he arrived at Godric's Hollow to live with his great-aunt Bathilda Bagshot, where he met Albus Dumbledore. They became very close and both had the Deathly Hallows in mind. And also, though for different reasons, they wanted to overturn the Statute of Secrecy and create a world where witches and wizards dominated the muggles.

Dumbledore's reasons were because his sister Ariana. She suffered greatly due to a group of Muggle boys tormenting her to the point of a breakdown. Her repressed magic became unstable. Does it sound familiar now? Dumbledore's mother was killed in one of Ariana's accidents too.

It is then in a threepeople duel between Dumbledore, his brother Aberforth and GellertGrindelwald that Ariana is accidentally killed by a rebounding spell.

It is easy to see that the idea of an Obscurial was in Rowling's head when she described Ariana's condition. Even so, it seems like the perfect place for Grindelwald to discover and learn about them. We do not know it yet, but we may discover in the following movies that the first encounter of Grindelwald with an Obscurial was with Ariana Dumbledore.



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## FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE MOVIE

### But why did Grindelwald not notice her?

As Percival Graves, Grindelwald told Newt that Obscurials don't live passing the age of 10, at max. But Ariana died at the age of 14, so did Grindelwald not notice she was an obscurial? Did he know she was not, in fact? Or did he maybe hide that fact so as not to not give away he was Grindelwald?

### Who is Leta Lestrange?

When Queenie dropped that surname we instantly knew there were something going on. Portrayed by Zoë Kravitz (Lenny's daughter), Leta Lestrange is definitely related to Rodolphus Lestrange (who later became Bellatrix Black's husband).

Confirmed by director David Yates to Cinemebland, we will see more of her in the second movie: "Leta Lestrange comes into the second movie. She's quite complicated and damaged and confused, and Newt is absolutely still in love with her. So, she has a kind of power over him, and she, yeah, she's a kind of tragic figure, so we will see a bit more of her in the second movie."

There is also another clue in *The Case of the Beasts*, the companion book with details and secrets from the film. In Newt Scamander's profile, there is the explanation of why he was expelled from Hogwarts: "He enjoyed learning about training of magical creatures, as did his close friend LetaLestrange. But one day, Leta went too far with an experiment that ended up endangering a fellow student's life. Instead of allowing his good friend to get expelled, Newt took the blame for Leta and was expelled in her place."

And at the end of the movie, Newt confessed to Tina that people change. Why could have happened with Leta? Maybe she did not recognize that Newt took the blame for her? Maybe she was never grateful? Yates also put the focus on her. Could it be the Lestrange family punishing her for what she did? Or maybe for being friends with Scamander?

Definitely naming LetaLestrange was one of the clues that triggered more questions for the upcoming movies.

### "Will we die, just a little?"

And this question is asked not by us, but by Grindelwald himself. Spoken at the end of the movie to Newt, what does it mean? If the first thing that came to your mind is Horcruxes, you are not alone. But it is unlikely that J.K. Rowling will take the same path again, also we do not know about any interest in them from Grindelwald. The question then seems to be a reference to the Deathly Hallows, which the Dark Wizard is after.

As a believer of the Deathly Hallows and The Three Brothers tale, Grindelwald must assume that, even with the Deathly Hallows in your position, you cannot escape death. Even if you are the Master of the Death, you will die. Then, why did Grindelwald say this to Newt, and not to all the MACUSA aurors who were at the subway station? Did Grindelwald know something we still do not know about Scamander? We would like to think that Newt Scamander is after the Deathly Hallows too. He has changed for them (he admits he has in the final scene with Tina), and that would explain as well why Grindelwald/Graves is surprised to find out that Albus Dumbledore (who is against the Hallows in this period of time) is so fond of Scamander.

*"Will we die,  
just a little?"*



## FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE MOVIE

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Another theory would be that Grindelwald noticed that Credence died just a little and he is still alive. Or an even less crazy theory is that his question was just the end to his speech about how the magical community is self-oppressed towards the muggles/no-majs, and “will we die” was just referring to the wizards as a whole, as a community, and that if they keep with that concealing attitude, they will just disappear. Not crazy at all, and we cannot argue that he may sound right in some aspects.

### **Why are there beasts that do not appear in the *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* 52nd edition?**

In 2001, J.K. Rowling published *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find them*, a fictional textbook from the Wizarding World, as if it were written by Newt Scamander. It was a glossary, a bestiary with all the beasts from the magical world. While most of the creatures featured in the film are there, some of them are not. The Thunderbird, for example, does not appear in the book. Could it be because it was extinct when that edition was published? Why, if not, did Newton Scamander decide not to put it in there? We are pretty sure J.K. Rowling knows this detail and will explain it on future movies.

### **Did Newt finally graduate from Hogwarts?**

At the time of the movie, although he works for the Ministry, Newt has not graduated from the British Wizarding School. However, in the “Author” section of his own book, it is clearly stated that he did graduate from it. So, will he maybe return to finish his studies (just as Hermione did)? Or had he maybe he had the title granted for his works on creatures? Let's not forget he was awarded with the Order of Merlin for his services to Mazoology. This is something J.K. Rowling will explain too. And a good excuse to see Hogwarts again at the big screen.

**And last but not least, was Newt Scamander the one who gave / will give Norbert the Dragon**

### **to Hagrid?**

As this is just a silly question, we left it for the end.

It is in the first book that Rubeus Hagrid gets an egg from where Norbert the Dragon was born. While telling Harry, Ron and Hermione how he got it, Hagrid explains that he received it in a pub from a traveller who had it in his pocket.

We already know Newt is a traveller, so could this be one of his pockets? It is thanks to *Inside the Magic*, a companion book for the movie by Ian Nathan than we know some of the ideas that Rowling had for her characters that were left out. One of these ideas, told by the customer designer Colleen Atwood, is that Newt had a lot of pockets with creatures and eggs inside his coat.

It is a crazy theory and a little impossible, but it fits so, who knows? We will have to wait until the next movies to know everything! In fact, the second movie will answer some of this, but it will also trigger more questions! And that is good, so keep them coming.

From the video scenes of the *Fantastic Beasts* Lego Videogame it seems we can get some of the deleted parts. The actors voiced some lines for the films that were later discarded but used in the videogame (you can see the scenes here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6ZP8axYo70>).

These new lines trigger some new questions.

Picquery says in a deleted line of dialogue that she knows that there isn't an obscurial because every birth is registered. Who was Credence's family and why wasn't his birth registered?





## FANTASTIC CLUES AND WHERE THEY LEAD US UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE MOVIE

What happened to the obscurial in Sudan? Newt falters when describing the story, and Grindelwald has some deleted dialogue where he implies that Newt murdered her.

What is the story behind Modesty's wand? The prop has the initials "TSM" on the handle and

in a deleted line of dialogue, Modesty admits to have gotten it from "Betty Burgess", yet in the final film she claims it's just a toy. Also, is she magical?

**Thanks to Ibid for some suggestions for this article.**

**Illustrations: Emmanuel Oquendo.**





# A STARRY NIGHT AT HOGWARTS

Vincent Van Gogh's most famous oil on canvas resides on the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. But what if you could add a little magic to it? Serena did it and she tells us about it.

Fandoms are always very keen on art. From original works to mash ups from original pieces, they bring us new ways to picture images from the artist's imagination. The Harry Potter fandom is no exception to this, and Serena puts her magical touch on a famous painting.

In June 1889, Dutch post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh painted *The Starry Night*.

The work depicts the view from the east-facing window of his asylum room at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, just before sunrise. It includes an idealized village that could have never been seen from Van Gogh's window. It looks like that spot was a good place for invention, and it seems Serena noticed it too, because she added Hogwarts Castle to it.





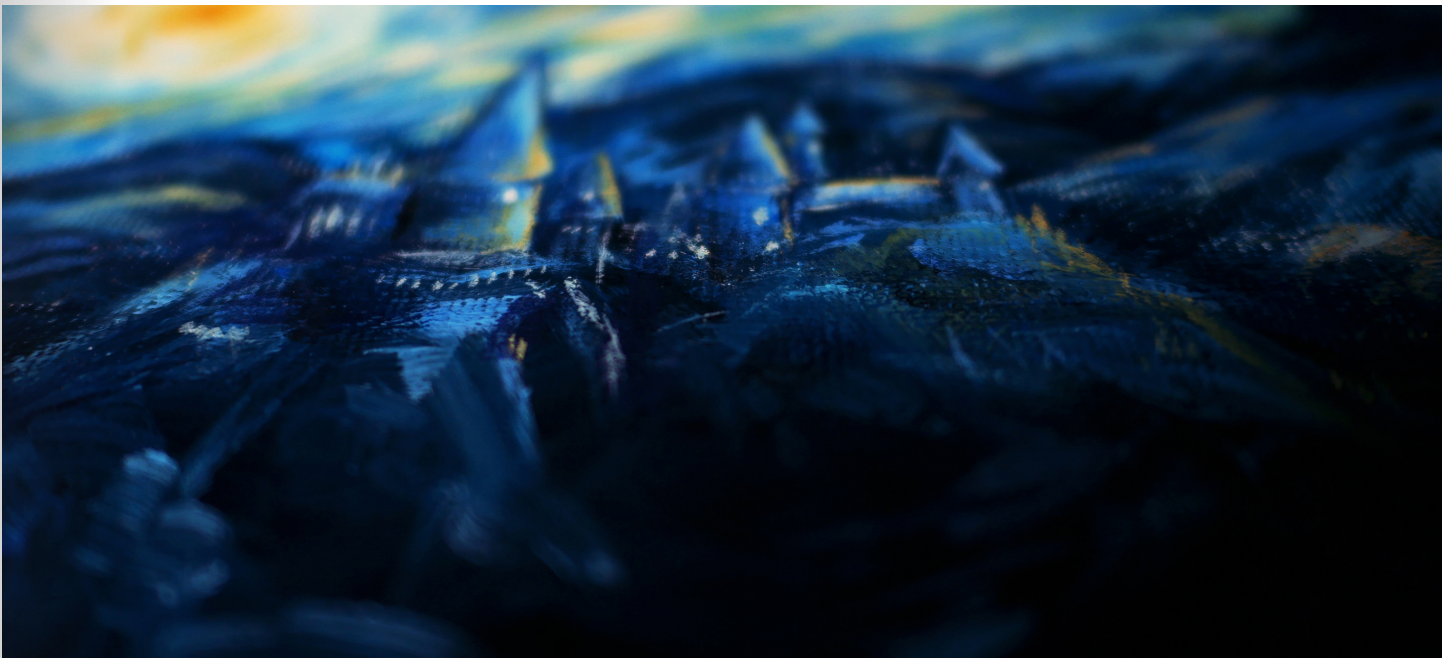
## A STARRY NIGHT AT HOGWARTS VAN GOGH AND THE WIZARDING WORLD TOGETHER

“Vincent Van Gogh played with light in *Starry Night* in such an incredible way that while I originally did this for fun and to learn a little along the way, it also felt like a good opportunity to make an already magical painting just a little more magical,” says Serena. The piece was inspired by those photo manipulations floating around with the T.A.R.D.I.S from *Doctor Who*, she admits.

It was painted on a board canvas measuring 11” x 14” with acrylic paints. “The detail on Hogwarts isn’t all that impressive, but to try and keep true to the original I kept it simple. I did this painting when I was still in high school.”

A *Starry Night at Hogwarts* is a fabulous piece in our opinion. It is not only of a great quality, but it also combines the wizarding world with one of our favorite artists of all time. The original is still hanging on the artist’s wall, but if you would love to have it for yourself, you can purchase a fine art print of the canvas from her society6 page: <https://society6.com/smaug>

(You will find more stuff too, so check it out). If you want to search for her online, you can find her under kuiwi and Whiskermoon, her art names.



**J.K ROWLING THROUGH THE AGES** OLD INTERVIEWS WITH J.K. ROWLING FROM THE ARCHIVE.

# 2000: J.K. ROWLING SHORT INTERVIEW WITH WRITER'S DIGEST

**It is February 2000, and we still do not know the title of the fourth book in Harry Potter series. Meanwhile, J.K. Rowling gave this short but interesting interview to Writer's Digest.**

**You've said that you've always wanted to be a writer but intended to write for adults. Will you try that after you've finished the Harry Potter series?**

If I'm known forever as a children's writer, I will never consider that "second best"-I don't feel I need to write for adults before I'm a "serious" writer! For me, the idea always comes before I consider an audience. In truth, I never consider the audience for whom I'm writing. I just write what I want to write. So, perhaps I will write for adults one day, but only if the idea is right.

**Whom do you consider your influences? How have they affected your writing?**

Writers I most admire are: E. Nesbit, Jane Austen, Vladimir Nabokov and Colette. But as for being influenced by them... I think it [may be] more accurate to say that they represent untouchable ideals to me. It is impossible for me to say what my influences are; I don't analyze my own writing in that way.

**How do you meet the demands of raising your daughter, deal with the press and promotion, and still make writing a priority?**

I meet the demands of writing, promotion and

my daughter in the same way every working mother copes-with great difficulty sometimes, and by learning to say no! My daughter comes first, Harry second, and then I start weeding out non-priorities.

**Will you get input into any Harry Potter spin-offs (or do you want it)?**

I have input into the film [script approval]. Other than the film, there are no spin-offs at the moment. I have turned down everything else. I would never have sold film rights to Warner if I hadn't believed that they would do a faithful interpretation of the book, and I still believe that they will..

**Do you find that non-English language readers identify with your brand of humor?**

As far as I can tell-I can't read Norwegian-the reaction in other countries has been very similar to here. The humor seems to have translated very well, from the reaction I get from foreign children.

**You've said before that you want to keep your favorite authors to yourself. Are there secrets about Harry that you'll keep to yourself?**

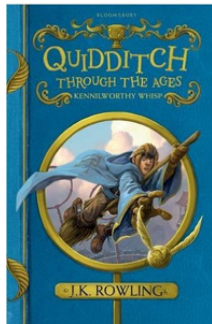
There are things I know about many of the characters in the Harry books that might not make it into the books themselves ... too much information, not enough space!

**You can read the more interviews in Accio Quote ([www.accio-quote.org](http://www.accio-quote.org)), "The Largest Archive of J.K. Rowling quotes on the web"**



# UPCOMING EDITIONS

This is a list of the Harry Potter / J.K. Rowling books that are going to be published in the following months. Some of the dates are not yet confirmed, as well as some of the covers which are not final.



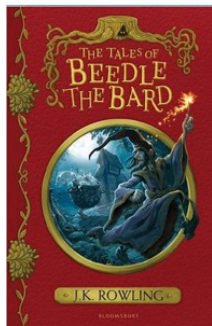
***Quidditch Through the Ages***

January 12th, 2017

Bloomsbury (United Kingdom)

ISBN: 978-1408880739

Hardcover (also available in paperback)



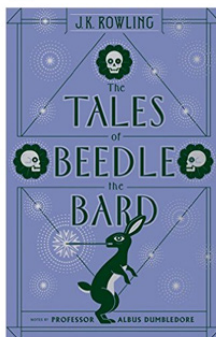
***The Tales of Beedle the Bard***

January 12th, 2017

Bloomsbury (United Kingdom)

ISBN: 978-1408880722

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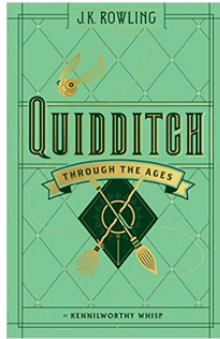
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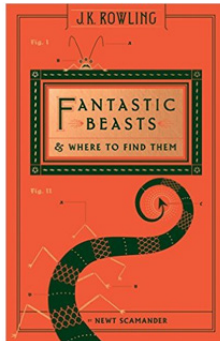
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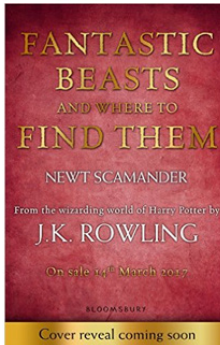
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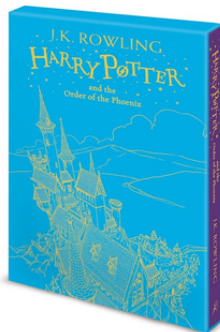
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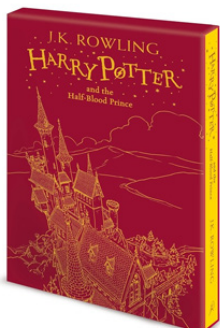
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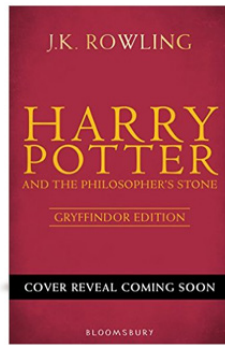
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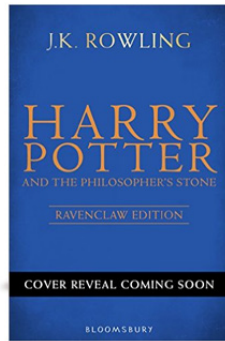
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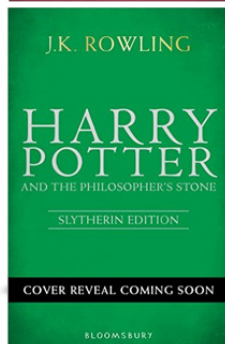
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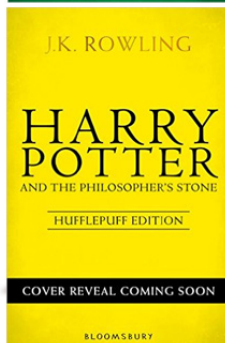
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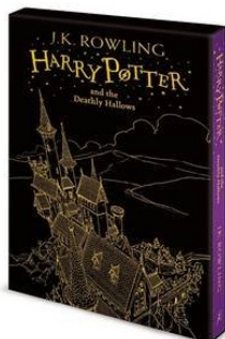
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ANSWERS FROM THE WIZARDING WORLD USING MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC.

# THE POTIONS PUZZLE

It is in the underground chamber that Harry Potter and Hermione Granger encountered a logical obstacle before they could reach the Philosopher's Stone - and save it from the hands of Lord Voldemort.

It is the last challenge they faced, but people underestimate it (the film deleted this scene, so that could also be one of the reasons). Almost no magic, only a logical riddle crafted by Severus Snape, who is presented not only as a Potion Master but also as a rational man. There are a few questions this riddle presented us with, and we will try to discuss them - and along the way learn some mathematics!

The first one is how many arrangements there were in the Riddle of the Potions (Pottermore calls it "The Potions Puzzle", by the way).

Let's see the original puzzle they found:

*Danger lies before you, while safety lies behind,  
Two of us will help you, whichever you would find,*

*One among us seven will let you move ahead,*

*Another will transport the drinker back instead,*

*Two among our number hold only nettle wine,*

*Three of us are killers, waiting hidden in line.*

*Choose, unless you wish to stay here forevermore,  
To help you in your*



## ANSWERS FROM THE WIZARDING WORLD USING MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC.

*choice, we give you these clues four:*

*First, however slyly the poison tries to hide  
You will always find some on nettle wine's left  
side;*

*Second, different are those who stand at either  
end,*

*But if you would move onward, neither is your  
friend;*

*Third, as you see clearly, all are different size,  
Neither dwarf nor giant holds death in their  
insides;*

*Fourth, the second left and the second on the  
right*

*Are twins once you taste them, though different  
at first sight.*

There are seven bottles on the table. **That is 5040 possible orders.** Why? Well, that is because the notion of permutation, part of the combinatorics branch of mathematics. Let's see the logic behind this.

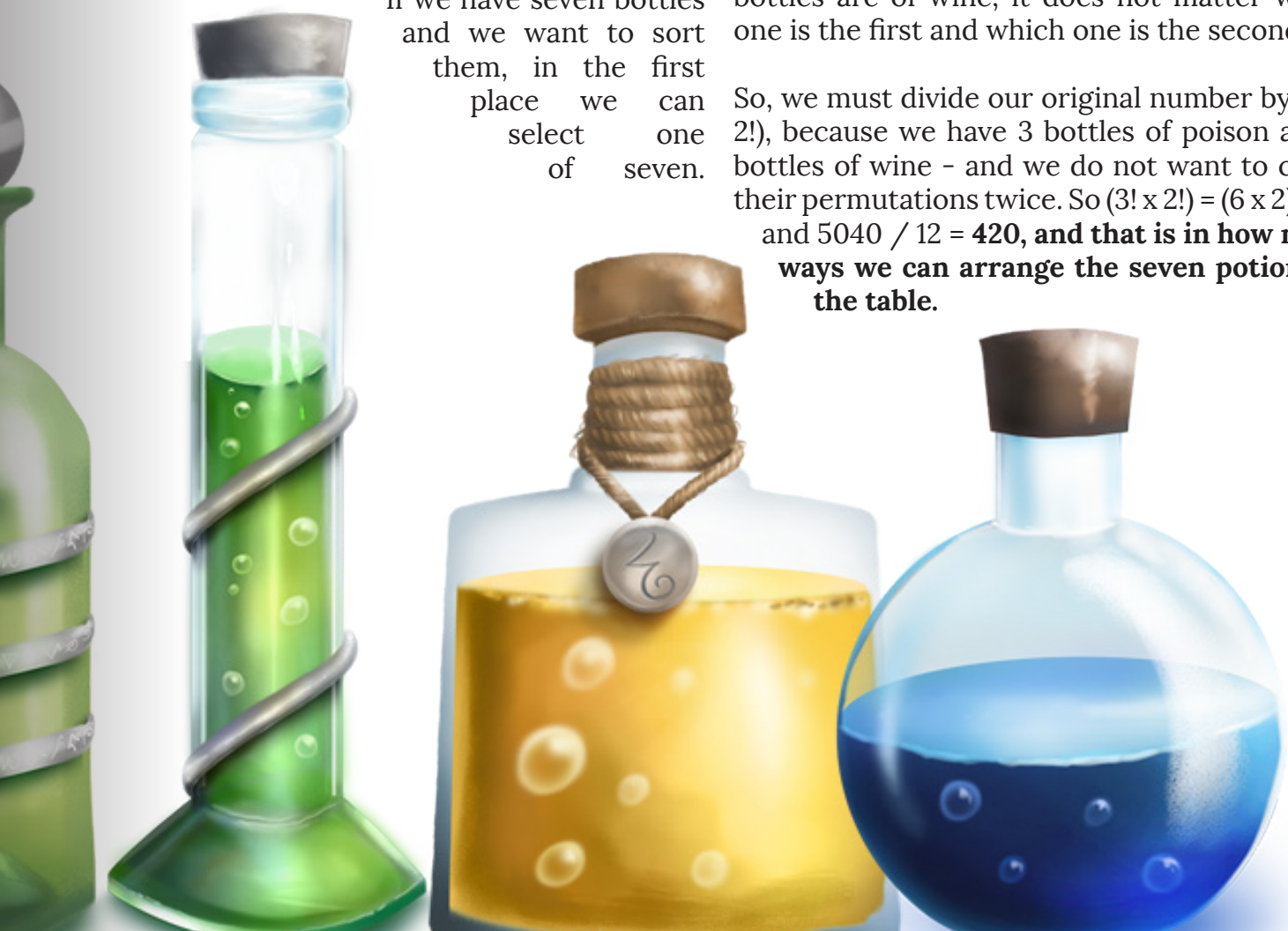
If we have seven bottles  
and we want to sort  
them, in the first  
place we can  
select one  
of seven.

That's seven possibilities. After we select the first one, we can select one of six. That is six possibilities - but that is after we select the first one, so it would be six for each one of the initial seven. After the second one, we are left with five possibilities - but we already have selected the first two.

So, for the first position, we have 7 possibilities. For each one of these, we have 6. And for each one of these 6, we have 5. We can calculate all the possibilities with  $7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ , and that is factorial of 7, or  $(7!)$ . And the result is 5040.

However, we can reduce that number. We know there are three bottles of poison, two of wine, one to go forward, and one to go back. Let's assume that there is no difference between the bottles of the same kind, so the possibilities are reduced since it is the same if we internally change them. (For example, if the first two bottles are of wine, it does not matter which one is the first and which one is the second).

So, we must divide our original number by  $(3! \times 2!)$ , because we have 3 bottles of poison and 2 bottles of wine - and we do not want to count their permutations twice. So  $(3! \times 2!) = (6 \times 2) = 12$ , and  $5040 / 12 = 420$ , and that is in how many ways we can arrange the seven potions in the table.



## ANSWERS FROM THE WIZARDING WORLD USING MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC.

Now we know Harry and Hermione could have faced 420 different scenarios, Let's focus on the one they did. And mostly, is the puzzle solvable? And if it is, how?

We know there are 7 potions, two of them wine, three of them poison, one going back and one going forward. Let's call them **W** (wine), **P** (poison), **B** (going back) and **F** (going forward). We must arrange them. One possibility could be **W W P P P B F**, but we know that is not going to work.

Let's go back to the puzzle text. Besides the introduction, it provides four clues:

**Clue 1:** *However slyly the poison tries to hide, you will always find some on nettle wine's left side.*

Every **Wine** bottle has a **Poison** to its left.

**Clue 2:** *Different are those who stand at either end, but if you would move onward, neither is your friend.*

The first is different to the last one. And none of them is the **Potion Forward**.

**Clue 3:** *As you see clearly, all are different size. Neither dwarf nor giant holds death in their insides.*

We are unable to take anything from this one - since we cannot see the potions!

**Clue 4:** *The second left and the second on the right are twins once you taste them, though different at first sight.*

The second and the sixth one are of the same kind.

With these four clues we should be able to solve the

puzzle - at least Hermione was! We must note she had a little advantage: she was seeing the bottles, which is important for **Clue 3**: without knowing in which positions these potions are, we cannot take any fact from it.

From **Clue 1** we know we have two pairs of the form **PW**, so we can consider we have now 5 entities to order: **PW**, **PW**, **P**, **B** and **F**. There are many ways this could be arranged, so we have to continue.

**Clue 2** gives a lot of information. First of all, **F** could not be on either end of the table. Second, **W** could not be at the start, since it must have **P** on its left side. With this, we know the first potion in the table must be **P** or **B**.

If it is **P**, then the one at the right end is **W** or **B**. If the first one is **B**, the row ends with **W** or **P**. So we have these four possibilities so far:

P1: **P** X X X X **P W**

P2: **P** X X X X X **B**

P3: **B** X X X X **P W**

P4: **B** X X X X X **P**

Note that for P1 and P3, we also know the sixth potion. As we previously said, **Clue 3** does not give us any information. But **Clue 4** is very useful: it says that the second and sixth potion must be the same type. As **Back** and **Forward** are unique, they cannot be in those positions, so they must be poison or wine.

Let's take Possibility 1: as the sixth one is **P**, the second one must be **P** too. And the only left place to its right must be **W**, so Possibility 1 becomes **P P W X X P W**.

With Possibility 2 we do not know what is in the sixth position, but using logic we can know. If position 6 contains **Poison**, then position 2 should have **Poison** too. And that would leave us with two **Wines**, and we would not be able to put them with a **Poison** to their left (one **Poison** for each one), so this cannot happen. Then, wine must be in position two and position six.





## ANSWERS FROM THE WIZARDING WORLD USING MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC.

And having wine at position six, **Poison** is placed at position five. Then, Possibility 2 becomes **P W X X X P W B**.

In the case of Possibility 3 we only can add **P** to the second position, leaving us with **B P X X X P W**, but nothing else.

Possibility 4 would give us a little rest. We cannot put **W** in the second and sixth position, since the one in position 2 would not have **P** to its left. So we have to put **P** at both positions, but that would lead us to have **P P** on the last two positions. Then we could not match the two **W** to two **P** to have to their lefts. So Possibility 4 cannot work and we must get rid of it.

Without seeing the table with the potions, this is how far we can get. We have three (incomplete) possibilities:

**P P W X X P W**, **P W x x P W B** and **B P x x P W**. Since the first and second one can be divided into two possibilities each, and the third one into four possibilities, we end up with eight possibilities:

1. **P P W B F P W**
2. **P P W F B P W**
3. **P W F P P W B**
4. **P W P F P W B**
5. **B P W P F P W**
6. **B P P W F P W**
7. **B P W F P P W**
8. **B P F P W P W**

Without seeing it, we cannot use **Clue 3** and that is how far we can get. However, we can continue the exercise to try to figure out which was the scenario Harry and Hermione faced (using a clue giving by the narration of the book), and how Hermione was able to resolve it.

We know Hermione identified successfully the potions, and she drank from the **Back potion** from the end of the line. That narrows the eight possibilities to only two, 3 and 4:

1. **P W F P P W B**
2. **P W P F P W B**

But can we know if **Forward** potion is in position 3 or 4? Well, the narration tell us Harry drank from it, and it was the smallest bottle in the table.

We know Hermione resolved the puzzle, so there must be something in **Clue 3** that allowed her to choose one from the eight possibilities we considered above. That clue says the largest and the tiniest bottle is **Wine**, **Forward** or **Back**. If the largest potion had been the **Back** at the end of the row, it would have been impossible for Hermione to identify it. But if the largest had been in position 2 or 6 (both **Wine**), Hermione could have filtered the eight possibilities down to the two (because all the others have **Poison** in 2 and 6).

In that scenario, if the smallest potion was in position 3 or 4 (which apparently was), that could be only the **Forward** potion, and Hermione would have solved the puzzle, and also knew she had arrived at the right answer.

And that is how you can be in Hermione's shoes and solve the puzzle that Snape put for them - or for anyone who wanted to get to the Philosopher's Stone. It is hard to imagine that Quirrell/Voldemort were able to solve it too, maybe Voldemort knew a way to go through fire without using the potion.

But in case you are not as powerful as Voldemort, you may use all the logical power to decipher the riddle and keep on your path to the Mirror of Erised to get the Philosopher's Stone.



