### Zine story of Magic Issue 13. November 2017. ily Trail **FORBIDDEN FOREST** DUDLEY **DEMENTED** DO I KNOW YOU?

## WHEN INDOUBT GOTOTHE LIBRARY

THE HARRY POTTER EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY



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The Rowling Library www.therowlinglibrary.com

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#### THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

# THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

Daimy visited the new attraction at the Warner Bros Studio Tour in England. This is her report.

#### **DAIMY MULDER**

On March 31st 2017, the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London opened a new set: The Forbidden Forest. On the 1st of September 2017 I visited the Studios once again and went into The Forbidden Forest for the first time!

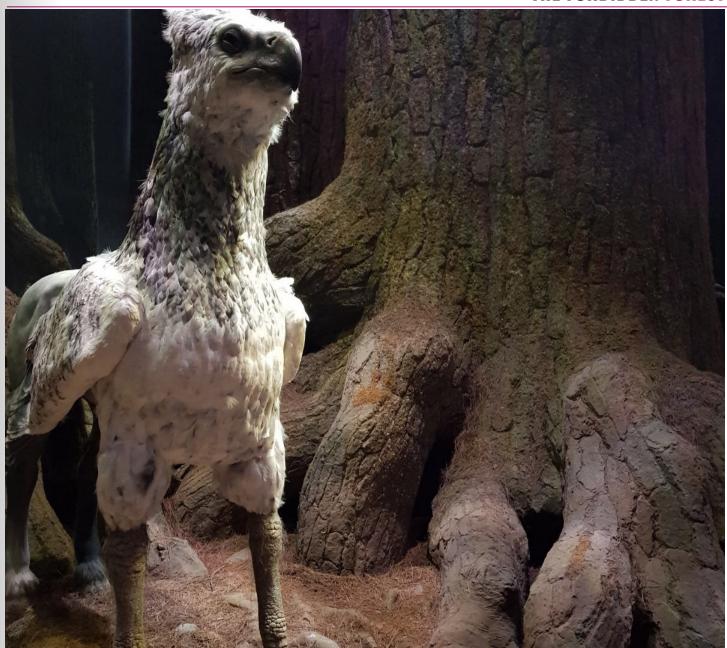
The Forbidden Forest appeared in several Harry Potter books and movies. Originally, the Philosopher's Stone was a combination of location and studio shooting. In the Chamber of Secrets they

changed all of it into studio shooting in order to house Aragog and his family and it continued to grow throughout the film series. In Deathly Hallows scenic artists created backdrops that were up to six hundred feet in length. The Forbidden Forest at the Studio Tour is filled with 19 trees each with a diameter of over 12 feet.

The set is really big, bigger than I ever imagined it to be. When you first walk through a gate that is flanked by winged boars, you are welcomed by Hagrid. As you walk along the very squishy,



#### THE FORBIDDEN FOREST



pine needle covered forest floor, you are surrounded by immense trees, toadstools, and fantastic beasts. You will find Buckbeak the Hippogriff there as well, but be careful, you you need to gain his trust at let him bow for you. Also be aware of the massive cobwebs and the spiders that come with it, because every once in while they will come down and bring Aragog along!

Another thing I really liked about this set is that it is very interactive. You can control the weather there; switch from daytime to nighttime, let it storm or scare everyone with a bit of thunder

and lightning. And if you think about your most powerful, happy memories you can even cast a Patronus!

The Forbidden Forest even has its own shop that sells Forbidden Forest merchandise, such as t-shirts, mugs, plush animals and jewellery. You can also check that out at their online shop.

So, if you are brave enough to face all these scary creatures you should definitely visit The Forbidden Forest at The Warner Bros. Studio Tour London because it is absolutely magical!

## WHEN IN DOUBT, GO TO THE LIBRARY

Last month, a new exhibition about the Harry potter books at The British Library opened. Our collaborator visited it and he tells us all about it.

#### DAVID F. CHAPMAN

To mark the 20th Anniversary of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the British Library have installed a groundbreaking exhibition that explores not only the history of the books, and their creation, but also the history of magic - the folklore, tales, and mythologies that have inspired aspects of J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World.

We were lucky enough to get tickets the moment they became available back in April 2017, and managed to experience the exhibition this week in its first few days of opening. Mild spoilers for those who are planning on attending.

I must admit it was my first experience of the British Library, and my wife's first time at it's new location, conveniently next door to King's Cross/St. Pancras. Unfortunately, photography is not allowed in the exhibition, but we managed to take a couple of shots of the main entrance, the huge house banners that dominate, and the display of flying keys just before you pass the barriers.

The exhibition itself is arranged by Hogwarts class subject, and (thankfully) you are free to move through the rooms at your own pace.





Before the first "class" you are greeted by books flying over your head, and Jim Kay's original pencil artwork of Harry. A gorgeous piece of art it its own right, and far bigger than we'd imagined the original would be. Next to it is J K Rowling's original synopsis for the Philosopher's Stone, as submitted to publishers when she was trying to get someone interested in the series. It seems strange, looking back, that publishers weren't quicker to leap on what would be the title that changed children's book publishing. This synopsis, along with Rowling's original sketch of the layout of Hogwarts, the grounds, and where the major locations that feature in the books are situated, are so monumental for a Potter fan it's understandable that the natural flow of the exhibit comes to a grinding halt almost before it starts.

This is possibly the only problem with the exhibition - the actual exhibits from history are fascinating, and amazing artefacts. But, the original typed or handwritten notes from Rowling herself are so monumental to the fans, that it can be a struggle to see them. Patience is the order of the day. Thankfully, all of the manuscripts and notes at the exhibition can be found in the companion book (Harry Potter: A History of Magic).

It also helps that the exhibition is brilliantly organised - with each class a mix of the ancient and inspirational, with a piece of Rowling's original work and at least one piece of illustration art from the books. It means that while you're waiting for the crowds to subside at Rowling's manuscripts, you can check out the history that

inspired some elements of the books. For the kids, each room has excellent interactive pieces where they can mix potions, listen to parts of the audiobooks, navigate the stars, divine their futures and try to spot fantastic beasts.

To back this up, kids are also given a different guide to the exhibition, with things to spot and puzzles to solve, which will keep them occupied while the older fans can look at the remarkable pieces of literature and ancient artefacts. With the exception of a couple of pieces, these artefacts are really closely tied to the world of Harry Potter, and you can see how they relate and inspire. Some standout artefacts are the ruined cauldron that was filled with a substance that exploded during a ritual, and the serpent wand and serpent staff that are all on loan from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle. All of which look like they could easily have appeared in Harry's world.

Each room is also brilliantly decorated with themed lighting (we particularly loved the cauldrons as chandeliers in the potions room, and the teacups in divination) along with subtle touches - check out the Golden Snitch in the Charms class! On the subject of decoration, a couple of pieces really stood out as being simply stunning. One is the painting "The Alchymist" by Joseph Wright presented in the Potions section. The other is one of my wife's favourite paintings, "The Magic Circle" by John Williams Waterhouse, mounted in the Defence Against the Dark Arts section. A gorgeous work of art (and huge) that is so evocative of the wizarding world, it is a perfect addition to the exhibition.

But, of course, the Harry Potter pieces really steal the show. Right next to Waterhouse's work of art is four typed pages from an early draft of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, displayed under the title "The Red-Eyed Dwarf" which is a fascinating look at a different beginning to the story we all know and love. Just reading the incredibly different take, with Hagrid visiting Fudge (a Muggle minister in this version) to warn him of the rising threat, and Dursley arriving to try to unload a baby Harry onto Fudge, is a great insight into the creative process and how the story would eventually evolve.

Along with a first edition of Philosopher's Stone,





annotated by J K Rowling, and one of the seven handwritten editions of The Tales of Beedle the Bard (the one gifted to Barry Cunningham, Rowling's first editor, on loan to the exhibition), there are unique sketches and notes that are wonderful to see in person.

The exhibition was busy, but not too packed their allotted times for entry was working a treat, and while initially it looked like the exhibition

was fairly small, we still spent two hours in there looking around and taking in as much as possible. It was definitely worth the trip if you can make it to London. If you can't, and you're in the UK, part of the exhibition will be touring libraries across the country next year.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

### Dudley Demented

by Jennifer Burke

J.K. Rowling wrote a best-selling series of books 20 years ago: since then, the Harry Potter series has found itself on the shelf among classics and there it will remain. The brilliance of these books is the combination of classic literary devices and modern issues delivers a huge punch of imagination, adventure, and emotion that resonates with its readers in a real way. Rowling begins with traditional literary motifs and then puts a spin on them that keeps the reader surprised and wanting more.

In class literature, particularly fairy tales, there's a consistent idea of the evil stepmothers who mistreats her stepchild and favors her rude, bossy child. This is what happens with Harry: Petunia fills the role of the evil stepmother and Dudley fills the role of the spoiled, favored biological child. Typically, the motif follows that through a series of events, the hero is pushed out into the world, succeeds either by help of fairy godmothers or other sources of magic, returns triumphant and the stepmother is punished, with the stepmother's child, "whom she favors at the expense of the [hero], often shares the older woman's punishment" (Garry and El-Shamy 371, 363). Where Rowling has created a huge twist in this motif is that Harry is pushed into a new world, gifted with magic, tested, and comes back triumphant...but there is no punishment to Petunia and Dudley. In this case, it is the stepbrother who provides the grace that saves the stepfamily.

Dudley appears to be the classic spoiled child. He is given everything he wants (and throws a fit to ensure it!) and is provided every opportu-



nity to succeed in life. Petunia and Vernon go to great lengths to ensure that Dudley is pleased (37 birthday presents for an 11 year old, anyone?) and put him in a private school to give him advantage over public school children. They are obsessed with status and always believe that Dudley can do no wrong. True to the classic fairy tale, Harry, being the "stepchild" is given the scraps and made to work for Dudley. The series opens with Petunia banging on his door and telling him to get up and make Dudley's birthday breakfast (Sorcerer's Stone 1). He's given leftover clothing and even sleeps in a cupboard until magic intervenes.

Through the series, Dudley just grows from a big, bratty, and mean child to a bigger, brattier, meaner teenager. He bullies neighborhood children and vandalizes property (Order of the Phoenix 3) and is used to leading his pack of friends. While he still has an underlying fear of his cousin and his magical abilities, it doesn't stop him from taunting him whenever possible. In the beginning of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, the year that Dudley and Harry turn 15, they are attacked on the streets of Little Whinging by dementors, one of them centering in on Dudley (17). In the Bloomsbury Live Chat Interview, Rowling said that when Dudley encountered the dementors, he saw himself for what he really was - a brutal bully who was spoiled and caused strife and discomfort to anyone who was around him. Shortly after this scene, he watches his mother become frightened at hearing that Voldemort is back, revealing that she knows more than she has ever let on and recognizes the danger Harry is in. This is

the first time Dudley has seen his mother show any realization that he has been raised to be a horrible person, and there's very little chance that he walked away from this unchanged (38).

Most likely, we as readers overlook this easily (part of Rowling's genius), as we're more focused on Petunia's fear and we forget about the instance until Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. We are now a full year after Dudley has been attacked. There certainly doesn't seem to be any indication that he has changed, but when Dumbledore arrives at the house to take Harry with him, subtle evidence emerges. The Dursleys are crammed onto their couch and while Dumbledore talks about Harry's situation, both past and current, we read that, "Dudley was frowning slightly, as though he was still trying to work out when he had ever been mistreated" (Loc 926). We must keep in mind that we are seeing this situation through Harry's eyes in this instance and it is easy to forget a very important point: Dudley is hearing the real reason that his cousin came to live with him and his family. Dudley is hearing, for the first time, what happened to his aunt and uncle and the fact that his household provides powerful protection for his cousin and his parents have mistreated him. When we see this through the lens of Dudley's discovery that he's a spoiled bully, we can see that he's not frowning because he doesn't understand: he's frowning because he realizes that he has everything that Harry has ever wanted and that Harry has had to endure incredible amounts of pain, some of it being caused by him and his family.

We see further evidence of Dudley's changes in the beginning of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Harry has had very little interaction with Dudley in over a year. Dudley's gesture of putting out a cup of tea for Harry is no insignificant gesture (13, 40). For a boy who has terrorized children for fun, thrown fits to get presents, and has done everything possible to be nothing short of cruel to his cousin, this is a deeply moving act. What follows is nothing short of shocking. Dudley decides to trust Harry, go with the Order for protection, but then demands to know why Harry isn't coming

(38). He wants his cousin to be safe. Petunia, of course, just fawns over her child even more.

If this story were a fairy tale, Harry's aunt and cousin would receive some sort of punishment for their treatment of Harry through the years. However, what Rowling does instead of concluding the Dursley's story in the classic motif, is show us the might of self-actualization and the very real positive results when we decide better paths. Instead of remaining a brat, Dudley allows the clarity of who he is and his cousin's story to change him, and in this simple but powerful choice, saves his family from the typical fairy tale fate.

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## DO I KNOW YOU?

#### AYELÉN VEGAGIL ESPÓSITO

It is no secret that Rowling has a strong belief in politics and human rights, so to understand better her stories you just should analyze the History and search for the hints in her ideologies. For that reason, it would be no surprise for us to draw parallelisms and similarities among her main characters from the Wizarding World, so let's take a look at them:

#### A turn through History

Harry James Potter was born in 1980, for the muggle world, that decade was a little bit unstable, because with the ending of the Cold War and the increase of the discomfort in the population, living in the UK had been altered. Just as in the Magical World, the citizens were divided into strong political believes. The Tories lost against the Whigs in 1998 – overlapping with the year in which Lord Voldemort was defeated.

Also in Europe, there were other important events that perhaps influenced Jo's writing: in 1990. The fall of Berlin's Wall can be detected in the way in which Rowling decided to create the strong beliefs of her Death Eaters and the crumbling and defeated feelings they experienced by the falling of their Leader. They built an imaginary wall that divided them from other wizards who they usually saw as "traitors to their blood". And this is interesting, because here starts the parallelisms between the context in the stories of Harry Potter and those starred by Newt Scamander.

Rowling puts racism and discrimination as the main evil soldiers in the War for Power. The Greater Good, no matter in which world you are living on, always symbolized recreation of Human race. It had to be perfect and powerful, and in order to achieve it, the leaders always went to extremes usually macabre, even if some of those methods achieved many fine discoveries, in scientific areas. As Niccolò Machiavelli once said, "the ends justify the means".

As you can imagine now, the most influential group of muggle villains that Jo adopted as reference for her books, were the Nazis. And for that reason, it is no surprise that Newt Scamander's stories are developed at the same time when Hitler was gaining power. She has used these references to point out her criticism to the growth racism that our world is facing. She believes that there is always hope through the younger generations, as long as they will be willing to believe that they have something good to fight for. We see this in Harry, and we are starting to see it in Newt.

There are a lot of her characters that are influenced by her views on History, one prominent example is the Black family, where we can find evil and good characters. We have the purists, and then the rebels, the more powerful ones as well as their stories, were the ones that helped to find that epic ending in the Harry Potter books. A lot of these can be explained in the article that she wrote for the Telegraph, where she reviewed the works of one of her favorite authoresses, Jessica Mitford. Jessica was a woman, who was born in the aristocratic circle of England, that fled her country and then married a man who her family disapproved of, because of he didn't approve of their Nazi ideology. Some experts noted that this woman could be the influence behind the charismatic character of Andromeda Tonks- née Black, and her family history.

During an interview at Carnegie Hall, Rowling stated: "I wanted Harry to leave our world and find exactly the same problems in the wizarding world. So, you have the intent to impose a hierarchy, you have bigotry, and this notion of purity, which is this great fallacy, but it crops up all over the world. People like to think themselves superior and that if they can pride themselves in nothing else they can pride themselves on perceived purity. So yeah that follows a parallel [to Nazism]".

The main villains in Jo's wizarding novels, are Lord Voldemort and Gellert Grindelwald. Both can be associated to some of the most influential leaders of the Muggle World, with their extremist beliefs, and the way they could gain power through their charisma. Let's analyze each character:

Lord Voldemort was just a powerful villain that took the notions of his magical forerunner and turn them into reality. He is the depiction of the conservative views that were struggling at that time in the muggle world, and that are nowadays spreading in the xenophobic views that some of our current Leaders seem to have. Rowling stated that she had based him on the characters of Hitler and Stalin.

Through the pages of Harry Potter's adventures, Gellert Grindelwald was depicted as a very powerful wizard who sought to create a kind of supreme gender, just as Hitler in the muggle world. He was tired of the structures of the Wizarding World, that obliged the wizards to hide from the muggles in plain sight. He saw these policies as a way to diminish the true nature of magic, and felt that all the wizards were superior to those who had no magical abilities. Sounds like the Nazi Ideology too, isn't it? Funnily enough Jo even "borrowed" the insult mudblood from them.

So Grindelwald was a huge influential leader, just as his muggle counterpart, and for this reason this writer thinks that we are going to see him gaining allies in the next installment of Fantastic Beasts and where to find them, just as Hitler was gaining his, in 1926. Maybe we will see what Dumbledore does in order to stop him.

In Harry Potter, Dumbledore created the Order of the Phoenix, whose main goal was to act as a spy agency gaining allies to fight against Voldemort. But, I wonder if he didn't do anything like this during the War against Grindelwald. Could it be possible that we are going to see the foundations of the Order? We know already that the Order was created during the 70's, so mostly this other "army" of allies could be considered as the foundation of this group, like the muggle versions of the MI5 and MI6, or the FBI and the CIA.

One thing is sure, Newt Scamander helped Dumbledore to defeat Grindelwald, just as Dumbledore himself helped Harry in his quest to destroy Voldemort.

#### The Modern History of the Wizarding World

We are more familiar with the Wizarding World History that revolves around the times of Harry Potter.

We already know that Voldemort was once a student of Hogwarts, his house was Slytherin and he was very interested in the Dark Arts – not to mention that he was the Slytherin Heir. His childhood was not idyllic, and in a way, he was influenced by his feelings of power. He as a wizard had the power to hurt those who were against him and his views. This was explained through Dumbledore's memories, when he shows Harry a memory of when he visited young Tom Riddle and this little boy was taking pleasure by torturing his muggles companions at the orphanage.

Voldemort had two ascents into power, both thwarted by Harry Potter and Dumbledore's allies. And here is one of the most interesting things: Dumbledore's involvement in the War. He not only fought against Voldemort, but also

#### DO I KNOW YOU?

against Grindelwald. He was an active leader, a thinker, who knew what could happen if someone plays into the Dark Side, because of his involvement with Gellert Grindelwald.

Grindelwald is, in a way, a lot more powerful than Voldemort. He gained power from his charisma and not from the terror that he inspired. He was a very intelligent man, prideful of his heritage as wizard, and resentful to the muggle world for reasons yet to be discovered. His intelligent and curious disposition –and perhaps also because he was raised among wizards–, made him aware of the legend of the Deathly Hallows. Grindelwald discovered, at least, the existence of one of them: The Elder Wand. A Wand that is capable of destroy every opponent of the wizard who possesses it.

The legend says, that the wizard who were in possession of the three Deathly Hallows will become the Master of the Death. Was Grindelwald seeking to be immortal as Lord Voldemort with his Horcruxes? This could also point out the reason why we are going to see the famous alchemist Nicholas Flamel, in the next installment of Fantastic Beasts. He is the creator of the Philosopher's Stone, the same one that Voldemort wanted to steal for its Elixir of Life, in Harry Potter's first year at Hogwarts.

Also, what makes Grindelwald a lot more dangerous was his dealings in foreign countries. As detailed in the Goblet of Fire, this wizard was a Drumstrang student –a school set somewhere in Norway or Sweden, best known for teaching Dark Arts–, and then he went to travel abroad gaining followers of his ideology. In his youth, one of them was Albus Dumbledore. Their friendship was mostly an exchange of wits, both of them fascinated with the idea to fight for the Greater Good, that was until Dumbledore discovered Grindelwald's true intentions and his dark side. The falling out was because of an "accident" of sorts during a duel, where Ariana Dumbledore lost her life.

The History has taught us that Ariana was a squib, but after some of the revelations that we encounter during Fantastic Beasts, there seems to be a lot of casualties that could prove that she was instead an Obscurus. It seems that Grindelwald wanted to experiment with Obscurus forces, because of their powerful and destructive nature that could make him unstoppable against his enemies. Something similar to the quest that Voldemort took to gain the Elder Wand. Though, it is a weakness from his part to only had searched for one of the Hallows, instead of the three. Voldemort was a selfish creature, while Grindelwald's motives are still uncertain but defined by his thirst to create chaos to broke the balance between the Wizarding and Muggle World.

It seems that before Grindelwald, the Wizarding World had another war of sorts, and this is specified when Percival Graves interviews Newt Scamander, stating that his elder brother was a War Hero of sorts. Newt is compared to his brother, just as Harry was compared to his father.

During his school time, Newt went to Hufflepuff, and for what he talked with Queenie, he didn't feel as he belonged into it. Harry felt the same, he even questioned the Sorting Hat in his second year about this. But in each adventure that he lived, he proved that he indeed belonged, and I think that is what is about to happen with Newt now. Harry was supported by his friends, and Newt is starting to realize it, at least that was what it seemed to happen with his involvement with the no-mag, Jacob Kowalski, and the Goldstein sisters.

Through the Order of the Phoenix, Harry felt like an outcast, and this lead him to meet Luna Lovegood properly. A girl that seems to have a lot of connections with the Scamanders, that may be the bridge we are looking for, to unify Harry's and Newt's stories. On side note, did you know that Jo was tempted to make Rolf Scamander be the one who tells Harry about the

Deathly Hallows, instead of Xenophilus Lovegood? And as you know, Luna married Rolf, who is Newt's grandchild. So, could it be possible that Newt knows about the Deathly Hallows? I am still pondering the final phrase that Grindelwald gives Newt in the movie. Could it be linked to the Hallows in some way? Maybe there is an Order of the Hallows and the Scamanders are active members? One of the questions that I would like to ask Jo, is why she ever not included Rolf Scamander in the Harry Potter saga, as it seems that she had already in mind Newt Scamander's story, while writing the books.

#### Déjà vu scenes

Let's be honest, there are a lot of similarities between Harry and Newt. Not only they share the feeling of being outcasts, they also happen to encounter a lot of danger in their paths, as well as counting with loyal friends.

At the beginning of Harry Potter's story, he is a boy who encounters the unexpected. He discovers that he is a Wizard, and that there is this other hidden world where there a lot of others like him. And is in that point when he meets Ronald Weasley, a wizard boy who will act as his guide in this new world. Together they will live dangerous adventures, while breaking some rules. In the case of Newt Scamander, this is played quite different, he is already a wizard, but during an accidental episode at a muggle bank, he meets Jacob Kowalski. Jacob is a muggle, and Newt will guide him through the Wizarding World, even when it is dangerous and illegal. You can say that Harry and Newt are both rule breakers.

Then we meet Hermione Granger a know-it-all witch, who is always behind the tails of Harry and Ron until the three of them defeat a troll. Just like Propertina Goldstein, who is trying to discover the motives behind Newt's journey to the States, and what is he hiding in his suitcase. They develop a friendship of sorts when Tina accepts to help Newt to find the Fantastic

Beasts, that were accidentally set free.

Did you notice the similarity of the scene where Newt points Tina out that she has some mustard smeared in her mouth, with the one where Hermione tells Ron that he has dirt in his nose? Well, it's funny that this is one of their first interactions, because both of this couples are destined to be together in a romantic way.

If we are talking about romance, also we can take similarities between Harry and Ginny, and Jacob and Queenie. Ginny is drawn to Harry for his singularity, he is different from other wizards (he defeated Lord Voldemort as a baby, you know?), and Harry starts to feel an attraction to the unexpected qualities that he discovers in Ginny, through the sixth book. A little bit like this happens with Jacob and Queenie. She is surprised to find someone different, even though he is not magical, and he is smitten not only by her charming looks but for her caring personality.

Now, what about Leta Lestrange? If you look carefully, you can see similarities to this story as the one of Severus Snape and Lily Evans. So maybe, we are going to have a new "Always" on the way.

The Mary-Lou ordeal is just like the repression that Harry suffered during his childhood at the Dursley's household. It is possible to take Credence, as a reference of what could have happened if Harry had repressed his magic as his Uncle and Aunt wanted him to do.

So, you see? There are a lot of connections, parallelisms and similarities that we find in every dot and every turning page. We can expect a lot of this, but be sure that even with its predictability, this new journey still will be magical.

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## 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.





The Tales of Beedle the Bard Illustrated Edition October 2nd, 2018

October 2nd, 2018 Bloomsbury (United Kingdom) Hardcover

Lethal White

[No date yet] Little, Brown and Co. (United Kingdom) Hardcover



