



Issue 14. February 2018.

Magazine



**LETHAL
WHITE
WHAT WE
CAN EXPECT**

**MORE
EDITIONS
FOR
EVERYONE**

WHAT IS GLOBUS MUNDI?

OUR ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER THE LATEST MYSTERY

POTTER CONNECTIONS FOUND ON SOCIAL MEDIA + 2000 AOL CHAT + MORE



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The Rowling Library
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THE WIZARDING WORLD BOOK CLUB

POTTER CONNECTIONS FOUND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

JENNIFER BURKE

One of the joys of any fandom is finding like minded people. Thanks to the good folks at Pottermore, many of us had this opportunity this past year. In June 2017, Pottermore announced that they would be launching a Wizarding World Book Club on Twitter. I was immediately fascinated with the concept. Being a librarian who has organized and run many book clubs, I was curious to see how they would manage to run a weekly club via the internet on a worldwide scale.

The premise was simple: they would begin with **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**, set a number of chapters to be read for each week, then ask questions about those chapters, based on a particular theme, every Friday at 4pm GMT (Greenwich mean Time) on the main Twitter page (@wwbookclub). There is an introduction to the theme as well as little "ponderings" to think about as you read on the book club's website. While attendance has dropped since its inception in June 2017, there is still an average of 300 independent responses to each question. These 300-some responses do not include the discussion that inevitably occurs as a result. These discussions are quick-paced, thought-provoking, and often quite passionate.

While this has been great fun, there has been deeper benefits to this group. I have participated since its beginning and I have been able to connect and build real friendships with people from all over the world from California to India,

from London to the Philippines. Groups have formed and there are at least a few constantly running direct messages. The message group that I am in is active at every moment of the day, due to our 44 members covering so many time zones. Discussion ranges from Harry Potter themes and our thoughts (and sometimes resulting in arguments!) about characters to food, culture, and politics of our different regions. Never have I found a group of such different, but like minded, people. Our youngest member is 14 years old; our oldest in their 50's.

I am not alone in finding such joy and comfort in getting to know Rowling's world and others who adore it so much: Gajanan (Janus) Yadao, from India, tells me that before this book club, he struggled with social media as a way of connecting to other people. "Being friends on social media with a person whom I know in person...I can't deal with this concept, I had a Facebook account and it was just a vanity fair. I don't want to share this space of twitter with muggles." He spoke about how these types of fandoms are often met with discrimination in his country and that Harry Potter books are seen as just for children. Book club started as just a diversion for him, but "it's not about the books anymore; guess that's the magic which brings us together...we all share the same rhythm." Reading Janus' replies to my questions made me feel like I was listening to my own thoughts. This kind of rhythm he talks about is what makes us feel a little less alone in the world.

Pernille B. Anderson of Denmark remarks that

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she loves the mutual respect that happens during discussions. “Everyone can express their opinions without discarding others’... besides being a great excuse to yet again pick up and read the books, I get to have interesting, in depth discussions with a vast variety of people...I feel like I’m reading the books for the very first time.” What she enjoys most about the book club is meeting others from all over the world. “It has enabled me to learn more about different languages and cultures, and have, overall, opened my eyes and mind to a world great than I thought possible.”

Rowling’s books are all about these types of themes: opening our minds to the world about us, caring and respecting people from backgrounds and situations different from our own. Having a real and meaningful connection

to people and finding reasons to feel the passion in life. For Kris Listerman of the United States, the club has brought much needed friendship into her life. “Friendship had been lacking in my life, but joining the book club has enriched my life with bonds of friendship. I feel the magic within the book club as Harry Potter readers truly understand the importance of friendship and love.” There has been serious discussion amongst many of us of meeting in person. We have attempted to find dates and times and locations where we could meet each other face to face and experience, in person, the connections we have felt with each other during our online conversations.

While this may sound almost childish, there is a very meaningful element to the Harry Potter books. Rowling struck deep into human

THE WIZARDING WORLD BOOK CLUB

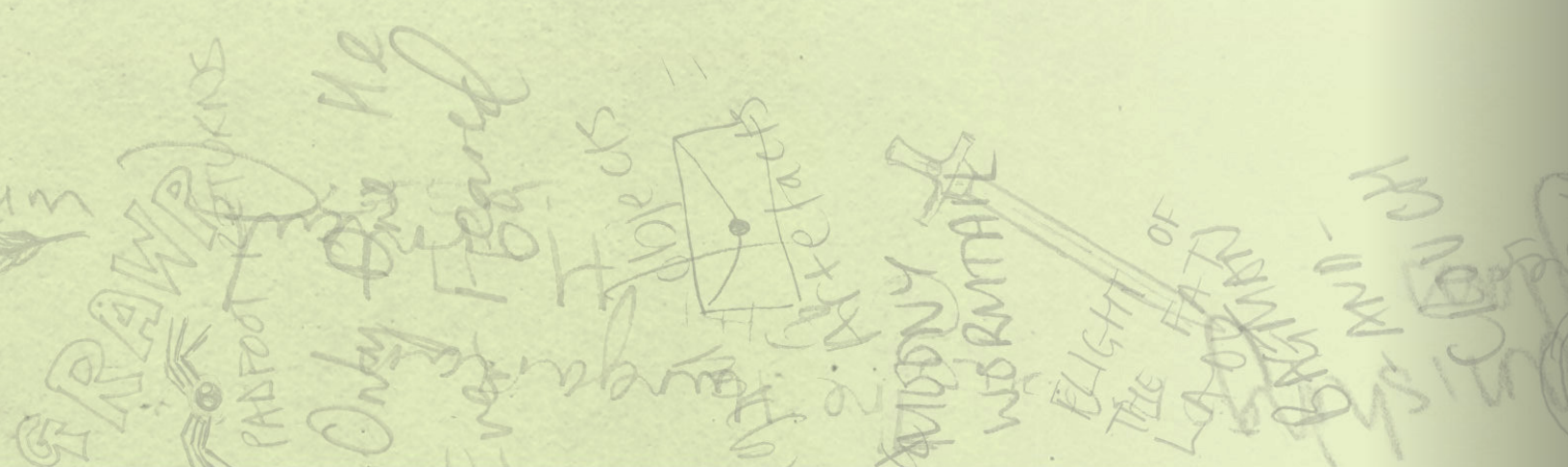
psychology when she developed and wrote these stories and it is reflected in the experience many of us have while reading them. Anjali Rawool of India says that she learned so much from Harry Potter. "Tolerance toward others came to me from these books. I try to find the reason behind one's behavior and always end up knowing that the roots are dug deep inside. You always think you are the most miserable but that's never true. When you read the first pages of Deathly Hallows, it reveals there is more to Petunia, very complex. Hatred, jealousy, love, kindness, guilt." Janus agreed that these books are deep and help us through very real, very difficult times. He speaks about moving around frequently growing up: "As a child, fantasy-fiction fascinated me. No wonder years later, I read Potter books to get rid of depression and anxiety...Neville, Severus, Remus, Draco, Luna, and Xenophilius have a special place in my heart because these are the people who were constantly reminding me of myself at various points while reading." Reading about traumatic backgrounds of characters, deep loss, and the importance of love strikes many of us.

Janus so deftly points out, "These books discuss that very theological question: Why do good people suffer?...There's no area which has left

untouched in these books: education system, bullying, sports, international cultural relations, sociology, politics, psychology, philosophy, morality, love, grudge, remorse, envy, jealousy, manipulation, prejudice, social discrimination, human rights issue, cultural differences between two communities, dating, (illegal) drinks & drugs, breakup, marriage, money, media, crime, jurisdiction, war, peace, life, death... List goes on and on. These are the areas, emotions we humans deal with in our day to day life. I'm not a first generation reader; still I should say that I grew up with those characters. I learned a lot from them."

For many of us, we have struggled to find this type of connection and meaning in those we interact with on a day to day basis. In this case, social media has brought positivity into our lives instead of the too-common negativity. For that, we thank you, Jo.

If you are interested in participating in the WIZARDING World Book Club, discussions happen on the @wwbookclub Twitter page every Friday at 4pm GMT. If you are interested in reading about past discussions, themes, or chapter sets, visit www.pottermore.com/wizarding-world-book-club



LETHAL WHITE: WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

LETHAL WHITE: WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

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.

JOHN GRANGER

J. K. Rowling's Twitter feed last week was a veritable flood of tweets on the status of the fourth Cormoran Strike novel, how she plans her books (a bit more on that), and even the physical tools she uses to write. Sadly, no news on when we can expect to read *Lethal White*.

We're overdue, though, for a review here of what we know already about the fourth book. We know quite a lot, I think, if the knowledge cannot be certain. Here is a survey for your comment, amendment, and correction!

(1) The Office Chain of Command — We know, because Rowling posted it on her Robert Galbraith site, that she has sketched the story of an office drama in which Robin goes undercover as the Personal Assistant to the CEO of a company.

Is this **Lethal White**? It's the best bet going, of course, but we don't know much beyond the personalities involved. Even the crime Robin is investigating is not revealed. Or, for that matter, if she's working for Strike still or on her own.

Perhaps she is a PA because she has left Strike to appease Matt and she was able to get the PA job she'd turned down in *Calling*? Keep your eye on that office manager, though. "Young, well-

intentioned, unhappy" and circled in Galbraith's notes.

For more on this chart and other Robert-Galbraith.com home-page hints and revelations, check this out. Note, too, the dog-eared magazine article on the subject of Barley Hall in York. Do we have a location predominantly outside London for the fourth mystery?

(2) The Timing — July, maybe August 2011

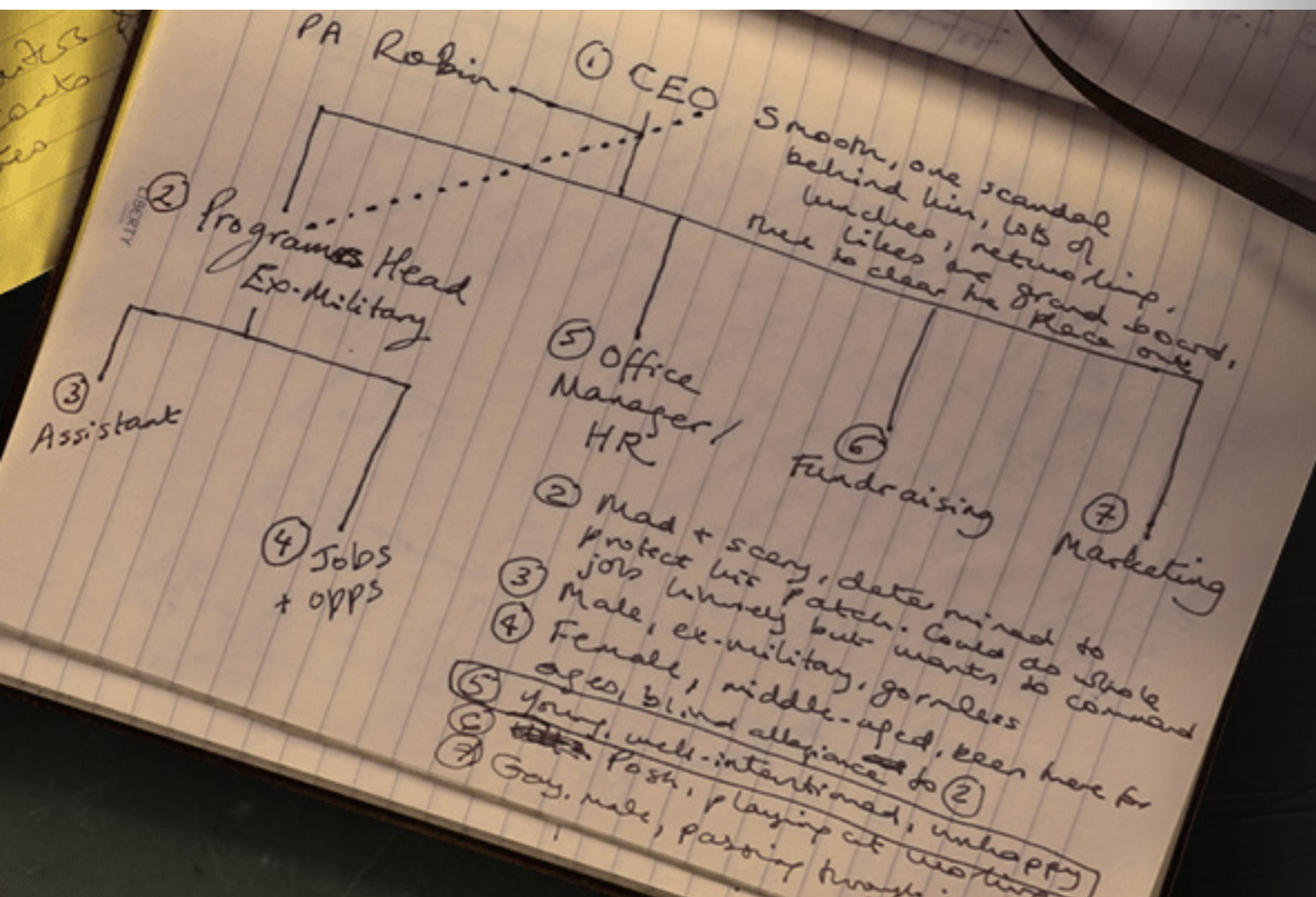
Rowling revealed in an interview post **Career of Evil** that we won't be left wondering about what happened at the wedding after Robin says, "I do." We know from the very helpful timelines posted at StrikeFans.com that the wedding was on 2 July 2011 and that the first three novels were about 1 month, 1 month, and 2 1/2 months, respectively, in duration.

Taking a look at news highlights in the UK for July and August, then, might give us an idea of the background noise likely to be heard in *Lethal White*. That may or may not be significant, but the Royal Wedding we kept hearing about certainly served as a perumbra of Robin and Matt's nuptials in *Career*.

Three things jump out, frankly, as possibilities.

First, that the *News of the World* suspended

LETHAL WHITE: WHAT WE CAN EXPECT



publication on 7 July 2011 because of blowback from the revelations that their reporters had hacked into the phones of celebrities and politicians. Rowling herself gave testimony that month in the Leveson inquiries. We have had hints of this controversy in Strike's conversations with Dominic Culpepper — see the opening chapter of *Silkworm* — and we know Rowling is no lover of the media. This could very well be foreground or background content of the fourth book.

Then there are the London riots in August of 2011. I doubt many Americans recall this event; reading up on it this morning, it seems doubtful that few in London will forget the days of rage that summer — or that a story told in that incipient chaos and looting could skip over it.

I've written here about some of the mysteries of Cormoran Strike's location, the Denmark Street premises in London — why we don't have any the hint of a reference to the 'Mousetrap' theater around the corner or the magnificent St Giles church just across the street — but, those aside, can Rowling-Galbraith write a story set in a combat zone and not reference the madness? It's said that London is a significant character in these books; if that character is having a seizure, will we know it?

"What about the Olympics?" If you've been thinking that **Lethal White** would involve the 2012 Olympic Games that took place in London, I may be the one who led you wrong. Years ago, Louise Freeman offered this idea as a possibility in conjunction with the theory that **Lethal White**



I'm fairly confident, then, that **Lethal White** is going to feature an appearance and revelation about Leda and Jonny, to include our first meeting with Daddy and memories of the other two Strike has had, in line with the Black Mass at Little Hangelton graveyard. *Career* gave us Robin's rape scene back-story. It's time for us to begin the at least four novel long drama of Strike vs Rokeby, the over-arching narrative of the series.

would be in correspondence with *Goblet of Fire* — and the Olympics with *Goblet's* Quidditch World Cup. I love that idea and have mentioned in multiple posts and podcasts since (to include this interview last week at 'New Plains Review'). Dr. Freeman wrote me privately to point out that this prediction she made before *Career* was published just won't do for a story set in 2011. And of course she's right. So... Riots, not Olympics.

And maybe Rowling will feel obliged to mention that the last Harry Potter film, 'Deathly Hallows, Part 2,' premiered in London theaters on 15 July, breaking all box office records for day of release. Maybe "obliged" is the wrong word. "Free at last"? How realistic has it been that Robin and Cormoran and the ever expanding cast of characters have made not one reference or aside to the Hogwarts Saga? Not very realistic. And think how funny it will be to have Cormoran and Robin revealing their familiarity (or lack of same) with Wizarding World details and characters...

What Seems Likely

Though the Olympics/World Cup parallel is a non-starter, the pace of the narrative release in the Strike books corresponds fit and groove with that of the Hogwarts Saga. We're learning about Leda Strike's death and Cormoran's supposed biological father, Jonny Rokeby, as fast as we did the details of what happened to the Potters in Godric's Hollow.

The *London Times* article that outed Rowling as Galbraith reported that the Strike books were to be a seven book series. Rowling and her publishers denied this at the time with the Presence going so far as to say she was not writing a series again. She has since walked that back, admitting what we know from reading the books, namely, that her claim was "bollucks."

The only question is how many numbers there will be in the Strike series. Rowling told the actor playing Strike in the teevee adaptations made by her Bronte Studios that there will be as many as "twelve more" novels. We don't know whether this means a total of fourteen, fifteen, or sixteen — did she want Burke to add twelve to *Silkworm* then in production, *Career* then published not filmed, or **Lethal White**, one in progress? — or just "a lot more than seven."

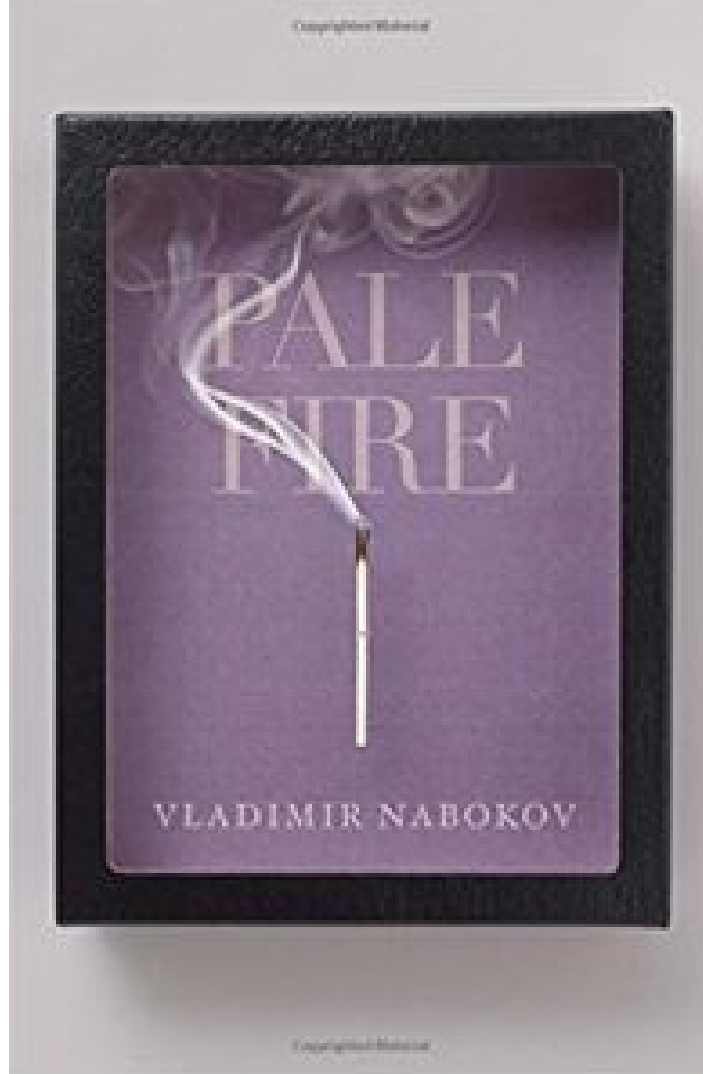
The correspondences between the first three Strike books and the first three Potter novels are significant enough to support the working hypothesis that they act almost as glosses or commentaries one set



LETHAL WHITE: WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

to another. Really, if you've read and re-read Nabokov's brilliant *Pale Fire* enough times, a parody of sorts of his own translation and commentary on Pushkin's Eugene Onegin, it seems as likely as not given all the similarities between Rowling and the author she "really loves." But few have read *Pale Fire* closely so the idea of such self-referencing or intratextuality seems a grand stretch.

The good news is that **Lethal White** will almost



certainly resolve the question of whether the books are plotted on a story structure akin to the seven book Potter Saga. The fourth book in a seven book series, if like the Hogwarts epic, will feature echoes of the first book as well as the significant leads to the finish as mentioned above.

If, for example, Charlotte Campbell returns

in **Lethal White** and Cormoran falls to the reservoired viral infection he has told us more than once his love for her is, that will be a strong link to *Cuckoo's Calling* and an inversion of its opening. Especially if we learn she was telling the truth about having conceived and lost their child. A break up of Matt and Robin's marriage soon after their nuptials are celebrated would also be the upside-down turning of *Cuckoo's* engagement.

And we have had one hint that we'll see an echo of *Cuckoo's Calling's* epigraphs in **Lethal White**. [Hat-tip, eagle eyed Beatrice Groves!] Mid-November, Rowling tweeted a picture of a kindness (tea and popcorn) her husband brought to her while writing – and included in the photo was a new translation of the poems of Catullus. Was Rowling referring to it to find apt chapter headers for *White*? That would be a switch back to the ones chosen for the first book and a real change from the Jacobean Revenge Drama pieces for *Silkworm* and the Blue Oyster Cult lyrics of *Career*.

Or it might just be that Strike makes one of those long readings from memory – in Latin, no less – as he did to Michael Fancourt in *Silkworm*, chapter 43 (401). Strike quotes Catullus 77 there to great effect – Fancourt guesses Ovid – so maybe Catullus is just a favorite? Actually, we know Catullus is his favorite. In chapter 41 of the same book, on learning that Charlotte is now Mrs. Jago Ross, he recites a couplet from Catullus 76, "words from his favorite book" (373).

Epigraphs from Catullus? That's an echo of the first book, I think, even if none of the classical epigraphs to *Cuckoo's* five parts are from Catullus. Citation in text? Not so much. Not to *Cuckoo* and the opening at least.

And there was a note sounded in Rowling's twitter feed last week that undermined the idea that the Strike series is a whole planned beginning to end before the first number was written. She said there that she "had the idea for the [**Lethal White**] plot in 2013." *Calling* was

LETHAL WHITE: WHAT WE CAN EXPECT

38 Life is really a bitch for you!
**THE POEMS OF
CATULLUS**

Cornificius, and (my god!) so boring **A BILINGUAL EDITION** and it keeps getting worse now, daily, hourly—yet have you—it would take the slightest, simplest effort—offered him any consolation?

GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS I'm pissed off with you. That much for my love, then? Please, please,

TRANSLATED, WITH COMMENTARY, BY
spare me some small consolation,
PETER GREEN words more tearful than the message on a gravestone!

reveals information about the CIB case that took him to the IED in Afghanistan rather than to the Rokeby story-line, I think we have another pretty strong clue that the series-in-correspondence hypothesis is, well, “bollucks.” Rowling in that case will seem to have committed only to having a significant set of back stories to fill in over the “more than twelve” novels to come rather than to a tight seven book ring.

I look forward to reading your thoughts! What do we know will happen in **Lethal White**, what do we hope to learn (who sent those roses to whom, anyway?), and what revelations will prove or disprove the seven part hypothesis?

Let the grand ‘informed speculation’ guessing game begin!



published in 2013. If the series was planned along the lines of Harry Potter, she would have had to have known the plot of **Lethal White** well before then so that pointers to it and echoes from it could be planted in *Calling* and the series finale.

The other story being told in Rowling's signature narrative release style so far has been the story of Strike's Army career in general and specifically the event that cost him the better part of his right leg. If we 'go there' and *White*



This article was first published on *Hogwarts Professor* (www.hogwartsprofessor.com) on February 5th, 2018



MORE EDITIONS FOR EVERYONE

MORE EDITIONS FOR EVERYONE

We have talked enough about this in our past issues - it was even a cover article back in May 2017 - but the topic is back again. Bloomsbury and Scholastic are going to relaunch the Harry Potter books with the content we all know, but with new covers.

Scholastic, the American publisher, took a different approach from its British counterpart. For the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the publication of the first book (this was in 1998

in the United States of America), they will republish the seven books with a different cover. The paperback books will be released in June, while the hardcover version will be presented in a boxed set that will go on sale in September.

The artist behind the new artwork is Brian Selznick, author of the *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* - also published by Scholastic -, the award winning book that was later adapted into a movie by Martin Scorsese (*Hugo*). *The*

Invention of Hugo Cabret is interesting as a book because it is not a novel but it is not a picture book either: it has almost 300 illustrations among its 533 pages, but it is not an illustrated novel, since the story is completely dependent on both images and words to develop. Selznick himself described it as “not exactly a novel, not quite a picture book, not really a graphic novel, or a flip book or a movie, but a combination of all these things”. Most of the artwork of the book depicts characters’ large faces in the foreground, occupying much of the space in the illustration. That is his style and although Selznick is

Harry Potter 20 YEARS OF MAGIC





only going to do the cover of the Harry Potter book - not inner art -, what we already saw is exactly what we expected.

In *A Celebration of Harry Potter 2018* in Universal Orlando, Scholastic showed a preview of Selznick work - a sketch made on pencil that shows Harry's face, covering almost the entire piece, and his scar in the foreground. The preview, which was also given away as a gift, is not going to be part of any cover, although could be featured in the boxed set that the publisher is planning for September. Selznick was present at the convention too, and he signed some of the postcards with his work that Scholastic

gave away.

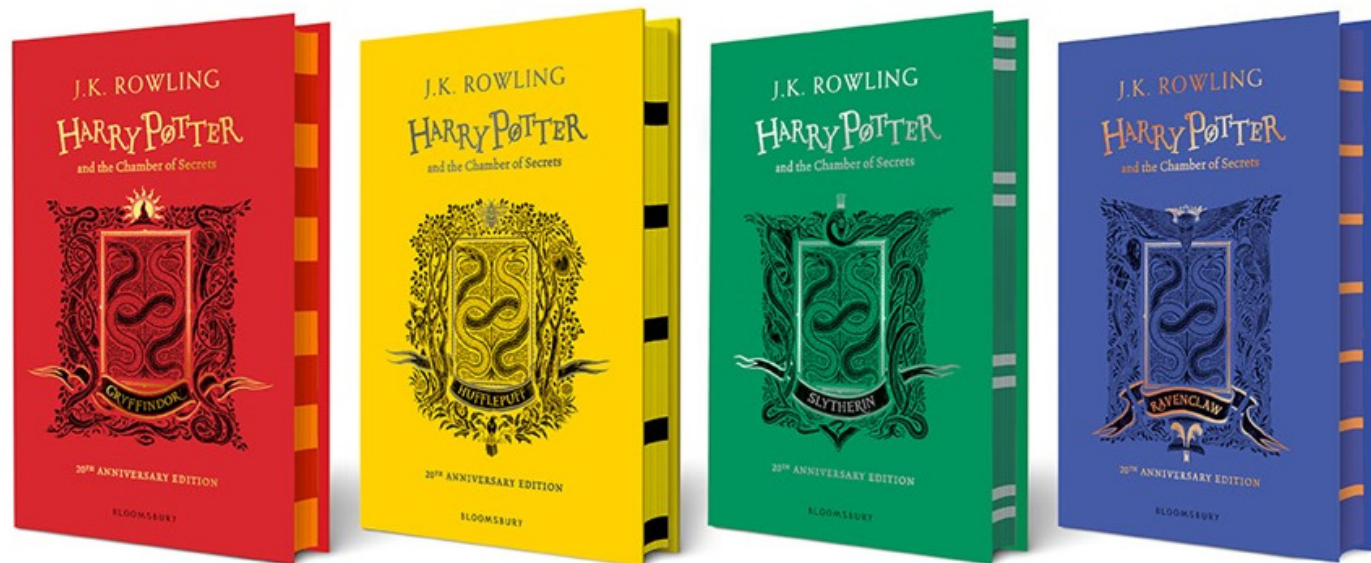
The boxed set, which is aimed for collectors (maybe it includes something special?) is already available for pre-order on Amazon for \$67.85, though it is not clear if it is a promotional price. Amazon also says that the release date of the box set is not September, but August 28th (not that far away, anyway). The individual books are not available on Amazon website for pre-order or even to check their prices, but they do appear in the British version of the website, Amazon.co.uk. There, each book has June 26th as its publication date, and the price goes from £9 to £12 (approximately 12.50 US dollars to 16.50 US dollars), depending on the installment.



But Scholastic is not the only one who is planning to empty fans' wallets this year. Bloomsbury announced that they will release an Anniversary Edition of the second book in the series, **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**. As they did with **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** last year, the new book will feature a new edition for each of the Hogwarts Houses, and one in each format: hardcover and paperback. For those who wants to own everything, that means eight new Harry Potter editions - only of *Chamber of Secrets* - to buy this year.

As with the previous book, Levi Pinfold is returning to work on the covers. This time, each cover will not feature the House Crest, but a similar illustration of two snakes, with a

MORE EDITIONS FOR EVERYONE

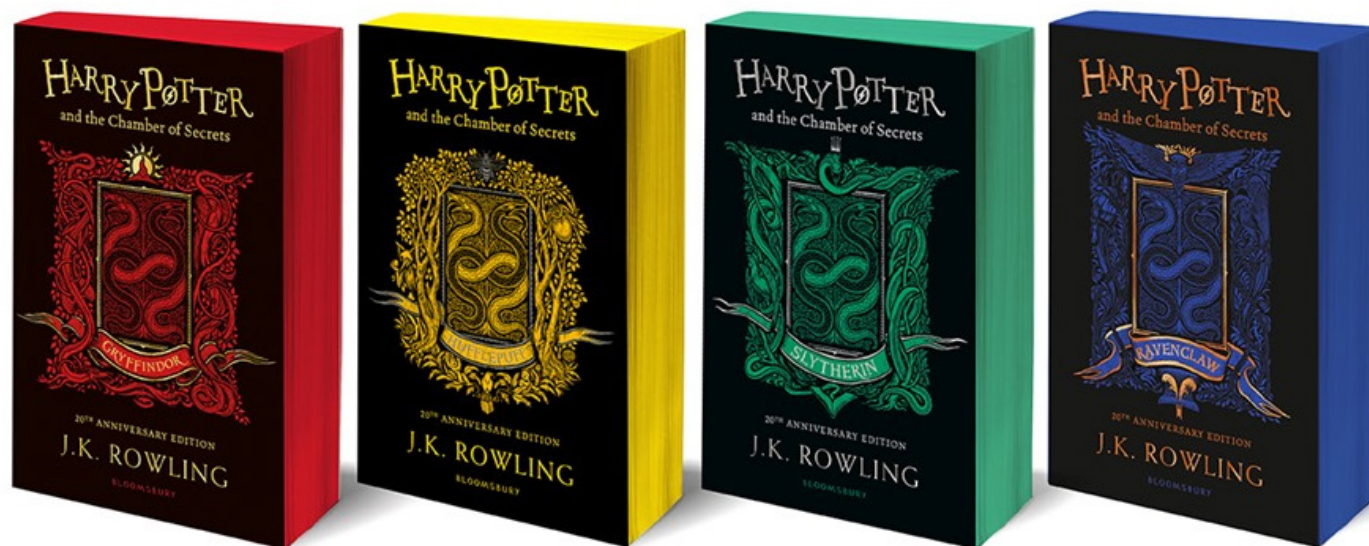


different frame for each edition. There is also a difference with *Philosopher's Stone*. While the hardcovers were black and the paperback were of the House color, this time it is the other way around. Bloomsbury said that “the colours for each of the House Editions in the Harry Potter series will alternate between black and the house colour, for the paperbacks and hardbacks, to create a beautiful set for your bookshelf!”

The books are already available for pre-order and will be £15 and £8, hardcover and paperback respectively. They will include extra material, although we can expect it to have already been published on the Pottermore website. Also, they will feature an illustration of the House Common Rooms by Pinfold. The publishers seem to be planning to release the Hogwarts

House editions for all the rest of the books, which means we could end up with 56 different copies of the Harry Potter books. And that's not all: the last one could be published in July 2027, the 20th Anniversary of the publication of **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**.

The Hogwarts House editions are only sold in the United Kingdom, since they are produced by Bloomsbury. International fans - even in the United States of America - have to buy them online from British e-commerces if they want them. Luckily for our friends from France - who this year also have the protagonism in *The Crimes of Grindelwald* -, Gallimard published the Hogwarts House edition of **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone** in French.



SUPPORT US!

A year ago, we launched a Patreon.com project for our readers. You now have the opportunity to support The Rowling Library financially, for a small monthly amount. This works around the world and it is very easy to set up. In exchange for your support, the platform gives rewards. The project is presented to support the monthly magazine - but as the team that works on the website and the magazine is the same one, the support goes for both media: the monthly PDF you can download for free and the website you can visit everyday where we publish the latest exclusive news and last minute articles.

You can join the group of our awesome supporters: Kenneth Montfort, Gemma Wallace, Elena Barnes, Veronica, Sissi Szeli, Vicky McKinley, Suzanne Lucero, and Kelly Slack. (It may be a small group, but we aim to keep growing, we are taking baby steps!)

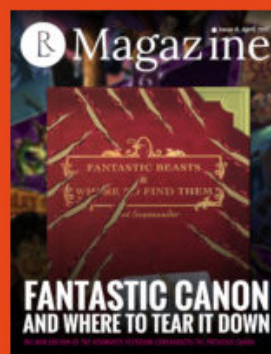
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Issue 2 - December 2016



Issue 1 - November 2016

WHAT IS GLOBUS MUNDI?

WHAT IS GLOBUS MUNDI?

There is a mystery surrounding Diagon Alley at The Wizarding World in Universal Orlando Resort and we have been trying to figure it out for the past two weeks. Back in December some Globus Mundi Travel Agents merchandising went on sale and it started selling fast during A Celebration of Harry Potter 2018. The sign that reads Globus Mundi Travel Agents in Diagon Alley has been there since the park expansion, but despite being a facade sign it got its own merchandising items, as opposed to other fake signs. The big question is: what is Globus Mundi? Our answer so far is: we have no idea. However, we have done some research and, even though it still remains a mystery to us, here is what we know.

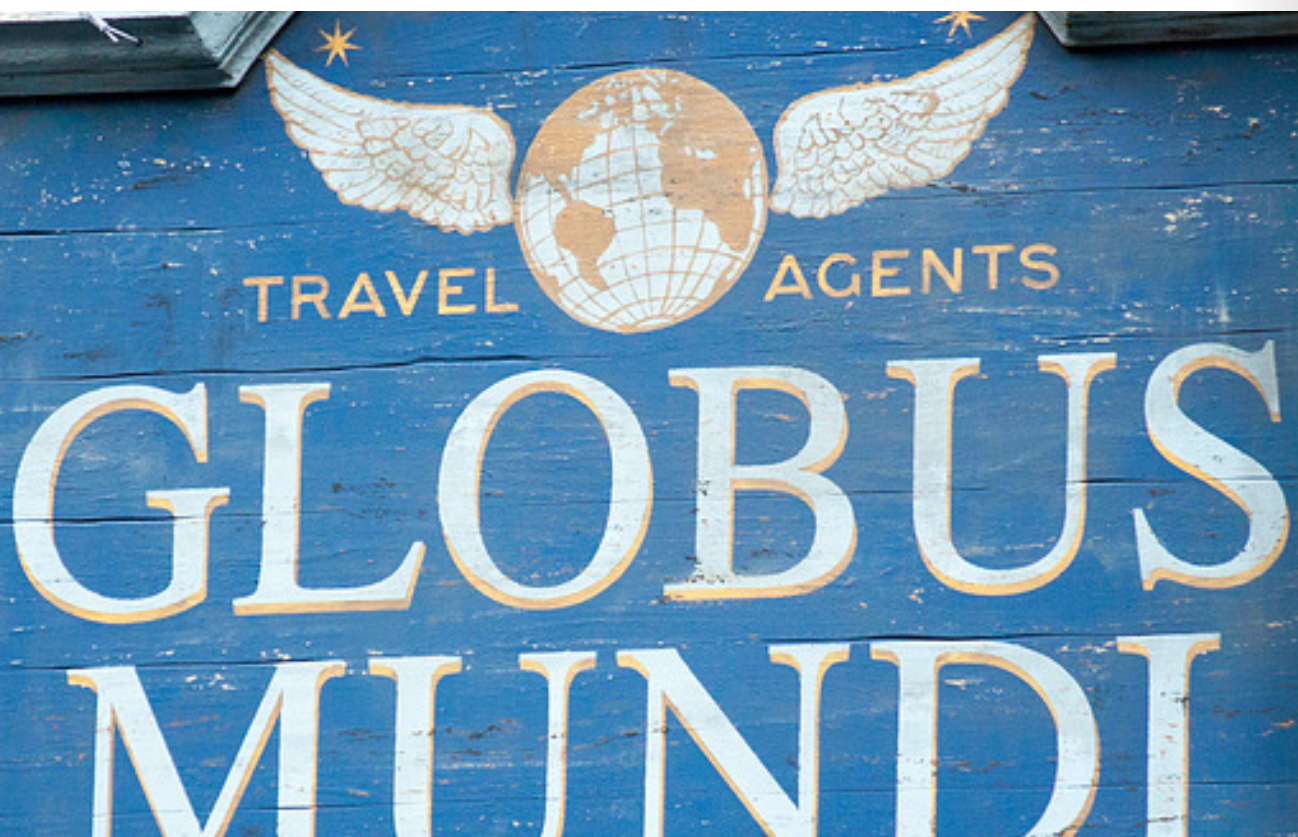
What we know so far

The Globus Mundi Travel Agents sign is placed in Diagon Alley since this area of the park opened in 2014. It was first above Shutterbutton's

Photography Studio, but this last shop was replaced by Sugarplum's Sweet Shop in 2015. Shutterbutton's has now moved to a different location but it still allows visitors to take moving photographs, while Sugarplum's sells incredible sweet food. As for Globus Mundi, this is not physical shop in the park and it is not part of the Harry Potter canon. The only travel agency that has been previously mentioned is TerrorTours, but it doesn't feature in The Wizarding World. Universal Orlando Resort provides no information about this and said that it is only a facade sign.

Why do we care so much about Globus Mundi?

Basically, Globus Mundi Travel Agents was just a sign lost somewhere in Diagon Alley until two weeks ago when their merchandising started selling really well during the Harry Potter Celebration. Sweatshirts, pins, mugs and other items are available for everyone to buy, which



WHAT IS GLOBUS MUNDI?

is really weird if it is not a ride or an actual shop. The guys at MuggleNet were the first ones to actually give the heads up on this and started doing some research on site during A Celebration of Harry Potter 2018. They asked some cast members and they discovered that the merchandising has been in the park since December, and that Globus Mundi is apparently going to be a physical shop in the near future not only to buy their merchandising, but for something else. It seems it is not connected to Fantastic Beasts and it is not going to be a ride, but we are not 100% sure of this. So what is that “something else”? Well, we went to social media and tried to find out.

Globus Mundi has been active on Twitter since January 26. The first tweet was their slogan: “A world of magic exists, we can send you there”, which is also the same text that can be found on their website (we’ll come to that later). Interestingly, the tweets are written in the first person singular which gives this idea that the travel agency is run by one person. This could be a known character, a new character they will introduce, maybe someone from the new Fantastic Beasts movie. The account follows all the official Harry Potter and Universal Orlando Resort ones, but none of these accounts follow Globus Mundi back. We tried interviewing him or her or whoever is taking over the account and they answered: “Not ready for prime time yet. Baby steps”. After that we wanted to confirm if they were the official account for this new brand at the Wizarding World but they stopped replying.

The brand is also on Facebook but with almost no activity there. They shared content from A Celebration of Harry Potter 2018 and nothing else. We tried contacting them but they never replied. As for their website (www.globusmundi.com), we found it is just a landing page with a blueish wooden background with the text GLOBUS MUNDI and their slogan. At first glance, it looks fake because there is no copyright label or anything that links them to Warner or Universal Orlando Resort anywhere

which is why it hard to confirm its authenticity.

Globus Mundi is on Instagram as well, but with no profile picture and no posts. The account follows just one user who does not follow back and doesn’t know anything either. We also checked for trade marks but Globus Mundi has not been registered by anyone yet.

What Globus Mundi could be

Based on the name of the travel agency and on the reality of Universal Orlando Resort, we have a few ideas of what Globus Mundi could be. Universal Orlando Resort needs to bring some new stuff in order to compete with what Disney World is bringing with Star Wars Land and Toy Story Land, so we came up with some ideas that they could be developing for this Globus Mundi brand. We list our options in order of what we believe is more likely:

- 1) A combination of the World Showcase and Soarin’ in Epcot. Disney World gives us the opportunity to “travel” to different countries in these two attractions: Soarin’ is a simulator flight that makes you feel like you’re soaring over different cities and World Showcase is an area with 11 pavilions that represent 11 countries. You can walk these pavilions and feel like you’re walking through France or Morocco. We believe that Globus Mundi could be the travel agency that can take you to the magic places of many cities in the world and see how wizards live. It could probably be a 4D experience or just a walkthrough museum, it would all depend on the available space in the park. We believe this could come in useful to promote the new Fantastic Beasts movie and Newt’s trips, as well as letting people see more of the Wizarding World somewhere else than the UK.

- 2) An actual travel agency that would sell park tickets and package holidays for Universal Orlando Resort. Our hope here is that Universal Orlando Resort could add a Harry Potter themed hotel as to compete with Disney’s Star Wars hotel that opens next year. We’ve done

WHAT IS GLOBUS MUNDI?

some research on this and on the plans that Universal Orlando has filed for construction and we couldn't find anything but the projects that have already been announced: the new ride that will replace Dragon Challenge, the two budget hotels that will be added to the Resort, and the demolition of the KidZone to build a Nintendo Land. Still, we do not rule out the possibility of a Harry Potter hotel if Universal really wants people to choose them over Disney World, accommodation-wise. It also fits with Globus Mundi slogan of sending us to a world of magic because a Harry Potter themed hotel would be the most hands on experience of being in the Wizarding World.

3) A shop for visitors to buy tickets to other parks. Maybe you are in the Diagon Alley area and you want to cross to Hogsmeade but didn't buy a Park-to-Park ticket. Well, then Globus Mundi can sell you the ticket and you can easily take the train to the other side. We imagine that they also offer to take to some other magical places, maybe the WB Studio Tour in London or The Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Hollywood or Tokyo. Again, the slogan fits just

fine with this option and combines perfectly with our previous idea.

4) A travel equipment shop where you can buy luggage pieces, travel tags, bags, and many other items that you need when you go on holidays, including trunks (why not?). This could be the perfect place to introduce a whole new line of merchandising, together with the Globus Mundi items that have been released.

And we don't have anything else. We've been racking our brains with this, asked many people and nobody knows anything. We can either expect an announcement soon or maybe it is just a hoax. However, we feel it would be for Universal Orlando Resort's best interest if they expanded the Wizarding World with a themed hotel: everyone will stay there and they will beat Disney World in that respect. We just hope they are not releasing new merchandising for something that it is not really worth it.

Photography courtesy of Mugglenet.com



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J.K. ROWLING THROUGH THE AGES OLD INTERVIEWS WITH J.K. ROWLING.

2000: AOL CHAT WITH JKR

AOL Live presented an exclusive live chat with “Harry Potter” creator J.K. Rowling.

Good evening. This is a real treat -- the most popular writer in the world. Welcome, J.K. Rowling.

Thank you!

Ms. Rowling, do you think that making a Harry Potter movie will help people understand the books better or will it ruin the imagination for the books?

I don't think people need help understanding the books. I hope the film will be really good and not disappoint the fans. Personally, I can't wait to watch Quidditch.

Ms. Rowling, why did you write about witchcraft and wizardry?

I had the idea of a boy who was a wizard and didn't yet know what he was. I never sat down and wondered, “What shall I write about next?” It just came, fully formed.

When people trade in Muggle money for Wizard money, what does Gringotts do with the Muggle money?

Those goblins are sneaky people. They manage to put the Muggle money back into circulation. They are like “fences” --British slang, do you understand it?

What did James and Lily Potter do when they were alive?

Well, I can't go into too much detail, because you're going to find out in future books. But James inherited plenty of money, so he didn't

need a well-paid profession. You'll find out more about both Harry's parents later.

If YOU went to Hogwarts, which house would they put you in?

Good name, Wizard. Well, I'd hope for Gryffindor, obviously, but I suspect they might want to put me in Ravenclaw.

Ms. Rowling, where do you come up with those names of the characters, like Quidditch?

Quidditch is a name I invented. I just wanted a word which began with the letter ‘Q’ (I don't know why, it was just a whim). Many of the names are taken from maps -- for instance, Snape, which is an English village.

Ms. Rowling, have you ever made a map or blueprint of the school?

No, because all those staircases keep shifting around and rooms pop out of nowhere, and stuff just moves too much. But I have got a notebook that reminds me what floor everything is on, just to keep track. Of course, if anything moves, I can blame it on magic, not my mistakes.

What do you think of the people who want to ban your books?

I think they are... uh.. what's a good word? Misguided. I think these are very moral books. Everyone's entitled to their own opinion, but not to impose their views on others!

Does the animal one turns into as an Animagi reflect your personality?

Very well deduced, Narri! I personally would like to think that I would transform into an

J.K. ROWLING THROUGH THE AGES OLD INTERVIEWS WITH J.K. ROWLING.

otter, which is my favorite animal. Imagine how horrible it would be if I turned out to be a cockroach!

Is it hard being famous?

Sometimes it's wonderful, like now, when I get to meet lots of readers. Other times it's hard, when, for instance, journalists come banging on my front door, especially when I'm cooking.

When is Hermione's birthday?

Hermione's birthday is September 19th.

Did you consider having a girl be the main character?

Well, I didn't -- purely because Harry came to me as a boy. And after I'd been writing about him for a few months, he was too real to me to change. However, Hermione is such a good friend too, that I don't feel I have short-changed girls!

There so many people with "Harry Potter" screen names! One asks: Why did Dumbledore have a look of triumph in his eyes at the end of book four?

Good question... excellent question, in fact, and like all the best questions I get asked, I can't answer it! Because it would give too much away. However, well-spotted. Have fun guessing... someone's bound to get it right!

Why do some wizards/witches become ghosts and others don't?

Another superb question, and this time I can tell you that you will find out much more about that in book five.

Ms. Rowling, after the first book, you stopped converting English words to American words. Is there any reason for this?

Actually, we didn't stop, but the number of

words that were changed has been greatly exaggerated! We only ever changed a word when it had a different meaning in "American," for instance, the word "jumper," which in England means "sweater" and here, I believe, is something that only little girls wear!

I think the color of Harry's eyes will matter in the books to come. Yes?

Hmmmm... maybe!

Ms. Rowling, will Voldemort ever die?

Do you really, really think I will answer that?!

Where did James get his Invisibility Cloak?

That was inherited from his own father -- a family heirloom!

Does everyone have a little magic in them? Even if they are Muggles? And if not, how did magic start?

I think we do (outside the books), but within my books -- do you really think there's any magic in Uncle Vernon? Magic is one of those odd talents which some have and some don't.

Ms. Rowling, what's your favorite spell?

My favourite spell (so far) is "expecto patronum" -- the spell that conjures the Patronus.

Is there ever going to be female Defense Against The Dark Arts teacher?

Emily, I can exclusively reveal (because I'm feeling guilty I'm not answering so many good questions) that there WILL be.

Ms. Rowling, will Voldemort's evil ways rise again, such as Muggle killings?

Well, his temper hasn't exactly improved while he's been away, has it? So I think we can safely say, yes.

J.K ROWLING THROUGH THE AGES OLD INTERVIEWS WITH J.K. ROWLING.

I like the products. Could there be sweater patterns for us knitters?

Sweater patterns?!!!! Now I've heard everything. I really don't know... I'll have a word with Warner Bros.!

Why stop at seven books when you could make up Harry's whole life?

I notice you're very confident that he's not going to die!

And lots of people want to know what you do for the holidays.

Christmas I'll be at home, watching my brother-in-law cook the turkey (he's a chef), and for New Year, I'll be on holiday!!

Why did you make Quirrell the bad guy instead of Snape?

Because I know all about Snape, and he wasn't about to put on a turban.

Is there a reason Fleur's name means "flower of the heart"?

Ah, Narri, you're nearly there... in fact, it means "flower of the court," like a noblewoman. Heart is "coeur." (I used to be a French teacher, sorry.)

When does the next book come out?

I don't know! It isn't likely to be next July, but you shouldn't have too long a wait. I am writing it already.

Ron and Hermione give Harry gifts... does he ever give them birthday presents?

Yes, Harry does buy presents back! But I've never focused on their birthdays yet --there hasn't been room!

Ms. Rowling, which character besides Harry is

your favorite, and why?

I think that would have to be Hagrid -- but I love Ron and Hermione too, and I also love writing characters like Gilderoy Lockhart, Snape, the Dursleys... it's such fun doing horrible things to them.

Will we be seeing Lupin anytime soon?

Yes, Harry will be seeing Lupin again. He's another of my favourite characters.

Will Harry time-travel again?

Not telling!

Can you say ANYTHING about the next book?

Yes... it probably won't be as long as book four. It will be scary. Harry finds out a lot of things he hasn't stumbled across so far.

Ms. Rowling, have you ever been inspired by another author?

The author with whom I identify most is E. Nesbit. She did some great, funny fairy tales.

Ms. Rowling, while we're waiting for the next book, what other books do you recommend (besides your own)?

Excellent question! Read "Clockwork" by Phillip Pullman or "Skellig" by David Almond or... let's see... anything by Paul Gallico, or "The Little White Horse" (for girls!) by Elizabeth Goudge or... ANYTHING! Just keep reading!

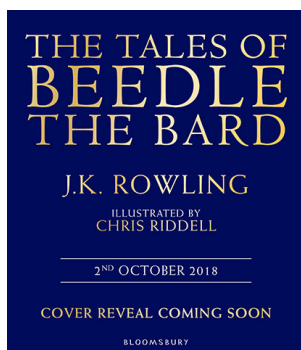
In fact, you're doing two SHORT books that are coming out in March. Tell us about them.

Yes, I've written "Quidditch Through the Ages" and "Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them." All proceeds will go to Comic Relief UK to help famine relief and other projects in Africa. They'll be available in March of next year, so book early!!! You'll be saving lives... good magic!



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
Bloomsbury (United Kingdom)
Hardcover



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

UPCOMING EDITIONS



The Harry Potter series (the seven books)

June 26th, 2018

Scholastic (United States)

Paperback

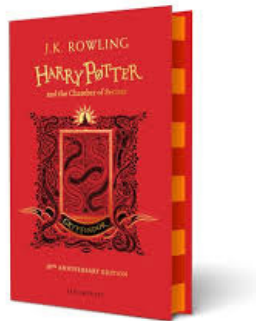


Harry Potter Boxed Set - Collector's Edition

August 28th, 2018

Scholastic (United States)

Hardcover



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

20th Anniversary Edition

(Multiple Houses)

June 26th, 2018

Bloomsbury (United Kingdom)

Hardcover



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

20th Anniversary Edition

(Multiple Houses)

June 26th, 2018

Bloomsbury (United Kingdom)

Paperback

