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J.K. Rowling
official site

Wizards' Examinations Authority
Governor: Professor Griselda Marchbanks, CDMG, APMO, fdBB



(Wizards' Ordinary Magic and
Basic Aptitude test)

THE WOMBATS ARE BACK

WE RECREATED J.K. ROWLING'S OLD WEBSITE

THE MAGICAL ZODIAC IN FB2 + FANTASTIC FEMINISM + MORE



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EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome back to another issue of The Rowling Library. This is our sixteenth issue, though it should be our eighteenth issue (we skipped two months because of holidays). This means we have been working on this magazine for one year and a half. How awesome is that?

This issue includes theories about the upcoming film of the Fantastic Beasts series, The Crimes of Grindelwald. In the latest trailer we saw some Zodiac signs that appears to be the French Ministry of Magic. S.P. Sipal is an expert on this new storyline by J.K. Rowling and wrote a great article about it.

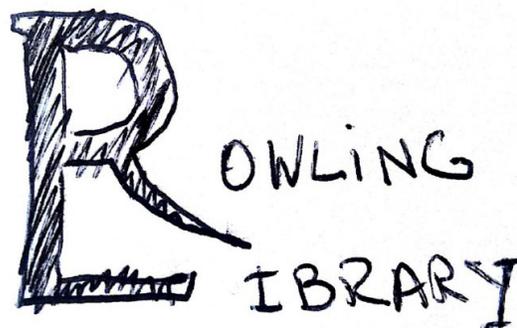
Jennifer Burke took the time to write about feminism (very important these days) and the women of Fantastic Beasts: Tina and Queenie.

This issue is special because we present you the WOMBATs tests. For those who do not know, the WOMBATs tests were in J.K. Rowling's old website between 2006 and 2007. They were one of the most fun part of her old website - which to be

honest, was fun as a whole. Anyway, we want every fan - even the new ones - to experience them, so we recreated them.

For the past months, we have been working very hard to try to make the experience the most similar to the original one. Now you can take these WOMBATs tests (written entirely by J.K. Rowling herself). But first, it would be better if you learnt more about them - and for that there are 8 pages dedicated to them on this issue.

We hope you enjoy it, as always, and see you next month!



COLLABORATED ON THIS ISSUE

**BELÉN SALITURI + IBID + ROONWIT +
JENNIFER BURKE + S. P. SIPAL**



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FANTASTIC FEMINISM AND WHERE TO FIND IT

FANTASTIC FEMINISM AND WHERE TO FIND IT

JENNIFER BURKE

The women of the wizarding world in the 1920's live an interesting balance between their socially advanced world and the No Maj society in which they are enveloped. We see examples of advanced ideas of feminism and social equality all through *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Tina, Queenie, Seraphina, and other female characters play just as much a part in the running of New York's magical society and Newt's adventures as the men.

Tina and Queenie Goldstein are half-blood witches born in the early 1900's in New York. Tina is dependable, logical, and follows the rules; Queenie is vivacious, beautiful, captivating, and the free spirit of the pair. Tina appears to be a people pleaser and desperate for attention, Queenie seems to charm her way through life, but there is more to both of these women than

meets the eye. The Goldstein's parents died while they were small girls, forcing them to stick together and raise themselves. Women could inherit at that time, and they obviously came from a comfortably middle class family as they could afford rent and stayed out of an orphanage. While their parents' occupations are unknown, one of their grandfathers bred owls, which would have been lucrative in the wizarding world. Tina and Queenie were able to continue their education, both graduating from Ilvermorny. It may be surprising that cautious, strict Tina was sorted into the Thunderbird house, said to represent the soul of the wizard and favors adventurers. Pukwudgies, Queenie's house, are known for being kind, warm, and caring: a place for healers and wizards who show great heart.

In the 1920's United States, only about 21-25% of women held jobs outside the home and the



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majority were unmarried. Most women left their employment upon marrying or having children, which was still the main goal. Tina and Queenie were both employed at MACUSA, Magical Congress of the United States of America, which is unsurprising considering they are both single and had no parents to financially rely on, but this is where the similarities to No Maj female society ends. From the scenes of the movie, viewers see that MACUSA is roughly 50% female. While Queenie holds a desk job, Tina was trained as an Auror, a Dark Wizard catcher. During this time, women couldn't work in law offices or even sit on a jury, let alone be part of a police force. To make more obvious social advances, the highest position in the U.S. wizarding world was held by Seraphina Piquery, a woman of color. Seraphina confidently oversees a high-stakes, international council of

witches and wizards and decisively commands the arrest of Tina, Newt, and Jacob. No one gives a second thought to following her orders, including Graves, a highly skilled, high ranking, white male Auror.

While the first installment of the Fantastic Beasts films center on Newt Scamander's adventures in New York, Tina and Queenie play just as large of a role in the story. Their relationship not only enhances the film, but the interweaving of their lives into both Newt's and Jacob's moves the plot forward. Queenie is very intrigued at the idea that Tina brought home a "criminal" and a No Maj. She is immediately taken with Jacob, clearly seeing a kindness and certain innocence in him that draws her in. Queenie, being very skilled in legilimency, tells him that she knows what men think of her when they see her, but she

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immediately turns maternal toward him, making him a full meal and catering to his preferences. She connects quickly and deeply with his love of baking and makes pointed statements about Tina being the “career girl”, making it clear that she is available and interested. She sees Jacob as a love interest, regardless of him being a No Maj, and is very hurt when the men leave, even after she “made them cocoa”. Jacob shows just as much returned interest in Queenie and feels bad when he and Newt leave, even reprimanding Newt for not showing more appreciation for the women’s hospitality.

After Tina, Jacob, and Newt are taken into custody, Queenie’s intelligence and quick-thinking really shines. While she appears sweet and soft, she is far from naive. She blackmails a fellow MACUSA employee to rescue Jacob, threatening to tell his girlfriend that he’s seeing someone else; breaks into Graves’ office; comes up with the idea of everyone getting into the briefcase; and deftly lies to her boss about being sick, offering to show him her “lady’s things”! Considering the type of exposure Queenie has endured, knowing the thoughts and motivations

of those around her, her drive to care and protect is not only admirable, but it shows a deep and passionate love of people. After this daring rescue, Tina’s adventurous nature begins to break through her law-abiding-citizen shell. Tina utilizes her training and knowledge as an Auror, using scandalous strategies to find information about Newt’s creatures. When Credence, the son of the Second Salem woman, endangers the city, Tina finds herself to be the only one who can save him. Only someone with the true soul of a Thunderbird would have the courage and passion to pursue this.

Queenie is a beautiful and lovely character and Tina shows her true self as an adventurous, resilient woman. They both walk the line between an advanced feminist society and the No Maj world in which they have few rights. Queenie prioritizes the people she loves and Tina prioritizes what she believes is right, both admirable and strong qualities. Just like the numerous skilled and talented women of Harry Potter, Rowling again uses feminine power to save the day.



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!)

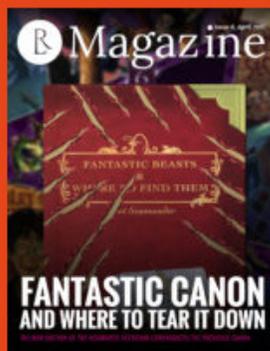
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Issue 2 - December 2016



Issue 1 - November 2016

WOMBATS ARE BACK

WOMBATS ARE BACK

We recreated WOMBATs from J.K. Rowling's old website. What they are and what they mean for canon.

IBID

On March 31st of 2006, JK Rowling released a new addition to her website. By solving a certain puzzle, fans could open a secret door and discover a Harry Potter test known as "W.O.M.B.A.T. Grade One". For the next five days, fans could take this test and submit their

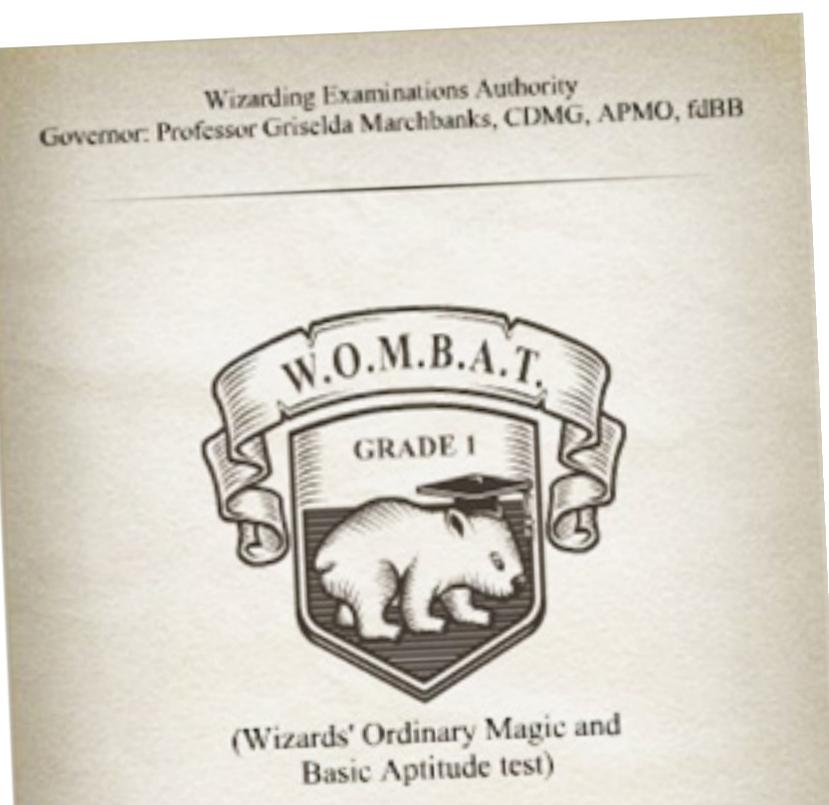
answers.

Various fansites of the time, such as Mugglenet and the Harry Potter Lexicon, posted commentary and guides to this test, but most of them offered different answers. To quote the test's introduction:

"This is still not a straightforward Harry Potter trivia test. While a thorough knowledge of the books is essential to achieving a good grade at all levels of W.O.M.B.A.T., you will need inspiration as well as information, applying what you know, whether by deducing the correct answer or by making intelligent guesses."

A handful of answers could be directly derived from a close study of things Rowling had written in the Harry Potter books, or said in interviews, but for the most part the questions all required some level of intuition and guesswork.

On April 4th the door closed again and fans received their results a few days later in the forms of the six in-universe letter grades used for the O.W.L.s – from "O" for Outstanding to



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“T” for Troll.

Rowling later said in a podcast interview (see Page 26) that her husband only got an “Acceptable” despite being “in the room while I was writing the questions and was listening to me telling him the answers.”

Rowling would later follow up the first WOMBAT with a Grade Two in September 2006, and the final Grade Three in June 2007 (one month before the release of the final Harry Potter book).

These tests covered various topics of the magical world, including Magical Law, Magical Transport, Wizarding Current Affairs, Muggle Studies, Magical History, International Wizardry, and Magical Theory.

Rowling’s primary purpose in making the tests was to put out stuff for fans during the wait to the seventh book without releasing things directly foreshadowing it, (like the chapter titles she posted before book six), as per her lawyer’s advice. However, a few of the questions and

answers in Grade Three actually contained some hints to the seventh book, such as references to the goblin conflict over the Sword of Gryffindor.

On October 31st 2007 all three tests reappeared on Rowling’s website with instant grading. There they remained until February of 2012, when the entire website was taken down and replaced with a more generic author website.

During this period where the test had instant grading, a fan by the name of Roonwit took each test multiple times to determine how the scoring system worked. (See Page 16)

Using Roonwit’s answer key, as well as countless archived screenshots and videos, we have painfully reconstructed all three W.O.M.B.A.T. tests in their entirety. If you never had a chance to take them on Rowling’s website or simply want to relive the nostalgia, this is probably the closest you’ll get to that experience.

Be careful: the rest of this article will contain spoilers for the contents of the tests.

TAKE THE TESTS ON:

WWW.THEROWLINGLIBRARY.COM/WOMBATS

1. A FEW EXAMPLE QUESTIONS FROM THE TESTS

Please be aware that not all questions have answers that can be accurately determined from published sources alone. However, a lot more are currently possible than when this test was first released thanks to the eighty or so writings that Rowling has since published on Pottermore. What follows are three examples of questions whose answers can be deduced from existing canon.

Which of the following does NOT require a Ministry of Magic license? (G1-Q4)

Crup ownership

- Sale of magical artefacts
- House-elf ownership
- Apparition

We can solve this one by process of elimination:

Three of these things are mentioned in the books as requiring a license.

“Crup licenses may be obtained from the Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures on completion of a simple test to prove that the applicant wizard is capable

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of controlling the Crup in Muggle-inhabited areas.” (FB – “Crup”)

“I was selling in Diagon Alley and she come up to me and asks if I’ve got a license for trading in magical artifacts. Bleedin’ snoop.” (DH 11 – “The Bribe”)

“The Department of Magical Transportation had to fine a couple of people the other day for Apparating without a license. It’s not easy, Apparition, and when it’s not done properly it can lead to nasty complications.” (GoF 6 – “The Portkey”)

The only choice left is “House-elf ownership”.

Which of the following did NOT provoke one of the bloody goblin rebellions of the 17th and 18th centuries? Choose ONE. (G3Q2)

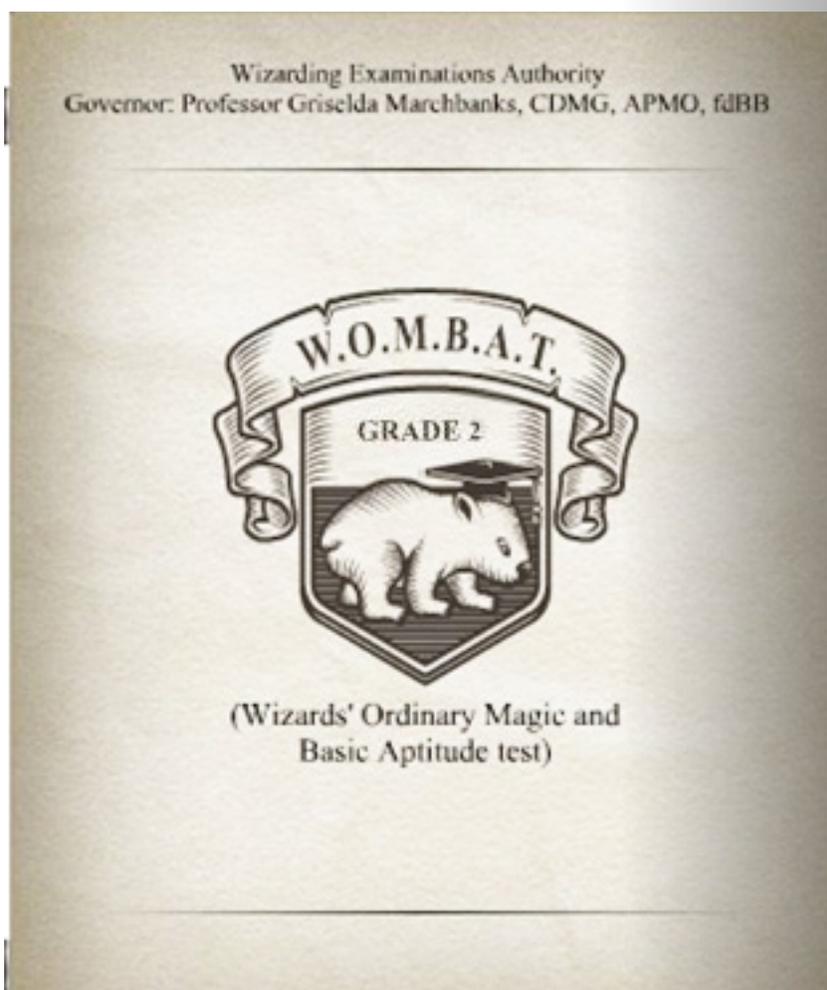
- The allegation by goblin king Ragnuk the First that Godric Gryffindor had stolen his sword
- The pursuit and imprisonment of Ug the Unreliable, who had been peddling Leprechaun Gold
- The accidental death of Nagnok, Gringotts Goblin, at the hands of an untrained security troll sent by the Ministry of Magic
- The imprisonment of the notoriously violent Hodrod the Horny-Handed, who had attempted to kill three wizards
- The public ducking in the village pond, by a gang of young wizards, of goblin activist Urg the Unclean
- The Ministry of Magic Decree of 1631, preventing all magical beings other than wizards carrying a wand.

The trick to this one is to realize that Hodrod the Horny-Handed previously appeared in the obscure Daily Prophet newsletters that JK Rowling wrote in 1999. The incident mentioned here is part of the riots that form the subject of the cover article of issue #3. Since it occurred during the twentieth century it couldn’t have influenced rebellions that took place a few hundred years before.

Match the dangerous being, plant or potion with the spell, substance or object that will conquer it. – Werewolf (G3Q7P7)

- Aconite
- Asphodel
- Bezoar
- Chocolate
- The Patronus Charm
- Fire
- Phoenix tears
- Riddikulus
- Sunlight
- Will
- Wingardium Leviosa
- Wormwood
- NO CURE

The obvious answer is wolfsbane, but that isn’t a choice here, so we need to remember Snape’s speech from the first book: “As for monkshood and wolfsbane, they are the same plant, which also goes by the name of aconite.” (PS 8 – “The Potions Master”)



WOMBATS ARE BACK



2. WHAT THESE TESTS MEAN FOR CANON

These tests were written directly by Rowling and are a wellspring of Harry Potter canon. Each test consists of the following elements:

- The introduction
- The questions
- The answers
- The knowledge of which answers are correct and incorrect
- The letter/certificate accompanying the final grade

The introduction and grade certificates are straight out writing. They don't contain much info about things other than the test itself though.

The questions and answers by themselves are harder to learn from, since they don't always say truths, but the wording often makes it clear certain related events happened.

The answer key enables us to look further and learn canon info from the fact that certain

answer choices are right and wrong. However, not always is it clear if the choice which receives the most credit is the only correct choice.

The following is a (non-exhaustive) selection of new canon that we can learn from the W.O.M.B.A.T.s. The list focuses on canon exclusive to the Wombats. Much other content merely corroborates things we know from interviews, pottermore writings, the Daily Prophet newsletters, and the famous wizard cards. (The WOMBATs are actually the only source that includes info found on the PoA FW cards.)

- St Mungos seems to be protected from apparition.
- There are no female centaurs and no male veela. Vampire bites are curable nowadays, and ghosts can cause movements in liquids and gases.
- Hags eat small children and have four toes on

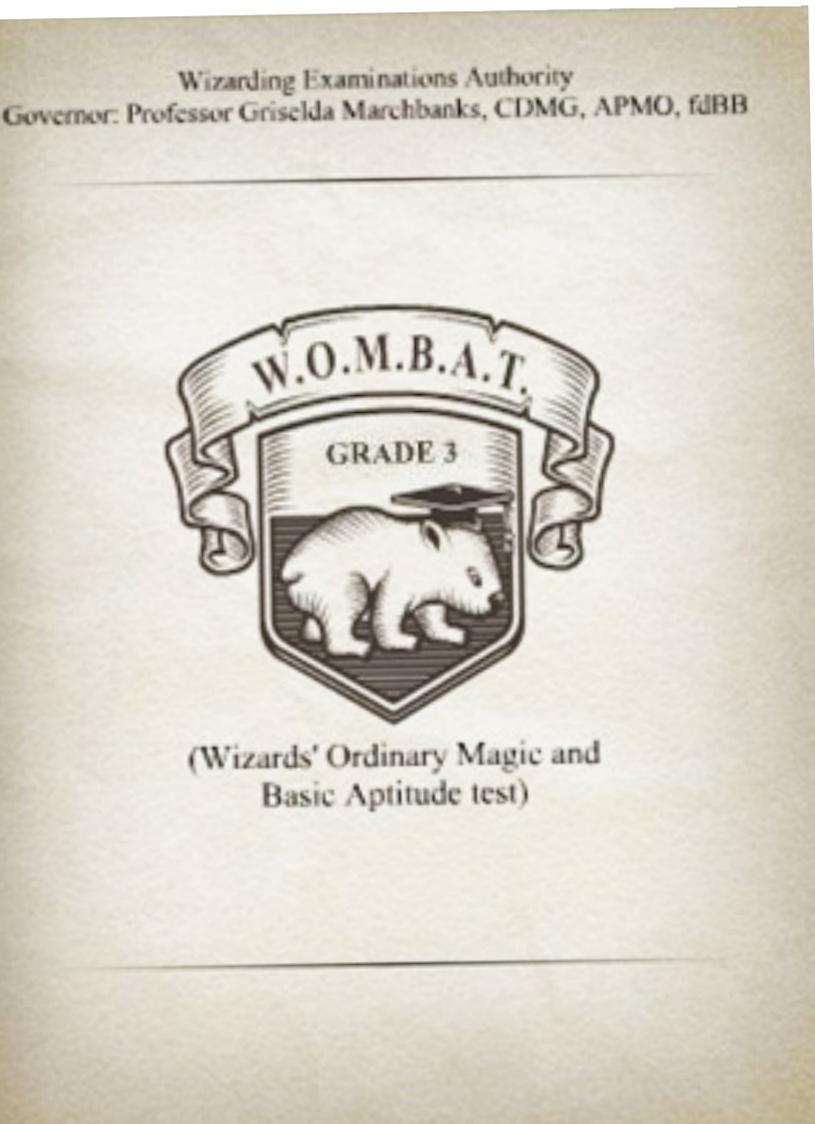
WOMBATS ARE BACK

each foot, but only have rudimentary magic, similar to trolls. The Ministry considers Hags “less dangerous” than Werewolves and Inferi.

- Giants clans are patriarchal, and the males tend to be bigger. Giants have at least the same level eyesight as humans. Many are cannibals.
- House-elf ownership is possibly worse than what we see in the books. They can be ordered to commit suicide, they can only breed with their master’s permission, and no Ministry license is even required for their ownership. (Though the Ministry did have an unenforced set of ‘guidelines on house-elf welfare’). However, their magic is stronger than wizard magic, they’re loyal to the house rather than its occupants, and their average life expectancy may be 200 years. Hermione wasn’t the first

one to notice this either. There was an ‘Appeal Against House-Elf Slavery’ which got defeated in 1973.

- A Muggle cannot produce magic even with access to a wand and a book of spells. Muggle-borns usually have a magical ancestor somewhere up the distant family tree. However they’re no more likely to father squibs than a pureblood, and are no slower to show signs of magic.
- The WOMBAT confirms that there are wizards living in every country, though no countries have wizard royal families. Not all countries have magic schools, but the largest Centre for Alchemical Studies is in Egypt. The wizarding legal age seems to be 17 everywhere. (In Book of Spells we learned that it was also 17 since ancient times.)



- International travel is often regulated. (This concurs with the stuff Rowling said about Newt needing to take a Muggle ship to avoid the wizarding customs.) Inter-country Apparition has been outlawed due to splinching, and although no “serious injury” will result from letting go of a portkey mid-trip, international portkeys still require authorization from both countries’ Ministries of Magic. Flying carpets are banned everywhere except the Far East. International owl mail is unregulated.
- Sometime shortly before the adoption of the Statute of Secrecy in 1692, a magical delegation approached King William and Queen Mary asking for protection under British Law. (They didn’t succeed.)
- During World War Two, a secret task force of wizards helped the allies. It remains to be seen whether this will show up in the last couple of Fantastic Beasts movies.
- Presumably due to all the stuff with Voldemort, Scotland is currently the most persistent offender of the Statue of Secrecy.

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- Rowena Ravenclaw came up with the name and location for Hogwarts after being shown it in a dream by a warty hog.
- There was a particularly bloody goblin rebellion in 1612 fought over the right for goblins to carry wands. The goblins lost and a Wand Ban was passed in 1631, forbidding all Non-Human Magical Beings to carry wands.
- There's been a long history of strife over the control of Gringotts bank. The Ministry kept on trying to interfere with its management at one point even sending a poorly trained security troll which resulted in the death of a Goblin named Nagnok. After much ensuing bloodshed an 1865 decision was reached to leave Gringotts in Goblin hands. This background really helps us understand Griphook's anger in Deathly Hallows.
- The great fire of London in 1666 was started by a Welsh Green Dragon kept in the basement of the house next door to the muggle bakery.
- One cannot transfigure animate objects into inanimate objects or animals into humans. Knowledge of an object's original state is required to untransfigure it.
- No spell can block the Cruciatus Curse.
- Of course, we learn a lot things specific to the WOMBATs. They have the same grading system as the O.W.L.s and are also administered by Wizengamot elder Professor Griselda Marchbanks (who we now learn has the unexplained titles 'CDMG, APMD, fbBB'). For practice she recommends people to take Concentration Capsules and Kwikspell's 'Wallop the Wombat Revision Course'. The grade you receive seems to have some effect on where you can expect to receive employment.

Please note that many people are to thank for this recreation of the quiz. J.K. Rowling and Lightmaker Studio wrote and designed the original test. Without them there would be nothing to recreate. Various websites archived screenshots, videos, and copies of the text including Lee Hi, HarryLatino, and the Harry Potter Lexicon. Roonwit figured out how the original test was scored. Also to thank are the people who remembered the original tests and provided helpful feedback along the way.

HOW I SOLVED THE WOMBATS

By Roonwit

The Harry Potter fandom was keen to know the right answers to the WOMBATS as soon as the first one appeared behind the door at jkrowling.com. I can remember attempts to collect people's answers and the grade they got.

However, I don't think this ever got very far as the few lists of answers and grades I was aware of were too different to deduce anything beyond the obvious conclusion that answers that got an Outstanding grade were mostly good, and ones that were graded Dreadful or Troll were probably wrong, but without knowing which were the good answers and which the bad.

In reality, it wasn't the small number of lists of answers that was the problem, because we would either have to be exceptionally lucky in our choice of answers to be able to identify correct answers with any degree of certainty or would have had to sit the WOMBATS an impossibly large number of times and even then the number of results would probably be too large to process into anything useful. So as we didn't have any Felix Felicis (it would probably be banned for WOMBATS anyway) it was never going to work.

This changed later when the time turner appeared on the door page and all the door openings could be repeated at will. Now instead of a one-off period of a few days to sit each WOMBAT with the grades available a few days later, we could re-sit the WOMBATS as many times as desired, and get them graded immediately. This seemed a much better situation to deduce the correct WOMBAT answers, because it could now be done a step at a time, and most importantly we could use previous results to decide what to try next.

The only information we had to work with was the grade given after finishing a WOMBAT. I think I had already realized that the way to use this was to find sets of answers where the grade could be changed by changing a single answer to a single question. I also had another clue because I had tried to get a Troll grade on the first WOMBAT by only answering one question and deliberately getting it wrong but I got a Dreadful. However someone else also tried this and got a Troll. This not only implied that some bad answers scored less than others, but also meant that the answers to any question could be divided into two; better answers which give a D when they are the only answer given, and worse answers which give a T. However, although any of these better answers must score more than any of the worse answers, we can't assume all the better answers have the same score (indeed we suspect they don't unless my deliberately wrong answer was actually correct), nor can we assume it of the worse answers.

I think I actually started the testing on the first WOMBAT without much planning, answering some questions and changing some answers to see if the grade changed. Then I think I tried to rank the answers of the first question by finding sets of answers to the

first 3 or 4 questions where changing the first answer changed the grade between P and D. The result of this and similar testing is that I deduced there were 4 ranks of answer to the first question, a best answer, a less good answer, a poor answer and 3 really bad answers. I then repeated this for the next few questions, finding 3 or 4 ranks of answers for each. However I am a bit unsure in my account here as I seem to remember a false start where I originally thought there were only 3 ranks of answer, but then found something that didn't make sense if that was true, but my notes don't record this.

Here is where the guessing then testing starts. We know comparative values of answers to a question but we don't know the scores they correspond to, nor if all questions are scored the same, and we haven't eliminated the possibility that some test we haven't found yet would show that two answers we think score the same are actually different, and there are actually 5 ranks of answers. We just have to hope our guesses are as good as Dumbledore's or our testing will show where we are wrong.

The first guess is that, as each question only seems to have a single right answer and there are 25 questions, each best answer scores 4, which also fits the maximum mark for each section. It certainly seems likely, but it is still a guess and worth remembering if something doesn't make sense later.

The second guess is that the worst answers score 0, though this is reasonable as you can answer 2 questions and still get a troll grade (and it isn't in my notes but I think I later answered every question with a worst answer and got an overall T grade, which seems conclusive). Also we were explicitly warned about negative scores when they were introduced for the third WOMBAT.

I then decided the possible scores for an answer were 4,2,1 and 0, though many questions only had some of these scores. I don't remember why I decided this but it was probably based the tests I had done up to that point.

Based on this and my ranking of the first few questions I concluded that a T required a score of 0, a D was for 1-9 and P needed at least 10. This then helped me produce a set of standard answers to 2 or 3 questions (actually 4, 5 and 6) that I could add to test an answer to a later question to determine its score, and check it wasn't 3 (they were actually to test if the score for the answer was >0 or ≤ 0 , ≥ 4 or < 4 , ≥ 2 or < 2 , and ≥ 3 or < 3). This in turn led to deducing the scores needed for the A, EE and O grades.

I deduced the scores the other two WOMBATs following the same overall strategy though there were differences, for example the second WOMBATs had 18 questions, one of which required up to 3 answers, and the third WOMBAT had questions with different maximum scores and with wrong answers that would lose points. Despite these extra complications I think I actually worked out the scores of the last two WOMBATs quicker as I then knew what methods to use, and I had finished all the WOMBATs within a couple of weeks of the time turner appearing.

Due to my guesses, I have only ever claimed that my scoring is probably right – I believe it is but it is possible that I made a mistake or an incorrect assumption somewhere. However, the best answer I found to each question should be the right one because the testing, if done correctly, should always give the best answer even if some of the scoring is wrong.

SECRETS OF THE MAGICAL ZODIAC IN THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

SECRETS OF THE MAGICAL ZODIAC IN THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

S. P. SIPAL

Fantastic Beasts fandom has been abuzz since the release of the teaser trailer for *The Crimes of Grindelwald* with theories regarding a certain couple. Will Maledictus be Nagini? Or, will she turn on Credence and devour him, like the serpent in Aesop's fable? Perhaps. But I've got a different theory regarding this snake-raven pairing. I just need to do a bit of setup to get there.

The Age of Aquarius

The musical *Hair* had everyone singing about the Age of Aquarius...the dawning of a new zodiac age, when wars will end and peace will reign. It's a utopian desire that has its basis in astrology. Because of a wobble in Earth's rotation on its axis, the constellation which the sun rises against on the horizon at the spring equinox changes around every 2160 years, and does a complete course through the twelve of the zodiac every 26000.

This is called the precession of the equinoxes, or axial precession. Each epoch of 2000 years is referred to as the Age of that reigning

constellation. For the last two thousand years, we were in the Age of Pisces. Now we're either in or approaching the Age of Aquarius, depending on which astrologer you consult. And each age is considered to be characterized by the constellation which rules, kind of like Generation X or Millennials, but on a much grander scale.

The Magical Zodiac

For our purposes, it doesn't matter that astrologers cannot agree on when the Age of Aquarius begins, because Rowling has created a magical zodiac of her own.

In the French Ministry of Magic, we get a beautiful representation of constellations based on magical creatures depicted in a universal sphere, even though we only see part of it. But when you zoom in, something curious emerges, which hints that this is not pure artwork.

I'm no astrologer, but I think those are ecliptic degrees, points along the imaginary circle of the sun against the constellations. Which is very interesting, because these degrees are used

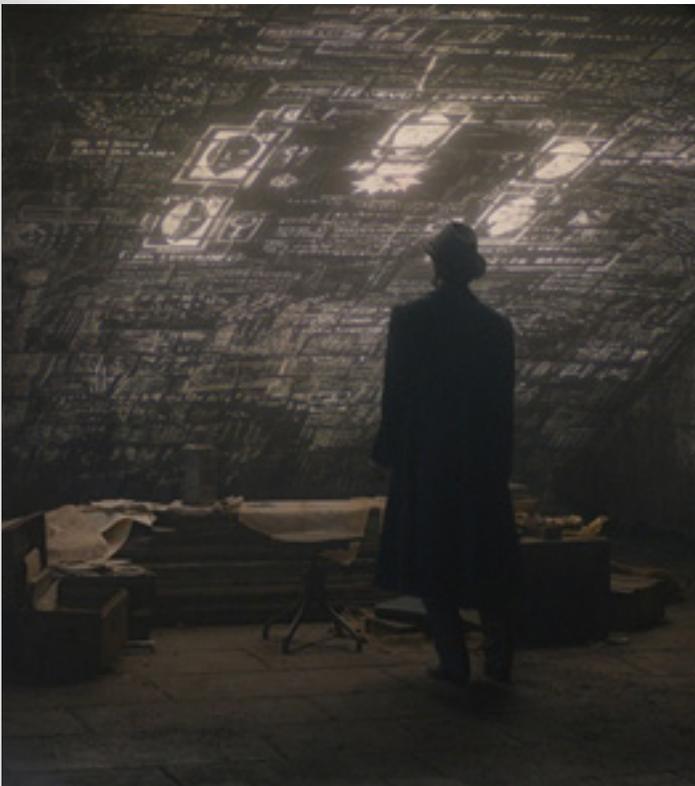


SECRETS OF THE MAGICAL ZODIAC IN THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

to track the movement of the zodiac over the course of time. They're also used in composing natal charts – an astrological projection for an individual based on the moment of their birth. Here's a chart showing the magical creature and its ecliptic degree that I've been able to make out:

- Streeler: 0
- Nundu: 20
- Murtlap: 40
- Niffler: 60
- Centaur: 80
- Doxy: 90
- Balai: 110
- Hippocampus: 120
- Mooncalf: 350
- And Dragon at 360.

Whereas the Muggle zodiac has constellations paced about every 30 degrees apart, the magical seems to be spaced every 20. And is it a mistake that Dragon 360 comes before Streeler zero, or is the magical one magically enlarged? Based on this spacing, it seems to me that Rowling's magical zodiac is missing around 10 more signs, for a possible total of 20.



Rowling and Astrology

Even in the days before Harry Potter, Rowling had an active interest in astrology. She worked up natal charts for friends, and a couple of these have even come up for sale since she became famous. Although Astronomy was a course at Hogwarts and we heard a bit about Astrology from the centaur Firenze, I believe it may play a much more active role in *Fantastic Beasts*, and the French Ministry magical zodiac hints at how. Perhaps the Lunascope Newt offered Gnarlack in the first movie was our first hint.

A Lunascope would come in handy for charting which phase the moon is in for determining a particular natal chart.

Mystery Religions and Mithraism

In a video I made for my *Fantastic Beasts* fan theory channel on YouTube, I mentioned an ancient mystery religion I thought might be connected to Jacob. Mystery Religions, or Schools as they were sometimes called, were secret gatherings of seekers after spiritual truth, and there were several of them. With Jacob, I saw hints of the Eleusinian Mysteries. But the new trailer made me think of a different school: Mithraism. The Eleusinian mysteries lasted almost two thousand years, included both male and female initiates, with some of the celebrations held in the open. Mithraism, however, was held underground, and it seems only males could participate.

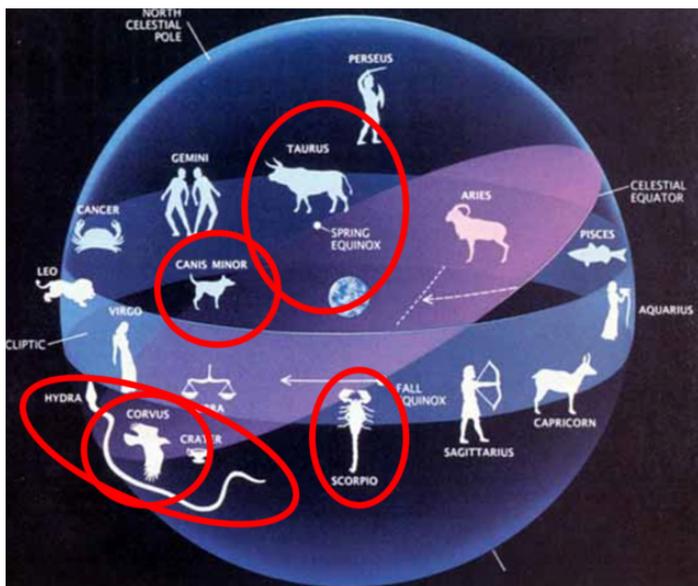
Initiates gathered in underground chambers called Mithraea for rituals and feasts. The Mithraea were usually rectangular, had vaulted ceiling, and benches lined the sides where the members would recline and eat. The focus wall was dominated by a sculpture, painting, or relief of their main myth, the slaying of the bull by Mithras. This whole setting reminds me a bit of this one, don't you think?

Although Mithras is originally a Persian god of

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Light and Truth, in ancient Rome, Mithraism was practiced differently. Little is known about exactly what these mysteries composed because they were, secret, but one theory now believes their primary myth depicted the precession of the equinoxes. The cult image of Mithras slaying the bull is called the tauroctony. In it, certain animals are always represented. Besides the bull, there is a dog, snake, raven, and scorpion.

Death to the Bull



Each of these animals represents a constellation in the spring equinox ecliptic during the prior Age of Taurus.

The bull represents Taurus, the dog is Canis Minor, the snake Hydra, the raven Corvus, and the scorpion, of course, Scorpio. Note too that the relief of the bull slaying is bordered with scenes from the zodiac. So, according to this theory, the panels depict the transition from the Age of Taurus, which had ruled the ancient world for over two thousand years, to the new rising Age of Aries. Thus the initiates of Mithras were secret witnesses to the power of their god to “kill” the old world and shift the heavens into a new world order. Mithras held the power to move the universe.

In The Crimes of Grindelwald trailer, we’ve been shown a raven and a snake, and a magical

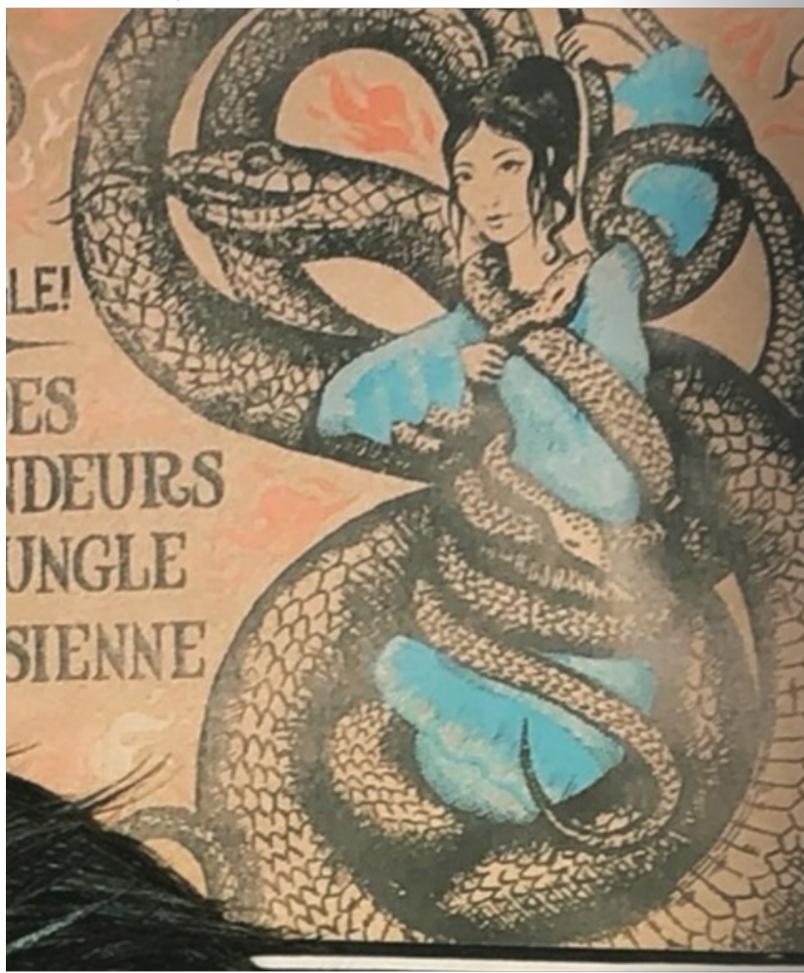
constellation. On the IMDB cast chart for the upcoming film, three acolytes are listed... another name for initiates of the mystery schools. To me, all this builds to that unusual scene of what appears to be a secret gathering with Grindelwald and Rosier standing atop an ancient spherical dais. We’ll deal with these one by one.

The Raven and the Snake

First, the raven and the snake. As we saw in the trailer, Credence’s birth name is Corvus, meaning raven or crow. And he comes from a whole line of Corvuses. In the scriptbook for the first film, Rowling used black feather imagery to describe Credence when he blew up.

Credence appears to be quite friendly with Maledictus...who MinaLima makes clear in this image is the Snake Girl.

So, we have two links to two key constellations, the Corvus and the Hydra, the water snake. To the Babylonians, Corvus was sacred to the



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	David Guinan-Browne	... Acolyte
	Jeremy Oliver	... Circus passerby
	Alfrun Rose	... Red Haired Young Witch
	Maja Bloom	... Accolyte

god of storms, and we definitely saw Credence create a huge one in FB1. Corvus is usually shown perched on the back of the Hydra (along with Crater, or cup). One theory states that they were considered symbols of death and guarded the entrance to the Underworld.

Initiate Level Crow

Next, three characters called “acolytes” are listed on IMDb.

When the first one was listed, played by Alexandra Ford, it caught my attention. But then a second and even a third appeared. I can't imagine there'd be a big church scene that requires three acolytes. However, initiates into the Mystery Religions were called mystes or acolytes. An acolyte would pledge secrecy to the mystery school, then advance in degrees as they learned the secrets that brought them enlightenment. In Mithraism, there were seven degrees, and we know how Rowling loves seven, with the first called, the Crow or Corax.

Center Stage

Which leads me to a scene where these elements seem to all come together.

Grindelwald stands on a circular stone dais in an ancient amphitheater (which is even referred to as an amphitheater in the casting list on IMDb). It seems to be closed in, with light streaming in from above. In the upper regions, there are two bird statues. And in the crowd directly to the left of Grindelwald is a soldier-like guard and a Hitler lookalike. To me, that dais looks strikingly similar to an ancient celestial sphere or map of the cosmos, with Grindelwald dead center...staking his claim as the center of the new universe. Furthermore, the orb which Rosier is holding, which I thought at first might link to a recording of the breeding experiments with Credence, I now think might project a model of the magical zodiac, or perhaps a prophecy of a particular natal chart. Could it be either Grindelwald's or Credence's? Whatever is happening here, I believe Grindelwald is using the orb to persuade this secret gathering that time is ripe for change, and he is the one to make it happen.

The Occamy's Egg

There's another god often linked to or equated with Mithras: Phanes, the Greek god of creation and new life.

By some accounts, Phanes was born of Nyx, the

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goddess of Night, in her black bird form. He's a dying-rising god believed by the initiates of another mystery religion, Orphism, to impart the secrets of reincarnation. In Phanes and the Cosmic Egg, a snake wraps its coils around the winged god, born of the egg he stands on, in turn standing within the cosmic egg that births a new creation. All around him are the 12 symbols of the zodiac. This is rebirth or reincarnation... all from the union of this snake and bird-god. And we've had two hints of this pairing already in *Fantastic Beasts*— from the egg of the snake-bird Occamy, to the pose of Maledictus and her closeness with Credence.

Of Seahorses and Cup Bearers



If I'm right about this, here are a few other intriguing hints that could play a role:

One of the common representations for Aquarius was a lad named Ganymede. He was so handsome that Zeus, in the form of an eagle, abducted him and brought him to Olympus to serve as his lover and cupbearer. Ganymede was from Troy, descended from the river god Scamander. He was often pictured with the Phrygian cap and is posed here very similar to Mithras.

Another detail I've been pondering in the ballroom scene of the trailer is a curious detail of a woman with a seahorse hair pin.

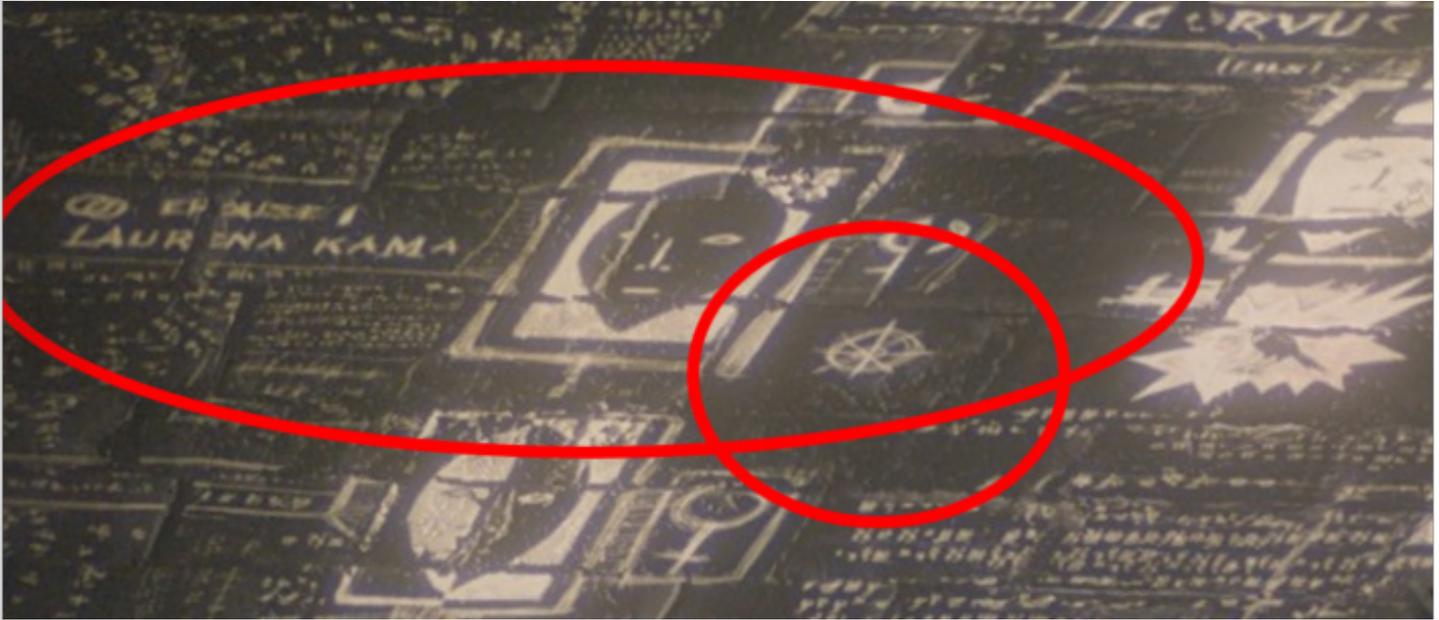
Then, look here, notice the sea horses in the bottom part of the magical zodiac.



They're part of this sea setting around what looks like a family of mermaids. Or, since it's recently been announced that we have a character named Melusine, played by Olwen Fouéré, I'm wondering if they might be the half fish half women of folklore called Melusine, and if this woman in the ball might be one of them. Finally, I've been thinking about this symbol next to Leta's mom ever since I examined the Lestrangle family tree in a video.

And now that we know Laurena Kama is cast, I'm even more curious to figure out what it means. I've got three guesses: a spider web, a compass rose, or a star. A spider web could hint that she's an Animagus. Or, we've seen a compass rose before with Newt. In ancient times, they were used by sailors to determine the dominant wind, which could be a link to the storm of the Obscurus. If it's a star, it could link her to a constellation.

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Grindelwald's Plan

We know the Fantastic Beasts series will span nineteen years (maybe the same number of constellations in the magical zodiac). We know it'll include Grindelwald's rise to power and a massive worldwide wizarding war. But what exactly will this all look like?

Grindelwald, I'm sure, believes it'll look like him. We know he's a charismatic leader. He's sure of his mission--that he is liberating the wizarding world. Perhaps he even considers he has the divine right to re-order the universe. And will the Raven and the Snake be elements of the old world that must be destroyed? Or will he use them to stake the legitimacy of his new regime? While I think during the next few films the loyalty and nature of Credence and Maledictus will appear ambiguous, and they will probably shift back and forth, in the end, as the Corvus always rides on the tail of the Hydra snake, their magical powers will unite to help defeat Grindelwald. Probably, unfortunately, as their final dying, or resurrecting, act.

It's All in the Subtext

One last point...I expect most of this will play out in subtext, which would make it tricky to

catch. Like with Harry Potter, Rowling gave brief nods to the concepts of Alchemy which underpinned her series, but for every hint above text, there was an iceberg below. We'll see the same with any major symbolic framework she uses for Fantastic Beasts. I doubt there'd be open references to the precession, though new world order will surely be heard. And hints at constellations will come like we've seen with Credence and Maledictus – through names like Corvus or linked images like the Hydra snake. So, we've got to have our wits about us!

S.P. Sibal is the author of [Fantastic Secrets Behind Fantastic Beasts: The Video Book](#), and [A Writer's Guide to Harry Potter](#). She has analyzed JK Rowling's adept use of clues and subtext since Harry Potter fever fist gripped fandom and has spoken at many writing and fan conferences. Join her and other Wizarding World fans on her popular YouTube channel, [BeastChaser.com](#), where together they seek out all the clues to Rowling's newest creation. You can follow her on Twitter too: [@HP4Writers](#) and [visit her official website](#).

ADAM FULRATH LEAVES POTTERMORE

The Head of Creative leaved Pottermore this week. This departure is not the first one in the past weeks: The Creative Director, Marketing Director and Social Media Manager also left the Digital Heart of the Wizarding World. Can we expect a new Pottermore soon?



Adam Fulrath joined Pottermore on November 2014 as a Head of Creative and since then he directed the revolution of the “The digital heart of the Wizarding World”. He oversaw the creation of a new editorial team, and also the change of tone of voice (and new content) for the 2015 relaunch of the website.

As he said on his own website, “The first step to relaunching Pottermore was to establish the backbone of the brand with a new identity, logo, brand photography and tone of voice. It needed to transform into a content driven mobile first platform.” He was also responsible for the Pottermore projects that received most positive feedback: the Patronus Quiz, the interactive 3D Hogwarts, and the animations and videos for worldwide launches tied to Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them.

Adam Fulrath will join Dewynters as the Director of Creative Services. It is interesting to note that the departure of Fulrath adds to the layoff of the Pottermore editorial team reported by BuzzFeed in the last days. In the past months and weeks, Anna Rafferty (Creative Director) and Henriette Stuart Reckling (Marketing Director) both left to take up jobs with the BBC, while Amelia Florence (Social Media Manager) left to take a job with Netflix. This could mean an organizational restructuring that would lead to a different Pottermore. Are we going to see Pottermore V3 in the next year?

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POTTERCAST INTERVIEWS J.K. ROWLING: ABOUT WOMBATS

Fragment from “PotterCast Interviews J.K. Rowling, part one.” PotterCast #130, 17 December 2007.

SU: But what was the purpose of them, though? Just for fun? Just to do those? I mean, why would you-- we felt like, oh man, we're like--

JKR: I'll tell you what it was, and this is kind of sad. I was told that it would be very unwise to put hints about “Hallows” on my site because we've had enormous trouble in “Half-Blood Prince” because I had put hints about it, and it was argued in court by people who wanted to put the whole book on the internet, or press people who've got hold of it, and wanted to put it out early, and-- an argument would be “well you put it on your site, so we have the right to put it up as well.” So I was told it would be very foolish to start putting chapter headings and so on, up. I would be weakening my own case against people who wanted to do spoilers. So then I started looking for something that I could give fans that wasn't foresha-- Although I hope you noticed-- Sorry, I'm going off on a slight tangent. I was going to say, to give fans stuff that wasn't foreshadowing Book 7. But in fact, if you were paying attention, W.O.M.B.A.T. 3 had loads of stuff from Book 7 in it. Hahahaha. And no one knew. and no one realized, including the lawyers, yay! So I win.

SU: Yay! And Jo wins! Yes you do, you go girl!

JKR: Thank you. Actually, there was a whole lot of stuff in at W.O.M.B.A.T. 3 that was taken from Seven, and people picked up on some of it. I had

some stuff in there about Gryffindor's sword and a few other things.

MA: Will you put up the answers so that people can kind of figure it out?

JKR: D'you know, I could. I could... would you like that?

SU: Yes, please.

MA: That would be fun.

JKR: Okay, that would be cool. It did amuse me. I can't remember, someone gave-- some site gave a guide to what you should be putting, and I think people who followed their advice were not getting the top marks, so....

JN: I mean, I got an “O” on all of my tests

SU: He did not!

JKR: Did you? Well, the embarrassing thing is my husband only got “Acceptable” and he was in the room while I was writing the questions and was listening to me telling him the answers. So, uh, what that says about how much my husband listens to me, I shudder to think.

JN: That sounds very much like a Hermione/Ron kind of thing.

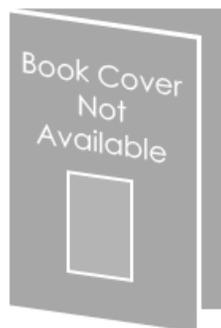
JKR: Yeah, we have our moments, believe you me. Yeah, so, he got an “Acceptable” and then got discouraged and didn't take another one. (laughs).

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



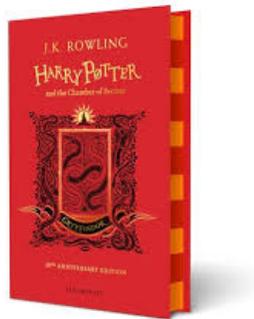
Lethal White
[No date yet]
Little, Brown and Co. (United Kingdom)
Hardcover



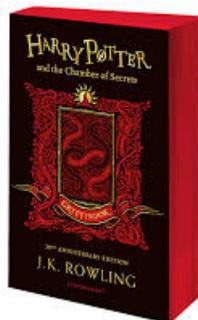
The Harry Potter series (the seven books)
June 26th, 2018
Scholastic (United States)
Paperback



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



McGonagall vs Snape by Valerio Buonfantino

VB

