



# Magazine

Issue 33. September 2019

**DUMBLEDORE  
AND MERLIN**

**CURSED  
CHILD  
REBRANDING**

**SIBLINGS  
IN THE  
WIZARDING  
WORLD**

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN



MOONY, WORMTAIL,  
PADFOOT, AND PRONGS

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

MOONY, WORMTAIL,  
PADFOOT, AND PRONGS

It took a few seconds for the absurdity of this statement to sink in. Then Ron voiced what Harry was thinking.

"You're both mental."

"Ridiculous!" said Hermione faintly.

"Peter Pettigrew's dead!" said Harry. "He killed him!"

He pointed at Black, whose face twitched convulsively.

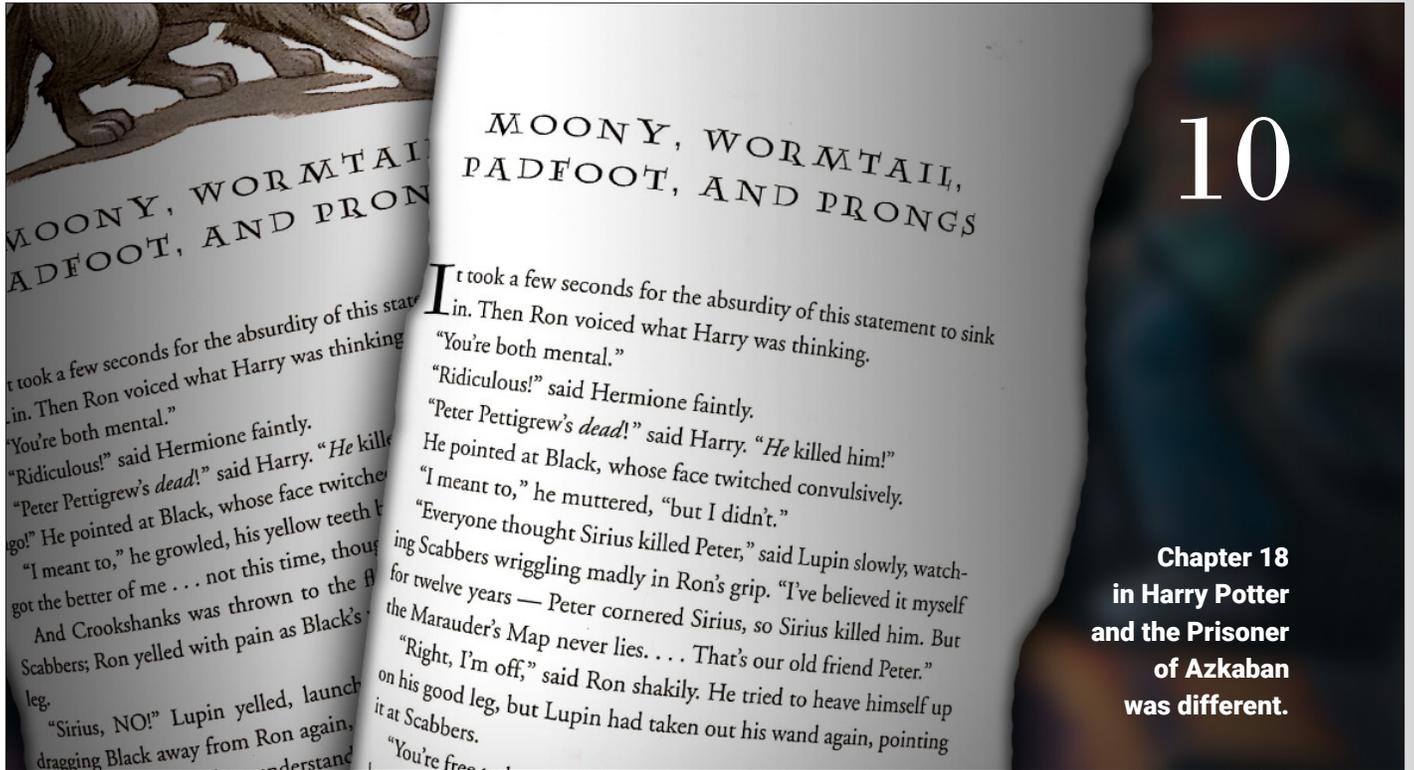
"I meant to," he muttered, "but I didn't."

"Everyone thought Sirius killed Peter," said Lupin slowly, watching Scabbers wriggling madly in Ron's grip. "I've believed it myself for twelve years — Peter cornered Sirius, so Sirius killed him. But the Marauder's Map says otherwise. I'm off, but I'll leave you a good leg, but I'll be free to leave with us."

# THE ORIGINAL CHAPTER 18

**THE FIRST VERSION OF CHAPTER 18  
FROM THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN**

# FEATURED



# 10

**Chapter 18  
in Harry Potter  
and the Prisoner  
of Azkaban  
was different.**

# 4

## A NEW BRANDING FOR THE CURSED CHILD

About the latest announcement for the stage play that involved Rowling and her return to Twitter.

# 7

## A QUOTE BY JO

Joanne Rowling about Sirius Black's death in the Order of the Phoenix

# 8

## DUMBLEDORE & MERLIN

Two characters cut from the same wood.

# 14

## SUPPORT US

Become a Patron of The Rowling Library for just \$2 per month.

# 15

## SIBLINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

The different relationships about siblings that Rowling has created.

# 17

## THE LIGHT WE LOST

Book review of the book by Jill Santopolo

# 20

## WIZARDING WORLD CROSSWORD

Test your Harry Potter knowledge in this puzzle

# 21

## FAN ART

Ravenclaw Common Room

# IMPRESSUM

THE ROWLING LIBRARY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2019

ISSUE #33

YEAR 3

FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF

PATRICIO TARANTINO

EDITOR

BELÉN SALITURI

CONTRIBUTORS

LAURENT GARCÍA

AYELÉN VEGAGIL ESPÓSITO

SIMON H.

# EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**In this issue, you have the chance to read how the first version of Chapter 18 of Prisoner of Azkaban was before the editorial changes.**

**Welcome to another issue of The Rowling Library Magazine!**

**In this issue, you can read about the latest announcement about the new branding of Cursed Child, how siblings behave in the Wizarding World, and the relationship between Albus Dumbledore and Merlin, one of the most famous wizards of all time.**

**However, our cover article is about something different: did you know the original version of Chapter 18 in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban was a bit different? We didn't, until we saw it ourselves in the Advance Reader's Edition of the third book. So we prepared this article to share the discovery with you.**

**We hope you like this issue and see you next month!**

## A NEW BRANDING FOR THE CURSED CHILD

ABOUT THE NEW HARRY POTTER AND THE  
CURSED CHILD ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LEFT A  
BITTERSWEET TASTE ON THE HARRY POTTER  
FANS

BY SIMON H.

SOMETIMES, DARKNESS COMES  
FROM UNEXPECTED PLACES



J.K. ROWLING'S  
**Harry Potter**  
AND THE  
CURSED CHILD

— THE STORY CONTINUES ON STAGE —





September 5th, everyone is patiently waiting for the rumored Cursed Child announcement. It's 10:40 pm in New York, the play just ended in the Lyric Theatre two blocks away. The Times Square screens suddenly change colors, a countdown appears. This is it. It's happening. It's going to be the biggest announcement of the year. We are ready! Is it a TV show? Is it a recording of the play? Or maybe they tricked us and it's actually a movie? Three, two, one. It's an updated logo with a brand new slogan made by J.K. Rowling! Wait, what?

To be honest, the new branding looks awesome. The fact that they changed the previous logo to the one that's in the movies and on the front cover of certain editions of the books is really cool. The circle is now close.! It actually creates a feeling of unity throughout the books, movies and now, the play. Also, let's not forget that the words "J.K. Rowling's" were added to the logo. This confirms to everyone that Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is indeed canon. There is no doubt left on that topic. Finally, a slogan was added alongside: "Sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places". According to Pottermore, it "was written by J.K. Rowling herself for the original play description and lends further intrigue to the image."

Secondly, the event they pulled off was very clever. By making all the screens at Times Square go full Harry Potter was not only insane for the fans who were there at the right time, but also they assured the announcement reached a lot of people

who were passers by in one of the most popular places in Earth. The fact that everyone could watch it or see it in person made it feel like the old days when books or movies were coming out, with the community being so hyped about it, and that's something we should be grateful for. We all stuck together waiting for the announcement, making up theories, impatiently waiting for the big reveal and it was a whole lot of fun.

However, the event wasn't just rainbows and hippogriffs... To start off, J.K. Rowling came back on Twitter after roughly six months of absence. It was a big thing for us. The one and only creator of Harry Potter was talking about something unexpected coming soon... Basically, the fans went nuts. By tweeting something so unclear and mysterious, the community's expectations went up a notch, a big notch. Everyone was talking about their biggest dreams and hopes for the series. To summarize, J.K. made it seem bigger than it actually was.

In the same vein, Pottermore got involved by denying the fact that Cursed Child movies were an actual thing. By saying no movies were on their way, people started thinking that the thing that was going to be announced was as big as a movie. Some of the fans even thought it wasn't a movie because it actually was a movie trilogy. Too good to be true, right? But people still believed it was possible.

From thread to needle, all of the above

*“The play is now officially canon, the event was a cool way of promoting the change, and the feeling of the community waiting for the announcement like back in the day was super fun. On the other hand, it felt a bit bittersweet because J.K. Rowling and the Cursed Child team made it a bigger thing than it actually was and that’s what caused a slight disappointment in every fan’s heart.”*

ended up on social media, and we all know what social media do. They multiply the hype by one thousand. All the community was trying to find out what was going to happen after the play ended and that even continued until 10:30 PM, ten minutes before the big announcement.

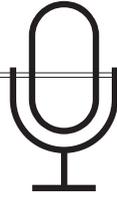
Lastly, I think the Cursed Child team should have told us it was going to be a logo reveal. They could have done that easily. For example, they could have tweeted: “Let’s all meet in Time Square at 10:40 PM for the big reveal of our new branding! See you there!” By doing this, the community would not have been so hyped about the event and the reactions would have been much better - I still don’t understand why they didn’t do it like that. Like, we already knew about the

new Harry Potter font since it was physically in London, we also knew about the Voldemort logo (The Dark Mark) and about the slogan since J.K. tweeted about it hours before the event... The point is that they should have told us what the announcement was and then surprise us with the big Time Square event, not with the new branding.

To summarize, here at The Rowling Library, we are happy with the changes that were made and with the new branding. The play is now officially canon, the event was a cool way of promoting the change, and the feeling of the community waiting for the announcement like back in the day was super fun. On the other hand, it felt a bit bittersweet because J.K. Rowling and the Cursed Child team

made it a bigger thing than it actually was and that’s what caused a slight disappointment in every fan’s heart. Of course, we don’t want to be harsh on them - but that’s how most fans felt after the announcement.

But you know what? Nobody knows what is going to happen next in the Wizarding World. Let’s keep hoping for a bigger and better announcement soon!



## A QUOTE BY JO

***"WELL I HAD RE-WRITTEN THE DEATH, RE-WRITTEN IT AND THAT WAS IT. IT WAS DEFINITIVE. AND THE PERSON WAS DEFINITELY DEAD. AND I WALKED INTO THE KITCHEN CRYING AND NEIL SAID TO ME, "WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG?" AND I SAID, "WELL, I'VE JUST KILLED THE PERSON". NEIL DOESN'T KNOW WHO THE PERSON IS. BUT I SAID, "I'VE JUST KILLED THE PERSON. AND HE SAID, "WELL, DON'T DO IT THEN." I THOUGHT, A DOCTOR YOU KNOW... AND I SAID "WELL IT JUST DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. YOU ARE WRITING CHILDREN'S BOOKS, YOU NEED TO BE A RUTHLESS KILLER."***



BBC - INTERVIEW  
WITH JEREMY  
PAXMAN  
BBC  
19 JUNE 2003

# DUMBLEDORE & MERLIN

TWO CHARACTERS CUT FROM  
THE SAME WOOD

BY AYLÉN VEGAGIL ESPÓSITO

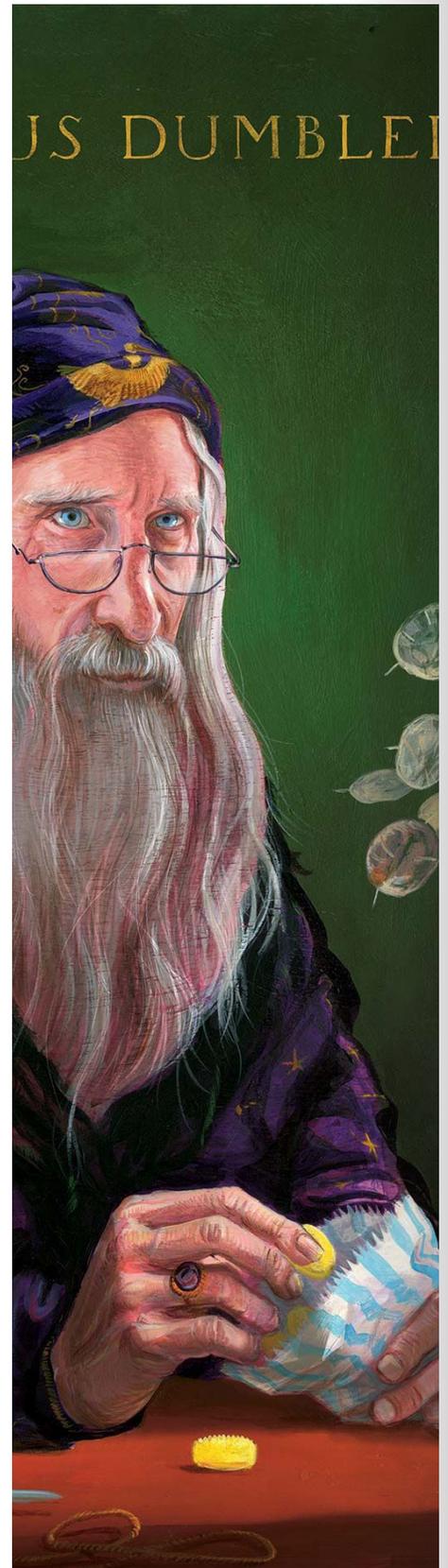
There's a legend that makes the United Kingdom one of the most magical countries around the world. I am talking about Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, their mythological and legendary adventures helped to develop some of the best Literature of all times. It's among these tales that we find one of the most controversial and intriguing characters: Emrys Myrddin, or just as we know him, the mage Merlin.

There are a lot of books, retellings, movies and series that take on the story of the best wizard of all the time, and how he had to train his ward, Arthur Pendragon, to become the Once and Future King. As I was reading a new retelling —you can read it in our last issue—, I couldn't help to make some parallelisms on his story and the story of Dumbledore.

It's not a secret that Rowling created some of the Wizarding World thinking on the T. H. White's *The Sword in the Stone*. So, it's not so hard to trace some similarities among our own

white bearded Albus Dumbledore and Merlin.

There's a funny side of this analysis, and it is that accordingly to Rowling herself, the mage Merlin was one of the firsts Hogwarts' students. He was sorted in Slytherin —he was truly ambitious, right?— and that's all that we know about him in the Potterverse, that and that his name is a favourite "swear" word. This made me wonder why. Rowling likes to tease us and share with us stories that had helped with the development of the Wizarding World. Some years ago, thanks to the release of *Fantastic Beasts* movies, we learnt more about some international aspects that we never knew before with Harry Potter. We now know that there are only seven renowned magical schools —I really hope that they are not the only ones, though, because then the magical population is really, really small and there is quite a breach with the hispanics left behind.





So, why don't we know more about Merlin and his muggle King Arthur? The real answer could be very different, but in my opinion is because Albus Dumbledore is Merlin. Stop right there dear reader and let me finish. I am not saying that he is Merlin, disguised as Dumbledore, nope. What I am saying is that Albus Dumbledore story is just similar to Merlin's. Both of them came from a dysfunctional family. According to the legend, Merlin was conceived by a nun that was seduced by an incubus and that's why Merlin was able to perform magic, some tales gave him a sister of the name Ganieda with whom he later on his life becomes close, meanwhile Dumbledore born in a patriarchal family, where his mother had a very subdued role, he had two siblings (there's still in doubt the one shocking reveal at the end of *Fantastic Beasts 2*) with whom he was not so close to.

Merlin was a very ambitious character from the beginning. He concocted a plan with magic and

intrigue that helped the birth of King Arthur, he then goes on training the young King to prepare him to become the Legend that we know today. It's quite astounding to read some of the tales of the Knights of the Round Table, where Merlin has a prominent role, sometimes depicting him as a wise counselor and others as a potential villain. These aspects of his character resound in what we have come to know from Albus Dumbledore's character.

We know Dumbledore mostly for what he had meant for Harry Potter. He was the one that created a plan to protect the Potters from Lord Voldemort, knowing that their child could be the one that was promised to defeat the Dark Lord. Then he played a prominent role, teaching and molding Harry to guide him in performing what we thought was his last quest, searching and destroying Horcruxes.

The interesting thing here is, how now thanks to the expansion of

the Wizarding World with *Fantastic Beasts*, Dumbledore may fully take the place of a Merlin of sorts in this fantasy world. He is the primary connection with the main tale (Harry Potter), and as with Merlin, sometimes his actions depict him as a villain.

So, you see? It seems that history may be repeating itself, though I could hardly know where Rowling may take us to as she is altering what we had thought was canon from the Potter books, but one thing is for sure: Merlin and Dumbledore are cut from the same wood.

A final fun fact from this analysis: both of them met their downfall in a cave.

**BY** Laurent García and Patricio Tarantino

# THE ORIGINAL

# CHAPTER 18

## EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION

Prior to the release of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Scholastic, the American publishers, released the Advance Reader's Edition, a copy of the book to share among journalists and booksellers. It was made to create enthusiasm and hype about the book, so those who influenced the market could share their thoughts about the book before the release. It was normal - even Bloomsbury did the same in the United Kingdom for the first three books (when they were not that popular and spoilers were not a problem).

These ARE (or ARC, from Advance Reader's Copy, as they are more commonly known) have minor differences from the final published version. For instance, the Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban doesn't

## ADVANCE READER'S EDITION

not have the final cover art - its design is just purple and black, possibly because Mary GrandPré didn't have the artwork ready when that ARC went into print. And it is not only on its design that isn't the same, some parts of the texts change. A few words, sometimes entire sentences, or the order of some paragraphs, nothing really important. Just in case, the publishers ask to not quote them if you are going to write a review, because the final version may not include the passage you use.

However, *Azkaban Advance Copy* does have an interesting difference. It was a month ago that I was checking this copy when I opened Chapter 18, "Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, and Prongs". Check the differences yourself in the images on the right.

As you may note, the start of the chapter is already different. The dialogue isn't the same: while in the final and published version Remus Lupin wants to explain to the trio what happened, in the original one he is more direct and more on Sirius' side. "You're free to leave us, all three of you, but you'll leave Peter with us," he says as soon as he discovers the truth, while he never said that in the published version. In fact, in the version we all know, he is more like a middle-man between Sirius and Harry, Ron and Hermione: he wants to make justice, but at the same time, he wants Harry and friends to know the truth, to get the explanation they deserve.

A few paragraphs down, after Sirius keeps pushing Lupin to hurry up with the explanation, Lupin explains Peter Pettigrew is an Animagus, and Hermione says that's not possible because the Ministry of Magic keeps a record. And Lupin replies, "But the Ministry never knew that there used to be three unregistered Animagi running around Hogwarts". In the original

MOONY, WORMTAIL,  
PADFOOT, AND PRONGS

It took a few seconds for the absurdity of this statement to sink in. Then Ron voiced what Harry was thinking.

"You're both mental."

"Ridiculous!" said Hermione faintly.

"Peter Pettigrew's *dead!*" said Harry. "*He* killed him!"

He pointed at Black, whose face twitched convulsively.

"I meant to," he muttered, "but I didn't."

"Everyone thought Sirius killed Peter," said Lupin slowly, watching Scabbers wriggling madly in Ron's grip. "I've believed it myself for twelve years — Peter cornered Sirius, so Sirius killed him. But the Marauder's Map never lies. . . . That's our old friend Peter."

"Right, I'm off," said Ron shakily. He tried to heave himself up on his good leg, but Lupin had taken out his wand again, pointing it at Scabbers.

"You're free to leave, all three of you," he said quietly. "But you'll leave Peter with us."

\* 5 4 7 \*

## PUBLISHED (AND FINAL) EDITION

MOONY, WORMTAIL,  
PADFOOT, AND PRONGS

It took a few seconds for the absurdity of this statement to sink in. Then Ron voiced what Harry was thinking.

"You're both mental."

"Ridiculous!" said Hermione faintly.

"Peter Pettigrew's *dead!*" said Harry. "*He* killed him twelve years ago!" He pointed at Black, whose face twitched convulsively.

"I meant to," he growled, his yellow teeth bared, "but little Peter got the better of me . . . not this time, though!"

And Crookshanks was thrown to the floor as Black lunged at Scabbers; Ron yelled with pain as Black's weight fell on his broken leg.

"Sirius, NO!" Lupin yelled, launching himself forwards and dragging Black away from Ron again, "WAIT! You can't do it just like that — they need to understand — we've got to explain —"

"We can explain afterwards!" snarled Black, trying to throw

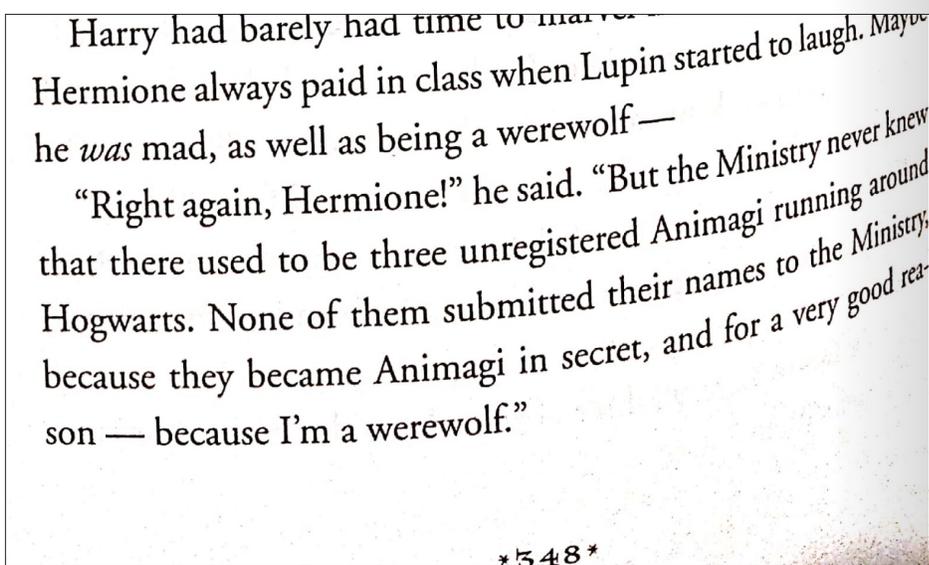
version, tho, he adds "None of them submitted their names to the Ministry, because they became Animagi in secret, and for a very good reason - because I'm a werewolf." This is how Remus was going to reveal his truth - in a more dramatic way.

Later on, Lupin makes yet another kinda dramatic revelation: not only did James, Sirius and Peter become Animagi, but they did it secretly. More precisely, Lupin explains that while they were practicing on their transformations, they "didn't tell [him] what they were up to, didn't want [him] to know, in case it didn't work". In the published version of the chapter, this detail disappeared, as Lupin only mentions that his three classmates managed to become Animagi during their fifth year and that's about it. Now we particularly like this one sentence of the ARC.

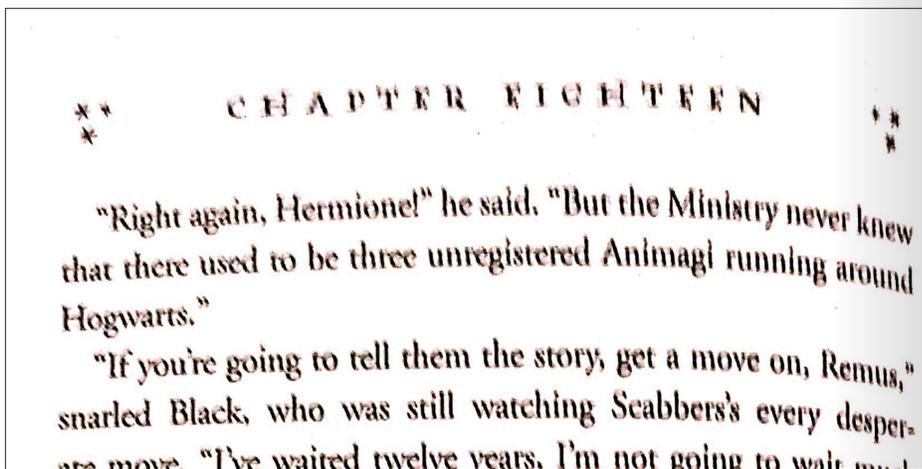
Although we understand that not every detail could make it to the published version of the chapter, we feel like this one is a little bit special. You know how Hermione has her magic bag that only holds the appearance of a bag on the outside, but once you put your hand inside you can find room for many more items. That's exactly what this sentence is like: while we don't want to turn this article into a piece of fanfiction, it lets you imagine James, Sirius and Peter spending hours every week in an empty Hogwarts room, secretly practicing their Animagi transformation in order to comfort their friend Remus, while he was going through the night in the Shrieking Shack. We think if there is one idea that sums up the friendship between the four Marauders, that is a pretty good one.

The last major change we spotted lies in the way Lupin talks about

**ADVANCE READER'S EDITION**



**PUBLISHED (AND FINAL) EDITION**



## ADVANCE READER'S EDITION

Dumbledore and betraying his trust. In the ARC, he first gives details on how Dumbledore assisted him with his condition and helped him keep it a secret. A few paragraphs later, Hermione asks him if Dumbledore had knowledge of James, Peter and Sirius being Animagi, to which Remus briefly explains that he still doesn't know about it and that they would have been expelled as "they had broken an important law" and that's it. While the ARC version of the chapter didn't expand much on Remus' feelings about acting behind Albus Dumbledore's back, the published version delves much deeper into Lupin's mind. In fact, it openly shows for the first time some of Remus' imperfections: his "self-disgust" and his cowardness. Lupin explains how he spent a whole year "wondering whether [he] should tell Dumbledore that Sirius was an Animagus" but didn't do it.

While we very much like the way the ARC depicts what happens in the Shrieking Shack that very night, and we particularly enjoy some of the details that were sadly removed, it seems that the additions we observed in the published version of the chapter and mentioned above - such as exposing darker parts of Professor Lupin's personality - were a very interesting way for Rowling to prepare us for some of the things that would happen in later Harry Potter books.

This comparison gives us a glimpse inside of Rowling's creative process. In this case, we were able to see an early version of one chapter and how Rowling imagined that scene before it was published. If we had access to early versions of the whole books, we sure would be able to read a completely different take on the Harry Potter story, one without any edit or modification, closer to Rowling's original ideas.

"Did Professor Dumbledore *know* about the Animagus spell?" said Hermione wonderingly.

"To this day, he has no idea that James, Sirius, and Peter became Animagi. He would have had to expel them. . . . They had broken an important law. . . ."

"And that's why Snape doesn't like you?" said Harry slowly. "Because he thought you were in on Sirius's joke?"

"That's right," said a cold voice from the wall behind Lupin.

## PUBLISHED (AND FINAL) EDITION

what Sirius had done, went after Snape and pulled him back, at great risk to his life . . . Snape glimpsed me, though, at the end of the tunnel. He was forbidden by Dumbledore to tell anybody, but from that time on he knew what I was. . . ."

"So that's why Snape doesn't like you," said Harry slowly, "because he thought you were in on the joke?"

"That's right," sneered a cold voice from the wall behind Lupin. Severus Snape was pulling off the Invisibility Cloak, his wand

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIONS, CONSIDER BECOMING A PATREON OF THE ROWLING LIBRARY AT [WWW.PATREON.COM/ROWLINGLIBRARY](http://WWW.PATREON.COM/ROWLINGLIBRARY).**



# SUPPORT US

IF YOU LIKED THIS ISSUE OF THE ROWLING LIBRARY MAGAZINE, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US WITH A SMALL MONTHLY DONATION.

WE RE-INVEST ALL OUR INCOME INTO PAYING OUR COLLABORATORS TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU BETTER QUALITY IN THE MAGAZINE CONTENT (AND ALL THE OTHER ONLINE PROJECTS WE DO). FOR ONLY \$2 PER MONTH, YOU CAN BECOME A PATREON - EVEN THOUGH FOR SOME PEOPLE \$2 MAY BE NOT MUCH, IT MEANS A LOT TO US.

AND ALL OUR PATRONS ALSO RECEIVES THE DAILY PROPHET THREE TIMES A WEEK IN THEIR EMAIL INBOX, WITH THE LATEST HARRY POTTER NEWS AND COMMENTARY, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU ARE PAYING LESS THAN €20 PER DAILY PROPHET EDITION.

OUR CURRENT SUPPORTS - TO WHICH WE ARE REALLY GRATEFUL - ARE:

CHRISTIAN SHAHMARDIAN, CYNTHIA, HANNAH MCNAMEE, JEFF JARVIS, JEFFREY LEYH, JOHN LIVINGSTON, JOSEPHINE GLAZOV, KENNETH MONTFORT, MARGARET CONWAY FLOWE, MARY BETH MURPHY, PATRICIA KLOSE, RACHEL HAMMER, RENA KLEIN, RENJIE FU, SHELYNN, SHERRI RAWSTERN, STEPHANIE VARNELL , SUSAN SIPAL, SUZANNE LUCERO AND VICKY MCKINLEY.

J.K. ROWLING'S WIZARDING WORLD

# SIBLINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

LET'S TAKE A LOOK ABOUT THE DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS  
ABOUT SIBLINGS THAT ROWLING HAS CREATED.

**BY** Ayelén Vegagil Espósito



In the Harry Potter Universe it seems that familial relationships are very different and vary between each family. The interesting thing about this is how siblings interact among each other.

At the very beginning of the story we see that Petunia and Lily Evans were very distant among each other, one being jealous of the other and resented



for her being different. It is this resentment that made Petunia to take Harry and allow her husband and son to bully him. She didn't like to have her sister's son under her roof, even though at the end we could see a glimpse of remorse in her. She gave an olive branch to Harry and it was very humble moment for her character's arc.

This same happens inside of the Weasley family, they are very numerous, being 7 siblings, and they are a bit dysfunctional even when they seem to be united among themselves in their differences. The plot twist with Percy's betrayal at the Order of the Phoenix was setting the environment to open the gates to the Black's family story and even the twist with the Goldstein's sisters story at *Fantastic Beasts: the Crimes of Grindelwald*.

Through these relationships we kind of have the example for that saying that says that in the XXI Century it's our friends that are more our family than our own family. Ron saw in Harry a brother more than a friend, Sirius

and James were more brothers than Sirius and Regulus were, and even Newt, that respects his brother, is not united with him as he is with Jacob or even Dumbledore.

It's interesting to take a look at these damaged relationships as we know from interviews and unofficial biographies that Rowling and her sister are somewhat very united. It seems that these damaged relationships in the Pottermore are the doors to some of the major darkest plots of the stories.

The rivalry among siblings is the strongest pattern present in all the plot and this may become even darker in the expanding storyline of *Fantastic Beasts* in the hands of Dumbledore's family that seems to have more secrets and be more twisted than what we knew.

It's going to be interesting to see the development of the relationships between Queenie and Tina, Newt and Theseus, and of course the Dumbledores'. Would we have a repeat from

the Blacks, where Bellatrix and Narcissa never acknowledged Andromeda again? Are these families really twisted and dark as a plot from V. C. Andrews?

One thing is for sure, some of these stories may not end very well.

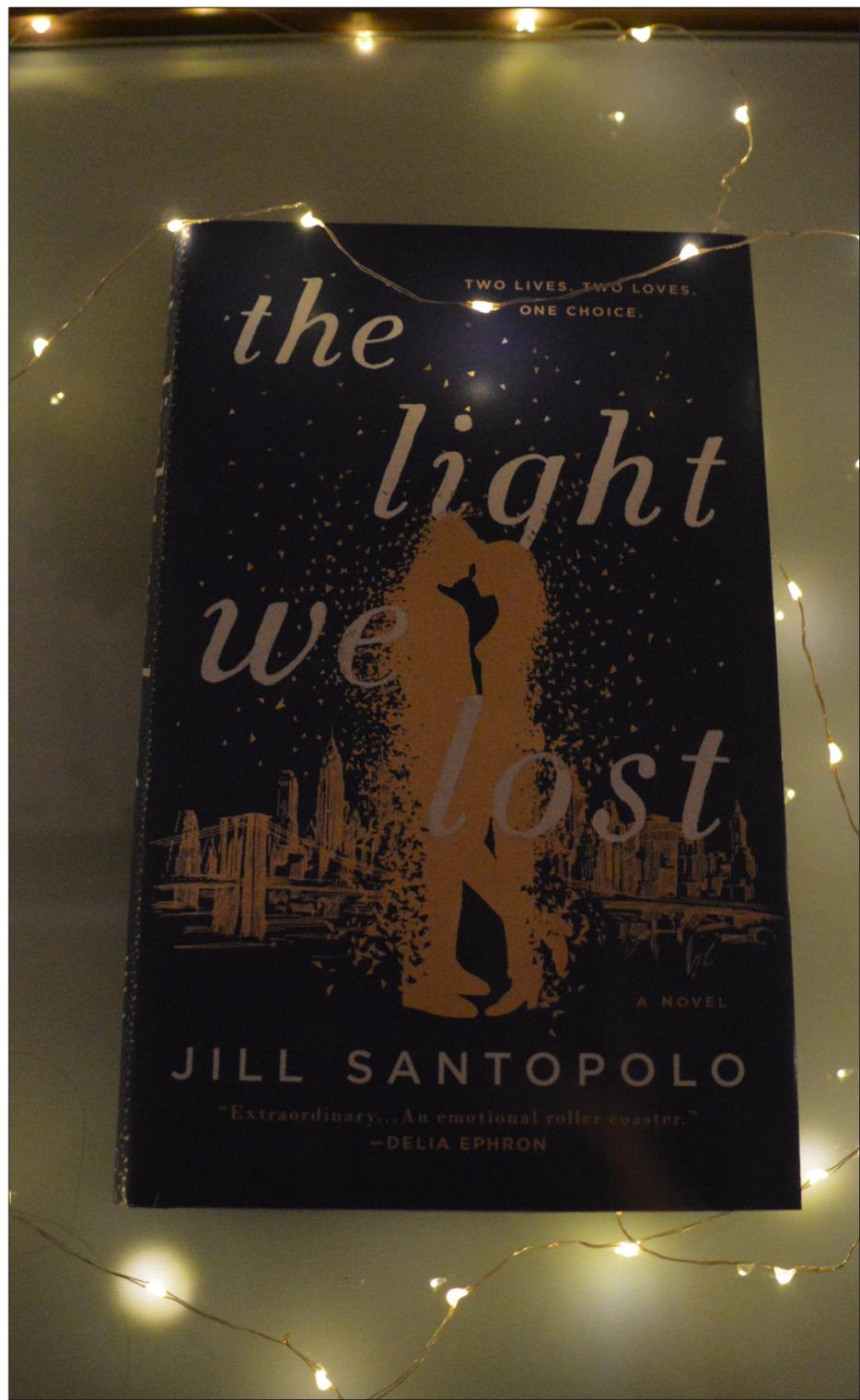
## BOOK REVIEW

BY Ayelén Vegagil Espósito

# THE LIGHT WE LOST

## BY JILL SANTOPOLO

I MUST CONFESS THAT I HAVE A GUILTY PLEASURE OF READING LOVE STORIES WITH A DRAMATIC TWIST. I REALLY LIKE WHEN CHARACTERS HAVE TO SORT OUT A LOT IN THEIR LIVES UNTIL THEY CAN FINALLY BE TOGETHER. SO, WHEN I READ THE SYNOPSIS OF 'THE LIGHT WE LOST' BY JILL SANTOPOLO, I WAS BOUGHT. I JUST HAVE TO READ IT AND ENJOY THE PROMISED ROLLERCOASTER THAT IT SOLD, AND MAN IF IT WAS NOT QUITE A RIDE! BUT IT WASN'T A GOOD RIDE, NOPE. LET ME EXPLAIN WHY:





*He was the first person to inspire her, to move her, to truly understand her. Was he meant to be the last?*

*Lucy is faced with a life-altering choice. But before she can make her decision, she must start her story –their story– at the very beginning.*

*Lucy and Gabe meet as seniors at Columbia University on a day that change them forever. Together they decide they want their lives to mean something, to matter. When they meet again a year later, it seems fated –perhaps they’ll find life meaning in each other. But then Gabe becomes a photojournalist assigned to the Middle East and Lucy pursues a career in New York City.*

*What follows is a thirteen-year odyssey of dreams, jealousies, and ultimately, of love. Lucy will begin a new life with handsome and reliable Darren, while Gabe will travel the world. Their journey will take Lucy and Gabe continents apart but never out of each other’s hearts. And Lucy will find herself asking: Was it fate that brought them together? Is it choice that has kept them away?*

*Lucy’s powerful voice brings to life the universal truth of first love, of being completely understood for the first time. Emotional and page-turning. The Light We Lost is a devastatingly romantic debut novel with a shattering,*

*unforgettable ending.*

Seems promising right? The synopsis gives away some major plot-twists but surely can sold you a tale that is more cringe-worthy than cry-worthy. Yes, perhaps you will cry with its ending, but not for the right reasons as you would surely do if you read something like *One Day* by David Nicholls, or *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, or even *Where the Rainbow Ends* by Cecelia Ahern.

First of all I have to say that the setting of the story was very, very promising. It starts in New York City the morning of September 11th, 2001. Lucy and Gabe, the main characters, meet in unexpected circumstances after their classes end abruptly because of the tragedy. They share a moment while the world around them is chattering, and from there on their story will be depicting that chaotic moment. It’s a shame that this moment was so badly used for the story, though.

The story has it good parts, don’t get me wrong, but it’s thanks to their characters that I couldn’t connect with it. They are too shallow, too egoistic and selfish that is not healthy. Especially Lucy, she is the one that gives voice to the toxic romantic story that she shares with Gabe. What I hated the most was the flatness on their development as

characters. They are good at hurting each other and pretty much nothing else.

The romance felt forced. At times I felt that Santopolo was trying too hard to put Lucy and Gabe on the same path, and just when they were almost reaching a point of closeness, she throw them away again, and again, and then once more. It was a pretty obvious and cliched circle. I was expecting something epic, something that could make me mourn its ending just like Jojo Mojes did —I mourned for almost two weeks after reading *Me Before You*—. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

If I had to pick a favourite character I would pick Gabe, maybe, but only because he seems to be the only character in the book that seems to follow his own dreams, even when he is being selfish, or at least that is how Lucy paints him. But even then, I would be lying if I said that he was the best, no character in this book is salvageable.

The best asset of the book is its design. I simply cannot tell you enough how lovely the cover of the book is. Penguin and Meighan Cavanaugh did an astoundingly job here. I would rightly say here that you should never judge a book by its cover, as this is one of the best examples that I have ever encountered.

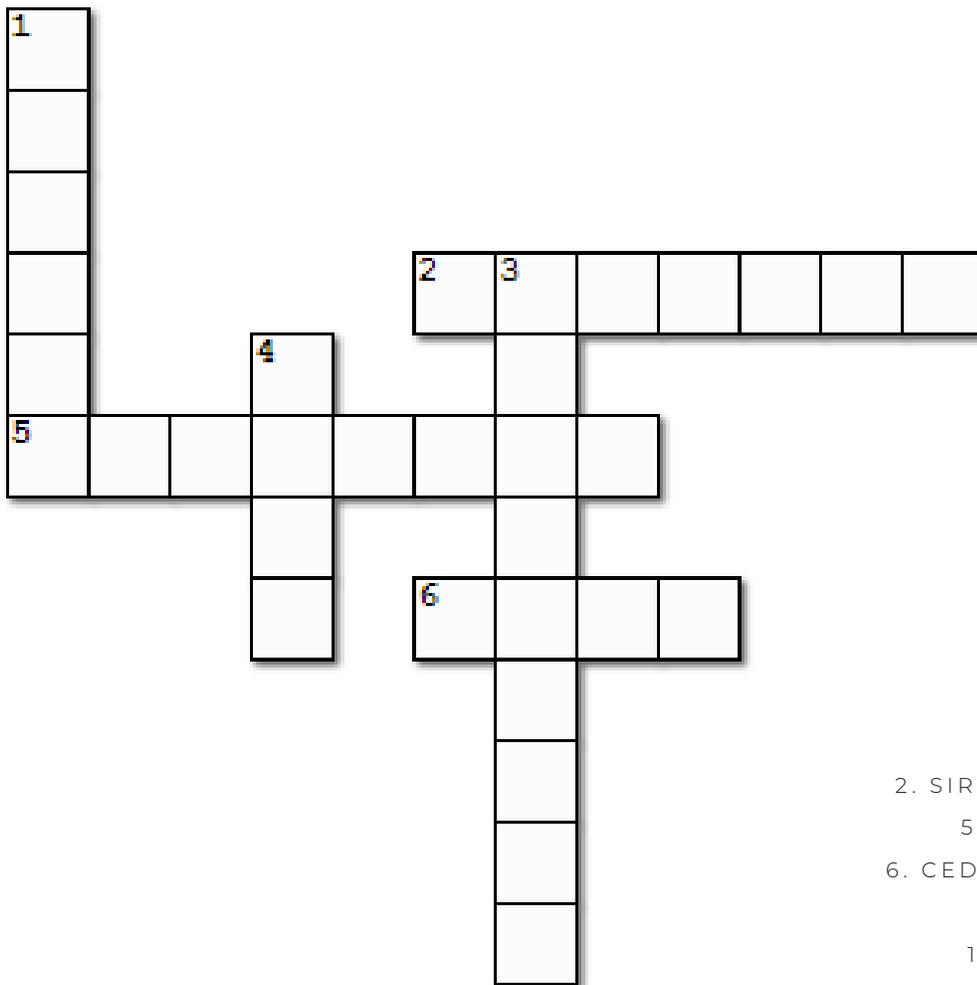
*«There are moments that shift the trajectory of people's lives. For so many of us who lived in New York City then, September 11th was that moment. Anything I did that day would have been important, would have been burned into my mind and branded on my heart. I don't know why I met you that day, but I do know that because I did, you would have been a part of my personal history forever.»*

I think that with this book Santopolo wanted to create an homage for the 9/11 tragedy, something like the Remember Me film by Allen Coulter —starring Robert Pattinson and Emilie De Ravin—, but it failed resoundingly. I wouldn't read it again or recommend it, but you may find it of your liking if you like to read stories like *After* by Anna Todd, or *Fifty Shades of Grey* by E. L. James.

Without further ado. Mischief Managed!

# WIZARDING WORLD CROSSWORD

TEST YOUR HARRY POTTER KNOWLEDGE IN THIS PUZZLE



**ACROSS**

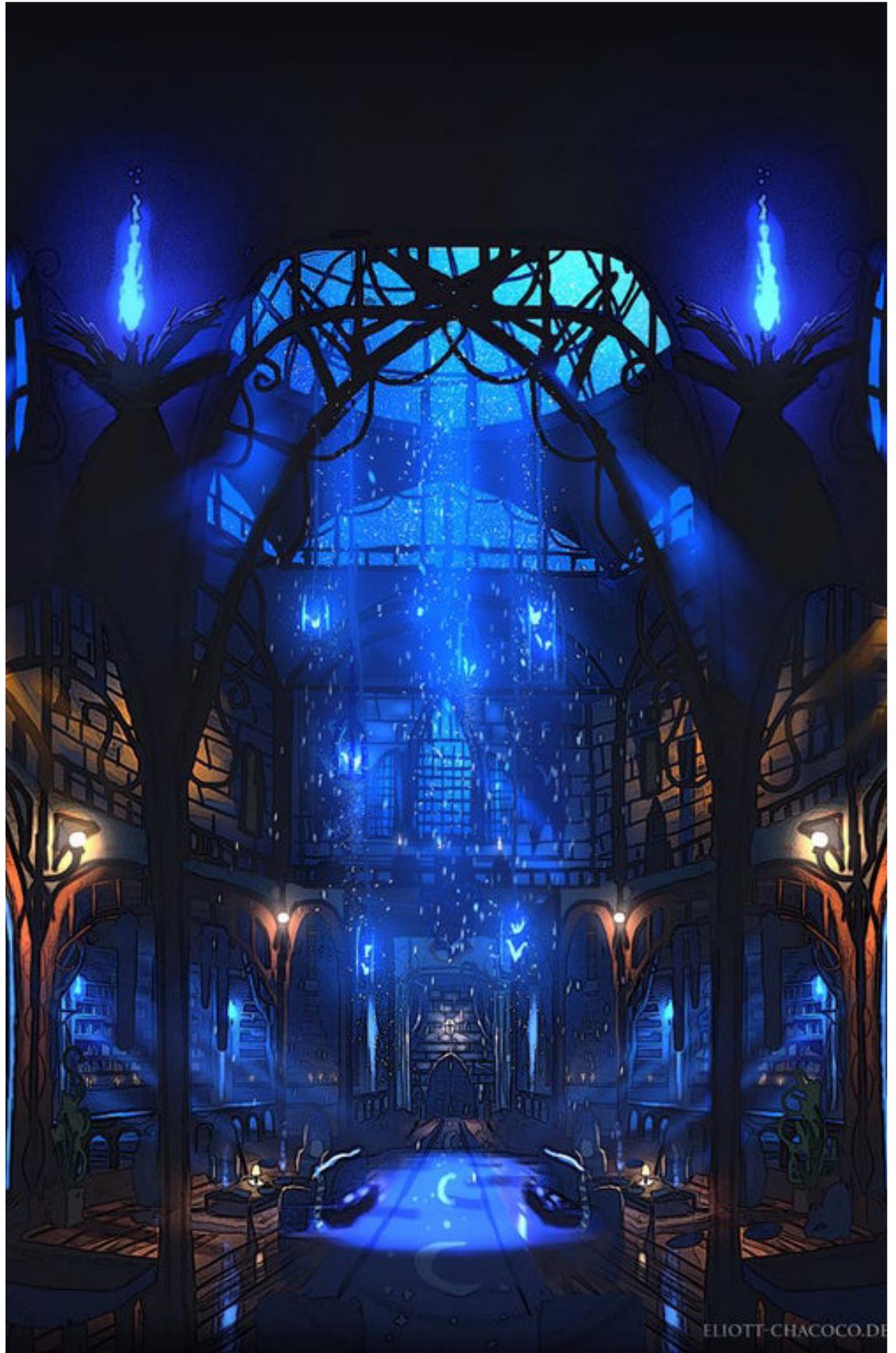
- 2. SIRIUS BLACK'S NICKNAME
- 5. DRACO MALFOY'S SON
- 6. CEDRIC DIGGORY'S FATHER

**DOWN**

- 1. HAGRID'S FIRST NAME
- 3. SPELL TO PRODUCE WATER
- 4. BULGARIAN SEEKER

# FAN ART

RAVENCLAW COMMON ROOM  
BY ELIOTT CHACOCO



**THE  
ROWLING  
LIBRARY  
MAGAZINE**

**ISSUE #33 - SEPTEMBER 2019**