

# The 56 Hogwarts House Editions

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# WELCOME

Four years have passed since Bloomsbury announced the Hogwarts House Editions for the first Harry Potter book, and finally, we have all of them now in this format. This month we are going to go through them in our cover article, the good and bad parts, and if we can expect something else like this in the future.

The reopening of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* has been announced as well, and Oliver Horton shows us the good parts of the eighth story. Alan Dell'Oso revisits an unknown wand from a not very-well-known character, and Mona Morsy joins the staff with a new section: Mona's Vintage Corner. And there is more, of course, but you'll have to read to discover it!

We hope to see you again in August!

Patricio

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BY OLIVER HORTON

# FINDING THE GOOD IN THE CURSED CHILD

**Harry Potter and the Cursed Child announced its return to the theatres. Oliver goes about the bright side of the controversial eight story.**

Many Harry Potter fans hate *The Cursed Child*. The time-hopping tale was not written by J.K. Rowling and exists primarily to put magic on the stage before your very eyes. Marketing *The Cursed Child* as the next installment in Harry's story stretched the truth. But the play's flaws have been aired loudly and often. Let's look instead at what *The Cursed Child* does well.

The play has three protagonists: 40-year-old Harry Potter, his youngest son Albus and Albus's best friend Scorpius. The story begins in "19 Years Later", the epilogue to *Deathly Hallows*, then fast-forwards a couple of years and, via a prototype Time Turner, returns to events in *Goblet of Fire*. Reality shifts as the play asks, what if Harry & Co. had failed?

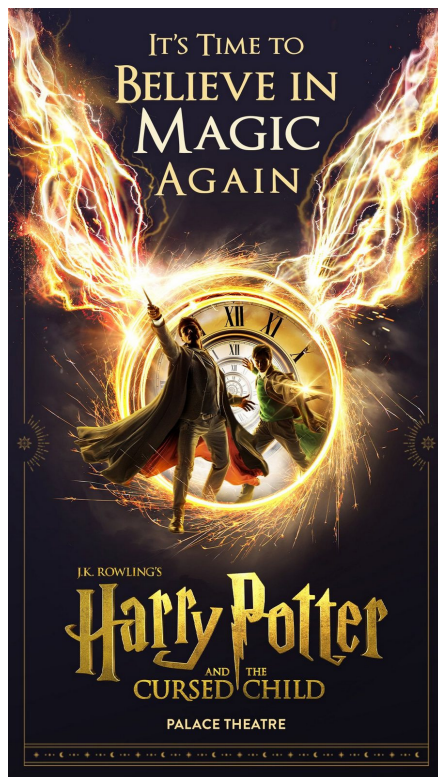
The most immediate win is the

characterization of the school-age characters. Albus Severus Potter struggles to live up to his father's fame, to live up to his own name. Scorpius is likewise in the shadow of his notorious dad, Draco Malfoy. Scorpius is arguably the best character in the story, funny and tenacious. The boys' relationship is symbiotic and charming. "Friends?" "Always." They are both in House Slytherin, which goes some way to repairing Slytherin's reputation as the horrid House. Meanwhile, Harry's eldest son James is a cheeky replica of his namesake grandfather, with a hint of Fred and George. James is the heir, Albus the spare. Kill the spare! Hermione and Ron's daughter Rose is academic, sporty and dynamic. "I have no idea where she gets her ambition from," deadpans Ron. The upwardly-mobile Hermione Granger is now Minister for Magic.

The play tidies up some loose ends from the books. Draco comes in from the cold: “It is exceptionally lonely being Draco Malfoy.” The adult Trio of Harry, Ron and Hermione becomes a Quintet as Ginny, sidelined in ‘Deathly Hallows’, also joins the adventure. Harry’s spouse, the youngest Weasley sibling, is as fierce and funny as in the books. Despite being Molly’s daughter, Ginny is no housewife. She is the sports editor of the Daily Prophet (Harry is the country’s top Auror). The kitchen chez Potter is Harry’s domain, which amends some incongruent sexism from *Deathly Hallows*, wherein the Chosen One has Hermione do the cooking while the Trio hunt Horcruxes, his kitchen experience from years as Petunia’s sous-chef apparently forgotten.

As with the movies Ron Weasley is played for laughs. He retains the schoolboy’s anti-Slytherin and anti-Malfoy sentiment. He runs Weasley’s Wizard Wheezes. He hasn’t grown up all that much. But he gets some touching alternative-reality moments with Hermione, plus one of the truest, silliest slices of dialogue in the piece: “Just to say – I didn’t know about much of it so can’t take responsibility – and I’m pretty sure my kids had nothing to do with it – but if this lot [Hermione, Harry, Ginny, Draco] are standing up here, then so am I.” The play also reveals what Hermione would become without Ron’s love and Harry’s friendship –

a schoolteacher every bit as mean as Severus Snape! Harry challenges Dumbledore about leaving him at Privet Drive. Moaning Myrtle, the depressive ghost, does an entertaining turn: “I always did have a soft spot for the Potters. And I was moderately partial to a Malfoy too.” Yes, it’s a ‘A Very Potter Musical’ without the songs or swearing. Indeed, the creators of ‘A Very Potter Sequel’ should ask for their plot back. *The Cursed Child* is not the eighth Harry Potter story, but a theme park ride. Think: licensed fan fiction.



In *The Cursed Child*, the hinge point of Harry's Hogwarts years is not the return of Voldemort but the murder, in *Goblet of Fire*, of Cedric Diggory. Death and mourning is key to the Harry Potter experience and stays in the bake here: one character is haunted by the death of their child, another by the death of a parent. There is also jealousy and rivalry between friends, growing pains and unrequited love, which bring genuine emotional resonance. Being a good father turns out to be as difficult as, well, school had been, for both Harry and Draco. Only Ron, the clown, has the knack.

J.K. Rowling's wizarding stories end with at least one monologue to explain most of what just happened. *The Cursed Child* does not. Which leaves a big question hanging: who is the Cursed Child? Candidates include Harry himself, Albus Potter, Scorpius Malfoy and a new character, Delphi, a 20-ish-year-old witch introduced as Cedric's cousin. Each of them is

cursed from birth or some time near it, and each lets their curse define them – for a time. From Amos Diggory's point of view, his son Cedric is the Cursed Child, the boy who didn't live. And Draco suffers the curse of his Death Eater past, among other burdens. The play's infant-in-the-nest logo does not obviously apply to any character. But the absence of a distinct Cursed Child does not hurt the forward thrust of the story. To be a Cursed Child is to be possessed by the past: all of these characters must overcome their personal histories. They must fight to save their present. They must sacrifice dreams of perfection and simply be.

Draco: "I always envied them you know – Weasley and Granger."

Ginny: "I envied them too."

– **'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'**





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# 56 HOGWARTS HOUSE EDITIONS

“*Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* will be re-released this summer in stunning House Editions to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the series” – that’s the phrase that was repeated in press releases, *Harry Potter* websites and among fans back in February 2017. Bloomsbury, the British publisher of the *Harry Potter* books, announced that to celebrate 20 years of the publication of the first book in the series, they were going to publish eight different new editions of the novel: one for each Hogwarts House, both in paperback and in hardback.

Those editions, which included new illustrations and extra content (more on that later), were well received by the fans, and Bloomsbury saw a very good

opportunity. The publishing house said they were going to launch the rest of the books in that format, and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* came next, in 2018, to celebrate once again, the 20th anniversary of its publication in the United Kingdom.

*Prisoner of Azkaban* and *Goblet of Fire* followed, published in 2019 and 2020, respectively. But then, Bloomsbury had to make a decision. The fifth book in the series was published back in 2003, so if they wanted to keep up with the 20th anniversary pattern, they would have to wait until 2023 to release its *Hogwarts House Edition*. Truth to be told, the momentum would’ve been lost and fans could’ve lost interest by that time, so Bloomsbury decided to stop referring to these editions

as the Anniversary Editions and accelerated the publishing process. Thus, *The Order of the Phoenix* was released in this format in June 2020, *Half-Blood Prince* in January 2021 and the last one, *The Deathly Hallows*, just a few weeks ago, in June 2021, completing the collection of exactly 56 books. Yes, 56 books, because each novel was published in 8 different editions (four copies in paperback, and four copies in hardback).

Each edition for each novel was themed around a Hogwarts House on the inside and outside — that meant that not only the design was the difference between each edition, but also the extra content. It was, in fact, the first time Bloomsbury included additional material in a Harry Potter novel, in the form of introductions, fact

files and character profiles. The first book included a four-page introduction to each House, a list of important alumni, and a profile of the Hogwarts House Head. However, the following books included less content. For example, *Prisoner of Azkaban* added a two-page introduction to the House, and a text at the end about Patronuses, which remained the same across the different houses, except for a few sentences that named some characters who belonged to that particular House.

For every new edition, a theme or topic was used to inspire the illustrations and the new extra content. For the first book, the theme was the Hogwarts House in general, but for the next books we had house-elves (2), Patronuses (3), Magical Paintings (4), Characters



HARDCOVER HOGWARTS HOUSE EDITIONS FOR HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS (BLOOMSBURY)



HOUSE-ELVES BY LEVI PINFOLD FOR THE HOGWARTS HOUSE EDITION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (BLOOMSBURY)

(5), Wizing Books (6) and Heroes and Heroines (7). All of this new content came together with illustrations by Levi Pinfold, and they included character portraits mimicking paintings from the Wizing World, all in his singular style of line illustrations.

The covers' illustrations were also credited to Pinfold, and although they share the same main iconographic image, they had clues or easter eggs to each one of the houses. For example, Gryffindor and Slytherin editions have a Severus Snape portrait on the Half Blood Prince cover, but Gryffindor

also shows the Weasley's Wizard Wheezes shop, while Slytherin shows the Dark Mark.

Pinfold's illustrations were one of the most awaited features by the fans on each new book. His particular way of illustrating new characters and environments was a fine touch, considering that his illustrations are also quite different from the views imposed by the films and closer to the books' descriptions. The fans received this new artwork in a very positive way, actually praising it. However, the new written content added at the beginning and at the end of the

book was not that well received.

The problem with this added material (from Hogwarts Houses introductions, characters lists and profiles) is that it did not reveal anything new. While a lot of fans keep asking J.K. Rowling to disclose new canon information about their favourite characters, Bloomsbury had the chance to do that through these new fact files. Instead of asking the author to produce new content, they decided to re-use well known information by getting this from the internet.

That was confirmed with the Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff edition of *Philosopher's Stone* published back in 2017. Both editions included an erroneous fact about two Hogwarts Professors: "Professor Sprout had a long-term relationship with fellow teacher Professor Flitwick". The error,

which was copied by a Bloomsbury employee from an online meme, made its way into the first printing. The Rowling Library reported the error, and Bloomsbury promised to fix it in future reprints, which finally happened. However, this showed that the additional content promised by the publisher was not of the quality that most fans expected.

Similar errors happened in the next books, where Bloomsbury decided to include some easter eggs in the cover of a House Edition that, in reality, belonged to a different House. However, those were a bit more difficult to spot because, in the end, imagery is hardly something objective and the iconography used could have multiple meanings.

With the announcement of *Deathly Hallows* as the last edition

plants.

Did you know? Professor Sprout had a long-term relationship with fellow teacher Professor Flitwick. Sadly it didn't work out but they remain friends.

In her own words:

*'Bubotubers,' Professor Sprout told them briskly.  
'They need squeezing. You will collect the pus -'*

ERROR IN THE FIRST PRINTING OF THE RAVENCLAW AND HUFFLEPUFF EDITION  
OF HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE



BOX SET FOR THE HOGWARTS HOUSE EDITIONS (BLOOMSBURY)

of this collection, some fans found another reason to be annoyed. Bloomsbury said that, alongside the seventh book, they were going to release a full box set with the seven novels. Fans who purchase every book as they were released, now have to re-buy them again if they want to own the protective case that comes as a box set (and that includes, according to the publisher, new artwork by Levi Pinfold). The publisher also stated that *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was going to have a limited print run, insisting fans on pre-ordering the book. Those who haven't done it, could face the risk of not getting a copy and end up

with an incomplete collection of the books, owning only the first six in their Hogwarts House edition. At the moment of writing this, one month after the release, there is still stock available to purchase any Hogwarts House Edition of the seventh book.

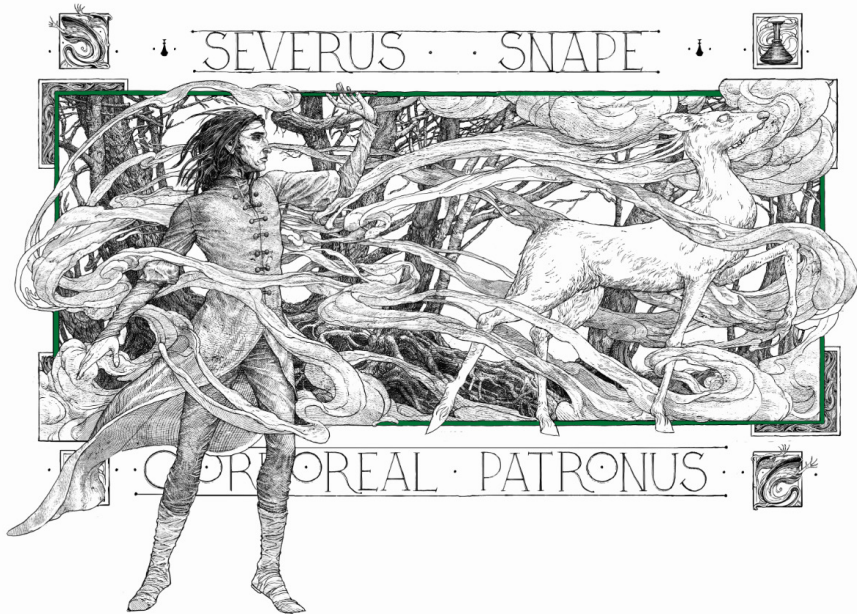
Going back to the box set, a small change in the Ravenclaw edition of the first book is there for those who have a strong attention to detail. The original one, published in 2017, had the whole text on the cover in blue against a black background. For the edition included in the box set, the text is now in bronze foil, matching the rest of the books in

the series.

Despite all these ups and downs, the Hogwarts House editions are mostly loved by the fans. Everytime a new one was announced and the cover or inside details were revealed, fans from around the world got excited, and once they received the copies, photos were shared on different platforms. Although sometimes heavily criticized for re-releasing the Harry Potter books often with only a cover change, Bloomsbury did something creative and proposed a new format, with different changes that invited people to buy

them, even those who already had the novels but now wanted to own them in their own Hogwarts house format.

The natural question is whether Bloomsbury will stop now, or if they will think of doing the companion books such as *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* in this format. One could say it is too much, others could say it would make total sense: they are textbooks used at Hogwarts, so who's better than a school student that wants to show their House pride by buying the books in their colours?



SEVERUS SNAPE AND HIS CORPOREAL PATRONUS, BY LEVI PINFOLD,  
FOR THE SLYTHERIN EDITION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN  
(BLOOMSBURY)



### **Havelock Sweeting**

Unicorn expert. Helped set up unicorn reservations throughout Britain.

1634 – 1710

#4



**The Rowling Library**  
**Famous Wizards Cards Collection**

## Mona's Vintage Corner

### Dive deeper into the Harry Potter TCG, card strategy, deck building and some other Harry Potter vintage merchandise from Mona's vault at Gringotts!

The magical world of Harry Potter has changed the lives of billions around the globe. From the books, movies, games and merchandise; this franchise has grown to be something incredible that will last many lifetimes. For me, the magic began when I was a young kid when the books and audiobooks had just been released. I would listen to the narrator Jim Dale as he read the books on tape and I would follow along in the magical journeys and adventures of Harry Potter and his friends. The real enchantment took over for me a few years later when Wizards Of The Coast (WOTC) announced that they were creating the Harry Potter Trading Card Game (HPTCG).

For those who don't know, WOTC is a tabletop game manufacturer based in the United States who is responsible for bringing us some of the greatest games we know of today including Magic: The Gathering and Pokémon. The Harry Potter Trading Card Game came out in the same fashion as any other TCG would with booster boxes, booster packs, blister packs

and promo cards. As a young kid, I didn't understand the game as much as I do as an adult. That's one of the greatest things about the magic from the Harry Potter TCG, it has moved with me through all stages of my life and as an adult I can appreciate it more because of that.

#### What is the Harry Potter TCG?

In 2001, WOTC jumped on the metaphorical Hogwarts Express and took a magical ride filled with adventure and excitement. From this ride, they delivered, to fans and onlookers of the Harry Potter world, a creative and imaginative game that would be fit for not only witches and wizards, but for Muggles, Squibs and Goblins alike.

The game came packaged in booster boxes which housed 36 booster packs. Each pack had 11 random cards that were either a Match, Spell, Adventure, Item, Character, Creature, Location or Lesson. There are five (5) lesson types: Quidditch, Transfiguration, Potions, Charms and Care of

Magical Creatures. The first booster box that came out is known as the Base Set, which comprises 116 cards to collect that are rare, uncommon and common. Quidditch cup, Diagon Alley and Adventures at Hogwarts were then released and each came with 80 cards in their sets. The final and largest set is Chamber of Secrets which has 140 cards in its set.

Fans of the Harry Potter TCG became enamoured with the game, not only for its imagination and strategy but for the art on the cards. There were dozens of artists who worked on these cards and were able to bring the many spells, characters and wild adventures to life! Because the HPTCG is based on the books and not the movies, the artists had more room to work

with their own interpretation and imagination of how these various scenes were to come to life. Albus Dumbledore, Minerva McGonagall and Rubeus Hagrid, to name a few, each have their own style and oftentimes match exactly to how we saw them in our minds as young kids who read the books.

Adding to the great art and card creativity, the game is filled with strategy, potions, spells and so much more that makes you feel as though the storyline is yours. When playing the game, you use a 60-card deck with one 1 starting Witch or Wizard character of your choice. In order to play most cards, you will need lessons in your deck; this represents your knowledge of the subjects you took while at Hogwarts School





of Witchcraft and Wizardry! If you excelled in Potions class for example, then be sure to add some Potions lessons to your deck as well as your favorite potions that you like to mix up; Fire Protection Potion, Draught of Living Death or even Dragons Blood! If you preferred Professor McGonagall's Transfiguration class then, your deck can have Transfiguration cards such as Transfiguration Exam, Raven to Writing Desk or Rabbit Slippers.

The game is highly modular and allows for the player to get creative. If you weren't looking to play the game, it's also wonderful to just collect the cards. I am personally a collector and player so I get to be involved in both worlds and see where the game goes in either

direction.

For those who are interested in playing however, please consider joining my [Into The Floo Harry Potter TCG Dueling League on Discord](#), this is open for everyone worldwide! We have two separate days and times where we meet via webcam and play the game with friends all around the world.

**You can also find out more about Mona on her YouTube channel called [Into The Floo](#) or by following her on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) (@harrypottermorsy).**

# JULY IN TWITTER HISTORY



J.K. Rowling ✓  
@jk\_rowling



I got a cake in the shape of King's Cross at midnight 🥰



7:47 AM · Jul 31, 2016 · Twitter for iPhone

14.3K Retweets   713 Quote Tweets   61.5K Likes

ON JULY 2016, J.K. ROWLING CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD AND HER OWN BIRTHDAY.



ILLUSTRATED BY JIM FIELD

The cover design for J.K. Rowling's new book for children, *The Christmas Pig*, has been revealed! Award-winning illustrator, character-designer and animation director Jim Field has produced a stunning illustration for the cover as well as nine black and white spreads and design features for the interior of the book.

J.K. Rowling commented: 'Jim's illustrations are simply perfect. It really is as though he got inside my head and drew what he saw there! I gasped out loud when I saw one particular illustration (I can't say which it is without giving spoilers), because it was such a perfect representation of one of my favourite scenes.'

Jim Field said: 'It was ever so slightly daunting when I thought about the number of people who are going to see this cover around the world... No pressure, Jim! Brilliantly, we all agreed on the cover design from the outset, so that allowed me plenty of time to get all the little details right. I wanted to create something filmic, timeless, that captures the excitement of J.K. Rowling's incredible story and the wonder of Christmas, where the adventure begins. It is really a dream project and I'm so chuffed to be part of it.'

The Christmas Pig will be simultaneously published on 12th October 2021 in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and India by Hachette Children's Group, in the US and Canada by Scholastic, and in thirty-five translated languages by other publishers making it a truly global publication. It will also be simultaneously published as an audiobook by Audible in English, German, French, Italian, Latin American Spanish, Castilian Spanish, and Japanese. Jim Field's illustrations will feature on the covers of all editions.

# WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

## MADAM HOOC

*“Well, what are you all waiting for?” she barked. ‘Everyone stand by a broomstick, come on, hurry up’” – Madam Hooch (Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone)*

Madam Rolanda Hooch is the flying instructor at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and also the referee in the Quidditch matches. She has the singularity of having yellow eyes, like a hawk.

Madam Hooch’s wand is one of the many wands that are not available as official merch, so it is not very common for a regular fan to be able to picture what it looks like,

especially considering it was barely used in the first film (just for a few seconds, in fact).

The design of Hooch’s wand is very simple, like most of the wands that were used in the first two Harry Potter movies. This is in fact something we could have expected, since the wand designs were not a big deal back then.

The book “Harry Potter: The Wand Collection” features this wand, being one of the few places where it can be found. Based on the picture, it seems to be made of dark brown wood, with two



narrow rings separating the handle from the shaft.

The bottom of the wand has a piece that looks like the perfect counterweight for the long shaft.

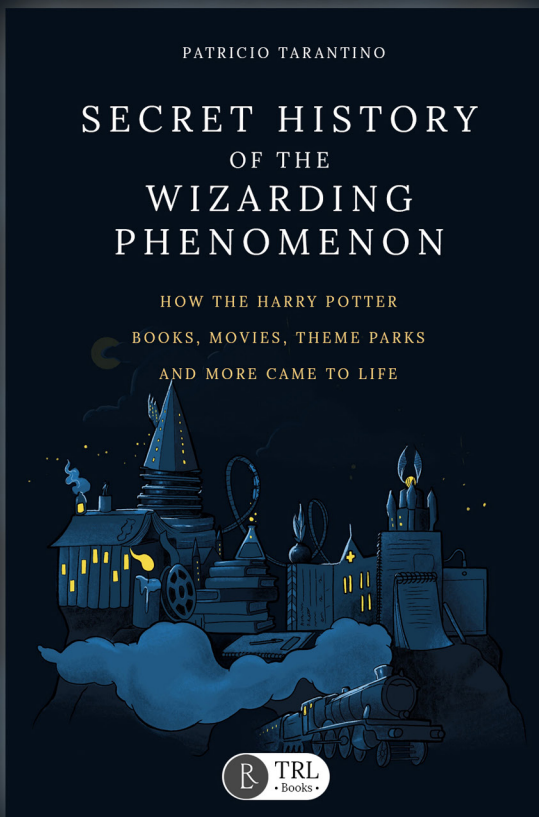
According to this book, Madam Hooch's wand is 41.3 cm long, making it a considerably long wand, longer than The Elder Wand.

The only moment that the wand can be spotted in the first movie is when Neville loses control of his broom, and Madam Hooch takes her wand off of her robes to try to stop him. A few seconds later, Neville heads to the place where Madam Hooch and the rest of the students are, making them move away to avoid being hit by the broom. The wand is never featured again in any scene, neither in this movie nor for the rest of the series.

*This image of Madam Hooch's wand was digitally created by Alan Dell'Oso, writer of this piece, given that there is no illustration or picture of the wand on the Harry Potter literature.*



# OUR FIRST BOOK...



# OUT SOON!





He now proceeded a little more cautiously. Kneeling down beside the trunk again, he groped around in the bottom and, after retrieving an old badge that flickered feebly between Support CEDRIC DIGGORY and POTTER STINKS, a cracked and worn-out Sneakoscope and a gold locket inside which a note signed 'R.A.B.'

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*  
J.K. Rowling



# JIM KAY IN FRENCH TRAIN STATIONS

**SNCF has partnered with Warner Bros and Gallimard to create exhibitions in some train stations around the country to showcase Jim Kay's artwork from the Harry Potter books.**

This summer, SNCF (France's National Railway Company), Warner Bros. and Gallimard Jeunesse (French publisher of the Harry Potter books) are joining forces to present visitors and travellers a set of the magnificent illustrations that Jim Kay created for the illustrated first three volumes of the Harry Potter series.

Travellers in France should get ready for a Wizarding World summer with large-scale exhibitions in five French SNCF stations: Paris Gare de Lyon, Poitiers, Nice, Limoges and Bordeaux Saint-Jean. On these impressive XXL installations, custom-designed by SNCF Gares & Connexions teams, passengers will



be able to discover the magnificent illustrations created by Jim Kay for the first three illustrated volumes of the Harry Potter series. The illustrator's remarkable style should enchant all holidaymakers looking for an escape by plunging them back into the much-loved world of the young wizard. Kay's detailed and colourful works will delight fans of the series as well as strangers to the story on their train journeys.

After enjoying these great facilities throughout the summer, travellers will be treated to some great surprises on the weekend

of 28 and 29 August 2021 for the famous Return to Hogwarts event, celebrated every year by fans around the world. The festivities will take place at 31 partner stations (the full list of participating stations will be announced at a later date) so the magic will last a little longer.

The exhibition is similar to "Destination Poudlard" (Destination Hogwarts), organized back in 2016, on the occasion of the release of the illustrated *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and the first *Fantastic Beasts* movie. At that time, Jim Kay's illustrations were exhibited in Montparnasse



and Marne-la-vallée stations. This time, the illustrations are going to be seen in five stations, and many more when we get closer to September 1st, the day that Harry Potter fans go back to Hogwarts.

*Thanks to our friends from  
UniversHarryPotter for the tip!*

*Photographies: © SNCF  
Gares & Connexions – David Paquin*



## A QUOTE BY JO

“”

“I'll be so sad to think I'll never write a Harry-Ron-Hermione sentence again. Part of me will be glad when it's over. Family life will become more normal. It will be a chance to write other things.”

*Time Magazine, 2005*



# RIDDIKULUS!

Erik (@[knockturnerik](#) on Instagram) plays with original artwork from the Harry Potter books!

Follow @[knockturnthepages](#) on Instagram for more humour!



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GRANDPRÉ FOR  
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS  
(SCHOLASTIC, 2007)



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