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FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF

PATRICIO TARANTINO

EDITOR

BELÉN SALITURI

CONTRIBUTORS

OLIVER HORTON

SHAW ALI

ERIK KRUEGER

WELCOME

Happy New Year! When I started The Rowling Library Magazine back in 2016 I didn't think it was going to last until 2022, but here we are: another year!

2022 is very promising for the Harry Potter / J.K. Rowling fans, and that's our main theme this issue, where we go, one by one, through all the official projects that are confirmed for this year. From books, films, videogames and more. And that's only the official ones: fans will also release new things, and we are already preparing some surprises ourselves.

Oliver Horton wrote about Underage Magic in the Harry Potter books, and Shaw Ali shares a few questions raised by the revelation of a new tie-in book for *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*. Are we going to see a new letter by Albus Dumbledore?

We had the pleasure of interviewing Ron Asthiani, Creative Director for the Design of the Original Pottermore, and he told us a few secrets from the beloved platform that a lot of fans still miss!

I wish you a happy new year and a great 2022!

See you in February,

Patricio

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SECRET HISTORY OF THE WIZARDING PHENOMENON

Based on original research and exclusive interviews, this book tells the story of how the Harry Potter books, movies, theme parks, fandom and more were created. Including the creative processes, the marketing aspect, and the legal issues that arose, this publication aims to be a behind-the-scenes of the Harry Potter phenomenon.



Read an excerpt

Buy it now

This is an unofficial book and it has not been authorized by J.K. Rowling or Warner Bros.



BY OLIVER HORTON

UNDERAGE MAGIC

The Decree for the Reasonable Restriction of Underage Sorcery troubles Harry three times across the books. Note: the *reasonable* restriction.

• Book Two: Dobby drops dessert on Vernon's clients.

• Book Three: Vernon's sister needles Harry and he spontaneously inflates her.

• Book Five: Dementors attack Harry and Dudley. Harry draws his wand and "Expecto Patronum!"

Keep it secret, keep it safe

The Ministry of Magic enforces

The Decree when underage wizards perform magic in front of Muggles – Harry's "crime" in Order of the Phoenix. The letter from Mafalda Hopkirk*, assistant at the Improper Use of Magic Office, reads: "We have received intelligence that you performed the Patronus Charm... this evening in a Muggle-inhabited area and in the presence of a Muggle."

Mafalda's earlier letter, chiding Harry for Dobby's Hover Charm in Chamber of Secrets, stated: "Underage wizards are not permitted to perform spells outside school... remember that any magical activity that risks notice by members of the



HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMEBR OF SECRETS (WARNER BROS., 2002)



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (WARNER BROS., 2004)

non-magical community (Muggles) is a serious offence."

The Decree exists to serve the International Statute of Wizarding Secrecy. Above all else: the magical community should remain secret from the Muggle world. Secrecy is the vital element that must be protected.

Pureblood advantage

Prior to being called up to Hogwarts, Harry unwittingly uses magic in moments of high stress: to regrow his hair, to shrink a detested jumper, to leap away from bullies onto the school roof. Accidental outbursts of magic are indulged for young witches and wizards who are yet to start school. Once they begin at Hogwarts, however, students are expected to control their sorcery in all situations, since they have some training. Hogwarts is subservient to the Statute of Secrecy. The only time Harry disappoints Dumbledore is when he and Ron take the flying car to school in Chamber of Secrets. "You

were seen!" hisses Severus Snape. "Six or seven Muggles in all."

The Decree for the Reasonable Restriction of Underage discriminates against Sorcery Muggleborns. Hogwarts students from magical families practice magic at home. The Trace, which monitors magic-making in under 17s, does not reveal the spellcaster. Draco Malfoy, aged 16, was tutored at Malfoy Manor by Bellatrix Lestrange. For months before they were of age, Fred and George Weasley developed magical products for Weasley's Wizard Wheezes at The Burrow. If the Ministry wanted seriously to limit underage magic, as in Order of the Phoenix, Hogwarts students would store their wands at the school until they turned 17. Dolores Umbridge's viewpoint is they do not need to defend themselves anyway, so do not need their wands.

Muggle families are treated more harshly than wizarding ones, in the name of the Statute of Secrecy. Muggle families are expected to keep the wizarding world secret, the same as magic families; the Dursleys know Harry is a wizard and know he attends Hogwarts. But because there are no adult wizards in the Muggle households, magic there is flagged.

Magic that matters

What constitutes "magic"? Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban begins with Harry reading under the sheets with a Muggle torch. The movie adaptation depicts practicing the Wand-Harry Lighting Charm under his bed sheets: Lumos, Lumos Maxima. The bright light disturbs Uncle Vernon and Harry feigns sleep. The reason for the change, ob.vi.ous. ly, is to tell the cinema audience: this is the story of an ordinary boy who is a wizard. Efficient visual storvtelling.

Lumos under the bedclothes does not break the Decree. Lumos is very light magic (no pun intended):

the charm does not leave the wand. There is no action on or change to an external object or being. In the fifth book, Harry uses the Lumos spell in a Muggleinhabited area and in the presence of a Muggle - during the Dementor attack. The Ministry does not add Lumos to the charges against him. The Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge, desperately wants to paint Harry as a flagrant rule-breaker. As his case falls apart Fudge brings up Harry's earlier infractions: Dobby's dessert. aunt Marge. Yet Fudge does not mention Lumos at the moment when he most wants to smear Harry as arrogant and reckless, as a young wizard who tosses off spells as he pleases. Because reasonably - and reasonably is what counts - Lumos in Little Whingeing does not break the rules.

*Hermione steals Mafalda's identity for the Trio's assault on the Ministry in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Karma!



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (WARNER BROS., 2004)



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And all our patrons also receives The Daily Prophet two times a week in their email inbox, with the latest Harry Potter news and commentary, which means that you are paying less than ¢30 per Daily Prophet edition.

Our current supports - to which we are really grateful - are:

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BECOME A PATRON



All in all, they were glad when the rest of the school returned shortly after New Year, and Gryffindor Tower became crowded and noisy again.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban J.K. Rowling





he year 2021 is now a thing of the past. Fans of Harry Potter and J.K. Rowling had a quiet year: the high point was the publication of The Christmas Pig, our fav author's new novel for children that charmed adults alike, and still stays on the bestseller lists after months since its release. For fans who want to know all the details, the book's publication also brought columns and articles from Rowling herself explaining the inspiration behind the plot and how certain aspects of it connect to her own experience with her son David.

Towards the end of the year we got announcements and trailers: those who haven't stayed that close to the Wizarding World surely enjoyed the Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts, while those of us who follow the day-to-day and look for new stories have found ourselves happier to have a title and trailer for Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore. But both announcements indicate releases in 2022, and thankfully they won't be the only ones: fans of J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter saga alike will have plenty of material in the next 12 months.



Return to Hogwarts

You don't have to wait at all once 2022 starts to consume new material from the Wizarding World. On January 1st on HBO Max (or different TV channels and platforms in countries where HBO Max is not available), you'll be able to watch Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts, a special celebrating the Wizard Boy films that reunites the actors, producers and directors of the eight films of the saga back at the studios where they were filmed.

The reunion, which was as much for the fans as it was for the actors themselves, saw the latter reunite after several years of not seeing each other and recount anecdotes from the ten years they filmed. Of course, J.K. Rowling is present, albeit in a strange way: the documentary only includes the author and creator of the Wizarding World through prerecorded interviews, and she did not appear in person with the other celebrities. While certain theories claim that Warner Bros did not invite her, officially the author's team claims that the invitation was made but that they felt that with the interviews (both archival and one never-before-seen from 2019) there was enough material.

It is worth noting, however, that Warner Bros does not mention Rowling in any of its promotional material. Where her absence is most noticeable is in the various promotional trailers: while the list of celebrities featured includes dozens of actors, the producers and even all the directors who worked on the films, the person who created the world of Harry Potter is never mentioned. A bit odd.



JANUARY:

HARRY POTTER: RETURN TO HOGWARTS

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

Next up for the Wizarding World is the third installment in the saga of Newt Scamander, or should we say Albus Dumbledore? The film (originally due for release in 2020, then 2021) will finally be seen this in April this year, and as J.K. Rowling said via Twitter, the third film will give answers to the questions left unsolved in the first two films.

The trailer already showed us quite a lot: new creatures, settings, the return to Hogwarts (with the controversial McGonagall included), even the new interpretation of Gellert Grindelwald by Mads Mikkelsen, which shows him more human and less flamboyant. The trailer doesn't suggest any in-universe justification for the new look and we don't think it will be explained. Tina's absence from the teaser does seem to confirm that her character will be relegated to something less than a supporting character, and J.K. Rowling's absence from the teaser has already been discussed at length.

Amidst all the theories and reactions (and anxiety), it's worth noting that the release date is still unclear. The poster (which heavily alludes to the Harry Potter series, as if it had no shame in trying to capture those who loved the original saga) only promises a theatrical release in April. At the moment, the release dates differ by more than a week between countries, which is very strange for productions of this style. Apparently, it will be released in Germany on 7 April and in the UK on 8 April. A week later, 13 April is the date for France, and in the US only on 15 April. Such a gap could



APRIL:

FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE simply be because Warner Bros. is waiting to find out what is the best date to release a film in an industry where it is very important to know the competition and the other releases on the same date. It is possible (and should be appropriate) that they ended up changing it to have a global release date: a week's gap will only make people spoil the entire plot of the film.

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore - The Original Screenplay

We are four months away from the film and we should already have news, or at least an official announcement, about the publication of the screenplay in book format, as it happened with the first two parts. The truth is that there is still nothing, only a statement from J.K. Rowling's representatives saying that the plans for publication exist and that everything will be communicated in due course.

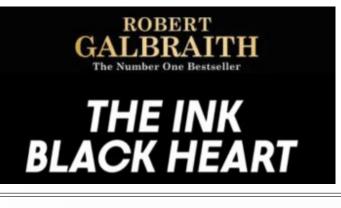
There are reasons to suspect a non-publication. One of the reasons could be that the script for this third installment is not only signed by the British author but also by Steve Kloves. How will that affect the publication? Will both be listed as authors? Will the original version that Rowling wrote alone be published? On the other hand, Rowling has been distancing herself from the franchise and the evidence is on her Twitter account. Although she occasionally takes to the social network to answer questions about her Cormoran Strike books, she hasn't mentioned *Fantastic Beasts* in a while. What's more, she hasn't even RT'd the title or trailer announcements, something that she did for The *Crimes of Grindelwald*. It could then be a personal decision by the author not to publish the script.

However, if her agents are anything to go by, as soon as April gets here we could have a new book to add to our shelves signed by J.K. Rowling.

New Editions

Year 2022 will mark the 25th anniversary since the publication Harry Potter and the of Philosopher's Stone in the United Kingdom by Bloomsbury publisher. To celebrate the landmark, the British publisher will release a new edition of the novel that will mimic the original one. The new book will have the original cover and backcover, alongside a new essay by Thomas Taylor, the original illustrator who was the first to give Harry a face. Besides the new release, Bloomsbury is planning a lot of activities and events to celebrate two decades and a half since Great Britain discovered the Boy Wizard.

But that will not be the only one Harry Potter novel that will get a new release. The anticipated



SECOND SEMESTER (TO BE CONFIRMED)

> THE INK BLACK HEART

illustrated edition of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by Jim Kay will also see the light in 2022, probably closer to October. The publisher has only confirmed that the edition will be released this year, but nothing else was shared: not an exact date, size, pages, amount of illustration or anything else. But knowing JIm Kay and his incredible talent, we are sure it is going to be a must-have edition.

The Ink Black Heart

It was on December 3rd 2021 that Rowling herself (and not a statement from any of the involved publication houses) announced on Twitter that the title of the sixth book in the Cormoran Strike saga would be *The Ink Black Heart* and that it would be published in 2022. Weeks later (towards the end of the month), Rowling commented again that the book was finished and that she was now working on the editing process.

There is no date certain, and while everything could change,

the timing matches that of Lethal White: for the fourth Strike book, Rowling was also editing during January and February (and according to her Twitter account, it extended into May). If we consider that Rowling started around the same time, and the book is of a similar length, we could assume a similar timeline and expect The Ink Black Heart to be published between September and October, which are in fact the months in which the last three books by Robert Galbraith were published.

We could then, if the script for *Fantastic Beasts 3* is published, have Rowling's 2022 second book in the second semester.

New Book

It was almost by chance: Rowling mentioned it in passing, knowing the effect it would have. "Today, I reread the first 14k words of my new book and I thought 'that's got to go... that's woeful... what the hell were you thinking there?' I'd advise putting it away for a full month, then taking it out again and wielding the scalpel with precision."

When asked by several Twitter users if that was going to delay Strike 6 (believing that was the book Rowling was referring to), the author's response was blunt: "Strike 6 is finished and I'm editing it. No delays, I promise", which might lead us to assume that "new book" refers to a new work that she was mentioning for the first time. Rowling also always referred to the Strike books as such, so it would be odd that having confirmed that Strike 6 was already in its final stages a few days earlier, she would choose to call it a "new book" now.

This leads us to assume that Rowling is already working on a new novel (personally I'd like to see something for adults a là *The Casual Vacancy*), although it might be difficult to see it published this year. What is certain is that she is already working on her next book.

Hogwarts Legacy

It is true that this video game is not the product of J.K. Rowling and it has been confirmed that the author is not involved in any aspect of its creation, but it is one of the most eagerly awaited (because of its novelty) among a large section of fans.



SECOND SEMESTER (TO BE CONFIRMED)

HOGWARTS LEGACY Announced in 2020 for 2021 and delayed to 2022, the game promises what many fans have been dreaming of for years: the ability (in a virtual world, of course) to create your character, attend Hogwarts and make your own story. This last aspect is one of the most promising, as the game's creators promise the possibility to choose one's own destiny and choose to be on the good or bad side of history. This also means many, many hours of gameplay, as the non-linear story allows for many possibilities and permutations that everyone will want to explore.

While Rowling's absence from the creative side of things makes this game non-canon from the start (almost a fan fiction created by a millionaire studio that got the license), this can be a good thing: there will be no problems if it contradicts anything in the books or if fans don't like the way the story set in Hogwarts in the late 19th century is going, it is simply a game based in the world we long for. No conflicts or discussions to make it fit the known lore.

* * *

The coming year has enough official projects announced and many rumoured (such as the Harry Potter series for HBO Max), and many more likely to be revealed soon. It looks like we fans will have plenty of content for the next twelve months, and that's not even counting the projects that will be made by the fans themselves. At the moment, we at *The Rowling Library* have many ideas in mind that we will be sharing in due course, but we are sure that 2022 will be a great year for the Wizarding World in all aspects.

January, from the Twitter archive



When rereading last week's work, the trick is to stop for a biscuit just before your blood sugar levels drop to 'every single word of this is worthless.'

3:51 PM · 22 Jan, 2018 747 replies 6.7K shares 50.9K likes



designing PoteRMore

EXCLUSIVE

Interview with the Creative Director for the Visual Design Work

Do you remember the beautiful illustrations that were made for the original Pottermore? Atomhawk was the design studio behind all the visual design of the content, and also the two videogames "Book of Spells" and "Book of Potions."

We had the privilege of interviewing **Ron Ashtiani**, Head and Co-founder of Atomhawk and Creative Director for the Illustration work on Pottermore. How was the process of designing the original artwork for the platform and the videogames? Can you tell fans a bit about that?

I joined the Pottermore project in 2010 and in the early concept stages with a focus on the visual design but also as a 20 year experienced game developer, I had input into the interactive elements as well. I worked on the project for almost 5 years! I also worked on the Playstation "Wonderbook" Book of Spells and Book of Potions projects but only in the visual design capacity as those projects were developed by Sony.

The first iteration of the

exclusive interview

Pottermore site was a very ambitious and creatively challenging project, nothing like it had been attempted on a web platform before. It featured interactive knowledge games/ challenges that were based on the books. We all wanted it to be educational, connect people to J.K.Rowling's world and figured the fans would like to be able to play rather than just read.

For example being sorted by the sorting hat, mixing a potion, gathering ingredients in herbology. The user journey would see users register on the site and take on a similar journey to students in Hogwarts. They would interact with the beautifully illustrated book content as they explored it. They would be sorted into a house and gain/lose house points. Contributing together to help their house win. It was complex due to how many users would potentially access the Pottermore experience and wealth of content in the books. We also wanted to encourage user generated content to allow people to truly feel they had a stake in the platform.

The general aesthetics of Pottermore was very different from the Wizarding World we know (mainly movies, but also books artwork). Was that on purpose? Why?

The art direction was my main contribution. At the time I was the founder of an art studio called Atomhawk and we were doing illustration and concept design for a number of interesting projects. Films for Marvel, games for Warner Bros, to mention just a few. The Pottermore project wanted a different look,



exclusive interview



something more accessible, magical and crafted. A new look to attract fans of the books and have a less realistic feel, sort of like the images in your head as you read. There were technical reasons too, what works well in a movie (such as moody suggestive lighting, shadows) doesn't work well for a scene that is interactive and requires the player to be able to see and click on objects. Also in the movies you see scenes unfold over time, but in websites back in 2010, video content was very slow to play back and relied on things like Flash player. So we invented a way to take a static image, cut up into layers that the players could zoom through and see all the content. This process worked much better on an illustration than a piece of video footage.

Did you work closely with J.K.

Rowling on these projects, and if so, what was her input?

J.K. Rowling was certainly part of the process, as she is with all her projects. There were regular reviews on the project where she was involved. In my case, I was mainly focused on aesthetics but I am pleased to say that I met her.

Were there many alternatives that you considered for the main design and flow of the website?

As with all design processes, we went through many iterations and especially in the early versions. There is often a balance to be found between aesthetics, functionality, user experience and staying true to the original story. Hitting all of those elements in equal measure was challenging at times but fun. The Pottermore website was designed mainly for large screen sizes (not mobile, for example). Did you ever consider a mobile version of Pottermore?

Back in 2010 mobile browser use was still very basic. The iPad was only released mid 2010 and up until that point mobile screens were very limited. Also web based graphical performance was poor, so at that time it wasn't considered suited to mobile.

Why do you think fans are so

nostalgic of the Pottermore website and from time to time start petitions to get it back?

I think it was a big and bold venture at the time, nothing like it had been attempted before and it did bring fans together. People interacted with the Harry Potter world directly with a sense of connection and community that is hard to find. There was a lot of interesting content on there that J.K.R wrote specifically for the platform, and it was beautiful to



THE SORTING HAT CEREMONY IN THE ORIGINAL POTTERMORE VERSION



EXCLUSIV

ORIGINAL POTTERMORE ILLUSTRATION FOR HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

look at (at least I hope people feel that way).

What do you think of the fans who have tried to recreate it over the years?

Personally I think when fans try to recreate something it is the ultimate compliment, they loved it enough to want it to live on and are prepared to put their own time into it to make that happen.

And lastly, what's your favourite section or design that you

worked on each of these projects?

I think there are definitely areas that came out better than others (we were inventing a lot on the fly) The sorting hat game came out really well and fans loved that. The art was by my friend and cofounder Corlen Kruger and he did a great job. Also the illustrations we did for Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in particular were of a very high standard. We had hit our stride by that point.



BY SHAW ALI

DUMBLEDORE'S NEW LETTER



To see it say seems I as writer to sake previous for of see Sousselor, Write Nak torour Passes Douasies Spinse. To see Sousselor status to care to so forther, short is was source to be seen source torobar, short is was source too. Soprimer is such its briter, and and source too. Soprimer is

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t has been a few weeks now since the full trailer for **L** Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore. We've been given some time to theorize and talk amongst each other about what is set to come and what the main plot line of the movie will be. But the trailer was not the only source for the fans to theorize and analyze what we may see in cinemas next April: we've also been given a new book cover and backcover from the tie-in books that may help us to imagine what's coming to Dumbledore and his friends.

With each of the Fantastic Beasts films, there were tie-in books with behind-the-scenes interviews and information. These are very useful because they actually include many details about the films that are not seen on the screen. For instance, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes Of Grindelwald: Movie Magic has included set pictures, background i n f o r m a t i o n about the characters and their wands, and close-up looks of magical objects like Gellert Grindelwald's skullhookah.

The same book for the third film Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore: Movie Magic was confirmed several weeks ago. It will feature "behind-the-scenes profiles of the characters, magical locations, beasts, and artifacts seen on-screen, stickers, pull-out prop replicas, posters, and other deluxe features." It is also said to include new images, interviews from the cast and crew, illustrations and concept art. But we had our first look at it in mid-December, when a Russian website shared in high quality its cover and backcover.

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It is this back cover that gives us some clues and a few tasty new things from the film. One of them, probably the most interesting due to its contents, is a Hogwarts letter to the German Ministry of Magic sent by Albus Dumbledore. The letter says:

"To whom it may concern,

I am writing to gain permission for my associate, Mr Newt Scamander, to visit his brother Theseus at [?] prison. Mr Newt Scamander wishes to check the well being of his brother, after he was arrested at the ceremony at the Ministry of Magic in Berlin, and has since been imprisoned at [?] prison.

I hope you will answer my request as soon as possible.

Yours respectfully,

Albus Dumbledore".

This raises a lot of questions. For what reason in the world is Theseus at the German magical prison? Theseus is part of the British Ministry of Magic, so why did the German Ministry of Magic imprison Theseus? What did he do at the ceremony that would get him arrested?

One possibility is that he may have gotten in some type of fight at the Germany Ministry of Magic ceremony that we see in the trailer. There is also another scene in the trailer where we see Newt and Theseus in what seems like a pit: are they trying to escape? Does that mean the German Ministry of Magic authorized Newt, or he went to see his brother unauthorized?

There have also been many times in the previous *Movie Magic* books where letters and props we never see in the film were included. So there is a chance that this letter is never shown in the film, or maybe it is not even mentioned, but it shows the level of detail from the production department to make the Wizarding World as real as possible, even creating props to be used only by the actors.

If one compares this letter from

the ones we've seen in the Harry Potter Film series, this one looks much less detailed and more like it was printed rather than handwritten. This may seem a bit weird considering Wizards don't have typing machines and this is not an official pamphlet from the Ministry, so one wonders how Dumbledore got it in print. But as we said before, this letter may not even appear on the screen and was only a prop to make the actors feel more immersed. two weeks until the international release of the film, we still have enough time for the movie producers to release another trailer or even more, new stills, and just more detail. Some of these questions and theories may be answered when new information is revealed, and the rest will be unveiled in April when Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore hits cinemas worldwide.

You can follow Shaw on Twitter at @newerabilie

As we are only three months and







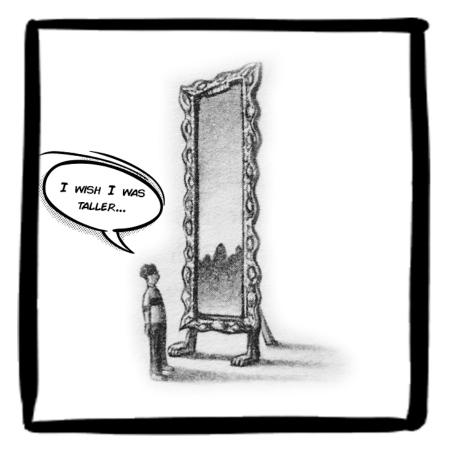
"It was very emotional, actually, seeing this kid [Daniel Radcliffe], sitting there, talking, and I just thought 'yeah, that's him, thank God we found him"

Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts, 2022





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 SORCERER'S STONE (SCHOLASTIC, 1998) Did you know we have dozens of hours of J.K. Rowling's interviews on our YouTube channel?





Visit The Rowling Library on YouTube



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