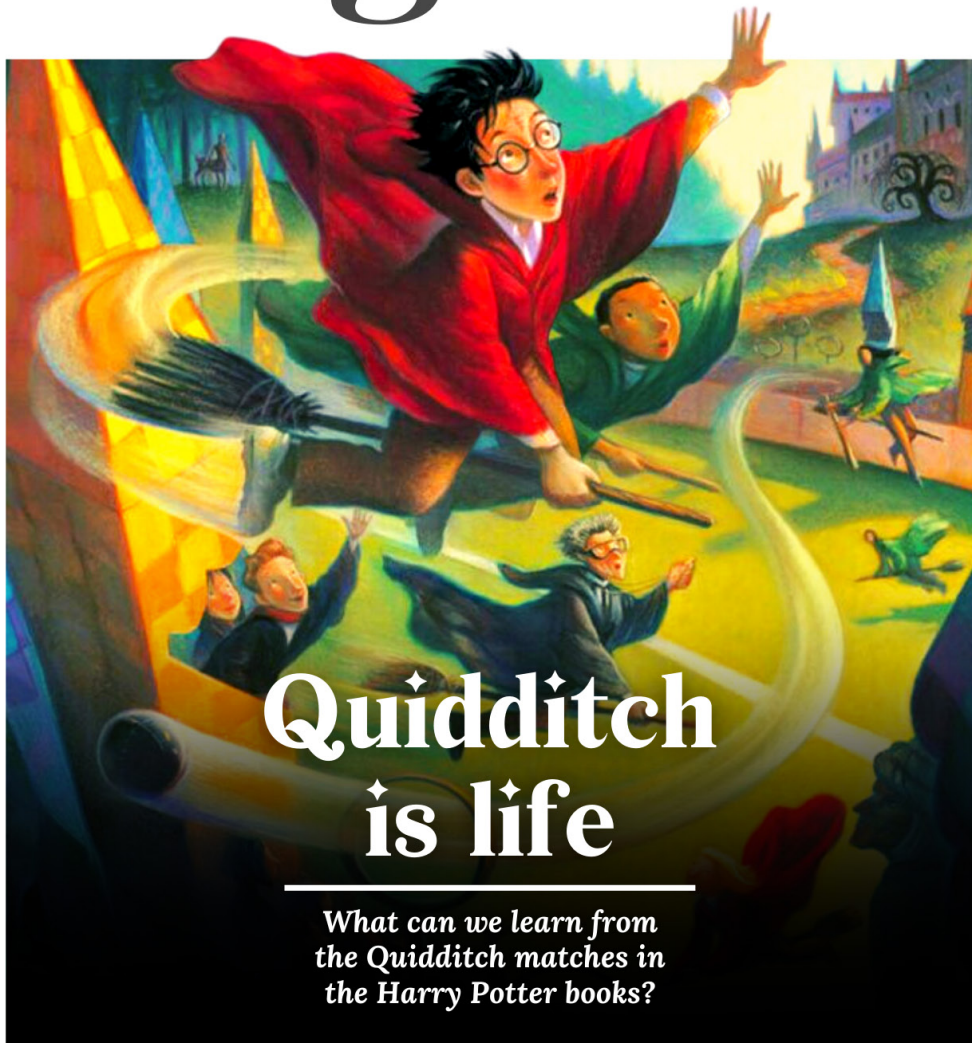


The  
Rowling  
Library

Issue 79  
July 2023

# Magazine



## Quidditch is life

*What can we learn from  
the Quidditch matches in  
the Harry Potter books?*

*Is that  
Lockhart?*

*Flesh, Blood  
& Bone*

*Visions of  
Magic*

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# Welcome

## A word from the Founder

Welcome to the July 2023 issue of our magazine! On the cover, we have a captivating article by Oliver Horton that delves into the profound significance of Quidditch in Harry's life. Oliver skillfully examines how this beloved wizarding sport not only serves as a thrilling form of entertainment but also represents much more than a game. Please note that this article is the first part of a two-part series, with the second half to be featured in our upcoming issue. Stay tuned for more Quidditch adventures!

In another thought-provoking piece, Joe Kourieh delves into the subject of violence and gore in the *Harry Potter* series. With a meticulous analysis, Joe explores the darker aspects of J.K. Rowling's storytelling, examining how these elements contribute to the overall narrative and character development. Exciting news awaits all *Harry Potter* enthusiasts! Bloomsbury has recently announced one of the virtual events for the upcoming *Harry Potter Book Day*. Additionally, *Wizarding World* has released information about an upcoming exhibition that blends art and technology, aptly titled "Visions of Magic."

Join us as we delve into the fascinating Auctions of the past month: this month, we bring you an intriguing piece about a collection of letters penned by J.K. Rowling to an ex-boyfriend. Rumors suggest that these letters may shed new light on a beloved character we thought we knew. And, as always, we are thrilled to showcase the Famous Wizard Card of the month by the talented artist Fausto Giurescu.

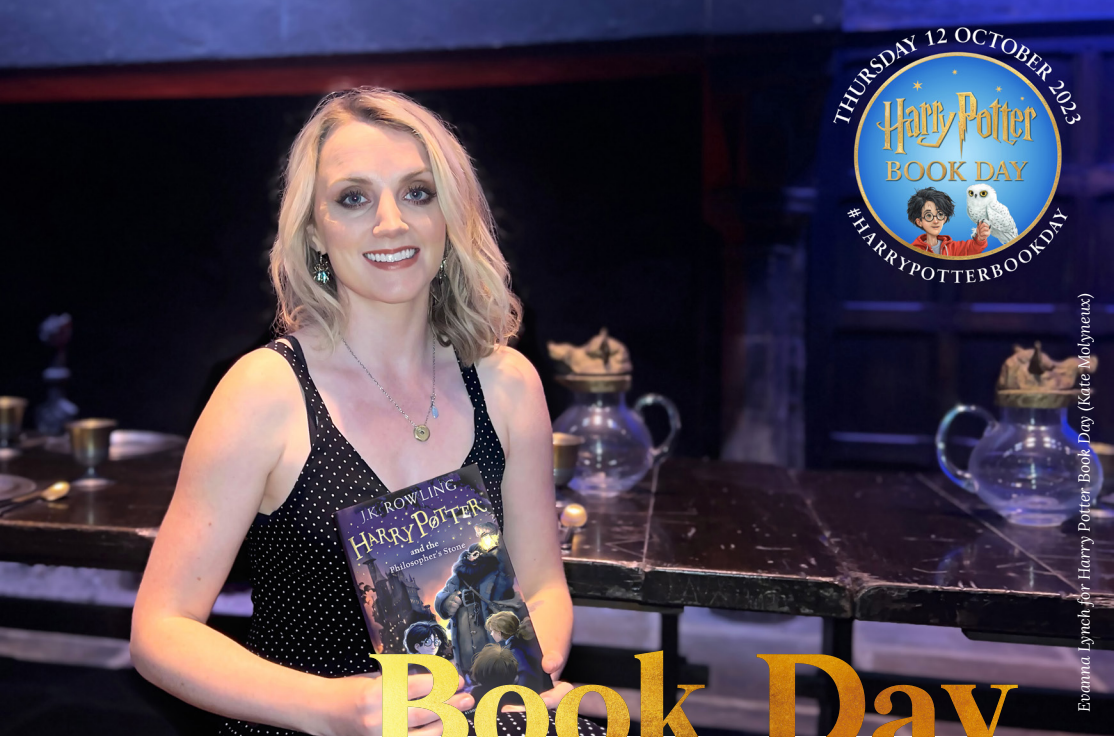
We hope you find this issue filled with excitement, insights, and discoveries. As we continue to bring you the magic of *Harry Potter*, we eagerly await your feedback and appreciate your continued support. Until next month!

Patricio



Quidditch Match, by Jim Kay, for *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (Bloomsbury, 2017)





# Book Day with Evanna

## The celebration goes virtual

Bloomsbury Children's Books, in partnership with Twinkl and Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter, has unveiled an extraordinary plan to celebrate the newly refreshed **Harry Potter Book Day**. In a

groundbreaking event hosted by none other than Evanna Lynch, known for her portrayal of Luna Lovegood in the film series, a captivating virtual experience will ignite the creative imagination of children and adults alike on

Thursday, October 12, 2023.

This exceptional collaboration brings forth a special broadcast designed for schools, which will be available to stream during or after the school day on *Harry Potter Book Day*. The 40-minute film, created with the help of Twinkl and the Education team at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, aims to immerse students in the magic of the wizarding world as part of their *Harry Potter Book Day* celebrations. Ensuring flexibility, the film will remain accessible beyond October 12th and can be found on YouTube and Twinkl's website.

Ahead of *Harry Potter Book Day*, the online event and supporting resources provided by Twinkl will be made freely available. Teachers, tutors, home educators, and parents will have access to these resources to create a truly enchanting experience for children aged 7-11. The virtual lesson is not restricted to a specific geographical area; it will be accessible to any English-language-speaking school globally.

Helen Fulson, Twinkl Chief Product Officer, expressed delight in being part of this unique learning

experience, leveraging the magic of *Harry Potter* to inspire the next generation of creative thinkers, writers, and illustrators. As a global educational publisher, Twinkl strives to support educators by providing exciting ways to foster creativity in children. The live lesson, filmed from within Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, aims to achieve just that. Twinkl will also offer free follow-on learning materials tailored to age-relevant classrooms worldwide, including the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Evanna Lynch, who holds a special place in the hearts of *Harry Potter* fans as Luna Lovegood, expressed her love for the series and its profound impact on her life. She emphasized the joy of spreading the magic of these books to a new generation of children. Evanna will present the special lesson, taking viewers on a captivating journey through various magical settings, including the iconic Great Hall and Diagon Alley. The lesson will include creative writing activities, an interactive Hogwarts castle draw-along with *Harry Potter* illustrator Jonny Duddle, and a spell-casting session led by wand choreographer Paul Harris.



Through these activities, children will have the opportunity to let their imagination soar and engage with the beloved wizarding world.

The theme for this year's *Harry Potter Book Day* is "Magical Places," encompassing enchanting locations ranging from platform nine and three-quarters to The Burrow, Hogsmeade to the Ministry of Magic. Whether celebrating at bookshops, libraries, schools, or in the comfort of home, the wizarding world offers endless exploration.

Coinciding with *Harry Potter Book Day* is the global publication of *The Harry Potter Wizarding Almanac*, an illustrated exploration of the magical world. With its universal appeal to young fans embarking on their first journey to Hogwarts, the Almanac also holds secrets and rich details for expert readers to discover. The publication will be supported by an extensive global campaign, including advertising, a dynamic social media presence, creative point-of-sale materials

for bookshops and libraries, and *Harry Potter Book Day* events that will engage superfans, children, families, and gifters worldwide.

The collaboration between Bloomsbury Children's Books, Twinkl, and Warner Bros. Studio Tour London has paved the way for an extraordinary virtual experience on *Harry Potter Book Day*. Through the magical power of storytelling, Evanna Lynch will guide young readers on a captivating journey into the enchanting world of *Harry Potter*. With the theme of "Magical Places" and the release of *The Harry Potter Wizarding Almanac*, this year's celebration promises to inspire imaginations and ignite a lifelong love for reading and creativity. As the countdown begins to October 12th, let us prepare to embark on an unforgettable adventure that will leave a lasting mark on the hearts and minds of children around the globe. Accio excitement and let the magic unfold! ♦

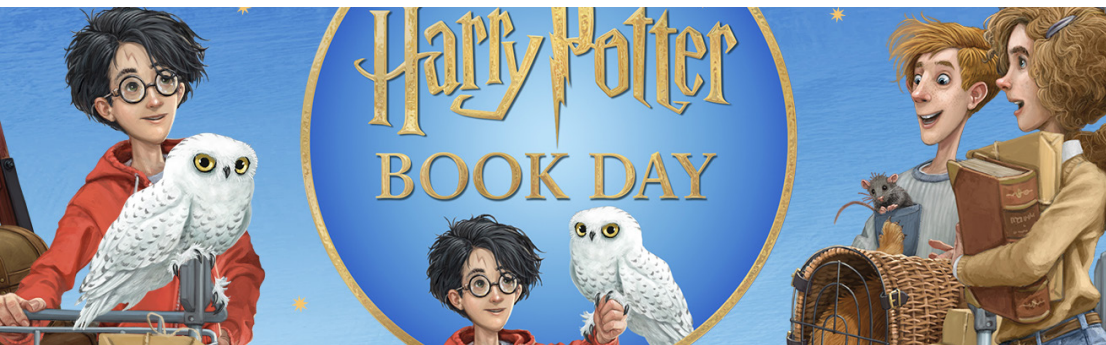
# Support us!

If you liked this issue of *The Rowling Library Magazine*, please consider supporting us with a small monthly donation.

For only \$2 per month, you can become a Patron. Every donation, no matter the amount, means a lot to us.

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

Iris Derks, Koolade, Jake Snape, Robin Vahimian, Joe Kourieh, Chaim B, Augusta Allen, Ryan Reganos, Leandro Kaus, Susan Potenzano, David Schmeling, Nicole Benge, Petter Nesse Westre, Sam, Marco Reyes, Lisa Shipowitz, Geoffrey Tixier, Dana, Mary T Rochelle, Marty Ryan, Anthony Franz, Sean McLennan, John Granger, Annie A., Marlica, Lyn Arey, Alvaro Palomo Hernandez, JeffJ, Josephine Glazov, Mary Beth Murphy, Susan Sipal, Kenneth Montfort, Vicky McKinley and Suzanne Lucero.





# Is that Lockhart?

J.K. Rowling had always been very secretive about the various inspirations she drew upon for her magnum opus, Harry Potter. At different points in her career, she had asserted that no character was inspired by a real person, except for Professor Gilderoy Lockhart.

Rowling had mentioned the character, who was introduced in the second book of the series, on multiple occasions, particularly addressing his inspiration. "The closest I've come to putting a real person in my books is with Gilderoy Lockhart, who was an exaggeration of someone I once knew," she said

in the 2000 Scholastic.com chat. A few months later, in the AOL chat, she mentioned, "Gilderoy Lockhart had his roots in a real person too, but I'll say no more there." She had also mentioned it again on her official website in 2004, stating, "I have only once set out to depict somebody I have met and, unlikely though it might seem, the result was Gilderoy Lockhart."

However, the identity of this person had never been revealed. The press and some fans had speculated about Rowling's first husband, but the author quickly debunked it. Now, the auction held by Bonhams auction house has shed some light on this matter.

On June 21, a signed and dedicated copy of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, along with handwritten letters from the author, was auctioned by Bonhams. The book

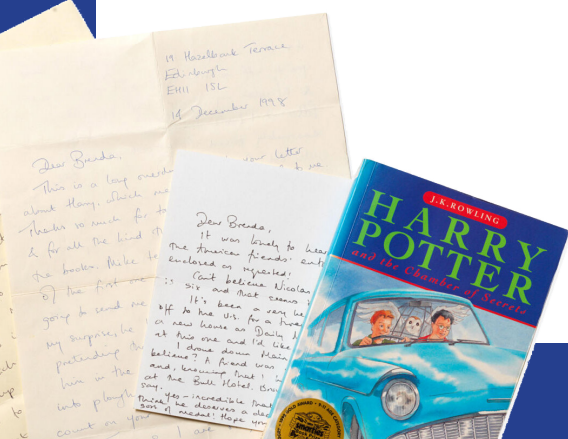
was sold for £12,800. The original recipients of these precious items were Brenda and Ken, the parents of a former boyfriend of the author with whom she maintained a good relationship after their breakup.

Rowling had met Michael (Mike), Brenda and Ken's son, at the University of Exeter, and they were in a relationship for a few years until 1991 when they separated, and Rowling traveled to Portugal. In one of the letters Rowling sent to Brenda, which was part of the auction lot, the author thanked Brenda for always being so kind and tried to convince her to have her son Mike read the first book, adding, "I'm thinking of pretending there's a character based on him in the next one, just to fool him into ploughing through it."

Of course, while this might have fueled a possible theory that Mike inspired the character of Lockhart, it was far from confirming anything. But Lockhart was the only character Rowling had publicly stated was based on a real person, and it aligned with what was mentioned in the letter to Brenda. However, at the 2004 Edinburgh Book Festival, Rowling discussed the topic and concluded by saying, "Other people have contributed the odd characteristic, such as a nose,

to a character, but the only character who I sat down and thought that I would base on someone is Gilderoy Lockhart. It made up for having to endure him for two solid years." However, back in 2000, she had stated that the relationship preceding her marriage to Arantes had lasted "seven years" (which is more than two years), potentially ruling out Mike as the inspiration behind Lockhart.

It was also true that Rowling's sentence in the letter seemed to suggest that the character was not actually based on him, but it was something Rowling would pretend to make him read. Although that sounded like something you would do to Lockhart to get him to read a book, didn't it? The truth was that nothing was known for certain, and the only one with the power to debunk this was J.K. Rowling herself. It should be mentioned that the author was likely not happy about her private letters ending up in public auctions.







# Quidditch is life

## Part one

An article by  
**Oliver Horton**

***The sport of warlocks has meaning beyond the wins and the losses, especially for Hogwarts' student Harry James Potter.***

Harry Potter plays nine Quidditch matches during his six years at Hogwarts and wins every one in which he remains conscious. Quidditch, the preferred sport of wizards and witches, is fast, fun and violent. But every match has greater significance to the stories. "Quidditch is the human condition," opined J.K. Rowling.

The pitch is oval with a circle in the middle and therefore resembles a large green eye. Each team has seven players, seven being a favoured number in the series. Each end has three goals, circular rings on golden poles: gold, circles and trios are all recurring motifs. The Seeker is the only player with the power to end the match. Harry, a Seeker, is the only



wizard who can defeat the Dark Lord and end the wizarding war.

At Hogwarts the winner of the Quidditch Cup is decided by the team with the most points at the end of the season. Each of the four House teams plays three matches per season. The loss of one or two matches does not equal defeat and Harry's personal losses do not prevent his eventual victory over Voldemort. As Seeker, Harry inhabits the potential glory of winning 150 points per match (equivalent to 15 goals) if he catches the Golden Snitch, but teamwork is essential to the final result. A single goal is worth ten points and when Gryffindor reclaims the Quidditch Cup in 'Prisoner of Azkaban' they have accrued just ten points more than Slytherin. Ten points is memorably the amount that Neville Longbottom contributes towards the House Cup in *Philosopher's Stone*, which also allows Gryffindor to beat Slytherin<sup>1</sup>.

Harry first hears about Quidditch from Draco Malfoy ("Play Quidditch at all?") and unwittingly auditions for the Seeker role because of Draco. At the 11-year-olds first flying lesson, Neville breaks his arm and Madam Hooch takes him to the Hospital Wing, leaving the class unsupervised. Draco flies off with Neville's Remembrall

and Harry charges off in pursuit. This is a defining moment for the orphan: brave, in defiance of the rules, in defence of the weak, heroic. Flying is a pleasure that Harry discovers exactly as his true nature emerges. The Remembrall is red, a magical orb that fits comfortably in the hand like the Philosopher's Stone, the first book's quarry. Unnerved by Harry's skill, Draco hurls the Remembrall at the ground. Harry swoops down and catches it. Seeing this, Professor McGonagall recruits him as Seeker for the Gryffindor Quidditch team and buys him a Nimbus 2000. An unstable pattern is established: break the rules and be rewarded.

Flying is Harry's superpower. He does not need lessons. He mounts his broom and is immediately a better flyer than Ron's older brother Charlie Weasley who had the talent to go pro. Flying is the one activity in which Harry does not have to try. Sometimes it feels like his only source of happiness. In darker moments he is often grounded.

The Gryffindor team uniform: robes in red. The colour red marks Harry's progress in the first book, from the scarlet Hogwarts Express through to the blood-red Philosopher's Stone. Finally, to mark Harry's success, the

Great Hall is draped in Gryffindor red (and gold). Red is also the colour of the leather Quaffle, ie of goals. In contrast, the iron balls called Bludgers are black, a shade shared by Norbert the dragon and Professor Snape who metaphorically knock Harry off his broom. The Snitch is gold, a colour associated with fortune and glory. The Quidditch Cup is gold.

The principal rivalry, especially in the first three books, is between Gryffindor and Slytherin. Gryffindor plays in red and Slytherin in green. The complementary colours here signify the clash of good and evil. Voldemort's eyes are red, his signature spell is

green, Avada Kedavra. Harry's eyes are green, his signature spell is red, Expelliarmus.

## 1st Match Gryffindor vs Slytherin

*Book 1: This matches follows Halloween hijinks with the troll. Harry and Ron are now friends with Hermione.*

The two matches in *Philosopher's Stone* are unusual because the author abandons Harry's point of view and records the action from the stands. Ron and Hermione believe Snape is trying to hex Harry off his broomstick. Hermione tears across the terraces, accidentally knocking Professor Quirrell into the next row,



Quidditch Tapestry  
(Emily Gravett, for the illustrated edition of *Quidditch through the ages*, Bloomsbury, 2020)



and sets Snape on fire. The threat nullified Harry regains his seat and catches the Golden Snitch... in his mouth. Snape is revealed to have been protecting him. The same Snitch returns to Harry in *Deathly Hallows*. Shortly before it opens to release the Resurrection Stone, Harry learns that Snape has been committed to his cause, always. Harry is a relentless seeker of truth and death is the final secret.

## 2nd Match Gryffindor vs Hufflepuff

*Book 1: Harry has said goodbye to the Mirror of Erised and encouraged Neville to stand up for himself.*



Quidditch (Pottermore)

Professor Snape referees this match and displays an unreasonable bias against Gryffindor. Professor Dumbledore elects to attend and is first to congratulate Harry, who catches the Snitch in the first five minutes. The win is proof, in Dumbledore's eyes, that Harry has thrown his energies into life rather than dreams. But the real action is in the stands. Ron and Draco have a fist fight. Neville finds his strength and takes on Crabbe and Goyle despite the hopeless odds, the first sign that he is a hero-in-waiting.

For the season's final match against Ravenclaw Harry is recuperating in the Hospital Wing after the dust-up with Quirrelmort. In his absence Gryffindor is flattened.

## 3rd Match Gryffindor vs Slytherin

*Book 2: Dobby the House-elf warns Harry not to return to Hogwarts. Draco Malfoy joins the Slytherin team as Seeker.*

The rivalry between Harry and Draco spills into Quidditch, but Harry has other problems. One of the Bludgers targets Harry without let-up. Gryffindor's Beaters Fred and George Weasley protect him initially, but



Gryffindor vs Slytherin (Pottermore)

Harry dismisses them. The Bludger's pursuit foreshadows the Basilisk. The Bludger breaks Harry's arm, the same arm that is pierced by the Basilisk fang. Being almost as vainglorious as Tom Riddle, Draco is too busy mouthing off to notice the Golden Snitch frolicking in his hair. Despite his injury Harry catches the Snitch and wins the match, a feat he repeats when he stabs the enchanted Diary. Professor Lockhart attempts to fix Harry's arm and instead removes all the bones, confirmation of his inadequacy. Quidditch is cancelled for the rest of the year due to an outbreak of petrification.

## 4th Match Gryffindor vs Hufflepuff

*Book 3: Dementors have been stationed at Hogwarts. Buckbeak the Hippogriff has injured Draco.*

The first match of the season is

traditionally against Slytherin, but Draco exploits his so-called injury to alter the schedule and avoid playing in a thunderstorm. Note that heroic Harry won a game with a broken arm the previous year. Cedric Diggory makes his debut as Hufflepuff captain and Seeker. Sirius Black watches from the stands in dog form, but slips away when the Dementors appear. Harry faints and falls off his broom, but Dumbledore arrests his momentum. The Nimbus 2000 drifts into the Whomping Willow, which tears it to pieces. The storm and the angry tree are representative of Harry's mental state. Harry realises that he cannot escape his problems: Dementors and depression can strike at any time, even when he is happily playing Quidditch. Brave as ever he asks Professor Lupin to teach him preventative measures, a process akin to therapy. Worth mentioning that Cedric asks for a rematch, signalling a sense of fair play that continues

into the Triwizard Tournament. But he would have beaten Harry to the Snitch even without the Dementors. Amos Diggory crows about this win when he meets Harry in *Goblet of Fire*, treating the boy not as a person but as a name, a celebrity. In revenge, Harry arranges for Wormtail to murder his son (just kidding).

## 5th Match Gryffindor vs Ravenclaw

*Book 3: Harry receives a Firebolt for Christmas. He has practiced the Patronus Charm with uncertain results.*

The new broom flies like a dream. Harry's first (and only) match against Ravenclaw serves to introduce Cho Chang, the eagles' "extremely pretty"

Seeker. She is cheeky and distracting, and Harry takes a minute to focus and outplay her. He pretends to have seen the Snitch and goes into a deep dive, which Cho follows, only pulling out at the last second. This is basically the Wronski Feint, the signature move of Viktor Krum, except Harry has never heard of the Bulgarian bon-bon or this defensive manoeuvre. "Dementors" invade the pitch and Harry unleashes his Patronus then beats Cho to the Snitch, winning the match. These "Dementors" turn out to be Malfoy and chums in costume. In the flurry of action, Harry fails to see his first Patronus, the silvery stag, which makes his end-of-book "Expecto Patronum" something of a surprise. But he is able to enjoy Quidditch again because he has safeguarded his mental health.



Quidditch Pitch (Pottermore)

## 6th Match Gryffindor vs Slytherin

*Book 3: Gryffindor captain Oliver Wood's last chance to win the Cup. Pre-match sabotage turns the mood toxic.*

In the build-up to the match Harry is surrounded by a ring of protective Gryffindors wherever he goes, a preview of the scene in *Deathly Hallows* where assorted students stand between him and the Slytherins. The House of the snake goes into this match 200 points up. Sports-mad Severus Snape wears green to the final, his team's colours, the one time he does not wear black. Harry cannot catch the Snitch until Gryffindor is 60 points ahead and must contain Draco: keep the match alive so that it "can die at the right moment"<sup>2</sup>. The game is bad-tempered and violent. At one point Draco even hangs onto Harry's broom tail to slow him down, a tactic known as blagging. Victory demands teamwork. Towards the end, Harry dive bombs the opposing team, clearing a path for Angelina Johnson to score, which puts him very nearly out of reach for the Snitch. But he races Draco to the winged walnut and, taking both hands off his broom, manages to reach it first. Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup. ♦



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Warner Bros., 2001)

## Footnotes

1. Neville kills the final Horcrux in *Deathly Hallows*, another ten-point act that is crucial to Voldemort's destruction, and a further endorsement of teamwork.
2. Severus Snape discusses Harry with Dumbledore in "The Prince's Tale", in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

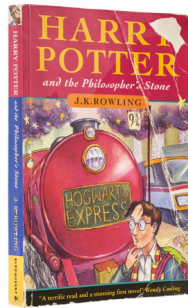


# Auctions

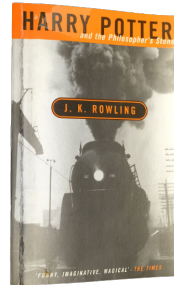
June  
2023

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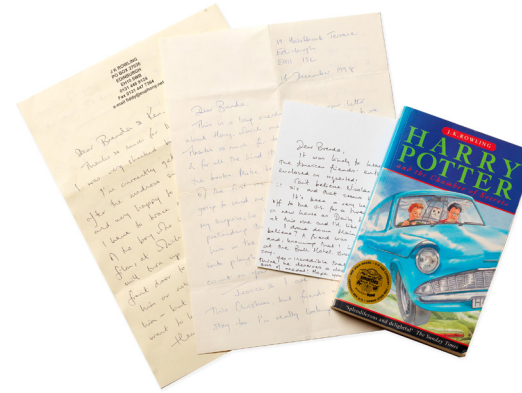
These are some of the most important auctions of Harry Potter books in the past month for the collector community, including first editions and signed copies of J.K. Rowling's novels. Among them was an inscribed copy of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, alongside three manuscript letters by Rowling, all of which were auctioned by Bonhams.



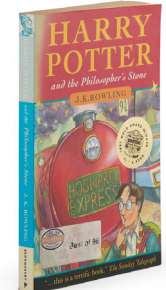
**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, 1st printing  
paperback.  
**Sold for £2,520**  
Dominick Winters, Jun. 15



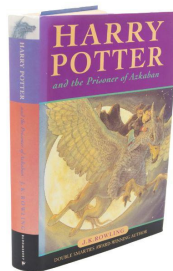
**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, adult edition,  
paperback, signed.  
**Sold for £480**  
Dominick Winters, Jun. 15



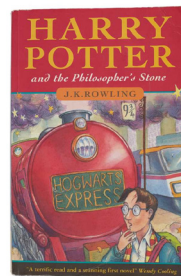
**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**  
Three autograph letters signed and an inscribed copy of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. *Read more about this copy on page 10.*  
**Sold for £12,800**  
Bonhams, Jun. 21



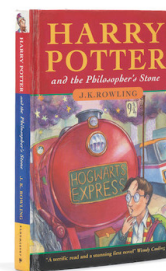
**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, 20th printing  
paperback, signed.  
**Sold for £504**  
Lyon and Turnbull, Jun. 21



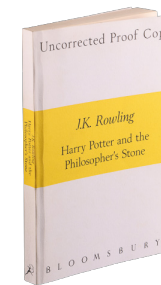
**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**  
United Kingdom, first edition,  
first printing, second state.  
**Sold for £300**  
Hansons, Jun. 16



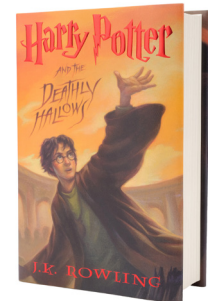
**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, 1st printing  
paperback.  
**Sold for £3,528**  
Lyon and Turnbull, Jun. 21



**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, 1st printing  
hardcover.  
**Sold for £40,960**  
Lyon and Turnbull, Jun. 16



**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
United Kingdom, uncorrected  
proof copy.  
**Sold for \$39,063**  
Propstore, Jun. 30



**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**  
United States, hardcover,  
signed copy.  
**Sold for \$2,500**  
Propstore, Jun. 30



# Flesh, Blood and Bone

***Violence, bloodshed and mayhem act as a cornerstone of narrative and character development in the Harry Potter Series.***

Of all the elements that elevate the *Harry Potter* series above mere Young Adult literature, brutality is the most distinctive. Beyond the iconic characters, beyond even the unparalleled world-building and the sophisticated master plan of the plot, it's the moments of graphic violence that remind fans of all ages that their beloved fantasy series is truly a mature work of literature, and not for the faint of heart. But what deeper meaning can we derive from the prevalence of violence and the injuries that follow from it? What value (besides simple shock value) does J.K. Rowling add to her work by including this harsh, bloody side to a story that is so rich in love, tenderness, humor and intellect?

This is not necessarily a discussion

of the deaths within the series. And, as it happens, the primary means of magical murder - Avada Kadavra - is not particularly violent. The Killing Curse leaves the victim dead without any wounds (with one notable exception). Similarly, the deadly Veil in the Department of Mysteries, through which Sirius tragically falls, is subtle, almost peaceful in nature. So, in contrast, the *Potter* series' instances of raw violence - the hideous violations of the flesh, and spilling of blood - appear even more frightening and impactful in comparison. With supernatural magic power as the foundation of the story world, the dramatic effect of physical violence becomes thematically super-charged.

I believe that when any adept storyteller portrays physical violence, it's for the purpose of raising the stakes - to increase the dire consequences of the central conflicts, and to demonstrate a quality of spirit in the characters who are or aren't able to overcome the horrors of the violations of the human body. Such is the case with the characters of *Harry Potter*, with those on the good side rising above the injuries caused by the viciousness of their enemies, and pushing courageously forward. Furthermore, graphic depictions of blood often act as connective tissue to key characters' journeys, punctuating major moments and even driving the story.

## Through and Through

In the most straightforward sense, throughout *Potter*, the behavior of a character in the wake of a brutal injury acts as a direct reflection of their deepest nature. For instance, it surprises nobody that when George is rescued from the aerial battle early in Book 7 with his ear sliced off, the first thing he does is crack a joke, calling himself "*saintlike*" - in other words, "*holey*." Fred is quick to rag on him for the low quality of this pun. Appropriately, the jokester nature of the twins rises to the surface even at the most inappropriate time. A considerably more intense

An article by Joe Kourieh





example can be seen when their father is on the receiving end of a ferocious attack by Voldemort's huge snake Nagini in Book 5, while on duty for the Order of the Phoenix. Rowling's narration of the moment is ruthless, describing the splintering of Arthur's ribs and the warm splattering of his blood as Aruthur slumps over in anguish. This description drives home the severity and traumatic nature of the experience for Arthur. But alas, when his loved ones visit him at St. Mungo's hospital, Arthur is in good spirits, and, importantly, never shows the slightest indication of wanting to abandon the Order and flee the dangers of the anti-Voldemort movement. This is the nature of Arthur Weasley on full display: infinitely selfless and a warrior for good, delivering positivity and optimism just hours after he is nearly ripped in half by a monster.

And also within the Weasley family, there is an example of brutality guiding a character to heroic self-realization which is perhaps the most unexpected, and quite heartening. Fleur Delacour's true nature is uncertain throughout her early appearances in the series, and her popularity as a new member of

the Weasley family early in Book 6 is in serious doubt. But after her fiancé Bill is subjected to a mauling by the notorious werewolf Fenrir Greyback later in that book, things change. The horror of this attack is, I think, unparalleled in the series - Greyback rips the flesh from Bill's face with his teeth, hideously mutilating Bill's handsome visage permanently, and infecting his blood with a wolf-ish

element. Though the audience is spared from witnessing this attack firsthand (perhaps a detailed description would have finally crossed the line and disqualified *Potter* as being appropriate for kids), we are left with no doubt about the life-changing nature of Bill's suffering. As he lies bandaged in the Hospital Wing of Hogwarts, his mother Molly calls off his controversial wedding to Fleur.



Fanart of Bill Weasley (Juan Martín Ochoa)

And here, Fleur proves her true nature: she spins her particular brand of vanity to the positive, declaring that she is good-looking enough to offset Bill's grotesque new scars. These scars, she says, only prove his nature as a brave hero. She proudly affirms her love for him. This deep dedication by Fleur is enough to win an embrace from Molly. Several months later, Fleur puts her life on the line as a decoy in Harry's escort from Privet Drive, proving that Bill's mauling was actually a motivator for Fleur to become a real hero worthy of the Weasley family name.

## Blood's Important

Depictions of blood course throughout the *Potter* series, animating and emboldening it. Consider that the central antagonistic campaign that threatens the world is, after all, based on the notion of purebloods' superiority over "mudbloods." Neville uses this to his advantage in Book 7 as leader of the resistance movement within Hogwarts against the rule of the Death Eaters. Though the Carrows beat and slice Neville up for nearly a year to break his will, he explains that they would never kill him on account of



his pure blood. In this way, Neville has reached his destiny: despite living most of his life anxious and inept, in the shadow of his famous parents, he now uses his birthright as a shield against the Dark Side. Their violence against him is merely superficial, and ultimately futile.

The literal, explicit use of blood as an image and a plot device is truly a cornerstone of Rowling's intense style. Blood is, after all, the key element in Harry's early interaction with Voldemort in the Forbidden Forest in Book 1. To carry out the brutal violation of a gentle and beautiful unicorn - to slaughter it and drink its blood - effectively characterizes the type of evil that we're dealing with in Voldemort. Though the Dark Lord's reputation precedes him, reminiscences can only take us so far. By seeing his bloodsoaked nastiness up close, Voldemort is suddenly more than just an idea - he becomes evil in the flesh, willing to do anything to regain power.

In *Harry Potter*, the spilling of

blood represents the crossing of a threshold. Some instances of this are overt, even humorously so. Dumbledore, for example, scoffs in disappointment at the simplistic blood sacrifice that Voldemort requires for entry into the cave that houses Slytherin's Locket - a laughable trial for wizards of their caliber. And yet, in contrast, there are overt bleedings which are truly terrifying, and mark the most important moments. The cutting of Harry's arm to harvest his blood, for example, forms the axis upon which the entire series rotates, supplying the final ingredient to restore Voldemort's body in Book 4. Interestingly (and disturbingly), during this ritual Wormtail must cut off his own hand before collecting Harry's blood, as if to belabor Wormtail's degradation and solidify his dedication to Voldemort. This is a recurring theme for Wormtail: every time he maims himself (three times in total throughout the story), he crosses further over the threshold of his humanity, getting further away from his old life, undermining his personhood and becoming more ensnared

by the Dark Lord. The third and most horrific self-injury (the dismembering of his hand), is the injury that does finally kill him, but years later. The tragic truth is that there is still some humanity left in Wormtail at the very end, but he is so totally without personal agency and dominated by Voldemort (symbolized by the loss of his hand and the silver monstrosity in its place) that the tiniest expression of choice - to hesitate about killing Harry - causes the silver hand to turn on Wormtail, and strangle him to death.

Harry, as the protagonist of this bloody saga, bleeds a lot throughout the series, in myriad ways. To bleed is in the nature of the chosen one, the boy destined to sacrifice everything in order to fight the forces of evil head-on. There are some instances that are particularly on-the-nose: Harry smashes his face against the ground and bleeds profusely when pursuing Snape across the castle grounds during the climax of Book 6, then again against the sidecar of Hagrid's motorcycle

during the aerial battle of Book 7. Both of these accidents occur in the wake of the loss of a dear friend (Dumbledore and Hedwig, respectively), as if to add injury to tragedy, and to emphasize the vulnerability of the Boy Who Lived, both as a human being susceptible to petty injury, and as a character liable to stumble awkwardly even in his most dramatic moments.

The violence carried out on Harry's body and the marks that follow reflect the deepest truths about the story's central conflicts. Take for example Harry's disaccord with the government in the second half of the series. When Umbridge arrives at Hogwarts, Harry's relationship with the Ministry of Magic is already dreadful. But this friction turns into utter contempt when Umbridge spills his blood. Or rather, she forces him to spill his own blood, not just as an arbitrary form of torture, but specifically to invalidate the crucial message he has for the Wizarding World about Voldemort's return. By forcing Harry to carve the infamous words "*I must not tell lies*" into his hand,



scarring his flesh forever, Umbridge confirms that the Ministry is not ally to Harry in his war against Voldemort. In the next book, Harry reaffirms this when he shows Rufus Scrimgeour those very scars, and refuses Scrimgeour's offer of Ministry aid. Within months of that refusal, Scrimgeour is dead, and the Ministry is under Voldemort's control. Things may have been very different if the Ministry had not explicitly spelled out their untrustworthiness with Harry's own blood.

As it happens, bleeding is the first thing we see Harry do in the final book. When Chapter 2 of *Deathly Hallows* opens with the stark statement "Harry was bleeding," we are meant to understand immediately that Harry is ailing - his two greatest father figures (Sirius and Dumbledore) are gone, and

his roster of protectors is waning (especially with the loss of Mad-Eye soon to follow). Harry is more vulnerable than we have ever seen him. It's important to note that this moment of accidental bloodshed is due to the fragmentation of Sirius' mirror, on which Harry cuts his finger while searching through his trunk. The mirror piece floods Harry with painful memories, since his disregard for it during the climax of Book 5 led directly to Sirius' death.

But the mirror's role in Book 7 is not simply to inspire a guilt trip. Rather, it is still intact enough to put Harry in contact with Aberforth, who sends the faithful and gallant elf Dobby to rescue Harry and his allies from extreme danger at Malfoy Manor much later in the book. This sequence, when Dobby makes the ultimate sacrifice for Harry, marks

the gateway to the climax of the final book. Terrified at returning to the home of his abusive former masters, Dobby courageously apparates in and out of Malfoy Manor twice in order to get the job done, even dropping a chandelier on the villains in process. Upon his second apparition from the Manor, Bellatrix Lestrange lodges her knife in Dobby's heart. Dobby bleeds out in Harry's arms. Here, Harry crosses the threshold into manhood. More than any other loss in the series, Dobby's raw, bloody demise provokes a new sense of focus in Harry, and sets him on his way to pursue Voldemort, not as a confused kid with a vague destiny, but as a man on a mission. As Rowling describes in that moment, he is no longer a victim of his burning scar, but "master of the pain" - his mind has fully matured, and he now stands on equal footing with the Dark Lord.

In perhaps the series' most touching moment, Harry digs Dobby's grave by hand - his blisters and sweat act as a tribute, not only to Dobby, but to all the house elves, whose hard and thankless labor lies at the foundations of Wizarding society. It's worth noting that during the final push in the Battle

of Hogwarts, the Hogwarts house elves, led by Kreacher, swarm the Death Eaters and viciously attack their legs with kitchen cutlery. The elves' quirky brand of violence - which includes beating themselves up for infractions of duty - marks them as one of Rowling's most fascinating creations. Though the other Hogwarts elves were always skeptical of Dobby's unorthodox ways, I'd like to think that they all had the free elf Dobby in mind when they charged boldly into battle.

Beyond the ankle-stabbing Hogwarts house elves, non-human Magical creatures engaging in violence actually plays a fascinating role in the plot. Throughout Book 5, Hagrid's giant half-brother Grawp continuously beats him up as Hagrid attempts to civilize the giant. Hagrid's love for his younger brother is so strong that he literally bleeds for him, leaving Harry perplexed about Hagrid's deteriorating state. During one interaction in Hogsmeade, Harry finds Hagrid sitting alone at the pub, pondering the nature of familial bonds. "Makes a difference, havin' a decent family ... Whatever yeh say, blood's important", Hagrid muses. Though he couldn't have

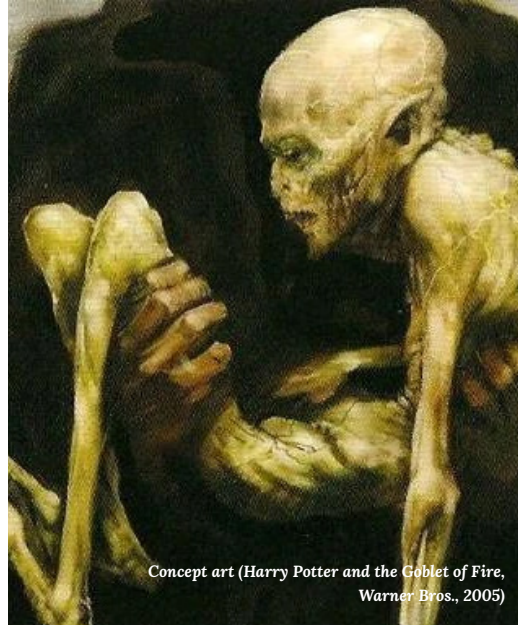


I must not tell lies (Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Warner Bros., 2009)



known it, Hagrid, through his devotion to his brother, had set into motion a key plot point that arises during the epic climactic sequence of that book. After Hermione leads Umbridge to the Forbidden Forest's centaur herd as a successful plan to get rid of her, the centaurs turn on Hermione and Harry. Grawp crashes the scene, asking Hermione and Harry where Hagrid is. The centaurs attack Grawp, peppering him with arrows. In one of Rowling's most intense descriptions, the frantic Grawp rubs the wounds with his enormous hands, grinding the razor-sharp arrowheads deep into his flesh, showering blood down on Harry and Hermione as they flee the scene. This rain of blood isn't just for dramatic effect - it soon becomes a crucial climactic detail, as Hagrid's thestrals soon wander over, attracted to Grawp's blood. Harry and his crew use the thestrals to travel to the Ministry, and the ramifications that follow are vast. Hagrid was right, blood is important - here we see it act as the cornerstone of one the story's most pivotal sequences.

Rowling's depictions of blood, gore, and injury aren't just for shock value (although they do provide plenty



Concept art (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Warner Bros., 2005)

of it). These elements drastically increase the stakes of the narrative, and deepen the impact of her work, raising the bar for the young audiences - challenging them to face the harsh realities of life - while maintaining an engaging selling point for older readers. The violence in *Harry Potter* is a horrific, exhilarating moment that lingers in the mind. This is a thread that connects the most iconic stories and storytellers across the history of fiction, providing unforgettable bloodsoaked sagas that define their time and place. These stories tap into a deep, unnerving knowledge of our biological nature. It's a reminder of our vulnerability, and of the embodied reality we humans, magical or muggle, can never escape. ♦

# Famous Wizards

## Card Collection



Cut around each side, then stick them together to create your own collectible card!





# ◆ ◆ ◆ Visions of Magic ◆ ◆ ◆

Warner Bros. Discovery, in collaboration with NEON, has announced the forthcoming debut of **"Harry Potter: Visions of Magic."** This groundbreaking interactive art experience, inspired by the beloved Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts film series, promises to enchant audiences worldwide with its innovative celebration of J.K. Rowling's iconic universe.

**"Harry Potter: Visions of Magic"** invites fans on a spellbinding journey into the most mysterious corners of the Wizarding World. Through a series of meticulously crafted and immersive environments, visitors will be transported to iconic locations

such as the Room of Requirement, Newt's Menagerie, and the Ministry of Magic. Each setting evokes a sense of wonder and intrigue, beckoning guests to uncover the magic that lies within.

Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment and NEON have seamlessly merged art, technology, and storytelling to create an unparalleled experience. Multi-sensory installations, featuring responsive video content, awe-inspiring architecture, and original soundscapes, will envelop guests in a realm where the invisible becomes visible. Interactive technology empowers visitors to unlock hidden

secrets, revealing visions of magic that breathe life into the entire journey.

"This experience is poised to leave our millions of Wizarding World fans around the globe awestruck," expressed Peter van Roden, Senior Vice President of Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment. "The convergence of art and technology with the Wizarding World has resulted in a truly magical experience that showcases the franchise in an entirely new light."

NEON, a global experience entertainment company known for their exceptional immersive attractions, is excited to partner with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment for this unprecedented endeavor. With a track record that includes outstanding attractions such as *Avatar: The Experience*, which recently received the Outstanding Attraction Experience award at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2023, NEON brings their expertise and creativity to **"Harry Potter: Visions of Magic."**

"We're thrilled to collaborate with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Themed Entertainment in delivering this unique experience for the very

first time," stated Ron Tan, Executive Chairman and Group CEO of NEON. "Whether you've been a fan of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts for decades or are just discovering these captivating stories, prepare to embark on an extraordinary journey like no other."

The highly anticipated world premiere of **"Harry Potter: Visions of Magic"** will take place in a European city, with further details to be revealed later this year. Fans eager to be among the first to embark on this evocative journey can sign up for the exclusive waitlist, securing priority access to pre-sale tickets for the European destination. Subscribers will also receive updates on upcoming tours planned for various locations across the globe.

As the world eagerly anticipates the arrival of **"Harry Potter: Visions of Magic,"** it reaffirms the timeless legacy of the Harry Potter franchise and its ability to transport audiences into a realm of boundless imagination, wonder, and endless possibilities. Through the convergence of art, technology, and the magical universe, this extraordinary experience promises to leave an indelible mark on the hearts of fans, both young and old, for generations to come. ♦

"It is easily the most professional and thorough collection of facts about the 'Wizarding Phenomenon'"

[HogwartsProfessor.com](https://HogwartsProfessor.com)

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