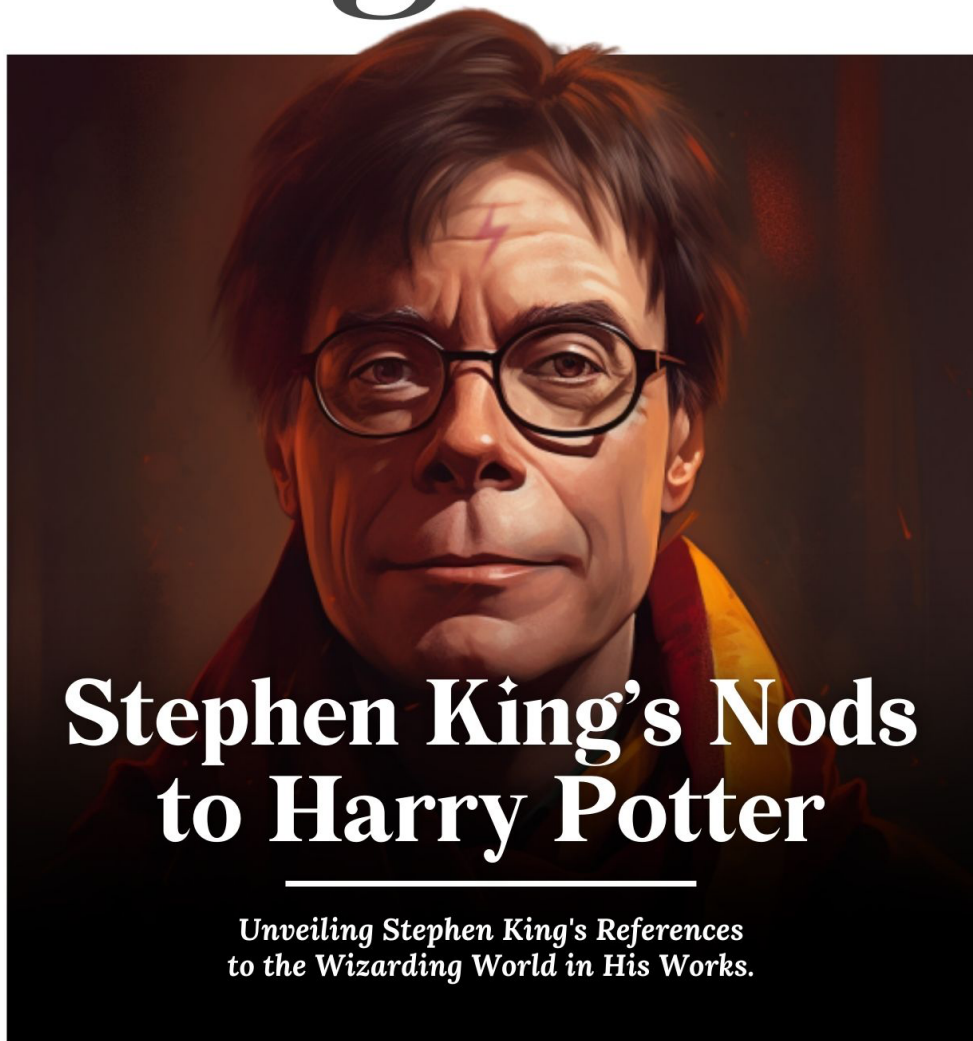


The
Rowling
Library

Issue 80
August 2023

Magazine



Stephen King's Nods to Harry Potter

*Unveiling Stephen King's References
to the Wizarding World in His Works.*

Quidditch is life:
Part II

What we know about
The Running Grave

Birthday
Tea Party

Ours

**Founder &
Editor in Chief**

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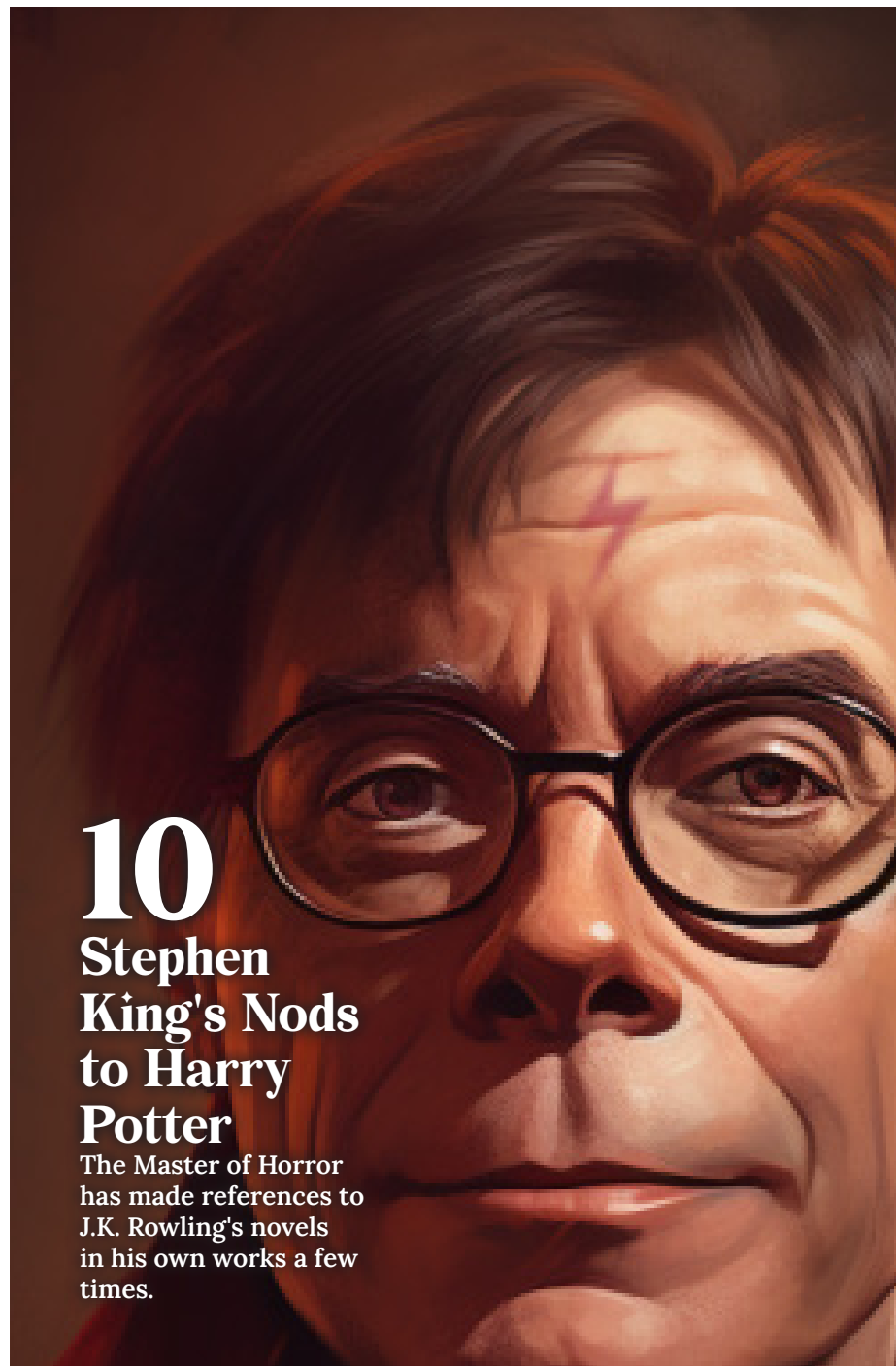
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Welcome

A word from the Founder

Welcome to the August 2023 issue of our Harry Potter and J.K. Rowling magazine. As summer progresses in the Northern Hemisphere, we're back with a range of articles and updates that I'm sure you'll find engaging!

Our cover story this month takes a look at the intriguing connections between Stephen King's novels and the Harry Potter series. We'll explore the references the American writer has woven into his works, adding an extra layer of interest for fans of both authors.

In recent news, Bloomsbury made headlines by hosting a "Magical Birthday Party." This unique event not only celebrated Harry Potter's birthday but also provided an opportunity for the publisher to showcase their upcoming release, "The Wizarding World Almanac."

For those following Oliver Horton's series, you'll be pleased to know that he has completed his analysis of the impact of Quidditch on Harry's life during his final year at Hogwarts. In this issue, we delve into the conclusions drawn from his exploration of the wizarding sport's role in shaping our hero's journey.

Fausto Giurescu is back with another installment of the Famous Wizard Card series. Discover the featured wizard of the month, adding to our ever-growing collection of profiles that contribute to the richness of the Harry Potter universe. Lastly, we'll be delving into the latest information available about "The Running Grave," the highly anticipated seventh book by Robert Galbraith. As the release date draws nearer, we've gathered details and insights to keep you up-to-date with what to expect from this next installment.

As always, your feedback is invaluable to us, so feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions as we continue this journey together.

Patricio



Stephen King's Dark Tower and Hogwarts in the background (Composition)



The search for a young fan has begun

On July 31st, on Harry Potter's birthday, the Wizarding World announces the return of the inaugural **Back to Hogwarts** celebrations, alongside a search for the UK's most enthusiastic Harry Potter fan to lead the Hogwarts Express' departure countdown.

Having begun as an organic fan celebration, each year on 1st September, **Back to Hogwarts** is recognised as one of the biggest days in any Harry Potter fan's calendar – marking the moment when wizards and witches board the Hogwarts Express on Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ at 11.00am for a year of magical adventure at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Dressed in their finest cosplay, thousands of fans from all over the world make the trip to London's King's Cross station each year with even more coming together online to raise their wands for the countdown and share their love of the stories.

Bringing Gryffindors, Slytherins, Ravenclaws and Hufflepuffs together, this year the spellbinding celebrations are bigger than ever with the launch of a UK competition for one lucky fan aged between five and seventeen years old to get the chance to travel to King's Cross station and help host

the iconic countdown on the station concourse on 1st September. The competition is now live and young wizards and witches wishing to enter can submit a video (via their parent or guardian) of their best countdown online by 11.59pm on 7th August.

The magic doesn't stop there! This lucky winner, plus a parent or guardian will get the chance to pack their trunks once again to come back to the capital with a complete package of Harry Potter experiences. The ultimate Harry Potter London Breaks Experience gives this fan the opportunity to discover the filmmaking magic of Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter and see the critically acclaimed stage production, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. To top it off, the winner will receive an incredible merchandise bundle from the Harry Potter Shop. Full details on prize entry can be found [here](#).

In addition to the countdown, from 1st September until 3rd September an exciting array of magical experiences awaits at King's Cross station as fans will get the chance to sip on Butterbeer, play Hogwarts Legacy on PlayStation®5 courtesy of Warner Bros. Games, and enjoy LEGO® Harry Potter giveaways and

photo opportunities. Additionally, in celebration of the publication of *The Harry Potter WIZARDING Almanac*, fans will also be able to spin Bloomsbury's giant wand spinner and find out whose wand they are best suited to, with free gifts up for grabs for those taking part. The celebration extends beyond the station, with special Harry Potter screenings in theaters worldwide, including the UK, US, and Australia. More locations, including Barcelona and Madrid, will be announced soon.

Pam Lifford, President, Global Brands, Franchises and Experiences, at Warner Bros. Discovery, said:

"Back to Hogwarts is a day cherished by Harry Potter fans of all ages, from all over the world. Just like their passion for the magic of the

stories, their celebrations grow every year! 2023 is set to be a year like no other – we will see fan world record attempts in Germany, high octane quiz competitions in France and of course, the UK's search to find the perfect person to join that amazing countdown. We are so proud to offer new and exciting ways to bring fans together and give them new ways to celebrate the Harry Potter magic – there's nothing quite like Back To Hogwarts!"

About the competition

Parents and guardians can enter their child by 7th August to help lead the Hogwarts Express' departure countdown at 11.00am on 1st September 2023 at King's Cross station and win a bundle of Harry Potter prizes.



The WIZARDING World is searching for an enthusiastic, confident young fan to lead all the young wizards, witches and Muggles in the countdown moment. For the opportunity to lead the countdown, the parent or guardian of the applicant must send a video lasting no longer than 20 seconds, counting down from ten, showing how they would lead the Hogwarts Express' departure countdown.

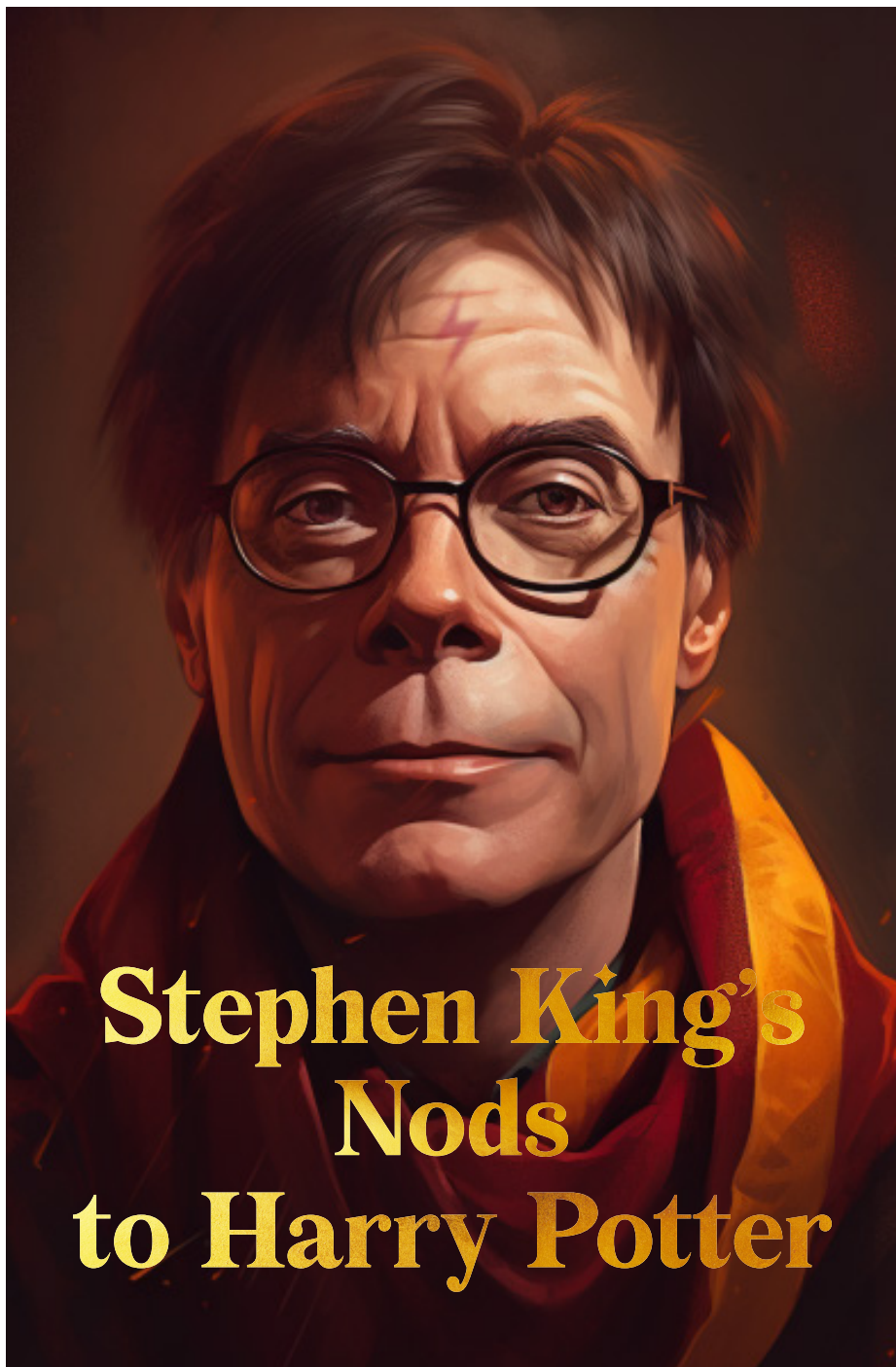
Entrants must be based in the UK and Northern Ireland, aged between 5 and 17 years old, and details for

entering the competition are detailed [here](#).

Entries must be sent via email to BackToHogwarts@premiercomms.com and must be sent via a file sharing platform such as WeTransfer or DropBox.

The opportunity to enter opened at 12.00am on 31st July and will close at 11.59pm on 7th August. The successful applicant will be informed by 18th August. ♦





Stephen King's Nods to Harry Potter

Unveiling Stephen King's references to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in his works.

If one were to look for an author of the same popularity as J.K. Rowling, the first name that would come to mind is Stephen King. The American author, nicknamed the Master of Horror, is one of the most recognized worldwide. But it's not just the bestsellers of his books and the successful adaptations of his movies that link him to J.K. Rowling.

Both writers have publicly displayed their mutual admiration, but the American author always went a step further. Through his immensely positive reviews published in both "The New York Times" and "Entertainment Weekly", Stephen King was recommending each new Harry Potter book to an entire nation. Moreover, he not only defended Rowling's books against certain critiques (as he famously did in "The New York Times" upon the release of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*), but he also went so far as to assert that the books would undoubtedly become classics. In 2006, they even shared an event (alongside author John Irving) at Radio City Hall in New York City.

During the charity event, they not only read excerpts from their books and answered questions from the present fans but also showered each other with praises.

More recently, the authors interacted on the social media platform Twitter, with Stephen King even declaring himself a fan of the Cormoran Strike series and commenting on each of the published books. Just a few months ago, he said about *The Ink Black Heart*: "Long, relaxed, very entertaining. Critics say there's too much Twitter in it, but—duh—Twitter is sort of what it's about."

However, perhaps the most heartwarming form of King's adulation towards Rowling was including her books in his own books. Stephen King began this tradition in his non-fiction book *On Writing* (2000), where he recommended the first three *Harry Potter* novels as some of the best books he had recently read. King provided further insight into what *Harry Potter* meant after a near-fatal accident in an article for *The New York Times*:

"In the miserably hot summer of '99, the Harry Potters (and the superb detective novels of Dennis Lehane) became a kind of lifeline for me."

In 2003, the next reference to the Wizarding World within one of the Master of Horror's novels emerged as an element of the fifth book in *The Dark Tower* series. Stephen King's magnum opus, *The Dark Tower* series, is a sprawling narrative that weaves together elements of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Coincidence or not, this series also consists of seven novels, just like the *Harry Potter* series.

While these references aren't crucial to the plot, they are explicit, showing that King wanted even the least attentive person to recognize them. If you haven't read *The Dark Tower* series and plan to do so, be cautious: **minor spoilers ahead!**

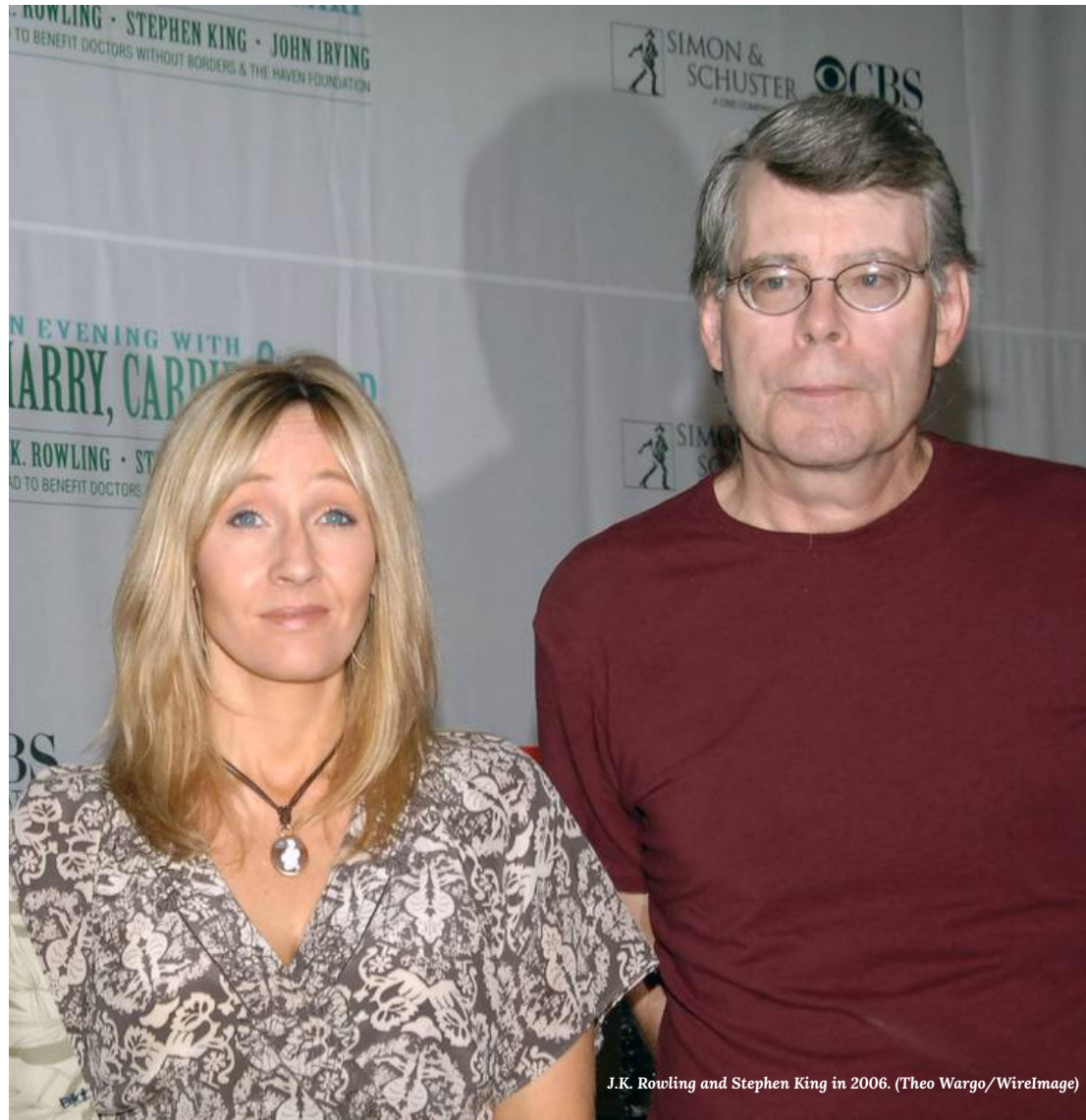
In the fifth book, *Wolves of the Calla*, the bad guys (the Wolves) use self propelled flying exploding objects to attack the good guys. These self propelled objects are small flying spheres made of metal. If that doesn't ring a bell, King decided to give them an obvious name: **sneetches**. A few pages later, as one of the main characters, Jake, catches one of

these three-inch diameter balls, he discovers a small plate on its side bearing an inscription:

"SNEETCH"

HARRY POTTER MODEL

Serial # 465-11-AA HPJKR



J.K. Rowling and Stephen King in 2006. (Theo Wargo/WireImage)

Notice Rowling's initials in the serial number of that particular sneetch as well. And as if that weren't enough, the narrator adds: *"A distant part of Jake's mind wondered who Harry Potter was. The sneetch's inventor, more than likely."*

These sneetches (that are one of the main weapons used by the Wolves) will reappear again in the seventh book, *The Dark Tower*, published in 2004. Midway through the novel, Jake stumbles upon a cave containing a crate full of sneetches. The crate's lid description couldn't be any more obvious: *"It showed the face of a smiling boy with a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead. He was wearing round glasses and brandishing what appeared to be a magician's wand at a floating sneetch."* Moreover, the text continues with: *"The words stenciled beneath the drawing read:*

PROPERTY OF 449th SQUADRON
24 "SNEETCHES"

HARRY POTTER MODEL
SERIAL #465-17-CC NDJKR

*"Don't Mess with the 449!"
We'll Kick the "Slytherin" Out of
You!"*

Towards the end of the book, the Crimson King, the "Lord Voldemort" of the *Dark Tower* series, once again employs the sneetches in the final showdown against the main protagonists, assigning these flying balls a significant role in concluding the story. But these sneetches are not

the only reference to *Harry Potter* in this series.

In the seventh book there is also a character called Dobbie. Who was Dobbie? Well, the text explains it again: "Dobbie was the sort of domestic robot known as a "house-elf," old but still quite efficient."

Even though it could be said that Stephen King channeled all his admiration for Rowling through these references (including the author's initials, the name of Harry Potter, the Slytherin house, and even the beloved house-elf), it wasn't the last time he did so. In his science fiction novel *Under the Dome* (2009), the American author once again alluded to "the boy who lived."

Despite the book being a work of science fiction, the references to *Harry Potter* are real in the sense that Rowling's novels and characters are mentioned as culture references and not as in-world characters. The first instance occurs through the character of Georgia Roux: "Georgia grabbed a bunch of Sammy's paperbacks off the top shelf of the bookcase and looked through them. "Nora Roberts? Sandra Brown? Stephenie Meyer? You read this stuff? Don't you know fuckin Harry Potter rules?""



One of the Wolves, holding a dangerous metallic Sneetch.
Illustration by Steve Stones for the Swedish hardcover
edition of "The Dark Tower V: The Wolves of th Calla"

The Wolf can be seen holding a light saber as well, as a
reference to Star Wars.

The second instance (because yes, there is more than one) is when some characters devise a plan to escape from prison. While one of them wears a Darth Vader mask to avoid recognition, another uses the mask of "Harry Potter's chum, Hermione."

In Stephen King's literary realm, where horror and fantasy intertwine, his subtle nods to J.K. Rowling's wizarding world stand as a testament to their shared admiration. Beyond the realms of bestsellers and blockbusters, a unique connection blossomed between these literary giants. As readers uncover these hidden connections, they're invited to recognize the shared essence of imaginative fiction, where even the most diverse narratives can find common ground. These references serve as a bridge, linking the universes created by these two iconic writers, ultimately underlining the enduring impact of their work on the landscape of modern literature. ♦

Thanks to Stephen King's specialist
Ariel Bosi for his assistance writing
this article.

A Magical Birthday Party

The enchanting world of Harry Potter came alive at the Bloomsbury offices in London on July 31st when the renowned publisher organized a special Birthday Tea Party to commemorate the beloved wizard's birthday which was featured on JKR Stories channels, the online brand of author J.K. Rowling. The event marked the first look at physical copies of an upcoming book that will delight fans and transport them back to the magical realm they adore.

The book in question, **The Harry**

Potter Wizingding Almanac, promises to be an extraordinary guide to the intricacies of the Harry Potter universe. With illustrations that are sure to captivate the hearts of both children and adults, the Almanac is shaping up to be a treasure trove of information about the beloved series. The event attendees, including Harry Potter influencers and experts, were among the first to lay their eyes on the physical copies of the Almanac.

In an exciting moment for all the attendees, the first physical copies of **The Harry Potter Wizingding Almanac** were unveiled, revealing intricate details and new illustrations that add depth and charm to the already beloved series. The book promises to be an essential companion for every Harry Potter aficionado, providing insights into the characters, magical creatures, spells, and the rich history of the wizingding world.

The video shared on JKR Stories and

Bloomsbury's social media accounts showcased glimpses of the Almanac's title page and several internal illustrations. Created by seven different artists, the illustrations seem to have been crafted with immense care and attention to detail, capturing the essence of the Harry Potter universe in all its glory.

Besides the preview of the awaited book, there were sandwiches, pastries, cakes, and even a Harry themed quiz! Our sources told us a Ravenclaw student won it... what a surprise!

As the Birthday Tea Party came to a close, the attendees left with hearts full of magic and anticipation for the release of **The Harry Potter Wizingding Almanac**. To be published on October 10th, fans can hardly contain their excitement. So mark your calendars, Potterheads, as Bloomsbury's new book promises to be the perfect companion to the Harry Potter novels, allowing readers to revisit the enchanting realm of the Wizingding World and continue their adventures alongside the iconic characters that have captured our imaginations for years. ♦

Photos: Screenshots from JKR Stories' Instagram video. [Watch it here.](#)





An article by
Oliver Horton

Quidditch is life

Part two

Every wizard's favourite sport is jam-packed with wider significance for Harry Potter and friends.

Ron Weasley takes a bigger bite of the Quidditch pie in the later books. Despite his high anxiety, Ron wins the Quidditch Cup both years that he plays, with a little help from little sister Ginny. Our heroes' romantic fortunes are also tied to the sport. Fred Weasley takes team-mate Angelina Johnson to the Yule Ball. Ginny dates and dumps Ravenclaw's Michael Corner, a bad loser, and follows up with Dean Thomas, Gryffindor's occasional Chaser. In *Order of the Phoenix*, both Ron and

Harry hook up after Quidditch wins: Ron serves tongue salad all over school with Lavender Brown and Harry finally finds his moment with Ginny. Even Hermione only dates Quidditch players: Viktor Krum, Cormac McLaggen and Ron.

Harry's Quidditch career is distinctly top heavy. He plays six matches in the first three books and only three matches in the latter half. But in the final analysis, Quidditch pushes Harry (and Ron) to excel. But here's

a riddle: the game is played in the air, so why are they always covered in mud?

Quidditch World Cup

Book 4: Arthur Weasley has tickets to the top box and brings along his children, plus Harry and Hermione.

Bulgaria versus Ireland is the only time in the books that Harry is observed as a spectator and he feels an abundance of happiness. Bulgaria

plays in red¹, like Gryffindor. Ireland plays in green, like Slytherin. The Quidditch World Cup introduces a change of pace. Literally it's faster. And there are thematic concerns. The Bulgarian mascots are Veelas who drive the boys crazy and foreshadow a lustier year at Hogwarts. "Never go for looks alone," quips Arthur Weasley. The Irish mascots are Leprechauns whose gold melts like snow, which upsets poor Ron and antagonizes the entrepreneurs Fred and George.



Read Part One of
Quidditch is life
 in the July issue of
**The Rowling Library
 Magazine**

Harry watches the match through Omnioculars, an optical enhancement that allows close-ups and action replays. Later he encounters the Pensieve, which replays memories. Harry notices that the three Chasers operate as a cohesive unit, which has lessons for Harry, Ron and Hermione. The Golden Trio are most effective when they work in unison

but fracture during *Goblet of Fire*. Ron is tired of being the sidekick: his Mirror of Erised desire was to win the Quidditch Cup, which Harry achieved a few months before.

The star attraction is Viktor Krum, the world's best Seeker. His Wronski Feint is more polished than Harry's attempt in *Prisoner of Azkaban* (see previous issue) and his trick-flying inspires the opponent Seeker to crash into the ground. Which can be read as Cedric's fate. Ireland dominates the goal scoring. Knowing that his team cannot win, Krum catches the Snitch early to limit the extent of the drubbing. He ends the match on his own terms, which Harry admires and later duplicates when he steps out from behind a gravestone in Little Hangleton, stares down Voldemort and fires off "Expelliarmus!"

7th Match Gryffindor vs Slytherin

Book 5: Professor Umbridge has joined the faculty and cranked up the discipline. Angelina Johnson is Gryffindor's new captain.

Outplayed in the last tournament (way back in *Prisoner of Azkaban*), Slytherin targets Gryffindor's weak point: new goalkeeper Ron Weasley.

Draco, an evil genius, writes terrace banger "Weasley is our King" and creates tie-in badges, all of which drain Ron like the Slytherin Locket. But Harry beats young Malfoy to the Snitch and takes the win. Stretching for the Snitch is somewhat like his Department of Mysteries dreams: just a little more. Draco slags off everyone's mothers until George and Harry beat him to a pulp.

Order of the Phoenix delivers an important lesson: impulsivity has consequences. Unfortunately this educational nugget is delivered

by repellent toad-woman Professor Umbridge, so Harry ignores the advice until Sirius is dead. In the meantime, he and the Twins receive a lifetime ban from broomstick sports. Ginny takes Harry's place as Seeker and echoes Krum in her debut, catching the Snitch to take an early loss and limit Ron's shame. The team's final match is against Ravenclaw, which pits Harry's future wife against his one-time girlfriend. Ron finds his form². Ginny catches the Snitch. Cho cries, again. Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup. On the train home, Dumbledore's Army hexes Draco to a pulp. Because he's worth it.



Ron Weasley, Gryffindor Keeper, in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Warner Bros, 2009)

8th Match Gryffindor vs Slytherin

Book 6: Harry is Gryffindor's new captain. Before the match, he pretends to spike Ron's drink with Felix Felicis.

Harry has a lot on his mind. He is troubled by the whereabouts of Draco, who he believes is a Death Eater. He is jealous of Dean Thomas, temporary replacement for the cursed Katie Bell, and probably jealous of Ginny's broomstick. He nearly loses out on the Snitch, but distracts Harper the Slytherin Seeker with some chat about Draco paying him to play. Gryffindor wins, but is this a pyrrhic victory? Feeling lucky, nervy Ron plays extremely well but argues with Hermione and falls into the waiting arms of Lavender Brown. Bad luck all round. Harry is called out for nepotism in his team selection, an accusation levelled at the Slytherins in *Chamber of Secrets*. The commentator is Zacharias Smith, who is as biased against Gryffindor as former commentator Lee Jordan was in favour of the lions. Swings and roundabouts.



The Quidditch World Cup, by Mary GrandPré (Scholastic, 2000)

9th Match Gryffindor vs Hufflepuff

Book 6: Draco's contribution to the season is to clumsily nobble the Gryffindor team. Ron misses the match due to poisoning. The replacement Keeper is Cormac McLaggen.

Luna Lovegood commentates amusingly but Harry's final Quidditch match is a disaster. He is not a very good captain. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown. His leadership is tentative and his weakness exposed by the more dominant Cormac McLaggen. This is the only match in which Gryffindor fields fewer than two Weasleys, and Harry misses the support. His failure here is in contrast to the end of the book: when Harry rallies the crew before the invasion of the Death Eaters, his leadership skills are in full force. The badgers demolish Gryffindor after McLaggen brains Harry with a Beater's bat, taking him out of the game. Being thwacked by your own man is basically what happens to Dumbledore on the Astronomy Tower.

Prior to the next match Harry nearly kills Draco with Sectumsempra and earns infinite detentions from Professor Snape, ending his



The Seven Potters (Pottermore)

Quidditch career. But all's well that ends well. Ron and Katie return to the Gryffindor squad for the match against Ravenclaw. Ginny, who prefers goal-scoring, resumes the Seeker role opposite Cho Chang. Gryffindor wins the Quidditch Cup. Ginny claims Harry as her prize. Cho cries, probably.

Aftermath Flight or fight

Book 7: Harry decides not to return to school. Voldemort wants to terminate him with extreme prejudice.

Quidditch plays no part in the final book, but casts a long shadow. When Harry leaves Privet Drive he is one of seven Potters who are paired with seven protectors, like two Quidditch

teams. In fact, the fight that follows is like a mega game of Quidditch: Death Eaters versus Order of the Phoenix. Voldemort is a Seeker. Harry is the Snitch, tucked up in the sidecar, whose capture will end the "game". To confirm his golden status Harry's wand shoots golden flames.

Harry loses his Firebolt during the aerial acrobatics, apparently forever. For the next nine months he is grounded: dark times. But he does manage to retain the Golden Snitch from his first Hogwarts match, bestowed in Dumbledore's Will "as a reminder of the rewards of perseverance and skill." Talismanic, this first and final Snitch links Harry to the Hogwarts headmaster until the post-mortem conversation in spectral King's Cross.

Other lessons carry over. Once he accepts his friends on the quest Harry becomes an assured leader, but at times both Hermione and Ron assume the role of captain. When in sync the Trio are as effective as the three Chasers at the Quidditch World Cup³. Like the final match of the season in *Half-Blood Prince*, Harry has to trust others to do their job without him. Neville continues Dumbledore's Army in his absence, brilliantly.

During the Battle of Hogwarts, Harry elects to end the match on his own terms, surrendering to Voldemort in the Forbidden Forest. This recalls Viktor Krum at the World Cup and Harry's realisation in *Half-Blood Prince* that, in a battle to the death, it's better to walk into the arena with your head held high. The Elder Wand turns out to be a Wronski Feint that leaves Voldemort flat out on the flagstones.

"[Quidditch] makes total sense," wrote J.K. Rowling in a 2018 Tweet. "There's glamour in chasing a lucky break, but teamwork and persistence can still win the day. Everyone's vulnerable to blows of fate and obstructive people, and success means riding above them." ♦

Footnotes

1. Bulgaria's non-magical football (soccer) team plays in red and has a lion as its emblem. So Bulgaria really is Gryffindor! In fact Bulgaria did quite well in the 1994 football World Cup, ie the same year in which *Goblet of Fire* is set, coming fourth. The Republic of Ireland team failed to qualify for the 1994 football World Cup, which was held in the USA, but reached the Quarter Finals of the previous event, Italia '90.

2. Lavender Brown probably notices Ron as a potential mate thanks to his Quidditch performance in *Order of the Phoenix*. She is a bit of a princess and "Weasley is our King". Anyway, she is keen to say hello in Flourish & Blott's over the summer. The resurgence of Ron's nerviness in *Half-Blood Prince* can be attributed to the neurological disorder he experiences at the Battle of the Department of Mysteries: he is attacked by a brain.

3. Ron and Hermione assume various positions in the great Quidditch game that is Harry's life. They are Beaters driving away minor antagonists, which usually involves giving Draco a crack in the mouth. While Fred and George are "a pair of human Bludgers", Ron becomes a Bludger in *Goblet of Fire* and *Deathly Hallows*. The Keeper role is something like Occlumency: don't let the bad stuff in! Three Chasers are best, but every role is important.

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.

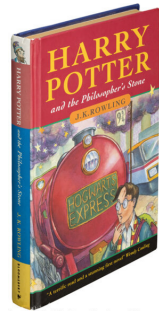


Auctions

July
2023

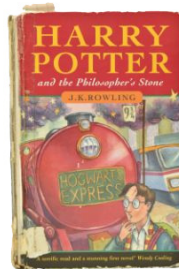
Compilation by
David Schmeling

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 were two hardback first editions of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, as well an elusive signed copy of the fifth book, *The Order of the Phoenix*.

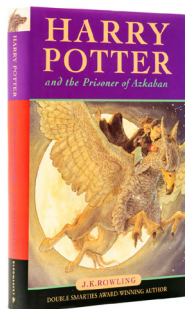


Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

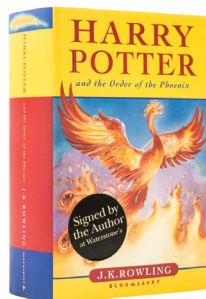
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
United Kingdom, 1st printing hardback.
Sold for \$103,750
Heritage Auctions, July 7



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
United Kingdom, 1st printing hardback (ex library)
Sold for \$16,590
R Winterton, July 10



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
United Kingdom, first edition, first printing, first state.
Sold for £3,250
Forum Auctions, July 13



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
United Kingdom, 1st ed, signed by J.K. Rowling and actors.
Sold for £5,000
Forum Auctions, July 13

Famous Wizards Card Collection



**Alberic
Grunnjon**

1803 - 1882

Nineteenth century wizard inventor.
He created the Dungbomb.

The
Rowling
Library



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

What we know so far about The Running Grave

As the anticipation for J.K. Rowling's upcoming novel *The Running Grave* steadily builds, fans of the Cormoran Strike series have been meticulously dissecting every clue and detail shared by the author. With the cover and synopsis unveiled on July 19th, and the book scheduled for release on September 26th, let's delve into what we've gathered about this much-anticipated seventh installment.

Synopsis: Unveiling the Cult's Shadows

In *The Running Grave*, Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott find themselves entangled in a web of mystery and danger as they attempt to rescue a young man ensnared in the sinister clutches of a seemingly innocuous religious cult. The Universal Humanitarian Church, on

the surface, appears to be a force for good, advocating for positive change in the world. However, Strike's investigation unravels a dark underbelly riddled with unexplained deaths and ominous undertones. As the stakes rise, Robin decides to infiltrate the cult undercover, leading to unforeseen dangers that challenge both her resolve and the partnership she shares with Strike.

The Title: A Clue Unveiled

The revelation of the title, *The Running Grave*, was a puzzle deciphered by the vigilant fans of the series. J.K. Rowling, known for her penchant for clever wordplay, presented the anagram "Disentangle the hanging venturer" on January 12th, 2023, which was cracked by

the *Strike & Ellacott Files* podcast account to unveil the title's hidden message. This intricate unveiling not only showcases Rowling's craft but also draws a connection to Dylan Thomas's poem, "When, Like A Running Grave." This is not the only connection with the Welsh poet, as the initial epigraph of the novel is also taken from said poem. How do we know this? We discovered it in February when Rowling tweeted an image of her manuscript, and upon analyzing the image, we were able to retrieve the text from the opening page.

Pre-Release Teasers: Clues and Hints

From J.K. Rowling's strategic teasers, fans have assembled a mosaic of locations and tidbits that promise to enrich the narrative.

Thanks to Rowling's activity on Twitter, we know that the Norfolk locales of Cromer, St John the Baptist church in Aylmerton, and the Lion's Mouth road will be featured in the book. Also, thanks to the images that Rowling has used as headers on her social media profile, we know that Rupert Court in London will also appear in *The Running Grave*. Lastly, the Italian restaurant Il Portico,

acclaimed as one of London's finest, is also expected to make an appearance.

Character Developments: Intriguing Revelations

Rowling has tantalizingly disclosed key character developments. Strike's half-sister, Prudence Donleavy, is set to make an entrance, potentially adding a new layer to his backstory. As Strike grapples with personal growth, he embarks on the journey to quit smoking, while therapy is suggested to him (by someone other than Robin).

Epigraphs: The I Ching Connection

An intriguing element of *The Running Grave* is the use of epigraphs drawn from the I Ching, or The Book of Changes. This ancient Chinese divination text's inclusion suggests a deeper exploration of themes related to transformation and destiny. But the connection with The I Ching seems to go beyond the initial epigraph: Rowling included it in her Twitter images, and even the cake for her birthday (from last July) with a theme of *The Running Grave* had the I Ching

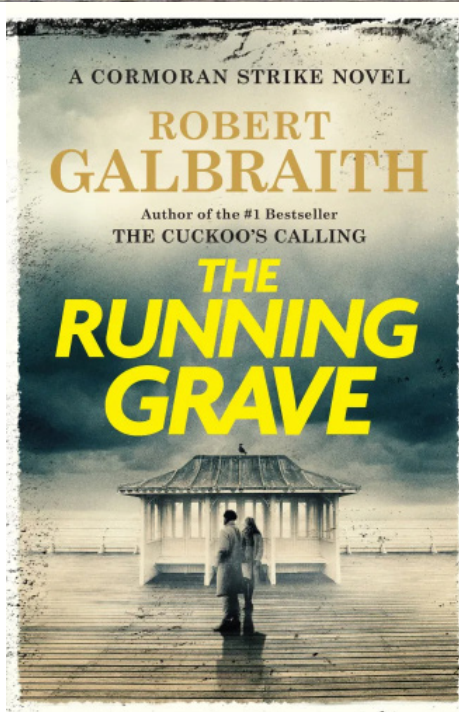
as its central motif. Undoubtedly, the ancient Chinese divination text will have a fundamental role in the novel.

The Norfolk Commune: A Past Unveiled

Norfolk holds a significant place in Strike's history, as his mother took him and his sister to live in a "quasi-mystical" commune during his youth, an experience Strike regards as the worst of his early life. Rowling's hints imply that this traumatic chapter might finally be illuminated, potentially revealing how it has shaped Strike's present-day persona.



With a release date of September 26th, 2023, and online bookshops indicating a hefty page count of 960 pages, fans can anticipate a substantial and immersive addition to the series.. With its mix of cryptic clues, hidden histories, and a seemingly idyllic yet deeply sinister cult, this seventh installment promises a riveting continuation of Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott's journey. ◆



The Running Grave

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Written by: **J.K. Rowling** as
Robert Galbraith.

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

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