



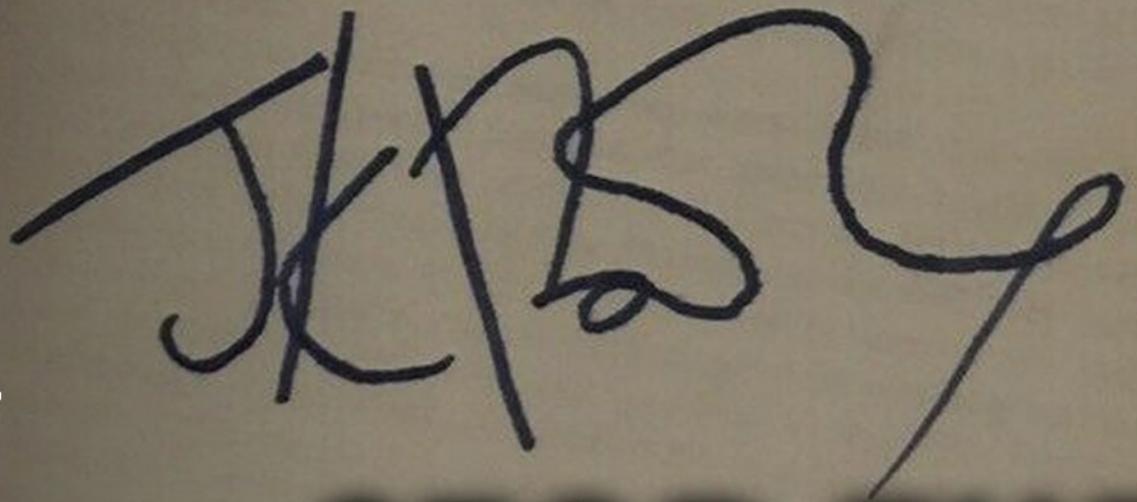
Magazine

Issue 29. May 2019

WIZARDING
PORTRAITS

THE FOUR
HORSEMEN OF
WIZARDING
GOLD

BOOK REVIEW
CARAVAL



STOP THE FORGERIES

WE DEVELOPED A PUBLIC DATABASE
OF J.K. ROWLING'S FORGED SIGNATURES
TO ALERT AND EDUCATE HARRY POTTER
FANS AND COLLECTORS.



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May 2019
Issue 29 - Year 3

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A NOTE FROM THE *Editor*

We have reached almost thirty issues of our digital magazine about the Wizarding World. And talking about the Wizarding World, there is a new official website out there, which seems to have replaced Pottermore. L8, from Mexico, does an analysis of this new venture by Warner Bros and tells us everything we know and we suspect about it, including the (in)famous Wizarding World Gold, a subscription for fans to get exclusive content and access, and some perks.

Ayelén reviews *Caraval*, the first novel by Stephanie Garber (the third part of the series, *Finale*, is released this month), and we interview Xavier Boldú, a photographer from Barcelona who is a wizard with his camera. You don't believe us? Check his *Wizarding Portraits*.

Finally, Carly writes about J.K. Rowling's forgeries and our new project done

together (The Rowling Library + All The Pretty Books): www.jkrowlingforgeries.org, an online database that puts together all the forgeries out there to keep track and have a record of Rowling's fake signatures.



THE TEAM

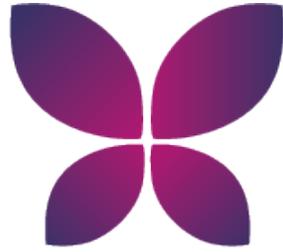
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WIZARDING PORTRAITS

If the Wizarding World has painters that can create portraits of Hogwarts directors, for example, in the Muggle World we have Xavier Boldú. This Calatan photographer has the ability to shoot, with this camera, portraits that look like paintings from J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World. We interviewed him to know more about his process, ideas and how he converts these amazing photos into magical pictures.

First of all, could you introduce yourself? What's your background on photography?

My passion for photography comes from my Dad, photography was his hobby when he was younger. When I started to show interest in photography he was the first one that supported me.

I have attended a couple of courses but I am mainly self taught. I find very rewarding finding the way to create what I had in mind just on my own. I also like to watch online tutorials about photography and retouching techniques.

How did you discover Harry Potter and how did you come with the idea of the Wizarding Portraits?

My story might be a bit different than the normal 'I grew up reading the books'. I originally discovered Harry Potter when I was a teenager. A teacher made us read it for school but (surprisingly) I didn't enjoy it. Years later, when I moved to London, I decided to pick up an easy read in order to improve my english and I decided to give it another go. This time I absolutely loved it and it has become a

very big part of my life!

The idea came after taking a Portrait for Oliver (Oliver's Brighton) and Luna. He wanted a photograph of both of them to showcase on his shop. I did some research and showed him what I had in mind. We decided on the idea

of a photograph that resembled an old painting. When the image was finished I thought it would be fun to create a series of similar ones using my close friends as models.

How was the first portrait session?

The first official Wizarding Portrait was of Oliver. After taking the one for his shop we decided to try another one inspired by what he

does for living. He was portrayed as a medieval merchant. I wanted everything to be perfect so I hired an original costume from the National Theatre in London and I used some flying Galleons for a touch of magic!

How is the general process, and if it changed over time, how did it change?

I start for selecting a model (unless is a

“My main sort of inspiration are old portraits. I have spent hours walking around the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery taking notes and photographs”

Wizarding Portraits

commissioned portrait) and start building the idea around the person. I like to portray everyone as a reflection of their real life persona (collectors, writers, merchants, herbologist...)

The process has stayed the same since the beginning: agreeing the theme with the model, finding the costume and props and taking the actual photograph and behind the scenes videos in my studio in London. After that it takes a few days to edit the image.

How do you envision them? They seem to be inspired in the portraits from the films, but at the same time, they are very original with your own touch (the inclusion of a lot of objects). How is the creative process?

I envision them around the model to reflect who they are outside the Wizarding World.



When we have decided the theme I look for inspiration related to that subject. I try to recreate the style of an old painting but with a magical touch, usually flying or glowing objects.

What do you use for inspiration?

My main sort of inspiration are old portraits. I have spent hours walking around the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery taking notes and photographs. I use them as inspiration for poses and backgrounds.

How do you chose your models? And how they participate in the creation of the image? Can they chose their characters?

I have been choosing close friends to be part of the project. Mainly people I know to be able to recreate their character. I also created commissioned portraits.

On both cases we both discuss the best character to portray. We both have an input on the final decision. At the end of the day one of





Do you plan to keep working on this series? Or do you have more Harry Potter projects in mind?

Definitely! I have a few more portraits already planned. Including different themes and even time periods. I have been looking forward to include a Marie Antoinette hairstyle for a while! ;)

If any of our readers want to have their own portrait, how they can do?

I am taking paid commissions through my website www.xavierboldu.com, so if you have an idea and want to have your taken you can contact me directly.

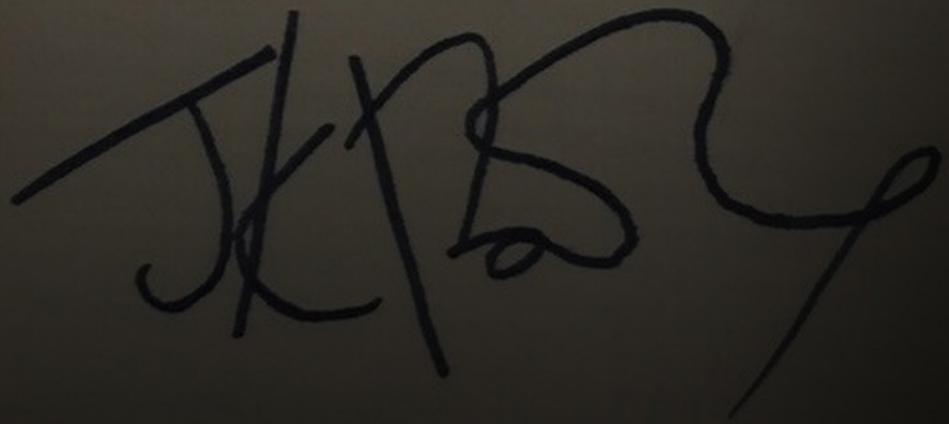
my main priorities is for the model to be happy with the character.

What's your favorite portrait of all the ones you made?

I can't choose one. They are all my favourites for different reasons. I got to experiment with different poses, composition and lighting. Probably the one that defined the style for the latest ones was Shauna's. It was the first time I played with a more moody look.



*for Jessica, who loves stories,
for Anne, who loved them too,
and for Di, who heard this one first.*



**STOP THE
FORGERIES**

The market is filled with J.K. Rowling forgeries. We, the fans, need to help each other and avoid buying them. *The Rowling Library* and *All The Pretty Books* teamed up to launch *J.K. Rowling Forgeries*, a new online database to keep of counterfeits.

A little over ten years ago, I, already an avid Potterhead, decided I wanted to collect Harry Potter books and J.K. Rowling signed items. I was so excited. I hopped on eBay and immediately purchased two J.K. Rowling signed scripts. I was glowing when they arrived. I touched the signed pages repeatedly, loving the idea that I was touching the same paper she had at some point in time. That feeling made this woman, who I looked up to, seem so much closer. I put the two scripts in their clear acrylic cases that I'd purchased to store them, and told my friends all about them. A few days later, however, a collector reached out to me and told me the worst news about my new treasures – they were forgeries.

My heart sank and my stomach felt sick. Until that email came through, it had not occurred to me that forgeries were even sold on eBay. I contacted the seller, who did not even fight my claim, and I was refunded a short time later. From that point onward, I was determined to learn Jo's signature to not only prevent myself from buying another forgery but to also help the Harry Potter

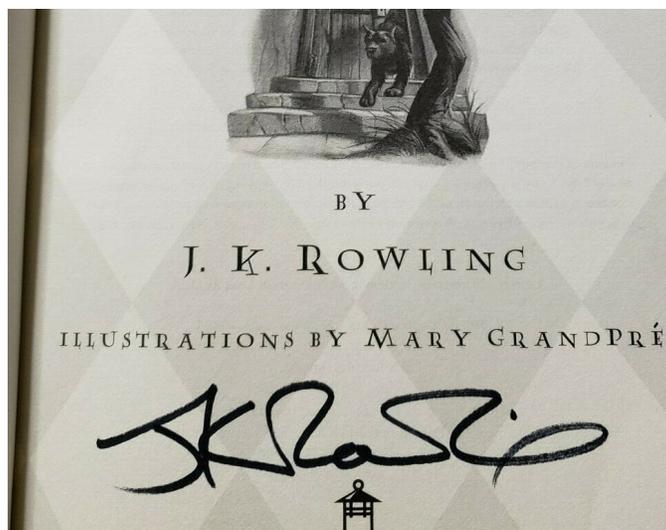
Collectorship that I so adore.

Sadly though, J.K. Rowling forgeries are still a growing problem. On most days, there are more Rowling forgeries than authentic signatures on eBay. Sadder still, these forgeries sell and usually for high money. In March 2019 buyers spent over \$6,000.00 on J.K. Rowling forgeries on eBay alone. I have also seen forgeries for sale on trusted bookseller sites, Abebooks.com, and at physical bookstores. I have seen

many forgeries with letters and certificates of authenticity, some that have been verified by third-party authentication houses like PSA DNA and others, and a few that, unfortunately, bear an authentic J.K. Rowling hologram.

While larger marketplaces like eBay and Abebooks have some procedures in place to try and remove forgeries, the fact is, there are just too many Rowling forgeries in the marketplace now for them to do much of anything about them – the responsibility is on the buyer to know what they are buying and to do the research. For many buyers, they do not know where

“A few days later, however, a collector reached out to me and told me the worst news about my new treasures – they were forgeries.”



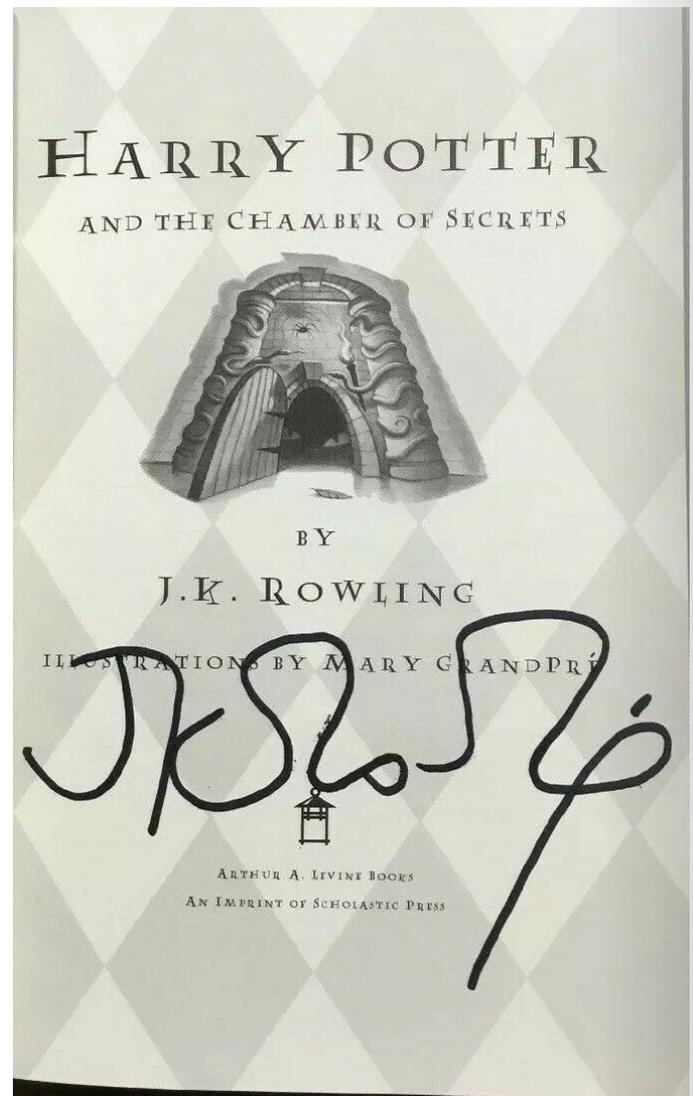
to look for guidance in this area. For this reason, I have teamed up with Patricio (also a Harry Potter collector and chief editor of The Rowling Library) to put together a database of Rowling forgeries to help buyers to avoid the many forgeries in the marketplace. **J.K. Rowling Forgeries** can be found at www.jkrowlingforgeries.org.

“On most days, there are more Rowling forgeries than authentic signatures on eBay. Sadder still, these forgeries sell and usually for high money.”

The idea of a public database is to keep track of all the forgeries that appear for sale through different websites. If you find a signed book on eBay or a similar site, you could visit J.K. Rowling Forgeries and see if it appears there - if it is, you'd better not buy that book. But if it's not there, you can still check if the seller has some history that could make the book suspicious. For example, we not only track where the forged book appeared for sale, but also the seller's username (if it was on eBay), the date the book became available for sale, a photo of the forged signature, and if it was sold, for how much. Keeping a database of forgeries serves to educate yourself and train your eyes: when you see enough forgeries, you are able to detect new ones easily. You start to see the patterns in the shapes, strokes, pen pressure, and more.

In the future, with tech improvements, it could be possible also to create a machine learning model that learns from this dataset and starts to detect forgeries by itself - technology that could be used by giants like eBay or AbeBooks. But for now, we, the fans, need each other to fight against forgers.

We are hoping to use this database to help inform more buyers about Rowling forgeries as well as to help call attention to those sellers who regularly sell them. Hopefully, in time, the marketplace will be cleaner and better with fewer forgeries in it. In the meantime, we hope we can help provide meaningful information to better inform the Collectorship we both love.



Dear Reader,

Thank you for reading this issue of the Rowling Library Magazine. We work very hard each month to put out quality content, free to all who would like to read! However, to provide all of this to you, it does come at a fee to us. We want to always keep our content free so we ask that you help us by becoming a Patreon!

With just a small monthly donation of two dollars, you can become a Patreon of the Rowling Library, and help us to continue providing exclusive and up to date information on all of the works of J.K. Rowling. You also get early access to our work and can give feedback or suggestions on our current projects.

You will also receive THE DAILY PROPHET NEWSLETTER in your inbox three times a week!

We hope you enjoy the work that we do and continue to download the Rowling Magazine! Happy reading!

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THE FOUR
HORSEMEN OF
WIZARDING
WORLD GOLD

The Four Horsemen of Wizarding World Gold: What is 'Wizarding World Gold' and why we should have seen it coming years ago.

by L8 (www.L8.com.mx, @EleOcho on Twitter)

This article was originally published as "El sustituto de Pottermore punto com tendrá una versión de pago" on the Spanish-speaking fan site HarryLatino.com.

This month, Warner Brothers and Pottermore announced an alliance to create a new website ("Wizarding World Digital") that will substitute Pottermore.com. Unfortunately, it seems that the new web page won't be as free as the previous one.

The american fansite MuggleNet claims that it unofficially received marketing material for Wizarding World Digital. The material reveals the existence of a new paid membership called Wizarding World Gold, a service with "premium access to the best and brightest parts of the wizarding world - including, thanks to the merger of Warner Bros. and Pottermore, the seven published [Harry] Potter novels."

MuggleNet also says the marketing material promises the following benefits:

"Once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Enter regular contests with incredible prizes, attend member's only fan events at Wizarding World locations, and take part in incredible digital experiences. This, only for Gold members. Basically we are going to spoil you rotten.

Enjoy priority booking for the always in-demand Cursed Child.

Experience upcoming games, exclusive offers at real life Wizarding World locations, plus so much more.

Magical things are coming your way."

The Gold level membership for Wizarding World Digital also includes a welcome kit with the following gifts:

"Your House-themed, personalized and fully interactive journal, a collectible 'Gold Key Pin', and an exclusive print of JK Rowling's original sketch of Hogwarts.

Interact with your journal (it knows you better than you think) to unlock exclusive content and magical experiences.

Wear your 'Gold Key Pin' with pride and recognize fellow Wizarding World Gold members."

As additional benefits, the marketing material also mentions exclusive access to "Original Video and Podcast Series" (right next to a picture of MinaLima, the graphic designers of all things related to Harry Potter movies, implying that both of them will be part of one or more of those series) and "Exclusive Merchandise and Special Offers" (specifically, "you'll have access to exclusive limited-edition products and lots of very special offers through our online shop. Available only to Wizarding World Gold members.")

As of now, there's no word on the monthly or yearly cost of Wizarding World Gold.

Normally, this would be the part of the article where we would point that such and such things are not confirmed. The issue is that Wizarding World Gold was already confirmed by a Wizarding World Digital spokesperson in a statement for the fansite The Leaky Cauldron.

This is the official statement regarding the existence of the Gold service (emphasis is mine):

“Since we launched Pottermore in 2012, the digital landscape has evolved. We want to make it easier for fans to experience and travel through the Wizarding World. To this end, Wizarding World Digital are working on a broad range of new digital experiences all of which are at different stages of research and development. As announced last week, the new venture will make our content and experiences accessible to the broadest possible audience of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts fans.”

We are working hard creating a range of products that we hope will surprise and delight fans. Whilst one of these explores a premium concept, the vast majority of the experiences in development are free. We are excited about the next phase of our digital journey and will officially release more information soon.”

In other words, MuggleNet caught WB and Pottermore red-handed while trying to put a paywall on WizardingWorld.com contents. We still don't have a release date for Wizarding World Gold (or any similar “premium concept”, for that matter), but we can be sure that the two groups behind this project intend to create things that won't be available for 100% of the Harry Potter fans.

- o -

At first glance, Wizarding World Gold looks like a sudden betrayal from Pottermore or Warner Brothers. The problem is that the seed of the Gold idea was already growing on the minds of both Pottermore and WB years ago, but we ignored every single hint of it.

This are the four biggest signs that foretold Wizarding World Gold:

1) The BuzzFeed leak

On March 2018, BuzzFeed News published a tell-all article called “JK Rowling's Pottermore Has Just Sacked Loads Of Its Editorial Staff” describing internal havoc within Pottermore.

While the main focus of the news piece was a significant staff layoff, BuzzFeed walked the extra mile and interviewed anonymous employees (both retired and active ones) while trying to get a bigger picture on the situation.

In one of those comments, a former employee complained about Pottermore being “essentially a glorified merchandise shop with some cute articles that might appeal to hardcore fans but don't have enough of a point of difference from the rest of the internet's writing about Harry Potter to survive.” This means people inside Pottermore worried about both its monetization and its lack of distinctive content. And, for better or worse, Wizarding World Gold answers those concerns.

2) The first “AT&T buys Warner Brothers” press release

Right after AT&T announced in October 2016 that it would buy Time Warner (and, therefore, Warner Bros. and all of its intellectual property), the telecommunications company published a press release showing its real intentions regarding WB.

In the press release, AT&T promised that “the new company [that will be born the moment AT&T buys Time Warner] will deliver what customers want — enhanced access to premium content on all their devices, new choices for mobile and streaming video services and a stronger competitive alternative to cable TV companies.” It hurts me to admit it, but Wizarding World Gold delivers on that promise for Harry Potter, which is explicitly mentioned in the same press release as one of the most important movie franchises included in the buyout.

3) The AT&T “celebration” press release after buying Time Warner

As if that wasn't enough, right after the Warner Brothers acquisition went through in June 2018, AT&T published another press release

reassuring its desire to create services that sound a lot like Wizarding World Gold.

In this second press release, AT&T's chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson states: "The content and creative talent at Warner Bros., HBO and Turner are first-rate. [...] We're going to bring a fresh approach to how the media and entertainment industry works for consumers, content creators, distributors and advertisers." Right after that, the press release claims that "today, AT&T brings together [...] robust premium content portfolio that combines leading movies and shows from Warner Bros., HBO and Turner" as one of its three main elements "required to transform" how content "is distributed, paid for, consumed and created."

4) The DC version of Wizarding World Gold

That being said, we can't put all of the blame for Wizarding World Gold on AT&T shoulders. After all, Warner Brothers created a similar service for DC Comics fans before the movie studios acquisition was authorized.

This service is called "DC Universe", costs 8 dollars per month, and includes a wide range of benefits that are way too similar to the ones included in its Wizarding equivalent: The original content that inspired its movies (in this case, the comics), frequent contests with exclusive prizes, private access to a store with special products, and original multimedia content (such as the controversial live-action series *Titans* and the animated series *Young Justice: Outsiders*). As it is, Wizarding World Gold was made with the same cookie-cutter mold as DC Universe.

- o -

We can't pretend that the rise of Wizarding World Gold is unexpected, nor we can dare to predict that there won't be fans interested in paying real money for exclusive stuff. However, we can choose to keep a cool head. After all, we don't even know what will Wizarding World

Gold offer as paid content. Hell, we don't even know what will Wizarding World Digital offer as free content (other than the Wizarding Passport and some lousy Cursed Child sweepstakes). At the end of the day, we already have the guarantee that a big part of the Wizarding World Digital content will be free, including all the Wizarding World Gold stuff that will be inevitably uploaded "for free" to The Pirate Bay and YouTube.

Because of that, it would be advisable to keep calm until we get an official confirmation of both the cost and the content of this new subscription service... and only once we learn it all, we can firmly decide if we are up to pay for it. As a result of this, if the final version of Wizarding World Gold doesn't convince the fans, its earnings will reflect it, and both WB and Pottermore will see that as a sign to change course.





REMEMBER
IT'S ONLY A
GAME

CARAVAL

STEPHANIE
GARBER

Book Review: CARAVAL

Remember, it's only a game. Introducing the fantastic world of *Caraval*. If you like a good mystery, fantasy and romance, this trilogy is for you. Written by Stephanie Garber, the *Caraval* world is just as magical as the name sounds.

by Ayelén Vegagil Espósito

If you like a good mystery, fantasy and romance, this trilogy is for you. Written by Stephanie Garber, the *Caraval* world is just as magical as the name sounds.

The first book was published on January in 2017, *Caraval* was the beginning of the quest that was going to take two sisters –Scarlett and Donatella Dragna– across the Empire of Elantine to play a game that sometimes felt more real than expected. Then came *Legendary* and finally, this past May 6th, the conclusion of this saga was released.

Here is our review of the very first book of the *Dragna Sisters' Adventure*.

Scarlett Dragna has never left the tiny island where she and her sister, Tella, live with their powerful, and cruel, father. Now Scarlett's father has arranged a marriage for her, and Scarlett thinks her dreams of seeing Caraval—the faraway, once-a-year performance where the audience participates in the show—are over.

But this year, Scarlett's long-dreamt-of invitation finally arrives. With the help of a mysterious sailor, Tella whisks Scarlett away to the show. Only, as soon as they arrive, Tella is kidnapped by Caraval's mastermind organizer, Legend. It turns out that this season's Caraval revolves around Tella, and whoever finds her first is the winner.

Scarlett has been told that everything that happens during Caraval is only an elaborate performance. Nevertheless she becomes enmeshed in a game of love, heartbreak, and magic. And whether Caraval is real or not, Scarlett must find Tella before the five nights of

the game are over or a dangerous domino effect of consequences will be set off, and her beloved sister will disappear forever.

Welcome, welcome to Caraval...beware of getting swept too far away.

Stephanie Garber created a fantasy world that could be very similar as our own world, taking mostly rules from the Elizabethan and Victorian Eras, where women had to marry for status and were at the entire mercy of their fathers and later their husbands. Is with this rules that Garber plays a central game set for the *Dragna Sisters*.

The story is mostly narrated following the steps of the elder one, Miss Scarlett Dragna, a girl that starts as as shy as a mouse and through the pages of her story you can notice the change in her character to become a good heroine.

Caraval's world is a bit complicated to describe and understand, for instance we are thrown in this very first adventure in this world that seems to be located in a planet with a vast amount of Islands, that in their totality are named the Elantine Empire. In this place there are rumors about people that can perform magic, the most prominent being someone known as Master Legend, the owner and creator of Caraval, a circus-like game where reality mixes with magic and mystery. Scarlett is enchanted since her girlhood with the stories that she has heard about this place and the game, we start the story with letters of this girl trying to reach Legend asking for tickets to at least see a performance of the game.

One of the most marked aspects of Garber's writing style is the prose that she uses as it

seems that in this fantasy world one can see and connect emotions with colors and smells. Garber uses a lot of metaphors to describe some of the feelings that her characters are living in some scenes. In my personal opinion I must say that it's a bit weird to read some of this metaphors coming and going, but now that I have almost finished reading the second book, I can very well understand better that in this characters world they can not only feel their emotions but they can also connect them to their five senses, making them a bit different than us humans from Planet Earth. So, it's weird, but a good weird.

The characters are very different and they have very strong personalities, the story of the Dragna Sisters is not complicated, they are both girls raised with a tyrannical father, their mother abandoned them when they were little and that marked both of them in different ways. As I told you Scarlett is a insecure person, while Donatella, or Tella, is the adventurous one. When Scarlett receives the invitation of Legend to get into Caraval, she never expected the adventure that she was about to encounter.

Here I have to say that I felt very reflected on the love that she has for her little sister. Tella is the world for Scarlett and she would move mountains to keep her safe. Is this love that causes them some trouble, Legend takes Tella hostage and suddenly Caraval is dangerous and the magic seems darker than Scarlett expected. I like to say that Caraval is as if Disney had created a darker and twisted version of Frozen, where Elsa and Anna may have to play a very macabre treasure hunt game to find each other.

Though, I identified myself a lot with Scarlett, there were certain moments that I would have to shake her up to notice certain things in the game that could have been crucial. It's perhaps for this why I liked the character of Julian the best. This fellow starts like if he were a secondary character only to swept away and find his place as one of the main characters along with the sisters and the mysterious Legend. He has so

many layers that I wanted to discover and set free. And also Legend's character. He is a total mystery, really. And that's what I liked about him, he can be presented as a genius, as a villain or as a saviour, and that's what makes the book intriguing.

One of the things that I loved the most from this book is that nothing is like you expected it to be. Yes, there are a lot of clichés –specially in the romance area–, but at the end nothing (really, nothing) is at it seems to be. And that's what makes Caraval one of the most book that I have enjoyed to read last year.

Garber's pen created so many good quotes, but the best that I can share with you is:

«Every person has the power to change their fate if they are brave enough to fight for what they desire more than anything.»

So, if you liked the Goblet of Fire and its twisted games, then you will enjoy reading about Caraval. I know that I enjoyed it a lot and I am still enjoying it while reading Legendary. I can assure you that the second one is if not a bit better than the first and I am reading very good reviews about Finale. I cannot wait to have a copy so I can confirm or refute this rumors.

Until next installment,
Mischief Managed!



GO BACK IN TIME

Test your knowledge of J.K. Rowling and her works by answering the questions below.
The solutions are at the bottom of the page.

WHO SAID IT?

“Very well, Karkaroff. you have been of assistance. I shall review your case. You will return to Azkaban in the meantime ...”

WHAT BOOK?

Their priority now had to be to leave the Ministry before they were exposed, and try again another day.

Solutions: [1] Barty Crouch (Book 4), [2] Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows







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