

The Rowling Library  
Magazine

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# Kloves & Rowling

ISSUE 36. DECEMBER 2019.



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THE ROWLING LIBRARY MAGAZINE

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FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF

PATRICIO TARANTINO

ILLUSTRATOR

FAUSTO GIURESCU

CONTRIBUTORS

L8

DEMI SCHWARTZ

AYELÉN VEGAGIL ESPÓSITO

SUSAN P. SIPAL

# EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Merry Christmas  
to all!**

**Welcome to the December issue of  
The Rowling Library Magazine!**

**We apologize for the delay, but  
the issue is coming right before  
Christmas Eve, so you can read it  
during Christmas or even on the last  
week of the year.**

**L8 wrote a reflection on Steve  
Kloves joining the canon universe  
of the Wizarding World, since he  
will be collaborating on the script of  
Fantastic Beasts 3. Susan Sipal did  
a great analysis of J.K. Rowling's  
new Twitter header image, and Demi  
Schwartz collaborated with two great  
articles: the most magical time of  
the year (Christmas, of course) and  
a review of what happened during  
2019.**

**We hope you enjoy this issue and see  
you next year!**

## REMEMBERING THE MAGIC OF 2019

NOW THAT 2019 IS COMING TO A CLOSE, IT'S TIME TO WRAP UP THE YEAR BY REMEMBERING ALL THE EXCITEMENT FROM THE WIZARDING WORLD THIS YEAR. 2019 HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR OF MAGIC, AND HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST MAGICAL MOMENTS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

**BY DEMI SCHWARTZ**



### **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Opened in Melbourne**

The eighth story, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, opened in Melbourne, Australia at the Princess Theatre in February. The play recently had only been in London and New York, but earlier this year, it branched out to the other side of the world.

### **Harry Potter: The Exhibition Went to Valencia**

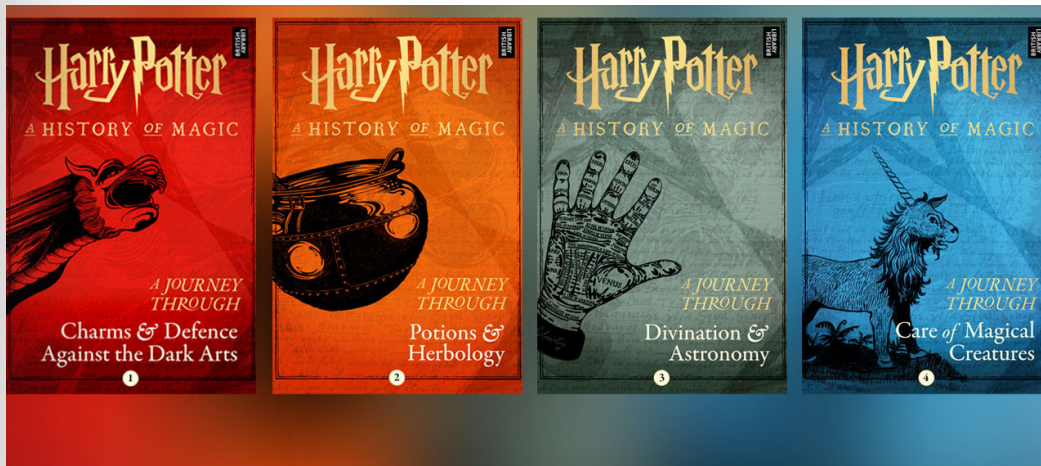
In April, Harry Potter: The Exhibition returned to Spain. This internationally touring exhibition that displays props, costumes, and sets from the Harry Potter films was hosted at the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències in Valencia. The exhibition has been traveling worldwide since 2009 and spans 15,000 square feet, bringing the magic of the films to fans all across the globe.

### **Gringotts Opened at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London**

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London is always bringing more magic, and this year, Gringotts opened. The bank features the main hallway with goblins and gives a peek into the Lestrange vault with thousands of replicated Horcruxes. It also ends with a "blazing" surprise.

### **A Journey Through... NonFiction eBook Series was Released**

Four new nonfiction eBooks for the A Journey Through... series were released this year. The eBook shorts explore the origins of magic through history and folklore and feature notes, manuscript pages, and sketches that were previously seen in Harry Potter: A History of Magic. The four eBooks are A Journey Through Charms and Defense Against the Dark Arts, A Journey Through Potions and



Herbology, A Journey Through Divination and Astronomy, and A Journey Through Care of Magical Creatures.

### LEGO Released New Harry Potter Themed Sets

LEGO created new sets based on scenes from Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Some of the scenes and locations include Harry's Night Bus ride, Buckbeak's rescue scene, the first task of the Triwizard Tournament with the Hungarian Horntail, and the Hogwarts Clock Tower. Later in the year, two more themed sets that capture very different moments from Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire were created. One of them is Beauxbatons' Carriage: Arrival at Hogwarts, which features the flying carriage and horses, along with significant characters, including Fleur

and Gabrielle Delacour, Madame Maxine, and Hagrid. The second set, The Rise of Voldemort, captures the graveyard scene at the end of the fourth book, and it comes with minifigures of Peter Pettigrew, Harry Potter, a hooded Death Eater, and Lord Voldemort. It also features tombstones, the Triwizard Cup, and the cauldron that brings about Voldemort's rebirth.

### Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure Opened at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter Orlando

Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure opened this summer at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Orlando. The ride features a fully immersive Forbidden Forest with live trees, exciting drops, and the creation of magical creatures. The rollercoaster was awarded the





Outstanding Achievement Award 2019 by the Themed Entertainment Association.

### Harry Potter: Wizards Unite Launched

Harry Potter fans are always looking for new ways to immerse themselves in the Wizarding World, and Harry Potter: Wizards Unite launched in the summer of this year. This advanced augmented reality game from Portkey Games is full of new adventures. This game brings magic to reality and requires players to join together and return strange and familiar magical occurrences to their place in the Wizarding World. Wizards Unite also lets players experience magical locations right through their screen, create wizarding portraits, and pick their Hogwarts House, wand, and wizarding profession. This game is fun and magical for all.

### MinaLima's Harry Potter Wallpaper Collection Launched

The graphic designers of the Harry Potter films, Miraphora Mina and Eduardo Lima, launched their wallpaper collection with five outstanding and magical designs. The designs include an ornate tapestry design of the Black family tree, a wallpaper of the Marauder's Map, a black and white Daily Prophet collage wallpaper, a design of Hogwarts library book covers, and last but not least, a baby blue and gold Quidditch wallpaper. This incredible collection is available internationally and perfect for every Potterhead.

### The Wizarding World of Harry Potter to Come to Universal Studios Beijing in 2021

Universal Studios Beijing is coming in 2021, and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter is finding another home in the theme park. This exciting news shows that the magic of Harry Potter is forever growing and reaching all corners of the world.

### Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Illustrated Edition by Jim Kay was Released

The incredible illustrator, Jim Kay, brought the fourth book to life with his illustrations in Harry Potter and the Goblet

of Fire: Illustrated Edition. This book introduces many new characters and magical creatures and has a fantastic plot, thanks to the Triwizard Tournament, and Jim Kay captures it all.

### Details about the Third Fantastic Beasts Film Were Announced

Production for the third Fantastic Beasts film is confirmed to start in the spring of 2020, and the Wizarding World team recently shared some exciting details. Many characters from the first two films will be back for round three, including Eddie Redmayne as Newt Scamander, Jude Law as Albus Dumbledore, and Johnny Depp as Gellert Grindelwald. It'll be directed by David Yates, along with producers David Heyman, J.K. Rowling, Steve Kloves, Lionel Wigram, Tim Lewis, and other executive producers. In more exciting news, the screenplay will be written by J.K. Rowling and Steve Kloves. The third film will be expanding the Wizarding World even further as it will be located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Though the film doesn't have a name yet, it is set to release on November 12, 2021.

### Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Opened in San Francisco

The year wrapped up with Harry Potter and the Cursed Child making its way to San Francisco, California. The preview performances kicked off back in October, but the play officially opened in December at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco. The eighth story has been making its way into major cities across the world, and fans on the west coast can now experience the magic.

***2019 has been such a magical year for J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World. It's time to raise your wand to this year's magic and get ready to ring in 2020.***



## A QUOTE BY JO

***"THE MINISTRY OF MAGIC DOESN'T FIND OUT WHICH CHILDREN ARE MAGIC. IN HOGWARTS THERE'S A MAGICAL QUILL WHICH DETECTS THE BIRTH OF A MAGICAL CHILD, AND WRITES HIS OR HER NAME DOWN IN A LARGE PARCHMENT BOOK. EVERY YEAR PROFESSOR MCGONAGALL CHECKS THE BOOK, AND SENDS OWLS TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TURNING 11."***



ONLINE CHAT  
TRANSCRIPT,  
SCHOLASTIC.COM,  
3 FEBRUARY 2000

# IT'S THE MOST MAGICAL TIME OF THE YEAR

CHRISTMAS IN THE WIZARDING WORLD

BY DEMI SCHWARTZ

Christmas in the Wizarding World is definitely the most magical time of the year. Throughout the Harry Potter series, the holiday season is full of magic and some eventful experiences Harry and his friends will never forget. It's true that not all of Harry's Christmases sparkle like a star on the top of a tree, but he has the fun and festive memories to hold on to. Put on your Santa hat and get a warm cup of Butterbeer because it's time to take a sleigh ride through the hills of Harry's holiday highlights..

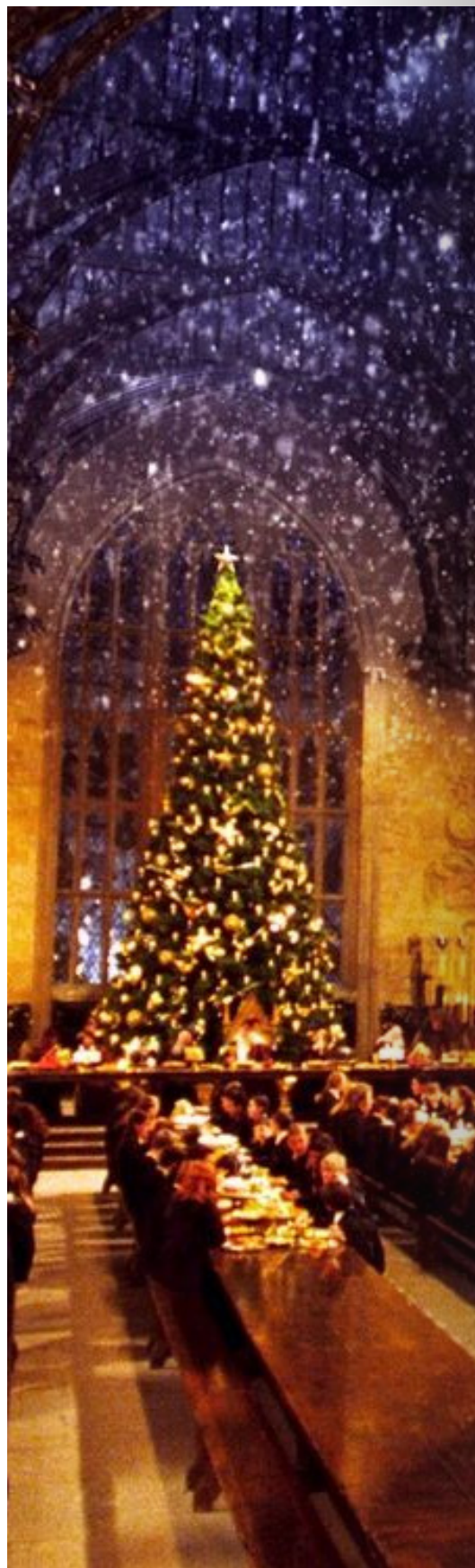
## The Decorations at Hogwarts Never Disappoint

Hogwarts during the holidays is full of snowball fights on the grounds and cozy nights by the fire in the Gryffindor common room, but when it comes to decorating for Christmas, the teachers of Hogwarts make the castle shimmer with Christmas cheer. For starters, the Great Hall is totally decked out. Every year, Hagrid brings in twelve Christmas trees that glitter with icicles and candles and have golden stars. In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry, Ron, and Hermione follow Hagrid into the

Great Hall to find Professor Flitwick and Professor McGonagall busy with the decorations. Mistletoe and holly hang from the walls and ceiling, and the tiny Charm's professor puts golden bubbles around the twelfth tree. In the rest of the castle, mistletoe hangs in the corridors, and garlands of holly and tinsel are twisted around the banisters of the stairs. Everlasting candles glow from inside the helmets of suits of armour, and sometimes, Peeves pops out of them to sing his own versions of Christmas carols. All in all, Hogwarts during Christmas time is the place to be.

## Christmas Dinner in the Great Hall is Incredible

As if eating dinner in the festive Great Hall with enchanted snow falling from the ceiling isn't enough, Christmas dinner at Hogwarts is extra magical. The food, prepared by the house-elves, is absolutely delicious, and wizard crackers make the dinner super fun. Professor Dumbledore leads everyone in singing his favorite carols, and Christmas pudding wraps up the night.





### **No Present Can Beat a Weasley Sweater**

Harry gets some pretty awesome Christmas gifts over the years, two of which are the invisibility cloak, one of the Deathly Hallows, and his Firebolt. He also receives some not so great ones from the Dursleys, including a 50-pence piece and a single tissue, and Kreacher goes out of his way to give his new master a box of maggots. All of this aside, nothing beats a hand-knitted sweater from Mrs. Weasley. She always makes Harry feel like part of the family during Christmas time by making him a Weasley sweater. Over the years, Harry gets a few creative sweaters, a green one with a dragon on it and another with a golden snitch. Even though Ron complains about getting a maroon sweater each year,

all the Weasleys love this Christmas tradition that shows how much family means to all of them. Fred and George make this clear when they pull Percy's sweater over his head in Harry's first year, and George tells Percy to sit with them in the Great Hall because "Christmas is a time for family."

### **When Christmas Turns into a Night of Taking Polyjuice potion**

There's no better time to take Polyjuice potion for the first time than Christmas, right? In their second year, Harry, Ron, and Hermione put their plan to confirm Draco Malfoy is the Heir of Slytherin into action after a delicious Christmas dinner. This turns into a big fiasco, and Hermione basically turns into a cat for nothing because Malfoy

isn't even the Heir of Slytherin after all they went through to make the potion. Still, this remains to be one of the trio's most eventful Christmas nights.

### **Hogsmeade is the Place to Be Until That Overheard Conversation**

The last Hogsmeade trip before the Christmas holidays is a festive time and the best place to do Christmas shopping. In his third year, Harry gets an early Christmas present from Fred and George, the Marauder's Map. With the map's help, Harry finds his way into the seller of Honeydukes and meets up with Ron and Hermione. Outside the sweet shop, Hogsmeade looks like a Christmas card. Holly wreaths hang on doors, and enchanted candles hang in the trees. Harry, Ron, and



Hermione make their way through the winter wonderland to the Three Broomsticks. They sit at a table near the fireplace and a Christmas tree with some Butterbeer. All is perfect until Harry overhears Professor Flitwick, Professor McGonagall, Hagrid, and Cornelius Fudge telling Madam Rosmerta about how Sirius Black betrayed the Potters. This is when Harry finds out Sirius is his Godfather. Later on, Harry learns that Sirius wasn't the one who betrayed his parents, but in this moment, his festive feelings from the Hogsmeade trip are crushed. Nevertheless, his first Hogsmeade trip is a holly jolly one.

### **The Yule Ball on Christmas Eve is a Night to Remember**

The Yule Ball may be filled with lots of drama, but everyone really goes all out for this Triwizard Tournament tradition on Christmas Eve. A fantastic feast, dancing to live music by the Weird Sisters, and socializing with students from the other two schools make the ball an exciting night, Ron and Hermione's bickering and finding out Hagrid is a half-giant aside. The Great Hall, with all its magical decorations, is the perfect place to dance the Christmas Eve night away.

### **Christmas Transforms Number 12 Grimmauld Place**

Number 12 Grimmauld Place is gloomy most days but not during Christmas time during Harry's fifth year. Sirius is so thrilled to have everyone around for the holidays that he completely transforms his family's house. The chandeliers are cobweb-free and have holly and gold and silver streamers hanging from them. Magical snow glitters on the carpets, and a tree with live ferries blocks the Black family tree. Even the heads of the house-elves on the wall have Santa hats and beards. Christmas day is cheerful with Sirius and the Weasley's, and the house is alive with the magic of Christmas as everyone calls, "Merry Christmas,"

to each other.

### **A Trip to St. Mungo's Goes from Awkward to More Awkward**

After Christmas lunch, Harry and the Weasley's head to St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries to visit Mr. Weasley. The hospital is even decorated for Christmas with holly and trees with gold stars, and Harry makes Mr. Weasley's day brighter when he gives him fuse wire and screwdrivers as a gift. Christmas awkwardness starts to kick in when Mr. and Mrs. Weasley begin to argue over Mr. Weasley trying out stitches to heal Magini's bite. Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Ginny leave the hospital room in search of tea when they run into Professor Lockhart on the Spell Damage floor. Even though he had lost his memory from when Ron's wand backfired and hit him with Obliviate in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Lockhart seems to still have some sense of himself because he's obsessed with signing autographs. As if this isn't awkward enough, Neville is in the ward visiting his parents, who are hidden from Harry and his friends by flowery curtains. Bellatrix had tortured Frank and Alice Longbottom, who were both Aurors and members of the original Order of the Phoenix, into insanity by using the Cruciatus Curse, and they haven't recovered. Harry knows this from a conversation with Dumbledore, but it's new news to Ron, Hermione, and Ginny. So, it looks like a trip to St. Mungo's on Christmas results in awkward interactions for Harry and his friends when all they wanted in the first place was tea.

### **Slughorn Throws a Christmas Party**

Christmas calls for private parties, even at Hogwarts. So, the school starts buzzing when everyone finds out about Professor Slughorn's party. Much like the Yule Ball, the days





leading up to the party are full of drama and lots of tension between Ron and Hermione. Still, those lucky enough to be invited to the party are in for a pretty festive night. Harry asks Luna, and she wears silver robes for the occasion. When they arrive to Slughorn's office, the party is in full swing with laughter and loud conversation. Emerald, crimson, and gold hangings cover the ceiling and walls, and a golden lamp with live ferries glitters in the center of the room. To top it off, house-elves serve the guests, carrying food on silver plates. It's true that Slughorn has made some not so great choices in his life, telling Tom Riddle how to make Horcruxes for starters, but he sure knows how to throw a party.

### **A Holly Jolly Christmas at the Burrow**

Spending time at the Burrow is always something Harry looks forward to, and in his sixth year, going there over the holidays turns out to be one memorable Christmas. The living room is all festive with Ginny's decorations, and the tree is a sight to see. The angel on top is a garden gnome that had bitten Fred earlier. The gnome is painted gold with angel wings glued to its back. To Mrs. Weasley's delight and Fleur's annoyance, Celestina Warbeck's Christmas special is playing on the radio. Love is definitely in the air when Mrs. Weasley remembers dancing with Mr. Weasley to "A Cauldron Full of Hot, Strong Love" at eighteen. Music and chatter by the fireplace is the perfect family Christmas at the Burrow that can't even be ruined by an unexpected visit from Rufus Scrimgeour on Christmas Day.

### **That One Christmas Eve at Godric's Hollow**

During the quest to find and destroy Horcruxes, Harry and Hermione decide to go to Godric's Hollow. Hermione

believes the Sword of Gryffindor might be there, and Harry wants to go because it's the home he hasn't returned to since the night his parents died. After Hermione takes hair from Muggles doing their Christmas shopping, Harry and Hermione drink Polyjuice potion and apparate to Godric's Hollow from under the invisibility cloak. When they arrive, they find themselves on a snowy lane under a starry, blue sky. Christmas decorations are in windows, and the cottages are covered with snow. Colored lights sparkle, and carols from inside the church make Harry and Hermione realize it's Christmas Eve. They pass a war memorial that transforms into a statue of James and Lily Potter holding baby Harry with snow on their heads. Harry and Hermione go to the graveyard and find the graves of Dumbledore's family and Ignottus Peverell's grave with the symbol of the Deathly Hallows on it before finding the place where Harry's parents are sleeping under the snow. Hermione conjures a wreath of Christmas roses, and Harry puts it on his parents' grave. When they leave the graveyard, they find what remains of the Potters' house, and when Harry grips the snowy and rusted gate, a sign, remembering the tragic night his parents lost their lives, rises out of the ground. This emotional Christmas Eve turns into a nightmare when Harry and Hermione follow Bathilda Bagshot into her house and almost get killed by Magini. Still, though full of lots of emotions, Harry and Hermione's time in Godric's Hollow before following Bathilda is a bittersweet Christmas Eve.

Harry never has a dull Christmas. From amazing decorations and delicious Christmas dinners to awkward moments and two Polyjuice potion experiences that go wrong, each Christmas holds something magical and significant. The witches and wizards of the Wizarding World wish everyone a very Merry Christmas this year, and when Christmas spirit is in the air, don't forget to belt out a chorus or two of "God Rest Ye, Merry Hippogriffs."



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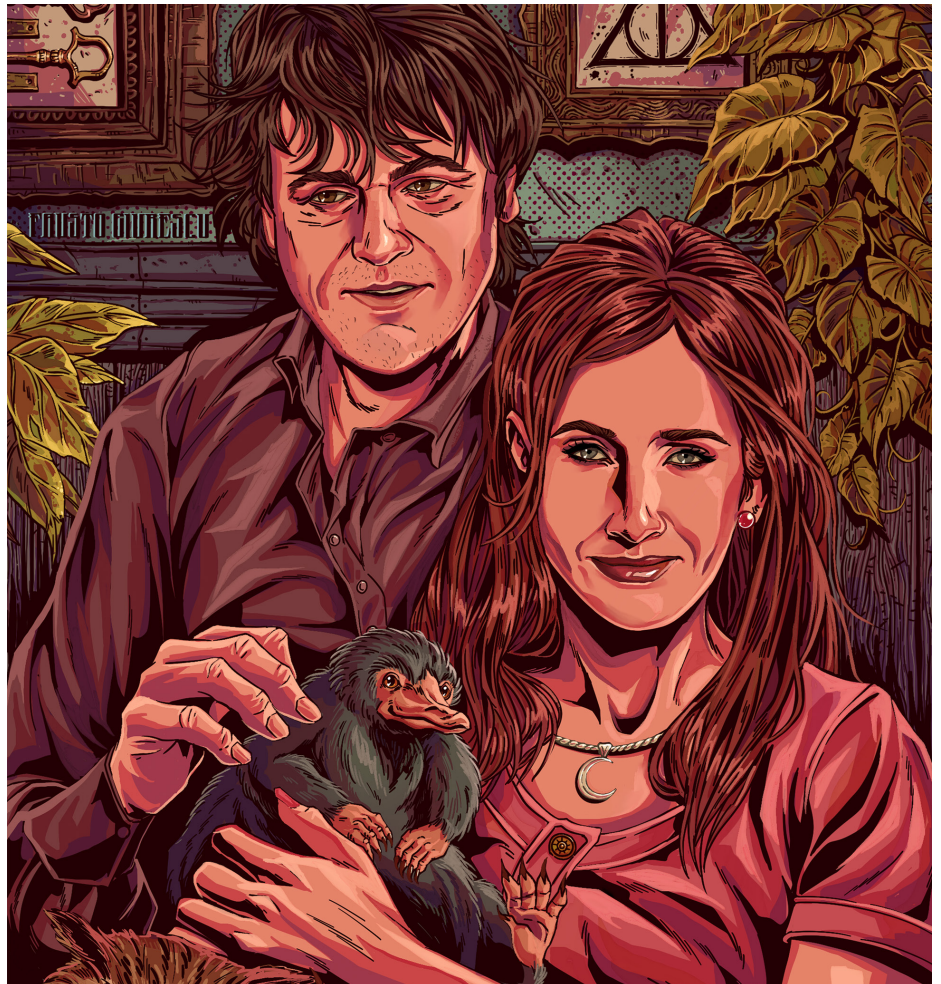
BY by L8 ([www.L8.com.mx](http://www.L8.com.mx), @EleOcho on Twitter)

# KLOVES & ROWLING

CHANGING TO REMAIN THE SAME: A REFLECTION ON  
THE INTRODUCTION OF STEVE KLOVES AS A CO-WRITER  
OF FANTASTIC BEASTS 3.

In september of 2013, the magazine The Hollywood Reporter published an article claiming that the existence of the Fantastic Beasts movie franchise wouldn't be possible without direct negotiations between J.K. Rowling and Kevin Tsujihara (Warner Brothers president at the time) in which Tsujihara would end up yielding all the creative control for the newborn series to the creator of Harry Potter. According to The Hollywood Reporter, "Warners cannot hire someone else to rewrite her script without her approval -- a gamble for the studio and a departure from the Potter films, which were written by such seasoned scribes as Steve Kloves and Michael Goldenberg." Additionally, the same source stated that "Rowling also has script approval on subsequent Fantastic Beasts films."

At the time, J.K. Rowling took advantage of that creative freedom to place herself as the sole script writer for the movie Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them and its sequel Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald. To a certain degree,



the decision made sense: Rowling was a successful author, Rowling unilaterally created the written version of the Wizarding World, and (on the lack of previous books revealing the life of Newt Scamander on five easy payments) Rowling is the main source for every single detail of the plot of the five Fantastic Beasts movies.

But, somewhere between the release of the Hollywood Reporter article and nowadays, it started to make sense for both Rowling and Warner Brothers to have a second creative mind shaping the new Fantastic Beasts series. The official site [WizardingWorld.com](http://WizardingWorld.com) announced so in a news article that notably didn't want to put attention in this decision, as the headline ("The third Fantastic Beasts film confirms new details including cast members and location") didn't reflect the importance of the notice, and the article body itself buried the revelation that "the screenplay [for Fantastic Beasts 3] will be written by J.K. Rowling and Steve Kloves" to the end of the fourth paragraph.

How important can this change be? Let's point at the obvious: It's so important that [WizardingWorld.com](http://WizardingWorld.com) didn't want to highlight it. At its core, one of the main promises of Fantastic Beasts was J.K. Rowling upfront directing the creative development of the new magical movies. This can be noted especially on the marketing for the first Fantastic Beasts movie, which loved to say "from J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World" as the first half of the actual name of the movie.

From the very beginning, the Fantastic Beasts franchise was sold to the moviegoer as the Potter equivalent of "auteur cinema". In theory, this would mean that the introduction of a second writer for the project



would change the formula for *Fantastic Beasts 3* and its sequels. Despite that, the election of Steve Kloves in this very specific context can be interpreted as a Warner Brothers tactic to make it all feel the same as the eight Harry Potter movies, mostly because seven of them had Kloves as a sole writer.

With the inclusion of Kloves, Warner Brothers could be betting all-in to the idea that the average movie watcher disliked *Fantastic Beasts 1* and *2* because neither of them felt like Harry Potter. If this is the case, numbers backup Warner Brothers belief, as the *Fantastic Beasts* movies ended up being both two out of the three lowest box office collectors in the Wizing World movie franchise AND the two Wizing World movies with the lowest Rotten Tomatoes score. There's an uncomfortable truth hidden inbetween these facts: In the context of the movie industry, the box office records and the scores of each *Fantastic Beasts* film are the top of the cream; but in the context of "a J.K. Rowling cinematic universe", neither of the *Fantastic Beasts* fit the expectations.

By all means, Steve Kloves is a new ingredient to the *Fantastic Beasts* formula introduced to make sure that the resulting movie evokes a strong nostalgic Harry Potter flavor. For better or for worse, Kloves shaped the majority of the Potter presence at the movies. Thanks to him, Ron Weasley is regarded at the popular eye as a mindless foodie rather than a strategist with a dark sense humor. And also thanks to Kloves, the public image of Hermione is that of a heartbreaking yet somehow insufferable know-it-all instead of an activist fighting to make the Wizing World better using muggle principles that seems to be lost for witches and wizards.

On the other hand, Steve Kloves is also the mastermind that adapted most of the difficult-to-explain parts of the Wizing World in a simple and comprehensible visual language. Kloves accomplished such feasts as a clear portrait of the Time Turner behaviour on *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (a task half of the time traveling movies fail to do so) and condensing the thick *Goblet of Fire* book into a standard Hollywood movie runtime (an assignment so overwhelming that, at the time of pre-production of the fourth Harry Potter movie, hardcore fans petitioned to avoid by dividing *Goblet* into two different movies).

Kloves knows how to turn the ultra-detailed plots created by Rowling into "small" two hours and a half long movies. This used to look like a spot on Kloves permanent record,

but it transforms into a new convenient quality now that we fully depend on movie visual language to understand the whole story. To explain this with an example, let's look at *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. Even for those who defend the second installment of *Fantastic Beasts*, it's easy to notice that Grindelwald's plot is worthy of a 390 pages book. But, despite all good intentions, the film struggled to tell all the plots and sub-plots and sub-sub-plots inside itself in just 144 minutes.

And so, there's an invisible, intangible hope that Kloves will keep on check J.K. Rowling's talent to describe each inch of the Wizing World, a desirable skill for a book writer that turns into a terrible trait for a script writer. It'll be a matter of time to know if the introduction of Steve Kloves is worth the trouble, or if the *Fantastic Beasts* movie formula needs ANOTHER change for the fourth and fifth movies.



BY S.P. SIPAL

# J.K. ROWLING AND THE THOTH TAROT DECK

*S.P. Sipal is the author of *Fantastic Secrets Behind Fantastic Beasts, A Writer's Guide to Harry Potter*, and hosts the *BeastChaser* YouTube channel where all fans can discuss their latest theories for *Fantastic Beasts*. Her article, "The Missing Element: The Alchemy Experiment inside the Chamber of Secrets" will be included in an upcoming anthology tentatively titled *Transfigurations: Essays on Harry Potter and Alchemy* coming in 2020 from McFarland Publishing. Find her online Twitter at @HP4Writers and YouTube at *BeastChaser.com*.*



On November 23, JK Rowling updated her Twitter header with a new image. This excited Harry Potter and *Fantastic Beasts* fans because Rowling has been mostly absent from Twitter since early January, except for a handful of promotional tweets. However, in the past, Rowling has used her header to hint at clues for upcoming books and films. With this new Twitter image, could she be giving fans an advance peek at a main plot line for *Fantastic Beasts 3*?

Fans quickly figured out that the three images of the header were from three tarot cards

1. The Ace of Swords, indicating a new venture or the rise of a new order,
2. The Death card, indicating an ending or transformation, and
3. The Two of Cups, which usually symbolizes love and harmony in a relationship.

Perhaps Rowling chose these three particular cards to give a reading, a forecast of what's to come in the remaining *Fantastic Beasts* series: Grindelwald's new world order leading to a time of immense change, transition, and death before love and harmony win out. But there's another possibility I would like to explore.

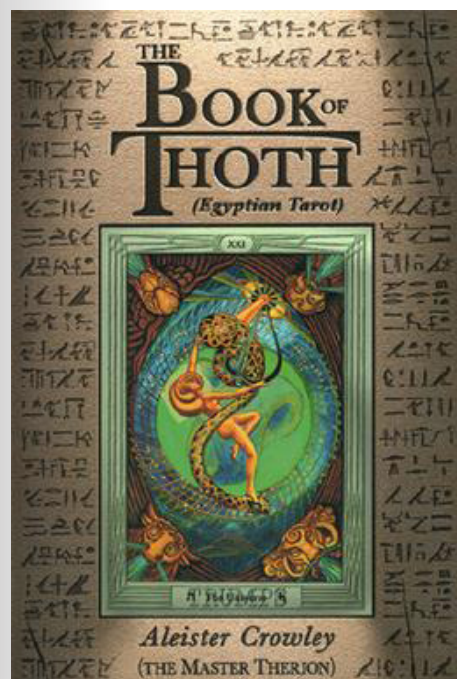
All three cards Rowling chose come from a very particular deck from a controversial and enigmatic ceremonial magician—Aleister Crowley. So, is Rowling hinting at a particular reading of these three tarot cards? Or perhaps, she's referencing their real-life historical author.

Crowley got his start in a secret society known as the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn of the late 19th century. This was a time of spiritual exploration, and Golden Dawn was preceded by another society, Theosophy, co-founded by Madame Helena Blavatsky. Since Cassandra Vablatsky was introduced in *Prisoner of Azkaban* as Professor Trelawney's more famous seer ancestor, fans have speculated that Rowling drew Vablatsky's name from Blavatsky, who

claimed to possess psychic powers. If so, Rowling has most likely been aware of these earlier esoteric movements, and even Aleister Crowley, since Harry Potter days.

Around 1907, Crowley left Golden Dawn and founded his own movement with Thelema as its philosophy. If you look at the Tarot cards on Rowling's header, Crowley has his Ace of Swords inscribed with the Greek word Thelema, showing how central this philosophy was to him. "Do what Thou wilt," was its basic creed. However, do what thou wilt is not meant to imply do whatever you want. According to Lon Milo DuQuette in his book *Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot*, it's more about finding what your true calling is, your unique place in the universe, and fulfilling it. What is intriguing about Crowley and his Thelmites is that he was considered evil and satanic by some, whereas others thought him a genius in philosophy and mysticism.

Crowley even reportedly served as a spy during World War II and consulted with British Naval Intelligence officer,



Ian Fleming, later author of James Bond series. Together they sought to use the Nazi interest in the occult, especially astrology, to defeat them. Part of what they, and others in intelligence, were doing was to devise false astrological forecasts and feed them to the Nazis. The British sought to combat the influence astrologer Karl Ernst Krafft was having over Hitler. And one of Grindelwald's acolytes just happens to be named Krafft.

However, one of the things Crowley is more widely known for is his Thoth Tarot deck, which he designed. The beautifully illustrated cards were painted by Lady Frieda Harris with Crowley working in close collaboration to ensure that each card reflected the consummate knowledge of his beliefs. His tarot built upon one designed by the Golden Dawn, but refined it.

Rowling's header depicts three of these cards:

1. The first card is the Ace of Swords with that Greek word, Thelema, inscribed on the blade. For Crowley, the Ace of Swords represented invoked power (as I'll explain more below).

2. The second, the Death card, includes a scorpion, a snake, and an eagle, all animals we've seen hinted at in *Fantastic Beasts*. Crowley said this card represents the putrefaction step in alchemy, the decaying of a body that leads to rebirth.

3. And the third one is the Two of Cups and represents, according to Crowley, "the harmony of the male and the female interpreted in the largest sense. It is perfect and placid harmony."

If one could understand the sum of the knowledge presented within Crowley's tarot deck, one should understand the sum of the knowledge of the universe. At least according to Crowley. But to

help the user along, he wrote a book as a guide. It was called the *Book of Thoth*. If Rowling is possibly referencing this Thoth deck or Crowley's *Book of Thoth*, I find it intriguing because Thoth was considered by medieval and Renaissance alchemists and magicians to be the father of alchemy.

Thoth was the ancient Egyptian god of writing, the moon, and magic. As the god of writing, legends abound of secret books of knowledge he authored, containing the sum of universal knowledge, that were hidden away in an underground chamber. Back in 2004 I wrote an article in *Wizarding World Press' The Plot Thickens...Harry Potter Investigated by Fans for Fans* which analyzed some striking similarities between Thoth and his secret books to Rowling's Chamber of Secrets:

1. The Chamber is described almost as an underground temple, complete with giant pillars and a large, godlike statue at the end.

2. Slytherin's statue is described as "ancient and monkeyish," just like Thoth himself, who was symbolized with colossal statues of baboons at his temple in Hermopolis.

3. The "towering stone pillars" are entwined with winding snakes, appearing like giant size caduceus.

4. And all of this is guarding a secret book of knowledge—Tom Riddle's diary.

In the end, I speculated that Rowling's Chamber of Secrets (plural) hides more than just the giant basilisk. Perhaps Slytherin constructed this elaborate temple of alchemy below grounds to serve as an initiation chamber for select students. Alas, that did not come to pass. Yet.

For *Fantastic Beasts*, Rowling is ex-



ploring aspects of the Wizarding World that she could not fully explore in Harry Potter. Maybe the Chamber of Secrets is one of those. Could her use of Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot deck be a clue to this connection? Notice that Rowling has the Ace of Swords pointing downward, in reverse. Opposite the way it is normally presented, but one that Crowley explains.

Before Crimes of Grindelwald released, a scene was shown of Grindelwald's banners. In this poster, Grindelwald's symbol was shown as two Gs with a Deathly Hallows symbol nestled in-between. However, this Deathly Hallows symbol had a critical difference than the one used in Harry Potter.

Two years ago on my BeastChaser Youtube channel, I did a video analyzing why the elder wand is clearly pointing down in the new symbol whereas in prior versions it seemed to point up. And I referenced Aleister Crowley's tarot deck and his own definition of The Ace of Swords: "Raised upward, it invokes the Divine crown of Spiritual Brightness, but reversed it is the invocation of Demonic Force." In other words, a downward sword releases demons or evil spirits.

We saw this release of demonic forces come dramatically to life in the underground amphitheater and graveyard scenes of Crimes of Grindelwald. The screenplay says:

**FLAMEL**

**TOGETHER! In a circle, your wand into the earth, or all Paris will be lost!**

**NEWT & THESEUS**

*Finite!*

**TINA**

*Finite!*

**KAMA**

*Finite!*

**FLAMEL**

*Finite!*

*Our heroes, minus JACOB, make a circle, plunge their wands into the earth.*

*It takes almost superhuman power to contain GRINDELWALD'S demonic fire, which they are forced to combat with flames still more deadly. United, our heroes fight . . . And at last, their purifying fire drives GRINDELWALD'S back. The entrances to the underground lair are sealed.*

This text is crucial for several reasons:

1. The "heroes" are instructed by Flamel, the alchemist, to form a circle.
2. They plunge their wands into the earth. Wands are point-

ed down.

3. There are 5 heroes in five points along the circle plunging their wands. Seems to hint at a pentagram doesn't it? A pentagram was used by medieval and renaissance magicians to contain the demonic forces they invoked. In FB1, Rowling also utilized a pentagram to contain magical powers in the Pentagram Office scene where Newt, Tina, and Jacob are arrested.

4. Here, Rowling even calls Grindelwald's fire "demonic." And it is driven back by the heroes with their "purifying fire" into its underground lair.

To me, this scene demonstrates Crowley's definition of the reversed Ace of Swords in action. Demonic forces are both invoked and controlled through a reversed magical sword within a circle of five points, a pentagram.

Finally, check out the heroes being "forced to combat with flames still more deadly." Newt and Team were compelled to fight fire with fire. Does this mean they invoked demons as well? Are we being forewarned of the difficult choices and actions Newt and the "heroes" will be forced to make in the films ahead to fight Grindelwald and his acolytes? Like Aleister Crowley himself, I believe the Fantastic Beasts series is exploring a world that cannot be fully separated into good and evil.

However, Crowley is such a complex person that it is hard to know how Rowling may be drawing from him. I can imagine three possibilities:

1. Might we get to visit the Chamber of Secrets under Hogwarts? According to canon, Tom Riddle opened the Chamber during the time period that the Fantastic Beasts series will cover. However, since that date is probably 1942-43, I

doubt it will happen during FB3. Though I highly look forward to seeing Tom enter the Chamber in a later film. Perhaps will see more of the secrets Slytherin, and Rowling, hid there.

2. Could Rowling have based Grindelwald, in part, off of Crowley? Crowley, like Grindelwald, was charismatic, persuasive, and drew people to his movement. The filmmakers have repeatedly emphasized that unlike Voldemort, Grindelwald is a much grayer character.

3. Is it possible we will meet a new character in FB3 that is based on Crowley? As Crowley gave service in World War II to British Intelligence to help combat Hitler, perhaps a new character will be introduced, someone very familiar with Grindelwald's interests in alchemy and astrology. The author of *Atlas of Celestial Anomalies*, perhaps. This person, with their inside understanding of the way Grindelwald's mind works, would be able to offer Newt and Team keen insight into how to defeat him.

For now, I feel there are two little evidences to answer this, though I'm leaning toward the introduction of a new character. Because Rowling has made a few tantalizing hints to Grindelwald sharing the Nazi interest in astrology with the *Celestial Anomalies* book and his acolyte, Krafft, I'm guessing we'll see a counter espionage point utilizing this link. However it plays out, I believe that we have been gifted an important clue for the upcoming film, and I look forward to watching out for more hints of Aleister Crowley's personality and philosophy as FB3 starts filming.

Thanks to Leith Skilling @LeithSkilling, B.L. Purdom @QHPodcast (host of Quantum Harry, the Podcast), and D.D Syrdal @DDSyrdal who helped me formulate my initial ideas right after J.K. Rowling updated her Twitter header.



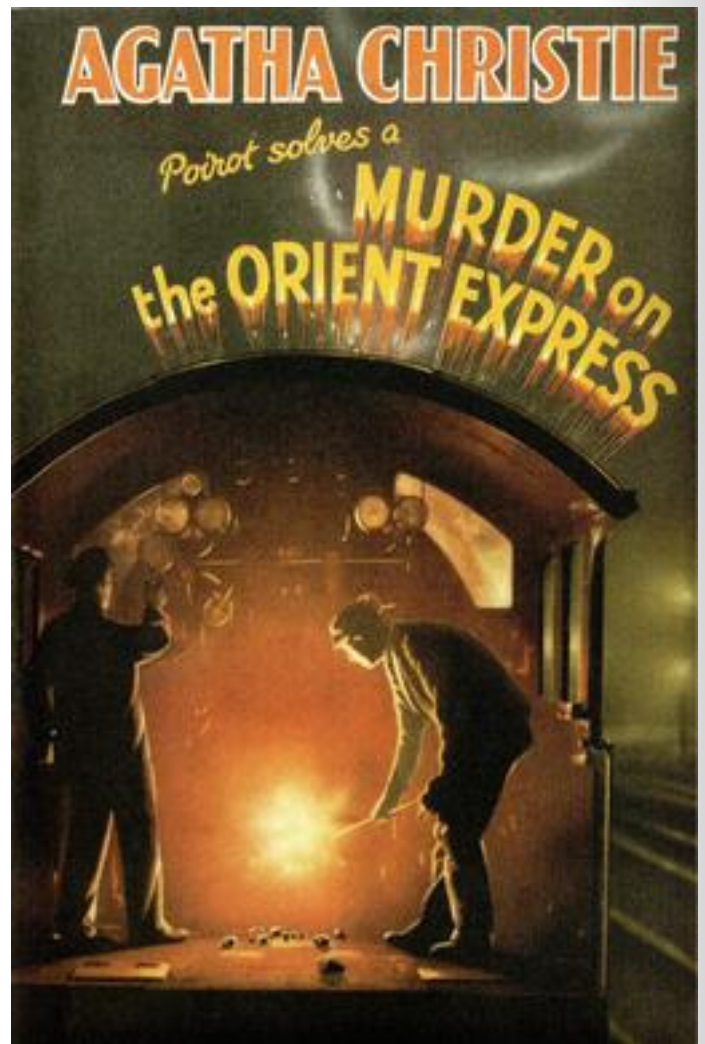
BOOK REVIEW

BY Ayelén Vegagil Espósito

# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

BY **AGATHA CHRISTIE**

AGATHA CHRISTIE IS ONE OF THE MOST NOTABLE AUTHORESSES OF DETECTIVE NOVELS. HER STYLE HAS BEEN MARKED GENERATIONS OF READERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. SHE HAD A UNIQUE STYLE THAT EVEN TODAY HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO MATCH. HER CHARACTERS ARE ALL WELL KNOWN, AND THERE HAD BEEN A FEW ADAPTATIONS FROM CINEMAS TO TV AND THEATRE, THE MOST RECURRING ONES ARE THOSE INVOLVING DETECTIVE HERCULE POIROT. TODAY WE WILL RECAP ONE OF THEM.





*'The murderer is with us — on the train now...'*

*Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift.*

*A passenger lies dead in the compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside.*

*Isolated by the storm and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the prime suspects from a scornful and impatient array of passengers —before the murderer decides to strike again.*

The adventures of the Detective Poirot started in a previous book, but it is the murder at the Orient Express one of his most remembered ones. In this book Agatha Christie poured one of the most intriguing cases that show the very essence of the human sense of justice.

Different characters, with different stories are all gathered together in a train in the middle of a snow storm are all connected by a crime. A man that was as evil has been murdered. And Poirot has to solve why and who did it. All are suspects, all have different and solid alibis but all of them have secrets that Poirot has to reveal if he wants to solve the mystery and maybe stop the murderer before they decide to strike again.

The Orient Express is a classic that put Agatha Christie as one of the best writers of police novels. Her style was unique and it was a bit difficult to discover the real murderer from the beginning.

One of the quotes that I loved the best was the one that described both the story and the Orient Express in itself:

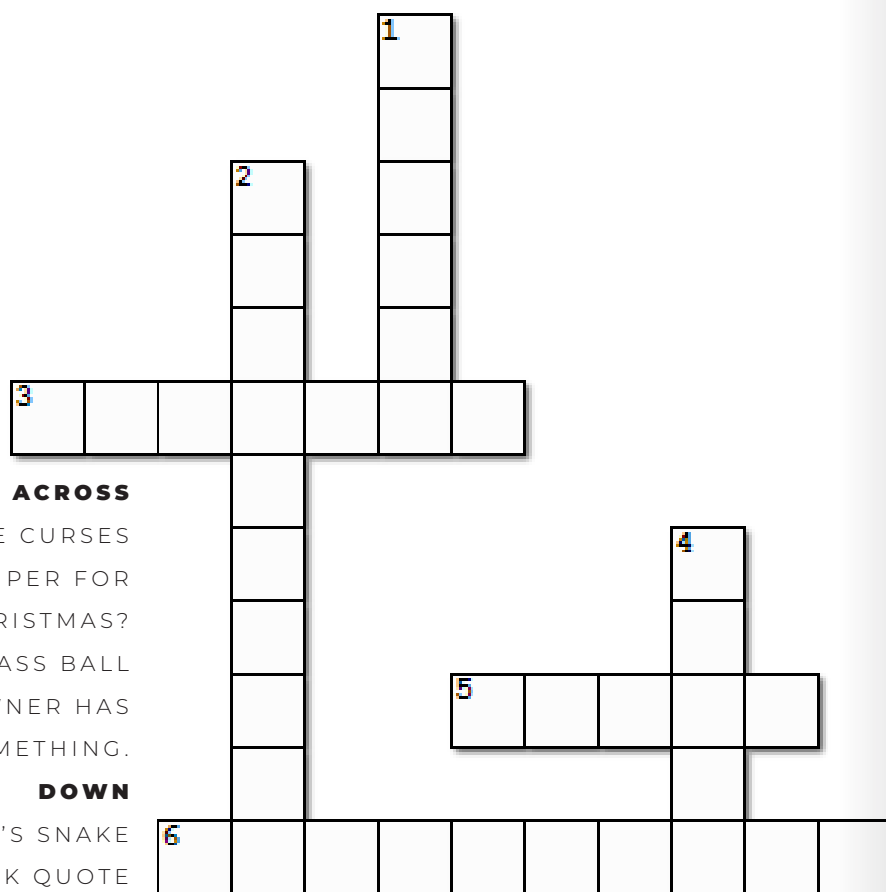
«And yet—it lends itself to romance, my friend. All around us are people, of all classes, of all nationalities, of all ages. For three days these people, these strangers to one another, are brought together.»

Agatha Christie is one of my favourite authors of all times. Her mysteries are so compelling and well put together, that makes you enjoy and be captured by them. There has no been other pen as hers, but surely one can detect a bit of her influence in J. K. Rowling's writing.

Without further ado... Mischief Managed!

# WIZARDING WORLD CROSSWORD

TEST YOUR HARRY POTTER KNOWLEDGE IN THIS PUZZLE



## ACROSS

3. ONE OF THE UNFORGIVABLE CURSES

5. WHO GAVE HARRY HER JUMPER FOR  
CHRISTMAS?

6. LARGE MARBLE SIZED GLASS BALL  
THAT TURNS RED WHEN ITS OWNER HAS  
FORGOTTEN SOMETHING.

## DOWN

1. VOLDEMORT'S SNAKE

2. HOGWARTS' QUILL OF... (CHECK QUOTE  
SECTION)

4. HUFFLEPUFF'S FIRST NAME



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