

The Rowling Library  
Magazine

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# The Ickabog

ISSUE 42. JUNE 2020.



# FEATURED



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THE ROWLING LIBRARY MAGAZINE

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YEAR 4

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# EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Did you read J.K. Rowling's new story *The Ickabog*? What do you think of it?**

We had something else in mind for the June issue of The Rowling Library Magazine, but the news of a new story (and book) by J.K. Rowling changed our plans. Our main article is about *The Ickabog*, the new political fairy tale by Rowling - and we tell the story behind it. What was its original codename? When did Rowling first talk about it? How many people read it in the first hours?

Pau joins us also with an analysis of the Spanish Armada sinking and how it could be related to Azkaban, and Alan premieres a new section: Wave a Wand. Each month he will be showcasing a wand from the characters of the Wizarding World.

Demi puts herself in The Sorting Hat's place to sort Dobby the Elf, and Jessica lists all the Magical Creatures that you should watch out in the water for your summer holiday.

We hope to see you in issue #43 of The Rowling Library Magazine!

# WHAT'S IN THE WATER? MAGICAL CREATURES TO WATCH OUT FOR ON YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY

BY JESSICA MINNECI

As the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, wizards and muggles alike are itching to get out of their homes into the wide open world. Whether you are hanging out near the coast or swimming in the water, you are bound to encounter some magical creatures during your travels. Learn what to expect and protect yourself from danger by referring to this comprehensive guide.

**FIRE CRAB:** Going to Fiji? Be sure to check out the fire crab reservation. A fire crab looks like a large tortoise with a heavily gelled, very valuable, shell. When attacked, a fire crab will shoot flames from its rear end. Go to the reservation and try to get a license to take one home as a pet.

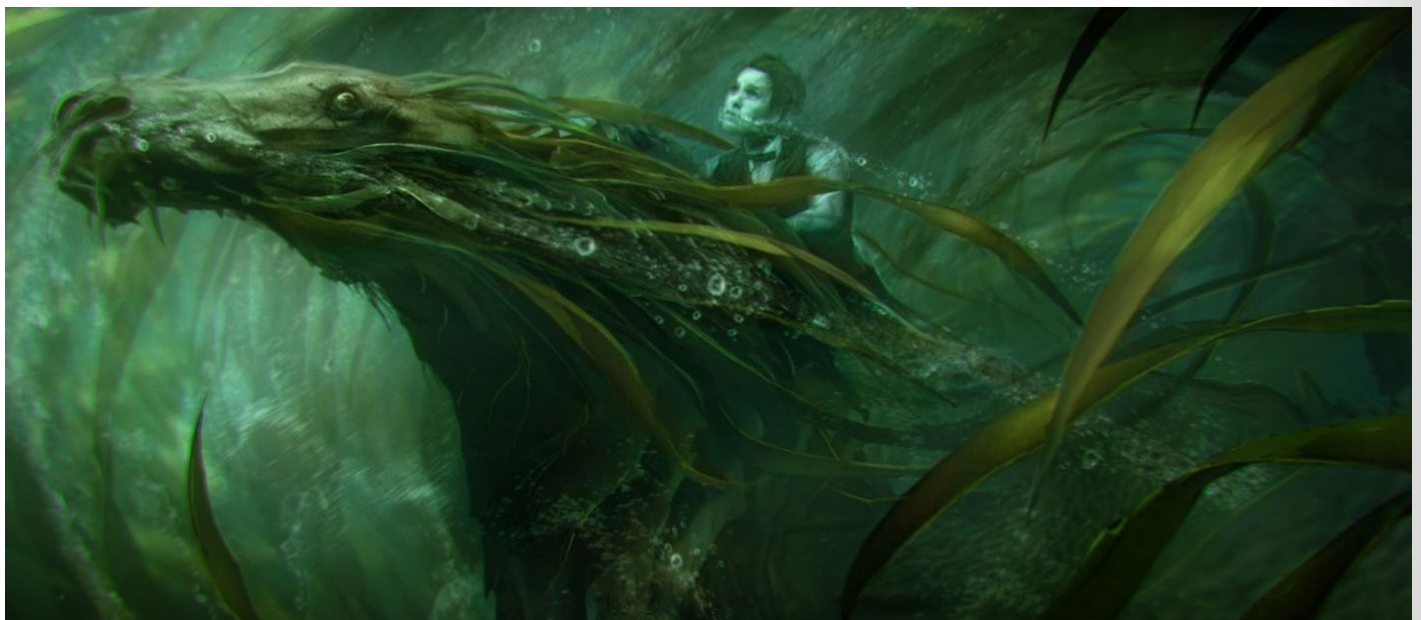
**GRINDYLOW:** Grindylows are found in lakes throughout Britain and Ireland. A grindylow is a horned pale green water demon that eats small fish and will grip passersby with its long fingers. Luckily, it's very easy to break the creatures' grip.

**HIPPOCAMPUS:** This creature is a mer-horse with the head and forequarters of a horse and the tail and hindquarters of a giant fish. A baby hippocampus is called a tadfoal. Tadfoals can be seen through the large, semitransparent eggs that the hippocampus lays. Travel to Greece or the Mediterranean to spot these fascinating creatures.

**KAPPA:** Found in shallow ponds and rivers, the kappa is a Japanese water demon that looks like a monkey with fish scales instead of fur. A hollow in the top of its head allows the kappa to carry water. The kappa eats human blood. Throw a kappa a cucumber with a person's name carved into it or trick the kappa into bowing to pass by it safely. When a kappa bows, it will become weak as the water in the hollow of its head runs out.

**KELPIE:** The kelpie is a British and Irish water demon that can take various shapes. Most of the time, a kelpie appears as a horse with bulrushes for a mane. It will try to lure a person onto its back before diving straight to

KELPIE (FANTATIC BEASTS. THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD)





MERPEOPLE (POTTERMORE)

the bottom of its river or lake to eat the rider. To prevent this from happening, use a placement charm to get a bridal over the kelpie's head.

**LOBALUG:** Lobalugs, found at the bottom of the North Sea, are ten inches long with a rubbery spout and a venom sac. Under no circumstances should anyone threaten a lobalug, unless they want a faceful of the poison found in the lobalug's venom sac. Try collecting the poison through safer means to use in a potion.

**MALACLAW:** Close in resemblance to lobsters, malaclaws live on rocky coastlines around Europe. These creatures are light gray with deep green spots. They can grow to be as long as 12 inches. A malaclaw's diet consists of crustaceans, but they may attempt to attack larger prey. A fever and green rash will ensue upon any person who accidentally eats malaclaw meat. A malaclaw bite also renders a person unlucky for up to a week after they are bitten.

**MERPEOPLE:** Scour the world to find merpeople of all different appearances. The Greek sirens are the oldest recorded merpeople. The beautiful mermaids found in muggle stories and art dwell in warmer waters. The uglier merpeople include the selkies of Scotland and the merrows of Ireland. Merpeople love music. They live in well-organized communities of various sizes. Some communities also feature elaborately constructed dwellings. Learn the language mermish to talk to merpeople.

**MURTLAP:** Found in coastal areas of Britain, the murtlap

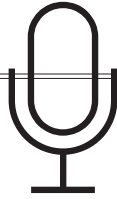
is a ratlike creature with a growth on its back that looks like a sea anemone. Eat just enough pickled murtlap growths to help resist curses. Eat too much and end up with purple ear hair. Murtlaps hunt for crustaceans and people's feet, if a person is unlucky enough to step on one.

**PLIMPY:** The plimpy searches the bottom of deep lakes for water snails. A spherical, mottled fish with two long legs ending in webbed feet, the plimpy chews on swimmers' feet and clothes. If a plimpy becomes a nuisance, follow the merpeople's example by tying its legs into a knot. It may take hours for a plimpy to untie its legs and begin steering itself back from where it had come.

**RAMORA:** The Indian Ocean is a great place for sailors. A powerful, magical silver fish called the ramora traverses these waters, guarding sailors and anchoring their ships.

**SEA SERPENT:** This benign serpent is found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean seas. Sea serpents have horselike heads and snakelike bodies that can grow up to 100 feet long.

**SHRAKE:** People who are near or in the Atlantic ocean should remain cautious. A fish covered in spines called the shrake lives in these waters. Legend says that in the early 1800 s, muggles insulted some wizard sailors. To get back at the muggles, the wizards created the shrakes, who were tasked to empty and rip up the muggles' nets whenever they fished in that same patch of sea.



A QUOTE BY JO

*“Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”*

Albus Dumbledore



HARRY POTTER  
AND THE GOBLET  
OF FIRE  
(2000)

ILLUSTRATION  
BY DASPATCH



# SUPPORT US

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

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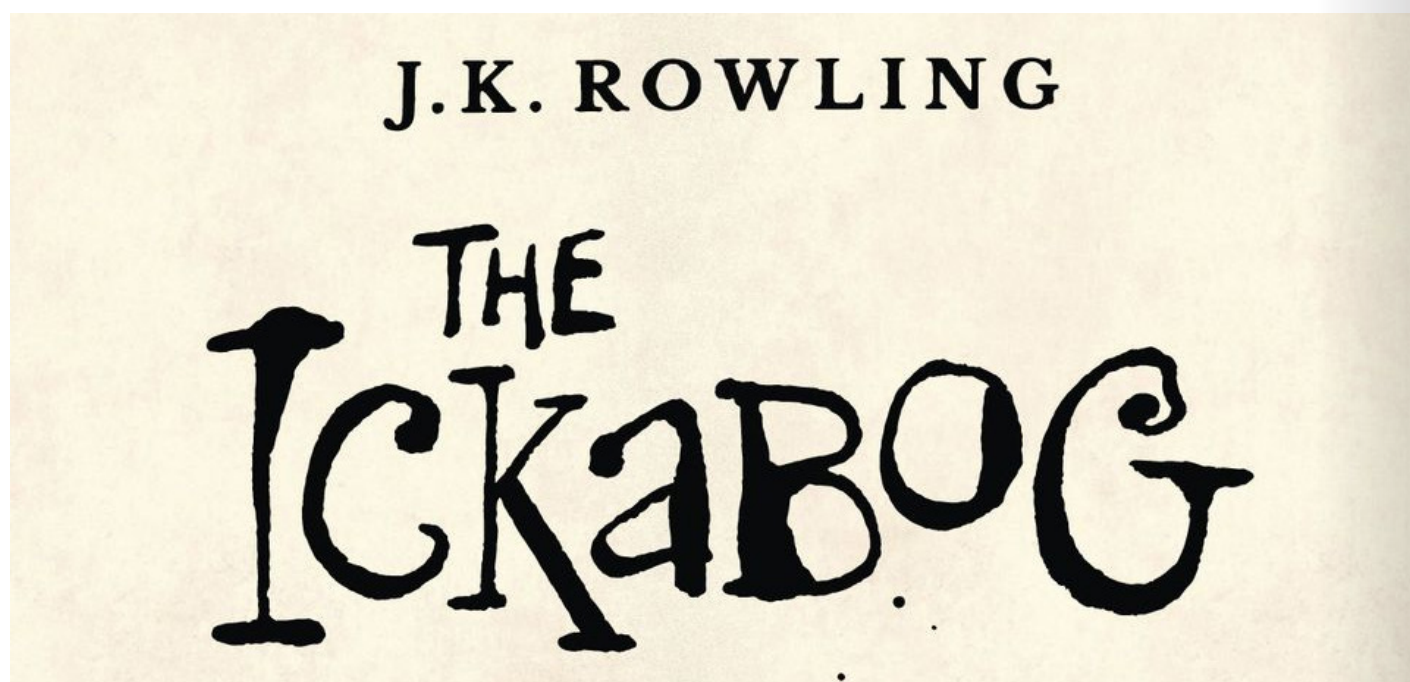
# What's The Ickabog?

J.K. ROWLING'S NEW STORY

BY PATRICIO TARANTINO

I can't remember the first time I heard or read the phrase a political fairy tale. I am sure, though, that it came from J.K. Rowling, and that it was a few years after she published *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. I am also sure that, since then, I have associated political to fairy-tale, and I can't see the concept of a children's story without the political aspect. Everytime I read about a fairy tale, my mind goes back to that concept, and it does it in a quite literal way: I imagine fairies creating unions, claiming for more rights, and organizing strikes. However, the real Rowling's political fairy-tale was (and still is) very different from that.

The immense archive that the Internet provides allows us to fact-check that Rowling did mention the political fairy tale, but she did before publishing the seventh *Harry Potter* book. It was in 2006 for an interview she did with *Tatler Magazine*: "A new children's book is also complete. It is about a monster and is what Rowling calls a 'political fairy story'. It is aimed at children younger than those who read *Harry Potter*: 'I haven't even told my publisher about this.'" We know now that J.K. Rowling never considered to release this, and to keep it as a private tale for her kids: "Over time I came to think of it as a story that belonged to my two younger children,





*because I'd read it to them in the evenings when they were little, which has always been a happy family memory,"* said the author in the press release for *The Ickabog*.

This political fairy story sprang up publicly in the past years. In 2016, she said on Twitter that she *"didn't like it enough to publish it"* [[https://twitter.com/jk\\_rowling/status/711178804648132608](https://twitter.com/jk_rowling/status/711178804648132608)] (I even suggested to her that she should publish it online for free in a serialized form as a response to that very same tweet). And a year

later, on her CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour she made reference about that tale again, but in a different context: *"On my 50th -- the theme of my 50th birthday, which I held at Halloween, even though that's not really my birthday, was come as your own private nightmare. And I went as a lost manuscript. And I wrote over a dress most of that book. So that book, I don't know whether it will ever be published, but it's actually hanging in a wardrobe currently."* Rowling recalled. Her definition of "most of that book" makes it sound that a big part of it would fit in a dress - or maybe she used small handwriting. While researching for this article, I found the only picture from that party that shows her and her handwritten dress.

It is clear that it did not contain most of *The Ickabog*. Now that we know its length (or at least we can estimate it), it seems hard to include all the chapters in there, but it can definitely be considered as a manuscript of the story. Of course, it was just one of the many manuscripts, not the only one she had of this children's tale. The confirmation of this started to appear online on May 21st, when J.K. Rowling updated her Twitter header image with a mysterious photo. That Twitter header changed every day, showing the same object but from a different angle or point of view. At The Rowling Library we kept tracking the changes, trying to understand what was going on. We theorized it could be related to her political fairy tale, something that J.K. Rowling noticed and acknowledged us for a few days later.

The big revelation came on May 26th, when it was announced that Rowling was sharing publicly and for free, through her new website [www.TheIckabog.com](http://www.TheIckabog.com), a new children's story. The clues on her Twitter page were photos of the box that contained the original manuscripts. Alongside the first two chapters, there was a statement from the author: *"I had the idea for The Ickabog a long time ago and read it to my two younger children chapter by chapter each night while I was working on it. However, when the time came to publish it, I decided to put out a book for adults instead, which is how The Ickabog ended up in the attic."*

But J.K. Rowling and her team started to craft this project a few weeks before. The internal codename used for it was Jay Moore (I could not get the meaning or the reasoning behind this decision). The domain [www.jaymoore.org](http://www.jaymoore.org), where *The Ickabog* website lived until May 26th (probably for development and testing) was registered on May 13th, two weeks before the launch. The codename Jay Moore was not of internal use only for Rowling's team - the publishing houses also referred to the story and the book using the same

name, as a Scholastic document that appeared on its website for just a few hours proves it. The story of the web address [www.theickabog.com](http://www.theickabog.com) is interesting too. It was registered in 2011, which could mean Rowling's team had the idea, or at least the name, since then. But it changed ownership at some point in time, so it is impossible to be sure if it was Rowling's team who registered back then, or they acquired it later when they saw it belonged to someone else. What we do know is that the name was in Rowling's mind from the very beginning, since she confessed in the press release that she made her agent to trademark the title when she was working on it years ago: *"After some dithering (and also after my long-suffering agent had trademarked The Ickabog – sorry, Neil) I decided I wanted to step away from children's books for a while"*.

On the same day of the revelation, May 26th, the first two chapters were shared publicly. The release was not only of the story itself: the news included that there is going to be a physical publication in November 2020 (Hachette in the United Kingdom, Scholastic in the United States), with translations becoming available too in different countries. Each publisher will also hold a contest to select illustrations made by children between the age of 7 and 12. The winners will have their artwork included in the book, and will receive a signed copy edition in their own language. J.K. Rowling has been

promoting the contest by sharing children's drawings on Twitter, but has stated several times she is not part of the people who will choose the winners' illustrations.

Part of the story is released every weekday, with one, two or three chapters per day, depending on their length. There are going to be 34 installments (which will give us, in average, 70 chapters), and at the time of writing this piece, we already have 34 chapters. The final ones will be shared on Friday, July 10th.

It is hard to speak about the story without spoiling it, and a few people have decided to wait until the official release to read it altogether. While the first chapter may condense a lot of information and sound a bit complex for children (and some adults), the tale becomes more interesting as more chapters become available. Although *The Ickabog* is aimed at children, adults will enjoy it as well, given that it contains nods that the little ones will not get. It is a story about truth and the abuse of power, and although it was written over a decade ago (and Rowling herself has said this is not a response of what's happening in the world at the moment), it is hard not to identify some aspects of the King and his best friends with current politicians.

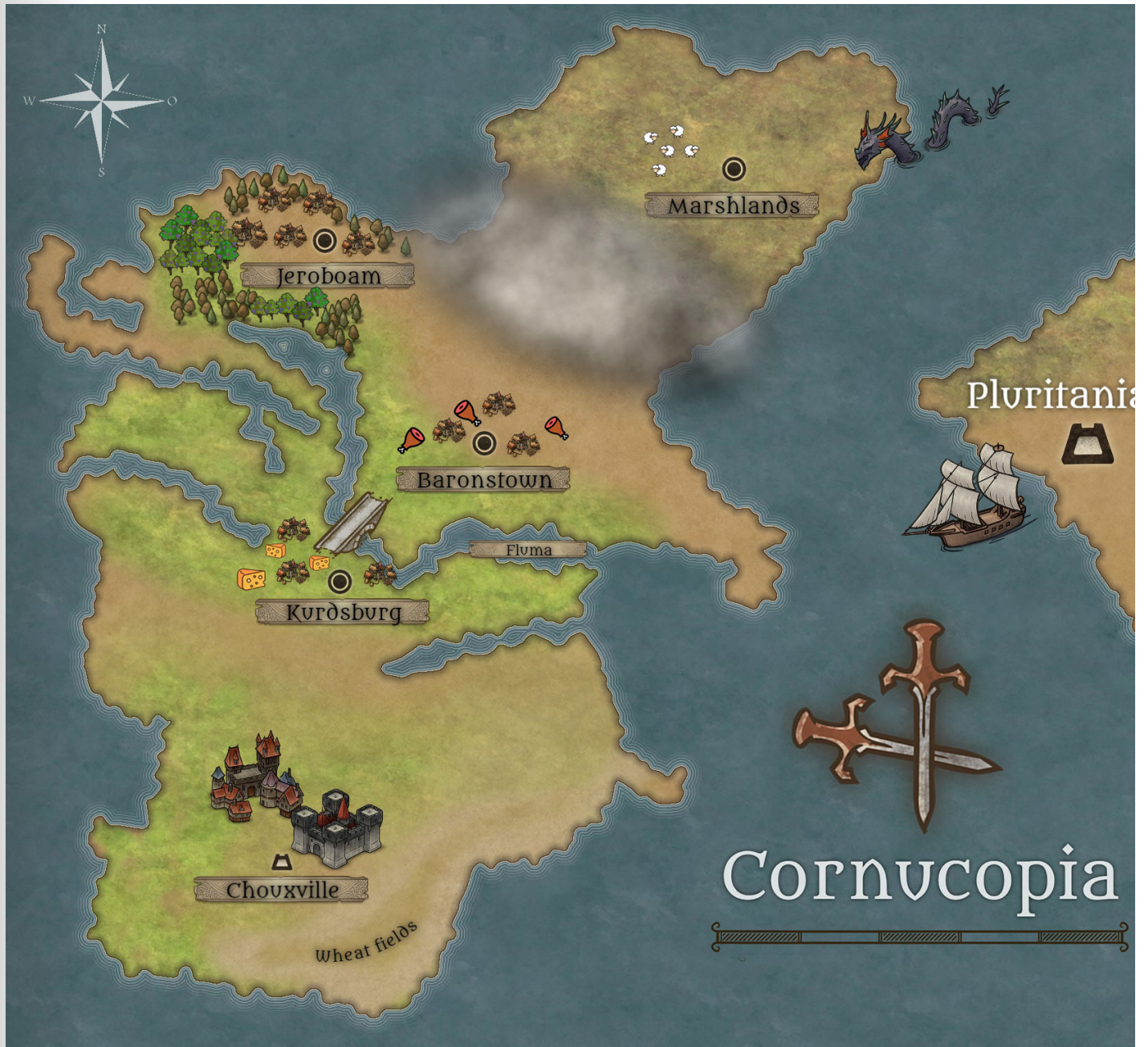
There are parallelisms or connections to the Harry Potter series that could be coincidences or simple nods to the readers who also enjoyed *The Boy Who Lived*



series. From the names of some characters (the King being called Fred or someone called Ogden in both stories), to the death of a parent for the main kids. There is even a coincidence in the name of a chapter with one from the Potter books: Chapter 32 of *The Ickabog* is titled “A Flaw in the Plan”, while Chapter 36 of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is “The Flaw in the Plan”.

The Ickabog project, which started to help entertain children, parents and carers confined at home during the Coronavirus lockdown, has been successful so far. The first two chapters, *King Fred the Fearless* and *The Ickabog*, received 5 million visits in the first 24 hours, as Mrs. Rowling representatives told us.

*The cover illustration for this article is King Gustav II Adolf Of Sweden At Wittstock (1810), by Emanuel Limnell.*



# Is the creator of Azkaban the cause of the Spanish Armada sinking in 1588?

BY PAU M JUST



AZKABAN BY JIM KAY, FOR HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (BLOOMSBURY)

Okay, okay, I know. This might sound crazy. I even asked J.K. Rowling on Twitter and... no answer. But if you really think about it, why not? It's so crazy that it makes total sense. I mean it's just the right time and place. First of all, let's see the known history of Azkaban.

The dark wizard Ekrizdis built a fortress in the North Sea, near Scotland, at some moment in the 15th century. We don't know when he died but we do know that he built it on a small island and hid it with magic. There, he made sailors sink and tortured and killed them. When he died, the magic community found the island full of dementors and decided to leave it like this

for centuries. Basically they were afraid of more dark hidden magic in it or the revenge of the dementors, who kept feeding from sailors' happiness. But the Minister of Magic Damocles Rowle turned it into a prison in 1718.

So for two centuries we don't know anything about Azkaban but the fact it was used to attract ships and kill their sailors. There's a two-centuries-gap in Azkaban history and that's kind of a big gap.

Let's talk now about Azkaban's shape in the movies. Azkaban looks like a triangular lighthouse but in the books its shape is not described since Harry was never there to tell us about it. In fact, there are illustrations



AZKABAN PRISON IN HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (WARNER BROS.)

like the ones of Jim Kay where Azkaban is just a square-shaped tower. By the way, in these illustrations we can see the beautiful but scary detail of sunk ships near the prison. But let's accept the triangular shape. Why is it triangular? It's a very strange shape. Really strange. We might think it's triangular just because it's a weird and uncomfortable shape in architecture and the prisoners in Azkaban used to turn crazy. We might even think it has a structural reason because it's the most stable structure known against the power of sea waves but that theory just doesn't work because the flat face of the triangle shouldn't be against the waves. I say its triangular shape is because of the defensive function of the building. In medieval architecture a triangular construction used to be defensive like bastions or ravelins, used in the walls of a city to divide the enemy's army in two.

So we have a defensive building in the middle of the sea, like a watchtower, ready to alert in case of a naval attack. And what happened in the North Sea in 1588? What happened in that gap in the history of Azkaban in the muggle history? A great naval fleet known as the Spanish Armada wrecked due to weather conditions. Really? That's what Muggles say...

In 1588 Philip II, King of Spain, sent 127 ships from Lisbon to England in order to dethrone Elizabeth I of England. But they were attacked in Calais, where John Hawkins, an english naval commander, sent 8 ships on fire against them. The afraid Spaniards cut their anchors and the wind made them sail to the North Sea. It is known that a ship called "El Gran Grifón" crashed into Fair Island. So, finally, does it sound so crazy now? Could it be possible that Ektrizdis, from that island in the middle of the sea, was the cause for some of those sinkings? I mean, we know he loved to do that and he was just at the right time and the right place. And even if Ektrizdis was dead in 1588 dementors needed the happiness of those spanish sailors who were in the area.

After all, we all know how J.K. Rowling loves to link magic events with the Muggle history. True or not, it's a great coincidence.

**You can find Pau on Twitter on @PauMJust and on YouTube on [www.youtube.com/c/DeconstruyendoelCine](https://www.youtube.com/c/DeconstruyendoelCine)**

By Oliver Horton

# FANTASTIC BEASTS AND HOW TO END IT

Newt Scamander is the unlikely hero of the movie *Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them*, released in 2016, screenplay by JK Rowling. A wizard in his late twenties who likes magical creatures more than people, Newt is nobody's idea of a Chosen One. But he possesses remarkable empathy, which enables him to unmask the villain for the greater good.

The *Fantastic Beasts* series explores the wizarding world decades before *Harry Potter*. The saga begins in 1926 and will reach 1945 at least, the year big baddie Grindelwald duelled Dumbledore (cf. Dumbledore's chocolate frog card). Two movies have been released so far; the third began production in Spring 2020. A total of five movies are planned.

In the end credits of the *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* movie, Newt Scamander's footsteps appear on the magical Marauder's Map. Has the Magizoologist come to ask the headmaster why a Hippogriff was sentenced to death at Hogwarts? Or did Newt visit a student? According to Jo Rowling, Newt's grandson marries one of Harry's best-loved school friends.

While the *Fantastic Beasts* films are years away from completion, Jo Rowling had the ending of *Harry Potter*, "19 Years Later", locked away for years before she finished the books. So perhaps the ending is already written. And perhaps the ending goes like this... proposed epilogue to the fifth and final *Fantastic Beasts* movie.

## Int. – PLATFORM 9 3/4 – 2017 – DAY

*The scarlet HOGWARTS EXPRESS gleams and steams majestically.*

*The platform is a riot of activity. Wizard and witch parents see off their children. Trunks and owls are loaded onto the train.*

*An OLD MAN sits on a railway bench, an oasis of calm. He folds paper to create an ORIGAMI BIRD. With his plume of white hair and embroidered coat, NEWT SCAMANDER at 120 YEARS OLD looks most wizardly.*

*Beside Newt lies his brown leather SUITCASE, reupholstered, gift-wrapped with blue and silver ribbon. Newt holds the origami bird on one flat palm. He extends his arm and blows on its tail and flicks his wand. The bird flies down the platform.*

*A YOUNG WOMAN, mid-thirties, watches the origami bird flutter and swoop. She has very long, very blonde hair, which is bundled up on her head and held in place with her wand. She approaches Newt.*

NEWT

"Animal magic."

*The young woman speaks in the same sing-song voice she had as a teenager. She is LUNA LOVEGOOD.*

LUNA

"The very best."

Newt smiles. He no longer looks quite so old.

LUNA (cont.)

"Thanks for coming. It's like having a grandfather."

Newt is charmed. He indicates the gift-wrapped suitcase.

NEWT

"For you, Luna. For Rolf. Don't open it here."

Luna, awestruck, picks up the case to sit down next to Newt. She rests the suitcase on her lap and runs a hand across its surface. Clasp around her wrist like a bracelet, a green, twig-like BOWTRUCKLE lifts its head and looks around.

LUNA

"Newt, you can't."

But she leans her ear against the leather.

After a moment Newt gestures up the platform.

NEWT

"Your friends, how are they?"

Luna lifts her head from the case and refocuses.

LUNA

"Nostalgic. And so grown up."

NEWT

"I know how they feel."

Luna's brief amusement gives way to something deeper.

LUNA

"Thank you, Newt."

NEWT

"Professor Lovegood. Hogwarts doesn't deserve you. But Care of Magical Creatures needs you."

The TRAIN WHISTLE blows. Newt glances at the train.

NEWT (cont.)

"I'm grateful Luna."

Luna's fingers close around the handle of the suitcase. She stands up.

LUNA

"You put such care into doing what's right. You and Tina both."

(Beat)

"Hogwarts. Ready or not."

*She offers her free arm to the old man. Newt gets to his feet.*

NEWT

"Will be good to see the old place again."

*Together they walk the few steps to the train.*

LUNA

"Is it true you gave Hagrid his first Hippogriff?"

*Luna lifts the case into the train. Newt looks up the platform and sees –*

*HARRY POTTER, flanked by RON WEASLEY, HERMIONE GRANGER and GINNY POTTER-WEASLEY.*

*The Trio are 36-years old; Ginny is 35yo. We are in the epilogue to the Harry Potter stories, "19 Years Later".*

*Harry and Ginny, Ron and Hermione watch their children, young Hogwarts students, settle on the train. Nostalgia is clear in their faces. A young redheaded girl, LILY LUNA POTTER, hugs her mother. She is holding the origami bird.*

*Newt's eyes sparkle. He reaches out a hand to Luna and boards the Hogwarts Express.*

**FADE TO BLACK.**

**COMMENTARY:** Among the information unleashed after the seven Harry Potter books, the author revealed that Luna marries Newt's grandson, Rolf Scamander. Luna and Rolf are both Magizoologists. Luna is assumed to be godmother to Harry and Ginny's youngest child, Lily Luna Potter.

In the book series' final pages, "19 Years Later", we learn that Hagrid has invited Harry's son Albus to tea that week. We can imagine Rubeus Hagrid, now in his

late 80s, no longer teaches Care of Magical Creatures. The half-giant is probably blessed with long life, like Dumbledore, like Newt, but does not need two jobs. He can remain Keeper of Keys and Grounds at Hogwarts.

Because this epilogue leans on the movies' visuals, blue and silver are used for Ravenclaw colours, rather than the books' blue and bronze. The paper bird derives from Steve Kloves' screenplay for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.



# WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

## DRACO MALFOY'S

Wands are magical objects that have a special bond with their owners. Garrick Ollivander can almost hear and understand the wands' "feelings", by just touching, slightly turning and approaching them to his ear.

In "Wave a Wand" we're going to try to discover a little bit more about the famous wands that made it to the screen (and some that didn't).

Draco Malfoy is a bad guy from the outside, but inside, he is not evil at all. He's always internally fighting against the weight of the Malfoy lineage, and trying to hide his good side from his father and the other Slytherin house members, just to be accepted.

Here we can see a picture of the wand used by Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) in "Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone". The shaft of this original prop is made out of Mexican rosewood, united to a beautiful and simple black ebony handle.

As many of you may know, when the time to produce the

third movie came, producers decided to change the wands used in first and second (they were pretty simple and random), and make some new ones for almost every character. These new wands were meant to reflect part of the character's personality, and enhance the old "boring" models. It is not common, but in Draco's case, the wand design didn't change at all from the first to the last movie. Only in the last two films the wand prop seems to be completely black (or at least a really much darker brown) than in the other movies.

In the "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" book, Ollivander reveals the wood, core and length of Draco's wand. This happens after the golden trio succeeded in escaping the Malfoy's Manor (with the help of our beloved house elf Dobby) not before disarming some of its hosts, including Draco.

Some people underestimate this wand because of its simple design, but once you start looking beyond that



DRACO MALFOY ORIGINAL WAND, FROM PIERRE BOHANNA'S WEBSITE

simplicity, there's a charming old-style wand with a lot of meaning and history.

Don't we forget that this is precisely the wand that beats Lord Voldemort in his last battle against Harry.

### CONCLUSIONS

I believe that the dark piece in the handle represents the dark side of Draco, while we also see a larger clear part in the shaft of the wand, which could mean that in the end, his suppressed good side wins against his

darkness.

The unicorn hair core wands are particularly the hardest to turn into the Dark Arts. Another point in favor of Draco's true essence.

I hope that after having repaired his own wand, Harry returned this one to its original owner some time between the Battle of Hogwarts and the Epilogue.



DRACO MALFOY WAND REPLICA, BY THE NOBLE COLLECTION



# WELCOME TO DOBBY'S SORTING WHICH HOGWARTS HOUSE DOES THE ELF BELONG IN?

BY DEMI SCHWARTZ

Hello Dobby,

I, the Sorting Hat, am quite interested in which of the four Hogwarts Houses you belong in. I've served the Castle for many, many years, and all my decisions have proved to be correct. Even though I've sorted countless witches and wizards, I've never gotten the opportunity to do the same for a house-elf.

So, I thought you'd be the perfect elf to sort. After all, Harry Potter seems to believe you're much more than simply a house-elf. I must say, I feel honored to have sat on the Chosen One's head. He and I had quite the back-and-forth, you know. He begged me to not put him in Slytherin, so into Gryffindor he went.

Oh, my, there I go again. Anyway, Dobby, listen closely to the qualities of the Houses, and then, I will give great thought to your most significant moments in the Harry Potter series in order to sort you.

*You Might belong in Gryffindor,  
Where dwell the brave at heart.  
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry  
set Gryffindors apart;  
You might belong in Hufflepuff,  
Where they are just and loyal,  
Those patient Hufflepuffs are true  
And unafraid of toil;  
Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw,  
If you've a ready mind,  
Where those of wit and learning,  
Will always find their kind;  
Or perhaps in Slytherin  
You'll make your real friends,  
Those cunning folk use any means  
To achieve their ends.*

**Gryffindor?**

First, standing up to your masters, the Malfoy family, is very brave. You may have gone to great lengths to warn Harry Potter in Chamber of Secrets, which I'll get into later in other House considerations, but trying to save Harry, despite the punishments you know you'll receive, is bravery at its finest. Also, after Harry frees you and Lucius starts to go after Harry, you shout, "You shall not

harm Harry Potter!" Then, you blast Lucius backward, and he crashes down a flight of stairs. When Lucius gets to his feet and pulls out his wand, you raise a threatening finger and say, "You shall go now. You shall not touch Harry Potter. You shall go now." Once again, I applaud your bravery. Absolutely splendid.

In Order of the Phoenix, you channel your bravery to warn Harry again. During one of Dumbledore's Army's meetings, you come to inform Harry that Umbridge is on her way. Even though the house-elves have been warned not to tell, you run to Harry, anyway. It's no secret that being on the receiving end of Umbridge's anger isn't any fun, so warning Harry is extremely daring of you. You act like a true Gryffindor here.

Above all, you show how brave you truly are when you save Harry, Ron, Hermione, Luna, Dean, Mr. Ollivander, and Griphook from Malfoy Manor in Deathly Hallows. It's courageous in itself to show up at Malfoy Manor after



DOBBY, FROM HARRY POTTER  
AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (WARNER  
BROS.)

all you've experienced there. After taking Luna, Dean, and Mr. Ollivander to Shell Cottage first, you come back for the others. You drop the chandelier, then you point a finger at Narcissa and say, "You must not hurt Harry Potter." Then, there's a loud crack and Narcissa's wand flies into the air and lands on the other side of the room. You stand up to your old masters and say, "Dobby has no master! Dobby is a free elf, and Dobby has come to save Harry Potter and his friends!" You get Harry and the others safely to Shell Cottage, but you're stabbed by Bellatrix's knife. Still, your death is courageous. You died like a true warrior, a strong fighter, an incredible Gryffindor.

### Hufflepuff?

Hufflepuffs are extremely loyal. As a house-elf, it's in your nature to serve and be loyal to your masters. In Chamber of Secrets, you constantly go behind the Malfoy family's back to warn Harry Potter and try to protect him, due to the whole Chamber of Secrets ordeal. Your knowing you'll need to punish yourself for these actions of disloyalty shows bravery, it's true, but being disloyal to the Malfoys goes against what Hufflepuffs stand for. I can't blame you, though. The Dark Arts really get on my rim, I mean, nerves, so good for you for standing up to them and doing what's right.

Despite not being loyal to the Malfoys, you have such a big heart. You constantly show those around you kindness. Even though Harry isn't your master, you are so loyal to him and do everything you can for him to show your appreciation for being freed. You help Harry out during the Triwizard Tournament, tell him about the Room of Requirement for Dumbledore's Army meetings,

and tail Draco Malfoy for Harry in Half-Blood Prince to see what he's up to. Most of all, you save Harry and the others at Malfoy Manor as a final act of devotion. All of this is out of your loyalty to Harry.

You're also extremely thoughtful and give Harry Christmas presents. In Goblet of Fire, you give him mix-matched socks you knitted. The left one is bright red with a pattern of broomsticks, and the right one is green with a pattern of snitches. In Order of the Phoenix, you give Harry a painting of himself that you made.

You also show a great deal of kindness to your fellow house-elf, Winky. She takes being free very hard, and you care for her. You bring her to the Room of Requirement when she drinks too much butterbeer. You tell Harry, "He has hidden her in the Room of Requirement and he has found antidotes to butterbeer there, and a nice elf-sized bed to settle her on while she sleeps it off, sir." This truly shows your big heart and patience. You definitely have a lot of Hufflepuff in you.

### Ravenclaw?

You are quite intelligent and prove to be helpful to Harry. Your knowledge and excellent eavesdropping skills come in handy when you help Harry out during the second task of the Triwizard Tournament. You give Harry the gillyweed and say, "It will make Harry Potter breathe underwater, sir!" When Harry is hesitant, you say, "Dobby is quite sure, sir! Dobby hears things, sir, he is a house-elf, he goes all over the castle as he lights the fires and mops the floors. Dobby heard Professor McGonagall and Professor Moody in the staffroom, talking about the next task.... Dobby cannot let Harry Potter lose his Wheezy!" You have such a sharp



THE SORTING HAT, FROM HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (WARNER BROS)

and observant mind, and you used your new-found knowledge to help Harry, like a true Ravenclaw would.

Your greatest Ravenclaw moment comes in Order of the Phoenix when you tell Harry about the Room of Requirement. Harry and the rest of Dumbledore's Army need somewhere to hold meetings, and you come through for Harry. You say, "Dobby knows the perfect place, sir! Dobby heard tell of it from the other house-elves when he came to Hogwarts, sir. It is known by us as the Come and Go Room, sir, or else as the Room of Requirement!" When Harry asks why this is the perfect place, you say, "Because it is a room that a person can only enter when they have real need of it. Sometimes it is there, and sometimes it is not, but when it appears, it is always equipped for the seeker's needs." I'm delighted by your intelligence here. The Room of Requirement becomes a real help to Harry, and it's all thanks to you and your glimmer of Ravenclaw.

### **Slytherin?**

If I only look at Chamber of Secrets alone to sort you, I'd put you straight into Slytherin. You're extremely ambitious, and yet, you believe in your heart that going to great lengths to make sure Harry Potter doesn't go back to school is a good thing. I see your good intentions, but boy, the things you do scream, Slytherin.

First, when you show up at the Dursleys house to give Harry a warning, you get Harry in trouble with the Ministry of Magic when you drop Aunt Petunia's pudding. The Ministry sends Harry a letter, calling him out for using a Hover Charm, which he didn't use. Also, he's warned to not use magic outside school again because he's underage. If he does, he may be expelled from Hogwarts. That's a bit harsh if you ask me.

Then, you close the barrier to Platform Nine and Three-Quarters. Again, you cause quite a ruckus. Harry and Ron look like fools in front of the Muggles when they fail to get onto the platform. They fly the Weasleys' car to the school, crash into the Whomping Willow, and get told off by Snape. You almost got both of them expelled. Thanks to McGonagall, they stay at school. I've always liked Minerva.

And then, you interfere with a Quidditch match, which is very dangerous. Of course, you didn't want to kill Harry, but bewitching the Bludger to chase after Harry results in the Bludger hitting him and breaking his arm. Even worse, Lockhart—I don't understand how Dumbledore could've ever allowed that fool to teach at the school—removes all the bones in Harry's arm, and he endures much pain and discomfort that night in the hospital wing while his bones grow back. As if that's not enough,

you're so determined to tell Harry how badly you want him to go home that you show up at the hospital wing while he's sleeping. You explain that all your actions were out of fear for Harry's life. Again, I see your good intentions, but your ambition and determination to get Harry to stay away from Hogwarts leave a hint of Slytherin in you.

### **My Decision**

And now, where to put you... Even though you do have some Ravenclaw and Slytherin moments, those Houses don't suit you the best. So, it comes down to Gryffindor and Hufflepuff. You know, Hatstalls don't happen often, but I must say, I'm torn between these two Houses. I need to choose thoughtfully.

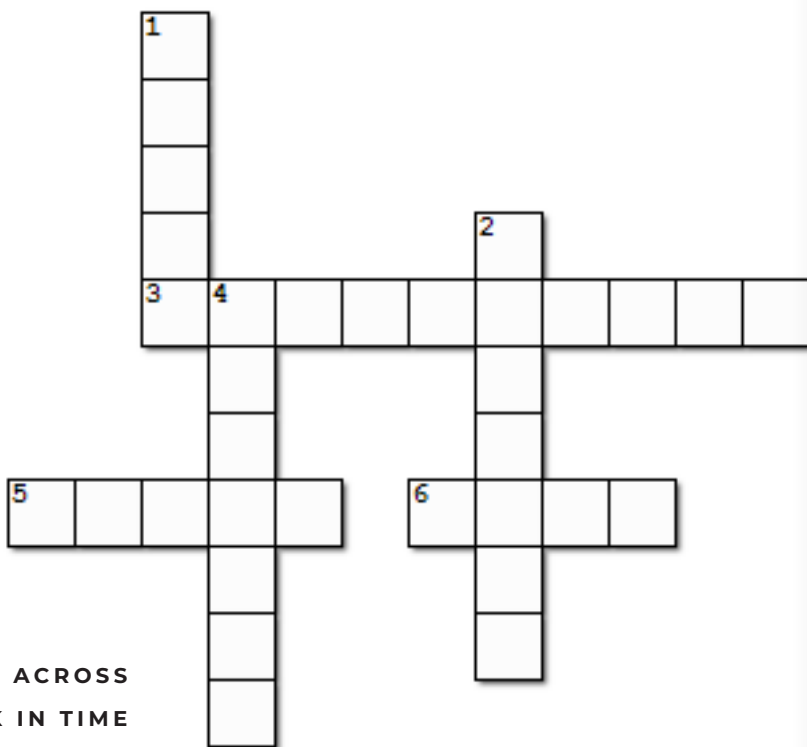
It's very clear to me that you have all the qualities of a Hufflepuff. You show so much kindness and patience. Also, your loyalty to Harry is such a beautiful thing. However, you do have moments of disloyalty, as seen with the Malfoys and Umbridge. Still, these are witches and wizards who aren't super likable, to put it lightly. This is a sticky situation because you're able to use your own judgement and feel in your heart that being loyal to them isn't exactly the right thing to do, so you choose to be loyal to wizards like Harry and Dumbledore instead. Hufflepuffs are always forced to make decisions, where loyalty is concerned, and you're a fantastic example of how sometimes, what someone's heart believes wins above anything else.

That all being said, your bravery and daring are clear. Standing up to the Malfoys and Umbridge and saving Harry and the others from Malfoy Manor truly put you in the Gryffindor spotlight. You even gave your life to show your support to Harry one last time, and that takes bravery to a whole new level. I must say, you're even more courageous than some witches and wizards I've sorted into this House. So, is Gryffindor the right House for you?

After much deliberation, I've arrived at my decision. Dobby, I'm officially sorting you into Gryffindor. I believe that your bravery is one of your strongest qualities, and even though your kindness and loyalty could make you an amazing Hufflepuff, those qualities are closely tied to Gryffindor, too. All of your brave actions are fueled by how caring, kind, and loyal you are, so I feel in my little hat heart that Gryffindor is the House for you. It's time to put on some red and gold and celebrate. You're Dobby, a free elf, and you're the first house-elf to be sorted into Gryffindor.

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