

The Rowling Library  
Magazine



# The Cuckoo Inspiration

ISSUE 53. MAY 2021.





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# WELCOME

Welcome to another issue of this digital magazine about Harry Potter and other J.K. Rowling's works. One of these J.K. Rowling's works is the Cormoran Strike books, and the cover article this month is about the first installment in the series of our new favourite detective.

Lindsay Williams was able to discover - or at least theorize - the real case that inspired *The Cuckoo's Calling*, and she shares her research with all of us. Oliver Horton is back with one of his best articles (originally called *Death stalks Harry Potter*) about the role of Death (as a character) and his relationship with Harry Potter.

Felipe Gabriel shows us the graphic evolution of *The Daily Prophet* by going through the different versions that were featured in the films, and Alan Dell'Oso chooses the Elder Wand for his monthly section Wave a Wand. Of course, the pick is not random: the Elder Wand was last used in the Battle of Hogwarts, which this May had its 23rd anniversary.

Last but not least: J.K. Rowling announced her new novel for children, *The Christmas Pig*. Was this idea coined back in 2012? Will they sell merchandise and toys based on this new story and characters? Read our article on The Christmas Pig to find out everything we know so far.

See you in June,

Patricio

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BY OLIVER HORTON

# WHO CHOSE THE CHOSEN ONE?

Death is a prankster god.

In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Death presents three gifts to three wizard brothers: the unbeatable Elder Wand, the necromantic Resurrection Stone and the Cloak of Invisibility. This is *The Tale of the Three Brothers* and the origin of the Deathly Hallows. But the gifts are tainted and the brothers deceived. Only the Invisibility Cloak, a portion of Death's own, is not a ticket to die. The Elder Wand feeds on pride. The Resurrection Stone feeds on hope. The Stone is the worst of the trinity.

Since discovering his late family in

the Mirror of Erised in *Philosopher's Stone*, Harry has been trained to steel his heart against the lure of the Stone. The plot of seven books: Harry Potter learns to live with death.

## Who chose The Chosen One?

*"The one with the power to vanquish the Dark Lord will be born as the seventh month dies."*  
Sybill Trelawney, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

According to Albus Dumbledore, Voldemort chose Harry. Two infant boys fulfilled the terms of the Prophecy: Harry Potter and Neville Longbottom. Voldemort



chose the half-blood.

But did he, really?

Voldemort only chose who to murder first. Voldemort is not shy about killing people. Execute Harry Potter. Then kill the spare. Remove any doubt. Wormtail provides the opportunity to catch the Potters unawares. Sitting ducks. Hit them first: good strategy. There is no real choice on Voldemort's part, only the illusion of choice.

The killing curse backfires. The Potter boy lives. The Dark Lord disappears.

The Prophecy is self-fulfilling. The author employs the longest book, *Order of the Phoenix*, to supercharge Sybill Trelawney's prediction. And after 257,514 words, we readers believe. Prophecy said? Must be true! The Prophecy in Harry Potter is the ultimate answer to death, the universe and everything.

### Prophecy or Weapon

*"It was only when he had attained a great age that the youngest brother finally took off the Cloak of Invisibility and gave it to his son. And then he greeted Death as*



DEATH VS HARRY POTTER  
PHOTOMONTAGE USING STILL FROM THE MOVIE  
'THE SEVENTH SEAL' (1957)

*an old friend, and went with him  
gladly, and, equals, they departed  
this life."*

Harry Potter and the Deathly  
Hallows

What if Death did not reciprocate the youngest brother's friendship? What if Death, described initially as "enraged", does not enjoy hunting down its supper, and plots an elaborate revenge against the "humblest and... wisest" of the three?

Because: how presumptuous of a mere wizard! The equal of Death? No mortal chooses their time to die. But the third brother does. And he gives away the piece of Death's own Cloak of Invisibility, which Death was "reluctant... most unwilling" to hand over in the first place.

As *Deathly Hallows* unfolds the 'Three Brothers' are revealed to be Antioch Peverell (Wand), Cadmus Peverell (Stone) and Ignotus Peverell (Cloak). The eldest Peverell had no reported offspring. The second is the ancestor of Voldemort. And the youngest is the ancestor of Harry James Potter, the hero of our story. Death slits the first brother's throat and drives the second to suicide. And all they did was fail to drown while crossing a river. The youngest brother must be taught a lesson! Except he's dead. An heir, then. Never mind when: time does not trouble a god.

What if Death-the-prankster-god inserted Harry's name into the Prophecy (just as FakeMoody slipped Harry's name into the Goblet of Fire)? And lo! Baby Harry, whose ancestor Ignotus Peverell vexed the Grim Reaper, is singled out by a Prophecy. Death has a sense of humour, but its decision is final. And resistance is futile.

The Prophecy arrives on planet wizard via Sybill Trelawney, Hogwarts Professor of Divination. The sybils were witch-like women in ancient Greece: mouthpieces for the gods. Sybill Trelawney's god is Death; it's all she talks about. Her foretelling of Harry's imminent demise becomes a recurring joke. Unknowingly, Sybill honours her deity.

Death created and distributed a self-fulfilling Prophecy. Death chose Harry Potter.

## A Dance of Death

*"We are sworn not to set ourselves  
against the heavens."*

Bane the Centaur, Harry Potter  
and the Philosopher's Stone

Tom Riddle, the heir of second brother Cadmus Peverell, remakes himself in Death's image. Voldemort, absurdly vain, regards Death as an equal. He fails to recognize the holy lesson in play and dies. He simply dies.

Voldemort is, unknowingly, an agent of Death. And so is



DEATH IN THE TALE OF THE THREE BROTHERS,  
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PART 1 (WARNER BROS., 2010)

Albus Dumbledore. Because Harry and the Peverells' big lesson relies enormously on the headmaster's "well-organized mind". Dumbledore knows his role. Probably plays wizard chess with Death every Thursday afternoon. Dumbledore's presence in spectral Kings Cross late in 'Deathly Hallows', the impossibility of that postmortem conversation with the somewhat dead Harry, is the graduation ceremony of this educational vendetta.

Dumbledore stands in for Charon, the ferryman of souls in Greek myth. Charon is often depicted as an old man with a beard, although his personality is closer to grumpy Aberforth than the genial and supportive Albus. Dumbledore performs the ferryman/

psychopomp role the entire story. He knew Harry had to die; has been waiting for the proper time to usher him into the light.

There is no master of death. No earthly creature, however magical, could ever be master of death. *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* book, published in the Muggle world, includes *The Tale of the Three Brothers*. Therein Dumbledore comments: the idea that possession of all three Hallows makes someone the master of death is arrant nonsense that contradicts the story entirely.

### Dead Man Walking

"My books are largely about death. They open with the death of Harry's parents. There

*is Voldemort's obsession with conquering death and his quest for immortality at any price, the goal of anyone with magic."*

JK Rowling in 2006, to Tatler Magazine

Death, not Voldemort, is Harry's true nemesis. Death is its own master, but proud and easily offended. Death demands a little respect.

The plot of seven books: grief-struck Harry Potter moves through denial, anger, bargaining and depression to learn acceptance. These are the Five Stages of Grief. And they not only represent Harry's development but chime individually in various characters: Voldemort is denial, Dumbledore is bargaining, Harry himself is anger, the Dementors are depression, Harry's mother Lily is acceptance.

With help Harry comes to understand the cunning, merciless god like an old friend. He ignores the Elder Wand because invincibility is a sigil that gets you killed. And Dumbledore prevents Harry from playing with the Resurrection Stone until the young wizard has elected to die; only then does the bequeathed and bewitched Snitch open to reveal the cursed treasure. Harry dumps the Stone in the woods, because Death offers no refunds. The Chosen One then tucks away his wand and stows the Cloak of Invisibility. Defenceless, Harry

faces his own destruction with humility. No tricks up his sleeves. Only human. Lesson learnt, Death, lesson learnt.

At the conclusion of the Battle of Hogwarts, Harry is all that remains of the Peverell bloodline. But Death's pranks must be neutralised to finish off the family curse. Harry buries the Elder Wand in Dumbledore's grave, where it cannot be won. The Stone is lost; the Cloak in safe hands. This concludes, for real this time, 'The Tale of the Three Brothers'. Harry heads to bed with thoughts of a sandwich and, 19 Years Later, we are strongly reassured: life goes on.

*"As flies to wanton boys are we  
to th' gods, They kill us for their  
sport."*

'King Lear, William Shakespeare



# THE RESURRECTION STONE CEMETERY

In the early hours of May 2nd, 1998, Harry Potter drops the Resurrection Stone on the edge of a clearing in the Forbidden Forest.

The clearing is familiar to Harry as the home of giant spider Aragog. Five years earlier he and Ron escape Aragog's many children. But bygones are bygones: Harry even attends Aragog's funeral at Hagrid's request. During the Battle of Hogwarts, Voldemort and his followers occupy the space. Voldemort murders Harry and simultaneously destroys the penultimate Horcrux. Harry returns to life.

The clearing where The Boy Who Lived dies and resurrects... feels like a special place. But the Battle of Hogwarts claims the lives of more than fifty good wizards and witches.

Imagine Hogwarts inaugurates a cemetery on the site for the Fallen Fifty. A proper path can be created for the short walk to the school. But this corner of Hogwarts will remain discrete: students in later years may never be aware of the place.

The cemetery's anonymity is a good thing because of an unusual, unprecedented phenomenon. Every year, in the first days of May, spectral figures gather in the clearing. They have the looks and personalities of those who lie in the graves and they talk to the loved ones who visit, encouraging them in their lives. The friends and relatives of the dead report that they look very well, as relaxed and well-cared-for as in their brightest moments of life. But they cannot explain how or why.

Harry Potter knows, or can guess. He imagines the Resurrection Stone consumed by Hogwarts' magical earth, its power diffused but its purpose undiminished. Harry keeps the secret. He stays true to another fallen hero interred elsewhere on Hogwarts' grounds, the late headmaster, Professor Albus Dumbledore.

# THE CASE BEHIND THE CUCKOO'S CALLING

BY LINDSAY WILLIAMS



**A**s a huge fan of the Cormoran Strike series, I've been particularly enjoying the interview clips shared in the Robert Galbraith newsletters and on the Twitter account. Any insights from J.K. Rowling on these characters and books have my complete and full attention. However, one of the newer clips particularly piqued my interest when she explained that the inspiration for *The Cuckoo's Calling* came from a real life murder investigation.

Here's a transcript of the question and answer:

*Q: In the first Strike novel, The Cuckoo's Calling, what inspired the 'cuckoo' element of the storyline - i.e.*

*Lula's adoption and the resentment this then causes between her and her adoptive siblings?*

*A: "The inspiration for that first book, actually came from a real-life case. The trouble is if people haven't read the book and I say what that case was, I've ruined the plot for them. So I have to be a little bit cryptic there. But The Cuckoo had several different meaning, it's a herald of spring and it, and the murder victim was someone who*

*died very young, there is the idea of disruption in the nest of course. But also of being crazy and everyone was willing to believe that this young woman had killed herself because she had had mental health problems. So it's easy to dismiss people if they've got that kind of history."*

While I can appreciate her need to be cryptic, my lifelong interest in true crime, coupled with my

obsessive need to know everything about Strike, led me straight to Google. With no other place to start, I began by searching, "woman killed by adopted

brother." I was surprised at the number of results, and suspected that it might be difficult to find a case that matched closely with *The Cuckoo's Calling*. There are, unfortunately, a lot of results regarding homicide and adoption, like the sad case of David Polreis whose adopted mother was convicted of causing his death, or the case of Chakaya Brittney Folborg who was convicted of murdering her adopted sister. However, none of those results



J.K. ROWLING ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM HER CORMORAN STRIKE BOOKS.

really seemed to fit with Lula Landry, until I came across one name:

Sheila Caffell, a woman who was murdered in August of 1985 by her adopted brother, Jeremy Bamber.

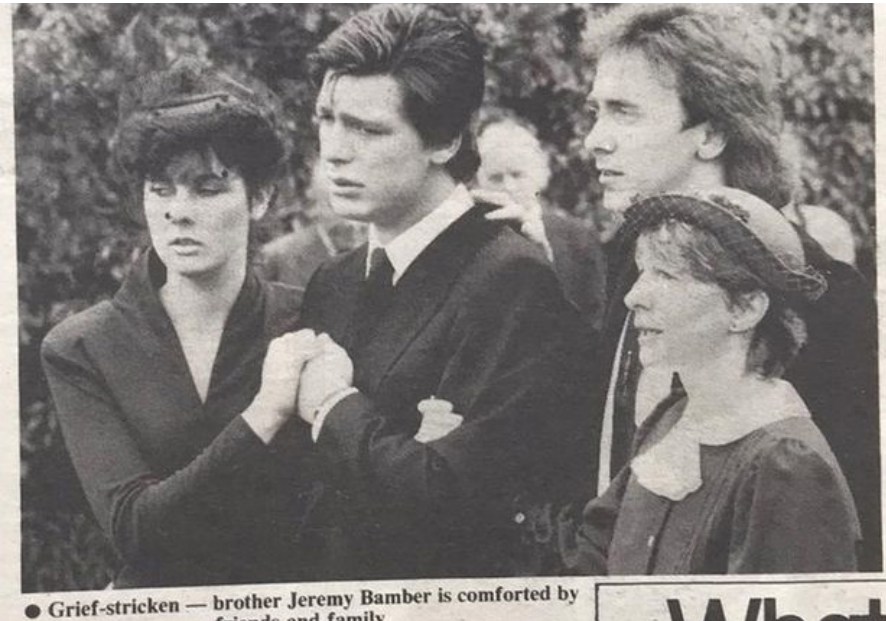
Could Sheila Caffell be the inspiration for Lula Landry's murder? It certainly seemed possible, but before getting to the similarities, there is one major difference between Sheila and Lula's murder: Sheila Caffell was shot and killed along with her adoptive parents, Nevill and June Bamber, and her six-year-old twin sons, Daniel and Nicholas. While we know that our fictional killer,

John Bristow, had more victims than just his adopted sister, Lula's friend Rochelle, and brother Charlie, those killings didn't take place all together and certainly didn't amount to the violent and horrific scene that took place in this real life tragedy.

Now for the aspects of the case that strike me (no pun intended) as very similar to *The Cuckoo's Calling*: first and foremost, Sheila Caffell was adopted as an infant, and later worked as a model. Her modelling career didn't take off in the same way that Lula's did, but she did briefly work with a modelling agency, which took her to work in Tokyo for a couple



SHEILA CAFFELL



NEWSPAPER CLIP SHOWING JEREMY BAMBER, SHEILA'S BROTHER.

months. Also like Lula, Sheila had a history of mental illness, including hospital stays and a diagnosis of schizophrenia. The initial ruling in the investigation was that Sheila had been responsible for the murders of her adoptive parents and twins before turning the gun on herself. The scene had been staged to look like a murder/suicide and everyone, including the police, believed this theory because of her history with mental illness. Sound familiar?

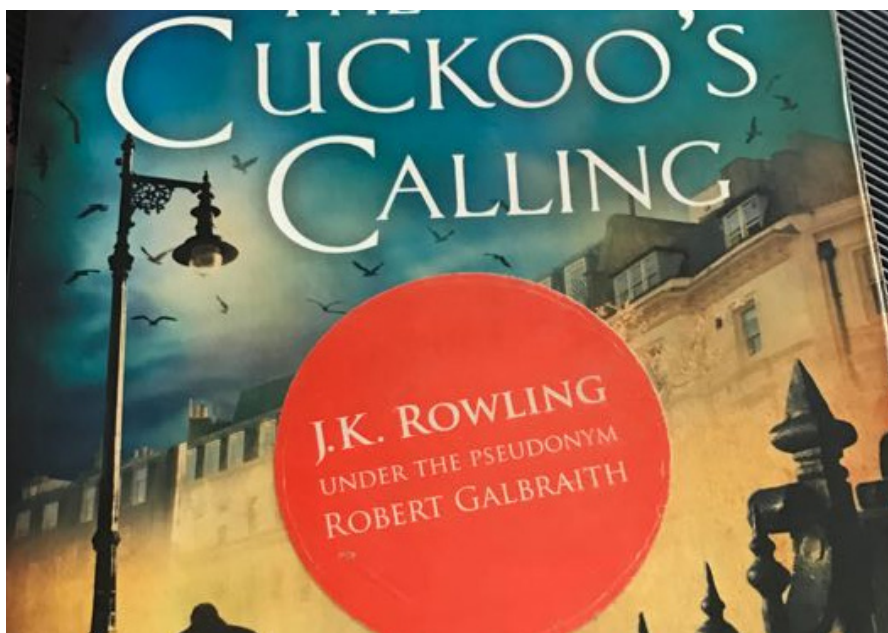
*"But the police and the coroner couldn't see past the girl who had a history of poor mental health."*

The Cuckoo's Calling, Part 1,  
Chapter 3

Sheila's parents, Nevill and June

Bamber were unable to have biological children and adopted Sheila when she was just three months old. The daughter of a senior chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury was forced to give up Sheila two weeks after giving birth. Jeremy was adopted later at six months, the son of a vicar's daughter. Just like *The Cuckoo's Calling*, neither Sheila nor Jeremy were biologically related to each other. The Bammers were well off financially and were able to provide their children with a nice house and a good education, but it was said that both children had somewhat strained relationships with their mother, who was overly religious and had expectations that her children and grandchildren fall





in line with her beliefs. She even was said to have referred to Sheila as “the devil’s child.”

*“She did seem a bit down, a bit distracted, but I just put it down to having seen her mum. They had a weird relationship. Lady Bristow was, like, really overprotective and possessive. Looly found it, you know, a bit claustrophobic.”*

The Cuckoo’s Calling, Part 4,  
Chapter 7

The police investigation was said to have been handled poorly, and it wasn’t until new evidence was found, and Jeremy’s girlfriend changed her statement to police, that the investigation started to turn towards Sheila’s brother. According to Jeremy’s girlfriend,

he had once made the statement, “I’m not going to share my money with my sister.” and also told her that he wished he could “get rid of them all.” John Bristow’s girlfriend, Alison, also helped conceal information.

*“What effect do you think it’s going to have in court, John, when Alison takes the stand and tells the jury how you asked her to lie for you?...A couple of dates later, you persuaded her to say she saw you at the office on the morning before Lula died.”*

The Cuckoo’s Calling, Part 5,  
Chapter 2

We also know that Lula’s money was a huge motivation for Bristow:

“...but on the other hand, she knew that there was a will that would deprive you of your inheritance, and your number one objective was to keep that will quiet while you tried to find and destroy it.”

The Cuckoo's Calling, Part 5,  
Chapter 2

It's probably safe to assume that J.K. Rowling would have known about this case since it received a lot of media attention and was even turned into a TV series called *White House Farm*, which was released in January of 2020. Unless she identifies this as the case that inspired *The Cuckoo's Calling*, we may never know, but Sheila Caffell's murder hits a lot of key points: a model with a history of mental illness commits suicide, when in reality, her murder is staged by a cold-blooded killer she called brother.

**Linsday collaborates with StrikeFans and is a co-host of The Strike and Ellacott Files, a podcast about the Strike Books. You can follow her on Twitter too.**

LULA LANDRY,  
PLAYED BY ELARICA JOHNSON,  
ON THE BBC ADAPTATION  
OF THE CUCKOO'S CALLING





**Montague Knightley**  
Wizard Chess Champion  
1506 – 1588

#2



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# MAY IN TWITTER HISTORY



**J.K. Rowling** ✓  
@jk\_rowling

...

Replying to @jennycolgan

@jennycolgan We've got a manky priceless one too, but he's a pig, not a puffin. Really hope you find him.  
[#neilsolidarity](#)

5:01 AM · May 3, 2016 · Twitter for iPhone

9 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 96 Likes

ON MAY 2016,  
ROWLING TWEETED  
ABOUT A “MANKY  
PRICELESS” PIG, A FAMILY  
TOY THAT COULD BE THE  
INSPIRATION FOR  
“THE CHRISTMAS PIG”.





# THE EVOLUTION OF

## The DAILY PROPHET

★ THE WIZARD WORLD'S BEGUILING BROADSHEET OF CHOICE ★

spellbind conjure enchant divinate

BY FELIPE GABRIEL

### The Daily Prophet

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central - cloudy & rain 5c  
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§ 1/4

### St. Delungo's Hospital

**B**There was a 5 bedroomed pick-up car...  
...at tea-time yesterday. Eye-witnesses...  
...take his "ancient" age...  
...unfortunately this accident occurred a month too...  
...though, no serious injuries were incurred...  
...at tea-time...  
...after falling straight into the...

### The DAILY PROPHET

★ THE WIZARD WORLD'S BEGUILING BROADSHEET OF CHOICE ★

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# DUMBLEDORE DAFT OR DANGEROUS



The Daily Prophet newspaper has been used as a key element throughout the Harry Potter series both to provide a broader view of the goings-on in the Wizarding community and at times to deliver important clues and information to move the main plot of the story forward.

Besides the fact that the newspapers contain moving photographs, as it would be expected within the magical world, no specific description is given in the books as to the look and feel of the newspaper overall.

Therefore, when the movies were produced, bringing the Daily Prophet to life was a task relied on the artists involved in the production. Translating that newsprint visual language to the screen into the Wizarding World resulted in many widely artistic and non-standard layouts and type choices.

Those decisions immediately set out the magical paper apart from anything that we would have been used to or expected to see in the 'Muggle' world.

Throughout the series, much like the Daily Prophet in the books changes and evolves, also did the artists behind the making and the directors conducting the movie productions. Such transitions did reflect into the visual

development of the Wizarding World.

Among those modifications we get to see three main different styles of the Prophet, that could be related to three main different 'identities' the paper presents in the series, which could also be tied directly to how J.K. Rowling's experience with media changed and evolved as her fame grew along while writing the later Potter books.

From the first film in the franchise, *The Philosopher's Stone*, to *Prisoner of Azkaban*, the Daily Prophet has its most solid and trustworthy phase within the Potter series, as it is being used mainly to provide accurate information to the main characters. At this point, though, we have already been made aware that power and money can come to influence what is published within its pages or not.

For those movie adaptations, our first glimpses of the Prophet are through a heavily Gothic and overdetailed layout, in which headlines set out the shape of the articles in swirly curves and squiggly detailed typefaces adorned individually by hand.

The artists behind the magic had every single page custom designed and made from the creation of in-universe wizarding headlines and at times even writing short articles to accompany those, going as far as adding horoscopes and adverts,





COVER AND INNER PAGE OF THE DAILY PROPHET FROM  
HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

all styled in a whimsical Victorian way, even though those would never be shown up close on film

In *Goblet of Fire* we are introduced to a new layer of the Daily Prophet as the infamous Rita Skeeter takes over on every major appearance of the paper with the hottest gossip she can come up with, aided by her Animagus form and her Quick

all styled in a whimsical Victorian      Quotes Quill.

At this point, the design of the paper was also reintroduced with a brand new look. The Gothic feel of the earlier editions remained present as an influence, but the logo and all major typefaces were shifted completely.

Although in-universe headlines were still being created to populate

**DID YOU KNOW? THE POLYJUICE POTION SCENE IN CHAMBER OF SECRETS WAS SCRIPTED TO BE LARGER THAN THE FINAL MOVIE CUT. AN EXTENDED DIALOGUE WOULD SHOW MALFOY READING FROM THE DAILY PROPHET NEWS ABOUT ARTHUR WEASLEY HAVING BEEN FINED FOR BEWITCHING THE FORD ANGLIA AND MAKING UNKIND REMARKS ABOUT THE WEASLEY FAMILY TO RON AND HARRY DISGUISED AS CRABBE AND GOYLE. DESPITE THE SCENE BEING LEFT OUT A FULL DAILY PROPHET NEWSPAPER WAS MADE FOR SHOOTING.**

**DID YOU KNOW? LUCIUS MALFOY WOULD MAKE TWO APPEARANCES IN THE ANIMATED SEQUENCES OF THE DAILY PROPHET IN MOVIE 5. ONE AT THE BEGINNING SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY'S MOVE IN SETTING UMBRIDGE AS HOGWARTS HIGH INQUISITOR. ANOTHER ONE AT THE END, WHEN HE'S BEING IMPRISONED IN AZKABAN. BOTH SCENES FOR THE MOVING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE SHOT, BUT CUT FROM THE FINAL SEQUENCE. THE IMPRISONMENT PLOT WAS MOVED TO A DAILY PROPHET SEEN IN HALF BLOOD PRINCE.**

the paper, at this point, no small articles were being written to accompany them. The new layout brought a more traditional way of displaying columns, instead of letting the headlines lead the shapes as it was intended in the previous editions.

A squiggly typeface and preset text blocks took over their place

decorated with ancient symbols and shapes painted over the letters. Even the way in which photographs appeared were reimagined and abandoned the traditional rectangular preset to be presented in various formats that would at times highlight the subject of Skeeter's latest scoop.

This was a short lived style of the



COVER AND INNER PAGE OF THE DAILY PROPHET FROM HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE







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**BECOME A PATRON**



# WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

## THE ELDER WAND

*"The oldest asked for a wand more powerful than any in existence, so Death fashioned him one from an elder tree that stood near-by"*  
*The Tale of the Three Brothers –*  
*J.K. Rowling*

A legend, an object gifted with such power that in the Wizarding World itself is considered just a myth. To this moment, it's the only wand mentioned in the whole Harry Potter series that was not made by a wandmaker.

The creation of this wand is attributed to Death, and it was made with the wood from an elder tree that was near the bridge that the three Peverell brothers created with their magic, and which helped them to avoid Death

in the tale.

The Elder Wand is the most famous wand for any Harry Potter fan, not only for its name, but also for the unique shape that it has on the big screen, and of course, for being the most powerful wand of all times.

It's shown for the first time in the *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* movie as Albus Dumbledore's wand but it's not until *The Deathly Hallows* book (or movie part 1) that it is revealed that Dumbledore's wand is indeed The Elder Wand.

In theory, the way to master the Elder Wand is to defeat the



previous owner, in most of the cases by killing this person, but gladly there are some exceptions.

According to the *Tale of the Three Brothers*, its first owner was Antioch Peverell, the older of the three brothers, but in the book *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, there are some comments by Albus Dumbledore about possible owners after Antioch (or at least mages that claimed to have an invincible wand made of elder wood, or a wand with powers beyond any other). This is also something Xenophilius Lovegood mentions in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* book and he even provides names: Emeric the Evil, Egbert, Godelot, Hereward, Barnabas Deverill and Loxias.

All these were possible owners of the Elder Wand, and there are many others unknown in between and after them. Xenophilius also adds two names: Arcus and Livius, who defeated Loxias, but is not clear which one did it, or if the two of them were in possession of the wand at any point. According to Xenophilius, that's where the trail of the wand ends.

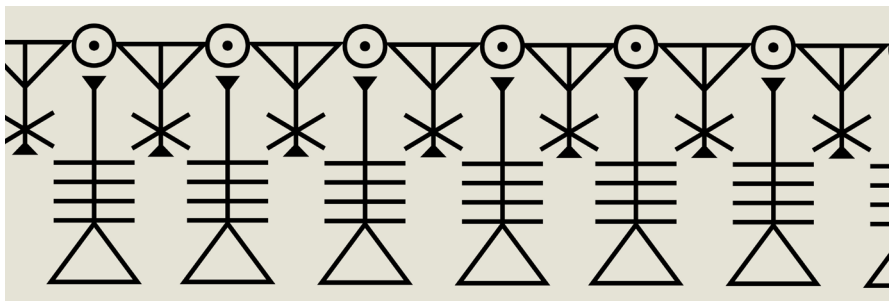
Later in the book, it's revealed that the wand was kept by Gregorovitch (the wandmaker), and stolen by Gellert Grindelwald at some point. There's evidence of this seen in flashbacks in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1*, and then confirmed *Fantastic Beasts*:

*The Crimes of Grindelwald*, where we see that the wand is still in Grindelwald's power in 1927.

As it's well known, Albus Dumbledore defeated Gellert Grindelwald in 1945, so it's presumable that the wand had been in hands of Dumbledore since then (or maybe not... three more movies can change everything) until he was disarmed by Draco Malfoy in the Astronomy Tower at the end of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

After discovering that the wand was buried with its owner (Dumbledore), Voldemort decided to profane the tomb, and steal the wand to use all of its power to defeat Harry Potter once and for all. The only thing that he skipped was the detail of the wand being indeed loyal to Draco Malfoy instead of himself. It is actually funny because Malfoy never realized that he was the former owner of the Elder Wand, and Voldemort never knew that the wand was never loyal to Snape. During the battle at the Malfoy Manor, Harry takes Draco's wand by force, "defeating him" and becoming the owner of the Elder Wand.

Harry decided to return the wand to Dumbledore's grave, so if nobody defeats Harry in the coming years, the wand might lose its power when Harry naturally dies (or at least that is what he thinks).



RUNES FROM THE ELDER WAND

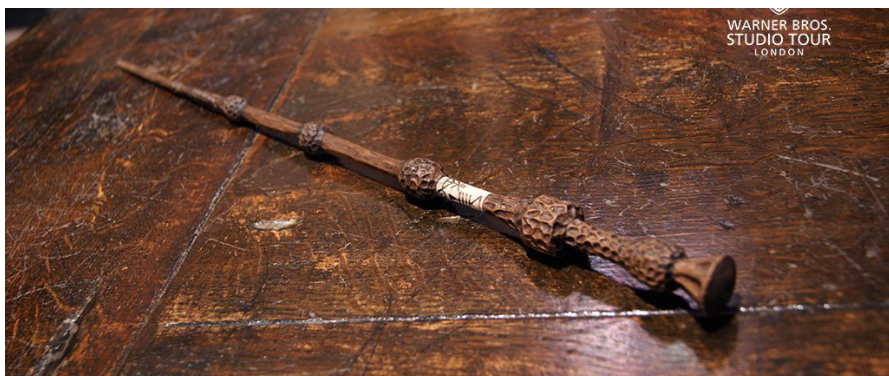
For the canon, the Elder Wand was made of elder wood. Thestrals are closely related to death, so Rowling decided the Thestral tail hair to be the core of this wand. The core is never mentioned in the Harry Potter books, but it is in J.K. Rowling's website, and then in some articles on the Wizarding World site.

For the movies, the original model was crafted on English oak wood, with bone incrustations for the middle section, with engraved runes (according to *Harry Potter the Wand Collection* book). It's a very long wand, with 6 knots along its body. The handle is not very clear in this wand but is presumed that

the bone-carved chunk divides the handle from the shaft. Its design resembles a long bony finger of the death (with more phalanxes). The length indicated on *Harry Potter the Wand Collection* book is 40.6 cm, while the wand replica by The Noble Collection is 39.6 cm (1 cm less).

There are three different symbols engraved in the centerpiece, each one repeated twice. No references to actual runes were found that could be related to the ones seen on the elder wand.

The last time that this wand was used in a duel was during the Battle of Hogwarts in 1998.





‘It’s lucky it’s dark. I haven’t blushed so much since Madam Pomfrey told me she liked my new earmuffs.’

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*  
*J.K. Rowling*



## J.K. ROWLING'S NEW BOOK

# The Christmas Pig

Before J.K. Rowling announced The Ickabog officially, she hinted it for a few days using her Twitter header image ([in fact, we guessed those hints correctly, and she even acknowledged it later](#)). In the case for The Christmas Pig, her new book, it was a bit different.

On the morning of April 13th, J.K. Rowling changed her Twitter header image (after months of silence on the social platform). The new image showed what it looked like at the moment, the face of a teddy bear. She even retweeted (the action of sharing another tweet) a joke about that new image was: a user hinted that it would be a clue for her upcoming Strike book, saying Strike and Robin would investigate the “brutal savaging of a teddy” - that RT was quickly undone, and was not seen by many people. But it did not take many days for the official announcement to be public, the same as it happened with The Ickabog.

Just a few hours later, her website was updated with the official press release stating that there is going to be a new book by Rowling on

October 12th, titled The Christmas Pig. It is presented as “J.K. Rowling’s first children’s novel since Harry Potter,” (The Ickabog is considered a fairy tale), and it will be around 50.000 words, according to The Bookseller.

Its synopsis explains the plot of this new novel aimed at children 8+: “Jack loves his childhood toy, Dur Pig. DP has always been there for him, through good and bad. Until one Christmas Eve something terrible happens - DP is lost. But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life... even toys. And Jack’s newest toy - the Christmas Pig (DP’s annoying replacement) - has a daring plan: together they’ll embark on a magical journey to seek something lost, and to save the best friend Jack has ever known...” Some people are already comparing it with the Toy Story films, where a toy is lost and must be rescued by his new friends, also toys.

The new title will be published in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and India simultaneously



as a “gorgeously gifty hardback”, with full-colour jacket and featuring nine black and white spreads and decorative inside art from illustrator Jim Field.

As Nick Jeffery explained in [HogwartsProfessor.com](#), Rowling could have had this story in her head since 2012, and decided to put it on paper after she finished the *Fantastic Beasts 3* screenplay. It also reinforces the idea that this was the book she mentioned as “a novel for children” in several interviews and even on her website. Before this announcement, *The Ickabog* was believed to be that novel, although the timelines about its creation did not add up. One important piece that would support this theory [would be this tweet from 2016](#) in which Rowling shares the fact that her family (her children) have a toy pig that is very

much loved. Another fact that we, *The Rowling Library*, shared with our Patreons exclusively through our Daily Prophet Newsletter is that Dur Pig (the name of the main character of this new story) was trademarked a few days before the announcement. Interestingly enough, the same company who trademarked the name of the character also registered *The Christmas Pig* but back in 2012. This means it is more than possible that Rowling had this idea back then and she asked to register the title just in case. An interesting tidbit is that both the title of the novel and the character name were also registered by a toy company: will we see merchandise (and toys) produced for kids from this story? It would be the first time since the *Harry Potter* books that toys could stem from a novel by Rowling.



PIG TOY, AS APPEARED ON J.K ROWLING'S TWITTER HEADER IMAGE.

## A QUOTE BY JO

“”

“Poor Winky... she'll never be entirely cured of her Butterbeer addiction, I'm afraid.”

*World Book Day Chat, 2004*



# RIDDIKULUS!

Erik (@[knockturnerik](#) on Instagram) plays with original artwork from the Harry Potter books!

Follow @[knockturnthepages](#) on Instagram for more humour!



ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GRANDPRÉ FOR  
HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE  
(SCHOLASTIC, 1998)



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