

The Rowling Library  
Magazine



# The notebooks from the attic

ISSUE 56. AUGUST 2021.





The Rowling Library  
[www.therowlinglibrary.com](http://www.therowlinglibrary.com)

**Vol 56 - Year 5**  
**August 2021**

Twitter: @rowlinglibrary  
Instagram: @rowlinglibrary  
Facebook: /rowlinglibrary  
YouTube: /TheRowlingLibrary

**FOUNDER & EDITOR IN CHIEF**

**PATRICIO TARANTINO**

**EDITOR**

**BELÉN SALITURI**

**ILLUSTRATIONS**

**FAUSTO GIURESCU**

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**EVGENIYA**

**CAROLINE COHEN**

**OLIVER HORTON**

**ALAN DELL'OSO**

**ERIK KRUEGER**

# WELCOME

August has arrived, and with it, a new issue of The Rowling Library Magazine. We were surprised in the last days of July with a new interview by J.K. Rowling for BBC Radio 4 and as soon as we listened to it, we knew it had to be the main article for the issue. Why? Because it is probably one of the best interviews that Rowling did in the past years. We tried to show the best quotes in the article you will find here, but it doesn't do justice. Take an hour from your time and listen to the whole thing, you will not regret it.

We also have Alan Dell'Oso doing an analysis of Nicolas Flamel's wand, and Oliver Horton going through the books from the Harry Potter universe and why they are so important for the characters and the plot. Evgeniya joins us with a theory from the Cormoran Strike books (killers and zodiac signs? We are in!) and Caroline Cohen tries to understand, following strict canon rules, if the wizards and witches use muggle clothes beneath their robes.

Thank you for reading us again and we will see you in September!

Patricio

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>4. HARRY POTTER LOVES BOOKS</b>      | <b>8. SUPPORT US</b>          |
| <b>9. BOOK &amp; KILLER</b>             | <b>15. FAMOUS WIZARD CARD</b> |
| <b>16. THE NOTEBOOKS FROM THE ATTIC</b> |                               |
| <b>23. TWITTER HISTORY</b>              | <b>24. WAVE A WAND</b>        |
| <b>27. BOOK QUOTE</b>                   | <b>28. WIZARDING CLOTHING</b> |
| <b>32. A QUOTE BY JO</b>                | <b>33. RIDDIKULUS!</b>        |

BY OLIVER HORTON

# HARRY POTTER LOVES BOOKS

**Books in the Wizarding World are important objects that change the way some characters behave. Oliver goes through some of the most important titles in the Harry Potter universe.**

Books clamor for attention in *Harry Potter*. They have immense influence and value in the wizarding world. From the school reading list to the biography of Albus Dumbledore, books are vital to each story. Love of books is a unique facet of the series. More than 100 titles are referenced in the chronicles of Harry Potter.

Books can power the plot. **Tom Riddle's Diary** drives *Chamber of Secrets*, charms Harry and possesses Ginny Weasley. The villain IS the diary! In Book Six, Harry is similarly seduced by **Libatius Borage's Advanced Potion-Making**, property of the Half-Blood Prince. Harry connects big-time with the Prince, aka the teenage Severus Snape, whose notes somewhat fill the void left by recently-deceased godfather

Sirius Black.

*Deathly Hallows* includes two distracting tomes: **The Tales of Beedle The Bard** (Dumbledore's bequeath to Hermione Granger) and **The Life and Lies of Albus Dumbledore** by Rita Skeeter, which Hermione swipes from a dead old lady. Together, Dumbledore's biography plus the collection of children's stories shine a light on the Deathly Hallows. Unexpectedly, Harry's bibliophile bestie is as thievish as Mundungus Fletcher when it comes to printed matter: she also nicks dead-Dumbledore's library from the headmaster's office.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, GO TO THE LIBRARY**

Harry discovers merveilleuse



bibliothèque Flourish & Blotts during Book One's preview of forthcoming attractions, aka the introduction of Diagon Alley. Young Potter spends his August immersed in the acquired hardbacks, vicariously experiencing magic as he counts down to his Hogwarts debut. On his reading list that year:

- **The Standard Book of Spells, Grade 1 by Miranda Goshawk** – a source for classic hocus-pocus such as Alohomora, Diffindo, Lumos, Wingardium Leviosa, Incendio and Reparo.

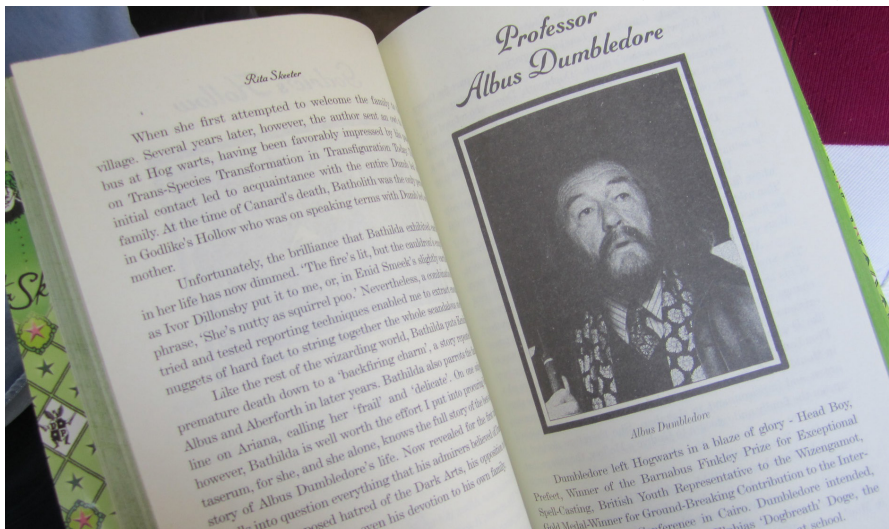
- **A History of Magic by Bathilda Bagshot** – the author is a notable character in *Deathly Hallows*.

- **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them by Newt Scamander** – published in Muggledom as a complementary work for charity;

inspiration for five planned movies.

**The Monster Book of Monsters, The Invisible Book of Invisibility, Gadding with Ghouls, Spellman's Syllabary:** the author exploits book titles for maximum humour (and not a little alliteration). **Hogwarts: A History** becomes a running joke, as Hermione whips it out on reflex to help the Trio solve mysteries about the castle. This folio does not feature on the school syllabus and truly is Hermione's idea of some light reading. In Book Two, **Hogwarts: A History** is yanked from Hogwarts' library, to prevent any incidental education on the Chamber of Secrets; when the Trio hit the road in *Deathly Hallows*, Hermione takes no chances and packs it in her little beaded bag.

Harry's other top mate, Ronald Bilius Weasley, warns Harry in



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLENE C LAM - CC BY-SA 2.0

*Chamber of Secrets* about the risks of random reading: “Some of the books the Ministry’s confiscated – Dad’s told me – there was one that burned your eyes out. And everyone who read *Sonnets of a Sorcerer* spoke in limericks for the rest of their lives. And some old witch in Bath had a book that you could never stop reading! You just had to wander around with your nose in it, trying to do everything one-handed.”

Gilderoy Lockhart’s relatively benign collected works dominate the reading list in Harry’s second year. Despite the celebrity sorcerer’s exposure as a feckin fraud, the besotted Molly Weasley is STILL referring to Gilderoy Lockhart’s **Guide to Household Pests** in *Order of the Phoenix* when the gang tidy 12 Grimmauld Place. The five-time winner of *Witch Weekly’s* Most Charming Smile Award, who we re-encounter

at St Mungo’s Hospital, would be delighted... if only he could remember his own name.

## A READER’S COMPANION

**Advanced Potion-Making** is not a very good book. Hermione’s reliance on the gospel of the printed word is challenged in Horace Slughorn’s Book Six Potions classes. Hermione was ace at Potions the previous five years. Unlike Slughorn, Professor Snape did not employ any textbook during his Harry-era tenure as Potions Master. Severus writes instructions on the board. Only as a Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher – “Turn to page Three Hundred and Ninety-Four” – does Snape use a book in the classroom. Wherein Hermione, the bookworm, deduces that Lupin, the shabby professor, is a werewolf.

Severus’s sitting room at Spinner’s



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLENE C LAM - CC BY-SA 2.0



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLENE C LAM - CC BY-SA 2.0

End, depicted in *Half-Blood Prince*, is lined with bookshelves. Does seasoned kleptomaniac Hermione Granger pay a visit after the Battle of Hogwarts? Her sticky fingers are surely the reason Harry sleeps with *Advanced Potion-Making* during his infatuation.

### CHARACTER STUDY

Books reveal character. **Prefects Who Gained Power**, which Percy Weasley reads in *Chamber of Secrets*, affords us a glimpse of his Slytherin-ish ambition. Tellingly, Harry regards this tome as “deeply boring”. Unlike Percy and the young Albus Dumbledore, Harry does not crave power. But Book One’s **Quidditch Through The Ages by Kennilworth Whisp** bears witness to his passion for competitive sport. And we see where Hagrid’s head is at via **Dragon Breeding for Pleasure and Profit**. Dudley’s spare bedroom at Four Privet Drive, which Harry occupies earlier in *Philosopher’s Stone*, contains numerous discarded books, yet another signal young Dursley is not P.L.U. [people like us].

In *Prisoner of Azkaban* Hermione

proves, if proof were needed, that she is a true friend when she gifts Harry not a beloved book but a Broomstick Servicing Kit. And in ‘Order of the Phoenix’ Sirius tries to be a respectable godfather when he and Remus Lupin give Harry **Practical Defensive Magic and its Use Against the Dark Arts**. In *Deathly Hallows*, **Twelve Fail-Safe Ways to Charm Witches** reaffirms Ron’s feelings for Miss Granger.

The slyest character reveal comes in *Goblet of Fire*. Barty Crouch Jr, a Death Eater widely assumed to be dead, disguises himself as Alastor ‘Mad-Eye’ Moody, ex-Auror and DADA Professor. FakeMoody presents Neville Longbottom with a copy of **Magical Mediterranean Water Plants and their Properties** to ultimately advance Harry through the lake-based trial of the Triwizard Tournament, and further Voldemort’s plan. Barty Crouch Jr fools a great many great people in Book Four. But Neville resists the manipulation. He does not pass along the information about Gillyweed. He does not play along with his parents’ torturer. Neville Longbottom is pure of heart.



# SUPPORT US

If you liked this issue of The Rowling Library Magazine, please consider supporting us with a small monthly donation.

For only \$2 per month, you can become a Patron - even though for some people \$2 may be not much, it means a lot to us.

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.

Our current supports - to which we are really grateful - are:

Malcolm James, Jorunn Sveløkken, Beatrice Groves, Marty Ryan, Ogledd Cymru, Anthony Franz, Sean McLennan, John Granger, Annie A., Marlica, Paola Campana Aguilar, Cindi Shannon, Vicky, Judy Coleman, Lyn Arey, James Greenhill, Alvaro Palomo Hernandez, JeffJ, Sherri Rawstern, Christian Shahmardian, Rena Klein, Josephine Glazov, Renjie Fu, Mary Beth Murphy, John Livingston, Stephanie Varnell, Susan Sipal, Rachel Hammer, Kenneth Montfort, Vicky McKinley and Suzanne Lucero.

**BECOME A PATRON**



BY MS EVGENIYA

# BOOK & KILLER CAN THEY SHARE THE ZODIAC SIGN?

**EVGENIYA TRIES TO FIND A PATTERN AMONG THE KILLERS IN EACH CORMORAN STRIKE BOOK AND THEIR ZODIAC SIGN...**

The five books that J.K. Rowling wrote under the pen name Robert Galbraith have (at least) one thing in common: there is a killer. And this article tries to find a relationship between the Zodiac Sign of the killer and the period of time when the book starts from the point of view of the Zodiac constellations. Is that possible? This theory tries to do it, based on a previous theory created by Reddit user *katyaslonenko* about the Zodiac signs that appear on the fourth and fifth book of the series. Before I continue, I understand some people don't take astrology seriously, but we may be aware that for J.K. Rowling that is not the

case: even so, [the first writing of J.K. Rowling on the Rowling Index is a personal horoscope she made as a gift for a friends' child.](#)

I analyzed the first three books, and I concluded that each Cormoran Strike book begins with the Zodiac Sign that further characterizes the killer in this book, and is also the zodiac sign of the killer. That is, the constellation at the beginning of each book is often the leitmotif, the main theme of the whole book and the characteristic of the killer's personality. The only book that deviates slightly from this rule is *Troubled Blood*, but the exception is that in that book, the

Zodiac Sign was already known to the reader. Let's go one by one:

### **The Cuckoo's Calling:**

Lula killed on January 8 (Capricorn - Bristow)

### **The Silkworm:**

Quine killed on November 5, and Leonora came to Strike's office on November 15 (Scorpio - Tassel)

### **Career of Evil:**

Kelsey killed on April 2 and Robin got a leg on April 4 (Aries - Laing)

### **Lethal White:**

Billy comes to the Strike office on June 14 (Gemini - Raphael).

### **Troubled Blood:**

The identity of the killer is Cancer.

Let's go into deeper detail for the first books:

### **The Cuckoo's Calling:**

The action of the book begins in the period of Capricorn on January 8 (committing the murder of Lula). Also, if you look at Bristow, he fits the characteristics of Capricorn.

The ruling planet is Saturn. Lucky numbers 3, 5, 8. Lula was killed on the eighth, Charlie Bristow on the third.

Tarot Card: The Devil. Professions - finance and calculations (Bristow's nickname by Lula is "Accountant").

The negative influence of Saturn makes Capricorn gloomy, cold



and even pessimistic ("a surly older brother picking at the fruit cake"). Capricorn can give the impression of not striving for power person. In fact, he is able to bypass many applicants and achieve unprecedented heights. Hides the true feelings and emotions. Capricorn boys perceive siblings as an annoying nuisance. Capricorn is the most ambitious sign of the zodiac. It is important for Capricorn to receive praise and material remuneration. The truth is that Capricorn keeps to himself and is concerned only with achieving his goals. Jealous. Capricorns have an unbalanced mental state, they are prone to aggressive inappropriate behavior.

Bristow comes to Strike's office during the Aries period (March 29). Also, the murder of Charlie in 1983 falls on the period of Aries.

The ruling planet has a great influence on a person, and if the ruling planet of Capricorn - Saturn - was in Aries at the time of birth, Bristow may have received the following characteristics. Such people are characterized by quick temper, cruelty and vindictiveness. They may not always adequately show aggressiveness, impulsivity, they may have internal conflicts and complexes that may interfere with the achievement of their goal. The consequences of such behavior can be very unpleasant and even tragic. Such a person is afraid of loneliness, of becoming

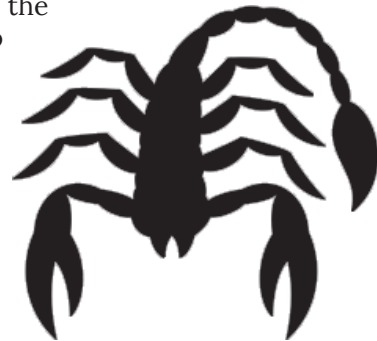
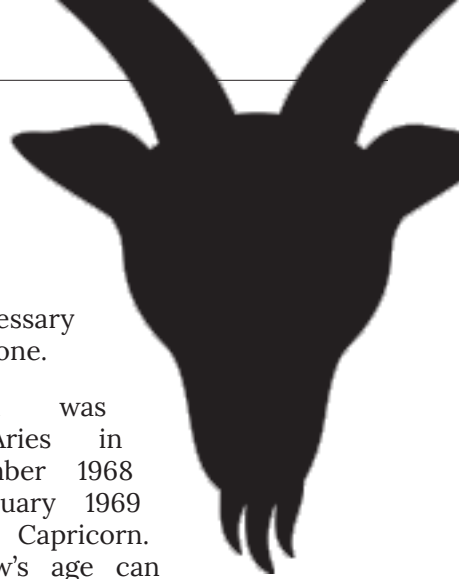
unnecessary to anyone.

Saturn was in Aries in December 1968 - January 1969 for Capricorn. Bristow's age can be calculated as follows - Charlie was older than Lula. When Lula was adopted - she was four, John was fifteen. John was older than Charlie. When Charlie died, he was nine. If Lula was adopted a year later, then John is five years older than Charlie. That is, John was born in 1968-1969.

### **The Silkworm:**

The book begins on November 5 in the constellation Scorpio. Scorpio - Elizabeth Tassel.

The patron planet Pluto, conflicts, explosive situations. Scorpio involves large masses of people in confrontation and builds conflicts at the intergroup level.



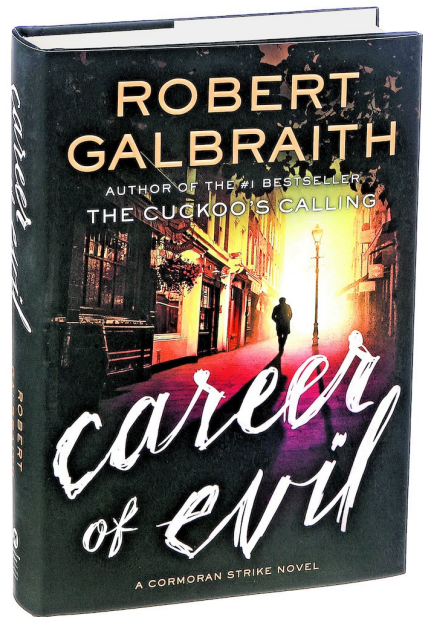
Shrewdness, lust for power, suspicion, fanaticism. Scorpio is not afraid of occult rituals and magic (the ritual circle around the murdered Quine). Sometimes Scorpio chooses a lonely life for himself. Occasionally meeting with people, he puts on a mask of calm and restraint to hide his desire to surpass others. Character traits – ruthlessness and a tendency to revenge.

Scorpions should avoid fire, explosives, toxic fumes and radiation. But many of them are looking for such activities that are directly related to these kinds of dangers. Interaction and combinations of objects – explosions, deadly poison and aggressive liquid, alkalis and acids.

### **Career of Evil:**

The time of the beginning of the book on April 4, when the leg was sent, is the Aries period. Aries is Donald Laing.

The ruling planet Mars is aggressiveness, sexual fervor and violence (Laing's bestial rage in the boxing ring). From aggressive statements to the manifestation of physical strength, Aries is separated by only one argument that he will not be able to challenge. Aries expects women to take care of him. Attracts a woman either with his charm and gentlemanly behavior, or with cunning and deception.



Metal-iron, steel (knives). The number 9 (Laing attacked Robin on June 9). Professions – military, athlete, security officer, policeman, bandit, as well as activities where they work with sharp tools: a butcher, a logger (we know another one – a killer). Sports, war, competitions, wrestling, injuries, surgical operations.

The color of Aries is red. We constantly see scarlet and red colors – red roses, a red Honda. An indication of the killer – ‘fireman’ Ray in a scarlet toweling robe. The bright scarlet uniform of the Manchester United football player on TV when Strike was talking to the mother of Laing's wife. A lot of red and black combinations – red and black rugby shirts; red and



black Honda; unwrapped red and black basque in the company of a girl; Robin's meeting with Laing "he was wearing a wind-stopper hat with earflaps, a red and black check jacket..."

### **Lethal White:**

Billy Knight comes to Strike's office during the Gemini period on June 14. Also Robin's wedding takes place during the period of Gemini by the 13 sign astrology, based on Schmidt's theory (July 2). Gemini is Raphael.

Planet - Mercury. Gemini is characterized by an attractive appearance, very charming, sociable, cunning, sometimes behaving like a spoiled child. Gemini lives an active and rich life, easily adapts to any situation. They try to avoid any responsibility, superficially perceive most of what is happening. Emotional coldness, reason prevails over feelings. Constant self-doubt, which makes them neurotic.

They are fond of art, horse riding, foreign languages. Monotonous and boring professions are not suitable. Sometimes they look for weaknesses in people and play on feelings, using a sharp tongue and a quick mind. Also, the main

negative features are hypocrisy, lies, laziness, and gossip. They put on different masks, do not tolerate criticism, are not punctual, sometimes cruel.

The symbols are a mask, a snake and key. We see the connection of Raphael with keys and also with masks - if we perceive the mask as a Venetian symbol. The attack on Robin takes place in Little Venice. Her cover name is Venetia Hall. Besides, Raphael is half Italian. And as Katya noticed, "he's half-Venetian (his mother's last name (Seraphin) is a specifically Venetian last name. Raphael is very heavily influenced by Venus".



As for the snake. Lachesis muta, also known as the South

American bushmaster or Atlantic bushmaster, is a venomous viper species found in South America, as well as on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean. Lachesis tablets contain the venom of the snake surukuku.

Lachesis is also an ancient Greek goddess (Moirai) of the accidents of Fate, holding a spindle in her hands. The venomous snake is named after this goddess. In Roman mythology, the goddess Decima (Latin Decima) corresponded, who used her staff to measure a

person's life expectancy.

This is a connection with an accomplice of the killer - Kinvara. Also we know that the pills accidentally fell out in the gallery toilet. They gave Chiswell the opportunity to guess about Raphael's connection with his wife.

### **Troubled Blood:**

We know that the killer is Cancer. And Janice is really a typical Cancer, all this was described by katyaslonenko in her theory. I will also add that we see the symbols of Cancer - lilies that Strike gives to Robin, silver things (medallion, silver crosses), a lot of water (ocean, pool, liquids), a heart (Max Priestwood) and so on. Also, the beginning of the book takes place during Cancer period by the 13 sign astrology (about August 7).

To prove the theory that the author writes books based on astrological aspects, we can cite the natal horoscope of Strike. We know the place and date of birth, as well as some parameters ("Sagittarius, Scorpio rising, with the sun in the first house.", from Chapter 21 of *Troubled Blood*). From here, the selection method established that he was born about 5-7 am (to be more precise, from 5:17 am to 7:47 am, if we take as a basis his birth in St. Mawes). If you read the transcript of his natal chart, we see several references to the detective profession, one of them "Mercury

is in the sign of Scorpio. People born with Mercury in Scorpio have excellent mental concentration and the ability to fully immerse themselves in their work. You like to solve riddles and you are a born detective." Or "Such people tend to be taciturn, always wanting to know someone else's motives, but never divulging their own. They need to know everything: how, when and why." In addition, the description is very consistent with the character of Strike, it is difficult to disagree with this after reading the description.

\*\*\*

We know J.K. Rowling likes to leave clues out there for us readers to analyze and try to guess what will happen in future books. Could this theory allow us to identify the killer of the future Strike novels? Are we onto a pattern that would give the chance to do it? We will have to wait to know, but if this theory ends up being what goes through the author's mind, it could also be a hint about the amount of books we can expect in this series. Is it possible that Rowling/Galbraith is planning 12 books, one for each Zodiac Sign?

[You can follow Evgeniya on her Reddit page /u/msevgeniya](#)



Sacharissa Tugwood

**Sacharissa Tugwood**

Famous Potioneer, and the first witch  
to use beauty potions.

1874 - 1966

#5

R

The Rowling Library  
Famous Wizards Cards Collection



# THE NOTEBOOKS FROM THE ATTIC

**J.K. ROWLING TALKS ABOUT HER VERY FIRST SCRIBBLED  
NOTEBOOKS IN A NEW INTERVIEW ON BBC RADIO 4.**

On the morning of July 24th, fans of J.K. Rowling woke up to good news: the return of the author to a radio show as a guest of “The Poet Laureate Has Gone to His Shed”, Simon Armitage’s show on BBC Radio 4. The last time J.K. Rowling went live on radio was with Graham Norton on November 14th, 2020, on BBC

Radio 2. With Norton, Rowling talked mostly about her latest books, *Troubled Blood* and *The Ickabog*, while the premise for this new interview was to discuss her own experience as a writer, and even show, for the first time, her very first notebooks (and their secrets!) to Simon Armitage.

On the next pages are some of the most interesting parts of the interview. Remember you can listen to the whole interview on [our YouTube channel](#).





1. "The worst I ever did in the Galbraith books was I put the Queen's Golden Jubilee in the wrong year. I'm appalling with knowing years but things happen. This is why I will never be able to write any memoirs because I can't remember when things happened."

This could refer to *Letal White*, where the Queen's Jubilee is mentioned. Although the book says the Jubilee had already happened and now London was preparing to host the Olympics, we can guess originally it said they were preparing for the Jubilee.

2. "I met the owner [of an Edinburgh

café where I used to write] years later and he said, um: 'You never come in anymore'. You know what, in a dream world yes, I'd still go in there but it's just not humanly possible anymore to go in there and write so I had to stop writing in cafes. I really loved it but I just couldn't anymore."

Rowling did continue writing in some cafés after she became a well known celebrity. She wrote some parts of *The Casual Vacancy* in some Edinburgh cafés in the Old Town, not too far from The Elephant House, the place where she wrote the first Potter book.



PROMOTIONAL IMAGE FOR THE POET LAUREATE HAS GONE TO HIS SHED, WITH SIMON ARMITAGE AND J.K. ROWLING

**3. "Exactly, and I was thinking I once wrote a paragraph of Harry Potter sitting on a public loo, that happened, you know, it was the moment, I had no time, it's gonna happen, have to happen now."**

If you want to know which exact toilet to visit, that is not possible. She quickly added in the interview: "I'm not telling anyone where that loo was, I'm too embarrassed."

**4. "The other thing [that I don't like] is that when I'm with my kids, particularly, because everyone nowadays has got a camera. That's kind of why we've got that [secret] word because often that means someone's raised a camera and is filming and I don't like my family being, then put on social media. So that stuff makes me a little bit edgy."**

Funny that she mentions this because I never saw any of those videos online. We all can agree Rowling did a very good job keeping the privacy of her family.

**5. "I actually wanted to be published under a completely different name because I'd come out of this very difficult marriage and I was a little bit paranoid."**

This is the first time that Rowling tells that the "J.K." in her name is not only because the publisher wanted a unisex name, but also because she didn't want to get the attention of her ex-husband. Of course he would later find out

anyway, but she didn't imagine the book was going to be released in Portugal, but she was feeling "a little bit paranoid at the time." When asked what other surname she would have used, she said: "Funnily enough, the surname I wanted to use was Oliver, and I don't really know why it was Oliver. But it was, and I met the comedian John Oliver and I thought, you know, it would have been like I was his sister."

**6. "I handwrite a lot of dialogue, I write ideas down, I work bits of plans by hand. It's such a prosaic reason for writing one hand but for me it's important you get to keep everything. The thing is with the computer, when it's deleted, you can't go back. You think 'oh damn it, I know I'd planned a chapter there and I know that was, I think that would have worked better' and it's gone. It's gone but I've learned to just keep saving, so I've got 52 versions of a plan. Just make sure you save it and, and go again but the great thing, I love looking back over my old notebooks. It's a true record of where everything came from."**

This is an interesting take on Rowling. We knew from some interviews and photos shared by the author on her website that she still does some writing on notebooks (especially plot planning), but not that she preferred handwriting the dialogues. The conversation with

Simon Armitage continues and he asks if she will ever donate all her archive to an institution, like an University. "I don't know what I'm gonna do with any of it. Part of me thinks I'll just have a big bonfire". Please don't, Jo.

7. "You told me to bring a meaningful object. Well, there are two objects in my hand, I should say for people who can't actually see why I'm showing, Simon. These are two minuscule, very old notebooks and these were my first Potter notebooks. And to date, only three people including me have ever seen them. [...] One's got a reproduction of I think that's a Dutch still life and one's just got a William Morris-type cover."

This is where things got interesting. Rowling is opening two of her oldest notebooks and telling us what is written inside...

8. "So, old phone numbers in, in Portugal, doodles, reminders of things I've got to do, and then suddenly you've got a bit of dialogue that actually did end up in *Philosopher's Stone*, the difference between a stalactite and a stalagmite, ..."

Ok, go on...

9. "And that's an old name for *Dumbledore* that I changed. [...] I'm not going to tell you because it's so rubbish and this, I actually remember doing this. So, I had a



DRAWING BY J.K. ROWLING FROM THE SCENE WHERE HAGRID AND HARRY TALKS ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A STALACTITE AND A STALAGMITE.



PROFESSOR BINNS (POTTERMORE)

*couple of books that were full of fabulous, just random words from different cultures, magical spells and a lot of that ended up in Potter, like alohomora means favorable to thieves. And this is a funny password for Slitherites. They were called Slitherites before they became Slytherins. I love looking back at some of this because there are names here that I didn't use till I hit Fantastic Beasts, like pique which is French for um, spade as in cards. I wanted to have a cartomancy teacher. I changed all this when I got to actually write the book, but at one point, and I was going to have this French guy who was a ghost, but the ghost became*

*professor Binns and I called him Piques and then when I created the American Ministry for Fantastic Beasts, I used Picquery from this word so it is our, it's exactly what you've just said, it's archaeology."*

A lot of Potter secrets are revealed here. Slytherins being called Slitherites is not completely new (it can be seen in one of the early drafts of *Philosopher's Stone* shared in the British Museum Exhibition), but all the others are. Besides the fact that Dumbledore had a different (rubbish) name, we now know about the idea of a Cartomancy teacher in Hogwarts, and Binns being French and named



Piques (and the connection, of course, with *Fantastic Beasts*).

10. "My ex-husband and I used to play gin rummy a lot and at this time he and I were the only two human beings on Earth. He knew the names Dumbledore and Voldemort and I'd called myself Dumbledore inevitably and him Voldemort. And that's his handwriting keeping score beneath and that's his handwriting calling me Hermione and himself Harry".

A happy memory from the not-so-happy years of Rowling in Portugal with her ex-husband.

11. "I just don't know how many different places have claimed to be the real Diagon Alley and the real thing, it all grew out in my head in a grotty, flattened platter, you know, I haven't seen any of these places."

Don't believe all the tourists' traps saying they were the inspiration for Diagon Alley.

12. Armitage: "Middle Earth or Narnia?"

Rowling: "Narnia"

When asked to choose between J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, she picked the latter.

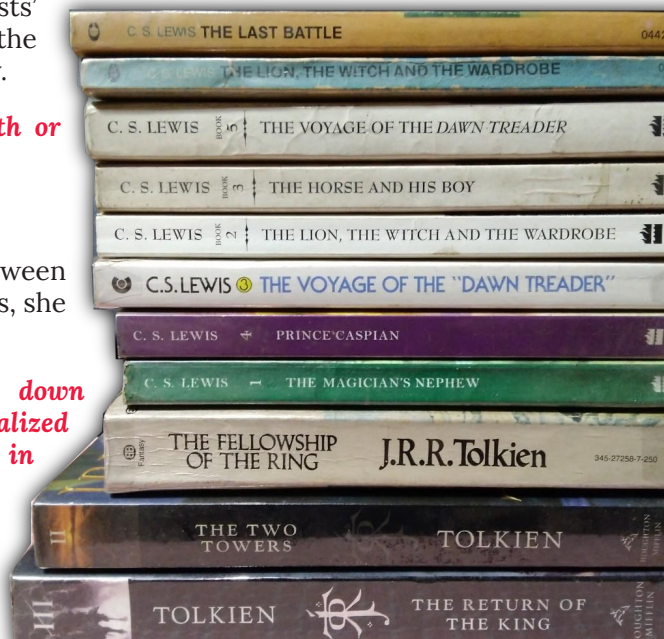
13. "I got [the notebooks] down from the attic and I realized there's an appalling poem in one of them."

Rowling got only two notebooks from the attic, but we would love to see the rest of them. The poem she found is going to be mentioned through the whole interview.

14. "My idea of a fun beach reading is a whodunnit, for sure, and in my teens I read tons of golden age detective. All the big women, you know, Christie's and Allingham and Marsh I read and love Sherlock Holmes, who doesn't? It was something I always wanted to do. I really enjoyed the construction of plots."

The Harry Potter series can be considered a mystery set of novels. Even Rowling said a few years ago that the Potter books are "six whodunnits and one whydunnit".

15. "I actually wrote *The Cuckoo's Calling*, which was the first Galbraith, before I wrote *The*



### **Casual Vacancy."**

Interesting bit for those like us who enjoy setting up the timeline of Rowling's creative process.

**16. "I realized, subsequently, that [the Dementor's] appearance owed everything to a dream I'd had when I was a child. That suddenly came back to me. [...] I had a dream when I was a child that I was hiding from a creature that looked just like a dementor, the empty black cloak and the withered hand and it was sort of drifting towards me. It didn't seem to have feet and I was terrified, I woke up."**

Another confession from things that inspired the lore in the Harry Potter books. The appearance of the dementors were from a dream Rowling had as a child. However, she didn't notice it while she was writing them, but a few years later.

**17. "I've also had that experience where critics have said things and I thought 'Yep, that's absolutely true', and I've also had the experience of critics saying: 'This clearly means' and you think they could not be more wrong."**

We hope to be on the first set of critics most of the time!

**18. "I've had this idea [of The Christmas Pig] kicking around for about 20-, since 2012. I do know that because 2012 was the Olympics."**

Another interesting bit for the timeline.

**19. "Honestly you can ask me anything you like and I'll answer it but I'm not reading that poem. That's how bad it is."**

The closure is Simon Armitage still insisting to know about a poem that Rowling found in her old notebook during the second half of the programme, but she assures it is so bad that it doesn't deserve to be known to the public.

\*\*\*

This interview is probably one of the most interesting done to J.K. Rowling in the past years, [and we encourage everyone to listen to it on our YouTube channel](#). We have uploaded two versions: the broadcast version, 40 minutes long, and an extended version, more than one hour long, that the BBC uploaded to their website after the broadcast.

Thanks to Potternetti to help with the transcription of this interview.

# AUGUST IN TWITTER HISTORY



**J.K. Rowling** ✓  
@jk\_rowling

...

Dumbledore as death. It's a beautiful theory and it fits.



**Abbie Owen-Jones** @AbbieOJ\_ · Aug 21, 2015

@jk\_rowling what's your favourite fan theory?? 🙌❤️

7:02 AM · Aug 21, 2015 · Twitter Web Client

6,066 Retweets   33 Quote Tweets   14.7K Likes

ON AUGUST 2015,  
J.K. ROWLING SHARED HER  
FAVOURITE FAN THEORY  
FROM THE HARRY POTTER  
FANDOM WITH THE REST  
OF THE WORLD.



# WAVE A WAND

BY ALAN DELL'OSO

## NICOLAS FLAMEL

*““No, no, I am alive, but I am an alchemist, and therefore immortal”  
– Nicolas Flamel (Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald)*

Nicolas Flamel is a very interesting character in the Wizarding World, an immortal French alchemist, who was introduced to us for the very first time in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* as the creator of this elixir of life, and a good friend of Albus Dumbledore. Flamel is not only a character developed by J.K. Rowling for the *Harry Potter* and *Fantastic Beasts* series, he was a person who actually existed in the XIV century.

But leaving the real Flamel aside and delving into the fictional one, the story of his wand is quite peculiar because the handle itself

is an ancient dragon claw, attached to a small (but very

ornamented) gold piece. The claw is bent at the end, so it becomes a perfect rest for the pinky when the wand is grabbed. The gold piece has a very ergonomic shape for the thumb, and the ornaments on it help for a solid grip.

These kinds of handles with no wood at all are kind of a trend for some of the main characters' wands in the *Fantastic Beasts* franchise, for example, Newt's wand has a full squid fossil as a handle; Queenie's wand has a





shell sculpted on mother of pearl; even Seraphina Picquery's wand has a huge amethyst attached to a hollowed silver grid.

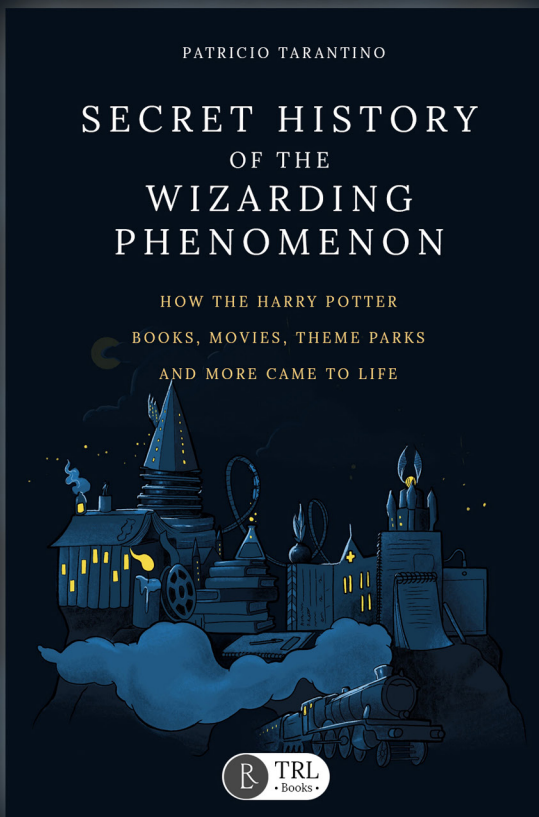
The gold piece in Flamel's wand that separates the handle from the shaft, has ornaments that resemble some Renaissance ornamentation with flourishes and flowers, with a fleur de Lis framed as a centerpiece in one of its fronts. Also, this piece is made out of gold as a nod to the Philosopher's Stone which has the property to turn common metals into precious ones.

The shaft of the wand is painted to look like partridge wood, which is dark reddish-brown with a very intense grain, as indicated on the wand blueprint in Pierre Bohanna's website (Head of Prop Making Department). The length of the replica of Nicolas Flamel's wand by The Noble Collection is about 37cm.



NICOLAS FLAMEL'S WAND ORNAMENTS -  
REPLICA FROM THE NOBLE COLLECTION

# OUR FIRST BOOK...



# OUT SOON!





And unless Harry's ears were deceiving him, the old radio next to the sink had just announced that coming up was 'Witching Hour, with the popular singing sorceress, Celestina Warbeck.

*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*  
J.K. Rowling



# WIZARDING CLOTHING: BENEATH THE ROBES

By Caroline Cohen

There are a lot of important subjects explored in the Harry Potter series: love, death, betrayal, war, and much more. And that's why today, I wanted to explore one of the most important and compelling topics in the series: wizard clothing. We all know that wizards wear robes, and older wizards sometimes are hilariously oblivious to muggle fashion. The movies portray Hogwarts students

with school uniforms underneath their robes, but the movies aren't canon. So the question remains: Do Hogwarts students wear muggle clothing underneath their robes?

Many works of fan art depict the students with jeans and t-shirts underneath their robes, or just ignore robes completely. Fan art often ignores details hidden in



ILLUSTRATION BY MARY GRANDPRÉ



the books though (the fact that Hogwarts students are often wearing pointed wizard's hats, for example), so this doesn't mean much. Even Mary GrandPré, the illustrator for the American editions, depicts Harry and his friends in muggle clothing underneath their robes (robes often look like overly long cardigans in her drawings). However, Mary GrandPré's illustrations (like most illustrations in novels) were done without direct input from the author, and so they cannot be considered canon. Therefore, we have to look at textual evidence to determine what Rowling intended.

The first thing that we can conclude is that adult wizards don't typically wear anything underneath their robes. In *Goblet of Fire*, an older wizard shows up to the Quidditch World Cup wearing a nightgown. After being told to put on trousers, he responds

*'I'm not putting them on,' said old Archie in indignation. 'I like a healthy breeze 'round my privates, thanks'.*

From this we can conclude that Archie, along with other wizards of his age, don't typically wear trousers or jeans underneath their robes. However, styles can change with the generation; next we must look for evidence involving students.

Harry changes into robes for

the first time on the train to Hogwarts in *Philosopher's Stone*. Ron asks Hermione to leave their compartment so that the two of them can change. From the book:

*"He and Ron took off their jackets and pulled on their long black robes"*

The book specifically mentions them taking off their jackets, but does not mention changing of their other clothes. This seems to indicate that they do leave their clothes underneath their robes, or at least they do on the first day. On the other hand, why would Ron ask Hermione to leave if they were only changing their jackets?

One of the most important pieces of evidence comes from J.K. Rowling's own illustrations, which give us a peek into her mind. An early drawing of hers shows four of the Weasley children all lined up together. Though Ron and the twins are still wearing their muggle clothing, Percy is already wearing his long black wizard's robes, pointed wizard's hat, and prefect's badge. The robes are not open like a dressing gown, as is the case in Mary GrandPré's illustrations (and in most fan arts), but are closed, and look more like a judge's robes, because they almost cover his entire body.

Another bit of evidence that we have to consider is that Harry wears his robes in inconvenient situations. For example, Harry



THE WEASLEYS – ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION BY J.K. ROWLING

wears his robes underwater in the second task of the Triwizard Tournament. If he had been wearing jeans and a t-shirt underneath his robes, he probably would've taken his robes off for convenience. After all, who wants to swim for an hour with soggy robes floating behind you? But that's what Harry does, indicating that he had no other choice.

Next, we'll look at a couple pieces of evidence from *Order of the Phoenix*. The first comes from the chapter Snape's Worst Memory. Harry goes into the Pensieve and sees Snape being dangled upside down by James Potter:

*"a second flash of light later, Snape was hanging upside down in the*

*air, his robes falling over his head to reveal skinny, pallid legs and a pair of graying underpants".*

This evidence is clear: Snape was not wearing jeans underneath his robes. However, Snape went to school 20 years before Harry and co., and had a specific dislike for muggle's and everything about them (in *Half Blood Prince* he takes specific care to dock points from Gryffindor because Harry is wearing "muggle attire" when he gets off the Hogwarts Express). This does tell us that some Hogwarts students choose to only wear robes. But it still leaves open the possibility that Snape's more pro-muggle classmates could've worn jeans underneath their robes,

or that Hogwarts fashion changed between the 1970s and the 1990s.

That brings us to our next piece of evidence from *Order of the Phoenix*. Earlier in the same chapter, Malfoy is enjoying his new power as a member of the Inquisitorial Squad, and says,

*"Anyway, members of the Inquisitorial Squad do have the power to dock points so, Granger, I'll have five from you for being rude about our new Headmistress. Macmillan, five for contradicting me. Five because I don't like you, Potter. Weasley, your shirt's untucked, so I'll have another five for that. Oh yeah, I forgot, you're a Mudblood, Granger, so ten off for that".*

In this case, Ron is undoubtedly wearing a shirt, and pants too as his shirt needs something to be tucked in to.

There is also evidence that Hogwarts students sometimes wear muggle clothing on non-school days. The Weasley kids and Harry typically put on their Weasley Christmas Jumpers right when they receive them for example. Additionally, in *Half Blood Prince*, the text mentions Harry wearing Jeans the Saturday of Ron's poisoning as he talks to McGlagger:

*"Oh... right... Quidditch," he said, putting his wand back into the belt of his jeans".*

There it is: undeniable evidence that Harry is wearing jeans on a Saturday at Hogwarts. However, earlier that day, Ron was wearing robes:

*"Ron yelled as his heel was wrenched upwards once more, he dangled helplessly, upside down, his robes hanging off of him".*

This leaves us with a couple options. The first option is that students always wear muggle clothing underneath their robes, and Ron and Harry are both wearing jeans and robes. The second is that Harry is just wearing muggle attire for the weekend, but wears only robes during the week.

The conclusion? I think that we can say with certainty that at least some students wear only robes with no muggle clothing underneath: Snape's Worst Memory tells us that. We can also say that students sometimes wear muggle clothing when they are not in class. As for whether they normally wear jeans and shirts underneath their robes, it might depend on the situation. Students might wear their muggle clothing underneath when they are getting off of the train, for changing convenience, or maybe when it's a bit colder. But on normal school days, it is likely that students only wear Hogwarts robes.

[You can follow Caroline on Reddit here.](#)

## A QUOTE BY JO

“”

“I've never at any point sat down and thought, what will be this book's moral?

Having said that, a moral normally emerges fairly rapidly as I write, so it's not a conscious thing, it tends to evolve as I do the books.”

*BBC Radio 4, 1999*

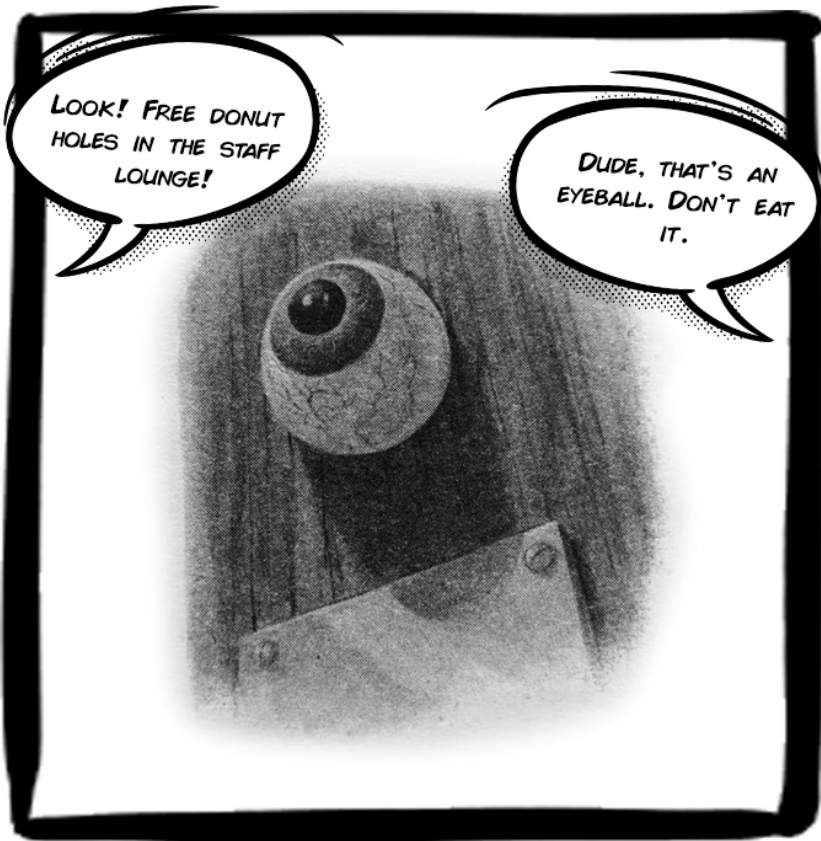




# RIDDIKULUS!

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 DEATHLY HALLOWS  
(SCHOLASTIC, 2007)



ISSUE #56  
AUGUST  
2021

