

CHAPTER II

AUTHOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

2.1. Biography of J.K. Rowling and His Works

Biography of J.K Rowling and his works was taken from http://www.biographyonline.net/writers/j_k_rowling.html. J.K Rowling was born in Chipping Sodury, July 31st 1965. Her childhood was generally happy, although she does remember getting teased because of her name, “Rowling” – She recalls often getting called “Rowling pin” by her less than ingenious school friends. J.K. Rowling says she never really warmed to her own name, although, she does remember having a fondness for the name Potter from quite an early age. J.K.Rowling studied at a school in Gloucestershire, before moving to Chepstow, South Wales at the age of 9.

From an early age, J.K. Rowling had an ambition to be a writer. She often tried her hand at writing, although little came from her early efforts. In her own autobiography she remembers with great fondness, when her good friend Sean became the first person to give her the confidence that one day she would be able to make a very good writer.

After finishing school, her parents encouraged her to study French at the University of Essex. She slightly regretted choosing French, saying she would have

preferred to study English. However, it was her parents wish that she study something “more useful” than English.

After having spent a year in Paris, J.K.Rowling graduated from university and took various jobs in London. One of her favorite’s jobs was working for Amnesty International; the charity, which campaigns against human rights abuses throughout the world. Amnesty International, is one of the many charities, which J.K.Rowling has generously supported since she attained a new, found wealth.

It was in 1990, that J.K.Rowling first conceived of the idea about Harry Potter. As she recalls, it was on a long train journey from London to Manchester when she began forming in her mind, the characters of the series. At the forefront, was a young boy, not aware that he was a wizard. The train was delayed for over 4 hours, as she didn’t have a pen, and was too shy to ask for one nothing was written down. But she remembers being very enthusiastic, and excited about the ideas which were filling her mind.

On arriving in Manchester, she began work on writing the book immediately, although, it would takes several years to come to fruition. It was also in December of 1990 that J.K.Rowling lost her mother, who died of Multiple Sclerosis. J.K.Rowling was very close to her mother, and she felt the loss deeply. Her own loss gave an added poignancy to the death of Harry Potter’s mother in her book. She says her favorite scene in the Philosopher’s Stone is, The Mirror of Erased, where Harry sees his parents in the mirror.

In 1991, J.K.Rowling left England to get a job as an English teacher in Portugal. It was here that she met her first husband, and together they had a child Jessica. However, after a couple of years, the couple split after a fierce argument; where by all accounts J.K.Rowling was thrown out of the house. So she returned to England in 1994; still trying to finish her first book. She was also working full time, and bringing up her daughter as a single parent. Eventually, she finished her first copy, and sent it off to various agents. She found an agent, Christopher, who spent over a year trying to get a publisher. Eventually, a quite small publisher, Bloomsbury agreed to take the book on. The editor Barry Cunningham also agreed to pay her an advance of £1500. The decision to take on the book was, in large part, due to his 8 year old daughter's enthusiastic reception of the first chapter (However she was advised to continue teaching as writers of children's books don't tend to get very well paid.)

Within a few weeks of publication, (1996) the book sales really started to take off. The initial print run was of only 1,000 – 500 of these went to libraries. First editions are now said to be worth up to £25,000 each. She also received a grant from the Scottish arts council, which enabled her to write full time. After the books initial success in the UK, an American company Scholastic agreed to pay a remarkable £100,000 for the rights to publish in America. In 1998, Warner Bros secured the film rights for the books, giving a 7 figure sum. The films have magnified the success of the books, making Harry Potter into one of the most recognizable media products. Under the close guidance of J.K.Rowling, the films

have sought to stay close to the original plot; also at J.K.Rowling's request all the actors are British.

J.K.Rowling has stated recently, that on the 21st December 2006, she finished her final book of the Harry Potter Series – "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". The book is due for release in July 2007. J.K.Rowling has said the book is her favorite, and it makes her both happy and sad. She has said she will continue writing but there is no chance of continuing the Harry Potter Series. She however, may release a dictionary of things related to Hogwarts and Harry Potter, which were never published in other books.

J.K.Rowling currently lives in Scotland, on the banks of the river Tay, with her 2nd husband Neil Murray; J.K.Rowling has 3 children, 2 with husband Neil.

J. K ROWLING'S WORKS

Harry Potter series

1. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (26 June 1997)
2. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2 July 1998)
3. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (8 July 1999)
4. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (8 July 2000)
5. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (21 June 2003)
6. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (16 July 2005)
7. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (21 July 2007)

Other books

1. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (supplement to the Potter series) (2001)
2. Quidditch Through the Ages (supplement to the Potter series) (2001)
3. The Tales of Beedle the Bard (never published, but publicly displayed by Amazon.com) (2007)

2.2. Synopsis of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

The synopsis of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Deathly_Hallows.

The final summer

Lord Voldemort and his Death Eaters plan to ambush Harry Potter when he leaves the Dursley home with the Order of the Phoenix for the final time. The Dursleys, who have always disdained and mocked the magical world, finally agree to allow the Order to place them in hiding to protect them from Voldemort once Harry's magical protection expires on his 17th birthday. Voldemort also seeks a new wand to defeat Harry's. Members of the Order arrive to escort Harry to a safe house (before his 17th birthday), including recently married Remus and Nymphadora Lupin, making use of Polyjuice potion to produce six Potter decoys. Nonetheless, they are attacked en route by Death Eaters. Harry narrowly escapes, while Hedwig (Harry's owl), and Mad-Eye Moody are killed. George Weasley loses an ear. At the Burrow, Minister of Magic Rufus Scrimgeour arrives to give Harry, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger bequests from Albus Dumbledore's will. Ron

receives the Deluminator, and Hermione is left a children's book, The Tales of Beedle the Bard. Harry inherits Godric Gryffindor's Sword and the Snitch he caught in his first-ever Quidditch match. The sword, however, was kept by the Ministry, who claimed it to be 'an important historical artifact'. The trio, while puzzled, presumes the items will help them in their Horcrux hunt.

The search begins

At Bill Weasley and Fleur Delacour's wedding reception, Kingsley Shacklebolt's Patronus arrives, announcing that Scrimgeour is dead and the Ministry of Magic has fallen under Voldemort's control. As Death Eaters approach, Harry, Ron and Hermione Disapparate to a shabby English street, where they hide in a sparsely populated restaurant. However, the Death Eaters find them here and a confrontation ensues. Narrowly escaping, they eventually find and take refuge in 12 Grimmauld Place.

While at Grimmauld Place, Harry deduces from a door sign that Sirius Black's brother Regulus was the "R.A.B" who removed the Locket Horcrux from the sea cave. Hermione recalls seeing a locket whilst cleaning the house during the events of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. They discover that the house-elf Kreacher had stolen the locket from the items to be thrown out. Kreacher admits that he had placed the Locket Horcrux in the cave as ordered by Voldemort, and Regulus later died retrieving it. The Horcrux has since fallen into Dolores Umbridge's possession. The trio successfully infiltrates the Ministry of Magic and recovers the locket, while saving suspected Muggle-Borns from the Ministry. Grimmauld Place is compromised when they attempt to escape, forcing them to flee

to the countryside. Shortly before the infiltration, Remus Lupin arrives at Grimmauld Place to announce that he has left Nymphadora, his wife, because she had found out she was pregnant, and he feared the child would carry his lycanthropy. Harry mocks his old Professor into a rage that sends him flying across the room, but his efforts received the desired affect. Later, Harry would learn that Remus returned to his family shortly after the argument.

Overhearing a discussion between Griphook the Goblin and several others, including Muggle-Born Dean Thomas, the trio learns that the Sword of Gryffindor, now at Hogwarts and in the office of Severus Snape, the new Headmaster, is a fake. Harry decides to find the real one that can destroy the Horcruxes, but a frustrated Ron leaves the group, as his little sister Ginny and her friends were thwarted in their attempted theft of it. Dean says to Griphook that they were punished severely by Snape. Some time after this Ron and Harry argue over his lack of a plan for finding and destroying the Horcruxes. Ron leaves and Hermione is seen crying several times after this. Harry and Hermione search for the sword in Godric's Hollow, where Harry finds his parents' gravesites, as well as their house, which has fallen into disarray. While looking at the house, Harry and Hermione are beckoned by Bathilda Bagshot into her home. Knowing something isn't right in her dusty house; Harry follows her upstairs, where she transforms into Voldemort's snake, Nagini. Voldemort himself appears almost immediately after. Hermione casts a Blasting Curse which ricochets around the room, facilitating their escape, but also irreparably damaging Harry's wand, leaving a thin strand connecting the two halves together.

Hermione apparatus Harry to the Forest of Dean, a place Hermione visited as a child. A doe-shaped Patronus leads Harry to an icy pond containing the real Sword of Gryffindor. As Harry dives into the freezing water to retrieve it, the locket Horcrux tightens around his neck, strangling him. He is saved by Ron, who recovers the sword and destroys the locket with it, after the locket conjured up phantom images of Harry and Hermione. He warns that Voldemort's name is now tabooed; speaking it reveals the speaker's location to Voldemort and the Death Eaters.

The Deathly Hallows



The mysterious recurring symbol is revealed to represent the legendary Deathly Hallows.

The trio learns from Xenophilius Lovegood that the cryptic symbol they have repeatedly encountered represents the three Deathly Hallows: the Elder Wand, the Resurrection Stone and the Invisibility Cloak. When pressed about Luna's absence, Lovegood admits that Death Eaters abducted her in retaliation for supporting Harry in his paper, *The Quibbler*. Hoping for Luna's return, he has alerted Death Eaters of the trio's whereabouts, but they escape.

Soon after, the trio are captured and taken to Malfoy Manor, where they join the imprisoned Luna, Dean, Ollivander and Griphook. Finding Gryffindor's Sword

among the trio's possessions, Bellatrix Lestrange fears they have broken into her Gringotts vault, and tortures Hermione for information. Help arrives in the form of Dobby, who Apparates into the cellar and rescues Luna, Dean and Ollivander. Harry and Ron rush upstairs to rescue Hermione; Ron disarms Bellatrix and Harry takes Draco's wand. Dobby reappears, and they Disapparate to Bill and Fleur Weasley's cottage; Dobby is struck by a knife during the escape, and dies immediately afterwards.

At the cottage, Ollivander confirms the Elder Wand's existence and says that a wand can transfer allegiance if its owner is defeated or disarmed. Ollivander adds a caveat: although the Elder Wand is unbeatable, its master is not, and must always guard against a surprise attack. Bellatrix's behavior convinces the trio that another Horcrux is hidden in the Lestrange vault. Aided by Griphook, they penetrate Gringotts' defenses and retrieve Hufflepuff's Cup, although they lose the sword to Griphook in the process. The trio escapes Gringotts on the back of a dragon.

Meanwhile, Voldemort steals the Elder Wand from Dumbledore's tomb, believing that its possession will allow him to defeat Harry. Dumbledore had captured the wand after defeating the Dark wizard Grindelwald in a duel. Informed of the theft of the cup, Voldemort realises that his Horcruxes are being destroyed; through his mental connection to Harry he unintentionally reveals that another Horcrux is hidden at Hogwarts.

The Battle of Hogwarts

First act

In Hogsmeade, Aberforth Dumbledore smuggles the trio into Hogwarts. Harry alerts the Hogwarts staff to Voldemort's impending invasion, as allies continue to arrive. Luna Lovegood suggests that the fifth Horcrux could be Ravenclaw's lost diadem; Harry and Luna go to Ravenclaw's common room, but are confronted by Alecto Carrow, who calls Voldemort. They are saved by Professor McGonagall; she subsequently engages Snape in a duel, along with Professor Flitwick and Professor Sprout, and forces him to flee the castle. Harry recalls seeing the diadem in the Room of Requirement when he hid his Potions book there the previous year. Meanwhile, Hermione destroys the Cup Horcrux with a basilisk fang that she and Ron retrieved from the Chamber of Secrets. The Order of the Phoenix, members of Dumbledore's Army and other anti-Voldemort relatives of students arrive at Hogwarts, where battle commences. Percy Weasley arrives late and runs into his entire family. There is a reunion as Percy apologizes for his previous behavior. In the Room of Requirement, Ron mentions that the house elves are still in the kitchens and in danger, whereupon Hermione runs over to Ron and kisses him. The trio reenters the Room of Requirement and is attacked by Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle. Crabbe mishandles the powerful Fiendfyre spell, killing himself and destroying the diadem, but the others escape unharmed. During the battle, several of the Weasley brothers are dueling members of the Ministry of Magic. Percy and Fred are duels the Minister himself, Pius Thicknesse. Percy jokes that he is resigning from the Ministry, and Fred gleefully notes this as an explosion rocks the corridor, shattering one wall and killing Fred instantly. A shattered Percy refuses

to leave the body until it is hidden. The group then hurl themselves back into the battle.

Harry glimpses Voldemort's mind again and leads the trio to the Shrieking Shack. They witness Voldemort kill Snape, believing it will make him the Elder Wand's master. As Snape dies, he gives Harry his memories that prove Snape's loyalty to Dumbledore, motivated by his lifelong love for Harry's mother Lily. After being cursed by Gaunt's Ring Horcrux, a doomed Dumbledore had ordered Snape to kill him at a strategic time, sparing Draco from carrying out Voldemort's order to murder him. It was Snape who sent the doe Patronus to the forest. The memories also reveal that Harry himself is a Horcrux; he must die in order to destroy Voldemort.

Harry's "death" and King's Cross

Resigned to death, Harry approaches Voldemort's camp in the Forbidden Forest, informing no one. Along the way, he finds the Resurrection Stone inside the Snitch and summons the spirits of his parents, Sirius Black and the recently killed Remus Lupin, who accompany him to Voldemort's camp. Voldemort kills Harry with the Avada Kedavra curse.

Awakening in an ethereal place, Harry is unsure whether he is alive or dead. Dumbledore appears and explains that Voldemort's Horcrux within Harry has been destroyed. He says that just as Voldemort cannot die while his soul fragments remain, Voldemort cannot kill Harry because he used Harry's blood (which carries the ancient magical protection his mother gave to him through her sacrifice years before) in his resurrection. Voldemort's killing curse instead destroyed the only

thing within Harry that did not carry Lily Potter's protection — the fragment of the Dark Lord's own soul he unknowingly passed to Harry the night his mother and father sacrificed them to save him. Harry glimpses a possible outcome for Voldemort: a weeping, deformed child that Dumbledore describes as 'beyond any of our help'. Harry is also given an explanation as to why his wand acted on its own accord against Voldemort: the wands' twin cores echoed their masters' connection the night of Voldemort's resurrection (something that was unprecedented); Harry's own wand imbibed certain qualities from Voldemort's wand (a reverse of Harry's situation after his parents were killed by Voldemort but he survived his curse). Hence, Harry's wand was able to recognize its twin-cores counterpart that was both brother and foe, and conjured a powerful spell (of equal strength to something Voldemort would cast) against their attacker.

Second act and final confrontation

Harry revives, but feigns death. Voldemort orders Narcissa Malfoy to check Harry. Although she realizes that Harry is alive, she asks him if her son Draco is unharmed instead of revealing that he is alive. Harry mutters that Draco is fine, prompting her to declare him dead, as she and her husband Lucius no longer care about anything other than their son's safety. Harry is carried to Hogwarts as Voldemort's trophy by the captured Hagrid and displayed to agonized supporters gathered in the school hall. When Neville Longbottom defies Voldemort, the Sorting Hat is thrust onto his head and set aflame.

A sudden disturbance is brought about by Grawp, the centaurs and the giants. Neville pulls off the Sorting Hat, draws Gryffindor's sword from it and decapitates Nagini with a single stroke, destroying the final Horcrux. Harry moves around under his cloak and lends aid throughout the ensuing battle, as his supporters rally to defy Voldemort and the Death Eaters one last time. Bellatrix Lestrange engages Hermione, Luna and Ginny in a fight in the Great Hall, but after firing a Killing curse that misses Ginny by an inch, Molly Weasley takes over from the three girls and defeats Bellatrix in a deadly duel. Knowing that he is the Elder Wand's true master, Harry finally confronts Voldemort, informing him that when Draco Malfoy disarmed Dumbledore on the Astronomy Tower, he unknowingly became the Elder Wand's master; this allegiance was then transferred to Harry when he captured Draco's wand at Malfoy Manor. Voldemort casts another Killing Curse at Harry, but the spell rebounds off Harry's disarming spell, killing him, and leaving Harry victorious.

Among the casualties are Fred Weasley, Remus Lupin, Nymphadora Tonks, Colin Creevey and Bellatrix Lestrange. After the battle, Harry tells Dumbledore's portrait that he is keeping the Invisibility Cloak, but the Resurrection Stone will remain lost in the forest. The Elder Wand shall be returned to Dumbledore's tomb, where its power will be extinguished if Harry dies undefeated. Dumbledore approves. Before returning the Elder Wand to the tomb, Harry uses it to repair his own wand.

Epilogue

Nineteen years later, Harry and Ginny Weasley are married and have three children: James Sirius, Albus Severus, and Lily Luna. Ron has married Hermione and they have two children, Rose and Hugo. The families meet at King's Cross station, where a nervous Albus is departing for his first year at Hogwarts. Harry's nineteen-year-old godson, Teddy Lupin (Remus and Tonks's orphaned son), is found kissing Victoire Weasley (Bill and Fleur's daughter) in a train compartment. Teddy is a frequent visitor to the Potters, coming to dinner several times a week. Harry sees Draco Malfoy and his wife, Astoria Greengrass (revealed on Rowling's website behind the door) with their son, Scorpius; Malfoy acknowledges Harry with a curt nod, and then turns away. Neville Longbottom is now the Hogwarts Herbology professor and remains close friends with Harry. Harry comforts Albus, who is worried he will be sorted into Slytherin. He tells his son that one of his two namesakes, Severus Snape, was a Slytherin and the bravest man he had ever met. He adds that the Sorting Hat takes one's own choice into account. The book concludes: "The scar had not pained Harry for nineteen years. All was well."