

Episode 93 - Potterless Lookback IV (Eps. 22 - 29)

w/ Sydney Adams, Eric Hamilton Schneider, Lauren Shippen, and Zach Valenti

PM = Past Mike
EM= Editing Mike
SA = Sydney Adams
ES = Eric Hamilton Schneider
LS = Lauren Shippen
ZV = Zach Valenti

If there is a mistake or mis-translation in this transcript please feel free to reach out to Mike for clarification! (potterlesspodcast@gmail.com)

<3:55>

SA: Okay, so I just like speed listened to the past two episodes while I was getting fixed in a various manner of ways. So, I'm all caught up.

PM: Oh Good!

SA: And all the guys at Jiffy Lube and Jimmy's Tire Center also know about this podcast now, so...

PM: Haha! I love it, okay.

<4:19>

PM: Okay, so now we move on to Episodes 22 and 23 of Potterless which covered the final chapters of the Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Chapters 31 - 37 and we've got a lovely return guest, Sydney Adams from Vine. Sydney, how's it going?

SA: Hey! It's great! When you said that just now, I was like, "Ohhh Harry Potter and the Giblets of Fire!" So now, we're off to an amazing start.

PM: And even before the start you, you said you speed listened to this at Jiffy Lube which makes me really excited.

SA: Yes I did, ummmm... per your recommendation, I listened to these episodes on 1.5x speed. Our voices are that much more irritable when they're that much more faster. Our jokes, the timing is very funny, but I did it. And now all of the employees at Jiffy Lube know all about your podcast, so...

PM: That's really good, I'm really trying to crack into the Auto Mechanic demographic, it's been really hard for me to get into that, that market so I appreciate it.

I

SA: Baby, I just did that for you today, you're welcome.

PM: Thank you so much.

SA: I'm a giver.

PM: So, these episodes, I am pretty sure this is the infamous it was definitely Ludo Bagman. This is like, full pledged.

SA: Yup, I- I started it listening when I was like, "Oh my gosh, this is the birth of that whole inside joke, almost of Potterless. I have felt — I have never felt more honored and I didn't realize that I would be such a part of history at that time.

PM: Yeah, aside from *easily* the most infamous thing that I have done on the show, what else is... are in these episodes?

SA: Okay, okay, I have some things written down. Like, I do.

PM: Good, wonderful.

<5:50>

SA: One, Rita Skeeter, bullying children, just straight up.

PM: Yeah.

SA: She's a grown woman bullying children and honestly, variable winners in this situation, and Mariah Carey's is like is... she's playing, Why Are You So Obsessed With Me. Because it's probably the right time period for that. So, it would've been very relevant.

PM: Sure, sure. Yeah, Rita is, she is interesting because you know, especially in today's world. Just, the journalist that is inauthentic and writes lies and stuff like that. Definitely you can see the parallels with today.

SA: Right.

PM: But the further element is she's not just doing this to people. Later on, she has the whole thing with Dumbledore. But specifically, in this book, she's lying about children to the masses.

SA: Right.

PM: And that's ridiculous.

SA: Damaging, damaging beyond all reason.

PM: It's not grown people. She's talking about whatever all... however old the thirteen, fourteen year olds, which is nuts.

SA: I know, we do fixate on their age for most of that episode. But, within reason. Because...

<6:48>

EM: Oooop, before you continue that thought, Sydney. Let me, Editing Mike say something really quick. This is the infamous episode that I've talked about where Sydney and I said that Harry was 13 instead of 14 and a lot of people go very upset. I just wanted to make sure that this was put out in the open. That I didn't forget this, we just didn't talk about this.

<7:03>

SA: Because they're children.

PM: Yeah.

SA: Another point I have written down, we made a joke about snitches get stitches. And you said, "Ohhh, that's gonna be my next podcast." Where you talk about Quidditch like it's an actual sport. So, I have written down, "ESPN Quidditch Podcast?"

PM: Ohhh, ohh ohh ohh. ESPN does every year like to Tweet out the "This date in history." The date of the World Cup where Krum catches the Snitch.

SA: Oh, I saw you getting very mad about that on Twitter the other day.

PM: It's just, I wasn't genuinely mad.

SA: Uh-huh, okay.

PM: But it is, August 25th is my least favorite day of the year now.

SA: Wow, that's also my brother's birthday, so you're an ass.

PM: Oh, I'm very sorry.

SA: Nick Adams is personally offended.

PM: I just get so many messages from everyone saying, "Wow, have you seen this?" "Yes, I have."

SA: They're like, "I live on the internet, what do you, what do you think?" Like, uhhh my goodness.

PM: ughhh. But, I have made as a Bonus Episode, I did do a Bonus Episode about what Snitches Get Stitches would look like with my buddy, Johnny who's been on the show.

SA: Oh, amazing.

PM: Just going super in-depth about things that don't make sense in Quidditch. So, we do one about, do you have to be in shape to be good at Quidditch? And what muscles make for the best Quidditch athlete?

SA: Well, I said on the episode, you just have to be good at video games. Because it's hand-eye coordination.

PM: Yeah, we arrived at you just need inner thigh strength so that you don't fall off your broom. And then just one really strong throwing arm.

SA: Just really beefy quads that just like, clutch a broom.

PM: Just you do those abductor adductor machines at the gym.

SA: Ohhh.

PM: Where you just look quite silly when you're doing them. That's just your go to machine if you're a Quidditch star.

SA: Or just videos of women who crush watermelons between their thighs, don't ask me why I've seen them.

PM: I'm gonna have to put this recording session on pause. I'll see you in thirty hours.

SA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Take your time. Yeah, that's like, so perfect. Any, any of those people, it's all about the inner thighs and then the throwing arm, you're right. And then, probably a 20-20 vision.

PM: Right, right.

SA: So like, a soccer player/softball player hybrid.

PM: Yeah, I think it could work.

SA: Yeah, so you do have to be athletic, is the gist, is the 9:14.

PM: Just specifically athletic.

SA: Very specific. And then, you gave, you gave me some chapters that are so chock full of stuff. I feel like there wasn't that much funny in our episodes. Because we were just trying to get through all of the like, mountains of information that come in these last few chapters of

the Fourth Book. It's like when stuff starts to get real good, it's like when you're in the middle of a sandwich and you get like a bite full of every ingredient, not just full of bread.

PM: Oh yes!

SA: You're getting like, whole meats and the cheeses and the whatever you enjoy in the sandwich. I got you to the whole labyrinth part of it. Where with the Sphinx.

PM: The Sphinx, which is still ridiculous.

SA: Still hysterical and the first thing that you come upon is a Boggart. And I, it's like, "Ohhh, what would my boggart be?" And it's probably just girls that were really mean to me in highschool. But, I wanna know what your boggart would be.

PM: Yeah, I've given it some thought, someone asked me it recently. My boggart would be me hosting some sort of event that I'm really proud of and then no one showing up. It's at my wedding and no one is there or I do a Potterless Live Show and there's like, six people in the audience.

SA: Okay, riddle me this. How a singular monster embody that for you?

PM: I feel like...

SA: Like, would it just be you? Would it just be you giving a speech and choking? Or would it like fully transform the landscape that you're in. Just riddle me that.

PM: I guess it would probably be the boggart basically being, it would look like me giving the sort of... at the event and then just no one there. So it would be like the locket in Book 7 where it showed Ron the creepy version of Creepy Harry and Creepy Hermione making out and stuff.

SA: Yeah.

PM: I think it would have to be something like that or a third person removed thing of me watching something that I hated happen.

SA: Got it, I forgot that happened.

PM: Yeah.

SA: So, maybe my jumping upon your ridiculous idea was not so 11:09.

PM: No, no, no, because you're right, most boggarts are just the thing you are afraid of. Whether it's Snape or the Moon or Newt Scamander being afraid of having an office job.

SA: Right, same.

PM: So, I don't think there's a lot more of seeing yourself doing something. So, I think you are quite within your reason to jump up on me.

SA: Ohhh! Just kidding, changed my answer. My boggart would be being in a job interview where they tell me that I'm over qualified and still don't get the job, so...

PM: Ughhhhh!

SA: I know, probably awful. I'm like, "No, this is my dream work, job, there's a 401K——*echoooooo*."

PM: That's like the work equivalent of, "We're just at different points of our lives and I'm not ready for a relationship." Like that kind of thing.

SA: Right. Oh but, what does that mean?

PM: Just tell me what's wrong.

SA: Yeah.

PM: And I'm clearly not overqualified, otherwise you would have hired me.

SA: It's not you, it's me. And then labyrinth because it's just a maze, I'm just like, one of these monsters should've been David Bowie's crotch in the movie Labyrinth.

PM: Uggh, what a missed opportunity.

SA: A missed opportunity. Ohhh! We got to the Sphinx and we made a joke about something Russian Roulette Jeopardy which I am just holding on with a death grip because I think that's just so funny. Just like...

PM: However, I have already forgotten about this joke about Russian Roulette Jeopardy.

SA: Oh, oh okay! So...

PM: I'm on board already without even remembering what it is.

SA: Signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours. And so it's, it's the part where they get to the Sphinx and we were saying it's like a weird game of Jeopardy. Because she's asking you questions. So we were saying what if the Sphinx has an Alex Trebek head and it was just a very high stakes Jeopardy. And I can't remember who said it but someone said Russian Roulette Jeopardy and I was like, "God! That is a TV Show I would watch in a heartbeat."

PM: Ohhh sorry...

SA: Ohhh!

PM: You have to answer in a form question.

SA: And then...

PM: You're gonna need to take this gun.

SA: Like, like gun, no, no!

PM: Eyyy! Another thing I knew happened in these episodes was it was the first time where I did a Weasley ranking.

SA: Yes.

PM: Which I've done a couple of times in this podcast now.

SA: We did rank our Weasleys!

PM: Yeah, so I think it's only fair to redo it now that I know everything.

SA: Okay.

PM: Ugh! I feel very conflicted because Molly calling Bellatrix a bitch and murdering her...

SA: Pretty rad.

PM: Is pretty good!

SA: Right? Isn't that like the, the best character—

PM: Really, really good!

SA: —arc that could ever happen.

PM: It's quite phenomenal.

SA: Quite phenomenal.

PM: I think if I'm going to do it... ughhhh! I still really like Ginny a lot, I still wanna put Ginny in number 1.

SA: Really? Okay, 'cause you had her like near the bottom in this episode.

PM: Yeah, 'cause she does not get good until Book 5?

SA: True.

PM: And then, Book 6 she becomes incredible.

SA: Right.

PM: So for me, I think Ginny is number 1.

SA: Okay.

PM: And then, Charlie is an interesting case, because his potential is so high.

SA: And then it falls short.

PM: And we don't actually, we just actually don't know.

SA: Yeah.

PM: So, my thought of Charlie is really high but I can't in good conscience put him above the people that we actually know things about.

SA: Yeah, 'cause he's like your friend in high school who's had an older brother in college who you only ever heard about. So, you'd be like, "Charlie must be the coolest motherfucker." But you like, never actually meet him.

PM: Right.

SA: So, you can never confirm for yourself.

PM: A hundred percent. So, for second I probably am gonna put Molly second.

SA: Okay.

PM: Just because all of the amazing stuff she does in terms of being a mother figure but then also being a complete badass in Book 7.

SA: Yeah.

PM: So I probably second, I would probably put Fred third and then maybe Charlie 4th, George 5th.

SA: Just 'cause he died, or?

PM: Well, Fred's the one who died!!

SA: Oh shit!

PM: How dare you.

SA: I was like on the edge of my seat. I was like, "I'm gonna catch this 14:36 because I can't remember which one dies." Uhhh...

PM: Starting around Book 5, Fred always had the best jokes and that just puts him above George for me. And then, after that, I would probably go Ron and then Arthur and then I guess, Percy and then Aunt Muriel. Because she's old and crotchety <14:55>. And I don't even know if anybody else counts.

SA: Yeah.

PM: Oh oh, there's Bill. I'd put Bill above Percy.

SA: Okay.

PM: Below Ron and Arthur.

SA: Yeah.

PM: So, how about you? What is your ranking?

SA: Okay, so... Number 1 would probably have to be the car. Number 2 is probably the Burrow. Number 3 is Fleur Delacour via marriage. And then..

PM: Uh-huh, nice nice. Four is the clock.

SA: Four is the clock. No, uhhhm. 1 for me is always gotta be Mrs. Weasley.

PM: Yeah, she's great.

SA: Her story is just very interesting, I think she develops really well. I think the thing with Bellatrix Lestrange is really rad and let's her be a badass. Ummm... Number 2, gotta be Fred for me and then George. I just think that their characters are so fun and funny and I'm always a fan of comedic relief. Four, still Ginny. Because you're right she is does get cool Uhmhhh... even though she names her kids dumb shit at the end of the last book.

PM: I'm putting that on Harry.

SA: Okay.

PM: But also I'm disappointed.

SA: Alright.

PM: That Ginny didn't put a kibosh to making Albus Severus.

SA: I know, it's like, pfffffft. 16:00 Your kid bullied by Rita Skeeter, why dontcha. And then, let's do Charlie, Arthur, Bill, Ron, Percy. Sorry!

PM: Ohhh! Not a really big Ron fan?

SA: I'm not a Ron fan, you know? I-I maintain an earlier statement where I'm like, "You could not just have not been friends with the guy." You're clearly not capable. So, don't be friends with the guy.

PM: I think that's what gives me some props for Ron. Is that, if he really just wanted, he could've just said, "You know what Harry, fuck you."

SA: 16:29

PM: "I'm not dealing with these shenanigans every year."

SA: Yeah.

PM: So, I wanna give him credit for that. The problem with-with Ron ranking him, is that all of the Weasleys aside from Percy are so good.

SA: I know, 16:41

PM: It makes him look bad by association. But if you compare Ron to almost every other student besides from Hermione, Harry, Neville, Luna, he's better than everyone else. It's just, he is a very normal teenager and has very normal teenager reactions. It's just the problem is if you compare these to the Weasleys who are incredible!

SA: Who as whole...

PM: It makes him look bad.

SA: Yeah, it's hard. It's apple and oranges, baby. But again, number one, the car.

PM: Ummm yes, gotta love that. The Ford Astria, I think?

SA: Ohhhh, the winnings. So, after everything goes down and Harry gets the winnings, you did the conversion rate and it was like, \$7000 or \$70,000.

PM: So, so, do you happen to know what the Galleons are? I can do it real quick.

SA: It was a thousand, what was it? Was it a thousand galleons or something?

PM: *Siri sound prompt.* Hey Siri, how many galleons did Harry win for winning the Triwizard Tournament?

SA: He's gonna be like, "I don't know, nerd." What if we just like, Google it?

PM: That's exactly what happened. Uhhh, it's just a Google thing. One thousand Galleons.

SA: One thousand Galleons.

PM: So, I recently did something at LeakyCon where JK Rowling, a while ago in an interview that she believed that Galleons should just be five pounds.

SA: Okay.

PM: So...

SA: So, 5 Pounds times a thousand and then turned into...

PM: What, what year was this?

SA: Ehhh, 19????

PM: 19— Early 90s, what year was Triwizard Tournament? *talk n texting* 1994!

SA: Okay! Year I was *born*!

PM: Nice, so pounds to USD in 1994. We're getting inflation in this, baby!

SA: Yeah, I would really love an accurate figure.

PM: Oh no, I tried 1994 and it just told me what 1994 USD is in pounds.

SA: Oh nice!

PM: That is not... Okay, [Pound Sterling Live](#), it is a website.

SA: Okay.

PM: In 1994, oh, it varied. But, the average in... Oh, we can even get it down to the month.

SA: GOD YES!

PM: So, let's say that it was at the end of the year. Let's say that's July?

SA: Okay.

PM: So, June.

SA: June, yeah, yeah. June, so... June.

PM: Okay, so 1.52 in June of 1994.

SA: Okay.

PM: So, we've got 5 pounds times 1.52.

SA: Okay.

PM: That is \$7.6.

SA: Okay.

PM: So, \$7,600.

SA: Okay, not enough to risk your life, sorry, gotta say it.

PM: I was gonna say, that's not nearly enough money.

SA: Its like, "Ohhh, you could win about \$7500 or you could die, so what's it gonna be?"

PM: You could win half of a Ford Fiesta or you could die.

SA dying of laughter

SA: I mean, when you put it that way, is it the front half or the back half or the top half or the... like, what half are we talking about here?

PM: You split it down the middle.

SA: Okay.

PM: It's a Ford Fiesta motorcycle.

SA: Left and Right.

PM: Oh my god! I Googled Ford Fiesta price and it's exactly \$14,250. Ho-ho-ho-ho!

SA: 19:46

PM: Yes, give me my letter, Hagrid!

SA: Oh my god! Oh, what if you got, what if you got a Hogwarts letter? Like, it was super late in the mail but you kept moving? So, you got, how old are you now? 27?

PM: Yes.

SA: And then, it's like people who go back to school when they're in their 50s.

PM: Look, I'll take it. I also wouldn't be surprised if right now I get a letter through the window from Bob Barker saying, "You've gotta be on The Price is Right."

SA: You've got to be.

PM: You're a prodigy.

SA: Anytime someone correctly guesses the number. Bob Barker's senses just go off and like, he gets alerted like Batman and he's like, "Someone... is out there."

PM: "They know how much things cost."

SA: Whooo boy. Anyway, if I was 13 and I had that much money, which arguably \$7500 is a lot for a kid.

PM: Yes.

SA: I would've bought the dumbest shit. I would've gone on a full like, Toys R Us, that old game show where kids got like, run around the aisles...

PM: Oh yeah!

SA: And you basically just stuck your arm out and be like, use it to wipe everything off of the shelf and to your cart. I would've done something like that. And instead he's like, "Here Fred and George, invest in your dream."

PM: What a wise... like, what a wise child.

SA: Like, way to... way to go, man... way to go.

PM: It makes me think when Harry gets the winnings, if he didn't give it to that. Someone asks him, "Oh, what are you gonna do with the money?" "I'm gonna open up a rough IRA account."

SA: Uhhmmmm, every kid's dream.

PM: "I'm gonna put in my max annual contribution."

SA: "Ooh, yes please, I hope my employer matcheses." My last point, my last point.

PM: Okay.

SA: Does this school have a therapist?

PM: They don't they *ccccccertainly* don't

SA: Certainly do not.

PM: As we learn in the Fifth Book, when Cho Chang is going through PTSD because her boyfriend died.

SA: Right, right, right.

PM: And no one cares.

SA: Normal.

PM: And Harry just says, "Oh, Cho does sure cries a lot. Girls, am i right?"

SA: And they're like, "Listen, my guy..."

PM: The fact that Hogwarts doesn't get a Guidance Counselor or therapist...

SA: Yeah.

PM: Is wild!

SA: Absolutely wild, especially in a year like this. You'd think the staff would kinda look around and be like, "Alright, so some things have been happening."

PM: Totally.

SA: "I think, I think maybe we should take **some stuffs <21:50>** to care for our student body."

PM: Even if they just assigned an individual therapist for the trio. Because, think of just with those three have gone through in four years, they have defeated Voldemort in a series of tasks and Harry burning a man alive. Then, they defeated the corporeal version of a part of Voldemort's soul on a diary. Also, Ginny got possessed by the devil. And then in the third book, someone's who's convicted of 13 murders, wanted to find them and almost shanked Ron in his bed. And now, Harry almost died multiple times and Cedric, one of his good friends, did die.

SA: Right, so just some light emotional trauma that I think should be addressed. But you know, whatever it was, it was a different time.

PM: You know, it's really important that you know how to turn a button into a bullfrog or a tissue shoebox into a mouse. But, dealing with your emotions, no!

SA: Or you know, Lumos.

PM: Because candles don't exist.

SA: Nope, not at all. Oh, and then we talked about doing the Talk Back in this episode. At the very end of the episode, I'm like, we talked about having everyone back to talk about the episodes.

PM: Woooahhhh!

SA: So, full circle, we're doing that.

PM: Wow!

SA: Which is kinda crazy.

PM: That is so fun, that is so good. I'm surprised we brought it up back when. Yeah, it is really fun to look about some of the things even just with talking with the guests to see different things. But even I've listened to some of the eps in prep and just to see things and hear it out and be like, "Oh, I used to think this, that's fun."

SA: Yeah, you're like, "Oh, how the tables have turned."

PM: Oh well, Sydney, thank you so much for joining on this Look Back and taking the time way back when to talk about the end of Book Four.

SA: Of course, Mike. Thanks for having me!

PM: Of course, I'm glad that you and the whole team at Jiffy Lube has relieved this wonderful wizarding experience.

SA: All while getting my oil changed. Every 5000 miles, guys

PM: Gotta do it. Today's episode is brought to you by...

Together: Jiffy Lube!

SA: I wish, it would've meant I didn't have to pay \$90 for getting my oil changed.

PM: Ughhhh, gross!

SA: Anyway, that's just me.

PM: Anyway, that's life. Well, thanks so much for joining.

SA: Awwwww! Bye Mike!

PM: Bbye!

<23:55>

PM: So, now we move on to Episodes 24 and 25 of Potterless which covered Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix Chapters 1 through 8. My guest was Eric Hamilton Schneider, one of my good beloved dudes. Eric, how's it going?

ES: It's going very very wellm, how are you doing?

PM: I'm doing great. I'm excited to talk about the most boring part of potentially the whole series.

ES: Oh yeah. Do you mean of Harry Potter or Potterless?

PM: Oh, I would like to say Harry Potter because I would hope that our discussion about these boring chapters was still entertaining.

ES: I mean, I listened back, they're... they're are good parts, but it's definitely rough, it's definitely rough. I'm just happy that so... well jump right into it. I haven't been referred to as Michael 24:38 yet, very good.

PM: Oh, no one, not even a single person?

ES: Oh no, I just mean, you haven't. Currently, on this...

PM: No...

ES: On this active recording.

PM: No, because I know you don't like it. You don't like it so I don't do it. As we've interacted more with Multitude, I hear it less and less.

ES: That's cool.

PM: Now, you've kind of just pushed him out of my brain.

ES: That's excellent to hear. These episodes are really, are really just something else.

PM: Well yeah, listening back, what did you find? What did you find in there?

ES: The first thing is, is something that ties into the Hufflepuff Bonus Episode.

PM: Oh, it was very good.

ES: In terms of spin-off things I want from Harry Potter in the episode that we're covering right now. We've talked about the like, back alley dealings of the Wizarding World with like, the cultures.

PM: Oh like with the Mundugus Fletchers of the world.

ES: Yeah, falling off and then, and in, and in the Live Episode we've talked about the weird Catholic Conspiracy that might exist in Harry Potter.

PM: Yeah.

ES: And now, I just want like a Disney Plus style Marvel, Star Wars shows. All about like, very very different things happening in Harry Potter. Like, I don't want main characters at all. I want a show about Mundungus and his people. I want a show about the Headless Horseman Friar, whatever his name is.

PM: The Fat Friar.

ES: The Fat Friar.

PM: You've combined him and Nearly Headless Nick.

ES: And I want like, why he was trying to become the uhmmm a high up in the Catholic Church. I want like, all of these things. Like, spread around and, and new Harry Potter content that isn't but like, a guy that wrote a bunch of textbooks.

PM: I want a spin-off about The Unspeakables in The Ministry of Magic. I want a spin-off about McGonagall's early life.

ES: Yeah.

PM: I want the year at Hogwarts while Harry, Ron and Hermione weren't there.

ES: Ohhh.

PM: There's so many good things. I would love it, the problem is that you've related this to Disney and Marvel and they like to make a lot of stuff and be cool with licensing stuff out. Warner Brothers, inherently not cool.

ES: Right.

PM: And not chill with people using stuff.

ES: I would argue that there's the, is that 26:39

PM: I'm not arguing that Disney is cool...

ES: I-I see your what point... your point is that like, the likelihood of Warner Brothers trying to create an extended universe and, and a lot of hands touching The Harry Potter golden pot is less likely.

PM: But they did just buy the rights to Cursed Child which so far all that's done is just change the logo.

ES: Ohhh... that's a weird thing to just do in general like, new logo for a play.

PM: Well yeah, they change a bunch of branding and stuff. But, I think the thought is that eventually they might turn it into a movie. But more of they might make everything kind of look and feel like it's part of the same thing.

ES: Yeah.

PM: But if they're really trying to own all of the Harry Potter stuff, maybe this will open a door for a cinematic universe. We'll have to see.

ES: That would be interesting.

PM: Aside from that, what else have we got.

ES: We have what I think one of the biggest things that you've got wrong in the entire series.

PM: Which is...

ES: Which is when Petunia yells at Harry about Lily spending all that time with that boy. I think it's that boy, the boy or something like that.

PM: Right, right.

ES: And you were very sure that it was James.

PM: Oh, of course.

ES: And obviously it is Snape.

PM: Yeahhh!

ES: And I was on later on and Potterless like, a chapter or two before the Snape reveal.

PM: Ohhh nooooo-ohhhh!

ES: And I was like, I don't want to be asked to be on a pivotal chapter especially I think Snape sucks and you were looking for people that like Snape generally. But it would've, I would've loved it as a perfect book end. But-but yeah, it was amazing. Because you started talking about it and I already had it in my notes to be like, "Okay, I gotta find a way to lead him to talk about this moment that I'm not being like, 'oooooh, how about *this* thing right here that's not super reported.'" I think you also had a theory about like uhhhh, James dating Petunia?

PM: Yes, because it was the weird, that was the whole thing that I thought that Petunia hated James.

ES: Yeah.

PM: And it seemed like there was something else there.

ES: Yeah. There's also a bunch of references to Voldemort building an army at this point.

PM: Right.

ES: Which is exciting because this is the point where like, only a handful of people know that Voldemort's back. Obviously he makes his big reveal and fights Dumbledore at the end of this book.

PM: Right, right, right, right.

ES: I don't think we ever know like, who he did recruit. Like, as far as we know, isn't it just a bunch of wizards and like, a few... there's a few evil creatures. Obviously there's some Dementors. What else is in Voldemort's?

PM: He gets the Giants on his side.

ES: Right, that's what I thought, I couldn't remember.

PM: And then also, by having a ring with the Gaunt Stone in it, he technically is in charge of the Inferi.

ES: Ohhh.

PM: The zombies that were in the water in the cave.

ES: Right, yes.

PM: Though he didn't really use them to their fullest extent. I don't know if they have to stay in water. I feel like Voldemort could've done a little bit more with a giant zombie army of the undead.

ES: Yeah. I was just thinking that in the book or the movie never really feel like this is an army attacking Hogwarts.

PM: Yeah, in the movies, they do a *little* bit of it and they have 29:43 which as a whole garbage sauce. But, they do a little bit of it in the Eight Movie where there's way too many Death Eaters outside.

ES: Yeah.

PM: That there should be in the books. In the books, I always got the vibe that it's between fifty and a hundred. And I think they might even say a number that puts it in that ballpark. But in the Eight Movie there are multiple hundreds of Death Eaters attacking the protective spells and charms that Molly and the Heads of House have put up.

ES: Yeah.

PM: But yeah, I don't know. One thing that I do know from this episode that of course I would've definitely missed. This would've spanned when they find the locket but I completely didn't care.

ES: Oh yeah, yeah.

PM: About this because it's like, "Oh, it's a cleaning chapter why do I give a shit?"

ES: Yeah, there's kinda like a bunch of real Snooze Chapters. Like, so little happens. Like, he's hanging out, Dudley gets attacked and okay there's a bit of something, he's mad at everybody and then, they... they cleaned, and that's it.

PM: But the cleaning is important, you just don't know it yet.

ES: Exactly, exactly. There's a big tree on a wall that explains something.

PM: The Family Tree. Ohhhhh. Again, so that again would hint at the Regulus Black thing. So, there are a bunch of hidden clues and hidden doo-dads in these early chapters looking back. Because at the time, "I thought these chapters are so worthless, I'm sorry for giving these to you, Eric Schneider." But then actually, they are important, just if you know what happens later.

ES: I still like Order of the Phoenix, I still think it's a quality read. And it just has the slowest, it has good rereading value.

PM: Sure, sure, sure.

ES: But the first time through that first chunk is just not too much happens at all.

PM: Order of the Phoenix is the wine of the series. Where when you first drink wine, whether it's your first time ever drinking wine or even the first sip of wine. Your initial thought is, "This is bad." And then, you keep drinking and then, "This is good!"

ES: I would agree.

PM: So I think that's Order of the Phoenix. I have to give to Order of the Phoenix. Because I do think that the pacing isn't ideal, I do think that it was too long. I do think that there's a bunch of stuff that doesn't matter. But the ending of this book is soooo good that it kind of makes up for all of that.

ES: I agree. I think that the battle at the end is one of the best written battles of the entire series.

PM: Ohhhh, so good! There's some other fun bits in these episodes. First, there was the much anticipated reveal of Tonks.

ES: Yes, yes.

PM: The first time you meet Tonks because it was really cool when she comes with all of the Order of the Phoenix people to get Harry out of there so they can go to Grimauld Place. But the other thing that this arrival does that makes me really happy is that this is the second mention of the Put Outer where they call it the Put Outer, capital "P", capital "O", Put Outer.

ES: Yes, it is. I-I didn't wanna bring it up again. Because I feel like it's been mentioned to death, but...

PM: Hey, it's been a minute, it's been a while since I've talked about it and we're talking about the episode. This is one of the biggest points of my argument is that they called it the Put Outer here and they also, at one point later in one of the chapters that we're talking about, they call it the unlighter with a lowercase "U", so that also invalidates the whole, "Oh, the Put Outer is just describing it." Which first of, no one ever describes something like that.

ES: Yeah.

PM: But again, this chapter is what really makes me confident in that JK had this thing in her brain called, the Put Outer and then, at Book 7 when she realizes it's important she thought, "Shit, this is a horrible name, I'm gonna have to rename this thing." And just Deluminator and hoped no one notices. Well guess what, JK? I noticed.

ES: We also talked about how it's like, there's seems to be like not like a brand name to it? So, it's like, it's confusing because why does it seems like such a magical item. Like, obviously it does a magical thing. But like, it's no one else has one. Like, it's so weird that like, Dumbledore's the one guy with this... well, you would think that it's a pretty simple tool.

PM: Right, and that is a theory which goes to the whole naming thing of it being confusing. Is that, one prevailing theory is that, there is only one, and it's Dumbledore making it. And the Put Outer was a prototype version. For example, when you make a movie or something, you always have that running title for it that isn't actually what it ends up being called. So maybe, Put Outer was the work in progress code name. And then when he finally finished the final version, he remained it to the Deluminator and just decided. I still think it's weird that he didn't explain that in the Will. But, who's to say?

ES: Maybe, I mean, he finally got that trademark.

PM: Yeah, he finally went to the 34:15 office

ES: He feels like I've got to name it really well. So like, let's go with something better than Put Outer, he's like, "Deluminator!" That's what happened, obviously.

PM: The— yes, that-that is canon. The other good thing about the device is, why do you need a device to do this? When, it seems like this could be a spell. That's what was always confusing.

ES: Yeah, I don't understand a lot. Maybe it's like, easier to do like, maybe it's already an enchanted object. So now you don't have to like, cast it. Like, you could do it with like, it'd be much more subtle and like, more espionage spy situation which they don't do with it a single time. But like, maybe like, instead of having whip out a wand, you can just be like, this already has the spell attached.

PM: Yeah, I guess it makes sense because in the Seventh, they used it for very specific things. Where Ron uses the light to follow it and blah blah blah and get back with them. Or he hears Harry and Hermione talking about him through it, etcetera, etcetera. But, it doesn't make sense about why they used it in Books 1 and 5 in the way that they did. Because all they did with it was to remove lights from stuff

ES: Yeah.

PM: And why can't you just use *Nox* which is a spell that turns off lights. I don't know, it just seems unnecessary. But, I think we've exhausted Put Outer talk for an episode, I think.

ES: 35:23

PM: I think I would get murdered if I continue to talk about it. The other problem and this was noted throughout the episodes that we made is that it's Harry at his absolute angriest and grumpiest. Which looking back at the time, I didn't realize this and people have brought it back to me in the sense that he's basically going through PTSD at this point. One of his close friends just died, he's going through a lot.

ES: Yeah, I think we talked a little bit about how like, this is like right after Cedric and like, there's a lot weighing on him through no fault of his own. But like, he's handling it in the way

that is presented to us as a very whiny bratty child. When obviously it is very serious, it's trauma.

PM: Yeah, and I don't, I don't fault Harry for feeling the way that he does. I think he's justified to feel these emotions and be this angry and stuff. But regardless, it does not make it enjoyable to read.

ES: Right.

PM: When your narrator is just so, so grumpy and I've said this before but if I wasn't doing Potterless. If I'm just reading these books, I might've given up on Book Five.

ES: Ohhh, it's a rough one.

PM: Like, I don't know if I would've given up on the series, but I probably would've done the thing where I would skip a couple of chapters ahead and see if it gets a little bit better, I might've done that.

ES: 36:35 Stephen Fry 3 acts on audible.

PM: Ohhhh, that would be really fun.

ES: Or should I say Audible, should I say, audiobook, or does that matter?

PM: They don't sponsor Potterless anymore, so fuck 'em! They were my first sponsor, I would be forever grateful but, sponsor me again, cowards. Come on back

<36:54:

Editing Mike: Shout out to who is actually sponsoring this episode.

<37:05>

ES: WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA!

PM: Thank you to those sponsors. But Eric, thanks so much for joining on, thanks for joining on way back when. Even though these chapters were so, so boring. I'm very glad that I was able to bring you back for more exciting chapters later on when we had you on for Book 7 and then, the Hufflepuff episode, which that was just so much fun, man. You absolutely killed it.

ES: It was a great, great time, for sure. And-and it's exciting to see like, how much all the show's have grown. I think I mentioned like, during the episode of Spirits was about to hit like, 1 million downloads?

PM: Yes, you did.

ES: And like, Potterless has done so well since then. Spirits has done so well since then. Like, the growth that we had. Like, you're recording in the studio, I'm recording with a much better microphone. Like, I mean, it's exciting to be like, the growth, both of the podcast and just like, everything that's happened around us as well.

PM: It's really fun and it's been fun doing it with you and Amanda. Because while we were doing these you were just, "Oh, these are my YouTube friends that also now made podcasts."

ES: Yeah, Multitude was like, the **glimmer in our eyes <38:05>**.

PM: Yeah, and even I think by the time of recording, Multitude was forming. But now, just like, 2+ years since recording it, it's just so different where we are now vs. then. And it's almost strange to look back with these ones. With episodes like, with you Julia and Amanda and like, look back and think, "Oh yeah, this was when I didn't know them as well." And now it's like, we talk everyday.

ES: Yeah.

PM: So, it's strange to, to look back at a time where we didn't know each other as well. But I agree, I love how much all the shows have grown individually. How Multitude has grown into a thing as I stare at our neon sign out the window. And just how we've grown as people and our friendship has grown too. It makes me really happy.

ES: Very good, very good.

PM: Yeah man, well, thanks again and uhhh, I'll be seeing you soon.

ES: Right.

PM: I'll see you in Boston in less than a month.

ES: Yeah, see you then.

PM: Cool **means <38:49>**, later.

ES: Bye.

PM: Thanks Brandon!!

<38:50>

EM: 37... 38! Hey it's Editing Mike, as promised here to do, WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA!

<39:00>

WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA!!

<41:55>

LS: Brandon says, "Tell Mike, he better be funny this time." So...

PM: Okay.

LS: You know, that's hard for you, but...

PM: I've never been funny before, so I'll be funny this time.

LS: Yeah, this would be great if you did that for the first time with me.

PM: Yeah,

LS: It would be fun.

PM: I should, I should try.

LS: Yeah, you know?

PM: Yeah, the podcast is big enough, I should start being funny. 93 episodes in, let's try to...

LS: Let's do it.

PM: Let's try to be funny.

LS: Let's bring the humor.

PM: Okay, so now we move on to Episodes 26 and 27 of Potterless which covered Order of the Phoenix, Chapters 9 through 14 and I was joined by someone who I met at a very fun pool party and she willingly joined the Potterless Guest List, much to my surprise, Lauren Shippen. Lauren, how's it going?

LS: It's going so good! Thanks so much for having me back for the third time now.

PM: Yeah, you've been on the show twice.

LS: Yeah.

PM: And now you're here for that look back for your first appearance where we talked about The Grumpy Book.

LS: The most emo book to have ever occur.

PM: But, for a life long Panic in the Disco fan, you know, that's your wheelhouse.

LS: Absolutely, and as we've talked about this episode. I feel much better about the Fifth Book now as an adult. As you know, a person's who's been 15 and has 20-20 retrospective view on it. First, as a 13 year old who read this book and be like, "Ugh! Harry, why can't you just get it together?"

PM: It's very funny that you have to be a very specific age to side with Harry in this book.

LS: Yeah.

PM: Pre-13 and post-16, everyone's just, "Ugh Harry, get over yourself." But 13 to 16, everyone just has to be thinking, "Yeah, Harry! You deserve to give everyone some shit!"

LS: Exactly.

PM: I think while I was reading the 5th Book, it was my least favorite book. Looking back, it's in my top half. I think it might be my third or fourth favorite.

LS: I'm completely with you. Yeah, I think my top three are 7,6,5.

PM: Yeah, I think I would be 6,7,3,5 would probably how I would go.

LS: Yeah, 3 is really great. I think it's funny, 'cause we talked about this a little bit to <43:46> listening to Episode 26 and 27 and I weirdly, I think have soured on Sirius a little bit as I have gotten older.

PM: Ohhh, Brandon and I have converted you. It's not that I'm anti-Sirius, I think I'm more of, "Why does Lupin not get more love than Sirius?" Because Lupin is objectively better.

LS: Completely, yeah, I think that there are a couple of characters especially sort of the male figure heads that... she takes you on a journey with intentionally and you know, when you're 17, you're reading these books, things seem a little more black and white. Like, Sirius is the hot, cool one and Dumbledore is your old grandpa and Snape is evil.

PM: Sirius, the hot, cool one! Gary Oldman...

LS: Yeah, I know, oh my god, don't even get me started. And then you know, and then the whole thing with Snape and initially, sort of being like, "Oh, well Snape is so great." And then realizing, "Ohh no, Snape actually still sucks." And then you realize, Dumbledore kind of sucks.

PM: Yeah.

LS: And then, now I would say that my two favorite adult men in the series is... excluding Hagrid, who like, always good and always strong?

PM: Right, right.

LS: I think the two that have grown on me the most are Lupin and Arthur Weasley.

PM: Yeah.

LS: Like, I liked them when I initially read the books but now as an adult, I just think, those are the real, those are the real MVPs, you know?

PM: I agree, I get the appeal of Sirius and I know that he had a really hard rough go of it but...

LS: Totally!

PM: I even think... Hagrid, Hagrid has been there the whole time.

LS: Yeah!

PM: He has only benefited by not dying. 45:07

LS: True,

PM: So, 'cause I think, I think the other problem with Sirius is that he seemed to be on the right track and then things got cut a little bit short. So, it could be a little loss potentially and everything.

LS: Yeah.

PM: He could be uhhh, the Penny Hardaway of the Harry Potter Series. Which I know, because you're an avid basketball fan.

LS: I was about to say is that...

PM: You already know this but for the benefit of the listeners, his problems in career...

LS: Oh of course, yeah.

PM: Has been cut short by injuries, so you know? But y-you, but of course you knew this.

LS: Yeah, I-I'm totally up on that.

PM: You're already wearing a Penny Hardaway as we record.

LS: Of course, always, everyday. I genuinely thought that was a children's book character. Penny Hardaway sounds like a Victorian Girl's detective.

PM: Penny Hardaway and the...

LS: Penny Hardaway and the, the Mysterious Clock.

PM: The Torn Meniscus.

LS: Yeah!

PM: Oh man! So, listening back to these episodes, was there anything funny that stood out to you or things that you find interesting to look upon?

LS: Yes, I have two questions to you.

PM: Oh good!

LS: The first is, 'cause you know, you had the prediction that Neville and Luna are going to get married.

PM: Which doesn't happen in the books but does happen in the movies! Or at least, they become a thing in the movies!

LS: Do they?

PM: Somewhat. Neville in the Eight Movie, runs up to someone from the squad, I think Harry and says that he's running to find Luna to say that he loves her and he says something like, "I'm mad for her, I gotta let her know." Something to that effect.

LS: Wait, really?

PM: Yes.

LS: I totally forgot about that!

PM: Uh-huh! Because I was watching this in the Eight Movie, not good! But that was one of the things where I got very excited. Because it's something that I have cheered for. I am sad that they didn't get together though I understand that Dean and Luna somewhat ending up together thing.

LS: Yeah, they went through all of that stuff in the Malfoy Basement, I get it.

PM: Right, did they ever said who Neville ends up with? I feel like I've heard it.

LS: Yeah, he does end up with... I feel like, he's single at the time of the epilogue, but I think, I wanna say that JK Rowling, that JK Rowling sort of extra-canonically as she often does, mentioned that... I—not Hannah Abbott, was it?

PM: Hey Siri, Who does Neville Longbottom marry?

Siri tone

PM: No man, it's just pulling up the Google thing.

LS: Oh man.

PM: It's not just pulling up the answer.

LS: That was so exciting for a second.

PM: It is Hannah Abbott!

LS: Oh, okay, wow! I can't believe I knew that.

PM: I don't know if it's canonically or...

LS: Which just feels a little bit like, "Oh yeah, this is another woman's name that was mentioned in the books."

PM: A hundred percent. It's like, if someone got ended up marrying to Marietta, she was there.

LS: Yeah, exactly.

PM: It'll be like if Luna is married to Justin Finch-Fletchley. Okay, yes, he was there.

LS: Well, here's the thing, Luna and Neville should've gotten married and had weird plans together. And then, Dean and Seamus should've gotten married.

PM: Yo!

LS: That's the play!

PM: I feel like I've heard something about that being a thing. Whether it was the actors wanted it.

LS: It's the actor playing Seamus, I think has like, talked on Twitter about—

PM: Yes

LS: Shipping Dean and Seamus.

PM: I think they ship it together. I Googled Dean and Seamus and the first thing that came up was from [Shipping Wiki](#), which is Deamus.

LS: Deamus! Oh boy.

PM: Which, I guess that's better than **Sheam <48:00>**.

LS: That's true. There's that GIF that gets passed around all the time that I feel like the actor shared of the two of them at the Yule Ball dancing. And like, it ends up in the movie like, it's the two of them just like, slow dancing or something.

PM: Yeah.

LS: You know, they were pals and they were kinda always goofing off together and Luna should've been with Neville.

PM: A hundred percent,

LS: That's the way it should've gone.

PM: A hundred percent.

LS: Or I-I with each passing year, ship Harry and Luna, a little bit more.

PM: Ohhhhhhh! I would if Ginny and Harry wasn't so perfect.

LS: Yes, well so, that was my second question. Uhhh, was that we talked about the episode of **Ginny-Harry of it all <48:31>**, and you were like, "I cannot wait until Harry has his conversation with Ron about liking his sister." And I wanna know if that lived up to expectations.

PM: No, that was really underwhelming.

LS: Yeah, yeah.

PM: Because, I'm trying to remember exactly how it breaks down. But, you don't get the angry older brother or awkward best friend conversation from it.

LS: Yeah, it's that, it's that they kissed at a Post-Quidditch Party or something?

PM: Yeah, they do. I think Ron is confused at first. But then, he very quickly accepts it.

LS: Yeah.

PM: Which I think is nice, but I just wanted there to be more...

British Mike: "That's my sister."

PM: Kind of thing.

LS: Yeah, totally.

PM: But, alas, here we are.

LS: Well, he does get, he does get kind of snippy and... well I guess this is something from the book where he's all Horcruxed up and he's mad about you know, sort of Harry stringing Ginny along and like, I think they fight about that in the Seventh Book a little bit. Which I think is legitimate. Like, Ron sort of looking after Ginny and being like, "Stop fucking doing this to my sister, dude. Like, make a decision either way."

PM: I have here, one thing we did get into is, "Do owls know how to read?"

LS: Yes! Yeah, oh my god! What is... that was never answered. I don't — the whole thing of how—how the owls work. Oh, and we also talked about the fact that wizards don't really have pet dogs. And like, Sirius is really conspicuous because that seems to be the one type of pet the wizards do not have.

PM: Yeah, there is the magical creature, I wanna say it's called the Crup, it's the dog with the forked tail. That is a, that is a wizarding version of it.

LS: Ohhhhhh yes.

PM: But, from what I've read in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, the textbook, you know the one that five movies are gonna be about. There is a mention that wizards cut off the tail so that it looks like a regular dog. So, that's the *only* instance of dogs being pets. But, it's clearly not as big of a thing because it's more of getting owls or toads or cats, I assume.

LS: Yeah, the owls make sense to me. I never understood why it was owls, cat or toad.

PM: I just, I don't get it because the owl, and again, I'm not a pet person. So, people are gonna be upset by this, but if you're picking your pet. Like, when I was playing *Harry Potter, Hogwarts Mystery*, the iPhone game, they ask you to pick a pet before you could just have a million. And I got an owl first, because owls in the Wizarding World actually do something.

LS: Yeah, they're useful. I don't... why does Neville have a toad?

PM: It's very funny that Neville has a toad.

LS: What is it supposed to do? I mean, it's perfect. So

50:52

PM: It's called Trevor, which I initially—

LS: Trevor.

PM: Which I thought was a bad name, but I've come full 180 on it, it's a perfect name pet toad.

LS: And we found out in this chapter that the toad was named Trevor. Because that was a new information for you which surprised me. Because I thought you found that out much much earlier in the series.

PM: I think they said it earlier and I just missed it.

LS: Yeah, that's fair.

PM: So, I've come full around on Trevor recently when I was getting stamps to mail Potterless stickers, frogs was an option and I thought, "Oh! Trevor!" And I got frog stamps.

LS: That's so good!

PM: Oh man! So, before we go. There needs to be something, because now this is the first time we've talked about Harry Potter since I finished the books.

LS: That's true.

PM: We have our very famous debate about who is the best Weasley, Molly or Ginny?

LS: Yes.

PM: And I have now read the part that you so heavily alluded to without spoiling this at a live show, thank you so much. Which is that, Molly Weasley calls Bellatrix a bitch! In a children's book and *murders* her!

LS: It's so good!

PM: Ughhhh!

LS: It's maybe the best moment in literature ever.

PM: It's really good, it's really good. And in this Look Back Episode earlier, I redid my Weasley rankings with Sydney. And Molly has jumped from kind of low, middle tier to I have her second just behind Ginny.

LS: Yeah.

PM: Her and Ginny are so close, I still think I might give the edge to Ginny just because she's similar to me, the type of...

LS: Sure.

PM: Make fun of people kind of thing but do it lovingly. Fun loving but also serious when she needs to be, etcetera, etcetera. But Molly, man! That... Ohhhhhh! That is a really good moment and I can see why you had a convincing argument put together for everyone else in the crowd at the Live Show.

LS: Yeah, you know, I won the debate.

PM: Yeah, oh yeah.

LS: So, it's clear she's the best Weasley.

PM: Yeah, judged by Brandon Grugle who you know, you may or may not be dating now. Big thumbs up from Brandon from the producer booth.

LS: It was a fair and equal debate!

PM: Ohhhh, my goodness! What a time!

LS: Yeah! What a time! No, this was I think the first time that you were, you were starting to notice how great Molly is and it's been fun to go on that journey with you.

PM: Yeah, and it's fun to be in here now where I know why you were rooting for Molly so hard and why everyone in the crowd supported you. And I get it, it was so good.

LS: Yeah, 53:10

PM: One of the first thing I said in the audio, because I record myself reading that chapter.

LS: Amazing.

PM: I said something to the effect of, "Holy shit, wait they can do that? Oh that's why Lauren was..." Which is very good. Ahhhh...

LS: That's amazing.

PM: But this was so much fun. It was so much fun doing these episodes. The way that we came to meet, which was I happen to be in New York for an improv thing for a two and a half day weekend. And this was at a time when I was at a long distance with Kelly so our time was precious. And I was doing an improv thing, I was busy almost the entire weekend except for one afternoon and that one afternoon was when you had the pool party, and...

LS: Yeah.

PM: Julia texted me, "Hey, there's this thing you should go to. I'll bring you as my guest and I said, "Okay." And I did convince Kelly. Who at the time incredibly upset about it. But in retrospect...

LS: Very valid.

PM: Oh, a hundred thousand percent justified to be so. But I just had to promise her, "This is important, I promise."

LS: Oh, and now that I know her I'm sad that I wasn't like, I had no contacts to know that you were in town.

PM: Right, you didn't know who I was.

LS: Yeah.

PM: So, how would you have invited my girlfriend at the time? So, I am very glad that I was able to go to it, meet you, meet so many other people, have things flourish for Potterless from it and now, looking back, Kelly still said, "Yeah, I was really upset." Because she was well within her rights to be.

LS: Absolutely.

PM: But I did prove to her that it was worth it. Because you being on the Pod helped early on and I got to meet a lot of other people who are on right after. And that was really fun, so...

LS: Awww! I'm so glad.

PM: I'm glad that you invited me into your home and you pool and into your heart.

LS: Always.

PM: Well, thanks again for joining back then, thanks for joining now to talk about it. And uhh, I'll be—

LS: Thanks so much for letting me be part of your Harry Potter journey.

PM: Of course, of course and I'm sure we'll be talking soon in some future capacity. You, you're a master of musical. So, there are many musical things I can discuss from the, from the, or I guess there only A Very Potter Musical. I was gonna say Puffs and Cursed Child but neither of those have songs.

LS: Well...

PM: So, that was wrong.

LS: Yeah, that's true. But also, Cursed Child, I have a lot of opinions about the music in Cursed Child.

PM: Ohhhh.

LS: Because I have a lot of... so, I got very excited, like, ten minutes in, I realized what the music was 'cause all Imogen Heap.

PM: Ohhhhhh, wow!

LS: Yeah.

PM: I forgot that.

LS: It's all... it's not even an original music. It's a... most of it is from uhhh... her album Ellipse

PM: Ohhhh, interesting.

LS: So, yeah.

PM: Alright.

LS: Yeah, I have a lot of opinions on that.

PM: Cool, we'll have to talk about it then. But Lauren, thanks so much.

LS: Absolutely.

PM: And I'll be catching you later.

LS: Yeah, thanks so much for having me.

PM: No problem. Alright, thanks Brandon!

<55:36>

PM: Okay, so we round out this Look Back with Episodes 28 and 29 of Potterless which covered Order of the Phoenix, Chapters 15 through 19 and I was joined by Wolf 359 and No Bad Ideas and Time Bombs and so many other things, Zach Valenti, Zach, how's it going?

ZV: So good! So good to be back.

PM: It's good to have you back, man. It was fun having you on because what got you on this podcast was us meeting at a pool party at Lauren Shippen's house.

ZV: Yeah.

PM: Previously discussed on this Look Back having gone on this one as well. But then, I remember getting just you and eventually the rest of the Wolf 359 crew on and it made me really happy.

ZV: Awww! Well, it was such a turning point, sort of moment in getting to feel just a bigger part of the Audio-Fiction World. Feeling like there was a Audio-Fiction World, meeting you that day. I don't know it just blossomed from there. So, it's-it's wonderful to return to the Potterless home hearth.

PM: It's good to have you back in the home hearth. So, looking back and listening to these episodes, what kind of stuff that stood out to you? What are the funny bits, any little tidbits?

ZV: So one, I'm just am amazed at how like, little of a reaction I gave to your incredible sound effects. Ummm, because that yelling Gryffindor Hat, uhhhh, it's pretty amazing, just saying. I feel like it's just one experience to be like, on a podcast, very different one to be listening on a podcast.

PM: Definitely, oh for sure.

ZV: I don't know if you get this. But I also, just for anybody who's under the impression that I would like listening to myself, I hate hearing my own voice, a little bit. And uh hh, that definitely came up, ummmm, and I can't believe how much time I spent gushing over Jim Dale.

PM: Hey man, everyone has their heroes and you're a voice actor and Jim Dale is a voice actor and he's very good at it. So, it makes sense.

ZV: Well, it was a, it was a lot of fun to go back in time and just hear a conversation. Ummm, I'm curious, what stood out to you?

PM: I don't know, there's a lot. I think one thing that happened in the first episode. We really just go on about McGonagall just absolutely killing it. Because this is like, really where she starts going in on Umbridge.

ZV: You mean, *Umbitch*?

PM: Yes, exactly.

ZV: Yes, that was— that was a fave.

PM: I think what's, what's just fun about this is at this point, I already liked McGonagall. But she didn't really have a villain to go against. Really the only things we see is McGonagall just being sassy in general or not putting up with Harry's shenanigans. But at the same time being a strong stern mother-like figure to Harry. But with the introduction of Umbridge, we get a true foil for her and she just gets to tear her down again and again and again. And just makes me so happy.

ZV: I mean, somebody's gotta do it and none more amazingly prepared to take down, really the, one of the kind of meanest person in the series. I feel like Umbridge is meaner than Voldemort in like, daily interaction.

PM: Right.

ZV: I mean, obviously he's like, more darkness in that other person's heart. But you know, I just feel like, like in some way it's like, if you're having to go to the DMV and one of those people had to be behind the desk, I feel like, I'd rather take on Voldemort.

PM: Well yeah, 'cause you'd don't also have to kill half the people in line. So you can get through there.

ZV: Oh my god. Well, that aside.

PM: We touched on this in this episode and I touched on it later on this podcast is that I think that Umbridge is a more, she's more relatable villain. So, it almost feels like she's the better one because Voldemort is soooooo over the top evil.

ZV: Right.

PM: That you can't relate that to anyone you know in real life. Whereas, everyone knows an Umbridge. I got more upset at Umbridge in the books than I did at Voldemort because I wasn't close with Hitler.

ZV: Right.

PM: So I don't have any interaction with him. Whereas, I've known many people that have lied or abused power or both or you know, had selfish interest and acted like they didn't, stuff like that.

ZV: Sure.

PM: And I think that makes sense. In the second episode of these two, one of the fun moments of the whole Potterless Series happens is me doing my big 180 on Dobby.

ZV: Yeah, I was surprised relistening to that. That you didn't like him to begin with?

PM: What is to like at first?

ZV: I mean, it's...

PM: What is to like?

ZV: He's so cute... I don't know? I mean yeah, he's kind of annoying. But, like, I don't know. I-I think that this another like, Jim Dale swooned my heart as child and so I just like, you know, even though the voice, I know you found a little grating.

PM: I think it's nails on a chalkboard inside of a styrofoam room.

ZV: Oh well, we will agree to disagree. He-he won me over. I mean, obviously like, it's hard to not love somebody who is just loving life after being set free. Ummmm, I feel like uhhh... maybe that had something to do with the turn.

PM: Yeah, I mean what really made the 180 for me is just the Dobby, his rehab treatment of Winky is just so incredible and so selfless. And he calms down a little bit from being this, what I think, annoying character into someone that is just... he becomes more like a really excited dog.

ZV: Awww...

PM: More so than someone that's annoying.

ZV: He is a little bit like a dog from Up.

PM: Yeah, some dogs are so cute and they jump all over you and they scratch you and stuff and they lick all on you. And me as a non pet person, sometimes I find this a little bit annoying. Especially because I enjoy my clothes and I like my clothes not having stains and/or not having holes in them. But, if a dog's really cute, you don't mind. Aww, you got mud all over my shorts, it's okay, they'll come out. And I think in this book fully makes that transition to just being so lovable that you overlook some of the "more annoying" things. And it was, I think it was a big turning point in the series. And I always think it's funny that people were mad at me for hitting Dobby in the earlier books. But, this is again, like, the point of the podcast.

ZV: Right.

PM: Of I didn't know the full Dobby story and everyone else did. So people jumping on me for not liking Dobby didn't really make any sense. Because they know he gets good.

ZV: Right, right, right, right.

PM: Oh man.

ZV: So, rose colored glasses once you've made the transition into—

PM: A hundred percent.

ZV: Freedom Era, Dobby.

PM: Yes.

ZV: I have in my notes Harry got a spiky black D from Snape.

PM: Awwww. Yeah.

ZV: Which, I didn't remember until you highlighted and I just found that so entertaining.

PM: Just one of those phrasings, "Did you not look at this, did you not?" But, I mean, this is also the person who loves to write the word ejaculate a lot.

ZV: Awww man.

PM: So, who's to say.

ZV: That-that escaped me.

PM: Yeah, there's a lot of times where instead of yelling she says that people ejaculate. Which, that's just unnecessary.

ZV: That's funny.

PM: We also talked about the stairs not letting run up the girl's dorm, being true feminism?

ZV: Right.

PM: Which, I enjoy and it reminds me of something people often send me lots of Tumblr posts and things, fan theory type stuff from Harry Potter. The one that I saw recently that was really solid was, it was saying that something about the stairwells in the dorms and it's a boy tries to go up the stairs. But they stay stairs and then the reveal is that, it's someone that is going through a transition and he's like, "I always knew I was a girl." Which is a, ughhhh, I don't know. It's a fun and cool headcanon, I would love to see.

ZV: It's so good, and also like, throws a well deserved, oh, I don't know if it's a granade or whatever is necessary at the gender binary that is sort of baked into that culture. Which we definitely talked about...

PM: Well yeah, there's a boy's dorm, and there's a boy's dorm. So, what happens at the current Hogwarts.

ZV: Right.

PM: I would hope that if 2019 Hogwarts is still out there, that it looks a little bit different.

ZV: I would imagine, I hope, anyway.

PM: Yeah, how could it not? It would need, otherwise, I mean, the school didn't get shut down for a lot of things, so who knows?

ZV: Maybe they finally get rid of Peeves too, I don't know.

PM: Ohhh! Well, they got rid of them in the movies. So, here we are.

ZV: Aha! Geez.

PM: Another thing that I had from the first episode that we discussed was this is the point in the books where Ginny starts to get good.

ZV: Right.

PM: I don't remember the exact thing, I did have it written as, "Ginny's big moment." At least, in the uhhh, in the episode description.

ZV: Yeah, I forget exactly the contents but it was something along the lines of, before this, she was just kinda in the background and it definitely feels like the sort of the Dumbledore's Army formation includes...

PM: Ohhh that, I think that was Ginny's big moment. I think it was her refusing to use Cho Chang's name for Dumbledore's Army being the Defense Alliance or something, whatever the original names was. Ginny steps in and was like, "Uhhh, actually, that name sucks."

ZV: You can feel like JK Rowling sort of like, pushing the gas on like, "This is going to be a fuller character that has a voice and that like, is going to play an important role as the story goes on.

<1:05:38>

PM: Yeah, I really loved it and Ginny is now in my Top 5 favorite characters. Even higher I'd have to consider the rankings. Probably Top 3, honestly. Her, Hermione, McGonagall and some Order are my favorite three characters,

ZV: Right on.

PM: But she is barely anything until this book.

ZV: Yeah.

PM: And it takes until where we are, about halfway through the book. It takes until then for her to really supplant herself to being awesome. She starts to become wittier, she starts to stand up for herself often. She starts to be less of just, "Oh, that's Ron's sister." And more of, "This is Ginny." And I think it makes sense given her age. I think this is the time. She would've been 14 here. So like...

ZV: Ohh...

PM: That's when, at least, I sort of came into my own and started to develop like, truly a personality that was unique and not just doing whatever. So, I think it's great, I love how abrupt it is and from this moment on, I just really loved her. Now, she's one of my favorite characters. So, it's funny that it took me 27 Episodes of Potterless to like Ginny Weasley, the one I love so dearly. But, I'm glad it happened.

ZV: Hey, good things take time.

PM: Just like me enjoying the series. Good things take time. But Zach, thank you so much for coming on, man. Thanks for being on the show way back when. It was great to meet you at that pool party and within 5 minutes of me talking about my podcast, you instantly wanting to be on it and expressing that desire which is really cool. And now, we've worked on so much stuff since and hopefully, I'll keep everything in with tight sealed lips.

ZV: Fingers crossed 1:06:05

PM: we're working some stuff going forward and we can make things happen and that'll be fun.

ZV: I'm super stoked for the future and it's been such a privilege to get to hang out and I don't know, I'm grateful to learn for creating that circumstance and grateful for this show to get to chat about Harry Potter with a bunch of awesome people.

PM: It's always good, it's always good. So, thanks so much for being on Zach and I'll catch you later.

ZV: My pleasure, see you soon.

PM: Later. Alright, thanks Brandon!

EM: And that's all she wrote for the Look Backs for now, it's me Editing Mike and until next week when I start dunkin' on the movies, as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter before they dunk on movies, WIZARD ON!

<1:06:40>