

## Episode 75 - Deathly Hallows Ch. 24

w/ Helen Zaltzman & Martin Austwick

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

<3:40>

PM: So we get now into Chapter 24, The Wandmaker. So, Harry is super sad, obviously. But he does realize that he's on a right place. Because Dean, Luna, Fleur and Bill have come out. Harry asks about Hermione. They say that Ron brought her inside. Harry then wraps Dobby up in his jacket. Dean beings in Griphook and they all follow. Harry has a vision then, of Voldemort punishing everyone left in Malfoy Manor. Which I think is great, I'm glad that Harry got to see this. So he could be like, "Ha-ha! This idiot!"

HZ: Yes, the Death Eaters do not have a good time, as aforementioned.

PM: Yes, that is the theme of this episode. Death Eaters, not great. Bill suggests burying Dobby and Harry says he wants to do it properly without magic. So he asks for a spade, very British way to ask for a shovel.

HZ: Okay, here's my question.

PM: Uh-huh.

HZ: If it's so unusual to dig the non-wizarding way, how come there are at least three spades at Bill's house? Because two other people helped him dig.

PM: Yeah... \*mindfucked\*

HZ: Why has he got spades? He doesn't need him, he's a wizard.

PM: Yeah, that's true. Well, maybe it's the fact that he's like, actually wanted to do it with his hand. Maybe as a wizard you still need to like, you know? Wingardium Leviosa the spade itself. And then it's like, magically still doing the digging. Like maybe you can't just do like, "Dig!" In the ground?

MA: Well maybe, it's one of... you know when you get to those sort of like, cafés and like, artisanal things that are decorative like old radios.

PM: Ohhhhhh!

MA: Or 5:07

HZ: Old cameras.

MA: Maybe wizards have like all kinds Muggle shit in their houses. 'Cause it's like, 5:10 quite how they dig holes into the these things.

PM: I mean, Arthur Weasley does have a collection of Muggle stuff.

MA: There we go.

PM: So maybe, Bill took after his dad and just adds a bunch of stuff!

HZ: Do wizards get enough exercise?

PM: No! No way!

HZ: Because they can kind of just Apparate everywhere. Their household tasks are so much easier.

PM: They're all out of shape.

MA: I think half <5:29> heart disease and Death Eaters are the biggest cause of death amongst wizards.

PM: Yup, it's got to be.

HZ: I think probably, magical accidents and might be mythical creatures.

MA: Well, that's probably—

PM: Or evil sentient metal hands that you know, pft pft you to death.

HZ: It's the real problem. What do you think the significance is of Harry deciding this? This is very kind of non-wizard way of showing contrition and devotion.

PM: Yeah, I guess it's just like, you earn if more if you like, go through the effort of the like, digging the the grave. That being said like, how big is Dobby like? Like, 2 foot 3?

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Like, Harry is making this big fucking deal about like, "I'm gonna dig this hole." Like, how big is the hole?

HZ: Well, they jump into it to keep digging it. I mean, that's not really necessary. It just needs to be a foot or two deep.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: He's a tiny little being.

MA: Don't they have to bury him as deeply as a human even if you don't—

PM: He's got the full 6 ft.

MA: Yeah, right.

HZ: Do you think Harry just needs like a manual task to take his mind off trauma of another being dying for him.

PM: Well, it out that that actually plays in his favor. While he's digging he feels the scar burn but he's able to kinda like, shove it out of his mind and not worry about it.

MA: You feel like he can do some domestic chores? Like, I feel like he could do the washing up. But that's too like, feminine and all for him. So he has to do something manly which I think is really toxic.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Yeah, "I gotta dig a big hole, I'm a man!"

MA: Yeah, why doesn't he just, he could just prepare dinner for the other people.

HZ: I also wondered whether he doesn't wanna be around other people.

MA: That's true.

HZ: Because he's grieving.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: And he feels guilty 'cause so many people have died for Harry Potter over the series.

PM: Yeah, very common theme.

HZ: Yeah, and when you're 17... I mean, that's a lot to take, at any age. He's still only 17.

PM: Yeah.

<7:02>

HZ: That's happened to him since birth.

PM: Geez.

HZ: Is he's wearing a lot of guilt.

PM: Woof, woof, woof, woof.

HZ: Although Dobby would be very happy about it, I think. This is like, the ideal scenario for Dobby to be able to die for Harry Potter.

PM: Oh yeah, in addition to it being a perfect and exactly what Dobby would've wanted. He went out like a champ!

MA: Yeah.

PM: Disapparating people, saving lives, breaking a chandelier, fucking shit up. Like, he did some dope stuff.

HZ: He's got a taste for the dramatic.

PM: Oh for sure, definitely! So Harry then takes pleasure in the fact that he is able to control the Voldemort visions. And my thought is that Harry, anytime he starts to see these visions, he should just pull a Kevin Bacon from Footloose and just like, anger dance his way through an abandoned warehouse anytime he wants to keep Voldemort out of his brain.

HZ: And I bet Daniel Radcliffe would've loved to do that in the films.

PM: I think that he would've. I just last night saw Daniel Radcliffe in a play here on Broadway, I saw him on A Lifespan of a Fact. He was genuinely incredible. He was so good.

MA: Was there a lot of dancing?

PM: There was not a lot of dancing. But he did speak in a very convincing American accent for the whole play.

HZ: Oh good, because I think that is a difficult one for Brits to get on top of.

MA: Yeah.

PM: Yeah, he nailed it, he was very good, he was very funny. I was kinda **smuggling <8:12>** into it like, "Ugh, this guy only got cast because he was Harry Potter." And then, very shortly into the play, I was like, "Oh no, he's a very talented actor, I'm sorry. My apologies, Mr. Radcliffe."

HZ: He's done a lot of plays.

PM: Yeah, he has done a lot since. So, Harry attributes this ability to the grief of Dobby and he knows that Dumbledore instead would've said that it's the power of love. And of course, Harry being Harry is like, not okay with this because, "Ugh, love is so girly, I can't love things, Blaaaughhh!"

HZ: <8:37> wizards eliminated toxic masculinity?

MA: Like, he's 17, he's not like, 12. Like, he should've grown up a little bit.

HZ: Well, girls, <8:43>!

MA: \_\_\_\_\_

HZ: He likes girls. I suppose he hasn't had strong female role models. Well, at least Hermione though.

PM: He hangs out with Hermione all the time.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: And Molly Weasley.

HZ: I take it back, McGonagall?

PM: Yeah.

HZ: Yeah, Molly Weasley, she's badass.

MA: Yeah.

PM: Yeah, if anything, all the men in his life are awful.

MA: Hagrid's alright.

PM: Ehh, there's a lot of bad dudes.

MA: Yes.

HZ: Yeah.

MA: True.

PM: Harry should be looking up to these strong women. So, Harry reveals that Voldemort was at Nurmengard, not—

PM/MA: <9:10> Nuremberg.

MA: He should've been.

HZ: I bet he was at Nuremberg as well, just as a spectator.

MA: With Tony Blair and George W. Bush.

PM: So, this definitely confirms finally that it was Grindelwald that he was talking about. So, Dean and Ron come out and they say that Hermione's being looked after by Fleur.

HZ: Girls. Girls doing nurse stuff.

PM: Of course. So, then there's just this great quote from the Narrator that says, "Harry had his retort ready for when they ask him why he had not simply created a perfect grave with his wand. But he did not need it." Like, Harry just going in and like, "Oh yeah, these guys are gonna ask me questions and I'm gonna burn them." And just like, thinking the worst of his friends. And then uhhh, they don't.

HZ: No one cares. What do you think the perfect retort was? They don't say what it was.

PM: Oh, let's see. Well knowing Harry, it probably would've been like, "Why don't *you* dig the grave?" Like, you know? Nothing thoughtful or clever at all.

MA: I used my magic pole for banging your mum.

HZ: Geez.

MA: That's the best I could come up with in a short time.

HZ: Oh, not bad, not bad. It's about his standard, he's <10:06> at boarding school for the lot of his life.

PM: Yeah, he's 17. So, they wrap him up. Dean gives him a little hat.

MA: Awwww...

PM: Dean conjures a hat specifically. Which, I think is great. They bury him and then the others come out. Harry notices the SkeleGro, which I still hate the name of is in Fleur's pocket. And Luna then closes Dobby's eyes and he says, "There, now he could be sleeping." Which is very sweet.

HZ: You know what? Luna handles traumatic events extremely well.

PM: Very, very well.

HZ: Throughout this book.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: She's very calm. She's also quite practical. I know you're supposed to think she's loopy at the beginning. But actually, she's a very useful character.

PM: Yes, she's really is and she's very mature and you're right, deals with grief in serious situations very well.

HZ: I guess 'cause she's suffered a loss with her mother at a young age.

PM: Yeah, she did, at nine, I think which, oooh.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: So, Harry feels that Dobby deserves a funeral as dramatic and grandiose as Dumbledore's but he has something so simple. Luna says that they should say something and she gives a long thank you, which is very nice. Ron just says, "Thanks." And Harry can only muster a, "Goodbye, Dobby." Harry asks for a moment alone, so everyone leaves. He then grabs a stone and he puts it by where Dobby's head is under the earth. And etches, "*Here lies Dobby, A Free Elf.*" With the smaller of the two wands that he has, which is great. And I made a note for myself, so I won't forget to, "ASK HELEN ABOUT WHAT HER THOUGHTS ON WRITING ENGRAVED STONES IS." Since her whole Ted Talk is about uhhh, someone made a very fun spelling mistake.

HZ: Yeah, there typo on my grandmother's gravestone. It said something bland like, "Remembered with love and respect by all of her family and friends." But the gravestone makers forgot the "r" in friends which really changes the sentiment in that slogan. Which did not go down well with certain factions of the family.

PM: See, that's the kind of thing where it would speak volumes of someone. If they were so wonderful that they were still beloved by their enemies. If they like, miswrote that on my grave, I'd be like, "No, no, no, keep it, that's good."

HZ: I just thought it was the funniest thing I have ever seen. And it probably will always be the funniest thing. I mean, I haven't even seen the grave in person because it's in South Africa. If it hadn't been my mum sending a photo from the gravesite, I would have seemed it was photoshopped. Because it's such a perfect error. But otherwise, if they'd left out the

12:32

PM: "D"

HZ: Yeah. Well like, it, it just wouldn't... they'd probably would've left it just to save the 12:37 of getting it done, it doesn't matter. Or even if they've left the "N" out, "Friens." Because Jewish people eat fried food at Hanukkah.

MA: I feel like, that's sort of the worst 12:46. "Much missed by family and friend."

PM: Oh, just one friend.

HZ: She was 99 when she died, her friends were dead. So, it's fair enough.

PM: I don't know if this is a common thing. But Kelly watched that Ted Talk when she was like, "Who's Helen Zaltzman?" I was like, "Oh, she's great, watch this video, she's very smart."

HZ: Oh thank you, thank you.

PM: And uhhh, that happened to her grandmother.

HZ: Nooooo!

MA: Whaaat?

PM: They misspelled her last name like 3 different times.

HZ: Ohhhh!

PM: Do these places not have Microsoft Word with spell— Like, how, there's not that many words on a gravestone. Like, how do you keep making *that* mistake? It doesn't seem hard.

HZ: Yeah and the same tropes come up again and again. And I doubt that anyone has requested "Fiends" for any reason. But I guess, it's a word, so it wouldn't get the red squiggly line underneath.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: If it was just an error. But the last name thing, that is insulting.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: Three times!

PM: And on multiple times, ridiculous!

MA: Was that multiple times on granite?

PM: I-I mean it was just the they like, they made three different ones. Yeah, I think it was on granite.

HZ: Oh.

PM: I'll have to ask Kelly to double check.

MA: Isn't it that you check it before you engrave it?

PM: Right?

MA: On a piece of stone, right?

PM: You would think. Especially after you mess up the first time.

MA: Yeah.

PM: Like, you'd be like, "Alright, let's not waste another large stone slab."

MA: Yeah.

HZ: Whooops!

PM: Yeah, big old whoops! So, Harry thankfully, no spelling mistakes. What would be the good letter to leave out in, "Here lies Dobby, A Free Elf"? Uhhhh, there's no good one letter spelling mistakes here, missed opportunity.

MA: Could've, he could've misspelled it a <14:10> Fire Elf, or something like really cool. But not something that happens in Harry Potter Universe, but still.

PM: Yeah.

MA: Fire elf, yeah.

PM: So, Harry then enters the house and he hears that Ginny is safe because she was back home for Easter. So, they use the Fidelius Charm in... to move everyone out of The Burrow. They've got people out in Muriel's which they say eventually they will move all of the people here to Muriel's because she has room. Harry washes up and then has some sort of meditation in the bathroom about Dumbledore helping since he's convinced that that's who sent Dobby with the little eye in the mirror thing. I don't know, it was weird, it's definitely not in the movie but he comes back and he is pure not messing around, Harry Potter.

MA: Yeah!

PM: He says he wants to talk to Ollivander and then Griphook but separately from everyone. Bill gets a little upset and Harry quickly shuts him down like, "Look, we have a mission, you

know that I'm not supposed to talk about the mission. Just let me talk to these people separately."

HZ: "Yeah, listen Dragon Twat!"

MA: How is he Dragon Twat?

PM: No, he's not Dragon Twat, that's Charlie. Charlie is Dragon Twat.

HZ: Oh sorry, what does Bill do?

PM: Uhh, he works at the bank?

HZ: Oh.

PM: He's a Curse Breaker. He has a ponytail, he does have a dragonskin boots and he has like, one fang earring.

MA: He seems like <15:21> from a record label in the 1990s.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: It is the mid-90s.

PM: Yeah, he's like, what cool is supposed to be in the mid-90s. But you could call him like, Dragon Boot Twat?

HZ: Okay. Bank Wanker!

PM: Yeah, so he tells Bank Wanker to go scuff off. So then, Harry has to choose between Horcruxes and Hallows. And he chooses Horcruxes by talking to Griphook first.

HZ: I do wish JK Rowling had chosen between Horcruxes and Hallows.

MA: Yeah.

PM: Ohhhh.

HZ: Because, you know, you get used to the idea of the Horcrux and then you're like, "Oh, more items that we have to keep track of." Because it's just like, a bit of a sequential chase for them to be like, "Okay, better find the next Horcrux, uhhhh, another Horcrux." And then she introduces like, this new 16:03."

MA: The story of the Death Hallows is really, really complicated. And has its own logic about the succession of the Wand and that's just one of the Deathly Hallows and all of that stuff is going on. You can't resolve the Horcrux stuff to the end. You couldn't be like, <16:13>

"Okay, we've got the Horcruxes and then kill Voldemort and then move on to the Deathly Hallows." Happens at the same time. And it just becomes such an operation to keep all of that, all of the lore and all of the like, ownerships and locations in your head. I remember when I first read this book, I got confused by this point of the story. Just like, "Who's on the what now?"

HZ: Who's looking for what? Yeah, which are the good bits and the bad items.

PM: Yeah, I guess what it's supposed to be, it's supposed to be it's like moral quandary where the Hallows are more tempting because they make you invincible and powerful etcetera, etcetera. But Dumbledore told Harry and the squad to go get the Horcrux. It's like, "Listen to Dumbledore, he knows what he's doing."

MA: Yeah.

PM: The other thing is like, Voldemort is not gonna look for the Horcruxes. So, it's not supposed to be some like, judgement of his character by saying, "Oh, look how foolish he is because he went for the Hallows." Well yeah, he made the Horcruxes he doesn't have to look for them.

MA: Yeah.

PM: But also, we're about 2/3s of the way through the book and they've only found, 1? They're not doing a great job. They found one additional one and they didn't even do anything. Someone else put the sword in the lake where they happened to be. So they're not doing a great job on Team Find the Rest of the Horcruxes.

HZ: Is, is the sword a Horcrux? I thought it was just an implement in which they can destroy Horcruxes.

PM: Oh, you're right, yeah, yes.

HZ: I can't keep track because there's just too many mythical items.

MA: <17:30>

PM: The locket, the locket is what they've got and they use the sword to kill it. So yeah, the locket is was some craftiness. But even that, I don't know, they haven't made a whole lot of progress.

HZ: Yeah, it's a bit like ummm, Monopoly where like, you're gathering money and hotels and houses but also like, railway companies or whatever. So, lots of things are going on.

PM: Oh, you've got, you've got Water Works.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Fun, here's your \$50, Grandma. 'Cause I landed on a Water Work.

HZ: Look, it's a solid income.

PM: So, Harry decides to talk to Griphook first and he tells the squad to join him. While they're going upstairs, Harry asks Hermione if she's okay. And he does tell her that she was amazing by coming up with a story while being tortured. And it's one of the few times that Harry like, gives anyone a compliment. So, good on Harry especially for Hermione who's been holding shit down for the entirety of this book.

HZ: Yeah, and she's just being getting hit with a lot of strong, painful torture curses.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: And it's just like, "Oh yeah, Hermione's fine, it's okay, you don't have to spend any time in her in these chapters."

PM: You were great Hermione.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Griphook and Harry both do this thing where they like, "Oh, you probably don't remember me." But Griphook is the one who brought Harry down to the vault in Book One when Harry was going to his vault. So this is again, much like the Penelope Clearwater thing. This is a character we have seen in a bunch of books, neat. Uhhh, which is happening a bunch in this.

HZ: Yeah, no need to come up with a new one, we've already got one.

PM: Griphook calls Harry an odd wizard, twice. Once, for digging Dobby's grave by hand and once, for saving Griphook, who's a goblin. And Harry is a bit confused about why. Then we learned that goblins and wizards are not doing so well as you know, co-mingling as you know, species in the same world. So Harry tells Griphook that he needs help breaking into a Gringotts vault. He wants to break in to the Lestranges vault. And this is when I realized why Bellatrix is freaking out so much as, "Oh, there might be other Horcruxes." Or at least a Horcrux in this vault. So, that's why she was freaking out so much at the thought of someone having access to their vault in Gringotts.

HZ: I should've got Bitcoins instead of gold.

PM: I mean, if you got them in 1996,

HZ: Yeahhhh.

PM: You'll be way early in the game.

HZ: It's before the first ".com" bubble burst as well.

PM: Yeah, you could do a whole lot of things if they were ahead of her game.

HZ: Yup, but they're not because they're like, anti-technology.

PM: They are very, very silly, these wizards. Griphook says that there's no chance that they can get into the vault. And he starts reciting the rhyme that's on the outside of the Gringotts and Harry says, "Yeah, yeah. I know the fucking lyrics, spare me." And he then tells Griphook that he can get by in a technicality though. Because him going after the vault is not for any sort of personal gain. So, Griphook is unsure about it, voicing his concerns of how "wand carriers" treat other races. He says that the wizards won't share any sort of wandlore with any other race. And that they treat other races poorly which is valid. But Ron brings up a valid point. That goblins don't share their metalworking skills with other races either. So, no one's perfect, everyone in this world is awful.

MA: I like that Wand Carrier as like a sort of mild slur. In so like, 20:45 as well.

PM: Yes, you dirty Wand Carrier.

MA: It reminds of if there's apparently an insult for ummmm, bad chess players amongst grandmasters, that was Wood Pusher.

PM: Ohhhhhh, I like that a lot.

MA: Yeah, yeah.

HZ: But it's interesting, isn't it? That you've got all through these books, racism within the wizards. And then, you've got like them all being lumped together in the term, Wand Carriers here.

PM: Yeah. The wizards are so racist that they're racists like, within themselves and then also, for other races that are not wizards.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: But they couldn't just stop thinking wizards are better than others. They're like, "Only the purest of wizards are better than everyone else."

HZ: Yeahhhh. They've still got wizard privilege.

PM: Yeah.

MA: I, I do think it's a little bit <21:27>, isn't it? Like, if we're meant to view it as like, the Death Eaters and the goblin wizard rivalry as a metaphor for racism. And Ron is basically going like, "What about the reverse racism?"

HZ: "I'm a mediocre white man, what about me?"

MA: Yeah, how do I get to learn about your metal work.

PM: Oh no.

HZ: Actually, I bet Ron would be quite good at metal work.

MA: Yeah, he's a real 21:44.

PM: So, brings up that point about metal working. Harry tries to stop this whole argument saying, "Let's not make this about race." But Griphook says that it's entirely about race. Because when Voldemort takes over, he will make it so much about race...

MA: Yeah.

PM: And wizards already don't care. At this point, the goblins are already being attacked by Voldemort. So, why would a goblin be nice to wizards anyway.

Like, wizards should be standing up for goblins right now. Hermione says that they are different though. She brings up that she is pro-goblin and that she was the one that was chosen to be tortured out of the whole group. She also the references SPEW. Ron has to like, hide his face because he hated that group the whole time. But he had to put on a poker face and be like, "Yeah, we love, oh man, we love house elves so much, dude. Gosh, they're so good!"

MA: I feel like Hermione's not covering herself in glory here. Where her basic argument against like, "I want wizard races to hear about this." Yeah, a lot of like brilliant white saviors where you can \_\_\_\_\_.

HZ: She's had a rough day.

MA: She has.

HZ: she's not being as bright as she might be.

MA: She has.

HZ: \_\_\_\_\_

MA: That's true, she's not very working this \_\_\_\_\_.

PM: Yeah, she's basically pulling like, "Not all wizards."

MA: Yeah basically, yeah, "I'm a really good wizard, shower me with phrase."

HZ: Or, "I'm the Mudblood, I'm the victim here."

PM: And then, she does have like a brief moment where she calls herself a Mudblood and then Ron is like, "Don't call yourself that." And she pulls like the, "I'm reclaiming the word." Moment.

MA: Yeah, she reclaims Mudblood yeah, yeah.

HZ: Yeah, how do you feel about JK Rowling doing politics in this book?

PM: Ohhhhhh, Ughhhhh, I don't know. I mean, it would be better if she wasn't so bad at it now. She's <23:14> like talking big game. Where she's like, "Dumbledore was gay the whole time. Yeah, totally, totally, totally. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Ummm-hmmmm. Yeah, there are Jewish kids in the book, yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah." Look at the cast of The Crimes of Grindelwald. Like, the top 8 people are all white. I don't know, I feel like she talks a big game about being like, woke and diverse but she is actually not.

MA: And then hires Johnny Depp, nice going JK.

PM: Oh yeah, Nagini was a Korean woman the whole time, ughhhhhh, ugghhhh. Wasn't she a slave?? Ughhhhhhhh.

HZ: You're saying that Parseltongue is Korean?

PM: Maybe Hooo! Gosh! JK, digging a hole and, and she's using magic to do it.

MA: Well, she does call a spade a spade.

PM: So...

<23:57>

EM: Alright, Past Mike, let's pump the breaks on this JK Rowling tirade. Especially since indirectly, she gave you your career. And speaking of that career, it's time for WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA.

<24:10>

WINGARDIUM AD-READ-OSA

<27:35>

PM: Griphook then asks them what they want in the vault given that the sword is a fake. Harry says that, "There has to be some other stuff in there, right?" And Griphook says that it's against Goblin Code to say what's inside. Harry asks if he will help because he's their one hope. And then he says, "I will... think about it." Which is the ultimate blue balls for Harry. So he leaves and then Ron is very upset.

HZ: I kind of like how Griphook is a jerk.

PM: Yeah.

HZ: And isn't just falling over himself to help Harry...

MA: Yeah.

HZ: Like almost everyone is.

MA: I mean, he basically, Harry's basically like, "Will you compromise all of your essential values and principles in order to help with an internal wizard struggle?" And he's like...

HZ: <28:15>

MA: No, and then Griphook is like, "Maybe, but then like, why would I?"

HZ: Bloody entitled Harry Potter.

PM: Uhhh-hmmm. Hermione asks Harry if he thinks that there is a Horcrux in the vault and Harry says, "Yes." Ron brings up that they're supposed to be in important places. And Harry says that maybe he would've put it into Gringotts because he would've envied someone who is able to put money there. Because he didn't have any to put in there and it would signify belonging in the Wizarding World.

MA: That really seems like a really <28:45>

HZ: Uhhmmmm, yeah, very tenuous.

PM: He's doing confirmation bias, for sure.

HZ: But although, what is a good place to hide something of value? With a load of other valuable objects.

PM: Yeah, it-it is solid but I think he more should be like, "Bellatrix flipped absolute shit when—

MA: Yeah!

PM: —she thought we were in her vault, Hermione. And he doesn't bring it up once. Like, look at all these creative work that I've thought of. It's like, "Dude, just like, go to the facts." Like, Bellatrix was freaking out crazily once she thought that Hermione had access to the vault. So like, that's your proof, dude.

MA: On a more basic level, it is a building designed to protect objects from anyone getting to them.

PM: Exactly.

MA: So, that would be a good place to put something you don't want people to get.

PM: It doesn't make sense but he's got this big story about it. Harry then brings up again something that Hagrid said before. Which is that Gringotts is the safest place in the world aside from Hogwarts. Which, I've called this in like, Episode 2 of Potterless. Like, I think Gringotts is fucked. But, Gringotts is getting broken into by someone. I don't know if the squad is gonna be able to break into it or the Death Eaters are gonna do some stuff. I do not have high hopes for Gringotts Bank in this book. So, Harry then goes on to talk to Ollivander.

MA: The Wandmaker of the chapter's title.

PM: When he gets into his room, he of course, which keeps happening in these chapters, gropes for his broken wand and asks Ollivander if it can be repaired. Ollivander says, "No." That with the damage that is done to this wand...

MA: I'm pretty sure it's Peter Pettigrew groping for his broken wand earlier.

HZ: Ohhhh! Stop it!

PM: Oh no! So, Ollivander says, "No, you can't fix it,"

HZ: Oh, should've bought a spare on my two for one deal.

PM: SO Harry then asks about the other two wands that he had stolen. And Ollivander is still sticking to his guns. Does his classic Ollivander bit where he like, lists the, the type of the wood and how flexible it is and the core and blah blah. Like, he does the whole schtick.

HZ: And you're like, "Skip to the end, old man."

PM: I'm like, "Just tell me whose it is." He says the one belongs to Bellatrix and the other one belonged to Draco. Very specifically mentions being in the past tense. And Harry's like, "What? Isn't this technically Draco's?"

MA: Oh yeah, but he says the same thing about Bellatrix'. He says, "This wand belonged to Bellatrix." So why did they make a distinction.

PM: Yeah, I guess it's just Harry brings it up when he says it the second time.

MA: Yeah, yeah.

PM: He's like, "Isn't it still his?" And then, Ollivander gets into this whole big thing of like, "Well no, if you defeat the wizard, like the wand chooses the wizard, right?" And Harry's like, "Yes, I know, god! Your catchphrase, we get it." But he says that the allegiance of the wand changes.

HZ: Is the Ollivander the only wandmaker in the British Wizarverse? And if so, his being imprisoned for over a year...

MA: What have they been doing?

HZ: There's been like a whole new generation of kids going to Hogwarts presumably and people have wand maintenance needs. Who has to make the fucking wands?

MA: Well, when you say that, I mean, I had this friend, his that is a hat block maker and I think there are only about eight in the country. I don't think you need a lot of wand makers, 'cause you buy a wand and you've got the wand.

HZ: Yeah, but not everyone...

MA: You buy a TV, you don't get another one for a couple of years.

HZ: Not every single person needs a hat block, just hat makers. But every single person needs a wand.

MA: Yeah, but they're like, a hat block to it, hat maker is like a wand to a wizard, it's the tool of their trade.

HZ: <31:42> I'm just saying Ollivander has to have at least a second in command for when he takes a day off or dies.

PM: Right.

HZ: Otherwise, there's no one there that knows how to make wands.

MA: Maybe, maybe he's got an apprentice wandering in the shop <31:58>

HZ: I fucking hope so. No, the store shut down, isn't it?

MA: <32:00>

PM: Yeah, it is.

HZ: The shop's fucked.

PM: He's got some sort of really great monopoly of the wand situation—

HZ: Yeah.

PM: in the UK going on. He did some crafty government work to make sure no one else can do it.

HZ: Yeah, it's basically the Starbucks of wands, isn't he?

PM: Oh! so, Ollivander brings up that once a wand is won, it changes allegiance and gets into the whole, "The wand chooses the wizard." Bit. And then, there's an interesting back and forth of Harry not necessarily interrogating Ollivander. But, he starts revealing all of the conversations and visions that he has seen from Voldemort's eyes when he was with Ollivander. And he just kind of starts laying out the whole story about what Voldemort is after. And Ollivander is shocked, he's very surprised like, "How do you know?" He keeps asking, "How do you know this? What the fuck?! How do you know this stuff? Like, he had me tortured, I was alone, how do you know all these very specific details?" But Harry pieces together exactly what Voldemort is doing. Is that he has imprisoned Ollivander. First, about the whole wand matching core thing. And then, it moved on to trying to use someone else's wand. And when that didn't work, then he's going after The Elder Wand. So, he went to Grogorovitch because we learned that Grogorovitch, whether or not he actually had it, he advertised that he had The Elder Wand. So that caused Grindelwald to steal it from him and then that was the vision that we saw. So then, after Voldemort saw that, he went after Grindelwald and then that was the scene that we just saw but he's still on the hunt for The Elder Wand or the Death Stick which is an awful name.

MA: It's really bad. It really reminded me of that scene from Evil Death 3. Where he got a shot and said, "This is my Boom Stick!" It felt like the same level of wand. You'd think in like, the magical world they would give it something a little bit more poetic, wouldn't it?

HZ: Death Stick.

MA: Death Stick.

PM: So Harry puts two and two together and knows what's going down. Basically, he knows that the Elder Wand is actually in Dumbledore's possession. And he's talking with squad about this is that, Dumbledore, when he defeated Grindelwald, because Grindelwald was said to have stolen the wand. And Dumbledore defeated him and put him in Nurmengard. When Dumbledore defeated Grindelwald, he got the Elder Wand and then he kept it at Hogwarts. And then, Harry just now realized that Dumbledore had it and they shouldn't have gone after it. And Ron just starts freaking out when he realizes like, "What do you do? We have!! It's an unbeatable wand! What are we doing dillydaying around? Like, what are we doing twiddling our fingers here. Like, let's get the wand.

MA: But, it's the Unbeatable Wand that Dumbledore won from Grindelwald.

PM: Oh yeah, that's true.

MA: So how is that even like, Grindelwald is like, a super badass and Dumbledore is a good wizard and he's got an Unbeatable Wand. Like, what did... Grindelwald didn't—

HZ: Well, it's not...

MA: —kill him in his sleep, does he?

HZ: It's not always about the implements but about the deficiencies of the wizard, isn't it? It's not like, Colombo. He's waiting for the people that he's investigating to reveal their own mistakes even though they're very high powered and highest just in Colombo. So there's lots of ways that you could potentially...

MA: What's the point of having an Unbeatable Wand if you get beaten all the time. Or even once, once is enough. Then the wand is valueless because someone else has it.

HZ: Well, you can still have a great wand and be a shit wizard.

PM: Yeah, the wand does choose the wizard. And then, in this case, with The Elder Wand there's a lot of wizards choosing the wand so, maybe it's just like, not a good fit.

HZ: Yeah, and not so

MA: That's what Ollivander would say.

HZ: Even though Grindelwald is a, is a badass wizard. He is also presumably is evil enough to have a lot of flaws in his approach and his personality that could then be exploited disarming purposes.

MA: Yeah, I love it.

PM: So, Harry also knows that Voldemort is going to find out that Harry's wand is broken. Because Harry realizes that he's going to get Hermione's wand, they're gonna do Priori Incantatem and they're gonna realize that Harry's wand has been broken. So then, after this is revealed, they ask Ollivander. Like, "Do you think this wand exists?" And Ollivander says, "Yes, he really thinks it does." He believes that there are gaps of course in ownership between who had it. But he thinks that it is definitely a real wand that has been passed down from wizard to wizard. People kill each other over it, etcetera, etcetera. He doesn't think it's a fairytale or some sort of myth. But then later on, Harry asks if he believes in the Deathly Hallows and then Ollivander does not even know. He just says, "The what?" Uhh, he says he has no idea what he's talking about.

HZ: No one mentioned them until this book.

PM: I haven't read the Seventh Book yet, Harry.

MA: That's the weird thing. Is it such a niche story that... like, it seems like quite a... that would you know people would hear about that, right?

PM: Yeah, it seems like it's a in a popular like, nursery rhyme book.

MA: Yeah.

HZ: Right, it's not having heard of Cinderella.

PM: Yeah, or like, Humpty Dumpty or you know, the cat and the, and the cow jumped over the moon. Like, or whatever. The way that they framed in The Tales of The Beadle of the Bard they made it seem like it is a fairly common book.

MA: Yeah.

PM: That you read for children.

MA: What is this, The Three Bears that you speak of?

PM: Yeah.

HZ: He's had a very tough time, who knows what mental damage has occurred as a result of his imprisonment. It must have been very lonely, he's probably not being very well kept, hasn't seen daylight.

MA: It seems like a bit of a way there. There is a line where **<37:12>** if the Dark Lord got this wand, it would kind **of badass.** 'Cause quite frankly—

HZ: Does he?

MA: He's like, "The idea of The Dark Lord in possession of the Deathly Stick is I must admit, formidable."

HZ: Well, it's not him just being worried or cheating. It's like, "Well, imagine the fireworks!"

MA: There's a little bit of, "Imagine the fireworks." There's the suggestion.

HZ: Everyone loves a bad boy.

PM: Yeah, it's why everybody's favorite Backstreet Boy was, who is he? Was that AJ? Was he the Bad Boy? The one with the goatee which signified bad boy.

HZ: Well, it's tenuous. Do you think he's also like, "I'd rather that someone with ambition destroy the world than just some mediocre bureaucrat and slowly ruin it."

MA: Yeah, if it's either Ron Weasley or Voldemort in <37:54>, I think I know which one is .

HZ: Do you think Ollivander would've voted Trump just to like...

PM: Oh no!

HZ: Just to create a bit of a stir.

PM: He's really gonna change things, he's different.

MA: Well Voldemort's just saying the things that we're thinking.

PM: Ohhhhhh gosh, I don't wanna go down this rabbit hole. After Harry reveals all of his thinking here. Ron is freaking out that they're not going after The Unbeatable Wand and then we get a flash to the scene at Hogwarts. And I don't think it's actually a Harry scar flashback. I think it's just the Narrator deciding, "Oh, we're gonna tell you what Voldemort's doing now for dramatic effect."

HZ: Meanwhile, back at Hogwarts.

PM: Yeah, it's... which seems, I guess you can do that in the book, no one's gonna tell you not to.

MA: No, I think, I think this is the... a flash back because it's talking about Harry walking across the lawn. But it's obviously Voldemort walking across the lawn.

HZ: Oh, I thought that was Harry through the eyes of Voldemort. Since he can see through Voldemort's head.

PM: It didn't say the thing where it normally does where it's just like his scar starts hurting.

MA: At this point, his scar is always hurting.

PM: It's constant.

MA: just like, just take that for granted.

PM: Yeah, 'cause it just says, "I'm not supposed to, I'm supposed to get the Horcruxes..." and it says, "And now everything is cool and dark." So yeah, I guess the dot dot dots must signify that he got taken over by this flashback and he can see. Voldemort is flying, he glides alongside Snape uhhh, towards the lake. He says that he's going to, "Join you in the castle shortly, leave me now." He goes up...

HZ: "Just got a bit of tomb to rob."

PM: Yeah, pretty much. He just goes up to the tomb, which is by the lake. Okay, yeah you're right, it says, "Harry walks slowly." So yeah, yeah, yeah. He did, this like, through the vision thing.

HZ: He's got like, walkie talkies or baby monitor listening thing.

PM: Voldemort then approaches the tomb and goes inside and sees Dumbledore's body there. And in the hands of Dumbledore, inside the tomb is The Elder Wand. And Voldemort at first thinks that Dumbledore is just dumb. He asks the question it's like, "Had the old fool imagined that marble or death would protect the wand? Had he thought that The Dark Lord would be scared to violate his tomb?" The spider like hands swooped in and pulled the wand from Dumbledore's grasp. And as he took it, a shower of sparks flew from it's tip sparkling over the corpse of its last owner, ready to serve a new master, at last. And that is the end of Chapter 24 and that is the end of this episode of Potterless. On a dramatic, somewhat cliffhanger, in that Voldemort now has the Elder Wand. Which would seem intimidating but Martin has brought up, it's kind of a shit wand.

<40:14>

MA: The frequently defeated, Unbeatable Wand.

PM: Yeah, really not a great selling point for the Elder Wand. The Undefeatable Wand, defeated 58 times.

HZ: 59th time.

MA: What's that line in Anchorman where that the aftershave, 89% of the time, it works, all the time.

PM: 60% of the time, it works every time. But yeah, that's the end of this chapter and the end of this episode of Potterless. So, how are you folks feeling about what's going on in these two chapters, what lies ahead?

HZ: It's very intense, there's a lot of business happening in these chapters.

PM: A lot of things happened.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: So many things happened.

HZ: Do you think too many things?

PM: I don't think too many things. A lot of things happened, decent amount of people die, Dobby goes out in a blaze of glory.

MA: There's a lot of like, people being impressed with Harry in this chapter.

PM: Yes.

MA: Of like, Bill and Ollivander going like, "Wow, how do you do all those things?" And then, Griphook, "You seemed like an impressive wizard because you don't treat house elves like shit, thanks Harry."

PM/HZ: Yeah.

HZ: All That' Harry's done is dig a hole. And what Hermione has done is try to save Harry by swelling up his face and be tortured.

MA: Yeah.

PM: And lie. A lot of lying in these chapters too.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: But yeah, it's very intense chapter work and I'm excited for what lies ahead.

MA: This is compared to the chapters that **41:25** to it. Is there like, kind of equivalent like, Death Count...

PM: This is definitely like the action really ramping up. Like, this is the first time that it's been anything extendedly tense.

MA: Yeah.

PM: Because, you had some high tension scenes with like the snake thing. But all of that gets resolved super quickly. The snake comes out of Bathilda's neck and then they fight for like, a little bit and then they Disapparate. This is the only time where you get one of those big classic, matrix style action scene fights.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: And then, you know people end up dying and then there's someone choking himself to death.

MA: Yeah.

PM: It's getting a lot darker now.

MA: Well that's like the death of two major characters.

PM: Yeah.

MA: Characters that have been around since what? Book 3? And..

PM: Yeah, people that we've known for a while.

MA: When did Dobby turn up?

PM: Dobby was Book 2.

MA: Book 2, wow! That early, okay

HZ: Yeah.

PM: And Pettigrew is I think, Book 3 unless he was referenced in the first two.

HZ: Technically, Pettigrew is from the beginning as Scabbers.

PM: Oh right yeah. So, he's been here the whole book.

HZ: Yeah.

MA: Not a speaking character, though.

HZ: But a lot of these books has been kids on a rather depressing seeming camping trip.

PM: Yes, so it is not been as intense and now shits hitting the fan and it's getting a lot more hype.

HZ: And also Voldemort, had Voldemort appeared in person in this book yet? Because he's not in Book 6 really at all, is he?

PM: No, he's not. But he-he's a feared sparingly. It's a lot of Harry like, flashback stuff. But he was in the very first chapter. Because it's told from the Death Eater's perspective.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Where in the meeting, they've got the body floating above their dinner table, etcetera.

HZ: But here, you know, he and Harry are soon going to face off.

PM: Yes, now it is looming that Harry has chosen his lane which is Horcruxes. And Voldemort has gotten the thing that he is after in the Elder Wand. So you see that Voldemort

is now gonna try to spend his time finding Harry while Harry is trying to find his time finding the remaining Horcruxes. And uhhh, you can see the writing on the wall.

HZ: They've destroyed several Horcruxes at this point. Is Voldemort feeling any ill effects?

PM: They haven't noticed it to be significant. I mean, so far they've destroyed the locket, the ring and the diary.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: Half of them are gone, he should be feeling it a little bit, you would think.

HZ: Maybe he's just not self aware enough to realize that half his soul is gone.

PM: Yeah, geez. Well, I don't know. But, that's we're at right now. The other thing that I think is funny that I've noticed like the deaths that happened in this book is that the deaths are escalating more and more for like people that we care about. So, in the very beginning, you have the death of this teacher that we know or met before. So, she dies, whatever. Like, you feel bad for him because he was nice and she was pro Muggle. But she gets killed, sure. Then, Hedwig dies, which like, "Okay, a bird that we cared about, fine." Then Mad Eye Moody dies, like you know, okay yeah, he was our friend, but we didn't really know him that much, so he dies.

MA: It's quite a <44:14>

PM: Yeah, but then you get Pettigrew and you're like, "Okay, significant villain dies, I guess."

HZ: In an extraordinary way.

PM: Yeah, and now you get Dobby dying who is again, we really like Dobby a lot. But he's still not a wizard or someone that's been around from the beginning.

HZ: He's always been cannon fodder, hasn't he?

PM: Yeah.

HZ: He's like, check off self sacrificing character since the

MA: I'm gonna... I'm gonna put this out there, I'm not sure that she's that good at writing death. Like, I remember back when Sirius dies...

PM: Oh, it's very quick and abrupt.

MA: Yeah, I remember reading that book with my friends when it came out and they're like, "He fell through a curtain?" It's just so disappointing.

HZ: I think also, at that point, Sirius has only been a bit in Book 5. He's a baddie in Book 3, we think he is. In Book 4, like communicate through what? Fireplaces is it?

MA: He can't really been in the scenes much because he's a, he's a wanted man.

HZ: Yeah, Book 5, like, you're told that Harry cares about him. But I felt as a reader, I haven't grown any attachment to him.

PM: Yeah, I wasn't hit that hard by the death. I was more just surprised that it happened so quickly. I didn't think he was gonna die that early on in the series. Just based on from me seeing Harry Potter related material. That Sirius seems to be that someone that people at least liked.

MA: Yeah, yeah.

PM: But yeah, he has like a two and a half book run.

HZ/MA: Yeah.

PM: Which is really short.

HZ: Yeah. So, Dumbledore's death is overseen pretty striking and actually Cedric Diggory as well.

MA: I was about to say that, yeah. He, that's quite, but that's the first—

PM: Yes.

MA: —kid that dies, isn't it?

HZ: Yeah.

PM: That one is really, I mean, "Kill the spare!" Is just a devastating line for someone to go out on. But...

MA: It's almost like the voice of the author coming through Voldemort.

HZ: Or R. Pats.

MA: "Kill the red shirts."

PM: What's really scaring me about this book is that it's been very much like, ramping up deaths of importance of people. And I'm very scared about who's next to die. Someone that we care about has to die, at least one person and I don't know who it is and I'm terrified.

HZ: When you say though that grief is somewhat softened in the Wizarding World, by the fact that the dead often appears in ghost or in moving portraits or—

PM: Right?

HZ: —magical objects.

PM: That's the thing. Everyone should just be a painting.

HZ: Yeah, you get to chat with a painting.

MA: You say that, but we've all got like, you know, Facebook Videos of friends and...

HZ: Yeah, but those are from the past. Whereas the paintings are observing things that are happening in front of them.

MA: Oh, they are more interactive.

HZ: Yeah.

MA: That's a good point, yeah.

PM: And they have emotions or something.

HZ: Yeah.

PM: I've heard a couple of different theories about what the paintings actually are. Of course, they're not explained in the books so far.

HZ: Sentient GIFS.

PM: How do they do that? I've heard things, something along the lines of like, you can describe to... your painting is painted but then, you can describe later on like, you tell it all of your details, I don't know, it's confusing to me.

MA: That's pretty good, but you can really misrepresent someone of that like, "Oh, that one's a real cunt."

HZ: "Tell you what, mum loved tennis, paint her playing tennis."

MA: I love the idea that ostensibly you can present yourself in a way that wasn't true. Or like, I mean, "I was a lion tamer in life, of course."

PM: "I am the best."

HZ: "An incredible body."

MA: Yeah, yeah. "Beloved by women, admired by men."

PM: You really could just get the painter to paint you really hot. And you're like, "This is what I looked like."

MA: More <47:17>

HZ: It's in the kind of a grand tradition, portrait painting to make it a little bit too flattering.

PM: Yeah, huh... well. Maybe one day, I'll learn about how the portraits work when I really secure that interview with JK Rowling. I'm just gonna ask her silly, silly questions.

HZ: You should be like, "Listen, I'm just gonna talk to you about the important stuff. What kind of paint are they using."

PM: If and when I get to interview her, I would ask her the most ridiculous, meaningless questions ever. She will walk out of that interview confused.

HZ: "Was there no competition for wands? Why is Ollivander got the monopoly? He's gonna retire, he's old."

MA: "How unbeatable is that wand?"

PM: Yeah, "Really unbeatable? It seems pretty beatable."

MA: "On a scale of not to ten."

HZ: How are you feeling at this stage of the series? Are you gonna be sad it's over? Are you excited by this book? I was a bit fed up with it the first time I read it. I've enjoyed revisiting it more than I've enjoyed reading it at the time.

PM: I am glad that I have ended camping trip.

MA: Yeah.

PM: I don't think that the camping trip was as bad as everyone pegged it to be. But I got to a frustrating week where I was 2/3s of the way through the book and I had thought, "Not, not much has happened." They killed one Horcrux and then ran away from a bunch of stuff. So, I'm excited in that, this is the point where clearly the action is gonna start happening. So this is good.

MA: <48:37> I think it's like 1/2 pacing especially in like, is it 5?

HZ: Five where it gets really long.

PM: Ugh, five is rough.

MA: \_<48:41>\_ out a fireplace for like a hundred pages.

HZ: It's sort of like, fireplace feel hot on Netflix.

PM: Yeah, five not great with pacing. This one was definitely slow to start but I think it's really gonna ramp up now.

MA: No spoilers, but I do remember the ending of this book was really good.

PM: Yes, and I know that's it's really action packed because they made into two movies and I'm pretty sure the last movie is only about a hundred pages of the book.

MA: Yeah.

PM: So, it must be really dense towards the end.

MA: And also, when you read the Wikipedia page, a lot of characters are still alive appear to in a past tense.

HZ: I don't think that's really needed to be two films. Because the camping trip is not that dynamic. I think it could've been done in one. Also there's a lot of fights in those become a little bit monotonous. Like a Marvel film, you know that just the last act is gonna be a big fucking fight, you've already seen that in other Marvel films.

PM: Yeah, I'm intrigued to see how they break this up. But I have been told that finally now that I have finished these chapters, I've at least gotten to the point where the seventh movie is. Which, is still a bit much that I have much to read for 25 out of 36, I think and that is, that's the, "Halfway point." So to speak of the action.

HZ: But who would've thought that these two chapters have two hours worth of stuff to discuss.

PM: Yeah, I knew it was gonna be lengthy, I mean, we did talk for an hour and 45 minutes about all the ways Peter Pettigrew pleased himself to death. So that really stretched it out a little bit.

HZ: That was the true climax of the story.

PM: There it is. Well, Helen and Martin, thank you so much for joining. This had been absolutely lovely. Wanna tell them, our lovely listeners where they can find you, not talking about metal hands and what they may or may not be doing?

HZ: No, that's a, that's the subject of all my work, actually. I make a [podcast called the Allusionist](#), which is about language. An entertainment show about language and that sort of

illusionist is <50:35> . And Martin and I are both on the podcast, Answer Me This! Which is at [AnswerMeThisPodcast.com](http://AnswerMeThisPodcast.com)

MA: I make a [podcast called Song by Song](http://SongBySongPodcast.com) which is like Potterless but instead of Harry Potter chapters, it's just the music and songs of Tom Waits

PM: Surprisingly enough, they hit this same demographic.

MA: Uhm, you can get that at [SongBySongPodcast.com](http://SongBySongPodcast.com).

PM: Yeah well, awesome. Well, thank you so much for being on, I'm very excited to see you guys in I guess like, 3 days at PodCon.

HZ: Yeah.

MA: Yeah,

HZ: Yey!

PM: So that will be good.

MA: <51:04>

PM: But of course, this episode is gonna come out like, months later. So, that will be a real fun time travel when I finally post this. But, thank you so much for being on. Listeners thanks so much for listening, you guys need to go get some sleep since you're all jetlagged. Until next time, as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, right before they pleasure themselves with metal hands, WIZARD ON!

<51:25>