Episode 1 - Sorcerer's Stone Ch. 1-8

w/ Alex Moothart

PM = Past Mike
EM = Editing Mike
AM = Alex Moothart

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

PM
Hello, internet. Thank you for tuning in to the first official episode of Potterless; the podcast documenting the tale of a 24-year-old man reading the Harry Potter series for the first time. My name is Mike Schubert. I am that man, who has not read the books yet. And I am joined by Harry Potter fanatic and social media star, Alex Moothart. Alex, do you want to say hello to the lovely viewers.

A. Moothart
Oh, god. I'm so excited and flustered. This is the moment I've been waiting for my whole life.

PM
Yes. So, Alex was chosen to be the first guest, because there's been a bountiful harvest of snapchats and tweets and all sorts of posts about how much you love Harry Potter. So, how important is Harry Potter to your life?

A. Moothart
It's – I identify a huge part of myself within the Harry Potter series. Like, when I go – if and when I do go on dates, I need to know what house they belong in. Like it is – it identifies who you are as a person so much. It's – yeah, it's huge.

PM
Yeah. It's very important. Which house are you in just to put it into reference?

A. Moothart
Hufflepuff and proud, biatch.

PM
So, I did Pottermore far enough to where you do the sorting hat, and then I stopped playing. And I got Gryffindor. So --

A. Moothart
You think you're so great.

PM
Well, I thought I was gonna get Hufflepuff, because I was like, "Oh, like they're the nice ones and the good friends." And then the questions were like, if you did something good, do you

want people to know about it? And I was like, "Yes." And I was like, "Oh, no." Like I'm a douchebag. I'm in Gryffindor. Like --

A. Moothart
Second thoughts about it.

PM
Yeah, it does. It does. Because it was like the nice person would have been like, "No. No one has to know." But, since I like being rewarded for things and getting some – a little – a little glory or prize receiving if you will, I was like, "Wait. Come on." So, that definitely put me in Gryffindor.

A. Moothart
Totally. My, my hybrid house is Griyfinpuff. So, I got a little bit of Gryffindor.

PM
Oh, there you go. I guess I would – I would be a puff second, because I'm not smart enough to be in Ravenclaw, and I'm not mean enough to be in Slytherin I hope. But let's get right to it.

A. Moothart
Okay.

PM
The first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone or Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone if you live in England.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, I have not read past Chapter Eight or I've gotten up to Chapter Nine. So, I'm exactly halfway through the book. And we're recording this to just kind of go through what I've seen thus far and everything. So, for anyone that is unaware of how much I know about Harry Potter, I've read zero of the books. And I have watched the first four and a half movies. So, my knowledge is very limited.

A. Moothart
Half?

PM
I watched – I think I fell asleep during part of five. I saw like the beginning and then the end, but the Middle is a blank. So, I, I'm very limited. But that's the point of this journey, Alex. It's to right my wrongs and go through the Harry Potter series.

A. Moothart

That’s so part of [Inaudible 3:08] journey.

PM
Okay. So, let's just get it started right away. We're basically just going to go through my thoughts on the first eight chapters of the book. And we're going to just talk about all sorts of things and go off on tangents. And it'll be a great little time. So, Chapter One: The Boy Who Lived. So, it centers around the Dursley family so much more than in the movies, because, in the movie, they were just kind of like, "Here's, here's the Dursley family. They suck. They make Harry live under the stairs." And like – and that was kind of it.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, I was surprised with how much the book talked about them and went into detail about how much they suck.

A. Moothart
Yeah. It – I was always happy to be like, "Oh, my god, the Dursleys are terrible." Like, if any of my friends hadn't read the books. I was like, "Yeah, they're awful, but they're also like borderline – borderline sociopathic." They're terrible --

PM
Oh, yeah.

A. Moothart
-- terrible human beings. They're like mini Hitler's.

PM
They're really awful. And then, in the – in the movies, I was like, "Oh, okay. Like they're mean. Whatever." But, in the books, I'm like, "Oh, they're the worst." This makes sense.

A. Moothart
Yeah. They also – they're mean for no reason except for jealousy. Petunia. And --

PM
So, yes, that's something that we learned later in the books, and we'll discuss – which I don't think they really covered in the movies. So, they have a snooty kid named Dudley, which, first off, awful naming decision by the parents to name their child Dudley Dursley. Like terrible.

A. Moothart
But paints a great picture in your mind.

PM

Yeah. And I guess that's the point. JK Rowling goes with some ridiculous name choices in this book. And I guess that makes sense --

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
-- that, you know, Dudley Dursley would be the fat snooty kid.

A. Moothart
Right.

PM
So, so, they, they reveal that the mom is Harry's aunt. So, it is Harry's mom's sister. And, in this chapter, Mr. Dursley sees odd things happen throughout the city. He sees a cat reading a map. He sees people wearing funny cloaks. And he sees a bunch of owls flying into the city. And he's very confused by all of this. While he's on his way to work, he hears people talking about Harry Potter and spreading rumors about the Potters having a son. So, there's big confusion about what's going on. The mom and the dad Dursley talk. It's revealed that they know Harry exists. They know that Mama Potter is a wizard.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And it's very well established that the Dursleys do not like wizards at all.

A. Moothart
Hate them.

PM
They really hate them, and you'll learn why later. So, Dumbledore shows up. And here's my first gripe with the entire series. Things were great until I got to page like nine. He puts out the street lights in the street with a device called the put-outer.

A. Moothart
Is it really called that?

PM
It's called the put-outer. And you're the third person that I've complained this too. And the exact response from all of them was, "Wait. Is it really called that?" It's really called the put-outer.

A. Moothart
Wow. I thought it was called like the lumina, luminous something.

PM
That's what someone else said. So, I don't know if they renamed it later in the series or in the movie or what. But, in – on like page nine or whatever, they say the put-outer.

A. Moothart
I mean straight to the point. So, good --

PM
What do you – like Dumbledore is the most powerful wizard that we know of.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And he couldn't think of a better name for the put-outer than the put-outer? It's --

A. Moothart
You know what? Sometimes, it's the simple things that really get you by, Schubes. We're gonna judge, Schubes. I bet you had a put-outer.

PM
I do. But --

A. Moothart
Hey, but --

PM
See? You can't even – you can't tell that it's so bad.

A. Moothart
God, it sounds like I'm trying to put out on a first date.

PM
Hey, hey, that could be a better name. Okay. So, Dumbledore and his put-outer, they meet up with Professor McGonagall, who has revealed that she was the cat. She's super pissed off, because the wizards are celebrating that Voldemort or the one – who he – what is it? He who shall not be named?

A. Moothart
He who must not be named.

PM
Okay. He who must not be named. They're – she's mad that they're celebrating that he's gone. But, apparently, he's had 11 years of terror. So, you know, she needs to remove the stick out of her butt, because 11 years is a long time.

A. Moothart
Yeah. It’s a very, very long time. He must not be named is a terrible, terrible, terrible man. He's actually a mini Hitler.

PM
Yeah. And he's got no nose. And he's like a snake-looking dude.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
This is the thing I know so far. So, Dumbledore, which is – this is what I love. He gets super mad at McGonagall for doing the – for calling him you know who instead of just straight up Voldemort. And I was like, "Yes." Like this is good, because the whole you know who, he who shall not be named, I think it's so dumb.

A. Moothart
Well, for now.

PM
Oh, yeah. I think, from what I've gathered from the movies, like the whole stereotype or superstition is that, if you say Voldemort, like bad things happen. Like it's a bad luck thing. Like stepping on a crack. Is that what it is?

A. Moothart
You'll see.

PM
Oh, I'll see. Okay. Good. Yeah. A big thing is don't spoil anything. I've only read halfway through the first book.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, she tells Dumbledore that there's a rumor that Lily and James Potter are dead. And Dumbledore confirms. So, then she starts crying, which, to me, is like, "Oh, Lily, and James Potter must have been really cool."

A. Moothart
They are one of the greats.

PM
Oh, no.

A. Moothart

Yeah.

PM
So, Dumbledore says that they have to leave Harry Potter with the Dursleys. And McGonagall is super pissed, because she has been kind of following the Dursleys around and thinks they're horrible people. But Dumbledore says it's best so that Harry doesn't grow up knowing that he's famous. So, I guess that makes sense. I don't know. Anyway, Hagrid shows up on his flying motorcycle with Harry in swaddling clothes, drops him at the door, and then they all decide to join in on the celebrations. And that's the end of Chapter One.

A. Moothart
Yep. Okay.

PM
So, Chapter Two, which is The Vanishing Glass or my alternative title, Fat Ass' Birthday Party. So, Dudley Dursleys is turning 11, and it's his birthday. And Harry has to make him breakfast. That's the rule. So --

A. Moothart
That's what happens with any young boy's birthday. Their little slave boy has to make them breakfast.

PM
The slave boy that lives under the stairs has to make them breakfast.

A. Moothart
Yeah, standard.

PM
So, Dudley is super pissed off that he only has 36 presents, which, apparently, is two less than last year.

A. Moothart
Honestly, fucking rude.

PM
Wait. Rude that there's only 36 presents or rude that --

A. Moothart
Yeah. Yeah.

PM
Yeah. So, his parents promised him three more, and then he's okay. Harry was supposed to get babysat by some crazy cat lady, but she broke her leg. So, they have to bring Harry along to the birthday bash.

A. Moothart
Harry sucks.

PM
That old lady just had to break her damn leg.

A. Moothart
So selfish.

PM
So – ugh, the worst. So, they go to the zoo. They bring him with it. And then the narrator reveals that weird stuff happens to Harry that he can't explain. After he gets his haircut, it grows back immediately. He's running away from bullies and jumps onto a school roof. He tries to wear an ugly sweater, and it shrinks every time he tries to put it on. So, little hints of wizardry.

A. Moothart
Puberty.

PM
Oh, wizard puberty.

A. Moothart
That's what it is.

PM
Oh, is that a what --

A. Moothart
No, no, no. That's like a regular human pub. That's what happened to me.

PM
Oh, oh, I thought this was like wizard puberty, which makes sense of why they start wizard school at age like 12.

A. Moothart
Exactly.

PM
Oh, this makes so much sense now. I was wondering --

A. Moothart
I'm actually really proud of myself that that was like the real explanation. But yeah.

PM

I mean it would make sense though. Like you're becoming – you're becoming a man. You're becoming a wizard.

A. Moothart
Yeah. We're gonna roll with it.

PM
I like that.

A. Moothart
Which ground on a genius idea.

PM
Gee, I – one that JK Rowling probably thought of.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
Okay. So, they go to the zoo. And they go to the reptile room. There's a giant snake that is sleeping. It rises, winks at Harris. Harry winks back, the sly devil that he is.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And then the snake looks at the Fatty family and then gives Harry a look, which I will translate by the narrator's description as saying, "These bitches," kind of sympathizing with Harry that he has to put up with them. Harry makes the glass disappear, and the snake gets out. And then the snake turns to Harry and says, "Brazil, here I come. Thanks, amigo." My next gripe with the book or I guess the movies, "Why was that line not in the movies? That's the greatest line ever.

A. Moothart
Well, you just can't understand what the snake is saying, because you can't speak Parseltongue.

PM
But I thought, in the movie, it says thanks. And you can hear it say thanks. I might have been mistaken.

A. Moothart
Well, no, you're – it does say that the movie.

PM

Yeah. Brazil, here I come. Thanks, amigo. Way better. That's amazing. I like audibly laughed out loud reading the book.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
That should have been in the movie.

A. Moothart
That should have been in the movie. Goddamnit.

PM
I'm glad that I'm two for two on snarky comments, where you are agreeing with me that they're stupid.

A. Moothart
Damn. Okay. Sorry. Oh, okay.

PM
So, another, another thing that is different in the book than the movie is that the glass – in the movie, I'm pretty sure they make the glass disappear. And then Dudley is on the other side. And then the glass comes back, and they're trapped. And that didn't happen at all in the book.

A. Moothart
Yeah. That – I was like confused when I first saw that in the movie. I was like, "Wait a second. That didn't happen." But then they just cut to exterior, Dursley House. So, they didn't have to solve it.

PM
Yeah. Because it, it makes more sense that they didn't like get behind it. Because, in the movie, I was like, "Wait, how did they get back there?" And then, in the book, that didn't happen. I was like, "All right. This is a better – this is a better tune.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Well, because, in the movie, Dudley was pressing up against the glass, and then it disappeared. So, he fell through.

PM
Oh, okay, okay, okay. Cool.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM

So, Harry keeps having repeating visions of a green light and then a pain on his forehead and his little lightning bolt scar. He assumes it's the crash that his parents died in, which is the lie that the Fatty family told him is how his parents died.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, he knows nothing about his parents. He's also not allowed to ask about his parents. His, his step family of the Dursleys just won't give him any information. So, in public around the town, a few wizards start to notice him. They like wave at Harry. They bow at him. They shake his hand. And he's confused every single time. And that is the end of Chapter Two. Chapter Three, The Letters From No One. I have very few notes about this, because it was a pretty straightforward chapter. He gets the Hogwarts letter. The Dursleys are freaked out that it specifies that Harry lives in the cupboard under the stairs.

A. Moothart
Uh, huh. Magic.

PM
Yep. They decide to not tell Harry what the letter says. But then they move him into Dudley's second bedroom, which turns out to be a storage room for his broken toys, which seems thoroughly excessive.

A. Moothart
Yeah. I mean I had one.

PM
So, then he gets a letter saying like in the smallest bedroom. So, then they're super freaked out. There's letters coming in everywhere. And I remember, in the movie, that the letters were just kind of like flying in through the chimney and stuff.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
But, in the book, they say that they're inside of milk cartons and inside of eggs, which is way cooler.

A. Moothart
I know. I was – I know. I was looking forward to that in the movie, and then it didn't happen. I was like, [Inaudible 14:13].

PM
So much cooler. Like --

A. Moothart
Right. Christopher Columbus directed that first film. I don't know where his expertise was lacking --

PM
Wait.

A. Moothart
-- in that first movie.

PM
Wait. Christopher – the guy – the director's name is Christopher Columbus?

A. Moothart
Yeah. He got fired though, because the first movie, honestly, wasn't that good in comparison to the rest.

PM
See? And I think that, that, that's like what I remember. Because I remember I didn't read the books. And then they made the movie. And then I was like, "All right. I'll watch the movie. And, if I liked the movie, I'll read the books." And I remember not liking the movie.

A. Moothart
It wasn't the best.

PM
Yeah.

A. Moothart
You know, I've seen better. I've seen better variations of the first Harry Potter book in movie form, you know.

PM
Like, like wizard people do reader? Because that's the greatest thing.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Yes. Yes.

PM
So good. Okay. So, then Papa Fatty like drives them on this crazy excursion to go to this cabin that's in the middle of the – in middle of nowhere. They've to like use a boat to get to this cabin. And then you enter Chapter Four, The Keeper of the Keys or, as I like to call it, Hagrid Fuck Shit Up.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, Hagrid comes because he knows Harry isn't getting the letters. And he's outraged though when he learns that Harry doesn't even know that he's a wizard. Like he was okay-ish at the fact that they were hiding the letters, but the fact that Harry's like, "Wait, I'm a wizard," he goes like ape shit on the Dursleys

A. Moothart
It's bollocks.

PM
Yeah. So, then we get the glorious line of, "You're a wizard, Harry," which made me really happy to read.

A. Moothart
That part sing. And it's on his birthday.

PM
Yeah. It's just super sweet. So --

A. Moothart
It’s [Inaudible 15:50] and all that.

PM
So, Hagrid announces that he's taking him shopping. And then Aunt Petunia is there. And then she lets out all this baggage that she was pretty much just super jealous that her parents liked her sister more than her.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
Because she was a wizard and was more interesting. And she was super jealous that her sister found love in James Potter, who's an awesome human being. And was this covered in the movie at all? Because I really don't think it went this deep.

A. Moothart
No. She was just like your sister got blown up. Blah, blah blah blah blah blah. She was a witch. We had a witch in the family. And like her jealousy was clearly explained through the dialogue. And that's all that we heard.

PM
Okay. Because the book was like real deep. And it's like, oh, she has all this like pent up aggression and hatred and just is taking it out on Harry. And it like --

A. Moothart

Yeah.

PM
It actually gets like kind of deep. This is why I'm liking the book way more than my experience with the movies.

A. Moothart
Right? It's far better.

PM
So, in, in this giant rant, she reveals the true death to Harry. Like you're saying, the blown up thing, which is kind of ridiculous to tell an 11-year-old kid like in an angry tone. Like your parents exploded. That's how they died.

A. Moothart
Yeah. So rude.

PM
So, Hagrid then describes Voldemort to Harry. He says that he was a great wizard, but then he went bad. He looked for followers like 20 years ago. Got really powerful in all the bad ways. And Dumbledore is the only person that Voldemort fears. He explains that Harry is famous, because he survived the attack where Voldemort tried to kill his entire family. And he was unable to kill Harry. And then Harry remembers more of this flashback after hearing this. He just like – there's more details rather than just a flashing green light. He just remembers a little more about it. And then like Papa Dursley is – this is Dumbledore. He does – I forget what he says. But he, he insults Dumbledore. And Hagrid gets like super mad and then tries to turn Dursley into a pig, but, instead, just gives him a pig tail --

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
-- which is great. And Hagrid also reveals that he was expelled from Hogwarts, but doesn't say why. And this is my first hint of epic foreshadowing that's going to come into play later for sure.

A. Moothart
It will in the second book. But I was trying to think of something – like people don't understand like why it's such a big deal that Harry survived an attack from Voldemort. And it's like, like people who haven't read the books like don't get like why it's such a big deal. And, when I think about Voldemort attacking an innocent infant, and it surviving whatever spell he cast – you'll find out when you hear about it – I like relate it to – this is going to sound so morbid, but this is honestly the same level that it's on. If someone came into whatever building you were in and just started shooting up the place, if a bullet hit everyone else and killed everyone else and like deflected off of you for some reason, but you weren't wearing anything special or like you just happened to live even though the bullet hit you.

That's what it is like. So, like it was such a big deal that an infant baby just managed to get away from such an awful attack with just a scar.

PM
Yeah. I mean it seems very intense. From my knowledge. I assume he used Avada Kedavra or the killing one.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. The killing curse.

PM
So, yeah. And it's cool that I guess – I guess infant Harry obviously didn't have a wand. So, he didn't, you know, cast anti-Avada Kedavra or whatever. And he just survived. So, pretty dope. Didn't he survive because of his parent's love or some sort of bullshit?

A. Moothart
Hey, it's real. Love is real. This book solidified that love is real.

PM
Good. I'm glad – I'm glad, in like third grade or whenever, however old we were when this came out, that's when you were confirmed that love is true.

A. Moothart
Uh, huh. Fifth grade. How dare you?

PM
I'm sorry.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
Okay. So, Chapter Five: Diagon Alley. So, they're going to Gringotts first so they can get all the gold that Harry Potter's parents left for him.

A. Moothart
Goblin Bank.

PM
So, Hagrid does some heavy foreshadowing here, because he uses like an entire paragraph to be like, "Oh, the only place more important than Hogwarts is Gringotts Bank. There are spells and enchantments inside. If anyone tried to rob it, they'd be insane." So, my initial thought, when reading the sentence, was someone's going to try to rob Gringotts Bank. And then it happens like in the next chapter.

A. Moothart

Yeah.

PM
So, he mentions the Ministry of Magic. He says that they suck and that their main job is just to keep wizards a secret from muggles. I do think that they come into play in the fifth book. That's when like Umbridge takes over. I think she's from the Ministry of Magic. And I remember from the movie --

A. Moothart
Yes. She's worse than Valdemort.

PM
Yeah. I remember from the movie she really sucked. So, I guess this kind of confirms Hagrid's description.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, they have to get a lot of books written by people with funny sounding names. And one of which I noticed is the Magical Beast one, which JK Rowling totally copped out and made a book of.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, is she just like – now that she's done with the book, she's just going to turn all of those eight books listed into books? Because that's the biggest cop out ever.

A. Moothart
I don't think that you could do all of them, because they don't sound interesting. But the Magical Beasts one, there's already a movie made. It's coming out soon. It's going to be amazing. Have you seen the trailer?

PM
No.

A. Moothart
Holy shit. I'm watering at the mouth and other places.

PM
And didn't they make a Quidditch book one too?

A. Moothart
Did they?

PM
I think they did. I feel like they might have. Or, at least, it was like one of those short story things in Pottermore that you could read online or something.

A. Moothart
Oh, I cannot say. I haven't heard any of that. And the fact that I haven't heard anything is a big deal.

PM
Then it, it might not exist. Don't – like I'm clearly not the expert in, in it. Because, as you – as you'll learn, I thought Platform Nine and Three Quarters is Platform Nine and a Half. So, that – yeah.

A. Moothart
So stupid.

PM
Oh, man. So, yeah, I'm not the expert. So, don't, don't take any of my knowledge. So, they, they reveal that first years are not allowed to bring their own broom, which seems problematic because I totally remember Harry having the Nimbus 5 – 2000 or whatever.

A. Moothart
Just wait.

PM
Okay. It seems problematic. So, he takes Harry to the Leaky Cauldron, which is a bar.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And the bartender is described. And this is the greatest description of a human I've ever heard. The bartender is described as "looking like a toothless walnut." That's the greatest --

A. Moothart
So me on every morning possible.

PM
Like I'm totally going to use that in an insult. If someone's like, "You're dumb," I'll be like, "Yeah. Well, at least, I don't look like a toothless walnut."

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM

It's an amazing insult.

A. Moothart
I honestly aspire to look like that when I'm older.

PM
A toothless walnut.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
Yes.

A. Moothart
Just a really great time with great looks.

PM
So, the whole pub flips out when they realize it's Harry. And they all go up to him and start shaking hands. And they meet Professor Quirl – Quirrell, who stutters a ton, seems really nervous, and teaches Defense Against the Dark Arts.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And I know that the – there's like – isn't it something like the Defense Against the Dark Art teachers keep going away? Like isn't that like --

A. Moothart
Yes.

PM
Okay. I remember that being a thing. So, when he said I teach Defense Against the Dark Arts, I was like, "Oh, so, you're gonna die soon." And --

A. Moothart
It's the same thing with like the smoking with a white lighter. That myth. Like you'll die if you do that.

PM
Interesting.

A. Moothart
Do you know that?

PM
I do not. Is this --

A. Moothart
I learned about this the other day, because, if you're left-handed and smoke with a white lighter, Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix and one other musician – who was it? They were all left-handed, smoked with white lighters, and they all died at the age of 27.

PM
Okay. I'm gonna not ever use white lighters or smoke.

A. Moothart
Or smoke. You know, just not, not a good way.

PM
I like my cancerless lungs.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, I'm going to keep that streak going. At least, until I'm past 27 clearly.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Once you turn 28, your [Inaudible 23:53].

PM
You're fine. Yeah. Okay. So, he'll come into play later I'm sure. And then I've learned later that he does. So, they tap the brick to go into Diagon Alley. That seems very problematic that the security system is just tapping a particular brick. Like what if you accidentally hit a brick?

A. Moothart
Listen. Who's gonna get back to that brick wall unless they're a wizard in Diagon Alley?

PM
I don't know. Yeah. What if you like we're playing baseball and you hit – and a ball goes off that brick?

A. Moothart
It probably go on like a certain pattern you know or just a certain --

PM
Yeah. I think he taps it three times, but he taps it with his umbrella, which you learn holds half of his wand in. Because Ollivander later is like, "You don't still have your wand that we broke, do you?" And he's like, "What? No," as he grips his umbrella tighter. So, you learn that his umbrella is a wand.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
He taps it with the umbrella. So, maybe you need a wand to tap the brick --

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
-- in order to make it open. That's what I'm thinking.

A. Moothart
You're using your brain for ones, Schubes. God.

PM
So, they walk through the alley to go to Gringotts. This is my favorit. It's that like there's a sign that rhymes that tells people not to steal things, which totally hints that Voldemort is going to steal things.

A. Moothart
Hey.

PM
They keep foreshadowing that somebody's going to steal things from Gringotts. It's really heavy handed.

A. Moothart
Listen, when you're a little teenager just reading this for the excitement of magic and wizardry, you're not paying attention to foreshadowing clues. All right?

PM
Sorry. I'm a 24-year-old man and I'm snarky.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, though Hagrid says, "You'd be crazy to try it – oh, you'd be mad to try and rob it." So, totally happening.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM

So, they ride a mine car to Harry's vault. And he is straight loaded. He's got gold out the wazoo.

A. Moothart
Yes.

PM
Hagrid gets motion sickness on the mine car even though he drives a flying motorcycle.

A. Moothart
There's no turbulence with him flying a motorcycle. It's very aerodynamic. God.

PM
I see. Sorry. I forgot. Magic. I forgot. So, Hagrid gets some secret package, which Harry described as being like really ugly wrapping from Vault 713 for Dumbledore. And he's super hush hush about what this vault is, or what the package is, or anything. It's super sketch. So, definitely going to come into play later.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, some – I had this described as some snooty runt talks to Harry about brooms and Quidditch and Houses. Oh, this is the snooty runt that I assume turns into – turns out to be Malfoy. And then I learned he does.

A. Moothart
Yes.

PM
I was like this guy's a punk. I bet he's Malfoy.

A. Moothart
Yeah. He sucks.

PM
He mentions that he's going to be in Slytherin. He already insults Hufflepuffs, which is the first of many times when random people are just like, "Hufflepuff sucks."

A. Moothart
It's so rude.

PM
Yeah. Like JK Rowling just really tries to lay down the groundwork that Hufflepuff is lame, which I feel like is very unfair.

A. Moothart
I like to call that Hufflephobia.

PM
Ah, nice.

A. Moothart
I just made that up right now. I feel so smart.

PM
It's good. Real good.

A. Moothart
It's a play off of homophobia.

PM
Which is also a horrible thing.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, let's see. Hagrid gets Harry an owl for his birthday, which is great. And then, then they go to Ollivanders. And this dude is the creepiest guy ever.

A. Moothart
Yeah. He's a mess.

PM
He just keeps talking in detail about Harry's dad's wand. Also, all the wands range between eight and 12 inches, which is way too suspect. Like, come on. Did it --

A. Moothart
Listen.

PM
Did it have to be between eight and 12 inches?

A. Moothart
Like Monday.

PM
Like the guys going into great details. He's like, "Oh, your dad had an amazing 11-inch wand. It was the finest wand I've ever sold." Like --

A. Moothart

I'm thinking that that's what she said.

PM
That was way too creepy. It was a bit – a bit much. So, I don't know if JK Rowling was drunk when she wrote this chapter or was particularly horny, but it was getting – I was getting a little uncomfortable.

A. Moothart
Yeah. A girl's gotta get some.

PM
Yeah. Knowing that third graders are reading this book, I was like, "Umm. JK, why don't you tone it down a little bit?" So, then he picks out a 13.5-inch wand that share --

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
-- and gives it to Harry. And it has the Phoenix feathers that have only been given to one other wand. And it's Voldemort. Dun, dun, dun. Foreshadowing that Harry might be evil.

A. Moothart
Oh, no.

PM
So – oh, it costs eight gold galleons. And I googled what the conversion rate is. And that's like $84.

A. Moothart
That's some serious – but it's like college textbooks, y'all.

PM
Yeah.

A. Moothart
Kind of expensive. Except, you actually use your wand. So, maybe not so much like college textbooks.

PM
Well, I mean I use my, my wand, you know. My 13.5-inch wand. No. So, Chapter Six: The Journey from Platform Nine and Three Quarters, not Nine and a Half.

A. Moothart
No.

PM

Dudley is terrified of Harry now after all the magic stuff. The parents --

A. Moothart
Good.

PM
And the parents completely ignore Harry's existence. So, this is a great turn of events. Harry gets dropped off at the station. He mentions that he has to go to Platform Nine and Three Quarters. And the parents are like, "Pfft, that doesn't exist. Good luck – good luck finding it, nerd." And then they just leave. They're just – they're just --

A. Moothart
Yeah. They're so rude.

PM
They're just like, "Get out of here. We don't like you. We don't want to see you anymore." So, Harry is like freaking out, because he has 10 minutes until he can catch his train. But then he sees a bunch of redheads jumping through a brick wall. And it's the Weasley family. And they seem lovely. So, eldest Weasley is a prefect. They don't say what this means, but I assume the prefects are like the nerd, goody, goody two-shoes of Hogwarts that are like on the honor roll.

A. Moothart
They're like essentially the hall monitors.

PM
Okay. This is what I've learned. But, wait, ghosts are hall monitors as I learn in Chapter Seven. So, the twins tease Percy about being a prefect, which is great. And this is why someone – there was once a thing in college where, in the dorm building that I lived in, they described all the different people and said like what Harry Potter person they would be. And I got described as one of the twins. And I never really got it until I started reading the descriptions of all the twins. And, now, I --

A. Moothart
Wait. I got that description too.

PM
Oh, my god, we would be perfect twins.

A. Moothart
My god, we're such great twins.

PM
I love it, because, basically, I just make fun of everything. And I was like, "Yeah, I could be one of these twins."

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, they tease him about being a prefect, and it's great. So, oh, I had a note here. I said – because, for everyone listening, I just have a list of notes that I'm reading as I – as – I write them as I read the book. I have, "I assume prefects are the nerds. Hermione is totally going to want to be a prefect."

A. Moothart
No. Actually, Hermione is too cool to be a prefect.

PM
Oh, really? Okay. She seems like the worst. I hate her so much after like five pages. She's just like the know-it-all teacher's pet. Hate her.

A. Moothart
Yeah. She is annoying at the beginning. I mean, just like in the movie, she's annoying in my opinion.

PM
Yeah. Yeah. I assume she'll come into her own, and chill down, and be normal.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, then Ginny Weasley, when she finds out that it's Harry on the train, wants to meet Harry really badly, which I think is an amazing foreshadowing since she eventually marries Harry, and they have children and all this stuff. I love that the first interaction is like, "Oh, my god, I want to meet Harry so bad." Like he's in One Direction or something.

A. Moothart
Yes, Harry Styles. That's what I love to say. Oh, my god, we are twins.

PM
We're the twins. So, I think that's great. I don't know if JK Rowling planned that from the beginning. But I think it's hilarious that that's the first interaction that the two have. It's Ginny fangirls over Harry.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Yeah.

PM
So good. So, Ron is shy about living up to his family's reputation. And he's also like shy about them being poor. So, it's really deep. And I feel like this also was not like described in

the movie at all. Like it's like they get into some like emotional topics. Like they talk about how Harry is like really scared that he doesn't know anything about magic, and all these people think he's famous. Like him and Ron shared this like pretty intimate moment about how they're both like really scared about not living up to expectations.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And it's like really deep and not covered in the movie at all.

A. Moothart
The only hint about Ron's insecurity about being poor that you see in the first movie is like when he pulls out something to eat, and it's like a mashed up sandwich --

PM
Yeah. Yeah.

A. Moothart
-- like from the pocket that's been sitting there for a few hours. And Harry's like, "I got you. Let's take the whole thing from the trolley."

PM
Yes.

A. Moothart
And then Harry's insecurities about not knowing any magic is just apparent when he first gets into the school. And he's like, "What is all of these?" And everyone else knows exactly what's happening.

PM
Yes. Harry buys 12 silver sickles worth of candy from the cart.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And I googled that. And that's about $7, which seems like not a lot, but the book describes it as like bushels of candy.

A. Moothart
Yeah, so much.

PM
So, yeah, what you said. So, Ron has like shitty sandwiches. And Harry's like, "I'll give you some candy for it," and then doesn't eat the sandwich. So, they, they do the whole chocolate

frog thing. And they come with like trading cards, and Harry very conveniently gets an Albus Dumbledore card. And he's like, "Who's this?" And Ron's like, "Oh, you don't know Dumbledore?" Let me describe Dumbledore for a page and a half so that, when we meet, you understand how important he is. And I think it's very convenient and perfectly placed. Okay. So, then it says that Dumbledore did a lot of alchemy work with his partner, Nicolas Flamel. And partner has a whole new meaning after two years ago or whatever when JK Rowling was like, "Oh, Dumbledore is gay by the way." So, it's like his partner.

A. Moothart
And also it's Flamel.

PM
Sorry. Sorry. I was reading it. I didn't know.

A. Moothart
Get it right.

PM
Sorry. Nicolas --

A. Moothart
Nicolas Flamel.

PM
Flamel. So, Neville Longbottom lost his toad in the train. Hermione's, being a goody, goody two-shoes, is like trying to find it.

A. Moothart
Terrible.

PM
This is a direct quote that I've written down. Hermione is a try hard piece of shit know-it-all and judges Ron's attempt at turning his rat yellow when he – when she realizes it's not a real spell.

A. Moothart
Well, Sunshine, daisies, butter mellow, turn this stupid fat rat yellow. Not [Inaudible3404], Ron.

PM
Oh, wow. You – I'm so glad I picked you to be the first one. Aah, so great. You're so knowledgeable.

A. Moothart
I know way too much.

PM
So, Ron tells Harry Potter that someone tried to rob a high security vault in Gringotts. I then wrote, "I knew it," really large.

A. Moothart
Really large.

PM
I knew it was happening. I didn't realize it would happen like two chapters later.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
So, they said nothing happened to the people that tried to rob them. They, they weren't caught. It seems like they didn't take anything and, normally, the security door would have like made them vanish or die or whatever, and nothing happened to them. So, everyone's like, "Whoa." Ron then describes Quidditch to Harry. The snooty kid comes back and is revealed to me, Malfoy. So, again. I was right. And I need to realize that I shouldn't be like proud that I know these things since I know like what happens. So, I'm like, "Oh, I knew it." Like come on. Also, this book is for like 10-year-old children. So --

A. Moothart
Hey, for all ages. It's universal. It’s like a Pixar movie.

PM
So, then it is revealed that Papa Malfoy used the excuse that he was bewitched under Voldemort and has returned to like be a good wizard again. And Ron immediately thinks this is a bunch of bull. So, they get off the train. They get onto boats. And then they go into Hogwarts. And then it's Chapter Seven: The Sorting Hat. So, McGonagall explains the house system. Everyone is terrified, because they think there's going to be a test before the hat goes on. So, like Hermione is like reciting all these spells. And people are like flipping through books. And Harry is just like frozen, petrified.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
The hat sings a song. And then it's revealed that there's no test. He just goes on your head, and then picks it. He describes that Gryffindor is for brave people. Hufflepuff is for loyal people. Ravenclaw is for nerds. And Slytherin is for cunning people. A lot of people with weird names then get sorted. Some of them are very quick. Others, it takes a lot of time. One of those that takes a lot of time is Harry. So, Harry, after much deliberation, gets Gryffindor. And then the nervous teacher Quirrell is described as wearing a turban, which means he's the guy at the end of the book where Voldemort is living in the turban. I know this happens from the movie. And I think – don't tell me since I'm not there. But I'm pretty sure

the giant snake comes into play. I don't know if that's in this book or in Book Two. But I remember, in the movie – one of the movies, there was a giant snake involved. And it might be this. But I do know that Voldemort is living in someone's turban. And they say this guy has a turban. So, now, it's all coming together.

A. Moothart
Giant snake. What a noob. Call it by its scientific name, a basilisk.

PM
Oh, sorry. Anyway, there's tons of awesome food, which is actually normal human food and sounded really good. They meet the official ghost of Gryffindor, Nearly Headless Nick.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And he, he mentions that Slytherin has won the House Cup for the past six years in a row, which is a travesty.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
He says it's like the longest drought that Gryffindor has gone without winning it. So, obviously, they're going to win it this year.

A. Moothart
Well, because, obviously, Gryffindors are so great, right? It only --

PM
I mean we really are the best. We're just so courageous.

A. Moothart
So courageous and so awesome. You're all star athletes and star people.

PM
Oh, man. Neville Longbottom says that his family thought he was a muggle until very late in life. That makes Harry feel better about himself. The turban that turban teacher is wearing is described as "an absurd turban," which I just think is a great description. There is a "hook-nosed teacher" that looks at Harry with a very funny look. And I was like this has to be Snape. And then, four pages later, they revealed that it's Snape. So, there's a rumor that Snape wants turban guy's job. He wants to teach Defense Against the Dark Arts, but, instead, he's stuck teaching potions, which seems lame.

A. Moothart
So lame.

PM
So, Dumbledore gives like the basic rules. He says that there's no magic in the hallways. The Forbidden Forest is off limits, which makes sense since it's called the Forbidden Forest. And then there's some particular room that is off limits, but doesn't give any reasoning. And Percy, the prefect, is like, "They didn't even tell the prefects. This is so strange."

A. Moothart
Percy, god, what a kiss ass.

PM
Him and Hermione, ugh, I wish they got together instead of Hermione and Ron.

A. Moothart
Just you wait. You will eat those words and a few bucks.

PM
Oh, man. Oh, man. So, they sing – everybody sings some crappy Hogwarts song. There's a bunch of ghosts. Like one name Peeves. One named the Bloody Baron, who is the only one that can control Peeves. And then Harry has some dream, where the turban tries to tell Harry to join Slytherin, further confirming that Voldemort lives in the turban. Malfoy laughs and then turns into Snape. And then there's the green light again. And then Harry wakes up. And then the narrator says, "Harry forgot the dream immediately after waking." And I was like, man, this is a really important dream. Do you have to forget it?

A. Moothart
Right. You need that information. You need to be on your guard at all times.

PM
Yeah. So, then Chapter Eight, the last chapter that I've read, The Potions Master. So, there's people in the halls. I assume these are the non-first years like whispering about Harry, like spreading scuttlebutt and rumors. And they're like, "Oh, he's here now. Blah, blah, blah." They described the hallways of Hogwarts seeming like the worst things in the world, because the stairs move, some doors are fake, some doors require tickling in order to open, ghosts mess with you and make you late for class.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
The hall monitor, Peeves, sucks. The caretaker, Argus Filch, is even worse. He has some cat that patrols the hall.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
It calls Filch . And everybody hates him.

A. Moothart
Yeah. Filch is the worst. But you know what? I really wish that the movies included Peeves. They don't have Peeves in there, and he's such a big part of the books.

PM
Okay. Because I – when they were describing him, I was like I don't remember this guy existing at all.

A. Moothart
Yeah. It's a bummer, but sorry continue.

PM
Oh, lame. Okay. So, everybody hates him. And they just cause a bunch of ruckus. So, Harry is confused about like how many different things they have to study. They have to like study the constellations. They have to study herbology with Professor Sprout. Really convenient that someone with the last name Sprout happens to be good at herbology.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
What if that person was like the Quidditch coach?

A. Moothart
She'd be great at that as well. Professor Sprout is such a bomb. And she's also the head of House of Hufflepuff.

PM
Oh, she's so loyal.

A. Moothart
And I love her. She's great.

PM
And then they say the History of Magic is the most boring subject. I'm glad that History always proves to be the worst subject, even in wizard school.

A. Moothart
Even in wizard school.

PM

So, then Quirrell is described as being weird as hell in class. Puts garlic everywhere. And then says that's because of vampires. I don't know if that's the real reason or if the garlic will put people off the scent that Voldemort lives in his turban. I don't know.

A. Moothart
That's it. Yeah.

PM
That's a thing. So, many people are very bad at magic. So, Harry feels more secure about himself when he's like, "Oh, no one here knows what they're doing. Cool." Snape is the head of Slytherin House and plays favorites. McGonagall is the head of Gryffindor and doesn't play favorites, because Gryffindors are the best.

A. Moothart
They are.

PM
So, Snape – they go to Snape's potion class. And Harry is convinced that Snape hates him, because Snape is a huge douchebag to Harry in class.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
He like asked him these impossible questions that Harry doesn't know the answer to. But, of course, Hermione knows all of the answers.

A. Moothart
Yeah. She knows all of them. Yeah.

PM
She knows everything. And I remember this very, very well being described in the movie. They did a great job of her being the worst. So, when this happened in the book, I was like, "Yep. Yep, totally." So, Neville messes up some potion. Spills cauldron everywhere. Boils start growing all over him. Snape blames it on Harry though, and then deducts House Cup points from Gryffindor.

A. Moothart
He's the worst.

PM
The worst. Harry and Ron then go to visit Hagrid. There's more details about the Gringotts break in. The word on the street is that it is the work of dark wizards. They said nothing was taken, but also that the contents of the vault were cleared beforehand. And the goblins are keeping these contents a secret. So, basically, the – and they find out that it happened on the day that Harry and Hagrid are there. So, basically, it's like whatever they were trying to

steal, Hagrid got just in the nick of time. I don't know what it is. Maybe it's the Sorcerer's Stone, because they haven't --

A. Moothart
Oh, my god.

PM
They haven't said anything about it yet. So, maybe that's what it is. They also haven't said who the sorcerer/philosopher is. So, that's my – my running theory is that it's the Sorcerer's Stone. I literally just thought of it now as, as I was describing this. So, I'm really hoping that it turns out to be that. And that is the end of Chapter Eight. And that's where I'm at right now. So --

A. Moothart
You have so much more of an adventure to go on. I'm so jealous.

PM
I know. It's great. I have – I have six and a half more books. And I have eight movies, because they make two out of the seventh. So --

A. Moothart
Aah, so good.

PM
I have so much. So, how, how do you feel about my journey thus far and, and my thoughts? Let me know how you're feeling.

A. Moothart
It's so great. I'm so jealous. It's like, when you – every Christmas comes around and you're like I wish I still thought Santa Claus existed. It's like I wish I hadn't read the Harry Potter books so I can go through them for the first time again. It's so magical. It's like losing your virginity. Because that's usually not a good thing for most people, their first time around. [Inaudible 43:44].

PM
Yeah. I feel reading the books is probably better.

A. Moothart
Yeah. You're gonna have just so much fun. There's so much to learn. You're going to want a letter from Hogwarts after this book is done. It's so great.

PM
And, after --

A. Moothart

There's just so many more details that were in the movies that you're going to catch on to. And it just makes the book so much more colorful and alive and real.

PM
Yeah. That's definitely the biggest takeaway that I've had. It's that the books – like from, from the movies, I was like, okay, you know, it tells the story of a wizard, blah, blah, blah. But the books actually like go into emotions and feelings and, and real kind of themes that are in books. So, it kind of makes sense, but I feel like now I'm starting to get why everyone's like, "No, the books are so much better." As I've started to read them, I'm like, "Okay. They actually really are."

A. Moothart
And like, even if – no matter how hard you try, you just automatically become more invested with every page you read. You're like, "I am on this journey. Yes, it is me, Harry Potter. Hello. Welcome to Hogwarts/this world that we live in." It's, it's unbelievable and amazing. And Hogwarts is real, and I will go there one day.

PM
Have you ever been to Harry Potter World in Florida?

A. Moothart
No. But they have the one here now.

PM
Oh, they have one in California now.

A. Moothart
Yeah. And I went to a soft opening of it. And it's like no one was there. And it actually was kind of – it wasn't the best. Because the one in Orlando is so much bigger. There's no space here.

PM
Oh, you're – you're gonna hate me again for this, because I've been there.

A. Moothart
Oh, my god. I just want to go to the Gringotts ride.

PM
Oh, the Gringotts ride is dope.

A. Moothart
Right?

PM
Yeah.

A. Moothart
Aah, I need it.

PM
Yeah. It's a good time. And I – or I don't – did I go in the Gringotts ride? I was in the – there's like two parts. I went to the part that's connected to Islands of Adventure, because I went to Islands of Adventure. So, it had Diagon Alley.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And then it had the ride where it's like you strap in and there's a screen in front of the whole time. I don't think it's Gringotts.

A. Moothart
Oh, no. That's, that's the --

PM
The other one.

A. Moothart
You go through Hogwarts. It's like the --

PM
Yeah.

A. Moothart
-- the Quidditch Adventure ride.

PM
Yes. So, I did that. Gringotts is the other one. So, I did --

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
I did not do that yet. But I did – I did the – that ride. And I drank butterbeer and ate like a wizard burger. And --

A. Moothart
A wizard burger.

PM
But butterbeer was good.

A. Moothart
Nice.

PM
I don't know what book that comes into play in. But, you know, that was delicious. They have all the like cool interactive wand stuff. It – like it was – it was pretty cool. When I was – when I was in Harry Potter World, I was like. "All right. This is pretty tight."

A. Moothart
Like it – I just need to live there. I need to be a part of this world.

PM
Yeah. We should – oh, we should go together and be the twins. We can get like the redhead wigs and then be the Weasley twins together through Harry Potter World.

A. Moothart
Yeah. That would be beautiful. And one of – I don't know. Well, I was about to say something and I almost just ruined it for you. I caught myself.

PM
Whoa. That wouldn't be good. Yeah. No spoilers.

A. Moothart
I caught myself. And the people that listen to this that have read the books are going to know exactly what I almost just said. So, wooh!

PM
Oh, good. That, that's what's so great. And I'm – what I'm so excited about this whole like podcast series is that like, as I'll be describing things and like trying to get about, you know, foreshadowing and certain things that happened, like most of the people listening read the books and will know and will just be like cringing. Like, "Aaah," like I know what happens.

A. Moothart
Right.

PM
Like all this stuff. Like everyone's like, "Oh, I know what's in that knapsack thing." Like --

A. Moothart
Yeah. Yeah.

PM
And I'm just like, "I don't know what it is. Maybe it's a stone." So, I'm really excited about that. And, especially since I've only seen the first four and a half movies, it's that like I assume that books like five, six and seven like, you know, intense stuff starts going down. So, the fact that, you know, I know little bits of things here and there, like I know Cedric Diggory dies

in the Goblet of Fire tournament. But I don't know like why Snape kills Dumbledore. And I don't know how Harry ends up defeating him in the seven. So, it's exciting that I don't know any of the like major important things.

A. Moothart
Yeah.

PM
And I'll start to learn those slowly as I read the books.

A. Moothart
And, contrary to popular opinion, my favorite book is the Order of the Phoenix, the fifth one.

PM
Okay.

A. Moothart
So, interested to see what you think about it, because that's usually the least liked book of the series.

PM
Interesting. Because – yeah. Because what – so, I recorded like an intro episode before recording this one, where I kind of lay down all of the things I know before I started reading the book. And it's pretty pathetic how little I know. So pathetic. I didn't remember what the fifth book was called. It was the only one --

A. Moothart
Right.

PM
It was the only one I couldn't remember the name of.

A. Moothart
Order of the Phoenix. It's the best one.

PM
Yeah. I just knew it was the one where Umbridge takes over and ruins everything.

A. Moothart
Yeah, terrible woman.

PM
Yeah. Well, man, thanks for being a part of this. This was – this was great. I'm so glad you were the first guest. The perfect introduction to Potterless; the --

A. Moothart

Me too.

PM
-- the journey of a 24-year-old man reading children's novels

A. Moothart
I’m so honored.

PM
But, yes. So, thank you for being a part of it. Everyone listening, if you want to follow Alex Moothart on the social media, it's, it's his name for everything, right? It's all just add Alex Moothart pretty much.

A. Moothart
Nailed it.

PM
Awesome. Well, thank you for joining Alex. And, listeners thank you for doing so. If you want to, to continue along this journey from Platform Nine and Three Quarters, you know, you can subscribe to this podcast on iTunes or SoundCloud and follow along on Twitter @PotterlessPod. But, yeah, thanks man. And, you know, I'm glad that this journey started with you.

A. Moothart
Oh, my god, I'm about to cry. Thanks.

PM
Oh, man.

[49:26]

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