

The Book of Prophecies: How "Order of the Phoenix"

Predicts the Plot of "Deathly Hallows" - Part 1

The *Harry Potter* series is masterfully plotted, both as individual books and across the series as a whole. Within the fandom, there is a large focus on ring theory for understanding how the series is structured. In ring theory, each book has its mirrored parallel: books 1 and 7, 2 and 6, and 3 and 5 parallel each other, with book 4 as the lynchpin of the series as a whole.

Although there are certainly many connections between these pairs, there are an equal number of parallels between books 5 and 7. This does not invalidate ring theory, but instead suggests that there is another structural metaphor at play, specifically for these two books. The focus of *Order of the Phoenix* is the prophecy which tells of Harry's ability to defeat Lord Voldemort, the prophecy that comes true at the end of *Deathly Hallows*. However, I would argue that *Order*

of the Phoenix is the book not only of “The Prophecy,” but of *prophecies* plural— it foreshadows the themes, characters, and plot points that Rowling wanted to include in her epic conclusion of *Deathly Hallows*. Unlike in ring theory, the connection between books 5 and 7 isn’t only one of parallel, but of prediction— and it is a pattern that could only fit these two books.

Chapter Comparisons

“Dudley Demented” and “The Dursleys Departed”

Book 5 begins with a dementor attack on Harry and Dudley, which awakens a fear in Uncle Vernon that Voldemort will come for him and his family. He threatens to kick Harry out of the house until Aunt Petunia puts her foot down after a threatening Howler from Dumbledore.

Two years later, Vernon’s fear that Voldemort will target his family is shown to have been valid—the Order of the

Phoenix takes it upon themselves to bring the Dursleys into hiding to protect them from the possibility of Voldemort using them as bait. Uncle Vernon, ironically, seems to have lost sight of the danger his family is in over the intervening time and is extremely resistant to this move. He had no problem kicking Harry out of his house, but the idea of his own life being disrupted is a lot harder to swallow. Dudley, on the other hand, has gone through a dramatic change in character, expressing gratitude toward Harry for saving his life.

“The Advance Guard” and “The Seven Potters”

In *Order of the Phoenix*, The Order arrives at Privet Drive to spirit Harry away to safety. Present among the advance guard are Mad-Eye Moody, Nymphadora Tonks, Remus Lupin, Hestia Jones, Dedalus Diggle, Kingsley Shacklebolt, Sturgis Podmore, Elphias Doge, and Emmeline Vance. Harry and the Order fly to safety and, despite Moody’s

paranoia and constant predictions of disaster, everything goes entirely according to plan. Six of these nine Order members return to Privet Drive in *Deathly Hallows* (Hestia and Dedalus arriving the previous chapter to protect the Dursleys). In *Deathly Hallows*, Harry is yet again spirited away by flight, but this time, Mad-Eye's previous fears come true: The Order's plan is thrown into utter and deadly chaos within moments of entering the air.

“The Hearing” and “The Muggle-Born Registration Committee”:

When Harry is brought to the Ministry of Magic for a disciplinary hearing in *Order of the Phoenix*, he walks by the Statue of Magical Brethren. Harry understands the subtle prejudice it perpetuates by showing other magical creatures as adoringly subservient to the witch and wizard. As a show of power and intimidation, Harry is then tried in front of the

entire Wizengamot, in a courtroom previously used mainly for dark and dangerous wizards. Here he meets Dolores Umbridge, whom he later learns orchestrated this entire plot, sending the dementors to Little Whinging to get him kicked out of Hogwarts.

The seeds of the Ministry's corruption are revealed in Book 5, and in Book 7 we see how they have spread and taken root under Voldemort's new regime. A belief in wizard superiority is no longer subtle in the new statue that the trio passes when they enter the ministry again. A witch and wizard sit on thrones made out of the bodies of Muggles "in their rightful place" (DH 242). Harry again visits a courtroom presided over by Dolores Umbridge, the new head of the Muggle-born Registration Committee. No longer simply attempting to kick Harry out of wizarding society, Umbridge widens her focus to removing the wands of all Muggle-borns and throwing them into prison.

The false information the Ministry spreads about Harry also grows and mutates between Book 5 and Book 7. In *Order of the Phoenix*, the Ministry uses *The Daily Prophet* to make Harry out as a liar and a show off. In *Deathly Hallows*, *The Daily Prophet* is employed as a way to disseminate descriptions of Harry as “Undesirable No.1,” wanted for questioning about Dumbledore’s death.

“Luna Lovegood” or “The Centaur and the Sneak” vs.
“Xenophilius Lovegood”

Luna and her father are both important enough to have chapters named in their honor in both books. In *Order of the Phoenix*, Luna is introduced as the odd girl who spouts her father’s ridiculous beliefs. However, she also reassures Harry that he is right to believe he can see thestrals even though none of his other friends can. She is one of the few who believes his story about Voldemort's return, and *The Quibbler*

is the only newspaper willing to run an interview with him. Fast forward two years, and Xenophilius, at least originally, is one of the few to support Harry and publishes true news about Voldemort's regime in his newspaper. He also introduces Harry to a concept that his peers don't believe in: the Deathly Hallows. Unlike Luna, however who is unfailingly supportive and loyal, Xenophilius betrays the trio out of fear for what the Death Eaters will do with his daughter.

On a chapter-to-chapter comparison, perhaps an even more compelling parallel to "Xenophilius Lovegood" is the *Order of the Phoenix* chapter "The Centaur and the Sneak." Marietta Edgecombe is believed to be part of Dumbledore's Army and therefore on Harry's side, but she betrays the organization to Umbridge. Family loyalties are used as an excuse—Marietta's mother, we're told, works in the Ministry. The stakes of this betrayal are not quite as high as they are in Xenophilius's case, but they foreshadow what is to come.

“The Eye of the Snake” and “ Bathilda’s Secret”

Right before Christmas in book 5, Arthur Weasley survives an attack by Nagini while keeping watch outside the Department of Mysteries. On Christmas Eve in *Deathly Hallows*, Harry and Hermione are attacked by Nagini in Godrics Hollow. In both attacks, Harry goes inside Voldemort’s head— in the first, this is a dream, but in the second, Harry enters so deeply into Voldemort's experience and memories that he passes out for three full days. Both attacks serve to emphasize the Horcrux connection Harry has with Voldemort.

“Snape’s Worst Memory” vs. “The Prince’s Tale”

In book 5, Harry enters the Pensieve to view Snape’s memory of being tormented by James and calling Lily a Mudblood. This is the first time that Harry feels some pity for Snape: “he knew how it felt to be humiliated in the middle of

a circle of onlookers, knew exactly how Snape had felt as his father had taunted him” (OotP 650). In book 7, he re-enters the same memory, this time with Snape’s permission, and, after this foray, we see that Harry develops a more full understanding of Snape’s life and personality. In later years, he calls Snape one of the bravest men he ever knew, and even names one of his sons after him.

These chapters in *Order of the Phoenix* and *Deathly Hallows* are clearly linked to each other, likely meant to be analyzed side-by-side. *Deathly Hallows* often serves to show a progression of themes or plot points that are introduced in *Order of the Phoenix*, generally in a way that illustrates how life has changed for the worse in wizarding society. In Part II of this series, I will discuss a broader comparison of plot points that don’t fit neatly in chapter categorization, ending

with how *Order of the Phoenix* serves to foreshadow the deaths of five major characters.

The Book of Prophecies: How "Order of the Phoenix" Predicts the Plot of "Deathly Hallows" - Part 2:

In Part I ([link](#)) of this series, I delved into specific chapter-level comparisons between *Order of the Phoenix* and *Deathly Hallows*, and how the events in the former predict or foreshadow those in the latter. In this article, I will be looking at broader themes and plot points that are introduced in *Order of the Phoenix*, but are brought to their conclusions or to a greater extreme in *Deathly Hallows*.

Comparison of Themes/Plot Points:

Number Twelve Grimmauld Place:

The advance guard introduces Harry to Number Twelve Grimmauld Place in the beginning of *Order of the Phoenix*, which he learns about through a note from Dumbledore that is given to him by Mad-Eye Moody. In a sick reversal, the trio enters Grimmauld Place in *Deathly Hallows* and are immediately accosted by a jinx created by Mad Eye Moody in the shape of Dumbledore's corpse.

Harry's time in Grimmauld Place in *Order of the Phoenix* sets up several vitally important plotlines that come to fruition in *Deathly Hallows*:

- The Deluminator: Although the reader recognizes the Deluminator from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, Harry is first introduced to it in *Order of the Phoenix*, when Moody employs it outside Grimmauld Place. The Deluminator is then left to Ron in Dumbledore's will in *Deathly Hallows*.

- The Locket: When cleaning out Grimmauld Place, Harry and the others find: “a heavy locket that none of them could open” (OotP 116). This is the same Locket Horcrux that the trio succeeds in opening and destroying in *Deathly Hallows*.
- Kreacher: Kreacher’s devotion to the Black family and his desire to keep artifacts that are important to their history is introduced in the opening of *Order of the Phoenix*. At the beginning of *Deathly Hallows*, this knowledge becomes essential to learning what has happened to the locket.
- Regulus Black: Sirius tells Harry about his brother Regulus, who’s on the Black family tree. He theorizes that Regulus tried to leave the Death Eaters and was killed. His theory is (partially) confirmed and expanded on in *Deathly Hallows*, when we learn that Regulus did

in fact die while leaving the Death Eater while attempting to destroy Voldemort's Horcrux.

- Mundungus Fletcher: Mundungus is revealed to have an interest in stealing and selling Black family heirlooms, which in *Deathly Hallows* is revealed to have led to the Horcrux locket being sold to Dolores Umbridge.

Dumbledore's Army:

Harry forms Dumbledore's Army in the 5th book with the purpose of teaching his fellow classmates skills they can use to defend themselves against Death Eaters and other Dark forces. The necessity of these skills is questioned by Umbridge herself, who says, "Why, I can't imagine any situation arising in my classroom that would require you to use a defensive spell, Miss Granger. You surely aren't expecting to be attacked during class?" (Ootp 242). This is perfect foreshadowing for book 7, when students are routinely

attacked by their Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, the Death Eater Amycus Carrow. Dumbledore's Army as a sign of resistance against the Ministry and the Death Eaters takes on even greater significance—and faces far more danger—in book 7 than Harry ever could have imagined.

Harry's anger with Dumbledore:

Although Harry and Dumbledore are on the same side and both experiencing blows to their reputation from the Ministry, to Harry's great frustration Dumbledore barely talks to him throughout *Order of the Phoenix*. This is a minor blow to Harry's view of Dumbledore as, not only his greatest protector, but also as a parent figure who cares for him and supports him. Their relationship is mended and strengthened throughout the course of *Half-Blood Prince*, but it then goes on to face a far greater blow in *Deathly Hallows*. Once again, Harry doubts that Dumbledore cares for him or wants to

protect him, but— even worse— he begins to doubt that Dumbledore is even on the side of what is right and good. This is a complete crisis of faith that Harry must come to terms with by choosing to believe even as he still doubts.

Harry entering Voldemort's mind

In books 5 and 7, Harry frequently dips into Voldemort's mind. In both, he has different feelings about these trips than those around him, seeing them as useful, even if they might be unpleasant. After a painful series of Occlumency lessons, in which Snape tells him to shut out all thoughts and control his emotions, what saves Harry from possession by Voldemort at the end of book 5 is the exact opposite: thoughts and feelings of love. Dumbledore tells Harry this in book 6, when talking about Harry's ability to love: "You have flitted into Lord Voldemort's mind without damage to yourself, but he cannot possess you without enduring mortal agony" (HBP 511).

Harry, however, doesn't learn this lesson until the end of Book 7, when he thinks: "Just as Voldemort had not been able to possess Harry while Harry was consumed with grief for Sirius, so his thoughts could not penetrate Harry now, while he mourned Dobby. Grief, it seemed, drove Voldemort out... though Dumbledore, of course, would have said that it was love...." (DH 478).

Neville defending Harry:

Book 5 is the first time we see the embers of Neville's ferocity in fighting the Death Eaters. He becomes one of the most committed members of Dumbledore's Army and volunteers to come to the Ministry to save Sirius. When Harry is cornered by Death Eaters, it's Neville who bravely barrels in, bloody nose and all, yelling: "He's dot alone! He's still god me!" (OotP 800) If ever anyone needed proof of Neville belonging in Gryffindor, it would be this moment. Being in

Dumbledore's Army and fighting in the Ministry gives Neville the confidence to take over the DA in Deathly Hallows and lead wide-scale resistance of Death Eater rule at Hogwarts. Even after Harry is presumed dead, Neville is the one person who openly defies Voldemort, charging at him from the crowd. He then proves his Gryffindor nature a second time by pulling the Sword of Gryffindor out of a hat and beheading Nagini.

Deaths Foreshadowed:

So far, we've seen how *Order of the Phoenix* introduces important themes that reach their (often dark) conclusions in *Deathly Hallows*. Darker yet, however, are the deaths foreshadowed by Book 5.

The Advance Guard:

In "The Advance Guard," Moody's paranoia at being ambushed by Death Eaters is seen as slightly comical by the

others present. While relaying the plan to Harry, Moody says, “if we die in the attempt —” (OotP 55). Kingsley interrupts, saying, “No one’s going to die.” Kingsley is right on this occasion, but Mad Eye’s fear is proved justified two years later, when he himself is killed by Voldemort.

The Table of 13:

As Professor Trelawney says, “Never forget that when thirteen dine together, the first to rise will be the first to die!” (PoA 228). As others in the fandom have noticed, during the chapter “Order of the Phoenix,” thirteen characters have dinner together. Sirius is the first to rise from the table, and he dies at the end of *Order of the Phoenix*.

The Woes of Mrs. Weasley:

When Mrs. Weasley fights the boggart lurking in Number 12 Grimmauld Place, it transforms into each of her

family members and loved ones dead. Four people come to her aid: Harry, Sirius, Lupin, and Mad-Eye. Lupin tries hard to convince Mrs. Weasley that her fears are unwarranted, saying: “This isn’t like last time. The Order is better prepared, we’ve got a head start, we know what Voldemort’s up to” (OotP 177). However, all four of the people who come into the room (with the possible exception of Harry, depending on definitions), do end up dying by the end of the seventh book.

Mr. Weasley’s Attack:

After Mr. Weasley is attacked by Nagini, Fred and George get into an argument with Sirius over what kinds of risks are worth taking:

““This is how it is — this is why you’re not in the Order — you don’t understand — there are things worth dying for!”

‘Easy for you to say, stuck here!’ bellowed Fred. ‘I don’t see you risking your neck!’”

This conversation works as foreshadowing for Sirius's death, when he proves that these aren't just empty words: he is actually willing to die to protect Harry. However, it also prophesies Fred's death at the end of *Deathly Hallows*. By that point, Fred is part of the Order, and he is willing to risk his life for their cause.

Conclusion:

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix is centered around the fabled prophecy that labels Harry as the one with the power to defeat Voldemort. This prophecy comes to fruition at the end of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* with the culmination of the series as a whole. But a closer look at *Order of the Phoenix* reveals that this isn't the only prophecy hidden in the pages of this book. The entire novel as a whole, in fact, can be seen as a template for the events of *Deathly Hallows*. Every major scene in *Order of the Phoenix*, every important character or theme introduced, is mirrored in

Deathly Hallows, usually in a way that ramps up the intensity and fear. Even more shockingly, this book prophesies the deaths of five major characters.

For further proof that this is a structure Rowling uses, only take a look at the *Cormoran Strike* series, the fifth and seventh books of which have striking similarities. For an in-depth dive into the connection between *Troubled Blood* and *The Running Grave*, take a listen to episode 36 of the Three Broomsticks podcast: “Strike Crossover: Strike the Fatalistic Trapeze Artist.”

