

Episode 167 - Crimes of Grindelwald (Part 2)

w/ Bayana Davis and Robyn Jordan

PM = Past Mike
EM = Editing Mike
BD = Bayana Davis
RJ = Robyn Jordan
DJ = Dottie James

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

Hey, it's me, that update on your computer that you've been dismissing for the past few months. I know it's gonna take me a while to update your computer and all the different things inside of it. But how about, to pass the time, you just sit back, relax, and listen to an episode of this podcast.

[Announcement 0:12 – 2:46]

PM

But, without further ado, let's get into Episode 167 of Potterless, the second of four episodes covering the Crimes of Grindelwald, guest starring, Robyn and Bayana from Wizard Team.

PM

Hello, internet, and welcome back to another episode of Potterless, the tale of a grown man who never read the Harry Potter series as a kid. He read them as an adult. And then, unfortunately, he watched a movie called the Crimes of Grindelwald. I am Mike Schubert. I am that grown man. I saw that bad movie and I'm here to continue the discussion.

EM

Oh, let me stop you right there before we continue the discussion, Past Mike. Hey, it's me, Editing Mike. How's it going, everybody? So, in the last episode of Potterless, there was supposed to be another edition of British quandaries with UK correspondent, Dottie James. But, like a fool, I forgot to take some files off of the studio computer and put them onto my personal laptop because this is a very special edition of British quandaries with UK correspondent, Dottie James, because she's the guest for the next two episodes of Potterless where I was able to do a live via video chat edition of British quandaries with UK correspondent, Dottie James. So, now in place of what should have been their last episode, here is a very special edition of British quandaries with UK correspondent, Dottie James.

PM

And, now, it's time for a special live in video call edition of British Quandaries with UK Correspondent, Dottie James. Dottie – I have to do the normal voice. Dottie, in—

DJ

I wouldn't have been able to hold it together.

PM

In this movie, at one point, Newt says there are no mean beasts or whatever just blinkered people.

DJ

Mhmm.

PM

Is that anything?

DJ

It is. At first, without context, I thought he meant drunk because—

PM

Ooh.

DJ

In the UK, anything ending with an -ed, it's like a really common joke. Lots of comedians talk about it. Anything ending with an -ed can mean that you are, like, plastered, drunk, wasted—

PM

I get it. Yeah, that makes sense. Okay. Mhmm.

DJ

—that sort of thing. So, I thought that at first, but then I realized, upon watching the film, that he just means – it's like when a horse has its blinders on.

PM

Ooh.

DJ

And it's like you also focused on one thing. You're sort of clueless to other things. I think he just means—

PM

Like, tunnel vision.

DJ

Yeah, just human obsessed. Not animal.

PM

Okay. Awesome.

DJ

I think that's what he means.

PM

Wonderful. Well, this has been a special edition of British Quandaries with UK Correspondents, Dottie James.

Theme Music

PM

I am Mike Schubert. I am that grown man. I saw that bad movie and I'm here to continue the discussion of that bad movie with good people, it's Robyn and Bayana from Black Girls Create. How's it going, team? How, how are we feeling? You excited to talk more about this shit?

RJ

We're still talking about this movie. I, for one thing – we should talk about anything but this movie.

BD

Yeah, we're, we're here.

PM

Well, let's pick it up where we left off and let's just get right into it so that we can be done talking about this movie sooner.

RJ

Sounds great.

PM

So, now, cut to London because, again, we have to keep cutting. And I do love that the first thing that happens is you have a car driving down the road and then the horn just lets out, "ahooga" like noise. Like, very clearly, "Hello, everyone. We're in 1927. Don't forget." So, Newt is here. And I don't remember why. I just noted that he used a spell called Ventus. And I've been playing a lot of Kingdom Hearts recently and Ventus is one of the names of the characters in Birth by Sleep. So, that made me very happy. It's a wind spell, which goes along with his name. So, shout out to all my Kingdom Hearts nerds.

RJ

I'm thinking about Dragon Prince now.

PM

I have not seen Dragon or read Dragon Prince or even know what it is.

RJ

It is from the same people that did Avatar.

PM

Hmmm.

RJ

It's on Netflix. It's amazing. It's a show.

PM

Great. That's very fun. So, then there is a moving glove that is a portkey to a roof top where Newt talks to Dumbledore. And I don't care about the whole Discord of, like, Dumbledore – his aging isn't proper. Like, oh, yeah, speaking of names, Jude fucking Law is Dumbledore. What do I say? Come on. It's incredible. I love him as Dumbledore. It makes no sense with, like, the timeline aging. But, like, I don't care. I'm not gonna complain about getting Jude Law in the movie. He looks great. No one else should be wearing suits. Jude Law is okay. He gets a pass for wearing suits.

BD

See, I don't think so.

RJ

No, did you see Jude Law in the Young Pope. That man can be as campy as he wants to be.

PM

Oh, hmmm. True.

RJ

He can rock and roll.

BD

He really can.

RJ

He can rock and roll.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

A plum velvet suit, put Jude in that.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

Oh, my god, please.

BD

He would really kill it.

RJ

He would kill the plum velvet suit.

PM

That – yeah, that is – that is the upsetting thing. It's like, "When does Dumbledore get the flare?" Like, at least, he could have had the fun purple. You're right. Man, that's upsetting. Missed opportunity.

RJ

And he's in a gray three-piece suit. Dumbledore, my man with the teal from head to toe. Okay?

PM

He is rocking a corduroy pea coat in this opening scene though and that is a pretty solid move. I do appreciate it.

RJ

But what color is it?

PM

Yeah, it's like a grayish teal. Like, maybe a hint of blue at best.

RJ

Exactly.

PM

Yes. So, Dumbledore does some sort of, like, fog spell and it makes the entire town have fog now and then walks around with the Newt and they talk about stuff. He reveals that pure blood wizards belief that Credence is the long lost brother of Leta Lestrange. You know, a black woman. And he's the last in line of a famous French family. And we'll learn about the truth of this later in what is easily the worst scene in cinematic history.

BD

I'm glad that we're here for the first half.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

Yeah.

BD

Love that.

RJ

I love that for us. I will say though it's really frustrating because back when she, we, she wasn't talking about this – I mean I guess she wasn't even talking [Inaudible 8:25] and we just didn't know. She had this whole thing about, like, the beauty of Hermione Granger is it doesn't matter. Like – and the beauty of magic, in general, is it's a great equalizer. Like, you have magic. You're, you're, like, creative or whatever. And, all of a sudden now, Credence got to be a Lestrange and every, like, other person has the same name as someone that we met in the original series. And it's like, no. Just no. No, it doesn't make sense. It's lazy.

PM

Mhmm. It's definitely lazy. And it's like they're trying to Easter egg it. They're just trying to get people to, as often as possible, go, "Oh, they said the thing.'

RJ

Yeah.

PM

But then it raises so many questions because it seems strange to have these ancestors in very high profile roles and situations that just never get talked about. And, to make all of this backstory – like, I understand trying to want to tie it into current characters because it's interesting, but it just makes it more confusing—

BD

Mhmm.

PM

—that no one ever talked about Leta ever. And, given, like, how many houses Credence has destroyed, like, they've never brought him up ever. It just feels like that's something that would have come up in a Wizard History class or when they talk about Grindelwald. Like, it's so weird to not just make a new character.

RJ

It also feels like why would you let the Lestranges or the blacks accumulate any power—

BD

Right.

RJ

—if they've been out here being fascists for some—

BD

This whole time.

RJ

—this whole time.

PM

Right. You could have all of the same backstory stuff and just not make it the Lestrangle family.

RJ

Yeah. Mhmm.

PM

Especially because, at the end of this movie, they establish he's actually not a Lestrangle.

RJ
Yeah.

PM
So, it doesn't do anything. You can have this French rich family and they can just have a different last name. And then you're not going to anger all these fans by trying to, like, tie up all these loose ends that don't make any sense.

BD
Mhmm.

PM
It just seems so unnecessary. And it's, like, they're pandering, but it doesn't work.

BD
It's the – it's the, like, fan service. It's, like, weird because, like, I think about it the most with Game of Thrones. Like, those last two seasons.

PM
I've not seen it. So, I don't know.

BD
I won't – I won't spoil it.

PM
Thank you.

BD
But they do a couple of things where it's what they think fans want, but what we really want is, like, the story. You what I mean? Like—

PM
Yeah.

BD
It's, like, the reason that we come to these, like, stories is because of the story itself. Not because – and, like, we fall in love with the characters because of the journeys that the writers put them through. It's not just because they like—

RJ
Have that name.

BD
I mean, you know, those things can help, but it's not just about like, oh, they look pretty or they like – it's, it's all the things that you build up in them. And then, to be like, “Oh, well, now,

we're just gonna, like, throw their name at you," it's like what – that doesn't mean anything separated from the stuff that—

RJ

A good story.

BD

Yeah, from a good story and the reason that we're, like, even here in the first place. And, so, it's like – it's like a weird thing where, I think, the only time I've ever really liked fan service is in game. Like, I feel like Marvel does a good job of, like, knowing what the fans want but, also, like, delivering on the story at the same time. Like, they have to happen together and make sense. Otherwise, like, what's the point?

RJ

Yeah.

PM

Yeah, for sure. It's, it's ridiculous. So, Dumbledore is now asking Newt to, basically, do the same thing that the Ministry did, but he's asking in a nice way. So, maybe it'll work. There is also one point where Dumbledore apparates away. And then I think Newt follows him. But then, later in the conversation, he apparates away a second time and the Newt can't follow him. Like, how did he know where you went the first time? It's very confusing. But Dumbledore says that he can't do it. It has to be Newt. So, you know, Dumbledore is playing head games from day one. He gives him this card for a safe house and gives it to Newt. And then that's the end of that scene. Newt goes to his house. And then there's baby nifflers, which is cute. Love that actually. They're there. They're cute. And he keeps – one, like, falls down the stairs and he says Bunty a bunch. And then you think, "Oh, this niffler's name is Bunty." But then it turns out that Newt has an assistant now and her name is Bunty. And she is here in this scene and then not the rest of the movie and, like, contributes nothing.

RJ

And she's in love with him because that matters.

PM

Yeah.

BD

It's very Sherlock.

RJ

It's so Sherlock. But, like—

PM

Yes, that's what it was.

RJ

—her and [Inaudible 12:35 – Steven Moffat] just, you know – you know, they'd be getting coffee together.

BD

They have to.

RJ

Because it's the same thing.

PM

It's so strange. So, he does like your – so, it's like a condensed version of the beast
briefcase scene from the first movie, which was great.

BD

Mhmm.

PM

This one is shorter and not as good. He rides the kelpie, which really does look like it's made
out of just straight kelp. So, it's living up to its name. The CGI, though, I felt like was a step
down. I feel like the CGI, in this movie, is worse than the first one. And I don't know if it's just,
like, it was rushed or whatever. But, like, specifically with the kelpie, it looked mad fake. Like,
really fake.

BD

I can't remember.

RJ

I don't remember it.

PM

Yeah. Well, hey, it's fine. So, Newt goes upstairs and, now, Jacob and Queenie are here.
And they explain that Jacob can remember everything now because he says that the rain is
only going to erase bad memories. And he didn't have any so he didn't. And then Newt
thinks Tina is gonna be here too. But she's not so then he gets sad. And then it becomes
very clear that Jacob is under some sort of spell.

RJ

She deconstructs what obliviate is in, like, one sentence and ruins.

BD

Well, was it obliviate? Because it was the – it was the – it was Frank.

PM

It was the, like—

RJ

Oh, it's a potion.

PM

Yeah,

RJ
Right.

BD
It was a potion. And—

PM
It was a potion thing. Yeah.

BD
But, even still, like, they never said it was. Like, they just decided, “Oh, we want Jacob back. So, we're just gonna—

PM
Right. What makes no sense is, like, the way that they introduced this here. Because Jacob is so clearly under a Love Spell from Queenie, you think that he has forgotten everything. And this is all some spell crap that Queenie has put on him. But then you learn that the Love Spell was, like, just to make him want to get married. But then, when it goes away, he still does remember everything.

BD
Right.

PM
So, what – Queenie’s initial explanation feels like complete bullshit. But then it’s actually the truth, but it makes no sense. And this gets back to, like, my biggest complaint with the ending of the first movie. It’s that you didn’t have to have Jacob walk in the rain.

BD
Uh-umm.

PM
It made no sense. You didn’t have to do it. You could just do this thing where you want to get him out of America, get him into Britain where they’re more accepting, and he can marry Queenie. Boom. And that’s basically what they do here. So, I don’t know why, what, why did they change from one to the other? I just – it’s so ridiculous.

RJ
This is also – it’s like – the biggest thing too is, like, Quennie puts Jacob under a Love Spell because – the way they explain it is Jacob loves Queenie. Queenie loves Jacob. Queenie and Jacob are not allowed to get married in America. And, so, Jacob isn’t going to marry Queenie because he doesn’t want her to have to get, like, cut off from Magical World and get in trouble. However, you can marry Muggles in Britain.

BD
Mhmm.

RJ

So, why would you put – like, why would you take away Jacob's consent? Why don't you just convince him to move to Britain? The man is a baker. You can bake anywhere.

PM

Right.

RJ

And it's not like he's, like, rich.

BD

Yeah, the whole thing is drama for the sake of drama when, like, the fix is, like, literally right there.

RJ

The fix is right there.

PM

Yeah, they unnecessarily, at the end of the first movie, backed themselves into this corner of Jacob having to forget stuff. And then they just immediately delete it. And then they don't give you, like, a real explanation for how it happened. It's, it's very strange, especially because, like, he did forget everything at that final scene where he's in the bakery and stuff. But then he remembers – I don't know. They don't really explain it. It doesn't make any sense. It's bad. I am happy with the result, which is more Jacob in this movie just because Jacob's like the only good thing in this franchise. So, like, I'm not going to complain with the result. But, like, the way it comes about makes no sense at all. But then we learn from Queenie via this book called Spellbound. It's like a magazine of sorts that has a messed up photo that says Newt and not Theseus is engaged to Leta. So, Tina got upset because of that. Now, she's dating some other dude. And she – Tina is also upset about Queenie and Jacob being together. Tina's new man is called Achilles. So, I guess, everybody's just Greek now.

BD

Wait. We never see him.

PM

No, we never see him. We never hear about him. It's just this one name drop thing and that is it.

BD

Cool. Cool. I just – I wanted to make sure.

PM

Yeah. No, he, he just doesn't exist. I mean he does exist, apparently.

BD

He does.

PM

But he doesn't exist.

BD

Yeah, he goes to a different school.

PM

Yeah, I'm excited for the third movie where I guess, like, him and Bunty can get together because Newt is just gonna end up with Tina.

RJ

They're doing a third movie.

PM

They are. Yeah. Wild stuff. They're supposed to be five. Oh-oh.

BD

Y'all have fun with that.

RJ

Yeah, don't call us, Mike. We're not answering.

PM

Oh, no, I'm not. I'm not doing that. No way. No way. No way. No way. So, the movie now changes the way in which the thoughts – mind reading Queenie stuff works where it says it out loud. This is not how it happened in the first movie. Newt thinks that she's enchanted him. And then he convinces Queenie, I guess, just by saying like, "Let me do it" to remove the charm from Jacob. So, he does and then Jacob didn't know about the engagement. Queenie gets upset and leaves. Jacob chases after her. And then, in what is actually a rare funny moment in this film, before he leaves, he turns to Newt and asks, "Oh, and where am I?" And Newt says London. And then he screams in anger, "I always wanted to go here. Queenie!" Like, it was actually funny. Like, Jacob's barely in this movie, which is a crime. One of the many crimes of Grindelwald. And he's so good. It's so upsetting that he's barely in this film. So, he goes outside. He talks to Queenie. And this is where we get this exposition dump in that, like, Jacob was fine with them being together. But he didn't want to get married because he was afraid that this would endanger Queenie even though this is, like, a totally normal thing for them to do as wizard and Muggle in London. But, apparently, it's, like, a big deal. I have no idea. Queenie calls him a coward. And then he almost calls her crazy, which not a great term to use. You know, understandable.

RJ

Mhmm.

PM

It's ablest. I try to avoid saying that. But she did provoke this by calling him a coward.

RJ

And drugged him.

BD

And she drugged him. Like, I just—

PM

Yeah.

BD

I really – like, I didn't – like, I didn't think very much of Queenie in the first movie. Like, there just wasn't enough. Like, it was – it was very like—

PM

Yeah, she's fine.

BD

She's very much like an archetype, whatever. But this one I – like, I actively hate her.

RJ

Yeah.

PM

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

BD

I need her to go.

PM

That's the proper way to think about her.

RJ

Also – like, I don't know. Again, I can't remember a lot of this movie. But I've got the screenplay up because why not. I'm [inaudible 18:53]. So, Queenie says, "Why is it wrong to want to marry you?" It's not, but you drugged him.

PM

Mhmm.

RJ

She then says, "You're not giving me a choice. One of us has to be brave and you were being a coward." She was not being a coward by drugging him.

PM

Yeah, by, literally, giving him no choice.

RJ

And all Jacob said is I can't have you risking everything like this. You know, you're not giving us a choice. And then he's the bad guy at the end of the scene. And I can't understand how because she drugged him.

BD
Yeah.

PM
Mhmm. Mhmm.

RJ
She disappears and walks away.

BD
And then he's, like, not mad at her anymore after that.

RJ
He's not mad at her. He's like, "No, wait. Queenie, I didn't mean it. I didn't say nothing." Like, it doesn't matter. You were drugged—

PM
Yeah.

RJ
—and brought across the world—

BD
The world.

RJ
—without your permission.

PM
Yep.

RJ
I feel like that's a deal breaker. I don't know.

PM
It should be.

RJ
Maybe, you know, social mores have changed since the 20s. But drugging me and kidnapping me seems like irreconcilable differences. I don't know. Just me. Just me.

PM
100 percent. Agreed.

RJ
Hate it.

PM

So, then we cut to Newt back inside and he does – and I shit you not – Papyrus Reparo to repair the ripped up postcard. And I'm pretty sure reparo just repair stuff. So, you don't have to say it in front. I know there is Oculus reparo in the movies, but I think that's just a movie thing.

BD

Yeah.

PM

I'm pretty sure, in the books, you just say reparo when you repair stuff. But, if you're establishing this, that means, anytime you repair something, you have to say some sort of word. And the fact that the spell thing for paper is papyrus, like, are you kidding me? The Egyptian paper made from reeds, really?

BD

So, so unnecessary.

PM

Ridiculous. So, he does papyrus reparo and it's a postcard from Tina to Queenie saying that she's in Paris. So, now, this is what finally makes him want to go to Paris. Not the Ministry wanting him to do it. Not Dumbledore wanting him to do it. But that girl that he has a crush on is in Paris. So, I'm out of here. So, I'm going.

RJ

And thinks that he's engaged because they have not talked at all—

PM

No.

BD

In six months.

RJ

—apparently.

PM

Nine months.

BD

Nine. Dang.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

He has a crush on her. She has a crush on him. They went through this life changing adventure together. He went back to the UK and they stopped talking.

BD

And, like, Robin knows I'm one for a slow burn. Love the slow burn. This is just sad. Like, I just do not care.

PM

So, Newt's packing up. He has a newspaper clipping of Tina in his suitcase, like a creep. And this clipping says that she's in auror again. So, she's gotten her job back. Jacob wants to come along too because he thinks, if Tina is there, Queenie will be there, "So, I can get Queenie back." And then Newt does a drying spell on him. And it makes the noise of a blow dryer, which, like, I get is funny but also like, "Really?"

BD

No.

PM

Like, you think that's part of the spell. It's that wizards who notoriously hate Muggle technology are like, "This spell will sound like a Muggle invention that I don't even know if it existed in 1927."

EM

Hey, everyone, it's me. Editing Mike. With the power of Google, I was able to discover that the hairdryer was invented in 1888. That is way older than I thought it was. Alexandre-Ferdinand Godefroy, a French coffee inventor that's a hairstylist inventor, patented the hairdryers earliest ancestor. The contraption was to be hooked up to any suitable form of heater, which would send hot air through a pipe to a dome surrounding someone's head. Now, this old school contraption wouldn't make the same classic hairdryer noise that the spell did. But, apparently, in the 1920s is when they started coming about for ones that had motors and fans inside of them. So, it is conceivable that a spell in 1927 could mimic a real invention. I still don't think it makes any sense, but, at least, the timeline isn't off. Anyway, back to the podcast.

PM

So, he leaves a note for Bunty that says, "Bunty, gone to Paris. I have taken the nifflers with me." I know the niffler's, like, do some stuff later on, but, like, why'd you bring the nifflers? Did you need to bring them?

BD

Also, like, why tell Bunty – he put in writing that he's going to Paris. Like—

PM

Oh, yeah, leave no trace. Come on, guy.

BD

He's on a sneak out.

PM

That's not good. They raid your house. You got evidence. You're sneaking out without documentation. You're doing a bad job.

BD

Why he shouldn't be an auror because he doesn't – he doesn't even know how to evade them.

PM

Mhmm.

EM

Just like how you don't know how to evade me, Past Mike. Hey, it's Editing Mike. How's it going everybody? Back again here to introduce the segment that we all know and love, got to take a little break here for WINDGARDIUM-AD-READ-OSA!

[23:25]

WINDGARDIUM-AD-READ-OSA!

[27:45]

PM

So, we see new hair Tina at the French wizarding circus.

BD

Tina had new hair?

PM

It's just, like, shorter a little bit.

BD

Oh.

PM

It's just, like, a little bit better. It's not, like, that new.

BD

I, like, legitimately was, like, I did not – no clue.

PM

It's not bad. I only know because I watch these movies back to back.

BD

Right.

PM

So—

RJ
Good lord.

PM
—that's the only way.

RJ
Better you than me.

PM
So, now, we also see Credence, who has better hair and also looks about six years older, even though, it's supposed to be nine months. He has aged so much. I know that the movies are filmed multiple years apart, but, like, he looks so much older than he did in the first movie. And he's with, oh-oh, Nagini. Ugh. And they're, like, vaguely in love. Maybe. They never explained this, of course. But Credence has a photo and—

RJ
Can I stop you to read—

PM
Yes.

RJ
—from the screenplay?

PM
Please do.

RJ
Tina walks past street performers, a house troll, a few misshapen and particularly downtrodden humanoids and she calls them under beings, without powers but have magical ancestry, half elves, half goblins. The racism in this is astounding.

PM
Yeah, I mean we just did an entire episode of Potterless about how the antisemitism of the goblins is huge. So, yeah, to have these other races and be like, “Ah, it's the lesser people.”

RJ
Yeah.

PM
Watch them do kind of magic.

BD
Mhmm.

RJ

And they're like – basically, she's saying, like, mixed race – myth, mixed species, I guess. I don't know. Or – and they are classified as under beings.

PM

Super cool stuff.

RJ

Super cool.

PM

Movie came out in what 2018-2019?

RJ

Yeah.

BD

Yeah.

PM

Super cool stuff.

RJ

Yep. Yep.

BD

Hate it here.

PM

So, the circus runner, he exposition dumps a whole bunch to the crowd about how Nagini came to be. Like, setting this backstory of what is not a good look. And I know that it's supposed to be based off of this actual Asian mythology about people getting cursed into animals. I'm not well versed in the actual mythology of it. But I am aware that, when Korean woman, Nagini, becomes pet of white man, Voldemort, that is a very bad look.

BD

That's not great.

PM

And, like, I just don't – I, I don't know how – I mean I do know how you don't see it coming. But, like, come on.

BD

It's awful. And I – on Wizard Team, we have our own Nagini lore and we just reject this because—

RJ

Yeah.

PM

Good. Smart.

RJ

Ours is better.

BD

We think – we don't – we don't – we don't really go into backstory. We, we move – we look ahead. But still—

PM

Yeah. So, she's doing this Nagini routine where she turns into the snake. And Credence, at the big reveal where she turns into the snake, he busts out all the creatures. And then Nagini attacks the ringleader by going through the bars. Clearly, you got a bad cage—

BD

Yeah.

PM

—if your snake can just fit through it.

BD

It also doesn't make sense to me. Because, like, I mean it's not, like, a big deal, I guess, in the scheme of things. But he talks about, like, he's – like, at night, like, she's cursed to do this. So, it makes it seem like she wouldn't have control over it.

PM

Yeah.

BD

But, instead this whole time, she's just like a shapeshifter and she's like, "Oh, I want to be a snake now."

PM

Yeah, he makes her do it on command and there's frustration. And the crowd starts laughing because she's not doing it at the exact moment.

BD

Right.

PM

And then, eventually, she does. But, yeah, the whole speech is about how it's this curse and she can't control it. And then, clearly, she can just, like, turn it on and off. Like, she's an animorph.

RJ

Yeah.

PM
It's wild.

RJ
Though, at some point – some – in the future, she will be forever trapped in the body of the snake.

PM
Right. Yeah, very much letting the viewer at home know, like, it's the same Nagini. This is how are we explain it—

RJ
Yeah.

BD
Right.

PM
—J.K. Rowling. I've known this for 20 years. Get the fuck out of here.

BD
Yeah.

RJ
That's what you—

BD
Why? Why lie? Just say you thought it was cool.

RJ
Just say you thought it was cool.

BD
It's not cool. But, if you just say, you know what? I decided. I'm J.K. Rowling and I decided that this is what happens. And I decided it yesterday. So, there. Okay.

PM
And, also, why lie about something that is a bad look? If you knew for 20 years that you were gonna have someone that's, like, canonically, a Korean woman being the pet of a white man, which is a bad trope, why are you bragging about this?

RJ
And you ain't learned nothing in 20 years to change that? My god.

PM
Yeah, like—

BD

She didn't think, "Oh, I should keep this one to myself." Maybe not.

PM

This is great. No one's gonna have any problem with this. Should I ask any Asian people about this? Nah.

RJ

Also, it's one of those things too where it's like, if we believed you that you've known this for 20 years and you casting a Korean woman is, like, yikes on yikes on yikes on yikes. If you just decided this yesterday, casting a Korean woman is still yikes. But, at least, like, we can give you the, "You weren't sitting on this for 20 years and decided still to make this choice." It doesn't make you look better. It also is, like, really annoying. The lying about, like, what I've known and all this stuff is like, if you knew this, then why is there nothing in the original seven—

PM

Mhmm. Mhmm.

RJ

—books to, like, allude to this? Because it's not important.

BD

Mhmm.

RJ

Or it wasn't important enough, right? So, then, if it wasn't important enough in your, in your whatever, then, then no.

PM

Why is it a major plot point now?

RJ

Yeah.

BD

Yeah.

PM

It's ridiculous. So, the circus scrams. They got to get out of Paris. The ringleader tells Tina that Credence is looking for his mother. And there was this black guy who was creeping at the—

RJ

I forgot about him.

PM

—circus the whole time and the camera just keeps showing and he is still there with Tina. And he is revealed to be Yusuf Kama. He is also the last in the heir of a very famous pure

blood line and he wants to show Tina proof of who he is. But, before we can learn about this, we have to cut back to Grindelwald. And Grindelwald reveals basically that his whole shtick and his whole reason for liking Credence is that he wants to use Credence to kill Dumbledore. That's the whole reasoning for this.

RJ

Because he can't act against Dumbledore.

BD

I forgot about – there are too many people in this movie.

PM

Yeah, you did make a groan at Yusuf. Is there something about Yusuf that you want to say? Like, he feels weirdly shoehorned in again.

BD

I mean I have – I'm pretty ambivalent about all of these people. So, I think it's just another one there. Here they come. It's just too many people. It's just – it just it's too many storylines. None of it really goes together. So, it's just like, "What's the point?" Like, he, he, she really could have left him out. Like—

RJ

Yeah.

BD

—there's no reason for him to be here.

RJ

Also, what we saw when we were reading it is, like, his entire storyline is predicated on a lie. And then, like, he's just here. And then he doesn't do what he has to do. Like, he's – so, I think he took an unbreakable vow or something like that. But, like, he's going – it – like, it all ends up being nothing. So, we took all this time, like, learning his story or whatever and then it all doesn't matter.

PM

And then Zoe Kravitz goes, "Just kidding. Your whole life is a lie."

BD

Yeah.

PM

But it also feels like, with this movie, it's just because they set themselves up for failure in the first movie in that all of the important roles in the movie were given to white people.

BD

Mhmm.

PM

And, because it's a trilogy or a five-part movie series, you can't bring in a new character to be as important. So, what they do is it feels like – in this movie, you're saying there's too many people. It feels like they just keep adding all these side people and then they make them people of color, but then they're not really important. So, you wonder why they're there. It's like, when all of these movies do the thing where you have the black best friend or the Hispanic neighbor. They're never the main character. They're always, like, the side person. And you just have, like, a bunch of them in this movie with, like, Zoe Kravitz, and Yusuf, and Nagini. And none of them actually amount to anything in the movie. Like, they all could have been deleted.

BD

Yeah, it's very much – I mean it's even like in the first one too, honestly. Like—

PM

The president doesn't – she does nothing.

BD

Seraphina Picquery, like, the – her role is so small. And, like, Gemma Chan too. Like, their roles are so small. And so small to the point where, like, when they initially announced, they didn't announce them because they're in the side small roles. And, like, so, they're not headliners. They're not – like, you're not coming to see them. But then, when after hearing the backlash and her being like, "Well, you have to wait. There's five movies." So, people – which is like, "That's bullshit." But then, all of a sudden, it's like get her – Seraphina's wand. Like, come look at Madame Ya Zhou, which, like, is racist as hell. And then – and it's the same thing here where, instead, these are all people that, like, would not get – they wouldn't have been on the poster.

PM

And they weren't on the posters.

BD

And they – well, I guess, I will say, like, like Yusuf and, and Leta, and, like, all of them, like, they don't need to be – because they don't do anything. They're not necessary.

PM

And Picquery is in one scene.

BD

Yeah, it's just one of those things where it's not actually fixing the problem. But, like, also, there's so many problems with this movie that, like, the people – like, I mean the racism is, is a big one. But it's also just, like, one of, like – I don't even know – so many things.

PM

Yeah.

BD

That it's just, like, I don't know.

RJ

It doesn't even matter at this point. You're just like—

BD

Because, like, nothing matters. I think that's the word.

RJ

Nothing matters.

BD

I guess you're watching it. Nothing matters.

PM

So, Grindelwald wants Credence to kill Dumbledore. There's this weird scene with this guy, Krall, when – with his loyalty coming into question.

BD

Oh, yeah.

PM

This entire scene exists so that later on, when he dies in a fire, we understand that the fire kills unloyal people. Like, that's the entire point of this scene.

RJ

Is that the point of the scene?

BD

Yeah, it is. Doesn't he only asked like, "Hey, do we want to do this now? Or, like, maybe we could find somebody else?" Like, isn't that his only thing?

PM

It's that and then he also thinks, like, is Credence gonna be able to kill Dumbledore, but he doesn't just call him Dumbledore. He starts to call him—

RJ

The great.

PM

—The Great Dumbledore—

BD

Oh.

PM

—and then stops himself short and then just calls him Albus. So, like—

RJ

Is that what that's about?

PM

Yeah. And, and – yeah, it's, it's a very innocuous question for Grindelwald to be like, "You're disloyal, Krall." Like, it's quite an overreaction.

BD

I feel like he was just bringing up a valid point. I think he still keeps the vision.

RJ

Yeah.

BD

He just needed to know a little bit about the detail.

PM

You can't just surround yourself with Yes men, Grindelwald. You need someone to push back.

BD

Yeah.

PM

You need people to provide constructive criticism in your life.

BD

That's important. I feel like, even in your evil schemes, like—

RJ

Right.

BD

—workshopping. You know, feedback.

RJ

We got workshop and edit it.

BD

It's important.

RJ

For plot holes.

PM

Punch up your stuff. So, now, we go back to Jacob and Newt. And Newt is asking Jacob what he should say to Tina when he finally sees her again. Jacob says say whatever you want. And then Newt says she has eyes like a salamander. And Jacob says don't say that. Again, if the movie series was just the two of these guys, it'd be wonderful.

BD

Hmmm. Yeah.

PM

What – at least, so pleasant. So, they use some special portkey bucket to go to France because that is the only way for him to undocumentedly go to France. I guess you can't apparate really super far. I feel like he could have just kept apparating closer and closer distances until he got to France. I mean London's not that far away from France.

RJ

Mhmm.

PM

So, you could have just, like, kept apparating hundreds of feet away and then you would get there eventually. Like, you're Nightcrawler. Poof, poofing your way there. I don't get why you have to pay creepy bucket guy a bunch of galleons to use his weird bucket portkey. It seems so unnecessary.

BD

Maybe it's a—

RJ

The water. The – because the channel.

BD

Maybe – no, I was thinking about – it's, it's from a different book, which y'all should read. It's amazing. Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko. They have this technology that's kind of, like, apparating sort of.

PM

Okay.

BD

But they're like stations.

PM

Ooh.

BD

And, like, you, you can only go through a couple – a day or, like, at a – at a time—

PM

Ooh, okay.

BD

—before, like, it's messing with your physiology. So, like, maybe it's something like that. But, also, you just go read Raybearer and then – I don't know. You don't have to figure—

RJ
Forget about this.

PM
That sounds good. That sounds very good.

RJ
Forget this thing [Inaudible 39:38].

PM
So, Newt goes to what is the equivalent of the French Diagon Alley, I guess.

BD
Oh, yeah.

PM
It's the same place where you go through a statue. It's the same thing that Tina did to get to the circus. And then – and this is just absolutely bonkers. He uses a spell to see the past and he can see everything that happened. He saw the Kappa, which is one of the creatures that was at the circus for some reason because we have to hit our quota of creatures.

BD
Mhmm.

RJ
Mhmm.

PM
Then he saw Tina. And here's my question. Why didn't the aurors use this before they put Sirius Black in jail?

RJ
Boom.

PM
I've always wondered why didn't they just use Time Turners because that seems like an easy fix too. But, also, if you can just see the past with a spell, why don't you do that?

BD
Because they didn't have Newt on the force. That's why.

RJ
Yeah.

PM
Oh, yeah, that's why. Like, what – ugh.

RJ

The problem with this is that she has set this up as a prequel, but she also has like a, “Whoa. Wouldn't this be cool? Wouldn't this be cool?” And it's like everything that you do here that affects the main story, which is why freaking hate these. There's so much stuff that she just throws out that affects so much magic. Like, even Jacob just being able to remember after the spell, it's like why didn't you use that on – or, at least, attempt to use it on all of the people that Lockhart obliviated. Well, why did you use a potion instead of oblivate? Or – you know what I mean?

BD
Yeah.

RJ
Like, for the Quidditch World Cup when they were obliviating that dude, like, 50 times a minute, why didn't they just wait and give him a potion?

PM
Yeah. Why didn't Hermione use a potion instead of run the risk of, like, messing up her parents' brain?

RJ
Exactly.

PM
Wild. Wild. Wild. Wild. So, in this flashbacky see the past spell, they show you what the giant lion-looking thing is. It's a zouwu. I don't think this was in the book, but that's a new beast.

RJ
Yeah, it's a Chinese zouwu.

BD
Whatever that means.

RJ
He can jump.

PM
So, Newt then does accio niffler, which you're not supposed to be able to accio live creatures.

BD
It's so bad.

RJ
It's so bad.

PM
There you go. Accio niffler. And then we cut to Queenie at the French Ministry. And another thing, rare joke in this movie, but a joke that lands. When I lived in France for a little bit, this

happened to me all the time. It's when you go up to some sort of establishment and you don't speak French very well. And they greet you in French. The right thing to do is, in French, to say, "I'm sorry. I don't speak French. Do you speak English?" Like, that one sentence got me so far.

RJ

Yeah.

PM

But Queenie just does the bad thing, which is just saying, "Sorry. I don't speak French in English." And the sadness that comes over that receptionist's face is so accurate.

RJ

Yeah.

PM

That is so correct. That is exactly what French people do when, in English, you say, "I don't speak French." That was – well, whoever decided that, well done, because that was the realism. On point.

RJ

I remember going to Paris with my parents and being like, "You have to at least attempt in French first."

PM

That's all you got to say.

RJ

Or, they will – they will spit at our food. They're – like, we would go to eat and I was like, "They're gonna spit in our food. Just say bonjour, please."

PM

So, now, we're in the Ministry. Queenie has the thing where she, like, opens her suitcase, papers fly everywhere. Classic hijinks. But then we see Abernathy disguised as an old lady with Grindelwald's French henchwoman and they're just in the ministry because, apparently, the French Ministry also doesn't have any sort of security. They're just there. They're in an elevator. They have, like, a book in a bag and then that's it. So, cut now to Queenie outside the ministry in the rain. And, while she's walking around because she couldn't find Tina, she sees/hears Jacob wanting to order some French food, which love seeing Jacob trying to get French baked goods. But then she, like, tries to find them and can't. And, now, all of a sudden she's hearing everybody's thoughts, which is a new thing about her mind reading that we haven't learned. We don't know if it's because of the stress or if it's her not having control of her powers. But she gets, like, overwhelmed. So, I do feel bad for her.

BD

It doesn't make any sense though.

PM

No, it doesn't make any sense. She's supposed to – she – from the first movie, it's sets up that she is, like, really good at this. She's got it down pat. She can read people's minds. She's competent.

BD

It's, it's annoying because she's not—

RJ

Also, it's not legilimency.

BD

That's what I'm saying. Like, it's, it's annoying because she set up legilimency and what that is in Order of the Phoenix. And I mean, fuck, Snape. Hate him. But he was very clear about how it's not mind reading.

RJ

Mhmm.

BD

So, like, what she's doing, to begin with, is not legilimency.

PM

Mhmm.

BD

And then they set up the rules of her – what they're calling legilimency and then, for this scene, decide that none of that matters again. And we just – like, I've just accepted that this is what you're calling it. And, now, you've messed up the rules again. So, I don't know.

PM

Well, they don't stop there with the confusion because, after doing this for legilimency doesn't make any sense. In the rain, she sits down on the wet sidewalk. What?

RJ

It just doesn't make any sense.

BD

And it also doesn't make any sense, like, why she's so distraught because, like—

RJ

You left him.

BD

—you know your sister's in France. But don't you know – you know where she is. You went – you tried out one place—

PM

Mhmm.

BD

—and can't find her. You can't send an owl. You can't like – what – that's it. That was it.

PM

Yeah. And then, yeah, Robyn, you put it perfectly. She left Jacob. You started the argument/us being apart.

BD

Mhmm.

PM

Unless you have, like, immediate regrets, which you could have just apparated right back. You know Jacob's not going anywhere.

RJ

Right.

PM

It's, it's, it just makes no sense. So, she's all upset. She then gets approached by Grinde's henchwoman. She, like, shows her kindness and then we, of course, cut to Nagini and Credence walking around.

BD

So many cut tos. So many cuts tos.

PM

So many cut tos. Grimmson is also there, like, creeping up behind him. They enter a home.

RJ

Oh, forgot that. Oh, yeah.

PM

And they asked for Irma Dugard because, apparently, Credence's adoption papers said that Irma Dugard is the one who gave credence to Madame Barebone.

RJ

Her name was Barebone.

PM

Very believable last name. To Madam don't have a lot of money.

RJ

I forgot. I forgot. Her name was Barebone.

PM

Yeah. Yeah.

RJ

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

PM

So, Credence starts talking to Irma. Irma starts to explain the whole situation. And Irma says that she was just a servant of his mother. But then what happens? Grimmson just shows up and then just – he's inside the wall. Like, he does some spell where he becomes the monster in the first *Stranger Things* and, like, is inside the walls now. And then he comes out of the wall and just kills Irma right off the bat, I guess, trying to kill Credence. We later learn that he was doing this on purpose because he's working for Grindelwald. But here's the thing. I understand that, in these movies, a lot of people are doing nonverbal spells. But this dude does a nonverbal *Avada Kedavra*. Like, what—

BD

Yeah, that sounds—

PM

—has changed?

BD

—fake.

PM

And it happens multiple times in this movie towards the end. An auror does it to that lady in the crowd. Like, people now are doing nonverbal, like, unforgiveable spells.

BD

She does not like magic, I think. Maybe she, she did that one time and, now, she's like, “Dang, this is all you're gonna pay me to do.” But, also, I think – because I don't – the thing is, is they don't say it in the movie. And, like, so, I missed it. And, so, I think someone mentioned it and then, when we read it, it says Irma is half elf. Like, half house elf.

PM

Yeah, they say it at the end of the movie.

BD

Okay. Yeah, because it's, like, gross. And it, like, brings up a lot of different—

RJ

Consent knows no place in this movie. And it, it's like really a problem.

BD

Yeah, it's not there.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

Like, there are, like, multiple instances. Like, Queenie and Jacob, Irma's entire existence, Leta Lestrangle, which we'll get to later. And it's like, over and over and over again in which she is just like throwing consent out the window. And it's like there's no acknowledgement of the fact that, like, it's a problem.

BD

Yeah.

PM

Yeah, they never bring it up. Like, it's almost as if the movie is not – they're, they're so confident in the viewer that they're going to get that this stuff is bad without addressing it at all.

BD

Right.

PM

I think they go so far in that direction to try to shy away from making it too plain and clear. Like, this is bad because of lack of consent. But it goes so far in that direction that they don't ever bring it up. And, like, when they do the Leta Lestrangle backup stuff, it's almost as if the dad being a bad dad is equal to taking away a woman and, without consent, having a child with her. Like, they equate him being grumpy to, like, basically, you know—

BD

Mhmm.

PM

I don't know. It's just – it's wild that the movie just, like, has all this stuff, like you're saying, about consent without, like, really addressing it head on.

RJ

Yeah. What I remember from the scene is the effect was really cool because it was like he blew up the room. And then there was, like, a time turnery thing where it went back to being okay and then it blew up again and then it went back again.

PM

Yeah, Credence, because he only turns into an Obscurus when someone does something mean to him or talks mean about his family or does something mean to his family. He turns into it obscures. And then Credence explodes the room. And then it's as if he's trying to use the pieces and the all the shards of the wood from the structure to attack Grimmson. But Grimmson just hides himself in, like, a bubble, which works really well. And he just stay safe the entire time. So, he's, like, trying to repeatedly attack him with a bunch of, like, wood shrapnel and then Grimmson is fine.

RJ

What?

BD

I do not remember the scene at all.

PM

Yeah.

RJ

I don't remember the bubble.

BD

I remember him becoming an Obscurus in that moment, but only because I remember it from the trailer.

PM

Yeah, Grimmer covers himself in a bubble and then is just safe. And he's, like, not even trying hard.

RJ

So, it's a bubble. I thought it was a time thing. I thought – you know what it was is – remember when they break into the Department of Mysteries and then homeboy becomes a baby? It's like his head is a baby. Then it's not a baby. Then it's got the thing.

PM

Ooh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

RJ

Which is, like, terrifying.

PM

Ooh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

RJ

I was like, "Oh, maybe they're tried to—

PM

Time bubble.

RJ

—actually put that on film, which was a big disappointment.

BD

No.

RJ

Then they don't put it on from the first time. But, no, he's just in a bubble. And that just reminded me of Snape dying in the bubble. Bubble charms.

PM

Then we see a scene of Grimmson and Grindelwald in some little alleyway type deal. And we learn the Grimmson is working for Grindelwald, which makes everything make more sense.

BD

This is the last time we see him, right?

PM

Yep. Yep. Yep. Yep.

RJ

Yeah, he just disappears.

BD

Cool. Yeah.

RJ

But it's just like, "What's the point of the Ministry if, like, all of these people are just working for Grindelwald and waltzing in and out of the Ministry?" Like, there's Abernathy and, now, Grimmson. Like, can y'all just not hire [Inaudible 50:01]? Is that just against your – is it – what is the handbook? Where, where's the hiring managers here?

BD

They don't have one.

PM

They clearly don't vet at all. They don't Google anybody's name. They do nothing.

RJ

No background checks.

BD

None.

PM

None.

RJ

Fine.

PM

So, now, he's tasked with keeping Credence safe because now he's gonna, like, keep watching Credence, you know, to keep him alive, basically, revealing that this whole situation was just, like, kill Irma so that Credence didn't learn about his truth. Then they say for the greater good to each other back and forth—

BD

So fun.

PM

—to kind of let you know like, “Oh, look, they said the thing from the seventh book.” And then we cut to Kama in a bathroom very creepily putting eye drops in his eye. And we don't know why. We just see, like, a little thing in his eye later. We, we learn what that is. But Newt and Jacob in – I guess, they have to be like, “This is a French movie, right?” So, they sit outside a French Café and they do the whole people watching thing like a bunch of French restaurants are. And they're following some feather that they had enchanted that's gonna tell them where Kama is. And they eventually talked to Kama. And he doesn't want to talk to them at first. But then they, like, semi threaten him and say that they know he was with Tina. So, they asked him like, “Where is Tina?” And he's like, “I'll show you where she is.” And then he leads them into, like, a creepy-looking basement thing. Oop, it's a jail cell.

BD

My god.

PM

So, now, they're all behind bars in jail. And he says that he has to kill Credence because either he dies or I do.

RJ

Oh, my god.

PM

And then, once he says that, he collapses to the ground. And, and then there's the scene with, like, Newt. They break out. Thanks to Pickett. He can just break any lock because that's, apparently, all Pickett exists for, our little bowtruckle friend. And Newt then goes out and he, like, calms down the zouwu with this little small fluffy cat toy thing and gets him to fit in a case. And, of course, that whole giant ass thing can fit in the case, but not Jacob in the first movie.

BD

Nope.

PM

Because we have to make a joke about him being too big because that's funny.

BD

Yep.

RJ

Yep.

BD

Yep.

PM

Yep.

RJ
Haha.

PM
Yep. Yep. Yep. And, and that's gonna be the end of this episode and your, your two discussion talking about Grindelwald. We made it to pretty much the halfway point. And, now, I get to spare you.

RJ
Okay. I have a big question for you, Mike.

PM
Yes. What's up?

RJ
What happened?

PM
What happened to what?

RJ
What we just talked about. What – give me a sentence summary of what happened. What happened?

PM
Like, the whole movie so far. What's the recap?

RJ
Yeah. Where are we at and why are we there?

PM
We're in France because Credence is in France and so is Grindelwald. And, now, all the main characters have gotten to France differently.

RJ
Why?

PM
Because Grindelwald's in France and he's bad. And he's gonna do something with Credence. And, and Newt talked to Credence that one time and it kind of worked before the aurors exploded him with vague spells. So, Dumbledore knows you got – it's got to be you, my guy. And that's – yep.

BD
Mhmm.

RJ

All right. Cool.

PM

A whole lot of nothing has happened. That's what's happened.

BD

Oh, it's just – yeah. Wow.

RJ

We went to a lot of places and saw a lot of people and for no reason.

PM

Mhmm. Mhmm.

RJ

Glad to be here. Thanks for having us.

PM

I, I owe a great deal to the two of you. I feel like I'm forever indebted for making your talk about this for, now, 90 minutes total.

BD

Yep.

RJ

You are.

PM

So, god, I apologize, but I couldn't – I couldn't think of better people to rant about this with you. It felt right to get the most – the most similar righteous anger on the show. You two were the perfect fit. But, if people want to – want to hear you talking about stuff and doing other stuff, where can they do so?

BD

So, at blackgirlscreate.org is where you can find all of the things we do. We're a space for black creators and nerds to talk about and make things. Wizard Him is our Harry Potter Podcast, where we went through chapter by chapter and then did Curse Child. And then we did Fantastic Beast. And then we did Crimes of Grindelwald. And then we did a Time Room series that—

PM

So fun.

BD

—is super fun. So, if you want to hear us yell more, you can – you don't have to skip the post canon, but you could.

RJ

If you want to hear us talk with Mike and enjoy it—

PM

Hmmm.

RJ

—you can check out his episode with our team in the Time Room.

BD

Yes. Yes.

PM

Yeah, if you need, like, a palate cleanser to us all being angry at the same thing, you can have us doing the time turner thing where we said what if Snape wasn't the worst.

BD

Yep.

PM

And that was fun because we got to create a fake world where Snape doesn't suck. It was great. I was so happy I loved it.

RJ

I mean he still sucked.

BD

He sucked to us.

RJ

He just wasn't the worst.

PM

I mean, yeah, he just didn't – he, he wasn't as bad, you know. He sucked a little bit less.

BD

Yeah. And I feel like—

RJ

Yeah.

BD

—that is a world that I could, you know—

RJ

Yeah.

PM

That's a good place to be in.

BD

It's good. Yeah.

RJ

Yes, much better than where we are now.

PM

All of your Time Room episodes are great. I highly recommend them to everyone. So, go check those out. So, Robyn and Bayana, thank you so much for joining. Listeners, thanks for listening. And, as they say in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter before they shoehorned beasts into their story because they're contractually obligated to do so, Wizard On!

[55:10]

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