

Episode 18 - Goblet of Fire Ch. 20-22

w/ Rosianna Halse Rojas

PM = Past Mike

EM = Editing Mike

RR = Rosianna Halse Rojas

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

[1:11]

PM

So, without further ado, let's get into this next episode of Potterless covering Chapters 20 through 22 with Rosianna Halse Rojas.

Intro Music

PM

Hello, internet. Thank you so much for tuning in to another episode of Potterless; the journey of a 24-year-old man – though I'm probably 25 by the time this episode is posting – journey through the Harry Potter series. We are back with Rosianna for --

RR

Yehey.

PM

-- the final four chapters of the segment we're going to talk about Chapters 20 through 23, the big meaty chunk in the middle of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Rosianna, how are you feeling about these next few things we're about to undertake?

RR

Oh, I just can't believe how much happens in this – in this little section.

PM

Yeah.

RR

I mean it's great. It's great. You really feel like the Triwizard Tournament has consumed the Wizarding World.

PM

Yes, it really has. It's a very dense four chapters.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, let's, let's get right into it. Chapter 20: The First Task. Harry tells Hermione everything that happened with the Sirius talk, and the dragon stuff, and Ron, and all these other things. He's stressing out about Karkaroff. And she's saying, "How about we just keep you alive until Tuesday evening? And then you can worry about Karkaroff," which is just --

RR

She's always the pragmatist. It's so admirable.

PM

The voice of reason forever. They're studying up in the library about how to defeat a dragon. And they're trying to think of spells to put on the dragon, but they realized that putting a spell on the dragon probably won't be any use. But, instead, maybe doing something to give Harry powers would be of use. So, I think that's a nice little creative solution to the problem.

RR

I just love the bit where they're going through all these books. And they find this one that talks about treating the scale right. And, hence, this is for nutters like Hagrid who want to keep them healthy.

PM

Yeah.

RR

Further check --

PM

Like Hagrid's the only person in the world that doesn't want to just murder dragons.

RR

Yeah. And it's from this book that's Men Who Love Dragons Too Much, which is a great book title.

PM

Fantastic.

RR

The book titles are so good.

PM

They are very solid. So, they leave when they see Krum walk in, because Hermione is like, "Oh, here comes the giggle cruise." So, they just peace out immediately. But, on their way out, Harry sees Cedric. And he realizes, at this point, that Cedric is the only champion, who doesn't know that tomorrow is dragons, because he figured that Madame Maxime is going to tell Fleur and that Karkaroff is going to tell Krum. So, he's like, "You know what? I'm going to

tell Cedric." So, he tells Hermione to walk on, and he goes up to Cedric and tells him. And Cedric is really shocked. Like, why would you do this? Like, why would you help? And Harry's like, "It's only fair."

RR
Yeah.

PM
You're the only person who doesn't know. And Cedric thinks this is really nice of him, which it definitely is. Moody then calls Harry aside and gives some props for what he just did. He was like, "Hey, that was really cool. Good move, Harry."

RR
Yeah.

PM
I like Moody. I'm sad he's only gonna be here for one year. Defense Against the Dark Arts teachers have either proved to be the greatest people ever or the worst people ever.

RR
Yeah.

PM
You have turban guy, and then Lockhart, and then, now, you've had Lupin, who was a bro, and Moody, who's a bro. And it sucks that I know Moody is going to be gone at the end of the year, because he's really nice.

RR
You make all these connections, and they just go.

PM
Yeah. Basically, every time Harry has a teacher he likes, they go away.

RR
Yeah.

PM
So, it's horrible.

RR
But so do the ones he did – he doesn't like. So, that's fair.

PM
That is very true. So, he goes into Moody's office. And Moody's like, "So, you know about the dragons." And Harry's like, "What? Uh, no." And he's like, "Don't worry. Cheating is a

tradition in this tournament. Not a big deal." Moody tells him – he's like you should play to your strengths. And Harry's – Harry is just not getting the hint at all. Like he's very --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- very obviously telling Harry to fly on a broom. And Harry's like, "What?"

RR
Yeah.

PM
And then he's like, "Play to your strengths." And Harry's just like, "I'm really good at Quidditch, but I don't see how that's going to help here." And he's like, "Holy shit. Like fly on you're" – like he just wants to like beat Harry's head into a wall. He's like, "Maybe you could use a spell to get you what you need."

RR
Yeah.

PM
And then Harry, in turn, was like, "But what do I need?" And then, after like a paragraph, Harry's like, "Oh." And then this is the quote. It's, "It clicked. He was best at flying. He needed to pass the dragon in the air, and he needed his fire bolt." It's like, "Oh, my gosh, like Moody's been telling you this for 30 pages. Like, I get that you're dumb, but how dense are you?"

RR
Yeah. I mean, sometimes, it's hard to see what's right in front of you.

PM
He's so dumb. So, he finally gets it. He leaves and Harry then tells Hermione that – he's like, "Yo, we gotta get me really good at summoning charms, because I'm going to need to summon my fire bolt from all the way in the castle."

RR
And that's kind of such great vindication for, for them because she's like been trying to force him to improve his summoning charm --

PM
Yes. But she's been trying to do this --

RR
-- this whole time.

PM

And she's like, "Finally. Ugh." What I don't understand is he's like, "Oh, it's gonna be really hard to do this charm, because the broom will be all the way in the castle." It's like why doesn't Hermione – if we're already gonna cheat – like, if this whole tournament is based on cheating --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- what doesn't Hermione take the broom, wrap it in the invisibility cloak, sit in the stands with it. And then, once it starts, take it out so then Harry only has to Accio it from the stands as opposed to all the way in the castle?

RR

Probably because that implicates Hermione.

PM

Okay. Yeah. That's true.

RR

Whereas, this is just like – it's still kind of cheating, but it's – you know, it doesn't get her into trouble.

PM

That's true. Yeah. I guess it just keeps her safe. But --

RR

Still.

PM

-- I feel like it's an invisibility cloak. Who's gonna know?

RR

Well, I mean so much of this tournament is like impractical.

PM

Oh, god. Yes. It's --

RR

Yeah.

PM

None of it makes any sense. It's --

RR

Wizards.

PM

It's very strange, but, you know, it's the Goblet of Fire.

RR

Yeah.

PM

They're practicing these charms a lot; the summoning charms.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Harry is slowly getting better. The next day goes by like a blur. Harry is called out of class by McGonagall, who seems super nervous for him, but tries to reassure him. She's like, worst case scenario, we have a bunch of wizards that can extinguish flames and put the dragon away. Like, the worst case scenario, you're not going to get hurt. You're just going to look really dumb. And then Harry's like, "Gee, thanks."

RR

Yeah.

PM

Bagman shows up to all the champions and tells them that they draw from a bag to pick which dragon that they're going to face. And the goal of the whole challenge is to grab a golden egg. So, they draw. Of course, Harry gets the hardest dragon and goes last, because, you know, the book is about Harry.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And Bagman tries to offer extra help to Harry. He's like, "So, Harry, do you have a plan?" And he's like, "Yeah." And he's like, "I could give you some help if you need it." And Harry's like, "I, I got this, man. I don't know what you're trying to do." He's like, "I've got an idea." And he's like, "All right. Just let me know," which is really creepy. I'm starting to suspect something's up with Bagman, too. Like it's definitely either Crouch or Bagman, who's evil in all of this. I just don't know which one. The contest then begins. The champions go out one by one while the rest of them have to stay in the waiting room.

RR

Yes.

PM

They just got to stay there.

RR

And just listen.

PM

And just listen, which is terrifying. All three are successful. So, then Harry goes up. Immediately, he does Accio Firebolt. Gets it. Flies around. And he starts feeling better, because now he's in his element. He's acting like he's playing Quidditch and that the dragon is just the other team. He's doing a good job of staying at bay. But then he starts to go towards the egg, and he gets hit in the shoulder with the tail of the horntail, which I'm assuming has a horn on it. So, it hurts. So, then he decides just to fly super high in the air, which has served him well in the past against Malfoy.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, he just flies way the hell up to bait the dragon into going in for a big swoop on him. Once he does, he dives just super fast down his version of the Wronski Feint and goes in, snags the egg, and then he wins. So, did that. Then you learn that, apparently, he took the shortest amount of time to get the egg, which seems really suspect because the narrator describing it like made it seem like it was like, "Krum [Inaudible 8:50] out. Krum defeated them." And then Harry's description is like five pages long.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And then it's like, "Oh, yeah, you did it in the shortest amount of time." It's like, "Really?" Harry flew around. Made a scene. Got hit. Grab the egg. It seemed like Krum just hit him in the face with a bullet and then grabbed the egg right away. So --

RR

Well, he's not -- he's not the most reliable narrator. [Inaudible 9:10].

PM

This is very true. Hagrid and Moody give Harry props. McGonagall sends him to the first aid tent. And Madame Pomfrey has a great scene where she's just like finally upset about everything that she's had to deal with in the past --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- four books, which is great. She's like last year was dementors. This year it's dragons. What is going on?

RR

Yeah. What are you doing to me? What are you doing to these children?

PM

Yeah. What, what is this school gonna do to me next?

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, she helps out Harry and then goes to leave to help out Cedric. So, then Hermione and Ron come in. Hermione is freaking out that he did so well. And Ron puts the feud at bay and says, "I reckon whoever put your name in the goblet is trying to do you in." So, finally, Ron has buried the hatchet.

RR

Yes.

PM

Ron begins to apologize. And then Henry says, "You know what? Just forget about it." But what bugged me is that Harry never apologizes. Harry never says, "I'm sorry, too." He's just like, "Don't worry about it, Ron," which, to me, makes it subtly seem like Harry is fully convinced that this whole thing was Ron's fault, which it wasn't.

RR

Well, I didn't think -- I didn't think it was. But I understand -- I understand why Harry in that situation wouldn't apologize. But I agree that like to -- if he was going to be a better friend, he would apologize to him.

PM

He would. Yeah. He'd be like, "My bad, too." I was also a terrible human being.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But he doesn't.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Hermione then like cries about how stupid this whole thing was, which, again, proving that she's the only person that makes sense. She hugs them, is happy, and then just runs away. It's great. But, you know, Harry was a diva last night. So, I feel like he probably should have said sorry for throwing something at your face.

RR

At least – yeah. At least, for that specific --

PM

At least, for the scar comment. Yeah. At least like, "Yo, sorry, that I said --

RR

Yeah.

PM

Sorry that I heavily implied that all you want to be in life is me.

RR

Sorry if i threw a badge at your forehead.

PM

Yeah, god. Ron starts describing to Harry what the other champions did.

RR

Yeah.

PM

He says that Cedric turned a rock into a dog, and then tried to get the dragon to be distracted by the dog instead.

RR

Yeah.

PM

It only kind of works because, halfway through, the dragon sees Cedric and then burns him.

RR

I love – I love that idea as well. It's like, "What can I use all of my amazing magical skills to do? I'm going to turn this rock into a dog."

PM

And just hope that you chase the dog instead.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, then Fleur tried to put it in a trance with some sort of charm, which like made it sort of sleepy. So, it kind of worked. And then Krum, who I loved his approach, just hits it in the eye with a spell and then grabs the egg.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But, apparently, the dragon like stumbled around and damaged some of the eggs, which caused him to be deducted some of the points from his score. Harry goes out and the judges are awarding him the scores. Madame Maxime gives Harry an eight out of 10, which is nice.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Crouch gives them a nine. Dumbledore gives them a nine. Bagman gives them a 10, which even Harry is like, "What?" Like I got hit in the shoulder. Like there's no way I was perfect. And that's exactly my thought, too. So, one of the few times Harry and I see – I have seen eye to eye in this series.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And then Karkaroff gives him a fucking four, which --

RR

Well, it's just he is just so corrupt.

PM

I just like – I – this just begs so many questions like, "How are the judges of this tournament the least impartial people ever?"

RR

Yeah.

PM

These people clearly all have agendas.

RR

Yeah.

PM

They definitely want their own people to win.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And you just expect them to be honest? Like no way. No way at all. You also learn that Krum received a 10 from Karkaroff even though he did something that he was supposed to lose points for.

RR
Yeah.

PM
As you've mentioned before, this tournament is very silly and impractical.

RR
Yeah. No one's really sat down and thought it through. They're like, "How can we kill a few people, but let's not also discuss this terrible judging situation --

PM
Yeah. Let's --

RR
-- in which everyone's going to be biased."

PM
Or, let's fix part of this, but not all of it.

RR
Yeah.

PM
I just found it very silly. Like there's a reason in the Olympics why they get people from countries that aren't competing. Like there's a very specific reason.

RR
Yeah. Well, in all sports, there's a reason. You know, referees is in football matches and --

PM
Yeah. It's not like the ref is the coach of the other team.

RR
Right.

PM
And he's like, "Oh, no, that was a foul." Like, "Oh, red card." Like, "What?"

RR
Yeah.

PM
Oh, terrible.

RR
Terrible.

PM
So, Ron freaks out and is really upset.

RR
Yes.

PM
And Harry doesn't care about getting the four. He's just really excited that Ron is pissed about Harry getting the four.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Because, now, he knows Ron is on his side, which I think is great.

RR
That's sweet.

PM
Harry is more concerned with Ron being upset at the injustice than the actual injustice, which is just fantastic. So, Harry notices that pretty much the whole school is now cheering for him and Cedric. So, people don't hate him. And he's like, "Well, maybe the Slytherins don't like me, but they never did anyway."

RR
Yeah, which is a fair point.

PM
So, it doesn't really matter.

RR
It's true.

PM

Yeah, super fair. But which I get because there are two people from Hogwarts that they don't feel obligated like they should support Harry, because he's from their school.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like I get that they can just be like, "You know what? Let's only root for Cedric." That being said, I feel like there should be some Hogwarts pride. If I was even in Slytherin, I would rather Harry win than Fleur or Krum just because it's like, "This is Hogwarts. This is our school."

RR
Although, I do think that that's a very US perspective though. Because I don't think that people have the same connection to school especially when it comes to sports and things like that that they do in the US. Like I feel like the US is very – with like college leagues and college games and so on. You just – I don't know. I just don't think you have that at the same level in the UK.

PM
Yeah.

RR
It's definitely something that I've noticed more since moving here. It's just like people are so connected to their school, so connected to those achievements --

PM
Yeah.

RR
-- in a way that I don't necessarily know they are so much in the UK.

PM
Yeah. It's definitely – it's definitely an American thing.

RR
So, yeah, I don't know. Some of them are cheering for Durmstrang.

PM
Oh, man. So, Charlie Weasley comes up.

RR
Yeah.

PM

And he informs Harry that he and Krum are now tied for first place. And that he's supposed to go with Bagman in the Champion's Tent, because he's going to talk to the champions. Cedric, in the tent, gives Harry props. He's like, "Yo, super good job. That was killer." Bagman then tells the team that the next task is in mid-February, and that the golden eggs that they've taken are actually clues.

RR
Yeah.

PM
There's a clue inside the egg, and it tells them what the next task is allowing them to better prepare for it. Rita Skeeter comes in and asks Harry for a word on how he feels about the challenge and the unfair scoring system. And Harry with the greatest line he's ever said goes, "Yeah. You can have a word. Goodbye." Bwaaa. Like rap air horns ever.

RR
It's so great.

PM
Like bwa-bwa-bwa-bwaaa.

RR
So great.

PM
So bad.

RR
So bad.

PM
So bad, but so good at the same.

RR
Well, I say this was around the time that JK Rowling was trying to get a lot of attention from the UK tabloids.

PM
Okay.

RR
For her books. And it's like all the things that come out --

PM
Oh, so -- oh, so, this is like a personal vendetta.

RR

Yeah. It's just kind of like some of the things that I think Rita says must mirror things that were said about her. And some of the things that Harry response must be the lines that like, when you get in a fight with someone, but you come up with a really great retort like two days later.

PM

Yeah.

RR

I'm thinking she wrote those down and had them ready to go for her.

PM

That's – oh, so, basically Rita Skeeter is a giant subtweet --

RR

Yes.

PM

-- about the media.

RR

Yes.

PM

That makes it so much better.

RR

Yes.

PM

Oh, I'm so glad. That's so great. My favorite thing about it is, as the books have gone on, JK Rowling has done a better job of ending the chapters on like defining notes.

RR

Yes.

PM

Like they'll either end on like a cliffhanger or something like that. And this quote from Harry is the end of the chapter, which I think is just so funny that it's like this super lame insult. And then it's like --

RR

Bye.

PM

-- ugh, Chapter 21. Yeah, it's really fun. Because I've been mixing between reading the book and listening to the audiobook if I'm like --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- at work or cleaning or something like that. And it's really funny when there's a pause. And I'm like, "I hope that's the end of the chapter." So it's like, "You can have a word. Goodbye." And then it's like 1, 2, 3 --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- Chapter 21. And it's like, "Yes, she did end the chapter on that."

RR
So good.

PM
And it makes me so happy. So, that's the end of Chapter 20.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And, now, we get into Chapter 21: The House-elf Liberation Front --

RR
Yehey.

PM
-- which, right off the bat, I'm like, "Oh, good. A whole chapter about S.P.E.W. I can't wait. I'm so excited." So, Ron and Harry go to write to Sirius. And Ron is shit talking Karkaroff the whole time. He is fully on Sirius' bandwagon of thinking that Karkaroff did it, which makes me 100 percent confirm that Karkaroff did not do it.

RR
Because they're talking about it so much.

PM
Ron has never been correct about anything ever.

RR

Actually, there's this big fan theory that Ron has some seer in him, because there are some things that he says, casually, that have turned out to be true.

PM

Huh! Okay. Don't spoil any future things for me.

RR

I'm trying to think of a non-spoiler example.

PM

But, so far, Ron has been wrong about everything.

RR

It's usually when Ron's joking about something that – yeah.

PM

Okay. Oh, okay.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Interesting. It's definitely interesting.

RR

Once you've read them all, I'll say send you some examples once you read them. I'm excited.

PM

Well, yeah, we'll talk – we'll get you on for, for an episode at the very end. We'll be like, "All right. So, is Ron smarter now?"

RR

Yeah. Ron update.

PM

Just a whole episode about Ron's intelligence. So, I'm personally still feeling it's Crouch with a slight hint of maybe Bagman, but I think it's a stretch.

RR

Crouch with a touch of Bagman.

PM

Exactly. Crouch number one. Bagman for second place. Karkaroff, totally in last place. They decided that they're going to use Pigwidgeon, who's really excited about being able to send a letter, which, again, I think Pigwidgeon is so much better than Hagrid like – or Hedwig.

Pigwidgeon really just is like excited about his job and just like wants to fly and stuff. And I think it's great. So, I'm on Team Pigwidgeon. I don't know if there's like a Team Pig versus Team Hedwig thing, but I'm totally Team Pig.

RR

I don't think there is, but I embrace like all enthusiasm for owls.

PM

Oh, yeah. So, apparently, the letter that they wrote this time is bigger, longer, and heavier than usual, because Harry wrote a lot of detail. This brings up a question for me. A, this letter is either multiple pages long.

RR

Yeah.

PM

B, it's either a scroll that is longer or, C, Harry's using wizard paper that gets longer depending on how much you write. Because in – if I was writing a letter, I would grab like an eight and a half by eleven piece of paper --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- and then fold it up.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But, apparently, in this Wizarding World, like how much paper you use is 100 percent dependent on how much you wrote. I want to know what they write it on.

RR

Well, because they talked about rolls – they talked about rolls of parchment for homework.

PM

So, they have like a roll and then he cuts it I'm guessing.

RR

He must be --

PM

And then rolls it up.

RR

He must be cutting it. Yeah,

PM

Yeah. Okay.

RR

Yeah. Because the essays always like – and then Hermione submitted 15 and a half rolls of parchment for History of Magic. Yeah.

PM

Okay.

RR

So, it must be.

PM

So, I'm guessing he just has like a big – a big old cylinder of paper and then --

RR

Yeah. Like unscroll and then chooo.

PM

Okay. Nice.

RR

But poor little Pigwidgeon. He's so tiny.

PM

Oh, poor little Pigwidgeon. But, also, for everyone listening, Rosianna just did a great unscrolling --

RR

Oh, yeah.

PM

-- and cutting hand motion on the Google Chat.

RR

Yeah. It's such great visual --

PM

If only this was a video podcast.

RR

-- visual jerk.

PM

Ron tells Harry, "Come on. Let's go to your surprise party," which makes it not a surprise party anymore.

RR

It's so funny there. It's so offhand and wonderful. Love it.

PM

And – but, apparently, the twins stole a bunch of food from the kitchen for it, which makes it fantastic.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, they go to the party. People at the party insist that Harry opens the egg.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And Hermione's like, "He's supposed to do it on his own." And then Harry's like, "Hermione, you were helping me with the entire last task." And she's like, "Oh, yeah, right. Okay. Open it. Whatever." So --

RR

But the other – the other thing that's interesting to me about that is that like, in the rule – when they're reading out the rules, they say teachers can't help and you can't ask teachers for help. But not, at any point, it says you can't ask your friends or other students for help I don't think.

PM

Yeah. I don't – they said that they were supposed to do it alone. But you're, you're right that --

RR

It's kind of implied that --

PM

That they're supposed to do it alone. But it's implied that you aren't supposed to ask anyone for help. But I don't know if they ever explicitly said it.

RR

Yeah. I think it's mostly like don't ask teachers, but then everyone kind of assumes you're supposed to do it alone. But then no one does it alone.

PM

Yeah. So, he opens the egg.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And then, inside, it's completely empty, but it makes like a little loud screeching wailing noise, which reminds Harry of the musical saw players in Nearly Headless Nick's band for the Deathday Party.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Which I just want to know what the musical saw is and if they're like grinding it against something or what. I'm very intrigued by it.

RR

It must – or like grinding it against itself. Are they like multiple saws?

PM

Yeah, I don't know. I really want to know what the musical saw is. I'm pretty sure that this is the mermaid thing. I know that one of the tasks is mermaid from the movie. So, I'm assuming the mermaids like scream at you. I think they like lure you in and then scream at you, and like knock you out or something. That's what I think I remember, but we'll find out later. The kids tried guessing. George says that it sounds like Percy singing in the shower.

RR

Which is great.

PM

And he's like maybe the challenge is that you have to attack him while he's in the shower. Like, ugh, the twins are the greatest ever.

RR

They're so good. I just --

PM

Oh, they're so amazing.

RR

I just – I have to say I just looked up the musical saw because I was curious.

PM

Oh, yeah.

RR

And it's someone – you see like a violin bow against common like carpentry saw.

PM

That's amazing.

RR

So, they --

PM

I'm gonna have to watch a million YouTube videos of this.

RR

Anyway. That's like another level. But, yeah, the twins are so great. The twins are so great.

PM

They're the greatest. So, Hermione asked the twins how they got food from the kitchen.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And they're like, "Oh, you go down – you go down the staircase. There's a painting of fruit. You tickle the pear.

RR

Yeah.

PM

It giggles and then becomes a doorknob.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And that's so good.

RR

Yeah.

PM

I – like, if I was a wizard, I would make every single door in my house that. Like, even if it's a closet door --

RR

Just a bunch of pears that you have to tickle?

PM

Just a bunch of different things you have to tickle. Like – and it would – it would get to the point where it's annoying. Like my kitchen cabinets, my refrigerator, everything would have a tickle knob.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But it would just be so much fun.

RR

Yeah. It'd be great. You should – you should try and find a way to do that with all this up and coming technology and stuff.

PM

Yeah.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Like a touchscreen and you gotta like to act like you're tickling it.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Oh, it would be so good. So, as the twins are saying this, they're like, "Wait a second. Are you asking this because of your stupid house-elf thing?"

RR

Yeah.

PM

And she's like, "They deserve to be free. It's a great little moment." So, the next day happens, and they're back in Magical Creatures class, which means more blast-ended skrewts. We've all been waiting for them. It's been two whole chapters.

RR

They're back.

PM

We've been dying without them.

RR

They're back doing each other. Because this – for all these like he said their desire to kill each other had not been exercised out of them.

PM

No.

RR

Just terrible creatures.

PM

Yeah. Walking them – walking them didn't help. So, the skrewts are now six feet long --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- which is as tall as I am.

RR

Yeah.

PM

This is a terrifying animal that has a big stinger or a big sucker and explodes occasionally, and is the size of a full-grown man.

RR

And these kids are 14 and like 15 at most.

PM

Yeah, four feet tall, five feet tall.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Yeah. Oh, horrifying. So, apparently, now, there's only 10 of them left --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- due to all of the killings.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And I'm so intrigued of what their purpose is. I really hope that Harry uses them as a prop to defeat one of the challenges. Like I know – I know he uses a gillyweed to defeat the mermaid. And I don't think he uses them in the maze part. And I don't know if there's more than three challenges, but I would love it if he used a blast-ended skrewt to do something.

RR

He went straight to Voldemort.

PM

Yeah.

RR

He just took it to Voldemort, and he's like, "Blast it."

PM

Yeah. And like what if he just like Accios a bunch of blast-ended skrewts, and then just throws them at Voldemort.

RR

Right.

PM

And they explode him.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Like they blow up Voldemort with bombs in it.

RR

That would probably be pretty effective.

PM

Yeah. It'd be way better than Expected Patronum or whatever. So, Hagrid's deciding that he wants to see if they can get them to hibernate, because he still knows nothing about these animals. And he wants to put them in a box that has a bunch of pillows and blankets --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- and then nail the lid on it.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And then just hope that they go to bed. So, they tried this, but the skrewts are not having any of this. Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle run away into Hagrid's little cabin.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Again, how does anyone support Malfoy as a bully? He's a baby. Like he's terrified of everything.

RR
He's kind of cowardly.

PM
He's not good at making fun of people. And, ugh, I don't get how anyone agrees with any of his jesting. So, the rest of the class rounds up nine of the 10, getting like burned, and stabbed, and attacked along the way. There's one left. They're struggling with it. And this is the point where I noted in parentheses in my notes. There's no way that this is in the movie. Unless, they become integrally important to the story.

RR
Yeah.

PM
But I don't think that's happening. While they're rounding up the last one, Rita Skeeter comes in. Oh, just making this chapter better. Like, what did we need? We needed house elves. We needed Rita. And we needed blast-ended skrewts. The three greatest things that this book all --

RR
All the greatest hits.

PM
Yeah. Just bringing them all back. So, she starts asking about the skrewts and asks where they come from. And then Hagrid starts to blush. Hermione, further proving to be the greatest character in the whole book, distracts Rita by bringing Harry to light so that she'll get distracted and talk to Harry because clearly Hagrid got these things illegally. So, Hermione is just so good at reading people. She's absolutely incredible.

RR

It's interesting to me that like – that Ron's the chess player because Hermione would be really good at chess because she's like three moves ahead.

PM

Yes. Oh, my gosh. Yeah. She really – she – that is so true. She should be way better. And Ron always – I don't know. I feel like Ron would just – like Ron's the kind of chess player that just like wants to kill all of the pieces right away.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Because he's always jumping to conclusions right away. Whereas Hermione is like plotting things many moves ahead. Ron is just --

RR

She's playing the long game.

PM

-- trying to take out --

RR

Yeah.

PM

Yeah. He's just like guessing. So, she's like, "Oh, Harry, aren't these skrewts so interesting?" And then she's like, "Oh, Harry's here." And then Rita starts talking to Harry. After doing this for a little bit, she goes back to talking to Hagrid and says that she wants to interview him for the Zoology portion of the Daily Prophet, which apparently is a thing. This is going to be an anti-Hogwarts for sure if it comes to light. So, I was very – I was very, very worried.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So was Hermione. So was Ron. So was Harry. They're all like this is the worst thing possible.

RR

Alarm emoji flashing right now. Yeah.

PM

Yeah, exactly. So, Hermione's biggest concern is that the, the skrewts were illegally imported. And that Hagrid is going to get into trouble again. So, she's really hoping that doesn't happen.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Harry, though, is now excited that double divination is happening where he has an hour long of it, because now he can be there with Ron again and just make fun of Trelawney.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Which, ugh, I can connect with so well. Like me and one of my best friends, Johnny, we very much enjoy like watching a movie or a TV show or something and just kind of like sitting in the back and like whispering things to each other. And we call it maturity corner.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like we'll be like, blah, blah, blah. Like we saw Frozen and just made fun of it the whole time. And it was the most fun thing in the world, because I think it's a terrible film. So, I can totally connect with Harry here just wanting to like sit in the back of the class and, when Trelawney says something, we should be like, blah, blah, blah, blah. So stupid. Blah, blah, blah.

RR
Just I like that being the most – one of the most like sacred moments of their friendship.

PM
Yeah.

RR
Divination and making fun of Trelawney.

PM
Yeah. It's like his least favorite class normally, but, with Ron, it instantly becomes his favorite class.

RR
Yeah.

PM
So, Ron and Harry then go to the library to find Hermione after class. And they don't see her there, which is a legitimate cause for concern. Like they're actually worried. They're like, "Wait. Where is Hermione? What is happening? She's not in the library. Something is wrong." So, she runs into them with exciting news, and leads them through the same creepy door that Cedric went down.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And you find out that it is the kitchen. And Ron is like, "Oh, god, come on, Hermione. Like not the S.P.E.W. stuff again. Please no." And Hermione is like, "It isn't S.P.E.W." And then Ron says, "Oh, what are we? The House-elf Liberation Front?" which immediately makes the name of this chapter so much better.

RR
It's so great.

PM
Because it's based off a joke.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like, oh, so good. Like I went from thinking it was really annoying because it was actually going to be about them liberating house elves. And the title of the chapter is just Ron making fun of Hermione. So good.

RR
Yeah.

PM
So good. It also reminded me – so, I haven't seen Suicide Squad. I don't know if you have, but I'm at least familiar with the meme of it where Will Smith is like, "Oh, what are we some sort of Suicide Squad?"

RR
Yeah.

PM
And like people have made fun of that. So, when I read this, I'm imagining like Ron turns into Will Smith.

RR
Like that kind of [Inaudible 29:21].

PM
And then he's like, "Oh, what are we?"

RR

Yeah.

PM

Yeah. Like, "What are we? Some sort of House-elf Liberation Front?" And I just thought it was fantastic.

RR

I find like this, this whole thing – there's such a great commentary on those moments when people really mean well, but they're being kind of naive. And a lot of the time the word liberation – especially when it comes to like political context, the word liberation is thrown about a lot. Because liberation often involves making a choice for someone else that isn't coming from them themselves. So, even though he's saying it as a very like offhand joke, it's also to me like really signals some of the biggest flaws and what she's trying to do. Even though she means really well that it is a situation that needs to be improved, that's coming from her and not from the house elves. So, yeah, I don't know. That was like one of the big examples that for me that a little offhand joke actually also --

PM

Sure.

RR

-- embody something much bigger. And yeah.

PM

Yeah. No. It is good.

RR

It's cool. And like JK Rowling used to work at Amnesty International. So, it's another – she should be aware of those stuff.

PM

Oh, interesting.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Okay. Nice. That's is good.

RR

Fun facts.

PM

Yeah. No. I'm loving the fun facts. These are great. Hermione says that she comes out not to talk to the elves, but she wants to show the squad like what's going on.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And maybe just like pitch the idea to somebody elves. So, you go in the kitchen. And it's basically the coolest kitchen in the world. And I love cooking. So, when they started describing how awesome this kitchen was, I would hang out in the kitchen all the time there.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like I would try to find my way to just cook stuff there. It seems so cool. So, everything is great, until Dobby comes up. You find out he's working in the kitchen. So, everything is derailed. He's described as having tennis ball shaped eyes --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- which I think is a very funny way to say round.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like, "What?"

RR
Just like protruding big.

PM
Yeah. But I -- ugh, I just think it's -- I get --

RR
I wonder whether it's more about size than about shape.

PM
Yeah. I just thought it was funny that she says tennis ball shaped.

RR
Right, because tennis ball shape is round.

PM
Like I feel like she could have said tennis ball sized --

RR

Yeah. Yeah.

PM

-- or like eyes that looked like tennis balls. But the fact that she said tennis ball shaped --

RR

Suspect. Yeah.

PM

-- I thought it was really funny. So, apparently, now he's wearing super weird clothes --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- now that he's allowed to wear clothes. And he's going like a tie with no shirt, and like a bunch of pins on a doily on his head, and two different socks, where one of the socks is the sock that Harry used to set him free via technicality, which I think is great.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, Dumbledore apparently hooked up Dobby and Winky with jobs when they were not able to find any, further proving Dumbledore is just a bro. Absolute bro. All of the house elves then hooked up the squad up with a bunch of food. Gave them a whole bunch of stuff, which is great. And then Ron makes a -- like a great joke where he's like, "Oh, great service." And Hermione gets mad at him. Like Ron's jokes in this book have been great. I'm really excited that he's become a great like offhand comment --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- character.

RR

Gets attention.

PM

I'm very much connecting with Ron in that regard. I would totally be making all of the same comments like he does. So, Dobby says that he was looking for work for two years.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And he just couldn't find any because no one wanted to pay him. And he started describing that he would like talk to people, and they would like slam doors on him once he asked for money, which for me made me a little uncomfortable because got – it got like a little too slavery-ish.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Like I really wasn't liking it. It got super uncomfortable. I'm hoping that Hermione finds a way to like set them free, but I feel like it's strange. Like I get some of the things JK Rowling's writing about. Like the whole mudblood thing not being cool as like her standing up to racism, which is nice. And then there's other things like trying to get rid of like gender stereotypes and things like that. But I feel like going on an anti-slavery sub theme in the book is a little weird because it's like I don't think anybody is pro slavery at this point.

RR

Well, I think --

PM

Like I feel like everyone's on the same page.

RR

Yeah. But I think this actually has more to do with like how the Wizarding World is set up to favor wizards rather than other creatures.

PM

Okay.

RR

Like that's – that, to me, seems to be more the point of it. Not necessarily like slavery itself, but like the – I don't know – kind of like the economic benefits and like the freedom of movement that – that wizards like one kind wizards, wizards have versus like these other animals. So, you just – right – kind of animals, creatures, who – it's not a fact of like whether they have the same kind of consciousness or not, because you know that they do. And they have like language and everything too. They just, they just work a little differently. So, yeah, I don't know. I think – like, especially when I read it for the first few times, I didn't – I didn't think I was necessarily even thinking of it in terms of slavery. I think it was more just like there's an injustice here that you will assume that the Wizarding World would have been smart enough to crack, and they haven't. And it's just kind of showing the cracks in that world and how – I don't know. Yeah. How the – how the balance is kind of tipped in favor of wizards.

PM

Yeah, but no. Okay. I like – the way that you put that makes it sound really nice. Because there is like a definite inherent thing where they do put themselves on such a higher status than everyone else.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And it's right. Like even, even the fact that like the mudblood thing or squid thing is like such a bad thing to be --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- who cares if like your parents aren't wizards or you're not as good at magic or whatever. So, you're right. Like it is a bit strange that they are a little too high status about the fact that they can do magic. And they, they almost like discredit muggles as like counting as people. Muggles are people, too.

RR
Yeah. Yeah. And muggles are like the butt of the joke all the time. And they call them, you know, The Muggles.

PM
Sure.

RR
And not necessarily even maliciously, but it's just so woven into that culture that like being a wizard --

PM
Yeah.

RR
-- is the best thing you can possibly be, which is -- yeah.

PM
Yeah.

RR
-- which is serious to me.

PM
Oh, man. Okay.

RR

So, that's my – that's my defense of it.

PM

Okay. I like one now.

RR

And that's why I think is really interesting about this.

PM

No, that's good.

RR

Yeah. This, this storyline.

PM

Definitely makes me appreciate it more now that you've put a more – like a nicer spin on it. That makes more sense. Where I was just thinking about it --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- oh, this is dumb. So, I'm glad that you could make me feel better. So, Winky is being strange about everything though.

RR

Oh, no. She's a mess.

PM

She's super upset about all of the things. Dobby says that he's getting paid a galleon a week.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And he gets one day off a month, which is ridiculous. And Harry's like, "That's absurd." And he's like, "Oh, Dumbledore wanted to pay me 10 gallons a weekend and give me one day off a week, but I refused."

RR

Because that was absurd.

PM

I thought that was too much. And it's like --

RR
Yeah.

PM
What? Winky is not getting paid at all, because she "hasn't stooped that low yet."

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like, "Okay, Winky. Get off your high horse."

RR
Yeah.

PM
And she's ashamed of being free. She still acts like she's Crouch's servant. Still calls him master. And then gets into this weird thing where she kind of like shit talks Bagman.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like she says Crouch doesn't like Bagman and that Bagman's a bad wizard.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Which makes me – now, I'm getting closer to 50/50 on if Crouch or Bagman is the bad guy.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Especially given Bagman's weird like trying to help Harry thing. Super suspect.

RR
And he's so like overly cheerful as well and positive.

PM
Yeah. He's too happy. I know. I need more information on it, but I'm, I'm less confident on knowing it's Crouch. More now thinking Bagman could be in play, but, regardless, Karkaroff, the farthest away possible for me.

RR

Definitely not Karkaroff.

PM

Like no, no way it's him at all. Zero percent chance. Winky says that she doesn't want to tell any secrets that Crouch has said about Bagman, because she respects his secrecy.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, doesn't say anything.

RR

She's signed an NDA or something.

PM

Yeah, exactly. The conversation ends with Ron offering to give his Weasley Christmas sweater to Dobby this year. He's like, "Do you like maroon? I've got this sweater that I hate wearing every year." And I want a Weasley sweater so badly. Like I looked online and you can like – there's some Etsy shop that will make like a custom one, but it's like \$120. It's like ugh.

RR

I have – I have like one of the official ones in the UK.

PM

Whoa.

RR

That they made – they made like – those are the ones from the films. And --

PM

Okay.

RR

And, in the film – like, obviously, in the film, they have the big H on them, and the big R on them. And it's great because they have all my initials, RHR. So --

PM

Yeah. Oh, my gosh.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Wow.

RR
Yeah.

PM
You should just get --

RR
Like that.

PM
Both an R and an H one.

RR
Yeah. But I do love the ones that – the descriptions of like the patterns that Molly, you know, knits onto them each time. That's just great. Yeah.

PM
I would either want to be a Weasley or best friends with the Weasleys --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- if I was a wizard because they just have the coolest family except for Percy.

RR
You definitely want to spend like family holidays with them for sure.

PM
Oh, for sure. They're the coolest. Absolutely the coolest. So, the squad then leaves. And they're trying to figure out the whole like Crouch versus Bagman thing.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And, and what to think of Winky's comments. And that is the end of Chapter 21. So, we get into Chapter 22, which is The Unexpected Task to which I'm thinking, "Oh, it's not unexpected. It's totally mermaids." But then the chapter opens with McGonagall announcing the Yule ball. And I was like, "Oh, the unexpected task is getting a date for the Yule Ball."

RR
Yeah.

PM

So, I was quickly --

RR

It sounds --

PM

-- quickly put in my place.

RR

They tried to sound so foreboding.

PM

Which is great.

RR

And then it's, it's just getting a date. Yeah.

PM

Yeah. The back to back like really great titles of chapters throwing me for loops. Really solid about it.

RR

So good.

PM

So, the ball is on Christmas Day, which I think is a little weird because now everybody's got to stay at school for break, which is okay because Christmas at Hogwarts is awesome from all the descriptions. I would do it. No question.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Not even think twice about it. But you can't see your family on Christmas if you want to go to the ball. It seems slightly problematic --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- for scheduling purposes. McGonagall says that the champions and the partners open the ball. And Harry's flustered because he's like, "First off, now, I got to find a date. Second, I have to dance." And he's being like, "Huh, I don't want to dance," because he's a loser.

RR

He's never dance in his life. Yeah.

PM

Fully on board with the Potter stinks movement, because he's trash. So – I just love dancing. So, he decides that finding a partner will be harder than tackling a dragon --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- which I think is a bit of a hyperbole, Harry, because girls can't kill you.

RR

Yeah. I think he's catastrophizing a little bit.

PM

And the thing is he's got like such an easy course of action.

RR

Yeah.

PM

If he wants to ask the person that he actually likes, he can just go to Cho Chang.

RR

Yeah.

PM

If he wants to just go with a friend, he can ask Hermione. And, if he wants a guaranteed yes, he can just ask Ginny.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Like he's got a perfect trifecta of options.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But, instead, he just doesn't do anything for like a week. And then has to --

RR

He just panicked.

PM

Yeah. And then has to ask a random person.

RR

He's like Hamlet over here.

PM

So, Ron asked Harry who he's gonna ask. And Harry goes into this like daydream about how beautiful and great Cho Chang is.

PM

He's just like heart eye emoji for Cho, but he's too much of a wuss to ask her. But you – and you learn that part of the reason he's scared is because she's a year older than him, and she's very popular, which I don't know if they've clarified before. But he's Harry freaking Potter. Come on.

RR

Yes.

RR

Yeah. It just goes to show he doesn't see himself as that.

PM

Yeah. So, I guess it's good that he doesn't – he doesn't have any sort of arrogance to him, which is nice.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But he should have like a little bit.

RR

It's good, but, in this instance, you've got to like dig deep.

PM

Yeah. In this instance, you got to be like, "Yo, I'm Harry Potter. If I ask anyone, they get to be in the Premier dance. Like they get to open the ball. Like, if anyone said no to me, they're dumb." I don't know. He should have just shot for the moon. Ron tells him. He's like, "You shouldn't have any problem finding a date. You're Harry Potter." And it turns out to be true because these random girls that you've never heard of --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- just started asking Harry to ask him to the dance. And Harry like very awkwardly just like tells them all no immediately, which is fantastic. Harry does note that people seem to have been nicer to him at school.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And he suspects that this is because Cedric probably told the Hufflepuffs to ease up on him since Harry tipped him off about the dragon.

RR
What a nice guy.

PM
Good move by Robert Pattinson.

RR
Yeah.

PM
What a -- yeah. What a guy.

RR
What a Harry.

PM
Hagrid's interview finished, and Hagrid just has this adorable moment where he's like, "It's really weird. She didn't want to talk about blast-ended skrewts or magical creatures. She -- it seemed like she just wanted me to shit talk Harry."

RR
Yeah.

PM
And the squad's like, "Yes, of course. She's only said nice things about Harry when she was trying to get another angle about it."

RR
Like he's so astonished that people don't want to talk about the blast-ended skrewts.

PM
Yeah. He's first astonished that they don't talk about that. And then he's, second, surprised that anyone would think ill of Harry. And, because of that, they're like, "Oh, well, you know, she could have just interviewed Snape. And he would have said like some awful stuff."

RR
Yeah.

PM
And Hagrid goes into this whole thing where he doesn't know that they're talking about a hypothetical situation. And he starts like actively defending Harry. And he's like, "Whoa. Well, maybe, maybe Harry's like broken some of the rules, but I think he's always had good reason." And he just like goes into this whole thing. He's like, no one – it's so – oh, it was the cutest moment in the whole book --

RR
So great.

PM
-- where Hagrid is just like, "No. Harry is a great guy. I don't know what you guys are talking about." Apparently, Dumbledore has booked The Weird Sisters for the ball --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- which sounds familiar. And I feel like people have made references to it, but I don't know what. But they're a world famous band apparently.

RR
Yeah. Yeah. That – it's been like a few times mentioned in the general like pop culture fabric of like the Weasleys and so on.

PM
Okay.

RR
Yeah.

PM
Hermione is a little upset that Harry hasn't figured out the egg clue yet. And --

RR
She's taking it very personally.

PM
Yeah. She's like, "You should probably try to figure this out." Ron is making a house of cards with a deck of cards that are more exciting than muggle cards, because they can blow up at any second.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Which doesn't sound exciting at all. The House of Cards explodes and singes Ron's eyebrows. Like I don't understand why he did this or why he thought it was a good idea.

RR

He's probably not just used to normal packs of cards. He's like, "What? Your cards don't explode?" Yeah.

PM

So good. So, the twins come up, and they ask Ron and Harry like who they're taking to the dance. And they basically say that they're too chickenshit to ask anyone.

RR

Yeah.

PM

And Harry's like, "Well, who are you gonna ask, Fred?" And he's like, "Oh, I'm gonna ask Angelina, but I haven't asked her yet." So, he stands up in the cafeteria, and then just screams like, "Hey, Angelina." And she's like, "What?" He says, "You want to go to the dance with me?" She's like, "Yeah, okay." And that's the, the interaction. And I thought it was the funniest thing ever. Like they are clearly the greatest couple --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- in the whole series. The fact that they would have that dynamic, it's so good.

RR

I really love Angelina. She's someone who I wish had had more of a role in the film.

PM

Yeah. I would have loved for her to get chosen as the champion.

RR

Yeah. And she just adds a little bit of like -- she's a good person. She's cool, but she's also like fun and light hearted. And I think sometimes the film should get a little more of that.

PM

She's -- yeah.

RR

Like show that they're actually just kids.

PM

Yeah. She's also black. And it would be nice if there was a non-white person --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- that was important for once.

RR

Yeah. Yah, for sure. Other than Dean.

PM

Like everyone is white except for Cho Chang. Like --

RR

And Dean.

PM

-- there's no important people of color.

RR

Dean Thomas.

PM

Oh.

RR

Love him.

PM

Right. Dean Thomas.

RR

Love him to bits. Yeah.

PM

Okay.

RR

Good. Yeah.

PM

Good. I was really sad because I remember, in the movie, with the asking -- this scene --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- rather than yelling it across the cafeteria, it's like he throws a note at her and then like whispers it to her or something.

RR

And then like he mimes the dancer. It's just not the same.

PM

Yeah. He mimes. It's like so much worse.

RR

Yeah.

PM

It's -- like this was so much better.

RR

This is so much better.

PM

I don't know who the screenwriter for the fourth movie is, but he fucked up. Because this is like the funniest thing in the book. And he's like, "You know what we should do? Let's change this so it's not funny anymore."

RR

Yeah.

PM

It's like a kind, "Ugh."

RR

They kind of make it a little bit of like a montage a bit after that as well. It's like, "No, it doesn't work." You need to -- yeah.

PM

Yeah, it's dumb. And any -- and, in the book, after, after she says, "All right," he sits down. And then he's like, "Well, there you have it." Like, ah, so -- just so good. It's absolutely beautiful.

RR

It's great.

PM

And I was so, so disappointed. So, Ron tells Harry that – he's like, "Yo, we gotta get a move on or we're gonna get stuck with trolls," which is --

RR

Yeah. Like, "Ron, come on."

PM

-- painfully misogynistic thing to say. And Hermione immediately is like, "What?"

RR

Yeah.

PM

Like did you really just say that? And then she's like, "Oh, why don't you ask that girl who apparently had really bad acne, but it's gotten better?" And Ron's like, "Oh, she still has acne," which I could connect with. I've had terrible acne my whole life. And I've done medications and Proactive and all this other stuff. And it's like still there. So, the fact that Ron's just like, "No, she has acne." It's like, "Fuck you, Ron. Like, come on, man. She can't control it."

RR

But then he's also like her nose is off center.

PM

Yeah, the worst. Ugh.

RR

It's just like, "What do you mean, Ron?" Ugh.

PM

It's – oh, man, so terrible. And Hermione is like, "She's really nice and is like a really good person." And then he says, "Yeah. Her nose is off center." So, she then – Hermione then replies, "Are you just gonna take the most attractive girl who will say yes?" And Ron says, "Yeah, pretty much." Like I appreciate his honesty.

RR

He's such a misogynist.

PM

But it's like, "Come on." So terrible. Harry still hasn't asked Cho, because he wants to like find a situation where she's alone.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But she's one of the most popular girls in school. So, she's always surrounded by people.

RR

Yeah.

PM

So, he finally just decides. He's like, "You know what? I can just ask her. Can I have a minute? Like can I – can I talk to you alone for a second," which he should have done in the beginning. That's how normally asking people to dances works.

RR

He doesn't know that.

PM

He finally does this and then Cho is like, "Yeah. What's up?" And he takes like an awkwardly long time to ask her, but then he finally – he's like, "Do you want to go to the dance with me?" And then she's like looks really sad. And the narrator makes a point to say – to like note that she looks genuinely disappointed.

RR

Yeah.

PM

But says, "Oh, like I've already been asked by someone." I was like, "This has to be Cedric," because I wasn't sure from the movie if they did. But I was like, "It's gotta be Cedric."

RR

Yeah.

PM

And then Harry asked, "Who is it?" And she's like, "Oh, it's Cedric." And Harry – the best is that it has like a narrator not. Harry thought Cedric was cool, but now he fucking hates him.

RR

Yeah. Like he's suddenly like angry.

PM

He thought – he's like – he's like, "Cedric's a good dude." He's like, "No, he's not. He's pretty and annoying, and I hate him." So, quick does a 180 on his opinion of him.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Harry then goes back to the dorm. Sees Ron and Ginny. And Ron's got this like dazzled look on his face. And he's like, "What's wrong?" And he's like, "I don't know why I did it, but I just

asked Fleur to the dance." And he's like, "Oh, you idiot. You're so dumb." But then, when Ron describes the situation, it's like they were in a group and he was talking to Fleur and Cedric Diggory. And Harry's like, "Oh, she was probably just using her like Veela spell thing to like try to talk up Cedric, and you just got swept up in it. No big deal."

RR
Yeah.

PM
And then he's like, "Oh, well, that was silly, because Cedric's already going with Cho." And Harry's like, "Yeah, I know. I asked her." And then Ginny gets sad, which is like, ugh, so depressing.

RR
She's, she's burning that flame.

PM
She's – so, now – yeah. So, now, Ginny hates Cho Chang.

RR
Yeah.

PM
So, Neville, you learn, asked Hermione, but Hermione said no and that she's going with someone else. And Ron immediately thinks that this is a cover. He's like, "Oh, there's no way Hermione is actually going with someone at the dance. She was probably just being nice." Hermione is then there. And he's like, "You know what, Hermione? Neville is onto something. You are a girl. Do you want to go to the dance with one of us?"

RR
Oh, he's just the worst.

PM
Yeah. Hermione is like, "Are you kidding me?"

RR
Yeah.

PM
Like you're just noticing now? And he's like, "What do you mean?" She's like, "I've been a girl for three and a half years. Like what are you talking about?" And she continues to tell Ron that she's going with someone else. And he like won't believe her until Ginny's like, Ron --

RR
Yeah.

PM

-- Ron, she's actually going with someone else. Like I saw it happen. Like it's happening.

RR

He's so bad in the scene. He's like --

PM

He's really bad. He loses a lot of my favorability points.

RR

Yeah. It's kind of like how to mix like how could she get a date and then, also, like, I'm entitled to ask her out on a date. She's, she's our friend. She's our Hermione. It's weird.

PM

Yeah.

RR

I don't like it.

PM

No. I don't like it at all.

RR

I'm not a fan. Ginny's cool in this though.

PM

Definitely just like taking Hermione's friendship for granted. Yeah. He's been cool --

RR

Yeah.

PM

-- the rest of the book, but this was just like less than ideal.

RR

Yeah.

PM

Ron then says to Ginny like, "Hey, you should go with Harry."

RR

Yeah.

PM

And Ginny's like, "Oh, Neville asked me. And I figured, since I'm a second year, no one else was going to ask me. So, I said yes."

RR
Yeah.

PM
Which, you know, makes sense. So, Harry then goes up to Parvati and then is like, "Hey, do you want – do you want to go to the dance with me?" She's like, "Yeah." And then Lavender Brown is with her. And he's like, "Hey, Lavender, do you wanna go with Ron?" And she's like, "Oh, I'm going with Seamus."

RR
Yeah.

PM
So then Parvati's like, "Oh, my sister could go with Ron. Padma, she's in Ravenclaw." And then Ron's like, "Okay." And that's the end of Chapter 22.

RR
It's just a range.

PM
Yeah. So, that's just pretty much it. This weird like best friends going on a date with twins situation, which I did once --

RR
Yeah.

PM
-- which was weird.

RR
You did?

PM
I had a friend who – he was like setting me up with a blind date sort of situation.

RR
Yeah.

PM
And I was all on board. And then it was like, a couple hours before the date, he's like, "Oh, by the way, your date is my girlfriend's twin sister." And I was like, "This is the weirdest."

RR

Were they identical?

PM

They were identical twins, but very different people --

RR

Okay.

PM

-- in the fact that my friend's girlfriend, the twin I was not on date with was very nice. And the girl that I went on the date with was very mean. So --

RR

Oh, no.

PM

Yeah. It was like they were identical in all the ways that didn't matter.

RR

Right. Right.

PM

And I was like -- because my thought was like, "Oh, maybe she's -- maybe she's like her sister and is like cool, and fun, and nice." Like, "Oh, no. She just looks the same and is bad."

RR

Oh, no. What a disaster.

PM

So, it was a rough situation. I'm assuming she's not listening to this podcast.

RR

Hi, if you are.

PM

If she is, hello. So good to see you. Ah, high school. Good times. Am I right? No, I'm not. High school is terrible.

EM

Hey, everyone, it's me, your old pal, Editing Mike. I'm here because, despite having two more chapters worth of discussion recorded with Rosianna, this episode already got pretty long. And, if I added those two in, it would have been way too long. So, we'll pick it up next time for chapters 23 and 24 with Rosianna. But, anyway, thank you guys so much for listening. As always, you can subscribe to us on any of your preferred podcasting apps. You can find us on Twitter at [@Potterlesspod](https://twitter.com/Potterlesspod) or on Facebook at facebook.com/Potterless. And, if you want to pledge money to the podcast in exchange for some bonus content, you can head on over to

patreon.com/Potterless get some behind the scenes stuff, director's commentary, bonus episodes, stuff like that. If you want to see more of Rosianna, you can go to her YouTube channel at youtube.com/rosianna with two N's. And she's at Twitter @papertimelady, but until next time as the official model Hogwarts States, Wizard On!

[51:01]

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