

Transcript

Episode 3.13

Book 3, Chapter 13: Gryffindor Versus Ravenclaw

Caroline: You're listening to Harry Potter After 2020, an HP chapter reread podcast wherein two friends who read the books way back in the day as adults revisit the series through a post-2020 lens. Your hosts are Lorrie Kim, author of *Snape: The Definitive Analysis*, and JC, an educator and long-time HP fan. I'm your editor, Caroline. In this episode, Lorrie and JC tackle Book Three, Chapter Thirteen: Gryffindor Versus Ravenclaw.

Lorrie: Gryffindor Versus Ravenclaw. Harry tries out his new Firebolt, beats Ravenclaw, and wards off what he thinks are dementors. Ron wakes up in his dorm to find Sirius Black standing over him with a knife! Oooh... What do you think of this chapter, JC?

JC: This chapter feels very light after the last one. Something big happens at the end, but that's a cliffhanger that starts us hurtling toward the resolution of the book. This one feels like a light, little snack full of some fun things, some great moments.

Lorrie: A chocolate bar.

JC: Yes, it's the chocolate to fortify us for what's to come.

Lorrie: My favorite bit of tiny side-character characterization in this whole series is this bit about Madam Hooch.

JC: Oh, my God, I have that written in my notes. Yes.

Lorrie: It's perfect. We get her going on and on and on, reminiscing about brooms in this geeky way where Harry has to yank his broom back out of her hands. A few pages later, she falls asleep in the stands. Then a few paragraphs after that, she scolds the boys for not waking her up. That's kind of all we ever get about Madam Hooch, but now I know so powerfully who she is. This is amazing writing. Love it.

JC: Yeah. I wrote in my notes, 'Madam Hooch is having a moment with the Firebolt.' "Look at the balance on it! If the Nimbus series has a fault, it's a slight list of the tail end -- you often find they develop a drag after a few years. They've updated the handle too, a bit slimmer than the Cleansweeps, reminds me of the old Silver Arrows -- a pity they've stopped making them. I learned to fly on one, a very fine old broom it was too...." And then she continued in this vein for

some while until the kids are like, "All right, we really need to practice now!" There's such a beautiful little moment. Just shows that she's the Quidditch coach because she really likes Quidditch, and she wasn't roped into coaching the girls' volleyball team.

Lorrie: No.

JC: She really wants to be there and do it. Yeah. She doesn't get to nerd out about Quidditch with the kids as much as she would like, I think.

Lorrie: Well, maybe she does; we just are spared.

JC: Yeah, we don't see it either. It's off screen.

Lorrie: But obviously, this is her default state.

JC: Yeah, that's true. There's a whole fanfic here about Madam Hooch and Professor McGonagall talking Quidditch. That could be fun.

Lorrie: Yes, and I'm sure it has been written.

JC: I'm sure it's been written. I should go look for it. Also, to take a step back, this chapter opens with Ron and Hermione not only not speaking, but Ron is convinced that Scabbers is dead and that Hermione's cat killed him; Hermione insists that that's not true, even though she has no evidence to the contrary.

Lorrie: Right.

JC: But I think what really stands out to me here is the moment where Fred is really humoring Ron around it. They're all like, "Oh, my God, it's just a rat, Ron. Get over it." They're trying to be nice about it. When Ron says, "Oh, but he bit Goyle that one time," Fred's like, "His finest hour. Let the scar on Goyle's finger stand as a lasting tribute to his memory." But then they're like, "Get over it, Ron. Buy a new fucking rat."

Lorrie: That was the best.

JC: Just funny.

Lorrie: Yeah, that line from Fred is one of my favorites.

JC: Oh, my gosh. Speaking of wonderful little character moments: when the Weasley twins pop up and tease their brother, it's just...

Lorrie: So real.

JC: Yeah, it's very real. I love it.

Lorrie: This chapter also introduces Cho Chang to us.

JC: Yes, who I forgot she was a Seeker. Totally forgot that.

Lorrie: Yeah. She's important, and Cho's one character trait is that she's extremely pretty, which is very annoying for those of us who are Asian and trying to figure out who we're going to cosplay, because I cannot cosplay someone whose only trait is that she's very pretty. "Okay, can't do it." Oi. Then we get another character moment here, where Harry goes to breakfast with his Firebolt and all of the other Gryffindors seem to think the Firebolt deserved a guard of honor.

JC: All the Firebolt worship in this chapter is amazing to me. It's like if a kid pulled up to school in a Lamborghini or something, everybody's like, "Oh, my God, I heard it does zero to a hundred in, like, two seconds."

Lorrie: "Can I have a ride?"

JC: "Can I have a ride? Can I sit behind the wheel and touch it? Can I clean it for you?"

Lorrie: "Hey, don't scratch it!"

JC: Yeah. All the things that would happen... that's the only thing I compare it to. The whole chapter is Firebolt worship, but it does show, wow, it's a really big deal that Harry has this broom.

Lorrie: And I find it intolerable. If I were a student going, "Wait, is this even allowed for a student to have something this expensive? And why is everyone acting like this over it? This is hateful."

JC: Ah, interesting.

Lorrie: "Ugh, get over it. Ugh. We don't even get graded on Quidditch." Anyway...

JC: That's funny.

Lorrie: "I don't have a Firebolt. I don't even want a Firebolt. Do you *need* a Firebolt? Nobody *needs* a Firebolt."

JC: Right. Here's something that stands out to me about this scene: as the parent of a high schooler and as someone who works in education, it is really blatantly clear that kids who live in different neighborhoods and go to different schools have vastly different opportunities. Inequities are massive, and you don't have to look much further than just extracurricular activities to see this. You can walk in and listen to lessons and listen to who the teachers are, how they're teaching kids and what they think of kids. There's that whole level of it, too, but even if you (at a very service level) look at extracurriculars -- look at the resources, the parent booster organizations, the amount of money that they put into this activity in some neighborhoods versus others, in some schools versus others -- this feels like there's a little microcosm of that. The Ravenclaws are riding on the school brooms, and then the Slytherins have the Nimbus 2001s that a parent bought; that's the booster club coming in and buying stuff. Then you've got this one kid, Harry, who's flying the nicest broom that you can possibly have. It shows the inequities here, even though Harry, oddly enough, is not coming from massive privilege here.

Lorrie: He's really either, yeah, the worst or the best. At any rate, he's never normal and he would just love to be normal, but he's not giving up his Firebolt because it's actually awesome.

JC: But what's really interesting about it is it makes me think -- My kiddo was in marching band the last two years. Looking at the resources that marching bands had... Let's look at musical instruments. The schools where the kids are playing instruments that the school has had for 100 years, and they're banged up and not great, versus kids... There are kids who've marched in my kid's band; I don't know if they marched with these instruments or if they saved them, put them in a case, and used them during concert season, but I overheard parents talking about, "Oh, I have to buy my kid a new flute. It costs fifteen thousand dollars." The fact that you have some kids playing instruments that cost that much money...

Lorrie: Fifteen thousand? Not fifteen hundred?

JC: Yeah. That was what I said. I was like, "Can you repeat that number? I'll make sure I got the zeros right." Yeah, fifteen thousand dollars, and if your kid is in that marching show doing the solo, then the fifteen thousand dollar flute is sitting up at the front -- mic'd, because the band program has raised enough money to buy all the sound equipment -- and they're going to come up, they're going to play the fifteen thousand dollar flute with the really nice mic system; that's the solo. In concert season, they're playing this flute when they go for whatever.

Lorrie: Oh, dear.

JC: Yeah. It reminded me of that, too, the fact that, even within a single school that's pretty privileged, there are parents who can afford to get their kids the nicest equipment. That's always been true. Some kids have had the nicest phone, some kids have one from four generations back that's cracked, and everyone's using the phone as a calculator. We saw during the pandemic: for some kids, doing school online was a hardship in ways that it wasn't for others because they didn't have internet access.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Their parents would take them to McDonald's to sit in the parking lot to do their homework if they could, if their parents had the time to do that at all. The inequities... it does highlight inequities, for sure, that Harry has. Everybody is playing this game on a different broom!

Lorrie: Right.

JC: At its core, that is so unfair, but also the kid reaction to the Firebolt I found very real.

Lorrie: Yeah. It is very real, and Harry not being normal is very real. I am one of those people, like Hermione, who don't have the Quidditch gene. I don't respond to it, but there are fortunately writers who do respond to it. Caitlin Harper and Barbara Lamond Purdom are two writers -- two people that I know and enjoy their writing -- who talk about how the Quidditch matches and the writing about them reflects what's going on in the story. I'm just going to lead people to them, since I don't have what it takes to talk about Quidditch.

JC: Yeah, I don't really care about Quidditch so much either, but what I love are the character moments that we get during the Quidditch matches. I think that's the thing that I really enjoy. Before we even get to the Quidditch match, though, there's this moment -- and this is possibly only in the British edition of the book: it's right at the beginning of this chapter when Harry has just practice-ridden the Firebolt for the first time. I think it's Fred... Oliver Wood is so excited that Harry's ridden this broom, and he's like, "Oh, wow, this is going to be great. I can't see... Nobody's going to be able to stop us unless the dementors show up," and then Fred says, "'The dementors won't turn up again, Oliver, Dumbledore'd do his nut,' said Fred confidently." I was like, "I don't remember... maybe I didn't read this edition before," but I was like, "Do his nut? What the hell does that mean?" I had to look it up, and it turns out it's the same thing as 'lose his shit'. "Dumbledore would lose his shit." That is the same connotation. I don't know what it says in the American version of the book, but I was like, wow, I learned a thing. After 20 years of being in British-based fandoms, I had no memory of that phrase ever before.

Lorrie: It comes up again.

JC: Yeah?

Lorrie: Yeah, in this series. Oh, it's Angelina, that's right. During the fifth year, when Angelina is the Quidditch captain and Harry keeps missing practices because of Umbridge, the twins say, "Don't get another detention, or Angelina will do her nut." Yeah, I remember reading that going, 'What?' Wait, okay, so where is this? Oh. "Dumbledore would go ballistic."

JC: Oh, there you go.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: "Go ballistic." How funny that that's the one that they chose to translate that phrase.

Lorrie: "We understand guns."

JC: "We understand guns." Wow. That is quite telling, isn't it?

Lorrie: Yeah, it is. That's us Americans.

JC: Okay, that's funny. Oh, well, this is not a funny moment, but when they're walking back from practice, they spot Crookshanks, but just for a moment Harry gets this dark... He sees the eyes glowing and he's reminded of the Grim, which is a nice little touch considering what's coming in this chapter. I thought, 'Oh, look at that. There's the Grim.' And then the other thing that stands out to me, before we actually get to the Quidditch match, is they have the honor guard walking the Firebolt down and all the kids in the cafeteria come over to look. Of course, Malfoy has to come over and be snarky about it, and the comeback that Harry has is just so pitch perfect. I'm just living vicariously there. It's like that thing... There's probably a German word for this, this feeling of later on thinking of the exact thing you should have said.

Lorrie: Oh, if only.

JC: The way that Harry does that, and it's perfect. You could almost hear the whole room go, "Oooooohhhh, burn!" It's amazing. Oh, it's so satisfying. Malfoy does not have a good time in this chapter; Malfoy has a shitty time.

Lorrie: Will you do us the honors and give us dialogue between the two of them?

JC: Okay, here we go. "'Sure you can manage that broom, Potter?' said a cold, drawling voice. Draco Malfoy had arrived for a closer look, Crabbe and Goyle right behind him. 'Yeah, reckon so,' said Harry casually. 'Got plenty of special features, hasn't it?' said Malfoy, his eyes glittering maliciously. 'Shame it doesn't come with a parachute -- in case you get too near a dementor.' Crabbe and Goyle sniggered. 'Pity you can't attach an extra arm to yours, Malfoy,' said Harry. 'Then it could catch the Snitch for you.'"

Lorrie: Ouch!

JC: That's so great! He just comes up with that. Yeah. So amazing. So that's fun.

Lorrie: So here they are! They're playing Quidditch; then Cho screams because she sees dementors, and Harry "didn't stop to think." He just whips out his wand, shoots out a Patronus and goes on with the game like he wanted, and I love that he didn't have to stop to think. We don't even get a moment where he has to think of a happy memory; he just knows how to do it. This is what school is for. This is what practicing and lessons are for, so that when you need it, it's right there. It's beautiful.

JC: It's a boss move, first of all, and yeah, it did remind me of all the discussions we had in the previous book -- was it the previous book, or the book before? -- about doing Expelliarmus, about that idea that you practice it and you practice it so that in the moment you can use it.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Even though it wasn't a real dementor; he just saw the shadow of it. He didn't look too hard; he just fired it off and kept on going.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: How cool would it have been to be one of the teachers in that school, to be sitting in that game and to watch Harry Potter shoot off a fully formed Patronus?

Lorrie: Enormous.

JC: "What the fuck?!" I'm just imagining all the teachers going, "Did you... What the heck just happened?"

Lorrie: "What the heck was that? Did we just witness a legend in the making?" Yeah. "Something silver-white, something enormous, erupted from the end of his wand." He doesn't even look at it. He doesn't even know what it looks like. He's busy.

JC: Everybody else knows what Harry's Patronus looks like now, except for Harry.

Lorrie: He has important Quidditch business. He doesn't have time to be looking at this sort of thing.

JC: Right, right.

Lorrie: And the way that his mind remained miraculously clear... We know, later on, that it's because those weren't dementors, but this is such a real thing. When you fight brain fog or some other mental roadblock and you get to experience, under any circumstances, what it would feel like to be free of that, hold on to that. It's like the cloud parting. "Wow. Huh, so that's how that feels, okay." Now you have something to aim for. As we've been talking about whether something is really happening or not, the conditions in your mind that make you believe that it's really happening, that is what matters. He thought he was fighting real dementors, and that's what stays with him. The achievement stands, and from now on, he'll know that he did it before; he can do it again. "Lupin looked shaken and pleased."

JC: Oh, God, can you imagine? Lupin knows. Lupin is the only person in that space... There's two other people who happen to still exist who would know, and Lupin is the only one who's there who knows what that stag means.

Lorrie: Who is that patronus... yeah.

JC: Oh, God, how... *groans* What that must have felt like for him. I don't know why I'm identifying so strongly with Lupin these last few chapters, but wow, what that must have felt like to see. Not only to see Harry do it, but to see what the shape of it was. Oh, my God.

Lorrie: And to know that now he knows something about this child that the child doesn't even know about himself.

JC: Yeah, that's true.

Lorrie: But everybody who's been worried for all of these thirteen years, "Oh, no, our friends left behind a baby. Did he even get to have any love to make his personhood before he lost his parents? Oh, would you look at that!" The chills, and how much Lupin must look at little Harry and remember and love little James that was his buddy and think, "Oh, I wish you could see that you grew up to have a child." Nobody taught Harry that this is what his patronus should be. This is just what comes from him. Ah. Lupin also knows very recently what Harry came from, having never cast the spell before, how shockingly quickly he went to doing this thing that nobody else can do pretty much, and just whip it out casually.

JC: Yeah, in the middle of a Quidditch game. *Phump!*

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: One thing that stood out to me, too, after this read was the fact that Harry in the last chapter heard his father's voice and his memory for the first time, and then he produces this Patronus. It made me wonder: if he had not heard his father's voice, would it have been something different? Did that trigger it somehow, or was the patronus always going to be that? I don't know how Patronuses work, I guess.

Lorrie: Well...

JC: They can change, right? Patronuses can change.

Lorrie: Yeah, they can. In our previous episode, when I was reading from Mara Tesler Stein's essay on Patronuses, it's our memories of love that provide the fuel. So yeah, it's whatever you can reach in yourself. We do know that Harry has had love as an infant and that that has formed him, and the more accessible those memories are to him, the more easily they become Patronus fuel. Yeah, I am sure that the strength of his stag benefited enormously from the work he's been doing with Lupin to be able to remember his father. It may be that that would have been in there anyway, because as we know, people have been telling him, "Oh, yeah, you're a great flyer, just like your father was. You look exactly like him. He was an amazing person." Harry did already have that identification, so it might have happened. Then there's genetics, too, but... Well, we'll never know, right? Because we do know that Harry has recently gotten back more access to memories of his father. Yeah, I'm willing to bet that it would have been a stag anyway, because with the cloak, too, people have been trying to build Harry back up with pieces of his father since he arrived here. But yeah, hearing the voice, hearing something that only he can remember... Major. I love to think that Lupin, watching in the stands, has to know he is the one who has unlocked this power in Harry. Harry wouldn't know how to cast a Patronus, and because of Lupin (and only Lupin) and the lesson he made up on the fly, this is such a proud and humbling teacher moment. Also, that Harry's abilities so far surpass Lupin's own. When the student surpasses a teacher, that's such a humbling moment when you think, 'Yeah, I have what it takes to change a person. It's not about knowing how to do something; it's about being a teacher, and I did that. Now I know what this student is made of.' I think Lupin -- even regardless of every other reason he ever has to love Harry Potter -- as a teacher, seeing what came out of this person because of his teaching effort, he's going to love Harry forever.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: And also justifies all those misgivings he had during the Patronus lesson: "Should I be doing it this way? Should I be stopping him? Is this right? Do I even know what I'm doing?" Yeah. You get a paycheck or a report card, sometimes, as a teacher.

JC: Yes to all that. On top of that, he's clearly been feeling guilty about not being able to do anything to help Harry all this time. Now he knows that this is a gift he gave Harry.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Sirius gave him the Firebolt (we'll find out later); Lupin gave him this, and that's always going to be the gift that Lupin gave him: teaching him how to cast a Patronus. It also sets Harry on the path to what he does in Book Five.

Lorrie: Yes.

JC: It's an incredible gift that Lupin's given him, and it can make Lupin... 'Relax' isn't quite the right word. It's not quite alleviating guilt, but he's paid it forward or he's done something.

Lorrie: It's affirming. It's a purpose in life, and also that Lupin is damaged as Harry has been damaged. Somebody who has trouble is the person who can teach Harry how to do this.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: So I didn't realize until this read-through: when Sirius escaped Azkaban going after Peter Pettigrew, he must have figured that once he killed Pettigrew, the dementors would probably get him soon after and that was the price he was choosing to pay. Is that the impression you're getting?

JC: I honestly don't think I thought about that before, but that is a really interesting point: what did he think was going to happen? He was so focused on killing Peter that sacrificing his own soul was worth it. Whatever that means in the particular mythos of this -- he doesn't go to the reincarnation cycle or he doesn't go to heaven or whatever -- that was worth it to kill Peter. That's quite a lot of hatred.

Lorrie: I never thought that, or being destroyed by twelve years in Azkaban, thinking, 'You know what? If this is what I've become, then at least I can bring to justice this one thing.' Or maybe after all that time in Azkaban, you lose value for your own soul because it's been battered so hard. But the thing that I realized, once I started thinking that way: the life that Harry ends up giving Sirius by rescuing him -- permitting Sirius to have a second chance at life (even though it was on the run), and permitting Sirius to die in battle with his soul intact -- is a much more fulfilled life than Sirius ever expected for himself and a better afterlife. Harry rescued that for Sirius, and that's something that I never thought of until now.

JC: That's really profound. Yeah.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: It again calls back to 'what is this series' take on life and afterlife'. There's not really any mention of God or anything like that in here, but there's definitely lots of allusions to what happens after death, and that souls live on, that kind of thing. With that being the backdrop of the belief system at play, yeah. It's really interesting that Harry gave that back to Sirius.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: And he had some happy times that were never going to make up for the trauma he experienced in Azkaban, but yeah. Yeah, that's really true.

Lorrie: What he did do is he was able to be a godfather. Even when it didn't work out exactly, as soon as he and Harry joined as godfather and godson, Harry felt loved. He changed from somebody who had no grown-up looking out for him to somebody who knew, 'Somewhere in this world, there's a grown-up who thinks I'm the most important thing in the world.' That was a permanent change in Harry's life.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: And Sirius got to do that. That's what he promised James he would do when he was made godfather.

JC: And that's really profound if you get to fulfill some of your goals in life.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: I have the sense that not everyone -- obviously, not everyone does, but you have some dreams or some goals or some promises that you've made, and being able to follow through on that is incredibly important and satisfying as a human being. To be able to say, "Yeah, this was a goal I set for myself and I got there." Even if it doesn't look the way you dreamed or even if it doesn't lead to the things that you hoped it would lead to, that's still really important for people in their lives to be able to set those kinds of goals or to do that for themselves. So yeah, that's actually really important. You're right that Sirius got to live up to the promise that he made to James and Lily.

Lorrie: Yeah, and that the affection between him and Harry was real, and he didn't think he was going to be able to do this when he first escaped from Azkaban.

JC: Right.

Lorrie: This was more than he dared to hope for. Good. Sirius' life is so painful to think about, but he did convince Harry, truthfully, that Harry was more important to him than anything in the world. Good. Meanwhile....

JC: The fact that Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle dressed up as dementors to come out on the field and scare Harry shows that none of them have any idea how dementors work.

Lorrie: Nope.

JC: And don't have the first clue about how they can affect people who have had a lot of trauma, and also that they themselves don't have the kind of trauma that would make them deeply affected by dementors. It highlights how little they understand, that they thought that would work.

Lorrie: Although it is a distraction. If all you want to do is startle somebody, that did happen. But also, they are taunting him. It's ableism. They want to remind everybody how humiliating it is that Harry Potter responds in this particular way to dementors. Hahaha. And the degree to which this backfires on them....

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: The beauty of it! So Malfoy, Crabbe, Goyle, and Marcus Flint are lying on the ground, unable to wrestle themselves free of their robes, while McGonagall is yelling at them in front of everybody. I thought, 'Nowhere does this ever say this, but I believe this has to be one of Harry's Patronus memories.' "Cast about in your mind for a single, very happy memory."

JC: Oh, my gosh. It backfires so spectacularly, but I also would have asked, 'What did they think was going to happen?' All they probably thought about was, 'Oh, we're going to scare Harry off his broom,' or whatever. They had to know that they were going to get in a hell of a lot of trouble for this, if not...

Lorrie: I think...

JC: Even if anyone believed these were real dementors, that would almost be worse because they would get... What did they expect?

Lorrie: They're just taunting, right? There's a lot of stuff that the kids do to taunt each other that never gets punished.

JC: Yeah, but they often do it not in front of all the adults and everybody. I guess what I'm saying is they had to go into that knowing that they were going to get caught and get punished. Somehow, either they didn't think about that, or they were like, "It'll be worth it."

Lorrie: I can imagine them saying, "Firebolt! We've got to do something! Ugh, this is intolerable!" But yeah, there's definitely a "what were they thinking?" followed by "I don't know, but I'm so glad they did, because wow!"

JC: That worked out really well. Yeah.

Lorrie: Not for them!

JC: Now I'm imagining all of Slytherin shunning them. "You lost 50 points," just like it happened to Harry back in first year.

Lorrie: Oi.

JC: "We're never going to win the House Cup now!"

Lorrie: "Well, we'll just have to try harder."

JC: Yeah, exactly. So there's all this, and then there was one moment way back at the beginning of this that stood out to me, which is that when Harry walks out onto the pitch and he looks at Cho Chang and she smiles at him, he gets that little... it's like that first moment of "aaaah".

Lorrie: Yeah. Adolescence has hit.

JC: Yeah, yeah. He doesn't recognize it, but the reader, of course, is going, 'Oh, yeah, yeah. Here we are.' He doesn't think much about it during the match after that, but there's that little moment. It's like, 'Oh, here we go.'

Lorrie: Yes. In the next two volumes, there are many excruciating moments that the readers have to survive.

JC: That's true.

Lorrie: Oof!

JC: That's true. And then Lee Jordan is a delight in this chapter as well.

Lorrie: The Lee Jordan/McGonagall dynamic is priceless.

JC: It's so great.

Lorrie: So then Harry has this wonderful, if frustrating, dream. Having discharged a magnificent Patronus in front of everybody, he dreams: "He was walking through a forest, his Firebolt over his shoulder, following something silvery-white. It was winding its way through the trees ahead, and he could only catch glimpses of it between the leaves." Oh! It's maddening, because it keeps being so elusive, but he's starting to integrate his memories. Things are coming back to him. He's stronger now; he has a protector in his own mind. It's gorgeous.

JC: Before he goes to sleep and has this dream, I love the fact that they have this massive party.

Lorrie: Oh, my God. It just goes on and on and on!

JC: It goes on into the morning until McGonagall has to show up in her dressing gown and is like, "Look..."

Lorrie: In her slippers!

JC: "I get it, but..." That was really funny. And the idea that Fred and George sneak off to Hogsmeade and come back, and then we get the mention of Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot and Prongs.

Lorrie: We know how they did that! But yeah... Oh, how much love do I feel at the thought of McGonagall showing up in her nightie. Ah!

JC: Yeah, for sure, and she's been tolerant up to this point. She's been like, "Let 'em blow off steam. They deserve it. It was a great win!"

Lorrie: Do you think she came in her night clothes on purpose to really impress upon them how late it was?

JC: It was what she was wearing, right? She's busting up the party, but also I know that feeling of being at a party that's running late; we're making too much noise and we're bothering people, and then someone has to come and tell you to quiet down.

Lorrie: She's right.

JC: She's right, she's right. Yeah. But oh, it was fun.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Then everyone goes to sleep. And then...

Lorrie: *Gasps* There's slashed curtains and screaming.

JC: Ron waking up, screaming about Sirius Black.

Lorrie: That he was standing there with a knife. Oh, God... And then McGonagall saying, "Which abysmally foolish person wrote down this week's passwords and left them lying around?" This is not the first time that Neville has paid the price. Hogwarts administrators, please institute some sort of system of security that's more accessible for people who have memory issues. This is so capricious.

JC: True, and old Sir Cadogan is the worst, because he changes them every day.

Lorrie: For fun, yes.

JC: Oh, my God.

Lorrie: But other than that, there's the other question: if anybody knows how an escaped convict could be getting into the castle and standing over children's beds with a knife, this might be a good time to come forward with that information. If Dumbledore finds out later that you knew something but you were sitting on that information, he might be unhappy with you later. Just saying.

JC: Yeah. I haven't read the next chapter yet -- I don't know where we're going -- but when Lupin hears about this, this has to freak him out. He knows how Sirius is getting into the castle. Even if he's not helping, he knows.

Lorrie: Who in a school is okay with a 13-year-old waking up to an intruder, who's an escaped convict, with a knife?

JC: Right.

Lorrie: Oh, my God!

JC: Yeah. Yeah.

Lorrie: And then to take it out on Neville... Oh, that poor child.

JC: Poor Neville. So that was the light break that we got, the chocolate bar. Now, we're heading into... Whoo! It ratchets up from here.

Lorrie: Yeah. The next chapter, we know, is going to be a good one, because my guy's name is in the chapter. It's called Snape's Grudge.

JC: Ooooh.

Lorrie: And if you think of all the characters in this universe that can hold a grudge, do you want to put them up against Snape? I don't know. Snape can hold a grudge.

JC: Snape can hold a grudge. I believe you. That's... yeah.

Lorrie: Yeah. He has reason, too.

JC: Wow.

Lorrie: So I'm looking forward to that.

JC: Yes. Yes, yes!

Caroline: You've been listening to Harry Potter After 2020 with hosts Lorrie Kim and JC. You can find show notes for this and all other episodes at HPAfter2020.com. There you will also find ways to support the show, contact the hosts and more. If you like what you heard, consider giving us a review on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. Harry Potter After 2020 is produced and edited by Lorrie Kim and Caroline Rinaldy. Original music was composed by C.L. Smith. Thank you for listening.