

HARRY POTTER AFTER 2020

with LORRIE KIM and JC

Transcript

Episode 4.17

Book 4, Chapter 17: The Four Champions

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 Four, Chapter Seventeen: The Four Champions.

Lorrie: The Four Champions. The other schools are angry that Hogwarts gets two champions. Moody says whoever put Harry's name in there is very skilled and wants Harry dead. Many people think Harry put his own name in, including Snape and Ron, but the thing this chapter is best known for within fandom is the epically wrong delivery of Dumbledore's line to Harry in the movie adaptation. All right, JC, let's hear it!

JC: "Did you put your name into the Goblet of Fire, Harry?"

Lorrie: "He asked *calmly*."

JC: When we started this book, my kiddo asked, "Which book are you on now?" I showed him the cover, and the first thing he did was say, "**DID YOU PUT YOUR NAME INTO THE GOBLET OF FIRE, HARRY?**" and I just cracked up laughing.

Lorrie: It's the meme of all memes. Yep.

JC: It was like, yeah, he could bring up the meme.

Lorrie: So yes, in the movie *Goblet of Fire*, the actor, Michael Gambon, hollers this at Harry while rushing at the poor kid and shaking him. You can say "he asked calmly" -- just "he asked calmly" -- to any Potter fan and they will know exactly which scene you mean.

JC: Yep, yep.

Lorrie: That's this chapter. If that makes you wonder what's happening here, this is the aftermath of Harry's name coming out of the Goblet. This is where the series' story turns; at this point, there's now no more pretense that Harry can just blend in as another student. In the Great Hall, people are standing up on their chairs to get a better look at him. Okay, he's not the same as everybody else. Oh... JC, what do you think?

JC: The last chapter left off with Harry's name coming out and them reading it, and then this chapter starts with the reaction. As luck would have it, we are recording this a few days after the 2024 presidential election, so the shock and the anger and the suspicion, and just the numbness on the faces of a lot of the people as Harry's looking around read a little differently to me than it would have a week ago. It was really strange to pick that up and read that scene and go, 'Oh, yeah, everybody I know has looked like that for the last few days.' That really stood out to me. The idea that these books can take on so many different colors of emotion... I know books do that in general and songs do that, and there's lots of things -- art does that in general, but it just really struck me how much that feeling was created in that room. I thought yeah, that felt like the world that I've been in the last few days, everyone just staring in shock. 'I cannot believe... How did that happen? How did that happen?' Yeah.

Lorrie: Right. Yeah. You're really noticing the exact same words on the page reading so differently, depending. Oof... I enjoyed the comedy writing in this chapter every time Harry is out of his depth. When Dumbledore calls him up, he stumbles on the hem of his robes, and then later when Ron is being weird at him, he's trying to untie the Gryffindor flag that Lee Jordan has put around his shoulders and the knot is really tight; it takes forever. Just all of these little things... Yeah, this is how it feels when you just are out of place, out of your depth.

JC: I didn't read any of that as comedy.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: It's so interesting that for you, there was little moments of levity. For me, that just made it feel more frustrating.

Lorrie: I don't know that it was levity, but it did make me go, 'Augh.'

JC: I think that on this read, it just hit me a lot harder that Harry has spent so much of the last few books -- few books; his whole life since he got to Hogwarts -- trying not to get special treatment and trying not to stand out in this way. There's this bit in there where he had fantasized about it, sure, but it was just a fantasy.

Lorrie: Right.

JC: He had no intention of even trying to put his name in, and now he looks around at everyone and he realizes he's about to get that special treatment that he doesn't want and doesn't feel like he deserves. This is what he does not want at all, and he's just looking around. In this moment, there's nothing he can do. And as the chapter goes on, that part just feels worse and worse and bigger and bigger; that he's maybe even a pawn here. No one is going to understand -- maybe except for Dumbledore and fake Moody -- that he's just a pawn here, and how frustrating. Again, having people look at you and not see who you really are or what your intentions really are -- making assumptions about you that are out of your control -- it's the whole awful side of celebrity again. I felt so bad for Harry through this whole chapter, because I could just see that hole getting deeper and deeper. Ugh.

Lorrie: I love how, when Harry looks at the other three champions, "they looked strangely impressive, silhouetted against the flames," and how he's struck by how tall they all are.

JC: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Lorrie: They are on the other side of adolescence. They are in adulthood, and he's just hopelessly in this manipulated place. Yeah, when he had fantasized about his name coming out the Goblet, that's because he had dared to imagine that he was allowed to have dreams like other kids.

JC: Yeah. Yeah.

Lorrie: Yeah, no. Apparently, he's not.

JC: Oh... Yeah, he was just another kid. You're right. He was just another kid who was going to be a spectator and he could fantasize about what he would have done in that position, but being in that position is totally different.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Once again, he doesn't get to be a regular kid...

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: But now he's going to have all this responsibility thrust on him that he didn't ask for -- that he's not sure if he can handle -- and that's the story of his whole life, certainly from here on out. Yeah.

Lorrie: Yeah. You thought you were going to watch the entertainment? No, no. You *are* the entertainment.

JC: You *are* the entertainment. You're going into the Hunger Games or whatever, right?

Lorrie: Oh, boy. A group of adults comes in, and it's Ludo Bagman, Dumbledore, Crouch, Karkaroff, Madame Maxime, McGonagall and Snape; Snape is the odd one out here. All of the other adults here are judges or Harry's Head of House. Snape has no reason to be there, except that he's rushing there to nurse his usual grudges against Harry. He's thinking at this point that it's like last year, when Harry got to go to Hogsmeade without getting punished. He tells Karkaroff about Harry, "He has been crossing lines ever since he arrived here," and Dumbledore shuts him up and says, "Thank you, Severus," which is like saying, "The grown-ups are talking."

JC: Yeah, that's interesting. I had not questioned why Snape was there because Snape is -- At one point on this podcast, you said Snape is always where you don't want him to be.

Lorrie: Right.

JC: So I was like, 'There he is, once again!'

Lorrie: But often when he's there, Dumbledore wants him there, and Harry's like, "Why is he here?" and Dumbledore's like, "I called him on purpose." Here, Dumbledore is saying, "Thank you, Severus," and McGonagall is also glaring at him. This is the parallel that, just like Harry being out of depth compared to these taller seventh years, Snape is out of his depth here. He sounds like Filch being focused on Peeves when there are bigger things happening.

JC: That is interesting actually, yeah, that Snape... Over and over again, his intense dislike of Harry and suspicion of Harry clouds his judgment about what's actually going on.

Lorrie: Here, it's really like, "We don't have time for your obsession with Peeves, Filch."

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: "You're a joke." And yes, Snape doesn't belong here.

JC: It's interesting, too, that the first person who came in the room -- which I did not remember until this reading -- was actually Ludo Bagman, who seemed really excited. His first thought was not so much, "How did Harry do this? This is going to be a disaster." It was more like, "This is going to be cool."

Lorrie: Yeah, yeah.

JC: "I can't wait to see!" He's so excited about it, and I think partly that's to make him a suspect, but also the contrast between him and everyone else. We've seen that with him before with the Quidditch World Cup, but everyone else knows exactly what Harry is about to face, and Bagman is the one who's like, "This is going to be great."

Lorrie: Yeah, yeah.

JC: Okay, wow.

Lorrie: Yeah. We know we don't trust you, but what's going on with you? Yeah. Then we get the shot of Barty Crouch Sr. "standing outside the circle of the firelight, his face half hidden in shadow." Okay, all the shadows of this chapter... Everyone in this chapter is having their mystery set-up. Everyone has a hidden agenda, and we're going to see a lot of that set-up here and no answers.

JC: Barty Crouch Sr., at this point on a first read, he seems so suspicious. He's a bit of a red herring.

Lorrie: Yeah. What's going on with him? Meanwhile, Karkaroff (oof!) "had dropped his unctuous tone and his smile now. His face wore a very ugly look indeed," and he's insisting on equality between all the different schools to have two champions each; he's got a point. Meanwhile, Madame Maxime and Fleur are innocent victims of whatever corruption is happening and they're completely indignant; they came here in good faith. This so clearly reminded me: as I often do, I think about figure skating, which is a sport that I was familiar with. There have been Olympic figure skating scandals with deals made between countries, and the athletes are just pawns. They're being manipulated, and even if the athletes have been brought in to collude, it's under duress; they really have no choice. Meanwhile, there are other athletes in countries that are left out of it entirely and have been training in good faith, and then they show up and they don't know what's going on. And yet -- and this is the trap and lament of a lot of Olympic viewers or people investing in the Olympics -- even when the real Olympics show themselves to be horribly, unfixably flawed time after time, the dream of them is bigger than that. When you manage Olympic beauty and transcendence, even in the most corrupt of the games, you feel it anyway. That really reminded me of the dynamic going on here, where obviously something is terribly broken. This is creepy as heck. What?! And all of them are like, "Well, we can't do anything about it. It just has to go on."

JC: Yeah. Rereading the reaction of all the adults in the room, there's like many things going on. There's this layer where someone's cheated and we're not benefiting from it. Hogwarts isn't benefiting from it. "Since when does the whole school get an extra one?" All this stuff.

Lorrie: Really.

JC: There's that whole level of people being mad, but then there's also the level of people who realize that basically a child -- "a little boy --"

Lorrie: "Ziz little boy."

JC: Yes, "Ziz little boy," as Fleur called him. He's three years behind the other people...

Lorrie: He's short.

JC: In his education, yeah. There's real danger here, and then the fact that this is a magically binding contract... There's nothing that can be done. He has to do it, and the only way out is serious injury or death, I guess. Oh, shit! This is one of the first times, I think, in the books that -- later on, we learned about the Unbreakable Vow, but I feel like this is setting us up for this idea that there is some magic that once you do this, there's no way out but through.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: There's no take-backs. That's a pretty powerful idea.

Lorrie: There are bigger things than human choice.

JC: Yeah. You can't just opt out.

Lorrie: No.

JC: You can't just say, "I quit." No.

Lorrie: No.

JC: "You can't quit. Sorry!"

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: "You've got to keep going."

Lorrie: "But I didn't sign up for this." "Nobody cares."

JC: Yeah. "Nobody cares," and here we are. "Your name came out of the Goblet. Sorry."

Lorrie: Or, as they're saying these days: you may not be into politics, but politics is into you.

JC: Yep. Yeah.

Lorrie: Meanwhile, this is when Mad-Eye Moody, who is supposedly the real Defense teacher, shows up and explains exactly how a Dark wizard would have done this to Harry and why.

JC: Isn't that amazing?

Lorrie: Yes, it is.

JC: It's so amazing. I read that... I honestly don't think I've read this book a second time. I think this is the second time.

Lorrie: This is your second time?

JC: I'm pretty sure, because I was flying through them trying to get to the fifth book when I read this. That idea that he just stands there and tells him exactly how he did it...

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: It's like wow, that whole thing about if you need to lie, just basically tell the truth.

Lorrie: Yeah. Hide in plain sight.

JC: Yeah, hide in plain sight. He is so good at that here.

Lorrie: He's amazing.

JC: How it would have taken a really powerful Confundus charm, it would have taken this, this and that, it had to have been a Dark wizard who knew how to do all these things. He's planting suspicion, but at the same time it's like... Yeah, whoever wanted to do this probably had a death wish for Harry. Okay, he's telling us. He's just telling us everything.

Lorrie: Yeah. This is not for the greater glory of Hogwarts.

JC: Yeah. And I really do appreciate, though, how that resets the room a little bit when he says, "Look, whoever wanted to do this is trying to kill Harry. The only reason that you would put this kid's name in the cup is if you wanted to harm him, because this is going to harm him and we all know it," and everybody in the room goes, "Well, shit," including Harry.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: "Oh, great. On top of everything else I'm going to have to deal with..."

Lorrie: Nice.

JC: "Voldemort's after me again!"

Lorrie: Ugh!

JC: Yeah. He's like, "Can I think of anyone who would want to kill me? Why, yes, I can." Yeah.

Lorrie: Yeah, and all of this complaining and jockeying for sport competition puts it in perspective. Now Karkaroff, of course, has his own axe to grind. He dismisses this as Moody being paranoid, which has some merit to it also. He says, "An odd quality in a Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Dumbledore, but no doubt you had your reasons." Karkaroff is just putting it out there. He's confirming that he took Moody's presence this year on the staff as a message of hostility from Dumbledore. This is just one of the many grown-up conversations that are unspoken that are going on in this scene that Harry doesn't understand, but has to try to figure out because this whole scene is pulling him into mortal peril and he has no choice. Okay, Karkaroff and Dumbledore are not so much smiling and pretending everything's fine.

JC: Yup.

Lorrie: Then Moody, or who Dumbledore thinks is Moody, makes things worse by saying, "'It's my job to think the way Dark wizards do, Karkaroff -- as you ought to remember...' 'Alastor!' said Dumbledore warningly." Karkaroff's face is burning at this point. This is so clever of Barty Crouch Jr. to use the Moody disguise to just take the opportunity to get vengeance on somebody that he totally judges.

JC: You sense that he is having fun.

Lorrie: Oh, yeah.

JC: He is enjoying the hell out of this.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Yeah, he's got this mission he's set, but he's enjoying embodying physically, mentally, everything -- He's really enjoying pretending to be Moody and he's taking advantage of the opportunity, but it never comes up as out of character.

Lorrie: Right.

JC: Wildly.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: This is the thing that I think is really interesting about this, and then there's a little bit of suspension of disbelief, but he's just probably going off of the public perception of Moody and he's banking on the fact that everybody is just going to say, "Moody's just like that. Yeah, you never know what's going to come out of his mouth. Yeah, he's paranoid," and he's playing into that. But if anyone really knew Moody, it'll be really hard to pull this off for a year.

Lorrie: Well, it's also the respect that Barty Crouch Jr. has for somebody who was good enough to be more than a match for a whole lot of Dark wizards. That's part of his inner turmoil this year: Barty Crouch Jr. is looking at these losers like Karkaroff and thinking, 'You are not good enough to be the Dark Lord's follower,' and looking at Harry Potter, thinking, 'Now, this kid has some substance. He is worthy to be... I'm taking it seriously that this child supposedly is possibly my master's equal.' Alastor Moody (the real one) is also worthy of respect of this evil genius, Barty Crouch Jr. When you come ready to fight and then you find out that your opponent is just insultingly... 'Really? This is what I'm up --' The most qualified person from one group will lose to the least qualified, most embarrassing representative of another group? There's just some lack of dignity there.

JC: Oh, yeah. Okay.

Lorrie: Yeah. Anyway, I'm feeling like part of the enjoyment of Barty Crouch Jr. is that he's getting to embody somebody whose brain is on a level with his own.

JC: This brings up a question that I have about Polyjuice Potion. This is getting way too much into the weeds, but if you Polyjuice yourself into the physical form of another person, how deep does that go? I don't know if there's any extracanonical ideas about this that are flying around out there, but is it just on the surface or does it go down to... For example, Moody's missing a leg or something, so when Polyjuiced like this -- Barty Crouch Jr. is also missing a leg and he's missing an eye -- does that give you... In particular, I'm thinking about the brain of the person. Are you in that person's brain now with your own spirit, whatever?

Lorrie: Apparently not. Apparently, to whatever extent human thoughts and brains are grounded in the actual physical cells -- that's not happening here. That's something that does happen if you're an Animagus, and if you turn yourself into a dog, then you can start thinking more like a dog because that's still you; it's a different form of you. But no, this is apparently... No. For an hour or less, you are you; you take on the physical form. Yeah.

JC: It's just the physical form, so it's not like you have access to that person's memories or personality or anything like that. That's interesting.

Lorrie: No, you don't violate their privacy that way. That's what I can tell from the story.

JC: Okay.

Lorrie: Oh, and then, so creepy... Mr. Barty Crouch Sr. "seemed to come out of a deep reverie." He moves into the light and Harry notices that he has "dark shadows beneath his eyes and a thin, papery look about his wrinkled skin that had not been there at the Quidditch World Cup." Dumbledore also sees that there's something wrong with Barty Crouch Sr. Of course, in this chapter, that's all we get.

JC: This is the one point where I did laugh: when Barty Crouch Sr. mentions that he's left his office under the supervision of Weatherby. "That kid seems like he's a little too overenthusiastic." His outside perspective on Percy was really funny, so that was a moment where I was like, HAHAAHA.

Lorrie: Yeah. Then Harry makes it out of there, and Cedric doesn't believe him.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: Ugh...

JC: At this point, Harry's probably wondering, 'Who does believe me?' He probably thinks, 'Okay, Moody believes that it wasn't me. Dumbledore believes...'

Lorrie: Dumbledore believes it. Yeah.

JC: Probably McGonagall, but he's looking around...

Lorrie : Hagrid believes it.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: Hagrid knows this is trouble.

JC: But of the people that he's been exposed to so far, Snape is not believing him, the other heads of the schools.

Lorrie: Yeah. Well, we knew Snape would react this way, but Cedric?

JC: Yeah. And Cedric is like, "Oh, come on, you can tell me how you put your name in."

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Oh, my God.

Lorrie: Ugh! Although Cedric is portrayed as kind and skeptical enough so that later on... We know that when Cedric sees what Harry's up against, he'll see that the kid is not lying about being totally lost. But then Harry has to go into that very loud Gryffindor party. Oh...

JC : Oh, and when Dumbledore dismisses them and tells them to go to bed...

Lorrie: "There's going to be partying."

JC: He says, "I'm sure Gryffindor and Hufflepuff are waiting to celebrate with you, and it would be a shame to deprive them of this excellent excuse to make a great deal of mess and noise," which is a very Dumbledore quote. It also feels like he's telling Harry --

Lorrie: "Get ready."

JC: "Enjoy what you can. Take whatever enjoyment you can get, because this is not going to be fun."

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: That also feels very apt for the current moment. "You know what? Go find some joy."

Lorrie: "I didn't sign up for this. I wanted peace and quiet." Too bad.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: So Harry has to go figure out how to handle this extremely loud, false congratulations. He's trying to think, 'Alright, what on Earth has just happened to me?' And there he goes. He has a place to start: 'Voldemort wants me dead.' Okay, that is a solid place to start. Alright, he has that. Meanwhile, there's this loud party and George gets him and says, "How did you do it without getting a beard?" That is the tiniest, tiniest little reference to King Arthur again to everybody when Arthur the teenager pulls the sword out of the stone and everyone says he's a 'beardless' boy. "I'm supposed to recognize him as my king? No." That's the whole tiny reference with a beard, and then there's the awful heartbreak of him going into Gryffindor Tower and seeing Ron. I'm actually slightly tearing up. That was so, so sad.

JC: For Harry, he has relied on his friends, right? They're the one thing that's kept him going. When he was at his worst, he always knew he could count on Ron and Hermione.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: And to have Ron not believe him and to be angry at him, and not in a position where he can believe that Harry didn't really put his name in... It takes a while for Ron to come around to that.

Lorrie: Ron is having such a hard time. I have total sympathy for Ron because I know that feeling sometimes when you think, 'This is horrible and absurd. I have to act like a grown-up. Why am I being twisted uncontrollably by jealousy or immaturity or some emotion I can't control?' But sometimes there are times when you cannot control your face, you can't control your words. You try and it just comes out looking awful, and he cannot manage this strained jealousy. It's coming from a place that's really not under a person's control. Part of it is the prize money. It's so much money, and that has been such a strain on Ron's life this year more than ever. Harry doesn't even need it, but even without that... When you hear that there's going to be a contest for that kind of money, obviously you or your friends can't qualify -- 'Wait, what is this?' -- Harry's star status is elevating him to a social and economic class that Ron may never be able to achieve. This is something where younger than that, they could be both just kids, but no. When you leave school, who's going to own the company and who's going to work for it? There's that separation that's starting to be really bare-faced. Possibly the least controllable part of the jealousy, when Ron says "Harry might need to get up for a photo-call," brings up sexual competition, because they're both about to enter adolescence and this gives Harry a head start on being attractive. At this point, they're both just funny little boys, but is this going to put Harry in this other category here, too? All of these things are wrapped up in this miserable survival

mode of being this age, and feeling your place in the world change according to criteria can feel kind of dirty. Before, you were children in class together based on your personalities, and now it's like, 'Wait a minute: how come suddenly these people get plucked out from our midst and showered with privilege and money and access? I never even noticed that person before, but now they're good-looking and they get asked on dates by older people? What's this new order, and why does it hurt so much and feel so awful?'

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: Here's Ron who's been struggling on a number of issues, and then he can't control his response here.

JC: Right. I think another layer of this, too, is that I think that Ron is fundamentally hurt that he thinks Harry didn't trust him enough to tell him what his scheme was. He thinks, at this point, that Harry actually put his name in, that Harry developed some plan and didn't trust Ron enough to share it with him or tell him he was going to do it. I feel that, too.

Lorrie: That's definitely a possibility, but also -- I love this -- there's the moment when Harry is trying to say to Ron, "Why on earth would I have done that?" and Harry can't say "because someone's trying to kill me" because he feels like it sounds so melodramatic; it sounds so stupid he can't even say it, because then it's like, 'Well, I am a bigger deal than you' in a dramatic, real drama sense. Ugh... It's just a very well written, impossible situation that both of them... Ugh.

JC: Ron has sidekick syndrome, really, from here on out.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: He starts to realize, 'I'm Harry Potter's sidekick.'

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: 'I'm not his equal. I'm the guy that hands the superhero the raygun or whatever.' I think this is one of the first moments... He kind of knew it before, but at this moment, he's also like, 'I'm just the sidekick.'

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: 'That's all I'm ever going to be.'

Lorrie: Well, before it was more like, "Okay, well, Harry, you're not prepared for this challenge, but neither am I and we're all just kids." But now the gap... There's such a huge leap in what's expected and what's at stake here. Before, it was like, 'Okay, well... Maybe three eleven-year-olds can attack a mountain troll.' This is like, "No, you're going up against Viktor Krum? What can I do as your sidekick here? I have no idea. Maybe you don't even need me. Maybe you need Dumbledore or Mad-Eye Moody."

JC: Also, it's interesting that there was a line very early in the chapter that didn't register to me (I don't think) the first time where Dumbledore says that the champions have to approach these tasks... They cannot get any help from their teachers -- it just said 'teachers' -- and I don't think it registered with me that oh, you can get help from your friends. That is totally allowed. Of course, that's how Harry gets through this, but Harry spends so much of this book (in my memory, at least) feeling very alone, and it's not until Ron and Hermione are right back behind

him and they're a team again that he really starts to think, 'Okay, maybe I can do this.' Without those two at his side with him, he's weak. He just can't do the things that he can do with them. That line stood out to me, because I was like, 'Oh, right.' Yeah. That's another thing that I think is interesting about being the Triwizard Champion: though you're the figurehead of it, you don't do it alone.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Yeah, and you need to have other people behind you.

Lorrie: I hadn't thought of that before, but that explains why they would bring a whole contingent from the other two schools, even though only one of them was going to be a champion. Huh. I had not even seen that. Yeah, that's always so awful when you're not in the running anymore and you're expected to turn all of your gifts to help out the person that's just a smidge better than you. Okay. Alright. Alright, that's how it goes.

JC: Yeah, Harry's going to go through some shit. That's where we're at.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: This has happened in the other books, too, but at the very beginning of the book there's always some chapter where he has a really great day. He gets to eat great food, he gets to hang out with the Weasleys or whatever.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: And you've said, I think, every time this is the author's apology to him for all the shit she's going to put him through.

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: It's like, 'Oh, here it starts.'

Lorrie: Yeah. "I hope you liked that ice cream, because you're not getting anymore."

JC: Yep.

Lorrie: Yeah. I think it was this time that I really saw for the first time how Snape is being set up the same way. Harry is to Viktor, Fleur and Cedric as Snape is to Barty Crouch Sr., Mad-Eye Moody and Dumbledore.

JC: Ooh, interesting.

Lorrie: He's just in a whole little league here, and we will see by the end of this volume that he's going to have to step up whether he's ready or not.

JC: Oh, that's interesting. Hmm. Have to keep your eye on Snape.

Lorrie: Well, it's always worth it.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: But yeah, he is embarrassing himself here.

JC: It does seem very juvenile, even for him. He's just so determined. He's like, 'Oh, we've got him now.'

Lorrie: Yeah.

JC: Yeah.

Lorrie: He's like, "Yeah. Oh, I know exactly what's happening. Last year..." News flash: this is worse than last year. You just don't know it yet because you're not in on it the way everyone... All the other grown-ups recognized instantly that this is worse than last year. You're the only one who's still hung up on that.

JC: At this point, do you think Snape knows what happened with Sirius? He knows Sirius escaped. Does anyone know other than Dumbledore?

Lorrie: No.

JC: Okay.

Lorrie: Because I think he would only know that after the Death Eaters gather and then he meets with Wormtail, and here's what all the Death Eaters are saying to catch each other up.

JC: Ah. So yeah, there's a point at which he will understand that Sirius really was innocent. He's not going to like it, but yeah.

Lorrie: Okay. Yeah.

JC: Wow. Now it starts!

Lorrie: Yeah. Now we have the four champions. We've gone from three to four, and it's terrible. The next chapter is called The Weighing of the Wands.

JC: Ooh. I don't remember really what happens in that chapter...

Lorrie: I guess we'll find out.

JC: I guess we'll find out!

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