

## The Psychology Of Harry Potter An Unauthorized Examination Of The Boy Who Lived Psychology Of Popular Culture

The Psychology of Harry Potter An Unauthorized Examination Of The Boy Who Lived Ben Bella Books

Harry Potter has provided a portal to the wizarding world for millions of readers, but an examination of Harry, his friends and his enemies will take us on yet another journey: through the psyche of the Muggle (and wizard!) mind. The twists and turns of the series, as well as the psychological depth and complexity of J. K. Rowling's characters, have kept fans enthralled with and puzzling over the many mysteries that permeate Hogwarts and beyond: • Do the Harry Potter books encourage disobedience? • Why is everyone so fascinated by Professor Lupin? • What exactly will Harry and his friends do when they finally pass those N.E.W.T.s? • Do even wizards live by the ticking of the clock? • Is Harry destined to end up alone? And why did it take Ron and Hermione so long to get together? Now, in *The Psychology of Harry Potter*, leading psychologists delve into the ultimate Chamber of Secrets, analyzing human mind and motivation by examining the themes and characters that make the Harry Potter books the bestselling fantasy series of all time. Grab a spot on the nearest couch, and settle in for some fresh revelations about our favorite young wizard!

Now available in paper, *The Ivory Tower and Harry Potter* is the first book-length analysis of J. K. Rowling's work from a broad range of perspectives within literature, folklore, psychology, sociology, and popular culture. A significant portion of the book explores the Harry Potter series' literary ancestors, including magic and fantasy works by Ursula K. LeGuin, Monica Furlong, Jill Murphy, and others, as well as previous works about the British boarding school experience. Other chapters explore the moral and ethical dimensions of Harry's world, including objections to the series raised within some religious circles. In her new epilogue, Lana A. Whited brings this volume up to date by covering Rowling's latest book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. How does magic in J. K. Rowling's universe work? Finally, the scientific secrets are revealed! The story of the boy who lived has brought the idea of magic and sorcery into mainstream fruition more than any other book series in history. Modern muggle scientists have uncovered explanations to the seemingly impossible, including answers to such questions as: Will we ever see an invisibility cloak? How hazardous is a flying broomstick like the Nimbus 2000? How has medicine made powerful potions from peculiar plants? (Felix Felicis, anyone?) Can scientists ever demonstrate Wingardium Leviosa, or the flying power of a Golden Snitch? Is it possible to stupefy someone? And many more! Often perceived as a supernatural force, magic captivates and delights its audience because of its seeming ability to defy physics and logic. But did you ever wonder if science has any explanation for these fantastic feats? *The Science of Harry Potter* examines the scientific principles—behind some of your favorite characters, spells, items, scenes, and even games like Quidditch and Wizard's Chess—from boy wizard Harry Potter's world, providing in-depth analysis and scientific facts to support its theories. Author Mark Brake, whose *The Science of Star Wars* was a knockout success, has found the answers to satisfy the curious spirits of muggles everywhere... A perfect Harry Potter gift for anyone obsessed enough to stand in line to be the first to see *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* or *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, witches and wizards alike will be fascinated by the merging of this improbable realm and real science!

Harry Potter. The name conjures up J.K. Rowling's wondrous world of magic that has captured the imaginations of millions on both the printed page and the silver screen with bestselling novels and blockbuster films. The true magic found in this children's fantasy series lies not only in its appeal to people of all ages but in its connection to the greater world of classic literature. *Harry Potter's Bookshelf: The Great Books Behind the Hogwarts Adventures* explores the literary landscape of themes and genres J.K. Rowling artfully wove throughout her novels—and the influential authors and stories that inspired her. From Jane Austen's *Emma* and Charles Dickens's class struggles, through the gothic romances of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein* and the detective mysteries of Dorothy L. Sayers, to the dramatic alchemy of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and William Shakespeare, Rowling cast a powerful spell with the great books of English literature that transformed the story of a young wizard into a worldwide pop culture phenomenon.

A collection of three books treasured by users of the great library at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, Newt Scamander's masterful work on magical creatures; *Quidditch Through the Ages*, a comprehensive history of the game and its rules; and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, with an introduction and illustrations by J.K. Rowling and extensive commentary by Albus Dumbledore. A treasure trove of magical facts and fairy tales, the *Hogwarts Library Collection* is an essential companion to the Harry Potter series. This collection includes the updated edition of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, with a new foreword from J.K. Rowling (writing as Newt Scamander) and six new beasts! Comic Relief, operating name Charity Projects, is a registered charity in the UK with charity nos. 326568 (England/Wales) and SC039730 (Scotland). Lumos Foundation is a registered charity in the UK with no. 1112575 (England/Wales) and in the USA (EIN 47-2301085). Both organisations work across the UK and globally helping children and young people have a better life. 15% of the proceeds\* received by Pottermore Limited from the *Fantastic Beasts* and the *Quidditch Through the Ages* ebooks will be made available to the charities and will be shared 20% for Comic Relief and 80% for Lumos Foundation. At least 90% of the proceeds\* received by Pottermore Limited from the *Beedle the Bard* ebook will be made available by the publisher to Lumos Foundation. \*Proceeds means the cash-price or cash-equivalent price less sales taxes.

Harry Potter's encounters with grief, as well as the grief experiences of other fictional characters, can be used by educators, counselors, and parents to help children and adolescents deal with their own loss issues. *The Children Who Lived* is a unique approach toward grief and loss in children. Focusing on fictional child and adolescent characters experiencing grief, this book uses classic tales and the Harry Potter books to help grieving children and adolescents. Included in the text and the companion CD are a number of activities, discussion questions, and games that could be used with grieving children and adolescents, based on the fictional characters in these books.

Taking up the various conceptions of heroism that are conjured in the Harry Potter series, this collection examines the ways fictional heroism in the twenty-first century challenges the idealized forms of a somewhat simplistic masculinity associated with genres like the epic, romance and classic adventure story. The collection's three sections address broad issues related to genre,

Harry Potter's development as the central heroic character and the question of who qualifies as a hero in the Harry Potter series. Among the topics are Harry Potter as both epic and postmodern hero, the series as a modern-day example of psychomachia, the series' indebtedness to the Gothic tradition, Harry's development in the first six film adaptations, Harry Potter and the idea of the English gentleman, Hermione Granger's explicitly female version of heroism, adult role models in Harry Potter, and the complex depictions of heroism exhibited by the series' minor characters. Together, the essays suggest that the Harry Potter novels rely on established generic, moral and popular codes to develop new and genuine ways of expressing what a globalized world has applauded as ethically exemplary models of heroism based on responsibility, courage, humility and kindness.

The adventure stories of the boy wizard Harry Potter tap life's most pressing questions about love and values, evil, free will, and the soul. Ari Armstrong's *Values of Harry Potter* explores the complex themes of J. K. Rowling's beloved novels, illuminating the heroic fight for life-promoting values, the hero's need for independence, and the role of choice in virtue. Drawing on the ideas of Aristotle and Ayn Rand, Armstrong then critiques the Christian elements of self-sacrifice and immortality, arguing that they ultimately clash with the essential nature of the hero as exemplified by Harry Potter and his allies. *Values of Harry Potter* offers a unique, succinct, and provocative look at Rowling's revolutionary novels for both enthusiasts and critics. This Expanded Edition also reviews the novels' psychology, government, and news media.

Urging readers of the Harry Potter series to dig deeper than wizards, boggarts, and dementors, the authors of this unique guide collect the musings of seventeen philosophers on the series, who cover a wide range of Potter-related philosophical issues, including the difference between good and evil, the ethics of sorcery, and Aristotle's own school for wizards. Original.

Seize this opportunity to look more deeply into the narrative themes, symbols and mythic elements encountered in the Harry Potter books. Drawing from diverse spiritual and scholarly sources, *The Seeker's Guide to Harry Potter* offers seekers of all kinds an open-minded guide to the rich layers of meaning and symbolism we encounter in all seven of the novels.

The Shift is not about what to eat or not eat. It's not about when to eat. It's about building thinking habits, proven through science, that help you lose weight. There are so many myths surrounding weight loss: Setbacks mean failure. Big results require big goals. You need to power through alone. You have to hate your body to lose weight. Happiness awaits you only at the end of the journey. All of these are untrue, unhelpful—and actually undermine long-term weight loss. Dr. Gary Foster's 7 Mindset Shifts show you how to—and why you should—treat yourself in a way that feels better and primes you for likelier success. His argument and the techniques in each chapter, built on years of research and breakthroughs in cognitive behavioral therapy and positive psychology, can lead to results on the scale—but, more important, in your own thinking. The Shift flips old-fashioned weight-loss theory on its head, training you to recognize when your thinking is taking you away from your goals, to focus on action rather than outcome, and to value non-scale victories more than the number on the digital display. It's evidence-based motivation—and it really works! The 7 Mindset Shifts include treating yourself with compassion, leaning into your strengths, appreciating the power of small steps (and more frequent rewards), finding your people, and truly relaxing into happiness and gratitude. "Diet thinking" isn't habit-forming; mindset shifts are. And muscular yet kind mental habits, like the ones found in *The Shift*, are key to long-term, positive change.

Dear witch or wizard, Have you read and reread the "Harry Potter" books? Are you someone who can quote the movies by heart? Do you still ever wonder when you will get your acceptance letter into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry? Me too. As a diehard and proud Potterhead, my heart warms every time I hear the main theme music, "Hedwig's theme." Like many of you, I have been sorted on Pottermore (House Slytherin) and I have my wand (Willow, 10-inch unicorn hair) and robes. And for me, like for so many of you, the "Harry Potter" series has been life changing. I always wanted to write a book specific to Harry Potter, my favorite fandom, and one, which undoubtedly has influenced me, the most. I decided that I would like to write a self-help book for you, my fellow Harry Potter fans to help you better manage your anxiety, depression, trauma, insecurity, and other difficulties. I hope that you will join me on an enchanting exploration how "Harry Potter" series can help us heal and find the magic in our own lives. The proceeds of this book will be donated to mental health charities, such as Crisis Text Line and RAINN, as well as Lumos and the Good Samaritan organization.

The murder of a world-famous physicist raises fears that the Illuminati are operating again after centuries of silence, and religion professor Robert Langdon is called in to assist with the case.

The publication of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and final Harry Potter novel, is probably the most eagerly anticipated event in the history of publishing. Even the smallest hints from author J. K. Rowling about what may happen to Harry and his friends have been major news stories. In *The End of Harry Potter?*, David Langford—Potter fan and award-winning writer—delves into the many mysteries which remain unsolved. Is Albus Dumbledore really dead? Whose side is Severus Snape really on? What are the remaining horcruxes, where He Who Shall Not Be Named has stashed his soul? Does Harry bear a part of the Dark Lord's soul in his scar, and is this why he understands Parseltongue? J. K. Rowling is the only person who knows the answers to these questions. But in this highly entertaining book, Langford uses his deep knowledge of the six published Harry Potter novels to explore these and other mysteries, and to present a selection of possible outcomes. Only the publication of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* will lay these questions to rest, but in the meantime, fans of the series will find David Langford's book entertaining and thought-provoking, and a perfect way to refresh their memory of the first six books in readiness for the last. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Uses motifs and situations from the popular 'Harry Potter' series and links them to theories and strategies designed to help young people overcome anxiety, anger, depression and grief.

"Everything you ever wanted to know about the Harry Potter series but didn't think to ask is here in this giggle-inducing and thought-provoking book. Join Adam-Troy Castro as he explores the many mysteries of Harry Potter's world. Along the way he investigates such questions as: What's up with Snape; Why would anybody follow Voldemort?; Has Dumbledore ever once been right about anything?; Why don't we see Hermione's parents?; How likely is it that Neville will turn out to be the real Chosen One?; And will we still be reading Harry Potter one hundred years from now?" - taken from cover.

A philosophical exploration of the entire seven-book Harry Potter series *Harry Potter and Philosophy* has been heralded as one of the most popular book series of all time and the philosophical nature of Harry, Hermione, and Ron's quest to rid the world of its ultimate evil is one of the many things that make this series special. *The Ultimate Harry Potter and Philosophy* covers all seven titles in J.K. Rowling's groundbreaking series and takes fans back to Godric's Hollow to discuss life after death, to consider what moral reasoning drove Harry to choose death, and to debate whether Sirius Black is a man or a dog. With publication timed to coincide with the release of the movie *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Part 1)*, this book will be the definitive guide for all fans looking to appreciate the series on a deeper level. Covers a range of intriguing topics such as the redemption of Severus Snape, the power of love, and destiny in the wizarding world. Gives you a new perspective on Harry Potter characters, plot lines, and themes. Makes a perfect companion to the Harry Potter books and movies. Packed with interesting ideas and insights, *The Ultimate Harry Potter and Philosophy* is an ideal companion for anyone interested in unraveling the subtext and exploring the greater issues at work in the story.

J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series (1997–2007) has turned into a global phenomenon and her Potterverse is still expanding. The contributions in this volume provide a range of inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to various dimensions of this multifaceted universe. The introductory article focuses on different forms of world building in the novels, the translations, the film series and the fandom. Part I examines various potential sources for Rowling's series in folklore, the Arthurian legend and Gothic literature. Further articles focus on parallels between the "Harry Potter" series and Celtic Druidism, the

impact Victorian notions of gender roles have had on the representation of the Gaunt family, the reception of (medieval and Early Modern) history in the series and the influence of Christian concepts on the world view expressed in the novels. Part II focuses on a range of prominent political and social themes in the series, including conspiracy, persecution and terror, racism as well as the role of economic, social and cultural capital. Other articles explore the concept of a Magical Criminal Law and its consequences as well as the significance of secrets and forbidden places. The articles in Part III go beyond the novels by taking the stage play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child", the movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", Pottermore and fan fiction into account. Main topics in this part include trauma theory/PTSD, queerbaiting, a 'post'-colonial analysis of the representation of Native Americans in Rowling's "History of Magic in North America" and the depiction of violence, incest and rape in fan fictions. The concluding article highlights the diversification of the Potterverse and analyses strategies informing its ongoing expansion.

Media and the Make-Believe Worlds of Children offers new insights into children's descriptions of their invented or "make-believe" worlds, and the role that the children's experience with media plays in creating these worlds. Based on the results of a cross-cultural study conducted in the United States, Germany, Israel, and South Korea, it offers an innovative look at media's role on children's creative lives. This distinctive volume: \*outlines the central debates and research findings in the area of children, fantasy worlds, and the media; \*provides a descriptive account of children's make-believe worlds and their wishes for actions they would like to take in these worlds; \*highlights the centrality of media in children's make believe worlds; \*emphasizes the multiple creative ways in which children use media as resources in their environment to express their own inner worlds; and \*suggests the various ways in which the tension between traditional gender portrayals that continue to dominate media texts and children's wishes to act are presented in their fantasies. The work also demonstrates the value of research in unveiling the complicated ways in which media are woven into the fabric of children's everyday lives, examining the creative and sophisticated uses they make of their contents, and highlighting the responsibility that producers of media texts for children have in offering young viewers a wide array of role models and narratives to use in their fantasies. An enclosed CD provides full-color images of the artwork produced during the study. This book will appeal to scholars and graduate students in children and media, early childhood education, and developmental psychology. It can be used in graduate level courses in these areas.

The Oxford handbook of cognitive literary studies' applies developments in cognitive science to a wide range of literary texts that span multiple historical periods and numerous national literary traditions. The volume is divided into five parts: (1) Narrative, History, Imagination; (2) Emotions and Empathy; (3) The New Unconscious; (4) Empirical and Qualitative Studies of Literature; and (5) Cognitive Theory and Literary Experience. Most notably, the volume features case studies representing not just North American and British literary traditions, but also Argentinian (Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar), Chinese (Cao Xueqin), Colombian (Garcia Marquez), Dominican (Junot Diaz), German (Theodore Fontane), French (Marcel Proust, Gustave Flaubert), Indian (Mirabai, Rabindranath Tagore, Kamala Markandaya, Mani Ratnam, Tito Mukhopadhyay), Mexican (Fernando del Paso), Polish (Krystof Kieslowski), Puerto Rican (Giannina Braschi), Russian (Lev Tolstoi), South African (J.M. Coetzee), and Spanish (Leopoldo Alas). Moreover, the volume will cover a variety of periods (e.g.,0.

This latest installment in the Psychology of Popular Culture series turns its focus to superheroes. Superheroes have survived and fascinated for more than 70 years in no small part due to their psychological depth. In The Psychology of Superheroes, almost two dozen psychologists get into the heads of today's most popular and intriguing superheroes. Why do superheroes choose to be superheroes? Where does Spider-Man's altruism come from, and what does it mean? Why is there so much prejudice against the X-Men, and how could they have responded to it, other than the way they did? Why are super-villains so aggressive? The Psychology of Superheroes answers these questions, exploring the inner workings our heroes usually only share with their therapists.

This thoroughly revised edition includes updated essays on cultural themes and literary analysis, and its new essays analyze the full scope of the seven-book series as both pop cultural phenomenon and as a set of literary texts. Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter, Second Edition draws on a wider range of intellectual traditions to explore the texts, including moral-theological analysis, psychoanalytic perspectives, and philosophy of technology. The Harry Potter novels engage the social, cultural, and psychological preoccupations of our times, and Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter, Second Edition examines these worlds of consciousness and culture, ultimately revealing how modern anxieties and fixations are reflected in these powerful texts. ("DISCLAIMER: This book is not authorized, approved, licensed, or endorsed by J.K. Rowling, Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., or anyone associated with the Harry Potter books or movies.")

Boarding School Syndrome is an analysis of the trauma of the 'privileged' child sent to boarding school at a young age. Innovative and challenging, Joy Schaverien offers a psychological analysis of the long-established British and colonial preparatory and public boarding school tradition. Richly illustrated with pictures and the narratives of adult ex-boarders in psychotherapy, the book demonstrates how some forms of enduring distress in adult life may be traced back to the early losses of home and family. Developed from clinical research and informed by attachment and child development theories 'Boarding School Syndrome' is a new term that offers a theoretical framework on which the psychotherapeutic treatment of ex-boarders may build. Divided into four parts, History: In the Name of Privilege; Exile and Healing; Broken Attachments: A Hidden Trauma, and The Boarding School Body, the book includes vivid case studies of ex-boarders in psychotherapy. Their accounts reveal details of the suffering endured: loss, bereavement and captivity are sometimes compounded by physical, sexual and psychological abuse. Here, Joy Schaverien shows how many boarders adopt unconscious coping strategies including dissociative amnesia resulting in a psychological split between the 'home self' and the 'boarding school self'. This pattern may continue into adult life, causing difficulties in intimate relationships, generalized depression and separation anxiety amongst other forms of psychological distress. Boarding School Syndrome demonstrates how boarding school may damage those it is meant to be a reward and discusses the wider implications of this tradition. It will be essential reading for psychoanalysts, Jungian analysts, psychotherapists, art psychotherapists, counsellors and others interested in the psychological, cultural and international legacy of this tradition including ex-boarders and their partners.

The tropes and themes of J. K. Rowling's massively popular series are interpreted within the context of its audience.

This is the first extended text-based analysis of the social and political implications of the Harry Potter phenomenon. Arguments are primarily based on close readings of the first four Harry Potter books and the first two films - in other words, a 'text-to-world' method is followed. This study does not assume that the phenomenon concerns children alone, or should be lightly dismissed as a matter of pure entertainment. The amount of money, media coverage, and ideological unease involved indicates otherwise. The first part provides a survey of responses (both of general readers and critics) to the Harry Potter books. Some of the methodological decisions underlying this study itself are also explained here. The second part examines the presentation of certain themes, including gender, race and desire, in the Harry Potter books, with a view to understanding how these may impinge on social and political concerns of our world.

From the Dursleys as social commentary to a look at Snape's role in less than child-friendly fanfiction . . . from the parallels between Azkaban and Abu Ghraib to the role of religion at Hogwarts . . . from why Dumbledore had to die to why killing Harry never should have been part of Voldemort's plan to begin with . . . Mapping the World of the Sorcerer's Apprentice offers a comprehensive look at the Harry Potter series through the eyes of leading science fiction and fantasy writers and religion, psychology, and science experts. This book has not been authorized by J. K. Rowling, Warner Bros. or anyone associated with the Harry Potter books or films.

An approachable and inspiring series of short essays that examines the greatest YA series ever with a combination of adult literary criticism and childhood curiosity The books will always be a part of you. Now, revisit old Hogwarts haunts. Reconnect with favorite characters. And learn far more than the correct pronunciation of "Wingardium Leviosa." With *Life Lessons Harry Potter Taught Me*, you'll discover how the universal themes and lessons of the series apply to your Muggle life, including:

- Drawing strength from friends
- Learning from mentors and heroes
- Challenging conventional ideas
- Overcoming obstacles and setbacks
- Trusting yourself when others don't

The author uses a combination of literary criticism and personal essays to explore issues that everyone faces, from courage and fear to the importance of girl power and the complexity of relationships.

Lisbeth Salander, heroine of Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and its sequels, is one of the most compelling, complex characters of our time. Is she an avenging angel? A dangerous outlaw? What makes Salander tick, and why is our response to her—and to Larsson's Millennium trilogy—so strong? In *The Psychology of the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, 19 psychologists and psychiatrists attempt to do what even expert investigator Mikael Blomkvist could not: understand Lisbeth Salander.

- What does Lisbeth's infamous dragon tattoo really say about her?
- Why is Lisbeth so drawn to Mikael, and what would they both need to do to make a relationship work?
- How do we explain men like Martin Vanger, Nils Bjurman, and Alexander Zalachenko? Is Lisbeth just as sexist and as psychopathic as they are?
- What is it about Lisbeth that allows her to survive, even thrive, under extraordinary conditions?
- How is Lisbeth like a Goth-punk Rorschach test? And what do we learn about ourselves from what we see in her?

Philosophers and psychologists have explored the Harry Potter stories through the lenses of their disciplines, now it's time for sociologists. In the twenty-two chapters of *The Sociology of Harry Potter*, social scientists from eight countries cast their imaginations on the wizarding world. From standard topics such as inequality and identity to more contemporary topics such as technology and trauma memory, this essay collection analyzes, not J. K. Rowling's books as fiction, but her wizarding world as a "real" society. The Hogwarts house system, Quidditch, internet fan fiction and the lives of our favorite witches and wizards are explored in reference to sociological theories and concepts. Fans of these bestselling books will gain insights into the world of Harry Potter as well as sociology. Sociologists and their students will be intrigued to see everyday tools of the trade working magic in another universe. "Even after so much scholarship on Harry Potter, this collection offers something delightfully new, plunging us into the inner workings of the wizarding world as if we're truly a part of it. By letting the experts loose, *The Sociology of Harry Potter* reveals the cause of Snape's antagonism, Voldemort's secret sexual shame, the reason our world needs Death Eaters, the true power of pets, and so much more. A brilliant anthology not to be missed." Valerie Estelle Frankel editor of *Teaching with Harry Potter* and *Harry Potter, Still Recruiting Cultural Politics in Harry Potter: Life, Death and the Politics of Fear* is the first book-length analysis of topics, such as death, fear and biopolitics in J.K. Rowling's work from controversial and interdisciplinary perspectives. This collection brings together recent theoretical and applied cultural studies and focuses on three key areas of inquiry: (1) wizarding biopolitics and intersected discourses; (2) anxiety, death, resilience and trauma; and (3) the politics of fear and postmodern transformations. As such, this book: provides a comprehensive overview of national and gender discourses, as well as the transiting bodies in-between, in relation to the Harry Potter books series and related multimedia franchise; situates the transformative power of death within the fandom, transmedia and film depictions of the Potterverse and critically deconstructs the processes of subjectivation and legitimation of death and fear; examines the strategies and mechanisms through which cultural and political processes are managed, as well as reminding us how fiction and reality intersect at junctions, such as terrorism, homonationalism, materialism, capitalism, posthumanism and technology. Exploring precisely what is cultural about wizarding politics, and what is political about culture, this book is key reading for students of contemporary literature, media and culture, as well as anyone with an interest in the fictional universe and wizarding world of Harry Potter.

"Kenrick writes like a dream." -- Robert Sapolsky, Professor of Biology and Neurology, Stanford University; author of *A Primate's Memoir* and *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* What do sex and murder have to do with the meaning of life? Everything. In *Sex, Murder, and the Meaning of Life*, social psychologist Douglas Kenrick exposes the selfish animalistic underside of human nature, and shows how it is intimately connected to our greatest and most selfless achievements. Masterfully integrating cognitive science, evolutionary psychology, and complexity theory, this intriguing book paints a comprehensive picture of the principles that govern our lives. As Kenrick divulges, beneath our civilized veneer, human beings are a lot like howling hyenas and barking baboons, with heads full of homicidal tendencies and sexual fantasies. But, in his view, many ingrained, apparently irrational behaviors -- such as inclinations to one-night stands, racial prejudices, and conspicuous consumption -- ultimately manifest what he calls "Deep Rationality.&" Although our heads are full of simple selfish biases that evolved to help our ancestors survive, modern human beings are anything but simple and selfish cavemen. Kenrick argues that simple and selfish mental mechanisms we inherited from our ancestors ultimately give rise to the multifaceted social lives that we humans lead today, and to the most positive features of humanity, including generosity, artistic creativity, love, and familial bonds. And out of those simple mechanisms emerge all the complexities of society, including international conflicts and global economic markets. By exploring the nuance of social psychology and the surprising results of his own research, Kenrick offers a detailed picture of what makes us caring, creative, and complex -- that is, fully human. Illuminated with stories from Kenrick's own colorful experiences -- from his criminally inclined shantytown Irish relatives, his own multiple high school expulsions, broken marriages, and homicidal fantasies, to his eventual success as an evolutionary psychologist and loving father of two boys separated by 26 years -- this book is an exploration of our mental biases and failures, and our mind's great successes. Idiosyncratic, controversial, and fascinating, *Sex, Murder, and the Meaning of Life* uncovers the pitfalls and promise of our biological inheritance.

Salem Press is proud to present another addition to its *Critical Insights Series*. This volume provides fourteen insightful essays that dig deep at the heart of the Harry Potter series, author J.K. Rowling's fantastical magnum opus.

Presents a psychological look at the Harry Potter books, examining such topics as what students learn from Hogwarts classes, what Harry and Fawkes the phoenix have in common, and mental illness in the wizarding world.

This political analysis of Harry Potter uses the beloved wizarding world to introduce readers to the equally murky and intimidating world of politics. Rowling's work provides us with entries into all of the most important political questions in history, from terrorism and human rights to the classic foundations of political thought.

Behind the magic of Harry Potter—a witty and illuminating look at the scientific principles, theories, and assumptions of the boy wizard's world, newly come to life again in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and the upcoming film *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald* Can Fluffy the three-headed dog be explained by advances in molecular biology? Could the discovery of cosmic "gravity-shielding effects" unlock the secret to the Nimbus 2000 broomstick's ability to fly? Is the griffin really none other than the dinosaur Protoceratops? Roger Highfield, author of the critically acclaimed *The Physics of Christmas*, explores the fascinating links between magic and science to reveal that much of

what strikes us as supremely strange in the Potter books can actually be explained by the conjurings of the scientific mind. This is the perfect guide for parents who want to teach their children science through their favorite adventures as well as for the millions of adult fans of the series intrigued by its marvels and mysteries. • An ALA Booklist Editors' Choice •

A professor of literature for over thirty years, Dr. James W. Thomas takes us on a tour through the Potter books in order to enjoy them in different ways upon subsequent readings. Re-readers will be pleasantly surprised at what they may have missed in the books and at what secrets Rowling has hidden for us to uncover as we revisit these stories. The professor's informal and often lighthearted discussions focus on puns, humor, foreshadowing, literary allusions, narrative techniques, and other aspects of the Potter books that are hard-to-see on the hurried first or fifth reading. Dr. Thomas's brilliant but light touch proves that a "serious" reading of literature can be fun. -.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.-.

[recommndation]-.- "What do you read after HARRY POTTER? Finally, there's a satisfying answer - you read REPOTTING HARRY POTTER for a whole new depth of appreciation and enjoyment. This book allows anyone intimidated by literature classes to sneak a seat in a class with one of those professors every student loves. You'll come away with a new depth of knowledge of Rowling's epic but also with a list of related literature you will want to read; great insights for aspiring writers too." Connie Neal, author of THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HARRY POTTER

Harry Potter and the Millennials tells the fascinating story of how the team designed the study and gathered results, explains what conclusions can and cannot be drawn, and reveals the challenges social scientists face in studying political science, sociology, and mass communication. Specifically, the evidence indicates that Harry Potter fans are more open to diversity and are more politically tolerant than nonfans; fans are also less authoritarian, less likely to support the use of deadly force or torture, more politically active, and more likely to have had a negative view of the Bush administration. Furthermore, these differences do not disappear when controlling for other important predictors of these perspectives, lending support to the argument that the series indeed had an independent effect on its audience. In this clear and cogent account, Gierzynski demonstrates how social scientists develop and design research questions and studies.

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