



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Harry Potter And The Cursed Child By J. K. Rowling Reviewed by Joshua Radford

Name: Joshua Radford

Grade: 12

Book Title: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Author: J. K. Rowling

Number of Pages: 308

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 3/5

Character List:

- **Harry Potter** – Harry Potter is a famous wizard, surviving an attack by Lord Voldemort during which his parents were killed when he was only a baby. Harry now is grown, works for the Ministry of Magic and is husband to Ginny Weasley with whom he has three children.
- **Albus Severus Potter** – Albus Severus Potter is Harry's son. He struggles with his father's fame and notoriety and this causes his relationship with his father to be strained. Albus becomes quick friends with Scorpius Malfoy, son of Draco Malfoy, Harry Potter's childhood enemy. Albus and Scorpius are both sorted into Slytherin House, the infamous house at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry that was once home to Draco Malfoy and to Tom Riddle – later to become Lord Voldemort.
- **Scorpius Malfoy** – Scorpius Malfoy is the son of Draco Malfoy who meets Albus Potter on the train to Hogwarts and befriends him. The two are ironically great friends and a source of support for one another, a very different relationship than the one their fathers had over 19 years earlier.
- **Draco Malfoy** – Draco Malfoy is the father of Scorpius Malfoy and son of the Death Eater, Lucius Malfoy. Draco and Harry have never gotten along, but come together in this story to help their sons.
- **Delphi** – Delphi convinces Albus and Scorpius that she is the niece of Amos Diggory, the father of Cedric Diggory. Cedric was killed by Lord Voldemort during the Tri-Wizard Tournament years before when he and Harry Potter were students at Hogwarts. Delphi is actually the daughter of Lord Voldemort and Bellatrix Lestrange, a Death Eater.

Review:

The story begins as other Harry Potter books do at Kings Cross, Platform Nine and Three Quarters. Harry Potter, a famous wizard, and his kids are waiting for the train to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry and his son Albus don't always see eye to eye and so the goodbye is difficult. While on the train, Albus meets Scorpius Malfoy and they become friends, like the way that Harry Potter became friends with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger so many years before. Albus is nervous as Harry had once been about what house the sorting hat will place him in, torn between wanting to be in Gryffindor like his father and wanting to be different. He and Scorpius are both placed in Slytherin house – the one once occupied by Lord Voldemort when he was a student at Hogwarts and went by the name Tom Riddle. Albus and Scorpius, wanting to make their own mark on the wizarding world are persuaded by Delphi to use a

time turner to go back to the Tri-Wizard Tournament and save Cedric Diggory. This sets off a series of events that creates a terrifying world that the young wizards did not intend and don't know how to fix. Delphi is motivated only by her desire to know her father and uses the boys to accomplish her selfish task. In the end, the young wizards must call on the older wizards to help and, in the process, father and son are brought closer together.

Rowling creates another successful screenplay with this story. It reads easily and is cozily familiar as we revisit Harry's old stomping grounds. The story is predictable though and feels like an excuse to bring old characters back. It lacks depth and leaves the reader wishing for something more. Whereas Rowling in her screenplay *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* brings back the wizarding world with new characters, creatures, and setting, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* introduces new characters with the old in the same way as the original Harry Potter books and in the same setting. This book is great for someone who misses Harry Potter and just wants more of Hogwarts and the old familiar personalities and dilemmas. It appeals most to younger teens or those who have just recently finished the original Harry Potter series and just want more.