

Snapecast Episode 1

This is Snapecast – (0:00)

Voice: Chris

Music: Lara St John, Bach Violin Concertos: 01-BWV 1041 : I. Allegro

Soundbyte: Alan Rickman, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

[CLIP – *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE*]

ALAN RICKMAN

I can teach you how to bewitch the mind and ensnare the senses. I can tell you how to bottle fame, brew glory, and even put a stopper in death.

[END CLIP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Pay attention. This is Snapecast Episode 1 for June the first, 2006. Now copy that down, or it will be twenty points from Gryffindor and a week of detention.

Introduction – (1:00)

Hosts: Rachael, Becca, Shannon

RACHAEL

Hello everyone and welcome to Snapecast. My name is Rachael, and I have here with me Becca—

BECCA
Hi.

RACHAEL
—and Shannon.

SHANNON
Hello everyone.

RACHAEL

And before we get started with the very first episode of Snapecast, I wanted to say a few words about why we all got together to do this project. So, the topic is Severus Snape. Why do we need another bloody Harry Potter podcast, especially one about Snape? Well, I could list a number of reasons why some of us in the fandom need or want a podcast devoted to Snape. Some are shallow. Some are deeply personal. Some are intelligent, and yeah, some are a little bit perverted. But I'm going to narrow it down to two reasons: the importance of Snape, and the obsession with Snape.

Snape is a central figure in this series. Whether you're having a heated discussion about Death Eaters, Horcruxes, the prophecy, Godric's Hollow, or the final battle with Voldemort, the topic of Snape always comes up. Somehow, the greasy git manages to slither his way into every important event that happens during Harry's lifetime. His central presence leaves some of us wondering whom this story is really about anyway. And even if Snape weren't so essential to the series, the bottom line is that there are a whole lot of Harry Potter fans who are nothing less than obsessed with the man. An alarming number of fans tirelessly read, write, draw, and speculate about the potions master on a daily basis, myself included. Some love him, some hate him, and others are just fascinated by him. The point is, we can never get enough Snape.

So, all of us on the Snapecast staff thought it might be worthwhile to get together and create one more outlet for the fans to discuss all things Snape: his habits, his past, his future, his hygiene, his dry sense of humor, and of course, the answer to arguably the most debated question in the Harry Potter world – were those graying underpants in the penseive scene boxers or briefs?

BECCA
I say boxers.

SHANNON
I say briefs.

BECCA
And he's switched from graying ones to black silky boxers as an adult.

SHANNON
No, no. I think it's briefs. I'm pretty certain it's briefs.

RACHAEL
Why is that?

SHANNON
It was the 70s, and let's just say my dad was – well, he's a bit older than Snape – but I recall the underwear he used to wear back then. So, I think it's briefs.

RACHAEL
Oh no. Your dad's underwear reminds you of Snape. That's sad.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL
So the one thing that's interesting about Snape is that these esoteric topics like boxers or briefs come up, yet there are also some pretty intense topics that we're going to be talking about in Snapecast. And that's kind of one of the reasons I like Snape, and one of the

reasons I wanted to do this. That he can be so goddamn ridiculous, but at the same time very important and intense.

SHANNON

Yes.

BECCA

Yeah, like you were talking about before. Either you love him or you hate him. I actually think Snape is one of those characters where you either love to hate him, which I think a lot of people do, or you hate to love him, which is the category I would fall in. Like, I love him as a character, but I really hate that fact. I wish I didn't.

SHANNON

He is a very polarizing character. You're right about that. I mean, people write very impassioned essays about what side he's on and I think, Rachael, you'd even made this comment about how pivotal he was that he's got a whole book in the series named after him. I mean, the sixth one is pretty much Harry Potter and Severus Snape if you change the Half-Blood Prince.

RACHAEL

Correct.

BECCA

Yeah.

SHANNON

That's how pivotal he is.

RACHAEL

And I do sometimes wonder who the story is really about.

BECCA

I think it's about Harry. But he is in the trifecta with Snape and Voldemort, so.

RACHAEL

Yes, yes.

SHANNON

Definitely.

BECCA

That's another reason why Snape is important. Because he's the eternal gray.

RACHAEL

But for how important he is, a whole bunch of people obviously just like him because he's dark, sexy, mysterious and played by Alan Rickman in the movies.

SHANNON
Yeah.

BECCA
Yeah. He's the ultimate bad-boy. Like, even more bad than Sirius.

SHANNON
Yeah.

RACHAEL
I think poor JK Rowling tried – I think there's that comment where she says she tried to write Harry to be this desirable love interest for her female audience, but they just haven't learned yet, and they go for all the bad boys. And Snape is the ultimate.

BECCA
Yeah, that comment – she did say that. And that comment actually even came after she was talking about Snape, and I think she even said, 'I hesitate to say I love him.' And then someone in the audience she was speaking to said, 'I do!'

RACHAEL
Yeah. They screamed I do.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA
She was like, 'Really?' And then she went on to talk about Tom Felton as Draco, and she's like, 'Girls, I'm going to tell you right now, don't go for the bad boy.'

SHANNON
Yeah. Do you think that was Gina in the audience, shouting her love for Snape?

BECCA
Oh yeah, definitely.

RACHAEL
I'm sure it was.

SHANNON
I'm sure people will start to learn more about that.

BECCA
Yeah. And how jealous are we that Gina is going to see Jo in New York City.

SHANNON
Oh, man.

BECCA

When she speaks. Ah, I'm so jealous.

RACHAEL

Yeah. So, do we want to talk a little bit about what we have coming up in episode one of Snapecast?

SHANNON

Absolutely. We've got a Snape-packed first episode, and we've got four main segments. First up is Snarky Chapters, and in this, our panel of experts grapple with the emerging animosity between Harry and Snape in Chapter 8 of the Philosopher's Stone, The Potions Master. Pretty interesting stuff.

And this is followed by This Slytherin Life, which is Snapecast's answer to This American Life. And you'll be hearing me, and I'll be talking about how a series of embarrassing childhood experiences helped me relate to Snape. Very fascinating.

BECCA

I love that. I love that segment.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

It's so great, especially when you're talking about the shirt that your grandma bought you.

SHANNON

Yes.

BECCA

That's great.

SHANNON

It was so much more mortifying then than it is now. I'm glad I have perspective. Well, then next up is our other roundtable segment called Snape &. And this episode, our panel will be discussing Snape & Alan Rickman, possibly the cause of a great deal of fangirl, and some fanboy hysteria.

RACHAEL

Poor Alan Rickman.

SHANNON

I'm sure he's loving it.

RACHAEL

Who is our ultimate interview for Snapecast.

BECCA

Yes!

RACHAEL

Alan, if you're listening, call us.

SHANNON

Oh man!

BECCA

We love you.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

And finally, we'll end with Owlpost. And although our first episode has yet to air – you're hearing it now – we've already received some hate mail from the wizarding world. So that should be interesting. And, I think Becca, you might have had something to talk about too here.

BECCA

Yeah, we had not originally planned on having a regular Snape news segment like most of the other Harry Potter podcasts do because there really isn't that much Snape-centric news on a regular basis. But, we actually did get a pretty important piece of Snape news and it came out the day after we recorded the Snape & Alan Rickman roundtable. So, I got that news on I'm not sure which site it was, but it's been everywhere. And I was like, man!

SHANNON

Yeah!

BECCA

I wish we had known this when we recorded the roundtable, but the news is that the role of young Snape for the Order of the Phoenix film has been cast, and the young actor who will play our beloved Snivellus is Alec Hopkins. And there has been a picture of him that's been circulating on all the Harry Potter sites.

RACHAEL

The only picture of him.

SHANNON

Yeah.

BECCA

Yeah, the only picture we have.

RACHAEL

Imagine the only picture of you being, like, dressed in black, sitting on a rocking horse.

SHANNON

He's like, in a Tai Chi outfit, isn't he? Isn't that what he's doing?

BECCA

Yeah, like an Asian outfit. And it's kind of eerily like the outfit that Severus wears in the movies.

RACHAEL

It is.

BECCA

Except he has, like, the toggle things instead of the buttons. It's kind of weird actually.

RACHAEL

His fingers weren't as dexterous at that age.

SHANNON

God.

BECCA

He couldn't handle the buttons.

RACHAEL

So what do you guys think, yes or -- from what you've seen of this guy, which is, I admit, very little, yes or no. Is he our young Snape?

BECCA

Yes, see, I don't think I've seen enough to make a proper judgment. I'll have to wait until we start getting pictures of him in makeup or something.

SHANNON

You know, I honestly don't mind because, to tell you the truth, although I really am interested in Snape, I haven't even begun to try to conceptualize what he would look like when he was younger. And so, I have a lot of confidence in their casting. It's been really great so far, as far as making people look reasonably like the characters Rowling has described. So, I'm sure they'll put some makeup on him and a wig, and he'll be good to go.

BECCA

Yeah, except for Viktor Krum. They totally changed him.

RACHAEL

I know.

BECCA

I watched Goblet of Fire again the other night.

RACHAEL

And that's why I'm worried because Krum was supposed to be – the way that Krum was described is almost like a little Snape.

BECCA

Kind of.

RACHAEL

Like he's skinny and --

BECCA

Duck footed, and slouchy and yeah.

RACHAEL

And they cast like a hot Bulgarian.

SHANNON

I thought a part of that was affected by their need to cast, their interest in casting a Bulgarian. And, you know, they're not as restricted the same way with casting young Snape.

RACHAEL

And there are no skinny Bulgarians that are duck footed?

SHANNON

Ah, obviously it's kind of a Hollywood decision, but well, what do you guys find a bit disturbing about him. What's a bit, what do you think is off that you're kind of concerned might not live up to expectations?

RACHAEL

The nose. For me Snape – being somebody with a funny nose, I relate to Snape because of his funny nose. And that guy has a pretty normal nose, so I want to see a young Snape. Like I've said before, it's his essential characteristic. He can be a little bit overweight, he can have the stubby fingers, he has to have the hooked nose.

BECCA

Yeah.

SHANNON

He can wear prosthesis, though.

BECCA
That's true.

RACHAEL
There are plenty of people with big enough noses. It's like when you cast Nicole Kidman in *The Hours* and made her all ugly.

SHANNON
Yeah.

RACHAEL
Cast somebody who really looks like that.

BECCA
Well, yeah. You know, I think the more important thing is that. You know, we were talking about this in the Snape & roundtable, and it's going to be very difficult to reconcile this young Snape that we only get a very short glimpse of in Snape's Worst Memory in *The Order of the Phoenix* with the Snape that we see played by Alan Rickman in the later movies. So, er, the earlier movies. So, you know, if Alec Hopkins can pull this off then, yeah, I think maybe that's more important than having the right nose.

SHANNON
Yeah.

RACHAEL
And I agree.

SHANNON
He's got to have good Snape attitude.

RACHAEL
Acting is the most important thing.

SHANNON
Yeah. Yeah.

RACHAEL
Okay, so , shall we get on with the show, then?

SHANNON
Yes, indeed.

BECCA
Yes.

RACHAEL

Alright! Ladies and gentlemen, I present the first episode of Snapecast, episode number one.

Snape Top Ten List Part I – (13:33)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Thursday Group, First Album: 04-Doing the Clown

ROSE

Hey, it's time for the top ten list. Where's the Letterman Polyjuice potion?

Live from Spinner's End. Ten Muggle things that Severus Snape does not have.

Ten: spray-on self-tanner.

Nine: leather pants.

Eight: a copy of every Alan Rickman film ever made.

Seven: a lifetime membership to 24 Hour Fitness.

Six: appointments for a series of laser tattoo removal sessions.

Five: pajamas with footies. It's a grey night shirt.

Four: A leopard print thong – until Gina gets to him.

Three: a celebrity lawyer defense team.

Two: an aggressive investment strategy for a comfy retirement.

And the number one thing on that list ...an iPod. Please, dear Merlin, do *not* let him have Internet access and an iPod.

Segment Preview: Interviews – (15:11)

Announcer: Gina

Music: Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Mouret: Rondeau from Premiere Suite de Symphonies

GINA

This is Gina R. Snape, Snapecast's own intrepid reporter, here to tell you about the interview segment. In the interview segment either I or another host will be interviewing artists and writers in the Snape fandom. Fan art and fan fiction is where we get to explore Snape beyond the confines of canon. What about Snape inspires their muse? How do they envision Snape? What happens in the process from idea to paper? What theories, story ideas, hopes, fears and visions of Snape do fandom artists and writers have? We'll explore all that and more as Snapecast brings you the people who bring us beyond the books.

Snarky Chapters – (16:09)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Becca, Rose

Music: Ehren Starks, Lines Build Walls: 01-Lines Build Walls

RACHAEL

All right, everyone; welcome to the Snape chapter-by-chapter roundtable. This is the first installment in a series of discussions that we've decided to call the Snarky Chapters. The idea is that the book – all the books in the *Harry Potter* series feature at least one chapter that is primarily devoted to Snape, and our plan here at Snapecast is to go through the entire *Harry Potter* series, pick out the chapters that focus on Snape, and discuss each one of these one at a time so we can further examine Snape's character and his role in the series. So we're going to begin with chapter eight in *The Sorcerer's Stone*; I'm Rachael Steigel, and who else is here?

SHANNON

Shannon, I'm Shannon, I'm here too.

ROSE

I'm Rose, I'm here.

BECCA

This is Becca; I'm here!

RACHAEL

Okay. So I'm gonna start out and give a little summary of the chapter. The first sign that this is a Snape-dominant chapter is that it's named after him; it's called "The Potions Master." In this chapter, Harry goes through his first day of classes at Hogwarts, but really the majority of the chapter is devoted to his very first Potions lesson. And during this lesson, Snape gives his infamous "first year Potions" speech, and he begins the tradition of demeaning Harry during lessons and generally exhibiting a favoritism towards the Slytherin students in the class. And the chapter ends out with Harry making a visit to Hagrid's hut, where he talks to Hagrid about classes and also finds out about the robbery of the vault at Gringotts.

So the first thing that I noticed about this chapter is that it opens – the part about Snape opens with the statement, "Snape didn't dislike Harry. In fact, he hated him." Do you guys think that Snape hates Harry?

SHANNON

No, not at all. I think Harry is projecting. I really don't think Snape hates him here yet.

RACHAEL

But do you think later in the series he hates him?

SHANNON

I think Harry does a lot of stuff later in the series to antagonize Snape, and then—you even see this developing a little bit in the first book, in *The Sorcerer's Stone*, and it persists over several years, but I think initially Snape is just being a hardass to everybody. I've been teaching a lot, and when you're a new teacher, one of the things they tell you is

what you do on the first day of class really sets the tone for the rest of the year, and so they often recommend that you dress professionally and you treat the students in a way that prepares them for how they're going to be treated. And I think that Snape starts picking on Harry as an example of showing that he may have favorites and they're definitely not Gryffindor, and he's not afraid to take down the most (potentially the most) popular student in class. But it doesn't really have anything to do, anything *personally* to do with Harry. 'Cause you'll see in the same chapter, he's pretty nasty to Hermione and everyone except Harry, but Harry takes this as a sign that Snape hates him.

BECCA

I don't think Snape hates Harry; I think Snape hated James, and Harry just happens to look like James, and so those feelings kind of come across to Harry.

RACHAEL

See, I kind of am leaning towards the "Snape hates Harry" thing a little bit. It's a love/hate thing definitely, of course, but I mean... He's – from the moment he calls roll and goes to Harry's name, it's, "Oh, Harry Potter, our new celebrity," and I think he's particularly mean to Harry with the asking of the three questions, and just making him feel like even more of a dumbass than he already feels, being new to the wizarding world.

SHANNON

I think he's definitely – he's definitely setting an example with Harry, but I don't think that's a sign of *hate*.

RACHAEL

And so Harry asks Hagrid about this, when he goes to his hut at the end of the chapter, and I thought it was real interesting because Harry asks Hagrid about Snape and kind of says, "Why would Snape hate me?" and Hagrid says, he kind of blows it off like, "That's ridiculous, why would Snape hate you?" but J.K. Rowling writes that Hagrid doesn't quite meet Harry's eyes. And this is just one of her subtle things that there's something deeper going on. Do you think something deeper is going on there?

BECCA

Well, just recently I came across a discussion that... I don't know why it never occurred to me before, but Hagrid must have gone to school with Eileen Prince—

SHANNON

Oh, yeah...

BECCA

—and so maybe Hagrid knows something about Eileen Prince, about Snape's mother, that would shed a lot of light on the whole situation.

RACHAEL

And the whole Marauders thing, too, he must have known about the rivalry between James and Snape, and it seems like he probably, Hagrid just views Harry as this person

with fragile emotions and he doesn't wanna bring up, "Oh, yeah, your dad was this big bully and picked on Snape," and everything. Doesn't even wanna get into that with him.

ROSE

I think that Hagrid probably knows that Snape wasn't treated well by Harry's dad and Harry's dad's friends, and I think he also may know exactly how much Snape has—had to give up to teach at Hogwarts. I think he knows that Snape isn't the kindest and gentlest person dealing with kids; he maybe knows that that kind of behavior on Snape's part isn't the nicest way to treat the kids, and Hagrid isn't verbal enough to make that distinction between hate and inappropriate treatment.

RACHAEL

I also think there's a little bit – like, at this point, Hagrid isn't even a professor yet, he's just the groundskeeper. And he always felt a little bit – he always seemed really honored when he got that position, and he always thought of himself, up until the point that he was named as a professor, to be on a little bit lower level than the teachers. So I think, even though he might know something that's going on, he doesn't wanna put Snape in a bad light, 'cause he kinda views Snape as his superior.

ROSE

Exactly.

SHANNON

Mm-hm. Yeah. I think that's a good point.

RACHAEL

But I think the point Becca brought up about Eileen Prince, him going to school with Eileen Prince and Tom Riddle is really interesting. What could he know about that?

BECCA

And possibly Voldemort as well.

RACHAEL

Yeah. That always goes back to my – I have my little pet theory that there was some kind of relationship between Tom Riddle and Eileen Prince, not necessarily *romantic*, but I think they knew each other, y'know, maybe Tom Riddle was using her for something, to get some kind of information that he needed.

SHANNON

Well, that's interesting.

BECCA

I tend to think the same thing.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I like that theory, actually. I just don't see why else she would be mentioned.

BECCA
Eileen Prince?

RACHAEL
Yeah.

BECCA
Yeah.

RACHAEL
So the other big thing in this chapter – well, pretty much the biggest thing that everybody always talks about with this chapter is the first-year Potions speech, which is just...I'm gonna read a little bit of it, because it's just so much fun, and it's just *so* Snape. It's on page 136 and 137 in the U.S. edition. And he says, "You are here to learn the subtle science and exact art of potionmaking...As there is little foolish wand-waving here, many of you will hardly believe this is magic. I don't expect you will really understand the beauty of the softly simmering cauldron with its shimmering fumes, the delicate power of liquids that creep through human veins, bewitching the mind, ensnaring the senses.... I can teach you how to bottle fame, brew glory, even stopper death -- if you aren't as big a bunch of dunderheads as I usually have to teach."

So I just love that, and I think most Snape fans love that. What are your thoughts on that passage, what does it tell us about Snape?

SHANNON
Y'know, if this is true, then Snape would be the most powerful person...sorry, Rose, go ahead.

ROSE
No, you go ahead.

SHANNON
I'm finished.

ROSE
That Snape is a really wonderful actor; that he does not even need to raise his voice to get the kids' attention; that he is really passionate, that stuff about the simmering cauldrons and the shimmering fumes – he's a sensualist, an artist. The foolish wand-waving part – y'know, when you first hear that, you kinda think, "Ah, Snape maybe isn't too good with the wand?" Later on in the series you find out in the Dueling Club, he's an expert duelist...

SHANNON
Interesting.

ROSE

You find out that the part of the wandwork that he's maybe denigrating a bit is the foolish part, because you find out that he does not do *foolish* wandwork.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I kinda thought that too when I very first read this chapter, like, "Oh, maybe this guy just can't – he's not a very good wizard, so he hangs out in the potions lab." But we definitely know that's not true.

BECCA

Yeah, I think he's just...good at it. I mean, and – I think he takes immense pride in that fact. And since he's so – he's one of the few people that can actually successfully brew Wolfsbane Potion, and I think he knows that. And so I'm not surprised that – well, at the time, when I read it, I was like "Oooh, this guy is either a really big brag, or he really knows his stuff." And I have to say that I admired him at that point, because this is the first glimpse that we get *of* him. But I just thought, looking back on the passage nowadays, after getting through *Half-Blood Prince*, you can really tell how much pride he has, and that comes across in the speech, I think.

SHANNON

Yeah, he has a lot of pride.

RACHAEL

I think Shannon brought up a good point, that if he really could do all those things, he would be the most powerful wizard, so it is...

SHANNON

Yeah, look at this, look at this. If he could bottle fame, brew glory, and stopper death, he'd be more famous than Harry, more powerful than Voldemort, and he could have prevented Dumbledore from nearly dying or whatever—that is, before he kills him and stuff like that. He's bragging here.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

So did you take it as—see, I didn't take it that literally. I thought that the putting the stopper in the death thing was more about making antidotes and stuff like that. Like, he could stop death because he could reverse the effects of a fatal spell or a fatal accident and things like that. I didn't take it so literally the first time I read it.

SHANNON

Yeah, I guess I didn't either, but what's really jumping out to me right now was bottling fame and brewing glory, because Snape seems to be somebody who – it's easy for me to project on him a jealousy of Harry's fame, particularly a lot of undeserved fame. Snape is often later seen of accusing Harry of being arrogant, so he projects a lot of his perhaps

hatred towards James on Harry. But sometimes you do see Harry acting in a very disrespectful way that you could call arrogant. And Snape is also—there’s that scene much later on, of course, skipping ahead in *The Prisoner of Azkaban* where he’s supposed to be getting the Order of the Merlin, third order, whatever it is—so it’s like Snape has a desire for glory and recognition too, but he’s never really achieved it. He’s got notoriety and suspicion and mistrust and the hatred of most of his students, and it seems kind of odd here, because if he were really good, why doesn’t he just hoodwink everybody? I think I’m projecting this now on him—

RACHAEL
Exactly.

SHANNON
—and it didn’t occur to me when I read it. I think when I read it, perhaps I felt as Harry and the other students in the class did, quite overwhelmed, quite captivated – it’s a very engaging speech.

RACHAEL
Then the other way you could look at it, though, is if he *is* just kinda puffing, like “I can teach you how to bottle fame, brew glory, even stopper death, if you aren’t as a bunch of dunderheads as I usually have to teach.” It’s like, he gets them all excited by making them think Potions are this fabulous thing where they can learn all this – they can get power, they can avoid death, but then, ah, they’re too stupid to learn it anyway.

SHANNON
Yeah.

RACHAEL
I can see that as something Snape would do, too.

SHANNON
Very typical Snape, winding everything up with an insult.

RACHAEL
Yup. So, to get more specific about this first-year speech...I’ve heard tons of theories about the stoppering death part being foreshadowing to the whole Dumbledore incident. What do we think about that?

BECCA
Well, I’ve heard some theories that talk about the fact that he names asphodel and wormwood and the bezoar and all of that as an indication that his loyalty is to Dumbledore, and they go through the history of asphodel, which is in the lily family, and so of course you get that connection, and then wormwood, which supposedly according to legend sprang up in the path of the serpent as it was leaving the Garden of Eden, and so—I don’t really put a lot of stock in that, but I definitely think it’s interesting.

RACHAEL

I mean, I've always heard the argument go that the three questions he mentions to Harry, the answers are the bezoar, the wolfsbane, and then the asphodel and wormwood. And we've seen the bezoar in book six, with Harry using it to save Ron's life; we've seen the wolfsbane in book three and later on when Snape uses it to make the potion for Lupin, and so are we gonna see asphodel and wormwood too, in book seven? If we do, asphodel and wormwood are used to make the Draught of Living Death, which is powerful enough to make someone look as if they've died, and is that what—is Dumbledore dead, or did he just have a swig of the Draught of Living Death?

SHANNON

Hmm. Interesting.

RACHAEL

Personally, I think he has to be dead 'cause he fell off the Astronomy Tower, but...

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

I didn't want to say anything, hoping someone else would talk, but yeah, I'm kind of—I guess—not close-minded about it, but I definitely think Dumbledore's dead, so...

SHANNON

I do too, I do too.

RACHAEL

So do you think we'll still see asphodel and wormwood and the Draught of Living Death and stuff in the seventh book?

BECCA

Possibly, because a lot of people have talked about Emmeline Vance and the fact that possibly her death was faked, and then Dumbledore brought up faking death on the tower for Draco and his mother, so you never know. I mean, I think that Dumbledore's dead, but that doesn't mean that someone else could've used it, or will use it.

SHANNON

Yeah, yeah.

ROSE

I'm sort of thinking Dumbledore dead because his portrait has been activated in the headmaster's room.

SHANNON

That's true, that does happen at the end. Um...

RACHAEL

Oh, go ahead.

SHANNON

I was just gonna say, the whole idea about the Emmeline Vance, and I guess Amelia Bones? We don't know exactly how they died, we just hear it was horrible, room locked from the inside and—it's very suspicious, to me. And I guess I'm waiting to find out that perhaps these particular substances were used there or were used on someone else prominent. But definitely not Dumbledore.

RACHAEL

Yeah. And that's always the thing too, the Snape is evil people always bring up those deaths as an example of, "Well, Snape gave information that led to the death and capture of these people," but if they're not really dead, then Snape's not really evil.

SHANNON

Yeah.

BECCA

I would say even if they *are* dead, that's not necessarily a given, although I think by him claiming responsibility for those murders, even if it was just in front of Narcissa and Bellatrix, that was quite a statement to make.

SHANNON

Yeah, I have a lot of problem with that whole chapter. I can't wait till we get to that.

RACHAEL

Yeah, that's gonna be a whole show's worth.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Definitely Spinner's End Show.

SHANNON

In which Rowling really screws up her readers.

RACHAEL

Yes. And Snape drinks elf-made wine.

SHANNON

Yeah, what's up with that?

BECCA

Who knew that Snape would even have elf-made wine at his house?

SHANNON

I feel like some wine right now.

RACHAEL

Maybe the elf-made wine was the Draught of Living Death.

BECCA

Well, a lot of people have speculated that that wine was spiked. But I don't think it was with Draught of Living Death.

SHANNON

What did they think it was spiked with?

RACHAEL

I don't know, I guess something that would have affected Narcissa. But what would have been the point for Snape to do that? To make her *want* to make the Unbreakable Vow with him?

BECCA

Yeah, maybe he thought it would make her more susceptible to Legilimency, but I think wine just by itself probably would've accomplished the same thing.

RACHAEL

Yeah. And Snape's the one that's really drinking in that chapter, I mean he's the one downing glasses and pouring—filling them up, not really Bella and Narcissa. So...I guess people just assume 'cause he's a potions master.

SHANNON

Yeah, yeah.

RACHAEL

There has to be something in it. By the way, and this—so this chapter's called “The Potions Master,” and I always think this is an interesting topic to discuss with Snape – why Potions master? Like, why is he the only professor that's called the Potions master? Why isn't he just the Potions professor?

BECCA

Well, I know that in a lot of fan fiction, Potions master is a title granted to someone who has gone through some sort of rigorous program, at the end of which you are granted the title of master. So I don't know if that correlates with something that actually happens in the British education system.

SHANNON

Yeah, I wonder.

RACHAEL

'Cause I always wondered if he'd refer to himself as the Defense Against the Dark Arts master.

SHANNON

Yeah, that sounds funny. It doesn't go as well.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I dunno. Do they ever call Slughorn a Potions master?

SHANNON

I don't know. That's a good question.

BECCA

Yeah, I don't remember.

SHANNON

What about Flitwick, do they ever call him the Charms master? Or like Hagrid would be the Beast master?

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Oh God.

RACHAEL

The Herbology master and the Transfiguration master, but Beast master takes it for sure. [laughs] Okay, so any other thoughts about this chapter, just from reading it, that we haven't brought up?

BECCA

Um, yeah, I actually had two things. There was one instance, it's on page 136 of the paperback U.S. version, where Snape's eyes are described as cold and empty.

RACHAEL

Oh yeah, I like that. Dark tunnels.

BECCA

Made you think of dark tunnels, yeah. And I get the cold part, but why would his eyes seem empty? Is he already doing the Occlumency thing, and if so, why?

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

It's standard. It's standard that the first day of class he puts on the Occlumency thing.

BECCA

Well, I've actually heard people say that that, that the dark tunnels, is foreshadowing to the Chamber of Secrets, and that kind of thing.

SHANNON

That's – that's reading a lot into it.

RACHAEL

Huh...

BECCA

I think that's reading a lot into it, and it's also reading the movie into it quite a bit.

SHANNON

See, I see this as a way of just contrasting Snape with Hagrid because they both have dark eyes. So, like, for example, we know Dumbledore's eyes are like bright blue. And we know Draco has grey eyes. And I guess it stands out here that we hear that we hear Hagrid's eyes as being beetle black. They've been described as black elsewhere. And here Snape also has black eyes, but unlike Hagrid's black eyes which are somehow black and warm, so like really dark but warm, Snape's are empty. So they're cold. I just see it as setting up some sort of contrast between the two.

RACHAEL

And they do that throughout the whole chapter with Snape in comparing and contrasting him with different teachers like. They say that when he's calling roll, Snape like Flitwick stopped at Harry's name. And also, like McGonagall, Snape had the gift of keeping a class silent without effort. And then later the comparison to Hagrid, and so I kind of see that as saying, like, well, Snape isn't just another teacher. He's going to have a special role in the book.

SHANNON

Yeah. Definitely.

RACHAEL

In a subtle little way.

SHANNON

Definitely.

BECCA

Yeah. Well and the other thing that jumps out at me too was on page 139 when he says, "You, Potter, why didn't you tell him not to add the quills? Thought he'd make you look good if he got it wrong, did you? That's another point you've lost for Gryffindor." And that just kind of made me wonder. Why would he naturally think that Harry was trying to make himself look good by making Neville look bad? And it might just be the fact that he is trying to get a rise out of Harry - he doesn't like him, whatever. But I thought maybe

something like that might have happened to Snape between Snape and James during their years.

RACHAEL

Well, the whole *Levicorpus* thing, you know.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

I mean, James was using his own spells against him. Taking credit for work that Snape did.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

So I think that's a really good, and that passage also serves to show us just how Snape doesn't get Harry. Because from what we've seen of Harry in the book so far, he's this, I mean, such a nice guy. Like, he's sharing the candy with Ron. He's never had a friend.

He's just overwhelmed by this whole wizarding world and here Snape just instantly thinks he's a big show-off.

SHANNON

Harry's good qualities and his weaknesses though, they both become quite apparent early on. So you're right what you're saying about his ability to share with Ron and his kindness, but Harry is also incredibly unforgiving. And I think that it's interesting. I want to draw a little parallel here towards the *Half-Blood Prince* and how it ends where Snape kills Dumbledore using an unforgivable curse, but I think Snape does something equally unforgivable to Harry here in this chapter. It's like his unforgivable mistake. That by singling Harry out and ridiculing him in front of his peers, he earns Harry's eternal hatred. And we see from Harry's feelings towards Dudley and Draco and the Dursleys that he has very strong feelings towards the people who treat him in a bad way.

BECCA

Yeah. I don't know if I'd call that unfair, but I definitely think that makes him... I know prejudiced is the wrong word, but that's the only word I can think of at the moment.

RACHAEL

I was... Here's something I was just, this is way off the deep end, so what if this whole, like, Snape antagonizing Harry, we agree that Harry has a difficult time forgiving people.

That he holds grudges, and clearly this is an issue. This is something he needs to learn.

Maybe Snape is being an asshole to him just to get him to hate him right off the bat because part of Snape's role in the book is teaching Harry one of the most important lessons he needs to learn in life. And that's how to forgive.

BECCA

Well, I think that's true, but I don't think that is what's on Snape's mind.

SHANNON

[laughing] No.

BECCA

I don't think Snape is like, okay, time to put on my arsehole hat. I think he just, yeah, a lot of people have postulated that, and I personally don't buy it, but I don't think it's an act he's put on for Harry's benefit. But, I think Dumbledore, well, Dumbledore himself said that teachers like Snape are a life lesson that everyone should learn. And so I think in that respect, I agree with it. Yeah.

RACHAEL

Where did he say that? In which book was that?

BECCA

Actually, Dumbledore didn't say it. Jo said it.

RACHAEL

Oh.

BECCA

In an interview she said Dumbledore believes that there are all sorts of lessons in life, and teachers like Snape is one of them. I'm paraphrasing, but that's what she said.

RACHAEL

No, yeah, of course, but I was wondering like in what context that was said. It could mean a bunch of different things.

BECCA

I think the question that was posed to Jo was, why does Dumbledore let Snape be so mean to his students, particularly Harry and the trio.

RACHAEL

Cause Dumbledore's just very hands off. He's just kind of go with the flow. Snape could probably be paddling the students, and Dumbledore wouldn't do anything about it.

BECCA

Oh, hang on, hang on.

RACHAEL

Oh yeah, I forgot. The one thing Becca and I disagree with is that her favorite character is Dumbledore.

BECCA

Yes, please leave my Dumbledore alone. There shall be no Dumbledore bashing.

RACHAEL

[madly cackling] Oh, no. I wasn't bashing. He's just a bit of a hippy.

ROSE

There are a lot of teaching traditions, like in Zen Buddhism, where your teachers are intentionally kind of horrible and mean to you in a way to teach you lessons that being nice won't work in. Perhaps Snape's one of those kind of teachers.

RACHAEL

That's true. It made me think of when I saw the new Batman, Batman Begins, and Liam Neeson's character. He made me think of Snape a little bit.

BECCA

So, Snape is a closet Zen Buddhist?

RACHAEL

[laughing] Yeah.

SHANNON

Yeah, I wonder about that. I wonder about that Rose.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I think so. Occlumency is like meditating. There are parallels. I've heard more, more far-off ideas. So, any other thoughts about this chapter?

ROSE

Yeah. Why does the way Snape thinks about him, why does that matter so much to Harry? The Dursleys treat him so badly, and he hates it and doesn't want to spend time with them. But it never really, at least in my reading of the books, never hurts him as badly as the thought that Snape hates him. He obsesses about Snape hating him more than he ever does about the Dursleys.

RACHAEL

That's a good point.

BECCA

Yeah, that is a good point.

RACHAEL

I think maybe just because he's the first person in the magical world that hates him.

BECCA

Yeah. I was going to say...

RACHAEL

Like, Harry kind of thought that things were so hard for him because he was with the Dursleys, but that everyone in the magical world would be nice to him, and everyone loved him. And here is someone that doesn't. But then of course the Snarry in me says that he just really cares about Snape's opinion of him.

BECCA
Pervert.

SHANNON

Some people have said that maybe Snape is, like, administering a kind of odd social justice. As in, like, he expects that Harry is going to be favored amongst everyone else, so he doesn't want, he's going to try to kind of balance that out by being a real jerk to Harry.

ROSE
Uh-huh.

BECCA

Oh, I can definitely agree with that. Yeah, he thinks he's justified in treating Harry like crap because everybody else fawns all over him. And in Snape's mind, Harry doesn't deserve any of that.

RACHAEL

And I kind of agree with that because probably the book where he treats him the least like crap is *Order of the Phoenix*. Even though for Snape, he gives Harry a chance. He tries to teach him Occlumency. And in that book, the whole wizarding world is, you know, against him. The Ministry hates Harry. Everybody is printing gossip about him, and Snape kind of backs off. So, I like that idea.

BECCA
Yeah. That's true.

RACHAEL

Okay, so I think I'll wrap stuff up. Basically, this is our first introduction to Snape. I think we pretty much decided Snape doesn't quite hate Harry, that there's a little bit more to that. And we're going to continue on with this discussion with our next Snape prominent chapter in *Chamber of Secrets* next month. And you'll have to turn in, tune in to see what that is. Thanks everyone for participating.

BECCA
Thank you.

RACHAEL
Okay. Bye.

BECCA, ROSE, SHANNON

Bye.

The Voice of Reason Advertisement – (48:08)

Announcer: Jon

Music: Mission Impossible theme, Music composed by Lalo Schifrin

JON

We here at Snapecast pride ourselves on being fair and balanced. We recognize that there are multiple sides to every story. That for every Snarry shipper, there is bound to be someone like Becca - a Snarry hater. That for everyone who is convinced Snape is Dumbledore's man, there is someone just as convinced that Snape is truly Voldemort's Dark-Lord-in-Waiting.

We intended to incorporate all sides in our roundtable discussions, but there was no one among us able to argue convincingly that Snape was on Voldemort's side. It seemed, unfortunately, that news of Snapecast had only attracted hoards of Slytherin wannabes and Snape-lovin' fangirls, but none of his detractors.

We know you're out there listening, and we need your help. If you're as convinced of Snape's duplicity as Harry is, then we encourage you to share your views with us. Send us an owl, drop us a line, or shoot us a voice-mail telling us just why you think Snape is really is on Voldemort's side. For those of you without owls, we can be reached at severus@snapecast.com.

You just might be the Voice of Reason we've been looking for.

(Preference will be given to anyone who does NOT sound anything like Becca or Rachael, as we're having enough trouble telling them apart already.)

Segment Preview – Detention Intervention – (49:26)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Tanya Tomkins and Eric Zivian, Beethoven Piano and Cello Works: 12-11

Bagatelles for Solo Fortepiano op. 119 no. 9

ROSE

Quick! Check your Foe-glass! While we're here Snapeing our families and our friends are up to something. We'll find out what they have to say about us and about Professor Snape in future episodes of Detention Intervention, a new segment on Snapecast.

This Slytherin Life – (50:07)

Intro: Chris

Essayist: Shannon

Music:

Ehren Starks, The Depths of a Year: 01-The tale of room 620
Antonio Meneses, J.S. Bach Cello Suites: Suite 1 BWV 1007: Prelude
Ehren Starks, The Depths of a Year: 04-Bailar Tristement
Da Camera, A Celtic Celebration: 22-Cock up your Beaver

CHRIS

Next up, this Slytherin Life, Snapecast's answer to This American Life. In our first segment, Shannon explores why she's still old enough for Snape.

SHANNON

What is it about Snape that attracts so many of us in the fandom? Admittedly, he's not the most attractive or charming of Rowling's characters. He's cruel to toads and clumsy young boys. He makes insecure buck-toothed girls cry, and he clearly doesn't practice the best oral hygiene. And of course, there's the unfortunate fact that he completely ruined his career prospects when he sort of murdered his boss not too long ago. Yet he still manages to fascinate so many of us. Me included.

And so, I've been wondering - what it is that attracted ME to this character in the first place? Why, despite all his apparent flaws and mistakes, am I still holding out for Snape?

So, after a bit of soul searching, I had this thought: I'm fascinated by this bullying, spiteful murderer because he's just like me.

Okay, he's not *exactly* like me. My hair's shiny, not greasy, and my nose may be prominent, but it's certainly not hooked. And of course, I don't have that whole "black is my trademark color" thing going on. But on a deeper, more substantial level, we do have something in common.

For one, Snape was not a popular kid. In fact, he was so not popular he got picked on by the likes of James Potter and Sirius Black just for existing! I also was not terribly popular and got picked on a lot – something I never really understood. What was so wrong with me that other kids felt the need to insult me or call me names?

When I was about to graduate from high school, I asked my former playground nemesis, who had by then become a close personal friend, why she and the other neighborhood kids had picked on me so much when we were younger.

"I don't know," she said. "You were just weird."

"I wasn't weird," I said.

"Yes you were," she insisted. "Remember that time you came to school dressed like Pocahontas?"

"Yeah," I said. "So?"

"It wasn't even Halloween," she said. "That was weird!"

Okay, granted, maybe that was a bit unusual, but my dad had always told me that I marched to the beat of a different drummer. I told my friend that.

"That just means he thought you were weird too," she said.

I still content that I wasn't weird and that my father was just encouraging me to explore my creative side. Still, all this made me wonder: Did Snape's father ever sit down with him and say all the things that a parent is supposed to say to make their child feel better?

Knowing what we do about Tobias Snape, probably not.

So what about his mother, Eileen? Did she sit down with him, stroke his greasy hair and tell him he was special? While laundering his graying underpants, did she tell him to ignore the taunts and hexes from the kids at school who were probably just jealous of how handsome and smart he was?

Somehow, I can't really picture that happening either.

Something else I have in common with Snape is a long memory – particularly when it concerns intensely humiliating episodes from my youth. classmates. One especially unhappy incident occurred around the time I was twelve. I came to school one day wearing a brand-new shirt my grandmother had bought for me at K-Mart. The sleeves were striped pink, purple and green, and there was a big glittery picture of Miss Piggy on the front.

I still don't quite understand why, maybe the Muppets were really out of fashion that year, but the next thing I knew, everyone, everywhere was laughing at me and calling me Miss Piggy. And for the rest of the school year, the nickname stuck. Even though I never wore that shirt again, I was known as Miss Piggy.

I tried talking to my friend about this, but she didn't remember the shirt or the nickname.

This probably just goes to show that these sorts of memories are fresher in my mind than in the minds of my tormentors.

And I suppose it's this sort of persistent vulnerability to my own past which makes me relate to Snape and which underlies the feeling I have that deep down, he's not really evil - he's just misunderstood. After all, if despite my own flaws and petty resentments I turned out okay, there's still hope for Severus Snape too. Right?

Monthly Contest Announcement – (55:29)

Announcer: Wendy

Music: Drop Trio, Big Dipper: 02-Second First

WENDY

Attention all fan fic authors and fan artists! Snapecast is pleased to announce a monthly contest for the best Snape-centric drabbles, one-shots, photo manipulations and fan art in the fandom. Send us your Snarry, your Snupin your OFCs, send us your pics, your paintings, your fanzie ideas! The Snapecast staff will select one author and one artist each month and announce the winners on the next show. For the official submission guidelines, deadlines and assorted fine print please visit www.snapecast.com or the Snapecast community on Live Journal at community.livejournal.com/snapecast. Good luck, and happy Snapeing!

Snape &... Roundtable – (56:23)

Panel: Becca, Rose, Jon, Gina

Music: Shira Kammen, Wild Wood: 13-Rapaz Mane

BECCA

Hi and welcome to the first edition of Snapecast's Snape & roundtable discussion panel. The purpose of the Snape & roundtables is to explore the character of Severus Snape through the filter of another topic, ranging from the ordinary to the absurd. The topic for this episode is Snape & Alan Rickman. My name is Becca and here with me are–

ROSE

I'm Rose.

GINA

I'm Gina R. Snape.

JONATHAN

Jonathan.

BECCA

Okay, well, to start us off I'd like to just put a question out there for everyone and ask what did you all like about Alan Rickman's portrayal of Snape?

GINA

I really like Alan because he's so commanding in the role. He seems to understand that there's a lot going on under the surface and you can see the wheels turning when he's in a scene, when he's figuring out what's going on, so many things are up, and acting strategically, but he can be intimidating to the kids in every film.

BECCA

Yeah, he does kind of have that presence of power and intimidation even though he's not that imposing of a, well physically imposing of a character.

ROSE

He really sets about the whole Snape archetype, the look, the clothes, the mannerisms,
and especially--

ROSE, BECCA, & GINA

The voice!

ROSE

Yes.

BECCA

[laughing] Yeah!

GINA

Who can deny that voice is amazing? I really think Alan added some of the sex appeal for
Snape, and I know a lot of people would not have gone to the voice if it wasn't for Alan
Rickman's portrayal of Snape.

ROSE

Definitely.

BECCA

Yeah, and a lot of people on the Snape is Evil side of the argument seem to think that
Alan Rickman is the whole reason that people think Snape is good, and I don't agree with
that but I can definitely see why they might say that, just because he does have that sex
appeal that probably does not exist physically, at least physically exist in the canon
Snape.

JON

It really must be a Paul Newman kind of sex appeal seeing that he's almost 60 years old.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Yeah, that's true.

JON

Isn't he a little old to be playing Snape?

BECCA

He is, but hey that's never stopped fangirling before, why should it start now?

JON

Right.

ROSE

Yes, canon Snape is supposed to be about 35 when he first meets Harry.

GINA

Yeah, but you know what, all of his contemporaries are older than they are in the books, so I think it kind of works out.

BECCA

Yeah that's true. So they all kind of have – even though they're all older they all look about the same age range. Like you have Gary Oldman and David Thewlis and all of those characters and they all look like they could have gone to school together.

GINA

Exactly.

JON

Yup.

GINA

I'm not too fussed that he's too old for the role because he brings so much to the role in return.

BECCA

Yeah.

JON

Yeah, he is fabulous at playing the part of Snape. Really a lot of the casting in the movies was really spot on and Snape was definitely one of them.

BECCA

Yeah, I agree. On the other hand, was there anything that you guys didn't like about Alan Rickman's Snape?

ROSE

His hair isn't greasy enough. [laughs]

GINA

You know, I can't say I hate it but it's definitely not canon, the way he has the floppy doo in *Chamber of Secrets* and he keeps brushing it out of his face.

BECCA

Yeah, I've said before that's one of my favorite avatars, the L'Oreal ad where his hair's flipping and it says "because I'm worth it." I love that avatar!

GINA

[laughing] That's great!

BECCA

What do you think, Jon, was there anything you didn't like about it?

JON

Well, I don't know if it was his decision but the scene in *Goblet of Fire* when he smacks Harry and Ron's head together. That whole movie, though, they kind of didn't do him the right way, but that's not really Alan Rickman's choice.

BECCA

Yeah, he didn't really get a lot of air time in that movie, um, but the one scene that I found pretty Snape-like was the scene where the fake moody is revealed and DD and McGonagall leave with Harry and Snape is left there alone with the fake moody and turns his wand on him and the look on AR's face then really was like...ooh, that is a Snapish look.

GINA

There's two things I really love in the *Goblet of Fire*. One of them is when Harry's name is pulled from the goblet and they go into the little anteroom or I don't know if it's a staffroom or whatever and they're all figuring out to what to do, and Snape looks at Moody and then he tells Dumbledore that he thinks they should just let the chain of events occur and see what happens. And at that moment I think is the only moment in the entire series where it's canon-true in the sense that you don't know what side he might be on.

BECCA

Yeah, like, that one scene in *Prisoner of Azkaban* where Snape kind of protects the trio from Werewolf-Lupin, I was really surprised at that because it seemed like a very revealing thing for Snape to have done in regards to his loyalties. So I was surprised that was in the movie.

GINA: Yeah, that was definitely a director's choice that a lot of people take issue with.

ROSE

Mhm.

BECCA

Yeah.

GINA: The one thing that Alan brought to the role in *Prisoner of Azkaban* that I really love him for is the Defense Against the Dark Arts class. It was his idea to slam open the door and slam closed the shutters as he's striding in.

BECCA

Right.

GINA

That was Alan's recommendation, and I really felt like when I learned that that he really understands Snape's physicality, his power, his desire to control his environment and that's exactly how I would see canon Snape taking charge of that classroom.

BECCA

Right. And you wouldn't normally think of Snape engaging in any foolish wand waving but I had the same impression when I saw that scene. I was like woah, okay; that's something Snape would have definitely done, I think.

JON

So we're not doing a very good job of talking about what we dislike about Alan Rickman's portrayal of Snape.

[ALL LAUGH]

ROSE: Well, um, one of the things I maybe have a problem with is AR's body language is so solid and forthright. He moves like someone ho you can trust, he's got the good posture he's forthright, um, if he or someone else had used body language that was a bit more fluid and ambiguous....not quite skulking around like a Victorian stage villain but... [BECCA and GINA giggle] possibly a bit more like that

BECCA

Yeah like Snape in the books is described as moving – as swooping around like a bat and things like – and his hands are like spiders, things like that, so yeah I can agree with that. I do think Alan Rickman's Snape has very correct posture and I agree with you he does have a very solid way of moving around.

ROSE

Yes, he moves very nobly and we culturally read that kind of assurance as equating with a good heart.

BECCA

I don't know that I equate it with a good heart I equate it with him having a commanding presence and trying to feign a sense of power.

ROSE

Hmm. Interesting. Yeah.

BECCA

Yeah, he does have that stuffy, kind of old fashioned manners type of etiquette.

GINA

Yeah, and knowing what we know now about Snape's past, I can see him wanting to physically demonstrate him being in a different station in life. But I don't know if Alan necessarily played it that way so much as hindsight is 20/20.

BECCA

Right. Well if we were going for a more skulking and brooding kind of Snape what do you think about Tim Roth?

ROSE
Oh heh.

BECCA

Because apparently Tim Roth was one of the original runners up for Snape.

JON

I think it's a very interesting choice.

BECCA

Why do you think it's an interesting choice, Jonathan?

JON

Oh I don't know, because I just had this image of Alan Rickman's Snape in my head and that's the biggest problem.

BECCA

Yeah, Rickman's kind of ruined it with that— it's that voice, I swear. The velvet voice.

JON

When I think of him I think of Four Rooms.

GINA

I think of him in that movie — oh, what's it called? The Scottish one? Rob Roy. And he in that film when he's got the costuming down, he's very slimy. I think that probably the casting director thought of that and that Tim Roth could play Snape in a very silly way, you know. He can be smooth, and he's not sexy at all, and you definitely don't trust him in that film. But the one thing I think would make it work is he's not commanding. He's too snivelly, he's too, you know. He's like Wormtail more than Snape.

JON

Quentin Tarantino.

BECCA

Jon, what were you saying about Quentin Tarantino?

JON

Oh, Tim Roth just seems too Quentin Tarantino, but I really I think I've only seen a couple of movies.

BECCA

Yeah, he was in *Pulp Fiction*, wasn't he?

JON
Yeah.

BECCA
He was in that bar scene or that café or whatever it was?

JON
Yeah.

BECCA
Yeah, I think the only thing I saw Tim Roth in at least recently was *Everybody Says I Love You*, which is the Woody Allen musical with Drew Barrymore.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA
He was a convict in that movie who just got released because of the actions of this on political activist, so he came to her house to have dinner. He was clearly guilty of whatever crime he had committed and he was due to be executed, but due to this woman's actions he was suddenly at her house for Halloween. [laughter] So yeah, I-- he was very creepy and slimy and yeah in that movie.

GINA
Shifty. He's shifty.

BECCA
Yeah, shifty and devious. And while I think Snape is a devious person, he's not – like I don't picture him as being as Rose was saying, as being the Victorian mad cackling villain from the silent screen.

JON
So Tim Roth is significantly younger than Alan Rickman. I think.

BECCA
Is he? I thought he was the same age as GO. Around the same age.

JON
All right, I may not know what I'm talking about.

GINA
The only problem with Rickman's age is that he, you know, everyone on LiveJournal at last talks about his belly, you know the pudge being all sexy. But they have to work with that with, you know, they really do. He spends a lot of time at the Kraft food table, I think.

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

And then the costume becomes a little hard to get into, and even Alan has said that on occasion. He's put it on and been like oh it's getting a little tight. And I think that does take away a little bit. Because Snape is supposed to be really skinny and he's supposed to have these long fingers. And Alan has these meaty paws for hands, and women seem to love it but, you know, it's not Snape.

BECCA

Right.

JON

So Tim Roth was born in '61, he's 15 years younger than Alan Rickman who was born in '46 which makes him --

ROSE

So he's too old to play Snape, too!

BECCA

Yeah, they all are.

GINA

Oh well!

JON

Tim Roth would be 45.

BECCA

I agree about Snape being skinnier and lithe, especially because you get that scene in *Order of the Phoenix*, Snape's worst memory, where he's described as very thin and reedy and, like, he could be knocked over easily --

GINA

Oh, young Snape.

BECCA

So yeah.

GINA

They still haven't cast young Snape, have they?

BECCA

I don't -- I haven't heard any --

ROSE

Oh, no, we'd see pictures if they had.

BECCA

Yeah, everywhere. [giggling] It's especially difficult to kind of reconcile Young Snape with Alan Rickman's version, and to kind of get a -- some kind of connection between the two characters. It'll be difficult for anybody, but especially a young actor.

GINA

Well, yeah, I mean everyone on the cast says how intimidating Alan Rickman can be. Imagine the poor fellow who has to emulate him in young form.

BECCA

Exactly, yeah.

JON

It really just has to be a young Alan Rickman.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

[sarcastically] Are there many of those out there?

GINA

Yeah, let me know if you find one, especially if he's single.

[ALL LAUGH]

JON

All right.

BECCA

Okay, so besides Tim Roth, what other actors do you think would have done a good Snape?

JON

Well, ah, I think that Johnny Depp can do about a good anything. So...

BECCA

Johnny Depp.

GINA

Mmm...

BECCA

Except he doesn't meet the British requirement. But--

JON
Right.

GINA
Yeah. But this is fantasyland. So.

JON
And he'd have to be done up to be more ugly. Or maybe Sirius if not Snape.

BECCA
Another person who doesn't meet the British cast requirement would be Adrien Brody. But, I think he would be a really good Snape as well. I'm biased because there's that one avatar that I've seen with – I think it's a picture of him from *The Village*, and he has very stringy hair and a kind of sullen look on his face. Someone had made it into a young Snape avatar; I think it had something to do with Snape loving Lily, which is not my favorite theory. But I was really taken with how much he did look kind of like I imagined Snape as a young man might look.

GINA
Adrien Brody. He has the right body, he's got the hands, he's long and thin and he's got the hair and god knows he has the nose, but unfortunately his eyes are so *sweet*. Those eyebrows are kind of arched up, and he just looks like he could never be mean or snarky or nasty in his life and, that's like, ahh, that's what cuts it you know.

BECCA
Yeah, he does have sweetness about him.

ROSE
He also looks like he works out too much.

BECCA
Yeah, can't have a ripped Snape.

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA
Why not? Underneath the – you don't know what lurks underneath those robes! Maybe he lifts cauldrons at night to work out.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA
Lifting all those heavy crates of potions ingredients.

GINA

Exactly!

ROSE

At least in LiveJournal, Adrien Brody... ah, people use his image to make Snape icons. He's probably the number one person other than Alan Rickman for Snape to use icon images.

GINA

Hm. Some people also use, um, what's that guy? The musician from Nine Inch Nails?

ROSE

Oh, Trent Reznor!

GINA

Yeah, people like using Trent Reznor as well for Snape.

ROSE

Yes.

GINA

I don't know how I feel about it, though.

JON

So some other actors that could possibly work would be Judd Nelson or Pierce Brosnan. Or Stuart Thompson.

GINA

Oh, Stuart Thompson from *Queer as Folk*?

JON

Yes.

GINA

Well, Pierce Brosnan!

JON

No.

GINA

People say Alan Rickman's too attractive to play Snape!

JON

Right.

ROSE

How could you ever believe an evil Pierce Brosnan Snape? You can't. He plays really sympathetic roles.

BECCA
Yeah.

JON
Whoever imagined an evil Jon Travolta before *Pulp Fiction*?

ROSE
Hmm, a lot of good points.

JON
He takes the right direction.

BECCA
Or even if we're talking just Adrien Brody; I mean he was the evil guy in *The Village*. Well not necessarily evil, but the bad guy.

JON
yeah.

GINA
Well, what about Jon Travolta? He can pull off greasy hair.

JON
Yeah, I just thought of that, too.

ROSE
Well I've got a couple of suggestions for actors that might do a good Snape. One of them is Aiden Gillan, he was in the original UK version of *Queer as Folk*.

GINA
Oh, that's who I thought he meant before!

ROSE
He also played the evil villain in a Jackie Chan movie called *Shanghai Nights*, and in that there's this scene where he kicks someone off of a really high scaffolding allegedly to their death, and he says "whoops!" in this way that immediately brought Snape to mind. I think that he could do a really fantastic Snape who would take a great wicked delight in being horrible and snarky and really enjoying it.

GINA
I have to agree. As long as we got rid of the curly hair I think he would do an amazing job.

BECCA

He's another one that's on the attractive side, though...

GINA

See, but, what's wrong with having an attractive Snape? He has an unconventional appeal, I always say.

BECCA

Well, that is true. I just don't think he would be canon because, well, we see it through the Harry filter. Snape in canon is always described as being ugly, but that's described by Harry or Ron or one of the Marauders on the Marauders' Map and things like that, so...

GINA

Exactly.

ROSE

All these descriptions of him as being ugly come after Harry is humiliated and made to feel stupid and loses house points. The ugly part is probably, like, brightly colored by the fact that this was someone that Harry perceives as being horrible to him. And doesn't understand why he's being horrible to him, and that equates with him looking ugly, it's like an ugly emotionalism, an ugly emotional feeling maybe more than physical ugliness.

GINA

Absolutely. And you know the one time we see Snape from a different POV is at Spinner's End. And we never hear him described as being greasy in spinner's end.

BECCA

Yeah, by Bella, and you know Bella would love to insult him in any way she could.

ROSE

No doubt.

GINA

And we've seen his physicality in Spinner's End when he's dealing with Narcissa. We see he has a pincher grip on her, and he recoils from her crying but not once do we see him as being described as greasy or in any kind of shifty way.

ROSE

Hey, can I get in one last actor recommendation? I think the actress Linda Hunt would play a wonderful Snape. She did a male role in a movie called *The Year of Living Dangerously* and won awards for it, and she is very small, she's probably too small for people who might be six four foot Snape, she's very old at this point, so she's too old, she's female, and yet I feel she would do an exquisite Snape. So she would be my suggestion for the art house, indie film with non-traditional casting.

BECCA

Cool. So let's go alphabetically here with some final thoughts. Gina, do you have any final thoughts?

GINA

Um, my final thought would be I love AR' as Snape and I pray to the powers that be that he signs on for every film.

BECCA

Me too, Jon?

JON

I also agree that Alan Rickman is a fabulous Snape. He's got the sneer, he's got all kinds of qualities that I see in Snape in the books, but ah, I think that we need some more anti-Snape people on this roundtable to help us as devil's advocate. Yeah, that's all.

BECCA

Okay, Rose?

ROSE

Alan Rickman establishes all of our archetypes for Snapeness.

BECCA

The commanding presence and all that?

GINA

The hooked nose?

ROSE

Yes. The voice.

BECCA

I agree! But I would say like what we were talking about with the ugliness before, I do think that a part of it is his attitude is ugly. The impression I get from canon Snape is that he's not the most attractive guy on the block.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

And that's my final thought.

JON

yeah I agree with that a lot.

BECCA

Thank you everyone for joining in.

GINA
Bye.

JON
Yes thank you. Goodbye.

ROSE
Bye!

Segment Preview: Love Potion 9¾ – (1:19:50)

Announcer: Gina

Music: Thursday Group, First Album: 06-Oaks

GINA

Hey. This is Gina R. Snape here to tell you about a little segment called Love Potion 9 and ¾. Does the idea of discussing the myriad ways Severus Snape is portrayed in romantic and erotic entanglements make you shiver with excitement? Want to fill that need for spicy scenes and stories that pull at your heartstrings? Well, look no further.

Love Potion 9 and ¾ is all about Snape, who he's paired with, and how we can't get enough of him. Love, lust, heart break, and private detention. LP nine and three quarters, being brewed for your listening pleasure in the next episode of Snapecast.

Snape Top Ten List Part II - (1:21:07)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Thursday Group, First Album: 04-Doing the Clown

ROSE

Live, from Spinner's End. Reasons we need a Snapecast.

10. Because Gina needs a date.
 9. Because Shannon needs something to do when she's coloring.
 8. Because Rachael can't get enough Snarry.
 7. Ewww (that's Becca).
 6. We've already read all the Snapesmut out there.
 5. Because Jon needs depraved women in his life.
 4. It's Voldemort's reward to Snape.
 3. Wendy needs something to do at three in the morning.
 2. What else are we going to do until book seven comes out?
- And the number on reason we need a Snapecast? Because too much Snape is never enough.

Owlpost – (1:22:31)

Hosts: Becca, Shannon, Rachael

Voices: Chris, Suman

Music: Shira Kammen, Music of Waters: 03-Unconformity

SHANNON

Okay, we're back again, Becca, Rachael, and Shannon here. Say hi everybody.

BECCA

Hello.

RACHAEL

Hello. This is Rachael.

BECCA

And this is Rebecca.

SHANNON

And, of course, this is Shannon. And we've reached the segment in our show that we like to call Owlpost. And this is where we read owls or e-mails from our listeners who want to tell us how great they think our show is, or who may have some recent Snape sightings to report. Or, if anyone out there, who has just some fabulously snarky remarks for us to read.

RACHAEL

We can't get enough fabulous snarky remarks.

SHANNON

No kidding.

BECCA

Oh, yes. Very true. We wouldn't be Snapecast if we didn't love snark.

SHANNON

Yeah. So, since this is our first episode, we don't have any letters from our listeners to read, but somehow word has leaked out about Snapecast, and we've already received a few owls expressing concern and dismay from several people in the wizarding community. And as a matter of fact, we've gotten a couple of howlers. So, let's give them a listen, shall we?

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

To whom it may concern.

To my utter disgust, I discovered rather recently that you were planning to air some sort of ridiculous Muggle wireless program about me. Needless to say, I am not amused.

I do not consider my existence acceptable fodder for pedestrian analysis and sophomoric humour. I also do not have the time to deal with the ridiculous queries and proposals of

marriage from hysterical fans, which your show is bound to generate. I am already quite put out by the incessant amount of unfortunate green snakeskin undergarments I am already receiving via owl post. Though some of my colleagues find this trend rather hilarious, I do not.

If this letter is not enough to persuade you to cease the production of your program, I shall have to resort to more unpleasant measures.

Yours most uncordially,
Severus Snape

RACHAEL

You know, that letter made me kind of sad because Snape doesn't like our podcast. Although, I did get a really funny picture in my head of him in the staff room with Dumbledore and McGonagall looking through his mailbox and picking out snakeskin underwear.

BECCA

Yes! That's what I was wondering. Who is sending him green snakeskin underpants?

SHANNON

Gina. It's totally Gina. She probably sent the marriage proposals too.

RACHAEL

They're like specially made.

SHANNON

Ew.

BECCA

Are they boxers or briefs?

SHANNON

I think they're thongs.

BECCA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

Well, I mean. I'm still really disturbed, but maybe... It's just like Snape to write something off at the beginning without really hearing it, but you know, maybe our podcast will grow on him a little bit.

SHANNON

Yeah. He's going to be our number one fan eventually.

RACHAEL

Eventually. So do we have any other mail?

BECCA

We do actually. It's kind of funny, but I received a voicemail, and I was surprised to find out that it wasn't from a Muggle. It was from a wizard. So, I'll give you guys a listen right now, and see if you can guess who it is.

CHRIS [AS GILDEROY LOCKHART]

My Dearest Ladies (and one Gentle Sir),

My publicist informs me that you are soon to produce a wireless show for Muggles about Severus Snape. I am personally acquainted with the man, and so I can tell you, he is a thoroughly unsuitable subject for any sort of Fan Club or entertainment program. His personal sense of style leaves quite a bit to be desired; black may be slimming, but it does nothing for his sallow skin. He has a terrible habit of frowning, about which I fear I was too late in my warning, since his crow's feet are already beyond the help of even the strongest of Anti-Wrinkle Charms. He certainly will never win Witch Weekly's Most-Charming-Smile Award unless he does something about those atrocious tea stains. And speaking as something of an expert on hair-care products, he has a *lot* to learn. I did try to help, but I could never get a straight answer from him about what he uses, despite repeated inquiries.

As I'm sure you are beginning to realize, your listeners would undoubtedly appreciate a more attractive and winsome subject of discussion. Perhaps someone who *has* won Witch Weekly's Most-Charming-Smile Award.

Most Affectionately Yours,

Gilderoy Lockhart

Five Time Winner of Witch Weekly's Most-Charming-Smile Award.

SHANNON

Man alive! Who let that whack job out of St. Mungo's?

BECCA

I'd like to know where he got a publicist.

RACHAEL

Yeah. He clearly figured out how to use the fellytone if he left a voicemail.

BECCA

I know. I was surprised to get it.

SHANNON

I just think it's creepy.

RACHAEL

And can't you just picture him cornering Snape in the castle and interrogating about his hair products?

BECCA

[laughs]

SHANNON

Yeah, what do you think Snape uses on his hair?

RACHAEL

Well, there are quite a few fanfics about that. I've read salad dressing. I've read that he doesn't use anything.

BECCA

Salad dressing?

RACHAEL

I've read that it's his own, like, brew of special potion and stuff. And then, you know, there's some Snarry fics of course where it's, it's other things.

SHANNON

Oh my God!

BECCA

Ew.

SHANNON

Okay, we managed to work Snarry into the Owlpost segment.

BECCA

Ew, ew, ew!

SHANNON

Poor Becca.

BECCA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

Okay, on that note, we'll go on to the final letter that we received. And this one, it's short, but it's sweet, so, let's get to the point and listen to it.

SUMAN [AS RON WEASLEY]

Dear Sir or Madam:

Why do you want to do a podcast about that greasy git? Why don't you do a show about the Chudley Cannons?

Cheers,
Ron Weasley

BECCA

Yeah, Ron, that might happen maybe if the Cannons actually won something now and then.

SHANNON

Yeah Ron, keep your day job. So, let's see, do we have anything else? Any other mail, announcements?

BECCA

Well, I did get one little piece of mail. It was actually pretty interesting. I received a package on my doorstep the other day. And when I unwrapped it, to my very great surprise, there was a baby screech owl in it. And he came with a letter. I'll read a part of it to you guys right now. It was from the American Magical Sports and Games Department.

And they said: "we're issuing you this owl for use on official correspondence pertaining to your wizarding wireless program, Snapcast."

RACHAEL
What?

BECCA
Yeah. Snapcast.

SHANNON
Okay.

RACHAEL
Jon made a type-o on the website.

BECCA
Yeah. Apparently they think our podcast is going to be about Exploding Snap news and developments.

SHANNON
That would be riveting.

RACHAEL
Ugh! Cause we could do an hour on that once a month.

BECCA: What wizard or witch is going to want to sit around listening to a show about Exploding Snap? Anyway, so, I could have sent him back with an explanation that we're not going to be about Exploding Snap, but he's really cute. So, I think we're going to keep him.

SHANNON

So, what are we going to call him?

BECCA

I haven't named him yet. I didn't think, you know, if he's going to be for Snapecast, I didn't want to presume.

SHANNON

Okay. So we have this really sweet screech owl, but he doesn't have a name, and so maybe we can ask everyone else listening if they can help us out. So if you have suggestions for a name, or if you have any comments, criticism, Snape-sightings, praise, or snark, you can go ahead and send us an e-mail at our e-mail address. And that's severus at Snapecast dot com. Likewise, you can leave comments in our Live Journal community Snapecast or on our website snapecast.com. And, we'll be hearing from you, we hope. And that's it for the owlpost.

Closing – (1:32:39)

Hosts: Rachael, Becca, Shannon

RACHAEL

Okay, we have Rachael, Becca and Shannon here again, closing out the show.

SHANNON

Hi!

BECCA

Yaaaay!

RACHAEL

You just heard Snapecast episode one, hopefully the first in a series of wonderful Snapecasts to come. We are planning on doing a show about once a month, so this show came out June 1, and the next show should be out around July 1. You can expect to hear a number of the segments we've advertised on the next show, like...

SHANNON

Detention Intervention.

BECCA

Love Potion 9¾.

RACHAEL

Yes, everyone's excited about *that*. And of course we will also air some of the feedback that we've received from you, the listeners. So be sure to come and visit us at Snapecast.com, e-mail feedback at severus@snapecast.com, and also make sure that you subscribe to us via whichever podcatcher you use. And don't forget: July 1st, Snapecast episode two. Tune in or there will be detention for everyone, and fifty points from Gryffindor, whichever's worse. Goodbye!

SHANNON & BECCA

Bye!

Snape Medley – (1:34:01)

Voices: Becca, Chris, Gina, Jon, Laura, Rachael, Rose, Shannon, Suman, Wendy

Music:

John Williams, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: 01-Hedwig's Theme (Lumos!)

Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 02-Frank Dies

Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 18-Voldemort

Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 19-Death of Cedric

ROSE

“Professor Quirrell in his absurd turban was talking to a teacher with greasy black hair, a hooked nose, and sallow skin.”

CHRIS

“Yes, Severus does seem the type, doesn't he? So useful, having him swooping around like an overgrown bat.”

GINA

“Snape prowled through the fumes, making waspish remarks about the Gryffindors' work, while the Slytherins sniggered appreciatively.”

SHANNON

“Deliberately causing mayhem in Snape's Potions class was about as safe as poking a sleeping dragon in the eye.”

WENDY

“It was Snape. He approached Harry at a swift walk, his black robes swishing, then stopped in front of him.”

JON

“Snape's eyes were boring into Harry's. It was exactly like trying to stare down a hippogriff. Harry tried hard not to blink.”

BECCA

“Snape and Karkaroff came around the corner. Snape had his wand out and was blasting rosebushes apart, his expression most ill-natured.”

CHRIS

“At the foot of the stairs was the only person who could make Harry’s situation worse – Snape. He was wearing a long gray nightshirt, and he looked livid.”

GINA

“When he turned back to face the room, Snape had moved into the light and was pointing silently at the chair opposite his desk. Harry sat down, and so did Snape. His cold, black eyes fixed unblinkingly on Harry, dislike etched in every line on his face.”

SHANNON

“Snape-the-teenager had a stringy, pallid look about him, like a plant kept in the dark. His hair was lank and greasy, and was flopping onto the table, his hooked nose barely half an inch from the surface of the parchment as he scribbled.”

LAURA

“A sliver of a man could be seen looking out at them – a man with long black hair parted in curtains around a sallow face and black eyes.”

CHRIS

“Well, I just heard Snape sayin’ Dumbledore took too much fer granted, and maybe he – Snape – didn’t wanna do it anymore.”

ROSE

“The door banged open behind Harry, and he looked up, terrified. Snape had burst into the room, his face livid. Pushing Harry roughly aside, he knelt over Malfoy, drew his wand, and traced it over the deep wounds Harry’s curse had made, muttering an incantation that sounded almost like a song.”

SUMAN

“At that precise moment, the door to the ramparts burst open once more, and there stood Snape, his wand clutched in his hand as his black eyes swept the scene: from Dumbledore slumped against the wall, to the four Death Eaters, including the enraged werewolf and Malfoy.”

BECCA

“Snape raised his wand and pointed it directly at Dumbledore.”

WENDY

“Snape flicked his wand, and the curse was repelled yet again. But Harry was mere feet away now, and he could see Snape’s face clearly at last. He was no longer sneering or jeering; the blazing flames showed a face full of rage.”

RACHAEL

“Harry could not stop himself dwelling upon Dumbledore’s inexcusable trust in Snape. But as Hermione had just inadvertently reminded him, he, Harry, had been taken in just the same. In spite of the increasing nastiness of those scribbled spells, he’d refused to believe ill of the boy who had been so clever, who had helped him so much.”