

## Snapecast Episode 2

### 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]

This is Snapecast, episode two, for July the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Now copy that down or you will be scrubbing out the bedpans in the hospital wing for a week.

### Introduction - (0:59)

Hosts: Rachael, Wendy, Chris

RACHAEL

Hello everyone, and welcome to episode two of Snapecast. I'm Rachael, and with me I have two people that have much prettier voices than I do. Chris—

CHRIS

Hallo. I've got a pretty voice. [laughs]

RACHAEL

—and Wendy—

WENDY

Hallo! I think Rachael has a pretty voice too.

CHRIS

I think so. I think so.

RACHAEL

Well, I wanted to say thank you to everyone out there who listened to episode one. We got a *tremendous* amount of feedback, and we're just really excited to get Snapecast out for everyone to listen to, because most of us are Snape enthusiasts that just can't get enough! [laughs]

CHRIS  
That's it, that's it.

WENDY  
That's it, yeah.

RACHAEL  
So this is just one more, one more way for us to talk about our favorite Potions master.

CHRIS  
Thanks – the MySpace comments have been *great*.

RACHAEL  
Yeah, we have MySpace, LiveJournal, and then Snapecast.com, as far as the three places that you can contact us. So, that's episode one. Episode *two* – what we're looking forward to in this show is: we're going to have an episode of Snarky Chapters in which we will discuss two chapters from *The Chamber of Secrets*; we have an interview with a fanfic author and artist, snapesforte; we have some more Top Ten lists; and...

CHRIS  
Mm-hm.

RACHAEL  
...and our *much*-awaited segment, Love Potion 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>...

CHRIS  
[chuckles evilly]

RACHAEL  
...which I know lots of people have been excited about. We also have a roundtable on Snape and fan fiction.

CHRIS  
Yep.

RACHAEL  
We're gonna be talking about all the different ways that people other than J.K. Rowling write about Snape. And then of course we have our mailbag segment, Owl Post, in which we will reveal the winning name of our owl.

WENDY  
Excellent.

RACHAEL  
And there might—

CHRIS  
Looking forward to it.

RACHAEL  
—there might be some other bits put in there as well. So, as we know, unlike some other Harry Potter podcasts, we don't do a news segment because there isn't really that much news about Snape, but there is a few things I thought we might wanna chat about. And the first one of those is Lumos.

CHRIS  
Ah, yes.

RACHAEL  
Lumos is coming up. By the time this episode will air, July 1, and Lumos is at the end of July, and we are going to have a Snapecast presence at Lumos. I know *I'm* going to Lumos, Racheal; Rose is—

CHRIS  
It sucks, I—

RACHAEL  
—Jo is... [laughs]

CHRIS  
I would be in *America* and I can't go! How *annoying* is that? [laughs] We can just tell them—

RACHAEL  
Why *aren't* you going?

CHRIS  
I can't get a day off.

WENDY  
I'll actually be in America just after it finishes, too, so...

CHRIS  
Oh, typical.

RACHAEL  
Really?

WENDY  
Yes. It's, um... [laughs]

RACHAEL

You couldn'ta just moved the dates over a little bit and come?

WENDY

Yeah, that would've been nice. [laughs]

RACHAEL

Well, there's gonna be a pretty good Snape presence at Lumos, there's gonna be a good *Snapecast* presence there; we're gonna be doing some recordings, we're gonna be covering all of that topics that – all the papers that are presented that relate to Snape, and there's also a group *lumos\_snape* at LiveJournal that is doing a luncheon and some other things. We're gonna be covering *all* of that, talking to *all* of the Snape geeks, finding Snape lookalikes – everything.

WENDY

It sounds like it's gonna be great fun.

CHRIS

Yeah, wish I was there.

WENDY

I'm really jealous, yeah.

RACHAEL

And I'm hoping I can find a hot Snape lookalike to hook up with there.

WENDY

Ooh!

CHRIS

[evil laughter]

RACHAEL

So if there *are* any of them: [rachael@snapecast.com](mailto:rachael@snapecast.com).

[ALL LAUGH]

CHRIS

Six nine nine, six nine.

RACHAEL

No! [laughs] Dirty mind. And then the other thing that happens right after Lumos, of course, is J.K. Rowling coming to the United States for the first time in six years. Is that why you're coming to the U.S., Wendy?

WENDY

[laughs] No, not exactly, no. It *would* be nice to bump into her, though.

CHRIS

That's really exciting; it would be brilliant to see her talk.

RACHAEL

I know, and she's doing it with John Irving and Stephen King, who are just—

WENDY

Wow.

CHRIS

Brilliant, as well.

RACHAEL

—fabulous. We *will* be having a Snapecast presence there as well. Gina, our intrepid interviewer, will be in the audience, and will be – I know she's told me that they have a process for submitting questions, and so she's submitted a whole bunch of questions about Snape. So I kinda wanted to throw out there – do we think J.K. Rowling's actually gonna *answer* any questions about Snape?

WENDY

I don't think she'll answer any of the big questions that we really wanna know the answers to.

CHRIS

No, no. It's getting to be – it's what, she said it'll take her two years to write the book, so another year and we'll have the book, so I really don't think she's gonna touch on much. Although, she might do her famous thing where she'll give us a sort of leading answer or a red herring or a few sort of nodding, knowing glances and things, to questions—

WENDY

Yeah.

CHRIS

—just to drive the fans wild.

RACHAEL

Yeah. Well, if you could hear J.K. Rowling answer any question about Snape, what would it be?

CHRIS

Um... Why did he switch sides?

WENDY

Ohh!

RACHAEL

Okay, that she would actually *answer*.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

We know like – which side, is he good or bad, why did Dumbledore trust him, and I'd have to say mine would be “Why did he make the Unbreakable Vow with Narcissa?”. I think she might answer something along the lines of that.

WENDY

Yeah, that would be a good question, actually.

CHRIS

Yeah, um...

WENDY

I don't know; maybe – I think I'd like to know what kind of child he was, before he went to Hogwarts.

CHRIS

Yeah, I was just thinking...

WENDY

Y'know, was he a normal little boy or—

CHRIS

More about that.

WENDY

—did he torture small animals or...

[ALL CHUCKLE]

RACHAEL

I bet she will answer questions about his past, and maybe about To—like—like she might answer ‘Is Tobias Snape alive?’.

WENDY

Ooh.

CHRIS

Yes, that's true, yeah maybe—maybe she might talk about his family a bit.

WENDY

Yes. That'd be good.

CHRIS

I'd like to know more about his mother.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I think that's an issue though that might be a little more complicated. I don't know if she'll answer as many questions about his mother.

WENDY

Yes.

CHRIS

I got this feeling she might—she might cleverly avoid Snape-related questions, 'cause I think the seventh book is going to be very Snape-related.

WENDY

Yes.

CHRIS

I've got this feeling it's going to be very Snape-orientated.

RACHAEL

Wouldn't it be a drag if it just wasn't? Like he died in the second chapter.

CHRIS

[laughs]

WENDY

Oh no!

CHRIS

We'll never know what the truth is.

RACHAEL

*I know!*

WENDY

That would be awful!

CHRIS

She's at home thinking, "Oh, dear, I've complicated this so much, I'll just—I'll kill him off."

[ALL LAUGH]

WENDY  
We're done with that.

CHRIS  
So much quicker that way.

RACHAEL  
Yeah, and...

CHRIS [AS JKR]  
"And I'll have a cup of tea."

RACHAEL  
And she'd get so much hate mail for the rest of her life.

WENDY  
Oh, yeah. Oh wow.

CHRIS  
[laughs] Oh dear.

RACHAEL  
But that's another one I don't think she'll answer is, well, you know, of course she's not going to answer anything about who will live or die. She might answer something about his Occlumency and Legilimency skills, like how did Snape learn Occlumency?

CHRIS  
Yeah, well yeah, and, you know, do you think maybe he's – we'll get any answer about how he's used that against the Dark Lord, or against Dumbledore possibly? Or do you think that might be a bit too probing?

RACHAEL  
Hmm. I don't know. What do you mean, like, 'how he used it'?

CHRIS  
Well, it's – we know he's ever so good at it, but do you think he's sort of developed his skills from being a Death Eater, and if he *had* switched sides, do you think he sort of tried to develop them so that his – that's the reason he's so good at them, to hide the secrets from either Dumbledore or Voldemort? Or do you think he was good at it before, and if so—

WENDY  
Who taught him? That might be a question. Who taught Snape Occlumency?

RACHAEL  
Yeah.

CHRIS

It could be Dumbledore, couldn't it?

WENDY

That would be your first thought, that Dumbledore taught him.

CHRIS

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Which would be really scary if Snape is lying to Dumbledore about stuff. It's like...I don't know. That would...Almost makes it sound like Snape is more powerful than Dumbledore, in one way. If Snape could teach—er, Dumbledore could teach Snape Occlumency and then Snape could use it against him.

WENDY

Against him, yeah.

CHRIS

That's true. But in some ways it wouldn't surprise me. Dumbledore's been painted as such an omnipotent character, it wouldn't surprise me if it turned out that Snape *was* cleverer than Dumbledore in some ways, or more talented in some ways than Dumbledore.

RACHAEL

Yeah.

CHRIS

It would make Dumbledore more real, I think.

RACHAEL

Do you think she'll answer anything about Snape and Lily?

CHRIS

I don't think so. I think she'll go "Oooh! Who knows?" and smile it away.

RACHAEL

Yeah...Well, we're gonna do a bit of a listener challenge for the next episode. Please send in your questions, your ultimate question that you would like to ask J.K. Rowling about Snape to [severus@snapecast.com](mailto:severus@snapecast.com). So, ultimate thing that you think she *might* answer, not any of these "Is he good, is he bad?", but ultimate question that if you were there in NYC and you got to ask her, what she might answer. And perhaps she *will* answer one of those questions, and maybe, y'know, in August when we do Snapecast, we'll have a whole new perspective. But probably more likely we'll just take whatever little she does say and overanalyze it and blow it out of proportion.

WENDY  
Exactly, exactly yes!

CHRIS  
Or write our own stories around, yes.

RACHAEL  
'Cause – 'cause that's what Harry Potter fans, *especially* Snape fans, do best. So...All right, everyone, I hope you enjoy the show. *Please* keep the feedback coming, we appreciate it a lot, and happy Snaping! Bye!

WENDY  
Bye!

CHRIS  
Bye!

**Snapecast PSA: Useful Safety Tips** - (11:35)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Men Without Hats, "Safety Dance"

ROSE  
It's a dangerous world out there, and we'd like to share some useful safety tips with you.

First, avoid shortcuts through Knockturn Alley. Try to keep your distance from disreputable companions and dangerous authors. Let some responsible person know the whole story about your destination, your estimated time of return, and where the Horcruxes are; perhaps pin a note with that information to their Invisibility Cloak, to remind them. And, finally, protect your wand.

Keeping safety in mind helps avoid needless character death. Stay safe this summer with Snapecast.

**Snarky Chapters** - (12:39)

Panel: Rachael, Wendy, Rose, Shannon

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

[CLIP – *HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN*]

ALAN RICKMAN  
Turn to page 394.

[END CLIP]

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to the segment we here call Snarky Chapters. This is the segment centered around the idea that every book in the *Harry Potter* series has a Snape-dominant chapter. We here at Snapecast will further analyze Snape's character and his role in the books by discussing each Snape-centric chapter one at a time. Last month we focused on *The Sorcerer's Stone*, so this month we're going to go through *Chamber of Secrets*. I'm Rachael – who do we have here with me?

WENDY  
I'm Wendy.

SHANNON  
Shannon.

ROSE  
And Rose.

RACHAEL

Okay, so let's get going with the discussion. Now, *Chamber of Secrets* doesn't mention Snape very often and it is a pretty short book, but there *are* two chapters where the reader discovers a little bit about his character. First, Snape makes a brief appearance in chapter five, which is entitled "The Whomping Willow." Now, I almost decided not to discuss this chapter, but because of the later significance of the Whomping Willow and just how beautifully Snape's character is written, I decided that I would include it. In this chapter, Harry and Ron missed the Hogwarts Express, and they fly Mr. Weasley's car to school. They crash into the Whomping Willow and are caught by Snape, and I'm going to read a little snippet of this chapter, just because it's beautiful snark and great comedically written Snape. Starting on page 77 of the U.S. edition:

"Several seats along, Harry saw Gilderoy Lockhart, dressed in robes of aquamarine. And there at the end was Hagrid, huge and hairy, drinking deeply from his goblet.

'Hang on...' Harry muttered to Ron. 'There's an empty chair at the staff table... Where's Snape?'

Professor Severus Snape was Harry's least favorite teacher. Harry also happened to be Snape's least favorite student. Cruel, sarcastic, and disliked by everybody except the students from his own house (Slytherin), Snape taught Potions.

'Maybe he's ill!' said Ron hopefully.

'Maybe he's left,' said Harry, 'because he missed out on the Defense Against Dark Arts job again!'

'Or he might have been sacked!' said Ron enthusiastically. 'I mean,

everyone hates him—’

‘Or maybe,’ said a very cold voice right behind them, ‘he’s waiting to hear why you two didn’t arrive on the school train.’”

So...[laughs] I just, I love that bit; that’s—

SHANNON  
It’s so good.

RACHAEL  
—that’s one of – it’s just so Snape. So the first thing I’ll throw out I guess with this chapter is, why is Snape looking for Harry? Why does he leave the feast?

WENDY  
I wondered maybe if they – all the teachers had been taking shifts in waiting for Harry and Ron or looking for Harry and Ron. It just seems – it would seem unusual if Snape was the only person concerned that they weren’t there yet.

SHANNON  
Yeah, I think that’s a good point. I was wondering myself why, um...I guess I was just thinking that there must have been a lot of concern from the Weasleys, you can imagine, when they come outside and they find their Anglia missing. And then if they get the *Daily Prophet* by the time they get home and they see that their – y’know, Harry and Ron are – the car has been taken off and then they find out that they haven’t arrived at Hogwarts yet, that they must be frantic. And the teachers also must be quite frantic; you know – with Voldemort back on the loose again, they’ve got to be wondering, “What’s up with Harry and Ron?”. So I can only imagine, like Wendy was saying, people were taking shifts, because it surprised me that it wasn’t McGonagall who found them, since she’s their Head of House.

RACHAEL  
So I’m gonna argue the other way then, and say that it’s just Snape, that his MO is getting Harry in trouble. He’s a little bit obsessed with Harry, whether that be because he doesn’t like Harry very much, or because it’s sort of his job to protect Harry – but I kind of got the impression, especially from the later bit, when McGonagall actually does come in, that it was really – Snape had a special concern for Harry and his whereabouts.

SHANNON  
Do you think it was just Harry, though?

RACHAEL  
Eh, y’know – Ron and Harry go together.

SHANNON

‘Cause he was really nasty to Ron in this chapter; in fact, I think he was much meaner to Ron than he was to Harry.

RACHAEL

That’s a good point, ‘cause he does bring up the thing about his father, where he works, and all of that.

SHANNON

Yeah, this whole “Dear, dear, his own son...” Y’know, that’s like a – a veiled threat, y’know, “Your dad works in Misuse of Muggle Artifacts, and his own son...”

RACHAEL

The other thing I’m wondering, though, is if he’s really mad – the significance that it was the Whomping Willow, and later what we know what happened with that. I know I’ve seen some theories that Snape has a special affinity for the Whomping Willow and is protecting it.

WENDY

I did think that too; I thought that he was more concerned with the damage done to the Whomping Willow than the damage done to Ron and Harry.

RACHAEL

What do you think, Rose?

ROSE

I think he’s just using it as an excuse to yell at them, and anything would have been good for an excuse to yell.

RACHAEL

That’s true. So the other bit that interests me about this chapter is it’s one of the times that arguably J.K. Rowling foreshadows Snape’s Occlumency abilities and this whole – this whole Legilimency/Occlumency subplot that we get in *Order of the Phoenix*. At the top of page 79, it says, “This wasn’t the first time Snape had given Harry the impression of being able to read minds. But a moment later he understood as Snape unrolled today’s issue of the *Evening Prophet*.” So for a minute, Harry thinks, “Oh my God, Snape knew about the car because he can read minds!”, but then it turns out just to be the paper. So what do you guys think – is this foreshadowing Legilimency?

SHANNON

It – it could be. I don’t think he’s actually *using* it here.

RACHAEL

See, I have a kind of special – I really strongly believe that Snape is not very good at Legilimency. I think he’s good at Occlumency, but Legilimency requires a completely different set of skills, and so I think that this is kind of here to say, “Oh, it *looks* like he’s reading minds,” but really it’s just the paper.

SHANNON

It could just be Harry's guilty conscience.

RACHAEL

I dunno, what do you guys think? Do you always assume that because Snape is good at Occlumency, he's also good at Legilimency?

WENDY

No, I don't *assume* that. I think you're right that they are two different things.

RACHAEL

Okay, let's go on to chapter eleven 'cause there's a bit more substance in that one. So chapter eleven is called "The Dueling Club," and it's the next Snape-dominant chapter in *Chamber of Secrets*. In this chapter, Harry causes the distraction in Snape's Potions class in order to get Hermione a chance to be able to steal the ingredients for the Polyjuice Potion. Then Snape helps out old Gilderoy Lockhart in instructing the students in the new Dueling Club, and Harry's ability to speak Parseltongue is revealed. So my first question in this is, when Gilderoy introduces Snape as his dueling partner, he says something like, "Professor Snape knows a teeny-tiny bit about dueling." What do you guys think is Snape's background in dueling?

WENDY

I – to me, the dueling that we see Snape doing in this chapter seems second nature to him; I think he's had quite a bit of background in it. I think he's used it before, I'll put it that way.

SHANNON

Do you think he's used it perhaps during his Death Eater days?

WENDY

Quite possibly, yeah.

RACHAEL

See, I was wondering that, but I picture Death Eaters more like – dueling seems to be a rather respectable form of fighting with magic; there are rules, there are procedures, and I picture Death Eaters just kind of like, mucking about killing people, not really...

SHANNON

But Voldemort – we see this in *Goblet of Fire*, where Voldemort pretty much sets Harry up for the final duel, he thinks he's gonna kill Harry, and that's when they have the, um, the wands merging. And it seems he's really hung up on the ceremony, and I wonder if he didn't instruct Snape or others, just as a way of, like, screwing with them, y'know – "I'm gonna duel with you and do Cruciatius," and he always wins. So I've always wondered if Snape didn't have training at the hands of Voldemort.

RACHAEL

Yeah. And I mean, that's – that's a “teeny tiny bit of experience in dueling,” is you've dueled with the Dark Lord.

ROSE

Somewhere else in the book, they talk about Snape knowing more hexes when he came to Hogwarts than, y'know, most really advanced teenage students. I'm wondering if he had some maybe training or something at home, or chances to learn stuff before he got to Hogwarts, coupled with a real natural ability. If you think about the “Snape's Worst Memory” chapter, he's flipped up and humiliated in front of his classmates, he's got soapsuds coming out of his mouth, and he is still reaching for his wand to fight back. I think he's pretty aggressive in being on the attack when needed.

SHANNON

Yeah, that *is* a good example.

RACHAEL

Although I mean, he wasn't very *successful*, if that were a duel. But again, that was – Snape always, in a way, you could see him being good at dueling because he likes playing by the rules. He's always complaining about how James and Sirius and Peter and Remus, it was always four on one. I can see how dueling would appeal to him.

SHANNON

Yes, and he *is* very much about the rules, that's why he comes down on Harry and Ron at the beginning of this book and repeatedly gets mad at how Harry is allowed to constantly flout the rules. He does seem to be someone who's about guidelines like that.

WENDY

That's true, yes.

RACHAEL

So the other big thing in this chapter is when he *is* dueling, the very first thing Snape does is completely kick Gilderoy Lockhart's ass.

SHANNON

Yeah. [laughs]

RACHAEL

And the spell he uses to do so is *Expelliarmus*. And we all know that later, *Expelliarmus* turns out to be, like, the biggest spell for Harry. He uses it against Voldemort, he uses it in Dumbledore's Army – sometimes I know people even joke like that *Expelliarmus* is the only spell that Harry knows. And isn't it ironic that this spell that's so valuable to him, Snape was the first one to teach it to him.

SHANNON

I was just listening to an audio recording of the fic “Harry Potter and the Psychic Serpant,” in which the author has Snape just boldly taking credit for teaching Harry *Expelliarmus*, as though it was deliberate. I think there’s a conversation between him and Sirius at some point. It’s AU at this point because I think it was written before *The Order of the Phoenix* happened, but that was actually my first time coming across it, that this was *deliberate*, but it is kind of intriguing.

RACHAEL

What do you think, Wendy?

WENDY

I’m just a bit – this *is* the first time that I’ve realized it was Snape that first introduced Harry to *Expelliarmus*, and I’m wondering if maybe he paired him up with Draco so – he knew that Draco would throw something really nasty at Harry and he’d shown Harry *Expelliarmus* beforehand, in the hope that Harry would use it the next time Draco was up against him. Of course, Harry *doesn’t* use it; Draco uses the *Serpensortia* spell against him.

SHANNON

That is such – that is such an interesting point you draw about pairing him up with Draco. This isn’t one of the issues I think we were planning to talk about, but it was interesting to me; I think we have that line right there where Snape says something to Ron and Harry – “Time to split up the dream team,” I think, y’know—and then he pairs Hermione up with Millicent and Ron up with Finch-Fletchley, and then Harry with Malfoy. And I was wondering, “Why did he do that?”, so maybe like what Wendy was saying is he thought for example – y’know, Ron’s wand is broken and they’re friends and they’re not gonna really push each other, but either Draco will, like, *force* Harry to properly practice dueling, or maybe Draco will humiliate Harry because he’s probably knowledgeable about spells that Harry isn’t, and will show him up. Or maybe he just thought that this was a way of, y’know, making sure Harry had someone who was on par with him spell-wise. I was curious about that.

RACHAEL

Although he also – he also knew Draco would play dirty, because both of them were casting spells before – neither of them play by the rules, so it was almost like he was giving him a taste of real life.

WENDY

Yeah, that’s true, yeah...

RACHAEL

And I know, Rose, you had some thoughts about the pairings in this chapter.

ROSE

You mean the, uh, slash content?

RACHAEL

Some of the – some of the connotations.

SHANNON

Subtext! Subtext!

ROSE

Yeah, this chapter has a whole lot of subtext, doesn't it? I'm surprised that J.K. Rowling doesn't hire a beta reader to root all of this out. I can't see...

RACHAEL

She wants it in.

ROSE

She does! I can't see a parent reading this chapter with a straight face to a child.  
"Straight" face, hahaha.

RACHAEL

Okay, but what, what were some of the bits we were – you were referring to?

ROSE

Let's see, page...193 of the American edition: "Snape smirked as Lockhart quickly picked it up, saying, 'Whoops! My wand is a little overexcited.'"

SHANNON

I love that line.

ROSE

Right. And the wand's making a sort of "wiggling action," hm.

RACHAEL

[laughs] Yeah, and the whole "snake" as well...

ROSE

"Snape then moved closer to Malfoy, bent down, and whispered something in his ear.  
Malfoy smirked too."

SHANNON

Oh, yeah.

RACHAEL

So what do we think about that? Does – what did he whisper? Did he tell Malfoy the spell that he should do?

SHANNON

I'm not sure.

WENDY

When I read it, that's what I thought it was. I thought it was Snape telling Draco what spell he wanted him to use.

RACHAEL

So maybe he knew Harry could speak Parseltongue and he *wanted* it revealed?

SHANNON

Yeah, I was wondering about that, if he wanted to see *if* Harry was a Parselmouth? And then I wasn't sure, though – I mean, like, from Harry's point of view I would assume that Snape is trying to help Draco cheat, but I was wondering if Snape was telling him "Don't start too soon," or something like that, or if he was actually telling him to go ahead and taunt Harry, or provoke him.

RACHAEL

And what do you think Snape is thinking when he sees that Harry can speak Parseltongue? I know that – well, certainly in Spinner's End in *Half-Blood Prince*, Snape talks about this idea that at one point, he was under the suspicion that Harry might be the next Dark Lord, and that he has some of Voldemort's powers. So, if you're an Evil!Snape person, Snape obviously at this point may still be entertaining that idea.

WENDY

Or he realizes that Harry – there's a bit more to Harry than what Snape has been giving him credit for.

SHANNON

I have to say that after reading *Half-Blood Prince*, and coming back to this particular chapter in light of the Spinner's End chapter of *Half-Blood Prince*, I can see how this can be kinda suspicious, particularly how the chapter ends where Snape is looking at Harry with an unexpected look on his face, and it's kind of shrewdly calculating. And y'know, there's subtext there, so you wonder if maybe Snape's a little turned on by Harry's display of magic, or if he really is regarding him as, y'know, "A-ha! Does he have the makings of a Dark wizard?" Or maybe he's just impressed by someone who speaks Parseltongue. I can't make it out, but I could see how there's a lot of room for interpretation there.

RACHAEL

Or he could also – the people that kind of – I tend to view Snape as 'he's not afraid of Voldemort,' that Snape is even a little bit more cunning and calculating than Voldemort, but a lot of people really read this fear of Voldemort into Snape, and maybe when he hears Harry speak Parseltongue he's almost a little bit afraid.

SHANNON

Interesting.

RACHAEL

And I've always wondered myself if Snape can maybe speak Parseltongue, I don't know why.

ROSE

It could be that he's thinking, "Oh, a Slytherin! – like, why isn't this boy in *my* House?"

RACHAEL

That's a good point.

SHANNON

Yeah. Do you think that Snape – this is kind of going back to the question you had before – that Snape heard Voldemort using Parseltongue a lot? I mean, how many people – I guess everyone *knew* Voldemort was a Parselmouth, but how many people actually heard him doing it? Did he always have snakes around? And I'm wondering if that was part of his reaction because the only *other* person he'd heard talking to a snake was the Dark Lord, and then all of a sudden here's Harry doing it, and that's kind of interesting.

RACHAEL

Yeah! In fact, he might have been the only person in the room at that moment who had actually heard it. It's funny 'cause everyone knows what it is – they say, "Oh yeah, you're a Parselmouth!", but Snape might have been the only one that had actually heard it before.

WENDY

Also too, this book is about the Chamber of Secrets, and it's supposedly the heir of Slytherin that's opening the Chamber, and maybe Snape thinks that perhaps Harry could be the Heir of Slytherin.

SHANNON

That's a really interesting idea.

RACHAEL

So, um, kinda – one final thought I wanted to share about this book in general – one thing that I've read is that J.K. Rowling entertained the idea of calling the second book *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and that she was going to reveal this whole plot about the Potions book and the Half-Blood Prince in book two. And this might be just a rumor, but I still thought it was interesting to talk about how this would change the story if she revealed that Snape was the Half-Blood Prince in book two of the series.

ROSE

I'd heard that as well.

SHANNON

This is new to me.

WENDY

Yeah, I hadn't heard that before.

RACHAEL

Well, I can see how it fits, because you're looking at Tom Riddle's old school things. This is the first time we kinda think about Hogwarts in a time outside of Harry's era, so we find Tom's old diary, we find Snape's old Potions book, so I can see how it fits.

SHANNON

I just wonder if – okay, with the Potions book, would he have found a second-year or a sixth-year Potions book? And if he had found a sixth-year Potions book, it seems like – when Harry's in the sixth year taking Potions, he's able to appreciate, he has some sort of sympathy or appreciation for the intelligence or the wit of this Half-Blood Prince character, until he finds out who it is. But if he were in the second year, he wouldn't be ready to use these spells or recipes, so he wouldn't – I mean would he even *read* the book? I can't imagine how Rowling could have woven that in with the current story.

RACHAEL

And I agree, and it's also – I mean, it might have been a completely different subtext, though – 'cause my belief as to why they revealed that his nickname is the Half-Blood Prince is because Eileen Prince has something to do with the story, whether it be this idea of what Harry's mother did for him versus what Voldemort's mother did for him, versus what Snape's mother did for him, that's why we know his nickname. So I could see why J.K. Rowling would possibly include that element in this book solely to reveal that his nickname was the Half-Blood Prince, but without Harry developing this affinity for the character.

SHANNON

Interesting.

RACHAEL

And then it would be a completely different role for the book, but it coulda been just one of the many different directions the story was going to take.

SHANNON

I think the affinity is important, though, at least it's important for my theory of Snape's role in the whole thing. That's why I have a hard time figuring out how that could've been worked in.

RACHAEL

I guess I mean I like it better the way it actually worked out. [laughs] It works.

SHANNON

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Perhaps it wouldn't have been as good of a series if it had gone as planned, if that rumor is even true.

WENDY

Yeah, it seems to me like it might've been too much revealed about Snape too soon.

ROSE

Exactly.

RACHAEL

But it is funny to think that she would think that because Snape is mentioned hardly at all in this book, so it would be almost completely the opposite of what it is now.

SHANNON

This is true. He seems to – his role in this book seems to be very background, y'know, like he's got a little bit of – he gets some snarky barbs in and he's insulting everybody like usual, so I guess we get to see more of his nastiness, but he doesn't...He's very peripheral. I mean *Lockhart* has a bigger role here. Snape isn't even involved in the whole Chamber of Secrets thing.

RACHAEL

I know. It always struck me as funny that Harry never suspected that Snape was Slytherin's heir because he always suspects – it's like okay, he lays off of him for one book. [laughs] He suspects him during the whole time for *Sorcerer's Stone*, that it's *him* trying to steal it, and then he realizes, "Oh yeah, oh yeah, I was wrong, Snape really wasn't trying to kill me." So he just goes to Malfoy instead for this one. So any other thoughts about this book?

SHANNON

My final thought is that, upon reading the few interactions we have between Snape and Harry in this book, that, y'know, it looks like Snape is a lot meaner to Ron and Neville than he actually is to Harry in this book, and that is a bit puzzling. That's my final thought.

ROSE

It was hard for me on rereading this to keep in mind my Snape-is-good theory or approach to things. Snape is so petty and vindictive in this book. It's easy to think of him as being evil in a mundane and banal way. In the office where he and McGonagall and Dumbledore are kinda discussing things, Snape is taking the role of the "bad cop," and... y'know, bad cop/good cop, and he's enjoying that bad cop role a little too much. I dunno; it kind of makes him look like Evil!Snape.

RACHAEL

And Wendy? You have a final thought?

WENDY

I am agreeing with Rose somewhat in this for this book, because it definitely does seem to me, especially in the Whomping Willow chapter, that Snape is upset that McGonagall *doesn't* expel Harry and Ron. And so that's kind of leading more towards that Snape really really does not like Harry and doesn't want him around.

RACHAEL

And my basic thought about this is, y'know, it's not a Snape-heavy book, but the bits where Snape really *is* in here are just – they're classic Snape and you need 'em. I think sometimes it's funny to see Snape just appearing out of nowhere and tormenting Harry and Ron, it's hysterical to think about him kicking Gilderoy's ass in dueling. I think it adds an important bit to Snape's character that isn't so serious, but is part of the reason that we all love him so much. So I guess this concludes our second segment of the Snarky Chapters episode. Thanks to everyone for joining and everyone for listening. Next month, we're going to move on forward to the third book of the series and talk about Snape's role in *Prisoner of Azkaban*. So thanks, everyone, and goodbye!

SHANNON  
Goodnight!

ROSE  
Goodbye!

WENDY  
Bye!

### **Snape's Favorite Chat-Up Lines** - (37:30)

Voice: Chris

Music: Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 07 - Rita Skeeter

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

It has come to my attention that a great many of you are in need of remedial work in developing relationships with others. I wanted to share with you some chat-up lines which I have found to work successfully at many social occasions. So, if you're wanting to seduce that person that's ripe for the plucking, copy and practice the following:

1. I have a potion back at my lab that I'd like to show you.
2. You're so sweet, you're going to put Honeydukes out of business.
3. If being beautiful was an Unforgivable, you'd be serving a life sentence in Azkaban.
4. Hello. Are you here to meet a nice wizard – or will I do?
5. My hands are full; will you hold my wand for me?
6. Is that a house-elf in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?
7. Is that Aragog between your legs? Let me shoot him with my wand.
8. Head Girl? Indeed. Head Boy? *Indeed.*
9. I demand that you remove that *Engorgio* spell that you've cast on my penis.
10. May I “Slytherin”?

**Fan Interview** - (39:09)

Interviewer: Gina

Guest: snapesforte

- Fic: [Soul Play](#)

- Art: [snapesforte on deviantart](#)

- Website: [The Half-Blood Prince](#)

Music: Janine Johnson, Chopin Recital: 12-Valse Brilliante Op.18 in Eb major

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners. This is Gina R. Snape, here with a special interview with fanfic author, artist, and webmaster, snapesforte. Say hello!

SNAPESFORTE

Hello. [laughs]

GINA

Today we're gonna be discussing, among other things, snapesforte's fan fiction called "Soul Play," her most recent story; a little bit about her website, Half-BloodPrince.org; and a little bit about her artwork, which is available on deviantART; and also some theories. So I guess to start: I'm very intrigued with your analysis of Spinner's End as a reflection of Snape as a spider, and your belief that Snape is in fact a spider as an Animagus form. Can you talk a little bit about that?

SNAPESFORTE

There've been plenty of signs throughout the books and lots of reference to spiders in general, but in *Half-Blood Prince* that's where it all sort of really came together. And it had a lot to do with Snape obviously first through Spinner's End, and that being a spider reference. Also, it references the cotton mill or the war mill; I'm not sure, but I think it's probably a cotton mill where that old mill chimney is. But it just all sort of came together with Snape and in Spinner's End. And then I looked back at all of the books, at *Order of the Phoenix*, especially *Order of the Phoenix* and *Chamber of Secrets*, which is where you also have some spider references in regard to Snape. There's a scene in *Chamber of Secrets* where they meet that big – ah, what's his – acromantula? Is that how it's pronounced? – and I *cannot* remember his name—

GINA

I think so, yeah.

SNAPESFORTE

—is it—

GINA

Aragog?

SNAPESFORTE

Aragog or something like that, yeah. And he talks about how “their kind” like “quiet, dark places,” and that really reminded me of the way Snape had sort of decorated his Defense Against the Dark Arts classroom in *Half-Blood Prince*. It also reminded me a little bit of Spinner’s End, because that was pretty dark and dim, as well.

GINA

Oh, yeah. And of course the dungeons...

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, well, he’s practically spent his whole life in the dungeons, so... But there’s also a few sort of subtle references, like in *Order of the Phoenix* when he grabs Harry and it’s described as a “pincer-like” grip, and spiders have pincers, *et cetera et cetera*.

GINA

Mm-hmm.

SNAPESFORTE

So just little things like that.

GINA

Yeah, that’s a really – that’s a really interesting observation. And you also said something about how people have to approach Spinner’s End, as being like a web.

SNAPESFORTE

I think it is. I think it’s a – it’s designed that way, by him, and I think it probably is his childhood home, but he’s designed it to be a sort of web where the chimney might be the center of the web, or it’s sort of a signpost leading to him. And I thought it was interesting how Narcissa Apparated there sort of towards sunset, and you could see the shadow of the mill coming down the street or down Spinner’s End, so it’s sort of like an arrow pointing to him – sort of like a secret way of getting there. And I just think that the way all the streets look pretty much the same, which is normal for an industrial zone or a mill town, and all the streets and houses look the same, and it’s *extremely* Muggle, so I think that wizards would probably have problems navigating through an area like that without a bit of help, or without some—

GINA

So he could easily catch them in his web if they’re trying to infiltrate.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, he’s probably got heaps of traps set up – Secrecy Sensors and what have you.  
[laughs]

GINA

[laughs] No doubt. We know he puts wards on his door, right?

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. And then there's also some things I realized as I was researching for "Soul Play," because there are a few scenes in "Soul Play" where he actually transforms into a spider Animagus, and I was doing some spider research about different spiders, *et cetera*. And they all have an oily or greasy coating on their bodies which prevents them from sticking to their own webs.

GINA  
Oooh!

SNAPESFORTE

And I thought that was really interesting because Snape's always got – er, Harry always thinks that Snape has greasy black hair. I'll say "Harry thinks" because the scene in Spinner's End, that whole chapter didn't describe him as having greasy hair at all, just sort of long black hair, so...

GINA  
Yes, yes.

SNAPESFORTE

Might just be either when he's at Hogwarts, something to do with dungeons or brewing potions, or it might have something to do with Harry's observations, but I did notice that difference in chapter two of *Half-Blood Prince* as well. He was described in a slightly more appealing light. [laughs]

GINA  
I absolutely agree with you; I noticed that right away, and I really think it is good evidence for the Harry filter, as we call it. Yeah, so...

SNAPESFORTE

And there's also his "glittering black eyes," and spiders have glittering black eyes, so there're a lot of references.

GINA  
It's definitely one of the more interesting ideas regarding his Animagus form that I've heard that're out there, I think. I'm very intrigued.

SNAPESFORTE

And then also it's 'cause – he's spinning a web, he's sort of spinning a yarn, spinning tales, spinning a web, and that's – that also has to do with spider references. So there's a lot of – a *lot* of spider theory that you can build up about Snape, from his appearance to the way he grabs people, to his language and all the lies that he tells, where he lives...

GINA  
Yeah, people – people are constantly arguing "Which side is he on?" and "What story is he telling to whom?" and so yeah, there's a lot of spinning going on there. And he also

has his own “spin” in the political sense, you know – like the image that he wants to create for himself.

SNAPESFORTE

I agree.

GINA

Yeah. Cool. Well, so speaking of “Soul Play,” which is your story up currently, maybe we should talk about that a little bit. Why don’t you tell people a little bit about what it’s about, and what gave you the idea for it?

SNAPESFORTE

Hah. I have to be careful with that so that I don’t spoil anything unintentionally. What gave me the idea? I can’t tell you what gave me the idea because that would be telling you the end. [laughs]

GINA

Ohh!

SNAPESFORTE

Whenever I start a story, I always have the last scene in mind, and then I write towards that scene to get to that – to get to that end.

GINA

Uh-huh.

SNAPESFORTE

So I can’t tell you the end, so uh...

GINA

Okay, well maybe I can catch you off-line.

SNAPESFORTE

[laughs] But I really just wanted to pick up where *Half-Blood Prince* left off, because we all know how long it takes J.K. Rowling to write the next book, and I just felt like having Snape around while I wait for that. And what better way to do it than my way, instead of having to read some dodgy twelve-year-old author writing about some sort of sappy Hufflepuff!Snape? Which is unfortunately what most of them are like.

GINA

[laughs] Yeah. In fact we just did – we just did our discussion on Snape in fanfic, and I just pleaded with authors to try and stay as true to canon as possible. It’s very hard, sometimes, to find a good fic where Snape seems like he would be in canon, y’know, not spewing “I love yous” every day.

SNAPESFORTE

It's also difficult because so many people have their own view of Snape, and some people – which I just *can't* get my head around, it boggles the mind – some people actually *see* him as a sort of lovey-dovey, sappy, doormat character.

GINA  
Right.

SNAPESFORTE

You can argue with them forever, but they just don't see the real Snape; they've probably got some kind of weird rose-colored glasses on.

GINA

Ooh, yeah, maybe. Maybe they've been drinking some Amortentia. But why don't you tell the readers about how *you* see Snape? And also I think it's interesting because your story really takes off more from the Death Eaters' point of view. Maybe you can talk about that a little.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, that's because I prefer Slytherins; I don't like Gryffindors. [laughs] And I like to write from a Slytherin perspective, and also I like to create art for Slytherins. So that's why it's all from a Death Eater point of view. You can see where they're coming from. If you look at – if you look at the history that J.K. Rowling has mentioned in the books, where they had problems with Muggles before and they weren't allowed to carry wands, and they were being burnt at the stake, even though it didn't *hurt* them – I imagine it probably would have if they didn't have a wand, but even if it didn't hurt them, you still see that there's a violent history there. And the way I see it, I think that purebloods have a right to dislike Muggles so much, if you take that history into account. And they sort of have a right to be a bit concerned because it can sort of revert back to that, if they're not careful.

GINA

So it's like they're protecting their own.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, I like to look at things from their perspective, just to see through their eyes, the way that they view their own world, as opposed to – as opposed to say through Harry's eyes, or Dumbledore's, because they're sort of more aligned with Muggles, but I prefer to see it, if you like, from a "purer" perspective, just purely from a wizards' point of view.

GINA

Sure. Before *Half-Blood Prince* came out, did you think Snape was a pureblood, or—

SNAPESFORTE

I did, yeah, I really thought that he was because he's so into purebloods, really, into that ideology, Slytherin, and contact with Lucius Malfoy, friends with Draco or favors Draco. So yeah, I did. But there was a part of *Chamber of Secrets* that I read, and I noticed that

he made a comment about being able to fit Neville Longbottom into a matchstick – sorry, into a matchbox—

GINA  
Into a matchbox, yeah.

SNAPESFORTE  
Yeah. I remember writing a comment about that on LJ and asking whether or not people thought it was just a Flint or whether or not it was a hint to say that Snape was a half-blood, but everyone thought it was just a Flint. So...

GINA  
There were a couple of people who picked up on that as a possible hint for him being something else. You're definitely not alone.

SNAPESFORTE  
Yes, it's surprising – it's surprising when you see these tiny little details, how much she actually thinks in advance about everything while she's writing.

GINA  
Absolutely.

SNAPESFORTE  
Scrupulous amount of attention to detail.

GINA  
Yes, and that's part of what makes it interesting. I think part of what makes Snape interesting is that there's nothing obvious about him. Everything has to be read between the lines with him.

SNAPESFORTE  
Yeah. It's nice to try and sort of unravel the riddle.

GINA  
Yeah. So the biggest riddle of course now is people are wondering, which side is he on, y'know? Now, I noticed on your website, *Half-BloodPrince.org*, that you really feel that he's basically out for himself – that everything is about staying out of Azkaban and, like Phineas Nigellus said, Slytherins will take care of themselves, first and foremost.

SNAPESFORTE  
Yes, I felt that way about Snape even prior to *Half-Blood Prince* coming out, because I see him sort of as a pure representation of what Slytherin House is supposed to be about. He seems to be – well, Draco, Draco is as well, but Snape seems to be the only *real* representation of Slytherin. You've got Crabbe and Goyle, who are just idiots; I don't see the cunning or the ambition.

GINA

No, I don't really understand why they're Slytherins, just like I don't understand why Wormtail is a Gryffindor, but anyway...

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, exactly. So there must be someone who embodies all those qualities, and who better than the Head of House?

GINA

Yeah, absolutely. It's nothing to do necessarily with bloodline, but with his sense of being out for himself and having a great deal of ambition.

SNAPESFORTE

Which was obvious by how he sort of lost the plot of it in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, when he lost the Order of Merlin. Just a *slight* overreaction...

GINA

[laughs] None too happy about that. Oh, well. Maybe he'll get one posthumously. You think he'll survive?

SNAPESFORTE

I *hope* he does. I don't think that he will, though. [laughs] Probably never get over that. I'll be ninety and I'll have a cane and I'll still be moping about over that.

GINA

There'll be a great online mourning, everyone coming together if he doesn't make it.

SNAPESFORTE

Or we could just kidnap J.K. Rowling and make her keep him alive. Of course that was a joke for anyone listening who doesn't have a sense of humor.

GINA

[laugh] We can just write her and plead her to write the Snape Chronicles. Or if she could rewrite the series from Snape's point of view, my life would be complete.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. I like what she wrote on that Black Family Tree that turned up in all those newspapers: *There are many stories hidden between the lines.*

GINA

Oh yes.

SNAPESFORTE

I thought that was fantastic, and it definitely applies to Snape and his family.

GINA

Yeah.

SNAPESFORTE

For instance, why on Earth did Eileen Prince marry a Muggle? Curious minds want to know.

GINA

Yeah – why did she marry a Muggle, and how was Snape raised? And how did he know so many Dark Arts before he made it to Hogwarts?

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, there's so many, *so* many fascinating questions where Snape is concerned. And I've got a feeling we aren't actually going to know everything that we want to know by the end of the series.

GINA

No, I think we're gonna know what Rowling thinks we *need* to know, which is very different.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. So hopefully she'll write that encyclopedia she's mentioned a couple of times.

GINA

Maybe. Keep our fingers crossed. [laughs] So let's get back to some of your thoughts on – well, let's talk about your story a little bit. So, it takes place right after *Half-Blood Prince*, and he takes Draco and goes back to Spinner's End.

SNAPESFORTE

Under the Dark Lord's orders, yeah.

GINA

Under the Dark Lord's orders. Do you think that that is something that might really happen, or do you think Snape and the Malfoys will have a different relationship?

SNAPESFORTE

Oh, there are so many things that might – I think it's a possibility that they will go back to Spinner's End because I do see it as being sort of a secret location that isn't really easy to reach; as we mentioned before, it's sort of a web or a labyrinth, and I don't think that many people have the privilege of knowing where Snape lives. As to their relationship – I'm not sure, it all depends on how J.K. Rowling decides to portray Draco's character advancement, because characters have to change throughout a story, and he went through a big change at the end of *Half-Blood Prince*. So he might have regrets and he might still be angry at Snape, or he might actually see that Snape was trying to help him all along and sort of develop a friendship there with him in regard to that. I'm not sure.

GINA

And one of the great debates is whether Draco is going to survive, because he didn't ultimately fulfil his obligation to the Dark Lord.

SNAPESFORTE

That's right, yeah, and that's another point – the Dark Lord could be really angry at Draco *and* at Snape now for interfering. But I personally don't think that he is because I think that Snape knew all about the plan when Bellatrix and Narcissa arrived at Spinner's End; I don't think that he would have played along, pretending that he did know to find out, because the Dark Lord would have found out and then he would have much bigger problems to deal with. So I think he already did know. I don't think he's that stupid to get himself into a potentially dangerous situation like that, or painful situation.

GINA

I tend to agree. When you reread Spinner's End, it's almost like he's coaxing Narcissa into doing, y'know, this Vow, this Unbreakable Vow, as a way of gaining trust. So I think that he has a plan, really, when they get there.

SNAPESFORTE

I think he has a few plans under his sleeve.

GINA

Oh yeah. How is it being in the fandom as somebody who's not "Oh, he's Dumbledore's man through and through"? There's a lot of cheerleaders for Snape in that camp. Your voice is *very* distinct, so maybe you could talk about that a little.

SNAPESFORTE

Oh. I've noticed on LJ that there's a sort of talk of "big-name fans," or sort of highly popular writers in the fandom. And they all seem to be people who are more aligned with Dumbledore and with the sort of Gryffindor aspect of the books.

GINA

Uh-huh.

SNAPESFORTE

And it's *very* difficult to get along with these people, because they're so narrow-minded.  
[laughs]

GINA

It's hard to have like a civil debate.

SNAPESFORTE

It really is. If you don't agree with their beliefs, they'll just basically try and shut you off from the fandom as a whole. But you just sort of have to stick with it. You can't just say, "Oh, I'll just pretend I like Dumbledore now so I can have *Harry Potter* friends on the Internet."

GINA

[laughs] Let's switch gears just a little bit and talk about your artwork, because in addition to your theories and your website and your fic, you also have a background in art, and do a lot of drawing.

SNAPESFORTE

I used to do a lot more, but yeah, I still do.

GINA

[laughs] So what kinds of things are you inspired to draw, like what makes you think, "Oh, I'd like to capture this image," and how do you actually – like what mediums do you use and stuff?

SNAPESFORTE

I'm really drawn to dark subjects, and I like complicated characters and complicated situations. I also like drawing at first glance things that may seem really sort of banal or ordinary, but just under the surface there are hidden things boiling that make the picture more interesting. But I'm really drawn to the darker side of all things, and that's what I like to represent in my art and in my writing, which is probably another reason why I really like Slytherin and Death Eaters.

GINA

Sure.

SNAPESFORTE

And as to mediums...

GINA

Do you draw on the computer or do you use charcoal or...

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, pretty much a Wacom graphics tablet and Adobe Photoshop. Sometimes I use Painter, sometimes... what else do I use? Ah... can't remember what it's called now... OpenCanvas, that's the one. Very rarely, though; mainly Photoshop.

GINA

Wow. Because your stuff doesn't look like it's all computer-generated to me. It uses a lot of shading and depth.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, I study digital painting, so it's a little bit easier for me to make it look more... painterly, I suppose.

GINA

Right. Wow, that's interesting. See, I learned something new.

SNAPESFORTE

But I have done acrylic painting and oil painting in the past; it just isn't really what I'm interested in. It's quite messy, and I'm – patience isn't one of my, sort of, greater traits.

GINA

[laughs] And you're also a very *clean* person, as I know.

SNAPESFORTE

Yes! [laughs] So, so working this way is a lot better for me.

GINA

I noticed that a lot of your drawings are like capturing particular views or moments in time – Snape experiencing some sort of turmoil, or – a lot of emotion gets expressed.

Like you have one drawing of him drunk on the floor, obviously trying to block out whatever is going on inside him emotionally; another drawing of Spinner's End, and you can feel how oppressive the environment is.

SNAPESFORTE

The one of Snape on the floor, that's titled "Elf-Made Wine." I think it was really just that I couldn't stop thinking about this elf-made wine after reading Spinner's End.

GINA

[laughs] No – wasn't it exciting to see him out of Hogwarts, in his own domain?

SNAPESFORTE

It was *fantastic*. It was definitely something that I wanted to happen, and I hoped that we'd get to see him out of the Hogwarts environment and away from the children in *Order of the Phoenix*. And then Grimmauld Place turned out to be the Black house and I thought, "Oh, I really hope that we get to see Snape's house," so at least that's one positive thing that J.K. Rowling has given all the Snape fans.

GINA

Yes, definitely. Well, in *Order of the Phoenix* we got to see the Order members crowding around him, eagerly listening to his report. And so we see a different kind of interaction, even if it's very briefly.

SNAPESFORTE

I'm sure he loved that.

GINA

Oh yeah. And of course the conflict with Sirius Black.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, very well done.

GINA

Always fun. But in Spinner's End, y'know, we get to see his tatty furniture and all the books lining the shelves and – it almost *read* like a piece of fan fiction.

SNAPESFORTE

It *did*, and especially when Bellatrix called Narcissa “Cissy” – I had to stop reading and have a bit of a chuckle because that really reminded me of fan fiction. And even not very *good* fan fiction because you have those fanfics where they call Severus “Sev” and Hermione “Hermy” or something like that. And that really reminded me of that sort of –  
crapfic.

GINA

Oh yeah. [laughs] Let's give everyone little nicknames.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. So I've got a feeling that J.K. Rowling's been reading some bad fan fiction.

GINA

Oh, I definitely think she's been reading fan fiction. And I felt like that whole chapter was a nod to the Snape fans, because she could've left out certain details that really rounded out the picture, y'know. You think he has a house-elf? He has elf-made wine.

SNAPESFORTE

It just doesn't look like the sort of environment that would sort of foster a house-elf.

GINA

Yeah.

SNAPESFORTE

Because – who was it? – Ronald Weasley said that only the rich families can afford house-elves? But he *did* have his own house-elf; I mean, what else was Wormtail doing there, apart from cleaning and being kicked around by Snape?

GINA

Yeah, well there's a lot of theories about why Wormtail is there.

SNAPESFORTE

I'm pretty sure he was spying on him.

GINA

I think they were spying on each other.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. Because they're sort of – if you look at it, they're sort of opposite sides of the same coin. Wormtail is also sort of a betrayer or a traitor, and Snape is seen that way, even though *I* don't really see him that way. And I do go out of my way to sort of mention that in “Soul Play.” If he's out for himself, then he can't be a traitor because he's been true to

himself all along, doing what's best for him. And if he's really a Death Eater, well then he was never a traitor to begin with because he never left the Dark Lord's side.

GINA

Right. And if he's Dumbledore's man, then he very well could have been following orders.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, exactly. So he's not a traitor.

GINA

Loyal to the very end. And it's fun to keep trying to guess, because we won't know until the end, no matter how much we think we know.

SNAPESFORTE

That's right. And I'm sure there'll be some sort of brilliant twist like there is always—

GINA

Oh yeah.

SNAPESFORTE

—and I'm really looking forward to it.

GINA

I think we all are.

SNAPESFORTE

I like being surprised at Snape.

GINA

I wonder if Rowling will reveal anything when she comes and speaks in New York in August.

SNAPESFORTE

She seems to be really tight-lipped about Severus, as does Alan Rickman, when he said “I don't speak about Severus.”

GINA

[laughs] Yeah. Wonder what that's about.

SNAPESFORTE

So I don't think she will.

GINA

Well, she might reveal certain things. We'll see.

SNAPESFORTE

But I think there's definitely something – or there *was* something between Snape and Lily.

GINA

Mm-hmm.

SNAPESFORTE

In the last interview that she gave for MuggleNet and the Leaky Cauldron joint interview, someone asked whether or not Severus or Remus Lupin were in love with Lily, and J.K.

Rowling only answered half the question – she answered about Remus Lupin, but she totally dodged the Snape part, which she *always* does.

GINA

Yeah, she did. So what do you think – you think that Snape had a thing for Lily?

SNAPESFORTE

I think it's quite possible that he did, considering that pretty much everyone in the school did, if you listen to what J.K. Rowling says in her interviews. And she compares Lily to Ginny, and Ginny really gets around. So I...

GINA

Right. And even – even the guys in Slytherin who are like, “Oh, I wouldn't, y'know, deal with a blood traitor like that...”

SNAPESFORTE

Filthy blood traitor, yeah.

GINA

But you can tell that they probably would, y'know, go for it.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah. So it's quite possible that he did. And if you look at the hints, I really think that he was a member of the Slug Club, the way Slughorn mentions him, and he mentions Lily in that same way as well – pretty much in the same sentence, actually. And then he's cut off.

And whenever J.K. Rowling cuts off some sort of bit of dialogue, you know that she's hiding some sort of clue there.

GINA

Sure. Yeah, so...I have my theories, this is not the place for them, but I definitely have my theories, and I think that Snape's relationship with Lily has some significance, as well as the life-debt that he owes to James. Do you think that Snape knows about Wormtail's life-debt to Harry?

SNAPESFORTE

I haven't really considered that yet... You mean what happened at the end of *Prisoner of Azkaban*?

GINA

Yes. 'Cause I think that's one reason why he's holding onto him.

SNAPESFORTE

Probably not, because he was knocked out, and I doubt that Dumbledore would tell Snape anything that he doesn't need to know. It sort of seems to me that what Snape knew or what Dumbledore let Snape know was strictly on a need-to-know basis.

GINA

Sure.

SNAPESFORTE

Which is normal, considering that he was a spy. You wouldn't want your spy knowing more than he needs to know; it could get *him* in trouble and it could also get *you* in trouble.

GINA

That's a very good point. Well, I would like to know if there's anything else that you would like people to know about your stories, or about your website. Why don't you tell people a little bit about what they can find on your website?

SNAPESFORTE

They can find complete Snape quotes from all the books – some of them are in a couple of different languages. I also have a few that are Gaelic and ancient Greek, but I haven't actually put them up ever since the old site was taken offline, unfortunately. There's also some theories and a lot of facts from the books; there's a timeline, there's a compilation of Snape's clothes, there's information about Snape's birthday – there's just a whole bunch of facts that are collected together under the appropriate headings, I suppose.

GINA

Yeah, it's a really very comprehensive site devoted to Snape, all things Snape.

SNAPESFORTE

*Canon* Snape.

GINA

Yeah, canon Snape, yes.

SNAPESFORTE

There's nothing about Alan Rickman. There's actually – there's one section about anything Alan Rickman has said in regard to Severus in his interviews.

GINA

[laughs] Well, that's appropriate. And "Soul Play" can be found at TheArchive.net, right?

SNAPESFORTE

The archive at FanFiction.Net; I'm not sure for how long, because it's getting quite explicit now that we've moved into a certain stage, so it might get chucked off there soon, I'm not sure.

GINA

For those people who don't know, there is a Snape and Narcissa relationship explored in the story.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, which is getting quite explicit. [laugh]

GINA

Whoo-hoo! I can't wait.

SNAPESFORTE

And I've also managed to bring my archive, my fan fiction archive, Spiky Black Script, back online.

GINA

Oh, cool.

SNAPESFORTE

Which took me long enough. And so it's archived there now at the moment as well. And I'll be looking for – I'll be looking mainly for het Snape writers, and also mainly writers who prefer darkfic, or at least darker aspects of *Harry Potter*, to archive their work there.

GINA

So that's kind of a missing niche in the archive.

SNAPESFORTE

Yeah, so far it's just me, myself, and I.

GINA

[laughs] Ah well.

SNAPESFORTE

But no rush.

GINA

If people wanna reach you, how can they reach you?

SNAPESFORTE

Um – i\_snuffed\_snuffles@hotmail.com, that's pretty much the best way.

GINA

Okay, great. I'm assuming there's a link on your website, Half-BloodPrince.org.

SNAPESFORTE

There is, there's a link – well, the e-mail address is there on the main page at the bottom, in the right-hand corner, I believe.

GINA

Great. All right, so – thank you very much for coming online with me today to interview and talk about your work. And, um...

SNAPESFORTE

Not at all.

GINA

And it's been a pleasure. So anything, any last words for people out there?

SNAPESFORTE

Uh...Long live Severus! [laughs]

GINA

Long live Severus. [laughs] Okay!

**Ad – The Voice of Reason** - (1:08:22)

Intro: Rachael, Becca

Announcer: Jon

Music: Mission Impossible theme, Music composed by Lalo Schifrin

RACHAEL

Hey Becca?

BECCA

Yeah?

RACHAEL

Did we get any responses to that Evil!Snape ad?

BECCA

No...We *did* get a lot of fangirl squealing. The ladies really like Jon.

RACHAEL

[sigh] That was not the point.

BECCA  
I know.

RACHAEL  
So you're telling me that *nobody* out there thinks that Snape is evil?

BECCA  
There's *gotta* be somebody.

RACHAEL  
I know.

BECCA  
Well, maybe the people who don't trust Snape are just shy. Or maybe they don't think we're serious.

RACHAEL  
The problem is that we really need someone to represent that perspective. Do you think we should run the ad again?

BECCA  
Yeah, sure. Couldn't hurt.

RACHAEL  
All right, Jon. Once more, with feeling!

[AD – VOICE OF REASON]

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 convinced that 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 hordes 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 voicemail telling us just why you think Snape really is on Voldemort's side. For those of you without owls, we can be reached at [severus@snapecast.com](mailto: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.)

[END AD]

**This Slytherin Life** - (1:10:29)

Intro: Shannon

Essayist: Rachael

Music:

- Ehren Starks, The Depths of a Year: 01-The tale of room 620

- Michael Andrews, Donnie Darko: CD2 (Original Score): 01 - Carpathian Ridge

SHANNON

Next up – This Slytherin Life. Rachael talks about the powerful magic of love, as she explores parallels between her relationships with family, friends, and mentors, with those of Severus Snape.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

RACHAEL

Every obsessive Snape fan can point to a page in one of the books or a moment in one of the movies that made them realize that for some reason Snape is one of their favorite, if not their favorite, character. Although I loved reading the snarky, sarcastic, and mysterious Snape of Book 1, I didn't really fall for him until he became a more vulnerable character, probably somewhere around the end of Book 3 where we find out about his history with Harry's father. It wasn't until Book 5, however, that I realized how deeply I related to Snape. I will read a bit from the part I'm talking about.

“Snape staggered - his wand flew upwards, away from Harry -and suddenly Harry's mind was teeming wwith memories that were not his: a hook-nosed man was shouting at a cowering woman, while a small dark-haired boy cried in a corner... a greasy-haired teenager sat alone in a dark bedroom, pointing his wand at the ceiling, shooting down flies... a girl was laughing as a scrawny boy tried to mount a bucking broomstick -

“ENOUGH!”

This small glimpse into his childhood made me hopelessly and undeniably intrigued with Severus Snape. Although my parents did not divorce until I was in college, if one were to look into a Pensieve full of my childhood memories, they would be filled with scenes of my parents fighting.

My mother came from a very wealthy and eccentric family; I don't know them very well, but I always enjoyed visiting the house where she grew up. Just like all HP readers wonder why a pureblood like Eileen Prince would marry a Muggle like Tobias Snape, I always wondered how my mom ended up with someone like my dad, a controlling workaholic from a family that was poor, prejudice, and unloving. It could have been the difference in their social class, a history of alcoholism in both of their families, codependency, or a bunch of other issues, but my parents never got along. If you replace

the small dark-haired boy crying in the corner with a chubby blondish little girl, that memory could have been mine.

I love the Harry Potter books because it is so amazing that a boy like Harry who grew up with no love whatsoever could still have such a capacity to love. I can even imagine how

Snape is a bit jealous of Harry. Although Harry is an orphan, he has people like the Weasley's serving as a surrogate family, tons of friends, and everyone knows who he is. Something tells me Snape never had this. I didn't either and it made me bitter, lonely, insecure and sometimes I just felt invisible. I was envious of children who had happy families, but I didn't know what to do about it.

As an adult, I have a lot in common with Snape too. I have been extremely academically and professionally successful, but romantically, I have had several terribly broken relationships. I've pushed away lots of feelings and pushed away lots of friends. Because I don't really have a family, I feel very alone, like I imagine Snape does. I mean, the only person Snape really has is Dumbledore, which brings me to my next point.

Just like Severus, in my late teens, I went a bit funny. I didn't join the Death Eaters or anything like that, but I did a number of other addictive things and visited some very dark places to run away from what I was feeling. I didn't really come out of it until I graduated college, moved across the country, and was out on my own. I am still getting out of it. My greatest resource in this has been a number of incredible mentors who have taken the time to coach me, teach me, make me feel valued, and in some way serve as the parents I never had. I think Dumbledore played this role for Snape, and that's why I think that night on the Astronomy Tower was so hard for him. Even if I could perform the *Avada Kedavra* curse, I couldn't imagine actually pointing my wand at one of mentors and doing them in...even if they asked me too. Even if it were for the greater good.

So from where I stand, Severus Snape definitely isn't a coward. Some fans believe he's purely evil, some believe he's just out for himself, and some, like me, believe he has been fighting for the light all along. JKR has said that Snape has experienced love and because of this, he is more culpable than Voldemort. I think love is a very powerful magic and I want to believe Snape has been exposed to enough of it to inspire him to be able to love back, even if it doesn't seem like he can. I suppose that the reason that I want to see Snape end up a good guy in book seven is because if there's hope for Severus Snape, there's hope for me, too.

**Love Potion 9 ¾ - (1:17:29)**

Panel: Gina, Rachael, Becca, Jeff

Music: Etta James, "I Just Want To Make Love To You"

GINA

Listeners should be aware that this segment may contain elements not suitable for young children.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners! This is Gina R. Snape here, with a segment we like to call Love Potion 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. This is the segment of the show where we talk about Snape in fan fiction – who he’s paired with, and what we like about it. I have with me today three lovely guests from the Snapecast team.

BECCA

Hi, I’m Becca.

RACHAEL

This is Rachael.

JEFF

This is Jeff.

GINA

And we’re gonna be discussing the pairing today of Severus Snape and Narcissa Malfoy. I’d like to start off with two brief quotes from fics that I found that I enjoy, and then we’ll get into some discussion. First is a story called “Obligation” by an author called redvelvetcanopy, and she writes:

“She craved powerful men—men like Lucius Malfoy. Lucius’s power had collapsed under the weight of his arrogance. He had left her to fend for herself.

“Severus Snape was powerful in a different way. Narcissa knew he possessed magical skills beyond most wizards, yet he lacked confidence and wallowed in self-pity. He might seek power and glory, but he would never believe he had found them.

“Voldemort knew nothing of the Vow by which Narcissa had bound Severus to her; Bellatrix had told her so. What was it about this man that allowed him to deceive even the Dark Lord? How could Snape stand before Voldemort and *lie* to him? If he had the power to close his mind to the most feared wizard ever known, then Severus Snape must be stronger than the Dark Lord.

“That thought aroused Narcissa.”

And a quote from “Soul Play,” by snapesforte, who is this month’s interview.

“Narcissa gazed up at him, her blue eyes sparkling from below heavily-hooded lids, her cheeks flushed red, and her chest rising and falling as she pushed herself up from the old brown cushions. ‘I would do it again, and more, if you would only -’

“‘Enough,’ said Snape, slapping her hand away as she reached out for the glass of wine. ‘You’re *drunk*.’ He sneered. ‘You don’t know what -’

“I am already a widow, you said it yourself...’ Narcissa threw herself at him, winding her arms around his neck, and pulling him down into an awkward half-bow. ‘Please, Severus.’

“Snape snapped. ‘Please, what?’ he whispered harshly, ripping her arms away from his shoulders; dragging her to the nearest wall of books; and caging her with his body. ‘Please, what? *Fuck you?*’ He tightened his grip on her wrists and forced them up above her head, pinning her arms to the shelves. ‘Is this what you want? How long has it been? You must be desperate if you want a half-blood to fuck you -’”

BECCA

We didn’t get to *that* part...

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

Thank you, thanks. I didn’t even use my accent. So I chose these – I chose quotes in order to demonstrate for our listeners a little bit of the dynamic, perhaps, that’s going on between Severus Snape and Narcissa Malfoy. They are not a pairing that we have seen, really, before *The Half-Blood Prince*, and they’re not a very common pairing now, which is one reason why I thought it would be interesting to discuss them as a pairing in fan fiction. So I guess my first question to everyone is, why do so few people write Snape/Narcissa, and what was it in *Half-Blood Prince* that brought about this new pairing into fan fiction?

JEFF

Well, I think in *Half-Blood Prince* we see more of Narcissa than we do in the previous five books combined.

GINA

This is true. It’s interesting that she kind of *changes* in *Half-Blood Prince* also.

BECCA

Yeah, she kinda loses it.

RACHAEL

Obviously, “Spinner’s End” and that whole chapter is the foundation of the Snape/Narcissa ship, but I think the main reason that we don’t see it a lot is ‘cause it’s just – it’s much more interesting in *my* opinion to pair Snape with some of the *other* Malfoys.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Narcissa’s the *least* interesting of the two, but...

RACHAEL

You'd also think that Snape... Well, first of all, you'd also think that – Narcissa is a pureblood, and she's also married to Lucius, and so clearly she wouldn't – she wouldn't even think of Snape as a romantic interest, he's a – if she knows his true ancestry. Also, he's not really a rich man, from what we see at Spinner's End, so he doesn't seem to have that allure that might attract Narcissa.

BECCA

Plus Lucius is so much prettier.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Yeah, Lucius is probably prettier than Narcissa, but...

GINA

Yeah, he might very well be.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

And also Snape, he doesn't seem the type as if – y'know, Narcissa's probably beautiful, but she doesn't come across as that smart, and I think people like to pair Snape with a woman that meets him intellectually.

BECCA

See, I think of Narcissa as maybe not book-smart, but I think—like she made that comment to Harry in the beginning of *Half-Blood Prince* when they were in Diagon Alley, and... [laughs] I just, I kind of admire, like she was totally *nasty* but I kind of admired her quick wit and her snark—

GINA

Yeah.

BECCA

—her snark there. She *was* snarky, in a very evil way, so it kinda reminded me a little bit of Snape, so...

GINA

[laughs] I could see that. What I think of Narcissa – the first we're introduced to her, she's just this very snooty woman; I mean, all we knew about her from the beginning was that she was Draco's mother, that she sent him cookies at school and she protested him going to Durmstrang, and then she seemed very snooty at the World Cup, and kind of an ice princess. And now here she is standing before Snape, begging him for help in a completely powerless role. So I kind of see her as like – like I said, as an ice princess, and kind of like a Mafia wife. I think she's not a Death Eater, but I think that she likes

dangerous men, kind of like the wife on *The Sopranos*, for example. And maybe she never thought of Snape before because she had Lucius providing her with everything that she needed, and now all of a sudden he's in Azkaban and she needs protection, and he's the first one that she turns to.

RACHAEL

Yeah. Then again, there's also the possibility that she always had a thing for Snape, and she just married Lucius because he was the – the *right* man, y'know?

BECCA

Yeah, like—Narcissa's a couple of years younger than Lucius, I believe – is she? – 'cause we got the new information from the Black Family information that came out.

GINA

She is, yeah.

RACHAEL

If you base – and we know Lucius's age from an article in the *Daily Prophet*.

GINA

Right.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

So, I think she is.

GINA

Yeah. Narcissa was a Black sister, so I have no doubt that she would have been expected to marry someone like Lucius, whether she loved him or not. But I think she probably finds aspects of that life very attractive. And now she's doesn't have his protection 'cause he's in Azkaban, so she has to turn to Snape. Snape, on the other hand, is a longtime friend and ally of the Malfoys. We don't *know* if *they* know of his blood status, but I'm sure that *he*'s painfully aware of their attitudes, and so my question is, okay, we can see Narcissa wanting Snape for protection and finding his power arousing, but what would he see in her?

RACHAEL

She's hot.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

He's horny.

BECCA  
And also, like –

JEFF  
He hasn't had a girl in a long, long time.

BECCA  
A lot of people – a *lot* of people – favor the Snape/Lily ship, and I can see the appeal in that; it's kind of like the ugly, awkward kid is pining away for the unattainable, pretty, popular, Mudblood Gryffindor, and so she's like all *kinds* of off-limits. But if you think about it, Narcissa's very much off-limits as well, because like you were saying, he's a halfblood and she's a pureblood, and she has certain expectations that go along with being a pureblood witch, especially from a family like the Noble House of Black. So I think that might have held a certain kind of appeal to Snape as well, because if he really did buy into the whole pureblood propaganda that was so prevalent among the Death Eaters, that might've held a kind of attraction for him, like “Oh, she's the – she's the epitome of the perfect woman.”

GINA  
Right, so I suppose depending on his attitude, he's either attracted to her because she's this prized peach of a pureblood, or he likes the idea of befouling a pureblood with his half-blood status.

BECCA  
Right.

GINA  
Yeah.

RACHAEL  
Yeah, I like that same element too, that whole aspect that Snape is an ally and a friend of the Malfoys; there's this huge barrier and huge obstacle to him liking her, and that's he's Lucius's friend. And not only does he have to get over whatever obstacles there are to Snape having a relationship – him just not being a very attractive guy, him being very introverted – he also has to deal with the fact that hey, he's gonna mess around with his best friend's wife while Lucius is in jail for their cause.

GINA  
Right.

BECCA  
Yeah...I don't know exactly what the dynamic is between Lucius and Severus. Like, I know that they're friends, but then Sirius also calls Snape Lucius's lapdog.

GINA  
But everything that Sirius says, we have to take with a grain of salt.

BECCA

Right, exactly. But taken from that point of view, you kinda have to wonder: would Severus *really* be friends with someone who used him to his own advantage? Was he using *Lucius* to gain some sort of advantage? Was it really a heartfelt friendship, or was it really more kind of using each other?

GINA  
Right.

BECCA

I can see it both ways, but I'm just saying it's not necessarily, y'know, like an honest friendship.

GINA  
Yeah.

RACHAEL

Well I was thinking there's the – about the whole Snape and Malfoy being friends bit, there's the part at the end of *Goblet of Fire* where Snape starts when he hears Malfoy's name. So I think there's *something* there.

BECCA  
Yeah.

RACHAEL

And of course I also love Lucius luring Snape over to the Death Eaters because there's some sort of love interest there, I like that too.

GINA  
Snucius?

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

Oh no...But back to – but back to Snape and Narcissa, I mean the question is, would he, ah, not really care about the marriage vow between Narcissa and Lucius and, y'know, and just go for it? And of course one of the most intriguing aspects that shows up in stories is the fact that after the Unbreakable Vow, she really owes him, y'know? She owes him a lot, and he's in a very good position to take advantage of that and take advantage of *her*. And...

RACHAEL

The vow's sort of like marriage, too, in a way.

GINA  
It's true.

BECCA  
Yeah.

RACHAEL  
Kinda when you read it, you get that feeling.

GINA  
Yes. And I think that if she really likes powerful men, she might not be so opposed to being put in that position, as it were. To pay back.

JEFF  
But I think it's interesting that a mother's love is so powerful that it motivates Narcissa to even – to put herself at Snape's mercy.

GINA  
Yes. That is definitely...It's definitely clear, I think, from the series, that she cares about her son a great deal.

RACHAEL  
How much, is the question?

GINA  
Yes. Dun dun dun.

JEFF  
She put herself at Snape's mercy. She would do anything for him.

GINA  
Anything. [chuckles] So the question is, if they're gonna do anything, what would – what would the dynamic between them be like?

BECCA  
Well, we kind of saw in Spinner's End that Snape – he dealt with her very forcefully. She kept, y'know, trying to clutch at his hands, and he couldn't stand her crying, and so if I were to consider that ship and how the dynamic might work between them, I think it might go something like it did in Spinner's End, because I think Narcissa would still kind of be in the same place that she was in the Spinner's End chapter, because – Draco is still in a dangerous place right now, and so is Narcissa, especially if Voldemort ever finds out about the Unbreakable Vow. I imagine that he would have something to say about that.

GINA  
Yeah. I think he probably would too. I think you're right, I think – and both of the writers that I mentioned earlier, they keep the dynamic going where Snape is very much kind of

hard and in control, and Narcissa's a little cunning, a little weak, a little cloying, but wants him for her own reasons, and so I could see – there would never be *love* between them, but there would certainly be a kind of heightened arousal from a combination of being forbidden and being kind of cold and rough.

BECCA

Mm. I've actually seen some fan *art*, some Snape/Narcissa fan art, in which either Draco is somehow Snape's actual son, his biological son, and he has a Glamour – some kind of spell on him to make him look like Lucius...

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Or they've had an affair either before or after Draco is born and he becomes Draco's godfather. So...

GINA

Oh, how interesting. So there's this implied relationship, but we don't actually get to see the sex between them.

BECCA

Yeah.

GINA

Hm. I'd rather see the sex between them.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Yeah, me too. You gotta go for the smut; I mean...

GINA

Absolutely.

RACHAEL

I kinda think that maybe their relationship might be a little bit more gentle than the one Becca suggested, just because – you have to keep in mind that Spinner's End happens – it's like what sex between Snape and Narcissa would be like if Bella were watching, y'know?

GINA

Ew.

RACHAEL

Like – that element – Bella is *there*. So I think if it were just the two of them, that element might be a little bit different. He might be a little bit more gentle, he might be

able to look at her while she's crying, he might be able to be a little bit more open – you never know. He might become softie Snape.

BECCA  
[laughs] Hufflepuff!Snape.

RACHAEL  
Hufflepuff!Snape.

GINA  
Yeah, I don't like Hufflepuff!Snape. [laughs] He might be more understanding without Bellatrix there, but my gut instinct is that he's not one to really give in to things like crying and begging, and he has very little patience for that sort of thing.

RACHAEL  
Unless he *tells* you to cry and beg.

GINA  
Right, yeah. But I think he would be very interested in claiming what he felt was due him.

BECCA  
Yeah. Well, he is a Slytherin, so...

GINA  
Exactly. She's a Slytherin too, so...

RACHAEL  
Is she a Slytherin?

BECCA  
That...is a good question, and y'know, you're inclined to think that she's a Slytherin the same way that you're inclined to think that, well, Dumbledore was a Gryffindor and...

JEFF  
Either that or she's a Ravenclaw.

GINA  
That's a very good question, then. We really don't know for sure. I feel pretty certain that she is a Slytherin because she's from the House of Black, and, y'know, Draco comes from a long line of Slytherins.

RACHAEL  
Yeah, my vote is Slytherin, I think she is.

JEFF

Me too.

GINA

So she's gonna want to get something out of every interaction that she has with people as well. So I guess that just begs the question then, Snape having his way with Narcissa – will he complete the family portrait and have all three of them?

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

I think Rachael would like that.

RACHAEL

Yeah.

BECCA

That would be the perfect Rachael fic, with a little Snarry at the end.

RACHAEL

This is all pre-Snarry, of course.

GINA

Of course, of course. It could be “Snape’s Great Adventure at Malfoy Mansion.”

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

I did – I have done a little quick searching, and I’ve found quite a few Malfoy-cest fics that involve Snape. So there *are* – I’ve yet to find one that is all *three* and Snape, though. Maybe one of you can write that.

[ALL KEEP ON LAUGHIN’]

GINA

There you go.

BECCA

Gina, that’s all you!

GINA

All right, um, I dunno – do you guys have any other thoughts about this pairing, what you would *like* to see, or just your thoughts on them as a pairing?

BECCA

Hmm...I would really like to see fics that deal with a Snape/Narcissa ship during their

time at Hogwarts. Like the *beginning* of that kind of relationship, as opposed to where it ends up.

RACHAEL

I would like to see a Snape/Narcissa hatesex, where it's Snape and Lucius as well, and it's just Snape has his one night with Narcissa, but he's really pissed because she's the pretty pureblood girl that's stealing his man.

[BECCA LAUGHS]

GINA

Ooh, I like that!

RACHAEL

Jeff?

JEFF

Ooh-la-la.

RACHAEL

Jeff, you have to have—

BECCA

You have to save Rachael after that lunacy. What do you think – what – how about what will happen when Lucius does get out of – if there was some kind of ship between Snape and Narcissa?

GINA

Oh, yeah.

BECCA

How would Lucius deal with that? Because you have to think he is gonna get out of Azkaban, because the Dark Lord is going to be – er, Voldemort is going to be, y'know, on a roll now, because—

JEFF

Getting the dementors—

BECCA

—yeah, the dementors have left and...

GINA

And Narcissa will have been without her husband for at least a year, so you know she's gonna be pretty randy.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA  
Yeah.

JEFF  
It's not gonna go well with Voldemort because now Lucius is gonna try and get Snape snuffed out.

RACHAEL  
You think that's – you think that would ruin the relationship?

JEFF  
Oh, I think so.

GINA  
I think he'd be more upset with Narcissa than with Snape.

JEFF  
He'd be upset with the both of them, and I think...

RACHAEL  
Lucius would be upset – he wasn't invited.

JEFF  
And I think that...

GINA  
Yeah, maybe he'd say – maybe he'd come home, find the two of them in bed, and jump in with 'em.

RACHAEL  
I think he would, I think he would.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA  
The perfect homecoming present!

GINA  
There ya go, there ya go.

RACHAEL  
I can see Lucius as a playboy that really wouldn't care, as long as – or he'd be like, "Fine, Narcissa...you do that, y'know...I can run around with Molly Weasley or whoever."

[ALL LAUGH AND/OR MAKE HORRIFIED NOISES]

BECCA  
Molly Weasley...

GINA  
I think Lucius might run around, but not with Molly Weasley.

JEFF  
And you know, there was never any – there was never any romance between Lucius and Narcissa for sure.

BECCA  
See, I always wondered what the dynamic of their marriage was like, because I've seen fics where they're totally – y'know, it's a marriage of convenience, and that type of thing, but I've also seen – like I'm a *huge* fan of Makani, and she does *beautiful* Malfoy family portraits where they have a very loving relationship. I mean, they're *evil*, but they have a beautiful marriage, and like they're the perfect – they're soulmates, and...y'know, all of that. So is it one or the other, or is it somehow in between? Y'know, I always wondered about the dynamic of their marriage.

JEFF  
Kinda like two kids with trust funds; they wanna get married just to combine their trust funds into one to make even more money, but otherwise there's nothing else to it. Maybe it's that sort of thing.

GINA  
Yeah, we don't know. They might really have fallen in love, or they may have, because they've been married for so long, just learned to love each other.

RACHAEL  
See, I could see Lucius having women on the side—

GINA  
Yeah, absolutely.

RACHAEL  
—and maybe Snape is like a revenge for Narcissa for all those years. Y'know, it's like, screw you, I've got your best friend.

BECCA  
That's...That's – I could see that, yeah.

GINA  
Yeah, I could too, absolutely. Okay! Thank you guys for a wonderful discussion; I just wanna add that I would like to see more Snape/Narcissa fics, and I would especially like to see the fallout after the Vow in those stories. So thank you, everyone—

BECCA  
Thank you, Gina!

JEFF  
Thank you.

RACHAEL  
Okay, thank you! Buh-bye!

**Contest Winners Announcement** - (1:41:40)

Announcer: Becca

Music: Glen Miller & His Orchestra, "In the Mood"

-Fic: [Believing the Truth](#) by crystalusagi

-Art: [Mr. Broody](#) by Stephanie (a.k.a. cellancoly)

BECCA

Snapecast is pleased to announce the winners of the first Snapecast contest. We received many fabulous pieces of work, and it was extremely difficult to choose our favorites. The staff was quite divided in their selections, particularly in the fanart category. The winners, by majority vote, are as follows:

In the fanfic category, the winner is crystalusagi for her fic, "Believing the Truth." This beautifully written fic, told in the first-person perspective, has a particularly excellent characterization of Snape. Her story is posted on LiveJournal, username crystalusagi.

In the fanart category, the winner is Stephanie, for her entry "Mr. Broody," a perfectly crafted, 3D representation of our favorite Potions master in all his snarkalicious glory. A picture of "Mr. Broody" can be found on Stephanie's deviantART page, username cellancoly.

Crystalusagi and Stephanie will get to choose from some special selections by Laura of Mad Science Creations, and links to their winning submissions will be featured on Snapecast.com, the Snapecast community on LiveJournal, and the Snapecast page on MySpace. The Snapecast staff will contact the winners with instructions on how to claim their prizes. A special thank-you to everyone who entered.

Please continue to send us your Snape-centric fanfic and fanart for our next contest, which starts on Saturday, July 1, and will run until 11:59 p.m. EST on Saturday, July 22. For contest rules and guidelines, please visit the Monthly Contest page on our website, at [www.snapecast.com](http://www.snapecast.com). Good luck, and happy Snapeing!

**Breaking News** - (1:44:01)

Announcer: Jon

Music: Allan Horn, "Newscast"

JON

This just in: we have conflicting reports of Severus Snape's loyalty. Even as his official spokeswizard furiously maintains his innocence, a reliable source reveals that his underpants may not be the only thing that is much darker gray than originally described. Leading experts still have not been able to answer that all-important question, just how gray *is* Snape? Inquiring minds want to know. Stay tuned for more on these developments as they arise.

**Snape & Roundtable** - (1:44:47)

Panel: Becca, Rose, Gina, Shannon, Chris

Topic: Snape & FanFiction Part I

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

BECCA

The following is the first half of our roundtable for "Snape and..." episode two. Please join us next time in Snapecast Episode 3 for the second half of this discussion.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

BECCA

Hi, and welcome to Snapecast's second "Snape and..." roundtable. I'm Becca, and here with me are...

GINA

Hi, this is Gina R. Snape. Hi, everyone!

ROSE

Hi, this is Rose.

SHANNON

Shannon here.

CHRIS

And Chris.

BECCA

Okay. And the purpose of the "Snape and..." roundtables is to examine the character of Severus Snape through the filter of another topic. The topic for this episode is "Snape and Fan Fiction." Jo herself has called Snape "a gift of a character," so it's no surprise that he is a favorite subject with fanfic authors of all persuasions. And while no two interpretations of his character will be exactly the same, fandom Snape has quite a few attributes that can be found in many different works of fan fiction. These commonalities include things like – he's an extremely powerful wizard, often even on par with the likes

of Dumbledore and Voldemort; he's diligently studious; he's reached a high level of scholarly achievement; he's well-read, especially in classical literature; he has a very high work ethic; he's renowned in academic circles, most commonly in regards to potionmaking; he has a knowledge and appreciation of fine wines and liquor; he has a wonderfully dry wit and sarcastic sense of humor; his hair isn't naturally greasy; he obsesses about his clothes and is always well-dressed; he isn't really ugly, and his overlarge nose is actually attractive or aquiline; he is a refined, old-fashioned, Victorian-era gentleman, such as the type in romantic literature; his fingers and his hands are long and move seductively, and he moves his entire body with grace; he is of *course* a masterful lover [CHRIS laughs]; he is well-endowed [CHRIS laughs harder]; and the thing that I find perhaps most interesting is he actually *wants* someone to love him and to have someone to love himself. So, I find all of these commonalities really interesting because they can be found in so many different types and styles of fan fiction. So I wanted to talk about this and to ask you guys, why do you all think that these commonalities occur?

CHRIS

Well, *I* think that quite a few of them are found in the books, especially things like the wine, the books, his studiousness, and how – especially how powerful he is, 'cause I think we've started to see more and more throughout the series, *just* how clever he is as a wizard. I kind of see him as kind of equally if not *more* powerful or *more* knowledgeable than McGonagall, who, y'know, is the deputy headmistress. But there's aspects that make me wonder *quite* where they've come from, some of the, ah – masterful lover, and the well-endowed; I wonder slightly *where* they came from, 'cause to *me*, Snape is always somewhat of – someone who possibly wasn't that well-practiced!

[ALL LAUGH]

CHRIS

So I wonder how good – how accurate that really is.

SHANNON

I was gonna say also that a lot of these characteristics you described from fan fiction also kind of fit this cultured, articulate, scholarly archetype. Like, there's something very *elitist* about it, and it's kind of interesting to see, y'know, that people seem to buy into this very high-scale, high-class, refined image of Snape.

GINA

Yeah, I agree; and I think part of it is that that's a very romantic way of looking at him, and it's very sexy, and people wanna see that in fan fiction. But where does it *come* from? Right? There *are* things in canon that *hint* at that. I mean, yes, he has greasy hair and his teeth aren't straight, but nobody ever says that he *smells* bad, and he never appears to have potions spilled all over his clothing; he walks gracefully, and he has a high sense of precision, and a good eye when it comes to potions and the kids in the class, and we *know* that he's very intelligent, so I think it's not hard to extrapolate from that, that he might have these aspects to his personality.

CHRIS

Mm.

ROSE

Canon Snape puts himself forward in the books as someone who thinks of himself as a superior being. We fans also do too, I think. A lot of the attributes on that list, they're pursuits and qualities that are recognized by our society and culture as being "the finer things." They're things that superior people, i.e. the upper class, they do. So Professor Snape doesn't have a pint and an order of fish and chips; he has a glass of wine from a really good year and a rare steak. [CHRIS laughs] I think that some of the attributes on the list, they're things that fans themselves enjoy, and so they enjoy writing about them.

BECCA

Hm. And, to kinda go along with that, do you think that the publication of *Half-Blood Prince* has affected those commonalities? Have you guys noticed a change?

SHANNON

Well, I think we mentioned about the Spinner's End chapter, how much it's like fan fiction. It's the first time we get to go outside the bounds of Hogwarts, and we get to see him in his own domain. We get to see the blood-red elf-made wine and things like that, and so the question is, did fanfic authors hit the mark, and then Rowling happened to write about that, or what? But I think that the big difference after *Half-Blood Prince* is that now we have canon proof that Snape is halfblood, whereas a lot of fiction before depicted him as a pureblood.

BECCA

Yeah, that is very true. And I always find it so interesting when I find a really old fan fiction that was written before the publication of *Half-Blood Prince* that has him as a halfblood.

ROSE

A generalization is that I'm seeing work that's a whole lot more dark, more serious...

Man, even the romance fics are so much more poignant than they used to be. We're seeing this really vulnerable Snape, a Snape who is both internally suffering more and externally suffering more.

BECCA

Yeah. Okay, and then that kind of actually goes along with the third question that I wanted to put out there for you guys, and that was – We know that Jo has made comments about not going for the bad boys, and people's attraction to the bad boys, and do you think that the commonalities that I've mentioned, are they an attempt to romanticize someone who perhaps shouldn't be romanticized, and is it somehow unhealthy or misguided to overlook or try to explain away even his obvious problems and faults and nastier characteristics?

ROSE

I think when J.K. Rowling says stuff like “Who’d love Snape?”, I hear her as being a little bit ironic and sarcastic. She’s teasing us.

GINA

I don’t think it has anything to do with his appearance, I think she was talking more about whether he’s on the side of good or whether he’s a pleasant person to be around. And that in *that* sense she’s trying to warn people, he’s not all that nice, he’s a very nasty person, I can’t imagine anyone wanting, *finding* this kind of person attractive, and you can’t go into a relationship wanting to *change* the person. And so I think it’s interesting like you said, that there are some fics where the person doesn’t *wanna* change him, they *like* him as he is – and you know, for many of us, we *like* the fact that he’s snarky, we *like* the fact that he is very quick-witted, and he’s, y’know, very sarcastic, and I think that she just can’t understand why people would like those things, maybe. And I also think that she’s trying to throw us off the mark and make us think, “Oh, don’t think he’s too good, but don’t think he’s too bad, because, y’know, I don’t wanna give away the end.”

ROSE

Exactly.

BECCA

[laughs] I do think the lady doth protest a little bit too much. But...

SHANNON

I mean, she’s like, totally in love with Sirius Black, and what a jackass *he* is.

BECCA

Well, I have a whole different issue about people who love Snape but hate Sirius, but that’s just my...

GINA

That could be another roundtable discussion.

SHANNON

Yeah, the throwdown here.

BECCA

[laughs] But that’s another roundtable discussion! But see, I think also, you don’t have to be physically attractive to have desirable qualities.

GINA

You don’t have to have conventional beauty to be—

BECCA

Exactly, exactly. But Snape also doesn’t have the most pleasant personality in the world, and he’s done some really awful things.

SHANNON

Right.

BECCA

And so I was just wondering if the whole obsession with his hygiene might be an example of people trying to romanticize the more nasty things about him, but I don't know. That was just something I was wondering.

CHRIS

Y'see, I never found *anything* remotely attractive about Snape, but then I think – a lot of, partly it comes down to how people first saw him when they first started reading the books. I've got quite a – I quite enjoy really vile characters, and some of the really awful Dickensian characters, and I kind of saw him like one of those – y'know, really crooked teeth, really foul breath, y'know, tatty falling to pieces clothes, and sort of—

BECCA

Yeah.

CHRIS

—that sort of, yeah, rarely washes and... It's interesting also to note that on Rowling's website, she once submitted some drawings of some of the characters, and there was a Professor Sprout, and there was a Snape, and she originally envisaged him with, um, sort of a long, dirty goatee. And I wonder if she'd pushed the facial hair more, and I wonder if he would have had the same appeal.

ROSE

The U.S. book illustrations by Mary GrandPré, they actually *do* have a Snape who's got a goatee and a receding hairline, and he looks rather short and round. [CHRIS and BECCA laugh]

SHANNON

You're right about the cleanliness, too; I mean, just – I think it's easy to fixate on the greasy hair as a sign of being filthy; like I think his teeth have been described as being yellowed or something, but you could get stained teeth from drinking tea and still have clean teeth.

ROSE

Yeah.

GINA

Exactly.

SHANNON

But I was also thinking, if you wear a lot of black – I remember sometimes people wear black to hide dirt, and people were talking about, well maybe it hides potion stains. But if

you wear black and you have, say, dandruff, y'know we could say at least Snape doesn't have dandruff, he's taking care of his scalp.

[CHRIS LAUGHS]

GINA  
That's true.

SHANNON  
Because that would show up on black.

GINA  
I think it's really interesting that you mention that; there are people who really try to deny that he has greasy hair and try to deny that he's got a hooked nose or whatever, and come up with – for awhile it was the trend where everybody, he had a glamor, and when the person got to know him the glamor went away, and they were like, "Oh, you're so beautiful!" And then there are other fics that go to the other extreme, where the person that he's paired with *loves* the fact that he has greasy hair, or comes up with all kinds of reasons why his hair is greasy, and of course fixating on the hooked nose. And I'm guilty of that; I like larger noses, so... I think he might be one of those people where he's not a traditionally good-looking person, but maybe he's a particular type.

CHRIS  
That's it, yeah, yeah. But as a Potions master, I saw him a bit like a chef, I suppose, kind of covered in bits of bug, or bits of stuff he's been cutting up, and splashes from the cauldron, just 'cause – that's just how I saw him.

BECCA  
[laughing] It's probably – it's a physical, the physical manifestation of your personal, emotional response to Snape.

CHRIS  
Yes, yeah.

BECCA  
That must be what it is.

[BOTH LAUGH]

**Where's Dumbledore** - (1:58:52)

Voices: Chris

Music: John Williams, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: 01- Hedwig's Theme

SNAPE  
Professor, I must speak with you.

GANDALF  
Is it secret? Is it safe?

SNAPE  
I beg your pardon?

SARUMAN  
The Ring! Where's Frodo?

SNAPE  
What are you talking about, Professor?

SARUMAN  
Silence, Wormtongue!

SNAPE  
My *name* is Severus *Snape*. Who are you?

GANDALF  
Saruman.

SARUMAN  
Gandalf Greyheim! Come to pull a rabbit out of a hat, have you?

GANDALF  
Do not mistake me for some conjurer of cheap tricks! It is in fact a dove.

SNAPE  
Foolish wand-waving aside, I *must* speak.

DUMBLEDORE  
Merlin's beard.

MERLIN  
What's wrong with my beard?

SNAPE  
Professor Dumbledore—

SARUMAN  
This is Merlin, Wormtongue!

SNAPE  
It's *Snape*.

MERLIN

No, he's right, it is Merlin.

HAGRID

Professor Dumbledore, sir! Wh...What the bloody hell is goin' on here?

GANDALF

Look out, it's an Orc! Prepare for battle!

HAGRID

I'll bloody Orc *you* in a minute. Which one of you is Professor Dumbledore?

[DOOR OPENS]

HAGRID

Professor McGonagall!

MCGONAGALL

Excuse me, gentlemen, but has anyone seen—Hagrid, what is that in your pocket?

HAGRID

What? I—Dobby! Get out of there!

DOBBY

Ehn...It...It is *difficult*, sir...

SARUMAN

Gollum!

DOBBY

No, no! I am Dobby, sir, Dobby the house-elf.

SARUMAN

And I say you're Gollum. I thought elves were meant to be beautiful, not short pug-faced cretins in a pillowcase.

DOBBY

It is a mark of the house-elf's enslavement, sir.

GANDALF

*Gollum!*

GOLLUM

No...*no!* *We* is Gollum, ain't we, precious? Not *Dobby*. Dobby! We *hates* Dobby! No, no, Dobby is our friend...He stole it from us! The precious! Those thieves! Those *thieves!* Those filthy little thieves!

VOLDEMORT  
Kill the spare! *Avada Kedavra!*

[THUD]

GOLLUM  
Dobby is dead! They *killed* him! Murderers...

SARUMAN  
Well, that was a little over the top.

LUCIUS MALFOY  
You lost me my servant!

VOLDEMORT  
Silence, Lucy. I – am – Voldemort. Where is Dumbledore?

DUMBLEDORE  
Right here, Tom.

SNAPE  
Professor Dumbledore, why did you not answer me when I called you?

DUMBLEDORE  
Alas! Earwax.

GANDALF  
Hmm...His beard is bigger than mine.

SARUMAN  
And mine.

MERLIN  
It makes one feel quite inadequate.

DUMBLEDORE  
I am happy to answer all questions, but may I suggest we adjourn to my office? This broom cupboard is getting a little crowded, and Hagrid looks as though he is about to pass out.

[DOOR OPENS]

DUMBLEDORE  
Ah, Minerva. Would you mind sweeping out the remains of Dobby? I'm sure a certain Miss Granger will be happy to bury him for us.

DOBBY

But...Dobby is right here, sir.

HAGRID

But if *you're* there, then who the bloody hell was killed?

GANDALF

Frodo! No, no! [sobs]

SNAPE

Well, quite.

**PSA: Snapecast at Lumos** - (2:02:24)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 03 - The Quidditch World Cup

ROSE

Are you doing a detention at Lumos? So are some of the Snapecast staff. Watch for Rachael, Shannon, Jo, Rose, and Laura in their Snapecast gear. They'll be bringing some fun and *very* special treats to share, and we'll be recording your thoughts and opinions about Snape. Snapeing that happens in Vegas, doesn't stay in Vegas. See you at Lumos!

**Owlpost** - (2:03:06)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Wendy

Voice: Chris

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

SHANNON

Okay. And here we are for the time in the show that we call Owl Post, and that's when we like to read e-mails from listeners or listen to Howlers from listeners in the wizarding world. So with me now I have Wendy...

WENDY

Hello!

SHANNON

...and Rachael!

RACHAEL

Hello! And Chris couldn't make it, he's away at acting camp in Pennsylvania, so if any of our listeners that are fans of Chris are in Pennsylvania, go visit him there.

SHANNON

Yes, that's a good idea. So we'll send all stalkers out to find Chris.

RACHAEL

I'm sure he's gonna love me for that.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

We wish you were here, Chris. I'll be channeling Chris today, but I won't do a British accent 'cause that would be really offensive, so...okay. So we've got a bit of news, and it's kind of exciting. In the first episode, we invited our listeners to help us name our little screech owl, and we had some really excellent names. And we narrowed it down to I believe five or seven, and the voting concluded a few days ago, and I'm happy to announce that the name of our owl is Snarky.

RACHAEL

Yaay!

SHANNON

And that was submitted by hikaru\_daydream.

RACHAEL

I think that's a really cute name for him.

WENDY

That's so cute.

SHANNON

It really is, and I mean, he looks kind of snarky and grumpy and...very appropriate.

WENDY

That's true, he does, yeah.

SHANNON

Thanks to all who participated! Now, on to the owl post.

RACHAEL

Okay. I have the first message that Snarky has delivered. Apparently Snarky is a pretty skilled owl, because he can not only deliver e-mail but also comments from forums. We have a comment from Rella on Bewitched that says, "As I type I am listening to Snapecast, because too much Snape is never enough. It went on yesterday and I downloaded it. This is good fun, and there's been a lot of intelligent discussion, although I think the panel on the Potions master chapter have completely misunderstood the phrase 'stopper death.'" So I'm glad she pointed this out.

SHANNON

Yeah, that's a really good point.

WENDY

Yes. I'm glad she pointed it out, too.

SHANNON

Yeah, I am too.

WENDY

I'd always thought that it – Snape was saying that he could stop someone from dying, and it's really good when someone points something out like this, because it does make you think a bit more about things.

SHANNON

Yeah, and I – I'm listening back and I cringe at my own comments when I hear myself going off, but really – what Rowling has done seems to have been to create this kind of – it's a beautiful literary device, where when Snape is going on about potions, it's like a three-step production process that he is discussing, and “stopper” is definitely a different word from “stop” death.

WENDY

Yes, that's for sure, definitely.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I'm gonna be stubborn and still say that there's a chance that maybe our interpretation of it could have some merit, but I think the listener's probably right on the ball.

SHANNON

So good on you, Rella. Thanks for the comment.

WENDY

Thank you.

SHANNON

Okay, next up – Wendy?

WENDY

Okay, we have an e-mail from sigune, and she says, “Of course, I would not be a Snape fan if I did not have anything critical to say, and mind you, it is not a minor matter – that of the Potions master's first name. Surely that should be pronounced *Severus*, as in severe, because of its Latin root, and not as in sever.”

SHANNON

Y'know, I was surprised by this comment. I can see where she's coming from, but when I first started reading *Harry Potter*, I don't think I ever thought of “severe.” Y'know how

you get an idea in your head about how certain new words and names are pronounced? That's one that didn't occur to me, and I don't know if a reason has to do with it's just easier to Anglicize it, to say *Severus* as opposed to *Severus*, but I dunno. What do you guys think?

WENDY

It never occurred to me to pronounce it *Severus*, either, and I kind of – yeah, I don't really think that it should be.

RACHAEL

Yeah, when I read that I went looking to see if J.K. Rowling had ever pronounced it, and I couldn't find a recording – I mean I'm sure she has, because she made the comment in the June 2003 interview about “keep an eye on old *Severus*,” or y'know, maybe she said *Severus*, but I didn't see any of the notes in the transcripts and couldn't find the audio.

But I always pictured it *Severus* because of – it just makes sense, and I also think it alludes to severing ties, which he's definitely done many times. But *Severus* is also a very severe person, and that fits as well. So – Professor Snape, if you're out there...

SHANNON

It could work both ways.

RACHAEL

...and we're mispronouncing your name, please get in touch with Snarky and let us know.

SHANNON

Yeah, well, speaking of letters from the wizarding world, we have yet *another* one. Let's take a listen.

CHRIS [AS LUCIUS]

To the presumptuous Muggles responsible for this abominable show:

That you consider a wizard's undergarments an acceptable subject for public conversation is clearly evidence of your ill-breeding. If you had half the sense of a carrot, you would be ashamed of yourselves. Worse still, some among you have actually entertained the thought that a wizard of Snape's caliber might wear a thong. If you knew Snape as I do, you would find this notion both nauseating and preposterous. Allow me therefore to enlighten you: *Severus* Snape prefers to wear nothing at all under his robes.

Respectfully submitted,  
One who is in a position to know.

RACHAEL

Okay, I know who that's from, and Lucius Malfoy – I just wanna say that I also know what you did in hexing the Love Potion 9¾ segment this month, because we have had

extreme technical difficulties trying to record our Snape and Narcissa Love Potion, and I can think of nobody else to blame but Lucius.

WENDY

Definitely sounds like something he would do.

SHANNON

Yeah.

RACHAEL

I think this letter also serves as proof that Snape *is* doing the whole Malfoy family.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Yeah. But he doesn't really like us talking about it on the air.

WENDY

No, it's a skeleton in the closet, obviously.

SHANNON

So. This is interesting; now we know what kind of underwear Severus prefers to wear.

WENDY

Or not wear.

RACHAEL

Well, Becca, our wonderful mixing witch, was able to overcome Lucius's hex and throw together a bit of our Love Potion segment. So frankly, Lucius, I'm gonna take your letter with a grain of salt.

SHANNON

Yeah. [laughs] He's just trying to stir up the pot.

RACHAEL

He's jealous this isn't MalfoyCast.

WENDY

Yes.

SHANNON

Yeah. And we've got another letter – Wendy?

WENDY

This one comes from Giselda D.A.; she says, "When you guys were talking about Alan Rickman, you didn't mention the fact that J.K. Rowling herself has told Rickman a bit

more about Snape than any of us know. ‘One the few people who truly knows who Snape is,’ she said this somewhere.”

RACHAEL

I think she makes a good point here, and I know I’ve seen this discussed a lot. I wasn’t in the Alan Rickman discussion, but do you guys really think Alan knows the ultimate question, if Snape is good or evil?

SHANNON

I wonder about that, because isn’t he very close-mouthed? He doesn’t want to talk about his character in interviews or something.

RACHAEL

Yeah, he won’t, and I’ve seen him really get criticized for that, that “Oh, he doesn’t like the fans,” and stuff like that, but it might be part of his contract, it might just be part of his decorum as an actor to not – he knows that he plays kind of an enigmatic character and he doesn’t wanna ruin it by saying things about it.

SHANNON

It’ll be great when the movies have finished filming, or at least the books have come out and stuff, so that maybe he can give an interview. ‘Cause I’d really like to know – I’ve heard this same comment before, but I’d really like to know what it was that Rowling told him. Like maybe she gave him hints from the sixth book, not the seventh book, or maybe like you said, she told him, “Don’t play it *too* evil, because you have to be a little sympathetic a little bit down the road,” sort of thing.

RACHAEL

Yeah, or she might’ve told him just very early on, “Hey, you’re gonna off Dumbledore at some point, so keep that in mind. That’s what your character is capable of.”

SHANNON

Yeah.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

One final letter that I am going to read – it is from Perosha. And this letter frankly warmed my heart, because I was worried that Snapecast would attract a certain kind of audience, but this clearly proves we’re getting a little bit of diversity here. It says, “I just finished listening to Snapecast episode one, and I must say I am thoroughly impressed. I am not a fan of Snape at all – to me, he’s nothing more than an angry, unwashed plot point – but you’ve managed to put together a show that appeals to me despite my indifference to the character. I’m afraid I can’t answer the open call for contributors who think Snape is totally on Voldemort’s side (he’s playing for his own team, I think), but I do admire that you’re looking for such people to round out your dialogues.”

WENDY

Well, I think she's – she's a little bit wrong in Severus's role in the series, but I think it's really good, coming from someone who doesn't think that much of Snape as a character, that she really enjoyed the podcast. I think that's fantastic.

RACHAEL

Actually, a few people have mentioned stuff like that to me, just that they didn't realize how important Snape was, but they're starting to see it. And that's good; we wanna promote Severus to the Muggle world.

SHANNON

And we do want a diversity of perspectives, and hers is probably different enough from most of the people on here, so – Perosha, send us another e-mail. Maybe you wanna try out for that spot we've got open, hm?

RACHAEL

Yeah, or just come on for a roundtable where – we'd really like to hear your opinion about why Snape is just a plot point. We won't jump on you—

SHANNON

[laughs] *Too* much...

RACHAEL

—like crazy rabid fangirls that we are, but I'd like to hear that argument.

SHANNON

All right, good. So that's our responses from listeners, and... If *you* have any comments, or criticisms, or praise, or anything you'd like to share, you can go ahead and send us an e-mail at our e-mail address, and that's [severus@snapecast.com](mailto:severus@snapecast.com). Or you can leave us a voicemail; we like getting those too, and with Skype, our account is [snapecast](#). Is this right?

RACHAEL

Yes. And even if you're not going to leave a voicemail, I highly suggest that you call us and listen to the voice message.

SHANNON

Oh yes. Yes. [laughs] So we're hoping to hear more from you out there after the second episode. And that's it for the Owl Post!

RACHAEL

Okay, thanks! And thanks to Snarky for bringing us mail!

WENDY

Thank you! Bye!

SHANNON

Bye!

RACHAEL

Bye!

**Closing** - (2:15:15)

Hosts: Rachael, Wendy, Chris

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

RACHAEL

Well, we're at the closing segment of the show. I'm Rachael...

WENDY

I'm Wendy.

CHRIS

I'm Chris.

RACHAEL

Yes, we're all back. Episode two is at an end. I'd like to thank everyone for listening, and also remind all of you to keep sending us your feedback. The easiest place is [severus@snapecast.com](mailto:severus@snapecast.com), or you can also leave us a voicemail at snapecast via Skype. And you can visit us at our three web locations: Snapecast.com, the Snapecast LiveJournal, or the Snapecast MySpace.

WENDY

And don't forget our listener challenge; we'd like you to e-mail us the questions that you would ask Jo Rowling if you had the opportunity about Snape. So send those to [severus@snapecast.com](mailto:severus@snapecast.com).

RACHAEL

Or you can leave those in a voicemail too, if you'd like, Skype username snapecast.

CHRIS

And for those of you who, *unlike* me, are lucky enough to go to Lumos, please please please come across and say hello. The Snapecast crew will be there wearing Snapecast T-shirts; they are, of course, black.

RACHAEL

Yaaay!

CHRIS

What other color is there?

RACHAEL

And they have our beautiful nose on them by LJ user sigune; she is the artist that did that nose.

WENDY

That's fabulous, that nose. Love that nose.

RACHAEL

And we *might* might might have some for sale, but I'm not promising anything. We will, however, have some little goodies to give away at Lumos. It's going to be a surprise as to what they are.

CHRIS

So it's worth your while to visit us.

RACHAEL

Yeah.

WENDY

Definitely.

RACHAEL

And of course remember to tune in next month for Snapecast episode three, which – the big feature that we'll have in that episode is our special segment that we're going to begin on Snape's loyalty. We're going to try to tackle that issue and it's going to be a bit of a surprise how we're going to do it. But we're of course not going to leave that out, because you really couldn't have a podcast about Snape without talking about his loyalty.

WENDY

Yeah, true, yeah.

RACHAEL

So – episode three, August 1, 2006. Thanks for listening, everyone!

CHRIS

Thank you!

WENDY

Thank you!

RACHAEL

Bye!

CHRIS

Bye!

WENDY  
Bye!