

Snapecast Episode 3

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 three, for August the 1st, 2006. Now copy that down or I'll have you pickling rat brains with your fingers.

Introduction - (0:58)

Hosts: Rachael, Rose, Meagan

RACHAEL

Ugh, rat brains. That's kind of gross. Well – welcome to Snapecast episode three. I'm Rachael, and I have with me...

ROSE

Hi, I'm Rose.

MEAGAN

Hey, I'm Meagan!

RACHAEL

And we have an excellent episode coming up for you with episode three. We're going to have a segment of Snarky Chapters featuring chapter fourteen from *Prisoner of Azkaban*.

We're going to have the premiere of our Detention Intervention segment, in which we explore how the people who love us but don't love Snape have a chance to speak out our *Harry Potter* obsession and our Snape obsession – in this episode, I interview my law school buddy Mary. We also have our intrepid interviewer Gina sit down and talk with fanfic author White Raven. We're going to announce the winners of our contest, as usual...

ROSE

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Have the second part of our Snape & Fan Fiction roundtable, and we're gonna do a special Owlpost segment, sort-of live from Lumos. Not really live, but as live as we're gonna get.

[ALL CHUCKLE]

RACHAEL

So this is a really busy time of the year for Potter fans, because we have Lumos at the end of the month, and then J.K. Rowling coming to New York at the beginning of August. And I don't know about you guys, but I feel pretty crazy.

ROSE

Oh yeah.

MEAGAN

Definitely.

RACHAEL

And Snapecast is gonna have a pretty good representation at both of these events.

ROSE

Oh yeah. We've got Gina and Shannon and Wendy, gonna be showing up in New York.

RACHAEL

Wendy's coming all the way from Australia.

ROSE

Mm-hmm.

MEAGAN

Whoa.

RACHAEL

To see J.K. Rowling.

ROSE

Yeah.

RACHAEL

And I think Gina submitted all questions about Snape, as well.

MEAGAN

Surprise, surprise.

RACHAEL

[laughs] And our last listener challenge, actually, we asked all of you to submit questions that you would like to ask J.K. Rowling about Snape – ones that you thought she would answer.

ROSE

And we got some good, thoughtful questions.

RACHAEL

Yes, we did. Thank you.

MEAGAN

And some very interesting ones, too. We got an anonymous question: “Is Snape a virgin?”

[EVERYONE PONDERES]

MEAGAN

I think after Jo stopped laughing, she *might* – I honestly think the answer is no, but I think she would dodge the question just to frustrate us all.

RACHAEL

I think she would answer it.

MEAGAN

I think she’d just laugh and give some smart-aleck answer, like “Well, who wants to know?”

RACHAEL

That’s true. What about – what other questions did you guys like?

ROSE

We got a really great question from Sarah; she wanted to ask, “Did the alternative potion tips in the Half-Blood Prince potion book come from Lily?”

RACHAEL

There’s no way she’s gonna answer that.

MEAGAN

Yeah. I think anything about Lily is just gonna get picked up and thrown out the window with a smile on her face.

RACHAEL

Most certainly.

MEAGAN

Good question, though.

RACHAEL

So, probably the most common one that we got – we got it from three different people – was, “What is Severus’s middle name?”

ROSE

Mmm.

MEAGAN

Yeah, she’d probably answer that, ‘cause it probably isn’t relevant to the plot at all.

RACHAEL

I think she would, too. What do you guys think it is?

MEAGAN

Hmm... Well, she has a thing where she gives her characters interesting first names and then boring middle names, like Hermione Jane Granger and Remus John Lupin, so maybe it’s like, Severus Hector Snape or something.

[RACHAEL & ROSE LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Yeah, I always read in fanfic “Severus Tobias Snape,” and I’ve also seen he doesn’t have a middle name, or that it’s something with an S, so his monogram is SSS.

ROSE

Very Slytherin, a hiss.

RACHAEL

Also, Severus Oswald Snape, for S.O.S., like help.

ROSE

Ahhh.

MEAGAN

But isn’t – Fudge’s middle name is Oswald, isn’t it? Cornelius Oswald Fudge. So she probably wouldn’t use—

RACHAEL

It is?

MEAGAN

Yeah, so she probably wouldn’t use it on two characters.

RACHAEL

Well, she used Evans twice.

MEAGAN
On accident.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL
It's true. So for our next listener challenge, we would like all of you listeners to send in what *you* think Snape's middle name is – or perhaps what you think it should be. So please send us your suggestions at severus@snapecast.com, or you can leave us a voicemail via Skype at username "Snapecast."

MEAGAN
Well, by the time you guys hear this, some of us (myself included) are going to be lounging in Las Vegas, listening to panelists speak at Lumos, and having a fun Snapecast time.

RACHAEL
We'll be *back* from Vegas.

MEAGAN
That's true. My body will be at home, but my mind will still be in Vegas. Trust me.

ROSE
Mm-hmm.

RACHAEL
Yes. Right now we're all waiting in anticipation, 'cause it is Sunday right now, and most of us are leaving on Wednesday, and we are waiting to go to Lumos. And by the time you guys are listening to this, we will probably have gone and come back and had all of our good Snapey fun.

ROSE
Yeah, all of the laundry we're doing this afternoon will be sittin' in a pile, dirty.

RACHAEL
Yes, I'm beginning to pack. And we will have a few Snapecast events at Lumos that will be announced on our website, so hopefully those of you that are listening got a chance to come to those. [laughs] I think – who's all going to Lumos?

MEAGAN
Well, I am, but I dunno who else is.

ROSE
I'm going.

RACHAEL

And I'm going, so Rachael, Rose, Meagan – Shannon, Jo, and who else?

ROSE

Laura.

RACHAEL

Yes, Laura! She's flying with me.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

So we're gonna have a huge Snapecast representation at Lumos, and I'm really excited. We should hopefully come back with some good content for you guys. So that's about it; let's get started with the show!

It's a Pureblood World - (7:11)

Intro: Shannon, Snarky

Band: The Snapecast Housef Experience with Blinky, Pinky, Inky & Clyde

Original Song: Richard and Robert Sherman: It's a Small World

SHANNON

Hey, hey, what are you doing? Snarky, get off the computer!

SNARKY

[hoots]

SHANNON

No, we're *not* putting that in the episode.

SNARKY

[hoots]

SHANNON

Oh, for Pete's sake!

SNARKY

[hoots]

SHANNON

Okay, fine! But we're only gonna play it once. Not everyone has your bizarre fixation with singing house-elves.

SNARKY

[hoots]

SHANNON

You better believe you owe me!

[MUSIC STARTS]

BLINKY

Greetings, boys and girls! It's time for the Snapeliest Death Eater song there ever was!

It's a world of hexes, a world of jinx,
Of acromantulas and sphinx.
Dumbledore is now dead,
Severus Snape has now fled,
It's a pureblood world you know.

ALL

It's a pureblood world you know.
It's a pureblood world you know.
It's a pureblood world you know.
It's a pure blood world.

PINKY

With Imperius you'll do what you're told.
And with *Crucio*, in pain you will fold.
But the AK curse will put you in a hearse.
It's a pureblood world you know.

[ALL SING CHORUS]

CLYDE

Severus Snape's a princely man.
Dark hair, hooked nose, and not much tan.
Death Eater and a spy.
But will he live or die?
It's a pureblood world you know.

[ALL SING CHORUS]

INKY

The Dark Lord's plans are taking shape.
Pity Malfoy failed, but in stepped Snape.
The Dark Lord shall reign.
Potter won't win again.
It's a pureblood world you know.

[ALL SING CHORUS]

Snarky Chapters - (9:23)

Panel: Rachael, Becca, Laura, Meagan

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

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

ALAN RICKMAN [AS SNAPE]

Turn to page 394.

[END CLIP]

RACHAEL

Okay. Hello everyone, and welcome to Snarky Chapters. This is the part of Snapecast where we take apart each chapter that talks about Snape bit by bit and find out what we can tell about his character from them. This week we're looking at one of my favorite books, which is *Prisoner of Azkaban*, and with me I have – who do I have with me?

BECCA

Becca.

LAURA

Laura.

MEAGAN

Meagan.

RACHAEL

Okay. So chapter fourteen, “Snape’s Grudge.” This chapter takes place right after Sirius Black breaks into the castle, and it’s kind of an interesting chapter to go back and read because the third movie really takes a lot of content here and changes the scenes up a bit. Harry basically has two encounters with Snape. In the first encounter, Harry is trying to use the Marauder’s Map to sneak off to Hogsmeade, and Snape almost catches him as he’s on his way to the secret passage. Harry narrowly escapes and makes it to Hogsmeade, but finds himself in trouble again when he gets into a mud-slinging match with Malfoy. Harry’s Invisibility Cloak slips off, revealing his floating head. Of course, Malfoy tells Snape, Snape confronts Harry and takes him back to his office, where he uses probably one of my all-time favorite lines, which is, he asks Harry, ““What would your head have been doing in Hogsmeade, Potter?” said Snape softly. ‘Your head is not allowed in Hogsmeade. No part of your body is allowed in Hogsmeade.’” So Snape continues to grill Harry about where he’s been, and eventually gets him to cough up the map. Lupin comes in and bails Harry out of any real trouble, but the Marauders of course get their chance to insult Snivellus from beyond the grave before this happens. So, a lot happens in this chapter. During the first encounter at the beginning of the chapter, Snape

seems really suspicious of Harry, and there's this line about him running his hands over the one-eyed witch's head and examining it closely. What do you think Snape is thinking here? I mean, we know that he has *been* in the Marauders' passageway through the Whomping Willow.

MEAGAN

I just figured he thought that Harry was probably trying to be up to something, cuz...he always thinks Harry's up to something...cuz Harry usually *is* up to something. But anyway, um...yeah, he might've guessed that the witch's hump was another passage 'cause he knew about the Willow passage. But I don't know if he *knew* that the hump was a passage, or if he was just trying to figure it out, thinking maybe Harry's trying to go do something.

LAURA

Yeah, I don't – myself, I don't think he didn't know if that was a passage or not, but I think he was kind of wondering whether *Harry* knew that it was a passage, or had his hands on the Marauder's Map.

BECCA

Hmm. That's interesting.

RACHAEL

So do you think Snape knew about the Marauder's Map, and knew what it was?

LAURA

Well, I think so. Unless I misunderstood something at the Shrieking Shack, because he was talking about looking at the Marauder's Map and that's how he knew Remus was there.

MEAGAN

I don't think he knew about the map at *this* point in time. Like when he finds it on Harry, I don't think he knows that it's a *map*. But he does mention in that later chapter that he found the map lying open on Lupin's desk, so it would've just been a map right then, he could've seen where Lupin was.

LAURA

Oh, like he didn't know then, but he knew later. Okay, that makes sense.

RACHAEL

I always took it that he didn't – 'cause why would he know? But it does seem like he knows what the map is from this chapter because he makes that comment about Harry getting the map directly from the manufacturers. So it *really* seems like he knows about it, even though he could've just found it in Lupin's office, picked it up, figured out how it works, and used it. I have a gut feeling he knows what it is.

BECCA

I kinda think that Snape knew the Marauders' nicknames, so once he had been insulted by Moony, Padfoot, Prongs, and Wormtail – when he saw those names, I think he realized who the manufacturers *were*. I think maybe that's why he called for Lupin then, and why he was so angry when Lupin was trying to kind of deny any sort of knowledge of it. And I also think that Snape maybe thought that Sirius Black had sent Harry the map to try and get him out of Hogwarts to attack him. And I think maybe that's why he made the comment about getting it directly from the manufacturers, because if he knows that Sirius Black's nickname is Padfoot, then...yeah. It's just a theory.

RACHAEL

I like that.

LAURA

I do too.

RACHAEL

I guess the next logical question from there is if he knows that their nicknames are Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, and Prongs, does he know what that means and why they have those nicknames?

MEAGAN

I don't think he knows that they're Ani—magi? Is that how you say it?—just because, like – not even Dumbledore knew, and if they could hide it from Dumbledore, they sure as heck could hide it from Snape, y'know?

LAURA

Yeah, I tend to think he didn't know that they were unreported, but – especially like what Meagan just said about, if Dumbledore didn't know, if they could pull it past him, then he probably doesn't know. He knows their nicknames, though.

BECCA

I—yeah, I agree, I don't think that he knew they were Animagi because Snape reacts so strongly when Dumbledore tells Sirius to come out of his dog form. I don't think that's an act. I think he really is surprised, so I don't think that he knew that they were Animagi.

RACHAEL

Okay, so then going back to the whole Whomping Willow incident – when that happened, how do you guys envision that happening? 'Cause that's something that we know happened in canon, but we don't really have the details. Did James save Snape in human form or in his stag form?

MEAGAN

I think he would have had to have saved him in human form, just because again, if Snape doesn't know that they're Animagi, then if this random deer saved him from dying, and then later on he has a life-debt to James Potter, he's probably gonna put two and two together.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

This random deer...But okay, isn't that - the problem with that is, isn't that dumb?

BECCA

It is, it's really dumb, but I agree – well, so many people talk about the life-debt, and Snape obviously feels *some* kind of debt to James. Perhaps it's not one of the magically binding life-debts that we know Pettigrew has for Harry, but he felt some kind of debt towards James. And we know that the whole reason that they *became* Animagi was because in their animal forms, they didn't really have any kind of danger from Lupin. So he wouldn't have been in much danger if he'd saved him in stag form, so why would Snape feel any kind of debt? Why would Dumbledore say he risked his life to save Snape if he was in stag form? That's why I tend to think it was human.

RACHAEL

It just makes me think James Potter's an idiot, though. [laugh] He *is*, he *was*, they *all* were!

MEAGAN

They were teenage boys.

RACHAEL

I mean, Snape was too!

LAURA

Yeah, they were just kids.

RACHAEL

They all were.

MEAGAN

Well, has anyone – like, I've read a scene in fanfic of the Whomping Willow incident and how it played out. Has anyone else read any interpretations of it besides me?

LAURA

No.

BECCA

Here and there. I've roleplayed it.

MEAGAN

Well, that counts.

RACHAEL

I've talked about how it could have happened. What was the rendition that you read, Meagan?

MEAGAN

I follow this ongoing fic called the Shoebox Project on LiveJournal, and there's one chapter – it's a Marauders-era fic, obviously, and there's one chapter that's just the Whomping Willow incident, and to sum up how it played out then: Snape and Sirius bumped into each other in the corridors, just kinda started insulting each other, Snape was like, "Well, I know you guys are hiding something with Lupin, I'm gonna find out where he goes every month, you can't keep it hidden, blah blah blah." And Sirius was like, "Well, why don't you just stick your big fat nose into the Whomping Willow and find out where he goes." And so Snape is like, "I will!" Sirius goes back to the common room and he tells the story to the other Marauders, he's like, "Ha-ha, isn't that funny?" And James is like, "Oh my God. You *idiot*. Snape is gonna go do it." And Sirius is like, "Nah, he couldn't – he couldn't figure out which knot to push, I was just joking, blah blah blah," and James is like, "No, you don't understand. *He's gonna go do it.*" And James like freaked out and ran and basically just grabbed Snape out of the tunnel before he got to Lupin in his werewolf form. So it wasn't like they maliciously intended to kill him, or that it was some kind of joke they all cooked up together, it was just Sirius being retarded and James being like "You idiot, you're gonna get us expelled, and get Lupin in trouble, and get Snape killed, and blah blah blah." So it wasn't – it was kind of a middle ground sort of thing; it wasn't *pure* heroism, but it wasn't like a dirty joke, either. That's just one of the interpretations I've read, and it kind of makes sense.

RACHAEL

Yeah, y'know that jogged my memory, and I have read a fanfic of the Whomping Willow incident. And I know this isn't how it's gonna be in canon, but I'll throw it out 'cause it's a different interpretation of what Meagan said. There's the fanfic interpretation, for those Snupin enthusiasts, that Snape was kind of obsessed with Lupin, kinda had a little crush on him, they were sort of like the – there's that dynamic, and he was really obsessed with where he was going all the time and always looking at him. And Sirius noticed this dynamic, and being the jerk he was, kind of told Snape where he could go and find Lupin. But I think it probably *happened* very much like that. Does anyone else have any ideas?

BECCA

I very much like the fic Meagan suggested; I don't agree with the Snupin interpretation.

MEAGAN

But yours is more *interesting*.

BECCA

See, I think when Sirius Black escapes, and Snape says to Dumbledore, "Have you forgotten that Sirius Black showed himself capable of murder at the age of fifteen?" Dumbledore says, "My memory is as good as it ever was, Severus." And there have been several people who have theorized that there's a hidden meaning in this. And I agree

because if you think about it, I don't think – even at fifteen, I don't think that Sirius Black was the type of person who would have done something like that just for the heck of it. I don't think that he thought it was as harmless as some people have made it out to be; I think he knew that – I mean, either – I think he expected either Snape would get really hurt, or maybe possibly turn into a werewolf himself. I don't think he intended for Snape to be murdered.

RACHAEL

That's *bad*, though! I mean, "Oh, I wanted him to turn into a werewolf—"

BECCA

It is! It is! It's horrible. But I don't think he thought about it. He just reacted on an angry impulse or whatever, and I think there was a reason behind it. I think that he was angry and furious, even, over something in particular. I think that Snape did something, or something was going on, that made Sirius act. And I think that we're gonna find that out in Book 7, or at least more about it, because I think there's a reason that Dumbledore said, "My memory is as good as it ever was." I think that there's more to that story than we know.

LAURA

Yeah, I agree. It just shows that they were impulsive teenage boys, and yeah they're wizards and they have talents and skills, but they're still down deep, angry—y'know, they react badly to anger and emotions and things like that. But I think later on, I agree with Becca, that something else is gonna come out, to show there was more to that than we thought.

RACHAEL

So what could that be? Let's just think of wild, crazy stuff.

MEAGAN

Well, I think that *if* for some reason Sirius did intend for Snape to go down the tunnel, then it must've been, like, some kind of provocation, obviously from Snape, like maybe – maybe they were just sparring like they usually do, or maybe Snape was teasing him about all that time he spent alone in the bathroom with Lupin, I dunno, but—something like that.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Back on the Snupin!

BECCA

Well, Rachael, that's my little – I don't really believe this, but I have one little pet theory...

RACHAEL

Share that theory.

BECCA

Well, it's about Snape and Regulus Black. And I imagined from the way Sirius talks about him in *Order of the Phoenix*, I don't imagine that they had a very close sibling relationship. But perhaps if Snape was influencing Regulus in some way, like taking him further down the path toward being a Death Eater, perhaps? Although I'm not sure if I think that likely, because considering the family that Regulus comes from, he probably would've already had an inclination there as well, but I dunno. That's one theory that I've heard.

LAURA

Well, that would certainly piss Sirius off; that might be something.

RACHAEL

Okay, I know this is jumping ahead, but since we're not gonna cover this chapter as one of our Snarky Chapters anyway, I'm gonna read from it. It's chapter eighteen, "Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot and Prongs." And this is Lupin's rendition of what happened.

"Severus was very interested in where I went every month." Lupin told Harry, Ron, and Hermione. "We were in the same year, you know, and we -- er -- didn't like each other very much. He especially disliked James. Jealous, I think, of James's talent on the Quidditch field... anyway Snape had seen me crossing the grounds with Madam Pomfrey one evening as she led me toward the Whomping Willow to transform. Sirius thought it would be -- er -- amusing, to tell Snape all he had to do was prod the knot on the tree trunk with a long stick, and he'd be able to get in after me. Well, of course, Snape tried it -- if he'd got as far as this house, he'd have met a fully grown werewolf -- but your father, who'd heard what Sirius had done, went after Snape and pulled him back, at great risk to his life... Snape glimpsed me, though, at the end of the tunnel. He was forbidden by Dumbledore to tell anybody, but from that time on he knew what I was...."

So that just leaves tons of stuff open.

BECCA

Well, I tend to think that Lupin's version of the intent behind the Marauders is more accurate than Snape's. I think -- y'know, Snape says that James was in on the joke and was just trying to save his skin; I don't think that, I think Snape has just managed to convince himself of that. I think Lupin's version where James finds out about it and goes after Snape, I think that's the more accurate version.

LAURA

I agree; I think that was a more accurate version where James protected him, and I think Snape doesn't wanna believe that because that would make him -- he doesn't want any feelings that are gonna make him like James or feel sympathetic towards him. So it makes him feel better to think, "Well, he was in on it, and he's just as bad as Sirius," and whatever, so that gives him an excuse to be angry at him.

MEAGAN

And plus the only thing more awful than getting just tormented by people at school is if those people randomly save your life and you owe your life to them.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

I dunno. I'm starting not to like James Potter very much.

MEAGAN

Well, he grew out of it.

BECCA

Yeah, a lot of people don't, but yeah, that's the whole point is that he grew out of it and Snape didn't, Snape got worse.

MEAGAN

Yeah, you can't just stand by Snape and be like, "Oh, those horrible Marauders," 'cause they actually matured and grew out of it, and Snape is just stuck at age fifteen.

LAURA

That's true.

BECCA

Yeah, definitely.

RACHAEL

Yeah, when we're talking about the chapter "Snape's Grudge," that chapter title gives us, "Hey, he's still holding on to this schoolboy's grudge."

BECCA

Yup.

RACHAEL

So if he really had this big grudge, then, what made him – what did Dumbledore tell him to get him to keep Lupin's secret?

MEAGAN

Did he have to tell him anything in particular? 'Cause I think just being Dumbledore would be enough. If Dumbledore told *me* to shut up about something, I'd shut myself up.

BECCA

[laughs] Yeah, I think so too.

LAURA

Yeah, that's true. But some weird stuff goes through my head, too, like maybe that's how he got his position later on. I mean...he kind of had something.

RACHAEL

I think he had some kind of leverage, I agree with you, and I think that somehow fits into the "my memory is as good as it ever was." I think he had some kind of leverage because I think like Snape, being a Slytherin, if he really wanted it to get out, he could get it – he could ruin Lupin's life without getting himself in trouble with Dumbledore.

BECCA

That's true.

RACHAEL

Dumbledore knew what Snape had done to provoke it, and...

BECCA

Yeah, I agree.

MEAGAN

And the leverage would just be the knowledge, 'cause if Snape told anyone that Lupin was a werewolf and it got out...Dumbledore hadn't made that widely known to the school, so he would get all kinds of owls from parents and there'd be this big to-do, and Remus would be thrown out. So just the knowledge that Lupin was a werewolf would be enough leverage for Snape.

RACHAEL

No, but which makes my position even stronger, because what I'm saying is that *Dumbledore* had something against Snape, to say like, "Okay, Severus. You know the true story now, and you'd better keep your mouth shut, and here's why." Because in my opinion, Snape kinda – if he really hates the Marauders that much, if he really had that big of a grudge, he could ruin Lupin's life, he could ruin Dumbledore's reputation right there, and he didn't do it – and there's a reason why.

BECCA

Which makes *me* think that whatever Snape did to provoke this was possibly worthy of an expulsion itself, or it musta been something big.

MEAGAN

Ahh.

BECCA

I think.

MEAGAN

That's really interesting. I hadn't looked at it that way.

LAURA
That's a good point.

RACHAEL
And do you guys think he was like – I know a lot of people's theories are that he became a Death Eater right after this. Like, it made him so angry at Dumbledore that he sorta turned to the dark side. Does anyone kinda believe he already was a Death Eater at this point?

MEAGAN
I don't think he was Marked until he left school, just 'cause it would be inconvenient to be Marked and then go to class and your arm just randomly burn in the middle of the night.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA
Yeah, like – you can't take a shower because somebody will see.

MEAGAN
Yeah, but he very – this could've been kind of something that pushed him more towards the people who had already decided, "Hey, I'm gonna be a Death Eater once I get outta school." Like maybe this brought him closer to Lucius and his gang.

RACHAEL
Definitely. I think that this was the point when Snape made up his mind – "if this is how I'm gonna get treated by trying to follow the rules," or whatever, then forget this.

LAURA
Yeah, I think he was kind of ripe for the picking because of his anger and so forth, kind of like how gangs will see a kid that's kind of a loner and really mad, and has been bullied and so forth, and go, "Oh, there's a good one, we can pull him into our dark side." Something like that, I think, went on. So later on he became a Death Eater, but he had the personality for it.

MEAGAN
I'm not sure if this was the actual single catalyst that made him decide, but it could've easily been a factor and just made him more angry at everyone he perceived to be his enemies.

LAURA
Right.

RACHAEL

So I think I've gone through the questions that I made up already. Any other thoughts about this chapter and what it tells us about Snape?

BECCA

I just wanted to mention the part where Snape is trying to get the information out of the map, or trying to get the parchment to reveal its secrets. I like how he goes from touching the map with his wand, to touching the map *sharply* with his wand, to *hitting* the map with his wand.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

And then he claims to be the *master* of the school, and orders the map.

RACHAEL

Yeah. I don't think he really thinks he's the master, but...yeah.

MEAGAN

It's funny that that's the kind of thing that he says when he's angry. You keep dreaming, Severus Snape. You keep dreaming.

BECCA

Delusions of grandeur.

RACHAEL

The point is it shows you a lot about his character because this is the one time that he's magically incompetent. Like he's usually a really good wizard, but he can't get this stupid map to kind of show itself for what it is.

MEAGAN

And it's doubly frustrating because he knows the map has something to do with his old school enemies, and the map is insulting him as he attempts to open it.

RACHAEL

Yeah, if he knew their nicknames—they're insulting him *again*, getting the better of him *again*, insulting him from the grave.

BECCA

Yeah, that must've *really* made him upset.

RACHAEL

See, and that's why I end this chapter, and I kinda just think, "Poor Severus."

BECCA

I dunno.

MEAGAN

I don't.

BECCA

I think "Poor Severus," but I also think – yeah, you kinda deserve what you get.

LAURA

Yeah, I think "Poor Severus" too, when I think about being bullied, but then, y'know, you need to grow up and get beyond your issues and that sort of thing, and he needs to do that. And then...

RACHAEL

Exactly.

LAURA

But then with the map, with the – when he sees the names, the point where he sees Padfoot, Wormtail and so forth, it's like a reminder of them being in a group and doing something without him, him being the outsider again. So that makes him even madder, I think.

RACHAEL

Yeah, poor guy. Okay, well, thanks everyone for listening to this episode of Snarky Chapters. Next month we will be doing chapter nineteen in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, which is called "The Servant of Lord Voldemort." And I would like to invite any of the listeners to send in voicemails to Skype username Snapecast, or e-mails to severus@snapecast.com, with any thoughts about this chapter, chapter nineteen in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, because I think it would be nice to get some listener feedback and contribution into our Snarky Chapters discussions. Thanks everyone, and goodbye!

BECCA

Thank you, bye!

LAURA

Bye!

MEAGAN

Bye!

Detention Intervention - (32:45)

Intro: Rose

Snape Obsessed: Rachael

Concerned Friend: Mary

Music: Nick Drake: Been Smoking Too Long

ROSE

One of the Snapecast mottos is 'Too much Snape is never enough.' Now not everyone feels that way, and in our next segment, 'Detention Intervention', a friend from outside of the dungeons will get a chance to state their thoughts and opinions about the Snape obsession.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

RACHAEL

Hello, everyone! This is Rachael, and I am here with my friend Mary. Say hello, Mary.

MARY

Hello!

RACHAEL

Mary and I are supposed to be studying bankruptcy right now - we're terribly behind in bankruptcy - but instead we decided to do a Detention Intervention segment. So, Mary is my friend from law school, so we've been friends for like what, three years now?

MARY

Yep! Three years.

RACHAEL

Okay.

MARY

That's right. As soon as we started law school.

RACHAEL

[laughs] And Mary, when did you notice that I had an obsession with Snape?

MARY

Well actually, I didn't notice until this past semester.

RACHAEL

When my grades went down. [laughs]

MARY

That would be the one, yes. Um. Not until, uh...I guess, yeah, in Professional Responsibility, um, during - during that class, when you used to do all kinds of Snapecast stuff.

RACHAEL

Yeah, because I pretty much made TrustSnape.com a professional responsibility.

MARY

Yeah.

RACHAEL

And Mary, do you read the Harry Potter books?

MARY

I do.

RACHAEL

Yeah, you see, I know this already, I'm just asking for my audience's sake. Mary, do you think it's disturbing that I'm obsessed with Snape as opposed to another character?

MARY

[clears throat] I think disturbing might be a strong word for it. It's interesting, to say the least.

RACHAEL

Who's your favorite character?

MARY

I don't know that I have a favorite character, necessarily. But I like, like, uhm, the good guys, like the Weasleys, and uhm...I don't know. I don't particularly have any favorites, I don't want to call any favorites.

RACHAEL

Mhm. And do you think that in particular my Snarry obsession is disturbing? I played the Snarry song for you.

MARY

Uh, y'know, it's, uh...I had no idea that there were any *songs* - [RACHAEL laughs] I don't, I don't think I know the half of it, to tell you the truth, like I don't think I knew that any of this stuff existed until you started, y'know, doing all of this.

RACHAEL

Did you - you didn't even imagine that it existed, that people would write songs and stories about Harry Potter shagging Severus Snape?

MARY

I had no idea. [playfully dramatic] Who would think that Harry and - and Snape would shag?

RACHAEL

So, some of this stuff - you've listened to Snapecast, some of it.

MARY

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Did it comfort you at all to know that there are other, like, crazy people like me?

MARY

Uhm, it comforts me for your sake. [THEY laugh.] Well at least it's a *healthy* obsession, you know?

RACHAEL

Healthy. Yeah, I guess I could be obsessed with worse things. Uhm, so you - how do you picture the seventh book happening, then?

[pause]

MARY

I don't - I don't know.

RACHAEL

You don't think about that?

MARY

This is the difference between you and me. I wait to be entertained by Rowling, I don't make up...

RACHAEL

Don't you at least think 'What will happen in the seventh book?' and try to make up some theories, or do you just read it and you're like... 'Oh, R.A.B., I wonder who that is.'
[laughing] I guess I'll find out when she writes it.

MARY

I have no idea. I really don't think - I mean I know you think 'How could you not think about this?', like 'How do you live your LIFE without thinking about this?' but I just don't. [more laughter] I don't.

RACHAEL

Does that disturb you, that there are a whole bunch of people that view Snape as a sex symbol?

MARY

Yeah.

RACHAEL

That's disturbing. Why? Elaborate.

MARY

I think it's disturbing primarily because I see, well, I see this book, and it has taken so many people in the world, y'know, adults and children alike, that - that read and evidently become addicted to the books.

RACHAEL
Addicted! [laughs]

MARY
Uhm, I still see it as it started out as a children's book, I think, and I still see it as, y'know, primarily a young adult-themed book. There's no real, like-

RACHAEL
Are you calling me juvenile?

MARY
No, not juvenile at all, but I feel like, uhm, pedophilia-style, kind of, if I start to sexualize the book.

RACHAEL
Really? Anyone in the book? So even though Snape is an adult-

MARY
Yes.

RACHAEL
Because it's a kid's book, you think it's kind of like pedophilia.

MARY
I just feel that way. I feel like-

RACHAEL
One of my best friends thinks that I'm a pedophile. [THEY laugh.]

MARY
I just feel like somehow it makes what is good, and what's supposed to be - like it's a children's, young-adult themed book. I just feel like somehow it taint - taints the book. It's because I don't think of it sexually, that's why. I don't see anything sexual about...especially Snape.

RACHAEL
[laughing] Especially.

MARY
But you know, Harry, if I was a twelve year old girl or something, I'm sure that I would probably be in love with Harry. But I'm not, and so, y'know...

RACHAEL

You're sure that if you were an adult wizard, you would not be in love with Snape?

MARY

...Yeah. These are such scary questions.

RACHAEL

Yeah, they're kind of like, presuming that Snape is a real person and that he could ask you for coffee. [THEY laugh.]

MARY

Uh huh.

RACHAEL

Okay, well I think that's about it, and anything else you want to say about Snape from the perspective of someone who isn't a Snape fan?

MARY

Uh...

RACHAEL

Any questions about why we do this?

MARY

I think I've asked you that before, but I don't remember what your response was.

RACHAEL

[laughing] You don't remember? What did you ask me?

MARY

Why?

RACHAEL

Why am I obsessed with Snape, and I didn't answer you?

MARY

I don't remember.

RACHAEL

Okay, yeah, it's too complicated.

MARY

Yeah, so...anything that has to do with wizardry would be too complicated.

RACHAEL

Okay. Well, that was my friend Mary, and I guess we're going to study some bankruptcy now. She being a normal Harry Potter fan - she doesn't think about Snape every day.

MARY

And I only read the books when they come out, in - I don't read them over and over and over again.

RACHAEL

You've only read each one once?

MARY

Yeah.

RACHAEL

[quietly] Oh my God. [laughing] All right. Cheers, everyone.

Fan Interview - (40:49)

Interviewer: Gina

Guest: White Raven

Fic: [Tea with the Black Dragon](#)

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

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners! This is the Snapecast interview segment. My name is Gina R. Snape, and I am here with White Raven.

WHITE RAVEN

Good morning, everyone!

GINA

Today we're gonna be discussing a few very exciting things. White Raven is the author of the penultimate Snape fan fiction, "Tea with the Black Dragon." She's also written a number of other fics, some of them Snape, some of them about Grima Wormtongue, some about other characters, and all of her fiction can be found on DigitalQuill.com. So, White Raven – I really wanted to talk to you about "Tea with the Black Dragon" because it was one of the fics that really drew me into fan fiction. It drew me into Snape, and it drew me into reading about what they call OFCs, Original Female Characters, and your character is a very rich and original woman. So to start, why don't you tell our listeners a little bit about the story and what inspired you to write it?

WHITE RAVEN

Well, I would probably say that it started off with me just reading a lot of fan fiction, and I thought it was pretty interesting to see how writers had their particular take on the existing canon characters. And I figured, "Well, I'll just give it a pop and go ahead and try out some fiction." So it was really my first time to try writing fan fiction, or fiction of

any type. And being Snape – that’s a pretty fascinating character, so probably like the legions of many, I went ahead and used him as my main character. And as far as the OFC – that was based on an existing friend. Well, she passed away in 1996, and it was sort of maybe a tribute to her, although I’m not exactly certain that the real person would be all that attracted to somebody like Snape, but I’m sure she’ll forgive me later on.

GINA
[laughs]

WHITE RAVEN

So I more or less did fan fiction of my own friend as well.

GINA

Yeah. That must’ve been a very healing experience for you.

WHITE RAVEN

It was, it was nice. It was almost like setting up some kind of ethereal dialog with her. I missed her very much, and in a way that brought her a lot closer as I worked through that particular story. So for a year and a half, she was my companion. So it was nice.

GINA

Yeah, that’s beautiful. Really is. And Snape, like you said – who knows, in real life, if she would’ve been interested in him? But the way you *write* him is very close to canon, and that’s part of what I think makes the story so enjoyable. He’s in pain, he’s petulant, he’s a master of potions, and he has, y’know, sexual prowess, and he can *dance*, and all those exciting things that you can add in fan fiction, but he’s also snarky and unpleasant. And so I guess how – how much preparation did you do to make him really like canon, or did it just come naturally?

WHITE RAVEN

Unfortunately, I’m probably the most non-preparatory person I know, so I just sorta wrote on the fly and just went with it as it came, so...He was canon to a point, I think, as far as being the petulant, snarky, petty individual that you read about in the book itself.

The rest of that, y’know, tango and so forth and so on, I just thought I would throw in there as something interesting. I mean obviously, canon has – current canon has blown it out of the water, but I thought it added just sort of an interesting level to the character itself. I mean, we all live, y’know, often very mundane kind of lives, so it was nice to throw in something where we have this teacher who probably doesn’t appreciate or enjoy being a teacher, having all these little hidden things. Like, who would suspect that somebody like Snape would tango?

GINA
Right.

WHITE RAVEN

So I'm certain it's probably not J.K. Rowling's original intention to have Snape as a dance master, but it was fun for the story. And I think that's really what it's all about, is do what you feel is fun.

GINA

Well, I agree with you. I think – well, for one thing, I think Snape has many hidden layers, and part of writing fan fiction is uncovering some of those layers, and finding a way to make them true to him. Like another person, y'know, could maybe write him being able to dance, and it comes off as sappy and unrealistic, but you really made it seem like, well, he's a perfectionist at Potions, why shouldn't he be a dance master because if he puts his mind to it, he'll really be able to do it?

WHITE RAVEN

Oh, thank you. I think that's really what I was trying to do. Part of the writing challenge itself is to take something that, when you think about it, be rather unlikely, and just try and meld it in with the character's original motivations, their intentions, and their basic personality, and see if it works. And I hope I pulled it off, because I know with – y'know, the reviews and the responses that I've gotten back, the two chapters containing tango scenes have always been people's favorites, which I just get a huge kick out of.

GINA

Aww. That's great. And I know you've said before that you're a little surprised at the reception *because* it was your first fic, and it was so wildly popular, and remains so. I mean, we get people on the Potions Master's Muse asking us all the time, "Where can I find this story?" So...I think it really has had an influence on other writers.

WHITE RAVEN

Oh, that's great. I would love the idea that that might be the case. It was really probably something that just sort of knocked my socks off as far as the reception, because I'd tackled an unpopular pairing at the time. And really, I don't know – I think it's a little more popular these days, but normally the OFC is not often well-received.

GINA

Right.

WHITE RAVEN

I was probably inspired to give it a kick after reading Rickfan37's "Snape and Love," and I think that helped a lot. I thought, "Now here's somebody who can write an original character, lemme give it a whack myself." Because while I had *read* Snape and Hermione, y'know, the Hermione character has never overly appealed to me as far as trying to write fan fiction.

GINA

Sure.

WHITE RAVEN

And I thought it would be an interesting challenge just to create my own original character and try to integrate her into the whole Hogwarts world.

GINA

Right. Yeah, I agree. I think that is an interesting challenge, to create a realistic character who can fit into J.K. Rowling's world. And I think you do that very well.

WHITE RAVEN

Thank you very much.

GINA

I also think that, maybe having created an original character was a good segue for you to writing other things, because I'm aware that you also are now publishing, and a lot of fanfic writers test the waters with fanfic to, y'know, build up their muscle so that they can go into real published writing. Not *real*, y'know, but published writing.

WHITE RAVEN

Right.

GINA

So can you talk a little bit about that?

WHITE RAVEN

I would probably say that that particular fiction was just an excellent source of training, because I had to tackle challenges on two levels. First off, you're trying to remain as close as canon in your own characterization as you possibly can with an existing character. And then you've also got this brand-new character that you're creating and trying to make as human and empathetic as possible to the reader. And we all know about the, y'know, trap of the Mary Sue. So it's a matter of just trying to balance a couple of plates in the air. And with that original character, it was a very good way to try and earn my chops as far as creating something out of nothing. Now granted, this is based off of somebody who did exist, so that made it a little easier.

GINA

Right.

WHITE RAVEN

But at the same time, it was...

GINA

Like training wheels.

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. But it was a very good way of pulling it all together, trying to look at every aspect of an original character, and it made it a lot easier for when I stepped over into the

original writing, because I did have some practice with how to build an original character.
So that made a difference.

GINA

I'm sure it did; my instinct tells me that it would. And so, do you have any advice for any fanfic writers who are interested in jumping over into published work?

WHITE RAVEN

Yes, I'd actually say, go ahead and probably stick with both. Do your original writing and also continue with your fan fiction. You fan fiction is a way to let go, in a sense, because you are working in an existing universe, and it's excellent practice for your original fiction. You take away so many things from what you do in your fan fiction you can apply to your original fiction that's very useful. And because you have a huge community that can interact with you as well; they can offer you advice, they can offer you support, they can offer you training – and as long as you can keep it in perspective, y'know, there's gonna be both the positive and the negative, and you just have to remember to filter it through.

GINA

Sure.

WHITE RAVEN

And when you go into the original writing scene as well; things like feedback, good and bad, is pretty much – you roll with it, because you've already earned your stripes in fan fiction with that kind of thing. And I think that's certainly been excellent feedback for me, because whenever I do get reviews of any type on the original stuff, it's like, okay, I've seen similar stuff in fan fiction and so forth, so... It's a very good way to segue into the original fiction writing arena.

GINA

And I notice that you're true to your word, because in addition to writing the published stuff, you do continue to write fan fiction, although not necessarily exclusively Snape fan fiction.

WHITE RAVEN

Yes. Yeah, I usually like to stay in it, and there's, y'know, so many different fandom universes out there that are really very interesting, and it's nice to be able to try and work with other characters who may have completely different personalities from the Snape character.

GINA

Sure. Well, that becomes the writing challenge; otherwise you're just, y'know, writing the same thing, or writing the same person.

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. So it's good to have some diversity, and it also helps in your own writing, 'cause when you do your original work, you need to have characters with different voices.

Because readers are very intuitive; they'll start reading multiple stuff by you and suddenly realize that wow, even though this character has a different name, I've read this person before.

GINA

Right. That's a good point. People will follow you, and wanna – some of them may wanna see something different; some of them may wanna see the same thing.

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. I know as a reader myself, there's been plenty of times where I'll have a favorite author and I'll start reading her stuff and go through several books that seem pretty good, and I'll enjoy them. But then I'll start noticing that it feels like I'm reading the same person now.

GINA

And unless you're in a series, y'know, maybe not so good.

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. So I try to keep that in mind as far as the two pieces of, y'know, original and fan fiction writing. So it helps.

GINA

And I noticed with the things that you write about Snape, since this is Snapecast – you seem to enjoy some of the online challenges.

WHITE RAVEN

Oh, absolutely. Because you're basically writing on the fly, and that's really what I do best; I'm just not a planner kind of person. So whenever I see challenges hop up or something, I'll take a look at 'em and be like, "Oh, that's really cool!". In a way, somebody is already giving me a base idea, so in a way it's a lazy way out.

GINA

[laughs] Sure.

WHITE RAVEN

But at the same time, it's – y'know, you don't have time really to prep for it, and...

GINA

Like working the thirty-minute challenges – here's the idea, you have thirty minutes...

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly.

GINA

...stop the clock, go!

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. And you're working within a parameter that *you* didn't set. So it's, y'know, it's fun; I enjoy those. It's...I like writing because I can challenge myself, and that's just part of the enjoyment.

GINA

Yeah, I have to agree with you; I'm not big on writing these long, long, long stories, but when you have something short, you can get an intense idea out and be done with it, and it's exciting.

WHITE RAVEN

Exactly. And really part of the challenge of writing *short* is the fact that you need to convey idea, emotion, and motivation within a very short space and period of time. So there is quite a bit of work there, to be able to choose the exact words that are really going to give you the punch and the impact that you want for your readers. Writing long is often about endurance and the ability to hold an arc, and then writing short is about conveying the emotion very quickly.

GINA

That's a really good point, and good advice for any writers who were thinking about—

WHITE RAVEN

Thank you.

GINA

—what arena to try to tackle. So I wanted to end by letting our listeners know that “Tea with the Black Dragon” is available on Digital Quill, and it has also been mentioned by a little person named Joyce Millman in a book called *Mapping the World of Harry Potter*.

WHITE RAVEN

Yes, it was. Boy, was that a surprise!

GINA

[laughs] And yeah, so – how did you feel? Who have you told?

WHITE RAVEN

It was really interesting that that would be, y'know, put into a book about the *Harry Potter* series and so forth, so it was nice having my, y'know, couple of seconds of fame there. I feel like I'm pretty well-entrenched in the community to a point, even though I'm more or less a silent lurker these days. It's nice to see something that you've worked very hard on pop up in print.

GINA

Yeah, absolutely. I really think that that's a sign of just how well-received not only your story is, but – not only how well your story is received, but how influential it's been.

WHITE RAVEN

Oh – that is pretty amazing, if I try and consider it that way. I'm not sure how influential it might be across the board, but I do know there's been a couple of people who've said, "Hey, y'know, you wrote this and I really enjoyed it, and I wanna try my hand at writing." And I think that is probably one of the greatest compliments to any writer – not so much that somebody's gonna sit there and say, "Oh, this is beautiful and the best thing ever written," but that you moved somebody to try their hand at it as well and flex that creative muscle.

GINA

Absolutely.

WHITE RAVEN

Because at that point you've really given back, and that's what's important; sort of that kind of thing, pay it forward. Somebody else influenced *me* to do it, so I would like to think that I've at least got one person to sit down at the PC and try it themselves.

GINA

Sure. I think that's a really beautiful sentiment, and I agree wholeheartedly.

WHITE RAVEN

Thank you.

GINA

Well, do you have anything else that you would like to say to our listeners?

WHITE RAVEN

Um...not that I can think of, other than to say, y'know, if you're writing, continue on with it; if you're just thinking about it, stop thinking about it – do it.

[ALL LAUGH]

WHITE RAVEN

Lots of people are like, "Y'know, I'm considering writing..." Nonononono. Don't consider it; sit down and do it. And you may sit there and say, "Oh, this is terrible"; well, you know what? If you stop what you're doing, you're not gonna improve. So you just continue on, and you get better and better and better. And it's fun, and it's just a way to be able to really exercise that brain, and there's just so many good things that go along with it. So yeah, fan fiction, despite some of its dramas and so forth, is just such an excellent universe to be in.

GINA

Excellent, excellent advice. Thank you very much, White Raven, for taking the time to interview today.

WHITE RAVEN
Oh, thank you!

GINA
And for our listeners, just a reminder: her stories can be found on DigitalQuill...org, or .com?

WHITE RAVEN
Yes, .org

GINA
DigitalQuill.org, and White Raven also has a LiveJournal, which is <http://whitemunin.livejournal.com>.

WHITE RAVEN
That's me!

GINA
All right. Take care!

WHITE RAVEN
Thank you!

Snape & Roundtable - (57:45)

Panel: Becca, Rose, Gina, Shannon, Chris

Topic: Snape & FanFiction Part II

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

RACHAEL
Next up: Becca, Chris, Gina, Rose, and Shannon continue with Part Two of Snape & Fan Fiction.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

ROSE
Hm. It's a bit of a—like a classic thing in a lot of Snarry fics that Harry is undergoing this sexual awakening, and he realizes Snape isn't ugly. "Why did I ever think he was ugly? He's really attractive!"

SHANNON
Wow.

BECCA

Wait, was that a Snarry reference?

SHANNON

Yes, it was!

[CHRIS & SHANNON LAUGH]

BECCA

Oh no.

SHANNON

Poor Becca.

GINA

Well, I don't read Snarry fic, so I wouldn't have come across that, but I'm trying to think...I mean, Hermione always clues in to his intellect, and that's her source of attraction often.

SHANNON

Yes, yes.

BECCA

Yes, I agree, I definitely agree with that. I've only read a few Snape/Hermione fics, but that's always the big draw or the thing that they have in common, is their studiousness.

GINA

Exactly. And the thing I like about Snape and original female character, what they call OFC pairings, is that you get to pull him into a brand-new relationship in a brand-new environment, or in the same environment but with someone brand-new, and see how he behaves under those circumstances. And I think in those cases, there usually is a meeting of the minds regarding his ability, or he rescues them somehow, and we get to see again this romantic side of Snape where, y'know, those people don't know his history or they don't care about what else is going on, and so on and so forth.

BECCA

Rose, you had remarked on the point in my list about Snape actually wanting to love someone and to have someone love him – I wanted to get your thoughts on that.

ROSE

Yeah, I see actually that in canon, not only in fanfic. The relationship I'm seeing that he has with Albus Dumbledore – so not *romantic* kind of love, but just another human being loving him in some way and supporting him. I think that something is going on there with love and trust and Albus loving him; I think that possibly Snape has a wife hidden away somewhere...

CHRIS
[chuckles]

ROSE
He's not completely unloved.

SHANNON
Oooh! Poor Gina! Oh wait, maybe it is Gina, never mind...

CHRIS
[laughs]

BECCA
I think the trust that Dumbledore displays in him repeatedly means a lot to Snape emotionally. I don't know if I would label it love, but I do think it's a deep emotional connection, and I think it means the world to Snape. So yeah, I agree with that.

GINA
Yeah, I think it's kind of a – I think it's a paternal love that's going on there. But in terms of romantic love with a pairing, I could easily see Snape yearning for that kind of attention and approval and unconditional love, but not so easy to accept it. I think he'd be a hard sell, but I think that's part of the allure with Snape in fan fiction, is that when you pair someone up with him, they're gonna work really hard to gain his love and his trust. The idea is the reward would be tenfold, because once you gain that from him, he would be a powerful ally to have romantically and...

BECCA
Yeah, I can definitely see that in a lot of the fics that I've read. I would just say that the way that I see Snape is that he has a thing about emotion, and that if you're an emotional person, it means you're weak. And...

GINA
Oh, I totally agree.

BECCA
And the problem with him allowing himself to be in love with somebody else, allowing himself to be intimate, to expose himself, to make himself vulnerable in that way. So yeah, that's the thing that's hard for me to reconcile when I'm reading a fic in which Snape is falling in love with someone, because either – he might feel, he's not a *robot*, I mean he's human, he's only human, he's gonna feel those things – y'know, he's gonna have desires and everything, and I agree with that. I just – it's hard for me to see Snape expressing love.

GINA
Right. That's why I have a major issue with any fic where in the first one or two or even three chapters, he's expressing his love and going after the girl or the guy and just being

all over them. I don't see him – I think he would hold his cards very close to his chest, but I think that a good writer can show us the turmoil going on inside of him, that he maybe wouldn't show to the rest of the world, and *those* are the fics that are really interesting, and more maybe closely aligned with canon.

SHANNON

Those are the fics where they maintain Snape's cynicism, and I really – I enjoy that. It's kind of like a barrier to getting to know him; everyone has to get through the defenses that he puts up, and it's not gonna be impossible to love him, but like Becca said, he is very guarded, and I enjoy those more. I just wanted to add something that might change the conversation a little, but it's interesting that as we're talking about Snape and fan fiction, we're talking about Snape as he's being romanticized in pairings, but there's also the whole idea of Snape who's not—he appears in fan fiction as the teacher, not necessarily as a romantic interest, and I really enjoy that, when they play up his cynicism and his strict nature. Like I'm thinking of Rebecca Webb's stories, like “The Smallest Slytherin” and stuff, where you'll see Snape appearing, and he's not – he's a very powerful presence, but it's not a romantic presence; it's like a mentoring teacher-figure who's very very strict. And that's another type of Snape that we see in fan fiction. But still, he may maintain some of his maybe cynical, trickier sides, but he's also seen positively, without it being romantic.

GINA

I just wanted to add that Rebecca Webb is one of the people who was interested in being interviewed for a future segment...

SHANNON

Yaaay!

GINA

...in regards to people who write about Snape being cynical and guarded, and the other character having to work hard to get to him. There's another writer by the name of Lookfar who's written a fic that totally depicts his relationships that way, and she is also scheduled for a future interview.

SHANNON

Excellent.

GINA

Just wanted to mention that on air. People get all excited. Hopefully they won't change their mind!

SHANNON

Yeah, wrap 'em in.

GINA

But I have to confess – I don't really read fics that don't have some kind of romantic

component. I tend to like to read essays about ideas of how the characters are behind the scenes, or theories and discussions about character development, but when it comes to fan fiction stories, I like to have the romantic component because I don't think we'll ever see that in canon.

ROSE

So do you guys like the romantic-romantic romances, or angsty romances – which one?

BECCA

With regards to Snape?

ROSE

Yeah.

BECCA

When he turns into some kind of fanfic Fabio, it makes me want to scream and/or cry.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

When he devolves into Mr. Darcy with a bigger nose and greasy black hair.

GINA

Heathcliff!

BECCA

I – yeah. I'm not a fan of the fics, really.

GINA

I think your comment about Mr. Darcy is well-taken; I think a lot of people write and they're influenced by other literature, and they put things upon his personality that either they would like to see or that they think there's evidence for in canon, and then they just wanna explore that in another medium. And ultimately, fan fiction is about exploring other sides of a character than what appears in canon, and the best fics are ones that are able to do that and make you feel like the person is writing Snape in a way that is still true to how he is in canon.

BECCA

Mm, very true. And I think Snape in a lot of ways does fit the antihero profile, so there are aspects that are common to all antihero archetypes that I think can be attributed to Snape. So that's probably another source for the commonalities that happen in Snape fics.

Chris, do you have a final thought?

CHRIS

I suppose my thought is that Snape fan fiction is largely fueled by people's own interpretation of how they see the character, which is possibly fueled in turn by what they

like in literature in general, and maybe the sort of people that they are anyway. So, for example, I quite like the sort of Dickensian really horrific characters, and that's how I saw Snape.

BECCA

Okay. Gina, do you have a final thought?

GINA

I guess my closing thought would be: fanfic writers out there, please try to be close to canon, and keep it coming, 'cause we really enjoy it. And I'm sorry to anybody who reads *my* fics, for I've been bad about writing anything in the past, like...year.

BECCA

[chuckles] Okay, Rose?

ROSE

I guess remember the substance of Snape beneath the cuffs, the greasy hair, the appreciation for fine food and wine, and the subscription to *Potions Monthly*.

[BECCA & SHANNON LAUGH]

BECCA

Yeah, which he is a regular contributor to.

GINA

Oh, of course. [laughs]

BECCA

Okay. Shannon, your final thought?

SHANNON

Uh, yes. Let's see...Um, okay, sorry to mention dandruff again, but I'd kind of like to challenge anyone out there listening to write a Snape fic with dandruff. I'd really like to read one of those.

CHRIS

[laughs]

GINA

Ugh!

BECCA

Shannon, he already has to...

ROSE

Is that gonna be our contest for next month?

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

He already has to work through the big nose and the greasy hair!

SHANNON

So someone can love him despite dandruff! I think it's empowering.

BECCA

All of that *and* dandruff.

GINA

Let's just throw in a few nose hairs while we're at it.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Yeah!

BECCA

Or a big hideous mole on his back or something.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Okay, well. My final thought would be: Snape is such a mysterious and a complex character, and I think he resonates with so many different people for so many different reasons, that it's really interesting to me how many of these commonalities can be found in Snape fics. And that's kinda why I wanted to talk about them. But Snape is such a fascinating character that in my opinion, Snapes of all shapes and sizes and flavors are more than welcome.

CHRIS

Emphasis on the flavors.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Yeah, emphasis on the flavor!

GINA

All right!

BECCA

So that's it for the "Snape &..." roundtable for this episode. Thanks for listening, and join us next time, when we'll be using some other topic to delve deeper into the enigma that is Severus Snape. Bye!

CHRIS
Bye!

ROSE
Goodnight!

GINA
Bye!

SHANNON
Bye!

GINA
Goodnight, everyone.

Contest Winners Announcement - (1:10:59)

Announcer: Wendy

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

Fic: [Sometimes Knowledge](#) by Racheline,

Art: [The Professor](#) by Patricia (a.k.a. Perselus)

WENDY

Snapecast is very pleased to announce the winners of the second fanfic/fanart contest. We received a large number of fics, each with a completely different take on our favorite Potions master. The Snapecast staff was also extremely pleased with the quality of the fanart entries. It just kept getting better and better. The winners, by majority vote, are as follows:

In the fanfic category, the winner is Racheline for her fic "Sometimes Knowledge." Haunting memories and flowing evocative language cast a new light on the relationship between Snape and each member of the Malfoy family. The story is posted on Livejournal, username rm.

In the fanart category, the winner is Patricia for her entry 'The Professor', a gorgeous mesmerizing portrait of our beloved Half-Blood Prince based on 'St. Paul Writing His Epistles', by Valentin de Boulogne. 'The Professor' can be found on Patricia's deviantART page, username Perselus.

In addition to their prizes, links to both Racheline's and Patricia's winning entries 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. Thank you to everyone who entered. Please continue to send us your Snape-centered fic and fanart for our next contest, which starts on Tuesday, August 1st, and will run until 11:59 PM EST on Tuesday, August 22nd. For contest rules and guidelines, please visit the monthly contest page on our website at www.snapecast.com.
Good luck and happy Snapeing!

Owlpost - (1:13:01)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Rose, Laura, Madelyn, Meagan

Voice: Chris

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

SHANNON

Hi, everyone, and we've finally reached the Owlpost segment of our show. This is Shannon, and here we are at Lumos! And I'm joined by...

RACHAEL

Rachael!

ROSE

Rose.

MEAGAN

Meagan!

LAURA

Laura.

MADELYN

Madelyn.

SHANNON

Yeah, it's a big crew here 'cause there's a big bunch of us at Lumos and we're having a pretty good time. And we've got quite a few owl posts to read here, a lot of great feedback from people.

RACHAEL

Snarky found his way to Vegas.

SHANNON

Yeah, he did, he did, found a couple of friends here too... So the first thing I would like to read – this is a bit funny – it starts off, “I *died* when you read my letter on the show. DIED.” Okay. And it's from “Perosha, real name Meagan, but that's not as cool, now is it?”. Clearly Meagan came back from the dead, because she's joined us here on the show. And we're so happy to have her, 'cause she does bring a bit of a skeptical voice to all the

Snape-loving nonsense that we have going on regularly. All right, so who's got the next letter we wanna read?

MADELYN

This is from Ms. S. Snape. "I was just reading the comments on your site, and you said to send in any contrary ideas. I am definitely against Severus Snape being a sex symbol. I find it *highly* disturbing. P.S. Maybe if Severus Snape wasn't such a sex symbol, he wouldn't be plagued by parcels full of sickening underpants. Just a thought."

[ALL LAUGH]

MEAGAN

Well, I just have to say, Ms. S. Snape, that don't worry, you are not alone, I am actually *on this show* and I find Snape as a sex symbol very disturbing, though possibly not for the reasons you do – just 'cause, I don't like him.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Too many reasons to find Snape disturbing as a sex symbol.

ROSE

He's hot *because* he's horrible!

MEAGAN

Oh, yeah, sure – reverse psychology, suuure.

LAURA

Well, he's not my cup of butterbeer, but some people like the bad boy type.

SHANNON

Yeah, this is true.

MEAGAN

I like bad boys who bathe.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Now, there's nothing in canon that says he doesn't bathe...he just has greasy hair.

RACHAEL

Harry. Filter.

SHANNON

That's absolutely true.

MEAGAN
Suuure.

SHANNON
Okay, what's the next letter we've got?

ROSE
We've got a letter from Katherine Bull 2: "I think the main reason most people think Snape is good is because they don't want to believe that Dumbledore was wrong about someone. I admit that this is difficult to argue with, but Snape *was*, after all, an Occlumens. He would have been able to conceal the truth from Dumbledore easily. If people believe Snape can hide his true allegiance with Dumbledore from Voldemort, why can't he hide his true allegiance with Voldemort from Dumbledore? I think it's highly possible, and once people get over the fact that Dumbledore was, above all, human, and therefore able to make mistakes about people, they will be able to accept that Snape is evil."

RACHAEL
I have to say, I – in a way I identify with that opinion, because Dumbledore has made some pretty – I mean, I like Dumbledore, and I know Becca will kill me, even though I can impersonate Becca—

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL
But Dumbledore's made some mistakes, I mean from the very beginning of the book, he kind of insinuated that the Dursley's might be okay parents for Harry, he was fine sending Harry into the Forbidden Forest in book one, so...I mean, Dumbledore is human, he has definitely made mistakes, but I just don't think one of them is that Snape is evil.

SHANNON
I guess I wanted to say that I disagree with that point. I understand this affection for Dumbledore and belief in his infallibility, but I really think one of the reasons why people want Snape to be not evil is because they relate to him on a personal level. We could see this in our own "This Slytherin Life" segments; there are quite a few people on our own staff who are that way. They relate to Snape on an individual, personal level, they have a connection to him; if he's evil, maybe they're evil. So I could see that maybe people don't *want* him to be evil, because they don't want *themselves* to be evil, which is...

MEAGAN
And this is when you back awaaaay from the books.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

So I'm really geeked about this next piece of mail that we got on our voicemail, because this is what we've been asking for. We've run this bloody ad from Jon multiple times—

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

—*begging* for somebody to please come on our show and give us these contrary opinions that Snape is evil, that Snape is a greasy git; we want all the perspectives of Snape here. So we got one, and let's have a listen.

MYTHEOS

Hi, Snapecasters, my name's Mytheos Holt; I am an evil!Snape fan, so I suppose if you're still looking for someone to be on the show regarding that viewpoint, your prayers have been answered. Whoo-hoo. Anyway, I think that Snape is evil because he has been given virtually no reason to have any loyalty towards the light side – mostly because Dumbledore and his constituents have wronged Snape in so many ways and have gotten away with it that I think Snape would be appalled and galled to be so downtrodden. This is opposed to Voldemort, who quite clearly trusts Snape, and I think Snape would probably trust him more as a leader, or at least respect him more as a leader, due to his affiliation with the half-blood/pureblood movement, and also as his avenger of the Slytherins. Anyway, if you wanna get in touch with me, my e-mail is mytheosh – that's m-y-t-h-e-o-s-h – at yahoo.com, and I look forward to potentially talking to you. Thanks a lot; love the show. Bye!

ROSE

Hey, I think we found one!

[ALL CHEER]

SHANNON

It has actually been quite hard, surprisingly, to find someone who believes Snape is evil among our audience, but maybe that's not *as* surprising as we think it is, since a lot of people who listen to us are big fans of Snape who relate to him on some level or another.

But still...I guess I have some disagreement with this, but it's intriguing. I'm really happy to hear this perspective.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I really appreciate this perspective. Thank you so much, and please – people that have a different opinion from the stuff that we're expressing, please *do* e-mail us, *do* owl us. And I'm not exactly sure how we're envisioning to deal with this segment yet, but Mytheos, I think we'd like to invite you to come on the show sometime. So we'll be in touch with you via Snarky; if you see him tapping on your window, do let him in.

SHANNON

And have peanut butter. He's a big fan of peanut butter, particularly the crunchy kind.

RACHAEL

And I also fear we might not have time to respond to this in *this* session of Owlpost, but in later shows we can.

LAURA

Yeah, this could be another two-hour Snapecast.

[ALL LAUGH]

MEAGAN

I am *not* transcribing another two-hour show by myself, I'm sorry.

SHANNON

Poor Meagan.

RACHAEL

So listeners – more to come in the future about the Snape's loyalty segment. We wanna make sure that when we do tackle this, that we do it right.

SHANNON

And we have one *final* piece of owl post, yet another letter from the wizarding world.

CHRIS [AS VOLDEMORT]

My friends! Thirteen years it's been, and yet you record this podcast as though it were only yesterday. I confess myself disappointed. Not one of you tried to do this earlier – not even you, Lucius. Severus...I'd almost forgotten whom this series is really about, with all the screaming fangirls following him. Word has it he's almost as famous as me, these days. How lies have fed our legend! Shall I reveal what really happened between the Dark Lord and Severus Snape? Shall I divulge the identity of the Potion master's biggest fan? It is me. You see, there is no one more smitten with Severus Snape than Lord Voldemort, the Dark Lord, the most powerful wizard of our time and the loudest squeer of them all. There have been many podcasts about Harry Potter, the Boy Who Lived – but not a single one about Severus Snape. But no matter, no matter; things have changed. We have Snapecast now.

Love, Voldie.

RACHAEL

I knew it! I knew Voldie was a Snape fangirl.

ROSE

Ah, the love that dare not speak its name – Snoldemort!

RACHAEL

Oh God!

[ALL LAUGH]

MEAGAN

That's gonna be an LJ community within a week.

SHANNON

Well, at least our listeners are in good company, y'know; they're fans, as well as the Dark Lord.

LAURA

And even the Dark Lord has seven soulmates.

[ALL LAUGH]

MADELYN

What I'd like to know is who's the top and who's the bottom.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Sounds like an episode of Slashcast.

RACHAEL

To me, Snape is always bottom.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

All right.

MEAGAN

And then Meagan fell on the floor, spewing blood from her head.

SHANNON

Poor Meagan.

[ALL LAUGH]

MEAGAN

I love you kids.

SHANNON

Okay, this is it from Owlpost Lumos; if we sound a little bit exuberant, it's because we are, and we wish you all were here with us. It's been wonderful, and do stay tuned for a future episode to hear more about that, but that's all for now.

RACHAEL

And also if you have some owl post that you'd like to deliver to us, please e-mail us at severus@snapecast.com, or you can leave us a voicemail on Skype, at username snapecast.

SHANNON

Bye!

ROSE

Goodnight!

EVERYONE ELSE

Bye!

Closing - (1:23:58)

Hosts: Rachael, Rose, Meagan

RACHAEL

Well, it's that time of the show again – time to say goodbye. I am Rachael.

ROSE

And Rose.

MEAGAN

And Meagan.

RACHAEL

And by the time you listen to this, all three of us will probably be passed out in bed, exhausted from Lumos.

MEAGAN

Exhausted but happy.

ROSE

Oh, very.

RACHAEL

And Shannon will be doing directly from Lumos to the JKR press conference. I'm terribly jealous of her because I would go if I didn't have law school.

ROSE

But we'll get to hear about all of her experiences there.

RACHAEL

Yes. We will live vicariously through Shannon. Well, I wanted to thank everyone for listening to episode three, and remind everyone to go over to Podcast Alley and vote for us, because last time I checked, we were still not as popular as that show about onions.

ROSE
Ooh.

RACHAEL
And we need to fix that.

ROSE
Definitely.

RACHAEL
Also, please remember to e-mail us at severus@snapecast.com with any ideas you have for This Slytherin Life, Top Ten lists, or any other content or responses to listener challenges. Also, you can find us three places on the web: Snapecast.com, our Snapecast LiveJournal, or our Snapecast MySpace. And if you have a lovely voice, or not a lovely voice, you can also leave us a voicemail on Skype, username Snapecast. And even if you don't wanna leave a voicemail, you should go and listen to our voicemail message, 'cause it is quite nice. So thanks for listening, everyone, and tune in to episode four!

ROSE
Bye!

MEAGAN
Bye!

RACHAEL
Bye!

Three Question Medley - (1:25:35)

Interviewees: Members of the Houston Harry Potter Meetup

Music: Patrick Doyle, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: 11 - Neville's Waltz

RACHAEL
Is Snape good or evil?

WOMAN
He's good.

WOMAN
He's good.

WOMAN

Ultimately good.

MAN
He's good.

WOMAN
Good.

WOMAN
Good.

WOMAN
He's good.

WOMAN
He's bad, but in a good way.

MAN
I believe he's a good chap.

MAN
Oh, he's definitely good.

WOMAN
He's mostly good, but a little bit of evil in there.

RACHAEL
Will he make it through Book Seven?

WOMAN
Definitely.

MAN
I think Book Seven's gonna be a bloodbath, I think he'll be one of them that'll die.

MAN
No, he will live.

WOMAN
Absolutely.

MAN
Probably.

WOMAN
No.

MAN
No, he'll live, and he'll be a bitter old man at the end.

WOMAN
I don't think so.

WOMAN
Yes he will.

WOMAN
I think he will to protect Harry.

RACHAEL
Boxers or briefs?

WOMAN
Well, I would like to think boxers but I have a sneaking suspicion they're gonna be briefs.

WOMAN
I don't think there's a man on earth that wears boxers that's that uptight, so I would have to go with briefs.

MAN
I would say definitely briefs.

WOMAN
Brooding types like him typically wear boxer-briefs but it can go either way, but I don't see him wearing tighty-whities.

WOMAN
That's kind of hard, but I'd have to say it'd be funny if he was in boxers.

WOMAN
I'm gonna have to say boxers. When I fantasize about him being turned upside down, he's wearing boxers.

[laughter]

MAN
I think the answer to this question is boxed up, but I'm gonna be brief, he wears boxers.

[laughter]

WOMAN
Uh, boxers with the words 'Snape Snake' on it.

WOMAN
Boxers.

MAN
Uh, I think he's freeballin'.

[laughter]

WOMAN
That's a guy.