

Snapecast Episode 4

This is Snapecast – (00:00)

Intro: Becca, Rachael

Voice: Jon

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—

[RECORD SCRATCHING]

BECCA

Uh, Rachael?

RACHAEL

Yeah?

BECCA

We have a little bit of a problem.

RACHAEL

What now?

BECCA

Well, Chris left for camp before we decided that this would be episode four, so...um, we kinda don't have a Snape bit to introduce this show with. What are we gonna do?

RACHAEL

Shit. Um... Well, let's just tell the audience that Professor Snape is away on summer holidays. I mean, even he has to take a vacation every now and then.

BECCA

[laughs] Well, that's true. I guess that could work. Okay then, who's gonna introduce the show?

RACHAEL

Well, we don't have a lotta choices when it comes to male Snapecast staff members.

BECCA
No, we don't.

RACHAEL
What's Jon doing?

BECCA
[laughs] Oh, Jooooon...

[MUSIC & MOVIE CLIP REPLAY]

JON

While Professor Snape is on summer holiday, our Remedial Potions class is *still expected to work!* Pop quiz edition of Snapecast, episode four, August 15, 2006. Now copy that down, or you will be scraping algae off the giant squid's tentacles until the next episode!

Introduction – (2:26)

Hosts: Rachael, Gina, Jon

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to Snapecast, episode four. This is our special surprise episode that's coming a little bit early because we had a lot of extra content from Lumos and the JKR event in New York.

GINA
Whoo-hoo!

RACHAEL
I am Rachael, and I have with me...

JON
Jonathan.

GINA
And Gina R. Snape.

RACHAEL
Today we have an interesting episode for you. First up, we have an interviewer with cosplayer Logospilgrim that was performed at Lumos in Snapecast headquarters. We have an episode of "This Slytherin Life" featuring Chris; Love Potion 9¾ will discuss the Snape and OFC ship; we'll have another segment of Owlpost; and we have lots of little snippets and goodies from the big *Harry Potter* events that happened this month.

JON
So, uh, what does "OFC ship" mean, for those people like me who don't understand that kind of lingo?

GINA
OFC means Original Female Character. So we'll be talking about fiction where Snape is paired up with someone brand-new that authors have created, and what are the drawbacks and the bonuses of creating

a new character in fiction, as opposed to using characters that appear in canon.

JON
Ah-hah.

RACHAEL
So this ship probably won't squick you out as much as the other ones, Jon. He's the one that has to put up with all of our crazy slash pairings. So, um, we had two huge *Harry Potter* events this past month. First up there was Lumos; Snapecast had a great presence at Lumos, and to tell you guys the truth, Lumos was basically Snapefest. I mean, everybody that was there was there to talk about Snape.

JON
That's funny.

GINA
I am so jealous that I didn't get to go.

RACHAEL
And the line for the “Snape's Eyes” presentation was out the door and around the conference room; they actually had to reschedule a second presentation because of the demand.

GINA
Wow. I heard there were twelve hundred people at Lumos.

RACHAEL
They were, and I think every single one of them was all about Snape, except a few.

GINA
[laughs] Well, they should be.

JON
Yeah, judging from your pictures, that seems like the truth.

RACHAEL
What can you say? Gotta love Snape. Snapecast also did a podcast panel at Lumos with Slashcast and Spellcast, and that was a lot of fun, so we probably got to meet some of you guys there. But the *real* big news, probably the biggest Snape news that we're ever going to get in the history of Snapecast, happened in New York. And Gina, you were there, so maybe you wanna tell us about it?

GINA
Oh my God. It was amazing. I went both nights—J.K. Rowling read from *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and then she answered some questions that were pre-selected, and two of them definitely Snape fans would be interested in.

JON
What were these questions?

GINA
Well, the first night, somebody asked about potions, and I think it would be interesting for people who

like Snape as the Potions master, because she said that Muggles cannot make potions, even if you have magical ingredients, that you have to have a wand.

JON

Interesting. You know, they never mention that—well, I dunno if they do, but it doesn't seem like—it just seems like they're cooking when they make potions in the book.

GINA

Right, and Snape does say “there'll be no silly wand-waving,” so...

RACHAEL

Yeah.

GINA

So I thought that was interesting. And then the second night, Salman Rushdie came up to the microphone, and he had this whole theory—

RACHAEL

Not to be confused with Salmon Rushdie.

GINA

Right. He's not a fish, although he may like fish, but...he's not a fish. Anyway, he had this whole theory and he was totally fangirling Rowling. It was great. He went on about how he thought Snape and Dumbledore cooked up a conspiracy to fake Dumbledore's death as a ruse so that Voldemort's guard would be down. Her answer was...ambiguous. I mean, she made it clear that Dumbledore is dead, but there's been a lot of discussion in the fandom as to whether she agreed that Snape is good, or kind of brushed it aside so that she could deal with the Dumbledore issue.

RACHAEL

So what do you guys think? Do you think that after this week, there's no argument for Snape is evil?

JON

Hmm. I dunno, after reading that fifth book, he certainly seems evil.

GINA

[chuckles] Maybe we should have you not rereading. Just kidding.

RACHAEL

I personally—I don't think it's conclusive either way. I think that J.K. Rowling's a master as being able to word answers to these questions and not reveal what she's plotting. Part of me doesn't even wanna believe—even though I believe that Dumbledore is dead, but part of me believes she could even get around that one somehow, because she's just so good at not revealing what she's doing.

JON

Are the “Dumbledore is not dead” sites in denial right now?

RACHAEL

Well, she specifically referenced Dumbledoreisnotdead.com, and said that that site was incorrect, so...They are in denial, they did post a response saying that, y'know, basically making the argument

that I just made, that there's some way she can go back on it, that they still stand by their position. So it's interesting that people are still pretty hardcore about it. And of course it all relates back to Snape, because if Dumbledore isn't dead, that's the primary reason that everybody believes Snape is evil. So it's a key issue for those of us that love the Potions master.

GINA

Oh, absolutely. My impression, having been at the event and heard her voice, intonation and so forth, I think she really wanted to make it clear that Dumbledore is absolutely dead. Dead dead dead. And he will reappear, but not alive. I think he'll show up either with his portrait, or a Pensieve memory, or something along those lines.

JON

Yeah, I think the portrait is the best, y'know...

GINA

And we already know he has a portrait.

RACHAEL

Yeah.

GINA

But I think that she sidestepped the Snape issue, and I think when she said that his theory was correct, or I forget her exact words—his opinion was correct—I think she was saying, “You're right, something is being cooked up,” but she did not confirm that Snape is good.

RACHAEL

And she's always said that; she's always said “keep your eye on old Severus,” y'know—she's always hinted that there's something going on, and he's progressively gotten more important.

GINA

Well, I've always thought he was important, but yeah, I agree.

RACHAEL

[laughs] But it is—it definitely does make—as if the “Snape is evil” argument isn't hard enough, because overwhelmingly what we found at Snapecast when we walked around and spoke with the fans, is that about 95% of the fandom out there believes that Snape is somehow gonna be good, somehow gonna be redeemed. So it's becoming, although we are gonna deal with the argument “Is Snape good or evil?” the argument is more, “Well, he's probably gonna be good, but how good?”

GINA

Yeah. I mean, I know one person who said she doesn't care if it was cooked up between the two of them and Dumbledore gave Snape direct orders to kill him—she could never forgive him, that, y'know, even in war you can't kill someone on your own side, and I don't necessarily agree with that. I know a lot of people who thought Snape was evil all along, right up until *The Half-Blood Prince*, and then they decided that this was Dumbledore's plan and that Snape was following orders. So I think it's really interesting how people really came to one side or the other on the divide.

RACHAEL

Well, we could clearly talk for hours and hours about Snape's loyalty, so let's get on with the show,

shall we?

GINA
Sounds like a good plan.

JON
Yup.

RACHAEL
All right. Bye, everyone!

JON
Buh-bye.

GINA
Enjoy the show!

Snape's Favorite Chat-Up Lines (Part II) – (11:27)

Voice: Chris

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

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Your success with the chat-up lines I supplied with you previously was...let us say, less than adequate? I expect you will apply yourself more diligently to practicing the examples that I am giving you today.
[clears throat]

10. I was wondering if you would help me extract a delicate potion ingredient.
11. I must be part centaur, because I've been obsessing over your heavenly body all night.
12. Those robes would look especially nice crumpled on a dungeon floor.
13. Would you like to make a sand"witch"?
14. Are you a simmering cauldron? Because you're *hot*.
15. Excuse me, but did you happen to find my Order of Merlin, First Class?
16. Do you have any Slytherin in you? No? Would you like some?
17. I can think of one wand-waving that *wouldn't* be silly.
18. If I begged, would you polish my broomstick?
19. And, if all else fails, *Imperio*. Or try casting my favorite: *Expelliporties!*

Fan Interview – (13:06)

Interviewer: Rachael

Guest: Professor S., Logospilgrim

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

RACHAEL

Hello Snapecast listeners! I am coming to you from Snapecast headquarters at Lumos, Las Vegas, and I have with me here today a very special and unique member of the Snape fandom. Why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, in the Snape fandom I am known as Professor S. Logospilgrim, and I like to dress up as Professor Snape. Although I have to say, as anyone who visits my website knows, the costume has acquired a deeper meaning than I originally intended. It's taken on a spiritual quality.

RACHAEL

And so you also do fanfic and cosplay and go to a lot of conventions...

LOGOSPILGRIM

A few! [laughs] Just a couple!

RACHAEL

And know a lot of people in the Snape community, so I wanted to sit down and pick your brain about dear Severus. When did you first pick up a Harry Potter book?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Actually, it was after I saw the first film. A very good friend of mine told me, "You have to see this," because I was very reluctant to read the Harry Potter books because there seemed to be a hype about it and I guess I was being a snob at the time. My friend told me, "There is a character that I know you are going to relate to immediately." And she was right.

RACHAEL

You were told beforehand that you were already pegged as a Snape fan beforehand.

LOGOSPILGRIM

I was. It didn't come out of nowhere as they say. I began to watch the film, and I was already amused, particularly because the actor that played Uncle Vernon...

RACHAEL

Yeah, I don't know who that is but he is a fabulous actor.

LOGOSPILGRIM

I had seen him in a film previously in a film called *Withnail and I*, where he plays a very eccentric man and is such a delight. So when I saw him I said to myself "Oh my goodness, that's Uncle Monty!"

RACHAEL

He seems to always be cast as an uncle.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, it's a different sort of uncle in *Withnail and I*. He's very unique and interesting in that film. And of course it's a British cult film, so I would watch the movie and so on. The moment I saw Professor Snape I was intrigued immediately. When he burst into the potions classroom there's just something about this character that is irresistibly appealing to me. He comes off as such a forceful character from the start, and I couldn't perceive his vulnerabilities immediately. His stance is really a front, and the way he drapes his robes across his chest is a very protective gesture. And I have always had a weakness for the broken ones! [laughs]

LiveJournal quickly became a vehicle for spiritual discourse. At that point I realized the combination of Snape and the things he represents, the many profound aspects of his character and the way that I

talked about him seemed to be comforting to people. He never ceases to mystify me. I was speaking to a friend one time and I told her “Truly, all of this is miraculous.” I’m very impatient, and I could list numerous of my defects. It seems so absurd.

That’s one of the things I find about Professor Snape I find so interesting is that his weaknesses are there for the world to see, particularly because the books are written from Harry’s perspective. I mention in the essay I am going to be giving tomorrow or Saturday that we rarely get to see him in his best light. We must find distinctions, as the Professor himself said. We have to learn to make fine distinctions, and I think that’s what people relate to in this character. They see all of their own struggles in him. They can also identify with this feeling of being condemned for various flaws that we all have. I think that’s why he is such a powerful symbol of redemption, we want to see him redeemed because we’d all like to think that we are free from the past and consequences of poor choices as well as forgiven for our mistakes.

RACHAEL

That’s one of the things I find most appealing about Snape. While we are on the topic of redemption, do you think Snape will get his redemption in book seven?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Oh, absolutely! There is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind.

RACHAEL

How do you know? How do you envision that playing out?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, it’s very interesting because I haven’t given it that much thought. However it happens is fine with me. Of course many have speculated about him dying a martyr’s death. That would be wonderful.

RACHAEL

Well, see I would be kind of sad if that happens.

LOGOSPILGRIM

It would be sad, but it’s probably one of the few things that truly give him peace. I’m sure that in the world of fan fiction should this be the outcome he would be...

RACHAEL

Resurrected?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Oh yes! He will be married and have lovely children playing around the Snape Mansion. The thing is though, I see the moment that his redemption is revealed being a catalyst in Harry Potter’s life. And that is the moment when he will become a man. That is the moment he will mature from boyhood into adulthood. That is the moment where he will be confronted with “I was not right, I was wrong.” I think Harry needs to have that realization because I’ve already pointed out for Snape to be evil, the implication is that Harry will become like Voldemort.

RACHAEL

How does that fit in?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, first of all it would mean that the wisest among us are fools. I have this little speech I would like to give you. Book One: Harry thinks that Snape is evil. Book Two: Harry thinks Snape is evil. Book Three: Harry, Snape, etc. Book Six: Harry is *positive* that Snape is evil so lets say Book Seven: Snape is evil. What a shock. [laughs] Gee, I never saw that one coming.

What happens is you have Harry who then kills Voldemort, he kills Snape, he claims his vengeance and I would think that he would be filled with anger, bitterness and rage for the rest of his life. He might as well become the next Voldemort. What good did Albus Dumbledore's faith in man ever do him? In my opinion it's the inescapable conclusion. Also, from my spiritual perspective, particularly in relation to Dumbledore being a spiritual father to Severus Snape, there is a quote I like to bring up, it's by St John. "Do not condemn, not even if your very eyes are seeing something, for they may be deceived." I think this is a classic instance of this. It's so easy to judge him.

In the paper I am going to be giving tomorrow I'd like to point out the things he is accused of. The vile acts he is accused of committing are actually done by his accusers. One passage deals with how much the class loathed him, like calling Hermione a 'know-it-all' despite the fact that every single one of them called her a 'know-it-all' at least once. Ron Weasley does so twice a week Rowling tells us and he reacts with the most vehemence against Snape's horrible lack of sensitivity.

RACHAEL

He becomes a scapegoat for everybody else's bad habits.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Absolutely! I think he is the mirror in which they refuse to see themselves.

RACHAEL

Hmm.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Again, for instance, he is portrayed as horrible like when he tells Sirius, "You get to stay in this house while I am out doing things." Basically he gloats and gets called a mean person while Fred Weasley does the same thing. He tells him basically "I don't see you risking your neck" and Sirius went white. And this is from someone who is not supposed to be like Snape, someone who is not cruel or vicious.

The truth of the matter is that the characters in the book many times are just as impatient, just as callous, just as judgmental, and just as human as he is. He's definitely very much symbolic of um, you know, perhaps we need to consider our own actions before we...and at the same time trying to understand perhaps what might be the reasons for their acting this way or that way, what are the causes.

RACHAEL

So, we were talking about how Snape is portrayed. When you look at the realm of the movies, the books, and fanfiction, Snape is portrayed in about a million different ways.

LOGOSPILGRIM

[laugh] Oh, absolutely.

RACHAEL

I noticed you tend to portray a more movie, similar to me at least, you portray a combination between the Movie/Rickman Snape and the canon Snape. Sometimes when you read Canon Snape I imagine

him to be the kind of person you'd very scared to be in the room with.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Yes.

RACHAEL

He's frightening, he's ugly, he's cold...

LOGOSPILGRIM

He's very intimidating.

RACHAEL

Very intimidating...How do you reconcile your portrayal of Snape with all these faces of Snape that we see?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, I think again it's a question of reading carefully into the text, and unearthing his more endearing reactions because there are many, but you have to look carefully for them. Another interesting thing that Professor Dumbledore told Voldemort, who had told him that he had never encountered any...or was telling him that that power of love was useless and he'd never found any proof of this, and whatever. Dumbledore told him, "Perhaps you're looking in the wrong places."

So I like to think of him as a work-in-progress, I don't see him, as you know like, for instance we talk about canon Snape, I don't see the character as being in the permanent state that he's in, I think it's possible for anyone to change, there's always that possibility. For instance to say that something, for instance in a fanfic, "Oh that was totally out of character," possibly, but maybe not a decade down the road. I have friends who do out-of-character every day.

RACHAEL

That's an interesting thing to think about.

LOGOSPILGRIM

You know what I'm saying? You cannot...

RACHAEL

Otherwise you cannot change and grow, if you never did anything out of character.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Exactly, and I think all of us not only want to grow, but need to grow because it's a very freeing thing. It enables you to become a whole person, and I think that Professor Snape will become a whole person, except that the way that this will happen may well be by giving his life. That will be basically his gesture of love, he's very imperfect, but he does the best that he can with what he has.

RACHAEL

So in a way, your portrayal of Snape is like the inner Snape, or the Snape that could be.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Yes, I would say that.

RACHAEL

That's interesting. So, any final thoughts to give to the Snapecast listeners?

LOGOSPILGRIM

Well, I would have to say that there is hope for all plants who have been kept in the dark

RACHAEL

Aw, that's lovely, that's very lovely.

LOGOSPILGRIM

Thank you.

RACHAEL

Alright, well thank you once again.

LOGOSPILGRIM

You're quite welcome, my dear.

RACHAEL

That was lovely.

Snapes on a Plane – (28:04)

Cast: Jon, Chris, Rachael, Wendy, Gina, Rose

Special Guest: Munchkin

Music: Carl Orff, Carmina Burana: O Fortuna

[DRAMATIC MUSIC THROUGHOUT]

JON

In every generation, there is one man who makes everyone's life a living hell. This summer, he's flying first class. And he's bringing reinforcements.

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Confound it, woman! You call *this* wine?

WENDY [AS AIRLINE PASSENGER]

And then, then this one—he stick at me and call me, he called me a *Muggle!*

BECCA [AS FLIGHT ATTENDANT]

Oh, there's that *Muggle* word again.

WENDY [AS AIRLINE PASSENGER]

It sounds so filthy!

BECCA [AS FLIGHT ATTENDANT]

There, there. It's probably just a British term for someone from New Jersey.

WENDY [AS AIRLINE PASSENGER]

But I'm from Australia!

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
I *asked* for gillywater, not this foul-tasting bottled water.

GINA [AS FLIGHT ATTENDANT]
I'm so sorry, sir. Is there any way I can make it up to you? Perhaps would you be interested in joining our Mile-High Club?

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
Intriguing. However, I am already a member of a rather exclusive society for wizards. What is the mission of this "Mile-High Club"?

GINA [AS FLIGHT ATTENDANT]
[chuckles]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
Ugh. Never mind. Off with you!

MUNCHKIN [AS HIMSELF]
Mama!

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
Silence, you infernal nuisance, or I'll turn you into toad spawn!

[SOUNDS OF MASS PANIC]

ROSE [AS FLIGHT ATTENDANT]
Everyone stay in your seats and remain calm!

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
Out of my way, pathetic excuse for a server!

JON [AS SAMUEL L. JACKSON]
That's it! I want all these mother-fuckin' Snapes off this *mother-fuckin' plane!*

[DRAMATIC MUSIC CONTINUES]

JON
Snapes...on a Plane. Rated R. In theaters everywhere August 18.

Love Potion 9¾ - (30:11)

Panel: Gina, Madelyn, Becca, Shannon

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

Fics mentioned:

Secretly Slytherin by Veresna Ussep

Jehane Desrosiers by Lookfar

A Merciless Affection by Verity Brown

For the Love of Hufflepuff by Christina Theresa
Loves Labours, Paradise Lost by Veresna Ussep
Tea with the Black Dragon by White Raven
Brave New World by Aashby
A Dark Herbal by The Stars Hold Nine Serpents

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners. You've just tuned in to a segment better known as Love Potion 9¾. This is the segment where we talk about Snape and his more adult entanglements in fan fiction. Now, a warning: this segment is not appropriate for underage witches and wizards. This is Gina R. Snape, and I'm here with...

BECCA
Becca.

MADELYN
Madelyn.

SHANNON
And Shannon.

GINA

Welcome, ladies. Well, today, we're gonna be discussing Snape and the OFC pairing, otherwise known as Original Female Characters. And I thought I would start off by reading selections from two fics that are favorites of mine. The first is from "Tea with the Black Dragon" by White Raven, and as you all recall, I interviewed White Raven earlier. So I will begin, and forgive me for my poor imitations and accents.

'Are you awake, Miss Draven?'

Her voice, soft and almost inaudible whispered back to him. 'I'm awake, Professor. Please, come in.'

He rounded the screen and stopped short. Grace Draven sat on the side of her cot, a glass of water gripped in one hand. The normally restrained hair fell across her shoulder in a chaotic mass of tangles. Her pale features were chalky, bruises mottling the smooth skin along the left side....

Snape's brows lowered in a forbidding scowl as he dropped into the single chair set next to the bed. His knees almost touched hers, and he took the water glass from her unresisting fingers, setting it on the nearby table. Grace stared back at him with haunted eyes. She touched her bruised cheekbone gingerly.

'Looks bad doesn't it?'

He cocked his head to the side, considering for a moment before answering her. 'Yes, but nothing nearly as disfiguring as what you did to Malfoy.' He silently applauded as her shoulders straightened and her eyes changed to an expression of vengeful satisfaction.

'I should have finished him off with the bottle. I don't know what made me stop.' She raised a brow in challenge. 'I suppose you think my little declaration of killing him was just a bunch of fluff?'

Snape leaned forward, resting his elbows on his knees. He could see the casual position surprised her. 'Miss Draven, there's an appointed time for everything. As I said before, I believe in your resolve. If it makes you feel any better, I had a chance to dispose of Lucius myself before Albus' untimely interruption. Imagine the questions had they found him drowned in the water bowl of Miss Granger's mangy pet.'

She blinked and then emitted a weak laugh, abruptly cut short by a pained hiss as she cupped her cheek in her hand. 'Ow, don't make me laugh, please. That hurts.'

He settled back into the chair again, crossing his arms over his chest. 'My apologies. I am unaccustomed to others finding humour in my comments.'

The young woman gave him a faint smile. 'Comedy isn't your strong point, but you have your moments.'"

This next one is by Veresna Ussep, from a fic called "Secretly Slytherin," which is a sequel, a follow-up, to "Don't Lie To Me."

"Their very first act of copulation had taken place atop of Snape's very large but very hard desk in his office. She had asked that he be nice enough to use a bed the next time. And he had replied that he would. If, he had stipulated, she got full marks on each potion, test and paper in the meantime.

She had coolly assured him that he would.

'The handwriting was rather scrawled and hard to read,' he finished, and turned to go back to his desk.

'Professor Snape?'

He stopped and turned in surprise. 'Yes, Miss Harrison?'

She hung her head sheepishly. 'Yes, you're right, I was so rushed that it looks horrible. But, would you consider allowing me write it over?'

Snape's eyes narrowed as he looked at her.

She shrugged her shoulders and added. 'Since that was the only reason you didn't give it full marks?'....

Snape's eyes were glittering with amusement. He brought his right hand up to stroke his chin for a moment while he considered her request.

'Very well, Miss Harrison,' he finally replied, dropping his hand back down to his side and moving back towards her desk.

Helena drew back in her chair as he suddenly reached across the desk to grab her own quill out of its inkwell. He drew a thin line through the original score and replaced it with a "10 out of 10" notation. At least that's what she thought it said. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black: Snape's own handwriting was at its very best barely legible.

‘Just this one time,’ he assured her as he stood back up. ‘But, from now on I expect your penmanship to be neat and orderly no matter what the circumstances.’

Let me guess, she thought. The next time you’re going to expect me to write neatly with my right hand while jerking you off with my left.”

BECCA
Whoo-hoo!

MADELYN
[laughs]

SHANNON
What a way to end that scene!

BECCA
Good old bawdy Helena.

GINA
Yeah, she’s great, thanks Madelyn.

MADELYN
You’re welcome.

GINA
So I thought I would start off by asking the first question, which is what are some of the bad or negative things or assumptions that people have made about Snape/OFC fics? What have you guys heard, what have you thought, y’know, what are your impressions on why people seem to think negatively about the Snape/OFC pairing?

MADELYN
Well, having an OFC means it’s *carte blanc*; you can write anything about her, you can develop her from scratch. So she’s basically a blank slate, which is a positive trait. On the other hand, when you’re writing an original character, she’s an unknown quantity, so authors can possibly be tempted to write her as a perfect person.

GINA
Ah. Are you referring to the so-called “Mary Sue”?

MADELYN
That’s right.

SHANNON
Yes, the Mary Sue.

MADELYN
The mythological Mary Sue. [laughs]

GINA

Mythological?

MADELYN

Because I've never come across her.

GINA

Never? Really? Now that's interesting; tell me about that.

MADELYN

Well, as you know, I've read a lot of OFC/Snape fic, and I really only have come across maybe one or two out of the amount I've read.

GINA

Hm.

MADELYN

So I just think that it's a term that's kind of gotten around, and everybody just assumes that OFC is automatically a Mary Sue, when that's not the case.

SHANNON

I know that I've made that mistake. I know that I've – I'll often shy away from a Snape/OFC pairing because I'm worried that the investment I'll have to make in a brand-new character won't pay off. I'm afraid that the author will suddenly launch something on me that's just too sparkly, too shallow, too superficial, or too unbelievable to pair with Snape.

BECCA

Yeah, I can definitely see that point of view, and that's kind of a fear that I have with all fics, though – of Mary Sue.

GINA

Yeah, that's definitely a good point.

BECCA

Yeah, I get kinda – sometimes I can feel that way about the Snape/Hermione pairing, or really any Snape ship. It's something that I found can happen outside of the Snape/OFC fic, as well.

MADELYN

It really just kinda depends on the author who writes the fic, doesn't it? I mean, it's kinda like when you go to get a haircut.

[ALL LAUGH]

MADELYN

And people say, "Oh, this salon is great," but if you go to someone that doesn't know her stuff, or doesn't know how to cut hair, y'know, that doesn't necessarily make it true that that salon is great.

GINA

That's a good point.

MADELYN

So it kinda really depends on who's writing the fic, I think.

BECCA

Yeah, exactly.

MADELYN

I've seen a lot of bad Hermione/Snape fic unfortunately a lot lately.

SHANNON

Hermione Sue?

GINA

[laughs] Hermione Sue!

MADELYN

Yes!

BECCA

[laughs] Hermione Sue...

GINA

Ah, that's good. Well, so that's interesting. I mean, people are looking for new fics, and they're worried about this investment in an unknown character who could turn *into* a Mary Sue. But, and I think Hermione's a bit of a Mary Sue in canon, I mean what do you guys think?

MADELYN

Absolutely. I think Rowling – see, I pronounced it right – would be the first one to admit that her character Hermione is a Mary Sue. It's like a hyped-up version of myself when she was younger.

SHANNON

Interesting.

BECCA

But is that necessarily a Mary Sue, or is a Mary Sue... Like, is a Mary Sue only a reflection of yourself, or is it a *perfect* reflection of yourself, like with flaws removed?

MADELYN

Well, I dunno. I think Hermione is – she *is* perfect. I mean, she's usually never wrong, she usually has the answers to everything, so yeah, I think she is perfect.

BECCA

Yeah, but she's socially awkward, and in the first book she couldn't make any friends because she was so...y'know, she came off very strongly.

MADELYN

That's true.

GINA

Well, I think that Hermione can definitely be a Mary Sue. I mean, Rowling puts her in as a way to easily resolve dilemmas, provide information, but then not everyone identifies with Hermione, and having an OFC opens up other possibilities for points of view in relating to Snape, such as women his own age.

SHANNON

I think you have a good point, and that one of the nice things about having a well-written OFC who is maybe from the point of view or represents female features of the author is that we might be getting a wider variety of character than we might get from the canon characters. Because Rowling has a huge fanbase, and we're – a lot of people who are drawn to Snape (this is my opinion, I don't know if it's true) – but I think a lot of people who are drawn to Snape, a lot of women drawn to him, are not teenagers, are a bit older. And so we don't see in canon as much, many compatible female characters for Snape, I mean there's Narcissa and Bellatrix (whom I despise) – it might allow us to see Snape from a woman's perspective, an adult older woman's perspective.

BECCA

That's true, and what you were saying about the canon female characters that Snape is often portrayed with, like you have Hermione, well some girls don't identify with Hermione, or some women don't. They think to themselves, "Oh, I was never *that* smart," and "I was never that popular" with Ginny, and "I was never that weird," with Luna.

GINA

All of those things.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Yeah, right, exactly. So that goes along with what you were saying about the OFC being a clean slate, and that you can give her attributes that can't necessarily be found in any of the canon characters.

MADLYN

Right. Well, one of the things that I loved about Spinner's End was it was such a rare treat to see Snape interacting with women his own age. So, I mean...

SHANNON

This is true.

MADLYN

I think a lot of new OFC fics, and also Narcissa fics, have been born from that chapter, because it's kind of a new way of writing Snape, relating to a woman his own age – *women* his own age.

GINA

Oh yeah, it was *such* a treat, wasn't it? And Snape will relate differently to a woman his own age than to a student. The power dynamic is different; she *may* know of his past, but she may or may not be intimidated by him.

SHANNON

This is true.

MADLYN

And she can put him in his place, just like Grace Draven does in “Tea with the Black Dragon,” and I just *love* the interaction between those two. ‘Cause she’s always givin’ it back to him.

GINA

Yes, exactly. You don’t only have to be in the classroom, or have detention scenarios, although that can be fun. But different scenarios open up.

SHANNON

Y’know, I have a question about that. In your vast readings of OFC/Snape pairings, how many OFCs are either an older Hermione, or just another current or former student of Snape’s? ‘Cause I read a couple of OFCs where they *are* still a student, it’s just they have a very different personality from Hermione, sometimes a darker personality, and that’s kind of interesting. But I’m curious – what do you find in the average?

GINA

Well, I think it’s about half and half, to be honest. Of course in some cases, in many cases, they’re former students, because the wizarding world is only so big. In the two story clips I read, they are both older students, but I think that they’re very different *types* of women from Hermione, and different from each other. So we can see there’s a variety, both in terms of students, older students, and OFCs that are not students anymore, or at all. And I think that’s what’s part of what makes OFCs just so interesting and what opens it up so well.

MADLYN

I would agree with that. I think it’s about fifty-fifty, at least with what I’ve read. So it’s not like women are writing OFC and they’re kind of putting her in Hermione’s position. There’s a pretty broad range of ages, and...

GINA

I mean, yeah. Not all students—Jehane Desrosiers was never a student of his.

MADLYN

That’s right. And she’s around Snape’s age.

GINA

Yeah.

BECCA

I’d have to say, most of the Snape/OFC fics that I’ve read, the OFC is a student or just about to graduate, that kind of thing. I always attributed that to the fact that Snape is a teacher in an English boarding school, and it’s kinda—like, he’s *there* for basically the entire year, except for the summer. So I dunno, maybe...

GINA

Yeah, it’s hard for him to meet other women outside of the Hogwarts grounds!

BECCA

Right.

MADELYN
Yeah, poor guy.

BECCA
That's the case with *my* favorite Snape/OFC fic, which is "A Merciless Affection" by Verity Brown.

SHANNON
Yes, yes.

BECCA
She's a seventh-year student. Yeah, so.

SHANNON
But she's got a dark side to her.

GINA
And that's another thing – the students can be paired with Snape, they can be from other Houses, not just Gryffindor.

SHANNON
That's – that House issue is also interesting. Do you find – do people tend to pair Snape up with Gryffindor women? With Ravenclaw women? With Slytherin women or Hufflepuff women? What do you – what do you find? I've never seen him with like a Hufflepuff woman.

GINA
Yeah, I can't remember him with a Hufflepuff...

MADELYN
Ooooooh!

BECCA
I think he could be with a Hufflepuff.

MADELYN
You've missed out on a good fic, because—

SHANNON
Which one?

MADELYN
Veresna Ussep writes "Love Labours, Paradise Lost," which has a Hufflepuff prostitute.

GINA
That's right, she is a Hufflepuff.

MADELYN
She went to Hogwarts for just a little bit of time, and she failed and turned out to be a Squib. So she got kicked out of Hogwarts and ended up being a prostitute, and then Snape meets up with her later and they have this recognition. He remembers her from school.

SHANNON
That sounds dark.

MADELYN
It's a really good fic.

BECCA
Y'know, one of the first Snape/OFC fics that I ever read – don't remember the author and I'm sorry, but it was called "For the Love of Hufflepuff," and it was in – it was a *large* fic, it was in a couple of different parts. So yeah, it was all about a Hufflepuff former student who came back to Hogwarts as a teacher and started a relationship with Snape that way. So yeah, I've seen that.

SHANNON
See, that's another thing that I've seen commonly, that the teacher, someone who comes back and is a teacher – I saw that in "The Serpent and the Eagle," and that was with a Ravenclaw and Snape. And it's just like...like an intellectual meeting of minds.

GINA
Oh, yeah, I love those. And y'know, this reminds me of two other *very* popular Snape/OFC fics where Snape interacts with another woman his own age who is a teacher. The first one is "Brave New World" by Aashby, also known on LJ as theatersm.

MADELYN
Excellent. Very good fic.

GINA
It is excellent. And the other one is "A Dark Herbal" by The Stars Hold Nine Serpents.

MADELYN
Oh! [laughs]

GINA
It – I need to warn you, it's not a completed fic—

MADELYN
You guys need to check that fic out.

GINA
But it's excellent, it's really excellent.

MADELYN
It's extraordinary.

GINA
So, to wrap up—what are some of your final thoughts on the Snape/OFC pairing? What do you guys think?

SHANNON

I'm sold. I'm gonna read more OFC with Snape.

BECCA
[laughs]

MADELYN
Yay! I've got a bunch of good fics for you to check out.

SHANNON
Yeah, send me an e-mail.

MADELYN
They'll change your mind completely.

GINA
Whoo-hoo!

BECCA
I would just like to say I really appreciate Snape/OFC fics because I really like to read about – well, y'know, I'm a big fan of smut. So if you have Snape, which is the most mysterious, complex character in the series and smut, um, yay. But...

GINA
Yaaay, smut!

BECCA
I'm also a big fan of fics that keep the characters faithful to their canon counterparts, so I find that's easiest to do – it's difficult to keep a pairing canon compliant. That sounds so awful, but it's difficult to do that with two canon characters, especially when one is Snape, unless they already have some kind of romantic pairing in the books, I think. But that's why I really like Snape/OFC, is 'cause I really can't see him with any canon character. I don't know why. So the OFC really serves the purpose and allows me to fantasize about Snape's romantic love life.

SHANNON
Snarry, baby. Snarry.

BECCA
So that's why I really appreciate Snape/OFC.

MADELYN
Yeah, I like to sit myself in the role of the OFC. I like to see myself in that position when I'm reading an OFC fic.

GINA
[laughs] No, no Snarry!

MADELYN
It's just more enjoyable. I'm tired of the student/Snape fics, so...I hope there's more out there!

GINA

Well, *I* can think of myself in a few positions with Snape, but uh...*anyway*...

SHANNON

Gina. [laughs]

GINA

Well, I just wanna thank you guys for participating, and have a good night.

BECCA

Thank you!

MADELYN & SHANNON

Bye!

Lumos Medley – (49:01)

Interviewees: Lumos 2006 attendees

Music: Elvis Presley, “Viva Las Vegas”

RACHAEL

This is Snapecast live from the Quidditch Finals at Lumos! What do you think about Snape?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #1

He's awesome.

RACHAEL & SNAPECASTERS

[cheer]

[CUT]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #2

I think what I experienced the most was that there are fans here with a lot of dedication, appreciation, consideration for the writer, and an enormous amount of ability to instill in everyone who visited here a fond memory, a wonderful opinion, lots of good instruction, and I think I see reading now in a different light.

[CUT]

DRAKE WEASLEY

I think Snape is the evil, but I also think he's on Dumbledore's orders, but I can't forgive him—from Drake Weasley.

[CUT]

SHANNON

You should be more sympathetic! He's your Head of House!

LUMOS ATTENDEE #3

He has gray underpants.

[CUT]

ROSE

Slytherins do *anything* to get what they want, so he's going to go all-out for the speed in the water for Water Quidditch.

LUMOS ATTENDEES

[laugh]

RACHAEL

All right, guys, well thanks—

LUMOS ATTENDEE #4

From what I hear, it might drag a little.

LUMOS ATTENDEES

[laugh hysterically]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #5

Severus's wand is very gigantic, from what I hear.

[CUT; MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

RACHAEL

So what do you think about Snape?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #6

I think he's a fascinating character with a lot of different possibilities that we'll either find out about or we won't.

RACHAEL

What would you most want to find out about Snape?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #6

Well, obviously the “good or evil” thing.

[CUT]

SHANNON

So, did you see any good Snape action while you were here?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #7

Oh, yeah, I think Snape has a lot of action going, yeah.

SHANNON

[snickers]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #7
Well, there's too many Snapes!

SHANNON
Yeah, there were quite a few Snapes.

[CUT]

RACHAEL
Twinky, what do you think of Snape?

TWINKY THE HOUSE-ELF
Twinky loves Snape! Snape saves Draco so Draco doesn't die!

[CUT]

RACHAEL
So what do you hope happens to him in the seventh book?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #8
I dunno. I think that I just didn't realize how much people really were idolizing Snape, and I find it gross.

[CUT]

SHANNON
So did you get any good Snape action while you were here?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #9
Now that just sounds wrong...

SHANNON
[laughs] Okay! Thanks so much!

[CUT]

ROSE
Is he good or evil?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #9
Well, I think he's ultimately good, but he's very evil about it. How's that for ambiguous?

[CUT]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #10
And I also was part of a depantsing of Snape as well.

SHANNON
I've been hearing a lot about it! Did someone take pictures?!

[CUT]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #11

Well, my favorite event was probably on the last day of the sessions—the Crackfic Panel, actually, because it was—it was *so* funny.

SHANNON

I heard it was pretty loud and raucous, wasn't it?

[CUT; MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

SHANNON

Annie actually had something really quite profound to add.

ANNIE

Whatever your personal opinions may be about Snape, I do believe and I have said so on many occasions that Snape is one of the greatest characters in all of literature.

SHANNON

And there you have it, folks. I agree too.

[CUT]

ROSE

So, Book Seven—Snape lives or dies?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #12

I want Snape to live *so* badly, but I'm so afraid that he's going to be a martyr. He's going to die, and the truth will come out after the fact.

LUMOS ATTENDEE #13

Yes, I agree.

LUMOS ATTENDEE #12

And Harry's going to live with the guilt for the rest of his life.

LUMOS ATTENDEE #14

I originally thought that, but I have reason to believe that Snape was the one who got the reprieve, so...I'm hoping!

LUMOS ATTENDEE #13

Yes!

LUMOS ATTENDEE #14

That is my belief. I think he is the reprieved person.

LUMOS ATTENDEE #12

He gets the reprieve, but then she kills him off by a heart attack from eating too much fried chicken.

LUMOS ATTENDEE #14
Oh jeez!

LUMOS ATTENDEE #12
It haunts me.

[ALL LAUGH]

[CUT]

SHANNON
Rita, what did you think of Lumos? Any good scoops?

RITA SKEETER
Oh, I thought it was great, but darling—I can't remember half the conference. Drunk Eaters, let's go, whoo!

SHANNON
Oh, the Drunk Eaters! Yeah, you guys are pretty insane.

[CUT]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #15
I think maybe the most memorable thing overall for me is just meeting everyone that I've been so lucky to come across on the Internet and just putting faces to names and realizing that people are as nice in person as they are online.

[CUT]

SHANNON
So did you get any really good Snape action while you were here?

LUMOS ATTENDEE #16
No, it's all girls!

SHANNON
Oh! [laughs] This is true!

[CUT; MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #8
He's greasy—

[CUT]

LUMOS ATTENDEE #8
—and disgusting.

[END MUSIC]

This Slytherin Life – (54:09)

Intro: Wendy

Essayist: Chris

Music:

- Ehren Starks, *The Depths of a Year*: 01-The tale of room 620
- Ludovico Einaudi, *I Giorni*: 02-I Due Fiumi

WENDY

Next up, *This Slytherin Life*. Chris explores childhood loss, loneliness, and disassociation from peers to try to understand Snape, the boy who didn't fit in.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

CHRIS

The first time that the *Harry Potter* books touched me very emotionally was about five years ago, when I first read *The Philosopher's Stone*, and it was the chapter "The Mirror of Erised." I'm just going to read you a bit; this is the third time Harry has visited the mirror.

"And there were his mother and father smiling at him again, and one of his grandfathers nodding happily. Harry sank down to sit on the floor in front of the mirror. There was nothing to stop him from staying here all night with his family. Nothing at all."

Six years before I had read that, so eleven years this August, I lost my mother to cancer. I was twelve at that time, so whenever I read that chapter I identified with Harry's feelings of loss and the longing to see those that are no longer with us. I thought it was a beautifully written chapter, and my love of the books grew and grew from there. So how does this relate to Snape?

Well, I found that when you lose someone so close to you at such a young age, it can temporarily shatter you as a person. You suddenly feel a year or two older than everybody else your age. It's a bit like you've learned something about life that nobody else has learned yet, even though you don't really understand it yourself. That's how I felt, anyway.

Now, my parents had parted company when I was very young, so when my mum died, I went to live with my father, and I joined a new school. To say I didn't fit in is a bit like saying J.K. Rowling has sold a couple of books. Suffice to say I was quite aggressively bullied, as lots of kids are in schools. I was the tall, chubby kid with glasses, bad teeth, and braces – that was, you know, almost had a sign on my head saying, "Please Bully Me, I Deserve It."

For a long time, I didn't do a lot. I would just sit in my room, and I'd go to school, and I'd come home, and I'd sit in my room again. And that went on for a long time. I had very little in the way of friends, and I was very very shy, nervous, and awkward, much like the young Snape. And I just – all I did was apply myself to my schoolwork and did very little else. And there were times when I felt so...lonely and sad and stuck, that it was, I'd get easily frustrated and seemed to sort of – I lacked perspective on things. I took everything to heart, and I was very sensitive. I'm still a sensitive person, but in a very different way now, 'cause I've got the benefit of hindsight.

I find it therefore easy to understand how someone in that situation or with low self-esteem can become resentful to the world and those around them. Also, I think it can be easy when somebody feels so lonely, they can be guided and influenced easily by the people around them. Thankfully, I have never had a mean streak in me, and I found salvation in some amazing friends later on. But I understand what happened to Snape, the boy who didn't fit in.

We know that he went, y'know, he went on to become a Death Eater, but has he found salvation in the goodness of Dumbledore? Or has he traveled too far down the road of loneliness to come back? We know he's capable of murder, but is he evil? Perhaps he is simply keeping his enemies closer... whoever they may be.

Owlpost – (1:00:00)

Panel: Shannon, Gina, Jon, Rachael

Voice: Chris

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

SHANNON

All right, we've reached the segment in our show called Owlpost, and this is Shannon, and who do I have here with me?

JON

Jonathan.

GINA

Gina R. Snape.

RACHAEL

Rachael, and Snarky's here too, he's just hiding.

SHANNON

And Snarky's been very busy, we've gotten a lot of good e-mail from people recently, thank you so much for your feedback. Um...

RACHAEL

Yes, thanks.

SHANNON

Yeah. Let's take a listen to the first... first comment we've got. John, I think you've got that one.

JON

Sure. This is from Frini from Brazil. She writes, "I have a question for you all. What do you think about the Foe-Glass in book four? It is mentioned when McGonagall, Albus, and Severus save Harry from fake Moody. It is supposed to show only your enemies, and Snape seems mesmerized. His own face floats in front of him, as if his true enemy is actually himself. I find that very interesting." That's Frini from Brazil.

GINA

Hi, Frini!

SHANNON

What do you guys think?

GINA

Well, I have to say that I talked Steve Vander Ark into including that on his list of pros and cons as to whose side Snape is on, that I felt that this was a form of proof that Snape was on Dumbledore's side and against the Dark Lord.

RACHAEL

See, I take a different view. I think that it can fit on both sides of the argument, because it really boils down to how the Foe-Glass works. Actually, a lot of things boil down to how do these magical devices work? The Foe-Glass is Mad-Eye Moody's Foe-Glass. So, if it shows Mad-Eye Moody's enemies, and it shows Snape's face, Snape is against Mad Eye Moody. However, it might show the enemies of the person who's looking into the Foe-Glass. So that way Snape could be his own enemy. Conversely, it could also-- the person who actually owns the Foe-Glass isn't Mad-Eye Moody it's Barty Crouch Jr. Snape could-- [laughs] and that makes it even more confusing, because Snape on one hand could be viewed as Barty Crouch Jr.'s enemy, if he's good, because Barty Crouch Jr. is a Death Eater, however Barty Crouch Jr. also hates people who have turned against the Dark Lord, so... this is a difficult argument to make. [laughs]

SHANNON

Yeah, it seems like it's a question of ownership vs. possession. So like, it belongs to Mad Eye Moody, but it's being used by Barty Crouch, and it could be showing, like-- could it show whoever your enemy is at the moment, not just your overriding beliefs about who you support and don't support? But he was trying to get away with something, I think he was wanting to get to Harry, hurt Harry, find out about Voldemort, and he didn't want to be caught at that moment. So he got caught by Snape, among others.

GINA

Right, and the thing is, Moody's enemies. Dumbledore and McGonagall, they're not enemies of Moody, and they also appear in the Foe-Glass, so I think that kinda refutes that idea.

RACHAEL

But it could be Barty Crouch Jr.'s enemies, which he's a Death Eater so they would be McGonagall and Dumbledore...

GINA

Absolutely.

RACHAEL

But even Snape can still be evil and still be Barty Crouch Jr.'s enemy because the thing that Barty Crouch Jr. hates more than anything else is people who he thinks have turned against the Dark Lord. He hates people who have renounced Voldemort's ways. And so if at that moment Barty Crouch Jr. thinks that Snape has just gone back to Dumbledore and has renounced Voldemort, he's pretty much about as bad of an enemy as he can get. So I think that... The Foe-Glass evidence is inconclusive to me. I think that you can put it on either side of the argument.

GINA

Well I think it's interesting that Snape stops to look at his own reflection in the Foe-Glass, so he may,

himself, be wondering “How and I an enemy of Crouch Jr.?”

SHANNON

Yes, this is... Frini, you have really opened up a can of worms here. I think this is a fabulous question and one that is worthy of further debate and something much longer and lengthier.

RACHAEL

Yes. [laughs]

SHANNON

And I think that's a great question.

RACHAEL

We have such smart listeners.

SHANNON

We do. You guys send us these wonderful comments and really good analysis and please do, post them on the discussion boards and stuff like that, but they're really fabulous.

RACHAEL

That's something that we wanted to comment about, is we get so much good e-mail and we don't really have time to read it all, but we do have the discussion board so please feel free to go over there and discuss with everyone all the different Snapey topics that come up.

SHANNON

Okay, now we're going to move on to some of the voicemail we've got-- in fact, we have yet another Snape is Evil person, so let's take a listen.

DRAKE

Hey Snapecast, this is Drake and I'm from Chicago. I've talked to Rachael a couple times through e-mail, my e-mail is drakesir1@yahoo.com. I'm calling about the round table discussion on Snape, for who thinks he's evil; well, here are my-- a few of my thoughts on that. I do think he's evil but I don't think he was born that way. I think it was a certain pompous Gryffindor's fault while he was in school. I mean, Harry Potter had a bad childhood and he isn't evil so you can't just blame something like that.

With Snape, I think it's a bad childhood, interest in the dark arts, bad times at school, plus bitterness, loneliness, and resentment that equals up to him being evil. So while I do think Snape is pretty much as evil as they come, I don't blame him for it. I have reason to believe two things he hates in particular are all things Gryffindor and Potter. Reason being: James Potter. I think the only good person he ever wanted to be friends with was Lily Evans. If her feelings hadn't shifted at some point from pity for Snape to feelings of love for James, then there may have still been a chance at keeping him good. But, what's done is done, bottom line it's present day, if Snape wasn't evil he wouldn't have committed himself to an Unbreakable Vow that involved killing Dumbledore. If holding his loyalties to Voldemort are that important, then Dumbledore obviously meant nothing to him. After all, remember he hates all things Gryffindor thanks again to James.

So, uh, yeah, I guess I'll leave you with that, talk to you guys later, keep up the good work! Bye.

GINA

Well that was an interesting perspective...and I have to say, I don't think that Snape was influenced so much by his hatred for Gryffindors, so much as the Marauders. You know, we kinda just talked about that a little bit with Frinny's letter, but I really think...I could see Snape's rivalry specifically with the Marauders driving him to join the Death Eaters, and then something with his own internal moral compass making him decide to turn away from that.

JON

Yeah, and I don't know if he hates all things Gryffindor, I think he just hates all things Potter.

SHANNON

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Yeah, he wouldn't-- if he hated Gryffindor so much I don't think he would be so offended at the end of *Half-Blood Prince* when Harry called him a coward, because that's the quintessential trait of Gryffindors, and to me there's a little tiny part of Snape that's Gryffindor.

SHANNON

[laughs]

RACHAEL

And that's also, you know, that's my house, so I have to defend Gryffindors, John and I do.

SHANNON

So, what do you guys think about the point he's making, that the Unbreakable Vow, to kill Dumbledore if Draco fails, is actually a sign that he's evil?

JON

Well I think there are definitely ways you can-- just like the Foe-Glass thing, you could turn that on each side of the argument. You can talk about ways that Dumbledore and Snape planned the ah, killing... there's a million ways you could do that.

RACHAEL

I've heard people argue that an Unbreakable Vow is very dark magic, so anybody that makes it is inherently evil. I think that that's a decent argument, however Fred and George do try to make an Unbreakable Vow with Ron, when he was five I think, so I don't think that there's a verdict necessarily on exactly what that magic is.

SHANNON

I don't remember this.

GINA

Yeah, I have to agree, I don't think it's necessarily just dark, but I think that it was absolutely a plan between Snape and Dumbledore. I think Snape knew that they were coming, and he knew something was going down with Draco, and he needed to be prepared, and Dumbledore's been ready to die for a very long time.

SHANNON

See, I-- I always assumed that he went along with the Unbreakable Vow because, to not do it would

have cast more suspicion on himself. And remember, both Narcissa and Bellatrix came to Spinner's End-- uh, well Bellatrix in particular was very suspicious, she was grilling Snape on everything, and if he were to balk at anything Narcissa asked, I think that would have put his-- like, if he is working for Dumbledore, it would have put his position at risk. I think he had to go along with it. And he did kinda agree to the Vow before, maybe he knew what he was doing?

RACHAEL

Ugh. This is opening a can of worms...

GINA

[laughs]

SHANNON

Okay, we gotta wait-- we gotta wait 'till we get to Snarky Chapters.

RACHAEL

I have too many things to say about that. But we are-- we are going to do a bit on loyalty and really analyze this issue. It's still brewing, though.

GINA

Yeah.

JON

Yeah but, so, without further ado we should get onto this message from Hagrid.

CHRIS [AS HAGRID]

Dear Snapecast:

I heard about some ruddy wileish show about Snape, and I thought you'd want to know he ain't the sort of person you'd want to admire. How do I know? Well you only have to look at the way the animals act around him to catch his number. My uh-- dog, Fluffy, were the sweetest beast you could ever hope to meet. And Snape riled him up good enough to go and get himself bit. And then there's Buc-- ahem, a hippogrif with a name of Witherwings. Chased him clear off the grounds! Not to mention, Fang was never too fond of him neither. Can't believe I never noticed it before. Anyway. You'd be better off with a show about something really interesting, like dragons! I can set you up with a friend of mine what deals with dragons out in Romania. Even hatched one of his favorites in me own hut...Oh blimey, I shouldn't a' said that!

Cheers, Hagrid.

GINA

Oh, Hagrid, Hagrid, Hagrid...I love animals just as much as everybody else, but I can't really say that their actions toward Snape is any kind of proof about his character.

RACHAEL

Here's the funny thing: I totally agree with Hagrid. [laughs] Because, one time somebody asked me what I believed the best evidence was that Snape was evil. And for some reason, at the end of *Half-Blood Prince*, the fact that Buckbeak attacked him just stuck out in my mind, and that's what I said as the answer. And it does bother me a little bit, because the animals in Harry Potter do seem to sense

good or evil, so, I think Hagrid has an excellent point.

SHANNON

See, I'd be more convinced if, like, Trevor attacked Snape, because I trust Trevor, that's all I can say. [ALL LAUGH] And, you know, Buckbeak was kind of defending Harry, and I think he's definitely more loyal to Harry, they have an affinity.

GINA

I don't know, I was gonna say, I would trust Crookshanks... but not necessarily Buckbeak.

JON

I was gonna say Crookshanks, yeah. Crookshanks was an excellent judge of character.

SHANNON

All right. I think that's it for Owlpost...and, uh, if you have comments, ideas, critiques, anything you'd like to suggest, don't forget to send an e-mail to our e-mail address, and that's severus@snapecast.com, or you can leave a voicemail on Skype, and our account name is Snapecast. And I think that's it for now, so thanks a lot everyone! Bye!

JON

Bye-bye.

GINA

Bye!

RACHAEL

Thanks, bye!

Closing – (1:12:52)

Hosts: Gina, Rachael, Jon

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome back. We're closing out episode four; it was a surprise episode, but it was a good one. I'm Rachael.

GINA

I'm Gina R. Snape.

JON

I'm Jonathan.

GINA

That was great. I'm so glad we—I mean, we had so much material that we got an extra episode in, and I hope everybody really enjoyed it.

RACHAEL

Yeah, we can't promise that we're gonna be back on a biweekly basis, but we'll see. There's just so much content to talk about.

JON

It sure beats having another two hour episode.

RACHAEL

True. That was a bit embarrassing.

GINA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

So, um, next episode is September 1st.

GINA

Yes, that's our back to school episode.

RACHAEL

'Cause the Hogwarts students go back to school and term starts September 1st, we're gonna do something a little bit special for that. Also, we are going to do something where we address Snape's loyalty and present the "Snape is evil" perspective, but we're still brewing up the way that we're going to do that. So be ready for that. Also, we've been getting a lot of great comments about everything Snape. One thing I did wanna mention, though, is that we do have an official Snapecast discussion board; you can find it through Snapecast.com, and on the left-hand side there are links, and there's a link for a discussion forum. Or you can go to whysnape.tripod.com, that's Lady Claudia's—it's a wonderful website and she has a special discussion board just for Snapecast, so you can talk with other listeners about what you heard during the show, issues, things you disagree with, how much you hate us—whatever.

JON

Remember, you can always contact us using our e-mail address, severus@snapecast.com. Or comment on our forums on the Snapecast.com site, or you can comment on LiveJournal, Snapecast at LiveJournal.com. Also, we have a presence on MySpace and on Skype; I'm sure if you just search around, you can find us on there. We're Snapecast on MySpace and Snapecast on Skype.

RACHAEL

You have no excuse not to contact us.

GINA

And don't forget to vote for us on PodcastAlley.

RACHAEL

Yes. If Snape is gonna have the longest lines at Lumos, his podcast damn well better get up in the rankings and beat the onion podcast.

GINA

Ten points for your House if you vote for us.

RACHAEL

Yes. Okay, everyone, well thanks for listening, and we'll see you next time on September 1st!

JON
See you then.

GINA
Yaaay. Bye!

RACHAEL
Happy Snapeing!

New York Medley – (1:15:39)

Voices: Katie Couric, J.K. Rowling, Salman Rushdie

Music: Frank Sinatra, “New York, New York”

KATIE COURIC
Are any of the characters based on anyone you knew, or know, in real life?

J.K. ROWLING
Yes, but obviously I have to be careful because some of my characters are pretty unpleasant.

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

ALAN RICKMAN [AS SNAPE]
People will think you're...*up* to something.

[END CLIP]

J.K. ROWLING
I notice you like Snape...

CROWD
[cheers wildly]

J.K. ROWLING
...you just never give up hope, you people, do you? This concerns, um, a part of the story where Harry goes back in time and watches as Albus Dumbledore, a younger Albus Dumbledore, goes to inform another famous pupil of Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, that he has a place at the school...and you really shouldn't be cheering that particular one. [CROWD LAUGHS] Snape, I can kind of see, but...anyway!

[CUT]

SALMAN RUSHDIE
Hello, we are Salman and Millon Rushdie, and...

CROWD
[applauds]

J.K. ROWLING

I'm not that sure this is fair. I think that you might be better at guessing plots than most. But anyway, off you go.

SALMAN RUSHDIE

...well, we're 9 and 59, and one of us is good at guessing plots...not me! And this is really Millon's question. And it's kind of a follow up to the previous one.

J.K. ROWLING

Right. Okay.

SALMAN RUSHDIE

Until the events of volume six, it's always been made plain, that Snape might be an unlikable fellow, that he is essentially one of the good guys.

J.K. ROWLING

[laughs] Mm-hmm...

CROWD

[laughs]

J.K. ROWLING

I can see this is the question you all really want answered.

CROWD

[cheers]

SALMAN RUSHDIE

Dumbledore himself, Dumbledore himself, had *always* vouched for him.

J.K. ROWLING

Yes...

SALMAN RUSHDIE

Now we are suddenly told that he is a villain and Dumbledore's killer.

J.K. ROWLING

Mm-hmm...

SALMAN RUSHDIE

We cannot, or don't, want to believe this. Our theory is that Snape is, in fact, still a good guy—[CROWD CHEERS]—from which it follows, that Dumbledore can't really be dead. And that the death is a ruse, cooked up between Dumbledore and Snape, to put Voldemort off his guard, so that when Harry and Voldemort come face to face—[CROWD & J.K. ROWLING LAUGH]—Harry may have more allies than he or Voldemort suspects. So, is Snape good or bad?

CROWD

[laughs and cheers]

SALMAN RUSHDIE

In our opinion, everything follows from it.

J.K. ROWLING

Well, Salman, your opinion, I would say, is right. But I see that I need to be a little more explicit, and say that Dumbledore is definitely...dead.

CROWD

[gasps]

[MUSIC FADES OUT]

JON

...man, I—what the fuck am I gonna—

RACHAEL

You were doing a *Beavis and Butthead* before—

JON

What, you want *Beavis and Butthead* on Snapecast?

BECCA

Sure! [laughs] That would be *great!*

RACHAEL

It's so different than Snape, so it's funny!

BECCA

It's supposed to be! It's supposed to be!

JON [BEAVIS & BUTTHEAD VOICE]

Ehhhn! Yeah, Snapecast!

BECCA & RACHAEL

[laugh]

RACHAEL

Just record it, and if we decide it's stupid later...

BECCA

[laughs]

JON

We can hit stop now, by the way...