

Snapecast Episode 5

This is Snapecast – (00:00)

Intro: Rachael, Jeff, Shannon

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 five for September the 1st, 2006. Now copy that down, or you'll be the test subject for the first years' Flatulence Elixir!

Introduction - (00:59)

Hosts: Rachael, Jeff, Shannon

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to Snapecast Episode Five. This is our very special back to school episode for September 1st, 2006. I'm Rachael, and I have here with me...

JEFF

Jeff.

SHANNON

And Shannon.

RACHAEL

Yes, and for those of you that don't know Jeff, he did make a brief appearance on Snapecast before. He was on the Snape and Narcissa Love Potion segment; that was... rather disturbing for him, I think.

JEFF

[laughs]

SHANNON

Yes, yes...

RACHAEL

He wasn't used to all the fangirling.

JEFF

It's all good.

SHANNON

Jeff is one of the few Snapecast males we have on staff, so he's a rare breed.

RACHAEL

So, the theme of our episode this time is 'Back to School' because September 1st is the day that the new term begins at Hogwarts.

SHANNON

Ah, yes.

RACHAEL

Our Snape & discussion is on Snape and Education, and we have a lot of thoughts about Snape, his role as a teacher, and the educational process in the wizarding world. Our This Slytherin Life episode is also education focused. We have an interview with fanfic author Rebecca Webb. And of course, we have our Owlpost segment, where we hear e-mails and owl post from the wizarding and muggle world.

SHANNON

Brilliant!

RACHAEL

So, it's definitely back to school time, because, for me, I'm going through severe Lumos withdrawal. The summer's over, starting back law school, and it's a bit depressing.

SHANNON

I find it a bit exciting, actually. I'm going through Lumos withdrawal of course, but I love back to school, and I was just walking around campus the other day and I thought, you know, it smells like back to school. The air's a little bit crisper, it's not horrendously hot, you smell like, the excitement, the anticipation, the new books, the smell of freshmen, you know it's that back to school feeling.

JEFF

A new year filled with hope and promise.

SHANNON

[laughing] Yes...

RACHAEL

See, I'm going through such terrible Lumos withdrawal, that first, I'm drinking Butterbeer right now. And second, I had the uncontrollable urge to register for as many conferences

as I possibly could because I was in such Lumos withdrawal. And I have to say, that I registered for Sectus and Phoenix Rising, and Sectus is super cool because I was their 100th registrant, so I won a very nice Sectus T-shirt...

SHANNON

Wow...

RACHAEL

That I'm proudly going to wear.

SHANNON

You know, I wonder if Chris might not be able go to Sectus, he's in South Hampton, isn't he?

RACHAEL

Yes, it will be a very interesting-- there's talk about doing a field trip to the village of Snape.

SHANNON

Oh, excellent!

RACHAEL

So, in this school theme, what do you think Snape's been doing with his summer holidays?

JEFF

Our dear Severus has been dreaming of new ways to insult Harry and Ron.

SHANNON

And Hermionie!

JEFF

Indeed.

SHANNON

I think he's also been brewing up some new detention punishments, ways to torture students who misbehave and don't do well in class... Maybe he's even been practicing some foolish wand-waving of his own. I wonder about that.

RACHAEL

[laughs] See I see him doing some-- I bet the Death Eaters have some sort of like, corporate retreat, or Death Eater boot camp that they go on, out in some remote location. I bet he does that, and then just chills at home in Spinner's End. Reads a book.

JEFF

I think Snape went to Lumos!

SHANNON

[laughs] There were a lot of Snapes there!

RACHAEL

Snape would have been mobbed if he went to Lumos.

SHANNON

This is true, this is true. So you think he's at some sort of Club Med-type resort, right?

RACHAEL

Well some, you know some place the Death Eaters would go on vacation. And Voldemort could kinda have like, a “rile them up” session, get them ready for the school year, and ready to recruit new members, and to carry out his ridiculous plan, whatever it is. And you know, Snape probably has to go and play along.

SHANNON

Yeah, but do you think Voldemort actually takes a vacation? I mean, if you're trying to rule the world and kill everybody, I mean, that's his idea of a good time, why would he want a break from it?

[ALL LAUGH]

JEFF

That's a good point. Ooh, yeah.

RACHAEL

Anyhow. So, I swore when we started Snapecast that we were not going to be doing Snape News. Yet, every episode there seems to be Snape news that comes out. And the big news since our last episode was that some pictures of the *Order of the Phoenix* set were released. Pictures of the Snape's Worst Memory scene with Alec Hopkins playing Severus Snape. You guys have seen all those?

SHANNON

Oh yes, absolutely.

JEFF

Yep, I have.

RACHAEL

What do you think?

SHANNON

I'm really-- you know, what we can see of it, I think they look pretty good. I mean, none of them are close-ups, and Alec is not as skinny as I would picture Snape being, you know fifteen-year-old boys can be really thin, but then his physical stature, his build is

kinda like Rickman's. Rickman's not a thin man, but he definitely has that pallid, stringy look to him, and that very introverted look. I'm lovin' it.

JEFF

Um, I have to agree. He's got the eyebrows, looks kinda the same, even his face looks like Alan's.

RACHAEL

Dude, you can see his face?! [laughs]

JEFF

Well, I thought, yeah, cuz I thought--

SHANNON

From a distance.

JEFF

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Cuz, I just think it's funny, I wonder what Alec Hopkins would think if he knew that all of these women, all over the world, are spending so much time zooming in to this very blurry picture that was probably taken from far away on a zoom lens to see, like, is he really exactly what young Severus looked like in our minds, because I've seen quite a few LiveJournal icons and quite a few manipulations...

SHANNON

Indeed. Well, he should give us a shout and let us know what he thinks, huh? He should send us an e-mail or something.

RACHAEL

Yes.

JEFF

Yep.

RACHAEL

Snarky will travel to Alec Hopkins.

SHANNON

Absolutely. Alec? We'd love to hear from you. And send your picture.

RACHAEL

So, a little while back our listener challenge was for everyone to send in their suggestions for what Snape's middle name is. And we got quite a few good ones.

SHANNON
Yeah, really.

RACHAEL
A very common one was Alexander, I think two people suggested that. Probably the strangest was Walter, that was Mia's suggestion. [laughs]

SHANNON
She was very, very insistent.

RACHAEL
She was very insistent on Walter. SereneSeer suggested Octavius.

SHANNON
I like that one.

JEFF
That's good, yes.

RACHAEL
And, I think, overwhelmingly the favorite, which, I do not have the name of the person who sent this in, it might have been anonymous, was Severus Alan Snape.

[ALL LAUGH]

JEFF
Yes!

SHANNON
Yeah, I don't see that happening, but it's a good thought. Good thought.

JEFF
Well, if the Mark Evans thing happens with Jo, maybe it could happen with Alan.

SHANNON & RACHAEL
[laugh]

RACHAEL
I don't know, we'll see. I personally think he doesn't have a middle name.

SHANNON
Oh, I was thinking, I really liked Octavius 'cuz it does have that Latin feel to it, it goes well with Severus. But I, personally if I were to respond to the listener challenge, I was thinking Tiberius, but that's probably just because I've been watching too much William Shatner on TV recently and I'm thinking about James Tiberius Kirk of *Star Trek* fame. I think those go well together.

RACHAEL
[laughs] Mixing your fandoms...

SHANNON
[laughing] Oops!

RACHAEL
And we have a new listener challenge for the next episode. You wanna tell us about that, Shannon?

SHANNON
Yes. This is in keeping with our theme for back-to-school. So, we wanted to ask you to let us know what you thought: If Snape were a teacher in the Muggle world, how would he deal with problem students, their cell phones and iPods and all the other nonsense that they do in class? What would he do, how would he discipline them? That sort of thing.

RACHEL
With or without magic?

SHANNON
Well it is the Muggle world, so I'm kinda curious...

RACHAEL
Without magic.

SHANNON
Yeah, without magic. You know. How would he handle the real life teaching problems that teachers face when they're with a full class of unruly teenagers.

RACHAEL
Snape in *Dangerous Minds*.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON
Yes... *To Snape With Love*...

RACHAEL
'Cuz the students in Hogwarts are very well behaved.

SHANNON
They really are.

RACHAEL
And he complains about them, but there are some nasty kids out there!

JEFF

Yep, what's that TV show, *The Bronx Zoo*?

SHANNON

Yeah, or what is it, *Boston Public* or something...I mean, these are all American context...

JEFF

Yes, yes, yes...

SHANNON

I'm sure people get in trouble all over the world.

RACHAEL

There have to be bad students in England.

SHANNON

Oh yeah, I'm sure of it.

JEFF

And they all go to soccer matches.

SHANNON

[laughs]

RACHAEL

The young hooligans...

JEFF

Hooligans-in-training.

SHANNON

That's right.

RACHAEL

[laughs] So, back to the Wizarding world. We have a great show for you, so why don't we get going on with it?

SHANNON

Yes!

JEFF

Let's do it!

RACHAEL

All right, bye everyone!

JEFF
Bye-bye!

SHANNON
Happy Snapeing!

Snapecast PSA: Tips for Success in Potions Class - (10:01)

Announcer: Rose

Music: Van Halen, "Hot for Teacher"

ROSE

Snapecast offers the following tips to make this year's Potions class a great one!

1. First, get enough sleep. Wandering around the school and grounds at all hours in search of "adventure" will not leave you alert and at your best in class.
2. Study during study time. Sure, the Restricted Section has lots of interesting books – and none of that information will be on any of your Potions exams.
3. Make a study plan and stick to it.
4. Associate with successful students, not the dunderheads.
5. Find other committed Potions students like yourself on the Snapecast message boards on WhySnape and on the Snapecast Frappr map.
6. Don't mention the Defense Against the Dark Arts post, or the poor sod who took the job this year.
7. Peruse the used book section of Flourish and Blotts for potions texts signed "Property of the Half-Blood Prince."

Snape & Roundtable - (12:31)

Panel: Becca, Laura, Rachael, Shannon, Rose

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

Topic: Snape & Education

BECCA

Hi, and welcome to the Snape & roundtable. My name is Becca and here with me are:

LAURA
Laura!

RACHAEL
Rachael!

SHANNON
Shannon!

ROSE
Rose!

BECCA

OK, Snapecast's theme for the month of September is Back to School. So I thought it'll only be fitting for our Snape & roundtable to be about Snape & Education. And I wanted to start off by talking about Snape as a student. Umm – we have some evidence in the books that Snape was a very intelligent young man, such as the fact that, you know, he had the potions notebook in which he evidently created his own spells and perfected potions techniques. We have Sirius' comment that he knew more dark arts as a first-year than some of the seventh-year students and other little pieces of evidence like that. So, what do you guys think Snape was like as a Hogwarts student?

RACHAEL

Well I have an interesting opinion on this because I roleplay Snape as a Hogwarts student. I do a fifteen-year-old Snape. And I play him very studious. He's like taking Advanced Potions a year early; he solves all the Astronomy problems really quick; he takes a full load like Hermione. But, he's kind of bored with the educational system.

Like, he... he's a little bit arrogant, thinks he's better than it – but that's just my interpretation.

SHANNON

Do you play him like one of the bad boys in the back of the classroom who kind of like sits there and broods and even though he's really, really smart he doesn't always, umm, come across well to the teacher, because maybe he thinks he's smarter than the teacher?

RACHAEL

Yeah, that's how I play Snape. Definitely. And of course it causes the teachers to try and hook up with him in... in role-playing games. [laughs]

SHANNON

[laughs] Oh, God!

BECCA

Eww...Of course the studious part of it is a common theme that you find in a lot of fanfic, that he's a very diligently studious, ah, student.

LAURA

So, he'd be like one of the type of child that's not challenged and so he pulls back and feels frustrated in class?

BECCA

Aren't those kind of students usually the ones who get bad grades though? Because they don't care?

SHANNON

Well, Snape can be both intelligent but an underachiever in school 'cause that's his way of rebelling.

RACHAEL

I don't think he's an underachiever but I do think that he has a different approach to things than his teachers. And I'm partially imposing my own personality on it because it's a role-playing game. But I guess an example is like when he teaches the Defence Against the Dark Arts lesson, we find out – OK, maybe he's not so smart because he said that kappas were from Mongolia and according to Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them they're really from Japan. To me that's like kind of, sort of canon evidence of Snape saying “Well, you know, whoever wrote Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them thinks that that's where they are from, but I know better and this is... this is what I'm going to teach.” So, I kinda think he had that mentality as a student as well.

LAURA

The way I see him, is kind of...in a way it's... it's sort of like Neville; he has one area that he's... he has expertise in like Herbology but with Snape it would be Potions.

SHANNON

That's interesting

BECCA

Yeah! And also maybe the Dark Arts too, because he did know more Dark Arts as a first-year than some of the seventh-year students.

LAURA

Yeah, exactly. He has an affinity for the Dark Arts also.

RACHAEL

Now, see, I always play him like he has to work extra hard to do well in the Dark Arts, though, because he does take such a different approach than a school where Dumbledore is the Headmaster and what they would teach.

BECCA

Ok. Let's talk then about Snape as a teacher. When I was thinking about how I would approach this question I just took a look at the things that Jo has said about Snape and it's amazing the amount of quotes that she has regarding Snape as a teacher. Some of the adjectives that she's used are: scary, sadistic. She says that being a bully as a teacher is the worst, shabbiest thing you can do. She has called him a horrible teacher. Actually the full quote is: “Dumbledore believes that there all sorts of lessons in life and horrible teachers like Snape are one of them.” How do you assess Snape as a teacher and what do you think that says... what do you think his teaching style says about his character.

LAURA

Uh, I think it totally reflects how he was treated as a child and how he... how he interacted with others when he was younger because he was bullied then and now he's turned into the bully. So, he's reversed roles as a teacher.

BECCA

Yeah, I know that Shannon had some interesting things to say about this so wha... Shannon why don't you talk about that.

SHANNON

Ok, umm, I just want to make it clear here I feel a need to call upon my credentials. I'm getting my PhD in education right now. Nearly done with it. So, I take a great interest in different styles of pedagogy and –umm – I'm also in a... quite an international field where we sometimes look at international issues in education; and I had an opportunity to talk with some of my Korean colleagues and they have this – ah - attitude which reminds me a bit of how maybe some of Snape's students might feel – that based on their own teachers who would sometimes either humiliate them if they made a mistake or hit them, like they would actually cane them.

ALL

[sound digusted]

SHANNON

That they said, you know, it's better to be silent than to be wrong. But this, I find – I want to add to this – umm, when I spoke with one of my colleagues she said that when she read Harry Potter, and read about Snape, she didn't see him as particularly mean or cruel, he was... he just seemed like a typical teacher. But her opinion of him changed completely when she saw how Alan Rickman portrayed him in the movies, because she said at that point she saw the expression on Snape's face when he was saying these things or even hitting the students, like we saw in *Goblet of Fire*, and she says at that point it's the expression on his face that indicated a kind of cruelty and that's when she started to see, like, a very negative side in Snape that wasn't apparent to him in teaching. So the point of this long spiel is how I perceive Snape I think is colored very much by the American education system and what we value here in our teachers.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

That's a really interesting comment, because I'm of the camp that I think Snape is a good teacher. (laughing) And this isn't just because I'm a crazy Snape fan...

SHANNON

You're a law student!

RACHAEL

Yes, I'm a law student, so apparently I'm masochistic...

SHANNON
You're a law student...

RACHAEL
So, and before I was a law student I was an engineering student, and as an engineering student you have one kind of professor that's...they're usually very slow, they're usually very soft spoken. There's a stereotype for an engineering professor. Then there's the stereotype for a law professor. And there're different severities of the stereotype for a law professor. And I think I've had a lot of law professors that are very much like Snape, and the kind of teachers that make me afraid to do the reading or else I'll get humiliated for making a poor argument in class, and the ones that are – like - clearly more witty than I am, those are the kind of teachers I really learn from. But I understand that I am like, probably, like five percent of the class because my classmates that have these teachers constantly complain about them and can't stand it and they wonder why I subject myself to them and take them multiple times. But for some reason I just learn from that kind of person.

LAURA
I totally think it depends on the student as well. Because you have like – you have Neville who might not have been so bad in potions if he hadn't had been so terrified of Snape. He was scared enough of Snape that Snape became his boggart. [ALL LAUGH] And so I think that, you know, for Neville Snape was a horrible, horrible teacher – the worst kind of teacher that there is.

SHANNON
Yes, indeed.

LAURA
Yeah, and then but you have someone like Hermione who always wants to get it right, you know, and so if you a very demanding, like, teacher like Snape is, then that might propel Hermione to be at her very best as well. So, I think it depends on the student in many, many cases.

ROSE
And Snape does seem to get results. All of the students that he's taught through the years, he doesn't have a consistent rate of students failing their N.E.W.T.s and their O.W.L. exams.

RACHAEL
Umm, I had a teacher like that who, uh, who taught AP Calculus in High School who was like notorious for being just intimidating, for being ruthless, but his students – I mean it was something like ninety percent got college credit for Calculus, got fives on the exams. So, for a particular subject and a particular student it can work.

SHANNON

But do teachers like this, that you're calling upon who have a very high success rate, do they get personal with their students? Do they... like there's a lot where Snape in particular – I'm a big fan of Neville, so whenever Snape really rips into Neville calling him an idiot and really humiliating him, not just correcting him, but really getting personal and making fun of him at the point that other students are laughing and ridiculing him – do you find that acceptable in a teacher?

RACHAEL

I guess I would say no. I mean I've never had a professor that has been abusive like that, like Snape is. I guess it's like... it's more the comments he makes to Harry. He'll make sort of like the witty... the witty comment like 'fame isn't everything', those sorts of things, I think are acceptable. But I have to concede that if I were in a classroom with somebody who was really pulling low punches like that, I probably would not learn well from them.

LAURA

Yeah, like - well, Snape might make derogatory comments about Harry's fame and intelligence and whatever, but he also throws Harry's father in his face and I don't think that's acceptable at all.

RACHAEL

Yeah, that's not...when he says that, that's where he crosses the line.

SHANNON

It definitely lacks professionalism as a teacher. I mean you can't sink to the level of your students, and if he's hurt by something Harry does or says, he's the adult; he needs to learn to set a better example.

BECCA

And another thing that people always bring up that they can't stand that he did as a teacher was the "I see no difference" thing with Hermione and her teeth. And it's the same thing, it's just like you know he wasn't even teaching in that. He was just being an asshole. And we love him, because we're sick!

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

There's one theory that the reason that Snape is so nasty to his non-Slytherin students is because it's all a show. He's putting on a show for those students because many of them are the children of Death Eaters and he is doing it in anticipation of rejoining the Death Eaters at some point. What do you think of this theory?

SHANNON

Hmm, hogwash!

ROSE

I had heard other theories that he's horrible to them as an example of what a horrible Death Eater is to dissuade them from ever joining.

RACHAEL

It doesn't seem to have worked on Draco!

ROSE

Extenuating circumstances! He had to save his family!

RACHAEL

That's true!

BECCA

I don't think he's that nice to the Slytherins, I just think he's not mean to them.

SHANNON

I disagree, I think he's very protective of the Slytherins, and I think he uses his teaching as a way to, umm, boost them along... I'll stand by my position earlier that it's kind of a social justice, people are always coming down on the Slytherins or maybe there is a conspiracy of Gryffindors or something but I think he uses his post to kind of give the Slytherins a bit of an advantage.

LAURA

Yeah, I agree with Shannon about the Slytherins. I think that Snape sees a hierarchy and the Slytherins being on top and he shows favouritism, and sadism in some ways towards the others such as when he focused on Trevor, that was very sadistic!

BECCA

That was so sad!

SHANNON

Yeah!

LAURA

That was awful!

RACHAEL

Poor Trevor!

[ALL LAUGH]

LAURA

Poor Trevor.

ROSE

Slytherins though, they also don't talk back in class, they're not mouthy, they're not misbehavin', they're not blowing up cauldrons!

RACHAEL

You're arguing that they're better because it's your house? I see.

LAURA

[laughs]

ROSE

Nooooo, just that they're going to get less flak from Snape because they're behaving more like a quote "good student" would behave. Whereas Harry and his friends, honestly they're not acting like good students.

BECCA

Yeah, they do kind of rebel.

ROSE

Snape is actually a... a really great teacher to Harry when his personality isn't getting in the way when Harry is using Snape's potions textbook with Snape's notes and he even, like, thinks to himself that the Half-Blood Prince taught him more about potions than Snape ever did.

BECCA

That's very true. Does anyone have any final thoughts?

RACHAEL

My final thought is that I think that Snape was a very highly achieving but unorthodox student, and likewise he's a high achieving but unorthodox teacher.

SHANNON

And my final thought is that as a teacher trainer, if I were ever to observe him doing what he does – as we see in the books – I would really reprimand him for abusing his power over his students and, you know, he would fail my class, for sure.

LAURA

Well, I see Snape as – I agree with Shannon, I think he should be reprimanded and I think he's sadistic and bullying to his students. I don't think he's evil but I think he is sadistic and bullying to his students and I can understand why they would have trouble learning from him or feel motivated to learn about potions.

ROSE

Ah, if Snape were a good teacher - boy, these books would be dull!

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Well my final thought is that Snape is never going to win the teacher-of-the-year award. [ALL LAUGH] But I... I think it's clear that he does try to do his best to educate his students within the boundaries of his nasty personality and it might be a pro for certain students, but it's definitely a con for others. And if he lost the snark, he might be a better teacher to those students but, like Rose said, he'd be a much less interesting character.

RACHAEL

Yeah, think if potions was actually a great experience for Harry and he would actually learn stuff. It would suck! (general laughter)

BECCA

So, thanks everybody and please join us next time for the next Snape & roundtable!

ROSE

Bye!

RACHAEL

Bye!

LAURA

Bye!

SHANNON

Bye!

Much Ado about Sectus - (28:56)

Interviewer: Rachael

Special Guest: Elanor Isolda

[Sectus: A HP Fandom Conference - London 2007](#)

Music: John Williams, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: "02 - The Arrival of Baby Harry"

RACHAEL

You wanna tell us a little bit about Sectus?

ELANOR ISOLDA

Sectus is a *Harry Potter* con taking place in London next July. It's a really really good location, right in Central London next to Regent's Park, a short walk from King's Cross, so you can go see Platform 9¾. And there's going to be lots and lots of Snape-loving.

Accio announced they weren't going to do anything next year, which everyone thought they were, and a lot of people were complaining, y'know, we can't let the tenth anniversary go by without doing something in England. And I said, "Hey, there are lots of us in England, we could arrange something," and they said "Yeah, Eleanor, you do it!"

RACHAEL
[chuckles]

ELANOR ISOLDA
So I am.

RACHAEL
Cool. Well, hopefully some of us will be there!

This Slytherin Life - (29:57)

Intro: Becca

Essayist: Gina

Music:

- Ehren Starks, The Depths of a Year: 01-The tale of room 620
- Yann Tiersen, “Comptine D’un Autre Été: L’après Midi”

BECCA

Next up, this Slytherin Life. Gina discusses how she relates to Snape as a fellow teacher.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

GINA

When I think of Snape, and my participation in the fandom, often it takes a naughtier turn. Usually I’m reading erotic fan fiction or talking about silly things related to Snape, and how sexy his voice is, and how much I love the billowing black robes, and how snarky he is.

But in truth, we all return to canon. And in canon, Snape is an educator, Snape is in charge of a lot of students, many of whom – most of whom – are teenagers, who’s under a lot of pressure, and who’s got a tough job. So on this, the Back-to-School episode of Snapecast, I consider how I can relate to Snape in this role.

For starters, I used to run a program for homeless and runaway youth ages eighteen to twenty-one. These kids had a lot of problems. But in spite of all, they were still teenagers.

They still had all the energy and excitement and creativity and hubris that comes with being of a certain age, and I really enjoyed it. But I always had to laugh because they tried to hard to get away with stuff, and they never understood how I *always* knew when they were lying, and I *always* knew when they were doing something wrong. Trying to sneak someone up in their room who didn’t belong on their floor? A boy or girl that they were attracted to, for example? I knew it, I knew when they were there. Trying to have some cocktails in their room, or maybe smoke some pot and hide it with incense? I knew when that was going on. They could never figure out how I knew. But it’s very, very simple. I was once their age, and I once lived in a dorm.

Well, maybe a dorm is a much, much, *much* better place to be than a homeless shelter, I won't deny that. But there are enough parallels, living outside of your parents' home, under somebody else's rules. We had rules at my dorm. We were not allowed to do the things that the kids weren't allowed to do at the shelter. So, I thought I was being original when I would hide the parties in my room with incense, and open the windows, or spray something. And find ingenious ways to sneak someone up to my room. We always think that we're re-inventing the wheel at a certain age, and the grownups always know, because they were there, too. And one day Harry and his friends will grow up and realize part of why Snape always knows what they're up to is because he was once there himself. I don't know if he ever got to snog a girl or a guy in the rosebushes, but we certainly knows that kids did it, so he certainly knew where to go to catch them.

Another way I think of Snape is an educator in the classroom and his ability to control the classroom. I've always envied this in him. I can't slam doors, like I said, and I don't have a billowing black robe when I walk into my classrooms, but sometimes my patience wears thin, and my inner Snape does get invoked. Now, I teach college students. To be more precise, I teach students at the masters level in social work. So you would think they would cooperate without any problem. But I can think of two instances where I had to invoke my inner Snape.

One time I had students who for weeks didn't participate in class. They sat there, blank stares, never raised a hand, maybe two students. And I got really annoyed with this, because you need to cooperate, you need to talk in class. It can't just be the teacher, talk, talk, talk. So one day I said to them, "You do realize that your grade relies, in part, on you participating in the classroom?" Well, these students stood up straight, started raising their hand, they came up to my desk after class and started apologizing and promising they would be more talkative in the future. And I was both amused and impressed. I was sorry I had to resort to a threat. But it was definitely my inner Severus making the most of things.

Another time is when I had students bringing cell phones into the classroom. Now out of courtesy, we *all* place our cell phones on vibrate, or shut them off at certain times: in a class, at a film, in a meeting, and so on and so forth. But it's very easy to forget, so I thought I would be clever. I told my students, "If your phone rings during class, I reserve the right to answer that phone." Well, they did not forget that. And the first time it happened, I *did* answer the student's phone. And I *did* grill the person on the other end. Of course, it wasn't mean, it was humorous. It was, "Don't you realize the person you called is in class right now? They're going to have to call you back."

My students laughed so hard. My inner Severus was hoping it would be a situation they'd never forget. But in truth, it was funny. And I imagine now that the students are older, we see in Book 6, where he's making cracks and insults, Snape is funny. So maybe I am a little like him in the classroom. Who knows? But I look forward to more of it.

Contest Winners Announcements - (37:32)

Announcer: Wendy

Fic: [One Minute](#) by Rachael DuBois

Art: [Sev's Child](#) by tripperfunster

Music: John Williams, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: "04 - Diagon Alley and the Gringotts Vault"

WENDY

Snapecast is pleased to announce the winners of this month's fanfic and fanart contest! We must say, it's getting harder and harder to pick the best out of such wonderful work.

Our listeners are just so talented! But winners we must have, and so by majority vote, they are Rachael DuBois for her fanfic entry entitled "One Minute"; and tripperfunster, for the fanart entry entitled "Sev's Child."

"One Minute" by Rachael DuBois is a mesmerizing and gripping story that deals with Professor Snape lifting the curse from Katie Bell, and can be found at [TheSugarQuill.net](#).

"Sev's Child," by tripperfunster, is a beautiful piece of art depicting Snape holding his small child, who is sleeping peacefully on his shoulder. You can see this stunning artwork on LiveJournal, username "tripperfunster."

The winning entries will both be featured on Snapecast.com, in the Snapecast LiveJournal community, and the Snapecast MySpace page. The winners will be notified on how to claim their prizes. Thank you to everyone who entered! The next contest will start on Friday, September 1st, and run until 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, September 22nd, so get to work on those entries!

For contest rules and guidelines, please visit the monthly contest page on our website at www.snapecast.com. Good luck, and happy Snapeing!

Fan Interview - (39:08)

Interviewer: Gina

Guest: Rebecca Webb

- [The Smallest Slytherin](#)

- [An Obedient House](#)

- [Salazar's Orphans](#)

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

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners, you have just tuned into the Interview Segment. This is Gina R. Snape and I am here with...

REBECCA WEBB

Rebecca Webb. Hi everybody!

GINA

Rebecca Webb is a fanfic author, and she has written three novel length stories: *The Smallest Slytherin*, *An Obedient House* and *Salazar's Orphans*. We're going to be talking about those stories today; we're going to be talking a little bit about her point of view on Snape and also her latest upcoming project. So, first of all thanks for coming to Snapecast!

REBECCA WEBB

Oh, I'm excited to be here!

GINA

Yeah, we're excited to have you! Shannon is a really big fan of yours, just so you know.
[laughs]

REBECCA WEBB

Thank you! Hello, Shannon!

GINA

So, the first thing I thought we would do is perhaps you could give our listening audience, those people who aren't familiar with you and your work, a basic rundown of this fic trilogy and – uh – some, you know not to give too much spoiler away, but – you know – a little bit of a rundown of what you'd like to tell them about it.

REBECCA WEBB

OK, they are year five, six and seven fics. They were written before and after the release of *Order of the Phoenix*, and I should mention the original artwork by Barry Rosen, thank you, Barry, I appreciate it!

GINA

Yeah, fabulous artwork!

REBECCA WEBB

They tell the story of Snape and his Slytherins as seen through the eyes of a young Muggle-born orphan who is sorted into Slytherin at the beginning of Malfoy's fifth year. I started writing *Smallest Slytherin* after having this dream about what kind of Head of House Snape might be and it just became an obsession. I've never had an experience like it before. I was possessed by a 'Deadly Moose.'

[BOTH CHUCKLE]

GINA

The best kind!

REBECCA WEBB

And it wasn't until after I had gotten into it, you know, and was writing the story that I even figured out what it was really about; that Snape and the Slytherins were a metaphor

for something else and - uh – folks who read it and check the subtext and the quotes and the dates on the homepage can figure out what that’s all about if they want to. As I got into *An Obedient House* and *Salazar’s Orphans* those became more about the kinds of things people usually hear me talking or writing about; parenting, noble behavior. Ah, each book has an overarching plot, but essentially they’re very vignette-y, they are a series of adventures involving Snape and the Slytherins.

GINA

Yeah, and they do work together so we should definitely let listeners know you can’t go straight to third one without starting at the first one, ‘cause otherwise you’ll be lost.

REBECCA WEBB

Yeah, that’s true. If you hear something – I mention something in *Obedient House* – don’t go running to that part, it will be a little – uh – difficult to follow or appreciate.

GINA

So, I guess the first question then that I have is about Snape specifically as the Head of House. You really have him written and drawn out in a very dramatic fashion. On the one hand he is fiercely protective to his students, he really wants them to have a certain unity and have Slytherin pride and to be, you know, supporting one another. Uh, on the other hand he’s also very stern and strict with them. He uses corporal punishment and he, you know, doesn’t take any flak. Can you talk about that a little bit and in particular why the use of physical punishment and also how you felt balancing that with the playful side that he shows to the Slytherins?

REBECCA WEBB

Doesn’t anybody want to be a Potions Master?

[BOTH LAUGH]

REBECCA WEBB

Uh, I often get emails from people saying, “Oh, I love your Snape! He is so nice!” To which I always retort, “Name one time!” And they have to go back and they look and they realize, oh, yeah, well I guess he’s never actually really all that nice, uhm – He’s certainly not demonstrative or physically affectionate to the Slytherins, in fact one of my favorite parts of *Obedient House* is when McGonagall is hurt because the Gryffindors are shunning her and so she comes to talk to Snape because they’re very similar as Heads of House.

GINA

You certainly portray them as kind of friends, even.

REBECCA WEBB

Well their simpatico, you know, you’ve got Snape and McGonagall – that’s one style, Sprout and Flitwick – that’s the other style.

GINA
[chuckles]

REBECCA WEBB

So, now McGonagall wants to know, “Do you think, maybe, we should be more like Sprout? A little more of the touchy-feely. Do you think we should touch our students?” And Snape just snarls, “I don’t have to touch them! They touch me, they cry on my neck, they cling to my waist, they grab at my hands! You’d think I was raising house-elves!”

And, you know, it’s not his idea to go into the common room on Christmas Eve and comfort them after flogging his entire house - Dumbledore makes him do that. But, I think that he projects onto the Slytherins, he sees them as victimized in some of the ways that he was victimized, and so he wants to be for them what he thinks nobody has ever been for him. But it’s odd for readers. Seeing Snape alone with the Slytherins and how, of course, he’s different...

GINA
Right...

REBECCA WEBB

...when it’s just them, than in mixed company or with the Gryffindors alone.

GINA

He does have a playful side with the kids, for example in the first book, you know, Violet has – well, I don’t want to give too much away but – he winds up racing with her instead of just yelling at her or scoffing and walking away, he just kind of joined in the game and there’s other things that he picks up – uh – and the Slytherins sort of catch him doing more playful things and not always being the cold guy. And I think that can be a form of affection even if it’s not physical affection.

REBECCA WEBB

Mm-hmm, yeah, and that of course, that intimacy, that bonding the resulting, you know, more earnest or humorous conversations that he has... that of course is Dumbledore’s fault. Dumbledore has this brilliant idea, and it really is of course very wise, and I don’t necessarily like Dumbledore - sorry, Becca – but, I do the characters justice, you know, sometimes he’s wise and he has this wise idea: Now that Voldemort has a body back and I need to be a little more worried about him, I want my Heads of House to spend more time with their students, I want them to provide more guidance, I want more bonding. So, he’s the one who makes them spend, you know, an hour a night in the common rooms with their students.

GINA
Uh huh.

REBECCA WEBB

As for the hitting, the spanking, the caning...

GINA

Yeah, that was the other – the other part we were going to get to, so...

[BOTH LAUGH]

REBECCA WEBB

That goes back to the idea that it's so startling for the readers to see Snape showing goodness to his students, they're just not used to that.

GINA

Well, I think we're not used to him being nice to the students, but we're also not used to him using corporal punishment. I mean...

REBECCA WEBB

Well, yeah..

GINA

... in canon Dumbledore doesn't allow it, but you know...

REBECCA WEBB

Oh, heavens...

GINA

...in fan fiction it allows you the opportunity to do different things, so...

REBECCA WEBB

Yeah, there're also substance reasons – substantial reasons – the purpose of my story reasons why Snape's a spanker. I don't talk about those because I think when authors talk about the purpose of their story they kinda dilute their impact, but I can talk about the craft reasons. There are like three literary reasons that Snape is a spanker, and one of them is to compensate for this startling experience of seeing him alone with the Slytherins and how you see more goodness. If he also hits them, that harshness balances that a little bit. Ah, it also helps to isolate the Slytherins, that's very important to the – uh - purpose of my story, I need them apart from the other students and by making them the only ones to get hit, you get a sense of them as isolated. Probably the most important reason from a craft perspective, that I make Snape a spanker, is it emphasizes his youthfulness. Snape is so much younger than the other Heads of House; they're all senior citizens. They're all elderly or...

GINA

This is true.

REBECCA WEBB

...grey. And Snape is just... and I just find that fascinating, that Dumbledore would make such a young man the head of Slytherin, which we know for the all reasons is such an important position.

GINA
Sure, sure...

REBECCA WEBB
And...

GINA
Well, he was young when he was hired, and now he's head of house, that's...

REBECCA WEBB
Yeah.

GINA
...pretty quick ascension.

REBECCA WEBB
And it's this concept that young parents are stricter, harsher. That the younger parents are more uptight –and with first born children are often get a harder time of it, so to speak, and then when parents get older and have more children, more experience, they tend to ease up. So making Snape, you know, this very harsh user of corporal punishment emphasizes how much younger he is and how he is of a different generation than the older heads of house.

GINA
Oh, ok – well, that's very interesting that wasn't something I was expecting. It certainly does make him and the other kids stand apart from the rest of the school. (chuckle) And speaking of Snape then as a head of house, and being so young and being Slytherin, he is in a kind of father-figure role. He may not have wanted to be a father-figure role by choice – but he finds himself in it. And so, the question is do you think in your stories, and also in canon, do you think he is a good father-figure, or a good role model at least for Slytherins?

REBECCA WEBB
Well, we never really see Snape as a house master in the books because the Gryffindors are always there, and the second the Gryffindors walk in, the agenda changes. You know, suddenly it's 'All Slytherins to your battle stations' and they don't behave the same way, nobody does, you know, behaves the same way in battle-mode as they would other times. But what I do see a great deal of in books one through four, which are the ones, you know, that I really value and that I draw off my inspiration from, ah, is a very ethical Snape; a Snape with a very high level of ethical development. And I'll tell you what I mean by that.

GINA

Yes, ah, that was going to be the next question, because you've talked about this a lot and I think the readers would be very interested so...

REBECCA WEBB

[chuckles]

GINA

...so do go on.

REBECCA WEBB

This perspective is based on the work of a Harvard psychologist, named William Perry, he wrote about the relationship between intellectual and ethical development, and he'd drawn on people – you may have heard of Piaget, Colbert, stuff like that. And I should say that this is, of course, a simplification, you know, go read Perry if you want to know what Perry said – he'd probably kill me for simplifying his work. But basically at the lowest levels of ethical development you see everything as black-and-white, right-or-wrong. You get your sense of right-or-wrong from authority and you never question that authority, you never bother to validate it, that's the lowest levels. In the middle you have these people who see things as grey, complex, situational – there are no absolute truths. Everything is a matter of opinion. And these are people who will use their feelings as a valid source of information or even ethical information. If you hurt my feelings, you've done something wrong. If Snape hurts a student's feelings, Snape has done something wrong.

GINA

Mm-hm.

REBECCA WEBB

And because of the level they are at it never occurs to these people that your feelings might be invalid. You might have had it coming for any number of reasons. You might be wrong for thinking that it was a problem and somebody hurt your feelings. And, unfortunately, people are told – you know – at this level, that this is a good level to be at, this is the place to function. And people on the highest levels of ethical development, they've discovered universal principles: absolute truths. Things that take precedent over things like your own feelings. Which is why I have Snape in *An Obedient House* shocking everybody with the statement, "The truth is more important than your feelings." But this is where Snape functions.

This is why he's able to referee a Quidditch match to protect Harry despite the fact that he is going to take unfair abuse from the staff for the rest of the year, and he never says anything about it. This is why he will try to help Harry over and over and over. Not just once to repay his life-debt, the whole life-debt thing is actually a pretty low level of functioning. Snape will do it over and over because of the more universal principle of valuing the life or whatever his reasons might be.

GINA
Mm-hmm.

REBECCA WEBB

So, people in the middle they often can't see the difference between the black-and-white people and the principled people and they can see that the Snapes of the world tend to lead nobler lives than they do. They won't admit it, but they see it and they just hate it.

GINA

Well, I think this is interesting. It's kind of the difference between people complaining, "Oh, Snape is so mean, therefore he must be evil." And well, "He's so mean, because it's his personality, but look at his actions as opposed to his words."

REBECCA WEBB

Exactly. The Snapes of the world are the ones who do the most to benefit humanity but they are not popular...

GINA
Right.

REBECCA WEBB

...in their lifetimes. But in canon we do know that the Slytherins like Snape. So, I've never been able to understand why we don't see him impacting their behavior. Um, and it's no secret people know that I think that the handling of the Slytherins is one of the weak points of the book. In real life, Snape would impact his students. And I'm not saying he would make them nice, nice is... nice is worthless anyways, nice often works at cross-purposes with goodness. Nice people do a lot of the evil in the world. Snape is not nice. But Snape is good, and it just doesn't make sense that he wouldn't rub off on his students. So, in my stories, Snape rubs off on his students and they live their lives by values that are not Gryffindor values, but they're ones I think are better.

GINA

Well, that's really interesting. And after your trilogy, um, like I said earlier, the listeners should know that you have a new story you are working on. Why don't you tell us a little bit about your new project, [*Suddenly Severus?*](#)

REBECCA WEBB

[sing-songy voice] *Suddenly Severus*. Um, *Suddenly Severus* is inspired in part by this chapter in *Salazar's Orphans* in the summer when Violet gets a letter from Rachel Dockman. Rachel was a seventh-year when Draco was a first-year. These people are older than Violet and uh...so, she's written to some older, departed Slytherins to ask them, "What was life in Slytherin like when you were here?" And Rachel writes her this letter about Snape's earlier days and how different things were.

GINA
Ahhhh...

REBECCA WEBB

After *Order of the Phoenix* came out and we had that number from Umbridge's review, the fourteen years, people started talking about, "OK, so what does that mean? Does that mean he like he interviewed in the spring of '81 and was hired and so he was at Hogwarts come September first and therefore was at Hogwarts on October 31st"? And I hate that. I think that's a lame idea because Dumbledore said that, you know, Snape "turned spy for me under very dangerous conditions." And to me, that means spying for Dumbledore while you are in physical proximity to Voldemort. That's danger.

So, I prefer the idea that Snape was out there with Voldemort right up through the night of October 31st and then all of a sudden he's at Hogwarts and Dumbledore, as usual, will not be completely forthcoming with everybody about how he came to be there or why he's there, or why the old head of Slytherin and potions master suddenly disappears, just Snapes here, and Snape is going to be the head. This will bring, you know, all kinds of suffering and anxiety for all kinds of people. And then there's the Slytherins, you know October 31, 1981, must have just rocked their world.

GINA

Oh, oh my God, it surely must have.

REBECCA WEBB

[sharp laugh] And so that's something I want to explore, you know, because they are all not necessarily going to be Snape fans originally, you know, initially who knows what is going on with them and what they're thinking.

GINA

Sure.

REBECCA WEBB

I also thought it would be fun to, uh, explore some of the mythology I created for the *Smallest Slytherin* trilogy. Why did the Slytherins queue up the moment Snape comes into their house? Why did they have rough bedclothes? Why is Snape so popular (chuckle) with the women of Hogsmeade?

GINA

[laughs]

REBECCA WEBB

Uhm, and I'm also fascinated by the idea that when Harry comes to Hogwarts there's this perception of Slytherin as a power house. They've been on top for years.

GINA

Right.

REBECCA WEBB

It's really only been about half a dozen years. And right after the fall of Voldemort things were probably pretty rough for Slytherin, that was Gryffindor's golden age, and it was under Snape's leadership that Slytherin rose to great accomplishments. So I'd think that would be fun to explore

GINA

That's very interesting. That's true because we learn at least that, you know, through the Weasleys about Quidditch and the last time they won and we get a sense of how things were a little different. So yeah, I'm sure he had his hands full after the fall of the Dark Lord...

REBECCA WEBB

Yep.

GINA

...and having to deal with that mess must have been very intense especially for a young man, because he's only about twenty or twenty-one at that point.

REBECCA WEBB

Very young. And, you know, we have no reason to necessarily think that he became Head of House at that point but still...

GINA

Right.

REBECCA WEBB

...that's intense. That's... that's young to be Head of House. That's intense.

GINA

Ohh! All right, so – uh – is there any last things you would like to – uh – say to our listeners or to your faithful readers or to anyone who might...

REBECCA WEBB

(chuckle) Uh, I'd just like to thank everybody who does read, I appreciate that and thank those of you who wrote – I like the feedback! And thank you to the Snapecasters, I just love this podcast, you guys are doing fabulous work.

GINA

Oooo, thank you darling. (chuckle) All right, well on that note I'm going to say thank you...

REBECCA WEBB

Goodbye Snapecast fans!

GINA

Have a good night everybody!

Owlpost - (55:19)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Jeff

Voice: Chris

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

SHANNON

All right. We've reached Owlpost, my favorite part of the show, where we read and respond to owl posts from the wizarding and Muggle world. And who do I have here with me?

RACHAEL

It's Rachael.

JEFF

This is Jeff!

SHANNON

Okay. And of course, this is Shannon. And I think we have to thank everyone for the wonderful e-mail; we've been running poor Snarky ragged, he's been getting really tired. He's been making a bunch of international flights, it looks like. I know Snarky's been to Iran...

JEFF

Algeria...

RACHAEL

Shanghai...

SHANNON

Yup. Canada...of course. So, in fact, Snarky's also been to Portugal, and I think this is the first letter we wanna read. Jeff?

JEFF

This letter is from Laura: "I understand why people can identify with Snape or feel sorry for him. He had a very tough past. He was bullied, and he didn't fit in. Most people can relate to that. I certainly can. But it's important to realize that one can't forgive people's bad deeds by blaming them on their past. If everything is determined by genetics, environment, or superior force – either God or the Force or whatever you want to call it – people can't be blamed for anything, nor can they feel proud of anything because none of their actions is actually in their hands. I believe in free will and in choice, both the *Harry Potter* books and for real life.

"What I meant to say is that Snape chose to be who he is, and that is an evil person, someone that is attracted to the dark side of things – who was bullied, but that also did a

lot of bullying himself, who picks on a kid because his father's deeds (Harry), who picks on another kid because he has difficulties in his class (Neville), who picks on yet another kid because she doesn't have any difficulty at all (Hermione), who favors nasty kids (like Malfoy and his buddies), and who nearly condemns an innocent man to the most horrible fate (Sirius), just because he can't get over something that happened years and years ago, among other things.

"I believe and I hope Snape will go through some kind of redemption; unlike Riddle, he still has that human spark about him. Some people think Snape is a misunderstood person, a hero who will die as a martyr for a greater cause, leaving Harry to feel guilty for the rest of his life. I would hate if that happened. Harry is an idiot; he could learn loads from Snape, like he did with Snape's schoolbook. If only he would overcome his emotional side and be willing to learn instead of being lazy and bitter. Nevertheless, Harry has every reason to hate Snape. He is the one things are happening to, unlike us fans, who sit back relaxed and analyze things from the outside.

"I don't want Snape to be a good person in disguise. I want him to show some true regret for his deeds and be forgiven. I believe that, in the end, he will be on Harry's side."

SHANNON

That's a great letter.

RACHAEL

It is a really good letter. My first reaction to it – it actually struck a chord in me, because this week I've been thinking a lot about how I really wanna see Snape cry in the last book. I think I need to see that.

SHANNON

You wanna see him cry as a sign of remorse, is that what you're saying?

RACHAEL

Yeah, I wanna see him cry as a sign of remorse, and – 'cause he did do a lot of horrible things. I mean, even in some fanfic, *really* horrible things. And J.K. Rowling is certainly – I think she kinda leaves it unmentionable, what he's done in the past. And he's just so cold and so emotionless; he doesn't believe you should wear your heart on your sleeve. And I think that whatever human spark about him is gonna die out if it doesn't show itself somehow, and crying would be a good way.

SHANNON

Y'know, I think – that's something I haven't thought about, how he's going to show his remorse, but yeah – I want Snape to have to pay for something. And I don't know if he's already paying for something, but what I really like about this owlpost is that it touches on the whole theme of choice. And I think that's a very key theme; we've heard this before from Rowling, how key it is in the book, and I think that's why Snape is such an interesting character. He's this middle ground, because he can go both ways. Like, he's an intermediary who – we don't really know for certain, and we won't know for certain

until the final page is turned, what choice he ends up making. If he is going – like, all this stuff that he’s doing behind the scenes, is it really to pay back for something else horrible, much worse he did when he was younger, than torment his students – or is he gonna make the choice to just kind of lash out at people, like this immature resentment that’s been built up in him for so long, is he going to surrender to that?

JEFF

I think that Snape will never really get over his resentment, but I think in the end, he’ll do something to help Harry. I don’t know what it is, though.

SHANNON

Hasn’t he been doing that all along, though?

JEFF

Yeah...But I think maybe in a way that he – in an even bigger way than he has now.

SHANNON

So you see him maybe doing a martyr type thing?

JEFF

Yeah, or something to do in the last battle. That’s what my instinct’s going for. Something in the last confrontation, Snape will be there and he’ll have *some* part to play.

RACHAEL

See, I don’t like the martyr view of Snape very much, ‘cause I think it’s cheesy and I really – I agree with the letter that he needs to go through some sort of redemption. I mean, that doesn’t mean that he can’t die, that doesn’t mean that he can’t do something to help Harry, but he needs to go through some kind of redemption, or there needs to be evidence that he has gone through this in the past. Maybe that’s the reason Dumbledore trusts him. But we know he has a dark past, and we see how his character is overcome that.

SHANNON

I would like to see a reckoning of some sort for Severus. Whether he is fully redeemed or not, it is not as important if he’s – as he’s – I want him to be understood, I want us to be able to understand him, his actions. And this whole thing about being martyred and making a huge sacrifice, it’s almost too clean and too tidy, and it’ll make it a lot harder for so many of us who currently relate to Snape *because* he’s a messy, complex person, like so many of us are – it’ll make it a lot harder for us to relate to him if he goes out with a bang. ‘Cause most of us have a lot of bad choices in our past, and things that we need to atone for, and very few of us are ever going to make a huge sacrifice...

RACHAEL

Be martyred. [laughs]

SHANNON

I know; it's not realistic. And the story already has a hero, y'know? That's Harry. And Snape is the muddy Everyman, in a sense, the ugly side of Everyman. I could go on about this; I'm so sorry, but it's...

RACHAEL

Every e-mail, every mail we get, we could go on and on, 'cause our listeners are great and they think up some good topics.

SHANNON

They do. So let's move on to the next one, shall we?

RACHAEL

Sure.

JEFF

Indeed.

SHANNON

All right. So this one is from Jessica, from Ontario, Canada, and she writes: "I disagree with Drake, who left Snapecast a voice message at the end of episode four concerning Snape's loyalty in favor of him being a Death Eater. He mentioned how he thought Snape was turned evil from years of being bullied by James, and that perhaps his hate for all things Gryffindor, fueled by the Marauders, was the reason he was able to kill Dumbledore. I don't think that he hated or didn't care about Dumbledore because he was Gryffindor; I believe that he hated Dumbledore because Dumbledore was the one that turned a blind eye every time Severus got bullied in school. All those years of humiliation and hurt, and nothing was done about it? I'm sure that fueled a certain loathing or resentment towards Dumbledore from Snape."

JEFF

That's a great e-mail. I kind of have to agree with that.

SHANNON

So you think Snape actually resents Dumbledore?

JEFF

Well, I don't know of any evidence to say that Dumbledore did actively intervene on Snape's behalf when Snape was being bullied. If there's something from canon, I don't know what it is. Yeah, I think that there's an element of that.

RACHAEL

I think that we've mentioned this on another episode; I think that yeah, Snape must have extreme resentment to Dumbledore because Sirius tried to murder Snape, and Sirius didn't even seem to get expelled or punished for that. Now, there could be something deeper; Snape might have done something bad as well, but I can't imagine him being able to forgive Dumbledore so easily. We know he's a guy that holds a grudge, and it's

incredibly strange to think that he would go to Dumbledore in a time of need and give him some story that would make Dumbledore trust him, because I see the two as opposing forces sometimes.

SHANNON

I just wonder if what Dumbledore did for Snape following his Death Eater days doesn't somehow make up a little bit for what he experienced as a student. So, I mean, you could say that Snape resents Dumbledore for not intervening, but he could resent his Head of House, like—I guess it would have been Slughorn, for not intervening, or McGonagall, who might have been in charge of the Gryffindors and was directly involved with punishing them. I think we see hints that Dumbledore really did advocate for Snape, when he didn't end up going to Azkaban; there was that scene in the Pensieve when I think Karkaroff was on trial; he was trying to give up Snape's name, and Dumbledore stands up for Snape. And to me, that seems like a very big thing, if people are against you and suspicious of you, that Dumbledore took him under his wing. I honestly am gonna come down against this, that this excuse that Snape really resents Dumbledore for not doing more – I think it's flimsy to me, I don't buy it, 'cause there are a lot of people he could resent even more.

RACHAEL

I think it all turns on whether or not he did something bad to provoke the Whomping Willow incident. If Snape really just got attacked by James and Sirius and Dumbledore did nothing about it, I don't think Snape would forgive Dumbledore, even if he kept him out of Azkaban. But if there *is* something deeper to that, I could see that Dumbledore became a mentor for Snape over the years, and that they have a very close relationship. But we just don't know all the piece to this story, and I think it really turns on what happened with the Whomping Willow.

SHANNON

Interesting.

RACHAEL

Which I wanna know *so* badly.

SHANNON

Yes. [laughs]

RACHAEL

I know I'll never find out.

SHANNON

All right. Well, let's move from the Whomping Willow to Howlers, or something like that. We got another voicemail from someone in the wizarding world. One of our – at least, *my* – less than favorite former teachers. Let's take a listen, shall we?

CHRIS [AS UMBRIDGE]

[coughs] To whom it may concern:

I have recently been appointed advisor to the Minister of Electronic Muggle Relations, Mr. Archibald Cumberbund, who has informed me he has gifted you an owl for your program. The legality of Mr. Cumberbund's present, and its violation of several sub-articles of the Statute of Secrecy notwithstanding, I would like to congratulate you on your program. Still, as one of your allies in the Ministry of Magic, I feel it is my solemn duty to inform you that the content of your show is somewhat...problematic. [coughs]

Although the late Albus Dumbledore bent over backwards defending him for reasons that have never been made clear, Severus Snape is currently a wanted criminal and a known Death Eater. As you are Muggles and may not understand the implications of this, I will spell it out very clearly for you: any association with known Death Eaters, however coincidental, is grounds for suspicion. In this current climate of fear and desperation, would you expect us to consider it as anything but suspicious? I understand that wizards and witches may seem exotic and interesting to you, but surely there are better subjects than a guilty murderer? Why don't you consider doing a podcast on Cornelius—I mean, [giggles]—the former Minister of Magic? He's an upstanding man with unimpeachable morals. Or perhaps a program on Rufus Scrimgeour, or Percy Weasley, two more fine, law-abiding wizards? After all, I would very much hate to dispatch the Obliviators.

Yours, Dolores Jane Umbridge, Senior Undersecretary to the Minister. [coughs]

JEFF

Dolores, you're the bitch-troll from hell.

SHANNON

[laughs] Oh, yes she is. And she's such the Fudge fangirl. Ugh.

RACHAEL

Seriously, FudgeCast or PercyCast? I just...And she just doesn't get the appeal of Snape, y'know, she goes on about how he's a murderer and a suspected Death Eater, but she just doesn't get, y'know, that's the appeal. He's a bad boy.

SHANNON

I don't find her analysis of anything terribly deep. I find her superficial. And she was a *horrible* excuse for a teacher, and she really shows a lack of understanding of so many things. And she's another reason why politicians should stay out of the classroom; I mean, she doesn't know what she's doing, and she just doesn't know the whole story. Ugh. Too bad Jo's not here to defend her. [laughs]

RACHAEL

I know, we have Dolores Umbridge's biggest fangirl, Jo, on staff at Snapecast, and I know she would be very upset to hear us bashing her beloved Dolores.

SHANNON

I think she actually ships Umbridge and Fudge, doesn't she?

RACHAEL
She does. [laughs]

SHANNON

Well, I guess that's it for the Owlpost this episode. If you have any suggestions or comments or critiques or really great analysis, you can send us an e-mail at our e-mail address, and that's severus@snapecast.com. Or you can leave us a voicemail on Skype, username Snapecast, and we do have some advice for you – if you wanna get on the show, if you want your e-mail read or your voicemail responded to, keep it short, sweet, and interesting. We like those; those are the best ones, they work well on the air.

RACHAEL

Yeah, we're getting a lot of really good long e-mails, and I just wanna direct everyone over to our discussion boards for that, because our listeners have some really great theories that are probably better shared on a message board than hearing my yucky voice read it online.

SHANNON

So that's it for the Owlpost, and we'll see you guys next episode. Bye!

RACHAEL
Bye!

JEFF
Bye-bye!

Closing - (1:11:10)

Hosts: Rachael, Jeff, Shannon

RACHAEL

Well, there goes another episode of Snapecast. Our back-to-school episode is over, so it's time to go back to the classroom and stop having fun. This is Rachael; I have with me—

JEFF
This is Jeff.

SHANNON

And Shannon. So, before we wrap up the show completely, I just wanted to give a shoutout to some of our more remote listeners. We've been noticing some really interesting hits on our website; in fact, it looks like there are four people who hit our website and hopefully listened to our show who are from—I'm gonna butcher this, but a town called Kopavogur, Iceland. And I know I'm mispronouncing that, but y'know—

RACHAEL
Whoo!

SHANNON
Whoo-hoo! Iceland. You guys send us an owlpost, we'd love to hear from you.

RACHAEL
Icelandic Snape fans.

SHANNON
That's pretty cool. Tell us whatcha think about Snape. And if you're somewhere else really interesting, too – we've got a lot of people in, surprisingly, Copenhagen, and Puna, India, and just a bunch of crazy places. Singapore, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, and Little Rock, Arkansas. Just a big shoutout to everybody out there.

RACHAEL
Yeah, Snarky has a very comfortable post in the Owlery this year, so he's very well-rested and can fly to very remote locations, so do not feel guilty about sending us your feedback. And just to remind everyone again, the contact points are severus@snapecast.com, also voicemail with username Snapecast at Skype, or you can check out our LiveJournal or our MySpace.

SHANNON
And don't forget our discussion boards.

RACHAEL
Yes. If you go to the Snapecast site, on the left-hand side there's a link to the discussion boards, and those are really interesting, a great way to share theories about Snape with fans and give us some feedback about the show.

SHANNON
Excellent.

JEFF
We'd love to hear from you guys. Let's get on the discussion.

RACHAEL
So our next Snapecast will be episode six, and that episode is going to have our long-awaited loyalty segment. We have hunted down some people who very strongly believe that Severus Snape is evil, and we're going to pick their brains and hear that side of the story.

SHANNON
Yes indeed.

RACHAEL

So I'm very excited about that.

SHANNON

Me too. There're two of them, right?

RACHAEL

Two – maybe more. We'll see.

SHANNON

Ooh, excellent.

RACHAEL

Okay. Well, thanks everyone for listening.

SHANNON

And don't forget to vote for us on Podcast Alley!

JEFF

Please vote for us.

RACHAEL

All right, have a happy school year.

SHANNON

And happy Snapeing!

RACHAEL

Bye!

JEFF

See y'all later!

SHANNON

Bye!

JEFF

Bye!

Teacher - (1:13:46)

Band: Mytheos & the Snarky Beccas

Original Music: "Dentist!" by Alan Menken, *Little Shop of Horrors*

When I was just a naive Hogwarts grad
I started doing things that were real bad
Like casting curses that made people scream

And what was worse is I'm still not redeemed
Because right now I'll just take any excuse
To use verbal abuse!

Know why I can?
Because I am the kind of man
Whose lesson plan
Deserves a life sentence in Azkaban!

I am a teacher! (He is a teacher)
I make my students all feel like such fools (like a fool!)
I am your teacher! (He is your teacher)
Socratic method and sneers are my tools. (They're his tools)
I once was an evil death eater (death eater)
Who loved to break the golden rule
Now I'm a teacher, so kids back to school!

CHORUS

Step in students, it's time for Potions class
Watch him take all those points, what a bore
He's a teacher and he'll never ever take any cheek
From anybody who's a Gryffindor
Some brew fame
In his class

I just whip up a batch of whoop-ass!
I am a teacher! (He is your teacher)
Though some are sure I'm a greasy haired prick (What a prick)
I am your teacher (He is your teacher)
And I'm a hit with the girls in fanfic (Ooh la la)
When students do not pay attention (attention)
They'll wish they were dead when they're in detention!
And though it may seem a tiny bit cruel...
When I think how the Marauders would shove me,
I know that tormenting their kids is just lovely
'Cause I'm a teacher
So back to school!
Five points (Nooo!)
Ten points (Noooo!)
Fifty points (NOOOOOO!)
Now stir!