

Snapecast Episode 06

This is Snapecast - (0:00)

Voice: Chris

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

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

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

ALAN RICKMAN

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

[END CLIP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

This is Snapecast episode six for October the 1st, 2006. Now copy that down, or I'll have dozens of new pinkies to add to my pickled finger jar.

Introduction - (00:57)

Hosts: Rachael, Becca, the ghost of Chris

RACHAEL

Okay, now that Becca has finished giving her little striptease, we are starting Snapecast episode six. I'm Rachael...

BECCA

And I'm Becca.

GHOST OF CHRIS

And I'm Chris.

RACHAEL

You know, I have to come clean that Chris really isn't actually here.

BECCA

No. He was supposed to host with us this episode, and I was so excited to get my chance at hosting with Chris. And of course, at the last moment he got an audition notice and had to run off to an audition for a musical that will tour for four weeks. [tearful] So we will be without Chris for four whole weeks.

RACHAEL

Yeah...

BECCA

Because of course he got the part.

RACHAEL

Of course. Going on to bigger and better things. And we just got him back, 'cause he just returned from camp.

BECCA

Yes! He was gone for so long, and then we only had him for a brief moment before he flitted off again.

RACHAEL

So, Chris, did you enjoy the snakeskin thong that you received from your fellow Snapecasters while you were at camp?

GHOST OF CHRIS

Yes. It's that sort of thing that makes me want to take my clothes off, douse myself in oil, and run around in a field cheek-slapping in happiness and excitement.

RACHAEL & BECCA

[laugh]

BECCA

Well Chris, if you're naked, you can't be enjoying the thong.

RACHAEL

[gigglesnort] That's personally exactly the effect I was looking for. Yeah, Chris did receive a snakeskin thong.

GHOST OF CHRIS

We have *such* a good show for you today; we've got loads of stuff. I'll tell you what, why doesn't somebody else tell you? Wait, Rachael and Becca, you can tell them instead of me.

RACHAEL

First up, we have a new segment called The Snape Report, and we'll explain a little bit about that later. We also managed to get ahold of some of Snape's answering machine messages, and we'll be playing those – without his permission, of course.

BECCA

Oh, yes. Very, very interesting.

RACHAEL

We have the *Prisoner of Azkaban* version of Snarky Chapters; we have an interview from Lumos with fanfic author and commentator Savageland; and then something that I've been promising for a very long time, and I don't wanna talk it up too much – but we have the loyalty segment which is entitled “How Grey Is Snape?”. A Detention Intervention with Laura and her boyfriend Sean, an episode of Owlpost featuring everyone's favorite owl, Snarky; and we're gonna end up with a nice little filky surprise.

BECCA

Yes, make sure you stay tuned. Keep your audio turned up.

RACHAEL

Mm-hm. So the plan for the loyalty segment: we got a *lot* of contributions from listeners who believe

Snape is evil, and because Snapecast is an equal opportunity podcast, we wanted to include this perspective.

BECCA

Yes, we did get so many offers to contribute to portraying the Snape-is-evil perspective. We did have to select someone to participate, and we had such trouble narrowing it down that we asked two people to sit in on a roundtable covering this issue. And so we'd like to introduce Mytheos and Jackie as our Snapecast representatives of the Snape-is-evil perspective.

RACHAEL

Yes. In this episode we'll be airing an initial conversation where they explain their platform positions that Severus is a not so good guy. And after that, we're going to have them as regular contributors to roundtables and various other sprinklings of the Snape-is-evil perspective.

BECCA

Yes, because Rachael did a very good job organizing that discussion, and there was just so much content there that I was able to do a little creative editing and take out bits from the Snape-is-evil perspective according to each of the *Harry Potter* books, and also a little speculation about Book Seven. So you will all get to hear those little bits sprinkled in the next upcoming episodes.

RACHAEL

Number seven, probably. The other big addition that we have to Snapecast is The Snape Report. Now I have to admit that pretty much at the beginning of every hosting of every episode of Snapecast, I say something about how we don't do a news segment because there's no way on Earth that there would ever be enough news about Snape or remotely related to Snape to do a monthly news segment.

BECCA

[laughs] Who were we kidding? We're Snapecast; we should've known better than that.

RACHAEL

And then I quickly correct myself and say this month is the exception and go on to discuss whatever prominent Snape news item there is. Well, we decided that finally, we're just gonna do a Snape news segment, and we had Jon agree to be our very deep-voiced newscaster for that bit. And we're going to be playing the debut episode of The Snape Report in episode six.

BECCA

Yes, you shall be hearing that very shortly.

RACHAEL

And this month was definitely a big month for Snape news, or Snape-related news, as we got some very important information straight from the desk of J.K. Rowling.

BECCA

Yes, she posted a NAQ – N-A-Q, Never-Asked Question – on her website, and the NAQ was, “Why did Dumbledore have James's Invisibility Cloak at the time of James's death, given that Dumbledore could make himself invisible without a cloak?” And she says, “Prior to posting this, I had a quick look online and realized that some fans have been speculating about this question; however, nobody has ever asked me about it, and they really should have done. Just to allay the fears of the justifiably suspicious, this isn't what we in the know call a Mark Evans situation. There *is* a significant, even crucial answer.”

RACHAEL

Hmm.

BECCA

And of course, anything that's significant and crucial, being the Snapecasters that we are, it has to have something to do with Snape!

RACHAEL

Mm-hm.

BECCA

It's just a given.

RACHAEL

I have to make a confession here, that there was a point – and Becca knows this, because she knew me online–

BECCA

Oh yes. [laughs]

RACHAEL

--that I used to believe a very ridiculous theory about how significant Snape was.

BECCA

Used to? Really? Used to?

RACHAEL

I don't believe it anymore. [laughs] I *used* to argue that Snape – and this fits very well with the Invisibility Cloak statement – I used to argue that Harry survived the attack from Voldemort because Snape was hiding under the Invisibility Cloak at Godric's Hollow, and he cast some spell to block the *Avada Kedavra*. And I used to argue this with passion because at the moment I really thought that Snape was the center of the universe, and I was so deluded that I kind of, um, y'know, disregarded this whole theme about mothers' love.

[BOTH LAUGH]

BECCA

Just a liiittle over the top.

RACHAEL

Snape obsessions can drive you to very illogical things. But I've recovered now, and I've given up that. What do you think, Chris?

GHOST OF CHRIS

I don't think it was Dumbledore that had the cape as such. I think somebody else was using it, and Dumbledore merely was the go-between to get it back to Harry. Possible that somebody else gave it back to Harry and Dumbledore just said he did. But we don't have the original handwritten message; we can't do a handwriting analysis on it. So I guess we won't know the truth until Book Seven.

RACHAEL

I think Dumbledore pretty much confesses to giving the Invisibility Cloak to Harry.

BECCA

Yeah, see, that's always what I thought at the end of the book. It was like the Obi-Wan Kenobi and Luke Skywalker moment: "Your father wanted you to have this when you were old enough."

RACHAEL

Yeah, and Hermione confirms it, too. So that would be crazy hoodwinking on JKR's part if, like, Snape gave Harry the Invisibility Cloak. But it is such an interesting topic, though, because of the movie and how it was shot.

BECCA

Ah yes. Very true.

RACHAEL

That's the thing that makes me wanna discuss this over and over and over again until my brain falls out.

BECCA

Hey, Chris, are you having any difficulty distinguishing between Rachael's voice and my own? Because we've been told we have similar voices.

GHOST OF CHRIS

I agree, but have you ever tried chewing your own ear, or even licking your elbow?

RACHAEL

Yes, banter with Rachael and Becca...

BECCA

[laughs] I have no idea...

RACHAEL

Poor Chris. It's hard enough in person, and he has to do it as a ghost host.

BECCA

Yes, he is the ghost host.

RACHAEL

So about this whole Invisibility Cloak issue – we have a listener challenge for you. Please send in your comments about how and why you think Severus Snape is related to the issue with the Invisibility Cloak and why it is crucial to the plot. You can e-mail severus@snapecast.com, or you can leave a voice message on our Skype voicemail, username snapecast. And remember: short, sweet, to the point, concise – those are usually the ones that we read on air.

BECCA

Yes.

RACHAEL

So, should we start the show?

BECCA

Yes, please! What do you think, Chris?

GHOST OF CHRIS

Yeah yeah yeah. Snapecast, Slytherin its way through all the current Snapeing events. I can't wait.

RACHAEL

Okay, Jon, over to you with the news...

The Snape Report - (11:22)

Announcer: Jon

Music: Allan Horn, "Newscast"

JON

September was a very Snapey month with lots of developing stories relating to our favorite greasy git.

1. Early in the month, Newbury published an interview with Alec Hopkins who will play young Severus Snape in the upcoming *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Hopkins described discussing the nuances of playing Snape with his older counterpart Alan Rickman who reportedly advised Hopkins about how he would walk and hold himself in the part and "keep a straight back."

This tidbit of information, of course, spawned countless discussions in fandom about Snape's posture, mannerisms, and gestures including a 30 minute segment cut from this month's Snapecast entitled "From Hunched and Scrawny to Standing Tall: An Analysis of How Becoming a Death Eater Changed Severus Snape's Posture."

2. In other actor-related news, *Snowcake*, the new heartwarming psychological drama starring Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver, and Carrie-Ann Moss opened to audiences in the UK on September 8. Fangirls outside the UK were treated to a juicy trailer that is available on the *Snowcake* website. (<http://www.snowcakemovie.co.uk/>) The trailer basically reveals the entire plot of the film, but Rickmaniacs don't seem to care seeing at how they would gladly watch an hour long video of snow melting if it involved a five minute Rickman sex scene.

3. Registration is open for Prophecy 2007, From Hero to Legend, the HP convention planned for August 2-5 in Toronto. Like most HP cons, this event will undoubtedly transform into another Snapefest. For more information or to register visit <http://hp2007.org> .

4. The world of Livejournal featured many Snapey happenings in September. Various Snape-centric meetup communities for upcoming conventions have been formed including: sectus_severus, prophecy_snape, phoenix_severus, prophecy_snarry, and snape_slash_07. The Snarry Olympics are underway, bringing daily entries from Snarry fan artists competing as members of Team Angst or Team Romance. If Snarry is not your cup of tea, the lupin_snape LJ is hosting a Recycler challenge that will last through October. This is your chance to dust off any old stories you know you'll never get around to finishing and donate them to a new home so stop by the community for info.

5. Perhaps the biggest development of the month...JKR made updates to her web site this month including a NAQ (never asked question) added to the Extra Stuff section. This question: Why did

Dumbledore have James' invisibility cloak at the time of James' death, given that Dumbledore could make himself invisible without a cloak?

What does this have to do with Snape, you ask? Silly girl. Everything relates to Snape... somehow.

That's it for the first edition of The Snape Report, the most trusted name in Snape News. Please send any Snape-related news to the Snapenews Livejournal group at snapenews@gmail.com. Back to you, Rachael.

Snarky Chapters - (14:19)

Panel: Rachael, Wendy, Rose

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

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

ALAN RICKMAN

Turn to page 394.

[END CLIP]

RACHAEL

Welcome to another episode of Snarky Chapters. We haven't had a Snarky Chapters in a while, but we're ready to go with *Prisoner of Azkaban*, Chapter Nineteen which is titled 'The Servant of Lord Voldemort'. I'm Rachael and I have here with me:

ROSE

Rose!

WENDY

And Wendy!

RACHAEL

So, I don't know about everyone else, but to me this chapter is a really big turning point in the whole *Harry Potter* series. Because it's probably the first time, at least for me, that J.K. Rowling really tricked me by writing a complete plot twist that I never suspected. Um, she also unveiled the whole back-plot with the Marauders, so for a lot of readers I think this really marks the moment when they fell in love with the books. What do you guys think?

ROSE

Yeah, definitely it's also, for me, I found it to be the, maybe, funniest chapter in the books so far. It's a wonderful combination of being absurd, funny, really horrible and the mystery rev... being revealed all at once!

RACHAEL

Definitely. So I'm going to summarise it a little bit before we get into it. Actually Snape... it's funny that this is a Snarky Chapter, because Snape is pretty much unconscious for most of the chapter. (giggles) But really, a lot happens, I know.

ROSE

Oh, but like when he is conscious it's major tantrum time!

RACHAEL

Oh, yeah, he makes up for it when he's awake. So, using the Invisibility Cloak and the Marauders' Map, Snape finds the trio in the Shrieking Shack with Sirius Black and Remus Lupin. For the first time we see Snape completely lose it because he believes that he finally has the opportunity to get revenge on his boyhood bullies. But Snape is just as side-swiped by the plot twist as the readers. Turns out that Sirius Black isn't a murderer, and Peter Pettigrew is still alive. Severus ends up unconscious as a result of an attack by his third-year students and his old nemesis, Sirius Black, uses Snape's wand to *Mobilicorpus* him back to the castle. (Laughter from Wendy and Rose)

WENDY

That's so funny!

RACHAEL

(Laughing) I know! So, this chapter starts out with one of my favorite Snape entrances. It is just another great one, and it is done well in the movie, as well. Right in the Chapter before – in Chapter Eighteen – Harry is talking about Snape and he says: “So That's why Snape doesn't like you,” said Harry slowly, “because he thought you were in on the joke?” “That's right,” sneered a cold voice from the wall behind Lupin. Severus Snape was pulling off the Invisibility Cloak, his wand pointing directly at Lupin. And then after he makes his grand entrance, he says a few things and he mentions that he never thought that Sirius would have the nerve to use this old place and he refers to the Marauders' Map as “a certain Map”. So, I know that we talked about this before in the last Snarky Chapters, but it seems to be that these are some more hints that Snape knows the significance of the map and the Shrieking Shack. What do you guys think?

WENDY

I wonder if he works out what the map is after he sees the names that show up on the map? And I wonder if he – like he kind of let Lupin walk away with the map, maybe thinking Lupin would lead him to Sirius.

RACHAEL

Hmmmm

WENDY

I definitely think he knew who the Marauders were, and their names...

RACHAEL

And their nicknames?

WENDY

Hmmm.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I don't know – I go back and forth on that one. So... and we kind of dealt with that last time. Let's get to the really interesting stuff in this chapter, where Snape just goes ape-shit! For the first time we see him as a really emotional. This is the only time he's ever done anything more than like sneer, kind of smirk. He's described as having a suppressed look of triumph, of being deranged and having a

mad glint in his eye. What do you get from this?

WENDY

He's waited for so long to get his own back on Sirius, and on the other Marauders as well, that he's kind of euphoric that his time has finally come!

ROSE

Yep!

RACHAEL

Yeah, it's like for a guy that doesn't believe in showing his emotions –that scolds Tonks for wearing her heart on her sleeve – It's like he's just spilling out with emotion here. And to me, he really doesn't seem as powerful when he's angry; like here he gets knocked out by an *Expelliarmus* spell from a bunch of young wizards. So, I almost get the feeling like he's less competent of a wizard when he's angry.

WENDY

He loses control, yeah, he's less vigilant and he loses control of that, you know, really tight ... He seems really strict with himself and he loses that.

ROSE

He does lose control, and it's really kind of sad that he's trying so hard to keep control and to be the teacher and to be the person in charge, especially with the kids.

RACHAEL

Speaking of the kids; I know, Rose, you had an interesting theory I hadn't heard before about what happens on page 360 between Snape and Hermione.

ROSE

Ah, yeah, he's yelling at Hermione to "Keep quiet, you stupid girl!" And there are some theories, ah, that are – um – supportive of the Snape/Lily ship and supportive of the idea that Snape was present at Godric Hollow the night that Harry's parents were killed, that Harry in his memories and dreams is remembering someone yelling a line really similar to "Keep quiet, you stupid girl!" Someone is yelling something about 'Stupid girl' and 'Get out of the way!' and they are assuming...

RACHAEL

"Get out of the way, you silly girl!"?

ROSE

Right! Because of the similarity of calling someone a girl and using a derogatory term and telling them to get out of the way that that was Snape telling Lily to get out of the way.

RACHAEL

Hmmmm, I mean I think Snape was at Godric's Hollow, but I think there is more evidence for it than that!

WENDY

When I think of... if I think of Snape as possibly being at Godric's Hollow, I would think that he was hidden and nobody knew that he was there. But it's definitely, kind of you know, the same thing, so

yeah... that's a really interesting theory.

RACHAEL

One thing I can say, 'cause Becca isn't here – I could like imitate it and say it in her voice – but the reason why she kind of has this gut feeling that she believes that Snape was at Godric's Hollow is because J.K. Rowling had such control over the scene in the movie and she says that every time she watches it she gets this little feeling that when they show the cloaked figure walking into the cottage, that for some reason that just isn't Voldemort, and that it's Snape!

WENDY

Oh!!

RACHAEL

But... That's the only scene in the movie that I will really analyze. Any other time I'll just be like, "Ah, it's the movie, it doesn't matter!" But I know she had such control over that scene, so...

ROSE

We can certainly pick apart things, and pick apart things, and pick apart things and –um – yeah.

RACHAEL

(Giggles) So, the big thing that we find out in this chapter, of course, is that Peter Pettigrew is the spy. And the title of the chapter is "The Servant of Lord Voldemort". But, thinking back to the graveyard scene in *Goblet of Fire* when Voldemort kind of calls each of his Death Eaters: the one who is too fearful to come back, the one who left me forever, my faithful servant who's still at Hogwarts. Do you guys think that definitely the servant of Lord Voldemort refers to Peter Pettigrew or could perhaps the title of the chapter be referring to Snape?

WENDY

I think it refers to Peter Pettigrew.

ROSE

Same here.

WENDY

It kind of changes, like who do you think is the servant of Lord Voldemort because perhaps you could first think that it is referring to Snape, but then you read through the chapter and because they originally think that Sirius is the one that gave away James and Lily's hiding place, perhaps he is the servant of Lord Voldemort. By the time you get to the end of the chapter it sounds like Peter Pettigrew is the servant of Lord Voldemort.

RACHAEL

Yeah, and we find out Peter's been a spy, Snape's been a spy; there's even this bit where Sirius says that Peter's been passing information to Voldemort for a year before Lily and James died. And this is the exact same time that Dumbledore claims, in the trial, that Snape turned against Voldemort. Is this a coincidence, and do you think that Snape and Peter ever crossed paths during spying?

WENDY

I think, perhaps, that he had an attack of conscience and that's why he changed sides. And maybe he knew that, um, Pettigrew was giving information to Lord Voldemort and... and he's realized, you

know, Harry and James are going to bite it if I don't do something. But he's had an attack of conscience. Maybe when he originally gave the information he might have thought it was, you know, just like useless information or something that it wasn't going to turn out the way that it did turn out.

ROSE

And the wizarding world is really small, too. Everyone has to have crossed paths at one point or another.

RACHAEL

So, you think they did cross paths?

ROSE

Um, yeah!

RACHAEL

And, like, what did they do? Like, if they're at a Death Eater meeting and, like you know, Snape takes off his mask and Peter Pettigrew takes off his mask, like – do they say anything to each other?

ROSE

Yeah, like, “You ate all of the cheese squares! (General laughter ensues) You didn't leave any hors d'oeuvres for me!” You know it's again hard to suppose, I'm also wondering if Snape has an *Animagi* form that is kind of small, if – ah – he and Pettigrew crossed paths and didn't know it?

RACHAEL

Hmm, hmmm. See, sometimes it surprises me that he even has the Dark Mark, 'cause I always viewed him as: he wasn't really a Death Eater, he wasn't really at meetings, he probably met with Voldemort every now and then and passed on some information. But it's really curious to me how those two even got to meet each other – Voldemort and Peter – and how Snape met Voldemort, too. I just really... I haven't read a lot of fic about that and I would really like to.

ROSE

I've got this feeling that fan-fiction is probably going to give us more exotic and more exciting explanations of meetings and Death Eater meetings than the reality will come to be.

RACHAEL

No Dark Revels in canon, Rose?

ROSE

Nope, not a one! (Giggles from Rachael) Seedy, mundane meetings with the Dark Lord.

RACHAEL

Ah, so the one thing that struck me too as really funny is that on 372 and 373 Sirius and Lupin – and Peter – are talking and Peter goes: “You don't believe this... wouldn't Sirius have told you they'd changed the plan?” Remus replies “Not if they thought I was the spy, Peter. ... I assume that's why you didn't tell me, Sirius?” he said casually over Pettigrew's head. “Forgive me, Remus,” said Black. Now this shocked me as odd that they even, like, suspected that there was a spy to begin with. I mean, really all that happened is we know Snape overheard the Prophecy and he passed this information, we don't know how much, over to Voldemort. And this caused Voldemort to go looking for the Potters.

Now before the Potters died, what happened that make them suspect there was a spy?

WENDY

I wondered if Sirius had heard anything, kind of, underground like, while he was Padfoot. Just little snippets of information that would make him suspicious and not actually know for sure.

RACHAEL

Yeah, and there is this... Sirius thought that Remus was being the spy. I just don't even know why the four of them looked at each other and said, "One of us is a spy."

ROSE

It may have been some other Order business that had, you know, nothing to do... that we'll never hear about in the story... that something got leaked, something went wrong and it would have been something that only one of those people could have let slip.

RACHAEL

So, this chapter ends out with ... Poor Snape. He's described: As though invisible strings were tied to Snape's wrists, neck, and knees, he was pulled into a standing position, head still lolling unpleasantly, like a grotesque puppet. He hung a few inches above the ground, his limp feet dangling. So, Snape is really described as a puppet, and it makes me wonder: Is that all he really is in this story and we're just a bunch of - idiots - for being fascinated with him.

WENDY

No, I don't think so. I think maybe his anger - when he was younger - um, he let himself be a puppet, perhaps, for Voldemort because of the anger that he had, but I think once he realized the way he was being used by Voldemort and... that's why he - like he snapped out of it - and that's when he changed sides.

RACHAEL

Rose?

ROSE

No, not a puppet! Look at him throughout all of this chapter. He's the responsible person who is making sure that the werewolf is takes the Wolfsbane potion. He is emphasizing time, and time again, to Harry, Ron and Hermione that they are so lucky that he has come to save their butts. There is some self-impetus in that, as well, that he's not only just a puppet.

RACHAEL

I don't know. Sometimes I think that Snape is a puppet. Like he's just being used by both sides and it doesn't really matter what happens to him at the end of the story. But, I don't know, I've grown such an attachment to him, that I don't really care, (laughs) so, even if he is a puppet. So, let's wrap it up.
Final thoughts on this chapter?

WENDY

I like this chapter because of the emotion he shows in this. It's really humiliating for him to be dragged along like that at the end of the chapter and I do feel kind of sad for him.

RACHAEL

I think when I first read this - and I wasn't a huge Snape fan; because I didn't become a huge Snape fan until *Order of the Phoenix* - I read this chapter and I was like "This guy is an idiot!" Like he's just

totally lost control of himself and jumps to the wrong conclusions and here he is very intelligent and he is just completely engrossed in his grudges. So, it really surprises me now, going back and reading this chapter again, that I love this character. And you also wonder like what Snape fan-fic would be like if this chapter weren't there because this is kind of like our only evidence, other than in *Order of the Phoenix* when he just like goes ape-shit on Harry for not learning Occlumency – that Snape does show his emotions, that Snape does have triggers. Otherwise he is just very controlled, very reserved and like Snape fan-fic would be pretty boring if this chapter weren't there.

WENDY

I wonder too, if, um, he... the reason he has such control over himself and he doesn't show any emotion, is because he ... he knows that when he lets emotion get the better of him he's – like – he's useless. Because... because he was so emotional in that chapter, he allowed the three – Harry, Ron and Hermione – to... all three of them to *Expelliarmus* him. And if he wasn't so emotional that would never have happened. So, maybe he is so controlled all the time because he knows what happens to him when he lets emotion get the better of him.

ROSE

Yep!

RACHAEL

Definitely, I agree. And I think that really shows the big difference between Harry and Snape. And that goes back to Harry's whole power, you know, Harry can love! Harry let's himself feel his emotions, and at the same time can have power. Whereas, Snape; anytime he gets upset he just becomes a less competent wizard.

WENDY

That's true!

ROSE

Which kind of goes for all of us in all of our endeavors.

WENDY

That's also true, yeah!

RACHAEL

Rose, final thoughts?

ROSE

Um, it will be very interesting to finally find out the back-story of all the stuff that's going on to set Snape off into the tantrums that he's having. It must be something very emotional, very dark, very strong.

RACHAEL

More than just underpants?

ROSE

Yeah. (Rachael giggles) You know, because in the chapter beforehand when Harry says, "Oh, so that's why Snape doesn't like you! It's because he thought that you were in on the joke?" and Snape says, "That's right!?" No, that's not right. There is a whole other story that is behind all of this.

RACHAEL

Oh, yeah, because you know someone who is as repressed as is Snape, could not just say that's right. Like, you figured it out –it's definitely more...

ROSE
Exactly!

RACHAEL

... complicated. I can't wait! So, I think that just about wraps it up. Next time we're going to move on to *Goblet of Fire* because the rest of this book, I mean, there is some Snape but it's just him getting humiliated, getting his Order of Merlin taken away and that stuff. So we are going to move on to *Goblet of Fire* and we'll be back with some more analysis in Snarky Chapters. So thanks for listening, Bye everyone!

ROSE
Bye.

WENDY
Bye!

Snape's Answering Machine - (33:12)

Voices: Chris, Chris's sister, Becca, Gina

[SOUND OF ANSWERING MACHINE]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

You have reached *my* phone. If you are a telephone solicitor, hang up now or *die*. Otherwise, please leave a message after the beep.

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS RON]

Yeah, uh, Severus Snape, you're a greasy git.

CHRIS'S SISTER [AS HERMIONE]

Ron, who are you talking to? That had better not be long distance.

CHRIS [AS RON]
Hermione!

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Yes indeed. Better tighten that leash, Miss Granger.

BECCA [AS MAGAZINE SOLICITER]
Greetings Subscriber! This

automated message is to let you know that your subscription to Pestilential Poisons Weekly is about to expire! Please send us your 17 sickles and 1 knut membership fee by no later than Friday, November the 9th to ensure that your account remains active. Thank you, and have a very poisonous day!

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SKETCHY GUY WITH UNIDENTIFIABLE ACCENT]

Yeh, this'd be Snape, eh? I got them powdered Romanian Longhorn wot y'ordered last week. Best come get it quick 'fore that lil' bit 'o Beauxbaton crumpet offers me a beter price.

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

As if.

GINA [AS RANDOM SEXY WOMAN AND/OR HERSELF]

Professor Snape, I'm calling in regards to the apprentice position. It's been a dream of mine to work under you for a very, very, very long time. I believe you'll find me more than suitable for the position.
[breathy laugh]

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Ugh! Not likely.

[BEEP]

BECCA [AS CRANKY OLD LADY]

Right, Mr. Snape? This is Mrs. Billingsly from the Hope Valley Beautification Society. I'm afraid that this will be the absolute last time I shall ring you before I inform the authorities! Once and for all, *please* remove those large iron pots from your curb! Clearly whatever it is that you're--brewing--in those dreadful pots is obviously dangerous! So please remove them immediately, or we shall have Old Bill do it for you and you'll be settled with a large fine! Good day!

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]

Obnoxious old cow.

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS VOLDEMORT]

What is this thing, Wormtail? And how can it reach Severus? Is it a Portkey?

CHRIS [AS WORMTAIL]

No, my Lord. It's a Muggle communication device.

CHRIS [AS VOLDEMORT]

A Muggle device? And *what* would I want with a *Muggle device*?

CHRIS [AS WORMTAIL]
But, my Lord—I didn't—

CHRIS [AS VOLDEMORT]
Avada Kedav—

[BEEP]

CHRIS [AS SNAPE]
Dear, dear, Wormtail.

[SOUND OF ANSWERING MACHINE REEL FINISHING]

Fan Interview - (36:14)

Interviewer: Rachael

Guest: Savageland

- [Looking for Magic in All the Right Places](#)

- [Somewhere I Have Never Travelled...](#)

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

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to another interview live from Lumos in Snapecast Headquarters. I am Rachael, and I have with me a very special guest. Maybe you could explain a bit about yourself, who you are, and your role in the fandom.

SAVAGELAND

Certainly. I guess I go by a couple of names. I've been writing Hermione/Snape fanfic under the name Savageland, and I'm also – I've been an admin for Sycophant Hex under the name Darcy. And I also presented a paper here at Lumos about Snape/Hermione fanfic and transgressions in fanfic under my *real* name, which I'll just leave out for now.

RACHAEL

[laughs] That's OK. So, how did you get started in the fandom? When was the first time that you picked up a *Harry Potter* book?

SAVAGELAND

Well, I picked up a *Harry Potter* book probably around 2000, 2001, somewhere in there – and I was hooked. And I of course was in line with everybody waiting for the next book. I didn't enter the *fanfic* world, though, until late 2003, and then I was drawn mainly to Hermione/Snape or Granger/Snape pairings, for all sorts of various reasons.

RACHAEL

Yeah, that was one of the first things I was gonna ask you, is what attracted you to the Hermione/Snape pairing?

SAVAGELAND

Well, it's a very interesting pairing 'cause it's sort of like the marriage of true minds, which is a trope

that's come up a few times in commentary about it. I was at first for about five minutes kind of horrified at the thought of Hermione, student, and Snape, professor, because in real life I'm a professor, and of course there is nothing much more transgressive in real life than the violation of trust that would come particularly from a male professor abusing in any way a female student, and with such a power inequality between them. And yet there's more to it than that, and as I started to move into some of the fics, I realized that some of the really well-written ones (and there are a lot of those) were exploring the power relationships in ways that were really fascinating, and really sort of giving rise to very intelligent questions about who they are and why they're together, or why they *could* be together. And in so many ways intellectually, it's just a pairing that, as many people have said, makes real sense. It's not canonical in any way, it's total fanon, but within fanon it makes a lot of sense. And so I just found myself attracted to the possibilities – the romantic possibilities, the intellectual possibilities. I thought it'd be really fun to explore that.

RACHAEL

Okay. How do you picture the Snape – what's your ideal version of how the Snape and Hermione relationship starts?

SAVAGELAND

Well, to be honest, I don't have it when Hermione's in school.

RACHAEL

Uh-huh.

SAVAGELAND

Now that's just me – well, not *just* me, there are lots of fanfic writers in the pairing, in the ship, who are fine with Hermione still being a schoolgirl, albeit a mature one – but I prefer to have her out of school, and in fact, in one of my fics, she is actually (through a time experiment) – she is actually considerably older than Snape.

RACHAEL

Oh, really?

SAVAGELAND

So Snape is the younger man in the fic, so there's some dynamics going on there.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I've heard of that one. I haven't read it, but I have heard of that. I'm the worst person to interview you and Snape/Hermione because I read all terrible slash, but... [BOTH LAUGH] Gina is our Snape/Hermione person, but I'm the best you can get, so I'm gonna ask pretty basic questions. Feel free to jump in.

SAVAGELAND

Sure.

RACHAEL

And by the way, was Snape and Hermione the first pairing that you read?

SAVAGELAND

Yes, it actually was, and I got into it through a really weird back door. I was actually reading a website

that's devoted to fanfic about the Sherlock Holmes/Mary Russell pairing that Laurie King has created in her new Sherlock Holmes mysteries, and I linked over to a fic which actually had Severus Snape being interviewed by Mary Russell when she's a very old woman, and Hermione is her granddaughter.

RACHAEL
Oh, interesting.

SAVAGELAND
Yeah. So Severus is asking for Hermione's hand in marriage, basically, and it's – it's just – it's like tea at wherever it is Mary Russell lives, and I was just *flummoxed* at first. I thought, “What *is* this? And who on Earth would put Severus Snape and Hermione Granger together? And *why*?” And I hadn't even thought of Snape in any kind of romantic context whatsoever. Then I linked over to another website and found entire websites devoted to this pairing, and at that point it began to make sense to me. I was almost instantly attracted to the pairing.

RACHAEL
Are there any other pairings that you see going on with Snape/Hermione, or are they your OTP? Like, for instance, what do you think happens to Ron in the Snape/Hermione story?

SAVAGELAND
Oh, yeah. Well, of course, most of the Snape/Hermione pairing fans are – they've got some way to sort of deal with Ron. The worst ones sort of kill poor Ron off at the beginning or something, or get rid of him in some way, and I sorta did that myself, but in a kind of alternative timeline kind of thing, because ultimately I didn't think Ron deserved to die.

RACHAEL
[laughs] Neither do I! He hasn't done anything to deserve to die.

SAVAGELAND
[laughs] He hasn't done anything wrong, you know? He's better than some people think. But essentially the Hermione that I know I worked with myself would see Ron more as a brother, as just a pal, as y'know, part of her support system. And I also don't see – I didn't see Hermione/Harry; I did do it myself, but again, it's an alternate timeline and it's wrong, basically, it goes against the grain, because it's really ultimately supposed to be Granger/Snape.

RACHAEL
Yeah. Now one of our Snapecast staff members has a theory that people ship Snape with the person that they most identify with. Do you see yourself identifying more with Hermione than any other character in the Potterverse?

SAVAGELAND
I suppose so, if only by default in some ways. I mean, yes, Hermione's kind of a bit of a geek, a bit of an intellectual, and I'm sure a lot of us can identify with that, the way we were in school.

RACHAEL
So I think all of us that are Snape fans, for whatever ship that we read – or even non-shipping – we have a line at which Snape becomes a character that we don't like anymore, that we can't identify with, or he can just cross the line where he doesn't become Snape in canon, when we're reading fanfic. For you, personally, where are those lines?

SAVAGELAND

Well, again, I'll draw them very broadly, because a lot of what we think of as Snape, fanon Snape, is by consensus. Canon Snape is a deeply unpleasant person in many respects, but we are seeing him through the Harry filter, so there is that. So Snape has to be – he can't be a sweetheart, he can't be a pussycat, he can't be lovey-dovey, he can't go around as soon as he realizes he “luvs” Hermeione – y'know, he can't be acting like a moonstruck calf or mooncalf or whatever that wonderful Shakespearean term is. He still has to have that quality where he is, he's just not gonna get there easily. He's not gonna be easy to get along with in any way, shape, or form. Hermione doesn't have to be totally submissive and a doormat in order to go along with this, y'know: fight fire with fire. So one of the analogies I think of is *The Taming of the Shrew*, in that “the taming of the Snape.” [BOTH LAUGH] And *The Taming of the Shrew*, neither of the partners is a wimp. They're both unpleasant in their own ways; they have to learn how to balance things in their own ways. So Snape can't be too sweet, he can't be a sensitive New Age guy or anything like that.

RACHAEL

Metrosexual Snape. [laughs]

SAVAGELAND

Metrosexual Snape, 'cause we don't like that. That isn't Snape. But the other extreme is “total bastard unremitting horrible rapist feels-no-remorse” - someone who's crossed the line into losing that spark of humanity that I think most of us who are fans feel that he has.

RACHAEL

Well, I think Snape can *get* to that point. That line can go pretty far with me personally. But I wouldn't think that Hermione would want to be with him. So for the Snape/Hermione pairing, my line is somewhere different than, like, a Snape/Draco or a Snape/Harry or something like that.

SAVAGELAND

Yeah, I do absolutely, I think that's a really important point to make, the way the sort of boundaries of Snape are going to depend on the pairing or depend on the character with whom he's interacting. And in a slash pairing – and I don't, it's not that I haven't read slash, it's not my main thing – but I can see a lot of very sort of unpleasant dynamics going on. But again, I would want to think that in the end, they're not just cutting each other to shreds for no reason at all, that ultimately there's going to be some kind of balance. Equilibrium is going to be achieved, even if it doesn't last.

RACHAEL

Yeah, definitely. And I think it might even be an interesting argument that Hermione, of all the pairings that Snape could be with, pushes him more than others by making that line sort of on one side or the other. She kind of makes him grow as a person more than others, if you would compare him to being with other people. Although there really aren't that many women for him to be with. That's a very good point.

SAVAGELAND

Well, that's where the other – Snape and other female characters come in, which is also extremely...One of the things I do is sometimes – not as much as I'd like, but that might change – work for Sycophant Hex as an admin, and we've got Ashwinder with Snape/Hermione, we've got Occlumency with Snape, just Snape-centric, but a lot of writers on that archive pair him with another female character, and there they have more liberty to explore female characters. And the best of the fics do that; we won't talk

about Mary Sue.

RACHAEL
Mm-hmm!

SAVAGELAND

The best of the fics explore women characters who would be best able to deal with Snape, and push him in ways that might seem unpleasant to both of them at first, but in the end some kind of redemption occurs, or some kind of movement towards a better person. A better state of mind is gonna be achieved.

RACHAEL

Yeah. And do you think (I guess) that there's any *good* fic out there that's Snape/Hermione that really lets Snape cross that line, and the power is completely imbalanced?

SAVAGELAND

I think the difficulty with the Snape/Hermione pairing is that if Snape goes too far over the line, then Hermione's left with very little choice as to what she can do. She's just boxed in. She's either going to be a complete doormat wimp, y'know, just walk all over me kind of thing, punish me – and I'll come back to that point in a second – or she's just going to walk away from him, and either of those are – they're not my favorite. They are *valid*, for various reasons, that you can have those kinds of scenarios, and those are going to be dark fics, usually, or they might be parodies as well, on the lighter side. But they're not gonna be – I guess I'm thinking of Jo Dell from AOL who wrote an essay called “The Good Ship Granger/Snape,” and on that good ship, the romance the people wanna see mainly, and I confess I'm drawn to, is the kind of – she calls it the regency trope, where you have some of that “Snape's a bit of a rake” and he has to be reformed. And the regency trope is interesting because the rake is essentially at heart not a bad person. The rake may be unpleasant, the rake may seemingly be on the pale at first, but you get the right woman, the right circumstances, the right motivations, and he kind of comes to where he's supposed to be. Now, someone in our discussion yesterday brought up *Jane Eyre*, and at the end you have Rochester, that's another trope, who has to be – I wouldn't call it emasculated, but he is rendered powerless by losing his sight and by being crippled and so on, and *she's* rendered more powerful by coming into an inheritance.

RACHAEL
Uh-huh.

SAVAGELAND

So someone has to lose and someone has to gain in the end. So I think when Snape goes over the line, a lot is lost, so you don't have that kind of comfortable ballpark pairing parameters. You have something else, and it's valid, it's just not that ballpark. And I'll just quickly add that a lot of fics – they're dark fics, they're so-called rapefics – they're hurt/comfort, and a lot of writers are working through issues that are really important to them, and that's part of what this online community does. Not everyone supports that; a lot of people can even trash a fic that goes too far over those lines, but the writers are doing something that's legitimate, and something that goes a long way back in fan fiction.

RACHAEL

Yeah. If the writer's writing it for themselves, then...

SAVAGELAND

Yeah, but they put it out there and then it's anyone's guess as to how the readers are going to react.

RACHAEL

Exactly.

SAVAGELAND

That's the high-risk part.

RACHAEL

It's a living organism, the fandom, in a way.

SAVAGELAND

Yeah.

RACHAEL

So, taking it the other way, how powerless can Snape get in a Snape/Hermione?

SAVAGELAND

Well, yeah, as I mentioned earlier, the sort of sense of a New Age guy thing...It's really interesting; I think there's almost a double standard going on at times because it's OK for Snape to have quite a bit of power and still have a believable romance develop in the Granger/Snape pairing. But if the Snape part of the equation loses too much, and the Granger part gains too much, then you get some readers uncomfortable. That was one of the criticisms of "Pawn to Queen," where she's got this notion of the strega, which is this tremendously powerful female principle. Riley was doing it because she wanted to balance out this power imbalance between the professor and student. So the motives are really good, but many readers found this female principle too much to take, and it rendered Snape too much sort of "under the thumb" of Hermione and the other females. And they felt uncomfortable with that. Snape is...

RACHAEL

See, I find that funny, 'cause I do see Snape as under the thumb of Dumbledore and Voldemort.

SAVAGELAND

Absolutely.

RACHAEL

So I wonder if it's just that people are uncomfortable seeing him under the thumb of a female character?

SAVAGELAND

I think that's part of it. That's why I'm crying double standard, to some extent, because it's one thing for him to be rendered somewhat powerless by his circumstances – by the Death Eaters, by Dumbledore – because there's the sense that this is part of what his function is. This is what he's doing. And that's canon, too, so we can kind of go with that. But when we're looking at fanon and when we're getting away from canon and doing this whole romance, which doesn't exist in canon – there's totally no evidence for it and never will be – then I think there's some discomfort with Snape losing even more power than he already has lost in canon, and you know, "how dare that happen." Again, I've seen some rich parodies of this sort of thing, so it seems to be fine in parody, but it's just not...

RACHAEL

Although I noticed, I mean – 'cause I, of course, read lots of Snarry – and there's lots of Snarry where Snape becomes very subservient to Harry. And people, there's a big group of people that really like that. And that's the same journey that really Hermione has to go through; Harry's a student as well. They're coming from the same power imbalance, but for some reason – I dunno if it's 'cause he's the Boy Who Lived or 'cause he's just a boy – people are OK with it, with Harry. Or they're more OK with it than they are with Hermione.

SAVAGELAND

Well, I think we may have got the romance, the standard romance happening. There's the “sweep her off her feet” factor that particularly women buy into. And I'm not criticizing – it's just a fact. It happens. Those of us who write this thing are to some extent buying into it, but we're not buying into it to the point where we wanna see either of them stomped into the ground. I think there are a number of us who are interested in exploring how you can get some kind of power equality going on between this professor and student, between this younger woman and this sort of older man, but not much older – y'know, twenty years maybe, if we go by canon?

RACHAEL

Mm-hm.

SAVAGELAND

And I'm uncomfortable personally seeing Snape exercise *complete* oppressive power over Hermione. I'm also uncomfortable with Hermione getting into a situation where she is capable of completely stomping Snape into the ground. They can take turns being on top. That's OK, y'know. [laughs] But I'm just uncomfortable with serious oppression in either end of the spectrum. I think that Snarry and some other slashes are exploring power dynamics in really interesting ways, and because you've got them both same sex, you may even have more liberty in some ways to explore those dynamics.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I think that's part of the appeal. So taking this out of the realm of fanon and getting back to canon – as far as Snape's loyalty, where do you sit on that?

SAVAGELAND

Oh, well. [laughs] I see him as – I don't see him as completely sold out to the Death Eaters. I think in the end, he will show himself to be loyal to the side of the light. But I don't see him as completely – he's been a good guy all along, that he hasn't made mistakes. I think he has made mistakes. I think in some ways he's already paying for them. I do believe strongly that he's gonna be redeemed in some way, and whether that's redeemed because of a past wrong that he's committed within canon that we don't know about yet, or whether it's because he will be redeemed in the eyes of Harry and in the eyes of readers. I think that Rowling has written him so – almost too over-the-top, in 'Flight of the Prince,' as “THE EVIL ONE,” and there's too much in the Harry filter; we can't trust that. I have my reservations as to whether he will survive the end of the book...

RACHAEL

Oh, well that's my next question: will he live or die in Book Seven?

SAVAGELAND

I would like for him to live, but y'know, for a number of reasons, I don't think he will. I think that part of his redemption is going to be that he will not survive, that there has to be a sacrifice. But I think that there are valid reasons from sort of a mythic point of view, too, why Snape might die. He has been

scapegoated, and the scapegoat is, in the pure sense of the word, someone who has not actually committed the crime. It's the one whom the evil gets dumped on, and right now Harry is scapegoating Snape tremendously. And the scapegoat then is driven away.

RACHAEL

Yeah. And our final question that we ask everyone is a little bit silly, but we just like to talk about silly things on Snapecast every now and then. The Pensieve scene and the underpants: are they boxers or are they briefs?

SAVAGELAND

Oh, I think they're boxers.

[BOTH LAUGH]

RACHAEL

OK, well, thanks a lot for doing this interview. Do you have any final thoughts about Snape that you'd like our listeners to hear?

SAVAGELAND

Just that I think he is the most fascinating character in the whole *Potter* canon, and it's wonderful that we're spending so much time and attention with him.

RACHAEL

Yes, we definitely need to have a Snape convention, is what we've concluded, after Lumos. This is most certainly on the agenda. [BOTH LAUGH] Well, thank you once again, and we will see you later.

SAVAGELAND

Thank you.

RACHAEL

Bye!

Detention Intervention - (56:32)

Besotted Fangirl: Laura

Beleaguered Boyfriend: Sean

Music: Nick Drake: Been Smoking Too Long

LAURA

This is Laura, and I'm here with my boyfriend Sean.

SEAN

Hello.

LAURA

He's also a *Harry Potter* fan, but he's not quite as obsessed as I am.

SEAN

To say the least. I think Laura's in very dire need of a Snape-tervention.

LAURA

[laughs] So you know I read the books at least twice, and I've seen the movies a few times, but do you think I'm a little too preoccupied with *Harry Potter*?

SEAN

Yes.

LAURA

What do you mean?

SEAN

Um...That's all you do anymore is play with *Harry Potter*...Snapecast...make *Harry Potter* clothes...talk about *Harry Potter* stuff that no rational human being would be interested in.

LAURA

[laughs]

SEAN

You obviously have problems.

LAURA

So you don't find it interesting?

SEAN

Find what interesting?

LAURA

Thinking about *Harry Potter* and the implications of some of the chapters and what'll happen with Book Seven...

SEAN

Uh...I don't dwell on it day to day, no. I'm interested; I've read all the books and seen the movies and even reread a couple of 'em now, but mostly it's just in the moment reading and not really looking to try to fathom what's going on in Rowling's mind. So...

LAURA

You're a computer geek; you work in IT, so do you think it would be fun as a hobby to work on a *Harry Potter* podcast?

SEAN

Um...no.

LAURA

[laughing] Why not?

SEAN

Uh...Well, what is there to say, really? How many possible permutations could you come up with? And there's only gonna be one, which is what's gonna be in the last book, so...I don't know.

LAURA

So do you have a favorite character or someone that you identify with the most?

SEAN

Um...not a favorite character. I probably have most in common with Fred and George, but...y'know, that was just all my beer-drinking as a younger person.

LAURA

Yeah, I can see you as being friends with them, definitely. You've even got the blond hair.

SEAN

Mm-hmm.

LAURA

Okay, since this podcast is all about Snape, I have some questions about the Potions master that I wanna ask you.

SEAN

All right, shoot.

LAURA

First: do you think Snape is good or evil?

SEAN

Um...I think he's evil in that it's Snape and not Voldemort that's the day-to-day reminder of evil for all the students there. Voldemort's like, yeah, he's evil, but day-to-day Snape through all the books is the one they're trying to suspect; he's giving 'em a hard time, etc. etc. So, y'know....

LAURA

Oh, so he's more present.

SEAN

Yeah, he's the manifestation day-to-day of evil, as opposed to Voldemort that just shows up in some—like, he's like a highlight, real kinda—he shows up and does his thing, but Snape's there all the time, yeah.

LAURA

That's true. Very interesting—we have a hard time finding anyone who thinks Snape is evil. Everyone else thinks he's good, so that's interesting.

SEAN

Well, I knew y'all thought that, that's why I went on the other side of it.

LAURA

[laughs]

SEAN

I'm just contrary like that.

LAURA

And the second question: Do you think Snape will live or die in Book Seven?

SEAN

I think Snape's gonna live.

LAURA

Oh, you do?

SEAN

Yeah, because whatever's gonna happen on the other side of it—whether he's good or evil, he's gonna be around, I'm pretty sure. Snape's gonna be—he's gonna come through. I think it's in his nature to.

LAURA

He's a survivor?

SEAN

Yeah.

LAURA

He is a survivor, this is true.

SEAN

Plays the politics and connives and tries to get his own way.

LAURA

Okay, and the third question: thinking back to the chapter in *Order of the Phoenix* during Snape's Worst Memory, when James and his friends played a prank on him, where they turn him upside down and you can see his underpants—do you think he wears boxers or briefs?

SEAN

I think he wears briefs, 'cause he's gonna like that extra level of ball control they're gonna provide. He's just that kind of person, I think. He's always real buttoned down and has robes all just so, and the high-starched collar, so between the two I think briefs are gonna—and the extra support is gonna keep him lookin' professional, so I think that's what he's gonna go with.

LAURA

Okay. Well, thank you for your time.

SEAN

Thank you.

LAURA

Bye.

SEAN

Bye.

How Grey is Snape? - (1:01:30)

Host: Rachael

Snape is Evil Perspective: Jackie & Mytheos

Music: Ani DiFranco, "Grey"

RACHAEL

Welcome, welcome to our segment on Snape's loyalty. I'm Rachael, and I have here with me:

JACKIE

Jackie...

MYTHEOS

And Mytheos.

RACHAEL

And we've been wanting to do a segment on Snape's loyalty for a while. It's pretty much the issue in the series, so we've been tackling of how to deal with it. Basically we've decided to do a segment called "How Grey is Snape". Regardless of your opinion about Sirius Black, one has to admit that for a guy who has spent about a third of his life in Azkaban, he does have some pearls of wisdom to pass on to his godson. In *Order of the Phoenix*, Sirius tells Harry, "The world isn't split into good people and death eaters." This is arguably a lesson about the spectrum of morality that is likely the key thing that Harry, as the hero of the story, will have to learn to complete his growth in Book 7. Many of us are so fascinated with Snape because he embodies an opportunity for Harry to learn this important lesson. I think it's safe to say that a clear majority of the fandom believes that there's something more to Snape than meets the eye. If Harry's morality or purity of his soul is considered white, and Voldemort is black, Snape is certainly a shade of grey. But just how grey *is* Severus Snape?

Some will go as far as to argue that Snape is the real hero of the story; that he's Dumbledore's man through and through; that he's been a good guy all along. Some believe he underwent a cathartic experience and chose to move to the light side at some point in his life. Others argue he wakes up every morning and strategically decides which side he will play to best suit his needs. And some still say he is evil to the core; a true Death Eater, second only to the Dark Lord himself. So the purpose of this segment is to examine these differing perspectives and talk to Snape fans by asking: How grey is Severus Snape? We thought we would start out by talking to some folks that are on definitely one end of the spectrum, the very dark end.

Um, we recruited here Mytheos and Jackie, and I'm just going to ask them some questions and get the perspective of the people that believe that Snape is on the dark end. So, Mytheos and Jackie, if you were to assign a color to how gray you think Snape is...

JACKIE

Very, very, very dark grey. Like 97% black and, like, 3% white.

RACHAEL

OK.

MYHEOS

Anywhere from 95% black to 100% black. See there's a part of me that thinks he may even be more

evil than Voldemort.

RACHAEL
Really?!

MYTHEOS

Yes, because Voldemort at least for an ideal, so he has some sense of what in his twisted mind is considered the right thing. There's part of me that can see Snape as kind of a complete nihilist who has absolutely no regard for morality or anything else and does only what benefits him.

RACHAEL
Um hm. So, but even more evil than Voldemort.

MYTHEOS
At least less ethically inclined than Voldemort.

RACHAEL
OK. So, um, tell me the story of how you think Severus chose to become a Death Eater.

JACKIE
I believe he became a death eater because he was allured by the power that he knew he would find in the "organization" (I guess we could call them).

MYTHEOS
Well, first of all, we know he was not a popular student at Hogwarts. And being ostracized tends to make one angry and tends to give one a desire to fight back against the dislikers, I suppose you could say, and tends to give one a desire for revenge or to show how worth it you actually were using drastic measures in some sense. So I think Snape probably joined the Death Eaters out of reaction to the bullying he experienced at the hands of the Marauders, and the complete lack of responsibility they were put to by Dumbledore.

RACHAEL
So, was he a loyal Death Eater, a true follower of Lord Voldemort, or was he just joining the Death Eaters because it was advantageous to what he needed?

JACKIE
Definitely advantageous. I mean, I don't think, like Mytheos does, that he did it out of revenge, I guess you could say.

RACHAEL
So you're in the slightly lighter perspective.

JACKIE
Not really lighter, I mean, I don't believe that he has good in him, I just believe that he's prone to moments of weakness like we all are, so...

MYTHEOS
[Laughs] No, I concur that it's probably more out of advantage, I don't think Snape particularly cares about the ideology of the Death Eaters.

RACHAEL

Um hm. And that seems to be something that's common across the spectrum, is that we view Snape as somebody that really thinks for himself; that he's not joining this group mentality, and I wonder why that is.

JACKIE

Because he's Snape!

RACHAEL

Yeah.

JACKIE

He has no reason, but he needs no reason.

RACHAEL

Um hm.

MYTHEOS

Because he has contempt for people who would join in a group mentality because that puts them in a lower IQ strata than him, I think.

RACHAEL

And I think it's 'cause he's always been a loner, and he's just always been out for himself, and always been by himself, so he isn't swayed into joining any kind of mass movement.

MYTHEOS

Well, careful before you say he was a loner, because he was, according to Sirius Black at least, part of a gang of Slytherins. So he did at least have some allies.

RACHAEL

Umm, but Sirius says a lot of stuff that's a bit off, you know, his perspective is...I always...that-and that's an interesting question, let's talk about that from the Snape is evil perspective. So Mytheos, you think that Snape actually did have a gang of Slytherins, 'cause I've always taken that to mean that was just something Sirius was saying, you know, he grouped Snape in the Slytherin bunch. But ultimately I don't think that he had friends because we see him taking his OWLs in book 5 and he – it's like, that's after a final exam. I finish a Law School exam and I instantly go and talk to my two best friends and ask them how they did, and talk about the questions, and he's just by himself.

MYTHEOS

Well, you're confusing having friends with being extroverted.

JACKIE

That's true.

MYTHEOS

Snape is not an extroverted person, he's an introverted person. For that matter I think that, at that point he was so consumed with his own success, or whatever it was on the exam, that he uh, probably didn't even think to talk to his friends because I agree that he strikes me as someone that would be more

comfortable alone, but I do believe that since Sirius was able to name gang members so specifically that it must be that he at least had somebody who he hung out with. I mean I think that if anything they were probably people who he hung around for protection more than companionship, or maybe just because they were the people who he could tolerate the most out of the Hogwarts population.

JACKIE

Yeah, definitely. Snape does not need companionship. He can definitely fend for himself and he doesn't really need anybody else.

RACHAEL

So, when Snape was a Death Eater, how evil do you think he was? Like, do you think Dumbledore was the first person that he's ever killed, or do you think that he murdered before, do you think he committed other atrocious acts?

JACKIE

I think he has, because, like, if someone were to join a gang for instance, you'd have to go around and do what that gang does, if it's bank robbery or if it's killing someone. He can't join the Death Eaters and be like, "Oh, I'm going home, I'll see you guys later."

MYTHEOS

I agree with that, I think that Snape has no qualms about committing a crime at all, and um, probably just does it as it seems necessary.

RACHAEL

Um hm. So, then, why hasn't he killed Harry yet?

MYTHEOS

Because it's not politically advantageous as he says in Spinner's End. And because I think he's telling the truth when he, uh, runs out of Hogwarts castle and says, "The Dark Lord wants Potter for himself."

RACHAEL

Um hm.

MYTHEOS

I mean Voldemort is pissed off, he does not like the idea of this 15-16 year old kid escaping from him numerous times. I think it's gotten to the point where it's personal, he wants to be the one who puts the *Avada Kedavra* between Harry's eyes, and he's told all the Death Eaters, you know, don't kill the kid because I want to have the satisfaction of seeing the light leave his eyes myself.

RACHAEL

Um hm.

JACKIE

Yeah.

RACHAEL

What do you think, Jackie?

JACKIE

I agree completely. It's like someone going after your girlfriend, you just don't do it.

RACHAEL

But then in a way Snape is kind of a servant to Voldemort, you know, he is, just like - I guess I like to think of Snape as a little bit more independent than that. Like, if Snape wanted to kill Harry Potter, he'd kill Harry Potter, regardless of what Voldemort said. At least that's *my* Snape.

JACKIE

But would that necessarily be smart on his part, I mean, he *is* Snape, but who wants the wrath of Voldemort coming down on their ass.

MYTHEOS

The thing is, sure if he wanted to kill Harry he could kill Harry. But acting on your impulses without respect for the consequences is, if you'll excuse me, a very Gryffindor thing to do. And that's not Snape, Snape is very Slytherin, he thinks about the consequences before *ever* doing anything, and pissing off the Dark Lord when you have a comfortable working relationship with him and you've just killed off his worst enemy is not a terribly political or very smart move, and I think Snape realizes that he can get more pleasure out of being on the Dark Lord's side and staying on the Dark Lord's good side than pissing off the Dark Lord just so he can kill Harry Potter.

RACHAEL

Yeah, I don't know if I view Snape as as shrewd and calculating of a Slytherin as you do, because, let's face it, when he does lose it, he loses it, and he gets out of control. I mean we just finished doing the Snarky Chapters on the Shrieking Shack part of *Prisoner of Azkaban* where he's ready to kill Sirius Black right there. So for how much hatred he seems to have for Harry, you would think that he would kill him if he wanted to.

JACKIE

It's just an illogical think to do, and Slytherins don't do illogical things.

RACHAEL

Yeah. So, what do you believe that Snape told Dumbledore to make him trust him?

JACKIE

Well, there's many different things that I believe. Like, he might've said, "I feel bad about the things that I've done." If you're one of the people who believes that Lily and Snape had some type of thing going on, he might feel responsible for what happened there...

RACHAEL

Do you think that most Snape-is-Evil people are Snape/Lily shippers, or no?

JACKIE

Well, I don't know many, so I can't tell you.

[RACHAEL & MYTHEOS LAUGH]

MYTHOS

Well, I am a Snily shipper, but I think it's probably in congress with reality, Snape probably fed Dumbledore – he does say "I spun him a tale of regret," or something of that sort, "fresh out of my

Death Eater days.”

JACKIE

“The deepest remorse,” was the phrase.

RACHAEL

Umm hmm.

MYTHEOS

And Dumbledore is a very forgiving person, unlike Voldemort, and is probably liable to believe that someone like Snape, who was, you know, hurt and everything else, could have acted out of an irrational reason rather than actually done it just for cold-blooded malice.

RACHAEL

So you think he just hoodwinked Dumbledore?

JACKIE

Yeah.

MYTHEOS

I think he probably laid it on pretty thick and made it sound like he was a poor innocent who had gotten caught in the crossfire and, you know, didn't realize what he was doing and didn't realize how horrible it was, and you know, basically the kind of story you tell when you've been at a frat party and you've had too much to drink and you're before the disciplinary committee.

JACKIE

Yeah, I see Snape as more of a deer-in-the-headlights kind of trap, where he was like, “I really didn't know what I was getting into, and then I saw what was going on and I realized I got in way too deep and here I am.”

RACHAEL

And, so, obviously when he told Dumbledore that, he was lying, and he was able to block this out. I'm just curious as to what your thought is. Sometimes I picture Good Snape learning Occlumency from Dumbledore, but if you go with this theory, Snape probably used his Occlumency against Dumbledore. So how do you think he learned Occlumency?

JACKIE

I think he taught himself.

MYTHEOS

It strikes me as something he would pick up, considering that he probably has a serious aptitude for it since he's capable of closing his mind very easily and he's not a very emotional person.

RACHAEL

So you don't think he learned it one-on-one, like how Harry learned it – well, tried to learn it, with Snape.

MYTHEOS

He doesn't need to. Snape is smarter than Harry, I'm sorry.

RACHAEL

I don't know if Occlumency's about being smart though, but that's a whole other topic.

MYTHEOS

Well he's – he's more studiously gifted than Harry, and he has I think more motivation to learn new types of magic than Harry.

JACKIE

And also smarter in the senses that he knows how to cut off his emotions in a way that would allow him to block his mind.

RACHAEL

Well he's – JK Rowling says he's more compartmentalized. Well she says that Draco is better at Occlumency 'cause he's able to compartmentalize his feelings and repress them. So I think that's why Snape is better at Occlumency. I just always wondered if, uh, if Dumbledore taught it to him, or if he used it against Dumbledore to conceal his loyalties. Um, so the last thing I wanted to ask is, obviously you guys are in the minority in this belief. Most people think that, you know, Snape is a bit misguided and he did some really awful things but he's going to be a figure for redemption. Why do you think that your opinion is the minority? Do you think that there are some people who just really want to believe that Snape is good and won't look at him in any other light?

JACKIE

Well, people want to believe Snape is good because they believe in redemption and justice and all of that stuff, and they see the absence of this stuff as wrong, like, if that's not there then what kind of corrupt world do you live in, you know. That's not the way life is supposed to be, but that's just reality, you know, not everyone who is good will have a good life, and not everyone who is bad will get punished. So, I think they believe he's good because they believe that, well, he was bad but he regrets what he did because everyone's good at heart, but I don't see it that way.

RACHAEL

We're all hoodwinked like Dumbledore.

MYTHEOS

Yeah, ours is the less pretty viewpoint.

RACHAEL

So, Mytheos, why do you think that your opinion is the minority?

MYTHEOS

Jackie pretty much hit it on the head. I mean all I would add, is that people like to see happy endings in stories, and they also, I mean Snape fans especially, don't like to feel that they were hoodwinked or that they identified with somebody who was a villain the whole time, because, as I've heard on the Slytherin Life segments, people identify so strongly with Snape that they want him to be good so that they can feel some kind of self-redemption themselves. Unfortunately, that's not always the case, uh, because some people, like Snape, are just too bitter or too amoral or too battered to really care about redemption at any point. And so I think what really happened is, I mean, there's a reason JK Rowling cautioned you people against going for the bad boys which is that the bad boys *are the bad boys* and this is what happened.

RACHAEL

Isn't that kind of hopeless, though?

JACKIE

It's not hopeless, its reality, really, its just reality.

RACHAEL

So you don't believe that the love that Severus has experienced is enough to pull him back over to the good side?

JACKIE

Well how much love has Severus experienced? I mean, some from his mother, but who else, really?

RACHAEL

Well we know he has experienced more love than Voldemort, from what JKR has said. So I should wrap this up. Do you guys have final thoughts on the Snape's Loyalty issue? Just to wrap up your Snape-is-Evil perspective. Snape is evil because ____...

JACKIE

Snape is evil because it's more likely he's hoodwinked Dumbledore than he has the Dark Lord.

RACHAEL

OK. Mytheos?

MYTHEOS

Snape is evil because Dumbledore is foolish enough to believe him and Snape is expedient enough to exploit that foolishness.

RACHAEL

Hmm. Very interesting. Well this is – I appreciate having you guys on the show, and having this perspective, and we're gonna have Mytheos and Jackie in on many of our round table discussions to kind of sprinkle in this slightly different perspective of Snape that some of us crazed and besotted fangirls have. So, see, I, at least I admit what I am.

MYTHEOS

Yay!

JACKIE

It's the first step to recovery, you know?

RACHAEL

Thanks a lot everyone, and, uh, happy Snaping.

MYTHEOS

Bye!

JACKIE

Bye-byeses.

Contest Winners Annoucement - (1:17:53)

Announcer: Gina

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

-Art: [Advanced](#) by snapesforte

-Fic: [Severus Snape and the Fall](#) by Nokomis

GINA

Greetings, Snapecast listeners! Snapecast is very pleased to announce the winners for this month's fanfic and fanart contest. As always, it was a very hard decision, but by majority vote, the winners are:

For fanart, snapesforte, for her fanart "Advanced," which depicts a dreamy, contemplative Snape laying on his back, while the *Advanced Potion Making* book lies beside him. You can see this artwork at deviantART, username "snapesforte." For the fan fiction category, the winner is Nokomis, for her engaging story "Severus Snape and the Fall." It's a story about Snape's attendance at a Metallica concert and how his interaction with a Muggle reveals something about how he feels about his Dark Mark. This story can also be found on deviantART, username "nokomissnape."

Links to both snapesforte's and Nokomis's winning entries will be posted on Snapecast.com, the Snapecast community on LiveJournal, and the Snapecast MySpace page. Thank you to everyone who entered, and please start sending us your entries for the next Snapecast fanfic and fanart contest now. For contest rules and guidelines, please visit the monthly contest page at www.snapecast.com. Good luck, and happy Snapeing!

Owlpost - (1:19:38)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Becca, Chris

Voice: Chris

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

SHANNON

And here we are, we're back at Owlpost, and here I have with me:

RACHAEL

Rachael!

BECCA

Becca!

CHRIS

Chris!

SHANNON

And this is of course Shannon, and we've gotten yet another batch of excellent owls from people out there in both the wizard and Muggle world and we just wanted to thank everyone for your wonderful, wonderful, wonderfully thought-provoking comments and we're enjoying reading what you have to say, and we're glad that some of you are posting on the discussion boards, too. So, we have a - a good

batch of letters here. Let's see what the first one is. Rachael?

RACHAEL

So, the first one is from Jessica in, one of my favorite states, Michigan. She's from Kalamazoo, Michigan. She says, "In response to your discussion about 'Snape as a Teacher', I believe that Snape's teaching style ultimately hurts Lord Voldemort and helps the Order of the Phoenix. And I think that Dumbledore understands exactly how this works. The Slytherins can slack off and ultimately learn less in order to pass Snape's class, but students in the other three houses – particularly Gryffindor – must work more, and therefore learn more, to receive a passing grade. This is evident in multiple classroom scenes where Draco turns in lumpy discoloured potions and receives high marks, yet Harry's near-perfect potions are graded lower by Snape. Professor Snape has spent years creating an entire generation of prospective Death Eaters who, as a whole, will not be very adept at brewing potions (snigger). And many students in the other three houses will be better at brewing potions in the real world because they have been forced to work harder in Snape's class. Therefore, I argue, that most of the Order of the Phoenix will be better trained in potions than the Death Eaters. The real question is: How will this help in the fight against Voldemort? I guess we'll have to wait for book seven for that."

SHANNON

Interesting point.

CHRIS

Do you think that maybe it's taking for granted that all Death Eaters are Slytherin? And that all Order of the Phoenix is made up of just the other three houses?

SHANNON

That's a good point

RACHAEL

Which we know not all Death Eaters aren't Slytherin because Peter Pettigrew is a Death Eater and he's a Gryffindor.

BECCA

Right, I also guess I'm not quite sure if I agree that the Slytherins slack off and that the Gryffindor students and the other students have to work more... I mean we...we do see Harry getting low marks and stuff like that, but he doesn't really put – when Snape is teaching him – I don't think he's putting in a lot of sincere effort and we see like, umm, a lot of bumbling from Neville and Ron is certainly not living up to the challenge; but Hermione, regardless, still seems to plough through. I wish we could see what is happening with the other students, you know, like how is Seamus doing, or Parvati, or something like that, we don't hear as much about them – do we?

RACHAEL

No, that's right, I don't think we really hear about, umm, any of the other students, just the trio and like, Draco and his...

SHANNON

Well, we know in *Half-Blood Prince* that like Crabbe and Goyle are not doing well in Defence against the Dark Arts and they're generally described as pretty stupid so, I get the impression that Snape gives them passing grades in Potions.

CHRIS

And Neville, he's noted for not being all that great at potions because he fears Snape so much.

SHANNON

Right. I just don't think it's purposeful on Snape's part, I don't think he's doing it for any altruistic purposes. So, like, the future Order of the Phoenix members are good in potions. (while chuckling) I'm sorry, I don't think that's the case. Is it that important to be good in potions anyway? You know.

BECCA

It's an interesting concept. What I do see from Jessica's letter is that Snape may be teaching students something that will help them in the fight against Voldemort, like perseverance against like a hard-ass and a jerk, but not necessarily great potion making skills.

SHANNON

Well, yeah, that's how Jo answered that one question that I've mentioned before that she said Dumbledore thinks there's all sorts of lessons in life and teachers like Snape are one of them. So, yeah, I'd agree – I think Dumbledore knows that they're gonna have to deal with plenty of people like Snape in their lifetimes, It's good preparation for that.

RACHAEL

There's no one else like Snape! He's totally unique. How dare you say that!

[ALL WOMEN LAUGH]

BECCA

Well there might be other jerks like Snape, but they won't have his delicious snark.

SHANNON

Alright, OK, well thank you for that, Jessica. Now, we've got a very special voicemail that we got from a fellow podcasting colleague in the Harry Potter fandom. So, let's take a listen.

ROBERT OF SPELLCAST

Hey guys, this is Robert Standing over from Spellcast and I thought of something, and I thought I would run it past you guys, and give you a little bit of food for thought. Umm, If Snape – as most people assume him to be – is actually good, and spying on Voldemort for the Order of the Phoenix. Now personally, I would see that as being a very brave and courageous thing, which is a very ... which are very Gryffindor type qualities. And Snape is supposedly a Slytherin. So, what do you guys think about that? Do you think that maybe if he really is doing good, he should really belong in Gryffindor or maybe by the fact that he is really a Slytherin, who are about cunning and achieve... doing anything to achieve their ends, maybe he really is evil? Anyway – that's just my thought on it. Catch you guys later! Bye.

RACHAEL

As the token Gryffindor in the virtual Owlpost mailroom, I will respond. I've a pretty strong opinion about this, and I do think that it is possible that Snape could've been in Gryffindor. I kind of like to picture his sorting happening very similar to Harry's sorting. Like, Harry heard from Ron and Hagrid that Slytherin was not the place to be so he specifically asked the hat, 'not Slytherin, not Slytherin' and he made that choice. And I imagine Snape kind of watching James and Sirius and Remus get sorted into Gryffindor because they're before him in alphabetic order so Snape would see - you know – Lupin,

Black and Potter all come before him and go into Gryffindor. And these guys were maybe picking on him in the train, there or he just didn't get a good vibe from them...

BECCA
Interesting!

RACHAEL

... and he said 'not Gryffindor, not Gryffindor, not Gryffindor' and they put him in Slytherin. But I really think that the Sorting Hat did consider putting him in Gryffindor because he is incredibly brave.

BECCA

Well I kinda agree with that, but I kinda take a different view on it, like I think it would make a better parallel if Snape, when he was on the train or maybe if...like we know so little about his childhood – perhaps he knew some of the other Slytherin students before he even attended Hogwarts or we don't know. Or maybe he met up with some of the, uh, future Slytherin students on the train or whatever, but it would make better parallel with Harry's experience if he met Slytherins on the train and they're like 'Oh, don't make friends with those Gryffindors, they're all arrogant berks' and – you know – they might have tainted his opinion that way.

SHANNON

And he also came to school knowing dark magic so he may have heard on the train that 'Hey, if you like the Dark Arts, Slytherin is the place to be.'

RACHAEL
Right.

BECCA

This comment also speaks to the point that Chris raised earlier with our last letter, just that there's this assumption that if you're Slytherin then that's a sign that you're evil and I know, I know a lot of people – myself included – really have a problem thinking that there's one house that's supposed to be evil and that your house loyalty is a sign of your true loyalty, you know, and I don't think it's that simple. There do happen to be a lot of bad hats in Slytherin but it's hard for me to think that just, you get sorted into Slytherin because you're bad.

SHANNON

Yeah, no, Jo has even said that they're not all bad. I remember from the interview with Emerson Sparks and Melissa Anelli, she said, 'No we can't shoot all the Slytherins (chuckling) because they're not all bad.' I have a problem with that too, I don't think that just because you're in Slytherin you're bad.

RACHAEL

Sigun discussed this, too, at her presentation at Lumos, the Slytherin question. For anyone who hasn't heard that yet – it's a really good discussion – and she actually kind of postulated that Regulus Black or Horace Slughorn, since we don't really know where their loyalties lie yet, but we do know that they're Slytherin. They might be one of the two Slytherins that proves that not all Slytherins are bad.

SHANNON
Besides Snape?

RACHAEL

Yeah, well that's just a given!

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Remember I think he's a Gryffindor, heart-stopping courage.

BECCA

Oh, yeah, whatever.

RACHAEL

You know, people are like ... and Jo doesn't do a good job of showing that. Like she might say that in an interview, but she doesn't show it in the books.

SHANNON

Well, yeah that's true but you know, we see everything from Harry's perspective and from Harry's perspective all the Slytherins are bad. (chuckle) but that's you know, that's his, that's his experience.

So, that's why we come away with that impression. It's the story told from his perspective so, of course, it's going to seem like all the Slytherins are bad when really that's not the case.

BECCA

Right, and surely there are bad, evil Hufflepuffs out there. Speaking of evil Hufflepuffs –(chuckling) – our own Hufflepuff, Chris, I think you have another letter (all chuckling) that talks about this good and bad issue. Chris, you want to give it a read?

CHRIS

I certainly do. This one's from Annalise and she writes: "Snape is a clever man and Slytherin. He had the sense to see that he could get the best of both worlds if he waited and did some double agent work.

We see him doing this throughout the *Order of the Phoenix* and the beginning of *Half-Blood Prince*.

Then, just go and read the 'Spinners End' chapter, though I highly doubt everything he said there is ninety % true, his Slytherin background certainly helped him out of some tight spots – but not all of them. He reveals much evidence as to being evil ending with the unbreakable vow. Dumbledore did not know of this vow because things would have been much different if he did.

"I think us fans tend to get over-obsessed at times and overlook major plot points. There is absolutely no way Dumbledore knew about that vow and there is no way that on that tower, at his death,

Dumbledore was pleading for Snape to kill him. Dumbledore didn't want to die that way; he didn't want Snape to kill him. Snape got what he wanted, the DADA job, and it did what Dumbledore earlier thought it would, turn Snape back to his old ways. So Snape is definitely on Voldie's side now and I see no hope of redemption, I expect both sides will hate him by the end of the last book. And he will meet a sticky end with both sides wanting him dead very badly.

RACHAEL

Hmmm, that is probably the most grim outlook for Snape I've ever heard.

SHANNON

Well I would definitely, definitely agree with her point that fans tend to obsess about the little things!
[laughs]

BECCA
Uh-huh.

RACHAEL
Oh yeah.

SHANNON

Definitely agree with that. But I do think that Dumbledore knew about the vow. My reason for thinking that is that the argument that Hagrid overheard in the forest between Dumbledore and Snape. Snape says something like ‘I don’t want to do it anymore’ and Dumbledore says, ‘Well, too bad, you already agreed to it.’ And I, you know... ok, so this is an example of a fan reading too much into the details but I think this is implying that Dumbledore did know that Snape had already agreed to do something he did not want to do. Of course in order to believe that that’s evidence any which way, you have to believe that Snape wouldn’t want to kill Dumbledore so we should have Mytheos or Jackie on here to refute me, but I think Dumbledore did know about the vow. I don’t think he knew about it before Snape took it, but afterwards – at some point – I think Snape told him.

CHRIS

I think, if Dumbledore knew – as we know he did – what Malfoy’s intention was throughout the *Half-Blood Prince*, I think it’s likely that he would have also been told, by Snape, about the Bond. I think it would be ... I think Snape would’ve reported the whole thing. Umm, whether that makes Snape good or bad is ... is another argument. But I think he would’ve reported the whole incident to Dumbledore.

SHANNON

I’ve seen a theory that Snape told Dumbledore about agreeing to protect Draco but left out the bit where he agreed to finish Draco’s task. That also could work because Harry tells Dumbledore ‘Snape is up to something’ or ‘Draco’s up to something and Snape knows about it.’ It’s after the Christmas party, isn’t it?

BECCA
Yes.

SHANNON

He hears Snape and Draco talking and he tells Dumbledore ‘They’re up to something!’ And Dumbledore says, ‘I think I know as much about it as you do’ or something like that. And yeah, so maybe at that point Dumbledore was like, ‘Hmmm, maybe Snape didn’t tell me everything’ and that’s what spurred the argument. Maybe Dumbledore confronted Snape and said, ‘Look, did you tell me everything that happened with the vow, or did you leave something out?’ Maybe that’s when he found out. I don’t know, it could work many different ways, but I think by the time the Tower rolls around, I think Dumbledore definitely knew then about the vow.

RACHAEL

Another thing I would like to point out about this is that I looked at really closely when I was doing trustsnape.com, whether we really even knew what exactly the vow was. You know, what the task was. Snape agreed to finish the task and at the end of *Half-Blood Prince* Draco does admit that the task was to kill Dumbledore. Dumbledore says this many times, and it really appears that that’s the task but we don’t have any hard evidence for sure, we have a lot of evidence that Draco’s task was to kill Dumbledore, but I don’t think it’s necessarily in stone that that’s what it was. So, there also is this possibility that Snape really agreed to something completely different.

BECCA

That we still don't know yet?

RACHAEL

Um-hmm.

BECCA

Interesting.

SHANNON

Yeah, I do think it was to kill Dumbledore but I also think Draco had another task to complete and that was to get Death Eaters into the castle, so it's very confusing, there's – you know – there's lots of possibilities there so maybe we don't know everything that Snape agreed to. Maybe even he didn't know exactly what he was agreeing to.

RACHAEL

And then you get into like how do wizarding contracts work and all of these things... (multiple groans from the group) then I'll start spouting legal stuff.

BECCA

Yeah, we need a wizard lawyer.

SHANNON

Yeah.

CHRIS

That is a good point, 'cause at the beginning of *Half-Blood Prince* Narcissa and Snape discuss the vow but then she adds that last bit in without them having discussed it. So, that's exactly what could have been

RACHAEL

If I were Snape's lawyer, I would argue that that is not part of the contract.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Then you've got the famous quivering hand...

SHANNON

Duress!

RACHAEL

Yes! [laugh] The contract's completely void, Snape has no obligations.

Shannon

Yeah, I'm going to segue here on the quivering hand thought, because we've got yet another howler from the, uh, magical world and this, umm, particular individual has a rather interesting hand and an interesting and somewhat amusing letter. So let's listen to that one!

CHRIS [AS WORMTAIL]

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I don't usually write letters, but this time I couldn't help it. Last night, I was tidying up the kitchen supper like I usually do, and I wanted to listen to something while I worked. At our last meeting the Dark Lord said something about a Muggle wireless thing he called 'Snapecast'. He was laughing so hard he dribbled elf-made wine all over his Snape-kills-Dumbledore-page-606 LOL T-shirt, so I assumed it must be very funny. Only I didn't find Snapecast when I went looking, I found you lot, instead. And I don't think you're very funny. I don't think the Dark Lord will find you very funny either.

You clearly don't understand what Severus Snape is like, he's not charming, suave, or sexy. I mean, you haven't seen him before his morning coffee! And he's a terrible room-mate! No matter how thoroughly I clean house, he messes it all up ten minutes later, mostly by putting his stinky potions all over the table, or by leaving food out on the counter after I've just waxed it! As for the Agga – I'm not sure what he last cooked in there, I'm sure I saw some of the residue move last night. If Gina is still interested in marrying him, can you ask her to please propose soon! If I have to wash his dirty grey Y-fronts one more time I – I think I might *Crucio* someone! Possibly him!

Yours, a nosy mouse.

RACHAEL

Well, Gina, if you're still up for it, it looks like now or never – you should pop the question.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Make sure to take Severus out for a romantic dinner beforehand to get down on one knee...

SHANNON

Yeah, but it looks like she's going to have a lifetime of living with a guy who has stinky potions everywhere.

RACHAEL

It's worth it!

SHANNON

Ok, so that sounds like it's it for Owlpost this show, and please remember if you have any comments, questions, though-provoking ideas, critiques you'd like to share – send us an email, and our email address is severus@snapecast.com or you can leave comments in our Livejournal community, Snapecast, or on Myspace, we're Snapecast there, also. And on our Website Snapecast.com, or if you'd like – and we would love to hear from you – especially if you're in Iceland, please leave a voice... a voice message in our Skype mailbox, ah user name Snapecast. And I think that's it! Snarky will be looking out for you guys. So, thanks everyone!

RACHAEL

Thank you!

CHRIS
Thank you!

BECCA
Thank you, bye.

RACHAEL
Bye!

CHRIS

Bye!

Closing - (1:39:04)

Hosts: Rachael, Becca, the ghost of Chris

RACHAEL
Thanks, everyone, for listening!

BECCA
Yes, thank you very much.

GHOST OF CHRIS

We thank you all for your support and your generous comments, and I want you all to know that I love you all like a child...or like a particularly friendly uncle at Christmas.

BECCA
We'd just like to remind everybody to let us know what you think about the show. You can reach us at severus@snapecast.com; you can leave a comment on our website, Snapecast.com; you can send us a voicemail on Skype, username snapecast; or you can take advantage of our forum on WhySnape. And I would give the web address, but it's rather long, so you can reach that forum by going to our website, and down towards the middle of our webpage there's a little button that features a lovely picture of our little Potions master at his desk that says "Why Snape?". And if you clicky on that little picture, it will bring you directly to the forums, and you can discuss all things Snapey to your little heart's content.

RACHAEL
With lots of very interesting people on that discussion board, I must say.

BECCA
Ah, yes.

RACHAEL
And don't forget about our listener challenge: what is the significance of the Invisibility Cloak and Snape? Explain how and why it is significant or crucial to the plot. Now we all know that J.K. Rowling posted an update to the Rumors section of her website which knocked down the rumor that Snape was hiding under the Invisibility Cloak on the night the Potters died. But I still am not convinced that the information that she gave us about the Invisibility Cloak in the NAQ is not somehow related to Snape. So I'd like to hear from you guys, and send those to severus@snapecast.com or Skype username Snapecast.

BECCA

Our episode for November the 1st is going to be our international episode, to coincide with the *Goblet of Fire* Snarky Chapters, and we really have great appreciation for our international audience, so we were trying to come up with ways to kind of celebrate that. And we thought it would be really nice to have a medley of everyone reading the famous Snape quote that we have at the beginning of every Snapecast episode in all of the different native languages of our listeners. The quote is—is the quote that's from Snape's famous first year speech.

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

RACHAEL

Yes. So we'd like to hear that in as many languages as possible; you can send in a recording to us at severus@snapecast.com in mp3 or .ogg format. Or you can leave us a voicemail on Skype; our username is Snapecast.

BECCA

And we will put them all in a medley and it will be really cool.

RACHAEL

And our next episode, episode number seven, will be our Halloween episode, and it will feature a special Slytherin ghost story and also a focus on Snape cosplay. So we're really looking forward to that.

BECCA

Yes. Two different Snape cosplayers will be—

RACHAEL

Two *very* different.

BECCA

Yes.

RACHAEL

And we might even have an appearance from Peeves.

BECCA

Yeah. Sometimes I just can't keep him out of the software. I don't know what it is, but I have a feeling with the Halloween season coming up, he's going to be even more horrible.

RACHAEL

Yes.

BECCA

So we'll see. What do you think about that, Chris?

GHOST OF CHRIS

[laughs] That's ridiculous. That's mad. That's crazy, that is. I'm crazy. Are you crazy? I'm crazy. I'm mad, too.

RACHAEL

Ooohkay. Chris has been Snapecasting a little too long...

BECCA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

So I think that's a pretty good sign that we need to get out of here. Happy Snapeing, everyone, and stick around for the filk! Bye-bye, then!

BECCA

Bye!

GHOST OF CHRIS

All right. Thank you for listening. I'm Chris, thanking you, and I am off to go cow-tipping. Yay...

Walk Like You're a Slytherin - (1:43:39)

Vocalist: Becca, the Snarky Diva

Original Song: "Walk Like An Egyptian" by the Bangles

BECCA

All these old paintings on the walls
They're all from our House, don't you know
Listen to them speak (oh whey oh)
But all of 'em died a long time ago

All the portraits in Grimmauld Place
They're all from the Noble House of Black
Old Phineas (oh whey oh)
For snarky put-downs he's got a knack

Excite themselves and their House-Elves screamin'
(Whey oh whey oh ay oh whey ohhhhh)
Walk like you're a Slytherin

Rosmerta dear takes your tray
She spins around and crosses the floor
She's got the moves (oh whey oh)
You drop your drink and she'll bring you more

On a Hogsmeade weekend you'll see
Give her a wicked little grin
Use Imperius (oh whey oh)
She's walking like she's a Slytherin

All the chicks in the Three Broomsticks say
(Whey oh whey oh ay oh whey oh)

Walk like you're a Slytherin

When you see Ministry, and you might,
Keep your left arm out of sight
Life is hard you know (oh whey oh)
So do your best to avoid the fight

If you want to play for both sides
You better know how to really lie
Occlumency (oh whey oh)
Master it well, or you'll be fried

Order of the Phoenix wherein
The Potter boy gets under your skin
And the Dark Lord knows (oh whey oh)
Because he walks like a Slytherin

Salazar sings from afar sayin'
(Whey oh whey oh ay oh whey oh)
Walk like you're a Slytherin
Walk like you're a Slytherin.