

Snapecast Episode 10

This is Snapecast - (00:00)

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 ten, for Monday, January the 1st, 2007. Now copy that down, or your homework will be forty inches on murtlap gutting techniques.

Introduction - (00:57)

Hosts: Rachael, Wendy, Becca

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to the very special “Happy Birththday, Snape!” episode of Snapecast – episode ten. I'm Rachael, and I have here with me—

WENDY

Wendy.

BECCA

And Becca.

RACHAEL

So this is our episode for January, and as everyone who's a Snape fan knows, Snape was born January 9, either 1958, 1959, or 1960, depending on how you interpret dates in canon. So this is our very special episode where we celebrate Snape's birthday; we have a lot of really good content for you. We have our version of Snapely news, the Snape Report; we'll also be playing the second part of our Snape & Family roundtable. We have a “This Slytherin Life” listener submission that's very special and we're going to play. We'll be doing Snarky Chapters this episode as well, covering *Order of the Phoenix*, specifically Snape & Occlumency, which is a fun topic. We'll also have some “How Grey Is Snape?” snippets smattered throughout the episode, and we'll of course have Owlpost.

So, this is the January episode, and it's Snape's birthday. I thought maybe we'd chat a little bit about how Snape celebrates his birthday. What do you picture him doing to celebrate—commemorate—this special day?

WENDY

Well, I'm trying not to picture him visiting Down Under here, and it's summer and he'd have to be on the beach in—well, hopefully board shorts to just cover a little bit more up.

RACHAEL & BECCA

[laugh]

RACHAEL

Not a Victorian swimsuit?

WENDY

Oh, yeah, that would fit! A neck-to-knee!

BECCA

And a little cap.

RACHAEL

I think the standard Snape-on-the-Beach is a Victorian swimsuit with a cap, yeah. Gotta keep the grease on the hair.

WENDY

That's true. That grease could cause some nasty sunburn, though.

BECCA

'Cause it reflects the sun, so it just like...intensifies the rays, is that why?

WENDY

Yeah! [laughs] It'd be like sunbathing in cooking oil or something.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Or tanning solution!

RACHAEL

I don't picture Snape as the type to go to the beach for his birthday. I think he would do something quiet at Hogwarts. I *can* imagine Dumbledore throwing him a surprise party one year, though, and him getting really pissed off.

BECCA

[laughs] Yeah. I never really thought about it before, but I can't see him doing much more than like, getting a nice bottle of Ogden's and getting completely wasted.

RACHAEL

Ooh, drunk Snape...so easy to take advantage of...

[ALL LAUGH]

WENDY

In addition to being Snape's birthday this month, it's also the New Year, so happy New Year,

everybody!

BECCA
Happy New Year!

RACHAEL
Happy New Year!

WENDY
2006 has been a great year for the Snape fans. We've discovered one of Snape's biggest fans was actually Salman Rushdie.

RACHAEL
Ooh.

WENDY
Yeah, he got up and asked Jo a question at Radio City Music Hall, so that was exciting to see that happen.

BECCA
Yeah.

RACHAEL
There was also—we can't forget Lumos. I mean, Lumos sort of proved that *Harry Potter* conventions are really just an excuse for all of us to get together and talk about Snape. So that was—Lumos was a monumental moment in Snape history.

WENDY
I'm so sad I didn't get to go.

BECCA
Me too. I can't wait for Phoenix Rising. And this is also the year in which young Snape was cast for the *Order of the Phoenix* movie. So, looking forward to seeing that in the theaters.

RACHAEL
And we'll have the image of baby Snape. And you can't forget a pretty major development in Snape fandom is the release of Snapecast, which happened in June of 2006.

WENDY
Oh, definitely. That's gotta be one of the biggest things.

BECCA
Major Snapely moment, right there.

WENDY
Definitely.

RACHAEL
Another big development in Snape news for 2006 came when Jo updated her website in regards to the

Invisibility Cloak and rumors about whether or not Snape was hiding under the Invisibility Cloak at Godric's Hollow, which she quickly dismissed. So, for some of us who subscribe to that theory that that's what happened that night, that was definitely a big development.

BECCA

Yes. Got our little minds working.

WENDY

Now we have to go find some more theories.

BECCA

How can we fix that so that he *was* there? [laughs] And in another recent update to Jo's website, she was talking about being at the set of *The Order of the Phoenix* and talking to Dan, Rupert, Emma, and Evanna, and she said, "Dan has changed his theory on Snape. He says he doesn't want to be like one of those people who are photographed, beaming, next to mad dictators." Now, there has been rampant speculation about this ever since she updated her website, and it seems like there's two trains of thought that I've seen thus far. Some people say that Snape wouldn't want to be standing next to Voldemort, taking credit for helping a mad dictator like Voldemort, because if there's ever a mad dictator, it's gotta be Voldemort. But then there's also the opinion that it could be referring to Jo, and Dan doesn't wanna be photographed, beaming, next to Jo, because Jo's a mad dictator!

[ALL LAUGH]

WENDY

Oh, that's funny!

BECCA

[laughing] So I'm not sure. I mean, it's very vaguely phrased, I think, so we'll have lots of—

RACHAEL

I have a third theory: that she just constructed a random statement to put on here to spoonfeed us. You know she just knew that if she used the term "theory on Snape," that regardless of what she put after that, we would talk about it! So the two statements really aren't related at all; they're meant to confuse us.

BECCA

Jo, if you're listening – we don't care if you are a mad dictator, we love you. [laughs]

RACHAEL

And please keep feeding us the pointless bits of information about Snape, because we love it and we can't get enough.

BECCA

Yes.

RACHAEL

And I'm not being sarcastic.

BECCA

Reason for living! [laughs] Okay, that *was* a little sarcastic!

WENDY

Anything to make a new theory from.

RACHAEL

Ahh, the life of a besotted Snape fangirl.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

On that note, why don't we get on with the show, where we spend the next hour, hour and a half talking about pointless drivel that Jo hands us about Snape?

BECCA

Yes, let's. So, uh...Happy New Year, everyone!

RACHAEL

Okay, happy New Year, and happy birthday, Severus!

WENDY

Happy New Year!

The Snape Report - (8:28)

Announcer: Jonathan

Music: Allan Horn, "Newscast"

JON

Hello and welcome to The Snape Report, the most trusted name in Snape News brought to you by Snapecast and Snapenews LiveJournal.

Raise your goblet of elf-made wine and wish Severus a happy birthday on January 9th. With the way things are looking, this might be one of his last.

The second biggest Snape-a-licious news item for January was the announcement of the title of Book 7, which will hereafter be known as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Although this title doesn't appear quite as Snape-centric as Book 6, the installment essentially titled *Harry Potter and Severus Snape*, most Snape fans are not worried that this means the beloved greasy git will be short on page time. Snape is sure to be an essential part of the final book no matter what it's called.

In addition to providing us with juicy info about the title, Jo also made a somewhat confusing statement about Snape in the Diary section of her website. On December 19, Jo mentioned that Dan Radcliffe had changed his theory on Snape. She writes: "he says he doesn't want to be like one of those people who are photographed, beaming, next to mad dictators." No one has an idea what this means, but we're sure that it's important because it relates to Snape somehow.

CBC Television has aired a clip of an interview with Alan Rickman in which the usually tight-lipped actor briefly mentions *The Order of the Phoenix*. Other topics of conversation include the actor's new

film *Snowcake*, *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, and British politics. The interview is available at <http://www.cbc.ca/thehour/>.

And finally, the secret lovechild of Gina and Severus was publicly acknowledged in early December. The Worcester News reported about a Malvern under-16 championship cricket match in which “Felix Black stormed through to beat Harry Snape, of Tonbridge, for the loss of just eight points.” After admitting to the existence of the child, Gina let it slip that the ironic choice for the boy's first name was actually her husband's idea. “He just has a strange sense of humor,” she comments. Rachael still insists that Severus insisted on naming the child after his one true love. See the link in this episode's information post for the original article.

That's it for the Snape Report, the most trusted name in Snape news. Please remember to send any Snape-related news to the Snapenews Livejournal group at snapenews@gmail.com.

Snape's New Year's Resolutions - (10:58)

Announcer: Rose

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

ROSE

Snarky delivered a small roll of parchment labeled “2007 Resolutions of Severus Snape.” Hmm. Let's have a look.

1. Place owl traps at Spinner's End to eliminate the vermin responsible for stolen correspondence, smears of crunchy peanut butter, and pretzel crumbs. (Uhh, Snarky? I think you'd better be making a resolution to be a lot more careful in 2007!)
2. Collect last pay packet from Hogwarts...somehow.
3. Take the blue ribbon at the All-Britain Scone Bake-Off.
4. Renew house-sitting contract at Malfoy Manor.
5. Send Wormtail to professional bartending school.
6. Stock up at January grey underpants sale.
7. July: See that ridiculous Muggle film portrayal of Potter and spill popcorn and an icy drink on every fan within reach. Sneer throughout.
8. Book hot oil conditioning treatment at the Deathly Hallows Salon & Day Spa.
9. Decide whether or I am good or evil.
10. Do not die.

Um, professor? You forgot all about “protect your wand”!

Snape & - (12:36)

Panel: Becca, Rachael, Gina, Wendy, Shannon

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

BECCA

Hi, and welcome to the Snape & roundtable. This Snape & theme is “Snape & Family.”

So, do you guys think that Snape's parents are still alive, either one or both of them? And if you do think so, why do you think that, and if not, how do you think they died?

GINA

Mm, that's a tough question.

RACHAEL

I have my pet theory that Voldemort somehow accidentally killed Eileen Prince. Like, she was married to a Muggle, so she lived amongst Muggles, and he was kinda of going through his Death Eater terrorist attacks and she just got caught up. So I don't think Eileen is alive. Tobias – I think he might be alive, but I still don't think Snape has a good relationship with his father. So if he is alive, he's estranged from him.

BECCA

Did it have to be an accident?

RACHAEL

I—that's a good question. I think it does have to be an accident, because I don't think that Voldemort would believe that Snape was still on his side if Voldemort knew that Snape knew that he had murdered his mother. Y'know?

BECCA

Oh, I don't know, because Voldemort just doesn't understand—like, Voldemort doesn't get it. He does *not* get it.

RACHAEL

That's true! [laughs]

BECCA

So...[laughs] He was disgusted and surprised by the fact that Lily wasn't just gonna let him kill Harry? I mean, come on. [ALL LAUGH] So I could believe...

RACHAEL

He's a sociopath.

GINA

I think he would be interested in Snape's family inasmuch as he could use them to get Snape to do the things he wants him to do. So he might hold it over Severus to threaten to kill Eileen if he doesn't go and do whatever. But other than that, I don't think he has any regard for the actual relationship or who they are – just how they might be useful to him.

BECCA

Yeah.

WENDY

Y'know, maybe that's the reason why Snape went back to Dumbledore's side, and that's why Dumbledore was so convinced that he was on the side of good, because Voldemort killed Snape's mother in front of him or something.

GINA

Yeah. Well, there's also that theory that Irma Pince is Eileen Prince, and that Dumbledore was hiding

her for Snape.

BECCA

That's one of the reasons why I think that Eileen is dead, because I believed Snape in *Half-Blood Prince* in Spinner's End when he said, "I spun Dumbledore a tale of deepest remorse." I think that's true. And some people might say, "Oh, it's Snape/Lily," some people might say, "Oh, it's the life-debt that Snape had to James"; I think that personally, my own stupid little personal theory is that the "tale of deepest remorse" had something to do with Snape's mother. And I think the way that it makes the most sense to me is if Eileen is dead, because I don't think it would be a tale of deepest remorse if she were still alive.

SHANNON

See, and I thought the "deepest remorse" might have something to do with Tobias being dead. Like, I could see Snape having to kill his father in some sort of Death Eater rite of passage, y'know, go get rid of your Muggle side for you to be accepted among us. So I see Tobias as being the one who's dead.

BECCA

I think that could work. I think Eileen and Tobias are both dead, but I think just the mother-love thing, the theme in this series, that's the only reason—

RACHAEL

Me too, it's just the—the fathers are very frequently irrelevant. I mean, out of the three—Harry, Voldemort, Snape—it's the mothers that really shaped the personalities of the sons.

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

The fathers played a small, incremental role, but the books are really about a mother's love. And so, I kinda just like to think that Tobias is not a big part of Snape's life, but maybe I'll be surprised.

BECCA

Wendy, what were you gonna say?

WENDY

I wondered if Snape killed his father to retaliate towards some kind of abuse towards his mother, or if, as his mother was teaching Snape the Dark Arts when he was a child and she used them *against* his father in retaliation again, because he was so abusive towards her. So I think that either Snape or Eileen are the ones that have killed Tobias with magic.

SHANNON

Ooh.

BECCA

Hmm.

GINA

Hmm...Unless he died accidentally while Snape was practicing the Dark Arts.

SHANNON

Okay.

BECCA

[laughs] Oops! Sorry, Dad.

GINA

Let's see how *Sectumsempra* works. Come here, Dad. Just stand there for a minute.

[ALL LAUGH]

SHANNON

Yeah, he thought it was a shaving spell.

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

But in all seriousness, it's entirely possible that being a Muggle and not *really* knowing what magic can do, and Snape, being a kid and trying to push the limits of finding out what magic could do...y'know, could get ugly.

BECCA

Oh, definitely. Yeah.

RACHAEL

I also—one thing I wanna add is, I really like the—J.K. mentioned that Merope or however you say her name—when she was in the environment with Morfin and Marvolo, she actually lost her magical abilities. And I can kinda see the same thing happening with Eileen in a way, like if she was in an abusive family with Tobias, Severus, and herself, losing her magical ability and it causing some ruckus when Snape came of age. And he could actually defend himself, all of a sudden. It would be a big power struggle for him and his father.

GINA

Sure. Or, I could see Eileen being abused after she leaves Hogwarts by her family and losing her magic, and then just going, “Okay, well, maybe I'll just marry a Muggle.” And then, guess what? Severus is born and he has magical ability. Uh-oh!

SHANNON

Ooh, wait, I just had another idea. This is different. What if it wasn't Eileen who threw herself at Tobias, but Tobias, he—Muggles can sometimes find out about magic, especially if they have a sibling or someone who winds up going to Hogwarts. What if he, say, was in a depressed area and thought, “Oh, if I marry a witch, I can use her magic to better my financial situation”? And so he, like, pursued Eileen, who is this homely woman who is not a great catch among her kind, and woos her, and then she doesn't turn out being as submissive and doing for him as he wants, and that's where the abuse comes in. So he could be a real son-of-a-bitch who went out of his way to catch a witch to help, y'know, to use, like the goose that laid the golden egg sort of thing. He used her, she was his goose.

GINA

Oh, yeah. That's a great idea.

BECCA

Yeah. I've also heard it proposed that in that scene that we see with the cowering woman, that perhaps it was not, y'know, straightforward; perhaps it was actually Snape or Eileen that did something, which is why Tobias is freaking out. And I know that goes along with the theories that Rachael doesn't like. [laughs] But I just wanted to ask, like—I think that, for the reasons that I mentioned before, it makes the most sense if, y'know, what we see is what we get, but what do you think about those theories?

WENDY

What, that Tobias didn't know that Eileen was a witch because her powers had been hidden, and then suddenly little child Snape has done some kind of magic trick and then it's all come out? And Tobias has gone mental because suddenly his family are magical. Is that what you meant?

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Do you think that his reaction was justified? And I talk about this to people a lot, so I'll answer it real quick. I think that if Tobias had had a justified reason to be angry, it wouldn't have been such a hurtful memory. Like, you have Eileen cowering, you have Severus crying, and it's also placed in a series of memories that are relatively hurtful—it's right next to him on the bucking broomstick getting laughed at, and him being bored in his room, shooting flies. So these are like...really traumatic memories, and I think that a loving, non-abusive person could find out something as shocking as “Oh my God, my wife's a witch and she's been hiding it from me!” and not, like...you don't overtake and make your wife cower.

GINA

Oh, I have to agree a hundred percent.

RACHAEL

I dunno. Something doesn't sit right with me about that scene.

WENDY

Like it's not a one-off, you mean.

BECCA

Yeah.

GINA

I mean, look at how Seamus Finnigan talks about how it was discovered that he was a wizard, and his father didn't know that his mother was a witch. And you don't hear *him* talking about it traumatically; it's more like, “Oh, yeah, that was a surprise for him!”

RACHAEL

He's not crying; he thinks it's funny.

GINA

Exactly.

RACHAEL

So I mean, that was traumatizing, and I think it was traumatizing because it wasn't a healthy family relationship. Now that I've X-ed out everyone's opinion...

BECCA

[laughs] No, we're gonna change tack in just one second, but I wanted to give you guys the opportunity to say anything else you wanted to say about Snape's parents. Anything else?

GINA

Just that I think that Snape has inherited his father's personality, the way that Voldemort and Harry have all inherited their father's personalities. But their mothers have had an influence on their moral choices and the way they relate to the world in some way.

BECCA

That's a good way of putting it.

SHANNON

I like that: both parents are significant, it's not just the mother.

BECCA

Yeah. Okay, well, all right, to just go in a different direction for a minute—Jo has debunked the theory that Luna is Snape's daughter on her website by saying, “This is a most tantalizing idea, but no, Mr. Lovegood, the editor of *The Quibbler*, really is Luna's father, and Snape does not have a daughter.” Why did she say it that way? Why not just say, “Snape does not have any children,” or “Snape does not have a child”? Why did she phrase it that particular way? Because it doesn't seem to me like that is the usual way you would answer that question. Does Snape have a son out there somewhere?

RACHAEL

Because Snape is Harry's father!

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

Rachael, you can't—

SHANNON

Yeah.

BECCA

Yeah, you can't believe that. You're a Snarry shipper; you cannot believe in Severitus!

GINA

Eww...

RACHAEL

Yes I can. There's no limit. I read all varieties of Snarry.

[ALL LAUGH]

BECCA

If Snape has a son out there...eww. Does Snape have a son out there somewhere, and if so, could this possibly tie in with why Jo said that teachers' marital status is kept secret and we'll find out about that in Book 7?

GINA

No.

SHANNON

I think Jo's evil.

BECCA

[laughs] Well, *clearly*.

WENDY

Yeah, she's throwing a red herring.

SHANNON

Yeah.

BECCA

Uhh...That *would* be evil.

WENDY

If he does have a son, I wonder if we've met him yet.

SHANNON

It's probably Crabbe or Goyle.

GINA

[laughs]

ALL ELSE

[groan]

GINA

That's mean!

RACHAEL

Some people think Viktor Krum...I've heard the "Viktor Krum is Snape's son" theory before—

SHANNON

Really?

RACHAEL

—because he's described very much in the book, I mean—well, I guess the movie! Krum kind of looks like Alan Rickman in a way, they're both very stocky and...

BECCA

Yeah, but...

RACHAEL

But the canon!Krum and the canon!Snape, people have pointed out how they're similar-looking.

BECCA

Yeah, but doesn't Krum's father—I mean, Krum's father's there too, in that scene, and he's described as looking like Krum, too, isn't he?

RACHAEL

Krum's father? I don't think so...

BECCA

Yeah, Krum has his mother and his father there, and they're talking...

SHANNON

Which scene?

BECCA

I'll have to go check the Lexicon...It's in *Goblet of Fire*, and the Weasleys come for Harry, and then Fleur has her family and Cedric has his family, y'know, and I thought that Krum's father was there, too, and Krum's father was described as looking like Viktor. But maybe I'm just...

RACHAEL

Ah, well; I wasn't too attached to that theory. [laughs] I can't picture Snape having children.

BECCA

No. But I've heard the theory that, like...Snape is Draco's father! [laughs]

GINA

But Draco looks exactly like his parents!

RACHAEL

The sons always look like their fathers; that's why Draco looks like Lucius, Harry looks like James...

BECCA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

...Viktor looks like *his* father, and Snape looks like Tobias; therefore, in the memory, that's Tobias.

GINA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

Yeah.

BECCA

I agree. But okay, let's go on the theory that Snape *does* have a son that we've met somewhere. Who do

you think it is, if you had to nominate someone?

GINA

I dunno. I'd rather think about Snape fathering a child than having one.

RACHAEL

I nominate fucking Harry.

BECCA

Rachael, you *can't* nominate Harry! Harry looks—you *just* got done saying that the father looks like the son! [laughs] Okay, how about, like...Theodore Nott?

SHANNON

Hmm.

GINA

Theodore Nott's father's still alive.

RACHAEL

Is he black? Oh, no, that's Blaise Zabini.

SHANNON

How about Dean Thomas?

GINA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

[laughs] We're just picking random people!

SHANNON

Well, no, his dad's supposed to be dead, right?

RACHAEL

Who's the one that gave Harry shit in *Order of the Phoenix*? Like, Zacharias Smith or whoever? That was probably...

GINA

There's always the possibility of Neville.

SHANNON

Or Ernie MacMillan.

WENDY

Yeah, I was just gonna say Ernie MacMillan.

BECCA

Neville. Ernie MacMillan?

SHANNON
It's Ernie MacMillan. We agree.

WENDY
Definitely.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL
It's Marcus Flint!

SHANNON
Son of Snape.

BECCA
Marcus Flint?! [laughs hysterically] That's why he came back! He missed his dad!

SHANNON
I think Flint's too old. I think Flint's too old; Snape would've been what? He would've been at Hogwarts when he became a father with Flint for his son.

WENDY
That's not impossible.

BECCA
Well, y'know, that Room of Requirement's seen a lot of action...

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA
Maybe he conceived in the rosebushes.

SHANNON
Yeah, that's why...

BECCA
That's how he knew! That's how he knew! [laughs] That's how he knew all the hiding places in *Goblet of Fire*.

WENDY
Exactly!

RACHAEL
Sex god Severus at Hogwarts.

BECCA
Okay, so let's get some final thoughts. Do you guys have any final thoughts? Gina?

GINA

Um...Just that, y'know, Snape's life has pretty much sucked, and there's no reason to believe that his family life was any better than the rest of it.

BECCA
Okay. Rachael?

RACHAEL
Part of why I love Snape is that he experienced trauma as a child, and I won't like him as much if he had a rosy childhood.

BECCA
Aww. Okay. Shannon?

SHANNON
Okay. I think that Snape has one heck of a big skeleton in his closet, and I think it belongs to his dad. I think he killed his dad, Tobias.

BECCA
Oooh. Okay, Wendy?

WENDY
Yeah, I think that the person that Snape is now was shaped by the childhood that he had, and his lack of real emotion for anything or anybody is because he's closed himself off so much. He was hurt so much as a child, he's not gonna let that happen to him again.

BECCA
Yeah. I agree. And my final thought would be that, while I think that what we've seen of Snape's family in the past books is pretty straightforward, like what we see is what we get, I do think that because of the strong mother-love theme throughout the series, that we will get one more glimpse, one more piece of information about Eileen Prince, even though I think she's dead. I think somehow she'll resurface in Book 7.

RACHAEL
She's gonna come back.

BECCA
Yeah, somehow. Even though she's dead. [laughs] Okay. Well, thank you, guys, and bye!

GINA
Bye!

SHANNON
Bye!

RACHAEL
Thanks! Bye!

WENDY
Bye!

How Grey is Snape Snippet - (29:27)

Host: Rachael

Snape is Evil Perspective: Jackie & Mytheos

Music: Ani DiFranco, "Grey"

RACHAEL

So, speaking of Snape's loyalties, let's go through each book one by one, and I want you to tell me where you think Snape is during the plot of each one: what's he thinking, what's he doing? So *Prisoner of Azkaban* – this is mostly, y'know, not much Voldemort here, but a lot of story, er, a lot of backstory on Snape. Where do his loyalties lie here?

MYTHEOS

Book three, probably this is what sends him over the edge and makes him decide, "Hey, I wanna be backed with the Dark Lord; I'm sick of these dunderheads pestering me." Especially the whole Sirius Black thing at the end, where he does, as you say, go a little bit insane.

JACKIE

[chuckles] Yes...I mean, he had Sirius Black right there, y'know, and he could've had him if it wasn't for that...that jinx that is from He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named—that whole business. You know he was pissed at the end, you know he was ticked.

RACHAEL

So you think after *Prisoner of Azkaban* is when he decided for sure—he was kinda waiting around beforehand, seeing these signs that Voldemort was coming back, but he wasn't sure—but after *Prisoner of Azkaban*, Snape was like, "God damn it—if the Dark Lord returns, I know what side I'm on."

JACKIE

Definitely.

MYTHEOS

I think he was like that from the beginning. He was like, "The Dark Lord can't come back soon enough, because this reminds me of why I went to the dark side in the first place. I had to deal with people like this, and I don't wanna deal with people like this, so I hope he does get to come back."

RACHAEL

What do you think, Jackie?

JACKIE

Well, I agree with Mytheos. I mean, look at them—they go around and they break *all* the rules, they do everything completely wrong, and they get rewarded for it, and for the most part—well, I won't say he tried to stay on the straight and narrow, but I don't think he was a troublemaker in school or anything like that, and he has nothing to show for it. And he had a bad childhood before that. So he has a lot of pent-up aggression.

This Slytherin Life - (31:41)

Intro: Becca

Essayist: Zille

Music: Janine Johnson, Chopin Recital: "03-Nocturne Op.72 no.1 (posthumous) in e minor"

BECCA

Next up—a very special “This Slytherin Life” by a very special Snapecast listener. Zille, from Denmark, will explain just why she's addicted to the drug known as Severus Snape.

ZILLE

My name is Zille. I'm twenty years old and I live in Copenhagen, Denmark. In my daily life, I work with children from tough backgrounds, but I'm also the webmistress of the Danish forum, <http://snapester.forumup.dk>, and I'm going to tell you why I'm addicted to this drug called Severus.

I've been a dedicated fan of the *Harry Potter* series since 1998, when the first book was published in Denmark. It completely swallowed me and I completely swallowed it. My first feelings towards Snape were of the purest dislike; I was about twelve years old when I read the first book, and at that time I identified a lot with Harry, so naturally I hated Snape. I didn't picture him as he's described in the books at first. With my inner eye I saw an old, hunchbacked, toad-like troll covered with warts. I think it was his nasty personality that made me picture him like that. So I spent my first years as a *Harry Potter* fan hating Snape. But then, along came the movie.

To say I changed my mind about Snape would be a vast understatement. I was now older—I had hit puberty and entered the frustrating and wonderous realm of teenagehood. And so, dear Snape swept me off my feet.

I spent a few years dreaming away about him and writing way too fluffy Mary Sue fics. Now I have developed a sort of love-hate relationship to Snape; I love to hate him and hate to love him. Anyway, here's two reasons why I love Snape. One, he is everything I will never be: arrogant, full of menace, sarcastic, and manipulating—I just love it. And second, I feel him more than any other character in the *Harry Potter* universe; sometimes I find myself shouting at the pages in pure rage over that greasy git; it's fantastic.

I guess that's why I've also roamed in the world of fan fiction—the dose of Snape in the books was simply not enough to satisfy my cravings. Here I discovered slash, and never have I enjoyed myself more. Here was Snape in all shapes, sizes, and colors, to fulfill my every need: melancholy Snape, fluffy Snape, sinister Snape, mpreg Snape, and so on. I quickly developed a taste for the dark and sinister Snape—the Snape who is very close to canon, but even more unpleasant. Snape the rapist, the abuser, and the killer just do it for me. I've never cared much for the gothic romantic Snape that's featured in so many fics; the more nasty, malicious, the arrogant, the better.

When I read Snape, I can really feel myself. I get angry and I laugh and I cry, and that's what I want out of a character. I want to feel them as if they're standing right next to me, as if they were reaching out through the book to touch me. And that's what Snape does, and that's why I'm totally addicted to this drug called Severus.

And of course, he's hot, too.

Snarky Chapters - (36:29)

Panel: Rachael, Becca, Gina, Rose, Meagan

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

[CLIP]

ALAN RICKMAN [AS SNAPE]
Turn to page 394.

[END CLIP]

RACHAEL

Hello, and welcome to Snarky Chapters. This is the segment centered around the idea that every book in the *Harry Potter* series has a Snape-dominant chapter. And we crazy Snape fans read these chapters over and over and over again to see what more we can deduce about our beloved Potions master. I'm Rachael, and I have here with me—

BECCA
Becca.

GINA
Gina R. Snape.

ROSE
Rose.

MEAGAN
And Meagan.

RACHAEL
And I might actually sound different from Becca in this segment, 'cause I do have a little bit of a cold, so...

OTHERS
Aww.

RACHAEL
It'll be a special treat for our listeners. So we're steadily moving our way through the books, and this month we're looking at *The Order of the Phoenix*, the Snapecast episode two of the *Harry Potter* series. Because we've discussed Snape's family ad nauseum in episode nine, I'd like to focus on some other aspects of Snape in this book.

When most Snape fans think of *Order of the Phoenix*, they immediately think “Occlumency.” So we'll be looking at two chapters which discuss this Snape-a-riffic branch of magic.

GINA
Yay!

RACHAEL
Chapter twenty-four, which is called “Occlumency,” and chapter twenty-eight. We'll save the specific discussions about the infamous underpants scene for episode 11, I think.

So chapter twenty-four details Harry's first session with Snape studying Remedial Potions. There's lots of sneering, lip-curling, glaring, snark, and other great Snape moments in this chapter. But before we get into the details about how Snape teaches (or attempts to teach) Harry Occlumency, I'd like to think a little bit about how he learned it.

So, Dumbledore calls Snape “an accomplished Occlumens,” and he's the one who suggests that Harry studies with Snape. Do you guys think that Snape learned Occlumency from Dumbledore, or if he didn't, how did Snape learn Occlumency?

GINA

Well, I think that Snape—reflecting on last month, when we talked about his childhood—I think he reached a point where he was tired of being wounded by his parents and his peers, and probably had a degree of self-preservation when joining the Death Eaters, that he learned it on his own.

ROSE

Why do you say “on his own” and not “from someone”?

RACHAEL

So like, from a book?

GINA

Exactly. He probably learned it from a book, and my guess is that Voldemort probabably used Legilimency on everyone, and he learned from a book how to do it, and then kept practicing until he was good enough to fool Voldemort.

MEAGAN

It seems, though, like the kind of thing you *couldn't* learn from a book...I dunno, it seems like it's all in your head, and even if he were to practice on other people, I don't think that would be quite enough to get to where he could block Voldemort. I kinda feel like he would've had to have had someone else practicing with him, y'know? Like, training him. I mean, maybe he didn't, but that was the impression I got.

BECCA

No, I kind of agree, and I think that Legilimency and Occlumency are those type of things in magic where it's either in your nature or it isn't. Like, you can kind of learn the basics, but you can't really do it unless you have that type of personality. So like, Snape and Draco are good at Occlumency because that's their type of personality, and Harry's bad at it because he has the opposite type, so...I think Snape had a predisposition for it.

GINA

Yeah, I have to agree that he reached an emotional point in his life where he was like, “I'm not gonna be vulnerable to *anything*,” and that includes physical or mental or emotional. And so he probably had a natural gift for it as a result, and be able to shut people out. I mean, I'm sure he had to practice, but it strikes me that being under Voldemort's watch, he'd have plenty of opportunities to practice what he learned.

RACHAEL

Now, here's my little theory, because we know that Bella knows Occlumency, because she's the one

that taught Draco in *Half-Blood Prince*, so I kind of thing like it was a basic thing, like basic Death Eater training. Everyone learned Occlumency, but I think that Snape learned the basics in Death Eater 101, and then got very good at it himself, either from reading a book, or maybe Dumbledore took him aside and specifically trained him, because Dumbledore seems to *know* how good Snape is, or really trust how good Snape is. So I think he's had a little more firsthand experience, rather than just seeing the results of Snape spying.

GINA

I could believe that Dumbledore would learn from Snape that he has this skill and say to him, “Well, if you're really gonna come over to this side and be a double-agent, then I need to make sure that you can do it.” But I don't think that Dumbledore himself taught it to Snape. But maybe he helped him along the way to perfect it.

BECCA

Yeah, 'cause I think Dumbledore's predisposition is to be good at Legilimency, or however you say it. So I think if anybody was gonna help Snape to perfect it, I think Dumbledore was probably the prime candidate.

GINA

I don't think Snape would have been able to *leave* Voldemort's service—if in fact he did leave Voldemort's service—I don't think he would have been able to do that without already being a good Occlumens, because he has to lie to his face.

BECCA

Yeah. I'm not so sure that it's something that all of the Death Eaters learned, but I do think that it's something that if you're going to be in Voldemort's service, that you should—or even if you're going to be like, in Slytherin House, that you should be able to do, because you're all about the power and knowledge is power, and...I kinda think that that's just something that people with that personality type have a natural ability with.

RACHAEL

I just really like the idea of there being a Death Eater 101.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

All sitting in lecture hall...

BECCA

Voldemort's boot camp.

RACHAEL

Professor Voldie.

GINA

Forget the initiation rites, we're gonna test you like the SATs.

RACHAEL

See who's most effective in torture.

ROSE

Snape calls it an obscure branch of magic, so I don't think *everybody* knows how to do it—it's kind of a rarified talent.

BECCA

Yeah.

GINA

Yeah.

RACHAEL

Yes.

MEAGAN

What would be great—[laughs]—is if Snape actually learned it from Dumbledore—trained him so he could spy on Voldemort, and Voldemort training him so he could spy on Dumbledore.

RACHAEL

Yeah.

MEAGAN

Just back-to-back lessons.

GINA

That would be brilliant, yes.

RACHAEL

So speaking of Dumbledore, another question I had from this chapter is that when Harry first comes in to Snape's office, he sees Dumbledore's Pensieve. Now, so I have a few questions about the Pensieve.

Like, first of all—why doesn't Snape have his own Pensieve? Are they like a rare object, why is he using Dumbledore's? And second, what was his goal in having the Pensieve in the office? Why did he wanna hide things from Harry, and what, specifically, did he want to hide?

BECCA

I always just presumed that Pensieves were really rare. I thought there was mention of that in the books somewhere, or something. I don't recall exactly, but I just always thought that they were a rare commodity and the Pensieve that Snape was using was Dumbledore's.

GINA

We don't actually know for sure if it's Dumbledore's Pensieve. I think it is, and most people do think it is Dumbledore's Pensieve that he's borrowed, but we don't know for a fact that it is. But with that said, I would agree, it's probably a very rare object, 'cause it's not the sort of thing that people use on a regular basis. And my guess is, they sat down, and Dumbledore said to Snape, “I want you to give Occlumency lessons to Harry.” And Snape intuitively said, “He may get into my mind during those lessons, and there are certain things I don't want anyone to see, let alone Harry.” And Dumbledore said, “Well, this is one way to deal with that problem,” and lent him the Pensieve, and it's as simple as that.

BECCA

I could definitely see that, yeah.

ROSE

Yeah, I'd love to know—he takes three memories out of his mind. We know that one is the de-pantsing scene; I would love to know what the other two are.

BECCA

Me too.

RACHAEL

Oh, me too.

GINA

Oh, wouldn't we all?

RACHAEL

Before we get off this subject of the Pensieve, though, we *do* know that it is Dumbledore's, because when Harry comes into the office, it says, “In a corner stood the cupboard full of ingredients that Snape had once accused Harry (not without reason) of robbing. Harry's attention was drawn towards the desk, however, where a shallow stone basin engraved with runes and symbols lay in a pool of candlelight. Harry recognized it at once—Dumbledore's Pensieve.” So, I think it probably is.

BECCA

See, that's what I thought.

GINA

Well, it probably is, but I mean, Harry *thinks* it's his Pensieve, but we don't know for a fact. But I think it's pretty safe to assume.

RACHAEL

So one of the things that I really like about this chapter is Snape's description of the art of Occlumency and Legilimency; he seems really passionate about describing the subject, sort of like how he is in *Half-Blood Prince* when he finally becomes the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher in *Half-Blood Prince*. At the end of page 130, Harry asks him if he can read minds, and he says, “Only Muggles talk of *mind-reading*. The mind is not a book, to be opened at will and examined at leisure. Thoughts are not etched on the inside of skulls, to be perused by any invader. The mind is a complex and many-layered thing, Potter—at least, most minds are.” He smirked.

GINA

[giggles]

RACHAEL

“It is true, however, that those who have mastered Legilimency are able, under certain conditions, to delve into the minds of their victims and to interpret their findings correctly. The Dark Lord, for instance, almost always knows when somebody is lying to him. Only those skilled at Occlumency are able to shut down those feelings and memories that contradict the lie, and so utter falsehoods in his presence without detection.”

So, what do you think this tells us about Snape?

MEAGAN

He likes to hear himself talk?

[ALL LAUGH]

GINA

I think like any other topic that he's taken an interest in, he gets to know the subject matter deeply; he gets to the point where he can consider himself a true expert, and he can show off. And I think this is just another example of that.

BECCA

I find it kind of ironic, because you'd think a man who understands things like this would be better adjusted and more self-aware than he is.

RACHAEL

[laughs] I agree.

GINA

It's his ego.

ROSE

Well, I think it's really interesting that he's using Occlumency and Legilimency, and he's talking about lying. Not about understanding the world, not about getting a better understanding of other people—he's using the technique to lie and to not get caught lying.

GINA

True, but he is a Slytherin.

BECCA

Yeah. Probably speaks from experience.

RACHAEL

S'probably all he's used it for. So then, do you think Snape's lessons helped Harry or hurt Harry? Because when you read this chapter—and I know Jon was saying that when he was reading over *Order of the Phoenix* for the second or third time, he really got this impression that Snape was not a good guy, because Harry's dreams get worse after he has lessons with Snape, Harry gets upset, he seems to lose focus...Do you think the lessons helped or hurt Harry?

BECCA

I think they hurt him, but I think it was mostly his fault. I mean, yes, Snape was a complete jerk during the whole thing, and if he really wanted to help, he could've been more of an adult—but I think if Harry had taken them seriously and did what Dumbledore asked him to do, then it would've helped.

RACHAEL

But Snape never really gave him clear homework assignments; he just said “empty your mind before you got to bed.”

GINA

I think Snape tried to drill fear into him—like, “Do you see how dangerous this could be?” And that's probably a good motivating factor for Severus Snape. But for Harry to empty his mind, he needs a different technique, and he probably would've benefited more from, say, y'know, meditation. But there's no way Snape would have done a meditation, so it was probably just the wrong approach.

ROSE

Yeah, using fear as a teaching technique for Gryffindor isn't gonna work, is it?

RACHAEL

No.

GINA

Yeah.

BECCA

Yeah, that's a good point.

RACHAEL

So another thing that Harry and Snape have very different opinions about is how both of them choose to refer to Voldemort. And Snape is particularly adamant in this chapter about calling Voldemort “The Dark Lord,” and he scolds Harry several times for referring to Voldemort by his proper name. What do you think this tells us about Snape and his loyalties and his relationship with Voldemort?

GINA

I've always been partial to the idea that he was concerned about being seen—because at the same time that Harry is trying to learn Occlumency to shut out Voldemort, there's always a possibility that Voldemort could witness these lessons, and he has to be very careful about how he comes across.

BECCA

Yeah, I never really understood why people used this as a point against Snape as far as his loyalties go, because I never thought of it as a loyalty indicator.

RACHAEL

I agree; I think the reason why he catches himself and catches Harry is because he—he can't be like, calling Voldemort “Voldemort” at Hogwarts, because he's a spy and it takes so much energy to create that double-agent persona. And if he were to slip up in front of Voldemort, and at some Death Eater meeting call Voldemort “Voldemort” instead of “the Dark Lord”—that would pretty much—really piss Voldemort off.

GINA

Yeah, he'd be toast.

RACHAEL

Probably blow his cover. So he needs to be extremely disciplined, and I think it irritates him that Harry can't be that disciplined. And so the reason why he scolds Harry is because he views Harry as a spoiled, disrespectful person who's never had to work for anything, and he wants to use it against him.

BECCA

I would totally agree with that, and I would also add that I think Snape respects Voldemort.

RACHAEL

Really?

BECCA

Just like how Ollivander says, y'know, “Voldemort has done great things—terrible, but great.” I mean, people respect Voldemort because he *is* a great wizard, despite being, y'know, a complete psychopath. So it's still not a loyalty issue to me, because I think that even Dumbledore would acknowledge the fact that Voldemort is a great wizard, just like...a really evil guy.

ROSE

It may be in the magical world that a name can open a magical connection between the person speaking and the thing being spoken.

BECCA

Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice!

ROSE

Yes!

GINA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

I never knew that, but that's also like Jewish mysticism, Kabbalah—they're very connected to your name as being your true essence, so maybe the wizarding world has its roots in Judaism.

GINA

Maybe.

BECCA

Or Tim Burton movies!

RACHAEL

Or that, or Tim Burton movies. So, let's go around and do a quick final thought about Snape and Occlumency in *Order of the Phoenix*.

BECCA

Okay, well, my final thought would be that, like I said, I think Snape is just—has a natural ability where Occlumency is concerned. I think if he did learn a bunch of Dark Arts things from his mother, that perhaps that was one of them, and I think that his natural ability probably stems from the experiences that he had in his childhood, just kind of prepared him for his skills.

RACHAEL

Gina?

GINA

Yeah, I would have to agree. I think that he was so vulnerable at a young age that he was predisposed to find any and every way to protect himself, and Occlumency is definitely a very good way to do that.

I also think that because of his desire to be seen as the most skillful and smartest wizard in the wizarding world, that he would make a point of finding obscure arts like Occlumency and Legilimency to master.

RACHAEL
Rose?

ROSE
As a teacher, some important lessons in this chapter about effective teaching and separating your hostility from your students to be an effective teacher.

RACHAEL
Meagan?

MEAGAN
My final thought is that I hope Occlumency turns up in *Deathly Hallows*, because you get a bit of it in *Half-Blood Prince* with Draco, but I kinda wanna see Snape do it more—just because we're told, “Ah, he's so good,” but we don't really get to like...see him in action. So...I hope that turns up in Book 7.

BECCA
Yeah, we did get it with Draco a little bit in *Half-Blood Prince*, but yeah. Wanna see Snape in action, the master.

ROSE
Mm-hmm!

RACHAEL
I agree. And my final thought is regardless of what you believe about Occlumency and what it takes to do it, whether or not it requires the same skills as Legilimency, you have to admit that Snape being able to do Occlumency and him being the whole “greatest Occlumens”—that makes him like fifty billion times more sexy than he already was.

GINA
[laughs]

RACHAEL
Mysterious elements. So we do love Occlumency.

GINA
Yay.

RACHAEL
So I guess that's it. We will look at some more chapters of *Order of the Phoenix* next time; we'll look at the infamous pantsing scene and what that means. So we'll see y'all later!

GINA
Bye!

ROSE

Bye!

BECCA
Bye!

MEAGAN
Bye!

How Grey is Snape Snippet - (55:20)

Host: Rachael

Snape is Evil Perspective: Jackie & Mytheos

Music: Ani DiFranco, "Grey"

RACHAEL

So, speaking of Snape's loyalties, let's go through each book one by one, and I want you to tell me where you think Snape is during the plot of each one: what's he thinking, what's he doing? So *Goblet of Fire*—that's when Snape's Dark Mark starts burning again. The most fascinating thing to me, I guess, is what did he do during those two hours? He says in Spinner's End that he waited just two hours to return to the graveyard; that's why he wasn't there. But he obviously felt the Mark burning—what was he thinking?

JACKIE

He was thinking, "I need to wait till *Dumbledore* tells me that it's OK to go, because I need to make sure that I need to keep my valuable position to the Dark Lord, or he'll be mighty pissed to see me."

MYTHEOS

Pretty much, "Dammit, *Dumbledore*, send me back there!"

JACKIE
Yeah.

MYTHEOS

"I wanna get back there as quickly as possible, and I can't – leave – yet – without – your – permission – Goddammit!"

JACKIE

It's like when you're six years old and you're waiting for your parents to load the car to drive to Disneyworld.

RACHAEL
[laughs]

MYTHEOS
Yeah.

RACHAEL

Oh, God. So...and then he goes back. The big question to me is, like—'cause if he *has* told *Dumbledore* this story that he's changed sides, spun a tale of deepest remorse—what does he tell *Voldemort*, to get

Voldemort to take him back?

MYTHEOS

Well, the truth—"I've been spying on Dumbledore for the past few years, and I have all this information to give you, and frankly I have never stopped supporting your cause and I was only with Dumbledore politically speaking, which I'm sure you can understand, being the Dark Lord. And I am terribly sorry for not being able to find you; I had no idea and so forth and so on." And it's the truth, and there's no way for Voldemort to, y'know, figure that he's smooth-talking him because it's the truth.

JACKIE

Yeah. And also, "I will *continue* to pass information to you," 'cause that is what's important, really.

RACHAEL

Here's the thing, though, that strikes me is that in the *Goblet of Fire* scene where Voldemort is naming off—you have the one who's too cowardly to return, the one who left me forever...He seems *really* pissed at people that turn against him. I cannot imagine that he wouldn't—if he heard that Severus Snape had turned a spy for the Order of the Phoenix, which he had obviously heard...I imagine he would AK him right on the spot. Y'know, I'm surprised Snape got a chance to explain himself.

MYTHEOS

Well, you know, Snape is not exactly going to sit there and let himself be AK'd.

JACKIE

[laughs]

RACHAEL

You think Snape could take on Voldemort?

MYTHEOS

No, I think Snape probably did what Dumbledore did, and Apparated away when Voldemort threw the AK at him.

RACHAEL

Mm-hm.

MYTHEOS

And pretty much waited for—because he does say in Spinner's End that the Dark Lord's quote "initial displeasure vanished on the spot when I told him that I remained faithful." Well, that initial displeasure I think in this case is Snape dodging a whole bunch of curses thrown his way. Curses verbal and otherwise, I should point out.

JACKIE

Yes.

RACHAEL

Yeah. [laugh] Snape got the shit beat out of him before he went back.

MYTHEOS

Yeah.

Owlpost - (58:54)

Panel: Shannon, Rachael, Wendy, Becca

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

SHANNON

All right, so we've reached the segment of the show called Owlpost. This is Shannon, and I have here with me...

RACHAEL

Rachael.

WENDY

Wendy.

BECCA

And Becca.

SHANNON

And Snarky's around here somewhere; who's got Snarky tonight?

RACHAEL

He ditched me awhile ago.

BECCA

He's over here.

SHANNON

Okay, Becca's got Snarky. Great, good. Okay, so first off, we wanted to start our Owlpost with a very special shoutout to some very interesting listeners—we've heard from people, and we really appreciate their support. So this is a shoutout to all the snake-eaters and killer nerds in the Snapecast audience; thanks a lot for voting for us on PodcastAlley and for listening.

BECCA

You guys *rock!*

RACHAEL

You do. And you have really cool names, too. Snake-eaters...

WENDY

Yes, you do.

RACHAEL

AKA the Snapecast Mafia.

SHANNON

Yeah, that's what we're calling you guys, the Snapecast Mafia.

[ALL LAUGH]

RACHAEL

Snape would be so proud to know that he has a mafia.

WENDY

Okay...[laughs]

BECCA

He *would!* Oh my goodness, snake eaters and killer nerds, so appropriate for Snapecast.

SHANNON

[chuckles] Thanks for your support, everyone. And, I'd personally like to say how thrilled I am, because in our last show, I had mentioned that I'd really like to hear from someone in South Africa, and I couldn't believe how quickly we got a response. So, let's listen, y'all, to this voice post.

MEGAN

Hi. This is Megan from Cape Town, South Africa. My friend Cheryl, who is a completely obsessed Snape fan, has told me that you wanted to hear from someone in South Africa. So, on behalf of Cheryl, I would like to say hi, and thanks for such an awesome site. And just to let you know, Cheryl is doing her job by trying to turn everyone into Snape and Snapecast addicts. I don't know how you do it, but she made being a Snape fan so much more fun. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

WENDY

That's awesome!

BECCA

Yaaay! South Africa!

SHANNON

I know.

WENDY

So where would you like to hear from next, Shannon?

SHANNON

Well, I was thinking—I don't wanna *overly* favor our international listenership, and I know that there are a lot of people here in the United States, where most of the Snapecast staff is located. So I was thinking, I'd really like to hear from someone in Oklahoma.

WENDY

Oh, cool.

RACHAEL

Shannon is getting so picky now. She just...every episode, “Y'know, I'd like to hear from...someone in...” She spins the globe around and goes, “Pow!” Picks a place.

WENDY

I think maybe Snarky's been having a bit of a whinge, too, about having to go so far away to bring back

those voice posts. So maybe that's a good idea for this next episode.

SHANNON

That's true.

BECCA

Yeah, give him a little break for the holidays.

RACHAEL

And he probably got fat over the holidays, too, so...he probably wouldn't make it and we'd lose our owl.

SHANNON

Yeah, we don't wanna lose Snarky.

BECCA

[laughs]

WENDY

Yeah, we don't want him falling into the ocean.

SHANNON

Okay. So anyone in Oklahoma who's listening – we'd love to hear from you. Send us an e-mail or leave us a voicemail on Skype, and we'll give you more details on how to do that at the end, but now we're gonna head on to the more serious stuff. Because we have, again, gotten a lot of really thought-provoking e-mails and comments from people, particularly in relation to the Snape & Family roundtable discussion that we had. And I think Becca, you had one to read for us first.

BECCA

Yeah, um, it was actually in response to the first half of the Snape & Family roundtable, and we just listened to the second half in this episode. But we got a message from Erin, and she said, “In the Snape & Family roundtable, Becca (I believe) said, 'Harry has gone through just as horrific a childhood as Snape, if not more so.' I do not agree with that at all. Harry *did* have a horrible childhood – he lost his parents as an infant, was beaten up by Dudley, and treated as a live-in maid by Aunt Petunia. But Harry's abusers were not his biological parents. Harry didn't remember his parents, so he could go into his mind and fantasize about how wonderful they were and what it would have been like to live with them. Snape's abusers, on the other hand, were his biological parents. They created him, and hurt him. He couldn't really kid himself about them like Harry could. Uncle Vernon usually seems to ignore or just yell; Petunia bosses him around and yells; Dudley is more around Harry's age, so Harry had the choice of fight or flight with Dudley. They seem to act like brothers. In the fights we see, they are both fighting; they don't like each other, but it's a two-sided battle. Harry even provokes Dudley. It's either mild verbal abuse, which is horrible, don't get me wrong – or physical from Dudley, where Harry stood a chance. If Snape was physically and emotionally abused by Tobias, then he really didn't stand any chance whatsoever to fight back or run away. Harry could really tune Vernon and Petunia out; I doubt Snape could tune his parents out.”

And uh, just to clarify that—that was actually Rachael. I know it's hard to tell, but that was Rachael who said that, not me. [laughs]

RACHAEL

Yeah, and since I said it, I'll respond. I used to subscribe to this theory.

BECCA
So did I, actually.

RACHAEL
[laughs] 'Cause we think alike.

BECCA
[laughs]

RACHAEL
Um, and it makes sense. But the big difference I think for Harry, in terms of his upbringing in relation to Snape, is that Harry has a surrogate family in the Weasleys, and a surrogate family in his friends, whereas Snape didn't really—I can't imagine Snape being, like, adopted by a pureblood wizarding family the way the Weasleys have adopted Harry. So I think that regardless—if you're a child and you're being abused, it doesn't matter if your abusers are your biological parents or whoever. And, granted, we don't know that Snape's abusers were his biological parents; we don't even know that Snape was abused. So...I think this is something to consider, but I think the primary—I think Harry had it just as bad as Snape, if not worse. And the reason why he isn't Snape is because he has the ability to love, which Snape—we're all waiting to see if he *has* that, and we'll find out in Book 7.

SHANNON
I think this was a really interesting comment, and at first I was taken with the part about the pain that your own parents caused, being doubled—y'know, if your abusers are the people that are your parents, versus just caretakers, so that—I thought that was an interesting point. But then I also thought that sometimes we might see in children who are abused by parents or let down by parents is that as long as your parents are still alive, you still maybe have hope that things will get better, whereas Harry doesn't even have that hope. His parents will *always* be dead. And we do see him kind of looking for hope in that respect, so I almost think that that's not on the abuse strand, but that's part of augmenting some of the difficulty that Harry has to go through that Snape doesn't have. Snape's parents were alive and as long as they were alive, he may have had some hope of rectifying the situation.

RACHAEL
Y'know, we need a psychotherapist on staff at Snapecast.

SHANNON
This is true. Lookfar did a great job in that last episode.

BECCA
Yeah, we should hire Lookfar, then! [laughs]

SHANNON
So, let's move on to the next question then, because it is kind of in a related strand here, and I think that Rachael—if you don't mind going ahead and reading that one...

RACHAEL
Sure. This one was from mnrebecca on LiveJournal, and she says, “The definition of a happy home life as one free of abuse is too limited. If parents fail to empower their children against peers (and most do,

placing way too much value on social ease and the development of friendships) then they share responsibility for abuse suffered at school, especially in cultures where sending children to boarding school is common. I've written before that damaging experiences in secondary school (the years that correspond with ages 12-18) seem to be second only to sexual assault in their capacity to haunt adults for the rest of their lives. What makes the *Harry Potter* books (1-4 anyway) so brilliant, so much *more* than a children's fantasy series, is the intergenerational approach—the long view of the consequences of ignoble conduct.”

WENDY

Well, I guess it depends on the definition of abuse, really, because abuse could also include things like parents who are just so ignorant of anything to do with their children, y'know—

RACHAEL
Neglect?

WENDY

If their children are allowed to—exactly.

RACHAEL
Like neglect.

BECCA
Yeah.

WENDY

And not taking any kind of interest in anything, y'know—I knew a child once, that she'd run home with her straight-A report card, and her parents would just go, “Oh, yeah.” And nothing she did ever could get any kind of compliment or attention from them, and I think that's just as abusive.

RACHAEL

I can totally see Snape's parents like that.

WENDY

Yeah, and it's—it's--y'know, that's abuse as well, really. So...Rebecca's line that the “happy home life is one free from abuse is too limited,” I think that's a pretty good call.

SHANNON
Yeah.

RACHAEL

Although I have to say that an underlying theme in this seems to be that she's trying to imply that Snape just only had these bad experiences in secondary school and that's why he's the way he is. And I just don't buy that. I think that there's something a little bit deeper to that. Like I said—if Snape had a rosy childhood, I would not like the character anymore.

WENDY
[chuckles]

BECCA

Aww.

SHANNON

Y'know, there's something else that I'm pulling out of this comment, and I don't know if it's intentional, but the whole terminology of empowering your child against peers—some of this is like, I think you do a disservice to children when you try to shelter them too much, when you don't give them the strategies that they need to cope with what nastiness is gonna go on in the real world. Because bullying is not only something that goes on in childhood; you have to deal with people who will manipulate you, who will hurt you, who will be unjust, who will be unfair, who will be unscrupulous, and if you don't develop those tools in childhood, then you're really at a disadvantage as an adult, too. And I think that—y'know, this is kind of another type of neglect, that I wonder how much Snape's parents prepared him for this. I wonder how much another mentor prepared him for this. But I think that that's another interesting side of—I don't wanna call it abuse, because abuse seems to be almost something that you deliberately perpetuate, in a sense. This seems like another kind of neglect that is going on here.

BECCA

Yeah, and a lot of people that I've seen speculate that Eileen taught Snape the Dark Arts for that reason, y'know, self-defense.

SHANNON

Hmm. Good comment. I like this comment. So, we've got one final owlpost to read—Wendy, you wanna go ahead?

WENDY

Sure. This one comes from Karina in Peru, and she writes, “In *Harry Potter 5*, Lupin says that Snape went looking around for James, hexing and jinxing him wherever he could. So, as much as I really pity Snape (child), and I love Snape (teacher), or rather hate loving him like one of you said, I think that when he preaches himself as just the victim, one needs to take that with a grain of salt. I'd be much more inclined to believe Lupin's telling of events, who seems to be on a general basis a reasonable person, rather than Snape, who is just full of resent and definitely needs to move on.”

SHANNON

Okay, first off, I have to say, I'm thrilled that we got owlpost from Peru. That's pretty cool.

WENDY

That is cool.

SHANNON

So, thanks Karina.

RACHAEL

It is.

BECCA

And I'm pretty sure that I'm the one who said that I hate loving Snape. [laughs]

SHANNON

Yeah, you did. I think that's your kind of...catchphrase.

RACHAEL

I think she brings up an interesting point about Lupin kind of being—I mean, Lupin is played out to be sort of like the neutral observer of the whole Snape/Sirius/James conflict, and so he is credible. I can't imagine, though, that Snape started the fight with James. It just—James and Sirius really seem like bullies. And it is two against one, sometimes four against one, when it was the whole gang versus Snape, so you do have to keep that in mind.

BECCA

Well, but Lupin never joined in and Peter seemed like, y'know, the heckler. But you're right, you're right.

RACHAEL

Heckling hurts! [laughs] Look at me defending Snape...

BECCA

[laughs] Well, I agree with you, I'll just say that. And I agree that Lupin is—he's in the position of like, the neutral one, kinda, to give Harry the neutral perspective.

RACHAEL

Yeah, in fanfic he's like, always the prefect that kind of, “Oh, you guys shouldn't do that,” but puts up with it anyway.

SHANNON

He's the wet blanket.

BECCA

Yeah. I dunno about, like, Snape starting it or James or Sirius starting it—I agree that Sirius and James are definitely bullies, so I can see them, like, picking on Snape. I tend to think of it more as them being *really* obnoxious and horrible and saying things and picking on him, and him escalating it to the next level, and then they retaliate and he retaliates back, and—so I think he might have been the one to break out the spells first, or at least the nastier ones.

RACHAEL

I definitely—I see the relationship going, y'know, James and Sirius would sort of use brute force, but Snape—Snape wasn't passive, he wouldn't just lay down and take it, but he would go and—he'd have almost more clever and more calculated ways of getting back at his enemies.

BECCA

And nastier. Like when you compare *Sectumsempra* to the suds in the mouth spell—yeah, it just doesn't compare.

SHANNON

Do you think he—could he—do you think he ever used *Sectumsempra* on James? Do you—I mean, that is a killer spell.

BECCA

Well, but Harry used it incorrectly. My understanding is that Harry used it incorrectly by saying it out loud, and like—panicking.

SHANNON

Ooh.

RACHAEL

I thought Snape *did*—

BECCA

Isn't that the spell that—Snape used it and he slashed James's cheek.

RACHAEL

Yeah, he used it in the Snape's Worst Memory scene, but it wasn't as severe as Harry's.

BECCA

So either he used it...See, this is the thing, we don't know if he used it correctly and that's why it was just a little slash, or if Snape is just a really bad aim. [laughs]

SHANNON

Or if Harry's so powerful...

RACHAEL

[laughing] Harry's *so* much better at *Sectumsempra*.

BECCA

[laughs]

RACHAEL

See, that's why they're so compatible. Only Harry could do Snape's spell.

ALL ELSE

[groan]

SHANNON

Okay, you know what...Now, on this note, I think we're gonna end the Owlpost here, and thank everyone again for their comments and their feedback and that we encourage all of our listeners—if you have critiques, comments, suggestions, points of discussion, analysis, we'd love to hear from you. So send us an e-mail at our e-mail address, severus@snapecast.com, and you can also leave comments on our LiveJournal, snapecast, on our MySpace Snapecast page, and also on our website, Snapecast.com, or—and we love getting these, if we can get some good ones—we love hearing voicemail, if you leave it for us on Skype, username Snapecast. And, as always, please feel free to comment or carry on these discussions in the discussion board on the Snapecast forums linked to our website.

So, I think that's it for Owlpost. Thanks, everyone.

WENDY

Thank you!

BECCA

Thank you!

RACHAEL
Thanks! Bye!

Closing - (1:15:47)

Hosts: Rachael, Wendy, Becca

Music:

- Glenn Miller, "Auld Lang Syne"

- Scottish Clubland, "Auld Lang Syne - Dance Remix (clubmix)"

RACHAEL

It's that time of the show again – we're at the end. I'm Rachael, and I have here with me...

WENDY
Wendy.

BECCA
And Becca.

RACHAEL

And I think that we've adequately celebrated Severus's birthday with this tributary episode. Do you agree?

WENDY
Yes.

BECCA
Yes, I think it's a very Snapely start to the year.

WENDY
Hopefully he won't be as upset with this episode.

BECCA
[laughs] As he was with the first one?

WENDY
Exactly.

RACHAEL

And as he continues to be with all of them. Really, it is a very special day, though, because if Snape weren't born, there would be no Snapecast. So we should all have a moment of silence and really be thankful.

BECCA
Raise your glass of butterbeer high on the 9th.

[ALL CHUCKLE]

WENDY

We had one more letter come in from H.C. Corvin in Singapore—she sent us a nice e-mail and at the end of it she asked a question. And that question was, “Could you guys do a segment on why Rachael likes slash so much?”

BECCA

[laughs] That's a good question!

WENDY

It *is* a good question.

BECCA

I think it's gonna take a little bit more explanation!

RACHAEL

I'm working on a very long volume of books explaining exactly why I like slash, but no, it's very interesting that we get this piece of owlpost, because the next episode is going to be...we like to have themes at Snapecast, we like to kind of pick something to center the episode around, and so February is Valentine's Day, and of course there's no other ship that we could celebrate on Valentine's Day other than Snarry.

BECCA

Yeah right! [laughs]

RACHAEL

So you will probably hear more than you ever wanted to hear about why Rachael loves slash so much in episode eleven.

BECCA

You know, there was no way that any other ship would do with Rachael at the helm than...The edict came down from on high: the Valentine's Day episode shall be Snarry!

RACHAEL

Yes.

BECCA

So you shall get your fill. You will get your fill.

RACHAEL

I'm usually not very dictator-like and don't wield decision-making power, but this is one thing where I just had to put my foot down.

BECCA

Yeah, you're usually a benevolent dictator, but this is the price we pay. Oh well.

RACHAEL

So everyone who wants to hear about Snarry and other things (it won't be 100%), but the theme—just like the theme of this episode was Snape's birthday, the theme of the next episode will be Snarry and Valentine's Day and those kind of things. Tune in to episode 11, that'll be out February 1st, 2007. And

please do remember to contribute your thoughts and segments for the show. You can always e-mail us at severus@snapecast.com, you can leave a voicemail on Skype with username snapecast, or you can stop by our LiveJournal or MySpace and comment there. And also, if you're in just a Snapecasteriffic mode, you can go down to PodcastAlley and vote for us on there, where we had a tremendous showing lately.

BECCA

Yes. Oh my goodness, you guys are *amazing*. I don't understand it. We were in the top ten again for the majority of December, and it's just completely blown us away.

RACHAEL

And probably irritated Snape.

WENDY

We have the best fans of all the podcasts.

RACHAEL

We really do. We have snake-eaters and killer nerds and people, and we have like...a Danish gang that has a gang sign...I mean, Snapecast listeners are the *best*.

BECCA

[laughs]

WENDY

That's right!

BECCA

You really are. I mean regardless, whether or not you vote on PodcastAlley, it really is all about you guys, the listeners.

RACHAEL

For shizzle. And we don't care if Snape is pissed off; we're gonna keep doin' the podcast, because we like it. So I think that's about it. Everyone remember, cheers to Severus on January 9th, happy new year; I'm looking forward to 2007 and another great year of Snapeing.

BECCA

Abso-snarkin'-lutely.

WENDY

Hip-hip-hooray to Severus!

RACHAEL

Okay, bye everyone!

BECCA

Bye!

WENDY

Bye!

Snapely Predictions for 2007 - (1:20:30)

Announcer: Rachael

Guardians of the Inner Eye: Wendy, Gina, Becca, Rose, Shannon, Rachael, Jeff, Jonathan

Music: Dean Martin (with Frank Sinatra), "Auld Lang Syne"

RACHAEL

2006 has come to an end, and Snape fans are left with happy memories of snark and high hopes for the future. The Snapecast staff thought we'd go on record and share our predictions about what 2007 has in store for the fandom, Snapecast, and of course Snape himself.

WENDY

I think Hermione and Ron will get together and both will make it through to the end. I think this also of Neville and Luna. Ginny I think will also survive. The twins I'm not so sure of, but I think I'd prefer both to die than just one of them. Of course, it will be better if neither bite it.

As for Harry, the jury is still out for me. I have visions of Jo changing her mind back and forth concerning Harry's potential demise. I do think that we'll discover Snape is on the side of good and has been all along. I also think that Severus will redeem himself in Harry's eyes, but sadly I think it will be just before he is killed. I plan on having a whole carton of tissues next to me when I open the book.

Now, in regards to the just-released name of Book 7, so...*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Of course, within minutes there were theories abounding about what Deathly Hallows refers to. I read a comment in the *Harry Potter* LiveJournal community posted by xrated13, who suggested it may refer to Halloween. After Googling, I found the site www.ucc.ie/fecc/samhain.html, and here there was the passage that led me to my next theory. The passage refers to All Hallow's Eve as "the most magical night of the year," and "a night of power, when the veil that separates our world from the Otherworld is at its thinnest." So, I think we will see the return of Sirius Black, perhaps in spirit form, but definitely in fightin spirit.

Finally, I predict a showdown between Lupin and Greyback, and I think that Wormtail, getting sentimental and all that for his old friend, will use his silver hand to kill Greyback. Oh, and Voldemort is going to bite the dust.

Of course, I could be off-base with my predictions, but it's so much fun to theorize!

GINA

I believe that Severus Snape will find himself the metaphorical "last man standing." He's a very crafty, clever fellow, and I think he will figure things out in such a way to move his agenda and stay alive. I believe Severus Snape will figure out where all the Horcruxes are, and find a way to feed the information to Harry while remaining undercover, and at the end, Hermione will know that he was doing it.

BECCA

For Snape, I've always predicted that sadly, Snape will die in the last book. But, I'll amend that prediction to include that his posthumous portrait will be the only non-headmaster's portrait to be included in the Headmaster's Office at Hogwarts.

ROSE

J.K. Rowling will be divulging some new hints and clues about Snape's family life in June, and there will be lots of discussions centering on treachery and Snape in July.

SHANNON

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows will be published towards the end of the summer, much to the dismay of many an HP fan who had really liked the anticipation to last just a little bit longer.

The publication of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* will vindicate all the Snape-is-NOT-evil supporters out there.

BECCA

For the series, I predict that 2007 will see the publication of the last *Harry Potter* book, and the last sentence will be, "Harry and Ginny were married, had many children, and lived to a ripe old age, despite the lag foot Harry developed whenever he drove his car."

ROSE

The *Order of the Phoenix* movie will give more hints about Snape's Animagus form in the depantsing scene.

RACHAEL

Just to shake things up, Alan Rickman will decide to alter his portrayal of Snape during the pre-production of *Half-Blood Prince* and request that his costume include a goatee and a receding hairline.

SHANNON

On a lazy afternoon while Googling himself, Alec Hopkins will accidentally stumble across Snapecast and leave us a voicepost on Skype.

ROSE

Gray underpants in a plastic Ziploc bag will be the hot travel accessory for Snape fans attending symposiums in 2007.

BECCA

For the fandom, I predict that the *Harry Potter* fandom will explode in a fit of manic hysteria when the translation of *Deathly Hallows* into Chinese characters looks like a Rorschach inkblot of Snape's profile. I further predict that another fit of manic hysteria will occur when the *Order of the Phoenix* movie premieres in theaters, and Voldemort seems to wink knowingly at Dumbledore during the fight at the Ministry because the smoke machine on the set made Ralph Fiennes's eyes too dry.

ROSE

Trends in fan fiction: sympathetic portrayals of young Snape will dominate the summer.

JEFF

2007 will see one of Oprah Winfrey's makeover episodes, the entirety of which being devoted to our Calvin Klein wannabe. Here's to his cucumbers, mud mask, Botox, and nose job! After that being a visit to *Muggle Eye for the Wizard Guy*.

RACHAEL

Well, in hiding with Draco, Snape will begin writing his official autobiography, *To Snark or Not to*

Snark?

SHANNON

Snape will actually remember his anniversary this year and will send Gina a gift fit for a Slytherin.

JEFF

Severus will make an appearance on *The Apprentice*. If his tasks involve the development and manufacture of pharmaceuticals, he should do rather well.

JON

I don't think Snape's gonna wash his hair in 2007.

ROSE

Wig retailers will experience a dramatic rise in the sales of black, center-part, shoulder-length wigs starting in mid-April.

RACHAEL

Shannon will redraw Rachael's Snapecast bio pic so that it actually looks something like Rachael. Rachael will promptly change her hair color and length shortly thereafter.

SHANNON

Snarky is gonna go on a much-needed diet, drop a few pounds, and finally pose for that special spread in *Playowl* he's promised to do.

RACHAEL

The Ministry of Magic will finally catch on that we're Snapecast, not Snapcast, and we'll have to pay a 200 Galleon fine to keep our owl. He's worth every Sickle, though.

SHANNON

Towards the end of May, in a show of solidarity for the onion podcast, vegetarians across the globe will swarm PodcastAlley, making sure that all top ten podcasts for the month relate to vegetables and have nothing to do with *Harry Potter*.

RACHAEL

In June, Berlin Poodle and his brother Remus will hijack their mommy's laptop and use the Snapecast RSS feed to finally introduce the world to Poodlecast.

BECCA

And for Snapecast, I predict that the staff members of Snapecast will all continue to go completely nuts over that greasy git, long after the last book has been released.