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Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Emma Patton

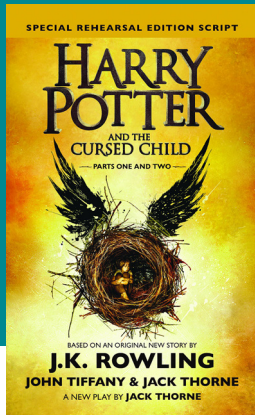
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Book Review

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Author

J.K. Rowling,
Jack Thorne,
and John Tiffany

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Significant Shortcomings

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

336

Year

2017

ISBN

9781338216677

Publisher

Arthur A. Levine Books

Except for the fact that his father is Harry Potter, Albus Potter is an ordinary wizard. As the child of the man who saved the wizarding world, it's easy to feel like a disappointment. But Albus really becomes the black sheep when he is sorted into the Slytherin house at Hogwarts, instead of Gryffindor, where all of his family has been sorted for years. Albus has a tense relationship with his father and a rough time at school. So when Albus sees an opportunity to do something that could defy his father, break the rules, and possibly save the day, he takes it. Albus and his close friend Scorpius Malfoy use a forbidden Time Turner device to go back to the Tri-Wizard Tournament. If they could change some of the events of the tournament, they may prevent the death of a student. But the boys soon learn that manipulating time is a complex business, and everything is connected. They can't change even one little thing without potentially changing the whole world as they know it.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child would be a decent story if it were to stand alone, as the ideas are original and the plot line is entertaining. However, as a continuation of the Harry Potter series, even done in a radically different format as a play, it falls flat in some major ways. First of all, this book features characters that were already extensively developed in the existing Harry Potter series. Rather than adding new information and background to the beloved characters, this play adds inconsistencies and ultimately only confuses the relationships that readers had with the characters. In fact, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child adds very little helpful, consistent material to the Harry Potter canon. Rather, it cannibalizes the success of the first series. This story seems to include as many reference points from the original series as possible, which results in a thoroughly tiresome story. Though it is impressive just by virtue of being a part of the wizarding world, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child reads like underwhelming fan fiction.