



PHOENIX RISING

Remembrall Wall

The Harry Potter books, first published ten years before Phoenix Rising, have inspired anecdotes, stories, reflection, and hours of reading. The Remembrall Wall, an interactive art project designed to collect and display fans' favorite Harry Potter-related memories, was created by first by online fans and then by Phoenix Rising's attendees.

When *Order of the Phoenix* came out, a bunch of us had plans to gather at my place, go pick up our books and come back here to read aloud until we couldn't keep our eyes open. We couldn't wait until we got back to my place to start reading, so I started reading aloud on the bus. The following year while I was helping to organise Convention Alley, I was calling around for printing quotes. I got talking to the guy at one place and it turned out he was a Harry Potter fan. He said that the previous year had been the first time his son had been old enough to go to a bookstore for a midnight release. He said it turned into a magical night: "We got on the bus to go home and suddenly we heard a voice from the back of the bus, reading the book aloud. Before long, everyone on the bus was quiet and listening, even the drunks who get on at the corner of B___ and S_____. It was amazing!". A year after fact, finding out that I helped make an evening magical for a child experiencing his first midnight book release – that definitely goes on the top of my list!

- Sheryll

My favorite Harry Potter memory is an odd one to be my favorite 'cause it was actually sad. I love the stories and always have. The first time I read GoF I cried for thirty minutes when Cedric died and then had to put the book DOWN after the spirits and Harry goes back to Hogwarts taking Cedric's body, I was crying that hard. I say that to show that I love the characters and have gotten very attached to all of them. About two months before Order of the Phoenix came out, I lost my dad to cancer. It was a rough time, so I shut off and wouldn't cry and just walked through, completely void. So I waited in line and got my book at midnight and was home and reading it by 12:30. I cried a number of times in that book – the biggest places being the dream with Arthur Weasley and the kids waiting at Grimmauld Place and Sirius going through the curtain – but then when Harry is up in Dumbledore's office and breaking things? I lost it. It was how I'd been feeling and I just started crying so hard I had to put the book down couldn't read it again for about another hour and a half 'cause I couldn't stop crying. I know it's a weird "favorite" memory, but it was what I needed. I still can't read any of the most recent three books without crying.

- tabbykneazle

My favorite memory was just reading the first book to my two boys before bed. It lets them dream magic dreams about their future and being a hero.

- Anonymous



PHOENIX RISING

My favorite Potter memory was when it was time for *Order of the Phoenix*. It was the night of my birthday and I was so sick I couldn't stand in line for a book and I even had to cancel my birthday party. I was crying in bed because it had been such a bad day and it was almost midnight and I was so sick. About two in the morning there was a knock on the window. I looked at three of my friends, who sneaked out and went to a bookstore and got me a book by paying someone near the front of the line to get them one. I let them in and they read the first ten chapters while I lay in bed. But then we all fell asleep. My mom was not too happy to find people sleeping all over the floor in the morning. Of course, she didn't notice the book and I got uninterrupted time to read while I was grounded!

- congrrl

My favorite Potter memory is the day before the *Half-Blood Prince* release date was announced. I'd had a vile day at work and was on my way home, cursing the holiday traffic that turned a 10-minute drive into an hour-long traffic jam, when I got a text message that the release date was to be announced within 24 hours. My mood completely changed- I was bouncing, squealing, and generally terrifying the people in the cars near mine.

- ScribbleRose

1998 - Sitting at a friend's house waiting for a call back from the mechanic fixing my car. She had a copy of *Sorcerer's Stone* sitting on the coffee table that she'd been reading to her niece. I picked it up out of idle curiosity – I'd heard about the books but figured they couldn't possibly be as good as all the hype was making them out to be. I didn't put the book down until I had read all the way through it. About six hours, if I remember correctly. I just couldn't put it down - not even to eat something. Now it's tradition – I don't plan anything for the days of the book release – the whole day is given over to being a book worm. Then, when all of my local circle has finished the book (normally within 24 hours) we meet at someone's house and talk it to death over huge amounts of coffee, digesting what we read and arguing over motivation and such.

- GryffindorGrrl

My favorite memory is finishing *Goblet of Fire* for the first time, closing the book, then turning back to page one and starting over immediately. My friends and I always gather for the day of the book release, to keep each other company and kill time until it's time to go get in line for the book. Watching the cart of books being wheeled out of the stockroom and to the front of the line is always fun, too – but the best is when I get home with my own copy and settle in to read straight through.

- KinderJedi

I think, when I think about the books, that my big "memory" is actually a week of memories. I was in my first year of teaching, completely burned out, and I'd sort of stopped reading, because reading meant that I was studying or working, and it just wasn't fun anymore. I took the bus to downtown Los Angeles (too difficult to park!) to the nearest bookstore, riding 45 minutes one way just to get some trashy literature to read. I picked up *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* at the checkout – completely as an impulse buy, though I was curious about what was making so many little kids read! Within 48 hours, I'd returned – making that same bus trip downtown with the crazy bus riders – to buy the next two books, and I read them from cover to cover. And somewhere, in the middle of smiling at the tricks of language and turns of phrase, a whole bunch of literary things clicked into place for me, and – oddly enough – I now have a better enjoyment of *other* books, and I think that my pleasure reading is all the more interesting for it.

- LuminousMarble



PHOENIX RISING

I have several awesome HP-related memories, but my favorite is probably my first encounter with Harry Potter. It was sometime in 1999 when a friend of mine in school stopped participating in a lunch conversation because she was reading so intently. When she put the book down to take a bite out of her sandwich, I snatched it away to get a look at what was so enthralling. I found myself reading the first chapter of *Prisoner of Azkaban* before my friend wrenched the book back out of my hands. After school that day I demanded my mother drive me to the bookstore, where I was surprised to learn that the Harry Potter book was third in a series. I was torn... should I purchase the third book, since I already knew I liked it, or should I start at the beginning and work up to PoA? I chose the latter... definitely the right decision. I haven't looked back since that day.

- WildFaery

My then-boyfriend called me over Christmas break, my second year at college. "Got the best books for Christmas. You're going to have to read them."

Dumped the boy. Kept the books.

- Sternal

One of my favorite HP memory takes place at the beginning of Nimbus 2003. We were waiting in line to get our registration packets and there was a sea of people, hundreds of them, all dressed in costume – folks from every house – and I thought to myself, "Dear sweet Merlin, Hogwarts is alive."

- bksncleverness

When *Half-Blood Prince* came out, my husband and I had just moved and so cash was a little tight. We could only get one copy, so we sat in the floor and read it together, taking turns reading to each other. We finished it in one night.

- Duprey

Reading *Half-Blood Prince* on the side of a mountain in Vail last summer. I had driven down the mountain to purchase the book, and had to return to Vail for business meetings, but the meetings were over around noon – and why drive back down the mountain when I could read surrounded by the glory of the Rocky Mountains and the silence left by the melted snow?

- Amy

One of my strongest memories is how I got *Order of the Phoenix*. I had the book pre-ordered from Amazon.com, but around ten p.m. I realized that I just couldn't wait until sometime on that Saturday for a copy! Since I was in the middle of nowhere – an hour's drive to the nearest large bookstore that would have a large selection and a reliable supply of books – I headed to the tiny Waldenbooks in the tiny local mall. And I was astounded. In an area not particularly known for its literacy, or its love of reading or culture, hundreds of people were lined up for books. They were children and adults, grandparents and teenagers. There were the loners, who'd put on their heavy, round glasses and were standing, a little bit defiantly, in line for books. There were the reluctant readers, still slogging through the remedial classes in elementary school, pink-cheeked and up long past their bedtime, insanely curious about what would happen next. An entire family had constructed cloaks out of black garbage bags, the only material they could afford, and had been saving change for a single copy to be shared among five children. Three hours later, I had a copy of the book in my hand, and I headed home to read



PHOENIX RISING

all night long. I didn't get online and I didn't talk to anyone, and as I read, alone, I knew that the themes and ideas in this book were certain to change how people saw the series.

- Hallie

My favorite Harry Potter memory was finishing *Goblet of Fire* for the first time. Right after I finished that book I knew that I would never be the same. I just had to read the next one, and since my girlfriend had all of the books (I already read the first three), I picked up *Order of the Phoenix* and finished it in 3 days, then shortly after I finished *Half-Blood Prince*. By far those were the greatest emotional days of my reading career. I just can't wait for the seventh book.

- Anonymous

My favorite HP memory is multi-fandom, like me. :D I had GoF along for a reread while sitting in line to buy tickets for the midnight showing of Star Wars Episode II. There was another girl nearby who was a fan, and we bonded over the books. Four years later, and she's one of my best friends. And then there was teaching a workshop (The proposal for which was partially written in line for Episode III. *What?*) at The Witching Hour. That was a lot more fun than I was afraid it was going to be. :) All of The Witching Hour, really. Oh, and seeing a baby in Hedwig costume at the Borders release party for *Order of the Phoenix*! That was adorable.

- wolf_cat

I was quite broke when OotP came out and ended up having to cancel my preorder. The worst part was that it was coming out on my birthday. Luckily, my parents decided to order it for me...with the provision that my father got to read it first. So that night after my parents went to sleep I memorized the page number that my dad was on and how it was placed on the table, and read for the next six hours. I memorized where I was and then put the book exactly as I found it. Now I know that my parents left it out on purpose, knowing that I would start reading it after they went to bed, but the feeling of reading the book when I wasn't supposed to is still one of my favorite Potter memories. Of course finding The Leaky Cauldron and all of the fanfiction sites that are now my obsession comes in at a close second.

- vikehi

My favorite memory was the night *Half-Blood Prince* came out. A whole bunch of businesses in this specific part of New Orleans came together and created a Marauders Map. In the hours before midnight, you could go around to the "different classes" which were really businesses spread out on a few blocks and have Harry Potter inspired cookies, create your own wizard hats, participate in Herbology, listen to a lecture by Snape...all sorts of different activities. My sister and I are both over 20, but we probably had more fun than any kid there! Right before midnight, everyone gathered at this quaint bookstore and there was a huge countdown and then the rush to get the new book! It was the night that I thought of when the storm hit and everything seemed hopeless.

- gettingby

Mine varies between the first time I read the books, on holiday with my parents and desperate to escape them, or the first time I read *Half-Blood Prince* – I splashed out and booked myself a hotel room in the city so I could laze around in a giant spa bath, or stretch out on a king bed! And when I read certain passages about a certain relationship between a certain witch and werewolf, I jumped around the room for ten minutes giggling to myself. :D

- Kirstee



PHOENIX RISING

I remember when *Order of the Phoenix* came out and waiting with great excitement with others in the LJ community. It was like Christmas Eve when you were a kid, where all the kids got all giggly and silly with anticipation. I didn't buy the book at midnight, I bought it that Saturday and spent all day outside in the summer sun reading.

- katrionaa

I have a ton of really great Harry Potter-related memories involving line parties for the movies, book release events, voracious reading sessions, and fannish squeeing at various conferences. All these memories mean something to me, but nothing compares to how I felt reading the books for the first time. My older sister introduced me to Harry Potter. At that time she had a much stronger handle on pop culture than I did; I'd never heard of the books before she bought the first three volumes. She read them, raved about them, and encouraged me to read them so she'd have someone to talk to about the story. Since it was just a few days before the release of GoF, I gave in. I read the first two books fairly quickly and, the night before the GoF release date, I started PoA. I finished book 3 at about 1:00 a.m. knowing, just *knowing* that (after spending every chapter from "The Shrieking Shack" on dissolved in tears) that if I didn't get my hands on copy of *Goblet of Fire* the following day I was going to combust. Luckily, the local Wal-Mart was well-stocked. I got my copy immediately after work that day and returned home to consume GoF in one sitting. I was completely and utterly hooked. I've never been able to look back.

- unanon

I remember for *Order of the Phoenix* release weekend, I went along with some friends, who I had only recently met in person before I got to know more about each other online. We were waiting on line at the Toys R Us in Times Square. My group was right at the front of the line, and majority of us were dressed up. I got to wear a Cannon's sweatshirt my friend made. So some of them were constantly having their pictures taken (and likewise people were making fun but who cares as we were just enjoying the moment :D and of course it was raining...). Eventually we got to go in with about a half hour to go... we got to sit on the ground with the other kids and some adults by the big reading chair as Jim Dale came out and answered some questions and then read the first few pages of the book right before midnight... most of us had been waiting a long time to read/hear this... anticipation! (I read GoF for the first time 2 and a half years earlier) During that time as he read the first few pages for all to listen... you could look around at children and adults alike – all my friends there included – and see the awestruck look in our faces... as we watched and listened to him read.... just magical. ;) That was absolutely amazing - the rest of that weekend that followed was wonderful as well as we read and hung out and just chatted. :D

- smilie117

Meeting Heidi, Ebony, and Amy all for the first times, and all on separate occasions. Sitting on the floor exhausted in the middle of the night at Nimbus and Lissa giving me a Krispy Kreme doughnut. Spending Fourth of July with Amy and Erica on that crazy rooftop. (Not technically fandom). Getting on the bus after Nimbus with Amy and Lissa and realizing we could actually do Nimbus 2005/TWH! That was way crazy.

- Katie, aka imaginarycircus

It was summer of 1999 here in Australia, and I was on a (gasp) roadtrip with my parents and sister. Halfway through, and I'd finished my reading list, and we were in the middle of nowhere in outback Queensland. I



PHOENIX RISING

begged and begged them to stop at the next town so I could get some sort of book to read. But the next town had only a small shopping centre, and the only place half likely to sell books was a Kmart. So I went in, grabbed a couple of trashy teen romance books, and on my way out, picked up *Philosopher's Stone*. Well. I read that first, and had it finished by that night. Fortunately, we were staying in a slightly larger town, so the next morning, I headed off and bought *Chamber of Secrets* and *Prisoner of Azkaban*, finished them before we got home, went and got *Goblet of Fire*, finished that, and jumped on the internet at university and Googled 'Harry Potter fans'. And, as they say, the rest is history!

- kirstee_girl

Going to Nimbus in 2003. I'd been in the fandom for two years at that point and knew my online friends only as words on a keyboard. For the first time they had faces, voices, and I now knew they gave great hugs. I laughed, I rarely slept, I drank, and I completely lost my voice. Time of your life, man.

- eibbil_libbie

My favorite HP memories are the midnight-release parties. Unfortunately, I didn't join the Harry Potter-fandom until right before the first movie came out. So, I've only been to 2 midnight release parties: *Order of the Phoenix* and *Half Blood-Prince*. I'd never been to anything like them. Our local Barnes and Noble transformed into a complete Harry Potter haven. Witches and wizards, young and old, all waiting for the clock to strike 12 so they could get their hands on the books. There's a mutual excitement at those parties because everyone is there for the same reason: Harry Potter! A more humorous memory was during the midnight release of *Half-Blood Prince*. Barnes and Noble thought it would be a nice idea to read the first chapter of the book right at midnight. It backfired greatly. I was one of many who covered my ears and started singing/screaming, in order not to hear. Heh. Overall, I am enjoying the mania that surrounds these books right now, and taking advantage of everything that I can, like the midnight release parties. While the future readers of the books get to enjoy merely flying through the series without wait...they'll never get to experience the true excitement of waiting for midnight for the books. It's an exciting thing, and I am glad I'll go to the final one. Though, it will be bittersweet.

- torn_portfolio

My favorite memory, because me and my friends are a bunch of dorks, is going to the HBP release party in costume. Good ones. Two clans, the Slytherins and the Gryffindors. But not the ones you're thinking. *grin* Half my friends went as school age Lily, Alice, Frank, Sirius, Remus, James, and Peter. The other half of us (including me) went as school age Narcissa, Bella, Rosier, Nott, Snape, Avery, and Lucius ("graduated") all complete with dark marks because we could. And man did we have so much fun. We're all actors, so we were "in character" the whole time. Had fights and everything. Though I think the funniest picture is after we got home. No one changed, we just went straight to reading. And after, we crashed out. There's a picture of Lilly curled up with Rosier, James with Narcissa, Sirius with Snape and Bella with Remus (cause those were the people who happened to be dating at the time). Very cute and pretty funny.

- rlgiddy

Mine would be attending the HBP-release-party-thing at Borders, Oxford. The atmosphere was great, a great big bunch of Harry Potter loving people :) It was actually my first Harry Potter event ever :D Staying up all night reading the book was fun as well...

- georgewchubby



PHOENIX RISING

My favorite memory was when HBP came out. The day before we had gone on a trip to the amusement park, and so that night (the night before it came out), we were picking up my little sister from my grandparents, and the news was on. They made an announcement about the book coming out the next day, and I was like "OMG I completely forgot!" So, the next day, we were at Target and my dad saw it on the shelf and asked if I still wanted it. I was like "of course!" and so we bought one. That night, I remember reading a kids book to my little brother (who was sharing the bed with me) and then waiting until he fell asleep. I turned over and switched on the reading light and read until around 4 in the morning. I remember thinking, "I've got to finish this! I can't fall asleep!" when I got tired, and then yelling at myself in my head for being tired. Finally I marked the place and fell asleep. The next morning I sat on the couch and read until I finished it, ignoring everything around me.

- falling4redheads

I was reading all these entries and trying to think of what my favorite Harry Potter memory was. Was it when I first read *Sorcerer's Stone* after being coerced by my best friend Erin? Was it my first book release party, Goblet of Fire? Was it Half-Blood Prince release party, where I dressed as Trelawney and read tarot cards for 4 hours straight? Was it the day before Half-Blood Prince came out and we had our dolphin Lily give birth to a male calf and we ended up naming the calf Potter? Was it teaching Legilimency to the kids at the Book Club? Was it The Witching Hour? Was it Lumos (the Threshers winning the cup, Steve Van Ark's "Neither Here Nor There", The Harry and the Potters and the Draco and the Malfoys concert, the paparazzi taking pictures of me and Erin as Trelawney and McGonagall)? I think my favorite memory is this moment right now. The moment I realized that no matter how much work sometimes sucks, no matter how much I feel alone and misunderstood by everyone else in the world, no matter how many people make fun of me for loving Harry Potter, I have people who DO understand me and know exactly WHY these books are the world to me! Thank you for being you, guys.

- morgan_lefay96

*I remember the exact moment I picked up *Sorcerer's Stone*. I was at a friend's house and he had the book lying on a table. He asked if I had heard about it and said it was "pretty good." I had vaguely remembered reading something about the excitement surrounding it. I picked it up, opened it, and didn't put it down until 5 chapters later (totally ignoring everyone else). The next day, I went out and bought my own copy.

*I remember falling in love with Sirius in *Prisoner of Azkaban*. When I read that Sirius had died in *Order of the Phoenix*, I threw the book across the room in a tearful rage, and would not pick it back up for an entire day. I. Was. Pissed.

*Another favorite memory is asking for July 17 off from work so I could immediately start on *Half-Blood Prince* when I picked it up at midnight. I remember getting phone calls and texts from friends – "OMG. Have you read page such-and-such yet???" "OMG. Turn to page such-and-such!!!!"

- lindseymoongirl

One of my best friends is a fellow-ficcer that I've never actually met. I ran into one of her stories, a pretty amateur MWPP work, online. She referenced some British Invasion music I was particularly fond of, which I mentioned in the review. She replied, telling me more about her music (and other) tastes. We've been corresponding, inspiring, and bouncing ideas off each other for almost five years now. We've both gone off to college, but we still write, and exchange birthday presents.

- Anonymous



PHOENIX RISING

The day the *Half-Blood Prince* came out. I was in Florida and USPS delivered my flatmate's book to our door but mine didn't come. She was gone for the weekend and said I could read her copy but I refused! ;o) I freaked and freaked and freaked s'more, paced the apartment for most of the day but still nothing. I even emailed Amazon.com and bitched at them, but then at about 3 p.m. it suddenly dawned on me that maybe... just MAYBE... USPS had put *my* book in our postbox but it wasn't big enough for both. DUH! *headdesk* I hurtled downstairs barefoot, unlocked the box and THERE IT WAS! I could have wept with joy and spent the next 6 hours or so reading it. Phones were turned off, computer off, door locked – just me and the book. Bliss.

- HogwartsHoney

My first Potter memory is lying in HogwartsHoney's guest bedroom reading the *Sorcerer's Stone* in September 2001. The first four books were all out and for my 16th birthday, she (HH) and two of my friends gave me the books and I entered a level of obsession unlike any other. My favourite Potter memory is watching the films with HogwartsHoney - in particular *Goblet of Fire*.

- Charmed310

I had been extremely excited for the 16th all summer, so finally, I persuaded my best friend to go with me to Barnes and Noble. I ran into a girl from my ice skating rink and a girl I didn't remember but who was at a Harry Potter summer camp thing with me the summer before and was there getting the book and an audio book for her twin brother who was in the hospital being treated for leukemia. I made a wand out of a yellow straw, and put on round plastic glasses to get a Polaroid taken. Then, I won a thing of Bertie Botts in the trivia game where I was extremely irritated to realize that "who were the 4 marauders and what were their nicknames?" was an 8 point question. Finally, I was like 7th or 27th or something in line and bought the book, but I was 11 at the time and fell asleep. I still have the poster laminated on my wall and I wear the gummy bracelet, but I stupidly lost the book's dust jacket. XD

- MistressMoony

Too many memories. But I always like dressing up in costume and going to the movies or attending other sci/fi conferences. I just feel so smart wandering about in a robe. For the last movie I was in costume, the only one, and some kid came up to me and asked me all about my costume. It was cool and I had fun talking to him.

- Winnett

I had just graduated high school and I was in Atlanta with a bunch of other recently graduated high schoolers for debate nationals. It was the last night of the trip and we were going to crash early because we had to get on the plane in the morning. I was sad because I wanted to get *Order of the Phoenix* at midnight, but I hadn't seen a bookstore close to the hotel we were staying at in downtown Atlanta. Over dinner I brought up the idea that we should find a bookstore that is close and try to drive there. It turned out that we couldn't find that bookstore, so two exhausted teachers and six crazed students all decided that we should drive 40 miles to the mall in the middle of nowhere we had seen earlier in the week to get the book. It was at this point that "Highway to Hell" came on the radio and we all laughed. By the time we got off the plane back in Spokane, Washington, we had all finished the book.

- benfromidaho



PHOENIX RISING

How can I pick a favorite memory!!! I think my favorite Harry Potter memory was when my friend and I were in Chemistry and we had this awful teacher who would call on you when you didn't know the answer and never when you did. So he was mean to my friend about it and she said "yes, Professor Snape" and the entire class busted up laughing. The teacher didn't know what she was talking about, so she didn't get in any trouble. Ha ha.

- mypotter

OK. Fav HP memory. First time I read a HP book was POA. I got it for Christmas. I read it straight through without stopping. I then had to get all the others. The second memory was when I was teaching SS to my freshman English class. I opened up the newspaper and there I was the teacher of witchcraft. It made me mad at first but now I laugh at it. That was crazy. And finally my week at The Witching Hour. All went by so fast and crazy. But, it was the best time of my life. I miss everyone so much.

- bertena

Harry Potter makes me happy, and so I decided to throw a Harry Potter birthday party for myself. It consisted of a viewing of the 2nd HP movie that had come out on DVD. I created a 'movie screen' out of a white sheet and a piece of wood to weigh it down, hanging it from the balcony. We all sat in chairs in the backyard, wrapped in blankets to watch the film. My friend borrowed a \$5000 projector and sound system from work (he worked for Sony), and we watched the movie in all its glory as if we were in an old drive in theater. It was my 27th birthday party.

- Anneke

I remember vividly the night that *Order of the Phoenix* came out... my best friend picked up the books at midnight, and I was off work at 12:30am. I rushed down to the all night coffee shop to start reading with her. We were tense, agonizing over the events. I remember reading while pacing the upstairs, cigarette in one hand and book in the other. During the scene when the twins left Hogwarts I laughed so hard I cried. I finished the book at 7:30 in the morning, and sat on the edge of the bed bawling like an 8-year-old girl.

- tsarina

My memory is reading and speaking dally hp, and annoying the Muggle. lol I love hp and every thing hp !!!! another memory is, the move behind the move. Magic touch of Harry potter. And, I'll never hope to forget when I found the Phoenix Rising site, the best hp site I found.

- hermione1

I remember being in London last year for the release of HBP! I remember how excited I was that I was going to be in THE city with all the REALLY AWESOME release parties on THE release date, but alas I wasn't allowed to go to the super big awesome release party due to the bombings which happened a few days prior. Due to the kind of uneasy situation, we just weren't sure whether it would be safe to go in to central London, to a place where it was widely known there would be a lot of people (including young children) and...well...people can be sick. In any case, instead I went to smaller release party, but it still rocked! I dressed up, and we got free candy, and my cousin and I delved in to the book immediately it hit our hot little hands. I was flying out back to Australia the next day, so I tried desperately not to read too much of it, so I would have something to do on the plane, but it was pretty damn difficult! Especially when my cousin kept exclaiming things loudly and excitedly whilst I was trying to sleep. I also remember reading a certain chapter in aforementioned book on the



PHOENIX RISING

airplane the next day, whilst all the cabin lights were turned out, and all the businessmen were trying to sleep, and balling my little eyes out. I got a few strange looks. One of many awesome memories.

- Kia

Right after Book 6 came out, I had a rehearsal for a show with a woman who I had also worked with during the immediate aftermath of the Book 4 release – and she knows that I'm a huge Snape fan. Anyway, I show up at rehearsal and the first words she says to me are: "Are you okay?" And then she gives me a hug. We knew what we were talking about. Everyone else thought we were nuts though.

- Racheline

My best all time Potter memory. Well just so you know it is different so here goes: Meeting my friends, without Harry Potter I never would have meet my Harry Potter group and wouldn't have the wonderful friends I have today. Mushy I know, but hey it's true!

- LupinTonks85

My favorite HP memory, which has become more of a running gag with my friends is this: When *Prisoner of Azkaban* came out, I went to go see it with my mom. I had just read the books, and had been trying to get my mom to, but she kept saying the movies were good enough. During the movie, at the lake scene, my mom leans over and whispers "Why's there a reindeer?"

- crazysasha

Every time I hear "Harry's Wondrous World" on the soundtrack it brings tears to my eyes and makes me remember all of the great years I've had with Harry Potter and the fandom.

- Shae, aka Umbridge

I was first very nervous to attend – my relationship to HP had been a very private one until now. But meeting the marvelous people [at Phoenix Rising] has been exciting, welcoming and humorous. As always, it's the choices we make the define us.

- Jules N Dairyland

My husband, of course, will never admit to enjoying Harry Potter... He had seen the first two movies, and we listened to the third book on cassette while traveling to California, and part of the fourth book on the way back. One evening I said, "Honey, you really need to finish listening to the fourth book!" He said, "Okay, put it in." So I put the tape in... We listened... After a while, I had to go to a meeting. It was the beginning of the Third Task, and my husband was starting to fall asleep... Oh well, I thought... But when I got home, not only was he wide awake – he had the book open in his lap listening to the graveyard scene. He looked up at me and said, "Damn you for getting me interested in this!" I couldn't stop laughing.

- Stephanie, aka Call Me Severus

All the wonderful people [Harry Potter has] brought into my life – especially The Leaky Cauldron staff.

- Dragonsinger, Pontalbòn

Keeper Ron!

- Robin



PHOENIX RISING

Phoenix Rising is my first con and I will always remember and cherish it as such!

- Laura

Sunlit Days,
Horcrux Nights,
Toilet Seats for Harry + Ginny
Long live Harry Potter.
Blessings be to JKR.

- MJ

Existential Inspiration of the Harry Potter Series.

- Anonymous

Without a doubt, my favorite memory of this special place in time will be the fabulous people I have met, especially my awesome friends at The Leaky Cauldron

- Anonymous

“It’s our choices, Harry, that show us what we truly are, not our abilities.”

- Anonymous

DUBBLEDORE!

- Anonymous

Phoenix Rising, aka the Malfoy/Black Family Reunion.

- Dracontia and Reggie

Save the Norwegian Ridgeback!

- Anonymous

Fabulous Experience #1: THE PROPOSAL!! (I don’t even know them, but it’s just so romantic!)

Fabulous Experience #2: Lucius Malfoy doing the Electric Slide.

Fabulous Experience #3: Dementor149 doing the Time Warp!

- Strider

Hearing Hedwig’s Theme at the very beginning of the first film – I’ve never been the same... Also, walking into the Jo reading in [August, 2006] and having the soundtracks playing...it took my breath away.

- Anonymous

My best friend told me, “Just read the first chapter before next week.” When I next saw her, I had finished the first four. (OotP was not yet out.)

- Jedi Pirate

Quidditch rocks!!!!



PHOENIX RISING

- Anonymous

Through Harry Potter, I met most of my closest friends!!! Without HP, I would never have met any of these wonderful people.

- Snape

Thank you, fandom.

- Anonymous

My fondest memory has to be (without a doubt!) when Lucius is kicking butt and taking names at the end of OotP!

- Lucius #1, aka Steph

Moaning Myrtle's teasing of Harry and his nekkidness on GoF. Poor Kid. Also, the sad, painful end. Harry's strength of character was marvelous to behold.

- Q

Theorizing with my sister in the car to and from New Orleans.

- Anonymous

Spinner's End! Narcissa finally gets some lines! And Draco got a spine!

- Anonymous

Sitting on the bus on the way to work reading. I missed my stop several times that year as I got absorbed in this book.

- Anonymous

Dumbledore's speech at the end of GoF: "When the time comes and you are faced with the choice between what is right and what is easy, remember Cedric Diggory."

- Anonymous

My introduction to Harry Potter by my uncle, and anticipating the fourth book with my cousins... and spreading the Potter love to my family and friends. This world has meant so much to me over the past six years – my uncle will be on my mind as I read the seventh book. I wish he were here to enjoy the culmination of it all. I know I will continue to spread the fandom to all I love and even my own kids one day – and I thank my uncle for introducing me to it all.

- Anonymous

At the climax of Book 5, a thunderstorm struck and our light went out! I got a flashlight and kept reading.

- Bella

I read all the books (1-5) in a little over a week. My boss started to get suspicious of my attention to my work.

- Anonymous



PHOENIX RISING

The Yule Brawl! And when Mr. Weasley yelled at the Dursleys over the phone because he didn't understand.
- Anonymous

I lost a job and gained an obsession. No longer unemployed, but still obsessed! D/Hr 4-ever.
- Anonymous

I swear, I'm the only fan who actually likes Gambon's DD better than Richard Harris'. Maybe it's because Gambon's DD is a crafty b...., nowhere near so twinkly-eyed and benign as Harris'.
- Anonymous

I got into HP fandom when I was preparing to visit my abusive family of origin. I reread the Pensieve memory of Snape as a small boy crying when a man yelled at a woman, and it resonated with me achingly that I wanted some future happiness for that boy. Until now, JKR hasn't provided any – and I imagine she won't in Book Seven either – but thanks to many wonderful fanfic writers, I've seen happiness for that small boy and it's gotten me hooked.
- Anonymous

The Witching Hour – My first fandom gathering!
- Anonymous

Two words: Portable Swamp.
- Anonymous

Firebolt! The Anti-Nimbus meetup made me know fans and talk [unknown] Shakespeare Company – beat that!
- Anonymous

Harry finally kissing Ginny.
- Anonymous

I love the creativity Harry Potter inspires, and how people can easily make the story their own personal story.
- Sara Hartsfield

My eldest was seven when the HP books were released in the US. It was the first book that truly captured his interest. I read all the books to my sons over the next seven years, giving me uncounted hours of sharing these stories with them. And it turned me into the family HP fanatic.
- Anonymous

After I realized there was going to be no more canon for a while, I found HPfGU. Then [FictionAlley]. Then I fell in love with fandom and may never leave.
- Anonymous

My favorite memory regarding Harry Potter was when I received the sixth book. I had been out of town at a convention when the book was released, and I had no immediate plan for acquiring it. When I got home late Sunday night, a copy of the book along with a number of give-away items (glasses, stickers, poster) were



PHOENIX RISING

waiting for me in the living room. While I had been away, my mom had gotten the book for me without my knowledge, or even request; she did it because she knew I loved Harry Potter. Thank you, Mom.

- Carol

Canon love brought me to New Orleans and let me meet so many people. “Where you meet your true friends” is very true!

- Anonymous

McGonagall: “Harry will be an Auror, if it is the last thing I do!” Take that, Umbridge!

- Michelle

Hermione’s triumphant entrance at the Yule Ball. The emotional center of the whole series! Amazingly enough, my male friends remember little or nothing of that scene, but ALL of my geeky female friends remember it.

- Anonymous

“Give her hell for us, Peeves.” I cried at this part. The twins were the only good thing in OotP.

- tsarina

From the book: Learning about the Unbreakable Vow.

- Lil Langford

The balcony at Storyville. If you don’t know, it can’t possibly be explained.

- Anonymous

When I first found the implications of slash between Harry and Draco.

- Anonymous

There isn’t one moment. Just a bunch of little ones. These books changed my life. These books changed me. And I couldn’t ever possibly measure how many ways the series has touched me. From my new willingness to be in conflict with idiots (rather than just getting along) to the new incredible friends I have made in the fandom over the last few years... it’s just overwhelming. I will never be the same and that is awesome. Thank you D.D. for lending me the first book.

- Bksy

In CoS, I realized Snape was my man when he turned to Gilderoy Lockhart in the staffroom and challenged him to enter the Chamber and rescue Ginny. The books are all about Snape. Snape is the reason I’m in this fandom at all. That Potter brat? Who needs him?

- Anonymous

Hermione kissing Harry on the cheek at the end of Goblet of Fire.

- Anonymous

Winning the Quidditch World Cup during The Witching Hour! Go Whizbees!



PHOENIX RISING

- Anonymous

In HBP, Chapter 2, when Snape asks Belladominatrix if she thought he'd fooled the greatest wizard of their age, pulled the wool over *his* eyes, and you could almost hear, "But I did, you dumb cow." Fan for life on that alone.

- LariLee

Snape asking everyone to commence turning to page 394. Roawrrrrrr.

- Anonymous

Meeting great people who are HP geeks like me!

- Alexia, aka Siva

The moment when Harry realizes that he might be able to use the mirror to contact Sirius – chilling. And I LOVE Sirius – to hope for a second that he might not be gone completely...

- Anonymous

When Harry looks into Snape's Pensieve and sees his father as a bully. We begin to see Severus as a multi-faceted character, and Harry can see that his father isn't all good and all powerful, but also has his own faults. One thing I can't stand is one-dimensional characters, and we finally get to see different sides to different characters.

- Anonymous

We're with you, whatever happens...

- Anonymous

Books and cleverness. There are more important things like friendship and bravery. As one day you might turn around and realize that your best friend is more than that.

- Anonymous

My favorite is the part when Harry walks in on Draco in the loo – crying. It humanized Draco and made me a fan of J. K.

- Anonymous

"Then you should have died," roared Black. "Died rather than betray your friends, as we would have done for you." Black and Lupin stood shoulder to shoulder, wands raised. "You should have realized," said Lupin quietly, "if Voldemort didn't kill you, we would. Goodbye, Peter." Passion, love and friendship by the bucket load – long live the true Marauder Spirit.

- Wolfsbaine from the UK

Dolores! My dear Dolores! How I will miss you. Even if the world thinks you're awful, I adore you. In my little world, you are the next Minister of Magic. Screw Scrimgeour! Oh, also? HP brought my girlfriend and me even closer together (even if she is a Gryffindor).

- JoSelle



PHOENIX RISING

Fred and George getting back at Umbridge by destroying everything. Ultimate revenge. Go Peeves!

- Anonymous

My mother got her 25-year-old daughter all 5 of the books (at the time – there were only 5)! I read them the night before Christmas – all of them – and I was hooked!

- Gina G.

“It was the difference between walking into the fight with your head held high...” I love the imagery, Harry may not choose the battle, but he’ll fight it well!

- Anonymous

Someone please decapitate Nick!

- Amy

My favorite scene in the books is when Harry gets his foot caught in the trick stair. Then that’s when he finds out Moody (Crouch Jr.) can look through the Invisibility Cloak. Also, he sees Crouch Jr.’s name on the Map. The Map never lies!

- Anonymous

The evolution of the individual character, especially the lesser character such as Neville. When Neville finally showed his Gryffindor courage in SS/PS and especially OotP. Suddenly, he had changed from shy, weak and clumsy to a force to be reckoned with.

- Genii, Lumién

Sirius in PoA... My love for him knows no bounds. RL/SB!

- Anonymous

The moment in the graveyard when Harry thinks he is going to die and he decides that he was going to die on his feet like his father.

- Robin, Lumién

I first heard about HP when it first came out and my sister read it, but it wasn’t until the first movie that I got into it. I read all the books out at the time and have been ensnared by Severus Snape since. The love of my life!

- Laura, Pontalbòn

Luna talking about the voices behind the curtain. Simple, but perfect.

- Anonymous

Harry Potter helped me through the grief after my mom died – and for that I am eternally grateful.

- Anonymous



PHOENIX RISING

Okay... so I read the books because I had a sleeping baby on my arm and nothing else within reach... when said baby was three years old, I got ticked because there was so stinking much HARRY POTTER everywhere, she could recognize the bloody name! So, I thought, "Who is as annoyed with Harry Potter as I am?" So I went online and found fanfiction. And that's where Fairy God Jarveys came from.

- dracontia

Meeting all the incredible people at Atlanta HP.

- Anonymous

Ron and Hermione Moment #34: Hermione receives her O.W.L.s and is overwhelmed with disappointment. Ron looks down at her with a little smile and says, "You're actually upset, aren't you?" SO CUTE. Love 'em!

- Kim, Ponty

Other than that it took over my whole social life and Hogwarts is real? No, not many memories at all.

- Anonymous

"I am not worried, Harry," said Dumbledore, his voice strong despite the freezing water. "I am with you."

- Anonymous

The scene in the Shrieking Shack in PoA. The rat is a wizard?! And the story Lupin and Sirius tell gets me every time. "Believe me, Harry." So touching!

- Anonymous

The first time I even heard of Harry Potter, I was working at the Monkey Wards and we got some HP clothes in. I was like, what is Quidditch when I was told about the books and movies coming out. So I saw SS then starting reading the books and have been addicted ever since.

- Ed, Pontalbòn

I'd been spoiled for Dumbledore's death by a co-worker. So when at 3 a.m., I read the line when Dumbledore says, "I'm not worried, I am with you", I burst into tears.

- Anonymous

The HP Party in the backyard. Projection Screen and Sony Sound board! HP candy. I was 27, it rocked!

- Anonymous

In HBP when Dumbledore yells at Harry about why he must be the one to kill Voldie. When Harry realizes why "love" is so important at the end of that chapter, I get chills every time. Oh, and any Gred and Forge moment.

- Leah, Zodico

On the eve of HBP, I was subletting an apartment without A/C that sat above a tattoo parlor. I went to a release party and defeated some middle school kids at trivia. The next morning, I sat in my front window and watched for the mail truck to deliver my book. It was like a Begging Stripes ad when the truck pulled up. "Package! Package! Package, package, package!" I seized the book, ripped off the cardboard and ran across the street to a



PHOENIX RISING

coffee shop to read in comfort. I bought an iced tea, left a ten-dollar tip and read for seven hours straight. I spoke twice: “Oh, no, he didn’t” and “The shippers are gonna go nuts.”

- Mad Maudlin

When Dumbledore explains to Harry what the Mirror of Erised is – when Harry sits in front of the mirror and just watches his parents.

- kaneunwrapped

My favorite ship became fanon! Harry/Ginny!

- Courtney

My favorite memory is all of you – my friends. If it weren’t for Harry, I wouldn’t have found you. Thanks, Atlanta HP!

- Jaime, aka Moody

Professor McGonagall: “It unscrews the other way.”

- Several anonymous

Reading the first three books for the first time in a week.

- Anonymous

Fred and George’s fantastic exit!!

- Aria

Harry and Ginny’s Common Room first kiss. Also, Harry telling the Minister he’s Dumbledore’s man through and through.

- Heidi

I read over half of Sorcerer’s Stone in the chair at Barnes and Noble... the first time I picked it up.

- Erynn

Realizing Peter Pettigrew was the rat. What the f... changed my life!

- Anonymous

My favorite moment comes in the first chapter when Harry must do his homework in the middle of the night – it was the first time I read HP, and it hooked me faster than a crochet expert!

- Anonymous

Realizing just how big the Order of the Phoenix was.

- Anonymous

Reading SS out loud in the park and attracting the attention of little kids who wanted to listen.

- Anonymous



PHOENIX RISING

Every moment has endless meaning, but in the first chapter of PS/SS when Dumbledore drops off Harry, and the entire world is performing cheers for the Boy-Who-Lived always gives me chills. The Wizarding World will cheer the BWL once more.

- bewarethesmirk

When Snape finally gets his comeuppance. He's been asking for it for seven years! Now it's payback time!

- The Anti-Snape

When I was in 10th grade in the fall of '99, this 3rd grade, darling girl I babysat for kept asking if I read something called Harry Potter. Um, no... She wanted to lend me her book, so I said sure, and was stunned at how big it was. I went home, sat on my sofa, opened the book, and read the first line. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of Number 4, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. I didn't do any math that night.

- Katey

There's so many... probably when the Map insulted Snape, even though I love him.

- Chloe

Discovering how much fun a book can be, great friends and a love of writing. HP shows the magic in the everyday.

- Jenn

I loved the moment Harry understood the symbolism of his Patronus.

- Calen

"Have some chocolate. It'll help." (Having some Lupin helps much better!)

- Anonymous

I cried like a baby when Sirius went "missing" in OotP. Not a moment that I will ever forget. Sirius lives!!!

- Anonymous

The romantic in me says the Harry/Ginny kiss. I shouted in a library... not good, since I'm a librarian. The other side of me loved when Voldie came back because that's when the series reached its full potential.

- vikehi