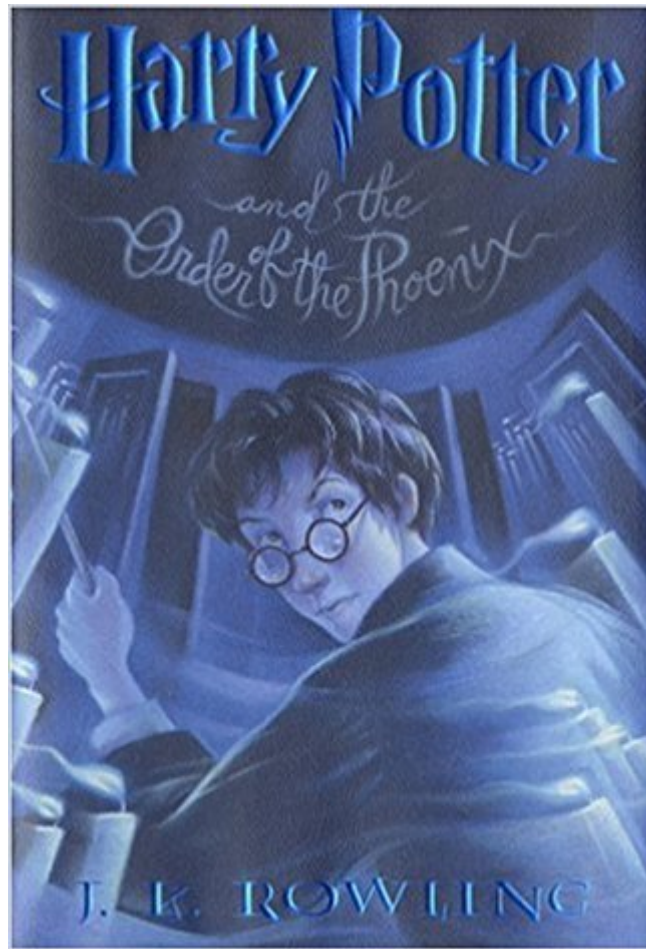




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Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix (Book 5)



Synopsis

The next volume in the thrilling, moving, bestselling Harry Potter series will reach readers June 21, 2003 -- and it's been worth the wait! We could tell you, but then we'd have to Obliviate your memory.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 950L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 21,414 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,590 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #24 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #50 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

As his fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry approaches, 15-year-old Harry Potter is in full-blown adolescence, complete with regular outbursts of rage, a nearly debilitating crush, and the blooming of a powerful sense of rebellion. It's been yet another infuriating and boring summer with the despicable Dursleys, this time with minimal contact from our hero's non-Muggle friends from school. Harry is feeling especially edgy at the lack of news from the magic world, wondering when the freshly revived evil Lord Voldemort will strike. Returning to Hogwarts will be a relief... or will it? The fifth book in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series follows the darkest year yet for our young wizard, who finds himself knocked down a peg or three after the events of last year. Somehow, over the summer, gossip (usually traced back to the magic world's newspaper, the Daily Prophet) has turned Harry's tragic and heroic encounter with Voldemort at the Triwizard

Tournament into an excuse to ridicule and discount the teen. Even Professor Dumbledore, headmaster of the school, has come under scrutiny by the Ministry of Magic, which refuses to officially acknowledge the terrifying truth that Voldemort is back. Enter a particularly loathsome new character: the toadlike and simpering ("hem, hem") Dolores Umbridge, senior undersecretary to the Minister of Magic, who takes over the vacant position of Defense Against Dark Arts teacher--and in no time manages to become the High Inquisitor of Hogwarts, as well. Life isn't getting any easier for Harry Potter. With an overwhelming course load as the fifth years prepare for their Ordinary Wizarding Levels examinations (O.W.Ls), devastating changes in the Gryffindor Quidditch team lineup, vivid dreams about long hallways and closed doors, and increasing pain in his lightning-shaped scar, Harry's resilience is sorely tested. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, more than any of the four previous novels in the series, is a coming-of-age story. Harry faces the thorny transition into adulthood, when adult heroes are revealed to be fallible, and matters that seemed black-and-white suddenly come out in shades of gray. Gone is the wide-eyed innocent, the whiz kid of Sorcerer's Stone. Here we have an adolescent who's sometimes sullen, often confused (especially about girls), and always self-questioning. Confronting death again, as well as a startling prophecy, Harry ends his year at Hogwarts exhausted and pensive. Readers, on the other hand, will be energized as they enter yet again the long waiting period for the next title in the marvelous, magical series. (Ages 9 and older) --Emilie Coulter

Grade 4 Up-Harry has just returned to Hogwarts after a lonely summer. Dumbledore is uncommunicative and most of the students seem to think Harry is either conceited or crazy for insisting that Voldemort is back and as evil as ever. Angry, scared, and unable to confide in his godfather, Sirius, the teen wizard lashes out at his friends and enemies alike. The head of the Ministry of Magic is determined to discredit Dumbledore and undermine his leadership of Hogwarts, and he appoints nasty, pink-cardigan-clad Professor Umbridge as the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher and High Inquisitor of the school, bringing misery upon staff and students alike. This bureaucratic nightmare, added to Harry's certain knowledge that Voldemort is becoming more powerful, creates a desperate, Kafkaesque feeling during Harry's fifth year at Hogwarts. The adults all seem evil, misguided, or simply powerless, so the students must take matters into their own hands. Harry's confusion about his godfather and father, and his apparent rejection by Dumbledore make him question his own motives and the condition of his soul. Also, Harry is now 15, and the hormones are beginning to kick in. There are a lot of secret doings, a little romance, and very little Quidditch or Hagrid (more reasons for Harry's gloom), but the power of this book comes from the

young magician's struggles with his emotions and identity. Particularly moving is the unveiling, after a final devastating tragedy, of Dumbledore's very strong feelings of attachment and responsibility toward Harry. Children will enjoy the magic and the Hogwarts mystique, and young adult readers will find a rich and compelling coming-of-age story as well. Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Overall:-----4 stars - A fairly satisfying ending to the Dark Lord / Harry Potter saga -- the ending is a bit weak, slightly cliched and a lot of dead cool characters. Harry controls the final confrontation with the Dark Lord yet gives the Dark Lord a way out (why?). The Dark Lord's insanity combined with meglomania is his downfall not Harry Potter. It is a cheapening of what one expected from Harry Potter. The search for the Horcruxes is only really possible due to Hermiene's knowledge of magic and magical skills. Harry does show much character and pushes for understanding the Deathly Hallows but really it is more a plot device than anything else. The Dark Lord is blinded by power (searching for the Elder Wand) when he should be finishing off the opposition with the ruthlessness of hardened, paranoid war lord. The great losses by the forces of good seem to be trivialized by the epilogue. I was looking for some type of memorial / recognition of the sacrifices made. The life as usual with the references of respect by naming of the various children is touching but not enough. Characters:-----The deaths of main characters "off-screen" is disappointing and cheapens their loss. Frankly, I cared much more about the characters that died off-screen than the potential loss of Harry's life. It is strange to think the side-characters were more important; I guess the sacrifice they were willing to make for a friend and the side of good is more compelling than Harry's battle with the Dark Lord. The assault on Hogswort showed a tremendous amount of the internal qualities of the side characters than Harry. Harry raised the you can not do this as I will not have your death on my conscious non-sense again. Harry is clearly missing the point of friendship, trust, sacrifice and need to fight evil/darkness at all costs. Why does Ron and Hermiene have to be Harry's conscience all the time? The characters understand the risk but they also understand what is at stake -- please give them some credit! Mrs. Weasley: She rocks! It was great to see her step up as it is hinted that she is a formidable witch in the other books. Snape: He is one of the best characters in a very long time for me. He is very complex and well developed. I did not like how it was all tied back to silent love of a character that is barely developed. If you are going to tied up so much of your life for a lost love, the lost love should be developed in more detail. Harry: The sudden rash of logistical ability to get the horcruxes is out of character for him. The sudden wisdom to appreciate what Dumbledore had setup is out of character and seems forced just to get the story to

a conclusion. It is good that he finally accepts people for being able to think and work as a team (not guided by him). The selflessness of Harry that the ability to turn down the Deathly Hallows is not done well as it conflicts with his selfish internal discussions. I appreciate that Harry is supposed to be the bright shining light of all that is good but the suddenness of being selfless does not quite work for me; it needed more development as I have found Harry to be very selfish in a lot of ways through out the series. Ginny: She is a good character that deserves more development. Dobby: A good tie in here and lead up to the final battle. A way to turn an annoying character from early on into a real character. Plot:-----The plot is pretty straight forward as it needs to resolve the Dark Lord vs. Harry situation...does the evil triumph over good. The race between the Dark Lord and Harry's small group is reasonably well done. However, the Dark Lord would have realized the problem with the Elder Wand before the final showdown. The Deathly Hallows is an interesting plot device but should have been mentioned in the prior books. It seems like it was added as a way to wrap up the series while the rest of the books show a clear well-developed back story. Note: this is a minor point given the level of complex back story JKR has developed for the other books. Action:-----The final assault is well done with good pacing. The "good" guys should really have been wiping out attackers more effectively as they would fight together better than typical one-on-one tactics of the Death Eaters...the concept of suppressing fire, area of effect spells and defensive casting would really have helped the good guys. Also, it is a war and killing the attackers is ok...war is hell! Prose:-----The prose is on par with the other stories. Summary:-----Overall: 4 stars Characters: 3 to 3.5 stars Plot: 3 stars Action: 4 to 4.5 stars -- the assault is well done Prose: 3 stars

I did not plan on reading the Harry Potter books but by accident I came across J.K. Rowling bio on dvd and I was so taken by her imagination as a child and through her adult life I decided to check it out and I could not get enough of these books I would read the book and then watch the movies which are fantastic! I have watched the movies over and over, and now I am on book 7 and will read it as slow as possible because I just hate the series to end. If you don't have time to read the books get the dvd's the production is outstanding and who ever did the casting for that movie really brought the books to life. Daniel, Rupert, and Emma are great little actors and they are the kids in that book. My favorite was the first book and the first movie those kids are so cute. Please check these books out they are not just for children. Gabi

I have a question for anyone who has read both the UK adult version and the US version of the Harry Potter series. I have also followed through all of the Harry Potter books and movies. Being just

over 50, I was surprised at how easily the books and movies pulled me into the delightful world of Harry Potter. I have relatives in their 70's who have been just as steadfast at following the series and reading all of the books. It is a wonderful thing how this series instilled the love of reading to an entire generation (and then some). Reading books had almost become a lost art until Harry Potter came along. My question on the UK adult version of the Harry Potter books..... Are they different from the US standard hardback version which we have been buying from ? I bought the entire series through and on the last book, I bought the deluxe US version with the illustrations. I'm wondering if there is a difference in the writing or additional info in the UK adult version. If there is more to read which I have not yet seen, then I would want to buy those as well... but I thought I would put this question to those who have read both versions to find out whether there is more to read in the UK versions. I would hope Rowling changes her mind and adds more books to the series. There is an endless number of storylines she could continue into their adult lives for decades to come and it does not have to be focused on Voldemort. She could write a story about a virus among the magical world which affects their powers with Hermione as a Doctor or medical researcher at St Mungo's trying to find a cure to the ailing wizards and witches who don't know how to cope without powers... and muggles who catch the virus could gain powers which go haywire. The storylines have endless possibilities. Perhaps if Rowling changes her publisher's contract to not have a hard schedule like the previous series, she can take more time to enjoy writing without harsh deadlines now that the characters' ages for the movies are no longer an issue once the seventh movie is completed. I still think Mrs Norris, the cat, was Filch's former lover who was turned into a cat by her husband which is why Mr Filch is so devoted to the cat. I know there is a storyline in that which has not yet been explored.

We find out more about Harry's parents and their friends. The man who was convicted of betraying Harry's parents escaped from Azkaban. They thought he was heading to Hogwarts to kill Harry. The adults felt it was better to not tell Harry. Another interesting book. Very easy to read. Very hard to put down.

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