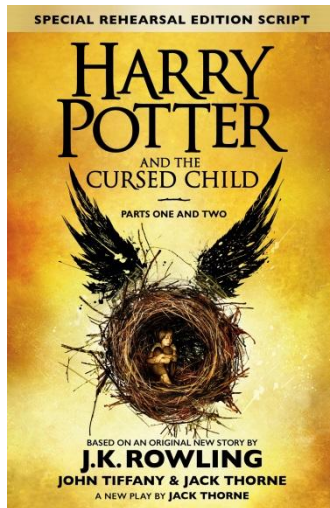




press release



HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD PARTS ONE AND TWO SCRIPT BOOK

(Special Rehearsal Edition)

Based on an original new story by

J.K. Rowling,

John Tiffany and Jack Thorne

A New Play by Jack Thorne

£20 hardback

00:01am 31st July 2016

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - Parts One & Two is the script book of an original new story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne, and is a new play by Jack Thorne written to be enjoyed on stage. The Special Rehearsal Edition of the script book (hardback, £20) will be published at 00.01 on 31st July 2016, following the play's opening in London's West End on 30th July, thereby bringing the eighth Harry Potter story to a wider, global audience. The script ebook will be published by Pottermore simultaneously with the print editions, in collaboration with Little, Brown Book Group in the UK, and Scholastic in the US and Canada.

David Shelley, CEO of Little, Brown Book Group said when it was announced: 'We are so thrilled to be publishing the script of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. J.K. Rowling and her team have received a huge number of appeals from fans who can't be in London to see the play and who would like to read the play in book format – and so we are absolutely delighted to be able to make it available for them.'

The Special Rehearsal Edition of the script will be available for a limited time, and gives readers the earliest opportunity to read the eighth story – just after the play has opened at London's Palace Theatre. In this edition, readers will have access to the script used by the cast and creative team during rehearsals and previews.

About the book/play:

The eighth story. Nineteen years later.

Based on an original new story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany and Jack Thorne, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, a new play by Jack Thorne, is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and the first official Harry Potter story to be presented on stage.

It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and father of three school-age children.

While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously,

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both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes darkness comes from unexpected places.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Special Rehearsal Edition of the *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* script book will comprise the script used by the cast and creative team during rehearsals and previews as well as details of the original cast and production team.

During the preview period, in front of a live audience, the script is fine tuned by the creative team. It's a chance to make tweaks outside the rehearsal room and based on the reactions of a real audience before the official opening on Saturday 30th July.

2. The Special Rehearsal Edition will be available for a limited time, to be replaced by the Definitive Collector's Edition to be published early in 2017. This final and complete edition will replace the Special Rehearsal Edition, both in print and digitally. The Definitive Edition will contain the perfected, definitive script with final stage directions and annotations, as seen on opening night on 30th July 2016 and beyond. This edition will also include extra content, such as writing from the play's creative team. More details about the Definitive Collector's Edition will be announced in due course.

3. J.K. Rowling is the author of the bestselling Harry Potter series of seven books, published between 1997 and 2007, which have sold over 450 million copies worldwide, are distributed in more than 200 territories and translated into 79 languages, and have been turned into eight blockbuster films.

She has written three companion volumes in aid of charity: *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* in aid of Comic Relief; and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* in aid of her children's charity Lumos.

In 2012, J.K. Rowling's digital entertainment and e-commerce company Pottermore was launched, where fans can enjoy her new writing and immerse themselves deeper in the wizarding world.

Her first novel for adult readers, *The Casual Vacancy*, was published in September 2012 and adapted for TV by the BBC in 2015. Her crime novels, written under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith, were published in 2013 (*The Cuckoo's Calling*), 2014 (*The Silkworm*) and 2015 (*Career of Evil*), and are to be adapted for a major new television series for BBC One, produced by Brontë Film and Television.

J.K. Rowling's 2008 Harvard commencement speech was published in 2015 as an illustrated book, *Very Good Lives: The Fringe Benefits of Failure and the Importance of Imagination*, and sold in aid of her charity Lumos and university-wide financial aid at Harvard.

In addition to J.K. Rowling's collaboration on *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One and Two*, she is also making her screenwriting debut with the film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, a further extension of the wizarding world, due for release in November 2016.

4. Scholastic will publish the script of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One and Two* in print in the US and in Canada.

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