

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Book Review by Sarina

Ever thought of Harry Potter being a play? I never did, and then it happened! Harry Potter and the Cursed Child takes place 19 years after the events of the original series, focusing on Harry Potter's son Albus Severus Potter, and his struggles with his family legacy.

The story begins at King's Cross Station, where Harry and Ginny Potter are sending their middle child, Albus, off to his first year at Hogwarts. Albus is anxious about potentially being sorted into the Slytherin house, breaking the family tradition of Gryffindor. On the Hogwarts Express, Albus befriends Scorpius Malfoy, son of Harry's former rival Draco Malfoy.

Against what everyone expected, Albus is sorted into Slytherin along with Scorpius. (Against the expectations for Albus, not Scorpius.) Over the next few years, both boys struggle with their identities and face bullying. Albus feels he's failing to live up to his father's legacy, while Scorpius deals with rumors that he might be Voldemort's son. This leads to tension between Albus and Harry, who doesn't know how to connect with his son.

The summer before Albus's fourth year, a significant argument erupts between the two. Harry, in anger, says he sometimes wishes Albus wasn't his son. This painful exchange literally sets the stage for the events to come.

Meanwhile, Harry, now Head of Magical Law Enforcement, confiscates an illegal Time-Turner from a dark wizard. Amos Diggory, father of the late Cedric Diggory, approaches Harry with a request to use the Time-Turner to save his son's life. Harry refuses, but Albus overhears this conversation. Determined to prove himself and right a historical wrong, Albus decides to steal the Time-Turner and save Cedric himself.

Albus enlists Scorpius's help, and they're joined by Delphi, who claims to be Amos Diggory's niece. (Hmm, another trio?!) They steal the Time-Turner from the Ministry of Magic and travel back in time to the Triwizard Tournament. Their goal is to prevent Cedric from winning, thus saving his life.

However, their actions in the past then lead to plot-changing outcomes. In one altered timeline, Ron and Hermione never marry, erasing their daughter Rose from existence. In another, Voldemort wins, Harry is dead, and Dolores Umbridge rules Hogwarts. Scorpius finds himself alone in this dark reality and must find a way to restore the timeline.

As Albus and Scorpius continue their time-traveling attempts to fix their mistakes, they uncover a shocking truth: Delphi is actually the daughter of Voldemort and Bellatrix Lestrange. Her true goal is to prevent Voldemort's original downfall, ensuring his reign of terror. Take back what I said about it being another trio like that of the original.

Harry, Ginny, Draco, Ron, and Hermione, realizing the danger, use Draco's secret Time-Turner to travel back to 1981. They arrive on Halloween, the night Voldemort killed Harry's parents. The group, along with Albus and Scorpius, must stop Delphi from altering this crucial moment in history.

Harry transforms into Voldemort to lure Delphi. When she realizes the deception, Albus helps his father defeat Delphi. Harry then has to witness his parents' murder without intervening.

Throughout these events, Harry realizes he needs to be a better father and accepts that Albus is different from him. Albus, in turn, gains a deeper understanding of his father's past and the weight of his legacy. In the end, Harry and Albus begin to repair their relationship, with Harry pledging to be a better father. He helps Albus understand that even great wizards like Dumbledore and Snape were flawed, emphasizing that Albus shouldn't feel pressured to live up to impossible standards. This play, even in the format that it is, was enjoyable and kept me on the edge of my seat when reading (I never watched). I rate it an 8/10.