Mrs. Weasley followed them upstairs looking grim. “I want you all to go straight to bed, no talking”, she said as they reached the first landing, “We’ve got a busy day tomorrow.”
“I expect Ginny’s asleep”, she added to Hermione, “so try not to wake her up…” (fades out)

Casper: I’m Casper ter Kuile…

Vanessa: and I’m Vanessa Zoltan…

Casper: and this is Harry Potter and the Sacred Text.

Vanessa: So there is a very famous story in my family that my father finds very charming and I find very embarrassing…
And it is the fact that one night at dinner when I was, like, eight or nine years old, my family was just, like, politely eating dinner one night—as we did—and I turned to my dad, sort of out of nowhere and I said, “you know dad, you are really lucky that mom didn’t leave you just because you had a brain tumor”...

Casper: *gasps*

Vanessa: …and then just politely kept eating my chicken. As if this was a normal comment to have made! This story has become like an identity marker for who I am. I get teased in my family as, like, being the person who always pushes up their glasses and is like,(*in a nasally sarcastic voice*) “you know, Dad…” I’m a know-it-all and this is the joke in my family. And so whenever I say anything “know-it-all-ish” at all, my whole family is like (*mockingly*) “you know, Dad…”
But what’s so interesting to me about this story is that I have zero recollection of this happening. The thing that I do remember, and the only thing I do remember sort of about this, is that I remember watching the news with my parents and Newt Gingrich, who was the speaker of the house at the time, was being interviewed about the fact that he had just left his wife even though she had cancer and was possibly dying. And I do remember thinking “oh no, are Mom and Dad gonna get divorced? Dad is sick; I guess
this is something that grownups do?” So I remember having the fear, but I do NOT remember turning to my dad and saying this. I do not remember apparently everybody thinking it was hysterical. And yet it has become this, like, identifier for me in my family and I think that the identifier is true, but it’s just so funny to me that this has become a touchstone of how my family sees me and I would like swear on a stack of Bibles that it didn’t happen.
And I think memory is so funny in that way and that we see that in this chapter, right? This whole house is just one big memory for Sirius and we get to hear some of that from his point of view and then we a little bit get to hear it from Kreacher’s point of view and we get to watch Harry try to make meaning of it but there are all these memories that took place in this house that we don’t have any access to, we are only getting one version of the story. And apparently there are whole big things in our lives that we just don’t remember at all. So I’m excited to delve into those questions around memory with you!

Casper: (*laughing*) First of all, I love this story. Oh my god, I can just imagine you sitting there, “you know, Dad…”

Vanessa: (*mockingly*) “you know, Dad… actually…”

Casper: but it makes so much sense! I mean, I have this with photographs all the time that I think I remember things that I actually just have a photograph of and that has kind of created a memory and I think about the way that memory is always shifting. You know, it’s not a snapshot of what happened, it’s our relationship to that. So juicy, let’s dig in…

Vanessa: But first, let’s test your memory!

Casper: *groans*

Vanessa: On your mark. Get set. Go!

Casper: So in this chapter, we learn all about Sirius’s family. We learn that he’s related to Tonks and that he’s kind of related to Molly and Arthur and we’re learning that their family is dark wizards and we learn about Narcissa and Bellatrix and it’s all very terrifying. We see all sorts of items around the house--including a locket that will not open. Oh my god, spoiler alert! And Kreacher is walking around is kind of muttering to himself and saying, like, you know, “I hate you all, you filthy Mudbloods” and Hermione is being really naive and saying, you know, “he’s just having a bad day”… *chuckles*
Vanessa: I have a language complaint for culture….

Casper: okay

Vanessa: We now say “Spoiler Alert” when we mean “foreshadowing”. Like, you didn’t spoil anything. You pointed out something that’s foreshadowing.

Casper: I’m a literary noob

Vanessa: No, you’re great! This is not your fault. It’s a cultural problem. You are it’s victim...

Casper: Vanessa, it’s time for your 30 second recap… Here we go… 3… 2…1… Start! (clock ticking in the background)

Vanessa: They have to kill all the doxies and Fred and George’s company is doing really well over mail order. And they’re being creeps with Molly. Molly like lays down on a, sits down on a bag of rats, which is like, so disgusting. Harry forgot about his trial and is like, “oh, right! I have a trial...” Sirius and Buckbeak is up in a room, which sort of seems sad. Ummm… And, yeah, they’re just like cleaning and snacking”

(buzzer goes off)

Casper: That sounds like a great afternoon. (Vanessa giggles) Like, once I get in a cleaning mood, I love it!

Vanessa: oh…. No...

Casper: No?

Vanessa: No. I need a lean in to the snacking. If I put out a plate of cheese and crackers and then was like “Now I’m going to clean!” and like every time I did a half an hour I was like “little snack break”...

Casper: I love this!

Vanessa: ... I’d be into it.
Casper: So, Vanessa, we’re exploring this chapter through the theme of memory. Where did it strike you in this reading?

Vanessa: Well, I really just saw Kreacher as an embodiment of memory.

Casper: ooooooh

Vanessa: So, he really symbolizes to me sort of institutional memory, the way we often want to ignore people who have deep and like institutional and sometimes very painful memory. And I just think that, yeah Kreacher is a grumpy jerk, but I wondered to what extent Sirius’s anger toward Kreacher is that he saw it all… he remembers it all.

Casper: It’s a way that Sirius can’t escape history because here’s Kreacher that embodies that history and is literally saying it out loud everywhere goes

Vanessa: right, I mean he obviously adds some more like color commentary than just reciting facts that he witnessed. He’s not a wholly reliable witness, but he haunts the house and I’m really interested in institutional memory. They’re going around and they’re trashing everything in this house and Kreacher is like “no, these are valuable”. And again, he doing it with, like, disgusting hair growing out of his ears and while saying, like, racist slurs. I’m not saying he’s perfect, but I’m just saying he’s like, this archivist who’s saying “this museum matters”.

Casper: (*chuckling*) He’s making out with a pair of trousers that used to belong to Sirius’s dad

Vanessa: Do we see that? No… That’s a rumor!

Casper: (*laughs*) But yes, Kreacher sees value in the things around him in a way that Molly and everyone who’s cleaning--and certainly Sirius--don’t see value. Right? To them, it’s trash that’s in the way, it’s dirty, and it needs to go for the new purpose of this house. And Kreacher wants to hold on to what it used to be. What it used to symbolize. And I think that’s one of the difficult things around memory is that change is the only constant, as they say. And so, memory is inherently about how things used to be different. And if, like Kreacher, you were in a better place in those times... Right? Like, he was still a house elf and he was still, you know, responsible to fulfilling orders from his master and mistress. But he took a kind of twisted pride in the supremacy and the horrific perspectives that this family embodied.
Vanessa: Well, his life had a purpose…

Casper: Well, that, absolutely. He had a place in the family and now? Now he doesn’t. And what’s interesting to me, is that for 10 years he lived alone in this house. And so, in some way, Kreacher transformed even the house that it used to be so that it became “his” house. And I wonder if Kreacher is more complex than we think. I don’t think he stayed static after the Black family died, like, I think he sees this as his house now, and he’s kind of using the Black family in some way as a memory that legitimizes his ownership

Vanessa: This is just reminding me of conversations around Confederate statues in the South….

Casper: Oh... wow...

Vanessa:  Kreacher is this person who’s, like, “things were better back then”, even though he doesn’t really have a memory of the way that things were better and they weren’t actually better for them. He was actually still entirely exploited and it was part of this system to exploit him. But he has this romantic view of the way things were in the past and that now we are in this new moment of the house is now actually supposed to be this totally other thing, he’s like ‘you will not tear down this statue of Robert E Lee, he was a great man!” and everybody else is saying “No, Robert E Lee never mattered. We need to tear it down and trash it to make room for this public library. We need to move forward”
I guess--my slightly academic point of view--is these artifacts should be kept. But they should be kept in the history of like, the “History of Thinking About Wizard Supremacy” museum, not in the headquarters for the Order. But I do think that Molly and Sirius are being a little bit too lax with memory. Institutional memory matters! And to your point: change is good and change is constant. So let’s change the context around these things. It’s doesn’t mean they’re trash.

Casper: It’s so interesting to think about the memory of things and what they symbolize in some way. A place in the text that really struck me was as they’re walking through this living room and they’re cleaning the curtains from these doxies and all sorts of things. The text tells us “the carpet exhaled little clouds of dust every time someone put their foot in it” and I loved that image of the carpet breathing. Like, this kind of image of the physical house as a living thing that inhales dust but also the stories and what’s happened in this place. And now that these people are here it’s exhaling these stories. It just made me think how we have memory language about how we have like faux
memory and water memory and as we’re increasingly wearing things with artificial intelligence, literally the things on our bodies are going to have memories. Even if it’s just tracking the run we did three days ago. What does it mean for things to have memories? But even if it ends up in a museum, like in an archive, it holds a place in someone’s memory if it’s there.

Vanessa: I don’t know that I agree that my phone has a memory, it has a record

Casper: Yeah, like a record is a fact and a memory is story that we tell about the fact

Vanessa: Right, but also, if I read the record of all of the soldiers who fought in Vietnam, I don’t have a memory of those people. I read their names and imagine stories. It matters whether or not you can claim even faulty access to the actual experience.

Casper: Well, this is what’s so interesting. Because in this chapter, Harry remembers something he only saw through someone else’s memory. He has access to Dumbledore’s memories through the pensieve and that’s how he recognizes the LeStrange name, which comes up on the genealogy tree. And so, in the magical world, that rule that for us is true, does not apply. Because he literally can embody and experience and remember someone else’s memory. Which makes me think, like, how private the idea or the experience of memory really is. In our world, no one can access my memories.

Vanessa: Do you think that’s true? Because what that moment made me think of was videos of police brutality. We now have all these videos of--especially black--people being killed by police officers that go viral. And I’m always very conscious of the decision as to whether or not I want to watch that. Because, first of all, there are questions about voyeurism, right? Of like, “Do I really want to be watching this very private moment?” but it feels like an important political thing to witness. But then there’s this just like this selfish question of like, “Do I want this memory? Do I want to watch someone get killed?” Right? So I do think that with smartphones, to your point, we’re having more and more access to each other’s memories. It’s not perfect access, obviously, but those body cams or those dash cams--we are seeing more and more of what one another see.

Casper: Yeah, that’s really interesting. I had only thought about the reality of watching the record, right?
Vanessa: mmhmm

Casper: Watching the fact, that I hadn’t thought about the memory of watching the fact which then lingers with us.

Vanessa: Right

Casper: That’s really interesting. I mean, memory, the way our bodies respond to memory I think is also fascinating. There’s sort of an inherent kind of forgetfulness that’s necessary in order to make it through. And there are moments, you know, I had this recently, where you kind of unearth new memories or you have a different story you're able to put together about what happened because suddenly you have new information. And it's so destabilizing, because you start doubting things you thought you knew about yourself. There’s inherent power in memory in, like, who controls information that shapes memories. And I just even think about the questions Dumbledore must have asked himself about “which memories am I going to give Harry access to?”. Just like in the last chapter we saw “How much are we going to tell the children about the Order of the Phoenix and what’s going on?” Dumbledore’s had to do that with the pensieve as well, and may have made bad decisions.

Vanessa: Yeah

Casper: Vanessa, where else in this chapter do you see this theme of memory?

Vanessa: We literally see it, and Sirius sort of walks us through it, through this huge tapestry on the wall. That I imagine to be like the most disgusting, hugest, moth-eaten, stinky, weird thing ever.

Casper: See, I imagined it as this, like, enormous, imposing, actually quite beautiful physical object--but with these, like, little holes where people have been burned out of the family. I mean, so intense!

Vanessa: (*laughing*) That is so interesting, right? I mean, the idea that you can burn someone out. Because then, you see the burn mark, so it’s not like they’re actually erased.

Casper: yeah, I mean, it’s so ironic because I feel like i’ve come across this in a slightly different way, where my extended family all have a shared house on the beach in Holland and my sister created this beautiful kind of wall art spiral of the genealogy of all
the cousins and second cousins and everyone who goes there. At some point, my uncle got divorced and has a new partner and like, what do we do with this like, thing on the wall? And it was kind of like a political thing that was uncomfortable because you don’t want to leave a new partner out but you’re also not going to get rid of an old partner who’s the parent of their children, you know, all of this kind of difficulty, so as much as we laugh at the burning out of Sirius and the various uncles who have been good to him and things. These questions are very real when you’re trying to represent family, like those relationships are hard

Vanessa: Oh, yeah! And just if you like go through a breakup, if you trash every photo that your partner was in, you’re potentially erasing whole trips that you went on...

Casper: Right

Vanessa: Right? Or whole memories. No, this is like a very live question. I mean, what to hold onto and what to trash? Like...

Casper: Yeah, and you're right, and burning a hole through the tapestry does not erase them. It actually draws more attention to them

Vanessa: Right! It would be as if, rather than trashing a photo of you and your partner, you just cut out their head and then put it back in the frame.

Casper: *laughing* Do you know what my grandparents would say when my mom was dating someone? To the boyfriend: “Can you stand on the side just in case you break up we can cut you off…” They would literally say that!

Vanessa: *laughing* yeah!

Casper: And they did!

Vanessa: *still laughing* That is really good strategy!

Casper: I’m also curious to know like when was this magical item created? Like, who created it? Cause there has been this massive craze about understanding your family’s genealogy and, ancestors.com and even things like 23andme to get a sense of like, “oh, i’m 23% Uzbeki or whatever..” I think as people age this question comes up more and
more. You see the finite end of your own life and so you want to see how you fit within a bigger tapestry of history in a way. And I mean, even the title of this chapter, right? I mean, the “ancient and noble” Both of these things are about history and lineage… I mean, there’s something there…

Vanessa: Yeah, I mean I definitely think that there’s something about age. I don’t know if I agree if it’s about when we age. I mean, I have a friend who just did this because she now has young kids and so she wants to be able to tell them stories about who they are and where they come from and, for various reasons they don’t know much of their historical family history, so I feel like it’s when we are transitioning from one phase in our lives to another that we like to think about our historical context. And, I mean, these things like 23andme and ancestry.com are also very complicated, going back to this thing of records. You’re implicating not just yourself but all your family DNA is accessible through a database and there are questions now as to whether the FBI and police forces can access this DNA. A serial killer, who wasn’t found for like 30 years in California got caught because one of his distant relatives uploaded their DNA through 23andme and so the role of records, like matters materially in people’s lives. The fact that this document exists and that Harry stares at it--Spoiler Alert--is going to help him solve a horcrux later. That’s an actual spoiler alert!

*Theme music*

Casper: Vanessa, I’m so excited that this week we are returning to Lectio Divina! Yaaaay! So, I’m going to choose a passage at random and we will read it through our four stage reading process.

And the text is: (*reading from text*) Deftly spraying two doxies at once as they soared straight for his nose, Harry moved closer to George and muttered out of the corner of his mouth “What are Skiving Snackboxes?”

So…. What’s happening on our first kind of stage of Lectio? What’s happening on a literally story level?

Vanessa: So, Harry is chatting with Fred and George about their covert company that they are running with the money that he gave them and they are simultaneously killing doxies, or cleaning doxies I should say. So Harry is spraying the doxies to clean them and the reason they are talking about it is because Fred and George are stealing some of the doxies in order to learn more about their properties in order to make this new
thing that they are making called Skiving Snackboxes and Harry wants to know what those are

Casper: I love it, that’s exactly right *chuckles*

Vanessa: (*proudly*) I’m so good at this

Casper: So, as we think about the second stage of Lectio, we want to think allegorically. So are there words in this sentence that remind of us other parts of the Harry Potter story or stories elsewhere? Songs? Maybe pieces of art that we’ve encountered? We want to kind of let our creative minds take over from our rational analysis and see what we come up with.

So I’m going to read it again: (*reading from text*) Deftly spraying two doxies at once as they soared straight for his nose, Harry moved closer to George and muttered out of the corner of his mouth “What are Skiving Snackboxes?”

You know what I’m reminded of? Is actually quidditch. Like, “soaring straight for his nose”… I’m just thinking about Harry’s skill on a broom. His power as he’s flying to chase the snitch. The kind of skill and subtlety that you need on the broom as you’re dodging and moving around trying to be unseen by the other team’s seeker. What about you?

Vanessa: I mean, what these doxies remind me of are like little fairies and like fairy stories. Right? They’re described, like they have wings and they have these sharp teeth. In Jane Eyre she uses a lot of fairy and sprite language. when she’s waiting for an idea to come to her she says, like, she gets out of bed and she paces for a while and then she lies back down and the idea comes to her and it’s as if a fairy left it on her pillow. And so I’m just reminded of the dual use of these fairies. That they need to be expelled from the house because they're sort of poisonous and dangerous but Fred and George are like, “Nope! This is going to be awesome!”

Casper: You know, just reading it now again I’m thinking kind of like a bad action movie. Like two partners in crime taking on various multiple things and like SLAP! BASH! BOOM! and then with a funny word to their partner. You know, like, it has that kind of comedic timing and action moment.

Vanessa: *laughing* Yeah, it’s like a husband and wife team who’s like talking about the laundry while killing bad guys!
Casper: *laughing* Exactly!

Vanessa: Yeah! And I do think that this is supposed to be a really light moment in all of this muck. They’re like spraying fairies and talking about ways to skive off class, right?

Casper: you know, we always talk about the twins as kind of the comedic relief, right? They’re the gravediggers in this proverbial Shakespeare in some way, and what I like about this moment where we are learning more about the process of making the snackboxes is that actually there’s a lot of pain involved and it’s making me think about comedians who often suffer from depression while making people laugh as their profession. It’s making me think about people who work out a lot or who are really committed to intense physical fitness where they say what builds their community is suffering and laughter. And the fact that they’re twins mean that they can withstand this kind of physical pain of like vomiting extensively. I don’t think i’ve seen the cost of making the laughter and the joy for the twins before and I’m beginning to think about that

Vanessa: I thought about that too while reading this sentence because we only see in previous books the way they’re a little bit willing to experiment on other people…

Casper: Yes!

Vanessa: …and I was like oh that’s probably phase two of their testing, after they’ve tested it on themselves! They want to see if Neville turns into a canary and they want to do that to make sure it doesn’t just work on them--and it’s terrible and you should not experiment on people without their permission--but I also just appreciated that there’s real sacrifice involved in what they’re doing and I love what you said about the sacrifices that people make in order to make people laugh. I also like that we were like “Oh, this is a happy moment in the chapter” and we’ve just made it about sacrifice and suffering… I’ve worked my ways on you, ter Kuile!

Casper: *gasps* Well, let’s move swiftly on to the third level of Lectio which is starting to think about what experiences have we had that we see mirrored in this piece of text. Do you want to read it for us, Vanessa?

Vanessa: Happily! (*reading from text*) Deftly spraying two doxies at once as they soared straight for his nose, Harry moved closer to George and muttered out of the corner of his mouth “What are Skiving Snackboxes?”
Casper: *Chuckles*

Vanessa: It just reminds me of something that I feel like I learn again and again. Which is, I’m more productive when I’m next to somebody. So like, I was putting off doing laundry and putting off doing laundry and then my friend Julia was like “do you want to do laundry tonight?” and I was like “yes!” It’s just more fun and doable if you’re with somebody else while doing it. I don’t know, I like always want to go on errands with somebody else. I’m like, “I’ll go on three errands with you if you’ll come on one errand with me!” because I will never go on that errand if I have to go by myself!

Casper: Right! And like, we went night swimming again a few nights ago, but neither of us would have gone on our own...

Vanessa: Nope!

Casper: Yeah...

Vanessa: Yeah

Casper: I love that

Vanessa: so it’s just… right? They’re being productive and like, they’re cleaning, but it’s just so much more fun if there are several of you

Casper: 100 %

Vanessa: What about you, Casper?
Casper: I mean, it also reminds me of when you’re kind of sneakily talking about something that you shouldn’t be and the person who’s in charge or the teacher in the room is only a few feet away but you have a little side conversation anyway. And just that feeling of -- and maybe this is just me--but maneuvering around the rules is extremely satisfying. And I feel like Harry hasn’t had that feeling very much here, he got information yesterday but he doesn’t feel empowered and in this moment… you just feel like you’ve maneuvered yourself smartly and you’ve had your way in the face of resistance and I definitely recognize that feeling.

So that brings us to our final stage of Lectio which is traditionally, Guigo II would ask “What is God saying to us through this biblical text?”. And we always ask the question
what is the text telling us? What is it inviting us to do? Do you feel called to do something?

(*reading from text*) **Deftly spraying two doxies at once as they soared straight for his nose, Harry moved closer to George and muttered out of the corner of his mouth “What are Skiving Snackboxes?”**

Vanessa: I do! You know, Ariana just told me a story yesterday about she just moved and she and her roommates were like sort of sad about the fact that they’re in a new city and Ariana’s answer to that was “Let’s go out and make friends!” and they had this really positive experience... And my reaction to sadness is like “let’s indulge that sadness” and get into bed and watch a sad movie and cry and I just think Ariana’s right and I’m wrong and I think we see that here, right? My instinct is to just go be alone, and I think we see immediately chit chat gets Harry into such a better mood. So I think I feel called into, not indulging sadness, but rather going out and looking for community when I’m feeling sad. What about you Casper?

Casper: It really struck me this fourth time reading that Harry’s asking a question about something he doesn’t know and the text tells us that Harry moves closer to George, which might just be so that he can audibly whisper, but I was in a meeting recently where someone mentioned an event that everyone else seemed to know what it was and I was just like “yeah, uh huh, I know too....” but I had no idea! And so, I like what Harry is doing here and I feel called to when I don’t know something to just move closer to the person and be like “hey what is this thing that everyone seems to understand?” Thank you so much, Vanessa

Vanessa: Thank you Casper

Casper: it’s time for this week’s voicemail...

*voicemail beeps*

Hello Casper, Vanessa, and Ariana. I’m a humanities professor at a large state university in upstate New York. I clearly believe that text is sacred, or I would not have earned an MA and a PhD in literature and fought the difficult job market for a faculty position in academica... But one thing among many that I’ve learned through the podcast is that we should treat other people as sacred as well. I don’t think either of you has said that phrase verbatim: that “we should treat people as sacred”, but it is something that I find myself thinking about often as you discuss Molly Weasley, Snape,
Hermione, Harry and house elves. There are a few ways I feel the podcast has changed the way I think and interact with others, but there is one incident in particular that stands out, perhaps because it happened only a week ago. In addition to teaching my four/three course load, I’m the chair of a committee that organizes and runs our university’s only public humanities program. For the past 6 months, one of my committee members has been quite a problem. She is 10 years older than me, but I’m not sure that’s a reason to treat me like a child. Since last February, she has been insulting to me, immensely disrespectful, and generally disagreeable. And I’m not the only one who noticed. For the past three and half months, I’ve been trying to get her to meet with me face to face so that we can discuss her behavior. But she’s been dodging me and finding excuses not to meet, even when I’ve offered to drive forty minutes to meet her at a location closer to her house. Finally, last Monday, the first day of the new semester--after I finished my fourth class of the day--we met by the fountain on campus. And i’m sure she wanted to meet in public because I’m from New Jersey, which means I can yell and get loud, and she probably has a point about that. But I didn’t yell. Not once. And when I say that this meeting was two and a half hours of her circular arguments and bold faced lies, you can imagine how badly I wanted to yell... But in the back of my mind were Molly and Snape and Hermione and Harry and especially Casper and Vanessa, reminding me that we should be treating other people as sacred. So I didn’t yell at her. Not once. Although I did correct her and stand up for myself, with far greater respect than she had been showing me. And even more to the point, at the end of the two and a half hour conversation, I said to her “Look, i’m sorry for the parts that were my responsibility and I forgive you for the parts that were yours. I hope to hear the same from you so that we can move forward.” She stopped in her tracks, because we were walking at that point and said “wow, that’s incredibly generous. I’m sorry too and I forgive you as well" and at our next committee meeting, two days later, she apologized to the entire committee--especially to me--and we have since been able to go back to being adults with more interesting and important things to do than bicker amongst ourselves. Now, before listening to this podcast, I don’t think --in fact, I know--that I was not capable of saying something like this, let alone coming up with it and believing it wholeheartedly. I don’t think it would have occurred to me to consider other people as sacred, but this is my new mantra. It will make me a better friend, sister, wife and daughter. Certainly a better professor and colleague. And i’m trying to make this sentiment my new north star. I wanted you to know this, because as critics and theorists, we don’t often get credit for more than pulling apart a text and picking out every last nit. But what you three have created is sacred in and of itself and I’m so grateful for what you do and will continue to do, long after we’ve run out of Harry Potter chapters to read together. So thank you so much and keep doing what you do.
Casper: First of all, Rae, you’re amazing. I love that idea of treating people as sacred. I know that Vanessa has said it to me in person, but I don’t know if we’ve ever said it on the podcast, but in the message of this podcast to act out in your life. I want to credit you in your patience and your generosity in that interaction. I know they don’t always turn out positive, those interactions, but I think you’ve just modeled it so beautifully for all of us who come into conflict with grace and understanding. It feels like you’ve created space for this colleague to actually be the best person that she is and everyone is happier for it, so i’m so grateful that you’re a fan of the show and for everyone that’s taking these questions that we’re all holding together into their own lives so beautifully.

Vanessa: I feel like doing this podcast has made me a better person. Its like certainly made me a more forgiving person so it’s really nice to think that people out there are feeling the same way.

Casper: yeah…. Vanessa, it’s time for us to bless someone from the pages of this chapter. There’s so many people in it, who did you choose to bless?

Vanessa: So I know I just blessed her last week, but I am again going to bless Molly Weasley. First of all, I love that she pulls out Gilderoy Lockhart’s book (Casper laughing in background) Such a great call back. Her crush runs deep, I love it. You know, she’s just --again, invisible women’s labor--but she’s completely taken over and in charge of this really important task of making this headquarters hospitable at all and it just makes me think of all the women who served and sacrificed in order for bigger tasks to be done, but because we often don’t tell women’s stories or women were often relegated to certain roles in these stories, we don’t think of them as important parts in these revolutions and Molly is a soldier in this war, and we will see her fight in this war in really exciting ways in book seven, but she is already a soldier in this war here. I just want to offer a blessing to invisible efforts that are part of bigger resistances everywhere...

What about you, Casper?

Casper: We haven’t really talked about Ron in this chapter; there’s a tiny moment where, when Harry says the word “Voldemort”, Ron (*gasps*) has a sharp intake of breath. And you know, we’ve been talking about memories -- that name holds so many memories, even for someone like Ron who was only just born at the time of Voldemort’s demise, and to me that really speaks to the trauma that’s in the Weasley family that Ron carries. And then just the cultural trauma that they’re all swimming in. And so, sometimes we hear stories from the past, or in our family, that shape how we react to people or places or things and I just want to offer a blessing for Ron and anyone who
has those moments of a sharp intake of breath and a sense of fear. It’s hard to be afraid.

(*Theme music begins*)

Casper: You've been listening to Harry Potter and the Sacred Text. You can follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, or leave us a review on iTunes, which I love to read! You can send us a voicemail at harrypottersacredtext@gmail.com or come to one of our live shows! We’re going to be in Denver, Chicago, in Austin and Cambridge, Mass. As well as our weekend away in Florida in February, which is going to be amazing!

Vanessa: Next week, we will be reading Chapter 7 -- The Ministry of Magic, through the theme of Progress. This episode of Harry Potter and the Sacred Text was produced by Ariana Nedelman, Casper ter Kuile, and me, Vanessa Zoltan. Our Music is by Ivan Pyzow and Nick Bohl, and we are a part of the Panoply network. You can find ours and other great shows on panoply.fm We would like to thank Rae Muhlstock for this week’s voicemail, Julia Araguaya and Amanda Madigan, and Stephanie Paulsel.

Casper: Thanks everyone

*theme music ends*

Vanessa: Do you ever, do you listen to stuff while you clean?

Casper: oh, I always listen to pods while I’m folding laundry and that kind of thing. It makes the time go faster.

Vanessa: yeah… have you tried the podcast HPST?

Casper: That sounds a bit… weird *laughing*
Vanessa: *laughing* so weird… You shouldn’t listen

Casper: legit strange *chuckling*