Casper: *(reading aloud)* “He hasn’t gone!” Harry yelled. He did not believe it. He would not believe it. Still he fought Lupin with every bit of strength he had. Lupin did not understand. People hid behind that curtain. Harry had heard them whispering the first time he entered the room…"

I’m Casper ter Kuile

Vanessa: And I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

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

Vanessa: So Casper, as you know, I am the middle of three children. And when I was little I was convinced that my mom completely played favorites on my younger brother, Jonathan, who was the baby. I was convinced that he got away with all kinds of things that David and I had *never* gotten away with and *would* never get away with. And one of the ways that this manifested was that, when Jonathan was really little and was, like, still in preschool and just hanging out with my mom a lot.

I would come home from school and Jonathan would have, like, these dumb little toys, that, you know, were like cheap plastic in the 80s that would break after two seconds. But I was like, “Mom, you would never have bought that for me.” And she was like, “Sweetie, I did not buy that for him. The grocery clerk just gave it to him.” And I was like, “Sure, just admit it. You gave him a nickel to, like, buy the thing from the cheap machine.” And she was like, “I didn’t, the bank teller gave it to him.” And I was convinced this was a big ruse and that my mom was actually just, like, bribing my little brother through his life in a way that I had never been bribed. And I was really jealous! I was like, “You are treating him totally differently than you treated me.”

And then one day, I was also with my mom on an errand and a bank teller just gave Jonathan a sticker. And my mom looked at me and was like, “See? People just give him things!” And it was amazing. In that moment, I just, like, stopped being jealous. Once I realized that it was just strangers being enchanted with how cute Jonathan was, I no longer cared that he was getting these things.

And so what that jealousy was actually about was a sense of justice and a sense of fairness. I didn’t want him to have totally parents than I had had. And so, I think that jealousy is often a secondary emotion. I think jealousy is, like, actually about fear or actually about justice. I think that usually jealousy is actually a signifier pointing to something else. And so, I’m curious if we can talk about that today, as we look at jealousy in this chapter.
Casper: It’s so funny, I was at the bank with Jonathan yesterday and they gave him a prophecy. (Vanessa giggles) And he just dropped it.

Vanessa: That is nonsense. Jonathan is an athletic director and a PE coach. He would not just drop something. (Casper laughing) I’m a dropper. Jonathan is not a dropper.

Casper: He’s a catch.

Vanessa: Do you know what I’m not going to be jealous of?

Casper: My 30-second recap?

Vanessa: Yeah.

Casper: What a winner! (Vanessa laughing) Okay.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

Casper: Okay, so Harry is like, “Noooooo, he can’t be dead!” And Lupin is like, “He’s definitely dead.” Umm, and Kingsley is fighting now with Bellatrix and Dumbledore’s arrived. And like, most of the Death eaters are, like, in invisible yarn, kind of wrapped together in some way. And then Bellatrix is running and Harry is like, “No, I’m gonna find you.” And then he runs into, like, the octagonal room with all the doors. And, like, somehow that when you say, “I wanna go out!” the doors are like, yeah great. So then there’s a fight and Bellatrix is like, “I’ve gotta get you.” And he’s like, “I don’t have the prophecy!” And then Dumbledore comes and then Voldemort comes. And then they fight! And then Harry wakes up and it was all a dream...kind of. (buzzer sound) (Vanessa laughing)

Vanessa: It was all a dream? The British and American versions are more different than I realized.

Casper: They really diverge at Book 5. Like, we don’t, we don’t talk about that enough.

Vanessa: Also, I was hoping you were going to do more of the Voldemort-Dumbledore fight stuff. I get so bored whenever there is fighting. I’m like, “I don’t care.”

Casper: (Casper chortling) Spell! Charm! Jinx! (Vanessa laughing) Hex! Here we go. There it is. Yeah, I just did it for you. 30 seconds on the clock. Starting.....now!

Vanessa: So, um, Neville is like, “Oh, was Sirius Black a friend of yours, Harry?” And Hermione is knocked out and it’s just like Neville and Lupin and Harry and they go and Harry is like, “I’m gonna kill Bellatrix.” And Bellatrix is like mocking him. And Voldemort, um, is, like, trying to goad, um, Dumbledore into killing Harry. Like, “Death isn’t a big deal, just do it.” And Dumbledore
mocks, um, Voldemort. And then Fudge comes and everybody is like, “Oh my god, we did. We saw Voldemort, he’s back.” And Dumbledore is like, “I’m reinstated as the Headmaster. Harry you go back, I’ll see you in 30 minutes.”

Casper: I love that Dumbledore is a total dom at the end. He’s like, “You can send letters to the headmaster, bye!” (Vanessa giggling) “I’ll give you 30 minutes of my time to explain what happened. After that you need to book with my secretary.

Vanessa: Well, that might actually be a great place to start.

Casper: Let’s do it!

Vanessa: I do. I will just admit that like, I love Dumbledore. He shows up and I feel safe again.

Casper: Yeah. I mean, that’s what happens to Harry is just this relief of ‘Oh, everything is going to be okay’ right, at the end of the last chapter. But, we do see he’s unwilling to kill Voldemort. That’s one of the key interactions that we see. And, it means that Voldemort is able to get away. Although, I love, just for the record, because we’ve talked so much about names, that Dumbledore calls him Tom.

Vanessa: Tom. Yep. So I noticed that too and I am wondering if you think that that is about intentionally trying to disarm Voldemort...

Casper: Yes!

Vanessa: ...or do you think that he just still thinks of him as this like, lost boy Tom, right? And when he sees Voldemort, he sees this kid Tom, right.

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: And we often see that. One of my good friends growing up was a woman named Joanne. She is a teacher and a mom and I still call her Nan. Cuz that’s what we called her when she was seven. I cannot not call her Nan in my head. I think that it’s possible that Dumbledore isn’t even trying to disarm him. He just looks at him and sees Tom.

Casper: And I’m now going to contradict myself because I’m always saying that we should call him Tom. That would, you know, disarm him in exactly the way that you’re saying. But I’m now wondering: is the fact Dumbledore sees him as Tom, does it make him unwilling to see the fullness of the evil that Voldemort has become? Does he still see some kind of hope of change in calling him Tom? I’m wondering if he’s underestimating Voldemort’s power.
Vanessa: I don’t know if he’s underestimating Voldemort’s power, but I do think that it does instill jealousy in Voldemort. (Casper mmm-ing) That he’s like, you have this information that you can call me something that belittles me.

Casper: I think that’s really insightful Vanessa, because in some ways, jealousy shows up when there’s a power differential. And here it becomes really clear. I mean, there is literally a battle scene and they both have someone at stake, Bellatrix and Harry. You know, they both kind of push them out of the main line of fire. I mean, it’s fascinating to see the magic. Like, we joked about the jinxes and the spells. But actually, this magical battle is way more interesting. There’s, like, water coming out of nowhere, surrounding Voldemort. And then, statues are coming alive. And then, you know, one spell is turned into something else and becomes a serpent. It’s just super interesting to see and I think jealousy shows up when...in a battle where they’re matched in power, potentially, they aren’t matched in information. And the seniority of Dumbledore kind of elicits this, yeah, maybe this jealousy in Voldemort.

Vanessa: I think also, Voldemort really wants to prove himself to Dumbledore.

Casper: Definitely.

Vanessa: I mean, the title of the chapter, right? The Only One He Ever Feared is about Voldemort’s point of view on Dumbledore. And so this is his chance to prove to his teacher, to the other most powerful wizard alive, “No I am better than you.” And every time Dumbledore does a great spell it must poke at Voldemort’s jealousy.

Casper: So, I have a strategic question. Because Voldemort outright says, “Why won’t you try and kill me?” And then he gets into Harry’s body and tries to get Dumbledore to kill Harry and therefore kill Voldemort. Cuz Dumbledore could. I mean, we assume he has the power to do that but he’s not throwing killing curses. And I wondered is it because at this point Dumbledore already knows about the horcruxes? I mean, my reading of the text is that, certainly by Book 3 already, we think that that’s the case. And so therefore he’s kind of, he knows that would be an inconclusive death. Right. It would mean that he’d just disappear again.

Vanessa: Right. So I think that’s such a good question. I think that absolutely Dumbledore knows about the horcruxes. I don’t understand enough about horcrux magic to know whether it would still be helpful to kill one of the horcruxes, which is Voldemort within his own body, and, like, have him disappear. I also know that Dumbledore wants to be caught. Right? He wants Fudge to see Voldemort.

Casper: Oh my goodness, I hadn’t even thought about that! That makes a lot of sense to me. And what I hadn’t even thought about until you just said it is that he actually wants this to be seen. Right? Obviously the alarm, by now, has been raised. And probably Fudge is on his way. And indeed, later, we do see Fudge there with other workers. So even at this moment, in this scene, there are actually bystanders witnessing what’s happening. And so, maybe there’s also
some like, political leverage that Dumbledore wants to, wants to hold over Fudge by letting Voldemort escape and being like, “I need to be back in power, cause the world is safer with me in charge.” That would be a very Machiavellian move. (Vanessa giggles quietly)

Vanessa: I mean, Fudge. You know, you just talked about how Fudge comes rolling in. And I think that Fudge and Dumbledore is another great place where we see jealousy in this chapter.

Casper: A-hundred percent.

Vanessa: Fudge wants to yell, “Arrest him!” Right? And, to be fair, Dumbledore has broken the law, right?

Casper: Numerous times!

Vanessa: But, Fudge just gets steam rolled by Dumbledore in this moment and is like, “You have been chasing the wrong man for a year. Let’s not go to trial and adjudicate this over the next 6 months. Let’s just figure this all out right now. You were wrong, you owe me an apology. Forgiven. Let’s move on.” Right?

Casper: Well, and it’s not just Dumbledore. I think it’s important to remember that the bystanders are all saying, “I saw Voldemort with my own eyes. Oh my god, he was here.” So that, like, the context has changed. And Fudge, if nothing else, is a consummate politician and realizes that the wind has blown in a different direction. And so, I think that he’s gonna get fired completely or he can try and ride this train.

Vanessa: Do you think that if it had only been him, he wouldn’t have let his own being an eye witness to Voldemort sway him?

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: You think that..? Oh.

Casper: I think I do. I think that Fudge is always going to be swayed by what is best for him. And if he was the only eye witness and it meant that he had to have a huge climb-down and therefore be fired, I think he’d still keep lying.

Vanessa: That’s so interesting. So do you think that Dumbledore is savvy in this moment. Because he is throwing his power around this room, right? And we know that one of the ways to institute jealousy in somebody is to throw your power around.

Casper: Yeah.
Vanessa: And to just be like, “Let’s not pretend anymore. I’m the headmaster. You will be writing a letter within the next half-hour firing Delores Umbridge.” Like, he does not have to do this in front of Harry. He does not have to do this in front of other people. They are about to have a private half-hour meeting. Dumbledore could do all of this privately. Do you think that it’s strategic of him to be poking at Fudge and, like, pulling out all of this jealousy in Fudge? Because making somebody jealous is a way to make them feel small and therefore be more easily controlled.

Casper: So I would say it’s the other way around, in the sense that Dumbledore is willing to pay the price of Fudge’s jealousy. And, frankly, not because it’s new, but because it’s always been there. At this point he’s like, “Listen. Done. We’re no longer going to pretend all of this is true. Everyone has seen what I’ve seen. I need to be in charge from right now.” Cuz, at this point, people’s lives are still at stake, right? We don’t know if Hermione’s being cared for. Right. There’s all these...Sirius has just died. There’s deatheaters that need to be dealt with and processed through the wizard policing system. So, I don’t think that he’s intentionally trying to make Fudge jealous. But I think he’s like, “Listen, you’re going to be jealous anyways, so let me just deal.” You know what I mean?

Vanessa: Oh. I really like that reading and I think it’s just a helpful way to think about jealousy in general. Which is, like, you can’t control other people’s jealousy.

Casper: I can’t even control my own jealousy. *(Vanessa laughing)* So, but, here’s the thing. In my own experience, the times when I’m really jealous, like, I will read someone’s work or hear about someone’s work and just be like, “Mm, they’re my new frenemy.” You know, like, I haven’t met them yet and I’m just like, super jealous. And I’m just looking for all the things I don’t like about them that I can find on Twitter. And then, usually, I meet them and I’m like, “Oh. You’re actually really great...” *(Casper laughing big laughs)* I’ve had this often enough, so now, when I have that jealousy, it’s not that the jealousy goes away. But I’m like, oh, I know that the solution to this jealousy is. Is meet the person and then I’m gonna fall in love with them and think they’re great. And then just admire them. Because jealousy and admiration sit so closely together, you know? And if it can be, “Wow, I just so appreciate what you do and I’m glad to know you and to know of you.” I just takes away the, I don’t know, the nasty bitterness that comes with it in myself.

Vanessa: Well, so, you know, I was trying to think. Jealousy to me almost seems like a secondary emotion.

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: That there’s like, an emotion behind jealousy and so I wonder if the difference between jealousy and admiration is fear.

Casper: Mmmmm.
Vanessa: That in order for jealousy to really flourish there has to be some fear behind it. And so it’s like, “Oh, I’m so jealous of this other woman in your life.” Well that’s because I’m scared that I could be replaced by them.

Casper: Right, right.

Vanessa: Right? Or, I’m so jealous of this other person’s work. And then you meet them and you’re no longer afraid of them, because you’re like, “Oh you’re great and you’re, like, just a human and you’re actually really nice and sort of rooting for me too. And, a rising tide lifts all boats, so, like, let’s root for each other.”

Casper: Exactly.

Vanessa: To me, jealousy, just, in contemplating it in this chapter, it’s a little bit about fear, right? Fudge is jealous of Dumbledore...

Casper: Absolutely.

Vanessa: ...because Dumbledore is a better wizard than him. And he’s afraid that whenever Dumbledore wants he can just, like, dethrone Fudge. But I also… can I offer you another theory of jealousy?

Casper: Yes!

Vanessa: So this moment where Harry is chasing Bellatrix. (Casper mmm-ing) And he’s saying, “She killed Sirius. She killed him, I’ll kill her.” I’m wondering if revenge is about jealousy.

Casper: Say more.

Vanessa: So, is revenge the feeling of “I feel this pain and I am jealous that you don’t feel this pain.”

Casper: Oh wow.

Vanessa: “So I will make you feel this pain so that we are equal again.” Because, again, I think that one of the ways that we think of addressing jealousy is to equalize the power. (Casper mmm-ing) I’m wondering if revenge and jealous have something to do with one another.

Casper: What is so important about this moment, is that this is the first time that Harry throws out an unforgivable curse. He shoots a Crucio and hits Bellatrix. But because he doesn’t want her to feel pain it doesn’t actually capture her and she kind of shakes off this curse. Like, we can absolutely say that Harry is angry. Harry hates Bellatrix, right, he wants revenge, but he doesn’t
want to watch her experience pain. And so, to some extent, I really like this jealousy analogy because it’s about leveling rather than about inflicting suffering. He wants her to, to know what she’s done. He does...I mean, he does want her to die, but he doesn’t actually want to see her suffer in the same way that she does want to see others suffer.

Vanessa: He definitely will not delight in her suffering.

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: In the way that we know that Bellatrix actively delights in the suffering of others. I mean, she mocks him, right? She’s like, “You don’t mean it and so it’s not gonna work.”

Casper: The whole irony is, and I’m just seeing this for the first time, is that actually Bellatrix must be jealous of Harry. For two reasons. One: because both of these are secondary characters in relationship to their more powerful partner, right? Dumbledore comes on Harry’s side, Voldemort comes on Bellatrix’s side. The way Dumbledore protects Harry is to immediately make sure that he’s okay, in terms of, like, shoving him off the battlefield. And Voldemort just talks to Bellatrix like a dog, you know, like, “Don’t whine, I’m going to deal with you later.” Like, it’s this very dismissive language. But then, secondly, like, Voldemort is way more obsessed with Harry (Casper laughing), I can imagine Bellatrix being like...

Vanessa: “What about me?...”

Casper: Yeah! And like, Harry being like, “Why are you so obsessed with me?” (Vanessa laughing) But, so, you know, I think actually the jealousy might lie on the other hand, which is that Bellatrix doesn’t get she wants from the relationship with Voldemort. Although, final point, throughout this whole book Harry hasn’t gotten what he wanted from Dumbledore either.

Vanessa: Yeah. I love you’re ‘Bellatrix is jealous of Harry’ point. I mean, and Bellatrix goes after Sirius. I love this idea that she’s like, “I. Hate. This. Kid. And once we get rid of this kid Voldemort can pay attention to me again.”

Casper: Exactly, yeah.

Vanessa: Like, “I just want this wrapped up.” And like, Voldemort has all these rules like, you can’t kill him, I have to kill him and Bellatrix is just like, “Can I just kill him already so you and I can be alone together?” (Casper chuckling) I also love the idea of Bellatrix being jealous of the way Dumbledore treats Harry. And being like, “Why aren’t you protecting me like that?” And it creates, like, a potential division between her and Voldemort. Which, I actually think, that, in Bellatrix, that creates more of a desperation and more of a need to get approval from Voldemort.
Casper: Well and all of this kind of mirrors back to the story that you told at the beginning. Because so much of this is about the attention that we want from our parents, right? From our primary caregivers. That we want to be loved. We want to be special. We want to get the little presents. And I think as all the siblings of younger ones, the frustration to see younger kids, like, get away with what you were never able to get away with or get certain privileges and presents. I see that same dynamic here between the, kind of, parental figures and the children figures within this scene.

Vanessa, there’s one point in the text that did really make me think of jealousy directly. Which is, throughout this chapter, the different figures in the fountain, in the kind of entry hall of the Ministry, come alive. They’re protecting, they’re kind of getting in the way of spells. One, kind of locks Bellatrix to the ground. But at some point, one of the fountain figures applauds Dumbledore (Vanessa giggling) and, if we’re to believe that all of these figures have been responding to Dumbledore’s magic to protect people, we’ve gotta assume that this fountain figure is being made to applaud Dumbledore by Dumbledore. (Vanessa, Ariana, and Casper laughing loudly) Which, just in terms of like, bringing your own crowd to whoop up the energy, I’m totally about, but, like, does that mean that by the time Voldemort has disappeared, Dumbledore is just making this statue applaud in front of Fudge and everyone else who’s there? Like, just trying to make him jealous?

Vanessa: That’s hysterical. Also because, Fudge won’t have noticed that Dumbledore is the one who, like, animated them...

Casper: Yes!

Vanessa: So he’s just, like, “Oh my god! Even statues are applauding him this man!” (Vanessa laughing)

Casper: “I don’t stand a chance! Even the walls are singing!” Yeah, exactly.

Vanessa: (Vanessa laughing) I love that idea. Which I think brings us to a question about jealousy. Which is, like, is it ever beneficial to try to make somebody else jealous?

Casper: Mmmmmm. So, sometimes jealousy can be the root of really, like, a race to the top, right? Like, Sophie did better in her homework than Esmile, and so Esmile is gonna be like, “I’m gonna beat you, Sophie.” And so it becomes, like, you know, a positive cycle of like, friendly competition. I’m suspicious of that, though. I’m not sure. Can you think of a good example?

Vanessa: I mean, not really. I’m thinking that like, with my ex, I didn’t realize I liked him until I saw somebody else flirt with him.

Casper: Ooooh, that's a good sign.
Vanessa: And I was like, “Oh! I am jealous. I must like him.” And so it wasn’t that jealousy was a good emotion, it was that it made me notice that, you know, that I…

Casper: The emotion that was underneath.

Vanessa: Exactly. So, I’m wondering right, like, I’m wondering if this is a good thing that Dumbledore is, like, inciting in Fudge. Like, “Yeah, are you jealous of how powerful I am?” And like, that is part of why he’s able to negotiate so quickly a moment later, where he’s like, “This is everything and the way it’s gonna go.”

Caspers: What if it’s not about how powerful he is that he’s making him jealous of. But he’s making him jealous of how good he is at fighting Voldemort, right? Like, if the competition is about who can better limit Voldemort, then that is a great competition to be in. If it’s a competition about who gonna be the most powerful wizard in the land, I don’t think that’s a productive competition.

Vanessa: Nor is it the competition that Dumbledore ever wants to be a part of, right?

Casper: Right!

Vanessa: Which is why he never becomes Minister of Magic. I wish he would.

Casper: Yeah, but then, who knows?

Vanessa: Casper, there’s one other place where I saw jealousy. Which is, we know that Harry is someone who is not afraid to say difficult things. Like, he can say Voldemort. He is willing to call things out to Snape. He’s like, very confrontational in this book. And yet, the beginning of this chapter, he really will not say that Sirius has died. In fact, he yells, like, “He is not dead!” This just struck me so hard about the jealousy involved in grief. And the text says, There was movement going on around them, pointless bustling, the flashes of more spells. To Harry it was meaningless noise, deflected curses flying past him. And, it’s just so interesting, right? Cuz, we know these aren’t meaningless spells; these are people fighting for their lives against Voldemort. Three paragraphs ago it was the most important thing in the world. And, you know, whenever I’ve been in moments of grief, you just look at other people like, going to the bank and you’re like, “Oh. To be stressed about going to the bank. That looks lovely.”

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: Right? Or there’s just this jealousy that can be involved in grief where...In the moments in my life in which I’ve deeply grieved, I’ve just been jealous of, like, normal annoyances. Like, remember yesterday when traffic pissed me off? And I feel like, Harry in this moment, is bitter about the fact that other people are still bustling.
Casper: Yeah, it’s amazing how the things that seemed overwhelming on day one, by the next day feel completely out of proportion.

Vanessa: Or you can just be jealous of your past self.

Casper: Yes!

Vanessa: You’re like, “Oh, remember yesterday, when this was your biggest problem? And, like, now Sirius is dead.” Right? And you can be jealous of yourself 10 minutes ago. Remember when the only thing that you had on your mind was that Herminone is passed out and Ron is hexed and you were afraid for your life? Wasn’t that charming?

Casper: I feel like that living with 18-year-olds. I’m like, “I’m jealous that the biggest problem in your life is a paper that you need to write by 9:00am tomorrow.” You know.

Vanessa: But I think, you know, I think that these are, like, false jealousies, right. Because when you are 18, that...

Casper: It’s overwhelming!

Vanessa: That’s everything. Papers are important when you’re 18 and Harry was fighting for his life just a minute ago. What’s wrong is the horrible thing that happened that’s causing you to grieve. What’s wrong is that you just saw your godfather die. What’s wrong is being 18 and having things to worry about like shelter, right. Those are the injustices. We should all be just worried about getting through day-to-day.

Casper: Absolutely, yeah.

(Piano music plays, introducing the spiritual practice)

Casper: Well Vanessa, we are continuing with sacred imagination for one last time before we move on to a different spiritual practice. So, as ever, I’m going to invite you to sit comfortably and close your eyes if it’s safe and comfortable to do so. And just try and imagine what you can smell and hear and see and touch and taste in this passage. This passage comes from right at the end of the books. And we hear Dumbledore and Fudge talking with one another, but there are plenty of other people standing around who can hear them.

(reading aloud)

“He walked away from the pool to the place where the golden wizard’s head lay on the floor. He pointed his wand at it and muttered ‘Portus.’ The head glowed blue and trembled noisily against the wooden floor for a few seconds and then became still once more.”
‘Now see here, Dumbledore,’ said Fudge, as Dumbledore picked up the head and walked back to Harry, carrying it. ‘You haven’t got authorization for that Portkey. You can’t do things like that right in front of the Minister for Magic. You...you...’ His voice faltered as Dumbledore surveyed him magisterially over his half-moon spectacles.

‘You will give the order to remove Delores Umbridge from Hogwarts,’ said Dumbledore. ‘You will tell your Aurors to stop searching for my Care of Magical Creatures teacher, so that he can return to work. I will give you...’ Dumbledore pulled a watch with twelve hands from his pocket and glanced at it, ‘Half an hour of my time tonight, in which I think we shall be more than able to cover the important points of what has happened here. After that I shall need to return to my school. If you need more help from you me you are, of course, more than welcome to contact me at Hogwarts. Letters addressed to the headmaster will find me.’

Fudge goggled worse than ever. His mouth was open and his round face grew pinker under his rumpled grey hair."

So, Vanessa. Where did you find yourself in this passage?

Vanessa: I was Dumbledore. And I was so aware that other people were watching.

Casper: Mmmm.

Vanessa: If it was just me and Fudge I would say different things. But I want everyone to know my priorities are immediately thinking about Hagrid; immediately thinking about the safety of my kids. I was just, like, so aware that this wasn’t just a performance for Fudge, but it was a performance for the witnesses who are gonna be interviewed by the *Daily Prophet* tomorrow; who are going to be the ones who are testifying as to what happened. And I am, like, spinning this.

Casper: I’m also suddenly thinking: there are members of The Order here who have been fighting against the Death Eaters. So The Order is going to be exposed and so, like, at this point we don’t yet know how the Ministry is going to flip, what’s gonna happen. So, is he still trying to protect people by, you know, giving them a way out? I don’t know, Kingsley Shacklebolt is here, he’s a double agent. Lupin is here, who’s probably a scourge of society. There’s a lot at stake in this moment.

Vanessa: Yeah. And the other person I was, was, like, the low level Ministry employee, right?

Casper: Yeah. That was my kind of... I was looking at Fudge as my boss and trying to see how he responded. And, and, you know, obviously he’s going kind of red in the face, he’s stuttering, unable to complete sentences. Fudge, whose usually so self assured, in his own office space is being out-ranked. Like, this is humiliating for Fudge. I felt a little bit of pleasure, and I don’t know that, if that’s informed by me being a reader or if that’s really a fair response from one of his
employees. But, Fudge is pompous, right? And so for someone pompous to get their comeuppance, there’s always a little bit of satisfaction in that.

Vanessa: Oh, I was, like, embarrassed for him. And, like, wanted to look away and be like, “Aawww-kkwaard... You are getting yelled by a fugitive. And, like, you were wrong this whole time.” Do you mind telling me why you think Dumbledore brings up Hagrid? Like, the other points seem urgent, right? Like, “Get Umbridge out of there cuz I need to go and I need to bring everybody back to the hospital wing and I’m not going to go back and deal with her.” Right? Why is he bringing up Hagrid?

Casper: Oh, I think I know. I mean, the first thing he is doing in the passage is creating a Portkey for Harry to go straight back to Hogwarts. And I think he’s thinking about Harry and he’s thinking about what is Harry going to need. And he’s thinking about Hagrid.

Vanessa: And McGonagall isn’t there right now, she’s at St. Mungo’s

Casper: Right, she’s being nursed back to health, hopefully. And none of the other teachers have that relationship with Harry and he knows that he is not going to have time for Harry. Or maybe that there is still this risk of Voldemort using Harry. So, I think, I think he’s thinking about Harry when he thinks about Hagrid here.

Vanessa: Oh, that's lovely. I love that. And that's why he says it in front of Harry and not to Fudge...

Casper: Yeeees!

Vanessa: ...When, when they're alone in two minutes. In front of Harry, he'e like, “Harry isn't going to be traumatized by Umbridge anymore. Get her the heck out. Hagrid will be there waiting for him.” That this whole speech is actually for Harry.

Casper: Mmmmmm.

Vanessa: Oh, I really like that. That’s so helpful. I’m trying to think, if I was Harry, I think if I was Harry I would be so overwhelmed I wouldn’t even feel relieved by what Dumbledore is saying, right?

Casper: Yeah. Yeah. I don’t think Harry is really taking this in. It’s a lot. I mean, Dumbledore, later in the passage, literally instructs Harry, “Take this Portkey, Harry.” And then, Harry doesn’t even respond. You know, he probably just puts, just puts his hand on to the Portkey.

It’s an important twist in the tale, as it were, right? That the power has switched back to Dumbledore after being away for so long. And there’s something very instructive about Dumbledore’s confidence in a moment of chaos. One of my favorite lines from Game of Thrones
is from Littlefinger when he says, “Chaos is not a pit. Chaos is a ladder.” And this is Dumbledore using chaos to ascend in his own power again….yeah.

Vanessa: What I really love about Dumbledore in this moment. I don't know if he's like Littlefinger and he thinks this chaos is a ladder. But I love somebody who, in chaos, just starts making decisions.

Casper: Yeah.

Vanessa: And even if they are not quite the right decisions, making decisions is the right decision. Because, otherwise, kids are gonna keep bleeding on the floor. Like, things need to start happening. And chaos can just keep ensuing if somebody doesn't step up into that leadership role. Fudge isn't, so Dumbledore is like, “Don’t worry, I got it.”

Casper: That's right, yeah. Thanks, Vanessa.

Vanessa: Thank you, Casper. What a juicy passage you picked.

Casper: It's time for our voicemail and this week we’re hearing from Anne Mary.

(booping sound of old voicemail machine)

Anne Mary: Hi Ariana, Vanessa, and Casper. My name is Anne Mary and I was at your live show in Holyoake with my husband and two sons on Wednesday. You asked who in the audience was not a fan and it was really the first time I considered my poor husband, who is not a fan. That being said he has, without complaint and with no real personal benefits read Books 1-5 aloud to our boys (they read 6 and 7 on their own), seen every movie at least twice, booked us a Harry Potter walking tour through Edinburgh when we were there, went to the off-Broadway show “The Puffs” twice, he owns a Harry Potter costume, and, because right now I have pneumonia, booked a last minute ticket to your show because he didn’t want me to have to drive. I just wanted to say thank you. I totally took for granted all of that. So, thank you again. It was nice to be reminded of what a nice partner and dad he is. I wanted to offer a blessing for my husband, David, and for all the non-fans out there who tolerate our nerd-ery. Thanks again.

Vanessa: Anne Mary, I hope that you are feeling better from your pneumonia. We like to joke that the people who come to our live shows, even though they are not fans of the podcast, are the heroes of our live shows. So you must be pretty wonderful to inspire such a loving husband. And, yeah, people who are supportive and just show up, even though they don't like something, God bless them every one.

Casper: (Casper laughing) Yeah, thanks Anne Mary.
Vanessa: And please thank your husband because I won the 30-second recap that night and so I’m guessing he clapped for me.

Casper: (Casper laughing a big laugh) So it’s time for us to bless someone in this chapter and I’m afraid to say there’s not a lot of women once we get to these, uh, these later chapters. Who are you going to bless this time, Vanessa?

Vanessa: Yeah! I was like, do I find a way to bless Bellatrix? She’s in an abusive relationship? And I just was like, I cannot. Which I’m grateful for my practice of only blessing women because it really made me think of the women’s bodies that are on the ground, right? We hear Luna groaning; we don’t really know where Ginny is; Hermione is passed out. You know, I just would like to offer a blessing for, just, the victims of war who are left behind in battle and are waiting for treatment, right? That moment is so scary and I feel like so many characters in this chapter are in the middle of that moment. And, they still don’t know - they are injured but they don’t know if they will be okay or not. So I would like to offer a blessing for Ginny, Luna, and Hermione for embodying that. What about you Casper?

Casper: I want to bless Lupin, who we really only see the very, very beginning of this chapter. He’s physically holding Harry and, I don’t know, there’s times when I have just sobbed in my husband’s arms or I’ve just raged and someone like, held me. And, I can imagine that in this moment, for Harry, the fact that he’s being held, he’s able to feel the fullness of whatever he’s feeling. He’s not having to manage himself. Because there are these strong, loving, and protective, trustworthy arms around him that means he can feel what he’s saying without having to act in a certain way. He’s not having to manage himself. And, that’s such a gift. And I just think of Lupin who has, himself, lost his best friend in this moment and is nonetheless able to make space, to literally hold space for Harry. So, for anyone who is, in those moments, able to hold space for other people: a blessing for you.

(Outro music begins playing behind speakers)

You’ve been listening to *Harry Potter and the Sacred Text*. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. And join our Facebook group “Harry Potter and the Sacred Text Common Room” to chat with the amazing other listeners of this show to chat about this episode. Huge thanks to over a thousand people who are supporting us on Patreon and you can join them too. Or leave us a voicemail, send us a review on iTunes, and we’ll hope to see you soon at one of our live shows.

Vanessa: Next week we’ll be reading chapter 37 “The Lost Prophecy,” through the theme of patience. This episode of *Harry Potter and the Sacred Text* is produced by Not Sorry Productions, Executive Produced by Ariana Nedelman. Our associate producer is Chelsea Ursin. Our music, as always, is by Ivan Pyzow and Nick Bohl and we are a proud part of Nightvale Presents. Thanks to Anne Mary for this week’s voicemail, to Julia Argy, Maggie Needham, and Stephanie Paulsell. We’ll talk to you next week.
Casper: Bye bye everyone.

*(theme music finishes playing)*

Vanessa: It is still annoying that he was so cute people just gave him things.

Casper: This is a thing we never talk about. Some babies are just cuter than others.

Vanessa: He wasn’t even a baby! He was a toddler. He was, like four, and people were like, “Oh my god, he’s so cute.”

Ariana: *(quietly, away from the microphone)* And how old were you? How much older are you?

Vanessa: Seven. I’m three and a half years older.

Ariana: *(still away from microphone)* So he was four and you were seven and the bank teller looked at you *(Casper begins laughing loudly)* and gave him a toy and gave you nothing.

Casper: Dismissed.

*(Casper, Ariana, and Vanessa laughing loudly, some chuckling)*

Vanessa: For sure. I mean, he was four and I was, like, eight, cuz I’m like three...So, he was still sort of a baby and I was like, a big kid.

Ariana: *(quietly, away from the microphone)* This is hilarious.

Vanessa: And it used to happen all the time.

Casper: All the time. Yeah.