

ABSTRACT

C.S. Lewis' *Four Loves* and Harry Potter

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J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is one of the best-selling in history, is translated into a multitude of different languages, has a fan base that few other authors can rival and it is still a series that has much to share. This thesis explores the loves detailed in C.S. Lewis' book *The Four Loves* and how they are manifested in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. Each love has its own chapter and explores the way the love is displayed in the novels, oftentimes positively and sometimes negatively. In addition, Severus Snape is explored in a chapter entirely his own. The thesis draws on philosophers such as Soren Kierkegaard and theologians such as Martin Luther King Jr. as well as others to supplement Lewis.

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C.S LEWIS' *FOUR LOVES* AND HARRY POTTER

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The Importance of Harry Potter

Rarely has a series inspired such love, hate, obsession, critique and as fanatic a following as the Harry Potter series written by British author J.K. Rowling. It is supposedly the first series to make its author a billionaire simply by writing books. It has dominated the book and film industry since its inception and has inspired a number of related stories such as *The Cursed Child* play, the *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* series and theme parks in Orlando and California. It has crossed cultural, generational and gender boundaries and provided an abundance of entertainment to a multitude of people.

Despite its popularity, the series is sometimes overlooked in important ways. It is often catalogued as children's or young adult literature, which dismisses many of the deeper themes and truths that it has to offer. While people have hailed the series for its writing style, its adherence to certain literary tropes, its fantastical world building and even its distinct Christian leaning, no one has truly explored the depths to which love is present. This thesis serves to investigate the manifestations of love in the series, primarily based on philosopher and theologian C.S. Lewis' book *The Four Loves*. It includes philosophers Roberta Bondi, Soren Kierkegaard, Irving Singer and theologians Martin Luther King Jr. and St. Augustine as well. Ultimately, Rowling's series agrees

with each of these theologians and philosophers in acknowledging that love is a central part of life and can have a significant effect on each and every person.

C.S. Lewis and the Four Loves

C.S. Lewis identifies four distinct types of love: Affection, Friendship, Eros and Charity. While each have specific characteristics and he considers some as need-loves more than others, they can overlap and even sometimes have an influence on the others. In addition, each of the lower loves plays a role in Charity, which Lewis identifies as the highest and best of all the loves.

Lewis distinguishes between two types of love: need-loves and gift-loves. A gift-love is one that is acted on by a person's own volition and that person may never reap the rewards or see the results of their love. In contrast, a need-love is more akin to the love that a person wants to receive. According to Lewis "it is the accurate reflection in consciousness of our actual [helpless] nature."¹ The significance of these different types is not necessarily that one is more important than the other, but that need-love is more natural and instinctive than gift-love.

Affection

Lewis describes Affection in relation to the Greek term "storge" and details how it is closely related to the love present between a parent and a child.² It is also the most need-based and instinctive of all of the loves and has the ability to extend to a number of

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 2.

² C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 31.

people. It relies on basic instincts to be in community with others and therefore can be rather ambiguous. At the same time, it focuses on the familiar and is not something many are consciously aware of. It is a humble and often modest love that does not have a determined beginning but rather develops as people make connections with one another. At its most basic, it is often seen as a need to be needed, which Lewis exemplifies when he admits that it is a love that often finds satisfaction in the pampering of an animal.³ Lewis asserts that Affection is rarely expressed without being connected to one of the other types of love. However, he does not say that it cannot exist on its own, only that it is rather unlikely. Perhaps most important though is that Affection does not discriminate and therefore can bring together people who have little or nothing in common.

Friendship

An important fact that Lewis points out about love is that “very few modern people think Friendship a love of comparable value or even a love at all.”⁴ He believes that perhaps this is because few people have an authentic experience with it. Lewis goes on to say that this is not the case and suggests that the Ancients had it correct when they considered Friendship to be of the utmost importance. Contrary to Affection, Friendship is the least natural of the loves and is free from the need to be needed. It has no survival value but brings people together who share a similar vision or understanding. Lewis believes that Friendship among the sexes is challenging; this is largely due to the fact that Friendship must be about something. With the many differences between the sexes, a

³ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 52.

⁴ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 57.

common truth is unlikely, but not impossible. What makes Friendship so important is that each friend is able to bring out something special in another and therefore groups of friends are deficient when not all the members are involved. In this way it is also the least jealous of the loves. Important for Lewis is the fact that Friendship is one of the more dangerous loves because of the threat it poses to authority and the ability for it to turn toward a false good. However, it is still a love that brings companionship where Affection cannot.

Eros

The most significant part of the definition of Eros is that it is not the same as sex although sexuality can be an important part of it. Eros above all is the desire for the Beloved, an individual or object on which the lover has bestowed a value that not everyone will agree with or perceive. It is the experience of being in love. While this often involves the nature of sexuality, it also involves a tradeoff between giving and receiving. It is a love that enables a person to accept and overlook their Beloved's flaw while at the same time becoming greater versions of themselves. With that comes the great danger of vulnerability, but it is what makes Eros such a deep and worthy love. The risk comes when a person is enamored with the concept of Eros rather than with the Beloved or when pleasure is pushed to the point of pain. Because Eros is most often misunderstood, it is more dangerous. It does not necessarily aim for happiness or togetherness. Rather, it aims for the Beloved regardless of the consequences and is often used to excuse any questionable action regarding the process leading to Eros itself.

Lewis often describes this love in terms of marriage because of its focus on fidelity and oneness.

Charity

Charity is the highest and most God-like of Lewis' four loves. It is at its essence, goodness. It relies on a person's ability to give freely of themselves and to love others regardless of their flaws, much like Eros. Where it surpasses Eros is that it extends to more than just the Beloved and it is the love that makes vulnerability worthwhile. Despite the risks that come with love, the alternative is not only a lack of love but a complete inability to love. Charity, or *caritas*, is the conscious choice to love a person who perhaps is unlovable or does not know love themselves. For Lewis, this is best expressed in the Christian God and His unwarranted and unchecked love for all of humanity. In addition, it is the understanding of love as a blessing. To love God is to love someone that will never disappoint. In a more secular sense, this love focuses on how a person chooses to live their life, rather than just the relationships they choose to have. It relies on a person's vulnerability, honesty and acceptance.

Important Notes

For the reading of this thesis, there are several important things to know. First and foremost, this thesis encompasses the story of Harry Potter as a whole and therefore includes not only the seven canonical books but Rowling's new play *The Cursed Child*, and her website *Pottermore* as well. It therefore holds nothing back in terms of spoilers or important plot points. That being said, this is not an exhaustive work. There are loves,

people and relationships that go unexamined, not because of a lack of importance but rather in an attempt to summarize and explain love in the series and Lewis' four loves through key characters and relationships.

Names and places are often truncated as well. Characters are referred to simply by their first or last names, places are identified by their names or locations and the books and movies are shortened to leave out the name Harry Potter. In addition, when referring to Harry, Ron and Hermione as a unit, they are simply referred to as "the Trio." When possible, the books and movies are differentiated in the text itself and not only the footnotes. Love is something that may never truly be understandable and therefore most assertions rely on scholarly theologians and philosophers who often spent their life's work on discovering and detailing the intricacies of love in addition to an interpretation of Rowling's primary works

CHAPTER TWO

Affection

Introduction

When Dumbledore speaks to the students of Hogwarts, Beauxbatons and Dumstrang at the end of *Goblet of Fire*, he tells them, “we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided...Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”¹ In this he identifies one of the most important aspects of Affection which is that it is a universal love and it has the ability to bring people together from different cultures, walks of life and backgrounds. In addition, it draws on the fact that Affection is the most instinctive or animalistic of Lewis’ loves and therefore anyone can experience it.²

Lewis considers Affection the lowest of the four loves, although it is not necessarily less valuable. For example, “It is indeed the least discriminating of loves.”³ Because of this, many people can display Affection and it can be manifested in a variety of ways. In some ways, Lewis seems to contradict himself. Lewis’ definition focuses on the fact that Affection is both a need-love and a gift-love which makes it inherently complex. In addition, “Nearly all the characteristics of this love are ambivalent. They

¹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000), 723.

² C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 46.

³ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 32.

may work for ill as well as for good.”⁴ Not only can Affection work for ill and good, but it can often do both in the same relationship. It can inspire deeper love, loyalty, fierce jealousy and even anger.

Affection relies primarily on a person’s recognition that humanity is meant to be in loving relationships. However, that in itself makes it easier to corrupt because it brings with it the assumption that Affection is provided and ready made by nature.⁵

Relationships defined by Affection are not negative by any means but a misguided need to be needed or misunderstanding of another may pose great challenges to Affection as a type of love. Despite all that, there are several people who display Affection in the series, although some in not very positive ways. But as Lewis points out, the inability to see the love does not necessarily mean that it is not present.

Petunia Dursley

Although it appears counter-intuitive, Petunia Dursley does in fact express Affection, not only for her own son but for Harry as well. This is because Affection as Lewis describes it is not only subtle but it can be “even furtive and shame faced.”⁶ This is especially true for Aunt Petunia. She seems to care very little for Harry, instead choosing to dote on her own son Dudley. However, by simply taking Harry in she shows an element of caring. She expresses her extreme distaste for her sister and James Potter when Hagrid first comes to give Harry his Hogwarts letter. Even though she shows no

⁴ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 38.

⁵ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 39.

⁶ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 33.

outward contempt as Uncle Vernon does, she seems very against magic. Despite that, she agreed to take Harry in as an infant.

It seems that a part of Aunt Petunia's willingness to care for Harry in the most basic sense of housing, clothing and feeding him comes from a feeling of familial duty. Petunia and her sister Lily were once close and this love that Petunia has for her sister has the possibility of carrying over to her son. Very rarely is this love visible but it often comes when Harry least expects it. After the dementor attack against Harry and Dudley, not only does Aunt Petunia reveal some of her knowledge about the magical world but,

She was looking at Harry as she had never looked at him before and all of a sudden, for the very first time in his life, Harry fully appreciated that aunt Petunia was his mother's sister. He could not have said why this hit him so very powerfully at this moment. All he knew was that he was not the only person in the room who had an inkling of what Lord Voldemort being back might mean.⁷

This is the first time Harry has ever seen his aunt express fear on his behalf and it displays the Affection she does hold for him, even if she never expresses it.

In a poignant scene deleted from the first part of the Deathly Hallows movie, Harry tells his aunt that if she does not leave, they will be hunted down and tortured. Petunia replies, "Do you think I don't know what they're capable of? You didn't just lose a mother that night in Godric's Hollow you know. I lost a sister."⁸ This is an important reminder that despite their differences, Petunia loved her sister greatly. And

⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2003), 38.

⁸ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*. Directed by David Yates. (2010; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

whether it be out of a sense of guilt or nostalgia or love, Petunia agrees to take care of Harry despite the risks and challenges that he brings with him.

As is clear, Aunt Petunia very rarely shows her emotion and when she does it is not often very forceful. One of the few times it does happen is in the *Order of the Phoenix* book when Uncle Vernon orders Harry out of the house, believing that he brought the dementor attack on Dudley. When a magical howler arrives addressed to Aunt Petunia she is terrified and “an awful voice filled the kitchen, echoing in the confined space, issuing from the burning letter on the table. “*REMEMBER MY LAST, PETUNIA.*” Aunt Petunia looked as though she might faint. She sank into the chair beside Dudley, her face in her hands. The remains of the envelope smoldered into ash in the silence.”⁹ It is later revealed that this is Dumbledore, reminding Petunia about the commitment she made when she took Harry in as an infant.

Harry is continually complaining about the Dursleys and dreads going back to them every summer so it would seem odd that Aunt Petunia would have Affection for him. Professor McGonagall is horrified when she learns that Dumbledore plans to leave infant Harry with his aunt and uncle and Dumbledore replies that “they’re the only family he has left now.”¹⁰ Not until much later in Harry’s story is the significance of this revealed. While trying to explain to Harry some of his own logic, Dumbledore reveals that the power of Harry’s mother’s love extended even to her sister;

You would be protected by an ancient magic of which [Voldemort] knows, which he despises, and which he has always, therefore, underestimated — to his cost. I am speaking, of course, of the fact that

⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 40.

¹⁰ J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997), 13.

your mother died to save you. She gave you a lingering protection he never expected, a protection that flows in your veins to this day. I put my trust, therefore, in your mother's blood. I delivered you to her sister, her only remaining relative."

"She doesn't love me," said Harry at once. "She doesn't give a damn —"

"But she took you," Dumbledore cut across him. "She may have taken you grudgingly, furiously, unwillingly, bitterly, yet still she took you, and in doing so, she sealed the charm I placed upon you. Your mother's sacrifice made the bond of blood the strongest shield I could give you."

"I still don't —"

"While you can still call home the place where your mother's blood dwells, there you cannot be touched or harmed by Voldemort. He shed her blood, but it lives on in you and her sister. Her blood became your refuge. You need return there only once a year, but as long as you can still call it home, there he cannot hurt you. Your aunt knows this. I explained what I had done in the letter I left, with you, on her doorstep. She knows that allowing you house room may well have kept you alive for the past fifteen years."¹¹

This statement comes as a great shock to Harry and although it does not help him care for his aunt any more than he does, it helps him to better understand her and this extends to readers, as such a commitment of Petunia's reveals that she is not as unfeeling as she seems.

Likewise, the final parting in *Deathly Hallows* between Harry and his aunt is bittersweet. Petunia is loath to leave her home where she has raised her son and she is equally touched by Dudley's confusion about why Harry is not accompanying them. The interaction between them is similar to the one in *Order of the Phoenix* for she awkwardly says goodbye and goes to leave; "She stopped and looked back. For a moment Harry had the strangest feeling that she wanted to say something to him: She gave him an odd, tremulous look and seemed to teeter on the edge of speech, but then, with a little jerk of

¹¹ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 835-836.

her head, she bustled out of the room after her husband and son.”¹² Harry’s ability to see that she wants to say something shows that although he will never love her, he appreciates the love, though flawed, that she has shown toward him.

These small moments of love are challenged by some of Petunia’s other actions such as when Harry is locked in his room after he is blamed for Dobby’s shenanigans and she feeds him food through a cat-flap.¹³ Much of her care for Harry is revealed in her willingness to disregard her husband’s wishes, her challenged but genuine love for her sister and through the wisdom of Dumbledore. Although Harry struggles to understand it or even see it at times, Petunia cares for Harry in the best way that she can and this displays the wavering nature of Affection that Lewis describes.

Sirius Black

Although Aunt Petunia cares for Harry in the only way she feels she can, Harry has felt little familial love until he meets the Weasley family and even then he is not able to truly experience it until he meets his godfather Sirius Black in *Prisoner of Azkaban*. Lewis identifies Affection as having the ability to open “our eyes to goodness we could not have seen, or should not have appreciated without it.”¹⁴ This is certainly true for Harry and his relationship with Sirius. Arthur Weasley warns Harry to beware of Sirius

¹² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 42.

¹³ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998), 22.

¹⁴ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 37.

but it is not until he overhears a conversation revealing that Sirius is Harry's godfather that Harry decides to learn more about him.

Sirius' willingness to overlook danger is a strong sign of his Affection. He realizes that what matters is being able to support Harry and spend time with him. Although this causes Harry a great deal of anxiety, he appreciates it none the less. Likewise, Affection is a love that inspires in the lover a great desire to be needed. Because Sirius has not been there for Harry for most of Harry's life, he is desperate to make up for it. Not only is Sirius willing to expose himself to danger for Harry but on behalf of the greater wizarding world as well. He becomes extremely frustrated after spending so much time in hiding and wants to do what he can to fight Voldemort.

Where Sirius struggles in his Affection is that he sometimes fails to recognize Harry as an individual person distinct from his father. When Harry begs to be included in the Order of the Phoenix, Sirius is the quickest of the members to agree. Molly Weasley thoroughly chastises him; "He's not *James*, Sirius!" ... "Sometimes, the way you talk about him, it's as though you think you've got your best friend back!"¹⁵ This offends Sirius because he interprets it to mean that he is an irresponsible godfather. And that may be true.

Sirius often encourages Harry to do things that are not particularly safe or in line with the rules. Lewis asserts that "The jealousy of Affection is closely connected with its reliance on what is old and familiar... Change is a threat to Affection."¹⁶ Sirius suffers greatly from this affliction. Having been condemned to Azkaban so soon after James and

¹⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 89.

¹⁶ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 45.

Lily's death, Sirius did not have to experience normal life without them. Following his escape, he feels as though he has found his friend again because Harry looks and sometimes acts so much like James. At one point when Harry refuses to do something rather dangerous, Sirius tells him "You're less like your father than I thought...The risk would've been what made it fun for James."¹⁷ This struggle of Sirius' not to equate his godson to his best friend does not mean that Sirius loves either of them any less, rather it displays that he tends to love on his own terms.

Sirius' love for Harry is not always clear but his dedication to Harry's parents and their work is paramount. When Harry accuses him of betraying his parents, Sirius replies that he "would have died before [he] betrayed them."¹⁸ His fierce love for his friends suggests that his love is greater than Affection. And yet he struggles to show sometimes even simply courtesy to all those around him, not just his closest friends. This occurs in an altercation Sirius has with Snape in *Order of the Phoenix* when Sirius accuses Snape of being a traitor and Snape calls Sirius a coward.¹⁹ Obviously there is no love lost between the two but the unwillingness of Sirius to trust Dumbledore and at least show courtesy to Snape is a flaw in his love. The same can be said of Sirius' relationship with the house-elf Kreacher. Dumbledore suggests that because of Sirius' inability to see

¹⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 305.

¹⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 372.

¹⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 520.

Kreacher as someone with feelings, Kreacher was able to aid Bellatrix LeStrange which ultimately resulted in Sirius' death.²⁰

Sirius' unfailing dedication to his friends is an important example of the love Sirius does have. When Peter Pettigrew complains that had he not betrayed the Potters, Voldemort would have killed him, Sirius replies with a vengeance, "THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED! ... DIED RATHER THAN BETRAY YOUR FRIENDS, AS WE WOULD HAVE DONE FOR YOU!"²¹ This vehement display shows that although he sometimes struggles with love, Sirius has many of the right intentions. Readers see this in his choice to send Harry the Firebolt and give him permission to visit Hogsmeade on the weekends. Despite all that, good intentions do not always lead to good actions and this is often where Sirius fails to express love other than Affection.

Regardless of the way that Sirius fails or struggles to display his love, his love is still a very important part of Harry's life. Harry is devastated by his death and Dumbledore explains to Harry that "Sirius represented much to you that you had never known before..."²² For a child such as Harry, who grew up with very little love directed toward him, this relationship was extremely valuable. The significance of this is revealed not only in his dedication toward Sirius but also the child-like innocence with which he later asks the corporeal Sirius "Does it hurt? Dying" and Sirius replies "Quicker than

²⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 832.

²¹ J.K. Rowling, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, 375.

²² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 77.

falling asleep.”²³ Sirius is an important figure in Harry’s life and the love he does show Harry is vital to Harry’s growth and understanding.

It is possible that Sirius’ time in Azkaban has a significant effect on his ability to love and this is where he tends to struggle. In her description of Azkaban on *Pottermore*, Rowling reveals that many of its inhabitants were insane, if not before their stay then certainly after their stay. Not only that but apparently many prisoners died from despair while being held there.²⁴ Sirius rarely talks about Azkaban but what he does reveal, as well as what Hagrid says about it, reveals that it is quite a harrowing place. At one point Sirius is described to never have totally lost the deadened, haunted look in his eyes that Azkaban had given them.²⁵ This could explain many of Sirius’ flaws in terms of Affection. It does not excuse some of his actions such as equating Harry and James but it does provide reasoning for some of his words and actions.

Given the chance to expand on their relationship and spend more time together in less challenging times, it is likely that Sirius’ love, particularly for Harry would move past Affection to one of the other loves that Lewis details. However, given his need to constantly be in hiding, his poor reaction to change and his nostalgic feelings toward his relationship with James, Sirius is unable to harness other types of love during his lifetime.

²³ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*. Directed by David Yates. (2011; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

²⁴ “Azkaban” Pottermore from J.K. Rowling.
<https://www.pottermore.com/writing-by-jk-rowling/azkaban>.

²⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 331.

Albus Dumbledore

Another important character who shows great Affection is Albus Dumbledore. There are some who will argue that Dumbledore's love is greater than just Affection and there are times that it is. However, after what is revealed in *Deathly Hallows*, there is much about Dumbledore that is unknown and the unwillingness to share all of oneself is a part of Affection. He is unable to truly be in community and make himself vulnerable and therefore cannot display a deeper love. In addition, Dumbledore is a very complex character and perhaps one that no one will truly understand. Lewis describes Affection as a need to be needed and this might be especially true in the relationship between Dumbledore and Harry.

The relationship between Dumbledore and Harry is somewhat complicated. Much of this is because Dumbledore has a tendency to make decisions that are not always understandable. He admits this to Harry when he reveals that he owes Harry "An explanation of an old man's mistakes. For I see now that what I have done, and not done, with regard to you, bears all the hallmarks of the failings of age."²⁶ This is perhaps one of the first times in the series that we understand that Dumbledore is not without fault. Up until this point, he is always perceived as an elder with wisdom and power that cannot be rivaled.

Harry reminds Tom Riddle in *Chamber of Secrets* of Dumbledore's power when he contradicts him and says "Sorry to disappoint you and all that, but the greatest wizard in the world is Albus Dumbledore. Everyone says so. Even when you were strong, you

²⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 826.

didn't dare try and take over at Hogwarts. Dumbledore saw through you when you were at school and he still frightens you now..."²⁷ Not only does this reveal that Harry's love and loyalty to Dumbledore is significant but it is an indication of the importance of Dumbledore's character. To intimidate someone as evil, manipulative and terrifying as Voldemort, Dumbledore must rival him in power as well as have positive attributes that Voldemort lacks, one of which is his ability to love.

As Harry explains, Dumbledore is exceptionally powerful. But as Professor McGonagall points out in the very beginning, he is too noble to use those powers for evil.²⁸ That is not to say that he should be underestimated. After he finds that Barty Crouch Junior, disguised as Mad-Eye Moody, took Harry from his presence, Dumbledore bursts into the Defense Against the Dark Arts office;

At that moment, Harry fully understood for the first time why people said Dumbledore was the only wizard Voldemort had ever feared. The look upon Dumbledore's face as he stared down at the unconscious form of Mad-Eye Moody was more terrible than Harry could have ever imagined. There was no benign smile upon Dumbledore's face, no twinkle in the eyes behind the spectacles. There was cold fury in every line of the ancient face; a sense of power radiated from Dumbledore as though he were giving off burning heat.²⁹

This reveals not only Dumbledore's unrivaled power but it suggests that no one should cross him, especially when it comes to those he cares about.

Very few times in the series do readers see Dumbledore as weak or vulnerable and it is a shock whenever it happens. What matters most in terms of how love is a part

²⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 314.

²⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 11.

²⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 679.

of his life is when he must make himself emotionally vulnerable to others. This vulnerability is often a sign of one of Lewis' higher loves but Dumbledore remains an example of Affection because of how he is confronted by and responds to emotional intimacy. One of the few times readers see this in Dumbledore is when he and Harry attempt to obtain one of the Horcruxes and Dumbledore tells Harry, "I am not worried, Harry...I am with you."³⁰ This reveals that he trusts Harry to such an extent that he is willing to rely on him, especially after he has experienced such agony in drinking the potion that guards the Horcrux. In addition to trusting Harry, Dumbledore admits in *Deathly Hallows* that he has known for some time that Harry was the better man of the two of them.³¹ This is not because he wants to garner Harry's respect or attention but because he truly feels bad about what he has done, both in his childhood and in his relationship with Harry.

One way that Dumbledore excels is in his astute acknowledgement of the limits and weaknesses of those around him, including himself. Harry becomes frustrated in *Order of the Phoenix* when Dumbledore continues to ignore him, especially because Dumbledore inspires hope in Harry akin to that of a phoenix's song.³² However, after doing battle with Voldemort in the Ministry of Magic, Dumbledore reveals to Harry the following; "I cared about you too much...I cared more for your happiness than your knowing the truth, more for your peace of mind than my plan, more for your life than the

³⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 578.

³¹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 713.

³² J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 139.

lives that might be lost if the plan failed. In other words, I acted exactly as Voldemort expects we fools who love to act.³³ Although Dumbledore recognizes the great power that love exerts, he also recognizes that it does not always serve a good purpose. In this way Dumbledore shows great Affection for Harry by admitting that he cares for him but tempers it by saying that the way he expressed it was a mistake.

To many, Dumbledore's love can be seen as very flawed. He often fails to share important information or allows people to do things that are not safe or responsible. An example of perhaps one of Dumbledore's more questionable decisions is when he does not prevent Harry from attempting to rescue the Sorcerer's Stone. Harry tells Ron and Hermione;

He's a funny man, Dumbledore. I think he sort of wanted to give me a chance. I think he knows more or less everything that goes on here, you know. I reckon he had a pretty good idea we were going to try, and instead of stopping us, he just taught us enough to help. I don't think it was an accident he let me find out how the mirror worked. It's almost like he thought I had the right to face Voldemort if I could. . . ."³⁴

To most, this would seem quite odd but it is also one of Dumbledore's many quirks.

It is not until the later books that the more complicated parts of Dumbledore's character become clear. Lewis writes that "Affection takes liberties" and this is certainly applicable to Dumbledore.³⁵ He has a tendency to keep important information to himself, often in an attempt to reveal or share it at the right time. This becomes a drawback

³³ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 838.

³⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 302.

³⁵ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 44.

however after his death when Harry, Ron and Hermione are attempting to find and destroy Horcruxes. However, at the same time he is attempting to alleviate some of the anxiety or suffering that may come from information. Dumbledore has come to care very much for Harry and so he is hesitant to tell him that in the end he must die.

Not only does Dumbledore care greatly for Harry but for all the students and Hogwarts as a school as well. Several times he puts himself at risk or accepts the blame for things that others have done. This most often comes as a result of someone threatening or accusing someone he cares for. Hagrid for example is often blamed for a variety of things over which he either has little or no control such as his supposed role in opening the Chamber of Secrets, Buckbeak's attack on Draco, and the fact that his mother was a giantess. Dumbledore defends him against all of these accusations, at one point telling Minister of Magic Cornelius Fudge "...that Hagrid has my full confidence."³⁶ This is true for Remus Lupin as well when he reveals that "Dumbledore's trust has meant everything to [me]."³⁷

This ability to care for others is also seen in Dumbledore's interactions with Draco Malfoy prior to Dumbledore's death in *Half-Blood Prince*. Dumbledore knows the damage that killing someone will do to a soul and therefore he is adamant that Draco is saved from this. Draco clearly struggles with his decision about whether or not to kill Dumbledore. It is not until Dumbledore tells him, "No, Draco...It is my mercy, and not yours, that matters now" that it becomes clear that not all is not as it seems.³⁸ This

³⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 261.

³⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, 356.

³⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 592

mystifies both Draco and Harry but it does not get explained until Harry views Snape's memories in the Pensieve following his death in *Deathly Hallows*. Dumbledore knew of Draco's assignment to kill him and instead of risking the soul of a child, Dumbledore requests that Snape kill him instead. In the memory it shows Dumbledore saying that "That boy's soul is not yet so damaged," and "I would not have it ripped apart on my account."³⁹

Dumbledore's care for Draco is an exceptional example of the love that he is able to give because he does so despite of all that Draco has done. Draco has badmouthed and mocked Dumbledore from the moment he arrived at Hogwarts. Much of this is due to the influence of his father Lucius Malfoy: "Well, you know his opinion of Dumbledore — the man's such a Mudblood-lover —" Draco reveals.⁴⁰ In addition, Draco has been plotting to kill Dumbledore all year and attempts to send him things like a cursed necklace and poisoned mead, all of which unfortunately harm other people. Regardless of all the harm that Draco has done to others and the threat that he poses to Dumbledore himself, Dumbledore endeavors to protect him and care for him.

Despite Dumbledore's failings such as his inability to be vulnerable and honest with those he cares for, his ability to love by way of Affection is significant. The trust that he and Harry place in one another is an important manifestation of that. Harry says at one point that "You couldn't help trusting Albus Dumbledore..." and that is true for much of the series.⁴¹ The challenge to such trust comes when Harry is disappointed in

³⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 683.

⁴⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 165.

⁴¹ J.K. Rowling, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, 91.

Dumbledore's omission of certain information. However, Harry still chooses to pursue the task with which Dumbledore has entrusted him. There are moments when Harry is furious with Dumbledore and the situation that he has left Harry in. Hermione reveals that she believes Harry is mad because Dumbledore never revealed much of his life to Harry.⁴² This is another sign of Dumbledore's inabilities in terms of love because of how he struggles to be vulnerable and share.

Dumbledore works hard to harness his great power into those tasks which he believes will be beneficial. He confesses that as a young man "power was [his] temptation and [his] weakness."⁴³ This self-knowledge is an important part of love and it allows Dumbledore to show great Affection and care for those around him, even while he struggles to be vulnerable. Despite his best efforts though, there are several times where Dumbledore fails to love, most notably in his relationship with Harry. At the same time however, Dumbledore is a significant figure in Harry's life and his life would have been vastly different without Dumbledore's mentorship.

Conclusion

Dumbledore says at one point that it matters not what one is born but what one grows to be.⁴⁴ This applies to these three characters who embody Affection. While each grows up with regrets, and question some of his or her own actions, the love they display makes them worthy. However, the characters do each display the limits that Affection has as

⁴² J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 361.

⁴³ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 718.

⁴⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 708.

love. As a need-love rather than a gift-love, Affection is not easily expressed and although valuable, it is not the love that a person is meant to strive for. Instead, it is more instinctive and involves the need to feel useful or be needed. While each of these characters show Affection in a variety of ways, some of which seem even abhorrent, they care for Harry when he needs it. The support and protection they provide is essential in much of Harry's success, even when he fails to recognize it.

CHAPTER THREE

Friendship

Introduction

Friendship, which Lewis deems the most unnatural of the loves, is extremely prevalent in the series.¹ It is a very obvious love in the series and also one that carries a lot of weight because of the close relationship between Harry, Hermione and Ron. Like all friendships, theirs have ups and downs and moments that are much more enjoyable than others. In the case of having Hermione as a friend, the Trio seemingly contradicts Lewis' assertion that Friendship is not necessary for survival. In fact, being friends with Hermione has kept Harry and Ron alive a multitude of times. However, this friendship is not utilitarian and therefore it aligns with Lewis' assertion because although it has no innate survival value, it does help the friends survive. At the very beginning of the story, the Trio becomes friends because "There are some things you can't share without liking each other, and knocking out a twelve-foot mountain troll is one of them."² That being said, there are three characters who embody Friendship in a much subtler but equally as powerful way as the main Trio. Those people are Neville Longbottom, Luna Lovegood and Dobby the house elf.

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 58.

² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997), 179.

Each of these characters embodies what other philosophers and theologians see as characteristics of Friendship. Irving Singer believes that Friendship “becomes solidified in the mutual process of helping each other assert the autonomy of his or her being.”³ This is true for Dobby, Luna and Neville as their friendships with the Trio allow them to become greater versions of themselves while maintaining great humility as well, an important trait that Roberta Bondi makes about Friendship. She asserts that “Real humility brings freedom and love to its recipients, not guilt and resentment” and this allows for Friendship to be authentic.⁴ Perhaps one of the most important aspects of friendships is one that Martin Luther King Jr. identifies when he says in one of his sermons that “Almost always the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better.”⁵ This is undoubtedly true for the Harry Potter series as a whole but particularly applies to these three examples of Friendship. Along with all of these things, each of the characters bring something different to their friendships that makes each character more valuable and therefore even greater examples of love.

Neville Longbottom

Neville Longbottom is a character who from the very beginning of the series is considered to be a bit of a laughingstock. He has a tendency to forget things, bumbles his way through most of his lessons and sometimes cracks under pressure. When he first

³ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 96.

⁴ Roberta Bondi, *To Love as God Loves* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), 45.

⁵ Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010), 56.

appears in *Sorcerer's Stone*, he is distraught because he has already lost his toad on the Hogwarts Express.⁶ Because of all these things, Neville's Friendship with the Trio has a rocky start, especially after he confronts them about sneaking around at night in *Sorcerer's Stone*. Not only that but Harry feels mostly pity for Neville after finding out that his parents are insane because they were so brutally tortured by the Death Eater Bellatrix Lestrange. However, as Neville matures, he is able to realize his own worth and this allows him to be an even better friend.

The character growth that Neville experiences throughout the series is one of the reasons he is such an exceptional friend. This is seen already in the very first book when following an encounter with Draco Malfoy, Ron tells Neville that he should stand up to him, Neville replies that "There's no need to tell me I'm not brave enough to be in Gryffindor, Malfoy's already done that."⁷ In contrast, by the end of the series Neville tells Lord Voldemort in *Deathly Hallows* that he will join him "when hell freezes over."⁸ To have come so far, Neville has learned to be more assertive, confident and, even more importantly, learned the value of Friendship.

A good portion of Neville's growth is thanks to teachers such as Professor Lupin and Professor McGonagall who value Neville for what he can accomplish rather than who they think he should be. At one-point Professor McGonagall says to him, "It's high time your grandmother learned to be proud of the grandson she's got, rather than the one

⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 104.

⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 218.

⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 731.

she thinks she ought to have — particularly after what happened at the Ministry.”⁹ To have someone with such authority to not only be proud of him but to support him as well helps Neville to be proud of himself. This extends to the earlier books as well when Snape criticizes Neville in front of Professor Lupin and Lupin responds that he wants Neville’s help with a task and he is “sure he will perform it admirably.”¹⁰

The assistance that Neville provides to his friends is often underestimated and his true Friendship is shown in much more subtle ways. A prime example of this is when Harry, Ron and Hermione are planning on going to the Department of Mysteries in *Order of the Phoenix* and Neville gets upset that Harry does not want them to have support. Neville reminds Harry about the secret meetings of Dumbledore’s Army and why it is so important that they learn to deal with darkness in the real world;

“We were all in the D.A. together,” said Neville quietly.
“It was all supposed to be about fighting You-Know-Who, wasn’t it? And this is the first chance we’ve had to do something real — or was that all just a game or something?”¹¹

It is an important reminder of Friendship and community in order to fight something larger than themselves. This commitment to fighting Lord Voldemort and evil is one of the things that draws Neville to Harry and the others in the first place. Besides Harry, Neville is perhaps one of the Hogwarts students most affected by Lord Voldemort because of what was done to his parents.

⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 174.

¹⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 132.

¹¹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2003), 761.

However, the desire to fight evil is not the only thing that drives Neville. The other thing that drives him is his commitment to those he loves, in this case, his friends. At the Ministry in *Order of the Phoenix*, Neville is barely able to stand because he has been injured and yet when Harry is threatened, Neville comes forward and says that “‘He’s dot alone!’... ‘He’s still god be!’”¹² And while it is not entirely helpful at the time, this commitment to those he cares about makes Neville an even more valuable friend.

Harry often fails to realize the Friendship and support he has from more people than just Ron and Hermione. Neville is the silent supporter type, so when he does say something, it carries important weight. This is most prominent in his speech to the people when Voldemort comes to claim victory over Hogwarts with the supposedly dead Harry. Neville refuses to stand down and for more reasons than one would originally think. In one of his many sermons on love, Martin Luther King Jr. says that “...the power of the sword cannot conquer the power of the spirit” and this is true for no one more than Neville.¹³ When Voldemort gives a speech encouraging people to join him in the second *Deathly Hallows* movie, Neville responds;

I’d like to say something. It doesn’t matter that Harry’s gone. People die every day – friends, family. Yeah. We lost Harry tonight. But he’s still with us, in here [points to his heart]. So is Fred, and Remus, Tonks, all of them. They didn’t die in vain. [turns to Voldemort] But you will. Cause you’re wrong. Harry’s heart did beat for us. For all of us. This isn’t over!¹⁴

¹² J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 800.

¹³ Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*, 113.

¹⁴ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*. Directed by David Yates. (2011; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

Faced with a successful and gloating Voldemort and his followers, Neville chooses to stand up to him, and reminds everyone present that the good they have been fighting for is worthwhile. To have such courage in the face of so much adversity shows that not only is Neville a phenomenal friend, but a worthy Gryffindor as well.

Neville's Friendship, especially with Harry, is rather poignant because they have much more in common than they are aware of. Harry finds out halfway through the series that Neville's parents reside at St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries because they were tortured to the point of insanity. Harry finds this out from Dumbledore and it causes Harry to look at Neville in a much different light; "As Harry took off his glasses and climbed into his four-poster, he imagined how it must feel to have parents still living but unable to recognize you. He often got sympathy from strangers for being an orphan, but as he listened to Neville's snores, he thought that Neville deserved it more than he did."¹⁵ This compassion toward Neville extends to the rest of his friends when they run into him at St. Mungo's in *Order of the Phoenix*. However, this is not the only thing that brings them together.

As Neville grows as a wizard and as a person, he grows closer to the Trio and to people like Ginny and Luna who accept him for who he is. They invite him to join Dumbledore's Army, where he works hard to become a wizard that he believes his parents will be proud of. Although frustrated by his progress in DA, he tells Harry in the *Order of the Phoenix* movie that "Fourteen years ago a Death Eater named Bellatrix Lestrange used the Cruciatus curse on my parents. She tortured them for information

¹⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000), 607.

but... they never gave in. I'm quite proud to be their son but I'm not sure I'm ready for everyone to know just yet," and Harry responds saying, "We're going to make them proud Neville. That's a promise."¹⁶ This interaction is an important part of Neville's relationship with Harry as well as part of his growth as a character.

It is not until the end of the series that readers are able to fully understand that Neville was also the potential boy from the prophesy that details Voldemort's downfall. Neville and Harry have a connection in this manner and also that they have essentially grown up without parents. This gives light to a variety of things, such as Snape's continued hatred for Neville, Neville's struggle to be worthy of his family name and ultimately the underlying kinship that Harry and Neville share. This supports Lewis' belief that while friends ought to like the same things, they must also be alike. This is certainly true for Neville and Harry as they strive to overcome their tragic childhoods and work to be recognized for who they are rather than just what happened to them.

Neville truly comes into his own as a character by the end of the series. He stands up for what he believes in, he tells Harry that "...it helps when people stand up to them, it gives everyone hope."¹⁷ Not only that but he receives a letter from his grandmother about how proud she is of him and that he is truly his parents' son.¹⁸ All of these things show the culmination of years of love, hard work and Friendship that Neville has experienced while at Hogwarts. Even Voldemort admits that Neville "show[s] spirit and

¹⁶ *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Directed by David Yates. (2007; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

¹⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 574.

¹⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 576.

bravery.”¹⁹ Neville has finally recognized in himself what Dumbledore saw in him from the very beginning of the series in *Sorcerer’s Stone* when he awards Neville ten points because “It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.”²⁰ He has learned to stand up to his friends, as well as his enemies and remind people that he is someone to be reckoned with.

Throughout the series, Neville is a character who is often overlooked until he does something of particular interest or valor. However, it is this subtlety of character and strength of conviction that makes him an exceptional friend. He and Luna share in what Martin Luther King Jr. would define as the small and passionate minority through their participation in Dumbledore’s Army. Although it ends up being disbanded, Neville and Luna Lovegood share a great love for the DA because it brought them friendships and also helped them grow as people.

Luna Lovegood

Luna Lovegood is introduced later in the series at the beginning of *Order of the Phoenix* but she is a truly eccentric character and is important due to her Friendship with the other characters. Luna’s Friendship begins with Harry and the others slowly, primarily when she joins Dumbledore’s Army in *Order of the Phoenix* in the hopes that she can work to improve herself. In this way, Luna and the others in the DA fulfill Lewis’ belief that Friendship is about having the same goal and seeing the same truth.²¹

¹⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 731.

²⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer’s Stone*, 306.

²¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 65.

The DA is united not only against Professor Umbridge but they are adamant about being prepared for all that the real world presents, especially following the return of Lord Voldemort.

Harry is really the first of the core Trio to accept Luna as a friend. Although he finds her supremely awkward at times, Harry is able to accept Luna as she is because he understands what it feels like to be an outsider. Not only that, but they share some experiences that Harry is not able to share with others such as when they can both see the thestrals that draw the carriages in *Order of the Phoenix*.²² An important part of their Friendship is based on truth, not only the truth of their experiences but the truth they see in each other as well. Luna is the first to share this when after a Herbology lesson, she approaches Harry and says, “I believe He-Who-Must- Not-Be-Named is back, and I believe you fought him and escaped from him.”²³ This is the first instance of someone outside of his normal group of friends placing trust in Harry and that means a lot to him. This extends to Luna’s father Xenophilius Lovegood as well, as Luna tells Harry in a touching scene between the two in the movie, “We both believe you by the way. That He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named is back and you fought him and the ministry and the Prophet are conspiring against you and Dumbledore.”²⁴ Luna reminds Harry not to feel alone, because that is probably what Voldemort wants. This trust even leads Harry to agree to an interview for Xenophilius’ magazine *The Quibbler* about his confrontation

²² J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 199.

²³ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 261.

²⁴ *Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix*. Directed by David Yates. (2007; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

with Voldemort the previous year. Roberta Bondi writes that an important part of Friendship is being truthful with one another and Luna is one of very few people who is able to do that with Harry. While much of the time this is positive, she is also someone who is able to put Harry in his place when as she puts it, he's "being rather rude, you know."²⁵

When he asks her to attend Professor Slughorn's party with him in *Half Blood Prince*, Luna is so honored because she feels as though she is valued as a friend; "'Oh, no, I'd love to go with you as friends!' said Luna, beaming as he had never seen her beam before. 'Nobody's ever asked me to a party before, as a friend!'"²⁶ This enthusiasm for her friends and being included is one of the things that makes Luna's love so refreshing. She is truly humbled by her Friendship and it makes her a stronger person as well as a more committed friend. Lewis describes this when he writes that "...in a good Friendship each member often feels humility towards the rest."²⁷ Luna exemplifies this in that she is continually counting herself lucky to have such good friends and it pushes her to be better.

Luna's true love for her friends is not entirely revealed until *Deathly Hallows* when Harry, Ron and Hermione visit her father to learn more about what they come to know as the Deathly Hallows. Although they do not actually see Luna, Harry sees her room and is stunned to find that she "had decorated her bedroom ceiling with five beautifully painted faces: Harry, Ron, Hermione, Ginny, and Neville... What appeared

²⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 735.

²⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 311.

²⁷ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 82.

to be fine golden chains wove around the pictures, linking them together, but after examining them for a minute or so, Harry realized that the chains were actually one word, repeated a thousand times in golden ink: *friends . . . friends . . . friends . . .*”²⁸ This leads Harry to feel even greater love towards Luna and is a good reminder for him that there are many who care for and support him.

The value of Luna’s Friendship is oftentimes seen when she is not around. After discovering that she has been taken as a punishment to her father, the Trio worry about her fate and yet Harry cannot bear to think that she will not survive.²⁹ In the short time that she has known them, she has quickly become important and lovable to them. In this way she is an unexpected friend, much like Lewis writes that friends are the people we feel we have chosen and yet fate and God has chosen to put them in our path.³⁰ None of the main characters would necessarily have been drawn to Luna as a friend had they not shared a number of experiences as well as beliefs.

Although Luna does not always express it, this subtle Friendship is often the most powerful because it always presents itself when needed but is not overwhelming. In the same way, Luna is able to be a good friend because she knows what it means to not have friends. She often says things that make the others uncomfortable but it is just another example about how she has struggled with making and having friends in the past. One of

²⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 417.

²⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 425.

³⁰ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 89.

the most telling moments is when she is talking about the meetings of Dumbledore's Army and explains that she enjoyed the meetings because "It was like having friends."³¹

Another way that Luna exemplifies Friendship is that she is able to see the value in many people, even those she has not known very long. This is true when she cares for Mr. Ollivander in the cellar of Malfoy Manor and when they are burying Dobby at Shell Cottage. She says that she feels they ought to say something and she so eloquently puts it; "Thank you so much, Dobby, for rescuing me from that cellar. It's so unfair that you had to die, when you were so good and brave. I'll always remember what you did for us. I hope you're happy now."³² Luna is endearing to others because of the great respect she has for people and it gives them the ability to overlook her oddities. This extends to Dobby when he is alive as well, addressing him as sir in the first *Deathly Hallows* movie and prompting Dobby to respond by saying "I like her very much!"³³

Dobby

While Dobby may seem like an unusual choice for the Friendship category, he is an excellent example of a good friend because of his devotion. He is always willing to help Harry and he cares for those he loves in a very selfless manner. That being said, he sometimes lets his emotions get in the way of his common sense. This is most often seen in his physically harming himself because he feels bad about something he has said or done. Likewise, he also causes great risk to Harry in *Chamber of Secrets* because he tries

³¹ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 138.

³² J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 480.

³³ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*. Directed by David Yates. (2010; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

to keep Harry safe. Although it sometimes causes much more trouble than it is worth, this is very important. Dobby is willing to incur the wrath not only of his masters the Malfoy family but also Harry as well in order to keep him safe.

In addition, Dobby is extremely loyal. After he is freed at the end of *Chamber of Secrets*, Dobby becomes a greater version of himself and it allows him to help those that he cares about in even more ways. Dobby's loyalty to his friends and to Harry in particular is very evident in how hard he works to take care of and save them. Dobby's willingness to defy his old masters and put himself at risk is an example of the selflessness that Friendship can inspire. At one point he tells Harry that he "will always be there for Harry Potter."³⁴

Although there are people who argue that Dobby should have chosen different ways to protect Harry Potter in *Chamber of Secrets*, he represents the concept of what many people would call tough love. Knowing what will happen at Hogwarts in Harry's second year, Dobby works hard to protect him while still barely knowing him. He chooses to do what he thinks is best for Harry, even if it is not pleasant for Harry. One of the greatest examples of this is when Harry is in the Hospital Wing following the Quidditch match with the rogue bludger and Dobby reveals that he bewitched the bludger and that he never meant to kill Harry, only to grievously injure.³⁵

The next time Dobby appears in the series is in *Goblet of Fire* when the Trio discovers that Dobby is working in the Hogwarts kitchens. He is overjoyed by Harry's

³⁴ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*. Directed by David Yates. (2010; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

³⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998), 177.

decision to come visit him and shares the joy that he feels working at Hogwarts. After this, he shares his love for Harry in one of the only other ways he knows how, by giving Harry a gift. Harry wakes up on Christmas morning, “opened his eyes, and saw something with very large, round, green eyes staring back at him in the darkness, so close they were almost nose to nose.”³⁶ Dobby gives Harry Quidditch themed socks that he has made himself and also bonds with Ron after Ron gives him some socks. While this seems somewhat basic in terms of Friendship, it shows that Dobby’s love for Harry has not diminished over the year since they have seen each other. If anything, it has only grown.

Harry does not truly understand Dobby’s love for him or begin to love him back until Dobby helps him save his “Wheezy” in the second task of the Triwizard Tournament. Dobby provides Harry with the very thing that will allow him to breathe underwater and save his friend but is also instrumental in getting him to do the task in the first place. Dobby wakes Harry up in the library and when Harry says he’s not even going to do the task, Dobby tells him with conviction, “Harry Potter *will* do the task.”³⁷ This adamant statement shares one of the greatest benefits that Friendship can provide, which is the belief in someone even when they do not believe in themselves. Roberta Bondi writes that people should seek friends who can help people see inside themselves without judging or acting superior and who can also be truthful with them, and Dobby is an excellent example of this.³⁸

³⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 407.

³⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 490.

³⁸ Roberta Bondi, *To Love As God Loves*, 82.

Although some of it is based on his gratitude to Harry, Dobby is exceptional in helping Harry see the truth of who he is. He tells Harry in *Chamber of Secrets* that he “must stay where he is safe. He is too great, too good, to lose.”³⁹ Dobby’s willingness and ability to extol all of Harry’s virtues often bothers Harry but it is a good example of friends being able to see the truth of what someone is and the potential that they have.

Perhaps the most telling scene involving Dobby and his Friendship with Harry is when Dobby dies in *Deathly Hallows*. After coming to rescue Harry and his friends from Malfoy Manor, Dobby has been hit with a knife expertly thrown by Bellatrix Lestrange. On the beach at Shell Cottage, Harry is distraught and yet Dobby is surprisingly at peace. In the movie, he tells Harry that it is “Such a beautiful place to be with friends. Dobby is so happy to be with his friend, Harry Potter.”⁴⁰ Dobby owes a lot to Harry for freeing him from the Malfoys but instead of caring for Harry out of duty or obligation, he sees Harry as his friend.

Rowling never fully reveals the somewhat mysterious power that house elves have. On *Pottermore*, it simply states that the magical abilities of house elves include “Their own type of magic performed without a wand which includes the ability to apparate, disarm, and make objects levitate.”⁴¹ However, these abilities come in very handy for Dobby and make him an exceptional character. Often underestimated and

³⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 16.

⁴⁰ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*. Directed by David Yates. (2010; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

⁴¹ “House-Elves”, *Pottermore* by J.K. Rowling.
<https://www.pottermore.com/explore-the-story/house-elves>.

sometimes even seen as a nuisance, Dobby is a loyal and compassionate friend who always works to care for those he loves, even at the expense of himself.

Although not a part of Dumbledore's Army, Dobby finds himself part of an even smaller minority in a group of people who are devoted and loyal to Harry Potter.

Although this results in Dobby's untimely death, he dies happy in the knowledge that he has helped Harry. In addition, Dobby is instrumental in bringing others to his cause, such as the house elf Kreacher. In this way, Dobby shows his great love for Harry as well as the ultimate goal toward which Harry is working.

Conclusion

Harry and his experiences with Friendship counteract Lewis' belief that Friendship has no survival value for oneself and Kierkegaard's assertion that "Seldom is a man tried in a crisis of life and death, and seldom does a man get opportunity to try the devotion of Friendship in such a radical way."⁴² Harry is tested and challenged a multitude of times in the series and never is he truly successful without his friends.

One of Lewis' primary assertions is that "Friendship must be about something."⁴³ Although it is not entirely clear until the conclusion of the series, these three characters exemplify Friendship because they are all focused toward the same good, which is Harry and the hope for a better world without Lord Voldemort in it. And while Dobby does not get to see that come to fruition and Luna and Neville see so much atrocity along with

⁴² Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1962), 167.

⁴³ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 66.

success, they each endeavor to help in their own way and end up being crucial to the whole story.

These three friends are without a doubt some of the most valuable due to their consistent loyalty, care for others and dedication to one another. Augustine said, “Whatever, therefore, be our circumstances in this world, there is nothing truly enjoyable without a friend” and this is most certainly true for these characters.⁴⁴ Neville, Luna, and Dobby may have each struggled with Friendship in the past but it makes them especially qualified to be a true friend and each contributes something particular and invaluable to the series.

⁴⁴ John F. Thornton and Susan B. Varenne, eds. *Late Have I Loved Thee: Selected Writings of Saint Augustine on Love* (New York: Random House Inc., 2006), 109.

CHAPTER FOUR

Eros

Introduction

The more modern common misconception that Eros and the erotic are interchangeable is detrimental to Lewis' ideas about Eros and how it is one of the four loves. Eros, for Lewis, is a focus on relationship and the experience of being in love, rather than just the primary, often animalistic sexual desire that people expect it to be. Lewis emphasizes that Eros is directed toward the Beloved, a specific thing or person on which the lover is focused. Irving Singer writes that love "is a bestowing of value upon anyone or anything that matters to the lover."¹ This is certainly true in Eros where the value given to the Beloved may not be seen by anyone besides the lover. However, the value placed in the Beloved is what matters, not whether others can perceive said value. Sexual desire does play a role in Eros but "Sexual desire, without Eros, wants *it*, the *thing in itself*; Eros wants the Beloved."² In studying Eros, it is helpful to do so in the context of couples because it further displays how Eros is directed to a specific person and how only he or she can fulfill the desires that the lover has.

¹ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 134.

² C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 94.

Remus Lupin and Nymphadora Tonks

Readers first meet Remus Lupin in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, when he is the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher who also turns out to be a werewolf. It is clear already in this book that being a werewolf poses a great challenge to Lupin, not only personally but socially and emotionally as well, and this is even more prominent when he falls in love with Nymphadora Tonks. Very little of their interaction is displayed until the two are a couple but when they do come together, they display many characteristics of Eros.

The key moment in their relationship comes at the end of *Half Blood Prince*, when Bill Weasley is recovering in the Hogwarts hospital wing from werewolf bites. Bill's fiancé Fleur asserts that she will love him no matter what and this causes Tonks to turn to Lupin;

“You see!” said a strained voice. Tonks was glaring at Lupin. “She still wants to marry him, even though he’s been bitten! She doesn’t care!”

“It’s different,” said Lupin, barely moving his lips and looking suddenly tense. “Bill will not be a full werewolf. The cases are completely —”

“But I don’t care either, I don’t care!” said Tonks, seizing the front of Lupin’s robes and shaking them. “I’ve told you a million times...”³

This brings much of their feelings to light as Harry looks back on his interactions between the two. Harry noticed several times that Tonks was not as vivacious as usual but thought little of it. Because Sirius Black was Tonks’ cousin, Harry was under the impression that she was simply mourning his death. Instead, she has been pining for Lupin. The importance of this interaction is that it reveals an important facet of the love

³ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 623-624.

of Eros which is that the lover sees past the flaws of the Beloved and loves that person anyway.

Twenty-first century philosopher Irving Singer identifies this concept of loving the whole of a person when he writes that “Loving another as a person does not mean accepting or respecting all the attributes he has. Some of them may be repellent. But if we love this person, we accept him in his totality, despite his unacceptable and even hideous imperfections.”⁴ As a werewolf, Lupin is repugnant to much of society. When he teaches at Hogwarts, he is adamant about keeping his true nature a secret and when it is revealed, he resigns immediately. He tells Harry that parents “will not want a werewolf teaching their children...And after last night I see their point. I could have bitten any of you.”⁵ He says a similar thing to Harry about Tonks and her parents’ disregard for their marriage; “Even her own family is disgusted by our marriage, what parents want their only daughter to marry a werewolf?”⁶ Lupin is tortured by the societal implications he feels he has bestowed on Tonks and yet it only shows how much his love for her is genuine.

In the Remus Lupin character profile on *Pottermore*, J.K. Rowling reveals that even after they married, Remus “continued to fear that the stigma attached to him would infect his wife... he swung constantly between elation that he was married to the woman

⁴ Irving Singer, *Works of Love*, 39.

⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 423.

⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 213.

of his dreams and terror of what he might have brought upon them both.”⁷ This tragic statement is an important part of Tonks and Lupin’s relationships because it reveals one of Lupin’s deep-seated fears, which is that he feels unlovable because of his condition. However, Tonks is his equal in many ways, and this along with her deep feelings for him allows her to accept him even in his struggles.

Another important factor of love that Lupin displays is the desire for what is best for the Beloved. Lupin sees himself as flawed and unworthy of Tonks’ love, not only because he is at fault, but because he feels that she deserves something better.

Unfortunately, this comes up again in *Deathly Hallows* and Lupin does not respond to it well. When Lupin comes to Grimmauld Place and asks the Trio if he can join them on their quest to defeat Voldemort, Harry is incensed that Lupin would even consider leaving Tonks after hearing that she is pregnant. Lupin responds with an unusual fervor, ““Don’t you understand what I’ve done to my wife and my unborn child? I should never have married her, I’ve made her an outcast!””⁸ Lupin’s deep love for Tonks pushes him to do things that he believes are best although in actuality they harm them both.

Tonks and Lupin are a couple that display some of the challenges that Eros can present. One of these, as previously described, is the struggle to constantly do what is best for one another. What is best can be easily misconstrued or exaggerated so that it ends up hurting both parties. Another risk that Eros poses is that the express desire to be with the Beloved can pose a threat when taken to the extreme. This is obvious in the

⁷ “Remus Lupin” Pottermore from J.K. Rowling.
<https://www.pottermore.com/writing-by-jk-rowling/remus-lupin>.

⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 212.

final battle at Hogwarts when Tonks comes to fight with Lupin, leaving their young son at home. Lupin tells her, “You shouldn’t have, it’s Teddy who needs you” and she replies, “He’ll sleep ‘till dawn and snore like his father. It’s you that needs me tonight.”⁹ This deep desire to be with one another is not in itself a flaw but when it causes people to disregard other people or responsibilities, it can be dangerous. In the case of Lupin and Tonks, it leads to them dying together during the Battle of Hogwarts and leaving their son Teddy without his parents.

In an article on *Pottermore* about Lupin and Tonks it says that theirs is “a love story doomed to fail by prejudice and war, but ends up far worse,” and while this might be true, it makes their love no less real.¹⁰ Lupin and Tonks are a good example of the protective love of one another that Eros inspires. Lupin tries to protect her by not being with her and Tonks works hard to counteract his idea that he is unlovable. In doing so, both Lupin and Tonks show that Eros brings with it an element of compromise, but it also allows people to give and take freely.

Harry Potter and Ginny Weasley

As the next type of love after Friendship, Eros can often arise from Friendship and sometimes this makes it much more successful.¹¹ Harry and Ginny Weasley are one

⁹ *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*. Directed by David Yates. (2011; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

¹⁰ “Why Lupin and Tonks's romance is one of Harry Potter's greatest tragedies” Pottermore from J.K. Rowling. <https://www.pottermore.com/features/why-lupin-and-tonks-romance-is-one-of-harry-potters-greatest-tragedies>.

¹¹ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love*, 161-162.

of the primary examples of this. From the very beginning of the series, Ginny has an infatuation with Harry that is sometimes quite obvious. The lengths to which she cares for him are unknown, but in his first two years of knowing her, Harry notices that she is quite awkward around him. At first it seems she is merely fascinated by the fact that he is Harry Potter, but that quickly becomes something different. The first time Harry visits the Burrow in *Chamber of Secrets*,

At that moment there was a diversion in the form of a small, red-headed figure in a long nightdress, who appeared in the kitchen, gave a small squeal, and ran out again.

“Ginny,” said Ron in an undertone to Harry. “My sister. She’s been talking about you all summer.”¹²

This is one of their few interactions until the end of the same book when Ginny wakes up in the Chamber of Secrets. At one point Ginny attempts to tell Harry and Ron that she was the one who opened the Chamber of Secrets but she is interrupted by Percy so it comes to nothing. One early sign of Ginny’s feelings for Harry is when the corporeal Tom Riddle does reveal Ginny’s worries that someone like Harry Potter would never like her.¹³ Ginny continues to be very awkward around Harry, made even more so by the fact that he saved her life.

This awkwardness with Ginny continues for the next several years and involves things such as her sending Harry a musical valentine, as well as giving him a “get-well card she made herself, which sang shrilly unless Harry kept it shut under his bowl of

¹² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998), 35.

¹³ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 309.

fruit.”¹⁴ Not much else is said about Ginny and Harry’s relationship until Ron is upset about Ginny dating Dean Thomas. This is the first time that Harry is able to get a grasp of Ginny and why she was so awkward around him:

“But,” said Ron, following Hermione along a row of quills in copper pots, “I thought Ginny fancied Harry!”

Hermione looked at him rather pityingly and shook her head.

“Ginny *used* to fancy Harry, but she gave up on him months ago. Not that she doesn’t *like* you, of course,” she added kindly to Harry while she examined a long black-and-gold quill.

Harry, whose head was still full of Cho’s parting wave, did not find this subject quite as interesting as Ron, who was positively quivering with indignation, but it did bring something home to him that until now he had not really registered.

“So that’s why she talks now?” he asked Hermione. “She never used to talk in front of me.”

“Exactly,” said Hermione.¹⁵

Although Harry does not like Ginny romantically at this point, it is the beginning of a deeper relationship between the two.

Ginny harbors feelings toward Harry for many years, but rarely are they expressed once she realizes how much she is mocked for them and how much it makes Harry uncomfortable. Ginny reveals to Harry at the end of *Half-Blood Prince*;

“I never really gave up on you...Not really. I always hoped. . . . Hermione told me to get on with life, maybe go out with some other people, relax a bit around you, because I never used to be able to talk if you were in the room, remember? And she thought you might take a bit more notice if I was a bit more — myself.”¹⁶

¹⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, 183.

¹⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2003), 348.

¹⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 647.

This reveals much of how her actions toward Harry changed over the years from sending Harry a singing Valentine to joining Dumbledore's Army with her boyfriend. However, there are still glimpses of Ginny's true feelings as the books progress. During Harry's fourth year, Ginny is chagrined to hear that Harry asks Cho Chang to the Yule Ball, but then also admits that she is going with Neville Longbottom.¹⁷ This growth of Ginny as a person allows her to become someone whom Harry can respect, admire and love. She grows more secure in her relationships, is able to have friends of her own and is confident in her abilities.

As both Harry and Ginny mature, they are able to see in each other what they have lacked in other significant relationships. Although Ginny has always harbored feelings for Harry, Harry is taken by surprise by his feelings for Ginny. It begins rather subtly, as he is so used to being around Ginny that he is confused by his feelings. One of the first signs of his love for her which he fails to notice is when he and the rest of the sixth-year potions students are presented with the most powerful love potion in the world, Amortentia. As Hermione explains, it is meant to smell different to every person according to what attracts them. Harry smells "simultaneously of treacle tart, the woody smell of a broomstick handle, and something flowery he thought he might have smelled at the Burrow."¹⁸ Harry does not smell it again until he encounters Ginny later and even then he is not able to connect the two.

¹⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000), 399, 401.

¹⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Half Blood Prince*, 183.

Harry is most struck by his love for Ginny when he sees her with someone else. This may seem like a poor manifestation of love because it inspires jealousy in Harry but it displays how much his desire is only for Ginny. He has gotten over his feelings for Cho Chang and is now totally committed to his feelings for Ginny. One of the more humorous examples of this is in the *Half Blood Prince* movie when Ron questions why anyone would date Ginny and Harry responds that “She’s smart, funny, attractive...ya know, she’s got nice skin.”¹⁹ Although he is hesitant to reveal his feelings for Ginny to Ron, he cannot help but defend her.

In his commitment to his feelings for Ginny, Harry does not take them lightly. Much of his time thinking about her in *Order of the Phoenix* is in relation to not only how he feels about her but why he feels that way about her and whether he should do anything about it. He argues back and forth with himself, especially considering that Ron is one of his best friends;

*She’s Ron’s sister.
But she’s ditched Dean!
She’s still Ron’s sister.
I’m his best mate!
That’ll make it worse.
If I talked to him first —
He’d hit you.
What if I don’t care?
He’s your best mate!*²⁰

This plagues Harry for much of the book but the fact that he values both his relationships with Ron and with Ginny so highly is an important factor in he and Ginny’s eventual

¹⁹ *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Directed by David Yates. (2009; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

²⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 515-516.

relationship. In addition, very few things in Harry's life would cause him to upset Ron on purpose and so it is significant that he is willing to do so in order to be with Ginny.

Unfortunately, not much of Ginny and Harry's romantic relationship once they are finally together is displayed in the books because they get together so close to the end of the school year. However, the moments they do experience are very telling. When Harry is mourning Dumbledore and refuses to leave his body, it is only Ginny who can draw him away; "A much smaller and warmer hand had enclosed his and was pulling him upward. He obeyed its pressure without really thinking about it. Only as he walked blindly back through the crowd did he realize, from a trace of flowery scent on the air, that it was Ginny who was leading him back into the castle."²¹ Because of the deep love that they have for one another, they are able to comfort one another in a way that few if any others can. This is clear too in Harry's reluctance to break up with Ginny as he puts off saying and doing what he knows he should because "it was too hard to forgo his best source of comfort."²²

Because Harry intends to seek to destroy Voldemort, it is not entirely surprising that he breaks up with Ginny. That being said, much of their relationship is revealed in their break-up and how they both react to it. Ginny is very understanding when Harry tells her that they can no longer be together because of the risk that Voldemort presents. In fact, Ginny "met Harry's gaze with the same hard, blazing look that he had seen when she had hugged him after winning the Quidditch Cup in his absence, and he knew that at

²¹ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 611.

²² J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 634.

that moment they understood each other perfectly, and that when he told her what he was going to do now, she would not say, “Be careful,” or “Don’t do it,” but accept his decision, because she would not have expected anything less of him.”²³ Such understanding can only come from two people who have a deep and abiding love for one another. They can understand each other in their strengths and weaknesses and let one another go even though all they want is to be with the Beloved.

This break-up does not stop Harry and Ginny from having very deep feelings for each other, however. In *Deathly Hallows* when Harry, Ron and Hermione are looking for Horcruxes, Harry sometimes looks at the Marauder’s Map, “simply to stare at Ginny’s name in the girls’ dormitory, wondering whether the intensity with which he gazed at it might break into her sleep, that she would somehow know he was thinking about her, hoping that she was all right.”²⁴ Likewise, before Harry, Ron and Hermione leave to find Horcruxes, Ginny attempts to give him a birthday present that he will not forget. This takes place in the form of a kiss that Ron rudely interrupts but it reveals that despite Harry and Ginny not dating, they still care for each other deeply. Harry’s surrender to Voldemort is also very telling because he thinks “inexplicably of Ginny, and her blazing look, and the feel of her lips on his” in his very last moments.²⁵ He is surrounded by those he loves thanks to the Resurrection Stone but he misses the joy that Ginny brings him.

²³ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 646.

²⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 313.

²⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 704.

Ginny is also an excellent partner for Harry because she accepts and loves him for who he is. Because she sees him in many contexts, such as in school, at the Burrow and on the Quidditch pitch, she is able to see all of his strengths as well as his flaws. Throughout the series, several girls are attracted to Harry and attempt to go out with him but it is often because he is famous or has been labeled as The Chosen One. After briefly dating him, Cho Chang is afraid to approach Harry after her friend betrays Dumbledore's Army to Professor Umbridge. However, when he returns as a hero in *Deathly Hallows*, she jumps at the chance to spend time with him when he is looking for the lost diadem of Ravenclaw; "Cho had got to her feet, but Ginny said rather fiercely, "No, Luna will take Harry, won't you, Luna?" "Oooh, yes, I'd like to," said Luna happily, and Cho sat down again, looking disappointed."²⁶ It seems that Cho was attracted to Harry's great abilities and maybe even fame. In contrast, Ginny cares for Harry as the person that he is, her Beloved.

A significant part of Harry and Ginny's relationship and why it is special is that Ginny is a strong and good person all on her own. Although her early infatuation with Harry seems to be no more than a girlish crush, she grows into her power and has a strong sense of self and this allows them to have an authentic relationship. As a character, she is often underestimated and yet this often works to her advantage. Readers see her character growth later in the books but there are earlier glimpses as well. In *Order of the Phoenix*, Ginny is upset that she cannot hear what everyone else will learn

²⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 585.

about the Order and this pushes others to observe her more, including Harry. George tells Harry,

“Yeah, size is no guarantee of power... Look at Ginny”
“What d’you mean?” said Harry.
“You’ve never been on the receiving end of one of her Bat-Bogey Hexes, have you?”²⁷

She is even noticed by Professor Slughorn in *Half-Blood Prince* and is invited to join his exclusive “Slug Club” after she performs a Bat Bogey Hex on someone on the Hogwarts Express. Ginny’s power not only as a witch, but as a person, allows her to have a true relationship with Harry.

Although she is the girl child her mother always wanted, being the only girl in her family caused Ginny to grow up somewhat tough. She is awkward around Harry because of her feelings for him but she stands up for herself and others when it really matters. This happens for the first time in *Chamber of Secrets* when Malfoy mocks Harry in Florish and Blotts; ““Leave him alone, he didn’t want all that!’ said Ginny. It was the first time she had spoken in front of Harry. ‘Potter, you’ve got yourself a girlfriend!’ drawled Malfoy. Ginny went scarlet....”²⁸ Despite her embarrassment, Ginny is determined to fight for what she believes in. Her significant magical power is revealed for the first time when she joins Dumbledore’s Army, and Harry begins to see her for who she truly is, instead of just Ron’s little sister.

Not only is Ginny exceptionally strong, mentally and in her magical abilities, but she and Harry are equals in a number of important ways. This includes their magical

²⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 100.

²⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 61.

talent and their deep concern for the people they love. However, they are equal in an even more exceptional way that Ginny reminds Harry of in *Order of the Phoenix* when she says it is stupid for Harry to ignore his friends, “seeing as you don’t know anyone but me who’s been possessed by You-Know- Who, and I can tell you how it feels.”²⁹ Because of her experience with Tom Riddle and the Chamber of Secrets in her first year of Hogwarts, Ginny has a particular perception of and experience with Voldemort that only Harry can truly understand. Although not necessarily a positive thing, this connection between Ginny and the young Voldemort means she has even more in common with Harry.

Singer acknowledges that “To the lover the beloved is not just another creature in the factual world but a marvel to behold,” and this is certainly true for Harry and Ginny.³⁰ Harry is consistently surprised by Ginny’s abilities, maturity and ability to understand him like few others can. Likewise, Ginny is enamored with Harry in his honesty, humility and willingness to risk himself to protect those he cares for. The two are perhaps the epitome of Lewis’ Eros. They desire only one another while respecting each other as individuals, they are not willing to allow their love for one another to impede the safety of the other, and they fulfill Lewis’ assertion that “...one of the first things Eros does is to obliterate the distinction between giving and receiving.”³¹ They give and take with no concern for themselves and are willing to love in a world fraught with uncertainty, danger, and obstacles.

²⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 499.

³⁰ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love*, 152.

³¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 96.

Voldemort and Bellatrix Lestrange

Bellatrix and Voldemort have a corrupted version of Eros and this is mostly on Bellatrix's part. It is corrupted in the sense that although it is a deep desire for the Beloved, it is not recognized in positive way and it does not help to make either of the characters better versions of themselves. Instead of desiring the best for the Beloved, the desire in corrupted Eros is primarily selfish and can therefore be more detrimental. Although it is revealed in Rowling's new play that their relationship was deeper than perhaps readers knew, in maintaining the original series as canon, their relationship is very clearly misconstrued. However, that does not mean the play can be dismissed.

Bellatrix has a love for Voldemort in the sense that she desires only him, but it is unclear whether or not it is only because of his position of power. In addition, their love is very one sided. Voldemort has very little concern for Bellatrix and he only values her as one of his devoted Death Eaters. This shatters the understanding of Eros being a flux of giving and receiving while also suggesting that Eros is a love that can be unreturned. Lewis does not clearly articulate Eros as a love that has the ability of being unrequited but he does say that Eros does not necessarily aim at happiness.³² Bellatrix certainly discovers this several times when Voldemort rebukes her or she fears his retribution. An example of this is at the end of *Order of the Phoenix* when Bellatrix attempts to tell Voldemort that Dumbledore, the person he fears most, is downstairs at the Ministry of Magic, but Voldemort chastises her and focuses on Harry instead.³³ Despite that, her

³² C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 106.

³³ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 812.

desire to be with Voldemort as her Beloved allows her to continue to care for him in a way she feels is valuable. She comes to have a sort of personal worship of Voldemort and this is also a distortion of Eros. She fails to see Voldemort for who he is, choosing instead to idolize him.

It is unknown whether or not Bellatrix had these feelings before Voldemort was defeated by an infant Harry. However, after his return in *Deathly Hallows*, Bellatrix's love for Voldemort is abundantly clear when even after Voldemort silences her in the forest, she "eyed him in worshipful fascination."³⁴ She is in awe of his power and his ability to rise again after such a significant defeat. And yet, Kierkegaard writes that "...to love another man as God is to deceive oneself, and furthermore, to permit another person to love one as if he were God is to deceive this other person."³⁵ While the Harry Potter series is not a primarily Christian work, Bellatrix's love for Voldemort appears as a corruption of love toward a higher being and therefore she is deceiving herself as well as him.

When Draco Malfoy's mother Narcissa goes to visit Snape in order to ask for help, Bellatrix tries to tell them that "[Voldemort] shares everything with me!" said Bellatrix, firing up at once. 'He calls me his most loyal, his most faithful - '"³⁶ Snape questions this, especially considering some of the mistakes that she has made, but Bellatrix asserts that she is still his most valuable supporter. This kind of corrupted Eros

³⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 703.

³⁵ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1962), 114.

³⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 29.

comes not from the value in the recipient of said love; obviously Voldemort is not very lovable. However, he is lovable to Bellatrix because of her “desire to exist in the eyes of the mighty.”³⁷ One of its most basic principles is the concept that Eros obliterates the distinction between giving and receiving in a relationship, said Lewis.³⁸ Bellatrix and Voldemort display the opposite of this. Bellatrix is constantly giving to Voldemort and doing all that she can to lift herself up in his eyes. Voldemort, however, could not care less. He cares only for power and what he can achieve for himself. Most likely he would not have followers or supporters if he could avoid it.

Dumbledore identifies this quite clearly when he states that Voldemort had followers mostly because he has to. He had always, and will always prefer to work alone;

He preferred to operate alone. The adult Voldemort is the same. You will hear many of his Death Eaters claiming that they are in his confidence, that they alone are close to him, even understand him. They are deluded. Lord Voldemort has never had a friend, nor do I believe he has ever wanted one.³⁹

This assertion is certainly true of Voldemort, and Dumbledore even notes that some Death Eaters such as Bellatrix consider themselves to be among the few whom he truly confides in and trusts. This desire to be recognized often gives Bellatrix false airs about where she stands in Voldemort’s life.

³⁷ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love*, 128.

³⁸ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 96.

³⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 277.

In her tendency to see what she wants in regard to her relationship with Voldemort, Bellatrix often brags about her closeness with him. She tells Harry, “I was and am the Dark Lord’s most loyal servant, I learned the Dark Arts from him, and I know spells of such power that you, pathetic little boy, can never hope to compete —”⁴⁰ However, Voldemort sometimes seems to mock her for her dedication;

“My Lord,” said a dark woman halfway down the table, her voice constricted with emotion, “it is an honor to have you here, in our family’s house. There can be no higher pleasure” ... Bellatrix leaned toward Voldemort, for mere words could not demonstrate her longing for closeness.

“No higher pleasure,” repeated Voldemort, his head tilted a little to one side as he considered Bellatrix. “That means a great deal, Bellatrix, from you.”

Her face flooded with color; her eyes welled with tears of delight. “My Lord knows I speak nothing but the truth!”⁴¹

This displays not only Voldemort’s lack of romantic feelings toward her but his callous treatment of her as well.

In *Half Blood Prince* while speaking to his class about love potions, Professor Slughorn reveals that “When you have seen as much of life as [he] ha[s], you will not underestimate the power of obsessive love.”⁴² It is most certainly true considering Bellatrix’s feelings for Voldemort. Voldemort is obsessed with himself, his power and his fear of death while Bellatrix is obsessed with Voldemort. Her love expresses itself in the willingness to do anything for the Beloved, which can be a healthy part of Eros. Instead, she allows herself to be used as a pawn rather than being revered as a loved one.

⁴⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 811.

⁴¹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 9.

⁴² J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 186.

Bellatrix's unyielding love for Voldemort is only parried by her fear of him. The first glimpse of this is after the destruction of the prophecy in *Order of the Phoenix* when Bellatrix pleads with Voldemort not to punish her for her inability to do what he wanted. She flings herself at his feet and he responds harshly. This does not keep her from caring for him as she sees fit. After he is temporarily incapacitated following his performance of the killing curse on Harry, Voldemort is approached by Bellatrix and "she spoke to him as if a lover" and offered to help him.⁴³ Voldemort quickly dismisses her but she takes comfort in the belief that she helped him in some way.

As is made clear in the play *The Cursed Child*, Voldemort and Bellatrix engage in a sexual relationship and end up having a daughter together. It is ambiguous as to whether or not Voldemort knew about that child but it seems that he would have since he regarded Bellatrix as one of his most important Death Eaters. However, it brings up a significant point about Eros, which is that it is not equitable to sex. Although Eros does involve the libido, it is not limited to that. Lewis asserts that "sexuality may operate without Eros or as a part of Eros."⁴⁴ In this way, the sexual relationship they share in *Cursed Child* does not mean they display Eros. Despite any desires they may share, the love between Voldemort and Bellatrix is bound to fail if it does not move past the sexual.

The combination of Bellatrix and Voldemort is remarkably powerful, as they accomplish many things between the two of them. However, the devotion to the Beloved that characterizes Eros is felt only by Bellatrix, and even then the logic or intentions

⁴³ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 724.

⁴⁴ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 92.

behind it are unknown. In light of that, she and Voldemort present a view of Eros that is distinctly negative with a lack of all the positive effects that should accompany love.

Conclusion

The meanings, manifestations and manipulations of Eros are many. These three couples display the challenges, rewards, and risks that all types of Erotic love can present. Singer writes that “Loving a person is inherently neither rational nor irrational,” and this is particularly true when it concerns Eros.⁴⁵ There is no reason for a werewolf and a Metamorphmagus to succeed in love and for two supremely evil beings to fail. However, in the uncertainty of love, Eros is perhaps one of the most precarious types. It directs itself toward the Beloved, but the Beloved is not necessarily one person or perhaps even a person at all. It is a love that can “lead to cruel and perjured unions” and yet still be “Eros in all his splendor; heart-breakingly sincere.”⁴⁶ In addition, it seems that Eros can be present in someone whose love is not returned by his or her Beloved. Regardless of how it presents itself, the power of Eros is clear and it is an important part of the development of the theme of love in the series.

⁴⁵ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love*, 39.

⁴⁶ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 108.

CHAPTER FIVE

Charity

Introduction

C.S. Lewis identifies Charity as the greatest of the four loves because it is representative of the love of God. Even without the Christian perspective however, Charity is the culmination of the different types of love because it incorporates each of the other types of love: Affection, Friendship, and Eros. It ties together the universal nature of Affection, the shared values of Friendship and the desire for the good of the other person of Eros into a love that can be transcendent. It is a true love because it does not discriminate and it does not necessarily lead to happiness. Lewis identifies it as one of the most challenging loves because it is “difficult...to receive, and to go on receiving, from others a love that does not depend on [one’s] own attraction.”¹ People prefer to have a reason to be esteemed or loved and in cases of love, that is not always the case. In fact, Roberta Bondi states, “the very desire to love and be loved is part of human nature.”²

In the Harry Potter series, few characters truly represent the kind of Charity that Lewis talks about. However, the ones who do are sometimes the ones that people would least expect. While some of the more prominent characters have strong strengths in love,

¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 132.

² Roberta Bondi, *To Love as God Loves* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), 20.

it is the secondary characters in Rowling's writing that stand out. Perhaps this is because as Bondi points out, "it is humility that goes hand in hand with love, that makes love finally possible in such a jagged world."³

Minerva McGonagall

Professor Minerva McGonagall is a prime example of a secondary character who displays true Charity. This is true from the very beginning when she is reluctant to leave Harry at the Dursleys home for fear of how they will treat him. Her love for her students and Harry in particular often comes across in a less than affectionate way. However, she truly wants what is best for them. This often appears in her disciplinary measures. Harry is terrified to find Professor McGonagall marching toward him after he flies his broom without permission to rescue Neville's Remembrall. He is very surprised to be made the Gryffindor seeker instead of getting punished.⁴

McGonagall's discipline often involves firm lectures instead of punishments, which exemplifies her love as well. In *Order of the Phoenix* when Professor Umbridge sends Harry to her office, she utters the excellent line "Have a biscuit, Potter."⁵ It is exemplary of her personality and character in that she is able to understand and care for her students even when they may have done wrong. She shows love to her students by

³ Roberta Bondi, *To Love As God Loves*, 56.

⁴ J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997), 152.

⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2003), 248.

chastising them when they have erred but also encouraging and teaching them to do what is good and right. In this way she is a great influence for her students, pushing them to be better not for her but for themselves.

This balance gives McGonagall great credibility as both a teacher and a character. When she punishes Harry and Ron after flying a magic car to school and being seen in *Chamber of Secrets*, her punishment is not as harsh as they expected. In addition, she is caring, remembering to give them food and sending them to bed with the knowledge that they will not in fact be expelled from Hogwarts.⁶ However, that is not to say that she is a person easily reckoned with. Many times she is described as being stern and harsh but that makes her love that much more genuine when she does express it.

McGonagall is equally loving in the celebration of her student's successes. She cries after Gryffindor wins the Quidditch cup in *Prisoner of Azkaban*, and she expresses great pride in Harry's performance in the first task of the Triwizard Tournament. She is one of the few teachers who believes in all of her students and pushes them to do their best. In *Half-Blood Prince*, she encourages Neville to continue with the subjects he excels in, knowing that he is a good, if somewhat easily overwhelmed student. Not only that, but she tells Neville that "It's high time your grandmother learned to be proud of the grandson she's got, rather than the one she thinks she ought to have..."⁷ This encourages Neville and helps him build important confidence.

⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998), 82-83.

⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 174.

Not only does McGonagall support her students in their success, but she desperately wants them to succeed as well. She contradicts Dolores Umbridge in *Order of the Phoenix* by telling Harry, “I will assist you to become an Auror if it is the last thing I do! If I have to coach you nightly I will make sure you achieve the required results!”⁸ This is not because of a sense of selfish pride nor simply because she hates Umbridge, but rather because she wants the best for all those she has taught. Her ability to see the good in everyone is an important part of the love she displays.

In addition to her proper discipline, when McGonagall reveals her feelings, it is always heartfelt. Part of this is because it so rarely happens. When Harry, Ron, and Hermione return to Hogwarts in *The Deathly Hallows*, not only does she defend Harry against Professor Snape but also she reveals that she has missed them. She creates a plan to protect Hogwarts as best she can while trusting Harry and believing that he is doing what needs to be done. Her continual trust in certain people is a good example of her capacity for Charity. Nowhere are her feelings toward her students more revealed than in the Battle of Hogwarts and the perceived death of Harry. He describes hearing her scream and how it was “more terrible because he had never expected or dreamed that Professor McGonagall could make such a sound.”⁹

Underneath her tough exterior, Professor McGonagall cares very deeply for the students of Hogwarts. She is furious when she finds out how Professor Umbridge proctors detention and she severely chastises the imposter Mad Eye Moody when he

⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 665.

⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 730.

transfigures Draco Malfoy into a ferret in order to teach him a lesson. This care for her students is also clear anytime there is a threat to them or to Hogwarts as a whole. Her ability to watch out for the students and fellow staff and remain calm is a very admirable trait. When Hagrid is attacked in *Order of the Phoenix*, she responds with gusto;

“How dare you!” the figure shouted as she ran.

“How *dare* you!”

“It’s McGonagall!” whispered Hermione.

“Leave him alone! *Alone*, I say!” said Professor McGonagall’s voice through the darkness. “On what grounds are you attacking him? He has done nothing, nothing to warrant such —”¹⁰

Although she ends up in St. Mungo’s for taking four stunning spells to the chest, she continues to protect Hogwarts with a fierce love that can only come from a person who loves wholeheartedly.

This love is returned by her students although not very often outwardly expressed. When the Trio returns to Hogwarts to find the Horcrux hidden there, Harry is so outraged when Amycus spits on McGonagall that he performs the Cruciatus curse on him and exclaims “I see what Bellatrix meant,” said Harry, the blood thundering through his brain, “you need to really mean it.”¹¹ For Harry to so vehemently respond to the disrespect toward McGonagall shows how much he values her. In the same way, Dumbledore values her greatly and reminds McGonagall that Hogwarts needs her when she attempts to support him after he is suspended in *Order of the Phoenix*.¹²

¹⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 721.

¹¹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 593.

¹² J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 620.

As a teacher, McGonagall is intimidating, and is from the outset. However, when she does show emotion, it is very clear that she understands her students and the struggles that they encounter. In *Chamber of Secrets*, Harry and Ron are caught breaking the rules but when they reveal that they want to see Hermione, “Professor McGonagall... [spoke] in a strangely croaky voice. ‘Of course’, she said, and Harry, amazed, saw a tear glistening in her beady eye. ‘Of course, I realize this has all been hardest on the friends of those who have been [petrified].’”¹³ Her deep compassion for her students and her ability to understand them shows her embodiment of the love that Lewis esteems so highly.

Professor McGonagall’s great respect for those around her is also a manifestation of her love. When the question of arises whether or not Hogwarts will remain open following Dumbledore’s death, she questions Hagrid about his opinion and when he says “that’s fer the Heads of House an’ the headmistress ter decide . . .”, she responds by saying that “Professor Dumbledore always valued your views...and so do I.”¹⁴ Her love for Hogwarts, its students, and its staff is paramount to her and it influences all that she does. In her loyalty to Dumbledore and Hogwarts, she wants the best for the students and staff and she believes that Hagrid is a valuable contribution to the good that she is striving toward.

¹³ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 288.

¹⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 628.

Rubeus Hagrid

The character of Rubeus Hagrid is one of the most constant and subtle examples of love in the series. From the very start, Hagrid is protective of Harry and cares greatly for him. In fact, he “howl[s] like a wounded dog” when he brings Harry to the Dursley’s the night that Harry’s parents have been murdered.¹⁵ Not only does Dumbledore entrust Hagrid to bring Harry to the Dursley’s house after his parents die but also Hagrid is always looking out for Harry and his best interests.

One of Hagrid’s best traits, which contributes to his fierce love for others, is his loyalty. People could make the argument that he is loyal to a fault but Hagrid is only loyal to a few people and for reasons that he finds faultless. His fervent reaction to Vernon Dursley’s bumbling criticism of Dumbledore is only one of the many examples of this. This loyalty eventually extends to Harry and there are times when Harry feels as though Hagrid is the only true friend that he has. This is particularly true following the return of Lord Voldemort in the graveyard of Godric’s Hollow. Hagrid is one of the few people who believes Harry and does not attempt to question him but simply cares for him instead. Loyalty plays a significant role because true love, or Charity as Lewis calls it, is consistent, not in the sense that the relationship is always a good one but in the sense that love comes with a certain amount of commitment. It is not simply an emotion; it is so much more than that.

A prime example of Hagrid’s loyalty is actually quite vexing to Harry. In several of the books, but primarily *Sorcerer’s Stone*, Hagrid defends Snape against Harry’s accusations. Although Hagrid is not particularly fond of Snape, he asserts that

¹⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer’s Stone*, 15.

Dumbledore knows what he is doing. Harry is thrilled to find himself the Gryffindor seeker his first year at Hogwarts but when he is almost jinxed off of his broom, Harry brings his concerns to Hagrid. Hagrid responds right away, “Rubbish...Snape’s a Hogwarts teacher, he’d do nothin’ of the sort...Snape wouldn’ try an’ kill a student!”¹⁶ Hagrid’s fierce defense of Snape is not primarily because he cares for Snape but because of Hagrid’s commitment to Dumbledore and Hogwarts. Although he was kicked out of Hogwarts while a student, Hagrid stays as a gamekeeper and his love for the school only continues to grow.

Part of the reason that Hagrid embodies Charity rather than another lesser type of love is that he is able to love people or things that others deem essentially unlovable. He sees the good in everything and cares deeply because of it. His Friendship with the giant arachnid Aragog is an example of this. Hagrid cared for Aragog when no one else would and this protects him. Even in Aragog’s death, Hagrid cares for Aragog in a way that not even his own kin would. He tells Harry that “‘It wasn’ easy, getting’ Aragog’s body out o’ there, I can tell yeh – they usually eat their dead, see.... But I wanted ter give ‘im a nice burial.... A proper send-off...’”¹⁷ This is also what makes Hagrid uniquely qualified to teach the Care of Magical Creatures class, a post that he thoroughly enjoys.

Roberta Bondi describes this quite well. She states that “we are not asked to enjoy the company of all people equally” but “love functions as a goal by directing all our day-to-day action, even the little ones.”¹⁸ Hagrid dislikes Draco Malfoy for his

¹⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer’s Stone*, 192-193.

¹⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 482.

¹⁸ Roberta Bondi, *To Love As God Loves*, 33, 30.

treatment of Harry but he does not discount him entirely and he strives to treat him as he would any other Hogwarts student. When Hagrid oversees detention for Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Draco in *Sorcerer's Stone*, Hagrid reminds Draco that he must listen and serve detention "...if [he] want ter stay at Hogwarts... [He's] done wrong an' now [he's] got ter pay fer it."¹⁹ As the story progresses, Hagrid has more trouble dealing with Draco, especially once he starts teaching the Care of Magical Creatures class, but he is never outwardly rude or mean to Draco, something of which few others are capable.

Although not Hagrid's intention, his care for others also earns him great respect among those he cares for. When Harry and Ron encounter Aragog in *Chamber of Secrets*, Aragog defends Hagrid against accusations that he opened the Chamber of Secrets and says that "Hagrid is my good friend, and a good man."²⁰ Hermione is equally loyal to Hagrid, helping him do extensive research when the hippogriff Buckbeak is put on trial in *Prisoner of Azkaban*. Hagrid returns this love when he chastises Ron and Harry for not being nicer to Hermione when she has always been there for them.²¹

Hagrid's love for Harry is truly self-giving, for he is willing to risk himself and his position to care for Harry. In *Goblet of Fire*, Hagrid takes a big risk in bringing Harry to see the dragons, but he knows that it will contribute to Harry's safety and success. Hagrid's concern for Harry also allows him to stand up to those for whom he has the utmost respect, including Dumbledore in *Chamber of Secrets* when Harry is accused of

¹⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 250.

²⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 277-78.

²¹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 274.

petrifying people.²² Hagrid knows that defending Harry puts him at risk even more, but he does it anyway.

It is also important to note that Hagrid is the person that Dumbledore trusts to bring Harry his Hogwarts letter and introduce him to the magical world. Not only is this a significant responsibility for Hagrid but also it automatically introduces Hagrid as an authority to Harry. Hagrid is the first person to ever show Harry Affection and this has a significant effect on Harry and his relationship with Hagrid. Although not as bad as it could have been, Harry's upbringing lacks nurturing and love. To have a person such as Hagrid show such love and esteem for Harry from their first encounter plays an integral part in Harry's successful transition into the magical world.

Hagrid's love for Harry is displayed in their very first meeting. While telling Harry that he is a wizard, "Hagrid looked at Harry with warmth and respect blazing in his eyes."²³ Harry is both shocked and unnerved by this. However, Harry's lack of understanding is part of what makes his relationship with Hagrid special. They both see each other for who they are and Hagrid also receives a unique look into the upbringing that Harry experienced. The bond that they forge is immediately strong and "even though everything Hagrid had told him so far was unbelievable, Harry couldn't help trusting him" from the very beginning.²⁴

²² J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 208.

²³ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 57.

²⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 68.

The bond between Harry and Hagrid is exceptional. Hagrid has a way of understanding Harry that few other people do, starting from the very beginning. In *Sorcerer's Stone*, Hagrid gives Harry a book of photographs of his parents and when he asks if Harry likes it, "Harry couldn't speak, but Hagrid understood."²⁵ This particular perception only continues to grow as Harry gets older. After the dramatic return of Lord Voldemort in *Goblet of Fire*, Hagrid shares this encounter with Harry;

““You all righ’?” he said gruffly.
“Yeah,” said Harry.
“No, yeh’re not,” said Hagrid. ““Course yeh’re not. But yeh will be.””²⁶

Harry has no response to this but it shows not only how much Hagrid cares for Harry but how much he understands him as well.

Harry's care and love for Hagrid is not always clear, but there are moments of clarity such as when Harry acknowledges that "seeing Hagrid again had been one of the things to which he had been looking forward most."²⁷ This displays the care that many people have for Hagrid and the positive influence that he provides, a point that emphasizes that his love is primarily selfless. Few people dislike Hagrid and those who do mainly do so out of spite. The role that Hagrid plays in the story seems understated but the genuine love that he displays makes him one of the most positive and important characters in the series.

²⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 304.

²⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000), 718.

²⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 196.

Lord Voldemort

Unlike the many paragons of Charity in the series, Voldemort, frequently identified as He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, is helpful in defining Charity by negation. He does not embody the love that Lewis finds so valuable. Fan sites speculate that his inability to love comes from his having been conceived under a love potion. Regardless of how he got that way, Voldemort is a character who lacks any concept of love. We find this out right from the beginning of the story. After confronting Professor Quirrell who was also Voldemort, when he attempts to obtain the Sorcerer's Stone, Dumbledore comes to meet Harry who is recuperating in the hospital wing. When Harry asks why Professor Quirrell could not stand to touch him, Dumbledore reveals to Harry,

Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing that Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark... to have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection... It was agony to touch a person marked by something so good.²⁸

It is later found out that this love is even more powerful than Harry and perhaps Dumbledore can comprehend, but such a seemingly simple act of love ends up saving Harry's life, and more than once.

Evil has often been understood as the perversion of the good, and Voldemort is precisely that. Roberta Bondi states that "Self-righteousness is the opposite of love" and Voldemort is a prime example of such self-righteousness.²⁹ Voldemort has a great amount of pride and belief in his power. He believes that he is untouchable and this is

²⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Sorcerer's Stone*, 299.

²⁹ Roberta Bondi, *To Love As God Loves*, 22.

clear from the very beginning when he writes off Harry's defeat of him as a fluke.

Voldemort has no concept of humility or understanding that he is not above everyone, and is therefore incapable of love.

Evil relies on results and things that can be measured, and love is clearly not in either of those categories. It is possible that part of Voldemort's contempt for love comes from his total lack of it. He has never felt himself to be truly connected to someone or something and when given the opportunity, he pushes it away. In doing so, Voldemort undermines himself in ways that he will never comprehend. Although Dumbledore has been telling Harry this from the beginning, Harry does not truly understand it until he confronts Voldemort in the Ministry of Magic in *Order of the Phoenix*. Even for Harry who suffered as a child but has learned to love, it takes an experience with Voldemort to remind himself of what he is lucky to have and what Voldemort sorely lacks. This is best surmised from the movie, when Harry is being possessed by Voldemort and he pushes Voldemort out saying "You're the weak one. And you'll never know love or friendship and I feel sorry for you."³⁰ Any power that Voldemort has is undermined by the love that his enemies have for one another. They are able to unite and be in community with one another in a way that Voldemort never can.

Voldemort's total inability to even understand love shows how far he has come, for "Only he who abides in love can recognise love."³¹ There are likely multitudes of

³⁰ *Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix*. Directed by David Yates. (2007; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

³¹ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1962), 33.

reasons for this, some of which are apparent throughout the story. One is that he has a morbid fixation with death but also a significant fear of it as well. But what he fails to realize is that a life without love is a kind of death all by itself. Because he lacks love, he lacks a power that is truly special. Dumbledore tells him at one point that ““Indeed, your failure to understand that there are things much worse than death has always been your greatest weakness.””³² Voldemort’s lack of understanding of love leads to his downfall. Despite his dismissal of love, it is Voldemort’s love or desire for power that gets in his way.

The burning desire for power that consumes Voldemort is what prevents him from loving. Charity is ultimately selfless and self-giving and Voldemort is in opposition to that. He is constantly fending for himself and disregarding the support, misguided as it is, of his followers. This only alienates him further from the community that supports Charity. Kierkegaard writes about how if a selfish person joins in a group with other selfish people, the world sees it as love, and yet this could not be further from the truth.³³ A community of selfish people counteracts the meaning of community because they are continually doubting, judging and undermining one another and this is what happens with Voldemort and the Death Eaters. This selfishness is what Lewis warns against when he writes about the dangers of Friendship. Against any authority a group of like-minded individuals seems threatening but when they have a self-serving purpose they will end up

³² J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 814.

³³ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love*, 123.

destroying themselves. Voldemort inspires this among his followers by continually shifting his favor between them but also by his inability to love them.

Not only does Voldemort not understand love but he does not have love in his life. He has loyalty from his followers but it is not love. Bellatrix LeStrange has a perverted desire for him but that is not quite love either. Regardless, even when love is offered, he rejects it. Kierkegaard describes this well when he states “To cheat oneself out of love is the most terrible deception.”³⁴ Because love is such a necessary part of human life, people without love live a much different life. A lack of love is essentially a lack of life; one cannot experience all that love and the world has to offer.

Voldemort’s contempt for love ultimately leads to his downfall. This is not only because of his lack of understanding of love, but his lack of care for those who choose to follow him. He constantly belittles those who follow him, and his approval is always fleeting. All of his relationships are based on what the other person can do for him. This is clear in his interactions with Wormtail in particular. He tells Wormtail at the beginning of *Goblet of Fire* that “[His] devotion is nothing more than cowardice. [He] would not be here if [he] had anywhere else to go.”³⁵ Then in the graveyard at the end he says that to his Death Eaters that he will not forgive or forget those followers who abandoned him and his work.³⁶

³⁴ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love*, 23.

³⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 9.

³⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 649.

In *Chamber of Secrets*, Voldemort tells Harry that although his mother's love was a powerful counter-charm, there is nothing special about Harry.³⁷ However, Dumbledore reveals to Harry that it is in fact just the opposite,

“You are protected, in short, by your ability to love!” said Dumbledore loudly. “The only protection that can possibly work against the lure of power like Voldemort's! In spite of all the temptation you have endured, all the suffering, you remain pure of heart.”³⁸

Because Voldemort singled out Harry as his enemy, he gave Harry special abilities, but he also ensured that Harry would forever work against him. As Dumbledore points out, Harry and his ability to love is the biggest risk to Voldemort because Harry will never be seduced by Voldemort and his power. Love is in fact the strongest weapon that can be used against Voldemort, and his continual underestimation of it is what leads him to his death.

Irving Singer says that “love can wreak its own kind of havoc in a society that is closed or hostile to it” and this is true for Voldemort.³⁹ By discounting love, Voldemort dismisses “a force that is at once more wonderful and more terrible than death, than human intelligence, than forces of nature.”⁴⁰ He disregards Lily's love for her son, he dismisses Snape's love for Lily and he doubts Harry's love for his friends. All of these things lead to his death because he makes Harry his equal, makes Snape his enemy and in

³⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Chamber of Secrets*, 317.

³⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 511.

³⁹ Irving Singer, *The Pursuit of Love* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 143.

⁴⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 843.

attempting to make himself invincible, makes himself vulnerable to the very thing he attempts to shield himself from - love.

Conclusion

Although Lewis' description of Charity is distinctively Christian, it does not prevent the characters in a non-religious work from representing such a powerful love. The contrast between the positive and negative manifestations of it make clear how important proper Charity is to the world at large. It fulfills Kierkegaard's statement that only people who love can see and understand love.⁴¹ Without the love of Hagrid and Professor McGonagall, Harry would likely not have been successful. And in the same way, had Voldemort not discounted the significance of love, he would have been more powerful.

The manifestations of Charity by Hagrid and McGonagall are rarely obvious and outward but it is this that makes their love even more valuable. As Dumbledore tells Harry, love rarely leaves a physical mark but it provides protection in a way that no magic can. The constant support and compassion that not only Harry but many others receive makes these two characters exceptional and irreplaceable additions to the series. In contrast, Voldemort reveals the dangers not of misguided love, but of the lack of love entirely. A majority of the philosophers and theologians referenced here work from the basic principle that love is a defining and necessary factor of life. If this is so, then the defeat of Voldemort is no surprise, but rather a reminder to foster love and allow it to flourish in the world.

⁴¹ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love*, 33.

CHAPTER SIX

Severus Snape

Introduction

Severus Snape is perhaps the only character in Rowling's work who does not clearly fit into any of Lewis' categories of love. While some characters can fulfill multiple facets of love, Snape exhibits certain characteristics of all of them. While he has aspects of each of Lewis' four loves, Snape is not able to truly embody any of them. In the same way, he is not clearly in opposition to any of the four loves either. He is by far the most intriguing and complicated character in the entire series and much of that is not revealed until the final book. Despite the greatness of Snape as a character, he is still deficient in love. That is not to say that the love he does have, and gives, is less valuable or less important. In fact, Snape's love or lack thereof shapes much of the story.

Snape's Love for Lily

Although unbeknownst to Harry, Snape's love for Lily Potter is one of the key elements in much of Harry's success. In the Pensieve after Snape's death in *Deathly Hallows*, Harry sees that Snape has been in love with Lily Potter since before they even set foot in Hogwarts. He is the first to experience Lily's magical abilities and he is the one who is able to introduce Lily to the magical world. Despite the great love Snape has for Lily, he allows his personal interests in the dark arts to consume and distract him and that pushes Lily away.

Much of Snape's relationship with Lily (and therefore a great part of his character) is not revealed until the final book, when he gives his memories to Harry and Harry brings them to the Pensieve.¹ It reveals that Snape and Lily grew up together and they got to experience much of the beginnings of their magic together. Snape and Lily were good friends but grew apart after being sorted into different houses and Snape began to favor the dark arts and become friends with his fellow Death Eaters. Although Snape blames much of it on James Potter due to Snape's blind love for Lily, Lily reminds him that he called her a Mudblood and that his affinity for dark magic is undesirable. In addition, Snape criticizes Petunia, who is one of the people Lily loves most. In the second part of the *Deathly Hallows* movie, a young Snape tells Lily, "She's jealous, because she's ordinary and you're special" and Lily replies that he is being mean.² These differences in opinion and lack of understanding on Snape's part creates and increases the rift between him and Lily.

Snape is a challenging person to place in the confines of Lewis' outline of the four types of love because he embodies several types. His love for Lily is a genuine expression of Eros and therefore true, as is most evident in the shape of his Patronus. Rowling has made the assertion in the books but also outlined on her fan site *Pottermore*, that a person's Patronus can change in the event of a profound shift in character or in the

¹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 657.

² *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*. Directed by David Yates. (2011; Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 2011), DVD.

experience of falling in love.³ Because Snape's Patronus is the same as Lily Potter's, it can be inferred that his love for her is authentic. To have his Patronus change means that Snape's love for Lily is close to the ultimate form of love seen in Charity. While he is not able to show that love for Lily while she was alive, he comes closer to it following her death.

Not only does Snape's Patronus display the great love that he has for Lily but it also reveals a great character change that takes place in Snape. Up until the point where Voldemort seeks to kill the Potters, Snape had been a loyal Death Eater. When he is unable to convince Voldemort to spare her and Snape wishes he were dead, Dumbledore imparts the following wisdom to him; "If you loved Lily Evans, if you truly loved her, then your way forward is clear...Help me protect Lily's son."⁴ This is the beginning of Snape's transformation from ardent Voldemort supporter to one of Dumbledore's most trusted men and one of the few people who is meant to always be looking out for Harry.

Despite his love for Lily and subsequent transformation, Snape's love is still flawed. Perhaps one of the most telling scenes of Snape's inadequate love is when Dumbledore reveals to Snape that Harry must eventually die. Snape asks, "So when the time comes, the boy must die?" He is so shocked that he can barely speak;

"I thought...all these years...that we were protecting him for her. For Lily" ...

"But this is touching, Severus" said Dumbledore seriously. 'Have you grown to care for the boy, after all?'

"For him?" shouted Snape. "Expecto Patronum"
From the tip of his wand burst the silver doe...

³ "Patronus Charm", Pottermore by J.K. Rowling.
<https://www.pottermore.com/writing-by-jk-rowling/patronus-charm>.

⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 678-679.

“After all this time?”
“Always,” said Snape.⁵

As previously noted, Snape’s Patronus is a doe because of his love for Lily, but just because his love for Lily is true does not mean that it extends to her son. This is a challenge for Snape to process, despite his continual negative attitude towards Harry. While Harry is the spitting image of his father and irritates Snape to no end, he is the only piece of Lily that still exists in Snape’s world. This is one way in which Snape’s love is flawed because it is selfish. He wishes to have his love for Lily but chooses to condemn the love that she had for her husband and son.

Snape and Harry

Despite his great love for Lily Potter, where Snape fails to love is in his treatment of Harry. Although he loved her and will therefore protect Harry at all costs, Snape cannot reconcile the fact that Harry is James Potter’s son. Despite all the time that has passed and the tragedy that he has experienced, Snape is not able to overlook the fact that James Potter supposedly stole Lily away from him and was also unjustly mean to him. James Potter also saved Snape’s life at one point, making Snape undoubtedly indebted to him. And perhaps these things are somewhat true. But Snape fails to be able to look past all this and it defines his relationship with Harry.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle in Snape’s relationship with Harry is that Snape blames Harry for Lily’s death. Because of the prophecy made about Harry and Lord Voldemort, Harry puts himself and his family in danger and this ultimately leads to Lily’s

⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 686-687.

death. Soren Kierkegaard identifies hate as “a love which has become its opposite, a ruined love,” and perhaps that is why Snape’s treatment of Harry seems somewhat justified.⁶ The love that Snape has for Lily instead of being transferred to her son, is corrupted because Snape wants Lily alive, not Harry.

From the very beginning, the complex relationship between Harry and Snape is clear. After his scar throbs from looking in Snape’s direction in *Sorcerer’s Stone* (which ends up being because of Professor Quirrell), Harry is skeptical as to Snape’s character. This is reinforced when “By the end of the first Potions lesson, he knew he’d been wrong. Snape didn’t dislike Harry — he *hated* him.”⁷ This continues throughout all of Harry’s years of Hogwarts, from Snape accusing Harry of opening the Chamber of Secrets and aiding in the escape of Sirius Black, to Harry supposedly entering himself in the Triwizard Tournament.

Throughout the series, readers see the complete lack of respect that Harry has for Snape, never believing in the good that Dumbledore is able to see in Snape. In *Sorcerer’s Stone*, Harry is horrified to learn that Snape was trying to protect him, not kill him. Quirrell tells Harry that Snape was trying to save him and Harry is still skeptical when Dumbledore tells Harry that “Professor Snape couldn’t bear being in your father’s debt. . . . I do believe he worked so hard to protect you this year because he felt that would make him and your father even. Then he could go back to hating your father’s

⁶ Soren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1962), 49.

⁷ J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997), 136.

memory in peace.”⁸ In an attempt to hide Snape’s feelings for Harry’s mother, Dumbledore emphasizes Snape’s feelings toward his father.

Although much of Snape’s feelings toward Harry are because of his mother, placing the blame of Snape’s actions on his hatred of James is not unfounded. The conflict between Snape and James and his friends is legendary, even at Hogwarts. When Snape is livid after Sirius Black escapes, Dumbledore replies in his typical dry humor, “Oh, he’s not unbalanced...He’s just suffered a severe disappointment.”⁹ Snape’s feelings toward James, Sirius and Lupin never change, even when he serves with Sirius and Lupin in the Order of the Phoenix.

Snape is less than pleased when Dumbledore instructs him to tutor Harry in Occlumency in *Order of the Phoenix*. Harry proves not to be very good at it and it angers Snape, likely because he knows the risk that it poses to Harry and the world at large should the Dark Lord attempt to take advantage of it. Snape reveals an interesting part of himself when he tells Harry; “Fools who wear their hearts proudly on their sleeves, who cannot control their emotions, who wallow in sad memories and allow themselves to be provoked this easily — weak people, in other words — they stand no chance against his powers!”¹⁰ It seems as though Snape could possibly be talking about himself and yet he proves to be one of the best double agents, fooling even the person considered to be the most dangerous and powerful wizard of all time.

⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Sortcerer’s Stone*, 300.

⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 420.

¹⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2003), 536.

Despite their contentious relationship, Harry does have to rely on Snape several times, most notably when Harry believes that Lord Voldemort has captured Sirius in *Order of the Phoenix* and Harry tells Snape that “He’s got Padfoot at the place where it’s hidden!” in front of Professor Umbridge.¹¹ Although reluctant to do so, Harry has to trust that Snape is a genuine part of the Order of the Phoenix and therefore values their mission even if he dislikes Sirius. Unfortunately, Harry sees this as his very last option and had he chosen to inform Snape earlier, perhaps the outcome at the ministry would have been different.

Once again in *Half Blood Prince*, Harry’s hatred for Snape increases when he finds out that it was Snape who revealed to Voldemort the prophecy about the boy who would have the power to defeat him. And yet he listens to Dumbledore when he says ““You have no idea of the remorse Professor Snape felt when he realized how Lord Voldemort had interpreted the prophecy, Harry. I believe it to be the greatest regret of his life and the reason that he returned —” ... I trust Severus Snape completely.”¹² This is perhaps the most that Dumbledore ever reveals to Harry about Snape and his character.

Snape then reveals even more of himself to Harry when not only does he warn off the other Death Eaters from killing him and refuses to kill Harry himself but he responds in totally agony when Harry calls him a coward; “DON’T—” screamed Snape, and his face was suddenly demented, inhuman, as though he was in as much pain as the yelping,

¹¹ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 745.

¹² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 549.

howling dog stuck in the burning house behind them — “CALL ME COWARD!”¹³

Although Harry does not find out until much later, Snape is nothing if not courageous. He risks his love, his loyalty and his life to care for Harry and do as Dumbledore has requested.

The relationship between Snape and Harry is therefore very complex. They both have a sincere dislike of the other and are continually distrustful of one another. This does not change until the very end, when Snape is dying and he tells Harry to take his memories to Dumbledore’s Pensieve. In this moment, Snape trusts Harry completely, and knowing that he is dying, requests to see Harry's eyes one last time because he has Lily’s eyes. Harry is equally as surprised to Harry;

He did not know why he was doing it, why he was approaching the dying man: He did not know what he felt as he saw Snape’s white face, and the fingers trying to staunch the bloody wound at his neck. Harry took off the Invisibility Cloak and looked down upon the man he hated, whose widening black eyes found Harry as he tried to speak.¹⁴

The relationship between the two was never easy or even remotely affectionate, but Harry still grieves for Snape’s death, especially later knowing that he died on Harry’s behalf.

It is not until the very end that Harry is able to truly understand Snape and therefore no longer hates him. In fact, he names one of his sons after Snape, saying that Snape was “probably the bravest man [he] ever knew.”¹⁵ Not only does Snape die at the hands of Lord Voldemort, but as Dumbledore says, no one should “underestimate the

¹³ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 604.

¹⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 657.

¹⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 758.

constant danger in which” Snape placed himself every day in order to protect Harry.¹⁶ In understanding Snape, Harry is able to defend him and even in death, Snape helps Harry defeat Voldemort. During the final battle when Harry is taunting Voldemort, he tells him:

Snape was Dumbledore’s, Dumbledore’s from the moment you started hunting down my mother. And you never realized it, because of the thing you can’t understand... Snape’s Patronus was a doe... the same as my mother’s, because he loved her for nearly all of his life, from the time when they were children... he was Dumbledore’s from the moment you threatened her, and he’s been working against you ever since!¹⁷

Although Voldemort attempts to rebuke him, Harry is adamant in defending Snape and therefore reveals that not only did Dumbledore die by way of his choosing, but that Harry himself is the true master of the Elder Wand.

Snape’s Loyalty

As revealed by Harry to Voldemort in the midst of the final battle, Snape had a sense of loyalty that while subtle, was exceptionally powerful. His loyalty to Dumbledore began as soon as Voldemort threatened Lily Potter. When Dumbledore asks what Snape will give him in return for hiding the Potters and keeping them safe, Severus says “Anything.”¹⁸

When talking about Snape’s loyalty, there are those who question whether he is truly loyal due to his length of time as a Death Eater. Even when he comes to know what

¹⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 684.

¹⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 740-741.

¹⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 678.

is right, he continues to be a double agent for years. However, what people fail to recognize is that once he makes his ultimate choice, Snape never wavers. He could have at almost any time simply delivered Harry to Voldemort or even killed Harry himself. Even if it stems from a sense of misguided duty due to his love for Lily, once Snape decides to support Harry and by extension Dumbledore, his purpose is clear, if not to readers than at least to himself.

Snape's loyalty manifests itself in a number of ways over the years but it never fails to surprise those around him. Very few people are aware of this loyalty but some are at least able to recognize it. Hermione is often the one in the Trio who defends Snape's actions when she thinks it is warranted. After overhearing Moody say Dumbledore was giving Snape a second chance, Hermione reminds Ron and Harry that "'Dumbledore's not stupid... so why shouldn't he be right about Snape, even if Snape is a bit —'"¹⁹ As usual, Hermione is the voice of reason when Harry rarely wants to hear it. She reminds Harry again in *Order of the Phoenix* that Dumbledore trusts Snape and if they cannot trust Dumbledore, then they cannot trust anyone.²⁰

Dumbledore's loyalty to Snape is equal to the dedication that Snape shows toward him. Harry often questions Dumbledore and Dumbledore repeatedly assures Harry that he has good reason to place his trust in Snape. It bothers Harry to no end; "And why . . . why . . . was Dumbledore so convinced that Snape was truly on their side? He had been their spy; Dumbledore had said so in the Pensieve. Snape had turned spy against

¹⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000), 481.

²⁰ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 555.

Voldemort ‘at great personal risk.’”²¹ Harry has no idea that Snape’s dedication extends not only to Dumbledore but to Harry himself as well.

All of this presumed loyalty is brought into question after Snape kills Dumbledore. Although all are loath to believe that Dumbledore is dead, many are even more shocked to find that Snape did it;

“Snape,” repeated McGonagall faintly, falling into the chair. “We all wondered . . . but he trusted . . . always . . . *Snape* . . . I can’t believe it . . .”

“Snape was a highly accomplished Occlumens,” said Lupin, his voice uncharacteristically harsh. “We always knew that.”

“But Dumbledore swore he was on our side!” whispered Tonks. “I always thought Dumbledore must know something about Snape that we didn’t...”

“He always hinted that he had an ironclad reason for trusting Snape,” muttered Professor McGonagall, now dabbing at the corners of her leaking eyes with a tartan-edged handkerchief.²²

Such shock shows that even though Snape had few friends, those who trusted Dumbledore had come to trust Snape as well. This makes his supposed betrayal even worse, but also allows for people to help Harry in ways that he cannot anticipate.

Snape’s Character

The late Alan Rickman was given information about Snape’s whole character prior to the publication of the final books so that he might properly portray him in the movies. The level of his knowledge has been in question since even before his passing but the significance of his character is clear in Rowling’s decision to tell him more about

²¹ J.K. Rowling, *Goblet of Fire*, 720-721.

²² J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 615-616.

his character that only she knew. Rowling has the quirky habit of revealing important tidbits on her Twitter account, and in January of 2016 she revealed that she told Alan Rickman the meaning behind the word “always.”²³ Prior to his passing, Rickman revealed in several interviews that although Rowling did not reveal all there was to know about Snape’s character, she gave him enough information to understand that he was a human with real feelings and this allowed Rickman to portray Snape in perhaps the best way possible.

Snape is also a very complex character when it comes to dealing with his students. His adamant and unfailing hatred for Neville Longbottom is confusing throughout much of the series. However, once Rowling reveals that Neville could have been the boy that Professor Trelawney prophesied would take down Voldemort, things become much more clear.²⁴ Even though Lily Potter was with James and they had Harry, if Neville had been the boy of the prophecy, then Lily would have lived. This is a challenging issue because Snape hated that Lily was with James Potter and yet he would rather her be alive and with James than dead by Snape’s supposed master’s hand. This harkens back to the loves of Eros and Charity because although Snape’s desire is for Lily alone, he still wants the best for her, even if that means not being with him.

Draco Malfoy is often perceived as one of Snape’s favorite students and while this seems logical, it is not entirely true. Snape cares deeply for his house out of a sense of pride and is therefore preferential to Slytherin students. Indeed, he often favors them

²³ J.K. Rowling, Twitter post, January 17, 2016 (11:51 pm), http://twitter.com/JK_Rowling.

²⁴ J.K. Rowling, *Order of the Phoenix*, 842.

over others even when they have done nothing to deserve it. However, as a Death Eater, Snape also has a particular bond with the Malfoy family. This becomes clear in *Half-Blood Prince* when Snape makes the Unbreakable Vow with Narcissa Malfoy.²⁵ This is an example of his hidden compassion, saying that he will protect Draco Malfoy at all costs, even going so far as to do Draco's task for him.

This comes to a head at the end of the sixth novel but it reveals that Snape is willing to sacrifice for others, including his students. In an attempt to protect Draco from the evil that he would commit by killing Dumbledore, Snape does it himself, although at Dumbledore's request. Dumbledore confesses that "[Draco's] soul is not yet so damaged...I would not have it ripped apart on my account," and when Snape inquires about his own soul Dumbledore responds, "You alone know whether it will harm your soul to help an old man avoid pain and humiliation...I ask this one great favor of you, Severus."²⁶ It seems as though Snape has come to care for Dumbledore as he quickly acquiesces to Dumbledore's wish and kills him mercifully after Dumbledore quietly pleads with him atop the Astronomy tower.

Lupin is one of the few characters who, even though he dislikes Snape, has the utmost respect for him. He tells Harry this at one point, indicating that Snape willingly made him the Wolfsbane potion each month and ensured that the side effects of his condition were not so great as to become debilitating. Lupin reveals that he is "very lucky to be working alongside Professor Snape; there aren't many wizards who are up to

²⁵ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 36.

²⁶ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 683.

making it.”²⁷ Despite the great dislike that Snape has for Lupin, he is still willing to take the time to care for him at Dumbledore’s request. Lupin is also the one who tells Harry that “Dumbledore trusts Severus, and that ought to be good enough for all of us.”²⁸ There is no love lost between the two but Lupin recognizes the importance of unity and acknowledges Snape’s abilities.

Part of the challenge presented by Snape’s character is that most, if not all, of his good works are done in secret or without recognition. Dumbledore is taken aback when Snape makes him promise “that [he] shall never reveal the best of [Snape].”²⁹ Lewis gives somewhat contradictory support for the secrecy of one’s love. He states that “Affection would not be affection if it was loudly and frequently expressed” but Snape’s love for Lily at least runs deeper than simple Affection.³⁰ On the other hand, Lewis writes of Charity that “the real work must be, of all our works, the most secret.”³¹ So Snape’s love is both Affection and Charity. Why he chooses to keep his intentions secret is never made entirely clear but oftentimes it makes Snape’s actions much more valuable.

There are a multitude of reasons why Snape’s intentions are never brought to light. Based on Lewis’ four loves and Snape’s actions it would seem that perhaps his love is more powerful when not overt. His ability to help Harry while still appearing to support Voldemort is an example of that. However, what seems most telling is the

²⁷ J.K. Rowling, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, 157.

²⁸ J.K. Rowling, *Half-Blood Prince*, 332.

²⁹ J.K. Rowling, *Deathly Hallows*, 679.

³⁰ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1988), 34.

³¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, 135.

loyalty that Snape displays. It is a kind of love that is a part of each of Lewis' loves, but Snape gives it a power all its own. He does not display outward Affection, Friendship, Eros or Charity, but instead stays steadfast in his dedication to the decisions he makes and the people he chooses to support.

Conclusion

The debate about the good or bad sides of Snape's character will likely continue as long as people continue to read Rowling's work, but she states it quite succinctly when she writes that "Snape is all grey. You can't make him a saint: he was vindictive & bullying. You can't make him a devil: he died to save the wizarding world."³² There is no clear right and wrong with Snape, and that is part of why he does not fit within the confines of Lewis' outline of the four types of love. Not only that but he displays another whole type of love in the form of loyalty. Snape embodies Affection, Friendship, Eros and Charity, and yet corrupts them at the same time. He will forever be known as an exceptional character, mainly due to the fact that his end is unexpected and extremely revealing but his redemption does not excuse his failures.

³² J.K. Rowling, Twitter post, November 27, 2015 (1:43 am), http://twitter.com/JK_Rowling.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Conclusion

In the Pensieve memory of Voldemort's interview for Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher in *Half Blood Prince*, Voldemort brings up Dumbledore's assertion that "love is more powerful than any kind of magic" and this is certainly true for J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.¹ Although the series focuses on a magical world, its deeper nature is that of a loving world, which Rowling points out as what really matters. Not only has the series inspired a love among fans that is unrivaled by almost any other series, but it displays some of the deepest and most valuable truths about love.

As stated in the introduction, this thesis is by no means exhaustive. There are many philosophers, particularly secular ones, who have commented on love and their insight could bring new light to love in the series as well. However, from the perspective of C.S. Lewis and other Christian and like-minded philosophers, the love that the Harry Potter series displays is invaluable. In the same way that fairy tales can display universal truths, so Harry Potter can show people how to love.

In examining the good and bad examples of love, it appears that maybe there is a love that Lewis overlooked and that is the love found in and through loyalty. Although it shows itself throughout Lewis' four loves, it is inherently obvious in the love of Severus Snape. There is much more to explore on that topic and too much to do so in this thesis,

¹ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005), 444.

but it is a reminder of the elusive and uncertain nature of love. And yet it is pleasant at the same time, because it means that although some may fail to love according to Lewis, it does not mean they are incapable of love.

Unfortunately, many of the characters who have the greatest examples of the loves die or suffer greatly in the novels. But as Dumbledore reminds Harry, the dead never truly leave us.² By emulating them and striving to live according to the loves they embody, many characters in the novels and people in real life could benefit. Dumbledore asserts again at the end of the series that love has “a power beyond the reach of any magic” and that is what readers ought to take away from one of the most beautiful and valuable works of fiction in print.³

² J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999), 427.

³ J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007), 710.

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