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Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is a [fantasy novel](#) written by British author [J. K. Rowling](#) and the third in the *Harry Potter* series. The book follows Harry Potter, a young [wizard](#), in his third year at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](#). Along with friends [Ronald Weasley](#) and [Hermione Granger](#), Harry investigates [Sirius Black](#), an escaped prisoner from [Azkaban](#) who they believe is one of [Lord Voldemort](#)'s old allies.

The book was published in the United Kingdom on 8 July 1999 by [Bloomsbury](#) and in the United States on 8 September 1999 by [Scholastic Inc.](#)^{[1][2][3][4]} Rowling found the book easy to write, finishing it just a year after she had begun writing it. The book sold 68,000 copies in just three days after its release in the United Kingdom and since has sold over three million in the country.^[2] The book won the 1999 [Whitbread Children's Book Award](#), the [Bram Stoker Award](#), and the 2000 [Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel](#), and was short-listed for other awards, including the [Hugo](#).

The [film adaptation of the novel](#) was released in 2004, grossing more than \$796 million and earning critical acclaim. Video games loosely based on *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* were also released for several platforms, and most obtained favourable reviews.

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Plot

Harry is back at the [Dursleys](#) for the summer holidays, where he sees on Muggle television that a convict named [Sirius Black](#) has escaped, though with no mention of what facility he has broken out of. Harry involuntarily inflates [Aunt Marge](#) when she comes to visit after she insults Harry and his parents. This leads to his running away and being picked up by the [Knight Bus](#). He travels to the [Leaky Cauldron](#) where he meets [Cornelius Fudge](#), the [Minister for Magic](#), who asks Harry to stay in Diagon Alley for the remaining three weeks before the start of the school year at [Hogwarts](#).

The night before Harry is expected to leave for Hogwarts, he learns from [Arthur Weasley](#) that Sirius Black is a convicted murderer in the wizarding world, and he warns Harry that it is believed Black will attempt to murder Harry next. On the way to Hogwarts a [Dementor](#) boards the train, causing Harry to faint. Following the incident, Harry is helped by the new *Defence Against the Dark Arts* teacher [Remus Lupin](#). Harry, Ron, and Hermione learn that the Dementors will be patrolling the school in an attempt to catch Black.

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Later on, Lupin's Defence Against the Dark Arts sessions prove far better than those of [Gilderoy Lockhart](#) (Harry's uselessly vain ex-teacher). They have a fun lesson on [Boggarts](#) and then learn about more Dark Creatures. When Lupin supposedly falls ill, the much hated Potions Master [Professor Snape](#) temporarily takes over teaching Defence Against the Dark Arts and torments the class, much to their dismay.

At Hogwarts, Harry has several problems with the Dementors, including an episode at a [Quidditch](#) match during which he faints and falls off his [broomstick](#) from high in the air. His broom is blown away and smashed by the [Whomping Willow](#). Working with Harry outside class, Lupin teaches him the [Patronus Charm](#) to repel Dementors.

On an unauthorised visit to the village of [Hogsmeade](#) (thanks to [The Marauder's Map](#), given to him by [George Weasley](#) and [Fred Weasley](#)), Harry overhears some of his teachers talking with Fudge about Black. They reveal that Black was a friend of Harry's parents but he betrayed them and gave [Voldemort](#) access to their house. They also mention that Black killed twelve [Muggles](#) and his former friend [Peter Pettigrew](#).

Ron and Hermione's friendship later suffers when Ron believes that Hermione's cat, [Crookshanks](#), ate his rat, [Scabbers](#). At Christmas Harry receives a mysterious present, a late-model [Firebolt](#) broom. Fearing it might be cursed, Hermione reports the gift to [Professor McGonagall](#), which leads to more bad feelings between her and Ron and Harry.

Ron, Hermione, and Harry join the effort to save [Hagrid's](#) hippogriff, [Buckbeak](#), from being executed for attacking [Draco Malfoy](#), after Draco provoked him. Their efforts are unsuccessful, but Scabbers reappears shortly after they hear Buckbeak being executed.

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