

Harry Potter fans reimagine their world without its creator

When J.K. Rowling was accused of **transphobia** about two years ago for "liking" a tweet that referred to transgender women as "men in dresses", much of the Harry Potter fandom tried to give their beloved author the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps it really was just an accident, a "clumsy and middle-aged moment", as Rowling's spokesperson said at the time.

transphobia 恐 T

But last week, Rowling took aim at an article that referred to "people who **menstruate**", suggesting that it was wrong to not use "women" in a misguided attempt to include trans people. When she received negative response to this, she then published a 3, 700-word essay on gender, sex, abuse and fear: "I refuse to bow down to a movement that I believe is doing demonstrable harm in seeking to **erode** 'woman' as a political and biological class and offering cover to predators."

menstruate 月经

erode 腐蚀; 侵蚀

Across the Potter fandom, a conversation began. Some discussions were tense, when fans who sympathized with Rowling's views clashed with fans who found them to be **odious**.

odious 可憎的; 讨厌的

Over the past week, some fans said that they had decided to simply walk away from the world that spans seven books, eight movies and an ever-expanding franchise. Others said that they were trying to separate the artist from the art, to remain in the fandom while denouncing someone who was once considered to be royalty.

"J.K. Rowling gave us Harry Potter; she gave us this world, " said Renae McBrian, a young adult author who volunteers for the fan site MuggleNet. "But we created the fandom, and we created the magic and community in that fandom. That is ours to keep."