

= Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince =

Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince is the sixth and penultimate novel in the Harry Potter series , written by British author J. K. Rowling . Set during protagonist Harry Potter 's sixth year at Hogwarts , the novel explores the past of Harry 's nemesis , Lord Voldemort , and Harry 's preparations for the final battle against Voldemort alongside his headmaster and mentor Albus Dumbledore .

The book was published in the United Kingdom by Bloomsbury and in the United States by Scholastic on 16 July 2005 , as well as in several other countries . It sold nine million copies in the first 24 hours after its release , a record at the time which was eventually broken by its sequel , Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows . There were many controversies before and after it was published , including the right to read the copies delivered prior to the release date in Canada . Reception to the novel was generally positive and it won several awards and honours , including the 2006 British Book of the Year award .

Reviewers noted that the book took on a darker tone than its predecessors , though it did contain some humour . Some considered the main themes to be love and death , and trust and redemption . The character development of Harry and several other teenage characters was also remarked upon .

The film adaptation of Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince was released 15 July 2009 by Warner Bros.

= = Plot = =

Severus Snape , a member of the Order of the Phoenix , meets with Narcissa Malfoy , Draco 's mother , who expresses concern that her son might not survive a dangerous mission given to him by Lord Voldemort . He makes an Unbreakable Vow with her to protect and assist Draco in his mission .

Dumbledore takes Harry to the temporary home of Horace Slughorn , former Potions teacher at Hogwarts , and persuades him to return to teach . Harry is taken to the Burrow , where Hermione has already arrived . The next morning they get their Ordinary Wizarding Level (O.W.L.) results , and school supplies lists . Later , Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger follow Draco to Dark Arts supplier Borgin and Burkes . Harry is instantly suspicious of Draco , whom he believes to be a Death Eater .

The students return to school , where Dumbledore announces that Snape would be teaching Defence Against the Dark Arts this year , while Slughorn would resume his post as Potions teacher . Harry now excels in Potions , thanks to having received a used Potions textbook that once belonged to someone named " The Half @-@ Blood Prince " , who wrote numerous tips and spells in his Potions textbook . The Half @-@ Blood Prince 's tips help Harry win a bottle of Felix Felicis , or lucky potion , from his lessons . However , Harry 's newfound brilliance in potions angers Hermione and causes much tension between the two .

Believing that Harry needs to learn Voldemort 's past to gain advantage in a foretold battle , Dumbledore schedules regular meetings with Harry , in which they use Dumbledore 's Pensieve to look at memories of those who have had direct contact with Voldemort . Harry learns about Voldemort 's family and his evolution into a murderer obsessed not only with power , but with gaining eternal life .

Using his Felix Felicis , Harry eventually succeeds in retrieving one of Slughorn 's memories about how he revealed the secrets about splitting one 's soul and hiding it in several objects called Horcruxes , granting Voldemort immortality . Dumbledore explains that in order to grant him mortality , all the horcruxes must be destroyed . Two Horcruxes , including Riddle 's Diary from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets , have already been destroyed but five others remain .

The love lives of the main characters come into play during the year . Ron and Hermione grow closer together , but after learning from his sister Ginny that Hermione had previously kissed Viktor Krum , Ron shuns her . Harry 's attempts to repair things between the two fail , resulting in Ron

going out with Lavender Brown to make Hermione jealous . Ron and Hermione later reconcile after Ron is nearly killed in an attempt on Dumbledore 's life . As a result of this , Ron and Lavender break up when Lavender sees the two of them walking out of the girl 's dormitories together . However , this was only because she hadn 't noticed Harry , who had already hurried on ahead . Harry meanwhile falls in love with Ginny , but he is reluctant to enter a relationship with her for most of the year because of his friendship with Ron . He does enter in a relationship with her though , with the permission of Ron .

Later in the year , Harry and Dumbledore journey to a cave to retrieve a Horcrux . Dumbledore expertly finds a secret passageway to a hollow , where Harry and Dumbledore take a boat across the toxic lake . They reach the basin where the Horcrux is hidden underneath a potion . Dumbledore drinks the potion , which severely weakens him , while Harry fights off Voldemort 's Ineri . They take the Horcrux , Slytherin 's locket , and return to find that the Dark Mark has been placed over Hogwarts in their absence . Dumbledore uses his magic to freeze Harry in place while Harry remains hidden by his cloak of invisibility . Draco arrives , accompanied by Death Eaters that he helped get inside Hogwarts . Draco disarms Dumbledore of his wand then threatens to kill him , acting on his mission from Voldemort . Dumbledore tries to stall Draco , who is unable to go through with it , but Snape arrives and kills Dumbledore .

Because of Dumbledore 's death , his spell on Harry is broken , and Harry rushes after Snape to avenge Dumbledore . Snape reveals that he is the Half @-@ Blood Prince and escapes with Draco and the other Death Eaters . Later , Harry finds out that the locket is not the real Horcrux , containing only a note from someone named " R. A. B. " .

After Dumbledore 's funeral , Harry breaks up with Ginny , saying it is too dangerous for their relationship to continue . Harry is so devastated by Dumbledore 's death , he decides to tell his friends he will not be returning to Hogwarts next year and will instead search out and kill Voldemort by destroying all of the Horcruxes . Ron and Hermione vow to join him in destroying Lord Voldemort for good .

= = Development = =

= = = Franchise = = =

Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince is the sixth book in the Harry Potter series . The first book in the series , Harry Potter and the Philosopher 's Stone , was first published by Bloomsbury in 1997 , with an initial print @-@ run of 500 copies in hardback , 300 of which were distributed to libraries . By the end of 1997 , the UK edition won a National Book Award and a gold medal in the 9-to 11 @-@ year @-@ olds category of the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize . The second book , Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets , was originally published in the UK on 2 July 1998 and in the US on 2 June 1999 . Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban was then published a year later in the UK on 8 July 1999 and in the US on 8 September 1999 . Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire was published on 8 July 2000 at the same time by Bloomsbury and Scholastic . Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix , the longest novel in the Harry Potter series , was released 21 June 2003 . After the publishing of Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince , the seventh and final novel , Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows , was released 21 July 2007 . The book sold 11 million copies within 24 hours of its release : 2 @.@ 7 million copies in the UK and 8 @.@ 3 million in the US .

= = = Background = = =

Rowling stated that she had Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince " planned for years " , but she spent two months going over her plan before she began writing seriously . This was a lesson learned after she did not check the plan for Goblet of Fire and had to rewrite a third of the book . She started writing the book before her second child , David , was born , but she took a break to care for him . The first chapter , " The Other Minister " , which features the meeting between the

Muggle Prime Minister , the Minister for Magic Cornelius Fudge , and his successor , Rufus Scrimgeour , was a concept Rowling tried to start in *Philosopher 's Stone* , *Prisoner of Azkaban* , and *Order of the Phoenix* , but she found " it finally works " in *Half @-@ Blood Prince* . She stated that she was " seriously upset " writing the end of the book , although *Goblet of Fire* was the hardest to write . When asked if she liked the book , she responded , " I like it better than I liked ' Goblet ' , ' Phoenix ' or ' Chamber ' when I finished them . Book six does what I wanted it to do and even if nobody else likes it (and some won 't) , I know it will remain one of my favourites of the series . Ultimately you have to please yourself before you please anyone else ! "

Rowling revealed the title of *Half @-@ Blood Prince* on her website on 29 June 2004 . This was the title she had once considered for the second book , *Chamber of Secrets* , though she decided that the information disclosed belonged better in book six . On 21 December 2004 , she announced she had finished writing it , along with the release date of 16 July . Bloomsbury unveiled the cover on 8 March 2005 .

= = Controversies = =

The record @-@ breaking publication of *Half @-@ Blood Prince* was accompanied by controversy . In May 2005 , bookmakers in the UK suspended bets on which main character would die in the book amid fears of insider knowledge . A number of high value bets were made on the death of Albus Dumbledore , many coming from the town of Bungay where , it was believed , the books were being printed at the time . Betting was later reopened . Additionally , in response to Greenpeace 's campaign on using forest friendly paper for big @-@ name authors , Bloomsbury published the book on 30 % recycled paper .

= = Right @-@ to @-@ read controversy = = =

In early July 2005 , a Real Canadian Superstore in Coquitlam , British Columbia , Canada , accidentally sold fourteen copies of *The Half @-@ Blood Prince* before the authorised release date . The Canadian publisher , Raincoast Books , obtained an injunction from the Supreme Court of British Columbia prohibiting the purchasers from reading the books before the official release date or from discussing the contents . Purchasers were offered a Harry Potter T @-@ shirt and an autographed copy of the book if they returned their copies before 16 July .

On 15 July , less than twelve hours before the book went on sale in the Eastern time zone , Raincoast warned *The Globe and Mail* newspaper that publishing a review from a Canada @-@ based writer at midnight , as the paper had promised , would be seen as a violation of the trade secret injunction . The injunction sparked a number of news articles alleging that the injunction had restricted fundamental rights . Canadian law professor Michael Geist posted commentary on his blog ; Richard Stallman called for a boycott , requesting the publisher issue an apology . *The Globe and Mail* published a review from two UK @-@ based writers in its 16 July edition and posted the Canadian writer 's review on its website at 9 : 00 that morning . Commentary was also provided on the Raincoast website .

= = Style and themes = =

Some reviewers noted that *Half @-@ Blood Prince* contained a darker tone than the previous Potter novels . The *Christian Science Monitor* 's reviewer Yvonne Zipp considered the first half to contain a lighter tone to soften the unhappy ending . The *Boston Globe* reviewer Liz Rosenberg wrote , " lightness [is] slimmer than ever in this darkening series ... [there is] a new charge of gloom and darkness . I felt depressed by the time I was two @-@ thirds of the way through " . She also compared the setting to Charles Dickens 's depictions of London , as it was " brooding , broken , gold @-@ lit , as living character as any other " . Christopher Paolini called the darker tone " disquieting " because it was so different from the earlier books . Liesl Schillinger , a contributor to *The New York Times* book review , also noted that *Half @-@ Blood Prince* was " far darker " but "

leavened with humor , romance and snappy dialogue " . She suggested a connection to the 11 September attacks , as the later , darker novels were written after that event . David Kipen , a critic of the San Francisco Chronicle considered the " darkness as a sign of our paranoid times " and singled out curfews and searches that were part of the tightened security at Hogwarts , as a resemblance to our world .

Julia Keller , a critic for the Chicago Tribune , highlighted the humour found in the novel and claimed it to be the success of the Harry Potter saga . She acknowledged that " the books are dark and scary in places " but " no darkness in Half @-@ Blood Prince ... is so immense that it cannot be rescued by a snicker or a smirk . " She considered that Rowling was suggesting that difficult times could be worked through with imagination , hope , and humour , and compared this concept to works such as Madeleine L 'Engle 's A Wrinkle in Time and Kenneth Grahame 's The Wind in the Willows .

Rosenberg wrote that the two main themes of Half @-@ Blood Prince were love and death and praised Rowling 's " affirmation of their central position in human lives " . She considered love to be represented in several forms : the love of parent to child , teacher to student , and the romances that developed between the characters . Zipp noted trust and redemption to be themes promising to continue in the final book , which she thought " would add a greater layer of nuance and complexity to some characters who could sorely use it . " Deepti Hajela also pointed out Harry 's character development , that he was " no longer a boy wizard ; he 's a young man , determined to seek out and face a young man 's challenges " . Paolini had similar views , claiming , " the children have changed ... they act like real teenagers . "

= = Publication and reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince was met with positive reviews . Liesl Schillinger of The New York Times praised the novel 's various themes and suspenseful ending . However , she considered Rowling 's gift " not so much for language as for characterisation and plotting " . Kirkus Reviews said it " will leave readers pleased , amused , excited , scared , infuriated , delighted , sad , surprised , thoughtful and likely wondering where Voldemort has got to , since he appears only in flashbacks " . They considered Rowling 's " wry wit " to turn into " outright merriment " , but called the climax " tragic , but not uncomfortably shocking " . Yvonne Zipp of The Christian Science Monitor praised the way Rowling evolved Harry into a teenager and how the plot threads found as far back as Chamber of Secrets came into play . On the other hand , she noted that it " gets a little exposition @-@ heavy in spots " and older readers may have seen the ending coming .

Christopher Paolini , writing for Entertainment Weekly , pointed out that the change of tone was " disquieting " as the world evolved , and praised the character development , though he considered Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire the best . The Boston Globe correspondent Liz Rosenberg wrote , " The book bears the mark of genius on every page " and praised the imagery and darker tone of the book , considering that the series could be crossing over from fantasy to horror . The Associated Press writer Deepti Hajela praised the newfound emotional tones and ageing Harry to the point where " younger fans may find [the series] has grown up too much " . Emily Green , a staff writer of the Los Angeles Times , was generally positive about the book but was concerned whether young children could handle the material . Cultural critic Julia Keller of the Chicago Tribune called it the " most eloquent and substantial addition to the series thus far " and considered the key to the success of the Potter novels to be humour .

= = = Awards and honours = = =

Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince has won several awards , including the 2006 British Book of the Year Award and the 2006 Royal Mail Award for Scottish Children 's Books for ages 8 ?

12 in its native United Kingdom . In the United States , the American Library Association listed it among its 2006 Best Books for Young Adults . It won both the 2005 reader @-@ voted Quill Awards for Best Book of the Year and Best Children 's Book . It also won the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Seal for notable book .

= = = Sales = = =

Before publication , 1 @.@ 4 million advanced orders were placed for Half @-@ Blood Prince on Amazon.com , breaking the record held by the previous novel , Order of the Phoenix , with 1 @.@ 3 million . The initial print run for Half @-@ Blood Prince was a record @-@ breaking 10 @.@ 8 million . Within the first 24 hours of release , the book sold 9 million copies worldwide , 2 million in the UK and about 6 @.@ 9 million in the U.S. , which prompted Scholastic to rush an additional 2 @.@ 7 million copies into print . Within the first nine weeks of publication , 11 million copies of the U.S. edition were reported to have been sold . The U.S. audiobook , read by Jim Dale , set sales records with 165 @,@ 000 sold over two days , besting the adaptation of Order of the Phoenix by twenty percent .

= = Translations = =

Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince was published simultaneously in the UK , the US , Canada , Australia , New Zealand and South Africa . Along with the rest of the books in the Harry Potter series , it was eventually translated into 67 languages . However , because of high security surrounding the manuscript , translators did not get to start on translating Half @-@ Blood Prince until its English release date , and the earliest were not expected to be released until the fall of 2005 . In Germany , a group of " hobby translators " translated the book via Internet in less than two days after release , far before German translator Klaus Fritz could translate and publish the book .

= = Editions = =

Since its wide hardcover release on 16 July 2005 , Half @-@ Blood Prince was released as a paperback on 23 June 2006 in the UK . Two days later on 25 July , the paperback edition was released in Canada and the U.S. , where it had an initial print run of 2 million copies . To celebrate the release of the American paperback edition , Scholastic held a six @-@ week sweepstakes event in which participants in an online poll were entered to win prizes . Simultaneous to the original hardcover release was the UK adult edition , featuring a new cover , and which was also released as a paperback on 23 June . Also released on 16 July was the Scholastic " Deluxe Edition " , which featured reproductions of Mary Grandpré 's artwork and had a print run of about 100 @,@ 000 copies . Bloomsbury later released a paperback " Special Edition " on 6 July 2009 and a " Signature Edition " paperback on 1 November 2010 .

= = Film adaptation = =

The film adaptation of the sixth book was originally scheduled to be released on 21 November 2008 , but was changed to 15 July 2009 . Directed by David Yates , the screenplay was adapted by Steve Kloves and produced by David Heyman and David Barron . The film grossed over \$ 934 million worldwide , which made it the second @-@ highest grossing film of 2009 worldwide and the fifteenth highest of all time . Additionally , Half @-@ Blood Prince gained an Academy Award nomination for Best Cinematography .