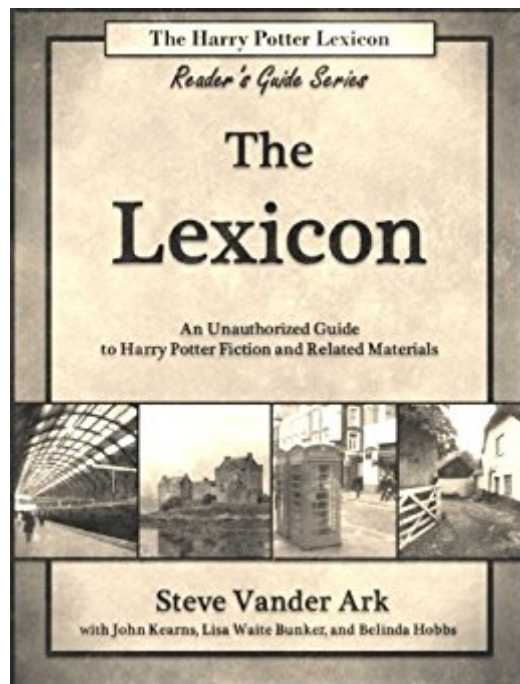




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The Lexicon (The Harry Potter Lexicon Reader's Guide Series Book 2)



Synopsis

Are you trying to remember who Orla Quirke was, or wondering where the name "Hogwarts" came from? Does the Brotherhood of Goblins make you curious? Do you relish all the tiny details of the Harry Potter universe? Would you love to discover some of the additional background Rowling created and only revealed outside of the books themselves? That's where the Lexicon comes in. It's a quick reference to all the minutia and richness of the Harry Potter canon, with connections not only to the seven novels but also to the additional sources such as interviews, newsletters, and material Rowling created for the video games and films. The Lexicon leads you back into the magic of the books and gives you a new insight into Rowling's creative mind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve Vander Ark's website, the Harry Potter Lexicon, can be an incredibly useful tool at times, though difficult to navigate. The book is much the same way. A wealth of information is contained in this book, but in most cases, unless you know specifically what you are looking for, you may never find it. For example, there is no rhyme or reason as to how spells are placed in this encyclopedia. The most sensible way would be to list the name of the spell in its alphabetical place (for example,

Diffindo) and the common name of the spell ("severing charm") in its place. Each should have a note referencing the other ("see also: 'Diffindo']"). This is almost never the case. Sometimes, in fact, the only information listed about a spell is the proper name. Of course, if you didn't know what the proper name was, and simply wanted to find the digging charm used in Deathly Hallows, you would probably never find it, as it is only listed as its proper name. Another issue with the book is the fact that not all information about the characters is listed. I understand that it would be impossible (and slightly illegal) to write a complete biography of each character, but there are inconsistencies when listing birth and death dates. The disclaimers on the front, back, and inside of the book make mention of the fact that some information was left out- we can assume that the author was not allowed to "spoil" much of the actual series due to the litigation that hounded the publishing of this encyclopedia. When I noticed that several characters who died in the Battle of Hogwarts did not have their death dates listed, I assumed that the author was not allowed to share this information, for fear of spoiling the last book for readers.

Anyone who was ever been immersed in reading the Harry Potter books knows that there are hundreds of characters, dozens of spells, a menagerie of creatures, and zillions of little fanciful details. And that's what you will find in The Lexicon: a refreshing refresher course in the facts of the series. This is the book for those times when you just can't remember the differences between a "Hover Charm" and "Wingardium Leviosa," or was it "Levicorpus?" Or when you can't recall whether a detail is from one of the Harry Potter movies or from the books. Was that irritating shrunken head in the Azkaban movie based on anything in the books? Yes, believe it or not - only it was in Chamber of Secrets and it didn't speak with a Jamaican accent. Just paging through the book is a fun walk down memory lane. I had forgotten all about the students falling ill with "Umbridge-itis," or that there was a Beauty specialist with the delightful name of "Madam Pimpernelle." And take, for example, the entry about "Dragon Milk Cheese." The writers of the Lexicon take the obvious literal question of how dragons could give milk since they are clearly reptilian and not mammals, and harken back to a seventeenth century term for "strong beer usually reserved for royalty." Baby dragons must burp alot, huh? It sounds as if the cheese would be tasty. There are hundreds of such examples of scholarship that enrich and reward the reader, such as Latinate root words provided for spells such as "Cave Inimicum" (beware of enemies) and "Protego Horribilis" (shield us from the frightful). I think children would especially find this fun and useful, since none of that is explained in the books, and most kids (or adults) don't have a Latin dictionary lying around the house.

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