



Women behind Harry Potter

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Abstract

J.K.Rowling's Harry Potter novels and its movie adaption made Billions revenue worldwide, not only in terms of money but also in way of earning cult of fans around the world. The story of 'The Boy Who Lived' to fight the evil and to save magical world take us to the magical journey of an orphan boy who proved himself to be a hero. The success and survival of Harry Potter majorly depends on the persons who deeply loved and cared for him. This research paper aims to figure out the role of Women in Harry Potter's life throughout the series. Lily Potter sacrificed herself to protect his son. Hermione Granger always stood strong with Harry from the beginning and without her knowledge, skills and courage Harry wouldn't have survived so far. Prof McGonagall, Mrs.Weasley and Ginny Weasley also played important part in Harry's life. This research paper discusses the role of women in Harry Potter's life and how they helped and supported him to fulfil his destiny.

Key Words: *Harry Potter, J. K. Rowling, Women characters*

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels successfully created mind space in all age groups around the world that everyone at least once in life wanted to be part of Hogwarts waiting for the arrival of letter. Forbes listed J.K.Rowling as the first person to become a US Dollar Billionaire from writing books. Started as Children's Books genre the novels and its movie adaption took everybody to magical universe as 90's kids grew with the series. It is the story of an orphan boy who lived to fight against the evil based on his prophecy. The storyline revolves around the Quest of Harry Potter fighting against the Dark Lord Voldemort who killed his parents and wanted to be the dictator of magical world.

The story is also about bond of three best friends- Harry, Ron and Herminone. It is also about who supported him from the beginning considering the protection, support and help from Albus Dumbledore, Minerva McGonagall, Severus Snape, Remus Lupin, Sirius Black, Weasley family and many more. This story emphasise on power of love, friendship and courage to stand against evil.

This research paper tries to unfold the female influence, support, protection and help in success of Harry Potter's goal to fight against darkness. Main characters discussed here are Hermione Granger, Professor Minerva McGonagall, Lily Potter, Molly Weasley and Ginny Weasley. The role of these female characters throughout the series is less likely to neglect while determining the success of Harry as a lead hero.

Lily Potter

Lily Potter sacrificed her life to save his son from the wrath of Dark Lord. She actually was given choice to save herself as Voldemort intended only to kill Harry and allowed her to run for her own life. But she chose to save her son and took the death curse instead. This way she saved Harry's life and her love for Harry gave him shield which blocked the death curse and ultimately saved Harry from a killing curse which otherwise never fails to kill some. If it hadn't been Lily's love and sacrifice for her son he wouldn't have survived to later avenge his parents' deaths and to save the magical world from evil.

Hermione Granger

Hermione Granger is the strongest character in Harry Potter series as she never left Harry's side in his quest. She is portrayed as studious, geek, rule follower, ambitious, muggle born witch who is ready to conquer the magical world with her intellect, skills and courage. She is the one who puts Harry and Ron's life in perspective from the beginning. It is quite impossible to determine how long Harry would have lasted against Lord Voldemort if it wasn't Hermione by his side.

She entered Hogwarts with Know-it-all attitude which somehow intimidated her fellow students in the beginning. Even though she was a muggle born she knew more about magical world than average child belonging to magical family. In the very first year at Hogwarts, Harry, Ron and Hermione became best friends and they wanted to solve the mystery of thing protected in restricted corridor. It was Hermione who figured out that three headed dog is guarding Flamel's Philosopher stone. She helped Harry and Ron to solve the riddles and it was her who saved their lives from Devil's Snare as she was the one who paid attention to Herbology's lectures knowing how to tackle it with fire.

In the second year, there were mysterious attacks on students resulting into their petrification by Heir of Slytherin but no one was able to solve the mystery behind it so far. Again Hermione was determined to solve it with help of books and soon she figured out the creature was Basilisk and even she was attacked but the crumbled note inside her fist solved the mystery by revealing the source Basilisk used- Pipes. She also brewed complex potion called Polyjuice Potion in second year which was hard to brew for senior students. In the third year, she identified Remus Lupin as a werewolf way before anybody else figured it out and it was her assumption that broom was anonymously sent by Sirius Black and she doubted it to be jinxed to harm Harry. Dumbledore trusted her with time turner and with that she and Harry could save Sirius and Buckbeak's lives. To save Harry from danger she told McGonagall about the broom Harry received which made Harry mad at her but all she wanted was his safety and she remained determined to help and protect Harry from any harm.

During Triwizard Tournament she helped Harry with practising charms and she even invented four point spell to mark the way in to the maze and it ensured Harry's victory. If it wasn't her brains Harry couldn't have faced these many challenges so far solely. She was known for her rule following nature at school but she became the one to break them when Umbridge made it hard for everyone at school. She was the one who convinced Harry to teach others Defence against Dark Arts. She was quite sure that Voldemort is just trying to lure Harry to Ministry of Magic using Sirius as she very well knew his nature of saving those he loved and she was again right; nevertheless she stood with Harry and fought back death eaters.

In the final part, she was the main planner and without her Harry and Ron couldn't have lasted a single day in their quest of finding and destroying Horcruxes. She packed every single thing the trio might require in enchanted bottomless bag from books to tent. She even erased her parents' memory to protect them and to join Harry. She used all sorts of protective charms where they stayed. She was the one to find out every possible information about the Horcruxes. Hermione didn't leave Harry even when Ron abandoned them halfway. She was sure that Voldemort must have kept watch at Godricks Hallow and they encountered attack from his snake. She used all spells to save their lives and if it wasn't her both of them might have died. After knowing the story of Deathly Hallow, at some point of time Harry's focus diverted in acquiring those Hallows rather destroying Horcruxes but Hermione firmly and constantly suggested her to only focus on Horcruxes.

From the very beginning till end of quest Hermione constantly supported, helped, protected and cared for Harry. If it wasn't her skills, knowledge, intellect, determination and courage it could have been tedious task for Harry to face all the challenges and to fulfil his destiny to fight the evil.

Minerva McGonagall

Professor McGonagall is considered as strict and no-nonsense professor at Hogwarts who always supported Dumbledore and stood for justice. She is known as disciplinarian and someone who wouldn't tolerate nuisance. She didn't like the idea of leaving baby Harry at doorstep of muggles. For Harry she wasn't only his head of house but a mentor who cared for him. She might seem strict and never encouraged Harry's attitude to break school rules but always prioritized his safety in the castle.

She took Harry's new firebolt to check for jinxes even if Harry didn't like it but for her nothing was more important than his safety. There was genuine concern and worry in her eyes when Harry was chosen for Triwizard Tournament even if he was underage. She defended him that he couldn't have crossed the Age Line, she also permitted Harry to practice in her classroom for the tournament.

Professor McGonagall leads the fight against Death Eaters after Dumbledore's death. She is the first one to openly support Harry when he arrived Hogwarts and stands against Carrows. She is the one to fight directly against Snape and eliminate him from the castle. She suggests Harry to find the thing for which he was here while she assured to defend castle for him as long as she can. McGonagall without knowing anything about Harry's plan or about Horcruxes, gave her support to help him without questioning him once. She duels Voldemort along with Kingsley and Slughorn.

Molly Weasley

Molly Weasley was mother figure for Harry. From the very first meeting at King's Cross station she cared and helped Harry as her own children. She proved her selfless love and motherly concern for Harry many times. From stuffing delicious food when Harry is home to making sweater for him the way she used to make for all her children during Christmas to celebrating his birthday, she never let Harry feel left out. She was always worried about Harry and asked him to be safe from any trouble. She even stood against Harry's godfather because of her concern for Harry. Harry got support, help and love from many people around him but Molly's motherly love and warmth was something more soothing for him. She was no longer sweet homemaker making delicious food and knitting sweaters on the final fight at Hogwarts when she killed Bellatrix saving her children.

Ginny Weasley

Ginny wasn't just love chapter in Harry's life but was a frank friend first. She remained courageous and strong. She loved Harry that she didn't oppose the idea of Harry leaving school in the last year in search of Horcruxes. He even broke up with Ginny but she let him go to fulfil his destiny. It was her love and maturity which allowed her to stay strong in such tough times. She always supported Harry for his fight against evil. She led Dumbledore's Army in absence of trio and made hard for Snape and Carrows to stop them. She believed in Harry and supported his cause even when they were not together. She kept the spirit alive in students at Hogwarts in dark times.

Conclusion

Harry Potter can be considered sole Hero of Harry Potter series but the role of supportive characters cannot be ignored. According to the prophecy it was his destiny to end Voldemort and that Voldemort himself will mark him as his equal. He was simple orphan who lived with muggles and didn't knew single thing about magical world and after years he proved himself to be the one who fought against darkness. In his journey, his quest he got love, support, care and protection from many. The role of women in Harry's life is quite significant in his success and survival. Without Lily's selfless love and act of sacrifice Harry could have died. Without Hermione's support in every way possible Harry couldn't have faced all the challenges on his path. Professor McGonagall's protectiveness and support and Molly's motherly love made Harry safe and protected. Ginny's love and support gave him strength. Without all of them it might be difficult path for Harry to survive and succeed.

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