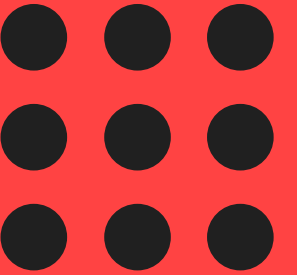


MULTI-AWARD
WINNING AUTHOR
CAROLYN WREN
PRESENTS

WRITING THE VILLAIN

Tips for creating a page
turning baddie.

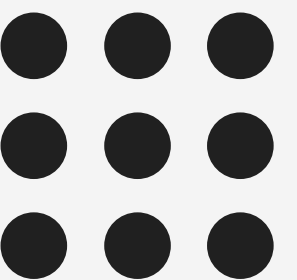


Presentation Outline

"A villain is the bad guy, the one who comes up with diabolical plots to somehow cause harm or ruin. It is one of the archetype characters in many stories. In the old days, the villain (usually a man) would somehow be harming the damsel-in-distress (helpless female), who needed the hero (the strong he-man) to save her."

Quote from <https://literaryterms.net> › villain

What is a villain?



Let's try that again...

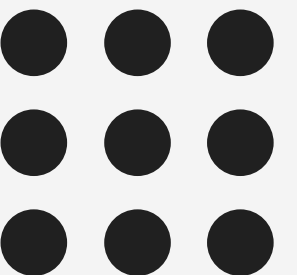
A villain creates conflict within the story arc of a book. This conflict can be anything from world domination to an annoying workmate. A wicked witch to a nosy neighbour or a spurned ex lover making waves in an existing relationship. Villainy is not only confined to a James Bond bad guy plotting to blow up the planet.

Categories of Villains

- Evil Villain
- Everyday Villain
- Red Herring Villain
- Tragic Villain
- Redeemable Villain



What is a villain?



Where does it start?

FAIRY TALES

For most readers, our first experience with villains comes from fairy tales.

Wicked witches.

Big Bad Wolves

Evil stepmothers

Cruel queens



Fairy Tales tell us that actions have
consequences

Crime doesn't pay

The good guys
win

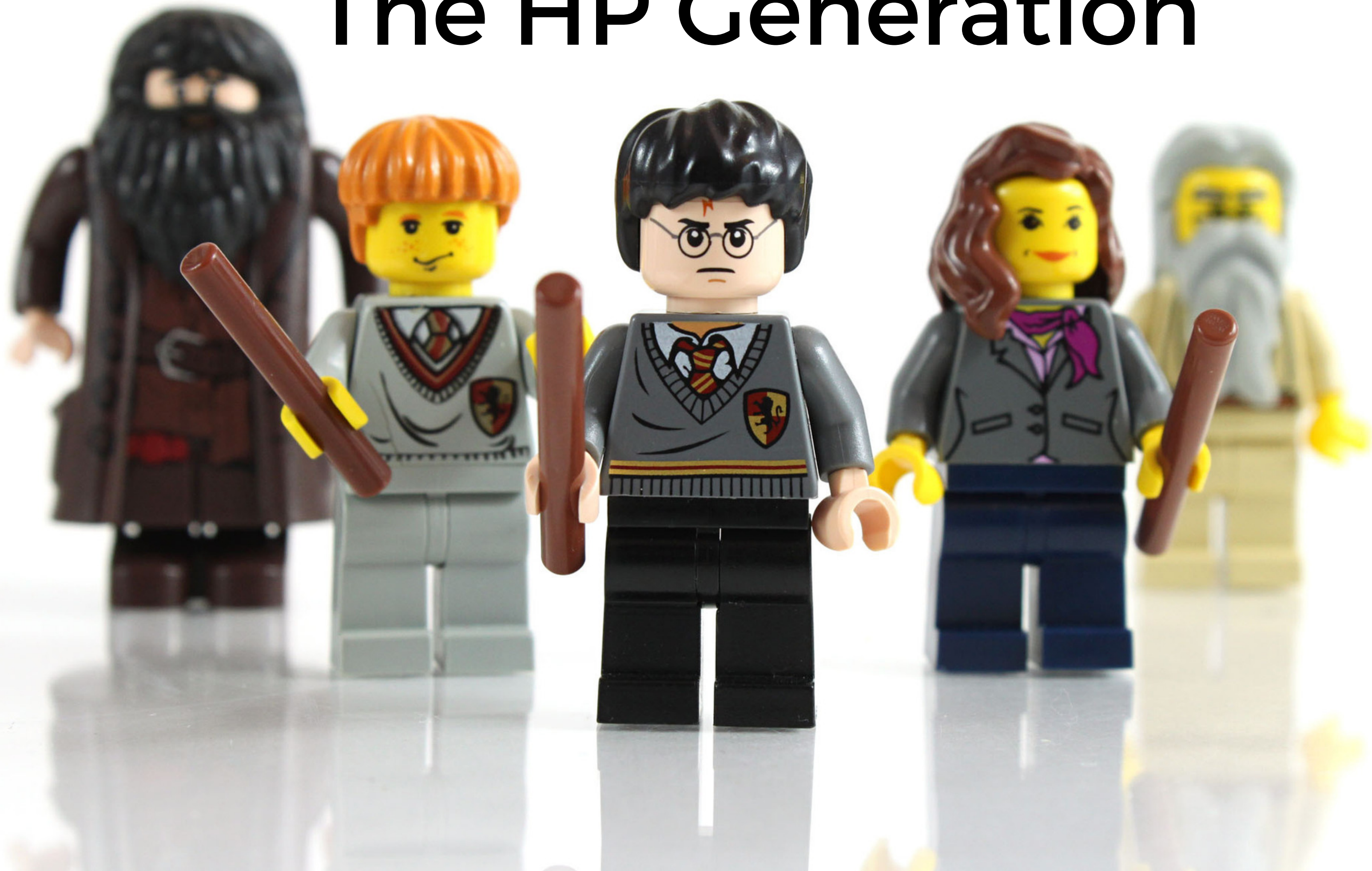


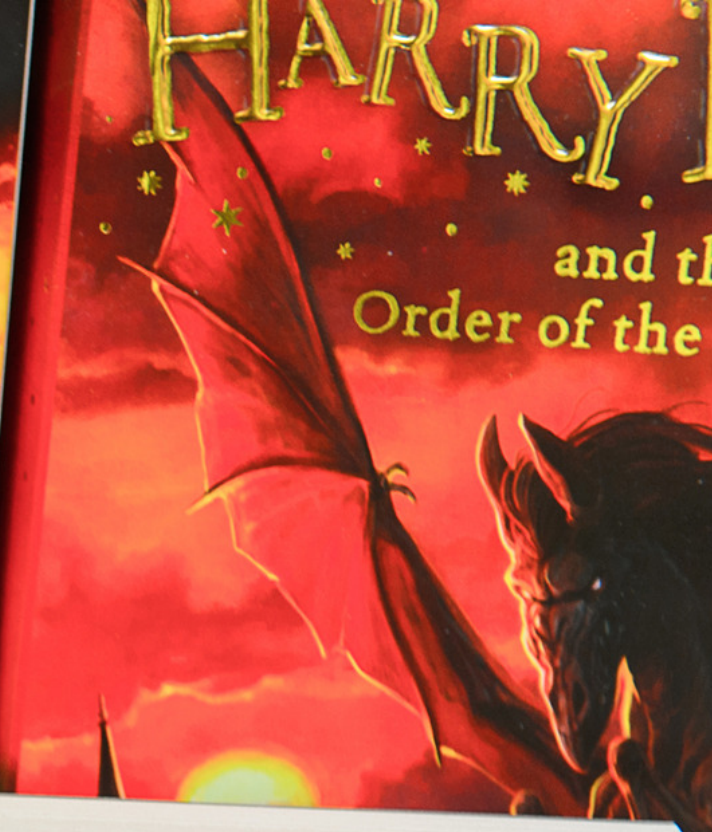
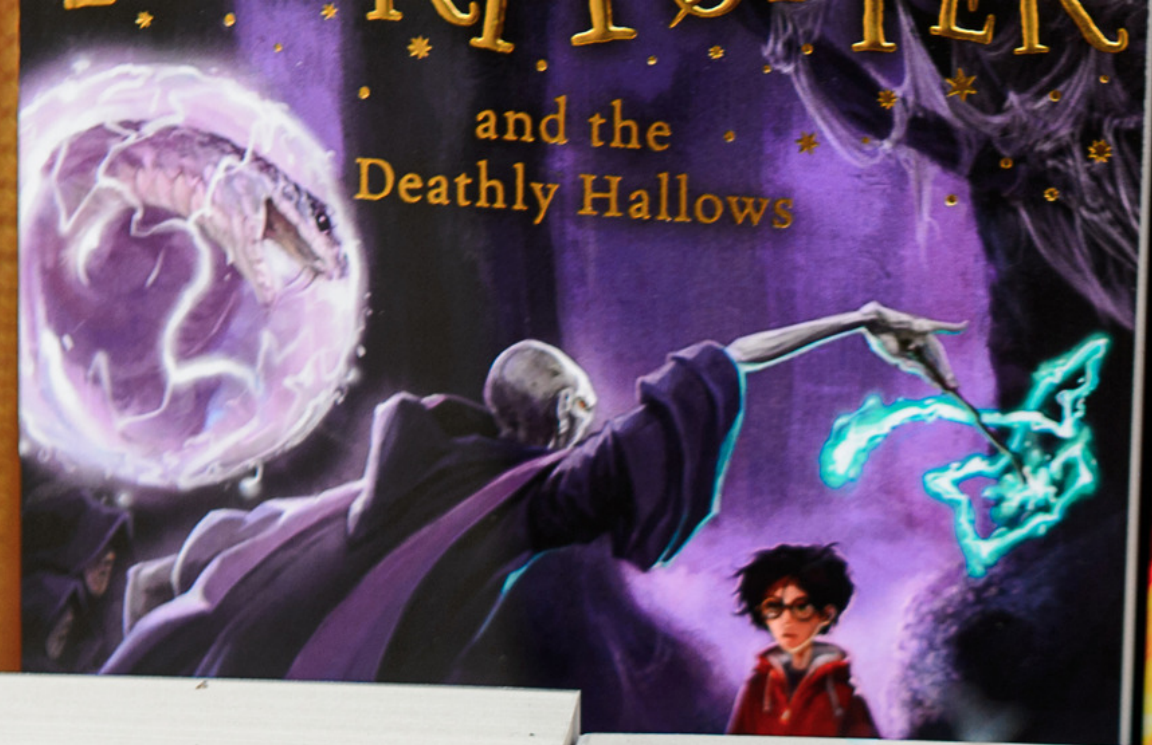
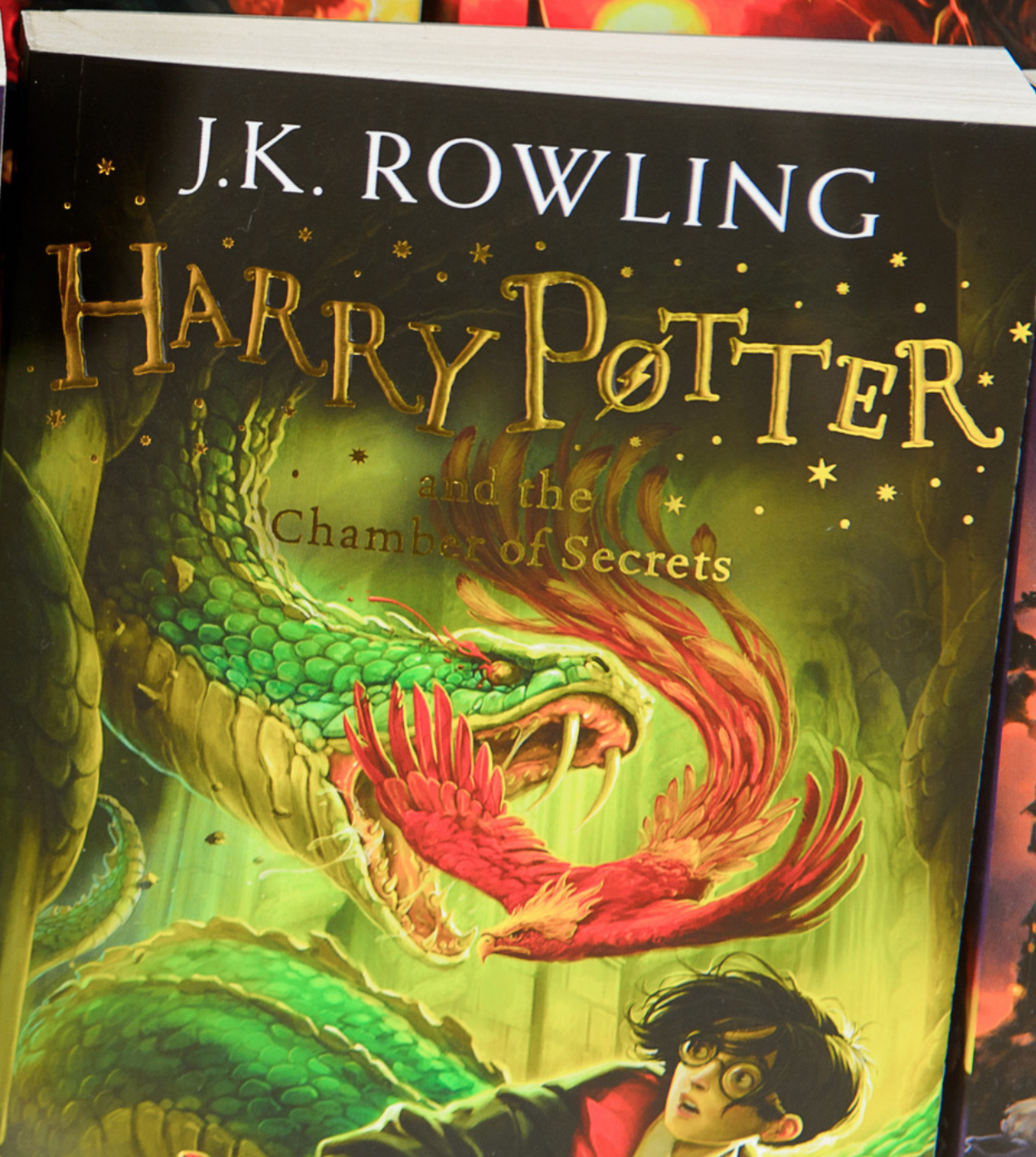
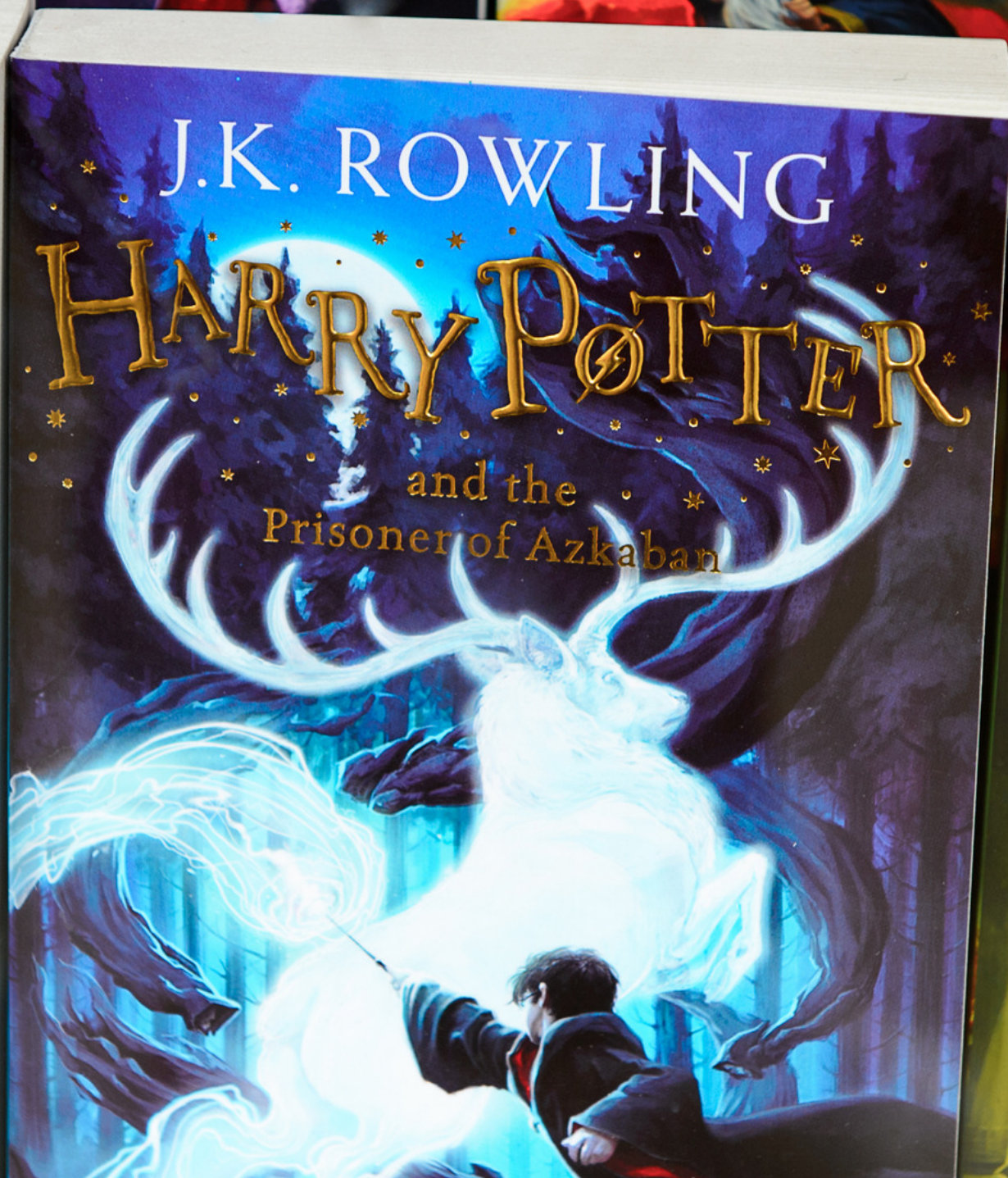
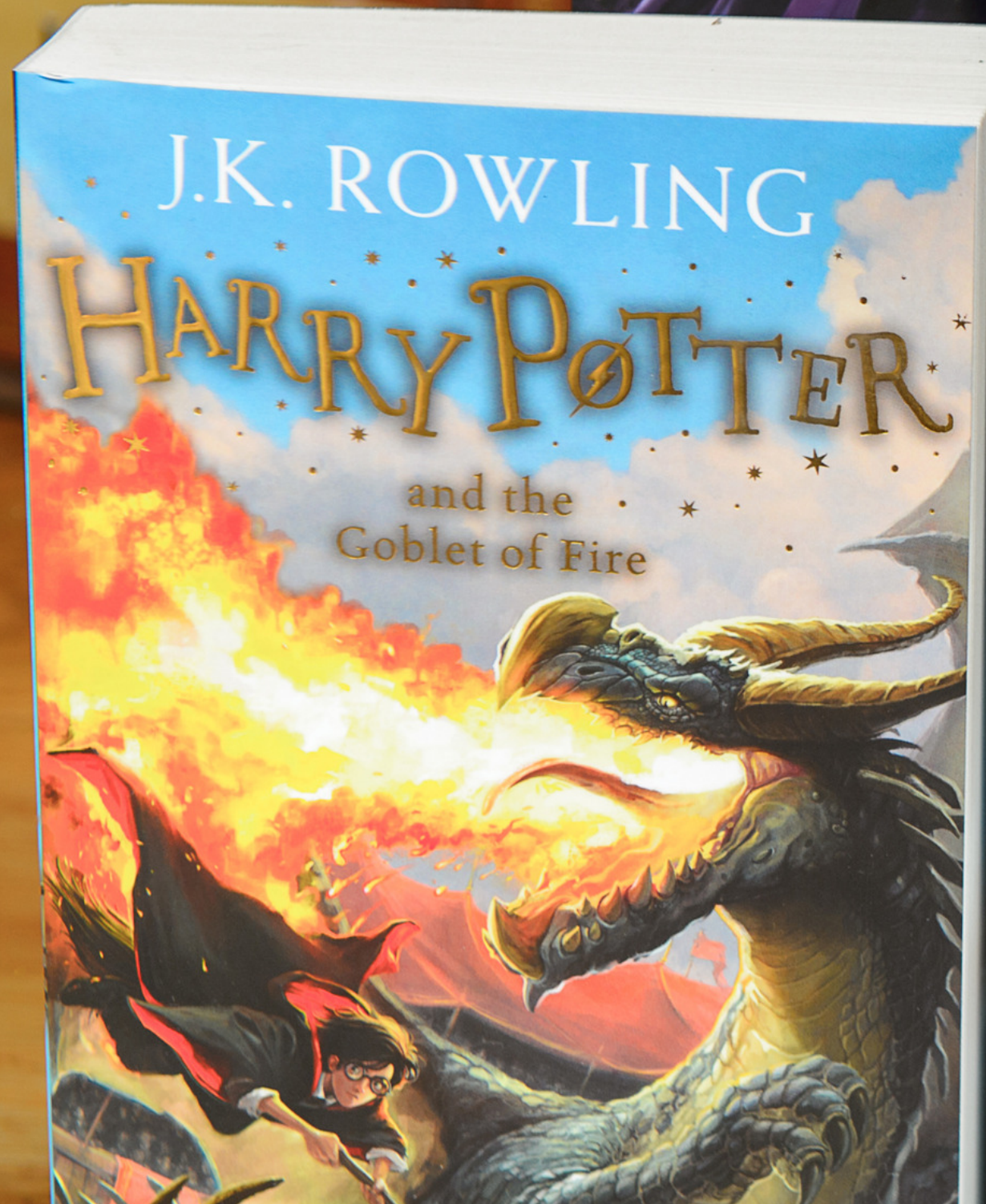
Cause and Effect

Don't be Evil



The HP Generation

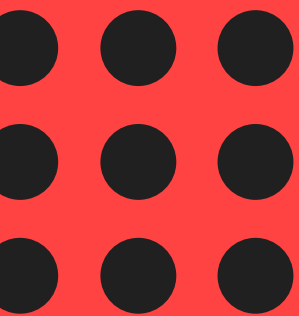


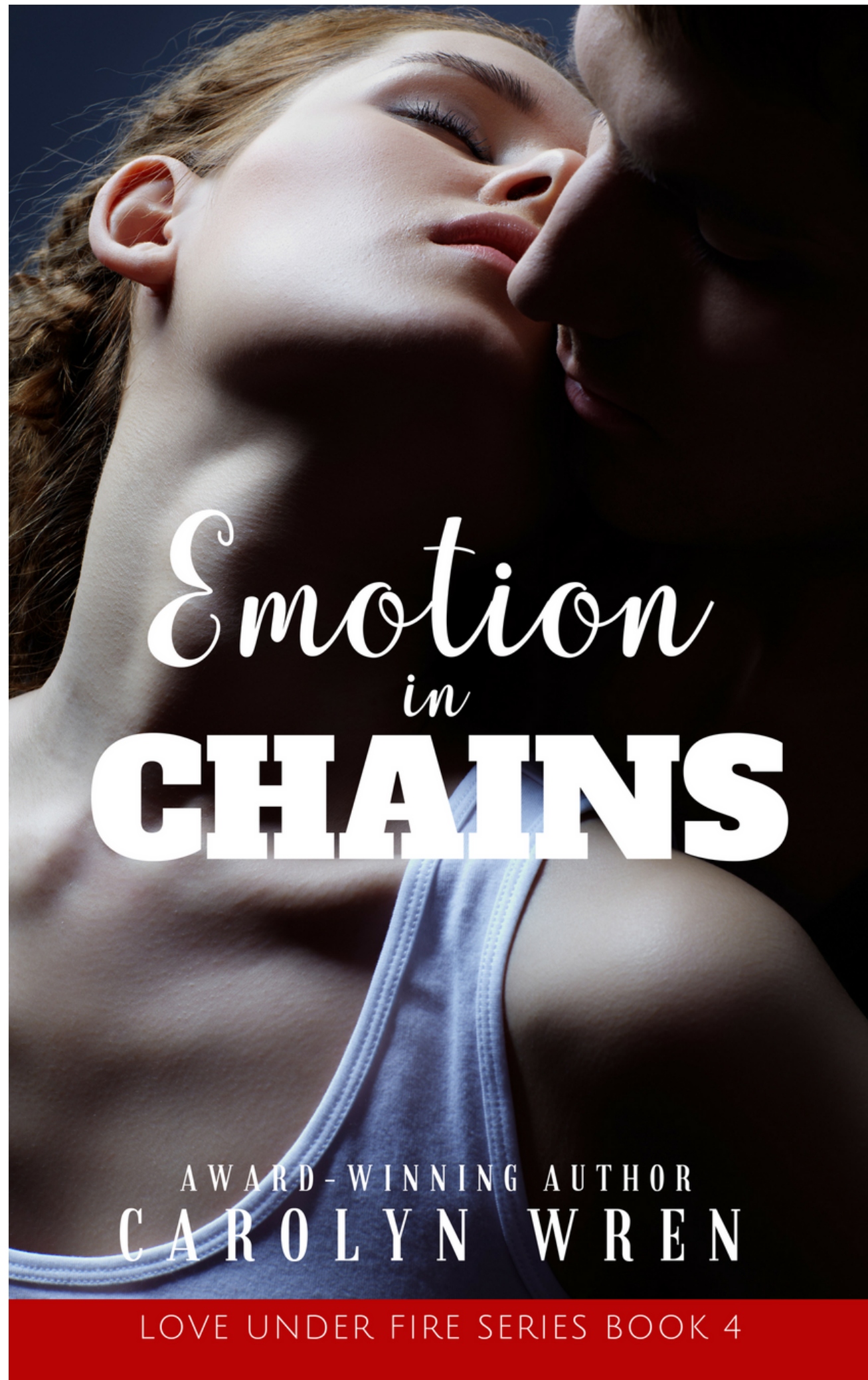




EVIL VILLAIN

TOP OF THE VILLAIN FOODCHAIN

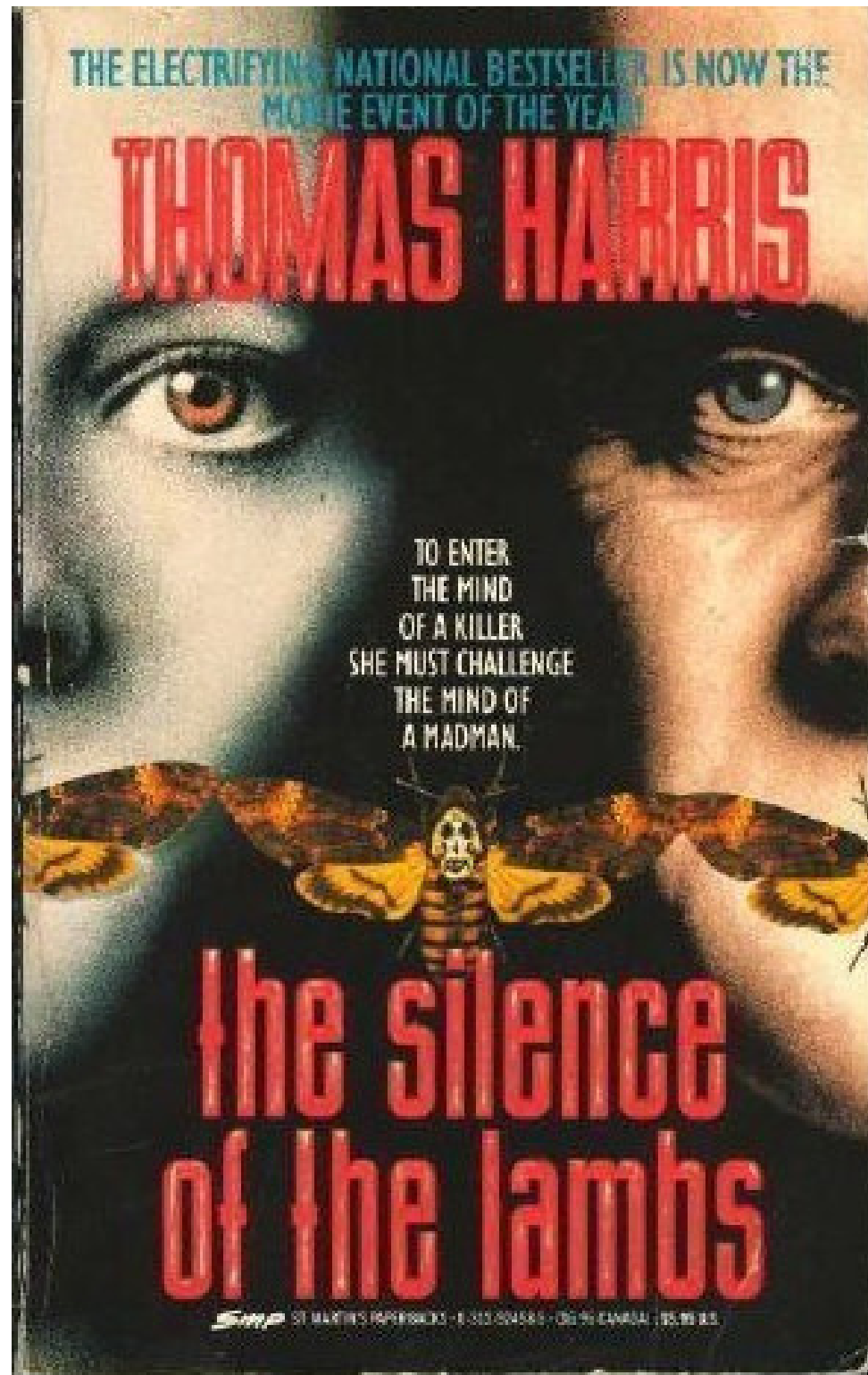




Aden Todd liked pretty,
young things.
And he liked the pretty
young things to be
scared.

Emotion in Chains - Carolyn Wren

"Dr. Lecter had perfect manners, not stiff, but easy and elegant. He told me once that, whenever it was 'feasible,' he preferred to eat the rude. 'Free-range rude,' he called them."



PURPOSE

-EVILNESS

TRAITS

-Lack of empathy

-Cruelty

-Megalomania

-Greed

BACK STORY?

● ● ● **REDEMPTION?**
● ● ●
● ● ●



Evil Villain Requirements



EVERYDAY VILLAIN

THE MOST COMMON OF VILLAINS



PURPOSE

-CONFLICT

TRAITS

-Misogyny

-Racism

-Nosy

-Sexism

-Bully

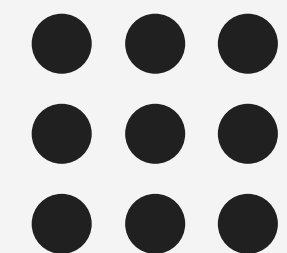
-Annoying

BACK STORY?

REDEMPTION?



Everyday Villain Requirements

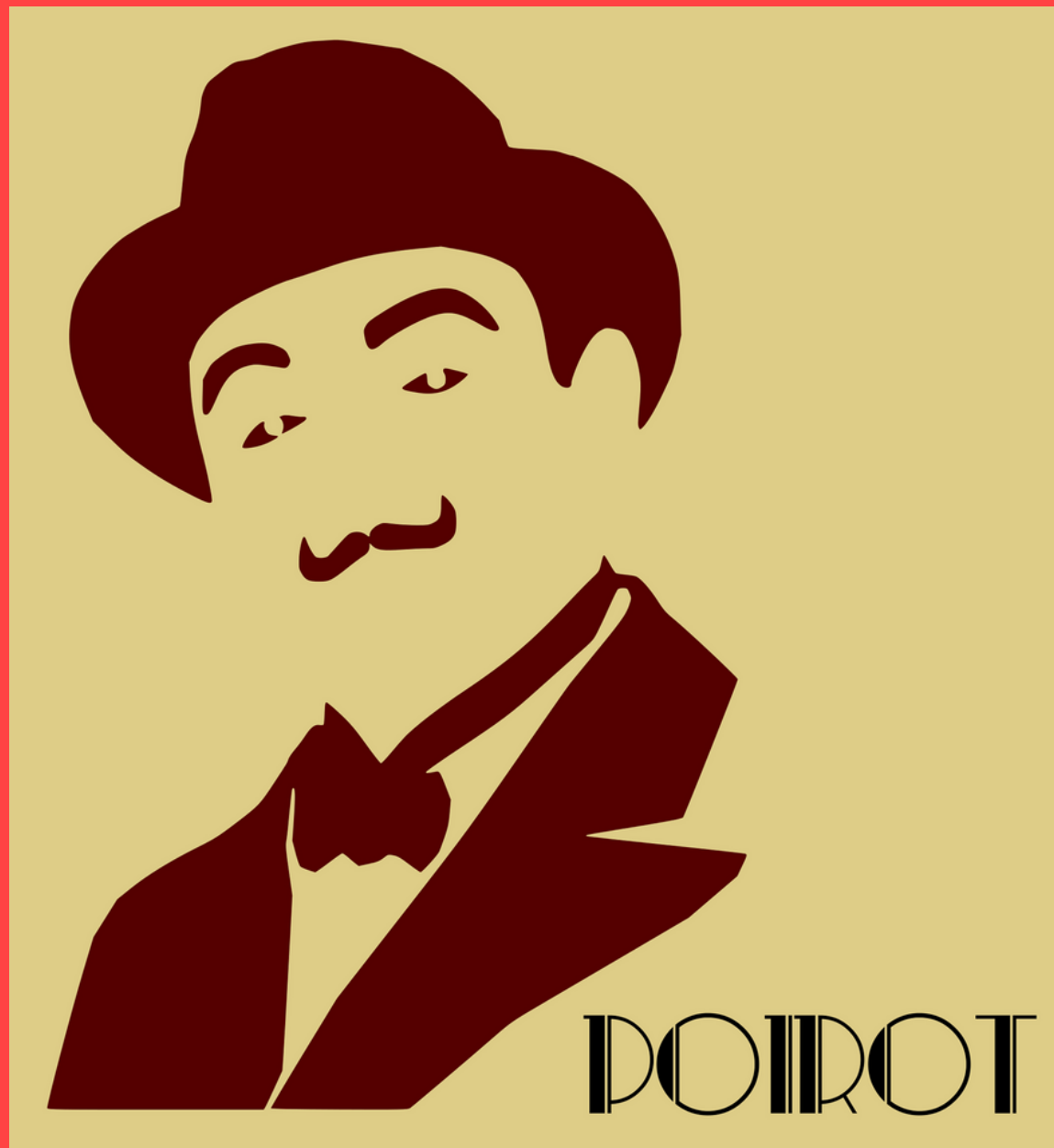




Actions have consequences

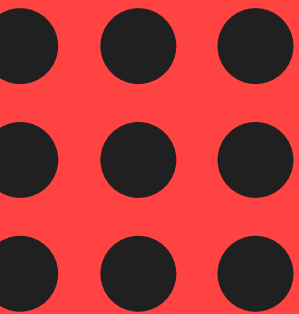
Reader satisfaction

Don't cheat your reader



RED HERRING VILLAINS

THE ART OF FOOLING YOUR READER



PURPOSE

- MISDIRECTION
- MAKE THE READER THINK THEY'VE GUESSED THE VILLAIN BEFORE THE AUTHOR TELLS THEM

TRAITS

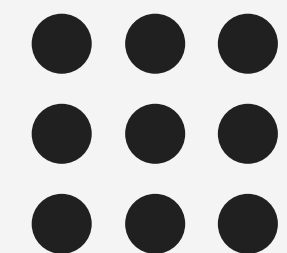
- Appears guilty
- Has the means, motive and opportunity

BACK STORY?

REDEMPTION?



Red Herring Villain Requirements



AUTHOR VS READER



DRIP FEED THE CLUES

Avoid putting a giant neon sign over your intended Red Herring by page 10 of the story

NOT TRULY INNOCENT

The Red Herring doesn't have to be innocent. They just have to be innocent of the crime they're accused of in this book

CONNECTIONS

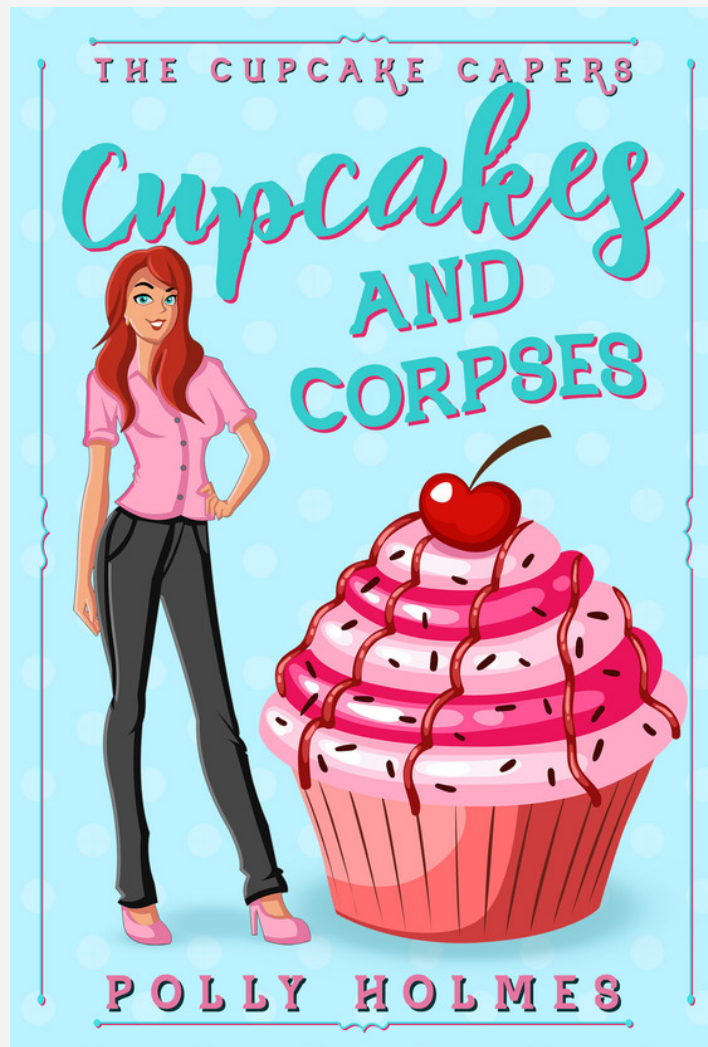
A Red Herring's connection to the main protagonist in the book can add further conflict

THE MORE THE MERRIER

It is possible to have more than one Red Herring per book. Be subtle, but keep your readers on their toes

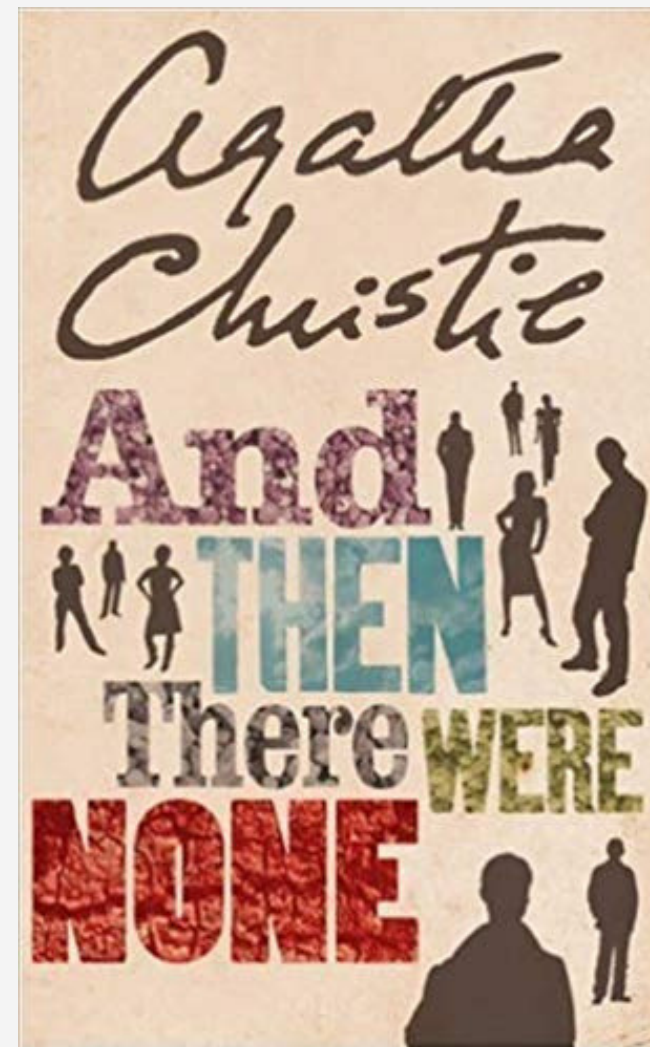
Where to find a good Red Herring

Cozy Mysteries



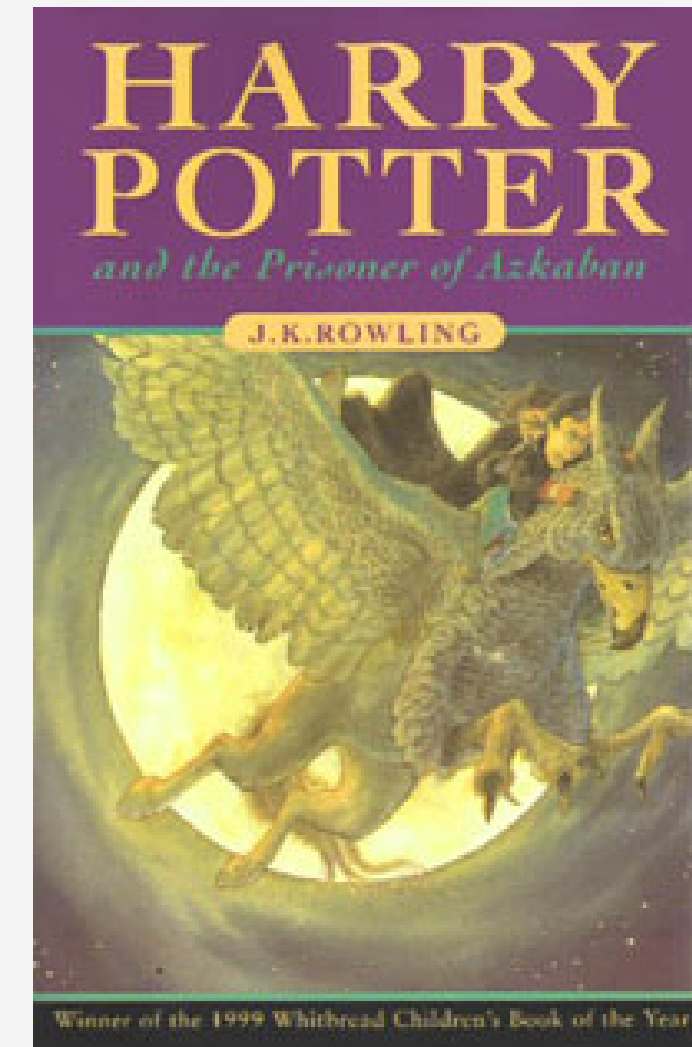
Can the accused unearth the real killer before time runs out?

Crime



The real murderer is seemingly ruled out until the ending is revealed

Harry Potter



Sirius is in fact a sympathetic character to Harry's cause



TRAGIC VILLAIN

GUILT FROM ADVERSITY



PURPOSE

- PITY
 - PLAY WITH READERS
- EMOTIONS

TRAITS

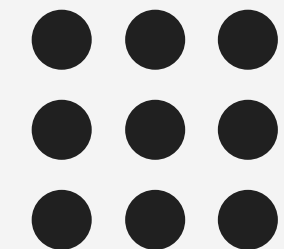
- Unstable
- Unable to tell right from wrong
- No empathy
- Guilt by association

BACK STORY?

REDEMPTION?



Tragic Villain Requirements



Brainwashing
Torture
Experimentation
Stockholm Syndrome

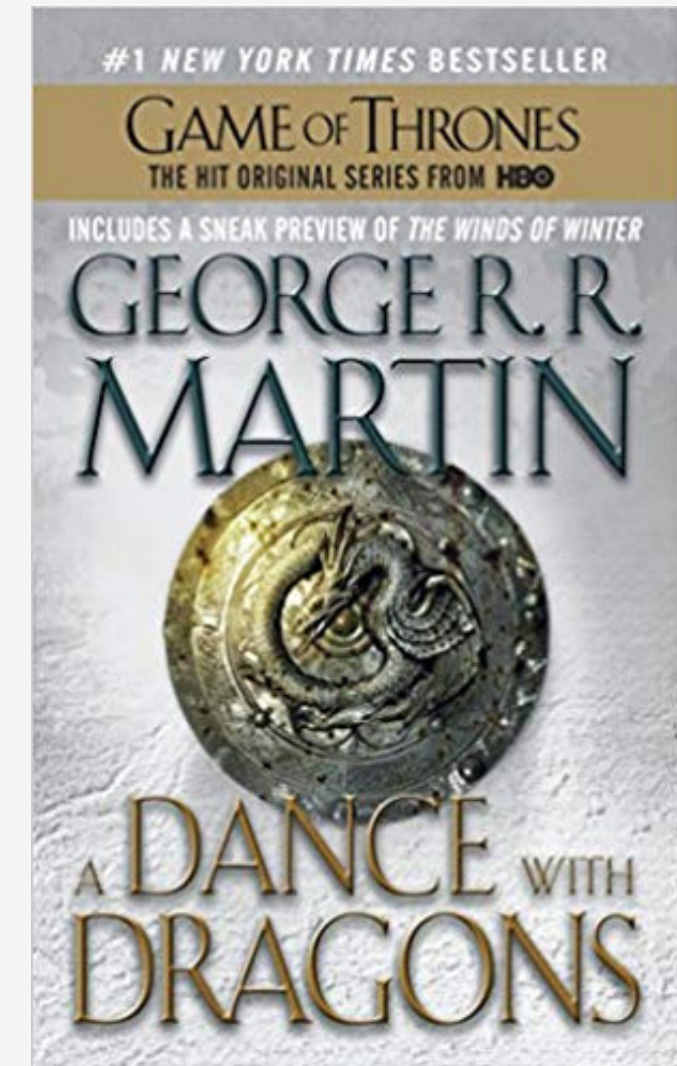
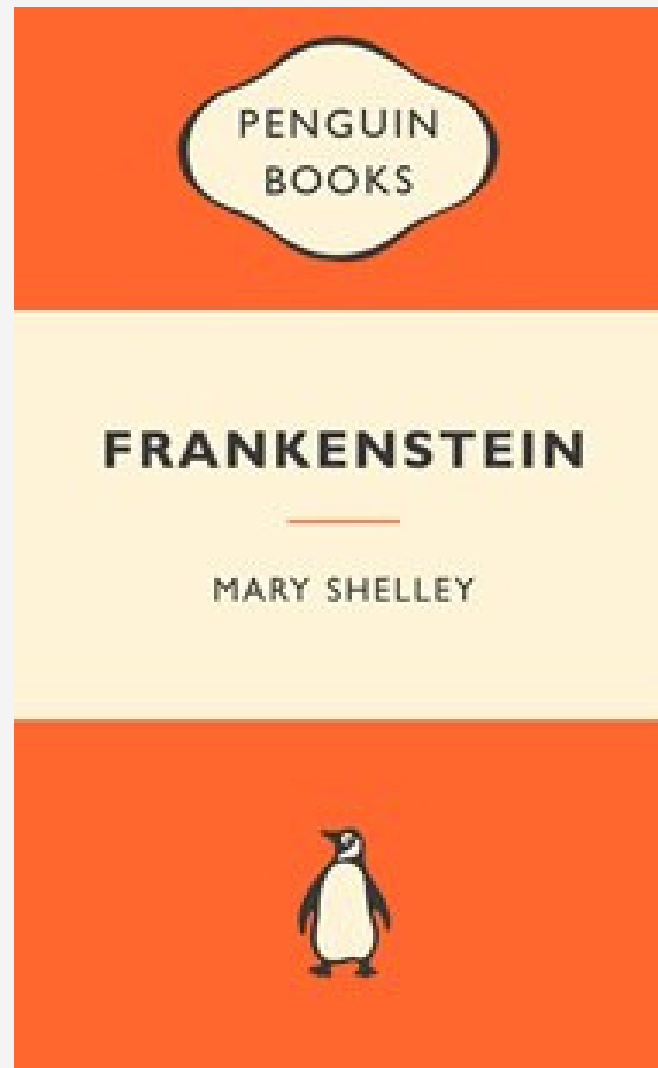
The Tragic Villain Handbook

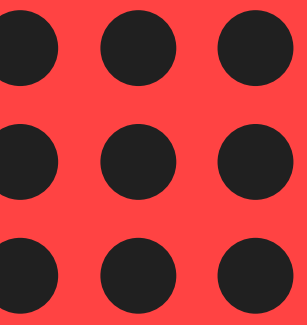
"I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend"

Frankenstein - Mary Shelly

"Not Theon. My name is...Reek"

Theon Greyjoy - A Dance With Dragons - A Song of Fire and Ice Series (Game of Thrones) George R R Martin





REDEEMABLE VILLAINS

TAKING THE READER ON A JOURNEY

TYPES OF VILLAINS



I can't believe you
took an arrogant
two faced tyrannical
b*stard and made
me love him by the
end of the book...

Test reader quote -

The Stolen Ones Series by Carolyn Wren



PURPOSE

- REDEMPTION

TRAITS

- Tragic
- Misunderstood
- Can also be a Red Herring
- Not evil

BACK STORY?

REDEMPTION?

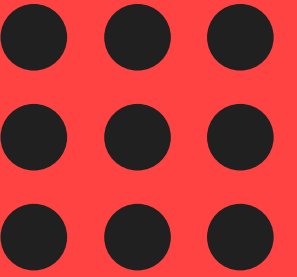


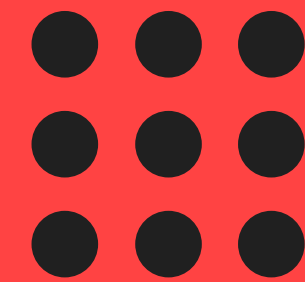
Redeemable Villain Requirements

RULES OF VILLAIN REDEMPTION

How to get thrown out of the
Redemption Club

- Beat a Child**
- Abuse a Woman**
- Kick a Puppy**





RULES OF VILLAIN REDEMPTION-PT 2

How to stay **in** the Redemption Club

- Take down a worse villain**
- Self-Sacrifice**



Lord Voldemort vs Darth Vader

Books vs Movies

Two Evil Villians One redemption

- Both killed the family/loved ones of main characters.
- Both display lack of empathy and clear traits of megalomania
- Both fought major battles with a main character at the climax of the story



Voldemort was the top of the villain food chain



Darth Vader killed the uber-villain at the top of the villain food chain and was therefore redeemed

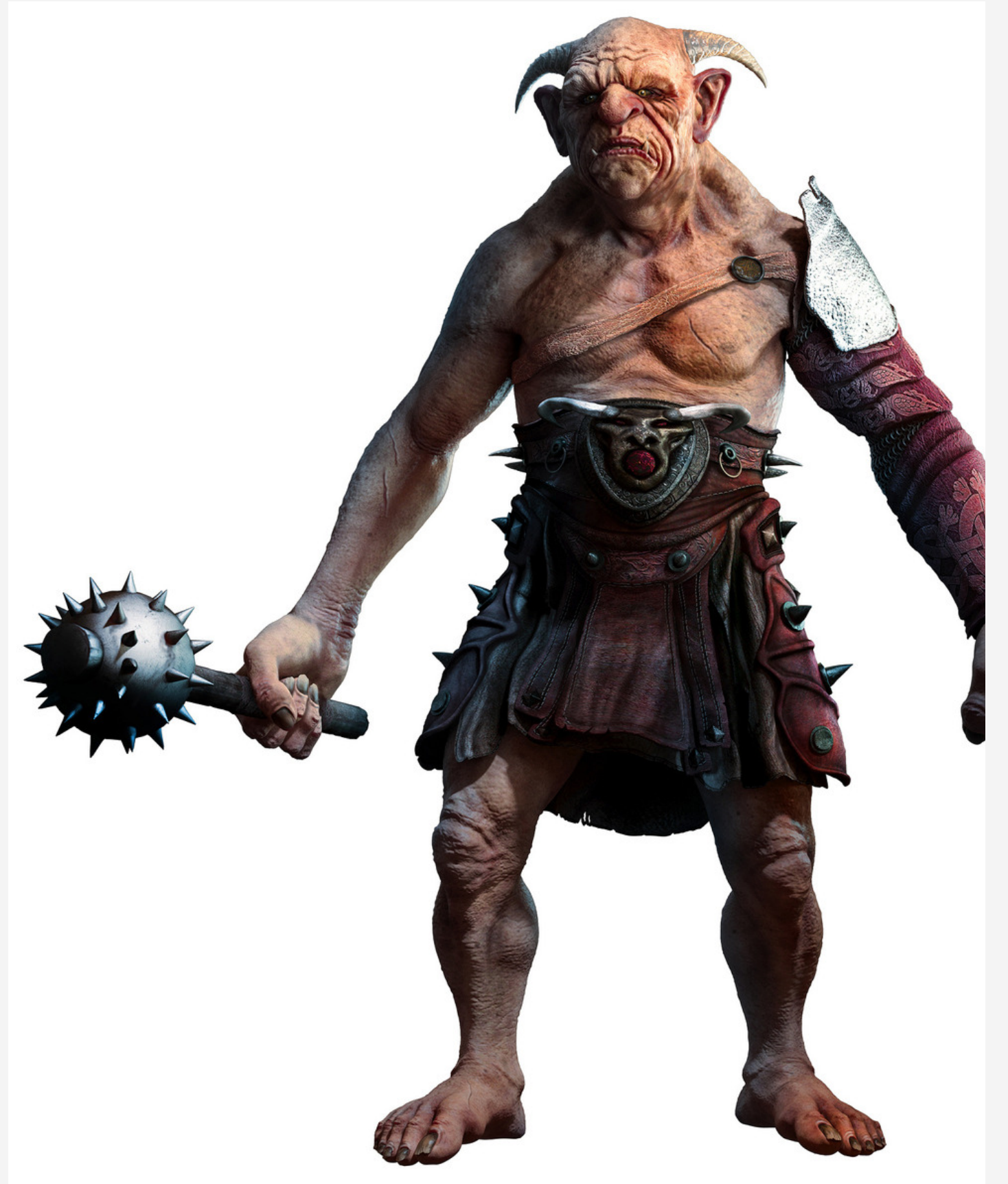
Communicating with your reader

WHEN PLANNING A VILLAIN
REDEMPTION, ESPECIALLY ONE
WITH A LONG NARRATIVE ARC...BE
CLEAR IN YOUR PHYSICAL
DESCRIPTIONS



Communicating with your reader - Pt 2

BECAUSE YOUR READER MAY NOT
ALWAYS BE ON THE SAME PAGE



Thank you for
coming to 'Writing
The Villain'

The slides
presented are
available to
download at...

www.carolynwren.com

