



**Wild About Harry**

**“Wonderful! Our children are reading Harry Potter’s adventures in his fantasy world, not hypnotized in front of the boob tube.”**

PAUL G. BRIZAL JR.  
*Colorado Springs*

IT WAS A DELIGHT TO SEE *TIME*’S COVER bearing a portrait of fantasy fiction’s latest “wiz” kid, Harry Potter [BOOKS, Sept. 20]. As an author, I have despaired of the future of both writing and reading, given the plummeting literary standards and increasing indifference to learning in our era. In so dark an hour, it is nothing short of magical that what J.R.R. Tolkien called the “Tree of Tales” could put forth a green and growing shoot like the Harry books—a branch that can serve as a broomstick to bear us “lands away” and, better still, worlds within. Congratulations, J.K. Rowling, on constructing a real, working transPotter!

ANDRE NORTON, GRAND MASTER  
*Science Fiction Writers of America*  
*Murfreesboro, Tenn.*

ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT J.K. ROWLING IS SHE can’t be a Muggle to have spun such a feast for the imagination as her Harry Potter books! I am in awe of Rowling’s ability to create such a magical world of wizardry that seemingly sprang into her head (although I have a theory that she herself is a Hogwarts graduate!). I hope each of her future fabulous books brings her even greater success than the last. And long life, Harry Potter!

MARYKATHRYN GIELISSE, AGE 13  
*Poughkeepsie, N.Y.*

FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN’T UNDERSTAND why the Harry Potter books are such a huge craze. They’re all right, I suppose, but they seem to me to be a watered-down version of Diane Duane’s far superior juvenile Wizard series.

STEVE VANDEN-EYKEL  
*New Westminster, B.C.*

WONDERFUL! OUR CHILDREN ARE READING Harry Potter’s adventures in his fantasy world, not hypnotized in front of the boob tube. As encouraged as I am by kids’ reading and enjoying these books, along with gaining an appreciation and love of reading, I have one major concern. Since

Tinky Winky is supposedly gay (according to Jerry Falwell), and a church in my city has accused Pokémon of representing Satan and hacked apart several Pokémon dolls during its services, I just have to wonder what the wacky religious right has in store for Harry and his friends!

PAUL G. BRIZAL JR.  
*Colorado Springs*

PREPOSTEROUS IS A GOOD DESCRIPTOR of the notion that children’s books should be excluded from the *New York Times* best-seller list. What differentiates children’s books from others? Is it the lack of a good story, worthy characters or beautiful writing? Of course not. Within the pages of “children’s literature” you can find humor, adventure, philosophy and romance, all elegantly expressed. The sole difference is the age of the protagonist. Perhaps the success of the Harry Potter series will awaken many to the treasures to be found on the shelves in the children’s section.

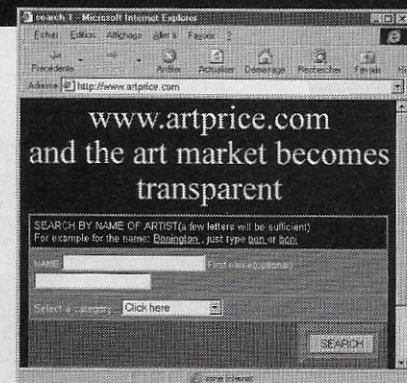
DIANE MASLA  
*Gainesville, Fla.*

IT IS NOT UNTIL NEARLY THE END OF “Wild About Harry” that we are informed that Warner Bros. has licensed the film rights—and I assume the lucrative merchandising rights—to the best-selling Harry Potter books. This cover story is a shameless self-promotion and evidence of the kind of conflict of interest we will see more of as respected, independent news organizations like *TIME* become publicity tools for their corporate entertainment shtickmeisters.

RICHARD C. LEVY  
*Bethesda, Md.*

I HAVE A QUIBBLE WITH YOUR IDENTIFYING the moral of the Harry Potter stories as “the most important magic comes from inside each of us.” An equally strong message in these books is that we “get by with a little help from our friends.” Children (and many adults)

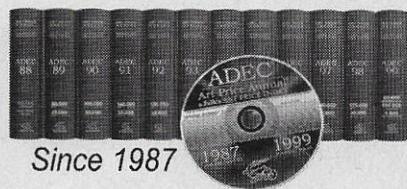
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