Harry Potter

Information Sheet

My full name is Joanne Kathleen Rowling. I added 'Kathleen', which was the name of my paternal grandmother, because my UK publishers wanted me to use my initials when they published 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. This was an attempt to conceal my gender, as they thought 'Harry Potter' was a book that might appeal to boys, but that the fact that a woman had written it might put boys off. I have no idea whether they were right or not, but the ploy did not receive a very long trial, as it quickly became obvious that 'J K' was a woman from her press photographs.

All my life I have wanted to be a writer. I experimented with many different stories, and wrote parts of several novels, before the idea for 'Harry Potter' came to me on a train journey from Manchester to London in 1990. I had never felt so excited about a story before, but never for an instant did I have an inkling of what Harry Potter would become. I simply knew that it was something I would love to write, and as I sat there on the train, pen-less for once in my life, I gave myself over to imagining the details of a nameless school for wizardry, most of which found their way into the published books.

By the time I finished writing the final, seventh book in the series, I had been living with Harry for seventeen years. Saying goodbye has been very difficult, but the world in which I have lived for so long remains inside me, and nearly every day I meet somebody who wants to talk to me about it. Nothing could make me happier than to think that so many people know Hogwarts as well as I do, and have strolled around the Ministry of Magic, Diagon Alley and the Quidditch Pitch along with me. Every writer's life influences their work, but not many books change their author's life forever, as Harry Potter did for me.

For a good range of Frequently Asked Questions, plus much additional information about Harry Potter, visit

www.jkrowling.com

and

www.pottermore.com

Here however, are some of the most commonly asked:

1. Will there ever be another Harry Potter novel?

I have always refused to say 'never' to this question, because I think it would be foolish to rule out something I might want to do in a few years time. However, I have no immediate plans to write another novel, and I do think that I have rounded off Harry's story in the seven published books.

2. Which character is your favourite?

Harry, although I believe I am unusual in this, Ron is generally more popular (I do love him too, though). Now that I have finished writing the books, the character I would most like to meet for dinner is Dumbledore. We would have a lot to discuss, and I would love his advice; I think that everyone would like a Dumbledore in their lives.