

Audio Excerpt Thoughts

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I have actually wanted to write my thoughts ever since I first listened to this excerpt yesterday. The problem lay in the fact that the-leaky-cauldron.org had previously declared that the following was not authorized by the Harry Potter publisher, Bloomsbury. And this is true for the excerpt reveals quite a lot of information that you, the reader, may not yet want to know until the actual book comes out. According to the-leaky-cauldron.org today,

“Additional sources have informed us that Random House did indeed have permission to post a minute and a half clip from the Audio Book but that JKR's people were just surprised at the clip that was chosen. It sounds like there was no communication on what the clip should or should not contain and that the clip chosen was a bit more "spoiling" than JKR's people would like.”

Indeed, this is the longest excerpt from the book that we have heard, spanning at about 1 min 45 seconds. Therefore, I warn those who do not want to be spoiled hit the ‘back’ button of their browser and ignore the following.

I have chosen to comment below in red. The rest in black is what was on the short clip.

Excerpt from Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (I'm really sorry if the punctuation is wrong; the punctuation was implied by what I heard.):

Harry's bewilderment depended with every step he took. *What on earth were they doing in a house that looked as though it belonged to the darkest of wizards?*

Right off the bat, something very strange is going on. I think the reader agrees with Harry. *What is happening?* My first notion was “this must be the Riddle House.” Yet this seems to not be so. Harry would have known whose house he is in and the sentence implies that he has no idea where he is. Also, it proves that he did not travel to the house through Floo because he would have known the name of the place. Another idea is that he is in the Malfoy Manor. Then again, it seems silly that Mr. Malfoy, being a smart wizard, would make his own home look dark and foreboding considering he hides most of his dangerous items in the first place. Another possibility could be that it is the house of one of the Aurors who actually disguises as a

dark wizard to receive the inside information. This would explain why Mrs. Weasley finds it safe to leave Harry here.

“Mrs. Weasley, what-”

“Ron and Hermione will explain everything dear. I’ve really got to dash,” Mrs. Weasley whispered distractedly.

Where? Where is Mrs. Weasley going? Why is she distracted? Why doesn’t she want to tell Harry anything? Is this actually Mrs. Weasley or someone using polyjuice potion? Hmm... It is also interesting to note that Ron and Hermione have been hanging out together. Could this imply a Ron/Hermione relationship starting?

“There!” They had reached the second landing. “Use the door on the right. I’ll call you when it’s over.”

Then again, it sounds like she is not leaving at all. Or maybe she is leaving, but she knows that this meeting with Ron and Hermione is going to take a very long time. Also, the use of the word “call” is interesting. It’s not by telephone is it?

And she hurried off downstairs again.

Again?!? What was she doing the first time she ‘hurried down the stairs’? Maybe she went down halfway, but Harry spoke and she turned back up. Why does she want to leave so quickly?

Harry crossed the dingy landing, turned the bedroom doorknob, which was shaped like a serpent’s head, and opened the door.

Sounds like whoever owns this house went to Slytherin or they are very meticulous Aurors.

He caught a brief glimpse of a gloomy high ceiling, twin bedded room. Hmm... does this twin bedded room imply that Hermione and Ron have been staying here for days? If it’s indeed true, why aren’t they staying at the Burrow? Who are they trying to hide from? Percy? He seems like the type who could give lots of secrets away considering his strict adherence to rules and authority.

Then there was a loud twittering noise (Pigwidgeon?) followed by an even louder shriek (Hermione screaming?), and his vision was completely obscured by a large quantity of very bushy hair.

Hermione had thrown herself onto him in a hug that nearly knocked him flat; while Ron’s tiny owl Pigwidgeon zoomed excitedly round and round their heads.

It seems like they haven’t seen each other for quite some time. I’m guessing that summer just past.

‘Harry! Ron, he’s here. Harry’s here! We didn’t hear you arrive. Oh, how are you? Are you all right? Have you been furious with us? I bet you have. I know our letters were useless but we couldn’t tell you anything.

So apparently, Harry received letters from Ron and Hermione over the summer but they were very vague. Now why would Hermione think that Harry was furious and her? Was he writing for help and no one came? Dumbledore made us swear we wouldn’t.

Now this seems very interesting. Dumbledore did not want Harry to know something. I wonder if this connects with the excerpt revealed later ‘I’m going to tell you everything.’

Oh! We’ve got so much to tell you and you’ve got to tell us- the dementors- when we heard-

It seems that school has not started so I’m guessing that the Dementors somehow sneaked into Privet Drive. (The Dursleys must be furious!) This is getting quite out of hand. It also implies that the dementors managed to leave Azkaban; another trouble for our heroes.

and that ministry hearing – it’s just outrageous! I’ve looked it all up. They can’t expel you! They just can’t! There’s provision in the decree for the restriction of underage sorcery for the use of magic in life-threatening situations.”

Keeping my line of reasoning, Harry was probably threatened and therefore performed magic on the dementors. Thus there was a ministry hearing and he is expelled or is going to be expelled.

Also, this ties in with the fact that Fudge refuses to believe that Voldemort has returned. Therefore, he thinks that Harry performed the magic without reason. This may be why Dumbledore tells Ron and Hermione not to interfere because Dumbledore already knows that Fudge will not believe them.

‘Let him breathe Hermione,” said Ron grinning, closing the door behind Harry.

It is interesting to note that Ron is amused by Hermione’s long babbling statement while Harry is shocked. This is probably another implication of a Ron/Hermione relationship (rather than Harry/Hermione).

He seemed to have grown several more inches during their month apart, making him taller and more gangly looking than ever, though the long nose bright red hair and freckles were the same.

Well, this probably implies that the date is slightly past Harry’s birthday. It is supported by the Harry Potter lexicon (http://www.hp-lexicon.org/calendar_gf.html), which shows that the school year is longer

(when there is a triwizard tournament?) and students leave for summer near the beginning of July.

Well, those were my basic thoughts on the excerpt. Nine more days..I can't wait!