

Afterthoughts on the Book 5 Cover!

By Jahboh – with ideas from MANY, MANY others!

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After checking my e-mail, I was elated to notice all of the remarkable and creative thoughts people e-mailed me. I have to admit that people out there are MUCH more creative than I am. Thus, if nobody minds, I would like to share some of the interesting theories sent to me (I just changed some minor grammar problems) as a follow up to my Book 5 Cover analysis.

If your idea is here, I would like to say, sorry if I had to condense your e-mail; I just didn't want this to get too long. I am including your name and if you want it removed or your e-mail address added below so that somebody reading this can e-mail you, please e-mail me at owlpost8@hotmail.com. Notes from me are in blue. Thanks for your awesome feedback! Let's see... Gracias. Merci. Grazie. Xie Xie.

If your idea is not on here, and you e-mailed me, it will get added soon. I am getting TONS of cool ideas a day.

With no further ado,

VIII. Creative Concoctions

“I've just see something in the cover that I found very interesting. Many times, JK Rowling have mentioned that Harry can't see without his glasses. But on the cover, we see him looking for something over his glasses... I don't know if it means something, but I found it weird.”

- Marilou Joron

Now that you say it, Harry IS looking over his glasses. Hmm... I wonder if its because he notices something strange, but can't turn around. Maybe it has to do with something that he has in his right hand as Anastasia and Mahima point out later...

“If you think about it the cover could be a certain room in the Owlery because his [Harry's] nose looks cold and we know the Owlery is cold in winter because there is no glass in the windows. We also know that the Owlery is round and that there is a breeze in there which would explain the candles blowing. We know the owls must have someway to figure out where people are to deliver post.”

- Chase

Great idea! I never thought about the Owlery. The blue candles could signal landing places just like they do in airports. Hmm... interesting!

“Since the room is what J.K. would want to see, it must be pretty great, and I was thinking about the clue Dumbledore gave with the chamber pots. It said that he had to use the bathroom really bad, and this room was full of chamber pots. Maybe this room, almost like the Mirror of Erised shows you what you most want, at the moment anyways, but instead just showing you, it makes it real.”

- R B

Oh nice! That's a brilliant idea. I wonder why Harry wants to see a room full of floating candles. Hmm.. could this tie into that nightmare that he his having? (From the Scholastic catalog.)

‘But I like to point something out about the circular room that Harry was in ...I think you' ve missed another possible location, and that is the Divination classroom! I know it might sound ridiculous, but think of it:

-The classroom was situated in a tower; surely it' s circular, right?

-There were candles in the class

-Harry hated Divination lessons so much, he might hadn' t realized the magical properties he could get from the place.”

- Husna

Nice idea. I'll have to definitely add that to my 'where this circular location is' list. Thanks so much! Although, the classroom sure looks spooky at night... Hmm...

‘On the 4th cover he [Harry] is also holding it in his left hand. The reason why, is because he is holding the golden egg in his right hand. On the 5th cover Harry' s right hand is not visible, but his shoulder muscles look like he' s holding something. Moreover, he looks like he' s hiding THIS THING from the light and someone or something standing in the upper right corner since that' s where his eyes are focused. his eyebrows are like he is frowning/ angry. Might he see somebody he hates and doesn' t want to show this important THING to him/her?’

- Anastasia and Mahima

Holding something! I seriously never thought about that. Thanks! Hmm...I wonder what he could be holding in his right hand... And it would make sense that he would be looking to see if others are watching...

‘I mean, the twelve candles are very important, I think. Maybe it does stand for each member but maybe they have those weird meetings where they get together and each hold a candle and share their findings or whatnot. [...] It seems as if he' s being followed up the stairs by something. And not Ron either. He could be leading them somewhere, or trying to get away from them. I vote getting away from by the look on his face, as if he' s checking to see how close they are.’

- Bethany Cross

Nice idea! The number 12 does seem to appear quite often. And you're right about something following him while climbing the stairs. Although the 'thing' seems like its taller than he (or perhaps flying?) because the majority of the light comes from the top right hand corner.

‘It might be part of the London Underground, because Dumbledore speaks of it in the 1st book, chapter 1, page 15, and he said that he (Dumbledore) had a scar above his left knee that is a perfect map of the London Underground. He also said that scars could

come in handy, which safely says that he has used it before. Now why would he have to do that? Maybe it has something to do with the "old gang" or the Order of the Phoenix.”

- DumbBlondIQzero

The London Underground! Never thought of that! I even almost forgot that he has that scar. But now that you mention that, we can't rule out the awesome possibility although they probably have to do something about those floating candles and Muggles finding them. Sounds something like the Underground Railroad though...

“Rowling said that we would visit a new area of the magical world. I think it will be the Malfoy Manor.”

- Kelli Test

Cool thought! I hope to read about the Malfoy Manor as well. It sounds like it would be a creepy place. Particularly because the Polyjuice confrontation in book 2 (page 224, US Edition) resulted in, “‘Yeah,’ said Malfoy. ‘Luckily, they didn't find much. Father's got some *very* valuable Dark Arts stuff. But luckily, we've got our own secret chamber under the drawing-room floor-’” Hmm...I wonder what could be hidden there.

“I would like to give you my theories on what the Order of the Phoenix truly is: I developed this theory the last time I was reading GoF when I noticed this small passage in Ch. 28: The Madness of Mr. Crouch, page 560 (US version):

"He [Dumbledore] raised his wand into the air and pointed it in the direction of Hagrid's cabin. Harry saw something silvery dart out of it and streak away through the trees like a ghostly bird." [...] I believe that what Dumbledore conjured was the Dark Mark equivalent of the Order of the Phoenix--a summon to tell another member of the OotP that help is direly needed immediately. [...] I believe that in book 5, Harry will be asked (and accept) to join the Order of the Phoenix by Dumbledore (the current Head of the Order). From there, one cannot say what will happen.”

- George Gidley

A few days ago (after writing my cover ideas), my friend gave me a gift, which was a book entitled [Ultimate Unofficial Guide to the Mysteries of Harry Potter](#). I was paging through it and they have a similar theory. It's great to see that you have expanded on that, though. I guess I'll have to add Hagrid to my list of members. Thanks! I would also like to add that on the cover of the US edition, the words 'and the Order of the Phoenix' are in a wispy-smoky script.

“I thought you might find it interesting that there are actually more circular rooms. They include: Gryffindor Common Room and the Divination Classroom. Neither, of course, talks about 3 doors, though they could be in the common room. Another area "an area we've never been to before" includes SMungos Hospital. This could very possibly be circular and it would probably have several doors together. Not to mention the fact that it would be an interesting place to visit.”

- Kristen

Thanks for pointing that out! I like the St. Mungos idea very much. We already know that Lockhart and the Longbottoms are there. It would be a very interesting visit. After all, that hospital gives me the heebie-jeebies (particularly because Lucius Malfoy donates to it).

“So, why would an apparently healthy and of-age phoenix burn? I would suggest, by process of elimination, that it only does this when called upon by its owner to do so, and once it has done this, has attained some great power (though, I’ll bet at the expense of its own mortality— which could very well reflect the death of Hagrid; or whatever other "fan" will kick the bucket). So, next question is: What would this extra, great power of the phoenix be? Some power to deflect the Unforgivable Curses on its bearer (ie, Harry, Dumbledore, any other of the Order)? Restoration of life on somebody who has already died?”

- David Dobbs

Good idea. And I thought the cover was just a symbol... Well, your idea is certainly more logical than mine. Although I’m not sure if restoration of life will occur, it seems that a magical power could come upon Fawkes. And I really like the idea of being able to block the Unforgivable Curses.

“The Riddle House doesn’t sound believable, neither does the Ministry of Magic. So I was thinking... maybe it’s a secret way below the Whomping Willow? Or another room which is mentioned or drawn at the Mauraders Map... the ways to Hogsmeade which h can’t be used any longer are mentioned as well, maybe they are a very small clue? Maybe one of those ways leads to a circular chamber in Hogsmeade? The Mauraders Map is something secret, and it looks on the US cover that Harry is doing something which is actually forbidden, he has a guilty look in his eyes...”

- Saskia

Wow. Those are some places I haven’t even considered! Good ideas! Maybe Harry should talk to Fred and George about these suspicious secret tunnels that were blocked...

“But I have a suggestion. The US book cover, wouldn’t it be a pensieve? Wouldn’t our Harry be in a memory of someone else’ s[...] Will it possible be a room to commemorate the dead of some important people? We know that, or we rather guess that, James and Lily Potter were great wizards, and possibly, their bones or bodies are kept there? In my religions in real life, burning candles signify worshipping or commemorating the dead, right?”

- Dino Couto

Nice ideas! Referring to the CoS movie, the flashback was sepia-toned, thus, I’m sure there is special coloration for memories and such. About your other idea, the picture is sure creepy enough...

“I’ve noticed lots of people making a big deal about the fact that MaryGrandPré has drawn Harry holding his wand in his left hand when he is right handed. People keep

on speculating about this and her reasoning for putting his wand in the wrong hand, but I'm pretty sure I have the answer to that. Being an artist myself, I know the importance of composition in a picture, many times to get the composition you want, you sometimes have to change small details."

- Kendra

I have to agree. Mary GrandPré certainly doesn't know what the ending of the book is, so I doubt this left-handed wand thingy is relevant to the actual plot. But, it is interesting to point it out due to the er...lack of visual clues on the front cover. Well said.

"I think that it is safe to say that Harry is in some sort of alternate magical/dream world on the cover drawing. The candles on the bottom right corner, which are blurred and translucent give, perhaps, the biggest clue into this. Consider Chamber of Secrets, when Harry goes into the diary. He may be in a similar situation here."

- DESCOM86

Now that I think of it, for those who have seen the CoS movie, the flashback was sepia-toned. Nice idea. Harry does seem to have many dreams lately...

"Did you happen to notice that at the bottom right hand corner, Harry looks very see-through? [...] Perhaps the Order of the Phoenix isn't the name of the anti-Voldemort wizard brigade, but a group of select individuals with a certain ability- to be able to die and be reborn. Which would certainly explain why Harry didn't die when Avada Kedavra-d by Voldemort."

- Jillian

Wow. I like the idea that perhaps Harry is see-through, but it might just be because there's a light source coming from the top right hand corner. Although you have a great point about what 'Order of the Phoenix' could be and it's certainly original!

"I think it could be that Harry is at Godric's Hollow. One meaning of a "hollow" is it can be generally curved hole. Since the room Harry is in is circular, maybe he is at his parents' house."

- Margien

Nice thought. The doors certainly seem like they could belong in a house. Yet, maybe not his parents' house. Although this could be debated, in the first book Hagrid says, (page 15, US Edition) "'No, sir- house was almost destroyed, but I got him out all right before the Muggles started swarmin' around.'" So, it is likely that the house is destroyed. Then again, Godric's Hollow may be a small village, so he could be in another neighboring house (maybe where one of James' friends lives?).

"Just a thought/observation I had when studying the US cover: Harry isn't wearing his robes or school cloak. On the other four covers, he's always worn a red cloak/cape thingy. That just seemed a little odd to me."

- T L

Hmm...nice observation. It seems like this fits with the oddity of the UK cover not having Harry on it. Perhaps it's an indication that he's not at school?

"I had two thoughts. Maybe the doors represent choices Harry could make or maybe it is the O.W.L.s test and you got to pick a door and in the door is something you have to battle or a spell you have to perform; then you get marks on how well you perform the task."

- Andrew Cook

I never thought about that. Andrew is the second person who has told me about the 'choices' idea. Nice. Also, O.W.L.s! How could I have forgotten! Thanks for pointing that out. It's a fabulous theory and definitely a challenge for Harry.