

J.K. Rowling on 'Today' part 2: what Daniel Radcliffe knew, the final line (with video)



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Meredith Vieira and J.K. Rowling.

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The second of a three-part interview with Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, conducted by Meredith Vieira, aired on today's "Today." The setting changed for a moment from inside a castle to walking around Edinburgh, where Rowling wrote the beginning and end of the series.

The two then returned to the castle, this time without the children she read to in yesterday's installment, for a one-on-one chat. The conversation leapt quickly from what's next, to the cultural phenomenon the series has created to more insight into Rowling's writing and decisions.

For instance, rumor had it for a long time that the last word of the book was supposed to be "scar." So what happened?

According to Rowling, that line was to read "something like 'Only those who he loved could see the lightning scar.'"

The end ended up being "All was well."

"That felt right," Rowling said.

In one somewhat surprising admission, Rowling told Vieira that the some of the actors in the Harry Potter movie had been taken into her confidence on plot points the rest of the world hadn't been. "Emma (Watson, Hermione), Daniel (Radcliffe, Harry) and Rupert (Grint, Ron) knew more than they ever let on," she said.

In fact, Radcliffe flat-out asked her if his character was going to die.

"I thought quick and then I whispered so noone else could hear, 'You get a death scene,'" she explained.

Vieira delved into the private life of Rowling, asking about her mother's death and their influence on the books. Rowling says that death is, because of her loss, a central theme of the books.

As for the end, it's really a new start.

"It's just really liberating to think I can almost return to the beginning and write any old thing and see where it goes," Rowling said.

The final part of the interview will air on "Dateline" Sunday in an hour-long Harry Potter special.

To see Friday's installment, [click here](#)

For the story and video from Thursday's installment, [click here](#)

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