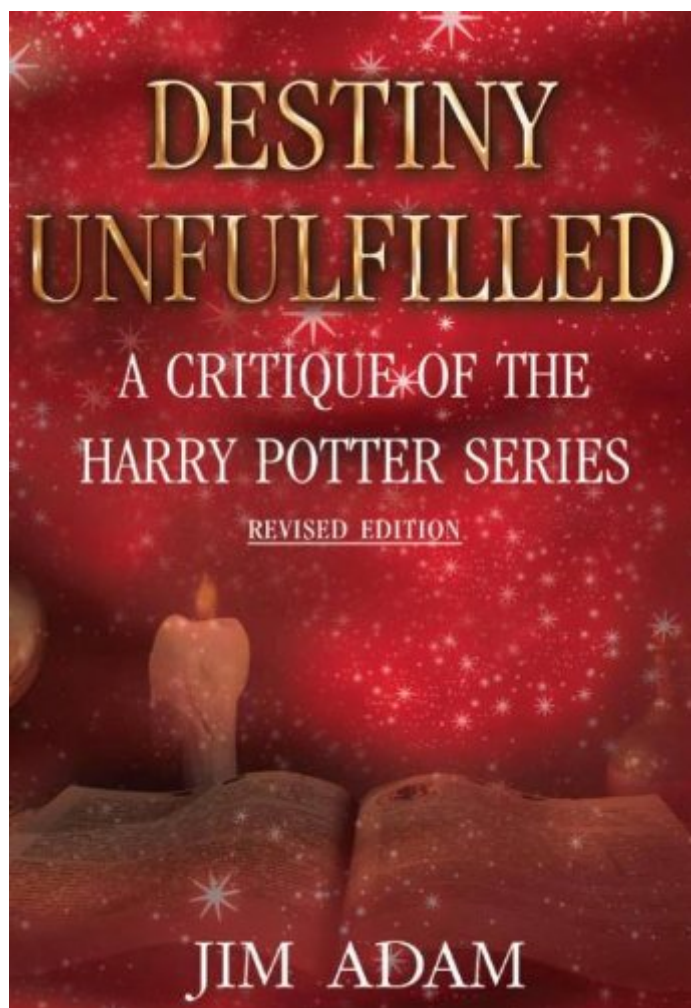


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# Destiny Unfulfilled: A Critique Of The Harry Potter Series



## Synopsis

Not suitable for die-hard Potter fans, *Destiny Unfulfilled* is fundamentally critical of the Potter series, examining such issues as the role of a protagonist, the writer's contract with her readers, characterization, and shaggy dog resolutions. In *Stein on Writing*, Sol Stein tells us of "the value of dissecting a piece of writing repeatedly until it surrender[s] its secrets." *Destiny Unfulfilled* is an example of that very sort of intense analysis. Covering all seven books of the Potter series, *Destiny Unfulfilled* dives deep under the covers, ferreting out secrets that at times are dark and disquieting, but which will prove enlightening to students of both creative writing and literary criticism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm certainly not complaining that I paid 99 cents for this book. It's worth a higher price, and Jim

Adam should charge more in my opinion, because at 99 cents, you need to sell way too many copies of a book before it becomes profitable, and if you want a book to be a loss leader, you should have more of the same at a higher price, which he doesn't. I found that the book identifies and articulates well a lot of the issues I have felt while reading the books. It identifies a lot of the lost opportunities and calls to mind the number one issue, which is Harry remaining far weaker and more clueless than he ought to be. I would gladly pay more than 99 cents to have this and similar things well said, and I salute the gentleman. My source of disappointment is that the bulk of the book is a sort of "fantasy booking" type of rewrite of the novels, in that Adam provides alternate scenes and plotlines as a way of explaining where opportunities were missed. Nine out of ten of his suggestions probably would improve the books, but what I bought *Destiny Unfulfilled* hoping for was a breakdown of the books that exist. I wanted more of the problems identified. There's a lot more wrong with the books than he has gotten at, and I wish he had not been sidetracked by trying to rewrite Rowling.

The Harry Potter series started out with a bang and great excitement. But it never fulfilled its potential. The 5th, 6th and 7th books grew progressively more wearying and difficult to slog through. We all loved Harry and wanted to stay with him through the series, but it is pretty clear to any reader who is honest with him or herself that the books drifted off into meandering storytelling in books 5 and 6 and then a shotgun blast of irrelevant plot lines and new "stuff" in book 7. Did you ever wonder why the final Harry Potter books in the series were so much less satisfying and interesting than the first three or four stories? Did you ever wonder why the Harry we see in Book 7 at age 17 is exactly the same character, without maturing or development, that we met in Book 1 when he was 11? "*Destiny Unfulfilled*" will help focus the ambiguous sense that something did not go well in the writing of these stories, that something was missing. It helps to read this book and grasp the many areas in which the Harry Potter saga fizzled out into mediocrity. Financially successful, yes. Outstanding as a literary effort? Not so much.

I question whether or not this individual had any understanding whatsoever of the depth of some of the characters in the series? To characterize Snape as I believe he said a "sniveling petty tyrant", shows a complete lack of understanding of his character's role. The only thing I can say to Mr. Adam is, unfortunately, you just didn't get it. And that's too bad for you, because millions of us, from the ten year old kids who loved it and learned how to love reading as a result loved it just on the surface, and the older readers, like me spent hours wondering what Mr. Rowling meant by that.

I enjoyed the Harry Potter series, and I also enjoyed this analysis of the series. The author considers various weaknesses of the books as they are, and suggests possible changes which would address some of these weaknesses if they were to be implemented in a revision. I don't expect any such revision will ever be made, but it is interesting to consider, nonetheless. There is also a section pointing out strengths of the series, which I found helpful as well. I am sure that not all fans of Harry Potter will like this book. But for fans who are willing to take a look from another angle, or who question certain apparent inconsistencies, I think this book is worth a read.

It's ok in the critique part, but not as interesting in the 'how I would rewrite it' part. Given that the seventh book was advertised as 'find out which side Snape is really on' (which does tell you that Harry himself is not as interesting as it could be) the ambiguity of Snape's position was a necessity for the series, rather than a bug. And I would gladly enjoy reading any fantasy book that Mr. Adam chooses to write, since I suspect he would enjoy putting in the elements that he feels were left out of the Harry Potter series.

With a series of "flicks and swishes", the authors bring you a lot of new ways to see this book series. I really enjoyed the alternative ideas sections. If you're a die hard potter fan it's okay to read this.

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