


All Is Well

It is OVER! The phenomenon that began in 1997 with the British publication of a little book entitled *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and continued through 7 books and now 8 big screen adventures has reached its climax. All I ask is that it ends here. To go back or to move forward would cheapen what has come before. I cannot recall a pop culture phenomenon that has endured, captivated, and caught the world's (for better or for worse) attention. Millions of children (and adults as well) began reading the novels of "the boy who lived." These same children grew up with each page turn, every movie frame as the core cast of the films remained the same throughout the octology. I found it enthralling to follow Daniel, Rupert, Emma, Matthew, Tom, and the other young actors progress from naive 10-11 year olds into 20-something year old seasoned performers aided by a cadre of many of the finest British thespians.

I dare say that never before (and very likely never will again) has the world experienced the likes of such a series. Midnight book/movie releases; a game invented from the pages; a theme park; college classes; and I'm sure a myriad of other items devoted to the world have appeared.

I was (as I'm sure millions of other fans were) a bit nervous about what to expect from the printed pages being transferred to movie screens. Apparently, the worry was for naught as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* has vanquished several box office records in its path in the first 5 days of release. This afternoon, I spent the extra money to attend my first IMAX 3D experience. I was blown away by the pre-movie graphics and announcement to say nothing of the main feature itself. There were moments that I could tell that were filmed traditionally and transferred but the total experience was breathtakingly immersive. I would have enjoyed the film itself on a regular screen but after investing the last decade

plus in the characters, I felt that the farewell needed to be experienced on a grand scale. Thrilling, wondrous, emotional (any fan who isn't moved... well...) action packed. The best of the series? Definitely... YES! However, I like to think of the movies as a whole. Things that were left out in the transfer to the movies... most notable in the Half-Blood Prince.

 Goodbye, friend of Hagrid! It has been a magical adventure.