

Potter fans rewarded for patience

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Spoiler Alert: This review contains spoilers for those who haven't read the book. Read on at your own risk.

The line for the 12:10 a.m. showing of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1" wrapped up and down the long hallway at Clackamas Town Center's Cinemark movie theater. Some of the fans had begun to set up camp at noon, 10 hours before the management began to even let the audience in.

I arrived at about 9:45 that night, Slytherin hoodie on and a Dark Mark drawn onto my left arm. I discovered that I was not alone in my nerdiness; costumes ranged from a simple lightning bolt on the forehead to elaborate Quidditch robes.

The excitement outside the auditorium was completely eclipsed the moment that intricately designed Warner Bros. logo appeared through the fog.

Everything about this film set it miles apart from the previous six. All of the actors really stepped up their game in every scene. The "extended camping trip" was cut down significantly, which was a necessity to fit into a two hour movie, but it all made sense. They didn't omit anything too important. Ron still got frustrated and left, and they still got captured by Snatchers and taken to Malfoy Manor.

The makers of the film took no shortcuts with the post-production of "Deathly Hallows." The shooting was completed well over a year ago, and this entire time has been devoted to two things: torturing the fans (such as myself) and making the special effects flawless.

From the first five minutes of the movie, the time and energy put into the "Seven Harrys" scene is perfectly obvious. Everything from the Polyjuice transformations to the battle between the Death Eaters and the heroes in the sky and throughout the entire movie, it was absolutely, positively the most beautiful movie I've seen in a long time.

One scene that really sticks out in my mind would have to be the illustration of "The Tale of the Three Brothers," in which Hermione is reading the children's story to Harry, Ron and Xenophilius Lovegood, father of Luna and editor of The Quibbler. Whoever had the brilliant idea of animating the tale the way they did needs to win an award of some kind. The cartoonish realization of the story was beautiful, captivating, dark and absolutely perfect for the story, which was rather dark for a kids' story about death.

Something else that caught my eye was the use of different settings throughout the "camping trip."

The locations that were used in the film were the most breathtaking places I've ever seen and they were used in such a way that it enhanced what was going on, with the tense moments and the loneliness.

Not everything could be 100 percent perfect, though. In every book-to-movie adaptation, plot discrepancies will develop and things will be left out. "Deathly Hallows" is no exception.

One example that I could not get out of my mind was the mirror shard that Harry has in his possession at the start of and throughout the film. To those not quite as obsessed as I am, this might not matter; however, this mirror is an important plot tool that was first introduced in the fifth book. Its purpose was a tool of communication between Sirius Black and Harry. In the movies, it's never brought up until now, and even then, it isn't explained. It just is.

Another discarded element was important in the book but for some reason, was omitted from the film; at the wedding of Bill and Fleur, Harry has a conversation with Ron's Auntie Muriel and Elphias Doge, a lifelong friend of Dumbledore, about the late headmaster's life prior to his career. Harry discovers many things, but some are kept in the film and others are not. Muriel does say that the Dumbledores lived in Harry's birthplace of Godric's Hollow, but she does not mention the mysterious death of his younger sister, Ariana, whom many believed to be a Squib. The realization of these facts and rumors sends Harry down a path of confusion and even anger towards Dumbledore. He doubts everything that he knows and feels as though their relationship was built on lies and half-truths.

The fact that they left this out really hinders the character development throughout the story.

The mood of the movie was very dark. Favorite characters were lost and situations really pulled Harry, Ron and Hermione to their breaking points. It was never made more clear and noticeable than at the end of the movie when Dobby dies and Voldemort acquires the Elder Wand. The screen went to black before the credits and no one applauded like audiences normally do at the end of a fantastic film.

Even with its faults, "Deathly Hallows - Part 1" was by far the best movie, thus far, in the series. The long wait proved to be a positive choice, and even though July is a ways off, the wait and anticipation will be worth it.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13)

Nov. 19 160 minutes

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy

Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes

Summary: With the wizarding world growing more and more dangerous, Harry, Ron and Hermione set out on a perilous quest to destroy the secret to Voldemort's immortality - his Horcruxes. Away from the comforts and relative safety of Hogwarts, the trio must rely on each other more than ever for survival.

Rating:

