Harry Potter and the Unbearable Wait

“Scar”: That’s the very last word of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, according to a 1999 interview with J.K. Rowling. But to read the rest of the book, you’ll have to wait until July 21, when the seventh and final volume of the magical series will finally be published. Can’t wait? You might want to check out *What Will Happen in Harry Potter 7* from the popular Web site MuggleNet.com, which Emerson Spartz founded in 1999 at age 12 and which now receives more than 20 million hits per month.

Pulled together by fans who are just wild about Harry, this book offers a handy list of some beans that Rowling herself has spilled: The book will be too action-packed to spare time for a last Quidditch match; the irritating reporter Rita Skeeter will be back; and the faithful Sorting Hat will have another helpful message for our heroic Hogwarts students. *What Will Happen in Harry Potter 7* also features lots of smart guesses (sometimes fueled by some Hermione-like intensity) about all of the saga’s questions, big and small. Will the cocky, bullying Draco Malfoy remain a minion of the evil Death Eaters? Will it be true love for wisecracking Ron and know-it-all Hermione? Is the loathsome, oil-haired teacher Severus Snape really a good guy? And what about the Horcrux of the matter: the final showdown between Harry and the books’ scary villain, Lord Voldemort? “The one thing that virtually every Harry Potter fan agrees on,” the authors note, “is that Lord Voldemort will die.” But will Harry, too? Only J.K. Rowling knows, and she’s not telling. The good news: only 146 days to go — just enough time to reread books one through six.

— Warren Bass

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN HARRY POTTER 7**

*By Ben Schoen, Emerson Spartz et al.*

_Ulysses. 214 pp. Paperback, $13.95*

You’ve Got Game!

As we move closer to the season of “March Madness,” it’s a good time to turn to sports books. Here are a few titles with a lot in common: No ticket is required (they’re readily available at libraries and bookstores); you’ll always have a courtside seat (curl up anywhere with these); they’ve all drawn a crowd (local teen library advisory boards have recommended them); and, as is true for all sports, they’re as much about life as about games. As the late sportscaster Howard Cosell once said, “Sports is the toy department of human life.” Check these out!

**Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery**, by former Washington Post reporter John Feinstein. Two eighth-graders and would-be journalists win a trip to report on the Final Four and get caught up in much more than the hoopla of the tournament.

**Hoop Girlz**, by Lucy Bedsoe. Eleven-year-old River’s dreams of playing in the WNBA are quashed when she’s cut from the tournament team, but she comes up with her own team of rejects, and the fun begins.


**Athletic Shorts**, by Chris Crutcher. Six short stories featuring characters from Crutcher’s previous books.

**Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems**, edited by Sue Macy. Noted women authors offer stories on sports from hockey to tetherball, synchronized swimming to horseback riding.

**There’s a Girl in My Hammerlock**, by Jerry Spinelli. Repercussions ensue when Maisie Potter tries out for the wrestling team — and makes it.

**Thank You, Jackie Robinson**, by Barbara Cohen. A fatherless white boy shares his love of the Brooklyn Dodgers (and their first baseman) with a dying black man.

**The Chicken Doesn’t Skate**, by Gordon Korman. Zaniness reigns when a middle school hockey team adopts a student’s science project, Henrietta the chicken, as its mascot.

— Evelyn Small

A Boyhood in Jamestown

Elisa Carbone loves skiing, kayaking and rock-climbing, but she also enjoys exploring the past. Her latest historical novel, *Blood on the River*, is about an 11-year-old boy who came to the new Jamestown colony in 1607 — exactly 400 years ago. Book World Senior Editor Ron Charles talked with Elisa by phone from her home in West Virginia.

When did you first start writing?

I was 4½ years old. I didn’t know how to write yet — that was my only problem. I told my dad that he was going to be taking dictation. Each night when he came home, I’d say, “Okay, we’re going to work on the book now.”

What made you write about Jamestown?

I studied Virginia history in school, and I studied the Jamestown story over and again, and I thought it was really boring. So when I was asked to write this book, my first thought was, “Oh, no, I can’t stand to go over that John Smith and Pocahontas stuff again!” But when I looked into the real story, it was totally exciting. And so my goal was to make it as exciting as it actually was, which was a whole lot more exciting than the textbooks I’d read.

Did the kids at Jamestown go to school?

No, no school. There wasn’t even any spelling! They just had to survive. They were considered adults around the age of 12 or 13, and they had to work all the time. What we think of as leisure just didn’t happen.

Did they have any fun at all?

When Pocahontas came to visit, she and the boys in the colony ran races and did cartwheels through the fort. And the Indians had a game like soccer, with a ball made of skin.

How can you write about people who lived so long ago?

I try to get into my characters’ minds: Let me see what he sees, let me hear what he hears, let me feel what he feels. And I do reenactments. I put myself through things that my characters went through. So I went camping near the Jamestown fort. And I did a reenactment of one of their hungry times — though not their starving times! I ate one cup of plain oatmeal in the morning and one cup of plain pasta in the evening. When you’re really hungry, that stuff tastes great. They never complained about plain food.

Did people back then think differently?

People didn’t worry so much. Now we have everything taken care of, so we have time to think and worry about the future or the past. But these people were in the moment, and so there was less fear. There had to be because, otherwise, they would not have done the insanely dangerous things they did.

For more information about Elisa Carbone’s books, go to [www.elisacarbone.com](http://www.elisacarbone.com)