

# JK Rowling

## Biography:

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born on July 31, 1965, in Chipping Sodbury, near Bristol, England. A single mother living in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rowling became an international literary sensation in 1999, when the first three instalments of her Harry Potter children's book series took over the top three slots of the New York Times best-seller list after achieving similar success in her native United Kingdom. The phenomenal response to Rowling's books culminated in July 2000, when the fourth volume in the series, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', became the fastest-selling book in history.

A graduate of Exeter University, Rowling moved to Portugal in 1990 to teach English. There, she met and married a Portuguese journalist. The couple's daughter, Jessica, was born in 1993. After her marriage ended in divorce, Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her daughter to live near her young sister, Di. While struggling to support Jessica and herself on welfare, Rowling worked on a book, the idea for which had reportedly occurred to her while she was travelling on a train from Manchester to London in 1990. After a number of rejections, she finally sold the book, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' (the word "Philosopher" was changed to "Sorcerer" for its publication in America), for the equivalent of about \$4 000.

By the Summer of 2000, the first three Harry Potter books: 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone', 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets', and 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' earned approximately \$480 million in three years, with over 35 million copies in print in 35 languages. In July 2000, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' saw a first printing of 5.3 million copies and advance orders of over 1.8 million. Rowling, now one of Britain's richest women, plans a total of seven books in the series, each chronicling a year in the life of Harry Potter, a young wizard, and his motley band of cohorts at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.