

What do you think is going to happen in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*?



BEN GOOLY, 11

I think somebody in the book will be half-blood prince because that is what the book is called.



ERIC GOOLY, 9

Maybe Harry will be a prince.



ROBERT LEONETTI, 11

I'm thinking it's hard to explain. It has to do with a prince. I think the prince has an ability to do something else.



JEANNIE CHOI, 13

I think Voldemort is going to try to kill Harry Potter just like in the other books.



ERIC LEMAIRE, 11

I think Harry Potter is going to find out that he's a half-blood prince. I haven't got to thinking about the rest.

Mystery shrouds Potter's return

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

Walking up to Chapters it is impossible to miss.

Instead of the new book posters that usually grace the store's windows, colourful symbols signifying the houses in the Harry Potter series shine brightly from displays in anticipation of the release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* tomorrow, at midnight.

In celebration of the sixth book in the J.K. Rowling series, everything from magicians to singers will entertain book store patrons tomorrow evening until the official release.

The plot of the latest book is so shrouded in mystery, books will be delivered with a black wrap on them and store employees are sworn to confidentiality.

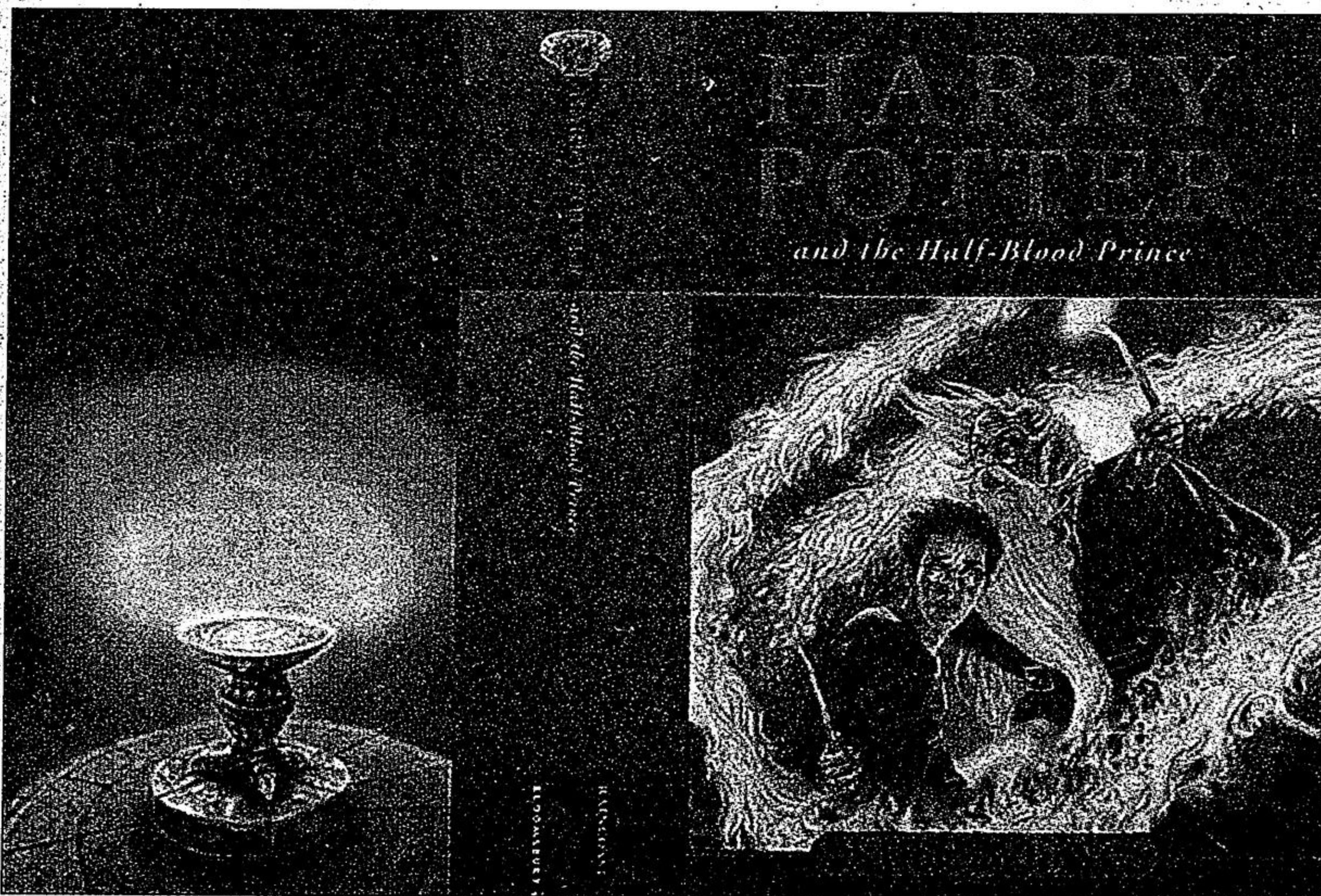
Deliveries are marked with a warning not to open them until July 16.

Mike Lewis, general manager at the Chapters in Newmarket, doesn't even know exactly when the precious stock will be arriving.

"I just know it will be here by 11:59 p.m. on Friday. As long as it's here by then, I'm happy," Mr. Lewis said.

He won't close until the last fans receive their copies.

"We did this two years ago when the last book was released



Cover of the sixth book in the J.K. Rowling series, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

and we got hundreds of people. It was huge," Mr. Lewis said, noting he is expecting more this time around. "People are really into it. It's wonderful if it gets people reading."

With some stores gearing the night's festivities to a more adult crowd, Mr. Lewis said entertainment is planned for both parents and children.

Anxious Potterites who visit the

Indigo bookstore in Richmond Hill tomorrow will hear local artists performing silk music. That's folk music based on science fiction and fantasy.

There will also be psychic read-

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Mike Lewis
general manager
at the Newmarket Chapters

ing, but store manager Natalie Sekowski noted, it will be a fun type of reading not the kind on which people base their lives.

There will also be costume contests at both stores and most staff will also be in costume.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we have 500 people," Ms Sekowski predicted.

Despite the confidentiality agreements around the world, a B.C. supermarket mistakenly sold at least 14 hardcover copies of the books before the worldwide publication date tomorrow.

The previous instalments of the Harry Potter series have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide since 1997.

Speculation has run rampant as to the latest story, since Ms Rowling hinted one of her characters would die this time.

Festivities at local stores will begin between 8 and 8:30 p.m. until the book is officially launched at midnight.

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