J. K. Rowling is the author of the Harry Potter books. J. K.’s name is Joanne Kathleen. She was born in 1965 in a small town near Bristol, England. Joanne lived with her parents and her sister. The Rowling family was not rich. Joanne did not go to special schools. She was a quiet child. She loved to read and write stories. Joanne went to Exeter University, and she finished her studies in 1987. She worked in different offices. In her free time, she wrote more stories.

In 1990, Joanne’s mother died. Joanne was sad, and she wanted to leave England. She saw a job in the newspaper for an English teacher. The job was in Portugal. She had an interview, and she got the job. In Portugal, Joanne married a Portuguese man. The next year, Joanne had a daughter, but she was not happy in her marriage. She left Portugal with her daughter and went to live in Edinburgh, Scotland, near her sister.

Life was very difficult for Joanne. She took care of her daughter. She was alone, and nobody helped her. She had no money and no job. She lived in a small apartment and began to write stories again. Joanne first thought about the Harry Potter story many years ago on a train. Joanne liked to go to a coffee shop to write. She sat there for many hours. She drank coffee and wrote. Her daughter slept beside her.

After five years, Joanne finished writing the first Harry Potter book. She sent it to many book publishers. They all said that they didn’t like it. Finally, a publisher liked it, but the publisher said, “This is a children’s book. Adults won’t read it. You won’t make a lot of money.” In 1997, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” was in the bookstores. J. K. Rowling was very happy. Her dream to publish her book came true. The book was famous all over the world.

The publisher was wrong about one thing: Everyone loves Harry Potter – children and adults. Over 100 million books were sold in 1999. There are seven books in the series and over 450 million copies have been sold till now. Now Harry Potter books are in 65 languages, including Arabic. They are also available as audio books. These books have been made into an eight-part movie series by Warner Brothers. The first film was released in 2001. The author, who was a poor single-mother, is said to be worth more than $837 million.