

Alan Rickman, the British actor who played the multifaceted Professor Severus Snape in “Harry Potter” and villain Hans Gruber in “Die Hard” has passed away at the age of 69. He was pronounced dead last Thursday after battling cancer. The news came as a shock to many. I know I was shocked. This was the first thing I saw when I log onto my Facebook account that morning. Not a great way to start my day.

Celebrities expressed their sadness on the news. J.K. Rowling author of the Harry Potter series expressed her sadness through Twitter. When asked how she felt, “There are no words to express how shocked and devastated I am to hear of Alan Rickman’s death. Fans had lost “a great talent” and his family “have lost a part of their hearts.”

Daniel Radcliffe who played the titular character Harry Potter, said Rickman was kind and generous ,“Alan was extremely kind, generous, self-deprecating and funny,” he wrote on Google+.

Like many actors he has never been nominated for an Oscar despite being a critically acclaimed actor. His true love may have been stage acting but I’ll always think of him as Professor Snape, the antagonistic professor who played a major role in Harry’s life behind the scenes. He took on the role only have read three books up to that point. Because of this he did know how much of a good guy Snape was.

Rickman is survived by his wife Rima Horton whom he had been together with since 1965. They met as teenager and they have been together ever since. They have no kids.