

Darkness Rising Part 1



6 October 2020

INTRO

HARRY

Constance, send an alert to all members of the Statute of Secrecy Task Force. I fear another surge in the Calamity has begun.

CONSTANCE

We have noticed an uptick in Foundables of a... dodgy sort. You know, the kind of people and things that would be right at home in Knockturn Alley. But that information hasn't been made public. I haven't even told Hermione yet. How did you find out?

HARRY

This is going to sound mad, but ever since I manipulated the Calamity, I've felt oddly connected to it. It's difficult to describe how I knew a surge was coming... If I had to put it into words, I'd compare it to the feeling of electricity in the air before a summer storm.

CONSTANCE

Fascinating. Can you glean any other information about the surge?

HARRY

I can tell that someone's guiding it, but specifically who. What is clear, however, is that we must put an end to the surge and return everything that's been snatched. There's something about this surge that, more than any other, fills me with such dread...

GIANT BLACK SPIDER

HERMIONE

Don't tell him I told you this, but Ron used to be quite terrified of spiders. He's gotten better about it with age, but he still asks me to take care of any spiders he finds around the house.

RON

They have eight legs, Hermione! Eight! No creature needs that many legs!

MR MULPEPPER'S APOTHECARY SIGN

HERMIONE

I never knew Mr Mulpepper's Apothecary had a shop in Knockturn Alley.

CONSTANCE

I've found that most people don't, outside of witches and wizards of ill-repute. I'm only familiar with it because I was referred there once when the Diagon Alley branch ran out of Fairy Wings.

Could this be a sign - pun very much intended - that whoever's manipulating the Calamity isn't above visiting a shop like this?

BRILLIANT POACHER

CONSTANCE

That reminds me... Was the Ministry able to make any headway shutting down those illegal Magical Creature markets that Grim warned us about?

HERMIONE

Yes, the Department of Magical Law Enforcement's managed to take several poachers like this one into custody since then.

CONSTANCE

That's good news, isn't it? So why do you sound so dour?

HERMIONE

According to Harry, every poacher they've found so far has had their minds almost completely Obliviated. Most can't even remember their names, let alone any information pertinent to the case.

CONSTANCE

Well that's not suspicious at all. Clearly someone doesn't want their secrets getting out.

POISONOUS CANDLE

CONSTANCE

Poisonous candles... Of all the Dark artefacts in the world, I find them particularly revolting. Imagine lighting one, expecting to envelop your home in the sweet smell of honeysuckle, only to wind up inhaling toxic fumes. Despicable.

Now that I think about it... all the Foundables in this surge have felt rather sinister, haven't they?

Why is Grim directing the Calamity in such a Dark direction? It's far from what we've come to expect from his modified surges.

Harry did theorise that if he was able to manipulate the Calamity, someone else could too.

What if this isn't Grim we're dealing with?

BRILLIANT SNATCHER

HARRY

Following the Battle of Hogwarts, most of the surviving Snatchers were rounded up and thrown into Azkaban. A few, however, managed to flee the country. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

It's been years since that day. For all we know, those Snatchers might be leading normal lives under new identities while the families of their victims continue to mourn the loss of their loved ones. Makes me ill just thinking about it.

END

GARETH GREENGRASS

Harry, Constance told me you've become attuned to the Calamity. Tell me, have you been able to use your newfound ability to communicate with Grim at all? Can you discern where he is or why he modified this surge?

HARRY

No, though it's certainly not from a lack of trying. The Calamity simply refuses to divulge whether Grim is truly the source of this latest surge.

GARETH GREENGRASS

It sounds like you suspect that he isn't. Am I to understand that you believe someone other than Grim and yourself is able to manipulate the Calamity?

HARRY

Grim's previous surges have all seemed like attempts to communicate with us. This one feels different... ill-intentioned, dangerous, Dark. Grim never struck me as the type to be capable of something so malicious.

GARETH GREENGRASS

Prior to Penelope's disappearance, I would have agreed with you. But Grim was desperate to find her, and desperation drives people to do things they'd never be capable of otherwise. Believe me, I, more than anyone else, want Grim to be innocent, but at some point one must be realistic.