

Triwizarding Secrets Part 1



12 January 2021

Brilliant Event

INTRO

HERMIONE

We're getting reports of another surge. Harry's off pursuing a possible lead on The Unforgivable, but given its focus on the events of the 1994 Triwizard Tournament, it's safe to assume that he's influencing the Calamity.

CONSTANCE

What a relief. I'm not sure I have the energy to deal with a Dark surge in addition to our investigation into how Kit Gerrard ended up in a portrait at Hogwarts.

HERMIONE

Agreed, though I'm more concerned about who sealed him in there. His memories have been completely Obliviated, just like the informant who warned us about The Unforgivable. Could they have been responsible for the disappearance of the London Five too?

EDWARD SCOT

Sorry to interrupt, but it's an emergency. A major Muggle news outlet just published the first in a series of exposés that threaten to reveal the existence of magic. Since the reporter, Brice Badeaux, documented Calamity activity, the French Ministry is asking for your cooperation in handling the incident.

HERMIONE

I suppose my questions about Kit Gerrard's disappearance will have to wait. Right now our focus must be on ending this surge and stopping these exposés before the International Statute of Secrecy is breached any further.

BRILLIANT MAD-EYE MOODY'S EYE

CONSTANCE

I'm not mad at the reporter for trying to expose the existence of magic. If I were a Muggle who'd just spotted a fire-breathing chicken trying to eat a prosthetic eye, I'd want to write about it too.

This is strictly off the record, but sometimes I wonder if we should continue to keep the existence of magic a secret from Muggles.

Don't misunderstand, I would never intentionally violate the Statute of Secrecy. But Muggles have come a long way since the witch-hunts. Is it wrong for me to want us to all live together?

BRILLIANT GOBLET OF FIRE

HERMIONE

Among other 'anomalies,' Badeaux describes seeing 'little blue monsters' flying around a 'wooden goblet that, despite being lit with blue flame, never burns.' He even has the pictures to prove it.

It's funny... The SOS Task Force has kept the Calamity out of the Muggle eye so well all this time, I suppose I grew complacent that a Statute of Secrecy breach of this magnitude wouldn't happen.

CONSTANCE

That's understandable, isn't it? Especially considering that between The Unforgivable and the rise of Adversaries, we've had arguably more important things to worry about.

HERMIONE

We should let this serve as a reminder that even at its most 'benign,' the Calamity is still inherently dangerous and a threat.

FLEUR DELACOUR

HERMIONE

I had the opportunity to interview one of the agents in Badeaux's pictures. He insisted he had no idea how a Muggle was able to photograph him returning a Foundable without him noticing.

He assured me he took all the proper protocols to prevent detection, but admitted to a colleague, in French, that he couldn't remember if he'd cast a Muggle-Repelling Charm around the Trace.

Those French lessons I took from Fleur are really paying off, aren't they?

VIKTOR KRUM

CONSTANCE

Don't tell Lucas, but I've fancied Viktor Krum ever since he led Bulgaria to victory in the 2014 Quidditch World Cup. I about died when he cried after catching the Snitch.

HERMIONE

Admittedly, when I first met Viktor, I pegged him as a bit of a brute. But the more I got to know him, the more I realised how kind and captivating he could be. We even attended the Yule Ball together.

CONSTANCE

Really? You're not yanking my wand?

HERMIONE

I'm serious! We still keep in touch. I could introduce you, if you'd like.

CONSTANCE

Does a Niffler like shiny things?

BARTY CROUCH SR.

CONSTANCE

Explain something to me, Edward. The French Ministry know the reporter's name, where he works, and, presumably, where he lives. Why don't they just show up at his door, erase his memory of magic, and put an end to all this?

EDWARD SCOT

It's not that easy. Brice Badeaux has proved surprisingly hard to track down. If I didn't know better, I'd say he was hiding from us...

END

HERMIONE

The team's done a good job getting this surge under control while we do damage control. But it won't mean much if we can't track Brice Badeaux down and erase those memories.

CONSTANCE

I've been thinking, Hermione. Is this manhunt really necessary? Most readers have been dismissing his evidence of magic as hogwash.

HERMIONE

Yes, but plenty do believe his claims, more than enough to pose a serious risk to the International Statute of Wizarding Secrecy. Not to mention that others may be persuaded the more evidence he releases.

CONSTANCE

Pity Harry's still away. I know he can't really control the Calamity, but perhaps he could do something to help.

HERMIONE

Harry will be back soon. So will the surge, for that matter. We should use this lull between waves to increase our search for the reporter. It's odd that, despite being pursued by both the British and French Ministries, he's still managed to elude us...