

An Imperfect Love Part 1



9 February 2021

Brilliant Event

INTRO

CONSTANCE

Harry! I'm glad I caught you. We're getting reports of new modified surge behaviour. Have you been manipulating the Calamity again?

HARRY

No... At least, not intentionally. There's always the possibility that, like the last surge, I may have unknowingly done so... But I'm still not entirely convinced that's something I'm even capable of.

CONSTANCE

I'm confused. You said it yourself that the last surge was definitely composed of your memories. Considering that this one appears to be centered around Hermione and Ron, doesn't it seem likely that it is too? What other explanation could there possibly be?

HARRY

That does seem the logical explanation, doesn't it? Yet I can't help but feel that this isn't as cut and dry as it appears...

CONSTANCE

Perhaps if we investigate this surge, we'll be able to get a more definitive answer about whether or not you subconsciously created it and, if so, why this keeps happening.

BRILLIANT QUIDDITCH FAN HERMIONE GRANGER

HARRY

Funny story, at Ginny and I's wedding, a few of my friends and former classmates admitted that they wondered if Hermione and I would end up together.

Hermione's a great friend. I probably wouldn't be here now if not for her. But we never would have worked out. Ron's a much better complement for her.

CONSTANCE

Speaking of Hermione, have you talked to her recently? Seems she barely leaves her office these days.

HARRY

Apparently she's working on an important project and doesn't want to be disturbed. I tried prodding her for details, but she was very secretive about it.

CONSTANCE

I'd bet my wand she's working on something for Ron for Valentine's Day. She always did strike me as the secretly romantic type.

BRILLIANT QUIDDITCH KEEPER RON

RON

Harry, something odd just happened to me. Hermione warned me against taking her to the Three Broomsticks for Valentine's Day again.

HARRY

There's nothing odd about that, Ron. You've subjected Hermione to the Three Broomsticks five years in a row. I'm surprised she hasn't Transfigured you into a toad by now.

RON

I thought it was romantic...

At any rate, Hermione's message isn't what's odd. What's odd is how I received it. Remember when I could suddenly recall a conversation with Grim that I couldn't possibly have had? It was like that, like someone had mucked about in my head.

HARRY

It sounds like Hermione implanted a false memory in your Foundable. But that shouldn't be possible, unless...

CROOKSHANKS

HARRY

You know the adage about pets and their owners resembling each other? A case could be made for Hermione and Crookshanks, at least from a personality perspective.

Crookshanks was incredibly smart and perceptive. A bit stubborn and bossy, perhaps, but affectionate to and protective of those he cared about.

He was always after Ron's 'rat,' Scabbers. Of course, it turned out that Crookshanks had good reason for that. But at the time, I couldn't help but laugh at how much it reminded me of Hermione and Ron's own dynamic.

CORMAC MCLAGGEN

HARRY

I don't think these Foundables are made up of my memories. When I create a surge, I always feel a sense of wholeness every time a Foundable is returned. Like I've been reunited with a missing piece of myself.

But we've returned multiple Foundables now and... nothing. I can't say I feel the sense of unease that comes from having a memory stolen by the Calamity either.

CONSTANCE

Curious... Is it possible these memories are so minor that you didn't notice them being snatched and returned?",

HARRY

This is the Calamity we're talking about, so I'm reluctant to dismiss the idea outright. It's certainly true I haven't thought about Cormac in years. But I think the more likely explanation is that this isn't my surge.

CONSTANCE

But if you're not the one influencing the Calamity, who is? And why are they interested in your friends and schoolmates?

LAVANDER BROWN

HARRY

Lavender Brown... I haven't thought about her in some time. She and Ron dated in sixth year, you know. Hermione would get so flustered whenever they snogged in public.

Looking back, I think that's probably when Hermione realised just how much she cared about Ron.

CONSTANCE

So it's not an exaggeration then to say that Hermione's memories of Lavender Brown are an integral part of her and Ron's history as a couple?

HARRY

I suppose you could say that, couldn't you? Come to think of it, all these Foundables could be tied back to Hermione and Ron's relationship in some way...

CONSTANCE

Either the Valentine's season's got the Calamity feeling romantic or there's something more to this surge we're not yet seeing..

END

HERMIONE

Harry, I did it! I manipulated the Calamity and started this surge. It took longer than I'd hoped to sort the magic out, but I finally did it.

HARRY

That's brilliant, Hermione! Though I don't know why I'm surprised. If anyone's capable of it, it's you.

HERMIONE

You were right though - it isn't easy. I thought the Patronus Charm was difficult, but this is on an entirely different level. Still, it was worth the effort. Adversaries prove The Unforgivable are growing stronger. Combatting their influence on the Calamity is only going to get harder. At least now I can help.

HARRY

You don't know how appreciative I am of that. We have reason to believe multiple members of The Unforgivable can manipulate the Calamity. It'll be good to have another person on our side who can.

HERMIONE

Though I think I'll try to guide the next wave in a less... personal direction. The Valentine's Day fervor had me convinced that pulling memories of Ron and I's early days was a good idea. But now that it's on display for the whole world... Well, to say it's embarrassing is a bit of an understatement, isn't it?",