

A Weasley Predicament Part 1



5 April 2021

Brilliant Event

INTRO

HARRY

I've just heard back from the President of MACUSA. They put out a nationwide alert asking for information on Ron and The Unforgivable. They've also agreed to lend us some Aurors to help with our search.

HERMIONE

That's fantastic news. Thanks again for volunteering to get other Ministries on board. It's comforting knowing we have all these eyes and wands looking for Ron.

HARRY

Don't thank me. Ron wouldn't be missing if I had just listened to you and taken The Unforgivable's threats more seriously. Instead I just had to keep pushing them...

HERMIONE

It isn't your fault Ron was taken, Harry. You were just trying to keep The Unforgivable from manipulating the Calamity and abusing its power. The only one who deserves blame for this is The Unforgivable themselves."

CONSTANCE

Sorry to interrupt, but we've detected a new surge starting up... one made up entirely of people and products from Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes. Could this be the work of The Unforgivable?

PUKING PASTILLES DISPLAY

HERMIONE

The fact that this surge is centered on Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes - the very place where Ron was abducted from - can't be a coincidence."

CONSTANCE

It does seem like The Unforgivable are sending us a message, doesn't it?

HERMIONE

This surge is more than a message. It's a taunt... a reminder that they were able to get the better of us. The Unforgivable don't want us to forget that Ron's fate is in their hands.

It's funny. The Unforgivable did all this to intimidate us into stopping our investigation, but I'm more motivated to bring them to justice than ever.

CONSTANCE

That's the spirit, Hermione. We'll get Ron back, I'm sure of it.

PROPRIETOR GEORGE WEASLEY

HARRY

George reached out to me. He's been able to recall a memory he knows he never had ever since that last Foundable was returned to him.

In it, a wizard in a robe indicates that the Ministry and The Unforgivable both have something the other wants. He concludes by saying that he'll be in touch with further details on how we can get that something.

HERMIONE

Sounds like The Unforgivable are proposing a trade, doesn't it? Ron for complete control of the Calamity?

HARRY

I wish I could say I'd never entertain this, but with all of our attempts to rescue Ron turning up nothing so far... we'd be daft not to at least consider it.

LOVE POTION STAND

HARRY

I stopped by the joke shop again. George has been asking his regulars about Ron. Apparently one recalled seeing him with you right before he went missing.

HERMIONE

That's impossible, I was at the Ministry at the time. Ron's abductor must have used Polyjuice Potion to impersonate me, just like Ginny's attempted abductor took on the appearance of her Editor-in-Chief.

HARRY

That explains how they were able to catch a former Auror off guard. But Polyjuice Potion requires a piece of the person you want to Transfigure into in order to work. Wouldn't that mean...?

HERMIONE

That it's likely I crossed paths with a member of The Unforgivable and didn't even know it? Yes.

PERUVIAN INSTANT DARKNESS POWDER

HERMIONE

Since this surge began, I've found myself over analysing every Foundable, wondering if it's some sort of subtle sign from The Unforgivable.

Take this Peruvian Instant Darkness Powder display, for example. Did The Unforgivable include it simply because it's a fixture at Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes? Or are they trying to make a statement that their Darkness is spreading?

Is the Love Potion Stand merely that? Or is it a hint that The Unforgivable have Ron spelled and under their control?

Perhaps I will take Constance up on her offer of a cup of chamomile tea after all...

ARTHUR WEASLEY

HARRY

Arthur reached out to me. The Unforgivable must have implanted a false memory in his Foundable, because he has a distinct recollection of Ron warning that The Unforgivable can't guarantee his safety if we don't do exactly as they say.

HERMIONE

How despicable, delivering their ultimatum like that...

HARRY

Arthur and Molly are both devastated. Ginny's trying to assure them, but she's anxious too... Hermione, I know I said we shouldn't give in to The Unforgivable's demands, but I'm having second thoughts. Ron...

HERMIONE

Ron wouldn't want us to abandon our principles, especially not for his sake. I don't know if the message Arthur received is the result of Polyjuice or the Imperius Curse, but there are two things I'm certain of.

First, that Ron did not deliver that message of his own free will. And second, that The Unforgivable will continue to prey on our emotions until they get what they want.

END

HARRY

I'm not sure who I'm more upset with: The Unforgivable for using Ron to manipulate us or myself for considering giving in to their demands.

HERMIONE

You're just desperate to get Ron back safely. I am too. After all, this is the longest we've been apart since we went our separate ways during the Horcrux hunt. That's the problem. The

Unforgivable are leveraging our desperation to make the terms, terms they'll break or modify whenever the need arises.

HARRY

So what do we do? We can't exactly stop caring about Ron, now can we?

HERMIONE

For now? We continue pouring our resources into finding Ron. With any luck, we'll find him before the second wave of this surge begins. If we don't, well... we'll think of something.