

Creature Discomforts Part 1



3 May 2021

Brilliant Event

INTRO

HARRY

The Healers at St Mungo's and I have tried every charm, counter-spell, and potion we could think of, but nothing's worked. We're no closer to restoring Ron's memories than we were when we first rescued him from The Unforgivable.

HERMIONE

The more I think about that day, the more convinced I am that there must be a mole within the Ministry. Seeing through our Polyjuice Potions is one thing. But to know where we were hiding the real Kit Gerrard and Flavius Flint...?

HARRY

An informant within our ranks does seem like the most reasonable explanation, doesn't it? Though it's hard to believe any of our coworkers - most of whom we've known for years - would betray us like that...

CONSTANCE

Harry, Hermione, I've been looking everywhere for you! The Calamity is snatching baby beasts again. It's just like that time Grim Fawley used a surge to warn us about a rise in black market beast trading.

HERMIONE

A new surge has begun? Harry and I have been so occupied with Ron and dealing with the aftermath of his abduction that I suppose we didn't notice... In any case, this is an interesting development. Could Grim be trying to send us a similar message? Could it have something to do with The Unforgivable?

Baby Threeheaded Dog

RON

Helga, was Fluffy always this small? I recall him being scarier, with bigger teeth. And drool. Waterfalls of drool.

HERMIONE

For the hundredth time, Ron, I'm Hermio-- Wait a moment, did you just say you remember Fluffy?

RON

Bit of a shock to me too. One second I'm staring at the dog, the next I'm having a flashback of three pairs of bloodthirsty eyes sizing me up...

HERMIONE

You can't even remember your wife's name, but you have no problem recalling Hagrid's Three-Headed Dog? How is that possible?

RON

Don't ask me, Helen! I'm the one with amnesia, remember? Hold on, Helen's not right, is it? Heather? Harmony? No...

Baby Mooncalf

HERMIONE

I got in touch with Dorian Fungbury in Magical Law Enforcement. He's going to reach out to his underworld contacts to see if there's been another rise in illegal magical creature trading. If there has and The Unforgivable are involved - as I suspect they are - this could be our opportunity to track them down.

HARRY

I can't believe I'm saying this, but catching The Unforgivable can wait. Ron's suffering. He's depending on us to help him. Our priority right now should be doing everything in our power to get his memory back.

HERMIONE

I know you feel responsible for what happened to Ron and place the burden of healing him on yourself. But we need to be realistic. The best Healers in the country spent months unsuccessfully trying to restore Kit and Flavius' memories. Our methods clearly aren't working.

The Unforgivable, on the other hand, must have discovered a way to reverse the spell. Recently, too. Why else would they suddenly be so interested in getting Flavius back, despite willingly abandoning him?

HARRY

You may be right, Hermione. About me, curing Ron, The Unforgivable... all of it. I suppose if investigating black markets could lead us to The Unforgivable and a cure for Ron, then it's worth prioritising this investigation.

Baby Acromantula

RON

Eugh, a spider! Don't need my memories to know I hate them. Furry, eight-legged monsters. They'd eat us alive if they got the chance, like that bloody Aragog tried to...

HARRY

Did you say 'Aragog'? You remember him, Ron?

RON

How could I forget? The eight beady eyes, fangs as big as my hand, all his creepy little spider-spawn... Thankfully that magic car rescued me. No, not just me... us? Were you there, Hugh? It's still rather fuzzy...

HARRY

It's Harry, actually. Clearly there are still large gaps in your memory, but if your brain was permanently addled, you couldn't have remembered that night in the Forbidden Forest. There's still hope that your memories can be restored!

But why could you suddenly recall Aragog, of all things? Could our treatments be finally getting through to you? Is the memory loss only temporary? Did your fear of spiders trigger it? Or is it something else entirely?

Bottle of Acromantula Venom

HARRY

I've been thinking about this informant theory of yours... How do we even go about proving or disproving something like that? Pointing fingers and throwing out accusations will just make the whole office defensive and paranoid.

HERMIONE

I have something in mind. But I'm afraid I can't say more than that.

HARRY

Why? You can't possibly suspect that I'm the mole, can you?

HERMIONE

No... at least not willingly. But I can't rule out the possibility you were under the Imperius Curse... Of course, I think the chance of that being the case is extremely slim, but recent history has proven that we can't be too careful.

We're at a turning point, Harry. If we fail to catch the mole now while they're unaware, The Unforgivable's influence will continue to spread within the Ministry like this Acromantula venom, until we're crippled entirely.

Hagrids Wooden Flute

GARETH GREENGRASS

I heard about what happened to Ron. If there's anything I can do for you or your family, please don't hesitate to ask.

HERMIONE

Thank you, Gareth. Everyone's support has been instrumental in helping us get through this crisis. Though I worry about Rose and Hugo. They're coping, but it's a lot for a kid to handle.

GARETH GREENGRASS

I understand. When my wife, Aquila, died, I worried a lot about how Cereus, my daughter, would cope.

HERMIONE

I didn't know you had a daughter. You've never mentioned her before.

GARETH GREENGRASS

She's grown; been out of the house for a while now. Anyway, my advice to you is to be upfront with your children. If you're honest with your own feelings, it'll encourage them to be honest with theirs. Baby them or shield them from the truth and they'll only come to resent you.

END

HERMIONE

I heard back from Dorian Fungbury, my friend in Magical Law Enforcement. Apparently multiple known magical creature poachers have been spotted in Cape Town, South Africa.

CONSTANCE

Seems increasingly likely that this surge is another warning from Grim, doesn't it? But what does black market beast trading have to do with The Unforgivable or the Calamity?

HERMIONE

Possibly nothing. We don't even have any definitive proof that Grim is manipulating this surge, just a strong suspicion that he is.

But, to borrow Harry's words, if there's even a small chance that The Unforgivable could be involved, we ought to pursue it. After all, they may hold the key to restoring Ron's memories and stopping the Calamity for good.

CONSTANCE

In that case, why don't we use this time between waves to investigate this Cape Town lead further? That way we'll be ready to make our move.