

Prisoner of the Vow Part 2



6 September 2021

Brilliant Event

Intro

Harry

Hermione, you should know that Gareth Greengrass asked me to make an Unbreakable Vow to help his daughter with her blood malediction. I'm on my way to do it now. It's the only way he'll tell us everything he knows.

Hermione

Harry, you can't! It's far too risky. Think about what would happen should you break the Vow. Ginny, James, Albus, and Lily would be devastated! Not to mention that there's no guarantee Gareth will even hold up his end of the deal.

Harry

Don't you think I realise all that? I've spent days agonising over this decision! Every night I've been haunted by dreams of Gareth feeding me nothing but lies and Ginny and the kids struggling to carry on without me.

But I don't have a choice. Gareth's intel and knowledge will be vital for stopping The Unforgivable and ending the Calamity. If making this Vow means everyone else can live in safety and peace, I'm willing to take that risk.

Hermione

I wish you didn't have such a pathological need to sacrifice yourself, Harry. But I know better than to think I can stop you once you've made up your mind. I just hope your risk pays off.

Brilliant Werewolf

Constance

You got what you wanted, Gareth. Harry is going to do whatever it takes to help your daughter. But do you intend to honour your promise to him?

Gareth

Allow me to answer your question with one of my own. Why did you agree to seal our Unbreakable Vow if you were doubtful that I'd keep my word?

Constance

Honestly? Because I felt bad for you. You want nothing more than to give your daughter a better, longer life, but you've been blocked at every turn. It's heart-wrenching, isn't it?

Gareth

Save your pity. I don't want it.

Constance

Then let me give you a bit of advice instead. Don't be rash. Harry knows the consequences of breaking his vow. You should think long and hard about what will happen should you not keep yours.

Brilliant Whomping Willow

Harry

How's your memory recovery coming along, Ron? Do you remember the day we met Sirius?

Ron

I don't know how I ever forgot. I thought I was going to die. What took you and Hermione so long to rescue me?

Harry

One angry Whomping Willow. It very nearly beat us to a pulp.

Ron

That bloody tree. I don't care how valuable it is, we should have done Hogwarts a favor and chopped it down.

Hermione's Time Turner

Harry

You should know that I reached out to the head of St Mungo's. After a quick chat and a generous donation, he agreed to personally oversee Cereus' care and fund a study on blood maledictions.

Gareth

Thank you, Harry. I mean that, sincerely. I was right to place my faith in you.

Harry

I wish I could say the same. I made an Unbreakable Vow with you - placed my life on the line - on your word that you'd help stop The Unforgivable and the Calamity. But you're as tight-lipped as ever.

Gareth

Patience, you'll get the information you want soon enough. I fully intend to see my promise through to the end, no matter what happens.

Mysterious Note 1st Piece

Hermione

Harry, one of our SOS Task Force agents just found this scrap of parchment after returning a Time-Turner Foundable.

Harry

Who sent it? Grim? The Unforgivable?

Hermione

It could believably be either. We'll have to find the rest of the note to know for certain.

5th Piece

Hermione

We haven't recovered enough pieces of the note to make out its contents yet, but we do know one thing: it's addressed to you, Harry. See?

Harry

That handwriting, could it be...? Hermione, tell our volunteers to prioritise finding the rest of this letter. If this was sent by who I think it was, it has to be important.

Last Piece

Hermione

We've reassembled the note, but it's completely blank. Is this some sort of trick?

Harry

Blank? Let me see it... Hermione, this isn't blank at all! As I suspected, this is a letter from Gareth. He's drawn a map of the Love Room within the Department of Mysteries, as well as instructions on how to get in.

Hermione

Curious, I still don't see anything... Gareth must have charmed it to only reveal its contents to you. Does it say anything else?

Harry

"You'll find the information you're looking for at the spot marked on the map. Act fast and take care of Cereus when I'm gone." Hermione, tell my secretary I'm stepping out. I need to investigate this.

Hermione

Just be careful, Harry. I'm not sure what Gareth's hiding or why he concocted this roundabout way of giving it to you, but it's all very suspicious.

Discarded Clothes

Hermione

Do you remember last week when I told you that Gareth admitted to hiding Penelope Fawley?

Harry

I remember. He wouldn't tell you where he'd hidden her, but hoped you'd find her before some mysterious "he" did.

Hermione

Knowing Gareth, I thought he might have embedded a clue to Penelope's location in our conversation. I poured over his every word and kept coming back to his comment that Penelope was like a daughter to him.

That's when I remembered that Gareth had pictures of both Penelope and Cereus on his desk. Given that Gareth sealed Kit Gerrard inside a portrait, it seemed likely he'd done the same to Penelope. But when I checked his office, Penelope's "photograph" was gone.

Harry

The "he" that Gareth warned you about must have found her before we could. But who is this man and how did he break in to Gareth's office without us noticing?

Sirius Black

Harry

Ron, do you remember how we met Sirius?

Ron

I remember. I thought he was the Grim dragging me by my leg to my death.

Harry

You two had a bit of a rough start, didn't you? We all did. I honestly thought he was responsible for my parents' deaths. But Sirius ended up being one of our most trusted allies.

Ron

I'll have to take your word for it until I get all my memories back. But he did get me an owl as an apology, so he can't be all bad.

End

Hermione

Harry, there's something I have to tell you--

Harry

Me too. The map Gareth used the Calamity to send to me led me to his journal. I've only just begun reading through it, but there's all sorts of information on The Unforgivable and the Calamity in here.

Hermione

About Gareth--

Harry

You're right. I should go and talk to him. I have so many questions...

Hermione

Harry, listen to me! You can't talk to Gareth because... because he's dead.