

Burning Day Part 1



18 October 2021

Brilliant Event

Intro

Harry

I've interviewed every Ministry employee in the building. None of them recalled seeing anything unusual the day someone broke into Gareth Greengrass' office and stole the portrait Penelope Fawley had been sealed in.

Constance

What are we going to do? Grim Fawley may be the only one who can end the Calamity and curb The Unforgivable's power. But he'll never risk cooperating with us while The Unforgivable are holding Penelope hostage.

Harry

We'll just have to step up our quest to find Penelope and her abductor. Any moment I'm not spending using the Calamity to restore Ron's memories of our fifth year, I'll use to look for clues or leads I may have overlooked.

Constance

A tracking spell didn't reveal anything useful, but perhaps there's another spell that can shed some light on what happened the day Penelope went missing for the second time.

Hermione

While you two focus on finding Penelope, I'm going to conduct an investigation of my own. I believe there's more we can glean from Gareth's journals.

Brilliant Fred Weasley

Harry

Hermione, is that a book on Occlumency? Are you training to become an Occlumens?

Hermione

If the leader of The Unforgivable truly is a Legilimens, as I strongly suspect they are given Gareth's observations about them, it's crucial we be able to protect our minds.

Harry

Unfortunately that's one thing I've never been very good at.

Hermione

Which is why I'm afraid I have no choice but to Obliviate your memories of this discovery. Sorry, Harry, but we can't be too careful.

Brilliant George Weasley

Harry

I was surprised when Fred and George left Hogwarts. Not because it was a shock that they had decided to drop out, but because it took as long as it did. I couldn't help but think that their talents were being wasted at Hogwarts.

Ron

It sure took Mum by surprise, though. I distinctly remember feeling grateful that I wasn't there when she got the news.

Poor Mum. She wanted nothing more than for us to all join the Ministry. Instead she got two dropouts and another who gave up an impressive career as an Auror to sell joke products.

Harry

But she came around when she saw how happy and successful you all-- Wait a moment, you remember quitting the Auror Office to help George with the shop? How? Since when?

Ron

I'm not sure, I just suddenly... could. That's not the only memory of my adult life I can remember either. It's as though whatever has a hold on my memories is starting to lose its grip.

Broken Educational Decree

Hermione

Gareth had a theory that, unbeknownst to the rest of The Unforgivable, someone secretly deposed 'Theus,' their pseudonymous leader. Then, in order to not raise suspicion, used Polyjuice Potion to take his place.

If that's true, then it's possible a wizard may have been reported deceased or missing around the same time. That's why I went ahead and pulled Ministry records of all deaths and disappearances near the date Gareth first noticed the changes in 'Theus.'

I won't lie, this is a long shot. There's a lot of paperwork to sort through and I can't even be certain that 'Theus' is even British.

But if there's a chance the real identity of 'Theus' is buried in these files, it'd be a mistake not to pursue it.

OWL Exam Sheet

Harry

Remember how terrified we were about O.W.L. exams? Little did we know they'd be one of the least of our worries.

Hermione

Suffering under Umbridge and surviving a Death Eater ambush really puts things into perspective, doesn't it?

Ron

Speak for yourselves! I'd rather fight ten Death Eaters at the same time than retake those bloody exams.

Dragon Firework

Constance

I've tried every tracking spell and revelation charm I could find. None of them unearthed any clues from the day Penelope was taken.

Harry

I haven't had any luck either. Even Memory Potions didn't dig up anything useful. There are hundreds of witches and wizards in this office. You'd think one of them would have noticed something suspicious, wouldn't you?

Constance

I wonder how Hermione is faring. She's been rather secretive about this investigation of hers, hasn't she?

Harry

That's Hermione for you, always throwing herself into her research. You should have seen her during our Hogwarts days. She'd go an entire day without talking to us because she was so absorbed.

If Hermione is hesitant to speak about what she's investigating, it's probably because she wants to keep her suspicions to herself until she's sure they have merit.

End

Harry

Ron told me you were up all night reading through mountains of documents and files. You've found a lead on The Unforgivable, haven't you?

Hermione

Possibly. So far all I have is circumstantial evidence, but I may have an idea on how to prove or disprove my theory.

Harry

That's brilliant, Hermione! Constance and I haven't had much luck tracking Penelope down, why don't we give you a hand?

Hermione

Thanks for the offer, Harry, but I think it's best that you and Constance stay the course, at least for now.

This discovery could have serious, wide-ranging implications. I don't want to point any fingers until I'm absolutely certain my fears are well-founded.