Harry Potter 121

Chapter 121: Lucius' Plot

For a while, no one spoke, the corridor was very quiet, and Evan thought they had already left.

Then, he heard a sound again. It was Hagrid's resonant, loud cry.

"Keep it down, Hagrid, you will wake up the two children inside" Professor McGonagall said sternly. "I know you are worried about them, but can you please calm down for a moment? It's been an hour since we came back from Hogsmeade, and you're still crying!"

Hagrid wiped his tears with his large handkerchief and tried to calm himself down. His sad cry was repressed into a moan, sounding even more uncomfortable.

Evan moved a bit, and Madam Pomfrey walked towards him from the end of the dark ward. He turned to look at her.

She took the largest piece of chocolate he had ever seen. It looked more like a small boulder.

"Ah, you're awake!" said Madam Pomfrey, vividly, putting the piece of chocolate on the table bedside Evan and starting to crack it with a small hammer.

"I have something to say to the Headmaster." Evan sat up in his bed.

"I don't think it's best for you. Both of you are absolutely exhausted, both physically and magically. You'd better lie in bed and wait until I think you're okay."

"No, this is very important." Evan remembered the ominous dialogue between Greyback and his Black Masked companion. It was obvious that they were planning on doing something really bad.

Evan jumped out of bed, as did Hermione. Madam Pomfrey wanted to stop them, but their voices had already reached those who were in the hallway, Dumbledore, Cornelius Fudge, Professor McGonagall, Professor Flitwick, and Hagrid. All five immediately walked into the ward.

"Evan, Hermione, how are you now?" Hagrid rushed in anxiously, hugging both of them tightly, with tears of sadness falling on his tangled beard. He sobbed and said, "It was all my fault, I drank too much and it took me a while to react after I heard the werewolf howl."

"We are all the same, Hagrid!" said Professor McGonagall. "We're all responsible for this matter. We should have responded more quickly."

"Who would have thought that in Hogsmeade, this kind of thing would happen on Christmas Eve? But now that we are here, you will not be bothered. You two better lie back." Fudge turned to Pomfrey, Asking her "Did they eat chocolate?"

"Wait a minute, Minister, I have something to say." Evan looked at Dumbledore and hurriedly said, "Those who attacked me and Hermione, they seem to be plotting something. They mentioned werewolves and Muggles…"

"Yeah!" Hermione hurriedly nodded. "There seems to be a gathering of werewolves, and they are going to attack Muggles."

"Kids, you must have heard it wrong." Fudge's expression changed when he heard Evan and Hermione, and he looked uneasy at both of them. "It must be that attack that made your brains confused, both of you. Greyback, that horrible monster, must have terrified you."

"I'm not afraid, and I'm not confused!" Evan said irritably. Fudge's indolent attitude bothered him so much.

He could feel that all the Minister wanted was peace of mind.

If it was true that there were werewolves that are plotting to attack Muggles, such a thing would surely bring panic to the entire magic world. It was much more serious than Black's Jailbreak.

After all, black was only one person, but werewolves were by the hundreds.

If what Evan and Hermione said actually were to happen, it would drive the angry crowds to submerge the Ministry with complaints. Fudge probably would end up losing his seat. This was certainly not something that he wanted to see.

"Kids, I know what you have endured" His lips moved up with difficulty to show a grudging smile. "What you need to do now is to stay in bed and rest until tomorrow morning. Then your minds will get back to being cle…"

"My head's very clear now, and I know what I'm talking about!" Evan said loudly," Minister, the attack is far from over. Someone had planned for all of this from behind the scenes. Only Greyback came to Hogsmeade, and the other werewolves were…"

He did not finish his words when Madam Pomfrey suddenly stuffed his mouth with a large piece of chocolate.

He was stunned and she seized this opportunity to force him back to bed.

"Gentlemen!" said Madam Pomfrey with exasperation. "I must insist that you should leave. These two children are my patients. You shouldn't bother them!"

"Oh, I'm not upset. I'll tell them what happened." Evan desperately forced the large chunk of chocolate down his throat.

"Professors, what Evan said is true. I also heard the werewolf saying these things." Hermione followed quickly.

"For God's sake, you should hurry to lie back!" Madam Pomfrey turned and looked at Dumbledore and said hysterically. "Headmaster, please leave at once. These children need care. Is this the right place for this? In the hospital? I must insist..."

"I'm sorry Poppy, but I think it's necessary for Mr. Mason and Miss Granger to continue." Dumbledore said calmly, carefully staring at Evan through his pair of semi-circular glasses. "Cornelius, I think the information they gave is very valuable, and that Fenrir Greyback's actions tonight were very suspicious."

"Alright, alright, Albus, since you think so, then I'll..."

Fudge's words were not finished yet, and the ward's door was opened. Snape, who was in a black robe, and Lucius Malfoy, who also wrapped his body tightly in a black travel cloak, came in. Both men's faces were gloomy.

"Good evening, gentlemen!" Lucius' face had a cold smile.

"Malfoy, what are you doing here?!" Hagrid stood up and looked up at Lucius with his big, hairy head. He shouted angrily. "Get out and leave Hogwarts. You are not welcome here!"

"My dear friend, please believe me. If it wasn't an emergency, I wouldn't have come here. I am not too happy to be here either." Lucius looked at Hagrid disdainfully, smirking and saying, "And please be careful about your use of words. Three months ago, the Hippogriff, which you bred, attacked my son in your class. I had reason..."

"Okay, dear Lucius! That thing has been taken care of by the Committee for the Disposal of Dangerous Creatures. They will give you a statement in due time." Fudge's hand wiped the sweat off of his forehead and he didn't want Malfoy to continue talking.

Thanks to the intervention of Newt Scamander and his association, the public opinion around the incident had been putting a lot of pressure on him, and there was no need complicate the matter anymore than that.

"Of course, Minister!" Lucius' eyes glanced at Dumbledore, and then swiftly turned back to Fudge. "That little mishap is not a big matter. In fact, I have more urgent things. I learned from the ministry that you were here and I asked Severus to bring me in. I hope that I'm not disturbing anything. Dumbledore, you don't mind that I hadn't notified you of my arrival, do you? "

"Of course not. Hogwarts is always open for people with goodwill. Come at anytime you like." Dumbledore's voice sounded very polite, but sparks of anger could be seen in his blue eyes.

"Thank you for your understanding. I just heard from Severus that an unfortunate attack had happened in Hogsmeade. Two students were attacked by a werewolf that had suddenly appeared." Lucius' clod gray eyes blinked as he looked at Evan and Hermione.

Evan immediately understood that he was the one who had planned for all this.

Chapter 122: Werewolf Riot

Evan suddenly realized that the one who was paying Greyback and his companion was none other than Lucius Malfoy.

As a former Death Eater, Lucius surely knew those guys, and only he had enough money to summon them.

The question now is, what does he want to do?

Evan couldn't see how this could ever be good for the Malfoy family. If it was ever discovered that he was the puppeteer behind the scenes, Lucius would be in great trouble.

"There's something wrong, there must be something I don't know about."

He hurriedly looked at Dumbledore beside him, who looked calm. Evan couldn't figure out what he was thinking.

"Those things really happened, but what does this have to do with you?" Dumbledore's blue eyes kept staring at Lucius.

"It has nothing to do with me, but it has a lot to do with this unpleasant news that I'm bringing." Malfoy said with a plummy accent. "It's so terrible. You may not have realized what happened."

"What happened?" Fudge asked subconsciously. He twisted his body and felt a little uneasy.

"A werewolf riot!" Lucius said slowly, and his tone was too calm for the words he was saying. "While Hogsmeade was being attacked by that werewolf, there were many other attacks in Muggle cities. On this unfortunate full-moon night, the werewolves spontaneously gathered and attacked the Muggles. Accurate numbers of casualties were yet to be determined, but before I came, it was said that over thirty people had been bitten. The injured Muggles had been rushed to the St Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries."

"What?!" Fudge's eyes widened and his face turned pale. "You are kidding, Lucius, how could there be werewolf attacks? No one has told me of this thing until now!" "

"These are my personal sources of intelligence, Minister!" Lucius said with a wink and continued, "My sources are very reliable. I don't think it will take long before the Ministry reports details to you."

"This is not possible. All werewolves are under the control of the Werewolf Registry. They cannot be…"

Fudge stopped suddenly. Just an hour ago, under his nose, a werewolf attack had occurred.

When Evan and Hermione mentioned this matter, he thought that it was just the rambling of two children, and was instinctively unwilling to believe that this would ever happen.

But now that Lucius Malfoy had also reported this to him, what Evan and Hermione were talking about was no longer just a conspiracy, the attack actually happened!

And it wasn't just one or two isolated attacks, it was a full out riot!

Fudge wished that someone would pop up telling him that this is just April Fools. He looked back at Lucius just to make sure that he was not kidding, but that fantasy of him was instantly shattered.

Whether he wants to believe it or not! There has been a massive werewolf attack indeed!

The ward was quiet and the mood was terrible. No one spoke. They were shocked with terrible news brought by Lucius Malfoy.

Evan was lying in bed with thoughts running through his head.

He analyzed the whole situation with what information he had. Lucius Malfoy has summoned these werewolves to launch a large-scale attack on Muggles. How does this benefit him?

Obviously, Lucius' biggest goal is to drive Dumbledore away from Hogwarts. How would triggering a werewolf riot help him with that?

Hold on one second! Werewolves? Hogwarts? Professor Lupin is a werewolf!

He then thought that Lucius shouldn't know about Professor Lupin's secret.

However, Evan can never know that for sure. After all, there were many who knew that Professor Lupin was a werewolf. When employing him, Dumbledore told the other professors about the matter, and also told Cornelius Fudge, in order to get the consent of the Ministry of Magic.

Even if they did not trust Lupin, he did not take part in the attacks on Muggles.

In fact, he did not harm anyone. He was safe. This makes Lucius's action completely meaningless.

If he was to reveal the identity of Professor Lupin to the masses after such attacks, the most that he would be able to get with that was driving him away from the school. This wouldn't imply Dumbledore in anyway.

Unless! If he can find a way to prove that Professor Lupin also participated in this riot, he would…

Evan looked at Lucius. He had a smug smile on his face. Yet, Snape's face beside him was gloomy.

Just as Evan was about to say something, a large gray owl suddenly flew in through the window. It was a messenger of the Ministry of Magic. It went straight to Fudge.

He hurriedly took the letter out from the owl's mouth. He took the envelope apart and read it carefully. His face showed well just how bad it was.

"Dear Lucius, what you said has been verified. There really was a massive werewolf riot." Fudge's voice was not loud, but it rang through the quiet room. He turned and

looked at Dumbledore, saying in panic "I'm sorry, Albus! I must get back to the Ministry as soon as possible to deal with this unexpected incident. If you can, I hope you would…"

He hadn't finished his words when he was interrupted.

The ward's door was opened again. And this time, it was Percy who went through it. He hurried in looking scared.

"Professor! Professor!" Percy gasped and looked anxiously at Dumbledore. He was so agitated that his voice trembled. "You have to see this Professor! A Werewolf has appeared in the castle. It is attacking students!"

Hearing his words, everyone held their breath as they looked at Percy in astonishment. The mood in the ward went extremely heavy.

Evan noticed that Lucius's face had an expression of triumph just for a second.

Snape, who was standing aside, actually looked a little surprised. But then his face went back to its disturbing state again.

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One hour before these events, Harry was sitting alone in the Great Hall.

He didn't know where Ron went, and they hadn't seen each other in the afternoon. As for Evan and Hermione, he heard Fred and George say they went to Hogsmeade. He didn't know what went wrong to make them be so late.

Before that, Colin and Ginny came in to invite him to sit along with them, but he refused.

He just wanted to be alone, he was so confused. All he wanted to think about was what Professor Lupin told him in the morning about his parents. He couldn't even remember how he got from Lupin's office to the Gryffindor Common room, and how he then reached the Great Hall.

He only knew that he was out of tune with the cheerful atmosphere around him. Besides him, everyone around were happily discussing the arrangements for Christmas holidays.

Harry was indifferent to all of that. Even when the news reached him from Hufflepuff's table that Evan and Hermione were dating, it didn't faze him at all.

He stared blankly at the plate in front of him, and all he thought of was his parents and Sirius Black.

Chapter 123: Hard Time

For the first time, Harry knew that Black actually used to be his father's best friend back when he was alive.

Before now, Dumbledore, Hagrid, Mr. Weasley, Cornelius Fudge… none of them had ever mentioned the fact that Harry's parents had died because their best friend had betrayed them.

Harry felt most angry thinking that his parents probably did not believe until they died that it was actually their best friend who betrayed them.

He tried to imagine their feeling. If Evan, Ron or Hermione ever sold him out to Voldemort, that would be the saddest way to die.

He felt distressed and broken, and wondered if his father felt the same before he died.

He spent the rest of the afternoon in his empty bedroom. He found the photo album Hagrid had given him two years ago, which was full of wizard pictures of his mother and father. He sat down on his bed, drew the hangings around him, and started turning the pages, searching, until…

He stopped on a picture of his parents' wedding day. There was his father waving up at him, beaming, the untidy black hair Harry had inherited standing up in all directions. There was his mother, alight with happiness, arm in arm with his dad. And there… that must be him. Their best man… Harry had never given him a thought before.

If he hadn't known it was the same person, he would never have guessed it was Black in this old photograph. His face wasn't sunken and waxy, but handsome, full of laughter.

Harry couldn't help but wonder if he had been already working for Voldemort when this picture had been taken? Was he already planning the deaths of the two people next to him? Did he realize he was facing twelve years in Azkaban, twelve years that would make him unrecognizable?

But those Dementors didn't affect him. Harry tried to carve the handsome smile on the photo in his mind.

Immediately afterwards, he flipped the page. He saw a photo of his father's graduation. Four people appeared on it.

In addition to his father, a young Professor Lupin, and Black who still had that smile on his face, there was a small, fat, cowardly-looking boy hiding behind them. He looked a little like Neville Longbottom.

He should be Peter Pettigrew, the wizard who had been killed by Black.

Professor Lupin told him that after his father's death, only Peter Pettigrew went after Black everywhere. He wanted to avenge his parents, but he was no opponent of Sirius. He paid the price with his life. After killing Harry's parents, he followed by Killing peter.

"Filthy, stinkin' turncoat!" Harry clenched his fist.

A hatred such as he had never known before was coursing through Harry like poison. He could see Black laughing at him through the darkness, as though somebody had pasted the picture from the album over his eyes.

He watched, as though somebody was playing him a piece of film, Sirius Black blasting Peter Pettigrew into a thousand pieces. He could hear a low, excited mutter. "It has happened, My Lord… the Potters have made me their Secret-Keeper" and then came another voice, laughing shrilly!

It was when the Dementors drew near, when he first heard that voice, Voldemort's laughter!

Harry knew what he wanted to do. He wanted to find Sirius Black. He wanted to avenge Peter Pettigrew and his parents.

Although Professor Lupin repeatedly warned him not to look for Black, and he promised him not to; but when he thought of Black's impunity, the idea of sitting there doing nothing almost made him sick.

Harry secretly made his decision at that moment. But then, he suddenly heard a loud noise coming from outside the Great Hall.

In a few moments, people ran in pale.

They were all students who had just returned from Hogsmeade. They went in one by one, with their faces devoid of the usual Joy that accompanies returning from there. The expression on their faces made it clear that something terrible had happened.

Harry felt his heart in his throat. Could this be that Sirius Black had appeared in Hogsmeade?!

He saw Neville panting in front of him with a flustered face, a slanting big scarf around his neck, a few bags of Honeydukes' candies in his hand, and even his cloak which he had not found time to take off. Harry hurriedly held him by the shoulders.

"What happened?" Harry asked eagerly.

"It was a werewolf!" Neville gasped, trembling and saying, "There was a werewolf in Hogsmeade, and it attacked Evan and Hermione."

"What?!" Harry's heart sunk to his stomach. Evan and Hermione faced a werewolf? He could not imagine what happened next.

"How are they?" Harry looked into Neville's eyes. "Did anything happen to them?"

"I don't know, Harry!" Neville was almost out of breath. "I was in the hall just now and saw the professors running with both of them to the school hospital. Hermione kept crying, but she looked fine. But Evan was unconscious in Hagrid's arms. His robe was stained with blood."

Hearing Neville's words, Harry felt cold all over his body.

He didn't have time to think about Black anymore. He should go to the school's Hospital to check on Evan.

"Although Evan is very powerful, it is impossible for an underage wizard to defeat a werewolf. I hope his injuries aren't too bad."

As soon as Harry stood up, he saw Hagrid's huge figure bursting into the Great Hall.

Hagrid's face was full of tears. Ever since he received the letter from the Committee for the Disposal of Dangerous Creatures, telling him Buckbeak might be executed, Evan never saw Hagrid be so sad.

He shouted his name and tried to reach him to ask about Evan and Hermione. But in vain, the entire Hall was so messy. Everyone was talking loudly about the werewolf attack in Hogsmeade.

Hagrid stormed to the Professors table and talked to Dumbledore who quickly got up and walked down. Everyone looked at him and hoped that he would have a few words that explain the current situation.

But he didn't. Dumbledore just whispered a few words to Percy while he passed by his side. He then followed Hagrid and hurriedly left the Great Hall. It looked like he was heading towards the school's hospital.

"Silence!" When Dumbledore and Hagrid left, Percy shouted at once. "As Head Boy of the student body, I can assure everyone's safety. Please believe me; no monster can enter the castle."

No one listened to him, and the chaos continued.

Everyone suddenly noticed that there was not a teacher in the Great Hall tonight and the Headmaster had just followed Hagrid. Professor sprout went back home early to take care of some familial problems. Professors McGonagall, Flitwick, Snape and Lupin all weren't there. It was as if they had agreed on this in advance. They all disappeared.

Without teachers maintaining order, the noisy arguments in the Great Hall were louder than ever. Percy could do nothing to control the scene.

However, a few minutes after that, something happened. It immediately calmed them down, and everyone was silent.

Chapter 124: Anomalous Slytherin

It was the owls that calmed down the young wizards. In the blink of an eye, over a hundred owls streamed into the Great Hall, and circled over it hooting.

It was just like the daily morning owl shower, but even more spectacular.

In fact, it was dinner time. How could there be so many people writing at such a time? Furthermore, the day after was the first day of the Christmas Holiday. Almost all the young wizards were going back to their homes. No matter how they looked at it, there were no letters or parcels to be sent to them at this time.

This was really abnormal. Harry looked at the owls distracted.

The werewolf attack on Evan and Hermione, the professors' disappearance, and the sudden emergence of over a hundred owls, it all made him get an ominous feeling, as if something bad was about to go down.

Harry wanted to know what news these owls had brought, but there was no letter for him.

Fred and George stood on the table, waving their wands. They tried to catch an owl, but Percy hurried to stop them.

The owls huddled together, all flying towards Slytherin's long table. They all had envelopes in their mouths, and they raced to be the first to deliver their letters.

The other three Houses quietly looked at them. All of them extended their necks hoping to get some clues from the expressions on the Slytherins' faces.

Harry saw that Malfoy received his envelope as if he got a great honor.

He smirked at the envelope in his hand and sarcastically scorned his face. Harry clenched his fist as he saw Malfoy reading the letter in his hand. At first, he looked terrified. But then, a malicious smile appeared on his pale face.

Harry didn't just focus on Malfoy; he also looked around him to see the other Slytherin students' reactions.

Several of the senior students nodded and they were all children of some of the most powerful pureblood families. Among them was Marcus flint, the captain of the Slytherin Quidditch team, and its class leader.

He stood up from his seat, and that gave the signal to all Slytherin students to do the same.

None of them spoke; all of them kept quiet and looked fearful.

Under the horrified eyes of the other three Houses' students, they started walking out in an organized manner. Everyone's demeanor was both intense and exciting.

Everyone wanted to ask them about what exactly happened, but no one actually dared to do so.

Percy looked pale as if he wanted to stop the Slytherin students. He moved forward slightly but eventually didn't take any action.

It all looked really abnormal. Seeing how the Slytherin students started leaving one after another, the Great Hall burst with the buzzing of the murmuring students. The mood was becoming more tense, and everyone had that kind of feeling which one has before a storm.

By now, even the dumbest of students could feel that something bad was about to happen.

"Malfoy, what are you trying to do? What kind of plot are you making this time?" Harry stood up and shouted at Malfoy, who was about to leave the Great Hall.

He couldn't tell why, but he was extremely angry.

The truth about his parents' death, the fact that they were betrayed by their best friend, the fear for Evan and Hermione who were attacked by the werewolf, and the repression and discomfort brought by the Slytherins' abnormal behavior were all converged to make him furious.

He looked at Malfoy angrily and wanted to pounce on him.

The Slytherin students who were on the move stopped when they heard Harry's voice. All of them held their breaths and looked back and forth between Harry and Malfoy.

"Don't you know, Potter?!" Malfoy said quietly, and his mouth laughed maliciously. "That's pitiful. It seems that you are not qualified to know this news."

"Keep talking, Malfoy, and I'll give you a real news!" Harry growled loudly and pulled out his wand against Malfoy.

Gryffindor and Slytherin students all pulled their wands out. Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff students who were familiar with the scene leaned back to give them more space.

"Stop, that is enough!" Percy walked to the center of the Great Hall. The badge of the Head Boy on his chest glowed under the candlelight. He said to the Slytherin students, "Quickly, get your wands down or I'll start taking points away!"

"Say that to someone who cares, Weasley!" Malfoy looked sarcastically at Percy who was standing in the middle of the crowd.

"Five points from Slytherin. I don't like your attitude Malfoy. You need to show the Head Boy of the student body more respect!" Percy looked extremely indignant. His ears were red. "Now, hurry back to your table before I deduct another 5 points!"

"We've all finished eating, and you still want us to stay here, Head Boy?!" Malfoy sneered. He looked past Percy at Potter and said provocatively. "Want to know what we're about to do Potter? Come along then. But you ought to be mentally prepared, or you won't be able to stand it!"

As he finished his words, he followed the rest of the Slytherin students out of the Great Hall.

Harry hurriedly went through the crowd to catch up with Malfoy. The other students all looked at each other and then followed them out of the Great Hall.

Everyone was curious: What do the Slytherins really want to do?

They walked out of the Great Hall, passed through the empty Entrance Hall lit with torches. They then climbed the stairs, reaching a long dark corridor where no sound was heard except for that of their footsteps that fell on the floor simultaneously by the hundreds.

Slytherin students took everyone to the third floor and Harry did not understand why they were there.

He glanced at the girl's bathroom at the end of the corridor, which was the entrance to the Chamber of Secrets.

Do they know the secret? Even if they did, it would be completely irrelevant. He had already killed the Basilisk himself during the last semester. Even though it was a weapon left by Salazar Slytherin himself to his heir, Harry knew that there was no use for a dead Basilisk.

But what shocked him was that he saw that they weren't heading there. Instead, they all walked straight to the door of Professor Lupin's office and stopped. Their faces all looked focus and tense.

They pulled out their wands again and carefully faced the door as if there were monsters inside.

Seeing what they were doing, Harry was even more confused.

What kind of game are the hateful Slytherins playing? Does professor Lupin have a Troll or something like that in his office?

He still remembered that the Professor told him in the morning that he had something to do and that he had to leave Hogwarts. He shouldn't be there at all! All the students were just staring at an empty room!

Chapter 125: Tears of the Werewolf

Harry had enough; he didn't want to play with Malfoy anymore.

He was ready to go to the school Hospital to look for Evan and Hermione to check out on their injuries.

"By the way, I have to find Ron; I haven't seen him since we split up in the morning."

Ron certainly doesn't know that Evan and Hermione were attacked by a werewolf. Harry thought he should deliver the news to him, and they could all discuss the matter of Sirius Black together.

Yet, he stopped in his tracks when he heard a miserable hoarse cry for help coming out of Professor Lupin's office.

It really sounded like Ron's voice!

Why would Ron be in Professor Lupin's Office? And why would he ask for help?

Harry had no time to think about such things, and he rushed over to the door.

But Malfoy was faster than him. He was already standing in front of the door. He gently waved his wand and it opened.

Almost instantaneously, crowds rushed into the office. The decoration inside was very plain and shabby; with few ornaments. The most eye-catching thing was a very large tank of water that stood in the corner. A sickly green creature with sharp little horns had its face pressed against the glass.

It was a Grindylow, pulling faces and flexing its long, spindly fingers.

In front of the tank, Ron stood pale, his hands clenching his wand in front of him, his body trembling and his face filled with horror and anxiety.

He looked back and saw Harry rushing in and he immediately collapsed to the ground.

Harry saw Ron's mouth wide open, as if he was making a silent cry. His eyes were popping out. He seemed to be calling his name.

"What happened, Ron?!" Harry rushed forward, anxiously asking, "What are doing you here?!"

Harry stopped talking, and turned to where Ron was looking, where he saw a suffocating creature shrunk under Professor Lupin's desk staring back at him with its yellow eyes.

The creature had its hands over its head, and it curled up under the table. Its body similar to that of a normal human, but it was covered in long dark grey hair. It was his head that was horrible. It was a wolf's head.

It was a werewolf. Harry hurriedly pulled out his wand as fear rushed through his heart.

Evan and Hermione had just been attacked by a werewolf in Hogsmeade; and now there is a werewolf breaking into Hogwarts Castle. Is it also here to attack the young wizards?

But underneath the table, that creature wasn't going for any drastic actions, nor was he attempting to use his sharp fangs and claws to carve the young bodies of the students. He just curled up looking at Harry incapable, with pain all over his face.

Harry was surprised to see the tears flowing out of the werewolf's eyes. As he looked at them, he suddenly felt that his gaze was really familiar.

Harry felt that those eyes weren't fitting of such a creature. He had a feeling the werewolf who was in tears in front of him was none other than Professor Lupin.

How could this be possible? How in the world could Professor Lupin be a werewolf?

Something must have gone wrong. Perhaps it was a failed experiment; perhaps it was a spell that backfired turning him into this.

Otherwise, how could he explain that the beast in front of him has not rushed to shred him to pieces just yet?

Harry felt it necessary to communicate with him. At the very least, from what it looks like here, this werewolf is completely different from the legend. It didn't seem to be dangerous at all.

"Professor Lupin?" Said harry softly. He said it so quietly the even he couldn't hear himself, as if only his lips were moving.

The werewolf further curled underneath his desk and nodded. His tearful eyes were full of pain.

"Good god!" Harry's eyes went wide open. His guess was correct, the werewolf was Lupin indeed.

But now, he was no longer afraid, and warmth got back to his body. He put his wand down and approached him. He must help him.

But before he reached him, he heard Malfoy yelling behind him. "Look at what we found, a werewolf that broke into the castle!"

Malfoy closed in and looked at Professor Lupin curling up under his desk, and then immediately ran back to his fellow Slytherins. It seemed like not a drop of blood was running through his pale face. However, his mouth was showing an unprecedented malicious smile.

Harry looked furiously at Malfoy who was pretending to be surprised.

He and the other Slytherin students must have known all about this in advance; otherwise, they wouldn't have taken everyone straight to Professor Lupin's office.

It was an obvious conspiracy. Perhaps, it was them who made him into this.

Harry wanted to explain to everyone that the werewolf in front of them was Professor Lupin, and that he wasn't dangerous.

But it was of no use. Hearing Malfoy's cry everyone gasped as they took a step back.

The mood was dreadful and everyone thought of the attack that just occurred in Hogsmeade. There are too victims lying already in the school's hospital, and rumor has it that the 2nd grader named Evan Mason was Killed by the werewolf.

Now, a werewolf actually got into the castle and was right in front of them.

Is he here to attack them? That's just too horrible. Panic spread amongst them gradually. After all, werewolves used to be more like mythical creatures. But now, they have been appearing one after another. And furthermore, whoever is bitten by one of them will become a werewolf himself.

No one dared to approach the table. Only Harry and Ron were still there.

Harry turned and saw Percy running out of the crowd. So he wanted to ask him to keep any more people from seeing Professor Lupin's current appearance.

He could tell from the Professor's eyes that it hurt him.

Harry thought about persuading everyone to understand that there wasn't a werewolf under there, and that it was just professor Lupin. But there was no time for him to do that; Ron, who was besides him, suddenly whispered: "Diffindo!"

At once, his wand emitted a dazzling red light!

"No, Ron!" Harry shouted loudly. But Ron's curse went over him to hit the poor Lupin was curled up underneath the table.

No, it actually missed him!

The red light did not hit Professor Lupin; it actually hit his table instead!

Bang! It flew backwards, and Professor Lupin who had been hiding underneath it appeared as a werewolf to everyone.

"Look!" Seeing Professor Lupin's appearance, all the young wizards held their breaths as they took one more step back.

Chapter 126: Covered Conspiracy

Professor Lupin, who had been holding his head huddled, arose painfully and stood there alone and miserable.

His eyes wandered between all of them, to finally land on Harry again.

He seemed to be looking for a place to hide, but Ron took the opportunity to cast another spell. Professor Lupin howled measurably and avoided his attack.

"What the hell are you doing, Ron?!" Harry shouted angrily. "Stop attacking. He is Professor Lupin. He is not dangerous!"

"Get away from this monster, Harry!" Ron said, coldly. "He's a werewolf. He'll hurt everyone. I'm saving you!"

"No, he won't. He is Professor Lupin. He is safe. Hurry..."

Harry wanted to stop him, but Ron didn't seem to be listening to him.

The light on his wand's tip grew stronger and stronger, and without any sign of hesitation, he cast another spell.

Never had never seen Ron's spells be so strong.

Is that really Ron? Everything is really abnormal today!

If Slytherin students were given an early warning and knew that Professor Lupin was a werewolf, why would Ron also appear here?!

This all looks just like a well scripted play that had been prepared well in advance; and all it needed was the audience's presence to give the show its cue.

Harry couldn't figure out what was going on, from Evan and Hermione being attacked by a werewolf in Hogsmeade, then Dumbledore's departure, the owl rain in the Great Hall, and now Professor Lupin transforming to a werewolf, and Ron appearing in his office. All this was just too abnormal.

It was as if an invisible net was constructed by itself, which overwhelmed Harry. He could sniff the existence of a strong conspiracy.

He shook his head and tried to sober himself up. Regardless of what was hidden behind the scenes, he must first stop what was happening in front of him.

However, the scene gradually began to get out of control. Under Ron's leadership, all Slytherin students began to cast spells on Professor Lupin.

Dozens of lights went his way at the same time. He was hit and flew away.

He crashed into the back wall and landed heavily on the ground, covered in blood. He shook his head and stood up again. The wounds recovered in the blink of an eye. Prof. Lupin raised his neck with a miserable, horrifying roar.

The whole office was a mess, and there were incantations, shouts, screams, cries in every direction.

Some were retreating, and others were moving forwards. More and more students were pulling out their wands to attack the werewolf.

"Don't!" Harry shouted, trying to stop them, but the scene was too chaotic.

He saw Ron attacking Professor Lupin again. He hurriedly waved his wand and shouted, "Protego!"

Harry stopped Ron's spell and he wanted to protect Professor Lupin. But there were too many spells going Remus's way. His shield couldn't absorb them all. Not to mention the magic level of many senior students was much stronger than his, so the shield broke instantly.

Prof. Lupin moaned, waving his claws with anger and sending a terrible growl to the young wizards.

"Stop the attack. Stop it. He's not a werewolf. He's Professor Lupin!" Harry was powerlessly shouting.

As soon as stopped yelling, he saw a curse coming his way!

It was Malfoy's. He was looking at him maliciously. He took this opportunity to attack him.

Just as the curse was about to hit Harry, the horrifying werewolf behind him jumped up and blocked the spell for him.

Harry knew that Professor Lupin was saving him, but in the others' eyes, this picture looked more like that of a murderous werewolf rushing over to Harry.

"You monster, get away from Harry!"

Harry heard Ginny's cry, and he looked over Professor Lupin's shoulders and saw Ginny shouting at him and Ron, her eyes reddened with tears.

At the sound of Ginny's voice, Prof. Lupin clearly shivered.

But when he saw the curse that was getting closer and closer to Harry, he resolutely rushed over and he wanted to protect him from being hurt.

Lupin covered Harry with his body. Because of the terrible appearance of the werewolf, that was misunderstood by everyone.

Previously hesitant, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff students who did not take action initially pulled out their wands and joined the battle.

"Don't, I'm okay. He is protecting me…" Harry shouted miserably.

Next to Lupin and Harry, Ron's spell attacked once again, disregarding the fact that Harry was in Professor Lupin's arms.

Or maybe, like Malfoy, he was targeting Harry.

Seeing the red light coming, Lupin hurriedly protected his students!

Ron's spell flew past his friend's cheeks, hitting Professor Lupin right in the head.

Lupin growled, his voice filled with pain, and blood ran down his forehead.

Although he turned into a werewolf, due to the Wolfsbane Potion, Lupin also kept his human mind. With the strength brought to him by his transformation, it was easy for him to counterattack.

But he can't do this; these children in front of him are his students.

Lupin did not know how the boy named Ron Weasley knew his identity as a werewolf. Ten minutes earlier, he suddenly rushed into his office and held his wand at him. He didn't say anything, just stood there and seemed to be scared.

Just as Lupin was ready to take action, footsteps came from outside the door. Ron, who had not acted, suddenly shouted for help, obviously he had done nothing.

More and more students came in and he hurried to hide under the table.

But this was useless. Lupin did not understand what was going on. Maybe he should leave the place first. He must have frightened this group of children.

Just as Lupin hesitated, another round of spells flew over.

As the students of Gryffindor, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff also joined in the attack, this wave that over hundreds of curses.

Even with the mighty vitality and physique of the werewolf, he should not be able resist so many attacks. If hit by these spells, Lupin would die.

Looking at the approaching spells, Lupin wanted to hide. But he immediately gave up on that idea. If he turns away now, Harry who was in his arms would be hit by these spells. It was almost impossible to escape.

"Maybe I'm going to die here. My only regret is that I could personally catch Sirius Black for James, Lily, and Peter Pettigrew. Fortunately, I told Harry the truth this morning. This child is similar to his father, James. He will seize Black on my behalf."

Chapter 127: I Believe in Him

Harry's eyes looked over Professor Lupin's shoulders. He saw hundreds of spells flying at the same time toward him. It looked spectacular.

As the spells drew closer, Harry stared in horror and looked pale.

Before this, he had never faced so many curses.

He was very scared, but as he saw Professor Lupin standing in front of him gazing at him gently and calmly, courage suddenly rose from within his heart. The oppressive feeling of fear brought by the hundreds of spells faded. Harry suddenly realized that he had to remind Professor Lupin to dodge.

"Get out of the way, Professor, hurry up!" Harry screamed miserably and his tears flowed uncontrollably.

When he heard Harry's cries, Lupin remained stationary. He turned his head back to see the curses that were getting closer.

His body trembled slightly, and he opened his mouth as if to say something to Harry.

But being transformed into a werewolf, Lupin lost his ability to speak. At this time, he could only made a strange voice.

Lupin took a final look at Harry, and closed his eyes accepting his fate. The face was full of pain.

The hundreds of spells were getting closer, the intense light was becoming more and more dazzling, almost blinding Harry.

Just when he felt desperate, a large dark blue shield appeared before them to stop the spells from hitting them.

All the spells were instantly blocked and bursts of disturbances appeared on the shield.

It was Dumbledore's magic. Lupin and Harry hurriedly opened their eyes. They saw Dumbledore coming in through the crowd. Behind him were the Minister of Magic Cornelius Fudge, Professor McGonagall, Professor Flitwick, Snape, Lucius Malfoy, Hagrid, Evan and Hermione.

All the young wizards stopped their attacks and they crowded together to let Dumbledore pass.

Evan stood in the middle of the crowd and looked at the poor Professor Lupin, and at Harry who was pale under him, and Ron who was sitting in the corner.

"God!" Professor McGonagall covered her mouth with her hand and could not believe what she was looking at.

Professor Fudge and Professor Flitwick could not help but shout. It looked as if they could faint at any moment.

Hagrid looked at Harry and Ron with concern to see if they were injured.

Only Dumbledore, Snape, and Lucius were still calm. Dumbledore's face didn't show a slight ripple, and nobody could guess what he was thinking.

Snape's face was cold with a grin and he looked at the werewolf form of Lupin. Lucius had a cold, satisfied smirk. He looked back and forth between Dumbledore and Lupin and it really looked like he has planned for all of this to happen.

Evan felt Hermione's cold hand gripping his arm and her body trembling slightly. He turned his head to give her a reassuring look.

But Hermione still looked worried. She had just experienced Greyback's attack at Hogsmeade and the terror that the werewolf brought was still fresh in her memory.

Although she had long known that Professor Lupin was a werewolf, she had never thought that she would see him in his beast form.

And there were Harry and Ron, who were pale next to him. They all had wands in their hands. Was it that Professor Lupin was attacking them? Have they been harmed?!

Immediately afterwards, Hermione noticed Ginny crying in the crowd.

She hurriedly let go of Evan's arm and went over to comfort her quietly.

"A werewolf's attack inside castle is not surprising at all. I knew from the first day of the semester that this kind of thing would happen." Snape said softly, with a sarcastic sneer on his face. "I remember that I specially warned you about this matter. Do you still remember Headmaster?"

That was Halloween's eve, Snape did said that to Dumbledore, and Evan still remembers Dumbledore's answer.

"Of course, Severus!" said Dumbledore calmly. "If you live to my age, you will know that anything in this world may happen. But with this kind of incident, I'm confident in your potion's efficiency. And Remus is taking the Wolfsbane potion that you've prepared on time."

"Of course, of course, he is now completely harmless, a tame werewolf." Judging from Snape's expression, he didn't really want to say that.

"Good!" Dumbledore nodded quickly and turned to Harry and Ron in the middle of the crowd. "Mr. Potter, Mr. Weasley, I hope you kids can explain it to me. What's going on??"

"Professor, we…" said Harry eagerly.

Before he finished his words, he heard Ron pointing to Professor Lupin and saying in a dull, monotonous voice. "This monster was attacking us. He wanted to bite me and Harry."

"You're talking nonsense, he didn't do it. He's…" Harry looked at Ron indignantly. He didn't understand why he said so.

But his voice was once again interrupted, and this time it was Lucius Malfoy.

"A shocking allegation, I never thought before that a Hogwarts professor would actually be a werewolf!" Lucius said in an arrogant voice. "Also attacking his own students in a full moon night?! I am worried about the safety of this school. We must act immediately, Minister!!"

"What did you say?!" Fudge moaned. His finally stopped staring in shock at Lupin's werewolf form, as if he was just awakened. He said worriedly, "You're right, Lucius, I can't I believe this. The Ministry of Magic must…"

"Cornelius, we must be careful before we make a decision. There must be a misunderstanding about this this evening." Dumbledore looked calmly at Fudge. "I hired Remus to teach the Defence Against the Dark Arts class. I specifically talked to you about this before the semester began."

"Yeah, yeah, you did talk to me, Albus!" Fudge wriggled nervously. He took a handkerchief and wiped the sweat on his forehead. "But no one thought that a werewolf riot would happen. Isn't it? Not that I don't believe you, but in the current situation, I think it's best for security reasons before we can clearly prove that Lupin is absolutely safe…"

"I can prove it!" Harry shouted, "I can prove he is safe."

"Shut up, Potter, you don't even know what you're talking about," Snape said disgustedly.

"Wait a minute, Professor!" Evan hurried out, "I think Harry is right. I also believe that this werewolf is safe. He is completely different from the werewolf we met at Hogsmeade. I believe in him!"

Chapter 128: Warmth of Trust

"I believe he is safe. He could not attack anyone!"

Evan's voice was not loud, but it was heard clearly by everyone in the silent office.

Everyone turned their heads and looked at Evan in surprise. He instantly became the focus of all the students and Professors in the school. Under everyone's gaze, Evan walked through the crowd, and all the young wizards opened the way for him.

"Evan!" Harry shouted in surprise.

Evan nodded and went to stand beside him. His eyes looked across the faces of the crowd, and all their expressions were different.

Hearing what he said just now, most of the young wizards were both amazed and puzzled. They did not know why Evan would say so; and Snape, Lucius, and the Slytherin students were gloomy, and their faces were full of malice and disgust.

"I'm sure that everyone already knows…" Evan took a deep breath and said slowly. "This werewolf in front of you is Professor Lupin!"

His words came like a huge stone thrown into a calm lake, splashing a lot of water. There was a huge commotion in the crowd.

Since they've entered this office, everyone had an ominous hunch about this. And then when they heard the confusing discussion between Dumbledore, Fudge, Snape and Lucius, they all became almost sure of it. But it was one thing to guess, and a whole other thing to hear it clearly being confirmed by Evan.

Deep down in their young hearts, they just could not believe, nor would they believe, that the kind and friendly Professor Lupin could actually be an evil and cruel werewolf.

It took a moment until they gradually all went quiet.

Almost everyone held their breath and looked at Evan, waiting for him to carry on.

"And also, I'm sure that everyone knows that Hermione and I had just faced a werewolf in Hogsmeade that had attacked us." Evan's voice was steady, and he raised it gradually, "Perhaps now you think that Professor Lupin was going to attack everyone, but let me tell that Prof. Lupin is nothing like the werewolf that we've met. He's not dangerous, and he wasn't going to attack anyone this evening. He has been taking the Wolfsbane Potion a week ago, and that helps him keep enough soberness and reason when becoming a werewolf."

The young Wizards had just heard Dumbledore's dialogue with Snape and knew that Professor Lupin had taken the Wolfsbane potion. The vast majority of them didn't know about the effect of such a medicine, and they understood it well when hearing Evan's explanation.

"The Wolfsbane potion can guarantee his safety. Although he is a horrifying werewolf now, his heart is indeed that of Professor Lupin whom we are familiar with. He cannot…"

"Wait a minute, Mr. Mason! As a Potioneer, I have a few words to say." Snape squinted at Evan with a sneer at the corner of his mouth, and said, "I have to remind you that the Wolfsbane potion only allows the werewolves to be sensible, but it doesn't guarantee that they will not bite people! In fact, after taking the potion, a werewolf like the one before you may become more dangerous. Because he gets to keep his mind, he becomes more cunning and difficult to deal with than an average werewolf."

"Thank you for the reminder, Professor Snape!" Evan turned and continued, "What you've said is absolutely correct, and there may be many people who, just like you, would think that Prof. Lupin is not trust worthy just because he's a werewolf! Yes, he is one indeed, but that is no reason to fear him and discriminate against him! Let's just think about it! Think about his usual behavior, and the way he treats everyone. Do you still think that he would hurt others??!"

Hearing Evan's words, many of the young wizards bowed their heads and pondered.

They remembered how professor Lupin treated them. He was the best one that they've ever seen at the position of the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. His class has always been interesting. He patiently responded to all questions, and did his best to teach them how to face dark creatures, even with doctrines that are not found in common textbooks.

Remembering such a professor, almost everyone stopped believing that he might hurt them.

However, the buzzing of controversy continued. After all, although they've all remembered Professor Lupin's behavior, many of them were repulsed as they saw his horrifying werewolf form.

Evan understood what Lucius was going for, so he knew that he had to strike while the iron was hot and take immediate actions to prove that Professor Lupin is nothing like Greyback.

He wasn't dangerous, and he wasn't about to attack anyone.

So under everybody's eyes, he went on and reached out to touch professor Lupin.

He extended his right hand to him, and several girls screamed in the crowd.

All the young wizards looked at him nervously and held their breath as if he was to be killed by the horrible werewolf at any moment.

Lupin trembled softly and let Evan touch him.

Completely different from normal people's soft skin, a werewolf's skin is unusually hard, and the long hair on it pricks the hand and is a bit difficult to grip, which makes people feel uncomfortable.

The strange feel at his fingertips and the terrifying wolf head in proximity of him made Evan feel a bit nervous. He felt the hot breath of the beast on his face. But his right hand was able to go beyond the horrifying looks of the werewolf to touch the heart of the man inside.

He could feel that Remus was even more nervous than him.

Then, without thinking about it, Evan opened his arms and tightly embraced Professor Lupin.

Hugged by Evan, Lupin's body jerked.

Tears flowed out of his eyes. He never expected that Evan would do such a thing. For the 1st time in over 12 years, he felt this level of trust once again.

For a werewolf loitering on the edge of society, trust is probably the most precious thing in the world.

Suddenly he saw Sirius Black in Evan. At that time when his true identity was discovered by his friends for the first time at Hogwarts, he was equally nervous and terrified. He feared that the three of them would tell others, and he was afraid of being driven out of school.

Like Evan, Sirius Black hugged him at the time.

Faced by Evan's hug, Lupin did not know what to do. He was like a child. He saw Dumbledore, who stood not far away nodding smilingly at him, just as he did at that time, when he insisted on accepting him in the school.

Tears flowed down Lupin's cheeks. He hesitated for a moment and tried to stretch his arms and embrace the thin boy in front of him. Twelve years after James and Peter Pettigrew died and Sirius Black was caught in Azkaban, he felt such warmth again.

Lupin knew that this was the warmth of trust.

Chapter 129: Bravery

All the young wizards held their breath, and their eyes focused on Evan who was being hugged tightly by the werewolf.

It appeared on their faces that they suspected that this thin boy might be bitten at any time by the ferocious werewolf.

But that did not happen, and Evan was calm as if there was nothing to be afraid of.

On the flipside, the werewolf who was clinging to him wept as in whisper. Everyone saw the horrifying wolf's face soaked in tears.

After Evan, Harry also stepped forward and embraced Professor Lupin.

He was a little bit clumsy in his movements, but he hugged him much longer than Evan.

"Professor, whether you are a werewolf or not, I trust you." Harry wiped off his own tears and choked. "You are my father's friend and you're the best Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher I've ever seen!"

Professor Lupin shuddered when he heard Harry's words.

If Evan reminded him of Sirius Black, Harry was on the other hand exactly like his father, James.

Looking at Harry's face, Lupin went back in time remembering his feelings in his schooldays.

The office was silent and nobody spoke.

What Evan and harry provided them with was a concrete demonstration. The young wizards were considering the possibility that Lupin was safe.

Everyone was familiar with Harry and Evan.

At Hogwarts, the two kids were almost equally famous.

In fact, compared to the savior Harry, many young wizards had a better impression of Evan and it seemed like it was so natural for them to trust him.

Despite the fact that Harry had a better reputation, because they thought he had defeated Voldemort, many young wizards inexplicably thought of Dark wizards whenever they saw Harry. Because of his character and his ability to speak parceltongue, there were still rumors floating around that he was to end up as the third generation of Dark Lords.

As for Evan, although his parents were both ordinary Muggles, since enrolling in the school, the boy has revealed to everyone his own noble self-confidence, excellent learning ability, easy-to-reach character, unparalleled courage and innate kingship and leadership qualities.

Although such things might sound empty, there was a reason why everyone believed in Evan. With his unprecedented magic newspaper, handsome appearance, and strong magical power, Evan left a deep impression on all students, especially girls.

Last semester he went deep into the Chamber of Secrets to hunt down the Basilisk. Then he drove the Dementors away at the Quidditch pitch a few months ago. And just today, he faced and survived a werewolf attack. Evan was becoming very popular; and the center of attention of all school students.

Although no one talked about the matter, many young wizards and even senior students were secretly admiring him.

If Harry alone trusted Professor Lupin, many people would still doubt it.

But even Evan said that this horrifying werewolf was safe, he told everyone that Lupin had taken the Wolfsbane potion. He also proved that by embracing Remus. Almost all the young wizards began to think about whether they should trust Lupin or not.

The discussion started to heat up gradually, but it suddenly stopped.

Everyone was surprised to see Hermione stepping out of the crowd. Her tearful eyes were glowing as she looked at the three, Evan, Harry, and Lupin. She seemed to be touched by the scene.

Step by step, she went to Professor Lupin in his werewolf's form. The latter could see that the young girl still had some fears in her heart, but her eyes were very firm.

She stepped forward and hugged Professor Lupin.

"We all trust you, Professor!" Hermione whispered.

Hearing Hermione's words, Lupin plunged into uncontrollable trembling.

Hermione's actions were even more moving than those of Evan and Harry.

After all, he didn't have much contact with Hermione before now. Lupin never expected that she would do so.

"You're right, Hermione!" Evan looked at the other young wizards and asked gently, "Who else trusts the werewolf, and who wants to come and hug him?"

No one did speak, nor did anyone move.

Under Evan's burning gaze, everyone lowered their heads.

Many thought that they would easily hug Lupin in the past. But with his current horrific appearance, they became hesitant.

Knowledge wasn't enough to make them move. Not everyone had such courage.

After a short while of silence, someone unexpected stood out from the crowd.

It was Neville. He trembled as he was walking out, and his face was red. And he flinched as he got close to Professor Lupin.

As he passed by Snape, the latter gave him a sly glance. It scared him so much that he almost fell down.

However, he was able to remain standing. He still remembered that in class, when facing the Boggart, it was professor Lupin that gave him courage to face his deepest fears.

Although he usually lacked such courage, he remembered the feeling from that day.

It was bravery!! !

Neville slowly walked to Professor Lupin and silently embraced him.

He didn't say anything. His blushing round face was full of pride. Hugging was just a simple gesture. But here, the one to hug was a werewolf. To do it in front of the whole school, it required great bravery. Not anyone could do such a thing.

Evan knew right there and then that Neville just overcame many difficulties in his heart.

Compared to himself, Harry and Hermione, this simple hug was especially meaningful for both Neville and Professor Lupin.

Seeing Neville's actions, the young wizards were in turmoil again.

Unlike the three who were ahead of everyone, Evan, Harry and Hermione, Neville was just an ordinary, unremarkable student in the eyes of everyone. He usually had nothing to do with the limelight, and his name amongst those who knew him was synonym with forgetfulness and cowardice.

No one ever thought that he would have the courage to do such a thing.

Neville was gasping for breath. In the eyes of others, he just briefly embraced Professor Lupin, but to him, it was a challenge of a caliber that he had never faced before.

Evan hurried to walk over and brought Neville up. He looked a bit weak on his legs.

"I did it, Evan!" Neville said with a trembling voice. "I'm not afraid. I embraced Professor Lupin. I believe he will not hurt everyone."

It all was like a dream. Even Neville himself could not believe that he just embraced a werewolf.

"Yes, you're the best Neville!" Evan took Neville to a chair next to him.

In all honesty, Evan did not expect that after he had finished his words, Neville would be the first to step up.

He had to admit that this forgetful, ordinary boy beside him did have courage that no one else could match.

Unlike Harry, Neville's character is introverted and delicate. The courage within his heart was usually well hidden. But as a true Gryffindor, Neville was definitely the most trustworthy companion at critical moments.

Chapter 130: Not the Usual Ron

In the crowd, Fred and George looked at each other, and a smile appeared at the corner of their mouths.

Next thing you know, the two went straight to Professor Lupin relaxed.

"You look so handsome, Professor!" Fred walked over and embraced him.

"Yes, this is the best disguise I've ever seen on you!" George also followed and hugged Lupin.

Fred and George laughed as if they were attending a masquerade party. The two people had a few good jokes with Lupin and the mood gradually lightened up.

Behind them, other Gryffindor students were also coming to embrace Lupin.

Right before the hug, their professor's horrifying looks made them nervous as if driven to death. But after it, every one of them showed a sense of honor and pride like never before. Their fear of the werewolf was fading out, and Colin even took a picture of professor Lupin.

Dumbledore, Fudge and the professors did not speak. They quietly watched Gryffindor students stepping up to hug Lupin in his werewolf form.

With the exception of Dumbledore with the faint smile on his face, all the other were surprised to assist such a scene that they had never seen in their lifetime: a terrifying werewolf standing there silently all in tears and before him, young wizards lining up to hug him. Everyone whispered a few encouraging words to Prof. Lupin.

It was absolutely overwhelming to watch such an "Arabian Nights" kind of event happening in real life.

They were letting go of discrimination and prejudice, and believing and embracing the werewolf with absolute trust.

Such a thing can only be done by young wizards, and perhaps it can only be done at Hogwarts.

Everybody came forward one after another. The last was Ginny, whose tearful eyes were all red.

Needless to say, she had cried the most among those who were scared.

After hearing that Evan and Hermione were attacked by a werewolf, she was so afraid that Lupin was losing his senses and attacking Ron and Harry.

Now that she found out that it was all a misunderstanding, she really felt embarrassed.

"I'm sorry, Professor!" Ginny said as she approached to hug Lupin, with her face all blushed, "I just shouldn't have yelled at you. I shouldn't have said that you are a monster. I hope that you can forgive me!"

Ginny finished her words and tightly embraced Professor Lupin.

Then she walked to Hermione. Now, with the exception of Ron, all Gryffindor students stood behind Professor Lupin and they all chose to trust him.

Expectantly, everyone looked at Ron who was standing in the corner, waiting for him to come over with them.

As time passed, the anticipation on their faced gradually faded. All the Gryffindor students were actually surprised that he did not come. He actually did not move at all. He stood alone in the corner with his head down and they didn't know what was going through his mind.

Besides Ron, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Slytherin students were all in their places. None of them stepped up to embrace professor Lupin.

"Ron, what are you waiting for? Come on!" Said Harry anxiously. This night, he had felt that Ron was acting stranger than ever.

"I can't! It's not safe!" Ron raised his head sharply and replied bluntly. "He'll bite us. He's a werewolf!"

"Professor Lupin is safe!" Harry shouted angrily. "Didn't you hear what Evan just said? The Wolfsbane potion helps him keep his mind!"

"No, he just attacked me…"

"Please, Ron!" Hermione also looked at Ron, her eyes shining with crystal tears. "Please wake up! There must be a misunderstanding here!"

"I don't see any misunderstanding!" Malfoy said suddenly, with a malicious smile on his lips.

"Only idiots would believe in a werewolf, even if he was taking some kind of ridiculous potion!"

"Shut up, Malfoy!" said Harry fiercely. "Ron, what the hell are you doing? Are you just going to fall to Malfoy's lies?!"

"I only believe in my own eyes, Harry!" Ron said in a monotonous voice. "I won't pass. It's not safe. Before you came in, the werewolf was ready to attack me. We should have him locked up in Azkaban."

Evan looked at Ron in surprise and he felt that there was something really strange.

Ron's behavior this night has been just too unusual. And he was the first to arrive on the scene, so his testimony was very important.

Evan had clearly said enough to prove that professor Lupin was safe. He told everyone that he was taking the Wolfsbane potion. All Gryffindor students stepped up to side with the professor. They are Ron's family and best friends. But still, Ron insisted on accusing Lupin. This was not the Ron that Evan knew.

And then, there was Lucius Malfoy who had been standing by sneering, with his plot to drive Dumbledore out of school.

That used to be impossible to achieve on any given day. But it has become unusually easy tonight. As long as it can be proved that Lupin was attacking students, Dumbledore will have to bear the responsibility for that. He would have to resign from his position under pressure of the worried parents in shadow of the coinciding werewolf riot.

After all, he was the one who hired Professor Lupin as a teacher for the Defence Against the Dark Arts class.

This should make the bulk of Lucius' conspiracy. But Evan didn't think it was that simple.

He didn't know where Lucius found out about Lupin's secret. After all, many people knew about it.

It wasn't important. What was key in Lucius' plan was proving that Professor Lupin was as dangerous as other werewolves. For that to happen, Lupin should actually attack students.

That was the only way for Lucius' conspiracy to work.

If the one that professor Lupin was accused of attacking was to be a Slytherin, Evan would have understood that, and it would fit well his idea of the possible conspiracy.

But the last one he expected to help Lucius was Ron. Everything seemed to go back to Ron. With his recent behavior, Evan felt clearly that there was something wrong with him.

It was the same feeling that he's had last year, back when Tom Riddle controlled Ron.

Evan suddenly realized it, Ron should not be…

In the Office, Harry felt betrayed when he heard Ron's answer.

It felt similar to what he felt when he tried to think about his parents being betrayed by their best friend, Sirius Black.

Heartbroken, he burst into tears.

He wiped off his tears hard, and he still had more anger within his heart than ever.

"You are lying. Professor Lupin did not harm us at anytime. He did not attack anyone!" Harry shouted madly.

"You should shut up, Potter! Stop shouting like a mindless troll," said Malfoy with a sly grin. "The way I see it, Weasley is just making the wise choice! Anyone with a bit of intelligence would never take even half a step towards the monster next to you!"

Malfoy was right. Besides Gryffindor students, no one had stepped up to side with Professor Lupin.

It meant that they did not trust him. They did not believe he was safe in his werewolf form.

All that Evan and the rest of the Gryffindor students have done was in vain.