

## Harry Potter 611

### Chapter 611: Unexpected Challenges

The news that Hogwarts would hold the Yule Ball was like dropping a bomb on the calm water.

In the past, the number of people who stayed at school at Christmas was always very small.

This year was different. Everyone in the fourth year and above seemed to be eager to participate.

As for the first to third year students, they were also trying to get themselves in. Everyone was obsessed with the coming ball, or at least all the girls were.

The boys were amazed how many girls Hogwarts seemed to be going.

They were all dressed up and became more beautiful and more attractive than ever. The girls were giggling and whispering in the corridors. Whenever boys passed by them, they shrieked with laughter, and they excitedly compared notes on what they were going to wear on Christmas night...

“I really don’t understand these girls!” said Ron with a sigh.

“Yeah ... why do they have to move in packs?!” Harry said as a dozen or so girls walked past them, sniggering and staring at Harry and Ron. “If this is the case all the time, how are you supposed to get one on their own to ask them?”

“Lasso one!” Ron hesitated and said, “Got any idea who you’re going to try?”

Harry didn’t answer. He knew perfectly well whom he would like to ask, but working up the nerve was something else.

In fact, Cho Chang was a year older than he was; she was very pretty; she was a very good Quidditch player; she was also very popular, and she seemed to be...

“I haven’t thought about who to invite, but you should have no problem, Ron!” Harry finally said. “You’re a champion. You’ve just beaten a dragon. I bet they’ll be queuing up to go with you.”

“I hope so. Evan is definitely going with Hermione; he doesn’t have to worry about this!”

Ron’s prediction was simply not accurate, and Evan was also getting upset about it.

He thought Hermione would invite him. After all they had gone through together, he felt he had to be Hermione’s partner.

However, this was not the case. Hermione had not said anything about this since the day the news was released.

She didn’t talk about the dance with Evan and even left whenever he mentioned the topic.

The way Hermione looked was purely as if nothing had ever happened, concentrating on studying house-elves.

What on earth was going on? The girl’s mind is really hard to guess!

Evan was not short of an invitation from a girl, he just wanted Hermione to invite him.

With Evan's fame and performance in school, too many girls wanted to have him join in.

Just as he and Colin rushed to Transfiguration class, a fifth-year Ravenclaw girl to whom he had never spoken in his life asked him to go to the ball with her. This was the third time today.

Evan refused without even thinking about it. The girl walked off looking rather hurt.

"She was quite good-looking," said Colin fairly, looking at the girl's back.

"Forget it; she's much taller than me. I don't like girls taller than me!" Evan replied.

"If only someone had invited me. My brother and I want to go to the ball too."

Colin and his brother Dennis had other worries about the Yule Ball. They were not old enough, so they had to find senior girls who were willing to invite them. Otherwise, they would not be able to attend the Yule Ball and would have to go home. Or even worse, lie in the bedroom on Christmas Day...

Both Colin and Dennis did not give up and were actively looking for opportunities.

But in fact, their chances of attending the ball were very low. There were obviously more boys than girls in Hogwarts.

Girls in years one to three also faced the same problem, but their condition was better.

In terms of the proportion of boys to girls, many of them might have the chance to go to the ball.

In this case, it was necessary to take the initiative, and the juniors girls were looking for suitable candidates.

Krum, for example, was the most popular. Many girls liked him because he was a champion, and had a great reputation.

They surrounded Krum, looking for every possible opportunity to rush up and introduce themselves...

Ginny didn't run around the castle with her peers looking for popular candidates.

Colin didn't understand, but Evan knew what was going on with Ginny.

She liked Harry, and so far, she hoped to be his partner. This possibility was very low. Harry had no idea about Ginny's feelings at all.

He and Ron were now together every day, muttering, planning for Ron and doing some useless things.

"Quiet!" Professor McGonagall patted the table and said unhappily, "I know what you're thinking, but please don't bring this mood into the classroom. If anyone doesn't listen attentively, I'll invite them out!"

The blackboard was full of text. The main content of this lesson was: 'Describe, with examples, the ways in which Transforming Spells must be adapted when performing Cross-Species Switches'.

This was very important content, but everyone's mind was not on it.

Professor McGonagall made a speech and after seeing that everyone was not focused, and then continued to turn around and explain the main points.

During the group practice, she did not let the students idle until the last second before class was over.

As Christmas approached, the students' mood was getting harder and harder to stabilize.

It was becoming more and more difficult to concentrate on listening to lectures.

Some of the teachers, like Professor Flitwick, saw that the students were obviously absent-minded, so they simply stopped trying to teach.

But many professors, like Professor McGonagall, were not so generous.

Nothing would ever deflect Professor Binns, for example, from plowing on through his notes on goblin rebellions. As Binns hadn't let his own death stand in the way of continuing to teach, they supposed a small thing like Christmas wasn't going to put him off. It was amazing how he could make even bloody and vicious goblin riots sound as boring as Percy's cauldron-bottom report.

Not to mention Snape, who adjusted the contents of the Potions classes for all years to make antidotes.

Staring nastily around at them all, he informed them that he would be testing them on poison antidotes during the last lesson of the term.

#### Chapter 612: A Piece of Cake

Snape will not really poison the students, but if he lets someone spend Christmas in bed, he can still do it.

If no qualified antidote was prepared, this risk can occur at any time.

Especially for students above the fourth year, they couldn't miss the Yule Ball because of Snape's poison.

"Evil, he is!" Ron said angrily in the Gryffindor Common Room. "Springing a test on us on the last day. Ruining the last bit of term with a whole load of studying."

"Well, you're not exactly straining yourself, though, are you?" said Hermione, looking at him over the top of her Potions notes.

Ron was busy building a card castle out of his Exploding Snap pack, a much more interesting pastime than with Muggle cards, because of the chance that the whole thing would blow up at any second.

"Please, Hermione, it's Christmas," said Harry lazily; he was rereading Flying with the Cannons for the tenth time in an armchair near the fire.

He sat in an armchair by the fire and read "Flying with the Artillery Team" for the tenth time.

Hermione turned her head and looked severely over at him.

"Christmas?!" Hermione said, "If you don't want to vomit and lie in bed all vacation, you have to concentrate on making antidotes according to Snape's requirements. He's sure to poison you, Harry, he said he would and no one can help you!"

"I know!" Harry said nonchalantly as he watched Joey Jenkins of the Cannons belt a Bludger toward a Ballycastle Bats Chaser.

"Yeah, if we can't find a partner, maybe we shouldn't be at that damn ball," said Ron.

"You have to participate, Ron, you are a champion!" Hermione stared at him with anger.

"Just kidding." Ron didn't dare to look at Hermione. He dodged backwards to show that he knew about it.

When Hermione lowered her head again to study her Potions notes, he lowered his voice and asked Harry, "What's the matter with her?"

Hermione looked more violent than usual, and the words "Don't mess with me" could be read clearly off her face.

"She didn't find a partner. I heard Evan say that they haven't talked about this topic yet." Harry whispered.

Ron nodded realizing what it was about. He placed the last two cards on top of the castle and, with a bang, the whole lot blew up, singeing his eyebrows.

"Nice look, Ron ... that will go well with your dress robes," said Fred.

He and George pulled Evan over, and the three of them were just discussing new prank products and how to collect debts from Bagman.

After trying various methods that didn't work, they finally asked Evan to help them figure it out.

Although in Evan's opinion, it was almost impossible for them to expect Ludo Bagman to pay back the money.

Bagman had already gone bankrupt. He owed a lot of gambling debts and had no way to pay them off. With the money he owed to Fred and George, he might as well run away.

Finally, Evan helped them write a stern letter, ready to send it.

They sat down at the table with Harry, Ron, and Hermione as Ron touched his eyebrows to check how much he had been burned.

"Ron, can we borrow Pigwidgeon?" George asked.

“Why?!” said Ron, staring at him suspiciously.

“Because George wants to invite him to the ball,” said Fred sarcastically.

“Because we want to send a letter, you stupid great prat,” said George.

“Who do you two keep writing to, eh?” asked Ron.

“Nose out, Ron, or I’ll burn that for you too,” said Fred, waving his wand threateningly. “So ... you lot got dates for the ball yet?”

This sentence was obviously very sensitive. Even Hermione was not pretending to read, raising her head and frowning at Fred.

“Nope,” said Ron, shaking his head, frustrated.

“Well, you’d better hurry up, mate, or all the good ones will be gone.” Fred paused, noticed Hermione’s gaze, and had to add, “The same is true for good boys. If you don’t hurry, they’ll be chosen by others!”

“Who are you going with, then?” said Ron.

“Angelina,” said Fred promptly, without a trace of embarrassment.

“What?!” said Ron, taken aback. “You’ve already asked her?”

“Good point,” said Fred. He turned his head and called across the Common Room. “Oi! Angelina!”

Angelina, who had been chatting with Alicia Spinnet near the fire, heard the shout and looked over at him.

“What?” she called back.

“Want to come to the ball with me?”

Angelina gave Fred an appraising sort of look and was not shy at all.

“All right,” she said, and she turned back to Alicia and carried on chatting with a bit of a grin on her face.

“There you go,” said Fred to Evan, Harry, and Ron. “It’s that simple. Piece of cake.”

Under everyone’s astonished gaze, he got to his feet proudly, yawning, and said, “George, since Ron isn’t going to lend us Pigwidgeon, we’d better use a school owl, come on.”

They left, but Evan stayed and didn’t follow them.

None of the four spoke. They looked at one another for a moment and Evan noticed that Hermione was hiding from his gaze.

Then she lowered her head to study her Potions notes.

Evan wanted to say something, just like Fred, but he opened his mouth and said nothing.

Ron stopped feeling his eyebrows and looked across the smoldering wreck of his card castle at Evan and Harry.

“Guys, we should get a move on, you know ... ask someone. He’s right. We don’t want to end up dancing with a pair of trolls.”

With a thud, Hermione closed the book in her hand. She was obviously so angry that she even stuttered a little.

“Ron, what did you just say?!” she asked with a frown.

“Well ... you know,” Ron shrugged and said in a clear tone. “I’d rather go alone to the ball than with ... with Eloise Midgen, say. ”

“Her acne is loads better lately ... and she’s really nice!”

“Come on, she’s ugly enough. It’s not just acne. I think her nose is off-center,” said Ron.

“Oh, I see, I finally understand what you guys are thinking!” Hermione was angered and stood up. “So basically, you’re going to take the best-looking girl who’ll have you, even if she’s completely horrible?”

“Well, yeah, that sounds about right,” said Ron.

“Okay!” Hermione took a deep breath and said angrily, “I’m going to bed!”

She glanced at Evan and Harry, who didn’t say a word, and swept off toward the girls’ staircase without another word under their stunned gaze.

#### Chapter 613: Cho’s Invitation

Hermione was obviously angry, perhaps because of what Ron said.

These words made her feel that the three of them had no respect for girls and were just choosing partners based on their appearance.

These words were obviously wrong, and any girl with a strong sense of justice would be angry with this idea.

But Evan was keenly aware that it might have something to do with him, but he did not figure out what to do.

The Yule Ball seemed to be much harder than summoning a demon or fighting an evil Dark wizard.

In the next few days, Hermione was not with Evan, Harry, or Ron.

She did not appear in the Gryffindor Common Room at night, but was quietly reading in the library.

In this regard, Harry and Ron had no good advice. They were even more puzzled than Evan.

On the second day after this incident, Evan was taken aback by another thing. He actually received an invitation from Cho Chang.

When he and Colin came out of the Defence Against the Dark Arts classroom, he saw Cho Chang standing outside waiting for him.

Cho clasped her robes with both hands stiffly and stared at Evan shyly. Her eyes sparkled and she seemed surprised at her boldness.

“Evan? Could I have a word with you?”

“Certainly!” said Evan, leading her to an empty corner.

Seeing Cho’s appearance, he had already guessed what she was going to say, though he had never expected Cho would ask him.

In fact, Cho looked very beautiful, especially when she spoke with a slight smile on her face, making people heart-stirring.

There were many boys in the school who were secretly in love with her, such as Harry, Cedric, etc. They were all very good.

Cho did not lack partners or invitations at all, but it was amazing that she chose to ask Evan.

“Evan, I heard that you haven’t chosen your partner yet. Would you like to go to the ball with me, then?” Cho said it out in a vigorous voice, staring shyly at Evan, her face getting redder and redder.

Looking at the girl in front of him, for a moment, Evan was very tempted. He shook his head and told himself not to think.

“Sorry, I’m going with someone else, I can’t...” Evan said frankly.

“Oh, well, it’s okay!” Autumn took a deep breath. “I know you want to go with Hermione. I just wanted to give it a try after hearing that you didn’t have a partner yet...”

“I’m really sorry!” Evan whispered. “I’ve already planned to invite Hermione!”

“I know!”

They stood there and looked at each other, tears seemed to be swirling in Cho’s eyes, and she tried not to let them flow down. Then she said, “That’s it!”

“Yeah!”

“Well, goodbye,” said Cho, still very red. She turned and left quickly.

Colin looked at Evan admiringly and did not know what to say, Evan actually refused Cho’s invitation.

Cho was very popular in the school and was one of the favorite candidates for the prom girls. If this came out, it would definitely be hot news.

After telling Colin not to say anything, Evan set the matter aside.

From the very beginning, he made up his mind to go to the Yule Ball with Hermione, and that never changed.

All he needed now was an opportunity to be alone with Hermione and speak out his mind.

But when Hermione was still angry, it was difficult to find such an opportunity.

On Friday, when Evan, Harry and Ron went to visit Hagrid, she did not show up.

In a word, everyone in the school had been busy with the ball recently.

The only thing to be thankful for was that Rita Skeeter didn't come out to make trouble. She didn't publish articles about the first task and Evan's performance, and there was no report about Hagrid in the Daily Prophet

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Evan told Dobby to pay attention to Rita Skeeter's whereabouts and catch her when she became a beetle.

But he didn't know what Rita was doing. She hadn't appeared in Hogwarts for more than a week.

"To tell you the truth, she didn't seem very interested in magical creatures," said Hagrid.

At this time, they were all in Hagrid's cabin, and they were asking him about his interview with Rita Skeeter.

"She didn't care about the skrewts. She just wanted me to talk about you two, Evan and Harry!" Hagrid continued. "There was nothing to say. I told her we'd been good friends since you entered the school. Never had to tell them off in the past few years?' she asked. 'Never played you up in lessons?' I told her no, and she didn't seem happy at all. You'd think she wanted me to say you were horrible."

"Of course, her focus is not on the champions and the Triwizard Tournament," said Harry in a natural tone. "Just like I said, she can't keep writing about what a tragic little hero I am, it will be boring."

"She wants a new angle," said Ron wisely, putting down a pie harder than a stone. "You were supposed to say Evan and Harry are lawless juvenile delinquents, or secretly studying Dark magic or something, she'd love to hear that."

"But they're not!" said Hagrid, looking genuinely shocked.

"She doesn't care about the truth. All she needs is a rumor that attracts people's attention," said Evan.

“If she wants to hear these words, she should have interviewed Snape,” said Harry grimly. “He would give her the goods on me any day. ‘Potter has been crossing lines ever since he first arrived at this school...’”

“Snape would definitely say more!” said Ron. “In fact, we did violate a few rules, didn’t we?!”

“Well, stop talking about her, believe me, she’ll be dishonest,” said Evan.

Looking at it from another angle, Rita Skeeter was not entirely making rumors. For example, Evan was preparing to summon a demon, violating hundreds of school rules.

After Rita Skeeter, the topic naturally shifted to the Yule Ball.

“Are you coming to this ball thing on Christmas Day, Hagrid?” Ron asked.

“I might look in on it,” said Hagrid gruffly. “I think it should be very lively. You’re going to dance at the party, aren’t you? Who are you going to take with you?”

“No one, yet,” said Harry and Ron together.

Hagrid turned his head and asked what Evan was going to do. He was not old enough to participate in the ball.

Evan shook his head and didn’t know how to talk to Hagrid about Hermione.

#### Chapter 614: Rejection

Coming out of Hagrid’s cabin, Evan saw Gabrielle standing near the Beauxbatons carriage waving at him.

This girl had not chosen her partner yet, but she had expressed her wish to be with Evan.

Unfortunately, neither of them was old enough to attend the ball without the invitation of students from the fourth year or above.

That was the tradition, even if Gabrielle was a student of Beauxbatons, there was no exception.

As for Gabrielle’s sister Fleur, there were more and more boys around her recently.

Almost half of the boys who had no partners were waiting for Fleur’s choice. Maybe there were too many people for her to make a final decision.

Of course, with Evan’s understanding of Fleur, she might also feel it very interesting to do so.

Let the boys fall for her beauty; attract everyone’s attention, as well as the girls’ jealousy. No doubt she had really succeeded.

Even if she did choose who she was going to end up with, it was not really about him.

Affected by her Veela blood, Fleur was very similar to a Veela in when it came to treating men.

That is, before meeting someone they really liked, they would take the initiative to attract the attention of other men, but they would not be moved.

Men who are obsessed with Meiwa will forget everything in the world, do not eat or drink, and do not sleep. If, unfortunately, Veela joined them while dancing, they could only keep dancing until they finally die exhausted.

In history, the number of male wizards who died because of the charm of Veela is not at all negligible.

Of course, if she met a man she really liked, Veela would stay with him for a lifetime. She would never separate and would be very loyal.

It is inferred that Fleur's mate selection criteria should be similar.

Evan did not see any of the boys in Hogwarts who could satisfy Fleur. She had higher standards.

When he led Gabrielle back a few nights ago, Fleur expressed her willingness to let Evan be her partner in a joking tone. Evan refused directly. He didn't want to be fooled by Fleur like the boys in the school.

He and Harry and Ron spoke and walked over to Gabrielle.

"I don't understand. Evan has so many choices, why must he insist on Hermione?" said Ron. "He has rejected many good girls these few days."

His eyes followed Evan's gaze and eventually landed on the Beauxbatons carriage.

"Hermione is actually good. Besides, they've been together for a long time, haven't they?!" said Harry.

"No, I heard Ginny say that Hermione talked to her about this, and the two of them actually didn't make any progress," said Ron, continuing to stare at the Beauxbatons carriage, "You know, Hermione's older than Evan and she is not that beautiful, she's been hesitating."

They had made rapid progress at the beginning, but flinched at a critical moment, especially Hermione.

Both Evan and Hermione were too smart. Sometimes it's not a good thing to think too much.

"Let's stop worrying about Evan and think more about ourselves," Ron continued, "I never thought it would be so difficult to find a partner."

The words that Hagrid had just said to them made Ron a little anxious. He didn't want to be left alone without a partner.

If that was the case, it would be too shameful. He was a champion!

Look at other champions. Weren't they all surrounded by a group of people?!

No need to say much about Krum. He was very famous, very popular with girls, and Ron admired him.

But even Diggory was the same. Although he did not act well in the first task, he was very handsome and popular. He was loved by almost everyone and many girls liked him. But in Ron's

opinion, Cedric was actually a useless handsome guy, and his brain was not enough to fill an egg shell.

“Yes, we have to do something, Ron. We don’t have much time left!” Harry said, determined, “especially you, Evan and I will not look too stupid without a partner, but you are supposed to be starting the dancing with the other champions.”

“You’re right, we’ve just got to grit our teeth and do it!” Ron took a deep breath and said in a tone that suggested they were planning the storming of an impregnable fortress. “When we get back to the Common Room tonight, we’ll all have partners ... agreed?”

“Well, okay,” said Harry.

They were separated. Harry didn’t know who Ron was aiming for, but his head was full of Cho Chang.

He only needed to ask Cho for a word alone and invite her to the ball. It was as simple as that.

It was almost time for dinner when Evan separated from Gabrielle and returned to the castle.

He met Luna in the hall. Needless to say, she did not find a partner. But Luna didn’t care. She was not interested in the Yule Ball at all.

She gave Evan news that Harry had just invited Cho Chang to the ball at the Ravenclaw Tower, but he was turned down.

After Evan refused Cho, she accepted Cedric’s invitation.

It was conceivable that Harry would be very depressed now and needed comforting from others.

But when Evan walked into the Great Hall, he was surprised to see Ron sitting ashen-faced in a distant corner. Harry and Ginny were sitting with him, talking to him in what seemed to be a low, soothing voice.

There was a lot of noise in the Great Hall, and at the Slytherin’s long table, Malfoy pointed at Ron, as if laughing at him.

“What’s up, Ron?” Evan asked, and walked over to them three.

Ron looked up at Evan, a sort of blind horror in his face.

“Why did I do it?!” he said wildly. “I don’t know what made me do it!”

“What?!”

“He ... um ... he just asked Fleur Delacour to go to the ball with him,” said Harry.

Ginny nodded and looked as though she was fighting back a smile, but she kept patting Ron’s arm sympathetically.

“Even if Ron invited Fleur, why does he look like this?” Evan asked.

“I don’t know what made me do it!” said Ron, gasping. “What was I playing at? There are people ... all around ... I’ve gone mad ... everyone was watching! I was just walking past her in the entrance hall ... she was standing there talking to Diggory ... and I sort of came over me ... and I asked her!”

Chapter 615: I Like You

Ron moaned and put his face in his hands. He kept talking, though the words were barely distinguishable.

“She looked at me like I was a sea slug or something. She didn’t even bother to answer. And then ... I don’t know ... I just sort of came to my senses and ran for it.”

“It wasn’t your fault, Ron!” Harry comforted him. “We all know Fleur is part Veela. Her grandmother was one. I bet you just walked past when she was turning on the old charm for Diggory and got a blast of it!”

“Yes, that’s it!” said Ginny. “It must be magic.”

Although everyone knew that this was ridiculous; it was impossible for Fleur to use this kind of magic; but to say this would make Ron feel better.

Evan was very glad he didn’t bring Gabrielle, or else he didn’t know how to end it.

“In short, Fleur was wasting her time. Diggory is going with Cho Chang,” continued Harry.

His voice just fell, and Evan, Ron, and Ginny turned their heads to look at him.

“I asked her to go with me just now,” Harry explained dully. “And she told me.”

Ginny had suddenly stopped smiling, staring at Harry in dismay.

“This is mad,” said Ron, looking up, “Evan, have you found a partner?”

Evan shook his head. He hadn’t met Hermione yet.

“We’re the only ones left who haven’t got any partners!” said Ron. “Well, except Neville. Hey ... guess who he asked? Hermione!”

“what?!”

“Yeah, I know!” said Ron, some of the color coming back to his face as he started to laugh. “He said she’s always been really nice, helping him out with work and stuff ... but Hermione told him she was already going with someone. Ha! As if! She just didn’t want to go with Neville. I mean, who would ask her except Evan?”

Evan couldn’t believe his ears; Hermione was actually going with someone else!

How was that possible? Could it be Krum?!

There was a mess in his head, and he didn't hear what Ron was saying next.

"Enough, Ron, don't!" said Ginny, annoyed. "Don't laugh!"

Just then, Hermione entered the Great Hall with some books in her arms.

"Why are people pointing at you?" she said, coming over to join them.

Hermione looked at Evan strangely and felt that the atmosphere was a little bit wrong.

"Shut up and stop laughing, Ron!" said Ginny. "They've both just been turned down by girls they asked to the ball!"

That shut Harry and Ron up.

"Thanks a bunch, Ginny," said Ron sourly.

"All the good-looking girls taken, Ron?" said Hermione loftily. "Eloise Midgen starting to look quite pretty now, is she? It doesn't matter. I'm sure you'll find someone somewhere who'll have you."

"Hermione, Neville just said you're going with someone?" Evan asked directly, his heart beating hard.

He and Hermione looked at each other, and Hermione's brown eyes shined brightly.

Hermione froze for a moment, avoiding Evan's gaze, as though hesitating to answer.

"Yes, that's true!" Hermione finally said.

"Impossible, you didn't!" said Ron. "You just said that to get rid of Neville!"

"Oh, did I?!" said Hermione, and her eyes flashed dangerously. "Why can't I agree to an invitation? None of you has asked me. Just because you haven't noticed doesn't mean no one else has spotted I'm a girl!"

"Come on, Hermione, we know that you are a good girl, but no one could invite you!" said Ron. "You'll go with Evan; we need partners. We're going to look really stupid if we haven't got any, everyone else has!"

Ron was not helping, and Hermione suddenly became angrier.

"Is that what you think?!" said Hermione angrily, raising her voice. "You look for partners just to save face."

"Obvious!" Ron nodded.

"I don't!" said Evan. "You know, Hermione, I want you to be my partner, not to save face."

"What is that for?" Hermione said, "You boys just want to find a beautiful girl."

"I like you, Hermione, that's why I want you to be my partner," said Evan.

It was obvious that in the past two years, whenever Evan was ready to say this to Hermione, she had chosen to run away.

There was a moment of silence, Hermione bit her lip gently and looked at Evan incredulously.

There was a glimmer of light in her eyes, and the pink on her face became more and more obvious.

Harry, Ron, and Ginny also stared at them both, not knowing what to say.

“I can’t go with you, Evan. I’m going with someone else!” Hermione took a deep breath and said stubbornly, “If you want to be your partner next time, ask me earlier then; don’t hide and wait until it’s so late.”

When she finished, she stood up directly to leave the Great Hall.

“Hermione, I’m asking you now to be my partner!” said Evan loudly, grabbing her arm.

“I...”

“You can only go to the ball with me, no one else, no matter who it is!” said Evan domineeringly.

This wasn’t his usual at all, but Evan couldn’t lose Hermione.

He didn’t care whether Hermione had really agreed to someone else’s invitation or not, he only knew that he couldn’t back down at this moment.

There was only one thought in Evan’s head, and no matter who Hermione agreed to, he would snatch her over.

The two of them spoke very loudly, and everyone in the Great Hall looked at them.

Hearing Evan’s words, many people gave a shriek and everyone looked at Evan and Hermione.

Maybe because of the public’s attention or because of Evan’s gaze, Hermione’s face was blushing more and more.

She was going to say something else, but now she couldn’t say a word, just looking at Evan stupefied.

The two were so close that they could feel one another’s breath.

Evan’s heart was beating fast; he looked at Hermione and... kissed her without thinking!

There was another scream in the Great Hall, and the students all looked at Evan and Hermione in disbelief.

The two of them were so bold; actually kissing in the Great Hall!

Evan’s sudden action caught Hermione off guard. She was so frightened that her heart stopped beating.

She pushed Evan with her hands, but she was too soft and had no strength. After shock... the sweetness of the kiss took over...

Feeling their lips open, their tongues touching, twisting... Hermione's mind went blank, just obediently closing her eyes, as if nothing else existed in the world.

She forgot to think, she didn't want to think, just instinctively wanted to embrace Evan, tighter, and tighter.

Chapter 616: Heavyweight News

Evan could feel Hermione trembling in his arms.

Like last time, her bright lips were cold and sweet, with the unique girl's fragrance.

At first, Hermione instinctively resisted because of consternation, but she quickly responded involuntarily.

Although hundreds of eyes were staring at them, Evan and Hermione still drowned in the ecstasy of this kiss, embracing passionately and not caring about anyone else...

Harry, Ron, and Ginny, who were closest to them, also looked at them with their jaws dropped and couldn't believe it.

Several dozen seconds later, as Evan pulled Hermione, who was already red and could not redden any more, out of the Great Hall, screams and hisses continued.

Everyone was talking about the matter excitedly, and they were incredibly looking at the backs of both of them.

It was absolutely heavyweight news. News about Evan and Hermione spread quickly in the castle.

"Evan kissed Hermione in front of so many people!" Harry said in surprise, as if he had just reacted.

"I just want to know, apart from Evan and Neville, who was Hermione going with?" said Ron.

"Nobody!" Ginny replied. "She didn't intend to go to the ball."

"What? But..."

"Whoever hears your irritating words would say so." Ginny said bluntly, "You're just judging people by their looks, Ron. Regardless of anything else, you just want to pick the prettiest girl as your partner, and that's why Fleur turned you down."

"Come on, I told you no one asked her. Hermione just didn't want to say that."

"Hermione is much better than you think. She's a good girl. You boys never pay attention to the girls around you, and you'll never find out!" Ginny said angrily, glancing at Harry. "It's not that no one asked Hermione. Krum had asked her. The Durmstrangs knew about the ball long before Professor McGonagall announced it!"

“God, Krum?!” Ron looked at Ginny in surprise. “This is ridiculous, Hermione never talked about it.”

“Why should she tell you?” replied Ginny, disgruntled.

“So, Hermione accepted Krum’s invitation?”

“Whether Hermione agreed to any invitation or not is her own business and we have no right to talk about it!” Ginny continued, “But I just told you, she didn’t give a promise to anyone. Hermione wasn’t going to the Yule Ball. She told me!”

“But why?” Ron’s face was more and more surprised, and he looked at Ginny incredulously. “Everyone is looking forward to the Yule Ball. Hermione actually planned not to go, and turned Krum down. What’s got into her?!”

“Because of Evan!” Ginny said angrily, “Fleur had come to Hermione, hoping that Evan would be her sister Gabrielle’s partner. Although they have not yet reached the fourth year, she will ask Madame Maxime to let them go to the ball.”

“FLEUR DID WHAT?!” Both Harry and Ron felt completely baffled.

What exactly was going on? Now, listening to Ginny, asking a partner was far more complicated than they expected.

“She spoke to Hermione alone. No one knows what they talked about,” said Ginny angrily. “After that, Hermione would not go to the ball! She’s been hiding from Evan, hesitating whether to be with him or not. But after what happened today, she should make up her mind!”

There was still a lot of talk in the Great Hall, and Harry and Ron were still digesting the shocking news they had just received from Ginny.

No matter what everyone thought, all in all, the kiss between Evan and Hermione at dinner time suddenly became the second most popular topic in the castle after the Yule Ball, and it was discussed for a long time.

After Evan took Hermione out of the Great Hall and walked to the empty corridor, he was ready to have a good talk with her.

Hermione had been acting a little strangely lately.

Why had she been hiding from him and accepting invitations from others?! This was really abnormal; it was not like Hermione at all!

Especially after knowing that Hermione accepted someone else’s invitation, Evan was very angry and had a feeling of being betrayed.

He preferred to believe that Hermione had been under the Imperius Curse, Amortentia, or even been faked by someone with the Polyjuice Potion, rather than that she would accept the invitation from others. This was simply impossible; it was a great catastrophe that shook all his convictions!

In the face of Evan's strength, Hermione was now a very timid girl, not at all the same as usual. She looked shyly at Evan beside her and quickly turned her eyes away.

The way Evan looked now made her feel like she was doing something wrong.

Remembering that he had just kissed her passionately, Hermione's face blushed uncontrollably. Evan had been so bold to kiss her in front of all the students.

Hermione was sure to remember the scene in the Great Hall for life and never forget it. Especially when she thought of herself finally kissing Evan back voluntarily, her head was completely blank.

She never thought that her relationship with Evan could reach this stage... not so soon!

The relationship between the two began in Hogsmeade's Werewolf attack a year ago, and made substantial progress last Christmas.

After that, she had experienced many things. For a whole year, she chose to escape most of the time.

Every time Hermione could find herself enough reasons; it was too fast... she didn't want to lose their friendship... Evan was a year younger than her... his magical strength was beyond her.... And as Evan became more and more famous, the gap between the two became more and more obvious.

Hermione had not let go of these concerns, and had repeatedly thought of retreating midway through their relationship.

The more you're attached to something, the more you're afraid of losing it.

For the Yule Ball, she had received an invitation from Krum early in December. Hermione was very surprised at the time and didn't think that Krum would ask her.

It was a weekend night, and Krum got rid of the girls who chased him and took the initiative to sit by her side.

He told Hermione that he came to the library every day just to talk to her, but he could not muster up enough courage. And since they first met at the Quidditch world Cup, he liked her and so on...

Hermione, of course, would not accept Krum's invitation, nor would she intend to develop any relationship with him.

But after getting along a few times, she felt that Krum wasn't as bad as she thought, and that it was good to be friends, and they talked a lot about Durmstrang and magic.

Of course, from the beginning to the end, Hermione did not think of Krum, let alone become his partner.

Regardless of those worries, if she was going to the Yule Ball, she would only go with Evan.

Chapter 617: My Only Choice

Needless to say, Hermione would not agree to Krum's invitation.

At best, she only regarded him as a friend and had no other thoughts about him.

But Fleur's request couldn't be ignored. Not long after Krum invited Hermione, Fleur found Hermione, hoping that she could make Gabrielle Evan's partner. The students from Beauxbatons also knew in advance about the upcoming Yule Ball.

They talked a lot at the time, and Fleur's attitude was also very sincere, but Hermione did not give her a clear answer. All she knew was that after she had talked with Fleur, her heart was heavy.

Her feelings were very complex, and her thoughts very chaotic. In a word, it made her hesitant and upset.

Ostensibly, she had no reason to refuse Fleur's request. Her relationship with Evan had not been made public, and no substantial progress had been made.

Because Hermione had been afraid of escaping, there was always a thin veil between them.

Although they were already very familiar, although everyone around them thought they were lovers, Hermione always felt that something was missing.

Following this train of thought, she was not sure that she would be Evan's partner.

Hermione knew Evan very well. She knew that if she took the initiative to ask him, he would definitely agree. However, she was not sure whether that would be really what Evan wanted or just because she asked him.

However, if he didn't ask her himself...

After hiding from Evan, entangled alone for a few days, Hermione figured it out!

It was Evan's business to choose a partner, and no one else had the right to interfere. Whether his partner would be her, Gabrielle, or any other girl, it was Evan's own choice.

It was not something she and Fleur could decide. Even if she wanted to give up for Gabrielle, it was not up to her.

What's more, Hermione didn't intend to let it go at all from the bottom of her heart, and she didn't think of it from beginning to end.

She couldn't even ask Evan by herself, and she hoped he could decide for her.

After trying to understand all this, she found herself in a new trouble. Hermione hoped that Evan would ask her, but she didn't know what she should do after he actually did it.

All kinds of previous fears, what Fleur told her, What Evan was really thinking, and the relationship with Gabrielle; all kinds of factors added up, making Hermione more hesitant and even afraid.

She didn't know what was going on in her mind, and her thoughts became so complicated because of the Yule Ball.

Although she was the same as usual, with no expression of alarm on her face, there was turbulence in her heart that she could not calm down.

She talked a lot with Ginny, and there was no progress. The situation they both faced was indeed similar.

Ginny was also upset about the ball. She hoped Harry could ask her, but there would probably never be that possibility. And she couldn't, like other girls, ask Harry to be her partner herself.

Although Ginny was known to have a secret crush on Harry, she did not have the courage to express it.

Ginny had made great progress now that she could talk to Harry normally. What else could she be asked to do?

From this perspective, Hermione felt that Ginny, like herself, was a fool.

Boys like Evan, Harry, and Ron were also the same; they were all fools who didn't understand anything emotionally.

This kind of thing was much more difficult and complicated than mastering a spell, and it was not the knowledge that could be learned from books.

In the end, Hermione decided to stay away from Evan and planned not to attend the Yule Ball. Maybe this was the best outcome.

But although she was determined, Hermione responded angrily to Ron's remarks tonight. She spoke out all her grievances. When she said that she had accepted someone else's invitation, what Hermione wanted in her heart was that Evan would be stronger.

If Evan had asked her to go with him earlier, then she wouldn't have been so entangled.

The result was unexpected. Hermione didn't think Evan would really break out after listening to what she had said. It was beyond what she thought.

He actually asked her to be with him in the ball in front of all the students, and kissed her. He did not give her the chance to refuse.

With the sudden changes, Hermione lost her ability to think and was only immersed in the sweetness of the kiss.

After being pulled out by Evan and feeling the warmth of his palm, Hermione realized that her previous worries and tangles were totally superfluous and unnecessary. If she really liked his, she had to express it bravely.

Withdrawal did not fit her character, nor was it a solution to the problem.

They both walked hand in hand in the castle. The noise in the Great Hall gradually faded away, and the surrounding area was quiet.

They stopped at the corner of the dimly lit staircase. The light of a torch came from a distance, giving a sense of mystery and gloom.

Evan listened to Hermione's explanation. She said a lot and told him of all her worries and grievances.

In his opinion, Hermione was really foolish to worry about these things. He liked Hermione, and this had not changed from beginning to end.

Maybe, Hermione was not the most beautiful girl Evan knew, but he dared to say she was absolutely the best one.

Even in a vast sea of people he could find her at a glance, keeping in the bottom of his heart the girl he could never forget. It was a special feeling only Hermione could bring.

Through this matter, Evan learned a little. That was to face Hermione, not only should he take the initiative, but also be more powerful and use practical actions to dispel her inner doubts, tell her that he liked her, and show her his love.

If he had given in tonight, he might have lost Hermione to regret it forever.

Hermione, who looked extraordinarily weak in front of him, was slightly trembling.

Evan felt strongly that the girl in front of him was exuding a wonderful, gentle, indescribable tender aura, and his deep desire to protect her rose deeply in his heart, along with other inexplicable thoughts.

“Stop talking, Hermione!” Evan said softly and looked at Hermione seriously. “All your worries are unnecessary. I chose you as my partner and my only partner. I won’t go to the Yule Ball with any other girl besides you. I hope you can remember that no matter what happens; I will be with you. This is true for the upcoming Yule Ball and my whole life. You are my only choice forever. I hope you can choose me too!”

“Evan!” Hermione wiped her red eyes and threw herself into Evan’s arms.

She felt ashamed, looking like that. It was obviously a good thing, but the tears actually flowed out of her eyes uncontrollably.

Evan hugged Hermione in his arms and thought of the feeling of kissing her just now. The distance between them was getting closer and closer.

Chapter 618: Collocation

To be in love, or something along those lines, was not a strange thing in Hogwarts.

There were many wizard couples who established relationships at school and ended up getting married and forming families together.

Many of the students were couples, dating everywhere in the castle, kissing, flirting and expressing their love in all kinds of ways...

Every night after eight o’clock, you could meet several couples just by walking down a remote corridor or classroom!

Of course, they were all being secretive. This kind of thing was not suitable for disclosure, and no one dared to make it public.

Evan and Hermione were probably the only couple to kiss, in such a high-profile, in front of everyone in the great hall.

Not surprisingly, this incident caused a great disturbance in the school and caused a lot of controversy.

Most people were happy to see Evan and Hermione come together and have a public relationship. Only some of the Slytherins made the exception. In their view, it was just two Mudbloods getting together...

Naturally, they would not dare to speak out in front of Evan and Hermione. However, there were still rumors about them around school, which made the Gryffindors very angry.

As for Evan and Hermione, they didn't care; they didn't take these ugly words to heart.

In fact, after that day, there was no significant change in their behavior. It was just that they spent more and more time alone and got along more naturally and sweetly.

Evan never imagined it to be possible to kiss Hermione the way he had done in the Great Hall.

It was enough for them to know that to each other, they were the most important.

The last week of term became increasingly boisterous as it progressed. Rumors about the Yule Ball were flying everywhere, but most of them were unbelievable and exaggerated. For instance, that Dumbledore had bought eight hundred barrels of mulled mead from Madam Rosmerta at The Three Broomsticks.

It seemed to be fact, however, that he had booked the Weird Sisters. The Weird Sisters were a very popular band in the wizarding world. They occupied the first place in the Wizarding Wireless Network column rankings all year round, and had many classic songs.

They would appear in the Christmas ball and let the students get excited.

Along with the excitement, the Hogwarts Staff, demonstrating a continued desire to impress the visitors from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang, seemed determined to show the castle at its best this Christmas.

When the decorations went up, the students noticed that they were the most beautiful and stunning they had yet seen inside the school.

Everlasting icicles had been attached to the banisters of the marble staircase; the usual twelve Christmas trees in the Great Hall were bedecked with everything from luminous holly berries to real, hooting, golden owls, and the suits of armor had all been bewitched to sing carols whenever anyone passed them.

It was quite something to hear "O Come, All Ye Faithful" sung by an empty helmet that only knew half the words. Several times, Filch the caretaker had to extract Peeves from inside the armor, where he had taken to hiding, filling in the gaps in the songs with lyrics of his own invention, all of which were very rude.

Everything was going in the right direction, but Harry and Ron not only hadn't found their respective partners yet, but didn't even decide who they would ask.

Looking at them, it was as though they had given up completely.

"You have to get your own partners, especially you, Ron, you're a champion!" said Hermione sternly.

“It’s easy for you to say, good girls are being picked up!” Ron whispered. “I don’t want to lead those ugly trolls...”

“The Yule Ball is too much trouble!” Harry said.

At this time, they all sat in front of the warm fire in the Common Room.

It was the last day of the term; tomorrow was the Christmas holiday.

Harry and Ron were still worried about their partners, and Neville and Colin were also worried.

Colin’s younger brother, Dennis, probably gave up. He was too young. No senior student would be willing to be a first-year boy’s partner.

Except for a few girls, all the first and second years did not find partners.

Leaving Harry Ron and Neville, who were already qualified, on their own, Evan decided to help Colin.

He also counted on Colin to go in and take pictures. The Yule Ball, as a traditional part of the Triwizard Tournament, had received a lot of attention. What’s more, this was an exclusive report of Hogwarts Magic, and no other media should get in at all.

If Colin didn’t go, Evan wouldn’t be able to stick by Hermione’s side, and would have to take pictures everywhere.

He was going to introduce Gabrielle to Colin, to be his partner. Gabrielle was young as well, but as a guest at Hogwarts and with Madame Maxime’s intervention, she would also be eligible to attend the ball.

When she left Hagrid’s cabin that day, she had just learned about it and had planned to invite Evan.

As a result, needless to say, Evan turned her down, and then the thing happened in the Great Hall.

Ginny was supportive of Evan and Hermione in everything, at least on the surface.

Anyway, when she saw Fleur again, the latter looked like she wanted to eat Evan alive!

As for Colin, he’d been seeing Gabrielle for half a year and they were already very familiar with one another.

When she knew what Evan meant to do, she agreed to become Colin’s partner.

It was better for her to go with Colin, whom she was relatively familiar with, than to be with a strange boy Fleur would introduce to her.

As for Harry, Ron and Neville’s partners, Evan had also thought about it!

It was a long story. On the day he confessed to Hermione, they stayed outside late before returning to the Common Room.

Evan originally thought that there should be no one, and did not expect to see Neville and Ginny in it.

When they saw Evan and Hermione climbing into the Common Room, Neville and Ginny were probably shyer than them.

It turned out that after being rejected by Hermione, Neville planned to ask Ginny. He had to have a partner.

Ginny seemed desperate for Harry, too. She was not yet in fourth year, and she had to be asked by someone to be in the ball.

When Evan and Hermione went in, the two of them were talking about it. Evan hurriedly stopped them. He knew that Ginny must have wanted to be with Harry.

Harry couldn't find a partner, and insisting on a relationship with Cho Chang would bear no fruit.

In that case, it was better to find a way to get them together and change the direction of development.

#### Chapter 619: Christmas

As for Neville, Evan was going to introduce Luna to him.

Luna did not have a partner either. Her personality was too jumpy. She was always looking for the Crumple-Horned Snorkack, the Blibbering Humdinger and other strange things. She knew a few boys in the schools, and no one in the people she knew would take the initiative to ask her to go with him to the ball.

Her character and honest Neville were complementary and unexpected, but they were unable to talk together. Neville could go with her to attend the Yule Ball.

In Evan's opinion, Harry, Neville, and Colin's partner selections were fairly simple.

The most troublesome thing was that for Ron, at this point in time, there were not many choices left to him.

Ron was one of the champions; he must have a partner to open the ball.

According to his standards, the champion had to find a beautiful girl to save face.

After Hermione made an investigation among the girls, they focused on Parvati Patil and Lavender Brown.

No need to say much about Parvati, who was a beautiful Indian girl with black hair. In Dean Thomas's words, she was one of the best-looking girls in the fourth year.

Lavender looked a little bit less beautiful. She was a little neurotic, but she was very cheerful and open, and she liked Divination very much.

Most crucially, she probably really liked Ron, and initiative was more important than anything else.

In this way, Ron's partner was determined as Lavender.

Evan, whether it was appropriate or not, put them together after candidates had been identified.

He and Hermione were helping to make the best use of existing resources in light of the current situation.

It was just about picking a dance partner. It was not really looking for a boyfriend or girlfriend.

At the level of Harry, Ron, Neville, and Colin, there might not be a suitable candidate until the beginning of the ball.

Sure enough, Harry and Ron didn't seem quite satisfied with Evan and Hermione's arrangements. But in the end, they could only agree, because they had no other choice at all.

Harry later told Evan alone, he thought that this ball was a lot trouble than it was worth.

Ron, as a champion, if he hadn't initially targeted Fleur, he wouldn't have reached this point.

The same was true of Harry, who had always been very popular at school and was more popular with girls than he thought. If his eyes had not always been on Cho, he would have been able to find a partner very easily.

As for Neville and Colin, they had the same purpose. They needed a partner, no matter who they were.

Neville didn't want to be left alone. Colin just wanted to go to the ball. The two of them didn't have a girl in mind at all.

If Evan could convince Eloise Midgen, they would be willing to accept it.

On the girls' side, Luna probably shared the same thoughts as the two of them.

Ginny and Lavender had other purposes, and they secretly had a crush on Harry and Ron, respectively.

This match was probably the best outcome for them.

As for Gabrielle, she was just helping Colin get into the ball. Evan knew that Gabrielle had a good impression of him and liked him.

Looking at Fleur's expression, he thought that after he and Hermione confessed, Gabrielle might be very sad, just like all the girls who lost love.

But that was not the case at all. After learning the news, Gabrielle came to congratulate him directly, complaining that Evan did not express his love to Hermione before her. Gabrielle's affection for Evan was not quite of the type that he had imagined...

In fact Evan admitted he's gone too far in his thoughts. For a nine-year-old, this reaction might be the most normal. If she had reacted like Fleur or Cho, that would be abnormal.

In short, Evan persuaded Gabrielle to help Colin at the cost of having to dance with her for his second dance. The first dance, of course, would be with Hermione.

In this way, the hard task of choosing partners for everyone finally came to an end.

Despite the very heavy load of homework that the teachers had arranged for the Christmas holidays, no one was in the mood to work when term ended.

Even Hermione, who rarely put down her textbooks, played with everyone.

Evan also stopped studying ancient magic scripts, the Merpeople's language and demons, and completely relaxed.

The Gryffindor Tower was hardly less crowded now than during term-time, and only a few junior students chose to go home.

In fact, the tower seemed to have shrunk, as its inhabitants were being so much rowdier than usual.

Fred and George had great success with their Canary Creams, and for the first couple of days of the holidays, people kept bursting into feather all over the place. Before long, however, all the Gryffindors learned to treat food anybody else offered them with extreme caution, in case it had a Canary Cream concealed in the center.

Fred and George confided to Evan that they were now working on new deformation products.

They were going to expand this series to give the eater a variety of animal forms.

From the second day of the holidays, snow was falling thickly upon the castle and its grounds.

The pale blue Beauxbatons carriage looked like a large, chilly, frosted pumpkin next to the iced gingerbread house that was Hagrid's cabin, while the Durmstrang ship's portholes were glazed with ice, rigging white with frost.

The house elves were outdoing themselves with a series of rich, warming stews and savory puddings, and only Fleur Delacour seemed to be able to find anything to complain about.

After Evan and Hermione made their confession, Fleur's attitude towards Evan had become very poor.

Even if it wasn't for sure, Evan was suspicious that the girl had a secret crush on him...

According to Gabrielle, Fleur's last choice for a partner was Roger Davies, the Ravenclaw Quidditch Captain.

He was a popular figure at Ravenclaw House, a good athlete, with excellent magic power.

The Ravenclaw Quidditch team's tactical design had always been excellent, and a large part of it was his credit.

Roger was a little bit behind Cedric Diggory, but his overall level was still higher than that of other students of the same year.

Of course, Fleur had no feelings for him. She and Ron had the same criteria for choosing a partner, that was, to find the one who had the prettiest face among those who were willing to accept them. She didn't care what the other person really thought.

On Christmas morning, Evan woke up early.

He just opened his eyes and saw something with very large, round, green eyes, staring back at him in the darkness, so close they were almost nose to nose.

Chapter 620: Preparations for the Ball

"Dobby, what are you doing?!" Evan scrambled away from the elf. "Don't lie near me like this again!"

“Dobby is sorry, Master Evan!” squeaked Dobby anxiously, jumping backward with his long fingers over his mouth. “Dobby is only wanting to wish Master Evan ‘Merry Christmas’ and bring him a present.”

“All right; it’s okay,” said Evan, his breathing gradually returning to normal.

He got up from the bed. In the dim light, he saw a large pile at the foot of his bed, all Christmas gifts.

Dobby was standing nervously next to Evan’s bed, still looking worried that he had upset Evan.

He was now probably the weirdest house-elf in the world, with socks on his feet one pair after another, and the outermost pair of colors were so festive that they could be pulled all the way to the legs of his shorts. He was wearing the clothes Evan had given him some time ago, and there was a Christmas bauble tied to the loop on top of his tea cozy.

“Can Dobby give Master Evan his present?” he squeaked tentatively.

“Of course you can!” Evan rubbed his head. “I have a gift for you, too!”

He turned out a wrapped box from his own bedside cabinet, in which there were gloves he had specially purchased for Dobby.

“Master Evan is so generous, so noble, so selfless, He has given Dobby clothes and now he is giving Dobby a pair of gloves!” unwrapping the package, Dobby danced with joy, “This is exactly what Dobby needs...”

“Well, they’re just gloves!” said Evan, checking the presents at the feet of his bed.

The first thing he found was Hermione’s present. Evan thought it would be another book, but it was a hand-knitted sweater.

It seemed that she had been secretly preparing it in the bedroom during this period, with many thread ends on it. Although not exquisite, it had a great significance.

After Evan put on the sweater, Dobby handed him a small package, which turned out to be something he made himself: socks.

“Dobby is making them himself. He is buying the wool out of his wages, Master Evan!”

The left sock was bright red, while the right one was green with meaningless patterns on them.

“Thank you, Dobby!” said Evan, not asking what the patterns on the socks were. He pulled them on, causing Dobby’s eyes to leak with happiness again.

“Dobby must go, sir, Dobby is going to give Harry Potter a present!” said Dobby, bowing deeply. “And then go back as soon as possible, we is already making Christmas dinner in the kitchens.”

After Dobby left, Evan began to open the rest of the presents.

Harry had given him a book on ancient magic texts. Ginny's present was also a book. Ron had given him a bulging bag of Dungbombs; Colin a thin book of photos he had taken in the past year; and Cho, a beautifully crafted quill.

As for Fred and George, they had given Evan newly developed prank products and the latest product list.

Sirius had sent a magical item that could automatically remind and record the time. Hagrid, a vast box of sweets including all kinds of sweets: Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans, Chocolate Frogs, Drooble's Best Blowing Gum, and Fizzing Whizbees.

Gabrielle also gave a present, a lovely crystal owl decoration that represented good luck and blessings.

Mrs. Weasley sent the usual package, including a new sweater and a large quantity of homemade mince pies.

There were also many other students who had sent many other things. There were dozens of varied pieces.

To Evan's surprise, he received a printed bat locket from Elaine with a hint of magic, using a special technique to seal a blood-specific protective magic that could be activated at critical moments.

Not long ago, Evan had specially ordered a batch of bloody lollipops in Honeydukes sweet shop. This was Elaine's favorite candy, he directly handed them to fake Moody Caresius.

It seemed that Elaine had indeed received his gift.

More than half an hour later, Colin woke up.

When Evan and Colin went to the Common Room, Harry, Ron, and Hermione were waiting there.

They went down to breakfast together. They spent most of the morning in Gryffindor Tower, where everyone was enjoying their presents, then returned to the Great Hall for a magnificent lunch, which included at least a hundred turkeys and Christmas puddings, and large piles of Cribbage's Wizarding Crackers. There, they met Gabrielle.

At the suggestion of Fred and George, Evan did not return to the Common Room after lunch. They went out onto the grounds. The snow was untouched except for the deep channels made by the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students on their way up to the castle.

Hermione, Ginny and Gabrielle chose to watch Evan, Harry, Colin and the Weasley brothers' snowball fight rather than join in.

The three of them gathered together and talked about the ball, and from time to time they burst out with laughter.

At five o'clock they said they were going back upstairs to get ready for the ball.

"Go back so early?!" Harry asked.

“Girls always need time to dress up. It’s not like we just need to change into dresses,” said Evan.

“They’re absolutely crazy. They need three hours to get ready!” Ron said unbelievably.

They did not return to the castle early, but continued the snowball fight.

At seven o’clock, when it had become hard to aim properly, they abandoned their snowball fight and trooped back to the common room.

The Fat Lady was sitting in her frame with her friend Violet from downstairs, both of them extremely tipsy, empty boxes of chocolate liqueurs littering the bottom of her picture.

“Lairy fights, that’s the one!” she giggled when they gave the password, and she swung forward to let them inside.

Now, all the boys in the Common Room seemed to be a little bit nervous.

Everyone made fun of each other for a while before returning to their dormitory to change into their dress robes.

Evan’s robes fit well, and the extra pattern on it gave him a noble temperament.

Colin didn’t expect he would attend the ball. His dress robes were ordered just a few days ago.

It seemed a little bigger than his thin figure, and he put it on loosely.

It was clear that the boys used to school robes were not comfortable in fancy dress robes.