

Chapter 5: A New Professor

After a long class with Professor Trelawney Ron and Harry met up with Ginny and Hermione. They had just reached the entrance hall when a loud voice rang out behind them.

"Weasleys! Hey, Weasleys!"

The four of them turned. Malfoy, Crabbe, and Goyle were standing there looking extremely pleased.

"What?" Ron called.

"Your dad's in the paper." Malfoy sneered as he tossed him the paper. Ginny caught it and held it up for the others to read. "And there is a picture, Weasleys." He said once they had finished reading. Ron turned the paper to stare at the picture. "A picture of your parents outside their house, if you can call that a house! Your mother could do with losing a bit of weight, couldn't she?"

Both Ron and Ginny were red with pure fury and everyone was staring at them.

"Get stuffed, Malfoy," Harry said. "C'mon you two..."

"Oh yeah, you were staying with them this summer, weren't you, Potter? So tell me, is his mother really that porky, or is it just the picture?"

"You know *your* mother, Malfoy?" said Harry as he grabbed Ginny to hold her back while Hermione held Ron back. "That expression she's got, like she's got dung under her nose? Has she always looked like that, or was it just because you were with her?"

Malfoy paled slightly. "Don't you dare insult my mother, Potter!"

"Then keep your fat mouth shut, then," Harry shot back as he turned to leave.

BANG! Several people around him screamed and he felt something white hot pass by his face. Just as he turned, wand raised another BANG could be heard.

"Oh no you don't boy!"

Turning Harry saw Moody standing with his wand raised and pointing to where Malfoy had once stood. "Did he get you?"

"No he missed."

"Good you better leave him boy!" Moody said turning to face Crabbe who was about to pick up a white ferret. Suddenly the ferret began to bounce in the air. "How dare

you attack a fellow student while his back is turned!" He said making the ferret bounce higher. "It's disgraceful!"

"Professor Moody!" Professor McGonagall said as she came down the stairs. "Is that a student?"

"Yes it is, I was just teaching a lesson is all."

"Professor here we do not turn our students into animals. I suggest you turn him back immediately."

Moody turned and waved his wand making Malfoy reappear as normal. The three of them took off running as the rest of them started laughing. "Come with me Professor," McGonagall said.

"Thanks mate," Ron said clapping Harry on the shoulder.

"It was nothing."

"We better get going."

The days seemed to drag on till Moody decided to teach the students something a bit different. Once everyone had been seated he spoke up. "We won't be needing our books, today we are going to be learning about the Unforgivable curses. These curses were banned by the Ministry years back. Only the dark wizards like to use them. Can anyone tell me one of them?"

Slowly Ron raised his hand. "My dad told me about one of them, the Imperius Curse."

"Of course that would be one the Ministry had a big problem with." Moody pulled out a spider from a jar. "*Imperio*." Everyone laughed as the spider moved and did anything that Moody wanted it to do, except for Moody. "This curse gives you total control of your target. This one can be fought off with constant vigilance. Now can anyone tell me another one?"

Instantly Hermione's hand shot up and to Harry's surprise so did Neville's. "You."

"The Cruciatus Curse," Neville mumbled quietly.

"Ah yes that one." He demonstrated this by enlarging the spider and everyone watched it twitch in pain.

"Stop it!" Hermione cried. Harry jumped and turned to look at her. Her gaze wasn't on the spider but on Neville, who was pale and shaking slightly.

"Pain, this one was very popular once too. Right anyone know the last one?"

Hermione's hand shook slightly as she raised her hand.

"Yes?"

"Avada Kedavra," she said quietly.

"Yes the last and worst, the killing curse. Only one person has ever survived this one and he's sitting right in this room." Just then the bell rang and everyone got to their feet.

In the Great Hall everyone was crowded around a sign. It announced that Beauxbatons and Durmstrang were to arrive in a week and classes would only be half day. This made everyone excited.