

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

September - March, 2020

First Days

The first few memories of our new characters are somewhat banal (as if some of them had not existed for the first part of the story) - at least, by HOGWARTS standards. The excitement of coming to the near-mythical HOGWARTS is a certainly a special and unique feeling - and not something to downplay.

They arrived in HOGWARTS in September of 2019, and after being sorted into their respective HOUSES, they went about exploring what wizarding life had to offer.

They learned some of their first new spells - and began to undertake the personal journeys which would shape the kind of person they would grow up to be. They almost certainly competed in the puzzling HOGWARTS HUNT event held in October - though they ultimately missed out on a crucial clue due to a poorly placed "Keep Out" sign, which many allege was placed there by the ultimate winners, an act which many considered cheating.

Some of them also ended up getting extremely ill a few days later, when it was discovered that someone had swapped the labels around in the POTIONS storeroom, leading to a lesson about the healing properties of the **WIGGENWELD** potion to become a horrifying lesson in the toxic properties of the VENEMOUS TENTACULA.

The Attacks

On the 10th of December, however, something drastic happened: the WIZARDING WORLD was attacked.

The nature of these attacks remained unclear, but a number of automaton-like metal creatures had attacked MINISTRIES across the globe - with casualties in the hundreds, even thousands. LONDON itself had seemed to escape - a large explosion outside the main entrance was attributed to a failed attack, but no casualties were reported.

Even as the first whispers of something amiss circulated the school, the teachers hurried the students out of the front gate - all the way to HOGSMEADE STATION, where the **HOGWARTS EXPRESS** was waiting.

As the school piled aboard - panic beginning to set in - the train departed. Not in the normal way, however, as it seems that the entire train had been turned into a **PORTKEY**. As the world turned to darkness, and seemed to press in on them all from every angle, they re-appeared into an underground train station.

The teaching staff, alongside some MINISTRY AURORS led the students down into some secured accommodation, where they remained until the all-clear was given. Given the proximity to the normal end of term and the Christmas holidays, the decision was taken to send students home early.

Returning to School

Despite Christmas being a somewhat sombre affair - given the immense loss of life - when students returned to HOGWARTS in January, things quickly returned to normal.

Of course, the primary topic of conversation remained: *who was responsible for the attacks?* Most people were convinced that a Goblin separatist movement was behind the attacks - the machines were clearly highly magical, artificial devices of the kind that only GOBLINS could construct. Some disputed this however - after all, what could they possibly have gained?

In mid-January, the MINISTRY revealed that a strike-team had successfully located the culprits of the attack, and swiftly dealt with them. An unfortunate accident, however, had triggered a failsafe device within the criminals' lair, and brought an entire mountain down on top of the group - killing everyone involved. The Daily Prophet was able to reveal that the perpetrators were indeed primarily goblins, though a number of giants and centaurs, and even a handful of wizards, had been co-opted into their nefarious scheme, and ultimately met their end underneath that mountain.

Coming Together

By the end of FEBRUARY, things had indeed returned to normal. Schoolwork continued, and assignments stacked up.

Though they had no doubt seen each other, and interacted in their first 6 months at HOGWARTS, our group was first brought together as a unit through the machinations of **PROFESSOR JANET SU**, the CHARMS teacher. She had prepared a special assignment - worth 50% of their final grade for this year. Working in small groups, they had to produce something that would showcase ingenuity, magical talent and a greatness of spirit: besides these words, her only other advice was "**IMPRESS ME**".

These four individuals, therefore, find themselves thrust together on the intrepid quest to impress a middle aged school employee.