***Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban***

***Chapter 20***

***Summary and analysis***

***Brief Summary:***

* On the way out of the passage, Black tells Harry that he's his godfather and invites Harry to live with him once his name gets cleared.
* Harry is thrilled and accepts immediately.
* Black smiles and Harry is struck by how much younger he looks.
* As they emerge outside, a cloud moves and reveals a full moon shining brightly.
* Hermione realizes that Lupin didn't take his potion tonight and Lupin starts to transform.
* Black transforms into a dog again and jumps at werewolf Lupin to keep him away from Harry and Hermione.
* Meanwhile, Peter grabs Lupin's wand, knocks out Ron, and turns back into a rat and runs away.
* Black runs after rat-Peter and Harry and Hermione follow him.
* But then a group of Dementors surround the group.
* Hermione tries to help Harry cast a Patronus charm at his prompting but the Dementors overwhelm her and she passes out (finally, not just Harry!).
* Sirius is out as well and Harry is the last one standing.
* The Dementor near him lowers his hood.
* "Where there should have been eyes, there was only thin, gray, scabbed skin, stretched blankly over empty sockets. But there was a mouth [...] a gaping , shapeless hole, sucking the air with the sound of a death rattle" (20.67).
* Pardon us while we run away screaming.
* The Dementor leans down to suck out Harry's soul.
* But then a bright while light appears and drives the Dementors back.
* As Harry passes out, he sees a familiar looking figure reaching out to pat a silvery animal.

***Brief Analysis:***

As the group returns through the tunnels, Black informs Harry of his role as his godfather. He invites Harry to live with him, once his name is cleared. Harry is thrilled at the idea of leaving the Dursleys. Once they emerge from the ground into the forest, the clouds above them shift, revealing a full moon. Lupin turns into a werewolf, wrangling out of the chain binding him to Peter, and Black transforms into a dog and fights the werewolf away, into the woods. During the commotion, Peter grabs Lupin's wand, casts some stupefying spell on Ron, and turns himself back into a rat. He escapes, and Black then tears back into the woods after Scabbers.

Harry and Hermione examine the unconscious Ron, declaring him alive; they are interrupted by the yowl of a dog, and they turn to see Black in human form, cowering at the approach of over a hundred Dementors. Harry and Hermione run to help, but none of Harry's patroni are strong enough to hold back the throng. Hermione drops next to him, depressed and exhausted, and Harry feels himself weakening. Suddenly one of the Dementors lowers its hood, revealing gray skin and empty eye sockets and a shapeless sucking hole of a mouth, and the Dementor grasps Harry's head and prepares to administer the soul-sucking kiss to him. Harry feels himself drowning in cold and misery, when all of a sudden a bright shape begins to drive the Dementors away. The air is warm again as they retreat, and Harry looks across the lake to see a large shimmering animal galloping away to a man who looks oddly familiar, like Harry's father. Exhaustion then overtakes Harry, and he faints.

Chapter nineteen is virtually all explanation. Certain mysteries, such as how Black escaped from Azkaban or why he only ever pursued Ron, suddenly fall into place. Once again, nothing is exactly how it seemed; the usual suspects are innocent, those presumed dead suddenly appear alive. In Rowling's writing, culprits are never easy to spot, although she does give us certain hints along the way. In this book, this principle is especially important, as so much of the plot involves misguided perception and its effects on the surrounding community. The only true culprit in this book was the one who was living all the while in Ron's pocket.

Animagi are key to this chapter; none of the four makers of the Marauder's Map could have lived the full richness of their experiences without the ability to become animals at will. This age-old idea in mythology and literature opens a range of new possibilities. This book places an emphasis on liminal figures who exist on a boundary between two identities. These figures include Harry and Black, who touch both the Magical and the Muggle world, and Lupin, who has at once a tame, genteel nature coupled with a potential bout of insanity at every full moon.

These chapters present a vivid and telling glimpse into the past of Hogwarts. Harry watches Black transform to keep Lupin in check, as he must have done many years before, and he sees the presence of someone who looks faintly like his father at the other side of the lake, moments after a patronus saves him from the Dementors. Peter Pettigrew is just as he must have always been, squealing and hysterical, nervous and full of flattery. Black is sharp-edged but loyal, we learn, and he is deeply brave in his fight against the werewolf in order to save Harry, Ron, Hermione, and-sort of-Snape. Hogwarts contains so many mysteries and the traces of so many students who have lived there, known the grounds, and left tracks for Harry and his friends to decipher, that the chance to see them return to life, even as middle-aged versions of the once boisterous lads, is a rare form of magic.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part***

***Summary Part 1:***

As the party makes its way back through the tunnel, [**Sirius**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) notes that turning in [**Pettigrew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/scabbers-peter-pettigrew) will clear his name, and he tells [**Harry**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) that he's his godfather. Awkwardly, he invites Harry live with him, and Harry leaps at the chance. Soon, they reach the opening and [**Crookshanks**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks) stops the Whomping Willow while everyone steps out. As they make their way towards the castle in the dark, the clouds shift. [**Snape**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-snape)'s body runs into [**Lupin**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin), Pettigrew, and [**Ron**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley), who all stop suddenly. Lupin goes rigid and starts to shake. Sirius tells Harry and [**Hermione**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) to run and then leaps at Lupin in his dog form as Lupin transforms into a werewolf.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Remember that Snape was taking Lupin the Wolfsbane Potion when he discovered the Marauder's Map; Lupin isn't safe at this point. Sirius's leap towards Lupin shows that now that his group of friends is expanding to include the next generation, he understands that it's his responsibility to keep them safe, just as he once kept the residents of Hogsmeade and other Hogwarts students safe from Lupin.

***Summary Part 2:***

[**Lupin**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/professor-lupin) and [**Sirius**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/sirius-black) rip at each other violently and [**Harry**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter) only stops watching when [**Hermione**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) screams. He sees [**Pettigrew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/scabbers-peter-pettigrew) grab Lupin's wand, knock out [**Ron**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/ron-weasley) and [**Crookshanks**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/crookshanks), and then transform and flee. As Lupin races into the forest alone, Harry yells to Sirius that Pettigrew transformed. Sirius runs off after Pettigrew. Hermione and Harry approach Ron, who's alive but seems not to recognize them. In the distance, Harry hears a dog yelping and both he and Hermione run after Sirius. They find him at the lake, back in his human form, with [**dementors**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) closing in on him. Harry thinks of living with Sirius and starts to shout "Expecto Patronum."

***Analysis Part 2:***

Now that Harry knows the truth of what happened twelve years ago, he also feels that it's his responsibility to fight for the truth and save Sirius's life. This again shows Harry truly understanding that he needs to take justice into his own hands and, in this case, fight the ministry by taking on the swarming dementors. However, it's also important to remember what Hagrid said about the dementors: they don't care who's guilty, which suggests that Harry might be in danger.

***Summary Part 3:***

[**Hermione**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/hermione-granger) joins in, but she's too afraid to be effective. She collapses as silvery wisps come out of [**Harry**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/harry-potter)'s wand. Harry collapses as well and watches a [**dementor**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/symbols/dementors) approach and lower its hood to expose a face with only a mouth. Harry's Patronus dies as he starts to hear [**Lily**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/harry-potter-and-the-prisoner-of-azkaban/characters/lily-potter) scream. The dementor grabs Harry's neck but before it can administer the Kiss, a silver light appears and the dementor drops Harry. Harry watches an animal chase the dementors away and then sees somebody welcome the animal. He faints.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Notice that the narration doesn't mention what the animal is or who Harry sees across the lake. This suggests that Harry will need more time to fully understand what's happened and come to an understanding of the truth. When the dementor tries to kiss Harry, it reinforces that the dementors, like the Ministry, aren't to be trusted.