

“Don’t apologise, Potter; we knew what we were getting into,” Daphne added. “Also, here. You’ll want this back.” And then she slipped him a palm-sized glass orb, winking. Harry grinned, quickly hiding it away in his pocket.

“Wait. Was that—“ Susan gaped at him.

“The Prophecy I told Dumbledore I smashed?” Harry finished, keeping his voice low. “Maybe.”

It had been easy, to speak with conviction against both Voldemort and Dumbledore. To let them into his mind just enough to see him look on in horror as a glass orb slipped from his hand and shattered on the ground.

But it wasn’t the same orb he’d pulled from the shelf. That he’d passed to Daphne while they’d run, hiding the movement in all the chaos.

Harry wasn’t going to let any advantage in this war pass him by.

“You’ve been hanging out with your boyfriend too much,” Neville teased, making Harry grin wider.

“There are worse influences.” His eyes trailed over the five students; five people he’d hardly known two years ago, yet who had risked their lives for him without hesitation. “Thank you. All of you. I’d be dead if you hadn’t come with me. And there would be a lot more Death Eaters still at large.” He was keen to see an exact list of numbers, to see how many his friends had subdued.

“You don’t need to thank us, Harry,” Neville insisted, clapping him on the shoulder.

“We were just doing what you taught us to do,” Susan agreed.

“Besides, it was fun,” Ginny added, and all of them laughed.

“I’ve created a monster,” Harry declared in mock-horror. Ginny punched him gently on the arm.

“Come on, let’s get out of here before Pomfrey finds some reason to keep us longer,” she said. “I want to see what happened to the school before it’s all cleaned up.”

“I can’t believe the whole school went nuts so quickly,” Daphne mused incredulously. “I know it’s been building up all year, but...”

Harry nodded; he hadn’t expected quite such an explosion either. “I can’t believe Umbridge used an Unforgivable on a student in front of half the school.” Good luck to her trying to worm her way out of that one.

They bumped into Hannah and Ernie at the doors, and Susan left to go with her Hufflepuff friends after hugging Harry quickly. The rest of them split up there, Luna going back to Slytherin with Daphne while the three Gryffindors headed for their common room.