

Chapter 6

Christmas morning started out much like it always did now that Harry was at Hogwarts — with Ron throwing a pillow at him to wake him up, shouting about presents. They were the only two left in their dorm, so there was no worry about keeping quiet.

It still left Harry a little gobsmacked to see a pile of presents that was just for him. This year's pile seemed even bigger than the last. Most of them were wrapped in the same festive paper as half the pile on Ron's bed, so Harry assumed they were from Mrs Weasley. He looked to the others, picking up a small square parcel wrapped in plain brown paper.

Harry-

I've had this for a while, I thought you might like it. Merry Christmas.

- Professor Lupin

Tearing into the paper, Harry sucked in a sharp breath at the framed picture in his hands. It was of his parents, sat in front of a huge fireplace, Christmas decorations in the background and a huge log — a Yule log — burning in the hearth. Lily had green tinsel braided in her hair and a baby in her arms; Harry, dressed in a onesie that made him look like a tiny reindeer, complete with antlers attached to the little hood. He was beaming up at his mother, a little tuft of black hair peeking out under the hood, his arms stretching out towards his father. James sat beside Lily, a sleek ginger cat cradled in his arms like a baby, a Santa hat perched jauntily on his head. They waved out at Harry, and every few seconds James would swoop in and press a firm kiss to Lily's cheek, making her blush.

The bottom of the gold frame was engraved with the words '*Harry's First Yule*'.

It took a minute for Harry to remember how to breathe.

"You alright there, mate?" Ron asked, his mouth half-full of homemade nut brittle, shreds of wrapping paper scattered all around him. Harry shoved the picture under his pillow, offering a false grin.

"Yeah." He reached for the next present on auto-pilot, not wanting Ron to investigate further.

He was surprised to find a book, titled '*The Wizengamot And You: The Wizarding Legal System Explained*'. There was a note attached to the front of it.

Hi Harry,

This is from both me and Gran. She said it's the best book out there for learning about all this sort of stuff. I hope it helps. Merry Christmas!

- Neville