

summers, and Harry would not have done *nearly* as well as he thought he had. He could get a present for Snape, of course, but he *had* already given the man the remains of a sixty-foot basilisk and free access to Salazar Slytherin's private library. Those counted as a pre-emptive thanks for the O he thought he had maybe achieved.

He hoped he had. He wanted Snape to be proud of him, to see that his efforts with Harry had not gone to waste.

"And now I never have to study Potions again," Neville declared joyfully, and Harry laughed.

"Congrats!" He clapped his friend on the back. "Bet you passed, though." Neville had started improving in Potions when he learned to look at it from a Herbology perspective. And he didn't make nearly as many mistakes when Snape wasn't in the room.

"To be honest, I could've gotten a Troll and I wouldn't care at this point. I'm just glad it's over."

Tuesday's Care of Magical Creatures exam was one that just about every student was determined to do well in, if only to spite Umbridge. She would just *love* to see all of Hagrid's students fail, and they weren't going to give her the satisfaction.

Wednesday was the toughest exam day yet for Harry; Divination in the morning, Arithmancy in the afternoon, and then at night they had their Astronomy exam.

He added Parvati and Lavender to the 'must buy chocolate for' list; the Divination exam was much less gruelling than he'd expected, and he knew it was down to them.

"Thank you, both of you," he said emphatically at lunch, and they giggled.

"It's what friends are for," Parvati insisted. "I'm pretty sure I would've barely scraped an A in Defence without you, so we'll call it even."

Harry was still going to buy them something nice.

The crowd waiting for the Arithmancy exam after lunch was much smaller than average, with few students willing to take such a complex elective, and as such Hermione spotted Harry almost immediately.

"No," she declared flatly, staring at him. "You—you can't. This is *Arithmancy*!"

Hermione was the only Gryffindor fifth year taking Arithmancy classes, and all weekend she had been biting off peoples' heads for suggesting that the toughest exams were out of the way, because of course Arithmancy was going to be *impossible*.

"Self-study," Harry explained with a shrug, hiding his smile behind a neutral facade.

"Leave it, Granger," Anthony Goldstein cut in, rolling his eyes. "If Potter wants to fail exams, it's none of your business." But then, when Hermione wasn't looking, he winked in Harry's direction. Anthony, along with Draco, had been Harry's main tutor in the subject during school time, and he had told Harry himself he was capable of getting an E at least.