

Ginny *just happened* to have stink pellets in her pockets, so she dropped a few of them on the stairwell as a diversion. Then they were sprinting through the corridors, camouflaged by magic, and Harry skidded to a halt at the witch statue. “Dissendium,” he murmured, tapping her hump with his wand. “Quickly, in here.” He directed all of his friends down the tunnel, waiting until they were all gone before jumping in himself. It felt like it took hours, but the corridor remained undisturbed, and he let out a breath of relief once he was in the cramped tunnel.

“Do I keep going?” Neville asked, apparently the one at the front.

“Yeah, all the way to the end!”

“Where does this thing lead?” Daphne asked as she began crawling. Harry chuckled.

“You’ll see in a minute.”

They made their way down, and Harry heard Neville’s shock the moment his friend poked through the trapdoor into Honeydukes’ cellar.

“Did Fred and George show you this?” Ginny asked enviously. “This explains *so much*.”

“In a way.” Harry forgot she didn’t know about the Map. “Okay, let’s see if this works. Dobby!”

A beat, and the elf appeared. He looked far too happy to be assisting them in their rule-breaking. “How many of us can you take at a time?”

Dobby eyed them all over. “Dobby is best taking two at a time, and not Harry Potter sir and his tall friend together,” he said, gesturing to Neville. Harry nodded.

“Perfect. Okay, if you take Susan and Daphne first, and then Neville and Ginny, and come back for me and Luna after.” If anyone found Susan and Daphne alone, they were the most likely pair to be able to talk their way out of any suspicious circumstances; and the two least connected to Harry.

“Okay. Where is Dobby taking them?”

Harry blinked. Their plan had focused more on what to do inside the Ministry, rather than how to get there.

“Um, Dobby, was it?” Susan cut in tentatively. “Do you know where the muggle entrance to the Ministry of Magic is? The phone box?”

Harry blinked incredulously at the fact that there was even a muggle entrance to begin with, but Dobby nodded, ears flapping. “Yes, Miss, Dobby knows it!”

“Perfect. Take us there, then, please.” Susan held out one hand to Daphne and the other to Dobby, and the Slytherin girl hesitated only for a moment before doing the same. The three disappeared in an instant, and Harry held his breath until Dobby returned.