

"I'll clean this up," Harry promised, already vanishing as much of the pus as he could see. Viktor placed an arm around Hermione's shoulders, hurrying her out of the hall.

"I warned her not to mess with Skeeter," Ron muttered, still eating despite the chaos. "This is probably just the beginning."

"This has gone too far," Harry muttered, scowling. It was one thing when the articles were just a minor inconvenience he could laugh at; if people were actually getting hurt because of the things Rita was writing about him, that was too much.

"What are you gonna do? Give Skeeter an interview?" Ron asked. "She'd probably stop if you told her who you snogged at the Yule Ball."

That gave Harry an idea.

He jumped to his feet, hurrying around the tables until he was by Ginny and Luna at the Ravenclaw table. "Hi," he greeted, squatting down to be at their level. "Luna, your dad runs a magazine, right? The *Quibbler*?" He was sure she'd talked about it before to him. The blonde girl nodded, smiling. "Would he be willing to run an article for me?"

"I'd have to check what his schedule is like for the next issue — there's supposed to be a fantastic article about the Blibbering Humdinger coming in — but I'm sure he'd be happy to publish you. Are you going to tell people to leave Hermione alone?" Luna asked curiously. Harry's answering smirk was purely Slytherin.

"Not quite. I'm going to give him the scoop Rita Skeeter *wishes* she could have."

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It only took an evening for Harry to write an article he was happy with, and he brought it down to Luna the next morning, handing over the rolled up parchment. She unrolled it, reading quickly, her pale eyebrows rising with every line. "This is awfully brave of you, Harry," she commented once she was done. Harry shrugged, ducking his head uncomfortably.

"If people want to be angry, I might as well give them something true to be angry about," he reasoned. And then they'd have to be angry at him, and not the people around him. He could handle hate mail.

"Well, I'm sure Daddy would be happy to run it; I'll send it to him right away. I don't know when the next issue will be released, though."

"That's fine. Thanks so much for this, Luna. And thank your dad, too. I really appreciate this." This was the only way he could be sure his words would go to print exactly as he had written them. Luna smiled.

"Anything for a friend, Harry." She tucked the parchment safely inside her robes.

Harry returned to the Gryffindor table, sitting down next to Neville. "What was that all about?" the taller boy asked, and Harry shot him a quick grin.