

He was in his cot, with a cut on his head. I picked him up. I knew Voldemort would be after him, I had to keep him safe. When I left the house, Hagrid was there. He said that Dumbledore had sent him to retrieve Harry, to take him somewhere safe. We argued — I didn't want him taking Harry anywhere. He accused me of betraying Lily and James, and I knew that until Peter was caught, everyone would think I did. So I let him take Harry, and my motorbike, and I went to go find Peter. I caught up with him at his house, where he was packing, trying to run. I chased him out onto the street. He yelled for everyone to hear that I was the Secret Keeper, that I was the reason Lily and James were dead. Then he blew up the street, cut off his own finger and transformed into a rat. I tried to find him, but the aurors showed up."

It broke Harry's heart, hearing his godfather recount such a traumatic night in that empty, emotionless voice.

"No further questions, Minister." Amelia declared.

"I have a question," Scrimgeour growled. "You were laughing, Black; when the aurors came for you. Why?"

"It was the first time Peter had shown any sort of cunning," Sirius responded. "I was laughing because I couldn't believe he had the brains to do it. And laughing was easier than crying."

The response just made Scrimgeour scowl harder. But he waved his hand, and the antidote was given to Sirius, who blinked away the vacant stare.

"If Black was innocent the whole time, why did he break out of Azkaban to go after Potter?" Scrimgeour pointed out. That made Amelia smile.

"For that, I would like to bring Mr Harry Potter to the stand."

Harry stood up, approaching the chair Amelia gestured to.

"Objection!" Dumbledore cut in. "Mr Potter is a minor; he cannot be subject to Veritaserum."

"No potions," Amelia promised. "Just questions. Mr Potter, do you consent?"

"I consent," Harry confirmed.

"Excellent. Have a seat." Harry sat. "Mr Potter, please recount to the court the events of the night of June 27th, 1993, to the best of your knowledge."

Harry had prepared for this. He was ready. In a clear, steady voice, he explained what had happened the night Sirius dragged Hermione to the Shrieking Shack.

He glossed over some of the details; the Marauder's Map, some of the exact things said, the extent of Snape's involvement. But the important parts were there; namely, Sirius' confession of innocence, and Pettigrew's admission of guilt.

"In all the chaos of Professor Lupin transforming, Pettigrew got away," Harry explained.

"Professor Snape got knocked out trying to protect us. Sirius and I ran to the lake, for safety,