

passing over a roll of parchment. Harry smirked.

“You’ve figured out staffing, then?” he asked, trying and failing to sound innocent. He already knew she’d found a Transfiguration professor to take over now she was full-time Headmistress, but that wasn’t the only open position.

“Professor Slughorn has returned to retirement,” she told him, “and Professor Snape has agreed to return to his position as Potions professor.” Harry raised an eyebrow, a slow grin forming. “And Remus Lupin has agreed to return as Defence Against the Dark Arts professor. Also, the new Head of Gryffindor House.”

“Knew it,” Harry hissed in triumph, beaming. “That’s brilliant.” Remus had been an amazing teacher, and he knew many students would be glad to see him return. “No issues with his furry little problem?”

“Thanks to the quick work of you and your friends, and the determination of the young Lady Bones, any complaints do not have a leg to stand on,” McGonagall informed him, looking deeply satisfied by that. “He has an excellent track record, and will be on Wolfsbane for the duration. Any classes on days he needs to take off will either become self-study, be covered by another member of staff, or have a guest instructor brought in.”

Already, Harry couldn’t wait for the inevitable chaos of Guest Professor Sirius Black.

“And... Astronomy?” he dared ask, vividly remembering Professor Sinistra laid out on the Great Hall floor. McGonagall pursed her lips.

“I have contacted an ex-pupil of the school who has a Mastery in the subject, and she has agreed to at least the first year of teaching.”

“That’s good.” Harry sipped at his tea, tucking the booklist into his pocket. “So what else is there? I know you didn’t call me here just for a piece of parchment.”

McGonagall’s cheek twitched as she tried to restrain her smile. “Quite right. There is one more thing I didn’t feel right sending by post.”

And then she leaned forward, and placed the Head Boy badge on the desk.

Harry stared. “I... what?” Green eyes widened incredulously. “But I— I’m me! I spent most of the last six years in detention, and sneaking about after curfew, and getting into all sorts of trouble!” Was she mad??

The smile broke through, just a little. “You also spent those years saving lives, foiling Albus Dumbledore’s plans, preparing your fellow students for a war everyone denied was coming, and keeping up straight Os throughout. Not to mention success on the quidditch pitch, and the incredible respect both your peers and your professors have for you.” Her dark green eyes danced as he gaped like a fish. “You certainly earned some of your detentions,” she said, giving him a pointed look, “but we are both aware that many of those were given under ulterior motives.”