

Chapter 71

Chapter Notes

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Gryffindor Tower was silent when Harry entered; those who weren't in the exam were in class, or studying elsewhere. He sprinted straight up to his dormitory, wrenching open his bedside drawer. "Sirius Black!"

The few seconds it took for Sirius to answer the mirror felt like *years*.

Harry deflated in relief as his godfather's face appeared, frowning at him. "Harry? What's wrong? Shouldn't you be in an exam?"

Immediately, Harry relayed the contents of his vision; a trap, he now realised. A lure to get him to the Ministry. "They don't know I have the mirror," he pointed out. "They think I can't contact you." Voldemort and his lackeys probably thought they were very clever, choosing Harry's most beloved person outside the castle when all communication was monitored. A person who would not be missed, who was supposed to be hidden anyway; a person who was known to be reckless.

"The Order is out at the moment, anyway," Sirius said grimly. "Death Eater raid on a muggle village. Likely intentionally timed, just in case you could get a message to one of them to get to me."

Harry's heart clenched; yes, it had worked out all too well for them. Dumbledore gone, McGonagall unconscious in the hospital, no other Order members nearby.

As usual, their fatal flaw was underestimating Harry Potter.

"What do we do?" he asked, and Sirius' frown deepened.

"What do you mean? The vision was fake, there's nothing *to* do."

"But they're expecting me," Harry retorted. "They'll be waiting for me. Voldemort will be waiting for me." His brain was working a mile a minute, drawing conclusions that made his blood run cold. "What if they're claiming the Ministry, tonight?" It had been coming for a while, they all knew it. "Killing two birds with one stone. Distracting the Order with the raid, getting me in to take the Prophecy — then they'll kill me, take the Ministry, and they've won."

"All the more reason for you to leave well alone!"

"But I can stop them!" Harry urged. "At least long enough for the Order to show up. Long enough for the Ministry to bring back-up and finally see what's been in front of their faces the whole time!" Unless it was too late, unless the Death Eaters had killed everyone and were