

Chapter 23

Chapter Notes

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Harry had almost forgotten about the Wand Weighing ceremony, in the face of potentially having to fight a dragon. Thus, when the article in the *Prophet* came out, it was a bit of a shock.

Somehow, despite Harry's total refusal to give Skeeter anything, she'd managed to make the article about him anyway. It continued over several pages, barely said anything about Fleur and Krum (and misspelled both their names when it did), and didn't mention Cedric at all. There was an enormous picture on the front page that had clearly been cropped from the photos taken of Harry and Cedric together; Cedric's arm was still around Harry's shoulders. The only saving grace was the 'Support Cedric Diggory' badge on his robes, which the picture version of Harry was delighting in changing to 'Potter Stinks' and back again every few seconds.

'Harry Potter: The Unexpected Champion

All of you will be familiar with the tragic tale of the Boy-Who-Lived. He saved us all and lost everything in the process, left orphaned and alone. Now he's grown and at Hogwarts, and appears to be making waves once more.'

Without any real quotes from Harry — though she'd thrown plenty in that Harry didn't recall ever saying in his life — she'd apparently interviewed several people about him. Harry almost choked on his pumpkin juice when he reached the part about his 'close companion and rumoured girlfriend, Hermione Granger'.

"Well, this is a load of bollocks," Cedric declared cheerfully from the Hufflepuff bench behind Harry, raising his wand and setting his issue of the *Prophet* on fire. "Alright there, Harry?"

After Harry's little stunt with the badge, Cedric and the other Hufflepuffs had warmed considerably to him. The Slytherins had stopped wearing the badges — apparently they weren't funny if Harry wasn't upset by them — but Harry still had his attached to his school bag. "Yeah, just wondering if it's possible to sue for this," Harry replied, frowning at the article. Surely he could get her for something — defamation of character, or slander, or misrepresentation of a minor. Surely it couldn't be legal to publish that amount of information about him.

"You should ask Susan," Neville piped up from the other side of the table. "Her aunt's head of the DMLE, she'd probably know."

Harry kept that in mind, though he didn't run into Susan until his second class of the afternoon. That meant he spent the whole day listening to people — mostly Slytherins — quote their favourite parts of the article at him, laughing.