

Harry and Draco shared an amused look — if only they could see what the pair of them were like among family.

“*The point is,*” Susan said somewhat impatiently, “we can talk about laws we want to change all we like, but without our family heads on board, we’re useless. What we *can* do, however, is make the Ministry regret trying to interfere in our school.”

A stab of fear went through Harry at the prospect of all his friends getting detentions with that awful quill. “Surely if she’s here to get Dumbledore out, we should leave her to it?”

“That certainly wouldn’t hurt, but it’s not just Dumbledore she wants out. It’s anyone and anything who doesn’t fit her *standards*,” Susan replied coldly. “You know what her voting record is like, Harry. She’d ban anyone with an ounce of creature blood from the school if she could.”

“She said the most awful things about Professor Flitwick the other day,” Anthony Goldstein said, angry on behalf of his Housemaster. “He’s the best Charms Master in the country, and she doesn’t think he’s fit to teach!”

“But what can we do, though?” The quiet words came from Neville, on Harry’s other side. “Realistically, what can we do that isn’t going to make everything worse? She’s already shown she’s happy to give detention to anyone who stands up to her.”

“We don’t all need to be quite so brazen as Potter,” Millicent Bulstrode drawled. “Umbridge is a control freak. She wants *order*. All we have to do is make her realise it’s a lot harder to control a castle full of teenagers than she seems to think.” A smirk slid across her features. “Socialising with other houses. Running in the corridors, messy uniforms, late homework. Behave for all the teachers except her. We get enough people doing it, she won’t be able to put all of us in detention.”

“Of course, when Millie says *we*, she means *you*,” Pansy piped up. “It’s not worth the risk of our parents finding out if we were to join in this *rebellion*.”

They all knew that the Death Eaters were trying their best to infiltrate the Ministry and ingratiate themselves to Fudge, so of course their children couldn’t be seen going against Umbridge’s word.

“We’ll hide in plain sight,” Padma agreed. “Keep up our study groups, make sure it doesn’t look like the Wizengamot heirs are banding together — be so obvious she can’t possibly think there’s something wrong. And if she tries to restrict things, well — we’ve already had plenty of experience reading laws and regulations in search of loopholes, after Susan’s little summer project.” The smile that crossed her face was positively devious in its innocence. “We’ll follow her word *to the letter*.”

“If it makes the Ministry angrier at Dumbledore, all the better,” Parvati agreed with her twin. Susan hummed thoughtfully.

“I’m talking to Aunt Amelia about it, trying to see if there’s a way to get her removed. After what Harry said about her teaching qualifications, we’re trying to see if that can be used