

CHAPTER ONE



The Department of Astronomy

Harry, Ron, and Hermione rushed into Sears Library as curses flew over their heads, Death Eaters, dementors, and theorists swarming over the quad. Slamming the doors behind them, they rushed upstairs before stopping to catch their breath under a large television screen.

“Blimey, Harry,” said Ron, “it looks like we’re at a magical school of some sort! Maybe the book with the secret spell is in here somewhere!”

“Ron, you’re brilliant!” exclaimed Hermione. “We should check the rooms around this little hallway, and see if anyone can help. I think we might get lucky, this building is called a ‘Library’ after all. If we find the spell, we can head home and never come back to Cleveland again.”

“Right, let’s head toward that side,” panted Harry. Suddenly, he winced as his scar twinged in pain. Voldemort must be getting closer to discovering the code that would take control of the Hubble Space Telescope for his nefarious plans. He exchanged a glance with Hermione and Ron: they needed to move quickly, or the telescope might be lost forever!

CHAPTER TWO



Defense Against Dark Matter

Approaching the first door, Harry was surprised to discover it slightly ajar, faint music coming from the other side. They were greeted by a collection of strange and mysterious pieces of art and windows with a scenic view of another concrete building. A swivel chair dramatically swung around to face them.

“Welcome to the Department of Astronomy. I am Professor McGaugh, the Defense Against Dark Matter teacher. Are you here to learn how to fight off terrifying beasts?”

“Like dementors, giant spiders, and boggarts?” asked Ron. “We sure could use a little bit of help, we’re in a predicament here.”

“I’m afraid I’ve dealt with far worse. Here, I fight off the specters of WIMPs, MACHOs, complicated rotation curves, convoluted theories of the universe.”

“Sorry, we need help fighting off Death Eaters. Do you know if there’s a secret spell in this department?” inquired Harry.

“I don’t know, but you’re headed in the right direction.” With that, Professor McGaugh swung his chair back around impressively, and Harry crept out of the room.

CHAPTER THREE



The Whiteboard Room

A furious scratching noise met Ron as he barged into the next room, causing him to jump and drop his wand in surprise. The walls were plastered with paper and whiteboards, and three figures hurried around, scrawling complicated formulae.

“Quick, what’s the distance modulus of the Coma cluster?” “How in the world do we calculate Einstein coefficients?” “Is this a V as in Vegetable or Nu? I can’t tell!” Tiffany, John, and Ray bustled around, putting together three stacks of papers on a desk.

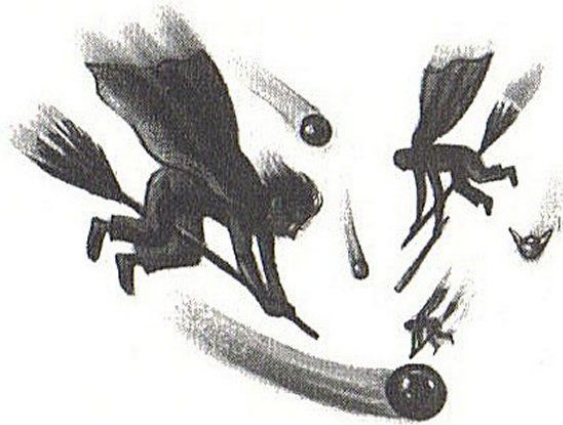
Hermione jumped forward, shouting over the ruckus; “Are you creating a secret spell that can help us defeat the Death Eaters?” The three young astronomers paused.

“We’ve got two homeworks due in a week, plus extra essays. Death Eaters would be a nice distraction, actually.”

“All right,” said Harry, “can you help us with getting the spell? The fate of the Hubble Space Telescope is on the line!”

Their eyes widening, the three grad students promised to ask around, but then went back to their work. Harry led his friends to the next room, perplexed.

CHAPTER FOUR



The Swooping Dwarf Galaxies

Moving along the hallway, Harry, Ron, and Hermione opened the next room, and immediately ducked as lopsided balls of light sped around their heads. Standing on a desk, wand raised, an imposing wizard directed the lights back before clambering down. “Who are you?” asked Hermione.

“Mind yourselves!”, cried the wizard, “I’m busy keeping track of all my dwarf galaxies. They’re always flying around in circles, and it’s trouble enough without people barging in and letting them escape.”

“Hey, maybe you know where to find the spell we’re looking for!” exclaimed Ron. “It’s supposed to be really difficult and we need all the help we can get.”

Exasperated, the wizard sat back down into his chair. “I’ve got to corral dozens of youngsters who don’t know a Magellanic cloud from an absolute magnitude, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Harry shrugged. “When’s the next time everyone can get together to talk?”

“The next open journal club session is in... three months. I’ll pencil you in.”

CHAPTER FIVE



The Spectroscopy Master

The next door revealed a mysterious bearded figure, hunched over a desk covered in strange crystals. Dancing rays of colorful light around the room, and Harry immediately knew they were on the right track.

The wizard rose from his chair. “Enter if you dare! Here you will face the trials and tribulations of arranging these delicate optical elements into a working telescope and spectroscope! Many will try, many will fail...”

Hermione stepped forward confidently. “I’m sure it can’t be much more difficult than brewing a potion or casting a summoning charm.”

Laughing, the wizard waved his hands, and several crystals zoomed forwards. “Then try your best, travellers!”

After a half-hour of toil, Harry, Ron, and Hermione weren’t any closer to assembling a spectroscope. The strange wizard waved his hands again, and the optical pieces flew together into a handy spectroscope. “Now you can use this telescope to find the hidden spell, but only if you can find the key to the secret textbooks in the library!” With that, he disappeared in a puff of smoke.



Care of Magical Computers

Suddenly, Hermione's phone started emitting a hideous beeping noise. Harry glanced over her shoulder as she checked the screen. "Oh no! It looks like the Death Eaters are trying to hack all the computers in the department to take control of the Hubble Space Telescope!"

The door before them burst open, and a wise old wizard with a long beard and a flannel shirt leaped into the hallway. "Not to fear, young ones! I'll get everything working again. Come, Wodin! Come, Freya!" Two small dogs chased after him as he ran towards a closet with an impressive label: Magical Computers.

Harry, Ron, and Hermione peered in as the wizard fiddled with knobs and typed magical spells into a set of glowing computer screens. He called out cryptic commands as he worked. "Changus Directrus! Removus Filium! Copium Textox! And the most powerful of them all, Sudo Maximus!"

Suddenly, the jagged errors on the computer screens subsided, and the wizard turned to Ron. "Now don't forget your password, or I'll have to start all over again! Use Grepiosa to find the text you desire. Away!" Harry turned to his friends, a bit perplexed. "We'd better get going. I can't remember any of those commands anyways."

CHAPTER SEVEN



The Headmaster

A voice rang out from behind them. “You all look confused. Let me help!” Turning around, Harry jumped as the famous headmaster Agnes Dumbledore strode towards them.

Ron let out a little gasp. “It can’t be! The most famous headmaster in all of America! If anyone can help us find the spell to defeat the Death Eaters, you can!”

Agnes beamed at them, and led them to her cozy office. “Of course I can help, I keep the Department of Astronomy together and I keep everyone alive. What you are looking for is the Great Spell of Sagittarius Star.”

Hermione gaped. “You can’t be serious! Last time anyone used that spell, they ended up sending an entire town into deep space! I read about it in *Hogwarts, A History*.”

“I’m afraid it’s the only way. There are so many Death Eaters swarming around Cleveland, the G.S.S.S. can trap them all in a black hole so you can escape. You’ll need to talk with some other professors in the department and get their help, but you’re on the right track.” Agnes showed them out of her office, everyone in a much more buoyant mood than before.

CHAPTER EIGHT



The Timeless Sage

“I wonder who’s in this room?” wondered Ron, as they crossed the hallway towards a cozy-looking corner office, the door slightly ajar. Hermione waved her wand, and the door swung open to reveal a small figure, huddled in a chair with a mug of coffee and a blanket.

A booming voice echoed through the department, and the lights on the ceiling flickered dramatically. “I am the great Pengfei, he who is, was, and shall be! Who disturbs my meditation?”

Harry stepped forwards, wand at the ready. “We’re looking for a spell to get away from the Death Eaters swarming outside. Have you heard of something like that?”

The sage turned in his chair to look out the window, watching as cloaked figures turned around the quad like a great black tornado. “The records do speak of just such a spell, we discussed it in journal club three years ago. Consult the Book of Ancient History in the library. Someone has the key, but I do not recall whomst.” With that, he swung around and returned to his meditations on the mysteries of the universe. Harry led his friends away cautiously.

CHAPTER NINE



The Potions Master

Noxious fumes billowed out from the next office. Harry, Ron, and Hermione held their noses, opening the door to see a wizard bending over a large round cauldron, dumping vials of chemicals into a batch of potion and consulting a large almanac of graphs.

The wizard continued his work as they clambered into his room. “A bit of oxygen, some iron, now some boron, and that’ll give us just what we need for a high-metallicity main sequence star! Voilà!” The wizard noticed them watching intently, and turned to face them.

“D-do you know where the key to the textbooks and records in the library are? We need to find a spell to defeat the Death Eaters” Harry stammered, choking on the hot plasma that was emanating from the cauldron.

The wizard let out a booming laugh. “I am Earle, the Potions Master! I can’t get you the key, but I can make a little bit of Felix Felicis for you, liquid luck! It’ll help you get past the Saha Dragon guarding the key to the library.”

“End function conversation” muttered the potions master as Harry departed for the next room.

CHAPTER TEN



Portents and Populations

Thunder cracked overhead as Harry, Ron, and Hermione approached the next room, an intense feeling of anticipation shared by all three. Harry felt like they were getting closer and closer to their goal. Pushing open the next door, a pair of bright eyes loomed through a large crystal ball.

“Welcome to my great divination studio, young ones,” whispered the venerable seer. “I will look into my all-seeing orb and tell you of the past, the present, and the future...” As skeptical as Hermione was of astronomy, she joined Harry and Ron around a small table and waited apprehensively for a glimpse of truth.

A large orange orb appeared in the crystal ball. “Here you see the last unpolluted population three star in the galaxy. In its long orbit, it has never passed through a dust cloud or been infused with later-forming metals. When this star dies, so too will He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named!”

Harry jumped excitedly. “When will that be?”

“Well, it’s a red dwarf, so a few trillion years. But the great spell you seek might yet speed his defeat, causing this star to be eaten by a great maw. The seer has spoken! Leave me to my studies!” Harry and his friends again marvelled at the unique characters in this magical department.

CHAPTER ELEVEN



Galactic Transfiguration

A distant rumbling leaked under the door of the next room, and upon opening the door, Harry found an impressive wizard brandishing his wand at a swirling mass of light. After a few minutes of effort, the wizard stepped back, noticed his audience, and removed his safety goggles. “You’ve just seen a magnificent transfiguration of colliding galaxies. I’m the transfiguration teacher here, call me Master Magician Mihos!”

Hermione stepped forwards bravely. “How can a bunch of stars smashing together give us the secrets of the Great Spell of Sagittarius Star?”

The transfigurations master smiled. “That’s the real question, isn’t it? Like a donkey carrying a heavy load up a mountain, these colliding galaxies billions of years ago can help create the great black holes like the one in the spell you seek.”

“Blimey, Harry! We’re almost there!” Ron shouted. “What do we need to do to get the black hole for the spell to save Hubble from the death eaters?”

“That secret is in the library. You must find the key. Let me know when you succeed!” The transfiguration master showed them out of his office.

CHAPTER TWELVE



The Visitor

As Harry, Ron, and Hermione rushed down the hallway, a door slightly ajar caught their attention. Peering inside, it looked like the room was completely empty, though the open window let in gusts of air and the spooky cries of dementors swirling outside. Suddenly, a woman in goggles zoomed in on a broomstick, dismounted with great agility, plopped down behind a desk and began to type furiously on a computer.

“Sorry, who are you?” Ron asked. “How can you fly through the cloud of Death Eaters outside without getting caught?”

“Silly billy!” laughed the rider. “I’m Emily, the broomstick flying instructor! No one can catch me on my broomstick, not even the Death Eaters outside! It’s how I can zoom from one scientific institution to another so quickly. Watch this!”

In a second, Emily jumped onto her broom and zoomed out the open window. Harry stood gaping for a minute before she reappeared again as a speck in the distance, approaching fast. He jumped backwards as she rocketed back into the room and dropped a small key into Harry’s hand.

“There you go, the key to the library! I grabbed it from the Saha dragon at the Caves of Doom. That’ll save you at least three chapters of side plot.” She zoomed out of the window again, leaving Harry and his friends to continue the quest.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN



The Guardian

Approaching the library, Harry, Ron, and Hermione came to a screeching halt when a cloaked figure appeared in front of them. A booming voice echoed through the department. “I am Jeff! Before you enter this library, you must first pass my Three Trials of Introductory Astronomy! Who will take the first challenge?” Hermione stepped forwards.

“To astronomer accuracy, is seven equal to nine?” Hermione let out a gasp of surprise. Nothing had prepared her for hand-wavy math like this. Harry knew from the look on her head she was guessing as she nodded.

“Correct! Next, you!” Jeff turned to Ron, who gulped nervously. “How much brighter is a 5th-magnitude star than a 10th-magnitude star?”

Ron started rambling immediately, taken off-guard. “Well, if we multiply 5 by 10, we get 50, but we have two stars so we have to multiply by 2, so that’s 100x brighter!” Jeff smiled. “Correct! Finally, the Boy who Lived. Is Pluto a planet?”

Harry didn’t remember anything from elementary school science, so he hedged. “That depends. What do you mean by a planet?” At this, Jeff smiled, and vanished in a puff of smoke, leaving Harry to lead the way onwards.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN



The Celestial Slumber Party

Before heading into the library, Harry, Ron, and Hermione poked their heads into a large room filled with desks. The walls were lined with colorful pictures of nebula and desks were scattered about. Creeping in, Ron gave a shout as he tripped over something squishy, something alive!

“Lumos!” shouted Hermione, brandishing her wand to illuminate the room. All around, astronomy students were clambering out of sleeping bags and yawning awake. Harry didn’t think the room looked much like a dormitory. “What are you all doing here?” he asked.

One of the students spoke up. “Well, we generally sleep up here most of the time. With the Death Eaters flying outside and all our homework we have to do, going home just isn’t worth our time.”

The young wizards waking up from their naps were now approaching whiteboards and computers, starting to work on complicated proofs and problems. “Do you know where the textbook with the Spell of Sagittarius Star is?” asked Ron.

Another student came over. “We don’t have textbooks in this department, everything is on the internet. If it’s anywhere, it’s in the library, but good luck finding it.” Harry led the way out of the door, happy to leave these sleep-deprived students behind.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN



Into the Library

Finally, Harry led his friends into the library, wands at the ready. Suddenly, Harry's scar twinged with pain; Voldemort must know they were almost at their goal. Suddenly, a loud CRACK echoed through the department, and Draco Malfoy, Harry's nemesis, appeared.

"Don't move, Potter," sneered Malfoy. "I'm going to take the Great Spell of Sagittarius Star and show the Dark Lord what a powerful wizard I am. Then, nothing will stop us from taking control of the Hubble Space Telescope."

"Oh no you don't!" shouted Harry, waving his wand. "Expelliarmus!" Harry, Ron, and Hermione started dueling Malfoy with all their magical knowledge. Still, Malfoy seemed to be aided by some powerful astronomic magic, because none of their spells seems to be impeding him.

As their situation got more desperate, Harry heard Hermione shout the spell that the Care of Magical Computers teacher had used earlier: "Sudo Maximus!" A loud whooshing sound filled the library, and Malfoy suddenly couldn't cast any spells. Hermione had removed his administrative privileges! Defeated, Malfoy turned and ran, leaving Harry, Ron, and Hermione to search through the books for the object of their quest.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN



The Great Spell of Sagittarius

Harry searched through the rows of books and journals lining the shelves of the library, but to no avail. Even with all the help the professors in the Department of Astronomy had provided, they couldn't find the textbook with the Spell of Sagittarius Star.

"Wait, I have an idea!" exclaimed Ron. "That old computer wizard told us to use a spell to find text. Maybe we can use that incantation!"

"Ron, that's brilliant!", gasped Hermione. "Harry, do you remember the spell?" Harry, embarrassed, shrugged. He could never remember any of those strange incantations to control computers. He felt a small bottle in his pocket, and remembered the vial of Felix Felicis that the Potions Master had given them. Downing the golden fluid, he remembered the strange formula for the spell, and waved his wand confidently. "Grepiosa **Saggitarius Star!**"

Immediately, an ancient leaflet jumped out of a small side shelf and opened up in Harry's hand. His eyes caught on a passage next to a large drawing on an accretion disk. Handing the instructions to Hermione, he and Ron watched as she started murmuring strange mathematical incantations and waving her wand.

"It's working!" Hermione exclaimed, as the whole building started to shake. Dashing to an empty office, Harry looked at the sky above the department, and saw a

great dark maw forming above the quad. Death Eaters and dementors flailed helplessly to resist the gravitational pull of the great black hole.

Suddenly, a look of panic crossed Hermione's face. The black hole was growing out of control, and Harry saw it would soon consume the entire department. They had defeated the Death Eaters and saved the Hubble Space Telescope, but now Harry knew they were in even greater danger.

A loud bang echoed outside, and Harry saw a figure riding a dragon swoop over the quad towards the black hole. It was the headmaster, Agnes Dumbledore, and as she approached the glowing black hole jet of powerful magic zoomed out of her outstretched hand. When the beam impacted the event horizon, the black hole quickly started to shrink, eventually disappearing. The Death Eaters and dementors were trapped in some other dimension now.

Landing her dragon near the astronomy department, Agnes hopped off. "Here, get on my dragon and he'll get you back to Hogwarts safe and sound!" Happy to have prevented a catastrophe of cosmological proportions, Harry and his friends climbed on the dragon and waved goodbye to the friends they made at the CWRU Department of Astronomy.