

MEDIATION BETWEEN VERNON & PETUNIA DURSLEY AND HARRY POTTER

Christina Krandick

This Mediation takes place between Mr. Vernon Dursley (Vernon)¹ and his wife Petunia Dursley (Petunia)² on the one side and on the other side their nephew, Mr. Harry James Potter (Harry)³. We are currently in the offices of OAKBY'S MUGGLE MAGIC MEDIATION, a mediation firm specialized in mediating between magic and non-magic people, where this mediation will take place. Mr. Idris Oakby Jr. himself – son of the famous Idris Oakby Sr., founder of the Society for the Support of Squibs⁴ (S.S.S.) - will act as the mediator due to the specific circumstances of this case. It is Tuesday, June 9, 1998, just about a month since the defeat of Lord Voldemort,⁵ 10 am. As prescribed by the Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act,⁶ everyone carrying a wand

¹ Vernon Dursley, husband of Petunia Dursley, father to Dudley Dursley and uncle to Harry Potter. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

² Petunia Dursley, wife of Vernon Dursley, mother to Dudley Dursley and aunt to Harry Potter. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

³ Harry James Potter, also known to the public as “The Boy Who Lived” as the only known survivor of the Killing Curse or as “The Chosen One” as the rumored destined savior of the wizarding world. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

⁴ Squib, a person who was born into a wizarding family, but does not himself possess any magical abilities. For more information, see II Appendix 1) Introduction.

⁵ Tom Marvolo Riddle, also known as Lord Voldemort or “He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named” to the general wizarding community or as “the Dark Lord” to his supporters (= Death Eaters): the most evil wizard ever known to man. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who; 3) Relevant History.

⁶ Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, the wizarding law regulating mediations between wizards and non-wizards, which - coincidentally - is identical in wording to the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators, apart from the last

was obliged to hand it in at the reception, in order to prevent the wizarding party from hexing, jinxing, cursing or otherwise magically influencing the non-magic party.⁷ Before entering the actual conference room through a heavy gray veil,⁸ everyone was scanned by Probity Probes.⁹

Oakby: Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, Mr. Potter (nods in Harry's direction) and welcome to my offices here at 17 Gootault Place. I trust you were able to find it alright?

Vernon: Of course we did. It's London. What do you think we are – stupid? Arg, this whole idea is stupid!

(Petunia makes a placatory movement towards Vernon.)

Oakby: (unfazed) Well, then. Excellent. I assume, everyone knows the procedure of this mediation,¹⁰ but let me just give you a short overview nonetheless. (general nodding) This mediation aims at settling the dispute between the Dursleys and Mr. Potter about a claim for damages for lost profit on the one hand and a counterclaim for general damages on the other hand. I am here as your Mediator, which means that I will try to help you to reach that settlement. As a mediator, I do not have the power to decide anything in this dispute – the choices of how to settle - or even *if* to settle at all - are entirely up to you.¹¹ My role in this mediation is solely to assist and to guide you and to provide a third

section, commencing after 10.900, which regulates the wizard-specific issues.

⁷ Cf. Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.910 (a).

⁸ Defrauder's Downfall, for more information see note 15.

⁹ Cf. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, chapter 26: Probity Probes are long, thin, golden rods that detect spells of concealment and hidden magical objects by being gauged by hand over a person, comparable to non-magic metal detectors.

¹⁰ During the discussions of how and where this mediation was to take place, the Dursleys and Harry had been informed of some of the peculiarities of both non-magic and wizard mediation. Yet, as we were about to see, not all questions had been addressed.

¹¹ Cf. Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.310 (a).

set of eyes to this dispute.¹² As such, I am completely neutral-

Vernon: How do we know?

Oakby: I beg your pardon?

Vernon: How do we know that you're neutral? You're one of ... *his* folks! (jerks his head angrily in Harry's direction)

Harry: Seriously, Uncle Vernon? Seriously? We've been over this! Merlin, you agreed to Mr. Oakby!

Vernon: Well, I've changed my mind! How can we be sure that he's neutral? He's ... part of *your* people!

Oakby: Mr. Dursley may I remind you why OAKBY'S MUGGLE MAGIC MEDIATION was chosen for this particular settlement? I trust you have already gotten my business card? (slides one of his business cards over the table)¹³ As you can see, I have lived in both worlds – my childhood upbringing was with wizards and witches. But as it became clear that I was a Squib and could not perform any magic, I was encouraged to participate more in the non-magic or “Muggle”¹⁴ world. (turning towards the Dursleys) Let us just for the duration of the mediation settle on the term “Muggle”, even though it is a phrase mainly used by

¹² Cf. Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.300.

¹³ We are able to read what it says:

Idris Oakby Junior

OAKBY 'S MUGGLE MAGIC MEDIATION – THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

- Squib
- Study of Law at Queen Mary University, London, School of Law
- more than 50 years of negotiation and mediation experience
- notable cases:

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS // FAMILY MEDIATIONS:

1962 Cuba Missile Crisis // Montague Family Feud

1979 Iran Hostage Crisis // Capulet Children Complot

1998 Good Friday Agreement

¹⁴ Muggle, someone without any magical powers. For more information, see II Appendix 1) Introduction.

wizards, alright? I find that the alternative – “non-magic people” - is quite a mouthful. Don’t you agree?

Vernon: (irritated) Fine! What kind of stupid word is “Muggle” anyway?

Harry: (annoyed) Does any of that really matter? Can’t we just get on with this and focus on the *actual* conflict?

Oakby: On the contrary, it is quite essential that everyone in this room understands all the implications of mediation and that includes the establishment of neutrality of the mediator! To participate in any mediation a certain willingness to consider a settlement needs to be there – and how can one party really be expected to agree to a compromise if they feel they are being pressured: either by an imbalance of power compared to the other party or by a biased mediator?

Harry: (nodding) Ok. Fine. But I just don’t get why we have to do this *again*! I mean, (turning towards his aunt and uncle), you’ve already agreed to this, otherwise you wouldn’t even *be* here!

Petunia: hesitantly) The veil!

Harry: What?

Petunia: (quietly) The veil we had to go through to get into this conference room! It made it all more real – how you could bewitch us without our knowledge and how you (turning towards Oakby) are part of his world and ...

Harry: But that’s the whole point of the Defrauder’s Downfall¹⁵ - to make sure and to prove that you are *not* bewitched and all agreements made are really your own.

Vernon: So? We know now that we’re not ... bewitched by you – but what about you (turning to Oakby and pointing at him) – how can we be sure that you’re not in league with him? He’s one of *your* people after all!

Oakby: (patiently) As I was saying before, I was encouraged

¹⁵ Defrauder’s Downfall is a magic veil, similar to the Thief’s Downfall used in Gringotts (cf. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, chapter 26), which lifts all enchantments and magical concealments: impersonators using Polyjuice Potion turn back into their own selves, people being under the influence of the Imperius Curse get their own free will back etc.

to take part more in the Muggle world than in the wizarding world. Even though my family never made me feel like I was any different from my siblings – who were “normal” wizards –, the same cannot be said for the rest of the wizarding community. The constant exposure to people who treated me with ridicule and often contempt for being a Squib made it very easy for me to turn my back at the wizarding world. I can assure you, that I am not holding anything against you for being Muggles. Neither do I favor for Mr. Potter simply because he happens to be the wizard in this dispute. After all, I would do very poorly business-wise if all my mediated settlements favored the magic side, would I not? No Muggle would ever agree to a mediation with me and I would have to close down fairly soon, I suspect.

Vernon: (exasperated) *Fine!* Maybe you don't favor him because he's ... one of your own, but he's *Harry Potter!* Of course you favor him!

Harry: (blinking) What?

Vernon: Oh, don't play stupid with me, boy! I've heard Hestia and Dedalus¹⁶ talk about you! The Boy Who Lived!¹⁷ The Chosen One! Hero of all wizardkind and all that nonsense.

Harry: (incredulous) *You* have heard that?

Petunia: (shrilly) Heard? *Heard?* Of course we heard! How could we not? They had their radio with them all the time and listened to that ... Potterwatch¹⁸ program that proclaimed you as the last hope of the whole world! We were the only ones seeing you for what you really are – a fraud!

¹⁶ Hestia Jones and Dedalus Diggle were the two wizards from the Order of the Phoenix who protected the Dursleys during their time spent in hiding (7/27/1997 – 5/4/1998).

¹⁷ For an explanation of Harry's titles, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

¹⁸ Potterwatch was a magical pirate radio program during the Second War devoted to the distribution of reliable news to the magic community and supporting Harry (cf. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, chapter 22).

Harry: A fraud? But I *did* save the wizarding world – and yours, too, for that matter. I defeated Voldemort.

Vernon: *Exactly!* So you admit it! So, how can you, Mr. Oakby, possibly sit here and say that you are neutral? You must favor him for what he’s done!

Harry: (exasperated) You don’t make any *sense!* Aunt Petunia claims that I’m a fraud and didn’t do *anything* worthwhile and you say I *did* and hold *that* against me! You’re *unbelievable!* (shakes his head)

Oakby: Mr. Potter, please calm down. (gives him a stern look and turns towards the Dursleys) That is a very valid objection you are raising, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley. I *could* indeed be heavily influenced by the general hero-worshipping that Mr. Potter is experiencing. However, I am not. (noticing the disbelieving looks of the Dursleys) It is true that I admire his perseverance and skill at defeating Lord Voldemort ...

Vernon: *Ha!*

Oakby: ... but at the same time, I have something to admire about you, Mr. Dursley, as well: being a successful business man who has managed to stay on top of a company like Grunnings¹⁹ for more than 20 years. That, too, requires perseverance and skill, so that the fact that Mr. Potter has done something admirable alone will not automatically make me favor him. However, after all the awe and admiration that you saw Mr. Potter inspiring, I can understand that you are reluctant just to take my word for it. However, in accordance with Rule 10.920 of the Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act of 1983, in case of a reasonable doubting of the mediator, I am prepared to offer you the Unbreakable Vow.²⁰

Harry: (gasping) Oh!

¹⁹ Grunnings is a company that produces drills and Mr. Dursley was its director up until he had to go into hiding. For more information, see II Appendix 4) Places.

²⁰ The Unbreakable Vow cannot be broken (as the name suggests): if the vowing person acts against his vow, he dies (cf. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, chapter 2). For more information, see II Appendix 5) Items of Magic.

Vernon: What does that mean? The Unbreakable Vow?
Harry: It means that the vow cannot be broken.
Vernon: Boy, don't get smart with me! I heard that for myself!
Oakby: Mr. Potter is right, Mr. Dursley. If you ask me to take the Unbreakable Vow, then I am bound to do as I vow to do. If I fail to do that, I die. As you can see that is quite a strong incentive to truly act neutrally and not to meddle with this mediation to favor Mr. Potter.
Vernon: (suspiciously) But ... I thought you were a ... a ... a Squid and could not do magic, Mr. Oakby? How can you promise an oath like that, then?
Oakby: Very true, I cannot cast the spell myself. But, as you know, both Muggles and Squibs can be subjected to the spells of wizards. Hence, I can very well take the Unbreakable Vow, because the nature of that vow is such that it needs to be cast by a third person. As no wand is in this room, we would have to venture outside and ask one of my employees to perform the spell. That is, if you want me to take that vow, Mr. Dursley? Mrs. Dursley?
Petunia: Yes. I am asking you to take it!
(Vernon nods.)

(The parties and Mr. Oakby leave the room and return some ten minutes later.)

Oakby: Now, is everyone sitting comfortably again? Very well. Let me just summarize very shortly what we have done so far: I have explained to you the role of the mediator as merely a facilitator of a settlement and not the decisive element. Nonetheless, having an impartial mediator is of the utmost importance in order to create a positive working environment towards the common goal of a settlement. Having a biased mediator would only harden the position of the non-favored party and cause it to hold on tighter to what they think is right and then break off the mediation entirely. In the present case, objections were raised due to the fact that we are holding this mediation here at OAKBY'S MUGGLE MAGIC MEDIATION and not in a purely Muggle environment and that this would lead to an inherent

pro-wizard bias. However, seeing as I am a Squib who lived in both worlds, that objection was proven to be inaccurate, am I right?

(The Dursleys nod grudgingly.)

The second objection – that I would favor Mr. Potter specifically because of his position in the wizarding world and his role in the downfall of Lord Voldemort – was rectified with the Unbreakable Vow which will ensure that I will not act so as to favor Mr. Potter. Did I get this right?

(Harry and the Dursleys nod.)

Well, let us get on then. Let me continue to give you a short overview over the procedures: First, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley – as the parties who brought forward the first claim – will hold their opening statement. After that, Mr. Potter will make his opening statement. Then we will discuss the issues addressed in the opening statements. During that discussion I may or may not request to speak with each party alone, depending on whether I deem it necessary or helpful for the continuing mediation. This is called a “caucus” and I will not be able at all to give the information you gave me during the caucus to the other party – unless you specifically ask me to disclose certain information.²¹

Due to fairness, each party will get the chance to talk to me privately for about the same length of time. Are there any questions so far? No? Excellent. But before I give the word to you, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, I would like to assure both you and Mr. Potter that any and all information shared today will not leave this room, but remain strictly confidential, as is required by the Magical Mixed Mediation Act of 1983, 10.360 (a).

Harry: Yeah, well, I’ve got a question about that ...

Oakby: Go ahead.

Harry: As far as I understand, that provision is only binding on *you*, Mr. Oakby – to stop you from going to the press and help the Daily Prophet²² to write yet another

²¹ Cf. Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.360 (b).

²² Daily Prophet, the wizarding newspaper which has frequently reported stories about Harry, the validity of which was often

tragic story about “The Chosen One”.²³ (Oakby nods)
Well, that’s great. The problem is that I trust you not to go tattling to the press anyway – it’s *them* that I’m worried about. (points at Vernon and Petunia)

Vernon: What?

Harry: Uncle Vernon, let’s face it: you don’t care about any repercussions for me from the press! If you could make money out of this by selling the story to anyone, you would!

Vernon: (slowly) Someone would be willing to buy this story?

Harry: Of course they would! I thought you had caught on to how I’m seen in the wizarding world? How I’m their “Chosen One”? (bitterly) They’re *dying* to produce yet another drama about me, to put my personal ... *matters* out there for the world to see.

Vernon: (contemplatively rubbing his chin) I see ...

Harry: (turning towards Oakby) Can you see what I mean? They will tell the press and don’t care a *bit* about confidentiality!

Oakby: Well, in the light of recent events, though, the press would lash out at – (seeing that Vernon still rubs his chin deeply in thought, turns to him sharply) *Mr. Dursley*, do I need to remind you that by the mere fact that you are here today, you have already shown a certain willingness to find a peaceful solution to this dispute?

Vernon: (caught off guard) Uhm, yes?

Oakby: Yes, I have to remind you or yes, you are willing to find a solution?

Vernon: (indignantly) Of course I want to find a solution!

Oakby: Well, then I suggest that all of you sign a separate confidentiality agreement before we proceed any

questionable.

²³ Due to his fame as “The Boy Who Lived”, the Daily Prophet has always shown a great interest in Harry, painting him in a glorious light at first (cf. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, chapter 19), then slowly reversing its regard for him (cf. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, chapter 31; Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, chapter 5). After the defeat of Lord Voldemort press interest in Harry is at a new all-time high.

further. That would ensure that neither party can divulge any information obtained to any third parties and it would greatly enhance the working atmosphere of this mediation and be greatly beneficial. Can you agree to that?

Harry: (relieved) Yes. Yes, of course. That's a great idea. (mumbles to himself) Silly that I didn't think of it before. Hermione²⁴ would have ...

Petunia: (ignoring Harry's mumbling) Yes. We can sign a confidentiality agreement with Harry. (turns expectantly to her husband who remains silent) Vernon! Do you want to get this over with or not?

Vernon: Of course I want that!

Petunia: Then we'll sign that agreement and finally get started with the actual mediation! Besides, I doubt that the press would do us any good – what with “The Chosen One” and all that ...

Oakby: Very well. So, we all agree on a separate Confidentiality Agreement between the parties?

(Everyone nods, albeit Vernon still only reluctantly.)

Excellent. I have drafts of previous agreements with my secretary Thaddea, shall we go and get those?

Harry: Yes.

(Petunia and Vernon nod.)

(They all get up and leave the room to read and sign a Confidentiality Agreement; after that, they return.)

Oakby: Very well. Now that we have ensured that both I and each of you are bound to keep this mediation confidential, I think that all preliminary questions are answered. There is only one more thing, though, that I need you to clarify for me before the opening statements are made: can each of you tell me very shortly, whether you really want this mediation – now, that we have established its fairness?

Harry: Uhm, sure.

²⁴ Hermione Granger, one of Harry's best friends and deemed to be one of the smartest witches of her age. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

Oakby: So, Mr. Potter, you are committed to see this mediation work and to honestly try your best to reach a settlement?

Harry: Yes. (notices Oakby's encouraging look) Yes, I am committed to finding a solution here.

Oakby: And how about you, Mr. Dursley, Mrs. Dursley? Do you want this mediation to be successful, as well?

Vernon: Of course. Yes. We're here and signed the Agreement, haven't we?

Oakby: Mrs. Dursley?

Petunia: Yes. I want this to work, too.

Oakby: (smiling) Excellent. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, you have the word.

Vernon: Well, if it's ok, I'd like to make the opening statement for both Petunia and I.

(Oakby nods encouragingly again.)

Well, we're here because we want the boy to pay us damages – damages for loss of profit! Thanks to him and his heroism or whatever it was, we were forced to leave our home and live in hiding for 11 months.²⁵ (getting continuously louder) We couldn't really go outside, and I had to give up my work at Grunnings and had to tell them that I went on vacation! Vacation! Can you believe it? Ridiculous! And Dudders²⁶ had to leave Smeltings,²⁷ too – and how does that look on his CV? A year missed of school for no reason apparent to *normal* people! So, we want damages for the year we

²⁵ The Dursleys and their son spent the time from 7/27/1997 till 5/4/1998 under the protection of the Order of the Phoenix, namely Hestia Jones and Dedalus Diggle, in a safe house in Mould-on-the-Wold (England).

²⁶ Dudley Dursley, also known as „Dudders“, „Diddykins“ or „Dinky Diddydums“ to his parents Vernon and Petunia Dursley. His friends know him also as “Big D”, in reference to his blooming boxing career, but his cousin Harry refrains from calling him that (due to their troubled history of Dudley constantly bullying and harassing Harry, the two cousins can hardly be described as friends). For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

²⁷ Smeltings is the private, secondary school Dudley Dursley is attending. For more information, see II Appendix 4) Places.

lost. Since I'm the only breadwinner, it should be determined by my lost salary from last year. I can't have my year back, but I can at least get back what he (jerks his head towards Harry) made me lose!

Oakby: I see. Mr. Potter, what would you like to say in your opening statement?

Harry: This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard from you, Uncle Vernon! (getting continuously louder as well) And that is saying a lot, seeing as I grew up in your house for over 15 years! How can you even say something like that? You saw how it was! If it hadn't been for Hestia and Dedalus and the rest of the Order²⁸ protecting you, you would most likely be dead! And now you sit here, after everyone is safe, and you have the nerve to blame me? *Me*? And you want money? Be grateful to be alive!

Vernon: (shouting) Don't start talking about gratefulness to me, boy! We fed-

Oakby: Mr. Dursley, could you keep your voice down and refrain from interrupting Mr. Potter, please? I believe he was not quite finished yet with his opening statement. And since you had the opportunity to present your point of view uninterrupted, I would like to extend the same courtesy to Mr. Potter. So, Mr. Potter, continue, please. (prompting) Did you not file a complaint yourself?

Harry: (taking a deep breath) Yes. Yes, I did. After I heard about the damages claim of my aunt and uncle, I filed a claim for general damages – on grounds of neglect and maltreatment for over a decade!

Oakby: Aha. And what exactly does that entail?

Harry: If they want me to pay, I bloody well want them to pay, too. They made my childhood hell! (getting louder again) For the longest time, I had to sleep in a cupboard under the stairs!²⁹ I wasn't allowed to eat what I wanted, do what I wanted – let alone be myself! I got punished for things that I had no control over –

²⁸ Reference to the Order of the Phoenix. For more information, see II Appendix 3) Relevant History.

²⁹ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, chapter 2.

like my magic!³⁰ They allowed me to be harassed by Dudley my whole childhood and made sure I was bloody miserable! One summer, they even locked me in my room and put *bars* in front of the window!³¹

They –

Vernon: (shouting) And why did we bloody well do that? What did you do? You purposefully humiliated me in front of-

Oakby: (putting his hands up in the air) Ok, ok. Would both of you please calm down for a minute? I can see that there are many issues and emotions involved in those two claims. But loud accusations are not really helpful to either of you for resolving the differences. I would hate to break up the joint session at this early stage of the mediation, so, do you think you could voice your concerns calmly and politely and not in a way that is offending the other party? In my experience, too early caucuses hinder more often than they help and that affects the overall quality of the settlement. So, in light of the fact that all of you (looking at each person) have stated to be committed to finding an amiable solution, I am strongly urging you to behave in a calmer manner. Do you think you can do that? Mr. Potter? Mr. Dursley?

(Both nod their heads.)

Ok, then. Let us continue. If I remember correctly, Mr. Potter was talking about his counter-claim for damages for neglect and maltreatment and stating the reasons for that. Mr. Potter, correct me if I am wrong, but I think I remember you began your explanation with something along the lines of “they want my money, so I’m going after theirs as well”. Could you explain that a bit more to me?

Harry: Yeah, I think I said that. It’s just that, before, I wouldn’t have thought twice about filing a claim against them-

Oakby: I am sorry to interrupt, but before what, exactly?

Harry: Before *they* filed one against *me*! But then I thought

³⁰ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, chapter 2.

³¹ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, chapter 2.

about it, and I found that they should pay for what they did to me-

Vernon: (heated) What *we* did to you? How about what you did to *us*? What we had to put up with because of you! The hiding was only the tip of the ice-berg! Owls!³² Exploding puddings!³³ My sister blown up!³⁴ Dudders getting a tail!³⁵ And the dementoids³⁶ -

Oakby: (holding up his hands again) Mr. Dursley!

Vernon: - harming - what?

Oakby: (sighing deeply) I can see that this approach is not likely to work. There seem to be too many deeply conflicting emotions to keep up a calm conversation. As they³⁷ say, even “the best of us must sometimes eat our words.” So I would suggest having two separate caucuses now, despite the early stage of the mediation. That is, unless you want to talk to me independently from your husband, Mrs. Dursley?

Petunia: No, I’d like to have it together with Vernon.

Oakby: Ok. Any reasonable objections to going into caucus now?

Harry: No, it’s fine.

Oakby: I would like to talk to you first, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley. Or do you have a pressing reason why I should start with you, Mr. Potter?

³² Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, chapter 2; Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, chapter 2.

³³ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, chapter 2.

³⁴ Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, chapter 2.

³⁵ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, chapter 4.

³⁶ Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, chapter 2: Dementors are dark creatures that feed on happy feelings and memories. They were used to guard the wizard prison Azkaban and deliver the ultimate punishment in the wizarding world: they give the Dementor’s Kiss, that is they suck the soul out of a human. Muggles can only feel a Dementor’s presence, but not see it (and Vernon can never remember their proper name). For more information, see II Appendix 4) Places; 5) Items of Magic; 6) Magic Creatures.

³⁷ Cf. Albus Dumbledore in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, chapter 18.

Harry: No, go ahead.

Oakby: Excellent. In that case, Mr. Potter, would you please leave this room and go down the hallway? There, you can find a small waiting room. But I must ask you not to go to the reception or otherwise try to get back your wand for this short break – first, there is really no need for it, and second, the Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act of 1983 explicitly states that the wizarding party is not allowed their wand at any time during an ongoing mediation.³⁸ And that includes, I'm afraid, the caucus.

Harry: Ok, fine. How will I know when it's my time?

Oakby: I will come and get you with your aunt and uncle.

(Harry nods and leaves the room.)

Oakby: Very well then. (pauses) I get the impression up to now that the claim you filed has as much to do with the 15 years your nephew lived with you as with the 11 months you spent in hiding, separated. Is that correct or only a wrong impression? Mrs. Dursley?

Petunia: Uh. I don't know. (glances at her husband)

Vernon: No! You got that in the wrong pipe. Our claim is *only* about the fact that we missed a whole year out of our lives! Might as well resign from my job at Grunnings now. After a year of "vacation", who's gonna take me back?

Oakby: I can see that your job is certainly a main concern for you. Nevertheless, you seemed quite agitated when your nephew started talking about what has happened to him during his childhood.

Vernon: Of course I got "*agitated*" – the boy is bloody ridiculous! To accuse *us* of ungratefulness, when he's brought us nothing but trouble from the day we took him in -

(Petunia makes an angry noise.)

Oakby: Mrs. Dursley? Do you want to add something to that?

Petunia: (venomously) When we took him in, I knew he meant trouble! How could he not? With my sister being what

³⁸ Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.910 (b).

she was and that Potter ... of course he meant trouble! But did he even *try* to be less of a burden? *NO!* Did he attempt to be normal? *NO!* He just had to shove it in our faces that he was *different*, too, that he was *special*, as well, and that he had *magic* like her!

Oakby: So you associated magic with trouble? *Special* trouble?

Petunia: Of course! Lily³⁹ caused nothing but trouble with her magic. Everyone was making a fuss about it! The great, special, *magical* Lily!

Oakby: And you did not want that for your nephew – that everyone would make a fuss about him?

Petunia: I wished he'd disappear. But he wouldn't. Instead, he'd get into a whole lot of abnormal troubles – letting windows disappear,⁴⁰ climbing onto school roofs⁴¹ – you name it! Just like Lily.

Oakby: Yet, you still took him in and let him stay ...

Petunia: Well, yes. He was Lily's *son*, after all. And I couldn't ... I couldn't ignore the letter.

Oakby: The letter? What letter?

Petunia: The letter that was with him, the day we found him. From Dumbledore⁴²... It explained ... It explained the importance of him living with us and that we were the only protection he had...

Vernon: And a fat lot of good it did to us! Never a "thank you", not once an apology for what he put us through!

Oakby: Mr. Dursley, I would like to focus for a moment on your wife. But rest assured that we will come back to your feelings of appreciation, or rather: the lack thereof, in a moment. (turning towards Petunia again)

³⁹ Lily Potter, wife to James Potter, mother of Harry Potter and sister of Petunia Dursley. Murdered in 1981 by Lord Voldemort with a Killing Curse. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

⁴⁰ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, chapter 2.

⁴¹ Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, chapter 2.

⁴² Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, most famous Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, wizarding genius and the only sorcerer Lord Voldemort ever feared, died in 1997. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

So you took him in mainly because of feelings for your sister, is that correct?

Petunia: (quietly) Yes.

Oakby: You still had some kind of regard for her, even though you appear to have become ... estranged in later years?

Petunia: Yes. When she left to go to that school ... I wasn't allowed to go with her. They didn't let me. Because I wasn't as *special* as she was.

Oakby: Because you could not do magic.

Petunia: Yes.

Oakby: But would you have liked to go?

(long pause)

Petunia: (whispering) Yes.

Vernon: Petunia!

Petunia: (snapping) What, Vernon? I could see what she was able to do – make beautiful flowers, swing higher than anyone else ... I was young. I didn't see the abnormality. I only saw the ... (almost whispering) specialty. (louder again) But later, of course, I realized how wrong I'd been and that she was nothing more than a *freak*.

Oakby: I see. (pauses) Mr. Dursley ...

Vernon: What?

Oakby: Earlier, you made a comment about your nephew's lack of gratefulness for your ... for what exactly do you feel that he should be grateful for?

Vernon: That we took him in, of course. We fed him, gave him a place to sleep and clothes to wear. And he did nothing but cause trouble. Petunia has already said that weird stuff kept happening around him – couldn't trust him to be alone at all. He'd break something or dye it blue or some other nasty, abnormal surprise. And after he went off to that ... school,⁴³ things only got worse. Sure, we'd only see him in the summer, but even more abnormal and dangerous things kept happening. The flying car,⁴⁴ Marge⁴⁵ blown up,⁴⁶ the soul-sucking

⁴³ Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, wizarding boarding school which Harry attended. For more information, see II Appendix 4) Places.

⁴⁴ Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, chapter 3.

demembers⁴⁷ attacking Dudders ... not to mention that our living room was blasted away at one point!⁴⁸

Oakby: I see. He certainly ensured that your life never got boring, did he not?

Vernon: But we don't want some ruddy adventure! We wanted a quiet, *normal* life! Normal! And he ruined that for good with his stunts ...

Oakby: Ok. I see. So, in a way, the being away for a year was more like the last drop in an already overflowing kettle, right?

Vernon: I guess so.

Oakby: Ok. Unless you feel like you need to address something else in this private session with me, I would like to accompany you to the waiting room now and then have the caucus with Mr. Potter.

Petunia: (anxiously) But you can't tell him anything about what I said about Lily?

Oakby: No, I cannot tell him anything at all. Unless, that is, you want me to tell him something?⁴⁹

Petunia: No. Not particularly.

Vernon: No.

Oakby: Very well, then.

(They leave the room together; shortly afterwards, Oakby and Harry return to the conference room.)

Oakby: Well, Mr. Potter. Up to now, I got the impression that the claim you filed has as much to do with the fact that your relatives filed a claim against you as with the 15 years you lived with them before ...

Harry: You could say that. It just made me so *angry* that they would want to have money from me for – essentially – saving their lives! I mean, without me and the Order and more specifically Hestia and Dedalus, Voldemort

⁴⁵ Marjorie “Marge” Dursley, sister of Vernon Dursley. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who’s Who.

⁴⁶ Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, chapter 2.

⁴⁷ Again, he refers to Dementors, cf. note 37.

⁴⁸ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, chapter 4.

⁴⁹ Cf. Magical Mixed Muggle Mediation Act, 1983, 10.360 (b).

would have killed them instantly! They're bloody lucky to be *alive* and they just don't get that! Or don't *want* to get it, I don't know.

Oakby: So your filed claim was not actually about money?

Harry: Well, honestly, no, it wasn't. I don't care about the money – I've got more than enough of my own, I don't need theirs. I just didn't want to give them any because ... that's just *wrong*! They're only alive because of me! So, if anything, they should pay *me* money for that year. (pauses) I kind of just want it to be over. I don't want to focus on last year anymore. I want my future to begin. Now that I finally have one without Voldemort looming doomingly ahead⁵⁰...

Oakby: I see. (pauses) Mr. Potter, would you mind telling me about all those incidents your aunt and uncle mentioned? The situations which were related to or caused by you being a wizard?

Harry: Yeah. Well, when I was younger – that is, before I knew that I was a wizard – I only let things happen when I was upset or scared⁵¹. You know, like all kids. Or ... (blushes), well, maybe you wouldn't know.⁵² Sorry.

Oakby: It is fine. Go on.

Harry: Well. When I was about to start school, Hagrid⁵³ kind of ... gave Dudley a pig tail. It wasn't my fault at all,

⁵⁰ Harry refers to a Prophecy that stated that he would be the only one able to defeat Lord Voldemort. For more information, see II Appendix 3) Relevant History.

⁵¹ Most young witches or wizards can only just barely control their magic and as a result, when they are particularly upset – scared or angry – their already feeble control slips and unpredictable things happen: hair regrows magically, jumpers shrink or glass windows disappear.

⁵² Reference to the fact that Oakby is a Squib and as such, naturally, would never have been able to let anything happen by magic, on purpose or otherwise.

⁵³ Rubeus Hagrid, Professor for Care of Magical Creatures at Hogwarts, Keeper of the Keys and Grounds of Hogwarts and good friend of Harry's. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

but they still blamed me. Like always (rolls his eyes). During the next summer, a House-Elf⁵⁴ came to me and performed a Hovering Charm, which ultimately resulted in Uncle Vernon missing an apparently very important business opportunity. (pauses) Well, maybe it was more than that: I got an owl⁵⁵ from the Ministry⁵⁶ because of the Charm, even though I didn't do it – Dobby⁵⁷ did. Anyhow, the Hovering Charm that ruined the oh-so important dinner, Uncle Vernon was able to explain away. The owl? Not so much. Turned out that his business associate's wife was terrified of birds, so ... bad luck all around. (bitterly) Of course that was my fault, too.

Oakby: And I heard about flying cars, a Dementor attack and blowing up of another aunt?

Harry: Uhm, yes. (defensively) Though I can only really be blamed for Aunt Marge – and *she* had it coming!⁵⁸ The Dementors were out there to attack *me* in the first place – Dudley was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time – or in the right place, if you will, seeing how I *saved* him and the flying car wasn't called there by me. (louder) Do you want to know the reason, though, why a flying car needed to come to the Dursleys in the first place?

Oakby: Indeed, I would like to know.

Harry: Because they locked me in my room! They barred the

⁵⁴ House-Elf, magical creature that serves wizards. For more information, see II Appendix 6) Magic Creatures.

⁵⁵ Owls are the usual means of communication in the wizarding world.

⁵⁶ Ministry of Magic, the wizarding government organization that enforces wizarding laws. For more information, see II Appendix 4) Places.

⁵⁷ Dobby, a House-Elf, a friend of Harry, eventually killed during the Second War.

⁵⁸ She consistently insulted Harry and tried to get a reaction out of him. Eventually, she succeeded and in his anger, Harry involuntarily made her swell up (cf. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, chapter 2). For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who.

windows and fed me through a cat flap!

Oakby: I see. Was there a special reason for that sort of treatment?

Harry: Well, it was after the owl incident at Uncle Vernon's business dinner.

Oakby: I see. (pauses) Would I be correct in assuming that many of the incidents that caused the feelings of ill-will between you and your relatives were – albeit out of your control – strongly related to you and your magic and would not have happened to the Dursleys but for you?

Harry: Well, yes. But it's only natural that magical incidents would only happen to them with me around – they can't do magic! And it's not my fault that trouble always finds me. I'm certainly not looking for it!

Oakby: I see. Very well. Unless you have got some other matter on your mind which we have yet to address in this caucus, I would now get your aunt and uncle back into the session.

Harry: Actually, there is something.
(Oakby nods encouragingly.)

I just wanted to make it clear that I don't want to pay them any *money*! I don't care so much about my own claim for damages, but I absolutely refuse to give *them* any kind of monetary payment. They would have *died* but for the protection they now complain about!

Oakby: I will keep that in mind. Is there anything else? Or – for that matter – is there anything that you want me to disclose to your relatives?

Harry: No, neither.

Oakby: Terrific. If you would now be so kind as to accompany me to the waiting room?

(Harry nods and they leave the room; shortly afterwards, they return together with Vernon and Petunia.)

Oakby: Excellent, excellent. I would now like to continue the joint session by saying that I felt that the caucus, albeit rather early, did help a lot and gave me a better overview of the issues. Can I make a suggestion? (general nodding) Well, I felt by what you have both

told me that you have a great many issues standing between you that make it rather difficult to focus this mediation on the nominal claims. I would suggest that – before continuing this mediation process or simultaneously – you should consider addressing your past together in some kind of family counseling, maybe even together with Mr. Dudley Dursley? I know an excellent -

Harry: What?

Vernon: Over my dead body!

Petunia: No!

(Pause)

Oakby: That idea does not seem to agree with any of you. Why is that?

Harry: I just want this to be over and done with! I don't want to deal with them any longer and I'm quite certain that they'd be happy to get rid of me in their lives, too!

Vernon: Too right. I don't mean to be rude, but now that the boy has moved out, I want to have as little to do with him as possible.

(Petunia nods in agreement.)

Oakby: And yet, here you sit – because of the claims that both of you have brought forward.

Vernon: Well, yeah. I want him to pay for the lost year!

Harry: I'm not paying you a bloody penny! You would be *dead* if it weren't for the protection! Dead! Don't you get that?

Oakby: But perhaps there is some other way of achieving what seems to be the goal here: undoing most of the negative consequences of the past year.

Vernon: Like what? Changing all the memories at Grunnings to make them forget I ever left? Ha!

Harry: Well, why not?

Vernon: (blinking) What?

Harry: Why not?

Vernon: You ... can do something like that?

Harry: (rolling his eyes) Yes, Uncle Vernon, in case you hadn't noticed: I am, in fact, a wizard! (pauses) Well, maybe I *personally* wouldn't be able to do that, but the Ministry of Magic most certainly can. They've got the Muggle-Worthy Excuse Committee in the Department

of Magical Accidents and Catastrophes⁵⁹ and the Obliviators ... they should be able to do the job. I'm sure I can ask Kingsley⁶⁰ about it.

Oakby: How does that sound? Magically altering the memories of the Grunnings employees to make up for the disruptions caused only by the involuntary involvement in the wizarding world?

Vernon: Uhm. I'd have to think about it.

Petunia: And what about me?

Harry: Sorry?

Petunia: I said what about me? I want you to pay for what you did to me, too!

Harry: But what *did* I do to you?

Petunia: (quietly) You and your eyes⁶¹ were the daily reminder of the things that she could do and I could not. Your simple existence never let me forget her ... freakishness!

Harry: (sarcastic) Well, I'm sorry, but there's hardly anything I can do to do that. Excuse me that I don't intend to die just now and end my existence. As for the daily reminder: I fully intend never to return to 4 Privet Drive,⁶² so you'll never have to see me again.

Oakby: Be that as it may, I am sure there is something magical out there that can be used by Muggles – and Squibs for that matter – that could make Mrs. Dursley's life a bit easier...

Harry: (hesitates) If we find a solution now – any solution we can agree upon -, we're done with this whole business, right? We won't have anything to do with each other

⁵⁹ <http://www.hp-lexicon.org/ministry/ministry-accidents.html> (10/24/2012).

⁶⁰ Kingsley Shacklebolt, Auror and acting Minister of Magic, member of the Order of the Phoenix and personal friend of Harry. For more information, see II Appendix 2) Who's Who; 3) Relevant History; 4) Places.

⁶¹ Harry inherited the strikingly green eyes from his mother which always reminded everyone who had known Lily Potter of her.

⁶² Old home address of where the Dursleys and Harry used to live before they had to go into hiding and where at least the Dursleys returned home to after the end of the Second War.

anymore afterwards?

Oakby: If that is what you wish for, then yes, that is precisely it. If we find a solution today, then there is no reason for any contact between the three of you, unless you voluntarily wish it, which, I come to understand, is rather unlikely ...

Harry: Well, then ... I've got an idea about what could make you, Aunt Petunia, happy: Mrs. Skower's All-Purpose Magical Mess Remover!

Petunia: Excuse me?

Harry: It's a cleaning potion. It works really well! I've always wondered what you'd do if you managed to get your hands on it.

Petunia: A cleaning potion ...

Vernon: A potion? Doesn't that just scream that it's ... abnormal?

Oakby: On the contrary, Mrs. Skower's Magical Mess Remover looks just like a regular cleaning agent. It just works better ...

Vernon: And how would we get those? By *owl* post? (snorts in disgust)

Harry: No. I could send it to you by Muggle post, if you like. (to Petunia) You wouldn't even have to see me!

(Petunia nods blinkingly.)

Vernon: (slyly) And you'd pay for them as well?

Harry: Yes. *If* you drop your damages claim and stop asking for *money*. *And* leave me in peace. No other claims. No damages paid. Just being and letting be!

Vernon: Deal!

Oakby: What kind of time frame are we looking at here? How long do you want to continue the shipping of the Mess Remover?

Harry: Honestly? As long as they want me to. I don't care. I just want to get on with my life and not deal with them anymore.

Oakby: Fair enough. I just want to remind you, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, that you are also bound by the International Statute of Wizarding Secrecy of 1692.⁶³ Even though

⁶³ International Statute of Wizarding Secrecy, 1692, an agreement of the international wizard community to keep the existence of

you are not wizards yourselves, you cannot tell anyone of the existence of the wizarding world and that includes the origin of the cleaning potion!

Vernon: As if we wanted anyone to know about this ... involvement in your world!

Oakby: Excellent. (pauses) Now, as for Mr. Potter's claim: what can you offer him, other than money, to satisfy his needs?

Petunia: You mean, other than money? If I get a ... Potion, a real Potion ... well. (harrumphing) I can give him the pictures.

Harry: Come again?

Petunia: I could give you the photos I have of Lily.

Harry: But there aren't any pictures of my mum around the house. I would know – I looked for them!

Petunia: (haughtily) Well, you didn't look hard enough then! They exist and I have them and I'm prepared to give them to you.

Harry: Really? Photos of my mum?

Vernon: She said that, didn't she? Are we agreed then? You get the Memory-meddling men to get me my position at Grunnings back and you send Petunia her potion? If we give you the photos?

Harry: And you agree to leave me in peace!

Vernon: Gladly!

Harry: In that case, yes.

Oakby: Well, it seems as if we have reached an agreement, then? Let me just write that down on a piece of parchment for Mr. Potter and on a different piece of paper for you, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley. Or better yet: let us proceed to the reception area where Thaddea has all the necessary tools to finalize this in writing.

(Together, they leave the conference room and we are left with an empty room again.)

magic, witches and wizards from the knowledge of Muggles, in order to not be asked to solve all their problems (cf. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, chapter 5).

II Appendix

1) Introduction

a) Muggle

According to the definition in the Oxford Dictionary of English: a person without magical powers.

b) Squib

A person who was born into a wizarding family, but does not himself possess any magical abilities. This is an anomaly and happens very rarely – much less often than the reverse: a wizard being born to Muggle parents (= a “Muggleborn”). However, both Squibs and Muggleborns face problems due to not really fitting into their respective worlds. On the one hand, Squibs are constantly exposed to a magical environment in which they themselves cannot truly participate. Often, families are ashamed of having a Squib in the family, e.g. Thaddeus Thurkell (1632 – 1692) who produced seven Squib sons and turned them all into hedgehogs in disgust (cf. <http://www.hp-lexicon.org/wizards/a-z/t.html#Thurkell> 11/13/2012). On the other hand, Muggleborns often experience harsh prejudices for not having magic parents and therefore “dirty blood”. The phrase “Mudblood” is one of the most offensive terms to say in the wizarding community. It needs to be noted, though, that magical abilities are not at all related to the “blood status” of the wizard: a Muggleborn witch may well have greater abilities than the heir of a Pureblood family.

c) Wizard/ Witch

Someone who has magical abilities. In order to channel their magic properly, wizards need a wand. If a child is born to a family which consists only of wizards (and its ancestors are wizards only, as well), it is a “Pureblood”. Pureblood families are uncommon and becoming more and more rare due to intermarriage with Muggles and Muggleborns.

2) Who’s Who

a) Dumbledore, Albus Percival Wulfric Brian (1881 – 1997)

Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, founder of the Order of the Phoenix, wizarding genius and the only wizard Lord Voldemort ever feared.

b) Dursley, Dudley “Dudders”, “Diddykins”, “Dinky Diddydums”, “Big D”

Son of Vernon and Petunia Dursley, cousin of Harry Potter. Loved excessively by his parents, he was a spoilt, overweight bully for the longest time – his favorite victim being Harry – until he learned to channel his aggressions into boxing, so that he now remains a spoilt, well-build bully.

c) Dursley, Marjorie “Marge”

Sister of Vernon Dudley, breeds bulldogs. She is very contemptuous of Harry and happy to believe that he attends the St. Brutus's Secure Centre for Incurably Criminal Boys. She taunts him relentlessly and makes light of his parents' deaths which results in Harry losing his temper and inflating her like a balloon at one point.

d) Dursley, Petunia

Wife of Vernon Dursley, mother of Dudley Dursley and sister to Lily Potter. She has never talked about her sister with her nephew Harry, even though he has no memories of her and is desperate for information. She loves her son excessively and can see no fault in him. Additionally, she is very nose-y and obsessed with having a clean and proper house.

e) Dursley, Vernon

Husband to Petunia Dursley, father of Dudley Dursley and uncle to Harry Potter. He is the head of the family and only breadwinner by being a director of Grunnings. Moreover, he is ambitious, very concerned with appearances and generally views magic as dangerous nonsense.

f) Granger, Hermione

One of the best friends of Harry and deemed to be the smartest witch of her age, albeit being a Muggleborn and thus being the living proof that (magic) heritage is no indication of magic might.

g) Hagrid, Rubeus

Professor of Care of Magical Creatures at Hogwarts, Keeper of the Keys and Grounds of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and the first friend Harry ever had, who also introduced him to the wizarding world and on that occasion gave Dudley

Dursley a pigtail.

h) Potter, Harry James

Son of James and Lily Potter, though he has no memories of them, being orphaned when he was just one year old. He grew up with the Dursleys who knew that he was most likely a wizard, but did not tell him. At the age of 11, he received a letter from Hogwarts and consequently attended the magical boarding school for the following six years, only to return to the Dursleys during each summer holiday. Being the only person ever to survive the Killing Curse, he was famous in the wizarding world who dubbed him the “Boy Who Lived”. Adding to his fame was the fact that, instead of killing Harry, the spell rebounded on the one who had cast it: Lord Voldemort, which led to his disappearance and the end of the First War. For the events following this, see II Appendix 3) History. Other names given to Harry by the general public (aside from “The Boy Who Lived”) were “The Chosen One” (when parts of the Prophecy were leaked) and “Savior of the Wizarding World” (after the ultimate defeat of Lord Voldemort).

i) Potter, James

Father of Harry Potter, husband to Lily Potter, gifted wizard and member of the Order of the Phoenix during the First War. He fought valiantly against Lord Voldemort thrice, only to be defeated the fourth time when Lord Voldemort specifically set out to murder Harry and thus would not be deterred from killing the father who fought to protect his son.

j) Potter, Lily

Mother of Harry Potter, wife to James Potter and sister of Petunia Dursley, gifted witch and member of the Order of the Phoenix during the First War. Being a Muggleborn, she was unaware of the existence of magic for the greater part of her childhood, but once she learned that the explanation for her occasionally being able to do impossible things was that magic was real, she was a Witch and on top of that offered a place at Hogwarts, it caused a rift in the previously close relationship with her older sister Petunia. During her school years, she gradually fell in love with fellow classmate James Potter and they married and had a son, Harry. Being a member of the Order of the Phoenix, she was involved in direct confrontations with Lord Voldemort three times and survived.

When Lord Voldemort set out to kill her son, she was offered a chance to live if only she stepped aside to let her son being killed. She refused and was thus murdered, dying for her son.

k) Riddle, Tom Marvolo who renamed himself “Lord Voldemort”

A dark wizard so powerful that only few dared to speak his name: to the general public he became “You-Know-Who” or “He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named” and to his supporters he was “the Dark Lord”. He believed in Pureblood Supremacy (= only Pureblood wizards deserved to learn magic), abhorred Muggles and Muggleborns and was obsessed with his goal to defeat death and life forever. To do so, he wanted to split his soul into seven pieces, thus ensuring that, even when his body was dead, he could not be killed because other pieces of his soul still continued to exist. The existence of these objects containing a part of his soul (= a Horcrux) was the reason for the rebounding Killing Curse which was cast at Harry and should have killed Lord Voldemort, being unsuccessful.

l) Shackelbolt, Kingsley

Gifted Auror (= wizards especially trained to fight dark wizards, comparable to a mix between secret agents and police officers), Member of the Order of the Phoenix, and acting Minister of Magic as well as a personal friend of Harry.

3) Relevant History

From 1970 to 1981, a dark wizard was growing ever more powerful: Lord Voldemort. He proclaimed Pureblood Supremacy and terrorized the wizarding community. He gathered a circle of followers (= Death Eaters) around him and intended to take over the wizarding world. To fight Lord Voldemort growing power, Dumbledore founded an underground organization dedicated only to defeat him, (= the Order of the Phoenix). In 1979, a Prophecy was made that a boy, born at the end of July to parents who had defied Lord Voldemort three times, would be the only one able to defeat Lord Voldemort for good. However, it was also stated that this boy would possess a power that the dark wizard would not have and that the boy would be marked as his equal by Lord Voldemort himself. Yet, Lord Voldemort was unaware of the two last parts of the Prophecy and – believing Harry Potter to be the

boy the Prophecy described – set out to kill him before he could pose any real threat (thus marking him as his equal and unknowingly fulfilling the Prophecy). However, the Killing Curse that killed both James and Lily Potter that night could not kill Harry. That was because Lily Potter died to protect her son: Lord Voldemort offered her a real chance of survival if only she were to hand over her son. She refused and was consequently killed. This choice – dying for her son – marked Harry and ancient magic meant that he was protected from the one who had killed his mother and that caused the curse to rebound. However, since Lord Voldemort had already created several Horcruxes, he could not truly die from the Killing Curse either and was forced to live as a half-dead, bodiless creature without power. His sudden disappearance marked the end of the First War in 1981. In 1995, however, Lord Voldemort invoked an ancient dark ritual and was reborn, thereby starting the Second War. Again, he tried to dominate the wizarding world and succeeded in so far as he took over the Ministry of Magic (a feat that he had failed to achieve during the First War). Once more, his main goal was to eliminate the threat that Harry represented according to the Prophecy. Meanwhile, the Order of the Phoenix was reestablished and Harry learned about both the Prophecy and the Horcruxes from Dumbledore and set out to destroy the Horcruxes before meeting the last piece of soul that remained in Lord Voldemort's body. As some of the contents of the Prophecy were leaked to the public, Harry was now dubbed "the Chosen One" and represented the symbol of hope to the wizarding community. Eventually, he (with the help of his friends) managed to destroy the Horcruxes and, in a final battle between the two wizards, was able to overpower Lord Voldemort who was then killed by his own rebounding Killing Curse. This marked the end of the Second War on May 4 1998.

4) Places

- a) Azkaban – wizarding prison (located on an island in the North Sea)
- b) Gringotts – wizarding bank (run by Goblins)
- c) Grunnings – a Muggle company producing drills (Vernon Dursley is one of the directors)

d) Hogwarts – School for Witchcraft and Wizardry
(boarding school, located in Scotland, students aged 11 – 18 years)

e) Ministry of Magic – wizarding judiciary, executive and legislative governing body (headed by the Minister of Magic and located in London)

f) Mould-on-the-Wold – Muggle village which is also inhabited by a few wizard families (location of the safe house of the Dursleys)

g) Smeltings – a Muggle private boarding School (Alma Mater of Vernon Dudley and current school of Dudley Dursley)

5) Items of Magic

a) Unforgivable Curses

Three curses whose use is outlawed by wizarding law. If any of the three curses is cast, the wizard has to go to Azkaban.

i) *Cruciatius*

The Torture Curse. It inflicts excruciating pain on its victim. If someone is held under the Cruciatius Curse for too long, they lose their mind.

ii) *Imperius*

The Enslavement Curse. It subdues the free will of a person and forces him to do whatever the wizard who cast the curse tells him to do

iii) *Avada Kedavra*

The Killing Curse. It kills instantly and painlessly. There is only one known survivor of the Killing Curse: Harry Potter (thus dubbed the “Boy Who Lived”).

b) Unbreakable Vow

An Unbreakable Vow cannot be broken. If the vowing person acts against the Vow, he dies. However, as the wording of the Vow is rarely absolutely precise, the effects of the Vow are gradual: a slowly increasing pain indicates to the vowing person that he is about to act against the Vow and if he continues with that action, he dies eventually.

c) Polyjuice Potion

A difficult potion to brew, it allows the drinker to turn into the

human whose hair was added as the last ingredient. Body, voice and smell of the impersonated person are duplicated, making detection on sight impossible. However, the effects wear off in time, the impersonator can be detected by false mannerisms or lack of knowledge (same as any person in disguise) and the potion is not immune to certain detection mechanisms like the Defrauder's Downfall or the Thief's Downfall.

d) Dementor's Kiss

Ultimate punishment in the wizarding world, the soul of a delinquent is sucked out of his body, leaving an empty shell behind. For more information on Dementors, see II Appendix 6) Magic Creatures.

6) Magic Creatures

a) Dementors – dark creatures who feed on the happiness of humans by making them relive their worst memories and feel like they can never be happy again. For that effect, a Dementor merely needs to be close to a person; for the Dementor's Kiss, however, bodily contact is needed.

b) Goblins – highly intelligent creatures which are falsely viewed as inferior by wizards. In the 1600s and 1700s a series of Goblin rebellions took place, but as of today, an uneasy peace has been established which is mostly safeguarded by the fact that the major wizarding bank, Gringotts, is run by Goblins.

c) House-Elves – intelligent, but submissive humanoid creatures who have been working without payment for wizards for centuries, a process which has taken away their own free will almost completely, so that now, they are only happy if they serve. However, there are notable exceptions to that as seen by Dobby, the House-Elf who disobeys his masters, saves Harry numerous times and dies as a free Elf.

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