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"I'm sure you can. I think we've probably all underestimated you, and I'm sorry. You can be a little....."

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She nodded. "All right. But take care of yourselves. If they find you here..."

"We'll chance moving him anyway and run," Ernie assured her. He lifted Dennis and carried him over to her, leaning across the boy's body to give a quick, gentle kiss to his new wife before helping her cradle him in her own arms and stepping back.

"I'll see you soon, love," Susan offered them a quick, light smile, then turned on the spot and with a loud creak, she and Dennis vanished into thin air.

"Holy..." Brad shook his head, dumbfounded. "This is unreal."

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pass, I'll tell them the whole story. Not what you get in *Hogwarts: A History*. Not what you'll find in old copies of the *Prophet*. The real thing. A lot of people would say you're too young to hear it, but the way I see it, if half the witches and wizards who lived it were your age, you're certainly old enough to know about it. I'll take all day, but one of the advantages of teaching Herpology is that we get to do field trips when I say, and I'll be the last day or two of school, so it won't be a problem clearing your schedule."

A murmur of excitement rippled through the class, and Teddy Lupin raised his hand again. "All we've got to do is pass?"

"I expect you to do your best, and I'll grade accordingly. I think you're not really trying, but yes, that's the deal," he nodded. "Acceptable or better, and you get the story of the whole year."

His eyes fell on a girl in the second row. She was sturdy yet slender, a rustic beauty with long, dark hair and her mother's sweet, pursed mouth, but she had her father's hazel eyes, and Neville's smile turned bitter-sweet. "And this time in particular, Miss Macmillan, I'm going to make sure to tell it right."

ooo THE END ooo