

The Sorting

by debjunk

Minerva McGonagall waits to see which house she'll be sorted into.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Eleven-year-old Minerva McGonagall shifted uncomfortably as she stood in the Great Hall. She eyed her new classmates as, one-by-one, they marched up to the stool and had the Sorting Hat placed atop their heads. One-by-one, they scurried to their new house tables.

Before she knew it, it was her turn. Her legs barely supported her as she made her way to the stool and turned to face the Hall. It seemed that every eye was on her as she lowered herself onto the stool.

Professor Dumbledore grinned at her. His eyes twinkled. She found that to be a bit unsettling, but she cast that thought away as she saw him with the hat in his hands. Lifting the hat, he sat it atop her head. She was startled when she heard a voice inside her head.

Hmmm, quite a wise, young lady we have here. Yes, very intelligent. You would make a splendid Ravenclaw...

Ravenclaw? I do like the color blue, Minerva thought.

But... Well, well, there's quite a bit of duplicity in you. Did you really paint your kitten blue and tell your parents that your little brother did it? And he confessed to it? How did you convince him to do that? Well, now is not the time for that tale.

Minerva crinkled her eyes at the thought of being an icky Slytherin. She'd heard about them. Clever or not, she didn't want to have anything to do with *that* house.

Ho, ho, not fond of our little snakes, are you? Well, the decision is ultimately mine. Perhaps you would learn something by being attributed to that house?

Please, no! Minerva thought.

The hat was silent for a while. Minerva fidgeted nervously. *Please, not Slytherin,* she begged one last time.

All right, I'll spare you from what you think is a fate worse than death. And despite your intelligence, you have one trait that stands above the rest.

'What might that be?' she thought.

Bravery. So, without further ado...

"Gryffindor!"

Minerva smiled. She couldn't think of a better house in which to belong.

A/N: Prompt by kyriaofdelphi: In honour of Minerva McGonall's 84th birthday on October 4th

1. Minerva's sorting in 1936.