

Hogwarts House-Elves Housekeeping Files: vol. 1990s

by goat of abe

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Prologue May 1998

Chapter 1 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

No wizard or witch had ever said "I have a memory like a house-elf," but none had ever paused to wonder why not.

And why would they? A house-elf is there to take care of a wizard's (or witch's) every need with an encyclopedic knowledge of that individual's preferences and dislikes. Regardless of an elf's ability to retain those facts. Which happened to be practically non-existent. House-elves' memory centres resemble a pea in both dimension and fact-holding capability.

So, how do they keep track of the flotsam and minutia that is every wizard's (or witch's) life?

No one really bothered to wonder until the aftermath of the Final Battle.

Until Ron Weasley tickled the pear to get a midnight snack and, in the shambles of the school's kitchens, found the closest kept secret in Hogwarts' long illustrious history.

The House-Elves' Housekeeping Files.

His first hint that the kitchens had not been exempt from the Battle was the pear portrait itself. Hanging off kilter, it wobbled on the cold stone wall when he tried to touch it, so he grasped the frame and cursed under his breath as it took him several tries to find the right spot on the pear to tickle. It never occurred to him to straighten the frame first.

The swearing became louder and more profuse when he saw the state of his home away from home, his Mecca, the once gleaming, once orderly font of sustenance he worshiped above all others, excepting his mother's domain.

All those pies.

He slipped and slid across the floor, blueberries and treacle squishing under foot, heading for the maze of larders nested behind the far wall that he hoped beyond hope were mostly intact.

The first half dozen were unfortunately not. Shelves akimbo, walls dripping with pudding and roast beef, his eyes welled with tears as he remembered feasts savoured and meals devoured open-mouthed and fancy-free.

He passed through another doorway and curled his lip at the sight that met his eyes. *It figures that the mushrooms would be just fine.* Now eight rooms deep into the maze of storerooms, farther than he or George or Fred... Fred had ever been, he finally found bread. The room after that held chocolate, the scent of which nearly made him

swoon. He was certain Harry and Hermione would appreciate it, considering the encounter with the Dementors.

And in the next room, there was a huge hunk of cheese.

His arms were overfull at this point, and he cast about for a basket or something to put his load in, but there was nothing at hand. Just as he was leaving the room, tracing his way back to his hungry friends, a box caught his attention. It had a hinged top, and an elaborate lock with an equally elaborate key was stuck in its mechanism. It was made of highly polished wood, teak perhaps...Hermione would know for sure...and had runes carved on its sides in bands that spanned its width. There was a brass plaque affixed to the lid that read *Hogwarts House-Elves' Housekeeping Files*. He held his breath and opened it up, wondering what treasures were locked away in the kitchen. He groaned.

It was full of parchment, some of it quite old-looking. If he emptied it out, filled it with the food and took it upstairs, Hermione would kill him. If he left it here, and she found out about it, *and she always found out everything*, she would kill him.

On the other hand, if he took it to her right away, chances were she'd kiss him again.

That was definitely worth having to haul the extra weight.

He pondered for a bit and took his jumper off, Transfiguring it into a basket to hold the food and the box. It was pretty cold in the larders, so he cast a warming charm on himself, too. Then he braced himself, hefting the basket up, and almost lost his load. The box had been terrifically heavy just a moment ago as he heaved it into the basket, but now it was featherlight. *Weird*. He must be really tired.

He got lost a few times on the way back to Gryffindor Tower...formerly helpful landmarks were damaged beyond recognition...so he was very grateful to hear Hermione's shrill with worry voice lead him back to the common room where she, Harry and Ginny waited for him.

"What took you so long?" Harry got in before Hermione could draw a breath.

Ron grimaced at his mate and plunked the basket down on the floor in front of the sofa. "Wow, Ron," he mimicked Harry perfectly. "Thanks for the food!"

Harry gave him a rueful look over the girls' heads as they emptied the basket, which Ron shrugged off. Hermione opened her beaded bag and dug out plates and a knife. She handed those to Ginny, who quickly sliced the bread and cheese while Hermione pulled out cups.

"*Aguamenti!*" she intoned. The cups filled with water.

Ron smacked his forehead. "Pumpkin juice!" He'd meant to grab some if he could.

"Water's okay, Ron," said Ginny. "We've all had it a lot worse."

They ate silently, the quiet somber at first, but gradually lightening to companionable as they filled their stomachs with bread, cheese and chocolate.

"You should see the kitchens...they're a right mess!" Ron exclaimed around a mouthful of chocolate. "Blueberry and treacle goo everywhere."

Harry's eyes glazed over. "Treacle?" He whimpered.

"Are the house-elves all right?" Hermione asked anxiously.

"Er... I didn't see any," Ron admitted, his ears red. "But look, I found that!" He pointed at the wooden box in the basket.

Hermione and Ginny both leaned over to look at the lid. Hermione gasped, but Ginny just shrugged.

"I thought it might be champagne."

Hermione gave her a hurt look. "But this is much better! I had no idea the house-elves kept files. It's not mentioned in *Hogwarts: A History*." She beamed at Ron.

Oh, yeah. Maybe even snogging. With tongue.

She opened the lid reverently, carefully easing the parchment rolls out of compartments one at a time until she had a small pyramid stacked in front of her. She peered into the box again. "This box must be Expansion-Charmed," she said in a near whisper. "It goes on forever!"

By my eightieth birthday. If I'm lucky.

She opened a few of them, frowning at what she saw. "These aren't in date order. *Ab aeterno! Ad fundum!*" Nothing happened.

"Was something supposed to happen?" Harry peered in the box.

Hermione rolled her eyes. "It's supposed to organize the scrolls by date, earliest first." Harry started to open his mouth. "And yes, I know it's the right spell, because I used it all the time to revise."

"Maybe the elves have it organized some other way?" Ron asked. "Like, by subject or type or... colour!"

They all looked at the uniformly yellow parchment.

"Maybe," said Harry, thinking of Dobby, "they just Summoned what they needed, and so it's not organized at all?"

"And the spell didn't work because?" Hermione looked put out with parchment on principle.

Harry frowned. "House-elf magic is pretty strong, right? It probably overrides our magic. It is *their* box."

Ron yawned hugely, and the others did, too. "I'm beat," he said. He stood up and stretched.

"Ronald?" Hermione looked up at him through her lashes. "Will you help me carry this up the stairs?"

Ginny snickered at her brother. He looked like a frozen troll. She led Harry up the stairs to the boy's dormitory.

"Er, yeah." He lifted the box, which felt incredibly heavy again, and followed her up the stairs to her old room. He hoped he wasn't grunting or sweating too much.

She opened her door, and he set the box down hard on the floor. The noise was deafening in the stillness.

"Oops. Sorry. Hey. The staircase didn't collapse! Why do you think..." he was babbling, she was so close "...it didn't turn into a sli..." she grabbed his face and stood on tiptoe "...de? Is it brok...mmphhh!"

Her lips pressed against his, and he gasped. It was even better this time. Her tongue slipped in his mouth and touched his tentatively. He groaned and lifted her off her feet,

holding her closer as they kissed.

That box was pure genius.

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Ab aeterno: from the beginning of time

Ad fundum: to the end (or bottom)

(source: <http://www.yuni.com/library/latin.html>)

author: pokeystar

beta: pyjamapants

## Staff Information Form: Firenze Spring 1996

*Chapter 2 of 15*

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

### Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

#### Staff Information Form

**School Term:** Spring 1996

**Name:** Firenze

**Subject:** Divination

**Additional Duties:** None

**Location of Quarters:** Ground Floor, next to Office & Classroom

**Location of Office/Classroom:** Ground Floor, Classroom Eleven

**Best Cleaning Times:** Early morning, while he is sleeping afters sunrise

**Classroom Cleaning Notes:** Keeps eyes on Mistletoe Trees for Nargles infestation

**Office Cleaning Notes:** Pile of leaves is chair, not mess to clean up

**Quarters Cleaning Notes:** Pile of leaves is bed, not mess to clean up; Horseyman is allergic to hay

**Laundry Preferences:** Not applicable

**Items to treat CAREFULLY:** Rocks are markers for stars and auspicious dates - do not move

**Favourite Foods:** Badger, Vole, Pumpkin juice

**Disliked Foods:** Carrots, Sugar lumps

**Tea Preferences:** Horseyman doesn't like tea

**Typical Punishment:** Sends away

**Number of Punishments Administered:** Five

**Typical Causes for punishment:** Offering carrots or sugar lumps; moving rocks

**Number of Clothes Threats:** None

**When to Avoid:** Mealtimes; during clear night skies or new moons

**Additional Notes:** Centaurs is really moody. If they is brooding, leaves them alone. Watch out for big rocks. You trips easy in his rooms, he moves them all the time. If you has a lot of work to do, don't ask him about the stars. Be careful around the big piles of leaves - he notices if they're not the same - he won't be able to sleep and that makes him grouchy. Scorch marks from cooking fires take two snaps, not one. He practices with bow and arrows a lot. Make sure you crack LOUD.

**Updated:** June 6, 1996

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author: pokeystar

Inter-Castle Memo dated 3-10-1994

Chapter 3 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Inter-Castle Memo

Date: 3rd October 1994

To: House-elves

Cc: Albus Dumbledore

From: Rolanda Hooch

Subject: Chicken Tikka Masala

Dear House-elves,

As you know, I am very fond of your cooking, and I am hoping that your exemplary skills will be up to recreating the most fantastic dish that I encountered in Muggle Birmingham while I was on holiday there. I managed to pick up the closely-guarded recipe from the shop-keeper—after a bit of gentle persuasion—and have written it out for you. This dish is slightly spicy, and when eaten with rice, I am confident that it would be beneficial for providing Quidditch players with plenty of energy for their matches. The recipe is as follows:

Ingredients

4 skinless chicken breasts
60ml/2¼fl oz olive oil
2 medium onions, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
5cm/2in piece fresh root ginger, grated
2 tsp chilli powder
1 tsp ground turmeric
1 tsp ground coriander seeds
1 tsp ground cumin
4 tbsps tomato purée
2 very ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
100ml/3½fl oz plain full-fat yoghurt
100ml/3½fl oz double cream
½ tsp salt
½ lime, juice only
splash water or chicken stock (if necessary)
cooked basmati rice, to serve
few sprigs fresh coriander, chopped, for garnish

Method

1. Cut the chicken breasts into very thin slices and heat the oil in a large frying pan. Once the oil is smoking, add the chicken, onions and garlic and fry for 30 seconds over a fierce heat. Immediately add the ginger, chilli powder, turmeric, coriander and cumin and fry for a further minute.
2. Stir in the tomato purée and the chopped tomatoes and boil rapidly for five minutes. Allow to cool slightly.
3. Add the yoghurt and double cream. Return to a low heat, bring to a simmer and then stir in the salt and lime juice. If the curry is too thick at this stage, you can add a little water (or chicken stock) to get the correct consistency.
3. Serve the curry with cooked basmati rice and chopped coriander.

I have been told that this will serve 4 people, so the recipe will need some adjustments, which I will leave in your capable hands.

Headmaster Dumbledore,

I hope that you will give your permission for such a culinary experiment to take place at Hogwarts. It is my hope that the students will enjoy such fare, and if this proves popular among staff and students, I ask that this become a regular dish on the menu at Hogwarts.

Signed:

R. Hooch

Flying Instructor

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author: kristoph

## Supply Request dated 21-07-1991

*Chapter 4 of 15*

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

### Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

#### Supply Request

**Department:** Headmaster's Office

**Date:** 21 July, 1991

**Contact Elf:** Peejy

**Requestor:** Albus Dumbledore

**Supplier:** Honeydukes in Hogsmeade village

**Received by:** Ophy

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**Stock#** 221334

**Description of item:** lemon sherberts

**Quantity:** 20 kilograms

**Stock#** 145678

**Description of item:** pepper imps

**Quantity:** 10 kilograms

**Stock#** unknown

**Description of item:** That divine chocolate with the curry powder in it that Mrs. Honeyduke had me taste last week; I can't remember what the name of it was. I think it had toasted coconut as well. Whatever it's called, it was pure heaven.

**Quantity:** 15 kilograms

**Stock#** 9874

**Description of item:** sugar quills: assorted flavors – peppermint, raspberry, vanilla, beef, coffee, caramel, butterscotch

**Quantity:** 3 kilograms

**Stock#** 108906

**Description of item:** Cockroach Clusters

**Quantity:** 5 kilograms

**Stock#** 908764

**Description of item:** Chocolate frogs – I still haven't found a Grindelwald card. Rupert, if I were paranoid, I'd think you were keeping it from me to keep my custom. Which is absurd, if you consider my sweet tooth.

**Quantity:** 30 packets

**Stock#** 889072

**Description of item:** Acid pops – Never mind what Poppy told you, the young bossy boots. They do not give me heartburn. Her fussing at me does. Lime, Chili, and Lava, if you please.

**Quantity:** 10 kilograms

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author: pokeystar

HEWO dated 25-08-1997

Chapter 5 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

House-Elf Work Order

Date: 25 August, 1997

Time: 11:23 p.m.

Reporting Professor Name: Argus Filch

Location House-elf Needed: my office to pick up items, dungeons next

Action Required: shackle service

Magic Used, if Any: no magic allowed at all

Student(s) Involved: none yet, but plenty expected over the year

Additional Comments: New esteemed professors will join staff at Hogwarts. Good old times and true punishments will return with them.

House-elves will prepare things the professors need and keep them in good condition over the year. Clean all shackles, clamps, whips and knives. Polish metals. Fix and grease joints. Lubricate leather strips.

Special attention: Ceiling in the dungeon needs refurbishment. Heavy weight will hang from the hooks. Tighten all screws.

House-elf or Elves Assigned: Neity

Time Completed: 4:58 next day

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author: nata

## Inter-Castle Memo dated 29-11-1992

*Chapter 6 of 15*

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

**Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry**

**Inter-Castle Memo**

**Date:** 29 November 1992

**To:** Rolanda Hooch

**From:** Albus Dumbledore

**Subject:** Bludger Incident & Insurance

Madam Hooch,

I've approved your requisition form. I'm told that you should receive the new Quidditch set via owl delivery within two business days, though if I remember correctly, our last order to Quality Quidditch ran a few days late, so I wouldn't advise recommencing the practice schedules until next week.

Hogwarts' property insurance already includes a Harry Potter clause, actually fter the incident last year, Professor McGonagall managed to convince me that it would only be prudent to have one added ut I will take into consideration requesting additional coverage for Bludgers as well. They have been rather troublesome things as of late, haven't they?

There's also an ongoing discussion about adding a Weasley clause etween just Fred and George Weasley alone, it'd probably be cost effective, and young Ron seems to have inherited his brothers' talent for getting into trouble, even if his is usually more to do with intense loyalty and bravery than actual mischief. I would like you to put

together a risk assessment for having them on the Quidditch team again this year, preferably in time for next month's staff meeting, if possible, so Minerva can have it for her appointment with the insurance adjuster the next day they're still arguing over the coverage for the girls' toilets the troll destroyed last year, so it's probably best to start the process for this request as soon as possible.

Thank you,

**Signed:**

Albus Dumbledore

Headmaster, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry

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author: JackieJLH

Staff Meeting Agenda/Minutes dated 23-09-1995

Chapter 7 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Staff Meeting Agenda/Minutes

Meeting: 23rd September 1995

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Kitchens

Facilitator - Head Elf Jammy

What (agenda item): Woolly hats

Who (which elf added it/presenting): Neity

How*: I-A

Action Taken (minutes notes): Neity says *Badly* Knitted hatses is being left hiding in Gryffindor common room, and is being founded by elveses. Fifty two has been found so far, and new ones is appearing daily. Ophy wants to burn them but Ady is saying she's a bad elf and is ironing handses. Instead we shoulds use magic to levytate them and then cleans up meses, leaving knitted hates in a pile. *Ophy says leave them in a pile on top of the fire to burn.* Dobby has volunteered to cleans room from now on.

What (agenda item): Butterbeer

Who (which elf added it/presenting): Peejy

How*: D/P

Action Taken (minutes notes): Peejy wants to restrict amounts of butterbeer in kitchens, because Winky is drinking it all. Ady says that Winky not be give password to store. Dobby shakes his head and says that she might be a tricky elf and gets password anyway. Voxy wonders why we dont's ward for the store, so if Winky goes near it, alarmses will goes off. Elvses has voted for alarm idea, so anti-Winky wards is being installed by Peejy, because she is good with wards. We is hoping that Winky is staying sober more often now.

What (agenda item): Diggy shrine

Who (which elf added it/presenting): Voxy

How*: I-A

Action Taken (minutes notes): Voxy is remindings us that Huffpuffs has a Diggy shrine in their common room, ands to keeps the golden egg shiny buts not open it (because it hurts ears), and to keeps the framed picture of Diggy polished with magic not wax, because hes allergic to bees. Voxy says to replace flowers every Friday and Tuesday, or theys start to smell funny.

What (agenda item): School Broomstickses

Who (which elf added it/presenting): Ophy

How*: I-A

Action Taken (minutes notes): Opys says that there is being a woodworm infestations in the second broomstick shed on the right by the statue of St. Bartoke the Ugly. Woodwormses is eating brromsticks and they is unsafes. Shed needs to be fumigated and broomsticks replaced. Melthy has been asked to do this, and to put signs on door, so peoples know nots to use it.

***How code A** -Action Item D/P -Discussion/Planning

I-A Information - Announcement I-H -Information – Handout

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## Staff Information Form: Hooch Fall 1992

*Chapter 8 of 15*

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

### Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

#### Staff Information Form

**School Term:** 1992 – 1993

**Name:** Rolanda Hooch

**Subject:** Flight Instructor

**Additional Duties:** Quidditch Referee

**Location of Quarters:** None

**Location of Office/Classroom:** Office, Locker Rooms, Quidditch Pitch

**Best Cleaning Times:** We is to be cleaning the office only when she is not listening to the Arrows game on the talky-box. Madam Hooch is being very angry when the Arrows is not playing well, and tries to dance with house-elves when Arrows is being good at playing. Should see attached Quidditch game and practice schedules before we is entering Pitch or locker rooms. Especially locker rooms!

**Classroom Cleaning Notes:** Stands and ground should be cleared of leaves and/or snow before all Quidditch games and practices, and again cleared of debris, confetti, etc. following games. We is to be staying off the field during games; very dangerous.

**Office Cleaning Notes:** Extra house-elves is needed after Quidditch games, especially on days when it is raining. Madam Hooch is requesting additional wards to keep out all students when she is off Hogwarts grounds.

**Quarters Cleaning Notes:** Madam Hooch is not living at Hogwarts.

**Laundry Preferences:** Quidditch robes have water-repelling charm. We is to be removing this before washing.

**Items to treat CAREFULLY:** VERY IMPORTANT: Fiddy and Peppy warns to not open large case stored underneath the desk in Madam Hooch's office. ESPECIALLY if it moves. Please to not be opening it.

**Favourite Foods:** Sugar quills, kept in a tin in the bottom drawer of Madam Hooch's desk. Meals not being taken at Hogwarts.

**Disliked Foods:** Madam Hooch is not liking bacon.

**Tea Preferences:** No creams and sugars. Madam Hooch is liking her tea plain.

**Typical Punishment:** Yelling and sending away

**Number of Punishments Administered:** 6

**Typical causes for punishment:** Madam Hooch is not liking to be bothered when she is listening to Quidditch games on the talky-box. Madam Hooch becomes very angry if elves is opening the box under her desk. Balls in box become very angry too.

**Number of Clothes Threats:** 1

**When to Avoid:** Directly before or after Quidditch games. Madam Hooch becomes very excited about Quidditch.

**Additional Notes:** Madam Hooch requests that elves is cleaning locker rooms five times a day now. Is to be watching for red-haired Gryffindor girl too. She was hiding in the locker room by herself. Madam Hooch is worrying she be causing trouble, because all Weasleys is usually troublemakers. Madam Hooch is requesting all elves be staying away from Quidditch equipment.

**Updated:** 29 September, 1992

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author: JackieJLH

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Supply Request

Department: Care of Magical Creatures Office

Date: 30 August 1991

Contact Elf: Woody

Requestor: Professor Kettleburn

Received by: Blinksy

Stock# 234157

Description of item: Fresh halibut fillet.

Quantity: 50 kg

Elf note: Iz the yearly supply to get Giant Squid in a good mood.

Stock# 234158

Description of item: Red meat (beef, venison, pork), raw.

Quantity: 150 kg

Elf note: Must be very fresh, else Thestralses will bites the students.

Stock# 23100

Description of item: Ice, crushed

Quantity: 50 kg

Elf note: Iz better delivered in 1 kg packages. Professor needeses ice crushed for keeping of lost limbs fresh, just in case.

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author: sylvanawood

## Inter-Castle Memo dated 14-11-1993

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

**Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry**

**Inter-Castle Memo**

**Date:** 14 November, 1993

**To:** House-elves

**From:** Headmaster Dumbledore

**Subject:** By Pass Key Change

My friends,

Two days ago, Professor Trelawney discovered that some of her belongings had been removed from her personal quarters. Furthermore, most of them had been replaced with creative substitutes. The characters of the substitute items led us (Blinksey, Trelawney and me) to believe that the usual culprits have once again discovered the by-pass key to the teacher's quarters wards. Therefore, effective at midnight this evening, the new by-pass key will be "Incorrigible."

Blinksey has also asked that this event, and the culprits involved be placed on the next House-Elf meeting agenda, in the hopes that your combined brainpower can come up with a way to, if not "stop ginger mischief," then slow it down a bit. I heartily wish you luck with that, and if I or the teaching staff can help in any way, please let me know.

**Signed:**

Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore

Headmaster, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft & Wizardry

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author: pokeystar

HEWO dated 12-09-1992

Chapter 11 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

House Elf Work Order

Date: 12 September 1992

Time: 16:34:00

Reporting Professor Name: Rolanda Hooch

Location House-elf Needed: Madam Hooch's office.

Action Required: Repair of 87cracks in walls, ceiling and floors due to escaped Bludger. Replacement or repair of all furniture. Replacement of Madam Hooch's reading glasses. Replacement of doors to all offices. Reenforcement of wards on new door. Repair of 210 cracks in walls, ceiling and floor of adjoining hallway. Repair of three suits of armor. Repair of portrait of Kennelworthy Whisp. Replacement of south-facing window. Clearing of general debris including broken glass, clearing of broken furniture. Recapture of rogue Bludger, last seen in Forbidden Forest. May need to enlist Hagrid's help.

Magic Used, if Any: None

Student(s) Involved: None

Additional Comments: Do not dust, move, or even touch box beneath what is left of the desk.

House-elf or Elves Assigned: Crooky, Batty, Neemie

Time Completed: 21:17:00

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author: JackieJLH

## Staff Meeting Agenda/Minutes dated 15-11-1991

*Chapter 12 of 15*

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

**Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry**

**Staff Meeting Agenda/Minutes**

**Meeting:** 15 November 1991

**10:00 am to 11:00 am**

**Kitchens**

**Facilitator -** Head Elf Jammy

**What (agenda item):** Professor Quirrell's turban

**Who (which elf added it/presenting):** Melthy

**How\*:** D/P

**Action Taken (minutes notes):** We is discussing the problem of Prof. Quirell's hat, which is to be smelling most badly. This is suggesting to humans that elves are not

doing their job of keeping things clean. Is most distressing and a sore point for elf pride. We is asking Prof. Quirrell for his hat, but he is turning odd shade of pink and refusing us. We is thinking one of us elves needs to sneak in his room when it is off and clean it before it becomes most stinkier.

**What (agenda Item):** Fluffy's dinnertime

**Who (which elf added it/presenting):** Ophy

**How\*:** I-A

**Action Taken (minutes notes):** Fluffy is having difficulties with eating. Instead of him eating nice ground tripe, he is trying to eats the house-elf bringing it to him. We is thinking is better to Apparate food to Fluffy. Mister Hagrid's suggestion that Fluffy is lonely and needs company while eating for to be happy does not appear to have grounding in reality. In short, we is getting out of there with our ears still attached. Best not tell Hagrid. Would make him unhappy.

**What (agenda Item):** Snorkack Infestation in third floor broom cupboard

**Who (which elf added it/presenting):** Blinksey

**How\*:** A

**Action Taken (minutes notes):** Is most huge number of Snorkacks in cupboard. One is to be biting Blinksey when she went in to get a mop to clean up after Miss Myrtle's latest mess. We must be bringing empty Butterbeer bottles into closet; smell will make their horns itchy and they is leaving then. Best do fast before they is eating the last of the floor polish.

**What (agenda Item):** Christmas Tree Decorations

**Who (which elf added it/presenting):** Ady

**How\*:** D/P

**Action Taken (minutes notes):** Mr. Filch is wanting to ban Christmas trees this season as they is dropping needles, making him sneeze, and oozing sap onto floors. We is not happy with suggestion and Headmaster Dumbledore says to ignore Mr. Filch who, he says, is being "a bit of a Scrooge." We is to be enchanting trees not to ooze or shed this year; be cautious Weasley twins is not nearby or else we may be needing to deal with trees that is oozing and dripping worse than usual instead

**What (agenda Item):** Morning Porridge

**Who (which elf added it/presenting):** Beffey

**How\*:** A

**Action Taken (minutes notes):** Mr. Draco Malfoy is to be complaining that his morning porridge is being "flavorless, disgustingly cold, possesses the consistency of wallpaper paste, and is otherwise generally unfit for pureblood wizarding deglutition" for last three days. We is running to dictionary and is realizing that this is being bad. We has resolved all of us is to taste test Mr. Malfoy's porridge each morning, but we is suspecting sabotage from Gryffindors. Perhaps armed guard around porridge pot necessary?

**\*How code A** -Action Item D/P -Discussion/Planning

I-A Information - Announcement I-H -Information – Handout

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author: Meltha

Staff Information Form: Severus Snape Fall 1991

Chapter 13 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Staff Information Form

School Term: Autumn 1991

Name: Severus Snape

Subject: Potions

Additional Duties: Head of Slytherin House, brewing potions for infirmary,

harvesting Potions ingredients

Location of Quarters: Dungeon, behind portrait of Boris the Bloody-Minded

Location of Office/Classroom: Dungeon Four

Best Cleaning Times: During mealtimes, when he is in the Great Hall, or late night while he is making rounds

Classroom Cleaning Notes: Always use gloves; no touching Potions spills with bare fingers! (Professor Snape is yelling if you forgets your gloves, but gives you Burn Paste if you is needing it.)

Office Cleaning Notes: Keep specimen jars dusted and polished, and refill red ink as necessary. Fire must be kept burning in winter.

Quarters Cleaning Notes: Watch out for book piles on the floor. Keep bookshelves dusted, but don't rearrange.

Laundry Preferences: Stain Resist and Fireproofing Charms on all clothes and Billowing Charm on teaching robes. Keep white clothes and black clothes SEPARATE.

(Professor Snape is getting very angry when his white pants is coming back grey.)

Items to treat CAREFULLY: All books must be left as they is! Professor Snape is having a system for his bookshelves and piles, and he is not liking it when they is disturbed. (Ask Bluey and Voxy; they is understanding the system.)

All Potions ingredients is not to be touched without Professor Snape's permission.

Favourite Foods: Roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Elf-Made red wine.

Disliked Foods: Cabbage, beans on toast, pumpkin juice

Tea Preferences: Lapsang Souchong, no milk or sugar

Typical Punishment: Shouting, throwing jars of cockroaches, telling elves to get out.

Number of Punishments Administered: 1234

Typical causes for punishment: Touching Potions ingredients without gloves, losing his page in his books, washing black and white clothes together, cleaning too loud when Professor Snape has a headache.

Number of Clothes Threats: 752 (But he is never actually giving them.)

When to Avoid: Early morning, after classes, before he is drinking his tea, after he is talking to the Headmaster or Professor Trelawney.

Additional Notes: Professor Snape is especially hating Halloween, so elves is not to bother him then.

Updated: 15 August, 1991

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author: bluestocking

## Interlude July 1998

### Chapter 14 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hermione slipped into her room, exhaustion permeating even the marrow in her bones. It had been a difficult couple of months since the Final Battle, but the Hogwarts rebuilding team's hard work had much to show for it.

The Castle's basic structure was completed, as were the Great Hall and many of the classrooms. Only the kitchens, the library—just some shelving repair and thorough organization needed there; protective spells had prevented damage to the tomes themselves—and the Headmistress's office needed to be done before the school could open again in September.

She crossed the room and collapsed onto her bed. Between long hours improving her construction and basic labour charms and Ron's insistent snogging, she hadn't had much time to herself since the Battle. Since Bill and Fleur's wedding at the Burrow last year, actually.

*Thank Merlin George needs Ron to help at the shop now that he's decided to re-open in Diagon Alley.*

Her eyes slid to look at the small carved chest resting on her desk and she flinched guiltily. She shouldn't be glad that her boyfriend was leaving. And she shouldn't have been rifling through the house-elves' chest without permission, no matter how exciting the discovery had been.

It was odd that reading about Mistress Hooch's request for Chicken Tikka Masala—one of her favourite meals—or the house-elves' opinion of her hats had just made her smile or wince, but that her conscience had only kicked in as she read Professor Snape's scroll. It was as if she were in the Potions classroom again, with him looming over her, sneering at the invasion of his privacy. *Bloody interfering Know-It-All*, he said scathingly in her head. *I thought you had some regard for house-elf rights.*

She had cringed and dropped the scroll back into the box, not even glancing at it since. Even though her fingers and mind buzzed with an itch at the thought of exploring its secrets.

It was odder still that she had seen very few elves about while she was working... She frowned in thought. If only Dobby were here, alive. She swallowed a half-sob. As soon as the Battle was over, Kreacher had gone back to Grimmauld Place. Harry and Ron would both live there come September, when they started Auror training at the London-based Academy. By then, Lee Jordan would be fully recuperated and ready to partner George at the joke shop. Hermione was ashamed to admit, even to herself, that she didn't know any of the other elves well enough to feel comfortable asking them permission. Except.

She bit her lip and sat up. "Winky?" she murmured tentatively.

There was a small pop. "Yes, Miss?" Winky asked, standing before her in a neat, crisp tea towel featuring the Hogwarts crest.

"Hello. How are you?" Hermione replied uncertainly. She wondered what she should say—how she could ask—

Winky's head tilted and her eyes narrowed a bit. "Winky is being fine, Miss. We elves is knowing the files are here."

"Oh!" Her cheeks heated as they flushed. "Um, do you think it would be all right if I read them?" *Gah!* She was beginning to sound like Ron.

"Elves is having voted. We is thinking Miss will be knowing elves and our ways better if Miss is reading files. You is being allowed. We is taking box if we's need it and popping it back."

Hermione smiled wryly. "I've already learned I need to improve my knitting skills."

Winky's ears wiggled. "Only hats for wizards. Not elves. Promise?"

"I promise." She sighed.

She would find another way to help the elves. The next time, with their cooperation. Hopefully the files would—as the elves determined—aid her in understanding them first.

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author: pokeystar

beta-ed by Bluestocking (((hugs)))

Inter-Castle Memo dated 28-11-1992

Chapter 15 of 15

Did you ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at Hogwarts?

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

Inter-Castle Memo

Date: 28 November 1992

To: Albus Dumbledore

From: Rolanda Hooch

Subject: Rogue Bludger

Headmaster,

Professors McGonagall, Snape, Flitwick and I have tested the rogue Bludger extensively and cannot find any evidence that it was tampered with using any known spells. While it is possible that a previously unknown spell was used, we have not found evidence that any wizard or witch, with the exception of myself, was in contact with the Bludger prior to the start of its odd behavior. It appears that it may have developed a defect, possibly owing to its escape and subsequent four days in the Forest at the beginning of term. I have submitted a requisition form for a new set of Quidditch balls, to be expedited so that practices can resume.

On a related note, perhaps Hogwarts should consider increasing its insurance coverage to cover property damage due to rogue Bludgers and/or Harry Potter.

Regards,

Rolanda Hooch

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author: JackieJLH