

Technical Difficulties

by peppermint

Headmaster Snape faces public displeasure.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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"...And in academic news, Headmaster Severus Snape has just..*crackle! beeeeeeeep!*poisoned... *pop! crackle! ssssst!*several NEWT-level students at Hogwarts school. Our congratulations to Headmaster Snape on this accomplishment..."

Snape was listening idly to the Sunday evening broadcast as he contemplated the first edition of *Poisoned Heart: A Treatise on Dark Arts Defense*, which was open on the desk before him. He was quite proud of this book which would revolutionize Defense Against the Dark Arts teaching in Wizarding schools worldwide. It had been written and researched with the help of several NEWT students in the two years following the war. He started wildly as the Wireless feed broke up in the middle of the announcement about his new book. Bugger. It. All. To. Hell. Hopefully it was just a local disturbance.

The next morning at breakfast, Snape realized it must have been a problem with the broadcast itself when instead of his usual eggs and kippers, he had a plateful of Howlers, all of which were smoking and vibrating wildly. He whipped his wand from its holster and hastily cast a Containment Hex around his place setting. Unfortunately, the Containment Hex only protected the Howlers from exploding all over his nearest neighbors: Soon, a cacophony of shrill voices could be heard echoing throughout the Great Hall.

"Murderer!"

"What did those poor students ever do to you, you great black bat?"

"Is this what I pay tuition for? The headmaster to poison my children?"

Well, at least it was early enough that only a few students were milling about, bleary eyed over their porridge and pumpkin juice - yet he knew the tale of the plethora of Howlers would be all over the school by lunchtime.

He stalked back to his office, intent on making a Floo-call or several. When he was able to raise Dirk Bailey, the news desk manager at Wizarding Wireless Network, he had more than a few choice words for the man. Bailey hastily assured Snape the announcement had run three more times since the previous evening without technical difficulties and promised to publish a correction in the *Daily Prophet*, assuring Hogwarts parents and the general public that no students had been deliberately poisoned at Snape's hand.

"...We regret technical difficulties in yesterday's news broadcast and apologize to Headmaster Snape. News is his new book is flying off the shelves at Flourish and Blotts and other bookstores all over the Wizarding world. Up next, Rita Skeeter with an exclusive on Snape's possibly salacious relationships with his student coauthors..."

Prompt: A garbled message on the Wizarding Wireless causes mass panic.