



ASTER: croaked Kreacher, Harry'selderlyhouse elf, appearing in the drawing room with his customary crack.

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Harry sat at the table, trying to help little Lily with her maths. Well, Lily wasn't so little. She was ten years old and quite the young lady, as she would remind anyone who mistook her for a little girl. "Yes, Kreacher?" asked Harry, looking up from the table where they sat.

"Master has a visitor. Would Master like me to



nd thereby we

embark upon an adventure for which none of the active participants were quite prepared.

Harry's visitor is Minerva McGonagall. She is concerned about a problematic Hogwarts letter which needs to be delivered to a Muggle family. She would like Harry to accompany her. The letter is to one Elinor Barton-Dursley of #4 Privit Drive, Little Whinging, Surry. Harry agrees to go. With Ginny (for support). Nothing that he finds is what he expects. His cousin Dudley had got his act together, and is working as a social worker, mainly dealing with children in bad situations.

He has also been hoping to contact Harry. During the visit, Dudley is called out on an emergency. Harry accompanies him. They encounter a situation in need of intervention.

DINNER AT PRIVIT DRIVE

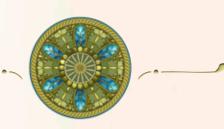


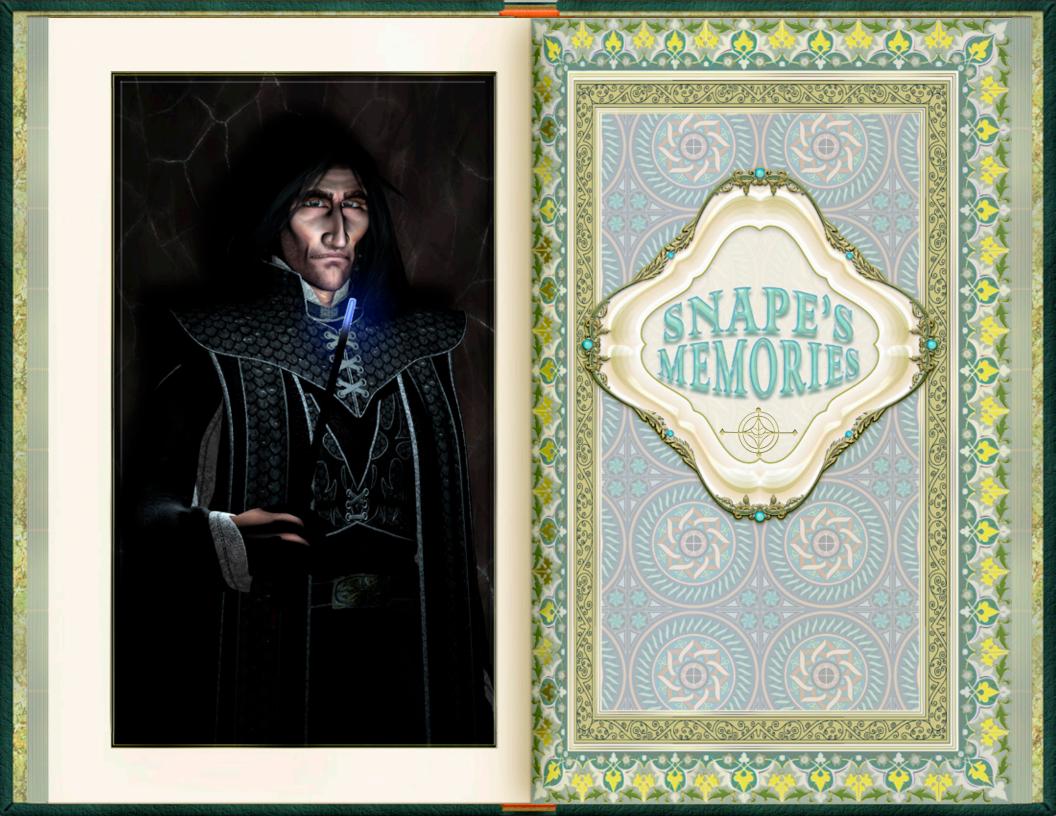
Hermione, whose work entails an ongoing liason with the Muggle authorities has met Dudley before. She knows him as Mr Barton.

The three of them address the emergency. Which introduces us to Tim Dawson, aged seven. Muggle-born wizard (so far as anyone can tell), in immediate need of foster placement.

Harry and Ginny are happy to step up and offer Tim a home. Their youngest will be leaving for Hogwarts in the fall, and they are certainly willing and able to care for another child.

No one ever imagined that the welcoming of Tim into the Potter family would function very much like kicking an anthill. Before anyone realizes it, the Potters, most particularly Harry, find themselves needing to confront a myriad of ghosts dating from that horrible final year of the war with Voldemort.









thin undersized boy hurtled down a stone staircase that was clearly intent on changing where it came out onto the third floor. If it did that, he'd have to double back, and he'd be even later than he already was.

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CHAPTER

As soon as he realized this, the boy hopped up onto the stone railing. As the stair ponderously moved, the boy leapt into the air, counting on his magic to slow his fall down to something

That passage was a dream of course. One of many which Harry will have over the next several months. Few of which he will remember upon awakening.

Which is a pity in a way. Many of the discussions he engaged in during those dreams — if dreams they actually were — might have constituted useful information.



Harry Potter & Family

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But then, he would have also had to come to grips with the identity of the "father figure" with whom he is duscussing the issues and problems of parenthood.

Since the war, Harry and Ginny have built a good marriage, and are responsible for a happy family. They are more than willing to share it with a child in need.

It soon becomes evident that there is something physically wrong with Tim. In the meantime, Harry has an abused, seven-year-old child to introduce to the wizarding world. As well as trying to discover the cause of Tim's disturbing collection of injuries. And whether there is any way in which he can be helped.

Some information is eventually provided via a friend of Tim's late grandmother. This raises more questions.

Tim may not be Muggle-born at all. The indications are that his father was a wizard.

A Dark wizard. Tim is suffering from curse damage.

And then there are the dreams which Harry knows are not dreams, but memories. Other people's memories. They are trying to tell him something.

At that point, Tim's mother is murdered. And we are overtaken by the "adventure" part of the proceedings. Adventures tend not to be fun for anybody.

Fortunately, even when things are at their worst, Tim has valuable help. The Dark Man is still watching over him. As he has for as long as Tim can remember.















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And so it ends, in a formal adoption. Tim is now officially a Potter.

There are a few more dreams, none of which Harry remembers upon waking.

Or at any rate not yet.

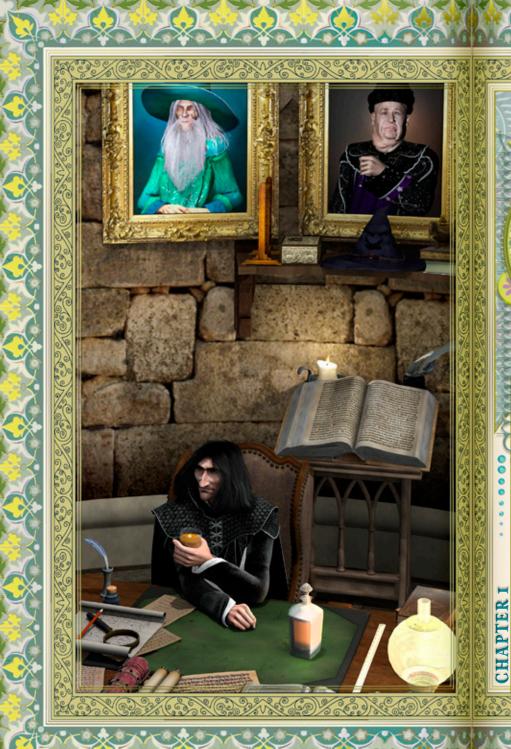
And what appears to be a blessing and a departure.

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The Potter Family, Complete







was uncommonly cold, this Christmas holiday, at Hogwarts. No Christmas trees graced the Great Hall this year, although there was one in the staff room and the hospital wing. The staff eschewed the usual merriment this year, opting for more private gatherings. The Carrows were spending this Christmas Eve carousing with the Dark Lord's inner circle. Severus had been to that meeting and then made his excuses. Fortunately, he was known for his dislike of relevry, so it wasn't taken amiss.

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CHRISTMAS

A COLD

Our timeline now becomes something other than altogether linear.

In the wake of the fallout from the conclusion of, and the hearing pretaining to, the issues regarding Tim's adbuctor/father, and once Harry had recovered enough from his injuries, the Potter family left Britain for a few years. Harry took a consulting position with an Auror office in the Carribean. Tim had accompanied them. The three older Potter children joined them during Hogwarts breaks.

Now, however, they have returned. And Tim is a first year Hogwarts student.

A head injury shortly before the Christmas break throws Tim into consternation. The Dark Man, who had disappeared after Tim was formally adopted by the Potters, is back. And he is extremely upset.

Meanwhile, back on the Christmas Eve of 1997, at Hogwarts, Headmaster Snape was given a bottle of Heart's Ease, by Madam Pomfrey, this is a restricted, and highly dangerous potion.

Even knowing that it could be a trap, he takes it. And finds himself trapped in the mind of a child in an impossible, unimaginable future.

> This is, after all, a Christmas Story. Past. Present. And Yet to Come.

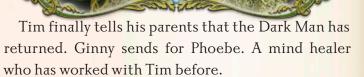
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Flooing from the Headmistress's offic









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The Coming of the Dark Man

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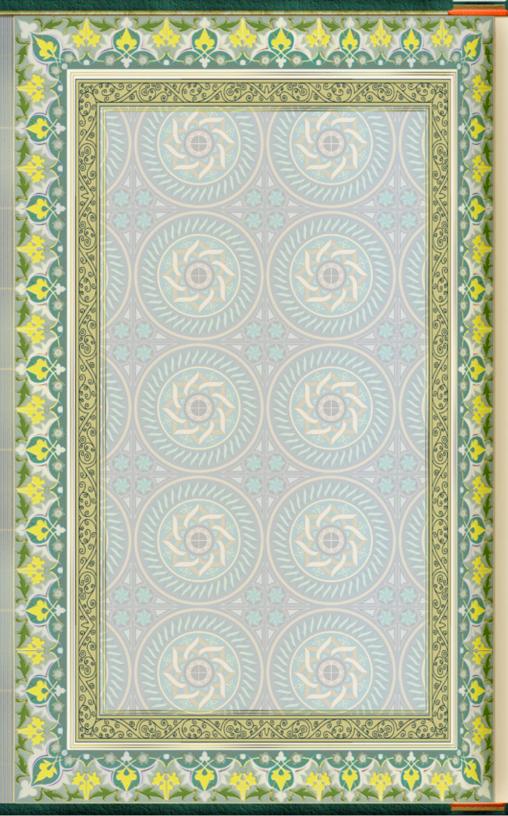
This opens the box. Tim, and Snape, uncover the event in which Snape first became Tim's Dark Man.

There is a long overdue conversation between Snape and Harry. Followed by departures in and out of time.

Mind Healer Phoebe









The layout and formatting of this document was created in Adobe InDesign. Cover and background spreads were created in Adobe Photoshop, utilizing commercial clip art from the incomparable Marwan Aridi.

The Red Hen logo is adapted from the incomparable Marwan Aridi, modified in Macromedia FreeHand.

Illustrations were produced in the DAZ Studio, a 3D application used for scene building. A wide assortment of commercial and freeware content from a wide assortment of vendors and 3D artists were used in this project.

The fonts used in this publication are: the Priori Serif family, by Jonathan Barnbrooke, distributed by Emigré foundary, for body text. Additional fonts used in the project are; P22 FLLW Terracotta Extras, and Zallman Caps (Modified in Fontrographer).

Special mention should probably also be extended to Jack Davis and Linea Dayton for their efforts in producing The Photoshop 7 One-Click WOW Book.

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