



IMAGINING BAD NEWS & WISHING FOR MAGIC AT HOGWARTS CLIENT COUNSELING

The Wise Doctor

You are W. C. Wise, doctor of physiological witchcraft and magicology at the Hogwarts's school. Your patient, Marley Dumange, is Hogwart's chief chef, directing the preparation of all culinary delights in Hogwarts' dining hall. Marley is married to the school's gym teacher. While you've seen Marley at occasional Hogwarts' social gatherings, they have come to you infrequently, for a bad case of the flu, to remove a wart, or an occasional check-up. You know that Marley is "old school" and tends to think that homemade chicken soup or hot compresses will cure just about anything. Marley was quite stubborn about the "chicken soup only" plan for the flu (which, in your opinion, meant that their high fever lasted far longer than if they had taken some real medicine).

Marley came for a more recent office visit because of odd tingling in their legs and a strange pattern of markings becoming visible above both ankles. You performed some physical tests, took skin and blood samples, and analyzed the results – supporting that analysis with extensive research through Hogwarts's link to the Wizard Central Institute's extensive medical library and archive. Unfortunately, the test results, your research, and your experience strongly suggest that Lord Voldemort has cast a spell on Marley. You predict Marley will be turned into a beetle specific to brussel sprouts and confined to a brussel sprouts patch. (This may be Voldemort's revenge for frequent brussel sprouts at Hogwarts' during his student days).

If Marley follows your advice and undergoes an extremely expensive and unpleasant treatment involving at least 36 jellybeans implanted under the skin at magical nerve node points and periodically activated, the spell may be avoided or greatly weakened.

You are quite certain that chicken soup isn't going to work, even if you could administer it intravenously. You regret that your research so strongly supports this diagnosis and prediction. Marley might get lucky, of course: Voldemort may have weakened since the movie, or Harry Potter may conquer him before the spell fully materializes. It is also possible that Marley will turn into an owl instead of a beetle if the spell turns out to be slightly different from what you suspect.

You know that you will have to break the bad news to Marley.

After you've explained the realities, you anticipate that Marley may push back, and insist that chicken soup or some other non-science-based cure will suffice. You must strongly counsel against wasting time on those because delaying real treatment may render it less effective.