

## IMAGINING REAL BAD NEWS AND WISHING FOR MAGIC

### The Wise Doctor

You are W. C. Wise, doctor of physiological witchcraft and magicology at the Hogwart's school. Your patient, Marley Dumange, is Hogwart's chief chef, directing 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, he has come to you only once before as a patient, to remove a wart.

Marley came for a more recent office visit because of odd tingling in his 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' 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 that he will be turned into a beetle specific to brussel sprouts, and confined to a brussel sprout patch. (This may be Voldemort's revenge for frequent brussel sprouts at Hogwarts' during his student days).

If Marley will follow your advice and invest heavily in an extremely expensive and unpleasant treatment, the spell may be avoided or greatly weakened. Marley seems to think homemade chicken soup will cure the condition. You doubt it. While no doctor can be 100% certain, 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.

Break the bad news to Marley.

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### Marley Dumange, Patient

You are Marley Dumange, Hogwarts's chief chef, responsible for directing preparation of all culinary delights in the school's dining hall. You have been married to the school's gym teacher for ten years. You both enjoy living and working at Hogwarts.

You recently went to see Hogwart's Dr. Wise, because of odd tingling in your legs and a strange pattern of markings becoming visible above both ankles. Dr. Wise is a well respected Doctor of Physiological Witchcraft and Magicology. While you've seen him at occasional Hogwarts' social gatherings, you've consulted him as a patient only once before, to remove a wart. This time, after you described your symptoms, Dr. Wise examined your legs and the markings above your ankles carefully, conducted some physical tests, and took skin and blood samples.

You are about to meet with Dr. Wise again. Presumably, he has analyzed the test results and will discuss them with you.