

## CHAPTER NINE – The Midnight Duel

“Harry had never believed he would meet a boy he hated more than Dudley, but that was before he met Draco Malfoy. (..) Flying lessons would be starting on Thursday – and Gryffindor and Slytherin would be learning together. (...)

Their teacher, Madam Hooch, arrived. She had short, grey hair and yellow eyes like a hawk.

‘Well, what are you all waiting for?’ she barked.

‘Everyone stand by a broomstick. Come on, hurry up.’

Harry glanced down at his broom. It was old and some of the twigs stuck out at odd angles.

‘Stick out your right hand over your broom,’ called Madam Hooch at the front, ‘and say, “Up!”

‘UP!’ everyone shouted.

Harry’s broom jumped into his hand at once, but it was one of the few that did. Hermione Granger’s had simply rolled over on the ground and Neville’s hadn’t moved at all.

(...).

‘Now, when I blow my whistle, you kick off from the ground, hard,’ said Madam Hooch.

‘Keep your brooms steady, rise a few feet and then come straight back down by leaning forwards slightly. On my whistle – three – two – ..

But Neville, nervous and jumpy and frightened of being left on the ground, pushed off hard before the whistle had touched Madam Hooch’s lips.

(...)

Madam Hooch was bending over Neville, her face as white as his.

‘Broken wrist,’ Harry heard her mutter.

‘Come on, boy – it’s all right, up you get.’ She turned to the rest of the class.

‘None of you is to move while I take this boy to the hospital wing! You leave those brooms where they are or you’ll be out of Hogwarts before you can say “Quidditch”.

### Glossary

shack – cabana;

to shiver – tremer, tiritar;

to skid – derrapar, escorregar ;

to crouch – encolher, agachar ;

to tremble – tremer;

slightly – levemente ;

twig – ramo;

jumpy – nervosa;