

Finding Fantastic Beasts **A2**



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First there were the Harry Potter books. Then there were the films. This year, there was the theatre play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. And now there is the first in a new film series, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Is it Harry Potter? Yes and no.

YES: There are wizards but they are in 1926 in the U.S.A., not today in the U.K.

NO: There isn't Harry, or Ron or Hermione, or the actors who played them.

But there are lots of new and interesting characters to discover. There are lots of references to things you'll recognise, like some dark wizards and fantastic beasts that Harry met. The Harry Potter films were adapted

from J.K. Rowling's books by other writers. This time, J.K. Rowling wrote the scripts. (There are going to be five films.)

The Story

Newt Scamander is an English Magizoologist – a specialist in magical creatures. He arrives in the U.S.A., where the wizarding world is very different from Europe. Wizards are completely separate from non-magical people. (They are called No-Maj in America, Muggles in Britain.) Wizards can't marry or be friends with No-Maj people. Newt has lots of fantastic beasts in his suitcase. A No-Maj, Jacob Kowalski, accidentally opens the case and some beasts escape. Newt is interrogated by the wizarding police. Will this accident cause a major conflict with the No-Maj community? Newt and Jacob have to work with sisters Tina and Queenie to find the creatures before there is a disaster.

Help

beast (n) animal

cursed (adj) suffering a malediction, bad luck

dark (adj) in *Harry Potter*, a dark wizard is a bad, cruel wizard like Voldemort

escape (v) get away from captivity in a prison, a zoo, etc

recognise (v) see something you already know. In the photo, I *recognise* actor Eddie Redmayne playing Newt Scamander.

wizard (n) a sorcerer or man with magical powers. Harry Potter and Ron are *wizards*. Hermione is a witch.

Meet Some Characters



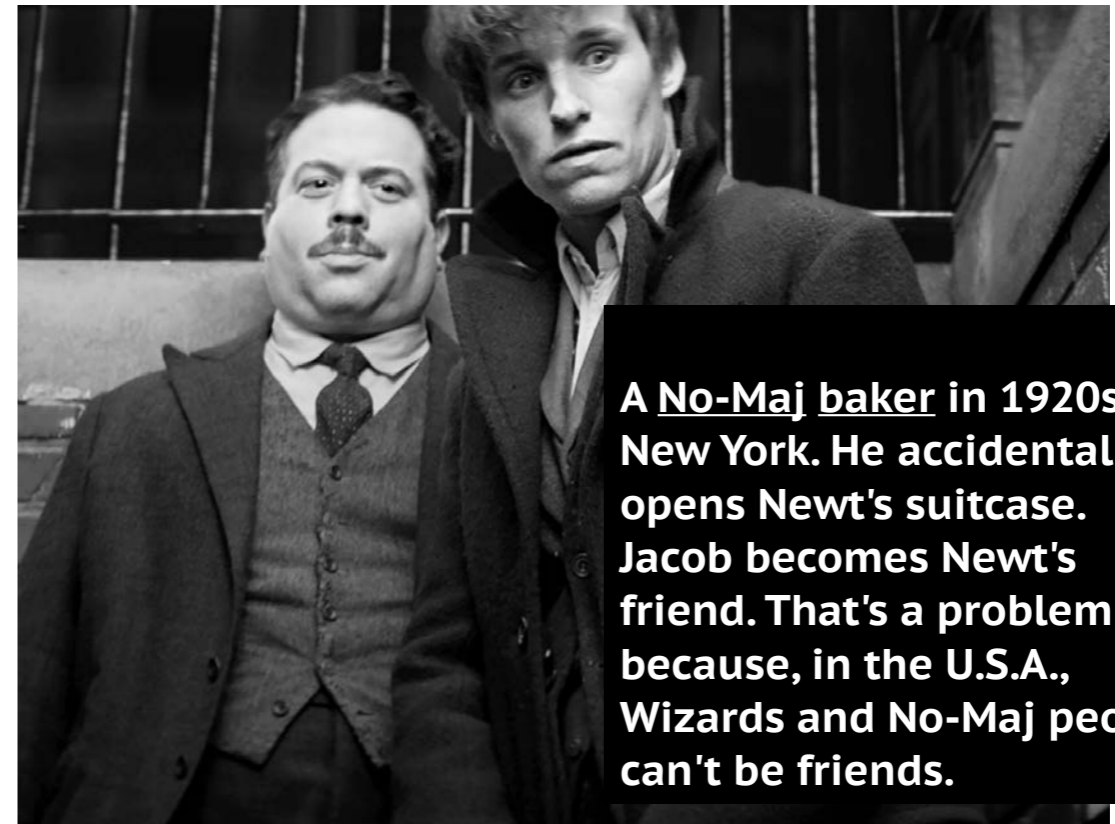
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An English Magizoologist (a specialist in magical creatures). Newt went to Hogwarts School 70 years before Harry Potter. Newt has a magical suitcase to transport the creatures he collects. Inside, it is gigantic, and the creatures can live in their ideal habitats.

Help

baker (n) a person whose job is to make bread and cakes

No-Maj (n, adj) a non-magical person (see the article)



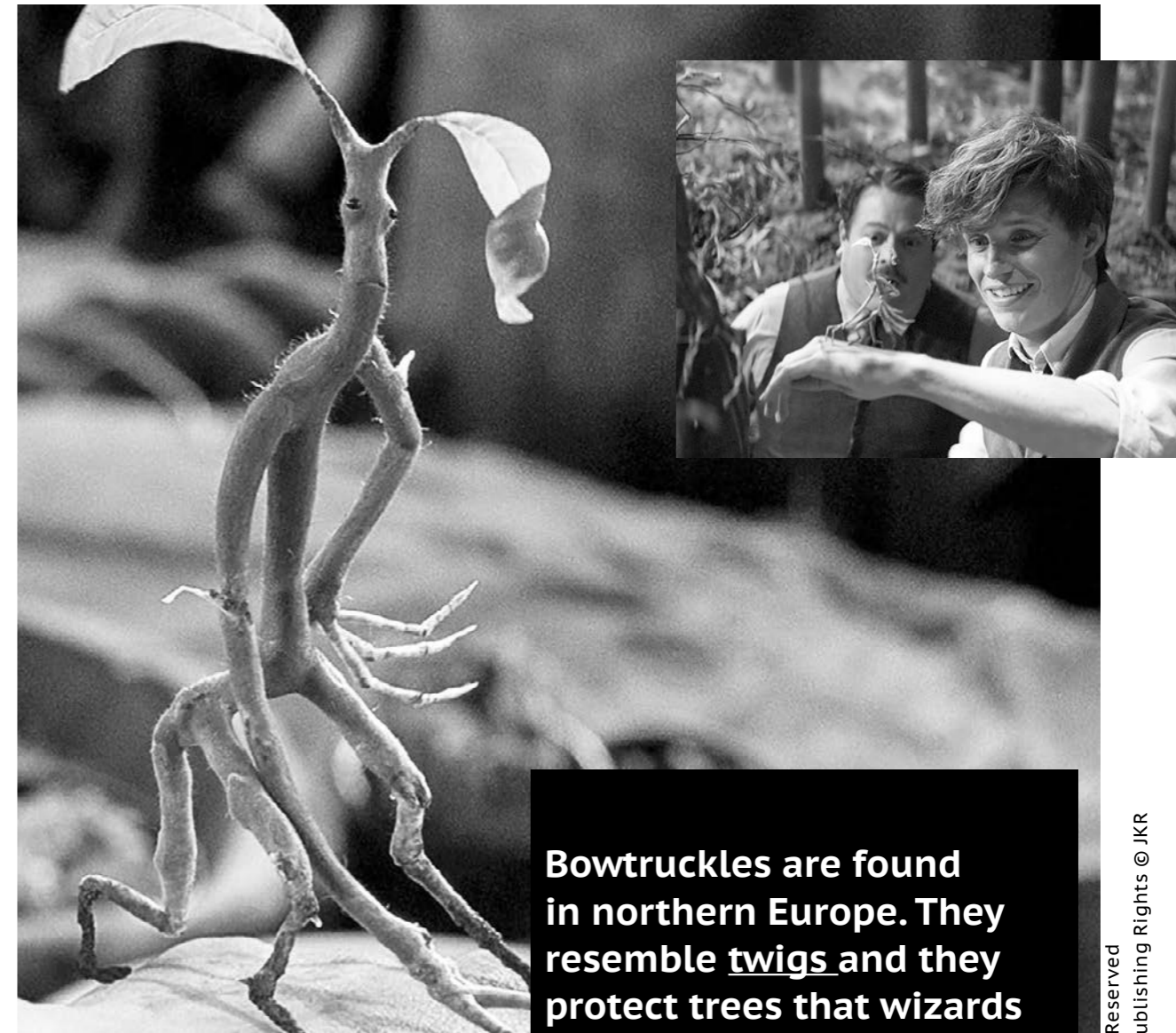
A No-Maj baker in 1920s New York. He accidentally opens Newt's suitcase. Jacob becomes Newt's friend. That's a problem because, in the U.S., Wizards and No-Maj people can't be friends.

Sisters and witches in 1920s New York. Tina works for MACUSA, the U.S. Ministry of Magic. Queenie is a Legilimens: she can explore other people's thoughts and emotions.



Meet Some Fantastic Beasts

Nifflers are British. They live underground. They have the ability to find treasures.



Bowtruckles are found in northern Europe. They resemble twigs and they protect trees that wizards use to get wood for wands.

Help

twig (n) a small part of a tree. See photo.

underground (adj) under the surface of the planet Earth. There are *Underground* trains under the streets of London.

wand (n) long thin wooden stick a magician uses to do magic

wood (n) the material you get from trees. Tables and chairs are often made of wood.