

“Hello.” He leaned in, kissing him quickly. “You look gorgeous.” He did, in a pale blue jumper and charcoal grey trousers. Draco pulled him back in for a proper kiss.

“What are you up to, Potter?” he asked, raising one blond eyebrow. “Where are we?”

Harry kept grinning mischievously. “Let me know when you figure it out.”

With Draco’s hand in his, he headed down the passageway.

Most of the secret passages to the Chamber were still quite gross after centuries of disuse, but Harry had made sure to clean this one ahead of time. With a ball of light floating above their heads, it illuminate the stone walls — and the snakes engraved in them, at about waist height. He wondered how long it would take Draco to catch on.

“Where are we even... wait.” Draco paused, clenching tight on Harry’s hand. “How did you open that passage?”

A chuckle burst from Harry’s lips, and he pulled his boyfriend to keep walking. “Oh, I think you know.”

“Fucking— that can’t be possible. Don’t tell me...” Draco trailed off as they reached the end of the passageway, stepping out into the enormous chamber. “Holy *hell*,” the blond breathed, his grey eyes as wide as dinner plates. He turned to Harry, speechless for a moment. “Are we — this is— *how*?”

So Harry told him, about how Ginny’s offhand comment had made him decide to venture down and see what state the Chamber was in. “I had Snape come down and harvest the massive basilisk skeleton,” he explained. “It was incredibly gross. I also had to do a serious amount of cleaning charms.”

“I thought the entrance was in a bathroom?” Draco asked, looking up at the huge statue of Salazar.

“The one I originally found was. But when I got down here... there’s an office, hidden behind the wall, that I discovered by accident. And before you ask, I can’t take you in there. He’s a bit... prickly.” He’d only barely given permission for Snape, Harry wasn’t going to risk ambushing him with Draco.

“He?” Draco repeated, gaze narrowing. “Who...*no*.” His jaw dropped when Harry nodded.

“The only existing portrait of Salazar Slytherin,” he confirmed. “He told me there’s secret entrances hidden all over the school. It was originally supposed to be a safehold, in case the witch hunters stormed the school. Enough room to hide the students and staff, with entrances all over the place for safety.” According to Salazar there was a Parseltongue spell that would open all the entrances at once, so people could run in from wherever they were in the castle, but Harry hadn’t yet had the opportunity to try it.

It took Draco several long moments of gaping like a fish to compose himself. When he finally managed it, he whirled around to glare at Harry. “If your *surprise* is bringing me to