

Draco froze. Harry's heart sank as he watched his boyfriend, looking for any kind of response; sadness, anger, relief. But he was just... blank. "Oh," he said eventually. "I... what happened?"

Harry told him about the fight, and the strange veil, and the spell he'd deflected with his hand. He held Draco the whole while, feeling the tiny shudders rack his body. When he finished, he bowed his head, waiting for judgement. Draco just held him back tightly.

"He was trying to kill you," Draco rasped, and Harry nodded. "Then... it's not your fault. He brought it upon himself. I..." Draco shook his head, lying down. Harry eyed him cautiously, unsure if he should move closer or give the blond some space. "I never thought I'd be rid of him. Not truly. Certainly not before the Dark Lord died." He ran a hand over his pale face. "I'm free. Mother's free. My... my father is dead."

The words seemed to echo through the room. Draco stared at the ceiling for several long, silent moments. Then he looked at Harry, and his face softened. "You look exhausted." He pulled himself into a sitting position. "We can talk about... everything else, once you've had some sleep."

"Stay with me?" Harry asked desperately, wincing when his voice cracked. Draco leaned over, pressing their foreheads together.

"Of course, you daft lion. I'm not going anywhere," he promised. Harry's heart ached — his whole body ached, too, now the adrenaline was fading. But mostly he felt like he was going to cry, just from the sheer *force* of all the emotions from the evening, his love for Draco rising above them all.

Draco kicked off his shoes and stripped down to his boxers, while Harry reluctantly wriggled his way under the duvet properly. He wished that his first time sleeping in a real bed with Draco was under happier circumstances, but there was no way he was letting go now. He pressed himself to Draco's chest as soon as the blond boy joined him, and Draco's lithe arms wrapped tight around him, cocooning him safely.

And Harry fell asleep like that, with Draco whispering soothingly to him, promising that everything would be alright.

## Chapter End Notes

You can breathe now, guys ;)