

Chapter 75

It was a novel thing, not even needing to pretend to go to the Dursleys' at the start of summer. But Harry didn't have the chance to properly enjoy it; he was up early the first morning of the holidays, anticipation buzzing through his veins. They had a big day ahead, and he needed everything to go smoothly.

Ceri had breakfast ready for all of them, and Harry gave a sleepy half-smile. "When's the first one due?" Remus asked, and Harry checked his watch.

"Eight." They had twenty-five minutes to get there. Remus nodded, and the pair of them ate quickly. On their way out, Remus briefly laid a hand on Snape's shoulder, and the pair made intense eye contact that Harry politely looked away from. Remus walked with him across the lawn, both of them shivering in the early morning air.

"You ready, cub?" Remus wrapped an arm securely around Harry's shoulders, and the dark-haired boy nodded.

"Can't wait til I can do this myself," he grumbled, making Remus laugh.

"It'll be sooner than you think," he promised, and then Harry was being squeezed tightly through a tube, and when he opened his eyes he was stood on the front step of the Pottery. He opened the front door with a grin, which widened at the sight of Theo Nott in the entrance hall.

"Hey, Theo. Settled in alright?"

The tall Slytherin smiled back, the relief in his eyes making Harry's heart clench.

"Everything's perfect. Thank you, Harry."

"Glad I can help." Harry couldn't let anyone suffer that sort of fate, let alone a friend of his.

"We should have others arriving soon. I'll be at the property line to give the secret when they get here, and then I'll send them in your way, if that's alright? I assume you've met Essie and Tinker by now?"

On cue, the two elves appeared in the hallway, beaming at Harry. "Yeah, they're great. Essie makes a mean omelette," Theo added, watching the elf blush.

"I'll have to stay for breakfast sometime," Harry said, watching the elves wiggle eagerly.

"You two have all the rooms and everything figured out, right?"

"Yes, Master Harry!" Tinker confirmed, nodding quickly. "We is ready to show Master's guests to their rooms as they arrive."

"Leave it all to us, Harry," Remus assured, squeezing Harry's shoulder. "Mr Nott and I will help with any questions and such. You just worry about getting them in here safely."