

Harry gaped at her. “I— I didn’t know they had wills.” When she hadn’t mentioned anything, he’d assumed that had come up empty.

“Let the Wizengamot see,” Amelia waved her wand, “that according to the records at Gringotts bank, the wills of Lily and James Potter were both sealed by Professor Albus Dumbledore — four hours after the arrest of Mr Sirius Black, but prior to his Azkaban admittance. While Professor Dumbledore was, by technicality, Mr Potter’s legal head of house, due to proxy offered by James Potter in the event of his death and Mr Black’s inability to claim the position. Approximately seven hours later — around the same time Mr Black was being taken to Azkaban prison without trial — Mrs Petunia Dursley found an infant Harry Potter on her doorstep, after the child had waited there for an unspecified amount of time.”

Amelia looked up at the Wizengamot, coolly staring down Scrimgeour, not even acknowledging Dumbledore. “It is travesty enough that the heir to the Noble and Most Ancient House of Black could be imprisoned for life without trial. It would be much, much worse to consider that it was done to secure the unlawful placement of Harry Potter with his muggle relatives.”

Harry stared at her, incredulous. That was a *ballsy* move. Indeed, Dumbledore looked like he’d choked on one of his lemon drops. “Objection!” the headmaster called after he collected himself. “As Minister Scrimgeour said, I am not the one on trial here, and the matter of the safety of Harry Potter is more complicated than you could begin to understand, Amelia, dear.”

“I’m sure you believe that, Professor,” Amelia replied blandly. “The point of the matter is, Mr Black was arrested, sentenced and convicted without trial — while his godson, Mr Potter, was claimed and removed from the wizarding world, against the request of his deceased parents, while Mr Black was not present and able to advocate for him. I would not be so bold as to suggest Mr Black was intentionally framed for his crimes, but it is clear that a grave miscarriage of justice was conducted that night, and we are obligated to correct what we can. Sirius Black is an innocent man, and I move for all charges against him to be dropped, and his freedoms — and guardianship of Harry James Potter — to be returned to him immediately.”

“All against the motion?” Scrimgeour droned, raising his own wand. Harry craned his neck, counting the number of wands that went up. Hope rose in his chest; it wasn’t nearly enough, surely!

When he turned to Dumbledore, the man was staring intently at Narcissa. He looked very surprised that her wand was not raised.

“All in favour of the motion?” Dumbledore raised his wand; as did Amelia, and both Weasley brothers, and Kingsley, and a smattering of others.

And then Narcissa Malfoy raised her wand high in the air.

There was a long, tense silence. Until Percy Weasley cleared his throat. “The motion is passed,” he declared somewhat nervously.