

before she does.” He grimaced ruefully. “So that when you start to hear about how I’ve corrupted and defiled her precious baby boy, you know what it’s about.”

“God, yeah, that is not going to be pretty when she hears about it,” Harry said with a wince. “But he’s at the stage of moving in already?” How long had that been going on?

Harry raked back through his memories over Christmas, and suddenly certain things were making a whole lot more sense. “How— I mean, you say complicated... you’re happy, right?”

The blinding force of Sirius’ grin was like a punch to the chest. “So happy, pup,” he assured. “Charlie... he’s brilliant, really.”

“Yeah, Charlie’s great.” Harry liked the dragon tamer a lot. He just hadn’t expected the redhead to start dating his godfather. “Blimey, if only I’d known this would happen when I asked him to keep an eye on you,” he muttered to himself.

Then again, thinking back to Bill’s reaction to such a request, perhaps Harry *should* have known, even then.

“What?”

“Nothing,” Harry dismissed. “You know I’m going to want the full story, right? All the complicated bits and everything.” Then he paused, making a face. “But, uh, none of the corruption and defiling, please, if you don’t mind.” He might have had a tiny fleeting crush on Charlie once, and Sirius was attractive enough, but they were family and Harry did not need those mental images, thank you very much.

Sirius’ cheeks pinked, though he was still grinning. “I’ll tell you all about it after your exams,” he promised.

“Deal.” Then Harry smirked, every bit a Marauder. “You’re in for *so much teasing*. After all the shit you gave me about Draco.”

“But pup! I’m your godfather!” Sirius yelped indignantly, making Harry laugh.

“Exactly; godson’s prerogative to be a little shit,” he retorted in glee. “*Especially* since it’s Charlie. Got yourself a handsome boy-toy, haven’t you?”

The blush on Sirius’ face flared brighter. “You think my boyfriend’s handsome?” he returned instead. Harry raised an eyebrow.

“I have eyes,” he pointed out dryly. “And it is very weird to hear you call Charlie your *boyfriend*. But in a good way!” he added hastily, when Sirius’ face began to fall. “It’s good. A surprise, but good. I... you didn’t seem like you wanted to date again, for a long time.” Every time Harry had brought it up, even jokingly, Sirius had changed the subject.

The animagus let out a slow breath. “I didn’t, really. S’why it got complicated. And why it took so long to figure things out. But I’m glad Charlie talked me round.”