

Susan and Theo left when the trolley came around, promising to pass everyone's regards on to the Hufflepuff contingency. Harry didn't miss the way both of them had their wands out when they returned to the corridor.

It was a sad day when even the train to school felt like a potential battleground.

Most other visitors didn't stay long, just sticking their heads in to say hello — there were no questions about peoples' summers, or joking complaints about resuming classes. Everyone knew that their summers had been grim, and after what had happened at the Ministry they all had bigger problems than classes. Harry hated how many of his friends had hardened gazes these days, tight smiles and slightly hunched shoulders.

Lavender was the most cheerful of the bunch, thanking Harry for the flowers he'd sent her and congratulating him on his OWL results. Harry had almost forgotten about the whole thing, it felt like so much had happened since then.

A few people stopped long enough to ask Harry about the HA, but he had very little to offer them — he wasn't supposed to know about Snape being the new DADA teacher, and he wasn't sure what his schedule was going to look like, so all he could say was 'we'll see'. He was starting to get a little sick of it all, and was just considering putting a privacy ward on the door when there was a knock and Sully stuck his head in. "Hi, guys," he greeted, smile flitting across his face. "I, uh, how is everyone?"

"You look like you have something you want to say, Sullivan," Luna said airily, ignoring the question, and Sully laughed.

"Never could get one past you," he sighed, running a hand through his hair. "But yes. I, uh — I've been talking to Tonks a lot this summer. About some stuff. And I think... I'm not a boy." Sully bit his lip, looking anxious. "Or a girl. I... I'm somewhere in the middle."

"...Okay," Harry said slowly, eyeing the fidgeting Ravenclaw. "So... do you want to switch pronouns sometimes, like Tonks? Or are you okay with he but just wanted us to know?" The books he'd bought from Infinite had a lot of information on the subject of gender, and Harry was amazed at how varied things could be, at how little he'd really considered it himself.

"I— I want to use they/them pronouns. So you say they and theirs instead of he or his," they added at Neville and Ginny's confused looks.

"Sounds good," Draco agreed, turning back to his book. Sully blinked, startled.

"I— that's okay?"

"Of course!" Luna beamed at them. "We just want you to be happy."

"I've never really heard of that before, but I'll try my best to remember," Ginny added. "And if anyone gives you shit for it, send them my way, yeah?"

Sully's frame visibly relaxed, a wide smile crossing their features. "Thanks. I—just... thanks."