

Cassius' pale cheeks flushed, and Oliver slung an arm around his shoulders, beaming proudly. "Five Os, one E," the Scotsman declared, kissing his partner's cheek. Belatedly, Harry noticed the gold ring shining on his left hand, and gaped.

"Ring!" he exclaimed dumbly, pointing. Cassius raised an eyebrow at him.

"I told you I asked him," he said, and Harry hurried forward, Oliver smugly holding out the hand for Harry to admire.

"You didn't mention you did it *properly*," Harry said. "You said nothing about a ring! It's gorgeous." When he looked up, Oliver was smiling like he'd won the World Cup singlehandedly, and Cassius was looking at his partner with barely restrained adoration. "This is brilliant. I'm so happy for you both."

Oliver let go of Cassius to bundle Harry in a bear hug. "Couldn't do it without you, mate," he insisted, ruffling Harry's hair. "We've not set a date, mind. But now he's given me a ring he can't change his mind," he joked, winking.

"Really? Bugger," Cassius said dryly, and Oliver just laughed.

"Hate to interrupt, but we got bored of waiting for the birthday boy to come to us." That was Bill, Fleur at his side, and Harry turned to smile sheepishly at them.

"Sorry! There's a lot of people here." Harry wasn't used to having so many people around all expecting to talk to him. Was that what birthday parties were like?

"No worries, kid," Bill teased, clapping Harry on the shoulder. "Happy birthday! Here." He held out a present, but had to wait for Fleur to finish kissing Harry's cheeks before Harry could actually take it. "And congrats on the exam results; Charlie's been bragging all week," he added with a wink. "You'd think he was your godfather, not Sirius, the way he goes on."

Harry blushed — that was news to him. He glanced over at the dragon tamer, who was chatting with Tonks. Had he really been bragging about Harry's exam results?

He didn't know how to handle so many people being so vehemently proud of him. What was the correct response to that??

Eventually, Harry just decided to continue trying to change the subject, and accept that he was going to be blushing for most of the day. Was this what it meant, having a family?

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Luckily, after the initial rush of greetings and well-wishes and congratulations, the party was a lot easier for Harry to handle; people split up into smaller groups to talk, and Harry was able to drift between them, spending a little time with everyone. He made sure to go over and talk to the adults — especially Mrs Longbottom, thanking her for hosting the party — but it was easier when everyone started to mingle; Charlie came over to congratulate Oliver on his engagement and meet Cassius properly, and Bill and Fleur joined them so Fleur could introduce Bill to her ex Yule Ball date, Cassius jokingly warning Bill to treat her properly.