

“But they think they have a *chance!*” Draco retorted. “Nowhere in that article did you say you weren’t single. All they know is you’re out and looking for someone to *tell the world you care very deeply about.*”

“What did you want me to say? ‘Oh, by the way, I’m dating this blond Slytherin prat, but keep it to yourselves because if his father finds out we’ll both be dead’,” Harry pointed out a little sharper than intended. Draco flinched, then sighed, his anger fading.

“I know you couldn’t,” he murmured, leaning in to press his forehead to Harry’s. “I just hate that people don’t know you’re mine.”

“I know I’m yours,” Harry assured him. “And you know I’m yours. That’s all that matters.” He tugged the taller boy into a kiss. “You’re mine, too. You know that, right?”

“I know,” Draco promised. “To my endless surprise, I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Harry’s heart pounded in his chest, and he knew it was *way* too soon to be having the kind of feelings he was having, they’d not even been together six months, but he couldn’t help himself. He was in deep, and he knew it.

He just hoped Draco was right there with him.

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One person Harry didn’t tell about the article until after it was already out was Sirius; he called the man a couple of days after the *Quibbler* published, and he could tell from the look on his godfather’s face that he’d already seen it. Harry wondered if Snape had passed it along, or if Remus had seen it somewhere else. He knew Sirius didn’t have a subscription.

“That’s one way to do it,” the animagus declared, grinning. “Very well written, pup. Moony and I are so proud of you. So’s Snape, but he won’t ever say it. You have to sort-of interpret the eyebrows and the sarcasm; I’m getting much better at it, these days.” Harry laughed, shaking his head.

“Thanks, Pads. Sorry I didn’t warn you sooner.” He hadn’t felt the need to, honestly, since Sirius already knew he was gay.

“S’alright. Bit of a surprise when Severus brought it over last night, but I don’t blame you for doing it. It’ll shut Rita Skeeter right up.” Sirius looked delighted by that. “How’s it going down at school?”

Harry told him how things had been since the article came out, including Draco’s jealousy. “He seems to think I’m gonna drop him since there’s all these boys who want to date me now they know I go their way. As if I’d look twice at any of them when I have him.” He shook his head exasperatedly.

“It’s not his fault he couldn’t see how much of a fool you were for him before he decided to kiss you,” Sirius teased. “He doesn’t know he’s stuck with you now.”