

# Chapter 45

## Chapter Notes

This fic has passed 3k kudos, you guys are awesome! <3

Harry hadn't realised how much he'd come to value the freedom of the summer until it was taken away from him. Grimmauld Place might not be a cage in the same way Privet Drive had been, but it was a cage nonetheless — if anything, this was worse, because he was expected to be *happy* about it. Be *glad* he'd been rescued and brought to a place where he could have information dangled in front of him but he denied it, where his desires were utterly steamrolled over in favour of what someone else thought was *best for him*.

Sure, those who were expecting him to be pleased didn't know the safe haven they'd torn Harry from, but it was grating all the same.

At least he had *some* friends around who were sympathetic.

And he had Sirius back properly. That was nice, too.

Harry was just sick of being pushed into spending time with Ron and Hermione, especially since the pair seemed to have realised that Harry was no longer magically inclined towards their company. They didn't really want to hang out with him either, though Hermione continued to make a good effort. Everyone seemed certain that his abrasiveness was just from the *trauma* he'd been through in the last few months, and he'd be back to his usual cheerful self by the time school went back.

It was a shame they didn't seem to realise that he was perfectly cheerful around certain people.

For example, he was content in the library with Fred, George and Ginny, under the supervision of Bill while they looked through the Black library for anything *dangerous*. "I don't know why this is our job," Ginny mused as she pulled a huge stack of books from the shelf, depositing them at the table in front of Bill. The curse-breaker was checking each book for unsavoury magic, and was supposed to be checking the contents too for anything dark or alarming, disposing of books he thought would be deemed inappropriate.. Really he was just splitting them into two piles — one to remain in the library there, and the other to be smuggled out through Remus to Seren Du. Not that Bill knew where they would end up, just that Remus would take them somewhere safe.

"Mum thought Hermione might be too tempted to read if she did it," Fred supplied, levitating books back onto the shelf once Bill was finished with them.