

wasn't a lie. He truly was the son of Lily and James Potter.

There was a beat, then more words appeared.

*Blood Heir to the Noble and Most Ancient House of Potter*

Again, not a surprise. He expected that to be the end of it, but the parchment continued.

*Named Heir to the Noble and Most Ancient House of Black*

His mind automatically flashed to the man in the newspaper, Sirius Black, with his gaunt face and wild hair. What a funny coincidence; it was a fairly common surname, after all.

*Blood Heir to the Ancient House of Peverell*

That was a name he'd never even *heard* before. Who were the Peverells?

*Conquering Heir to the Ancient House of Slytherin*

Harry choked. *Heir of Slytherin*? How could that possibly be? What did it mean, conquering heir?

He waited for a moment, to see if the parchment would throw anything else at him. Several long seconds went by without any more ink appearing, and Farlig cleared his throat.

"Congratulations, Mr Potter," he declared. "Four very respectable houses. I'll update our records and have the vault ownership adjusted accordingly."

"It's been a long time since someone claimed the Slytherin vaults, Mr Potter," Gorrak murmured, looking thoughtful. "How very interesting."

"How is that possible?" Harry croaked, eyes wide.

"When an ancient family line dies out, or the last remaining heir becomes ineligible to hold the position, heirship can be transferred in multiple ways. In this case, when you defeated the Dark Lord Voldemort — believed to be the previous blood heir to the Slytherin line — you ended the line, and the magic deemed you a suitable replacement. You must share blood somewhere with Salazar Slytherin, but within pureblood families that isn't uncommon. The Slytherin family magic is unique, in that it has certain requirements for an heir — less about bloodlines, and more about magical strength and purity. The Dark Lord, when he entered this bank as a youth and took a line test, was an ineligible heir for the Slytherin line. No doubt his core was already tainted with too much dark magic for the family magics to accept him."

"But wasn't Salazar Slytherin a dark wizard?" Confusion was plain in Harry's voice, and Gorrak chuckled roughly.

"Your wizarding history books aren't quite as accurate as your people believe, Mr Potter," he remarked. "Salazar Slytherin was no true dark wizard. His father, Septimus, was. We believe that Salazar himself changed the conditions of inheritance in the face of his father's twisted magical core. The practice of what most wizards now consider to be dark magic was, back then, fairly neutral casting. Instead, it refers to what you now see as the blackest arts. The