

There were only a few groans when Charlie tapped the record player with his wand, ending the music; everyone was tired, and no one really complained at the concept of going to bed. Only a handful were staying the night; those who couldn't floo back home easily, or travel some other way. Ginny got a bit of ribbing from her brothers when she said she was staying for the night, but none of them kicked up a real fuss. They liked Neville — and they knew better than to try and treat Ginny like a baby by now.

There were hugs all around as everyone prepared to head home, and Harry made sure to give Neville an extra long hug. "Thanks again for organising all this, Nev. And thank your gran for hosting."

"It was fun," Neville agreed, grinning. "Best birthday I've ever had, for sure. We should do it again next year if we can."

Harry liked the sound of that.

Making sure he'd said goodbye to everyone, promising to write soon, Harry took Draco's hand and walked with him over to Sirius and Charlie. Sirius had Charlie's cardigan draped around him, far too broad in the shoulders for his much slighter frame, and he grinned at Harry, wrapping an arm around his shoulders. "You ready, pup?"

"Are you two okay to apparate?" he teased, knowing how frequently they had both been drinking from Charlie's flask. Charlie laughed.

"Kid, I've apparated *far* drunker than this," he assured with a roguish grin. "We'll be fine. Good to go?"

Waving goodbye to his friends, Harry held tightly to Sirius while Draco did the same to Charlie, and with the uncomfortable squeezing sensation that Harry was sort-of getting used to, they were back at the ward boundary of Seren Du. Harry's stomach lurched a little bit, but he hadn't had much alcohol, so it wasn't too bad.

"Drink water," Sirius advised nonetheless, calling Ceri to bring each of them a large glass. He ruffled Harry's hair, leaning down to kiss his forehead. "Good birthday, then?"

"The best," Harry assured, beaming.

"Good." Sirius nudged Harry towards the stairs. "Come on, then; bed time for all of us, I think."

Harry wasn't quick enough to avoid seeing the heated look Sirius shot Charlie, though he desperately wished he had missed it.

They all headed up the stairs, and Sirius paused outside the door to his and Charlie's room. "Goodnight, you two. Keep the noise down," he said with an exaggerated wink. "Love you, Mischief."

"Uh, goodnight, guys," Harry stuttered, blushing. Charlie waved, following Sirius into their room, and then Harry and Draco were alone in the corridor. Harry felt his face heat, biting his