

the world around it. Harry had worried it would hurt, looking at it after some time away, remembering all the death and destruction that had happened there. And it did, a little bit.

But it felt good, too. Wonderful things had happened to him at Hogwarts. Wonderful things had happened to *everyone* at Hogwarts, and would continue happening long after Harry was gone. Hogwarts would outlast them all, a refuge for young people, somewhere they could be at peace with the magic coursing through their blood.

All four of them shuddered at the same exact moment; passing through the wards felt like sinking into a warm bath, like greeting a long-time friend, like *home*.

They kept holding hands, all the way up to the castle.

“A normal year,” Neville murmured, seeming baffled by the very concept. “What *does* that look like?”

“I’ve got no clue,” Harry replied, meeting his best friend’s hazel eyes, feeling Luna press warm against his side, catching Hannah’s forever sunny smile. “But I’m sure as hell keen to find out.

As Draco had said; he could have more than one home.

And Hogwarts would always be one of them.

## Chapter End Notes

I know a lot of you were hoping to see more out of this fic, but to me, this felt like the right place to end it. It’s already long enough ;)

Seriously though, this fic has been a journey for me. It’s the longest piece of continuous fiction I’ve ever written. It has been the one thing I could write when writing anything else was too hard, the thing I could focus on when I was too unwell and the world was too stressful. It’s also been a catharsis, of sorts. I, like I’m sure many of you can relate to, have struggled with my relationship with Harry Potter a lot over the last couple years. As JKR has gotten more hateful and dangerous in her crusade against trans people, I have found it difficult to want to associate any part of myself with her creations. This fic in a lot of ways was me trying to fix the things that always bothered me about canon — as I’m sure you guessed especially from the earlier sections — but also to work things through with myself, write down some ideas and headcanons that I just wanted to get out, and... move on. I’m not here to question how anyone else deals with JKR’s actions and their consumption of her media, but I’m ready to fill that space in my life with other things. This is very likely my last Potter fic. I didn’t know that for sure when I started, but now, 750k down the line, I think I’ve said my goodbyes to this fandom. It got me through a lot in my life, and I will always appreciate it for that, but I personally cannot keep engaging with the works and words of someone who doesn’t believe I or my loved ones deserve human rights.