

Tonks grinned, the anxious tension flooding from his shoulders. “Oh, that, yeah. Doing just fine, promise. No more double vision or anything.”

Sirius eyed him over, looking for any trace of a lie. “Okay. I’d still prefer someone check you over, though.” Tonks couldn’t go to the Ministry medics; the raid had been Order business, not Auror.

“Charlie will be here in a little bit,” Tonks assured. Sirius ignored the tiny flop his belly gave at the news. Suddenly, Tonks frowned. “Are you sure you’re alright with — y’know. This.” He gestured to his very male body. Sirius rolled his eyes, slinging an arm around Tonks’ shoulders.

“Look, little cuz; I used to hang out with all sorts of people, back in the day. Gender fluidity is not a stranger to me.” Some of the social circles he’d run in between Hogwarts and Azkaban, the clubs he used to go to — Tonks would’ve fit right in. “Of course, you get to *cheat* and use your metamorph abilities when all my old mates had to settle for glammers and padding,” he teased, ruffling Tonks’ hair. He patted his cousin’s cheek playfully. “Still keeping the Black cheekbones, I see. Good choice.”

Tonks grinned back, and the next thing Sirius knew he was being bundled in a tight hug. Tonks was still shorter than him, his head tucked just under Sirius’ chin. “You’re the best,” he murmured vehemently. Worry grew in Sirius’ chest.

“Is your mum not alright with it?” He hadn’t thought Andi was the type to judge.

Tonks pulled back, shrugging. “She doesn’t mind, but she doesn’t really understand it. She just lets me do whatever.” He shoved his hands in his pockets. “I don’t tend to let myself have masculine days unless I know I’m in safe company. I sort of forgot you lived here, today; I woke up with my brain all scrambled and I needed to be a boy and that’s as far as I got.”

“Scrambled, huh?” Sirius narrowed his gaze. “Thought you said it was fine?”

“It is now,” Tonks hurried to assure. “Just wasn’t when I got up. But y’know; took a piss, splashed some water on my face, I’m all set.”

Yes, Sirius was *definitely* getting Charlie to check him out later. He’d recruit Kingsley, if he had to.

“Right. Well, consider this a safe place for any sort of gender expression, at least when I’m around. Moony, too.” He grimaced briefly. “Maybe not when Molly’s here.”

Tonks made a face. “Yeah, I learned that one years ago. Far too many invasive questions from her.” He shrugged, brightening up. “Charlie’s good, though, and Bill. They’ve known since we were kids.”

“Knew those two were solid blokes.” The two eldest Weasleys were quickly becoming great friends to Sirius, and he was glad to hear they had the right attitude about things. He shot Tonks a playful look. “And Kingsley?”