

about Karkaroff's disappearance. "We all knew he was a Death Eater. I suppose he was too scared to face his old master."

"So what will happen with Durmstrang?"

"Our deputy headmaster is a good man," Viktor assured. "He will take over."

The door opened behind them, and a small crowd of Gryffindors paused in the doorway. "Oh, you've got company. We'll come back later," Neville said apologetically, but Cho shook her head.

"No, no, it's fine. We were mostly done anyway." She hopped off the bed, turning to Harry with a solemn face. "Thank you, for bringing him back. I'll... I'll tell Amos and Caroline they can come up and see you in a bit."

"We will see you at dinner, 'Arry," Fleur said, kissing his cheek softly. "Get some rest."

The champions and Cho left, and Neville, Ginny and the twins took their place at Harry's bedside.

"How are you feeling?" Ginny asked. Harry let out a long breath.

"That's... that's a really good question, Gin." He was simultaneously feeling a thousand things and also overwhelmingly numb.

"Is there anything we can do to help?" Neville looked earnest, and Harry managed a small smile.

"Turn back the clock twenty-four hours and make it all go away?" he joked. Where was Hermione's time-turner when he needed it?

"Mum went home, but she sends her love," Fred relayed. "She tried to talk Dumbledore into letting you come straight to ours for the summer, but he told her you needed to go to the muggles for a while."

Harry grimaced. "Not happening."

"Is that where you stayed last summer? With Sirius and Lupin?" Ginny wasn't daft, she knew Harry hadn't been with his muggle relatives. Harry nodded.

"I can't say where. But hopefully I'll be back there soon." He couldn't wait to be back in his room at Seren Du, in their little bubble of security.

"Good." Ginny's voice was firm. "I'm glad someone managed to get you away from those awful people. Neville filled me in on the whole Sirius Black thing, by the way. Hope you don't mind."

"Saves me having to do it," Harry said with a shrug, happy to have Ginny up to speed.