

Chapter 10

There was a long, tense silence as everyone stared at the man who had been a rat only moments ago.

“Sirius, R-Remus,” Pettigrew stuttered. “My old friends.”

Harry watched in disgust as Pettigrew tried to beg Lupin for help, insisting Black was trying to kill him. Which, well, he wasn’t wrong — there was a reason Lupin had yet to give Black a wand.

When that didn’t work, he turned to Harry, throwing himself at the boy’s feet and begging for mercy.

“Enough of this,” Snape snapped, raising his wand. “Your blithering was bad enough when we were schoolboys.” He waved his wand, and Harry winced, fearing the worst. But instead ropes shot out, binding themselves around Pettigrew tightly.

“Let me kill him, Snivellus,” Black whinged, like a toddler unwilling to share his toys. “Or Remus, he can do it! The rat needs to die!”

“Remus has always taken pride in never killing a defenceless human,” Snape said calmly. “It’d be a shame to tarnish that now.”

“If you kill him, you’ll never be free,” Harry spoke up, his thoughts moving quickly. “If we take him to the Minister, he’ll confess, and you’ll get a proper trial. You could clear your name.” He could be Harry’s godfather again.

“Harry’s right,” Lupin agreed. “Azkaban can have him.”

“Fine,” Black pouted. “But if you transform, Peter, we *will* kill you. I might even let Snivelly here do it. I’ve heard he can be quite creative.”

“Must you, Sirius?” Lupin groaned, head in his hands for the briefest moment. “I thought you’d agreed to stop using that name when Lily hexed you for it.”

“Whoops,” Black replied, entirely unrepentant. “Must’ve forgotten. Azkaban, y’know. Really frazzles the brain.”

“We should go,” Harry said. If they were lucky, maybe the Minister would still be at the school. “What about Ron?”

A wave of Snape’s wand, and Ron’s grotesquely angled knee was bound and splinted. “*Mobilicorpus*,” he murmured, levitating the redhead’s unconscious body.

“I’ll keep an eye on this one,” Lupin said with a grimace, keeping his wand pointed firmly at Pettigrew, while he passed Harry and Hermione back their own. Hermione took hers in