

they'll be sorted."

"I'm surprised Draco's so oblivious," Narcissa commented. "He's always known he likes boys. Truthfully, I've been wondering if something like this might happen ever since I got a letter his first week of Hogwarts with three whole paragraphs about Harry Bloody Potter and how frustrating he was." She smiled fondly. "I certainly never expected it to go like this."

"Harry is full of surprises," Remus remarked.

That was an understatement if Sirius had ever heard one. "I think we've only hit the tip of the iceberg, there." He thought about everything that had come to light ever since he'd met Harry. It was just the beginning.

He caught Snape and Narcissa sharing a loaded glance, and Remus frown and place a hand on Snape's left arm. Sirius's brows furrowed. "What?" he asked, wondering what he was missing.

Snape looked to Narcissa. "Is it getting darker for you, too?"

The blonde woman nodded. Snape cursed softly.

"*What?*" Sirius hissed again. Then it dawned on him, his gaze dropping to Remus' hand curled around Snape's forearm. He hadn't seen Snape in short sleeves since that day in the pool. "*Oh.* He's getting stronger, isn't he?" Peter must have found his master, as Trelawney had predicted. Sirius' stomach rolled.

"It's just a matter of time," Narcissa confirmed. "Lucius has been meeting with several *old friends* this summer. I believe there are plans being hatched."

Squeezing his eyes shut for a minute, Sirius shook his head, looking back over at the two teenagers. So carefree, so *happy*. He wanted Harry to stay that way forever.

"I've been invited to several of those meetings," Snape revealed. "I managed to find excuses for all but one. He's definitely reconnecting with the old crowd. I'm keeping my ear to the ground, but it's all just murmurs so far. Everyone is hesitant to trust what they know to be true, just in case."

The Triwizard Tournament likely wasn't the only thing they'd have to worry about this school year. Sirius cursed Peter Pettigrew for the thousandth time — because of him, he wouldn't be able to protect Harry like he ought to. He just had to send him off into Dumbledore's clutches and hope against hope nothing happened that he couldn't fix.

He looked to his cousin, who had fear etched in her pretty features. "Cissa, if you ever need somewhere to go," he started cautiously, unsure how she might take his offer. "The House of Black will always welcome you with open arms." He couldn't do anything about Lucius legally, but he could offer her a safehouse until the war ended if it ever got bad.

"I had hoped to play my part well enough to keep Draco out of the worst of things," Narcissa said, pursing her lips as she cast her gaze over to her son. "I'm starting to think that might not