"I will still need to keep up appearances, but his safety is my priority." He'd risked his life for the boy before, back when he hated him. He could certainly do it now Harry was tolerable.

"Thank you," Black breathed, his eyes grateful. "Snape... Severus. Thank you."

It was strange, hearing his given name come from the Gryffindor's lips without a hint of mockery or derision. At the beginning of the summer they'd agreed to be cordial, for Remus' sake, but the more time they spent together the more Severus was realising that Black wasn't the bullheaded little brat he had been when they were teenagers. Harry wasn't the only one who had become tolerable.

"We are on the same side, Sirius," he said, the name feeling odd on his tongue. "If war is to come, then there is no place for childhood grudges here."

Sirius nodded to him across the table, the understand passing between them. Beside him, Remus beamed with pride.

"I knew you two would warm up to each other eventually," he said fondly. Severus scoffed.

They weren't friends, by any stretch of the imagination. But maybe between Remus and Harry and the oncoming darkness, they could be something like it.

## Chapter End Notes

Also, for those of you asking if the chapter count is accurate - yes, there are indeed 109 chapters in this bad boy. Buckle up, friends.