

Harry swallowed tightly. “Impressed you enough, then, did I?” he asked, lips brushing Draco’s temple as they squeezed through the castle doors, surrounded by exuberant Gryffindors.

“You weren’t bad, I suppose.”

Gryffindor House certainly knew how to throw a party, that was for sure. Dobby had outdone himself setting up the snacks and drinks tables, and there was a huge banner of a roaring lion taking up the entirety of one wall. Music was playing from somewhere, and the team were greeted with a wave of sound as they walked through the portrait hole.

Harry lost hold of Draco as he was bundled on by his housemates, and a spark of panic shot through him — but then he made it clear of the sea of people, and saw Draco happily ensconced in a corner with Parvati and Lavender, butterbeer in hand as he surveyed the common room with interest.

“Bit different to yours, isn’t it?” Harry said, striding over. A few feet away, Ginny pounced on Neville — and a few feet away from that, someone turned into a giant canary with red and gold feathers.

Harry wasn’t sure who had put Wheezes in the food, but he appreciated them staying on theme. Maybe the twins had sent them over special.

“I’m amazed all this red doesn’t give you headaches,” Draco commented. The girls giggled.

“It’s not as bad when we aren’t all dressed to match,” Lavender pointed out, gesturing to her red and gold t-shirt with a grin.

“I’ll take your word for it.”

Harry eased the bottle of butterbeer out of Draco’s hand, taking a swig from it, and the blond scowled. “Get your own.” He snatched it back, and Harry pouted.

“Do you have any idea how long it’ll take me to get through that crowd and back?”

All that did was make Draco roll his eyes. “Are you a wizard or not?” A wave of his wand, and a bottle came sailing over the heads of the crowd, neatly into Harry’s hand.

“Oh. Cheers, love!” Harry beamed, popped the cork, and tapped it against Draco’s before taking a large gulp.

It was still strange, having a quidditch victory party without the twins and Angelina and Alicia. But his new team were equally deserving of praise, and he made sure to spend time with them — and to be the loudest cat-caller in the room when Colin Creevey dipped Vicky in a Hollywood-worthy kiss right in the middle of the room, Dennis lifting his brother’s camera to capture the moment with a grin.

“God, they’re adorable,” Harry said happily, leaning back against the edge of the sofa behind him, pulling Draco to stand between his legs. The blond relaxed against him, at ease even in the lion’s den with their friends gathered around them.