

Chapter 28

After the little Christmas celebration with his family (and his boyfriend) the day before, Christmas Day itself was somewhat underwhelming for Harry, though he did appreciate the visit from Dobby, managing to find a pair of Uncle Vernon's socks to gift the elf. Ron was in a foul mood, but Harry was happy to leave him to it, heading down to breakfast with the other three boys from his dorm. They chatted excitedly about the evening's plans. The rumour going around the school was that the Weird Sisters had been booked for it, and Harry — who had gotten into the habit of putting his Wireless on in the background while he read in the dorm — was hoping it was true.

"Still can't believe you're going with Susan Bones, Harry," Seamus said with a shake of his head. "Now there's a girl with some serious curves." He made a lewd gesture at chest-height to emphasise his point, wiggling his eyebrows.

Harry hadn't really noticed, and he shrugged awkwardly. "She's nice," he said. "And she doesn't mind having to dance in front of everybody." He had assured her that he'd had lessons, and wasn't going to make a fool of either of them. Susan was being very trusting in taking his word for it. "Besides, Lavender's pretty too."

"Don't know how I managed that one," Seamus agreed. "Thought for sure she'd go with that Slytherin bloke in the year above, but I figured I might as well chance it." He smirked wickedly. "She's been all secretive about her dress robes, won't tell me what they look like. I'm just wondering if I'll get to see what she's got underneath them!" He chuckled, and Dean punched him in the arm.

"Not if she hears you talking about her like that, you won't," he scolded. Seamus shrugged.

"You can't say you're not hoping for a little private goodnight with Lisa," he teased, speaking of Dean's Ravenclaw date, Lisa Turpin. The dark-skinned boy ducked his head sheepishly.

"I mean, I won't say *no*," he drawled, earning a laugh and a punch from Seamus.

"Exactly! What about you two, eh? Gonna sneak your dates off into the courtyard to hide in the bushes?" Seamus wiggled his eyebrows, and Harry made a face.

"Susan and I are just friends," he said for what felt like the hundredth time.

"Ginny has way too many older brothers around for me to even *think* about anything like that," Neville piped up fearfully. Dean winced.

"Yeah, mate, you don't wanna get on the wrong side of the twins. Not with all that stuff they've been inventing lately." The twins were loving having everyone at school for the holidays; plenty of unsuspecting people around to test their inventions on. Everyone in Gryffindor had learnt to be very wary of accepting food from others.