

Dark Lord must have started some truly awful things at a very young age to have rendered his core ineligible.”

Opening his mouth, Harry almost asked why they didn’t just tell the wizards the truth, if they knew the real history of Salazar Slytherin. Then he thought about the attitude most wizards had towards goblins and other creatures, and his jaw clicked shut. No one would believe them if they tried.

“So what does all this mean for me? Being heir to all these houses?”

“At present, not as much,” Gorrak explained. “You will be unable to take on your full responsibilities until you are of age. However, heirs to ancient bloodlines play an important role in wizarding culture — you are the future of your people, Mr Potter. It is your job to preserve and uphold your family magics, as well as prepare yourself to enter the Wizengamot when the appropriate time arrives. I suggest you contact other family heirs and discuss the role with them; I’m afraid goblins know little in the ways of wizard culture.” He leaned back in his chair. “The confirmation through the Line Test will also allow you access to any vaults under the names of these families, though I’m afraid due to your age you cannot access many of them without a guardian. I can have a portfolio assembled of your vaults and properties and sent to you within the week.”

“If I may, Mr Potter,” Farlig cut in. “It may also benefit you to research independently what it means to be the heir to houses as old as yours. There are no doubt many books on the subject. Of course, you can always choose to reject your Wizengamot seats and any adjacent responsibilities, but they would continue to be held by your proxy. I believe that is currently Headmaster Dumbledore.”

At the thought of Dumbledore being responsible for his family name, something inside Harry hardened. “No,” he said immediately. “I’ll take my place. I’ll learn.” He didn’t entirely know what all this entailed yet, but he knew one thing for sure — he didn’t want Dumbledore making decisions on his behalf. Not now, and not when he was seventeen.

“Excellent choice, Mr Potter,” Farlig murmured approvingly. “Should the goblins of Gringotts be able to assist, please do contact us.”

“You’ve already done more than I ever expected,” Harry replied, head still spinning with everything he’d learned. “I— how much do I owe you, for all this?” It occurred to him belatedly that the gold-driven species were unlikely to do such a kindness for free. Farlig and Gorrak shared a smirk.

“We will take the necessary expenses from your vault and owl you the bill, Mr Potter,” Gorrak informed him. “I shall send it alongside your portfolio. I will also send recommendations for an account manager, and perhaps some investments if that is your wish. The money in those vaults has languished since the fall of the Dark Lord Voldemort, if not longer — seeing it back in circulation would make goblin-kind very happy indeed.”

If there was one thing Harry had learned from being forced to live with Vernon Dursley, it was that investing money in the right things was very important. “I would appreciate that, Gorrak. Thank you.”