Hogwarts Express

It had been a very sluggish morning, the rain poured down as the air was chilled. All returning students both young and older packed their belongings and shuffled to the Hogwarts express, beaming with emotion of what was yet to come.

Draco was escorted by older wizards that his Mother and Father hired, afraid for their sons safety post war. He glared at the tired looking men who surrounded him, uncomfortable with all this fussing.

All the 8th year students who came back to start over were slowly being brought into the train, the sound of gossip and goodbyes from family rang through the platform.

Harry hugged Sirius goodbye, immediately being taken into custody by the staff of the express for protection.

Draco scanned the crowd as he was brought closer, spotting Blaise. "Well I must be going! You old gits better get going too!" He said with a short response, running as fast as he could to his friends side.

"Draco! I haven't seen you all summer! You didn't even write!" Blaise visually checked Draco in worry.

"Nothings changed Blaise relax." Draco whispered, not wanting to talk about personal things near his fellow Slytherins. He stepped on the train, greeted by Pansy and Goyle.

All the way down the train was Harry sitting alone in an empty compartment up against the trains caboose.

Professor McGonagall had met Harry inside the train, which was a very big surprise! She told him he had to sit in the back, explaining that certain students needed extra care and protection for the year.

Harry hadn't even questioned it considering his name and status, after he killed Voldemort with the help of his friends...there were bound to be some Wizards and Witches who disagreed with his actions.

"Now you stay here! The trolley will be by shortly. We will depart soon too." Professor McGonagall instructed.

A few minutes went by, the sounds of students taking their seats and talking together.

Draco was pulled aside, separated from the Slytherin cabin of the express. He just assumed it was more measures his parents set up. "Bloody ridiculous." He muttered to himself.

"I'm sorry Mr. Malfoy but considering your father's latest actions and the post war fears, you must be secluded and watched this year..." Professor McGonagall explained, stopping at the compartment.

Draco rolled his eyes, standing outside the compartment as he watched the Professor walk back down the halls of the train. He stood at the door, clenching his fists. He finally opened it, taking a few steps in only to have his jaw slightly hang open.

"Malfoy???" Harry said in shock.

" Pottah?! Draco spat.

The two of them stared in awkward silence for minutes at a time, not sure of what to say.

"What are you doing in here?" Draco glared, finally uttering some words.

"Probably the same reason you're here." Harry responded slowly, unsure of how he felt seeing Draco after what happened.

Draco stood there standing in the open door, frozen and angry, but mostly too afraid to move.

Harry swore that he saw Draco's skin pale even more than usual. "Aren't you...going to sit?"

Draco closed the frosted glass door behind him, closing the privacy curtains. "Only because I have no choice." He slowly walked over to the other seat, sitting on opposite sides.

It was very quiet in the back of the train, the only sounds were the train slowly taking off and the sounds of muffled chatter. Draco and Harry avoided eye contact for the first half hour.

"So what did you do for the last two months?" Harry politely tried to start some sort of civil conversation, trying to forget the past.

Draco shot him a sneer, but he chose not to be rude. "Spent the whole summer at the Manor...alone." he looked away towards the window.

Harry sighed, knowing what it felt like to be alone. But the last two months he had spent with Sirius, learning to be a family. "My summer was boring." He lied, not wanting to draw attention to himself.

Draco looked at Harry from the corner of his eye, noticing he looked different. His hair was longer, his clothes were new and so were his robes. Normally Harry wore old clothes and used school robes but not this time, he caught a scent of treacle tart and broomstick.

Harry noticed Draco was staring, but he couldn't help but stare back. "Malfoy...can I ask you something?"

Draco was caught off guard, but forced himself to relax. "What?"

"Why did you come back?" Harry asked.

Draco looked directly at Harry, scoffing. "I have the right just like everyone else." He snapped.

"That's not what I meant, why did you wantto come back?" Harry asked a different way.

"That's none of your buisness Potter." Draco growled, looking away again.

Harry raised an eyebrow, seeing that Draco was still rude as ever. "Fine." He huffed, leaning back in his seat.

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Up infront of the train, the 8th years had been seated nearest to the front door. Only a few students came back, the bravest of each house were back with a strong smile. Luna, Seamus, Dean, Neville, Ron and Hermione. Pansy, blaise, and Goyle from Slytherin. Some of their peers from the same class attended as well, but chose to keep to themselves.

Ron and Hermione had just gotten over a huge fight a week ago about their future relations, trying to piece together what was left.

Neville and Luna were as close as ever, snuggling together as they read an advanced herbology book that Neville had brought.

Ginny sat alone by herself, a row behind her brother Ron, listening but staying out of the conversation.

Seamus and Dean sat close as they gossiped about where Harry had gone. They had become such close friends since the summer of constant letters and owl gifts.

Pansy and Blaise were whispering about Draco being pulled away, Goyle third wheeling as he usually did. Everyone seemed to stay within their own clique.

There were rumors of big news for the students returning for their 8th year, but nobody had heard anything substantial enough to confirm it. All they knew is they would be put in advanced classes and have more free periods than normal.

Ron stuck his head out into the hallway, looking for Harry.

"Stop that Ron we aren't suppose to get up!" Seamus threw a wad of parchment at his head. "Don't get us in trouble before we even get there!"

"Sorry mate...why can't we get up? What's the problem?" Ron complained, sitting back down.

"Things will be different this year Ron...maybe that's a good thing." Hermione wrapped her arm around Ron's.

"I heard Professor McGonagall say there's nothing negative about the news...maybe it will be fun!" Luna said suddenly. "Let's think of the positives!"

"Don't be so fluffy and soft Luna, what if it's bad?" Pansy asked rather roughly.

Ginny glared at Pansy, wishing she wasn't such a gossip.

"I think it's bad..." Goyle mumbled.

Everyone gave each other nervous looks, talking amongst themselves. All the younger students were making a loud roar of chatter and excitement, new faces all around.

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The Hogwarts Express finally made it in time, pulling into Hogwarts. Everyone grabbed their things and walked out with their friends. Certain students stayed behind waiting to be the last off the train...

Draco felt the train slow down to a stop, sighing in relief that they finally arrived. He knew they still had to wait till they were taken outside. "This is stupid!" He quietly growled to himself.

Harry stood up, opening the door to peer out. He quickly closed the door when he saw tons of students still filing out. "It's going to be a bit..."

Draco crossed his arms as he leaned back in his seat. "Just what I wanted to do with my morning! Sharing a cabin with the Golden Boy, Mr. Saint Potter." He rudely hissed.

Harry shook his head. "You're not on my list of wizards I like either...you think I like spending time with someone who hates me???" He glared.

Draco raised an eyebrow, unsure how to respond. I don't hate you...why can't I say it?He thought to himself. "Bloody ridiculous!!!" He yelled, swinging the door open as he stomped off.

Professor Snape stopped Draco in his tracks. "And just where do you think...you are going? Mr. Malfoy?"

Draco swallowed hard as his palms started to sweat. "Nowhere..." he looked down at the floor.

Harry slowly walked out, happy that Professor Snape recovered...but he'd never show it. "I see you're back..."

"I see you've returned...Mr. Potter you and Mr. Malfoy need to come with me, as for your friends you can meet them in the Great hall when we get there." Professor Snape said lowly, escorting them both off the train.

Both of them walked side by side with Professor Snape close behind them. There was a bad feeling in the pit of Draco's stomach about the news they were suppose to receive during dinner.

Harry already knew something was off, but he kept walking. He glanced at Draco, seeing he was equally worried.

"Go and join your friends while the children are being sorted." Professor Snape pushed them both towards the Great Hall, wandering off with a swish of his robes.

Harry took the first step, walking ahead.

Draco followed...instantly overwhelmed by the massive crowds. He lost sight of Harry as they blended with the rest of their houses.

Harry sat thigh to thigh with Ron talking about quidditch, watching Ron stuff his face. "If you keep eating like that you'll choke..."

"I'm hubgry!" Ron muffled incoherently as he ate pounds of bacon at a time.

Hermione was sitting with Parvati, they were talking about tests and exams before they even knew their class schedules.

Ginny was talking with Padma who had snuck over from Ravenclaw to discuss the hopes of parties and dances.

Draco sat alone at the Slytherin table, not feeling up to sitting with his usual crew after everything that happened. He pushed his food around his plate with the fork, making a disgusted face.

"Attention!!! Everyone it is time for the opening ceremony to begin!" Professor McGonagall lifted her wand to her throat to amplify her voice.

The room slowly became silent, the rumble of chatter fading.

"Everyone has been sorted! If you are not at the house table you belong at, please switch now!" Professor McGonagall stepped up to the podium, Professor Lupin and Hagrid on either side of her. "I am honored to welcome you to another year at Hogwarts! Hopefully this year we carry on without any problems!"

A few whispers and conversations broke out between students.

"Furthermore! Everyone who has been newly sorted and welcomed by your new houses I congratulate you on becoming part of this school. Professor Lupin and Professor Hagrid will discuss the next part of announcements." Professor McGonagall stepped down, walking back to her seat as head master.

Professor Lupin stepped up, scanning the crowd. "Good morning old and new faces! The children in their first year's will follow their prefects and teachers to their houses in single file please!" He announced, waving his hand signaling all the older students to lead the way.

"As for all the students from 2nd to 7th year please do the same! The students coming back to redo their year please stay with us and move to the front!" Professor Hagrid's booming voice announced.

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After ten minutes of students leaving and separating in single file, the 8th year students came to the front of the Great Hall, sitting at the ends of each table, waiting with curious faces.

This time Professor Snape stepped to the podium, waiting for silence.

"I know all of you heard rumors and gossip on the train...some students also know that things will be different, I'm sure you've noticed your robes and uniforms have no color...black and grey only." Professor Snape started to explain.

Everyone looked at their clothes, gasps and confused remarks made.

"We have stripped you of your houses, all of you were involved with us in the war and are under the watchful eye of staff and teachers. What we went through doesn't come without suspicion and danger." Professor Snape slowly told the news.

Rebellion and outrage broke out within the students.

"SILENCE!!!!" Professor Snape shouted with his wand to his throat. "You will not be Disobedient! You are being re-sorted! Anyone who refuses will be expelled!!!" He spat angrily.

Professor McGonagall rushed over, calming Severus. "Now everyone gather around the sorting hat and let's get this started."

Everyone begrudgingly made a line, slowly taking their turns.

"Now some if you will be in the same house, but if it changes, you will cooperate and do as you are told." Professor Hagrid commented, walking over to supervise.

Many students took their turns, most in the same house. It wasn't until Hermione came up that everyone fell silent, curious to the choice of the hat.

Hermione sat down, remembering her first time, staring up at the brim of the hat.

"Well you've become such a wise Witch in your older years....hmmm difficult." The sorting hat pondered. "RAVENCLAW!!!!"

Everyone clapped and cheered, Hermione was very happy about the decision, joining Luna who was sorted the same as she always was.

Ron came up, sorted in Gryffindor. Seamus and dean, all sorted into Gryffindor.

Ginny and Neville went up next, all sorted back into Gryffindor without fail.

Harry walked up, sitting in the chair. Whispers surrounded him with worried faces staring.

"Well well well Mr. Potter it seems you have changed more than I anticipated!" The sorting hat mocked.

"Please don't be rude." Harry snapped back.

"Hmmm you went against my suggestion when you had your first year...but I think...." the sorting hat thought...

Everyone held their breath, so did Harry, clenching his eyes shut.

"SLYTHERIN!!!!"

The whole crowd of students and Professors gasped loudly, leaving a gap of painful silence in the Great hall.

Draco felt his stomach flip violently as he heard those words. He had been sorted Slytherin as always and now he found out Harry would be in the same house as him. This can't be true...what the bloody hell is going on?!?!

Harry felt his heart sink, never even thinking this would happen. He turned his head to look at Professor McGonagall with saddened eyes. She looked back at him with a frown, but she knew in the back of her mind it was a possibility.

Everyone watched with hardened hearts as Harry walked over to the rest of the Slytherin's.

Harry was mortified, he looked at all the wizards and Witches from the table glaring, catching Pansy laughing.

"It looks like everyone has been sorted! Now the last few things we have for today...." Professor McGonagall cleared her throat. "You will be directed to your new and old dormitories by the teachers who reside in your houses! You are all 18 now so you have full responsibility for yourselves which means no curfew and more free time! Your schedules are already with your belongings that have been brought to the dorms!"

Professor Hagrid walked to the front. "I know all of this has been stressful and a big inconvenience! But the houses you've had in the past won't go unnoticed. You will always be our special students never forget that."

"Now everyone it's time to go to the dorms! Class starts tomorrow and you need this time to unpack and familiarize yourselves with your new surroundings." Professor McGonagall announced, stepping down to help.

Everyone walked with their professors to their new and old house dormitories.

Harry and Draco were walking in the back of the Slytherin line, both shocked at the situation.

Draco refused to speak, his mind was racing with questions and worrying thoughts. They finally reached one of the deepest parts of the dungeons, stopping at the dormitory door.

The door opened to a very large common room with gothic black leather sectionals, couches, and recliners surrounding a few black stone low tables infront of a giant grey cobblestone fireplace. Dim lights from chandeliers hanging from the ceiling illuminated the room, along with the green and grey colors of Slytherin that complimented the decor.

Draco sighed in comfort from the familiar scenery, stopping infront of a spiral iron staircase.

Harry followed everyone up the wide stairs, leading to the bedrooms.

The four post beds lined the walls of a very large stone walled bedroom. A good amount of space between beds was made, with optional privacy screens and clothing chests. The end of the room revealed two large black leather couches with wall bookshelves with tons of study books and textbooks.

Harry was happy that the Slytherin dormitories were so fancy and comfortable...but he never thought he'd ever be a deer in a room full of snakes.

Blaise came up behind Harry, smacking him on the back. "I never thought I'd see the day! The Golden Boy bunking with the enemy!"

"Shut up Blaise, all rivalries are over now!" Pansy came over, Draco immediately escorting her out of the boys dormitories.

Harry smiled nervously, picking the bed closest to the back wall. "I don't want any trouble."

Goyle walked over to him, glaring furiously. "You don't belong here."

Draco swooped in, stepping infront of Goyle.

Goyle shared a look with Draco, backing off.

"Potter you can't seem to go anywhere without causing an issue can you?" Draco said sarcastically, blocking the way so his friends couldn't bother Harry.

Harry rolled his eyes with a angry glare. "What do you want Malfoy?"

Draco sighed, already irritated. "Try to keep a low profile, you are around a bunch of wizards that don't like you..."

"You hate me too, leave me alone Malfoy." Harry said with a saddened voice.

Draco heard the word hate for the second time. I never hated you.be thought, watching Harry unpack. "Looks like your Slytherin uniforms and robes are already in your trunk." Lifting the trunk open at the end of the bed.

Harry pushed it closed, glaring. "We are living together this year, let's do each other a favor and stay out of each other's way."

Draco backed up, feeling slightly hurt, clutching his arm nervously, but he didn't let it show. "Fine then."

What the two of them didn't know, is that would prove to be impossible.

Continue reading next part ☐