

James Potter and the Train Ride to Hogwarts
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“Have you got everything?” asked Mr. Potter.

“Yes.” answered James.

“Are you sure?” he inquired.

“Yes, Father, now can I go?” asked James impatiently.

“Be good; watch out for the moving stairs, and DON’T GO INTO THE FORBIDDEN FOREST. Did you hear that last part, James?” asked Mr. Potter.

“Yes.” said James with a shrug of his shoulders.

“Well, then, I suppose there’s nothing else for us to tell you. We love you and we will see you at Christmas.” said Mrs. Potter tearfully.

“Alright, then, bye Mother, bye Father, I love you both, see you at Christmas!”

As he got on to the train, James thought about the friends he would make and the adventures they would go on together. He had been waiting for this moment all his life.

‘I wonder what House I’ll be in,’ James thought, ‘and if my new friends will be in the same House as me.’

He walked around to find an empty compartment. About five minutes after he got settled, a boy with shoulder-length hair walked in.

“Hello, I’m Sirius Black, nice to meet you. What’s your name?”

“James Potter, pleasure to meet you.”

“Would it be okay if I rode in here for the journey to Hogwarts?” asked Sirius.

“Oh, yes, I don’t mind.” James said.

As they talked, laughed, and got to know each other better, James could tell that he and Sirius would be good friends. Soon after, a girl with long, beautiful, red hair walked in along with a boy with greasy black hair and a large nose.

“Hullo, I’m Lilly Evans, and this is my friend, Severus Snape. Would it be okay if we rode with you?”

“Sure.” James and Sirius said together.

“Thanks.” Lilly said shyly and sat down with them.

To break the silence, Sirius asked James, “So, what House do you hope to be in?”

“Gryffindor, where the brave dwell at the heart! Like my father.”

James’ comment got a snort from Snape. James turned to him and said, “What’s so funny?”

Snape said haughtily to James, “Well, if you prefer to be brawns over brains and in Gryffindor rather than Slytherin, I guess that’s fine by me.”

“So where are you going to go, seeing as you’re neither?” James retorted.

“Come on, Severus, let’s go find another compartment.” Lilly said quietly, but the compartment had grown so silent with tension that everyone heard her. She glared at James and Sirius, and then left the compartment with Snape not far behind.

“See ya, Snivellus!” Sirius snickered as Snape walked out. “Wow, what a jerk!” Sirius said to James once Lilly and Snape were out of earshot.

“Totally,” James agreed. After a moment he added, “But wasn’t that Lilly girl kind of pretty?”

“Ooh, I think you’ve got your first crush!” Sirius teased James.

“You are so thick.” James said, though he was blushing.

“Oh, denial, now I truly know you like her!” Sirius said playfully.

In the compartment to their left, there were two other first year students sitting together: Remus Lupin and Peter Pettigrew, friends from the same town. In fact, they had been friends since they were five years old.

“I need to use the bathroom.” Remus said abruptly, and left the compartment.

Once he had used the restroom, Remus somehow got confused when he was coming back, and entered the wrong compartment.

“Hey, Peter, I was wondering...oh, I didn’t mean to intrude. I think my compartment is next door, I’m sorry.”

“Oh, no, it’s alright, if you would like to join us, that’s okay, right, Sirius?” asked James.

“Hmm? Oh, yes, it’s fine by me, I don’t care.” Sirius said rather dully.

“Well, now that you mention it, if you wouldn’t mind, it *would* be nice to meet new people. I’ll just go and get my friend, and then we’ll be right back.”

James could tell the boy had been somewhat lonely in his childhood; he had a sad expression that looked like he always wore, but James knew that it could be easily fixed with the cure of friendship. Remus came back with Peter and made introductions, and within minutes, the four boys were talking and teasing like they had known each other for years.

In the years that followed, James always recalled that train ride as the best day of his life. For on that day, though he didn’t know, he met his future wife and his three best friends for life.

~The End~