

The Mirror of Epoh

by Valady

Severus' encounter with a magical mirror changes his life forever.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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It had taken several sometimes-painful years for him to recover fully from Nagini's bite. There were times when Severus wished he had died; the pain had been unbearable. All that changed when he found the fabled Mirror of Epoh.

Severus desired a wife and perhaps a child, maybe two, but felt he had no hope of ever finding a woman who would want him. What self-respecting woman would want him with his reputation?

That was, until the day he came upon the mirror at Borgin and Burkes. It was tucked away in a dusty corner covered by a tattered old sheet. He removed the cloth revealing the mirror and read the words intricately carved into it: *Emot niko olsei lepoh ruoye reh weesot* When he gazed into the mirror, he couldn't believe what he was seeing. He was standing with an obviously young, beautiful brunette woman holding a baby bundled in a blue blanket. He couldn't make out her face as she looked down upon the child in her arms. Severus was captivated by the scene until the woman lifted her head and appeared to look straight at him.

He couldn't believe it. The mirror must be playing a joke. There was no way his 'hope' lay with her!

Hermione Granger?

Bloody hell, not the little Know-It-All!

He stormed out of the store mumbling under his breath about defective merchandise and dishonest merchants. However, he couldn't get the picture of her holding his child out of his mind. It invaded his mind during the day and his dreams at night. Finally, he couldn't take it anymore and decided to seek her out and see if what the mirror showed him was true or not.

I need a reason to approach her. Minerva did say she works in the Department of Mysteries. Ahh, yes the mirror! I'll tell her I need information about the Mirror of Epoh.

He strode purposefully into the Department of Mysteries, walking straight to the desk of one Miss Hermione Granger.

"Professor Snape, I'm surprised to see you here."

"This is the Department of Mysteries, and you are employed here are you not?"

"Yes, sir, I am. Is there something I can do for you?" Hermione said. She was curious as to why Snape was here, and standing at her desk.

"I was hoping someone here could help me, and since you were always the know-it-all, I thought perhaps you would be the best person to ask. Have you ever heard of the Mirror of Epoh, Miss Granger?"

"The Mirror of Epoh? I can't say I have."

"Amazing. Something the great Hermione Granger doesn't know," he said with a smirk.

His tone was starting to grate on her nerves. "Really, Professor, I'm no longer your student and haven't been for a few years. If you cannot treat me as an adult, I can suggest someone else who can help you."

Severus was impressed that he could no longer intimidate the woman before him.

"My apologies, Miss Granger. You are correct, you're no longer a student. Perhaps you would consent to having lunch with me, and I'll tell you more about this mirror?"

Their collaboration turned into a relationship, and six months later Severus asked her to be his wife.

That was over a year now, and his life had changed for the better, his hope had been restored.

"Severus," she cried out, reaching for his hand. "Oh Merlin, here comes another one," Hermione said as the contraction hit her, this one harder than the last.

"Breathe, love," he said as she squeezed his hand.

"I feel the need to push," she said as he wiped the sweat from her brow.

Madam Pomfrey was bent over at the end of the bed, examining her patient. "All right, Mrs. Snape, I want you push with the next contraction."

She nodded as the next wave came upon her.

"That's it, you're doing wonderfully," said the medi-witch. "Keep pushing."

Hermione continued to push for fifteen minutes, and Severus was becoming concerned for his wife and unborn child. "Is this normal, Poppy? Shouldn't she have delivered already?"

"Everything is fine, Severus. I can see his head now, just a few more pushes, and your son will be born."

Five minutes later, Stephen Severus Snape made his wailing entrance into the world.

"Oh, Severus, he looks so much like you."

"Thank the Gods he has your nose, though," he said as looked upon his son, grateful he had found the Mirror of Epoh.

A/N: My thanks to sirsevchick for the beta, and sophierom for proof-reading.