

Befuddled

by GinnyW

Severus goes on a late night patrol.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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'Where are you going?' she asked.

'Patrols.'

'It's not your night,' she said; though she knew that he didn't require reminding.

Her husband grumbled something that she couldn't quite make out. 'What was that?'

'It's Friday night.'

Hermione laughed. 'Yes, Severus, I'm well aware of the day.'

He headed towards the door, stopping only to grab a small, red marble from a drawer. 'I'll be back within the hour.'

'You do realise that this is ridiculous, right?' she asked him as she rose from her chair.

'No, I don't believe it's ridiculous at all.'

'And what are you going to do if you happen to see her during your patrols? Hmm?' she asked.

Severus scowled. 'What do you think I am going to do? She's seventeen, a prefect and a student at this school. She will be finding herself in detention.'

Hermione stifled a small laugh. 'She's a seventh-year student with a boyfriend. And you know that Minerva won't allow you to hold your own daughter in detention.'

'Then I'll put her over my knee.'

'You wouldn't dare.'

Severus raised an eyebrow and his lips almost disappeared in a grim line, challenging her to say that again.

Hermione rolled her eyes. 'Fine,' she said, exasperated. 'I'm coming with you.'

It may have seemed foolish to his wife, but walking the halls of Hogwarts in search of snogging teenagers was one of the things that Severus Snape did. It was one of the

things he was good at... one of the things he was known for. But, he was also only a part-time professor these days, only teaching the N.E.W.T.-level students in Potions, and therefore he hardly ever had night time patrols assigned to him anymore. Most days he didn't miss it, but tonight....

Tonight he had watched his only child, his only daughter—and a Slytherin at that, as she sat with Frank Longbottom at the Gryffindor table during dinner. Not only did he quickly learn that Lizzie and Frank were a couple, but he discovered very soon after that that his wife had already known and had simply 'forgot to mention it'.

Not bloody likely.

Hermione wasn't stupid. She knew how Severus would feel about his little girl dating *She was only seventeen for Merlin's sake!* he thought.

And after dinner he'd walked close enough to hear as Frank uttered two words to Lizzie, *Astronomy Tower*, before Hermione had practically dragged him back to their room in the dungeons.

His wife was practically running to keep up with him. Severus gripped the marble in his pocket, willing it to speak to him; a slight vibrating sensation told him that the Snogging Sensor was working. He led the way swiftly up to the Astronomy Tower, bursting the door open.

There, standing in the dark by one of the turrets he saw two figures caught in a romantic embrace, kissing passionately. He moved to pull them apart when he felt his wife's restraining hand on his shoulder.

'You really do not want to do that, Severus,' she warned.

Severus let out a low snarl. 'I will be the judge of that.'

He missed the amused look on his wife's face as she fought back a laugh. Striding forward, Severus grabbed the gentleman's shoulder and pulled him back.

'Mr Longbottom, I advise that you...'

'W-w-what?' came the sound of a very confused voice.

The voice didn't match what he was expecting and for the first time, Severus truly looked at the couple before him. He shot his eyes back towards his wife, who was now laughing while walking towards him.

She apologised to the pair and gently led her husband back out the door and down the steps.

Once they were safely out of earshot, Severus pulled himself from his wife's grip. 'You knew,' he accused.

'No, I suspected. There is a difference.'

'You made me look foolish.'

'No, Severus, you made yourself look foolish.' Then she laughed again. 'Poor Horace and Minerva; though I truly don't think that Horace even realised what had happened. I didn't know that Minerva had that effect on men. And just so you know, our daughter is currently quite happily sitting in her common room, studying for her N.E.W.T.s,' her tone a bit harsher now.

Severus appeared contrite and then he whispered in her ear, 'I promise, my dear wife, that I shall do my best to make you just as befuddled as Horace once we reach our quarters.'

And Hermione smiled brightly at the prospect.

Author's Note: An over-protective Daddy Severus seemed the perfect thing for this Father's Day. :) And, let's face it, poor Severus is definitely over-protective of his little girl.

Thank you to DeeMichelle for beta reading.

This story was written for the Live Journal Community Romancing th Wizard 'Bring Out Your Dead' Challenge, which required the use of a wizard who died in canon, an original magical device, a prompt and exactly 750 words. My prompt was 'snogging him senseless'.