

Between Love and Mercy

by IrishEspressoGirl

A prequel to *Overcoming Prejudice*, *Between Love and Mercy* is a missing scene from HBP Ch. 17; the story takes a look in Tom Riddle's mind just after his conversation with his uncle, Morfin.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Disgusting. Tom Riddle glared at the stunned form of his uncle.

This won't be tolerated.

Riddle ripped the wand from Morfin's hand.

Ah, but what's this? Riddle's eyes alighted on a black-stoned ring. He didn't recognize the insignia it bore, but he knew it should be his.

After all, the heirloom will be useless to this. Riddle toed the fallen wizard. *But for us--yes, it will satisfy my Black and her family quite well.*

But they mustn't learn of the Muggle. It must be disposed of.

Turning towards his father's mansion, Riddle resolutely cast a Disillusionment Charm on himself.

Author's Notes: Set during the summer following Tom's fifth year, *Between Love and Mercy* is a prequel to [Overcoming Prejudice](#). Tom, in his own fashion, loves Walburga, but he knows that her family will forbid any union between them; he hopes that possession of the ring will be sufficient to establish him as a wizard from a powerful family. Despite these hopes, the ring bearing the Perevell coat of arms, which he steals from his uncle, does not recommend him to the House of Black.

Immediately following these events, Riddle uses the wand he takes from Morfin to kill his Muggle father and grandparents. He then plants false memories of the murders--to which Morfin later confesses and for which he is sentenced to Azkaban--into Morfin's mind. (HBP17)

Between Love and Mercy was written for [Romancing the Wizard's](#) Challenge Twenty: Wizards of Summer. The story was one of my five drabbles with the theme "difficult decisions," and its particular prompt was "Disillusionment Charm." The story had to be 100 words and take place during a summer holiday.