

The Rescue

by ancientgirl

Not HBP compliant. One shot to accompany yet another incredible drawing from Marquise. Severus rescues Hermione from Lucius' dungeons.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 of 1

Not HBP compliant. One shot to accompany yet another incredible drawing from Marquise. Severus rescues Hermione from Lucius' dungeons.

So in my world HBP is not an issue. Dumbledore is still alive and well here. This takes place during seventh year. I suppose its AU then, but I consider everything written by people other than JKR AU. This is a story I wrote after being inspired by Marquise latest drawing.

All canon characters belong to JKR.

Thank you as always to June for her suggestions and help with this.

The Rescue

He looked over his classroom and silently took attendance. It had been four days now, and she still was not in class. He had quietly checked the hospital wing on a daily basis, and she was not there either.

It would be easy for the other professors to not notice her absence, as she had taken double classes over the previous year except for Potions. His class ... advanced potions ...was her only class, as well as the beginning of her apprenticeship with him. She had been so excited over it that she declined the position of Head Girl, saying the apprenticeship would require all her time, as well as separate apprentice quarters.

She was also not in the Great Hall for any of the day's meals. He had gone to Dumbledore the prior morning to voice his concern. For once, the old man did not have a gleam in his eye. He said he would send an owl to her parents that would not be too conspicuous, to see if they mentioned their daughter being there with them.

The owl from her parents had arrived just before his class today. There was no mention of Hermione. It had been months now that in his mind she had become Hermione, and not Miss Granger. He now truly felt uneasy. Her friends, however, seemed just the opposite. It was as though they had no idea she was not there. He briefly wondered if they had had a falling out, but he shook the thought out of his mind. He had seen them together over the weekend, and all seemed fine.

The advanced potions class went on as usual. He gave the students plenty of homework, along with detailed instructions, to last them throughout the evening. He wanted them studying, not coming to his office asking ridiculous questions. For he now knew that he must pay a certain someone a visit, a certain person he felt might know just where Hermione Granger was.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

He left the grounds just after dusk. He immediately Apparated to the home of Lucius Malfoy. Yes, Lucius was no longer in Azkaban. The fact of the matter was, he had escaped several months prior, leaving behind a captured Muggle look-alike whose soul had been sucked out by a Dementor. Only Severus and Dumbledore knew this as

The fact that Lucius had not been recaptured was a testament as to how badly the Order needed Severus as a spy, now more than ever. It was only a matter of time before things came to a head between those who follow the darkness and those who follow the light. If Lucius was captured now, it would surely alert Voldemort as to who turned him in.

Severus approached the home quietly, casting a concealment charm on himself. He had noticed Lucius acting odd the last time he had visited him. Severus remembered him talking about "that Mudblood" that had slapped Draco in their third year, and that "one day soon she will get a taste of what it means to touch a Malfoy." Severus dismissed it at the time, thinking it was merely Lucius being Lucius.

Severus crept past the window, then towards a small outer door that he knew was a way inside the dungeon. It did not look like a door to the average wizard. Severus knew the location of it, and also how to access it. Upon reaching the spot he knew the door to be, he touched it with his hand.

Though he had no idea where Hermione could be, he thought he could sense her. His entire body felt as though it were being led by an invisible rope, pulling him in certain directions, leading him down one hall and away from another. After walking for several minutes, he came to a large wood door inlaid with dragon's teeth in the shape of the Dark Mark. He knew that Hermione would be beyond that door. He also knew that even though Lucius took great care to ward his home to outsiders, that is those who did not know all of his secrets, Severus also knew him to be insanely arrogant. So arrogant that he would not think anyone would dare break into his home, that he would not lock a door which for several days had held his most prized possession, the Mudblood who had touched Draco.

'I have always admired him, and I want for him to see me not as a student but as a woman. He is always in my thoughts. He is always in my dreams. Even though I know it will never happen, I have often thought of a life with my stern Potions master.'

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Severus Apparated back to the gates of Hogwarts while holding her in his arms. He decided it would be quicker if he went in through the Gryffindor Tower entrance. It was the closest entrance to the Apparation point, and also close to the hospital wing. No sooner had he walked through the Gryffindor Tower doors than he was stopped by a wand pointed to his throat, a wand held by a very angry Harry Potter.

"What have you done to her, you bastard!" yelled Harry, as he took hold of Hermione's foot.

"I found her in Lucius Malfoy's dungeon, or have you not noticed your best friend has been missing for nearly a week?"

Harry looked at Hermione's bruised face in disbelief. "But how..."

"Later, Potter! Now get out of my way. She needs Madam Pomfrey." He quickly shoved Harry to one side and continued his path to the hospital wing.

"You expect me to believe that?" shouted Harry as he ran towards Severus and stood in his way once more.

"Harry," Hermione's weak voice pleaded as she held herself closer to her rescuer. "Let him be. He saved me."

Harry looked at Severus, who was now shooting daggers at him with his eyes, and then moved aside. He kept them in his sight all the way down the hall, until Severus disappeared around the corner with Hermione.

The dark-haired boy slid down the wall and began to weep. He thought back on the last time he remembered seeing his friend. It had been Sunday morning. Today was now Thursday, and in all that time he had not once wondered where she was. He had not once noticed her lack of presence. She could have died and he would never have known, until it was too late.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Severus arrived in the hospital wing and immediately placed Hermione on the nearest bed. Madam Pomfrey had seen him walk in and rushed to the girl's side.

"What happened?" she asked.

"She has been held captive by..." Severus couldn't tell her by who, but what would he say? He was so flustered by the events of the evening that he had not thought of what to tell the medi-witch.

At that moment the Headmaster arrived.

"Madam Pomfrey, please tend to Miss Granger. I need to speak with Professor Snape for a moment." Albus pulled Severus away slightly and they walked to the door of the hospital wing. "Did Lucius have her?" he asked, knowing full well that could have been the only possible place she could have been.

"Yes," was his only answer.

"He will surely come for her again," said Albus.

"He will not have that chance. After tonight, he will not have a chance to do anything to anyone ever again." Severus turned and walked away towards his own dungeon. Albus Dumbledore was no fool, and he knew full well what Severus would do. He had just purchased a brand new bottle of French brandy. He needed to make Lucius a special gift. It would take but a few minutes, and then he would come back to check on Hermione.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

After sending the brandy in a special package to Lucius, he went back to the hospital wing. Madam Pomfrey informed him that she had given the girl a sleeping draught, and that she would be fine in the morning, just a bit dehydrated. Severus nodded and left the wing. As he walked to his rooms, he was once again stopped by Harry Potter.

"How is she?" asked Harry in a small unsure voice.

"She is asleep, but Madam Pomfrey assures me she will be well in a few days," Severus answered, as calmly as he could.

"I can't believe she had been gone this long, and neither I or Ron noticed. I've been so wrapped up in my own life that my best friend could have died, and I would never have known."

"One should never take those they love for granted, Mr. Potter."

"How did you know where she was? Lucius Malfoy's still in Azkaban, and no one has been able to get into his home. How did you get in?"

"That is my own business, and Hermione's." He silently berated himself for allowing her name to slip from his lips that way.

For Harry's part, he decided to let the comment go. This man had just saved the life of his best friend. He begrudgingly realized that things would most probably never be the same between him and Hermione. Whatever happened after tonight, Harry would have to accept. As long as she would still accept his friendship, he would accept anything of her.

""Do not speak of this to anyone," the Potions master demanded.

"Yes, sir," Harry said respectfully. If Hermione trusted him, he would too.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Hermione awoke to the faint scent of sandalwood. She immediately knew he was there, and she smiled. Her head turned towards the scent and when she opened her eyes, she noticed the dark figure of Severus Snape sitting on a chair next to her bed.

"How are you feeling?" he asked.

"Good, now that I am out of there. Now that I am home." She turned herself slightly towards him. "Thank you."

"There is no need to thank me. I could not lose the only worthy apprentice I have ever had." He could not help but smile.

"I am the only apprentice you have ever had," she stated as she rolled her eyes.

"All the more reason to keep you safe and here, with me." His voice turned serious yet unsure.

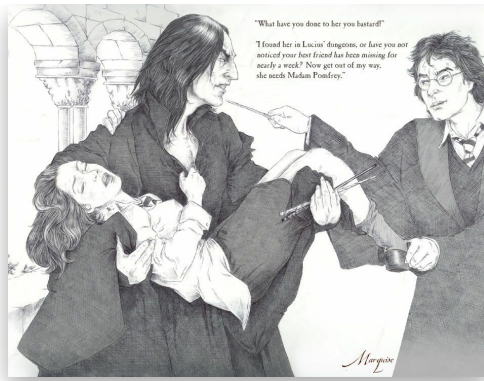
"Then here I shall stay, with you." She reached out her hand and smiled when he willingly took it in his.

Nothing more needed to be said. It was now understood, that they both belonged with and to one another.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Adaperio To open fully

I have included also Marquise incredible drawing which inspired me.



You can also see a larger version on Marquise lj:
<http://www.livejournal.com/users/ledivinemarquis/>