

Long Division

by Pearle

Always the teacher, Severus decides to educate Hermione. Lucius, Hermione, Severus, Math, and Taxes.

For Shiv5468, because she was bored and has a fondness for SS/HG/LM.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Summary: Always the teacher, Severus decides to educate Hermione. Lucius, Hermione, Severus, Math, and Taxes.

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Disclaimer: The characters, settings, etc. of the Harry Potter series are not mine; they belong to J.K. Rowling and Co. I promise to return them when I am through. Well, most of them anyway.

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Severus arched one brow questioningly as he took in the sight in front of him.

Hermione sat pondering the mass of books and stacks of paper she'd spread across Lucius' mammoth mahogany desk. That the know-it-all was contemplating yet another knotty problem was not surprising. What had aroused his pique, was the solicitous Lucius Malfoy next to her that seemed to be instructing the witch in her analysis of the quandary in front of her.

"Muggle law is not the same as wizarding law. I highly doubt that deduction would be allowed." Hermione reached for a large green tome slumbering gently beside her. "In fact, I don't believe it's allowed in wizarding law, either."

"Trust me, my dear, it's allowed. It may not be the letter of the law as you interpret it, but I can assure you, it is legal."

"It's legal if you squint and look sideways at it."

"Problems?"

"Severus. No, no problem. Lucius was offering to help me prepare my parents tax return, but you can't apply magical laws to Muggle ones."

"You are preparing their return?"

"Yes, well, since they decided to stay in Australia, I said I would tie up any of the loose ends that resulted in their moving. ~~It~~ Was my fault, after all."

"And you?"

Lucius managed to look affronted through his amusement. "Merely trying to aide the lady in her time of trouble." He cast a sweeping hand toward the room. "By applying certain...unusual loopholes, I have managed to pay very little tax, if any, on my home. I was merely trying to explain these deductions to Hermione."

"Lucius, look here, even your basic math is wrong. You've subtracted these two amounts instead of adding them. I can't believe the Ministry hasn't called you out on this yet."

Lucius casually examined his hand. "They're quite reasonable when it comes to examining my returns."

Severus thumbed through one of the smaller stack of paper sitting on the edge of the desk. "I believe judicious application of unrecorded, off the record, fine and interest payments may have corrected those mistakes."

Lucius glanced across Hermione to look impassively at the dark man. "Indeed."

"But they're added wrong."

"They were complied using a form of 'New Arithmancy.' All legal, I assure you."

Hermione groaned. "If it's anything like the 'New Math' they taught in school, I don't want to know."

"New Math?" Lucius looked questioningly at Hermione before nodding at Severus.

"I do believe I may be able to show you a new form of math that might interest you." Hermione shivered as Severus traced the line of her jaw. He bent over the witch, his breath hot as he whispered in her ear, "Would you like to see how two can go into one?"

~Finis

A/N: Just a bit to pass the time, and because the last line (which occurred to me first) amused me.