

An Unexpected Birthday Present

by Prof M McGonagall

An offering for Severus's birthday

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A/N: Thanks to ladyinthecloak for her encouragement and beta skills.

Severus was starting to get angry with Hermione. How could she think he wouldn't find out? Her plotting with Headmistress McGonagall had been quite obvious: a staff meeting during the *evening of January 9*? She knew he hated having any public notice taken of his birthday. He had been grateful that no one had even mentioned his birthday besides Hermione, who had whispered, "Happy Birthday, Severus," when she lay in his arms this morning after waking him to make love—a birthday tradition of which he was very fond. And now she chose to ruin it for him!

As they approached the staff room, Hermione said, "Don't be angry, Severus. You told me I could do this."

"I most certainly did not!" Severus growled.

"Do you remember last September when you had to miss my birthday to present your new brewing techniques at the Healers' Conference? You said that I should decide what I wanted to do to celebrate. I thought a little staff party tonight might be nice. I hope you won't mind if no one mentions *your* birthday as they now think it is *my* birthday."

If his searing kiss was any indication, he didn't mind in the slightest.