

# Not This Time

*by luvsev*

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*Chapter 1 of 1*

Severus has found a way to avoid the Valentine's Day ball.

'Bloody Valentine's Day! I swear if I have to attend another wretched ball in celebration of this fake holiday, I will quit!' Severus seethed at Minerva as he raked his hands through his hair.

'I do not care how much you hate it, Severus, you will attend this function! The children want to dance, and I need an extra chaperone,' Minerva said with her hands firmly on her hips.

Severus met Minerva's stony expression before he fled her office in a fury. There was no way in Hades that he was going to spend another Valentine's Day keeping students from fornicating in the rose garden, especially since he had his own willing witch to keep him company.

As he stormed down to his private lab in the dungeon, he could not help but smile. He had a plan this year that would provide an adequate excuse.

The week of the blasted ball hurried by, and now it was time to put his plan into action. Severus hurried to his storeroom to down the contents of one tiny bottle—his salvation. He waited the requisite hour for the potion to take effect and then glanced in the mirror. Yes! It had worked!

Once Minerva looked upon his spotted visage, she dismissed him from the evening's festivities and insisted that he recover in his private rooms, lest everyone caught whatever he had.

He had every intention of spending the evening in his rooms; after all, Hermione was already waiting for him in bed, and he was never one to disappoint.

A/N: Thanks go to NarcissasKnickers for the following prompt: Severus has found a new way of getting out of chaperoning the damn Valentine's Day ball. What is it?