

This Is the Life

by silverdoe

Hermione finds a new secret passage that is not on the Marauder's Map.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Hermione had been wandering the halls of Hogwarts for over an hour. With N.E.W.T.s over and done with, she had nothing to study and very little to do. Ron and Harry were likely to be hiding in an alcove snogging their significant others, Lavender and Malfoy, respectively. Their love lives left her feeling a bit like a third wheel or was it a fifth wheel in this case? Either way, she was alone and bored, which was why she stole Harry's map and began wondering the halls.

There was a passageway in that led to the dungeons, just outside of the Potions classroom, that she was trying to find. The map showed its entrance right in front of her, but all she could see was a blank stretch of wall. Maybe it was like the Room of Requirement. She began to pace back and forth thinking to herself, 'I need the entrance to the secret passageway.'

A doorway appeared on the wall behind her. That was strange, as the map clearly showed the passage on the other wall. Shrugging her shoulders, she reached out and grasped the door handle. When the door opened, she saw a long stairway leading downwards.

"This must be it," she said aloud. "The Marauders must have been wrong about which wall it opened to."

She lit her wand and began the steep descent. The door closed behind her, and a solid wall appeared in its place. There was no way back. She would have to follow the stairs. After several hundred stairs and more than a quarter of an hour, she found another door.

She suddenly felt nervous about sneaking around the castle. She knew she couldn't get in trouble. Her status as head girl allowed her the freedom to be about the halls at any time. It was just the thought of being in Slytherin territory this late at night that had her nerves on end. There was really no option of going back. Aside from the fact the other door had disappeared, she really had no desire to climb all those stairs.

She took a deep breath and pushed on the door. It opened surprisingly easy. She walked through and found herself in a softly lit room. Confused she looked back at the map. She should be in the Potions corridor. The map seemed to be as lost as she was. Her dot now showed her in the Forbidden Forest.

She was just about to go back up the stairs and attempt to find the other door when she heard someone call her name.

"Granger, how the hell did you find this place?"

"Pansy?"

Her eyes began to adjust to the low light, and she was able to see Pansy lying on a high-padded table with a sheet covering her lower body. Her back was bare.

"I was just wandering. I heard of a passage to the dungeons and wanted to see if I could find it. What is this place?"

Before she could answer, Professor Snape came strolling into the room. He was dressed in a shirt and trousers. Hermione could not stop her jaw from dropping at the sight

of her professor so casually dressed.

"Miss Parkinson, since when did we begin inviting Gryffindors down to the Slytherin Health Spa?"

"She says she found the door by accident."

"Indeed. Well, don't just stand there gaping silly girl. If you want a massage strip and get on the other table. I still have rounds to make."

Hermione didn't know what possessed her, but she did as she was told. Forty-five minutes later she was incredibly glad she did. She had just had the best massage of her life, performed by Professor Snape of all people, and now, she was sitting having her nails done by Blaise Zabini. It was a shame she graduated in a few days. It would be nice to visit this place again. Maybe she could convince the Headmaster to hold her back a year and have her resorted.

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A/N: Prompt given by Lyn: Hermione finds a new secret passage that is not on the Marauder's Map. Where does it lead to?