

It's Only a Dream

by lyn_f

Severus never thought that studying for his Potions exam could be so adventurous.

One-shot

Chapter 1 of 1

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I don't own them. It's all JK Rowling's. I'm just borrowing them for the moment.

Severus found himself in an igloo in the middle of nowhere. He wondered how he got there. The last he remembered, he was in the library revising for his Potions exam. He looked around and shivered because he didn't have his thick winter cloak with him.

Snow drifts were floating lazily by, and besides the igloo, he couldn't see much of anything. He wasn't even sure what time it was, as the sun was shining high in the sky.

Much to his alarm, he heard a hissing in the distance. He froze as he felt his heart leap up to his throat. *Merlin's beard!* he thought. *What is that?* Shading his eyes to alleviate the glare, he focussed his attention in the direction of the noise. Panic set in as he realised he didn't have his wand. After hearing another loud hiss, he decided he wasn't going to stand there any longer, and he started to run.

After what seemed like hours, he noticed he didn't move more than a few hundred yards. It felt like he was running through treacle. As the hissing noise grew louder, he tried to go faster, but failed. *Merlin! I'm sinking! What is this place?* Without his wand, he felt powerless to do anything. He didn't have his Apparition licence yet, so trying to leave the never-ending frozen tundra was out of the question.

As he sunk lower and lower into the ground, he noticed a very large, snowy creature coming straight at him. The hissing grew louder and louder. His eyes widened, and the panic increased. There was nothing he could do but wait. He closed his eyes and tried to remember any good memories from his brief life. Unfortunately, there weren't many of them. Any good memories he had were connected to his childhood friend, Lily Evans.

The creature approached him. It was at least as large as a small giant—approximately fifteen feet tall. It was bald, had large red eyes, very thin lips, and slits where the nose should be. "Severussssss," it said in a loud whisper, "you musssssst join me... or die."

Severus screamed... He was stuck in the snow and couldn't move. *This is it,* he thought. *I'm going to die. Not that it will be much of a loss; my parents won't miss me at all. At least I will be left in peace. No more bloody Marauders to gang up on me.*

He continued to scream... and when he opened his eyes, he found himself back in the library with his Potions books and notes in the same place where he had left them. He looked up and noticed a pair of brilliant emerald eyes looking at him with a look of concern.

"Sev," Lily said, placing her hand on his. "You were screaming. Are you all right?"

Severus rubbed his chest as he tried to calm his breathing. "Lily," he murmured. "Bad dream. I'm okay."

Lily nodded. "You must be really tired if you fell asleep over Potions," she said. "It's close to curfew. Why don't you take a break? We should be returning to our common rooms anyway."

Severus nodded. "Yes, I think so. Thank you, Lily, for not teasing me."

"You're welcome, Sev," she said. "Bad dreams are never fun."

A/N: Prompt issued by savine_snape: *Severus is suffering from nightmares. Who calms him, and how do they soothe his fears?* Thanks go to ladyinthecloak for the Saturday evening beta-reading.