

# Just One Question

*by timestep*

What happens when Teddy Lupin tries to ask a question of Severus Snape (with special appearance by Phineas Black).

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*Chapter 1 of 1*

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A/N: This was written as a gift to ballisticbeck at hpcon\_envy. She provided the prompt: Prompt: *characters*: Snape, Phineas Black and Teddy Lupin *words*: portrait and mentor

Special thank you to sshg316 for the quick beta!

As always, I don't own them, I just play in the sandbox.

~oOo~

He sat in the high-backed leather chair in the large office. As he waited for the Headmaster, he found himself glancing at the portraits. Some were empty, while others were asleep. There was really only one portrait that he was interested in, however. Over the past three months, he had attempted to manufacture reasons to be in the headmaster's office, but this was the first time he had been successful. Today, the real reason for visiting this office was in his portrait playing chess with Headmaster Black.

"Excuse me, sir," Teddy said in a small voice as he turned to face the portrait of Headmaster Snape. "May I speak with you, please?"

Severus Snape continued to watch his horse complete the move he had started a moment ago.

"Severus," Phineas Black started as he studied the board for his next move, "I do believe this child is speaking to you."

"How do you know he is speaking to me? Perhaps he wants to speak with you," Severus replied as he sat back in his chair and steepled his fingers.

"Whom are you addressing, Mr ...?" Phineas asked, looking at the small boy in front of him.

"Lupin," Severus provided in answer to Phineas' implied question.

"Really?" Phineas asked, turning to Severus.

"Yes. The ridiculous bubblegum pink hair should have given it away."

"Well then, to whom are you speaking, Mr Lupin?" Phineas asked, turning his face to address the boy.

"Professor Snape, sir." Teddy replied in a shaking voice, his hair turning a mousy brown colour.

"It appears he is speaking to you," Phineas informed Severus as he made his next move in the chess game.

"Fine. Since I can't seem to avoid this, what do you need, Mr Lupin?"

"I found my father's diary. Since it seemed to involve you, I had a few questions for you."

"Wonderful. Yet another one of my adversary's children has decided that I have all the answers."

"Severus!" Phineas admonished. "You will remember that this child is a Black and should be treated with respect."

Severus just glared at Phineas and then turned to address Teddy.

"You have three questions, and three questions only. Begin," he said as he leaned back in his chair and glared at Teddy with his most intimidating look.

"Thank you," Teddy said as he sat back in his chair. He was silent for a moment, considering the questions he would ask.

Severus and Phineas watched the boy as he sat, obviously trying to think of the most efficient way to use the three questions. Suddenly, he looked at Severus and gave him a very crooked smile as his hair turned a lovely shade of blue.

"Very well, my first question has ten parts ..."

"Bloody hell! Can someone please tell me how a Hufflepuff and a Gryffindor managed to produce a Slytherin?"

"I can answer that question," Phineas said confidently. "He's a Black."