

Life's a Beach

by peppermint

Albus surprises Severus with a holiday.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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A/N: This is a missing scene from canon. Really. I peg it at about 1986 or so. Thanks to kittylefish for betaing :D

He should have known better.

Really, he should have known a LOT better.

Albus never did anything without a motive, and this was no different.

Severus had been perched on a rock overlooking the Black Lake, dressed in his bathers (black, of course), ready to escape the warm August afternoon by jumping in.

Albus had come along just as he was making ready to launch himself, cannonball-style, into the water.

"Severus!" he had called, "Did you remember to put on some tanning lotion? I'd hate to see you burn!"

He should have ignored Albus and jumped, but he took the bottle and felt himself being pulled backward by his navel.

Instead of the quiet of the Hogwarts grounds, now he was standing on a vast white-sand beach, deep blue water in front of him and sizeable dunes behind him. He turned the lotion bottle over in his hands and read the inscription.

'Enjoy your stay on the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan! Under the boardwalk stairs, you'll find a basket. Don't worry, the Muggles can't see it! It should have everything you need for your day. Your return Portkey (this bottle) activates at 10pm local time. Make sure to use the lotion!'

The basket contained a rainbow-hued umbrella, a large green-and-grey striped beach towel, several books, foodstuffs under a cooling charm, and beer.

Oh, all right. Albus was a pain in the arse, but at least he provided beer.

Severus spread out his towel, slathered some sunblock on, and rested under the shade of his umbrella with one of the books.

As the day passed, he was surprised at how little the crowds bothered him. The noise of the lake subdued the worst of the shrieking children – although it was almost nice to hear happy shrieks. He ate his picnic lunch and shared sandwich scraps with the seagulls. When the crowds began to thin out in the early evening, he waded into the warm water to swim, amazed at being able to see his toes and the sandy bottom even when he was quite far from the shore.

After a beautiful sunset that streaked the entire sky in shades of rose, purple, and gold, he packed up his basket and waited for his Portkey to activate. It had been a

peaceful, relaxing day – but he'd never let Albus know that.

prompt from ladyinthecloak: Snape, towel, Michigan.