

Paternal Instincts

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Chapter 1 of 1

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"Ronald Weasley, get your hands off me!" Hermione shouted in a voice that was intended to garner the attention of everyone around them.

As if on cue, Severus Snape came barreling around the corner, eyes blazing. As he approached the two, his cloak billowed and revealed a rumpled shirt and pants that looked as if they had been haphazardly wrenched from the closet.

"What exactly do you think you're doing, Weasley?" Severus' tone brooked no argument.

Ron's face flew into a rage that almost matched the one worn by the disheveled man before him. "What are you playing at? Hermione and I are here to deliver our baby!"

"Your baby?" Severus scoffed. "What sort of delusions are you harboring?"

A groan from Hermione interrupted the men's argument as she doubled over. A Healer rushed over to the trio. "Mrs. Snape, we need to get you into a room immediately." Looking between the two men and then giving them both a stern look, she whisked Hermione down the hall and into a small room.

Settling Hermione into the bed, the Healer turned on the two men who had been trailing behind them and herded both into the hall. A quick Muffliato later, she was reading the pair the riot act as they glared openly at one another. "You will respect the sanctity of this ward, or you will leave. I will not have you distressing the mother-to-be!"

"Distressing her? I'm her husband, and I'm going to bloody well be in there to see my child born!" Severus declared while making a break for the door.

"Your child?" Ron spat, blocking his way. "I hardly think so. The only baby Hermione could possibly be having is mine. I don't care if you coerced her into marrying you. What did you use, Imperius?"

For a moment it looked as if Severus might reach for his wand, but the scene was interrupted by a pair of Healers skidding around the corner. "Mr. Weasley!" Breathing heavily, a man with messy blond hair approached them and took hold of Ron's arm.

"Thank goodness we found you. I'm not sure how you slipped by the wards of the Memory Unit, but we need to get you back."

Severus raised an eyebrow. The second Healer grabbed hold of Ron's other arm. "Mr. Weasley had an accident on an Auror mission a few weeks ago—seems to think he's eighteen again."

"In that case, I'm sorry to inform you that you lost Hermione three years ago. Now, if you'll excuse me, my *wife* and I have a baby to deliver." Severus smirked and turned to leave. Before taking a step, however, he looked over his shoulder. "And Weasley, do yourself a favor and remember to keep your hands off my wife."

A/N: This is a response to Stefdarlin's prompt: A couple (pair of your choice) is at St. Mungos to deliver their baby and one or both of them encounters a patient with a short-term memory loss problem.

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