

Cemetery Discussions

by BrenaMarie

Severus is off to complete his yearly Halloween ritual.

One-Shot

Chapter 1 of 1

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Disclaimer: They belong to JKR; that's why she's got all the money!

All of the staff members of Hogwarts were crammed into the small teachers' lounge late Halloween night. Everyone was drinking and making pleasant conversation. One professor in particular had spent most of the evening thus-far trying to figure out a way to talk to the taciturn Potions professor. Professor Hermione Granger stood in the corner of the staff room, listening to the Headmistress natter on about how much Albus would have been proud of her over the success of the Halloween ball they'd had for the students earlier that night.

"Weren't all the costumes simply wonderful, Hermione?" Minerva gushed.

Distractedly, Hermione responded, "Oh... yes, yes they were, Minerva."

The headmistress continued to pat her own back as Hermione watched Severus Snape make a hasty retreat from the room.

"Minerva, I'm really sorry. I've got to step out for a bit," Hermione blurted out.

Before she could be stopped, Hermione placed her drink down on a nearby table and made a b-line for the door.

Shite, I know where he's going, too... maybe now's not a good time...

Even knowing that maybe she shouldn't follow him didn't stop her from navigating her way out of the castle.

The wind was crisp, and the sound of rustling leaves surrounded Severus Snape as he stood in the small cemetery of Godric's Hollow. All alone, staring down at the gravestone of his lost love, holding a solitary red rose, he began to speak...

"I miss you... still. I know you'd have wanted me to move on, especially by now. There are some days when I think... maybe. Maybe today I'll talk to her. Then there are others where I remind myself that you were everything to me. How could I even try to... how fair would that be? She knows what you meant to me. I... I wonder how long the grieving process is supposed to last. Is decades excessive? You would know... you always had a caring and yet logical answer for everything..."

Severus stopped rambling to Lily Potter's headstone and stared down at the rose in his hand. Twirling the stem between his fingers, he listened to his eerily quiet surroundings.

"I would truly appreciate feeling like I don't need to come here anymore," he began again to the headstone.

"I'm sure that you would tell me that you're not really here, and that you're in a better place, and that since I'm still alive, I should live... You meant so much to me, though, and I'm left here with this guilt and anger... I'm just going to need to find some kind of release... I can't keep living this way..."

Severus knelt down and placed the rose beneath Lily's name, reverently touched the stone where her name was engraved and stood back up.

"Good-bye, Lily," Severus said quietly.

Before he turned to leave, he heard a quiet voice from behind him say his name.

"Severus..."

Startled that he didn't hear someone sneak up on him, he turned around to find Hermione Granger standing there.

"Hermione... what are you doing here?" he asked warily.

"I... well, I just thought... I wanted you to know that you don't have to do this alone..." she stammered.

"And why would you think that I wouldn't prefer to be alone?" he replied, slightly intrigued.

"I... you're right, I'll just go. I'm sorry for intruding."

He watched as she quickly turned away and started to hurry out of the cemetery. He was frozen on the spot, simply standing there watching her go. Before he could turn back to look at Lily's grave one last time he felt a large gust of wind blow against his back and push him in the direction that Hermione had retreated to.

Shaking his head, with a small smile on his face, Severus briefly turned back to the headstone one last time and said, "Okay, I get it. Thank you, Lily." He then rushed off to catch up to Hermione before she could Apparate away.

"Hermione, wait!" he called out.

Severus could see her stop and was actually very happy that she did.

"Yes, Severus?"

"I was just wondering if you'd like to have dinner with me tomorrow night?"

A/N: This was a response to debjunk's prompt of 3. *It's Halloween, and Severus does his yearly ritual. (I'm specifically thinking visiting Lily's grave, but you can make this into any ritual you'd like.)*

Much love also goes out to debjunk for the wonderful beta work she does for me! You rock my sox woman!