

Emily Snape and the Marauding Toddlers

by WriterMerrin

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Emily Snape and the Hedgehog

Chapter 1 of 1

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Emily Snape was attempting to add in powdered porcupine quills while counting clockwise stirs and keeping an eye on Remus and Sirius Weasley. Named for two of the infamous Marauders, the eighteen-month-old twins were already too much for most of their cousins to handle. They required almost constant magical attention, and as such, only herself and Victoire out of their generation had the magical means to keep them out of trouble.

With one year left at Hogwarts, she had been of age for months now and had eagerly learned the baby-proofing charms. "Aunt" Angelina's hazard pay would come in really handy on Hogsmeade weekends.

She only had--39, 38, 37--more to do, and then she could remove the twins from the house and out to the back yard where it was much safer for them and their red ball--to say nothing of her father's potions.

The thought made her shudder, causing the rest of the powder to land unceremoniously in the cauldron. Fortunately there wasn't a vial to drop, and the remaining stirs dissolved the remaining powder. Two swishes and three flicks cleaned her rod and set the timer for the next ingredient. She expected the twins to be safely home by the time she'd need to come back down, though.

Replacing her wand to its pocket, she turned toward the boys just in time to see the red ball escape the confining field and hurdle through the air towards her cauldron.

"Nooo!" she shouted, reaching for the ball but missing it as it landed in the green liquid with a splash. Whipping out her wand, she held up her heavy apron and commanded, "*Accio ball!*"

Looking at the wet object in her apron, she nearly screamed again when she saw that it was sprouting quills. Reaching for a large cauldron, she dumped the thing into it, then placed a stasis charm over it. It didn't work; the ball was contained, but it was still sprouting.

Riotous laughter interrupted her inner dialogue that was trying to decide which parent to call. Remus and Sirius apparently thought her little show was entertaining. She'd show them entertaining. It would probably be worth the loss of the hazard pay to just Floo them back home.

While she weighed her options, she cancelled the useless charm and clipped each of the twins with a Weasleys' Wanderguard. When she wasn't being attacked by them, she found it delightful that the brand known for trouble in her mother's school days was now every new mother's best friend. She also suspected that the latest pair of Weasley twins would fare better than their predecessors. They certainly were challenged at every turn.

Herding the twins up the stairs, she Levitated the cauldron behind her to take it outside with them. She was sincerely hoping to not need help but had decided if she were to run into a parent, she'd rather it be her mum than her dad. She was less likely to grill her on cauldron safety.

Luck, or something resembling it, was on her side that day. She made it out to the yard and unclipped the twins, allowing them to run free. Watching them run off some of their energy made her feel content somehow, and she was determined that she wouldn't worry about her experiment. She had all summer, after all.

Her practicing of the speech explaining the state of her father's lab was interrupted by the sound of a door opening and the man himself emerging from the house.

Sitting up straighter to make herself appear as mature and responsible as possible, she tried a winning smile on the former professor. Before she had a chance to greet him, however, he froze that smile with one question.

"Emily Jean Snape, why is there a hedgehog in my number thirty-six cauldron?"

Prompt from 00sevvie: The Weasley twins gain access to Severus' private lab and interfere with a current experiment. The eventual results are disastrous. Involve hedgehogs somehow.

Thanks to Ladyinthecloak for fixing my capitalization and to all the gals for a fun evening!