

# Winding Memories

*by quaffswinegaily*

Lucius collects his thoughts before the final battle.

## Lucius Remembers

*Chapter 1 of 1*

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Disclaimer: I would love to own them, but I don't.

Lucius gazed lovingly down on Severus, who lay on his back, his silky, raven hair contrasting starkly with the white sheet. How stunning he was in repose. His face relaxed, and his worry lines were smoothed.

"I need to collect my thoughts and memories."

Fondly, Lucius ran a fingertip along Severus's arched eyebrow, then traced it down over a closed eyelid toward the corner of his mouth.

"How many years has it been? I remember, when we were still at school, teaching you how to sneer with the arrogance of a Malfoy. It was amazing how you could curl your lip, lift a shapely eyebrow, and instill so much meaning into such a simple gesture. The two of us stood side by side in front of the mirror in the Slytherin common room practising our sneers, and even then I knew we complemented each other."

Touching the tip of his wand to his temple, Lucius carefully extracted the memory and transferred it to a small vial at the bedside.

He moved to the end of the bed. Slowly and tenderly he started to massage a sweet smelling unguent onto Severus' slender feet, working the salve into the cool skin.

As he worked, he recalled another memory.

"Do you remember the night of the Yule Ball? Narcissa had asked me to cover her Prefect's duties, so she could spend more time snogging with Nott. I went out onto the balcony to check for over amorous couples. As I stepped out through the archway, I saw you leaning against the balustrade. The moonlight was gleaming on your hair as you looked out across the castle lawns. I only approached you to check you were all right, but as I came closer, I noticed you were barefoot. Your dress shoes had been too tight, so you had removed them to ease your feet. I remember thinking I had never seen such elegant feet before.

"Coming up quietly beside you, I think I startled you. As you turned, you accidentally trod on my shiny dress shoes with your naked foot. We both looked down at our feet, then slowly up into each other's eyes. You quirked an eyebrow at me and my heart lurched. I realised I wanted to be closer to you, barefooted."

Lucius drew the memory's silvery strand out and dropped it in the vial.

Working up Severus's legs, he rubbed the ointment smoothly into the calves and upwards to the thighs.

"Even Narcissa admired these legs when you were in your prime. She understood her marriage to me was purely to get an heir, and she never objected to the relationship between you and me. Ah! Such firm, strong thighs. How I love for them to be pressed against the backs of my legs as you spoon in close to me in our bed."

Gently, Lucius turned Severus over. With wide, double handed strokes, he spread the unguent over Snape's scarred back, working it into his shoulders and down the long muscles.

"I know the heavy burden these shoulders have borne over the years. I have been there, alongside you all the way. I remember every beating, every torture, and every insult that caused these scars and knots. I recall how you would go to the hospital wing at Hogwarts for treatment and Floo straight back to Malfoy Manor, to me, as soon as you were released."

Turning him back over, Lucius leaned forward and placed a soft kiss on Severus' stomach at the top of his ebony treasure trail.

"And I love where this leads to."

Lucius leaned back again. His thoughts seemed to turn inwards for a while. Then very carefully he touched his temple again with his wand and withdrew a long, luminescent strand of memory. He transferred it tenderly to the small bottle.

Taking some more of the ointment, he returned to massaging it into the alabaster skin.

"Gods, Severus, how many times have you taken me into the safety of your embrace with these beautiful arms? You and I always understood the thin line we were treading between the dark side and the light. Even if we did not always follow the same path, together we found security and support in each other's embrace.

"And your hands! So graceful, so gentle, so soothing! I could watch you work for hours, just to see your hands in motion, but when you touch me..."

Lucius stopped talking as tears tracked slowly down his cheeks. Very gently, he touched the gaping wound at the side of Severus's neck.

"My beloved, I am so sorry."

After he deposited the final memories into the small container, he stoppered it and placed it into Severus's hand. Curling the stiffening fingers around the vial, he positioned both hands together on the man's chest.

"These are my most cherished memories, and this is where they belong, with you, next to your heart."

Lucius folded the sheet up over Severus's feet, and then, carefully working upwards, he wound it and tucked it around his legs. Folding and pleating, he encased Severus's whole body in the white winding sheet. He placed a chaste kiss on his lover's cold, thin lips. With a shuddering sigh, he closed the shroud.

Summoning house-elves, Lucius organised for the body to be transferred to the Malfoy crypt and turned to leave. Now, he had to go and look for Narcissa and Draco.

"I wish you could have had a proper send off, but the final battle is here. This is the end for us, my love. My life will never be the same without you. I will never forget you, Severus."

Raising his head proudly, Lucius spun on his heel and Disapparated away.

A/N Thanks Sunny33 for your super quick beta work. Now, wipe your eyes and get back to your day job, lass.