

A First Christmas

by BrenaMarie

Severus and Hermione spend their first Christmas together as a couple.

One-Shot

Chapter 1 of 1

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

Hermione Granger stood in front of her bedroom mirror, checking her appearance one last time. While fussing with her hair, she began to reminisce over the last few weeks.

After the Halloween Feast, all the Hogwarts professors gathered in the staff room for drinks and general merriment. Hermione stood with Minerva and Poppy in the center of the room. As she turned away from the women to circle the room and speak with some other staff members, she ran directly into Professor Snape's chest.

"Oh, goodness! Severus, I'm so sorry... I..." she stammered while blushing profusely.

"Damn it, woman! This is the second time today that you've thrown yourself at me. If you'd like to make this a more permanent arrangement, you need only say so."

Hermione looked up into his dark eyes and smiled.

"Yes, I would. Thank you for the gracious offer."

Before she could completely grasp what was happening, Severus reached out and pulled her into a warm embrace. Hermione took a deep breath, rested her cheek against his chest and knew she was home.

"It was so wonderful. He didn't care we were right in the middle of the staff room and everyone was staring. Since then everything has been just perfect, too," she mused while pushing an errant curl behind her ear.

"I just hope tonight doesn't change the state of our relationship..."

There was a short knock on the door to her quarters. She opened the door to find Severus dressed wonderfully in a plain Muggle suit and tie with a pained look on his face.

"Happy Christmas, Severus!" she said happily while throwing her arms around him.

She felt him squeeze her tightly, and then her heart began to race as he softly pressed his lips to hers.

That will never get old.

"Happy Christmas, Hermione," he whispered in response.

"I was just finishing up; please come in."

As they walked into her quarters, Severus made one last attempt at changing Hermione's mind regarding their plans for the evening.

"Are you sure about this? Did you tell them about me? Honestly, we could just stay here, in front of the fire, and listen to Christmas carols on the wireless..."

Hermione grabbed her cloak and walked over to Severus. She smiled sweetly and placed a hand on his cheek to still his ranting.

"Severus, this is very important to me. If you are going to be with me, this is part of it. I know you will be uncomfortable and I'll keep that in mind as the evening progresses. Yes, they know about you. They're actually looking forward to spending time with the man who has stolen my heart..."

She watched some of the tension drain from his features as he nuzzled her hand which still rested against his cheek.

"Honestly, Severus, it's just a house full of Muggles. You've faced worse..."

Once again she felt his lips against hers as he pulled away he said, "Your father knows how old I am?"

Hermione grabbed his hand and began to pull him towards the door.

"Yes, Severus. I've told them, and we're leaving, now, before I completely lose my patience with you."

Four hours later, Hermione and Severus were back in her quarters comfortably snuggled on her sofa. A Christmas tree, the fireplace and a few small candles were the only lights in the room. Hermione reached over and loosened Severus' tie.

"Now, that wasn't too terrible, was it?" she asked quietly as she rested her head on his shoulder.

"No, it wasn't. Slightly awkward at first, but everyone was quite pleasant. I found it refreshing to see a family so happy and content together."

Hermione sighed happily as she felt him begin to stroke her hair.

"I could get used to this..." She trailed off as she stared at the lights twinkling on her tiny tree.

He gently kissed the top of her head and held her closely.

"I could too, Hermione... I could too."

A/N: This is a response to ladyinthecloak's wonderful prompt, "Severus and Hermione fall for each other completely on the Halloween Feast. How do they spend their first Xmas together?"

Much love to SlytherinLaurel for the beta work.

Happy Holidays, everyone!