

# Carbon Dating

*by Ladymage Samiko*

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*Chapter 1 of 1*

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Snape, ever-so-slightly jealous, watched Hermione bounce from friend to friend, brilliantly happy while passing out gifts.

She eventually handed him an enormous something-or-other. "Shall we see what Santa brought *you*?" she asked saucily.

"A lump of coal, no doubt."

"Possibly." She near-twinkled, whirling away again. A weight landed surreptitiously in his pocket. Eyebrow quirked, he fished out a plain, tiny box.

A broad gold band, diamond embedded in its centre. A note.

*Because if I waited on you, I'd be picking white robes at 90.*

Severus slipped the ring on and draped his hand ever-so-casually—and prominently—over the mantelpiece.

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AN: This is what I meant to write when 'In His Own Corner' popped out. I like to think of it as a possible omake for my 'Events' universe. The title may be blamed on chronic ancient history geekiness. ^\_^