

The Only Letter

by luvsev

Severus speaks of how his life has changed after the war.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Mum,

I remember the look in your eyes when I told you what I had done, that I had joined the forces of someone who would bring change to our world. You gazed at me, a solemn gleam in your eyes, as if your world was crashing down. Your bottom lip quivered as you said, 'You'll live to regret this.' I was too young and foolish to believe you then, but you were right: I did live to regret it. The subsequent deaths, some of them innocent children and people who I considered friends, were blood on my hands, Mum. I should have listened.

I cannot take back my callous words or return the lives that were stolen. I spent years trying to repair all the damage, not realising the sacrifices I made would never be enough. The only thing I had left to give was my life, and I willingly laid it down. When it came time to move on, into the next life, Lily met me and told me that my journey was not over, that there was one thing left to do: find happiness.

The years after Voldemort fell have been different, happier. At first, I only saw sadness and loss lurking behind almost-empty eyes of those who were pawns in the war—mere children. But as time passed, their wounds healed, and so did mine. I found I was not as bitter as I once had been. This world, though still rebuilding, has given me hope such as I have not felt since Christmases long ago when I would curl up in your lap by the fire and we would watch snow fall on bitterly cold nights.

Now, I do the same with my own children. I would give anything for you to be able to see them, hear their tinkling, happy laughter as they chase each other—their mother, Hermione, running after them with a flannel to wipe biscuit crumbs from their faces.

I just want you to know that the life you gave was not in vain and that I am truly happy. My life is my own for the first time, and the only people I would follow anywhere are the ones I would be lost without: my family.

Love,

Severus

A/N: Thank you to twilexis for the following prompt: Snape's inner musings on life after the Dark Lord. Also, thank you to my incomparable beta, kittylefish, for helping me iron out the mistakes.