First do no harm

by kyriaofdelphi

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The decision was difficult, but had to be made. As a Healer, Hermione had taken an Oath to do no harm.

The patient she was going to treat today could possibly be harmed by the vestiges of Viktor's magic in her wedding ring, so she took it off before going in to work. The young woman she was going to see today had been one of the Muggle-born witches captured after the breakout from Azkaban. She had been held captive and raped repeatedly, even giving birth to a child by her captor. Her mental state was very fragile.

Hermione was not going to risk the slightest trace of male magic around the woman until she was more stable. She knew Viktor would be hurt, possibly even angry that she had taken off her ring, but her patient's well-being took precedence.

The day had gone better than Hermione had dared hope. The woman was calmer now, and the fact that Molly Weasley had brought in the five-year-old child to see his mother had made all the difference. The sight of the child had given Hermione the key to deprogramming the mother.

When she Apparated into her front hall, Hermione found a curt note from Viktor waiting for her, with her wedding ring placed prominently on top.

'I expect a reasonable explanation for removing this. Please restore it to its rightful place before I return. V.'

She put the ring back on and went to soak in a tub scented with sandalwood, rosemary and honey. It would probably be best if she told him the truth since it was partly his fault the woman was so fragile.

The squad of Aurors Viktor led had cornered Rabastan Lestrange at his home and taken him into custody. The woman had been found during the search of the property. Viktor had, at first, assumed she was there willingly until her behaviour suggested another scenario.

When she started screaming for her child, Viktor had simply grabbed her and Disapparated to St. Mungo's. His second in command had brought the boy a few minutes later. By that time, the woman had become so hysterical that no one could calm her. The only Healers who could get close to her were women.

As she stepped out of the tub, she heard Viktor in the next room. Her one thought was, Better get this over with.

She opened the door to the bedroom and found her husband staring out the windows. Tying her robe tighter, she approached him.

"Viktor, I want to explain..."

"It is not necessary, love. Luna sent word from St. Mungo's before you got home that your patient was the woman I had brought in from the Lestrange estate. If I had known

that before, I would not have gotten upset. I am simply angry at myself for creating the situation that forced you to take off your ring. You were justified in doing so.

"I was a complete idiot when I mishandled the situation. I have never dealt well with terrified females. You don't scream and carry on, nor do you do things without a valid reason." He turned to face her and opened his arms.

"I put it back on. I promise I won't take it off again unless there are extenuating circumstances." Hermione sighed.

"There is one good thing to tell your patient when she is better. The Wizengamot decided that her child, even though illegitimate, is heir to the Lestrange fortunes. Do you think that may settle her mind a bit more?" He asked.

Hermione knew then that Viktor had used Harry's influence to force the Wizengamot to that decision as penance for terrifying the poor woman.

Apparently, chivalry was another of Viktor's endearing qualities.