

Gratitude

by HermioneWeasley1972

Hermione meets up with an unlikely person in the Leaky Cauldron.

One shot

Chapter 1 of 1

Hermione meets up with an unlikely person in the Leaky Cauldron.

Hermione sat in the Leaky Cauldron, nursing a bottle of Butterbeer. For the first time in a long time, she was alone. Ron and Harry were not with her. The war had been over for only several weeks, and the wizarding world was just getting used to the fact that they no longer had to fear Voldemort or his Death Eaters. Those who hadn't died in the war were quickly rounded up and standing trial for their evil deeds.

But although the world was safe, she couldn't help but feel that they had lost so much. Mad-Eye Moody, Remus, Tonks, Fred, and countless others had died. Sometimes she wondered how the three of them had come through the war unscathed.

She looked around at the other patrons in the pub. Most of them were still celebrating. But one other person sat alone, looking like she felt the same way that Hermione was currently feeling.

Remembering what Harry had shared with her and Ron just recently, she picked up her bottle and took it over to where Narcissa was sitting.

"May I sit down?" she asked politely.

Narcissa looked up. She did not say yes, but she didn't tell her to leave, either. Hermione took a seat across from her.

"I want to thank you for what you did for Harry," Hermione said softly.

Narcissa didn't say anything for a moment. But then, in a quiet voice replied, "He saved my Draco. You three helped him when you could have left him to die."

Hermione sighed. "We wouldn't have left him to die. It didn't matter what our feelings were for him. He is a human being."

"I could not let Harry die, either. The feelings my husband has about him are not my own. But, he has made me make them my own."

There was such sadness in her voice that Hermione found herself wondering what kind of life Narcissa Malfoy had. But Narcissa did not expound and Hermione did not ask. Feeling that Narcissa wanted to be alone, Hermione stood.

"Hermione," Narcissa said quietly, "thank you again."

"You're welcome," Hermione replied, and then made her way out of the pub. Though very few words were spoken, Hermione felt as if something had changed between her and Narcissa. It was a conversation she would never forget.

Prompt from Karelia - Hermione and Narcissa bond after the Final Battle. How does it come about?