

Glimpsed Opportunity

by Rose of the West

They shared a detention. They might share a future.

oneshot

Chapter 1 of 1

They shared a detention. They might share a future.

Disclaimer: The characters here and the world they inhabit are the creation and property of JK Rowling and her assigns.

After a particularly scornful display of contempt, Lily Evans's detention lay in cleaning up the Divination classroom before dinner. Severus joined her to help. Together they opened windows to allow fresh air into the tower room, they washed tea cups and stacked them on their shelves, they levitated cushions into a cupboard, and finally, they gathered up the crystal balls.

The room was cleared up and they took one last look around the room. The early spring twilight cast purple shadows around the room, so they lit a lamp. They saw that one of the crystal balls was lying on the floor under a corner, and both reached for it at the same time, bumping heads.

"Oh, clumsy—"

The half giggle was cut off because both were touching the ball at the same time as they looked into each other's eyes. They fell into some sort of trance or vision.

They were perhaps a decade or even a score of years older. They were alone together, kissing and touching. Their older selves shared an emotion that was foreign to their sixteen-year-old imaginations. As the passion deepened, the girl let go of the orb and the moment ended.

Lily blushed. "I'm so sorry," she said, turning away.

"Don't mention it." Severus continued to look at her intently, but she wouldn't turn back. He put the magical object away with the others and followed her down into the hallway.

For one of the two teenagers, it was just an awkward moment, a guilty pleasure that she indulged in her mind from time to time when her chosen life was boring. She never consciously admitted to herself that the image of what could have been was one she found desirable. For the other, it became the goal of his life, until all too soon it became a missed opportunity. Then for the rest of his days it was the reason no woman would ever be good enough.

A/N: Thanks to Trickle Woo for beta reading and to the lovely people at the Snape_LDWS on LJ!