

Taste is Everything

by sunny33

Snape is not happy with Dumbledore's latest choice for DADA professor.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Snape grimaced. Acid burned in his stomach as he watched Lupin circulate the room, smiling and making small talk with his new colleagues. Dumbledore beamed his approval from his armchair by the hearth, and Minerva's pride emanated from every Gryffindor pore. The prodigal son, or werewolf in this case, had returned and had been welcomed with open arms. And he was expected to brew Wolfsbane every month to protect the students from the creature.

The sigh from across the room was barely audible as a pair of sad, grey eyes watched the Potions professor turn on his heel and leave.

"Dammit, Severus, does this stuff have to taste revolting?"

"Drink it, Lupin. The taste is no concern of mine. Or would you rather I disposed of it and left you to the wolves?"

"You'd like that, wouldn't you?"

"I could see a certain poetic justice to it."

"How many times do I have to apologise? It was eighteen years ago! Do you have no forgiveness in your heart, Severus?"

"I see no need to assuage your guilt, wolf. Now, drink the bloody potion, so I can remove myself from your flea-ridden presence."

"Very well. There. Satisfied?"

"Indeed."

"Thank you, Severus."

The droplet of sweat threatened the balance of the latest modification to the potion. Stirring counterclockwise thirty-seven times every two minutes, Snape turned aside and wiped his nose with a handkerchief. After nine failed attempts, the latest brew finally promised success. Nevertheless, he would have denied the upward quirk of his lips had anyone been present to witness such an aberration.

Two hours later, Snape decanted the steaming, fragrant brew into a goblet and left his private dungeon laboratory.

Two hours and ten minutes later, Remus Lupin placed the empty goblet onto his desk and smiled at Snape's departing back.

A/N: Written for week one of the Snupin_idws on LiveJournal.

The prompt was: Snape and Lupin as colleagues.

Compulsory word: assuage