

Beltane Fires

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The end of April, between the second and third tasks of the Triwizard Tournament, was approaching rapidly. Viktor wanted to do something special on Beltane and thought the old gypsy custom of Beltane fires and dancing might be nice. Then he remembered what else went with the Beltane fires.

The night was nearly moonless as Viktor and his classmates built the bonfire. They had created a fire-block around the actual bonfire so it would not spread. No one knew what was in Viktor's mind that night.

The music and the dancing were winding down when Viktor took Hermione's hand in his and said, "Will you jump the bonfire with me? It's said to be a way to tell if you are soulmates. Please?"

Hermione looked into those soulful dark eyes and knew this was the man she would eventually marry. "Yes, Viktor. If you wish it, then yes."

She took his hand, and they approached the bonfire as the rest of the students and teachers were leaving.

Only Igor Karkaroff and Severus Snape were left, talking in the shadows of the trees. When Igor saw what was about to happen, he called out to stop.

Snape saw and realised that the Granger girl was about to become the bride of Viktor Krum by way of very old magical traditions. He knew Igor could not stop them in time, so he sent an extra burst of magic to take the two lovers safely over the flames.

As soon as they landed on the other side of the fire, Hermione realised what had happened because she now had a band around her wrist that matched the one around Viktor's wrist.

Karkaroff was furious, but Snape calmed him down by saying, "There is naught you can do; the boy knew what he was doing. She will be safer this way. If the Dark Lord is truly going to return, she will need all the protection he can provide. Think, Igor, don't react, think. He made the choice. He is old enough and he loves her. Even I have seen that. She loves him as well. They are ideally suited, their magic meshes quite well."

So nothing was said until after the Battle of Hogwarts when Viktor came to collect his bride.

Harry had known something had changed back in fourth year, but not what. Viktor took Hermione to Harry and asked for Harry's blessing, which was given at once.

Ron Weasley never quite recovered from the shock and married Lavender Brown a year later.

Rose of the West's prompt was :The Hogwarts students are amazed at the way one of the visiting schools celebrates Beltane...