

The Coffee Crusade or How to Find the Perfect Man

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Having introduced both Ron and Draco to coffee after the Battle of Hogwarts, Hermione thought it was completely within character for them to build the search for the perfect cup of coffee into an exercise in one-upmanship.

She watched the two, who were enemies once upon a time, become friends whose investigations into coffee bars were becoming legendary.

Draco said a particular barista drew the best espresso and Ron countered with comments about which roast was the best for the beans.

In the interest of expediency, Hermione had convinced each of them to get a cell phone and service. She would regret that decision. Frequently, as she and Ron were about to go on a date, his phone rang. It was always Draco, bragging he had found the 'perfect' cup of coffee. Ron immediately forgot about the date and rushed to whatever new coffee bar Draco had found.

After it happened for the eleventh time, Hermione decided she'd had enough. She went to dinner with Harry, Ginny, Luna, and Neville.

Harry, having a hunch what had happened, asked, "Did Draco call Ron with a new place for coffee?"

Ginny rolled her eyes as Hermione answered. "Yes. I've had it. Ron is history. Draco actually said Snape had recommended the new place. If I ever talk to any of those three again, please have me committed to St. Mungo's mental ward."

Neville spoke up, "We sort of thought you might be feeling like that, so we invited an old friend of yours to join us."

Luna answered her cell phone and told the person at the other end to come join them for dinner.

Five minutes later, the restaurant door opened to admit a tall, muscular, dark-haired young man who made straight for their table.

"Good evening, everyone; thank you for inviting me. Hello, Hermione, long time no see."

"Hello, Viktor, I sincerely hope you aren't on a crusade to find the perfect cup of coffee."

"Why should I be? Turkish coffee is what I have always drunk, and it is just the way I like it."

"Thank Merlin, a sane man at last."

"I'm sorry Veasley has made the quest for a perfect cup of coffee more important than you. He is a fool. A woman such as you should be cherished and courted with gallantry."

"I think you're the only man who knows the definition of gallantry, Viktor. But that is a sweet thought."

"Hermione, now I feel honour bound to show you the old-world style of courting. Will you allow this?"

"It certainly might be fun to take the mickey out of Ron. Yes, please, show me. You were always my knight in shining armour."

"I am that and more. I will be the one who convinces you that you are the most important woman in the world. Veasley's loss will be my gain."

"Why don't we go have some Turkish coffee, Viktor?"

Prompt: A determined search for the perfect cup of coffee leads to an even more satisfying discovery.