

The Red-Head Blues

by blue artemis

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Hermione was thrilled. She had gotten permission from the American Congress of Magic to do some research on the plants native to the area around Yosemite National Park. She had been in the fall, when the waterfalls were spectacular and had requested to return in the spring. She had all the information she needed to make a better Wolfsbane, but she really wanted to see the dogwoods in flower. She had been told they were spectacular.

One fine May morning, she wandered the park, stopping to look at dogwood flowers that were bigger than her hands. She photographed them, delighted she had managed to return. There was just something about the peace of the valley, with deer in the meadow below El Capitan. She could see why John Muir was so enamored of the place. She sat down to contemplate nature when she heard some slightly discordant guitar music start up.

A beautiful, haunting, raspy voice began to sing about dual natures and betrayal. She was struck by the rawness of the words and the music as well as by the voice. It sounded like it had been through the wars, and it was vaguely familiar. *It can't be!*

Hermione got up and crashed through the brush into the next section of meadow, as graceful as a bear tearing apart an SUV. The singer stopped, his blues song lost to the wind, and looked up at the witch. She braced herself, ready to be berated, surprised beyond anything to see Severus Snape seated cross-legged on the ground, playing an old, beat-up guitar, wearing frayed, faded jeans and a black henley long-sleeved shirt and... *Oh, my. He has sexy feet!*

"Stop gawking, Miss Granger. You may sit and listen, or you may leave, but your staring is disrupting the creative process," Snape stated.

She took a deep breath, gathered her thoughts and sat at his feet. After his heartfelt song about betrayal finished, he looked at her expectantly.

"Have you written any about faithless gingers?" she asked.

Prompt from karelia: Snape, Blues, a meadow.

And I thank her for doing the beta work as well!