

Family Business

by sunny33

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Chapter 1 of 1

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"Well, who have we here?" Rodolphus Lestrage circled the two disarmed and bound Aurors. "If it isn't dear cousin Frank. How's my beloved Auntie Augusta?" He spat on the dirty floor. "What shall we do with them, brother?"

Rabastan sneered. "Personally, I'd love to see them dead. Perhaps our aunt would appreciate how traumatic it is to lose a loved one then." His laugh chilled the air between them as he watched Frank Longbottom's puzzled expression. "See, our poor, innocent cousin has no idea what his mother did, has he?"

He jabbed at Frank with the tip of his wand, forcing the younger man's chin up. "Didn't you know what a bitch your mother was, cuz? And to her own sister. Tut, tut. Families really should share these things."

"What's he talking about?" Alice's words were barely audible with Bellatrix's arm encircling her throat.

"Our mother. Augusta's sister." Rodolphus paused, standing in front of Alice and nodding to his wife, who tightened her hold. "Enough of this chit-chat. Where is our Lord?"

"I... I... don't know." Alice shook her head. "Why would we know?"

"Don't listen to her. She's a filthy, lying blood traitor. Let me play with them, boys. I'm sure a little encouragement will loosen their tongues." Bella's eyes shone with the madness already germinating within. "What say you to a little game of Truth or Dare, Longbottom?" Raising her wand to the blood lust of her lips, she blew the travesty of a kiss towards Frank.

"Not yet, Bella. They're *ours*. This is family business." Cold hatred pierced the air with Rabastan's first *Crucio*.

Alice's screams were echoed by her husband as he struggled against his bindings. "Stop! She knows nothing!"

"Your mother knew, but she *did* nothing! *Crucio!*"

"Knew what?"

"Knew her sister was raped daily by her husband. *Crucio!* Knew she was desperate. *Crucio!* Knew she could have helped!" Rodolphus screamed years of bitterness at Frank. "Knew and did *nothing!* *Crucio!*"

Frank looked up as the muscle spasms slowed, electricity still coursing through every nerve ending. Between sobs of agony, he breathed a question. "Why?"

"Why?" Rodolphus's low growl was unholy. "Why? Because she never forgave her sister for marrying a Lestrage. That grudge cost us her life and left us at the mercy of

the evil bastard we called Father.”

Sobbing himself, Rabastan Lestrangle lowered his wand. “Enough, brother. It won’t bring her back. They know nothing. Let’s leave this scum for their pathetic Order to find, if they can. I need a drink.”

Rodolphus nodded, the weight of grief on his chest rendering him suddenly mute.

Without a backward glance, the brothers Disapparated.

“Thank Merlin, they’re gone. Alice, love, talk to me.” Uncurling muscle by cramped muscle, Frank edged over toward his wife.

“I’m... okay. A few Crucios can’t beat me,” she rasped. “Frank—” Eyes widening, Alice stared at something behind him. “No... no no, please, no...”

A deranged cackle shattered the silence.

“Playtime! *CRUCIO!*”

A/N: Barty Crouch Jnr was also present in canon, but let’s pretend he was the lookout. Thanks to my beta, Ms??.

Prompt: Inability to let go of a grudge costs one family dearly.