

Fading

by *ader_snape*

Severus is haunted by a memory. Will she be able to save him?

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 of 4

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Fading: Chapter 1

A/N: Rowling is the genius behind the characters and any recognizable material in this story, not me. I just get to rearrange them for a bit. This story is canon through most of DH, but with a slightly different ending. Reviews, good or bad, always welcomed.

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She wasn't a ghost. She lacked the pearly colorlessness of a spirit trapped between the world of the living and the world of the dead. But nor was she real, alive. Severus was never sure how to describe her; not that he described her to anyone but himself.

She oftentimes perched herself on his desk; simply watching him and silently sharing time with him as he marked essays and tested his under-competent students' potion samples from class. But then there were the times she spoke to him. Sometimes, their conversations held nothing of real value; just passing time together as friends, or whatever their relationship could be determined as. Other times, she insisted upon talking about her son, the bane of his existence, going on about how proud she was of him and how thankful she was for Severus' protection of him. It made him smile to know she appreciated him.

Lily was the only good inside of him left.

This night in particular, she stood in front of the Headmaster's desk.

"You can't let the Carrows punish them, Severus. They are standing firm in the belief that Voldemort is wrong. You can't destroy them for it." Lily stood with both of her hands resting on the desk. Her voice was not filled with anger, but with quiet pleading. Severus put his head in his hands.

"But surely you do not think I can simply allow them to get away with breaking into my office and attempting to steal a school artifact," he sneered, with more venom than he intended. "That would cause suspicion! If I were to be found out, the idiot children would have much worse to deal with than Amycus and Alecto Carrow!" Severus took a deep breath. Damn Dumbledore for leaving him with the promise of protecting the students while leaving his true loyalties secret. It was near impossible.

But she was at his side.

"Send them into the Forbidden Forest with Hagrid. The Forest has always served as punishment before and you and I both know Hagrid would rather die than let anything happen to the students."

Severus sighed. He knew she was right. She was always right. He took the quill from the inkwell and began scribbling the details of their detentions on the parchment in front of him. As soon as his signature was completed at the bottom, the parchment disappeared with pop.

