

Something Better

by HBAR

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Draco paced the floor. The room was comprised of himself and one other fellow whom he had just met; he wasn't even sure of his name. Draco had been worried about this meeting for weeks, but it was inevitable, and he hoped that once it happened, he would be able to relax.

You can do this. Just start talking and something will come to you.

"Hello. My name is Draco Malfoy." He extended his hand, startling his companion.

Shite, he's scared of me. I knew this wouldn't work out.

"Once upon a time, it was expected that you would fear a Malfoy. Now ... " He shrugged his shoulders. "Astoria says that you two have become close, and I'm not sure how I feel about that."

The room's other occupant began to protest, but Draco raised his voice. "I'm not saying that you two shouldn't spend time together. It's just that she belongs to me, yet here we are at the moment of truth, and I can't help feeling that if she were forced to choose, she'd take you home with her instead of me."

There was only deafening silence.

"I don't want to lose her," Draco whispered and turned away as his voice cracked. "You must understand that I've loved her for a very long time; then you come blazing in and sweep her off her feet."

His anger mounted, and he stormed across the room to stand looming over his new rival. "You've turned our whole world upside down! Are you happy?" he shouted.

Why is he crying? I'm the one whose life is ruined while he gets to live happily ever after.

The door opened and a nurse poked her head inside. "Everything all right in here, Daddy?"

"We're fine!" he barked, then added, "Thank you."

Draco sighed, resigned to his fate. He reached out to pick up his son, and the baby grabbed his finger. When he tried to reclaim his hand, the baby smiled at him. Draco had heard that newborns couldn't smile, but he'd be damned if he hadn't just seen it for himself. In an instant, the ice around Draco's heart shattered. "Just gas, my arse. That was a real smile. You have the Malfoy intelligence *and* charm."

He beamed at his son.

"About your mother ... let's call that water under the bridge, shall we?"

Draco noticed his new friend's eyelids were drooping, and he rubbed circles on his tummy to help him into slumber. "When I was little, my father taught me what it means to be a Malfoy, and I'm going to do the same for you."

The baby's eyes popped open, then fell closed just as quickly. He lowered his voice. "Except it means something different now." Draco smiled. "Something better." He kissed his son's forehead, then closed his eyes and began to daydream about their new life as a family.

A/N: Guess what? I have a fantastic beta!

Prompt: The first baby steps of a new relationship.