

The Language of Gift Giving

by Pearle

Written for the grangersnape100 Secret Santa Challenge. Seven 100 word drabbles.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Annoyed, Severus threw the slip of parchment on his desk and sat down with a sigh. How could Minerva do this to him? It was bad enough that he had to buy Hermione a Christmas gift, something that said 'I-care-about-you-and-truly-believe-we-have-a-future-together-but-I-have-no-idea-how-to-proceed-with-this-relationship-without-royally-cocking-it-up.'

Now he was her Secret Santa, too. Not only did he have to buy her something personal, but now he had to buy her a second gift that she was going to open in front of the entire staff.

The first wedding-anniversary was paper, what do you give someone you've been seeing for six months?

A book?

An engagement ring?

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He slid his center drawer open and eyed the ring box nestled there. One thing he was sure of, it was too early to propose. Probably.

Would she even say yes? It really was too soon, wasn't it?

Was she his Secret Santa, too? Was this fate just having another laugh at him? Things had been going along so well between the two of them, and now this. Maybe he was over reacting.

The door opening interrupted his thoughts. Hastily he grabbed the slip of parchment before Hermione saw it and abruptly closed his desk drawer as she walked in.

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"From the looks of that scowl, I'd say you've had a bad day." Hermione rounded the desk to hug and greet Severus properly, his moods no longer keeping her at bay now that they were seeing one another.

Hermione's gentle laugh warmed the dour man. "No, not mine, but it's a fun tradition. And besides, the limit is only three galleons. Who do you have? I'll help you shop for them."

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If she was willing to tell him whom she picked, than it couldn't be him, Severus reasoned. "Would you like me to explain how a Secret Santa is conducted?"

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Pulling back, he eyed the witch appraisingly. "I will, however, allow you to give me suggestions for gifts for both a man and a woman. Are you up to the task?"

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Actually, the list was quite helpful. If it were him, he wouldn't mind receiving any of the items she mentioned. "Did you buy something you mentioned for your recipient?"

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“Matching tartan scarf and gloves.”

"So, Minerva it is."

"Oh, I gave it away. Alright," With a quick kiss to his lips, Hermione shimmied off Severus' lap. "Let's go. You promised to take me to that new restaurant in Hogsmeade."

"Bewitched, who came up with that name?"

Hermione shrugged. "I've heard the food is great."

Severus took a last longing look at his center drawer. Definitely too soon to propose, but he was sure the right time would present itself to him.

Maybe sometime soon.

He held the door open for his witch. "After you."

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Author Note: The conversion rate of galleons to dollars is 1 galleons to \$10.07 dollar. Therefore, 3 galleons converts to \$30.27 American or 15 pounds English, which has a ratio of 5 galleons to 1 pound.

A bit of fluff for the coming season.