

Hermione's New Career

by kbauman24601

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Chapter 1 of 1

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I saw the challenge and it was very intriguing.

Severus Snape had spent a very long and very trying day, teaching Potions to the dunderheads that called themselves his students. All he wanted was to go to his quiet quarters, have a stiff drink of firewhisky and possibly snog his wife of two years, Hermione. He realized that this was probably not going to happen, as the morning had not gotten off to a good start.

Hermione woke up and leaned over to kiss her sleeping husband good morning. She was full of energy and ready to start planning what she wanted to do with her life. She had finally married Severus five years after graduating Hogwarts. They had become good friends and over time, had eventually fallen in love. This meant that they had a happy marriage, but they did manage to have at least one good row every other week and one very good "discussion" about once a week.

Growing up, Hermione had always assumed that she would graduate from Hogwarts at the top of her class; attend university; become the leading expert in whichever field she so desired and possibly get married at some point in the future. After marriage, all her plans fell to the wayside. Severus continued teaching at Hogwarts and refused to quit.

It wasn't that they needed the money because over the years he had made some very good investments and received royalties from books he had written about Dark Magic. Occasionally, he was commissioned by the Ministry to aid with the capturing of the few loose Death Eaters and the neutralizing of Dark Magic items. He told Hermione that he would continue teaching as he enjoyed making students miserable while trying to cram information into the little dunderheads. Hermione tried talking, arguing and fighting with him, but he refused to budge from his position. Finally, Hermione had rolled her eyes and decided that since she wasn't going to be getting a higher education, she would start a family.

She met with a lot of resistance to this as well, because at first, Severus refused to consider having children. Being Hermione, she prepared her case well and kept arguing it until he finally admitted defeat. A year later, she had not yet conceived, so she decided that until she got pregnant, she needed something productive to do. Thus, this morning she had broached the subject of her possibly getting a job.

"Severus, darling... I can see that you are not sleeping," she whispered into his ear. She took a strand of her unruly hair and tickled his shoulder blade. He flinched but did not open his eyes. She smiled and continued to tickle him with her hair. She started at his neck and slowly made her way down his back. By the time she had reached the base of his spine, he growled and rolled over. Hermione squealed as he grasped her waist and settled her astride his groin. Her eyes dilated as she felt him buried deep inside. Together, they started moving in the age-old rhythm, culminating in shared orgasms.

"Good morning, Hermione. Did you need to say something," Severus asked as they lay entwined.

"Mmmm, yes... I am starving," she giggled.

As he was hungry too, they both grabbed their robes and went into the parlor for tea, toast and fruit. Since they were married, he rarely ate breakfast in the Great Hall unless his help was required to supervise the students. Hermione let him enjoy his first cup of tea and read the front page of the newspaper before she spoke. "Severus, I know that we agreed that I would not work once we start having children. Since currently we do not have any and none seem to be on their way, I was thinking that I should get a job."

He looked over the top of his paper, "Pardon?"

"Well, I can't just sit here all day with nothing to do. I am bored," she said.

"Why? You have friends you could visit, and I let you grade the student's papers," he said.

"Really, would you be happy doing that day after day? I can only visit Ginny, Harry and Ron so many times before they start making comments about my marriage. It only takes me a couple of hours to grade your essays. I am serious. See, I have started a list of possible jobs," she said as she pulled out a piece of parchment from a nearby book.

Severus looked up again and blinked. Her list was about a foot long. He held out his hand and looked it over. "Hermione, love... you cannot get a job at Hogwarts as there are no vacancies. You cannot go to the university because I can't pack up and move to a Muggle residence due to **my** job at Hogwarts. I won't let you work for the Ministry because... well... it is the Ministry. We don't need any extra income from you owning your own shop. You don't have an advanced degree, so having an apothecary is out of the question. Why don't you find a nice little hobby like botany?" he asked as he poured himself some more tea. The dead silence caused him to look up and instantly regret saying anything at all.

Hermione felt her mouth open and close a couple of times. Finally, her brain deciphered what he had said. "**A hobby?**" she shouted. "I will give you a hobby! You are the most conceited Neanderthal I have ever had the displeasure of being married to! I will think of something to do and **you** can't stop me!" She got up, grabbed her cup of tea and stormed into the bedroom, slamming the door behind her.

I am the only man she has been married to he grumbled to himself. *I guess she can do what she wants* she thought as he finished breakfast. By the time he left for class, he barely remembered that she was mad at him.

When he returned to his rooms after class, he remembered vividly that she was mad at him. His usual glass of firewhisky was waiting by his favorite chair. The room was warm and cozy due to the fire crackling in the hearth. In fact, it was peaceful and quiet. Too quiet, Severus thought, nervously. "Hermione?" he called. When there was no answer, he opened the door to the bedroom and study, but she was nowhere to be found. There was no note informing him of her whereabouts. He shrugged and settled down into his chair to wait for her.

An hour later, he saw the flames of the fire turn green. Hermione stepped out and shook the soot off of herself. "Severus! I am so glad you are home!" she exclaimed.

He raised his eyebrow. He could have sworn that she would have remained furious with him.

"Oh, don't worry. I will make you pay for your insensitive comments this morning, but just wait until you hear what I have accomplished!"

He groaned, this just did not sound good. He looked at the piece of paper she held out to him. Read it. Blink. Looked at her smiling face. Looked down and read it again. There in fine print and legalese basically was:

Mrs. Hermione Snape is allowed to own and operate a Diaper Delivery Service to the citizens of Hogsmeade and the surrounding area. This license is good for one year following the date signed. Mrs. Snape has agreed to abide by the laws and rules of the governing board and should she fail to do so, this license will become null and void.

"You are going to be a WHAT?" he bellowed.

"Well, if you had read that closely, you would know. I am going to be the owner of a diaper delivery service," she answered calmly.

"Over my dead body! It is bad enough that I am going to have to put up with those when we finally have a baby of our own. I absolutely refuse to tolerate that stench anytime before that happens!" Severus raged. He could not believe that she would choose a career before consulting him. He had never imagined that Hermione would do this without his approval.

"Oh, Severus!" she said exasperatedly. "You are not going to have to **smell** anything. The diapers will be delivered in bags that I will have spelled to neutralize odors," she answered, grinning madly. If she had known it would upset him so much, she would have done this much sooner.

"Hermione, nobody is going to pay to have their diapers cleaned. That is why people have house-elves," he commented dryly.

"Severus, not everybody is rich enough to have one. Some people also believe that it is inhumane to own another body," she said. Under her breath, she muttered, "Except for marriage."

"I heard that," he snapped. "Fine, if you think you can do this, try. But I will bet you that you won't last a full year."

"Fine. What do you want to bet?"

"If I win, I get to name our first born," he sneered.

Hermione stopped to think. She knew she could make it a success, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to gamble with something this important. She also thought that the naming of a child should be decided by both parents.

"See! Even you know it is a bad idea," he gloated.

She narrowed her eyes. "I agree!" she said as they shook hands. Although, she ground her teeth in frustration when he pulled out a quill and parchment and made her sign a formal agreement.

A Year Later:

Hermione gave one last push as Severus stood proudly by her head. He had wanted nothing to do with what was going on below the sheet. Poppy looked at the exhausted mother and the happy father and asked, "Have you chosen any names?"

They looked at each other and started laughing. Hermione said, "The girl's name I picked out is Celeste Jane Snape." Poppy just smiled and wrote the name down on the birth certificate.

Severus said, "The boy's name I selected is Julian Severn Snape." Poppy got another certificate and dutifully copied the name.

Smiling, she wrapped the certificates with golden Ministry cords, and they disappeared to be filed at the Ministry of Magic. She kissed the newborn Snape twins and quietly left the room.

"Well, it is a good thing we had twins. That way we both got to name them," Hermione said as she looked at her babies. "I am happy to know that my business is thriving under Harry and Ginny's management."

"I think they are just hoping that Ginny gets pregnant right away like you did. Then Harry can hand off the business to someone else," he commented dryly.

Hermione's business not only survived a year, but also expanded to the point where she had to hire more help. In this sense, she had won the bet. However, she had conceived shortly after the venture started, and complications with the twins had landed her on bed rest for the last month of her pregnancy, just two months before the year was up. Since she was unable to be at the office and Poppy had refused to let her do any work from bed, she had transferred the business to Harry and Ginny. Thus, Severus was perpetually gloating about winning the bet.

"Well, I wish them the best of luck," Hermione said. "I just can't wait to start a new business when the twins are older and have started school."

Severus looked at her in shock. "Then I guess I will have to find other things you can help me with so that you won't have that much free time," he said. "I am glad that I have eleven years to think of something." They laughed together and settled in to become acquainted with the two newest additions to the family.

Author's Notes:

Here are the rules!

"You're going to be a WHAT?!?" Challenge by: av_n7

Obviously (or maybe not?) this challenge deals with Hermione's choice of career.. it SHOULD be either shocking or unexpected or really original..

She can/should/must NOT :

1. become Snape's, McGonagall's, or Poppy's or Flitwick's or any other Hogwarts professors' apprentice! (perhaps only Trelawney's allowed);
2. study under other professors or masters to become a Potions/Charms and etc mistress;
3. continue with her studies in some sort of wizarding uni-ty or even muggle one only to return to become a teacher;
4. become a mediwitch, no matter if she decided to stay at Hogwarts to help Poppy or work as St. Mungo's;
5. return to Hogwarts as a librarian;
6. open her own apothecary or book shop;
7. become an Auror;
8. devote her time to any academic research;
9. be a Ministry employee;
10. become an Unspeakable.

She may:

1. return to Hogwarts ONLY either as a Divination Professor or to take Filch's place as a caretaker (and only in case of becoming a Squib due to some hex).. Crooks taking Mrs. Norris's place is a must!;
 2. become a photo model for PlayWizard or any other magazines;
 3. be the reason for Rita Skitter's dismissal only to take her place as a star journalist of Daily Prophet OR to become a publisher on her own paper in the Wizarding World;
 4. get frustrated with Weird Sisters and have a career as a musician/singer;
 5. turn into a fiction writer (non-fiction is NOT allowed);
 6. open her own café or restaurant;
 7. join Charlie to take care of the dragons together.. some extra points for getting Severus jealous ;).
- and finally YOU can choose her profession yourself, but remember if

SHOULD be one or two of the following:

- a. original
- b. shocking
- c. unexpected
- d. ridiculous
- e. absurd
- f. hilarious
- g. non-cliché!

Good Luck!

The story can be devoted to the topic of employment or it can be mentioned in one paragraph. It can take place BEFORE Hermione's working days or right in the MIDDLE. How this or that choice of career helps her to find love in one Potion Master's arms is up to the author.

One of the following phrases should be used in the story:

- You are going to be a WHAT?!?
- You've become a WHAT?!?

A million thanks to my poor put-upon beta, Tinnidawg! I know, I am supposed to be working on Happily Ever After, but I saw this challenge and just had to write a quick response. Hope you enjoy this. I promise to continue working on my other story!