## **Brittle**

by Anastasia

Response to the "Runaway" challenge on the grangersnape100 LJ community.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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AN: A response to the "Runaway" challenge in the grangersnape100 LJ community. Thanks, as usual, to Ariadne AWS for beta, encouragement and good friendship. She stared into near darkness, her hand gripping a brittle doorway.

"Severus..."

The desolate whisper of a robe's hem across stone.

A dismal fire flared, bleeding somber warmth into the room.

Hermione nervously pulled at a wooden strand, twisting it until it was free.

"They're coming. We've got to go."

Her words drifted, a cold sound in the air.

The sound of wool catching on wood. "We?"

Her voice was strained, a near silent prayer, "Yes. Now."

His warm breath felt like home against her throat. The touch of his hand a reserved confirmation.

"I thought you had forgotten."

"Never."