

One Who Is Loved

by Soul Bound

A series of 100 word snapshots, telling the story of Severus and Hermione's daughter from their points of view.

Give Her A Name

Chapter 1 of 40

A series of 100 word snapshots, telling the story of Severus and Hermione's daughter from their points of view.

This is a self-indulgent bit of fluff. You've been warned. Also, all mistakes are my own.

Hermione watched her husband cradle their newborn child in pleasant exhaustion. The expression on the face of the man she loved was one of adoring fascination. It made her love him even more.

"She's not going anywhere, my love," Hermione whispered.

"I know," Severus replied lightly without taking his eyes from his daughter. "She's perfect, Hermione. She's... and she came from us. We created perfection."

Hermione placed a light hand on her husband's arm and smiled.

"Give her a name, beloved," she said. Hermione watched as Severus' eyes smiled lovingly at their creation.

"Amanda," he finally whispered. "One who is loved."

I'll give you three guesses as to what my given name is, but you're only going to need one. ;)

I love reviews.

Small Favours

Chapter 2 of 40

Comparing physical attributes, father to daughter.

"You are one month old today, Amanda," crooned Hermione to her daughter, reaching out to smooth the baby's soft but abundant black curls.

"She has your eyes," Hermione added to her husband.

"Hmm, yes," he said after a yawn. "But not my nose."

"Thank Merlin for small favours," Hermione mocked with a playful grin.

Severus narrowed his eyes and glared, but the corners of his mouth twitching upward gave him away.

"Careful, my wife, I'll owe you for that one."

Hermione beamed. "I'm counting on it. But now it's time for bed for this little piece of work, my dear."

I still love reviews. :)

Show Daddy

Chapter 3 of 40

Amanda takes her first steps.

"Severus, you're home!" exclaimed Hermione, sitting on the hearthrug.

"I am," he replied, as he shrugged off his outer robe and hung it over the edge of their living room sofa.

"Guess what Amanda did today," she said, grinning.

"Created a cure for lycanthropy?" he asked.

"Close, but no."

Severus smirked and arched a quizzical eyebrow.

"Amanda, show Daddy what you can do," Hermione commanded.

The child looked up at the sound of her name, but otherwise remained stationary.

Hermione crawled over to her and helped her to her feet. "Walk to Daddy!"

The child did just that.

Severus smiled.

First Word?

Chapter 4 of 40

Well, at least it wasn't 'Snape.'

"Severus, can you please get Amanda's bib on her and come in here..." Hermione called from the kitchen.

"Mhmm," he murmured, setting his book down. He glanced at his daughter, who was babbling away happily on the carpet, but not saying anything decipherable. Until...

"Sevus!"

Severus' eyebrows shot up. "What did you say?"

"Sevus!" she chirped again. "Sevus Sevus Sevus!"

He narrowed his eyes and shook his head, grinning.

Perfect. Not 'Dadda' or 'Mumma...' **'Sevus.'**

"Come with me, baby girl," he said, scooping her up and walking to the kitchen. "Hermione--!"

"Yes?"

"Sevus!"

Hermione threw back her head and laughed.

Holiday

Chapter 5 of 40

Amanda learns a new phrase.

They'd at least passed the stage where more of Amanda's food ended up on Hermione than in the girl's mouth, let alone stomach, but taking a two year old on holiday with them was not without its rough patches. Still, it had its rewards.

From the moment Severus had told Amanda they'd all be taking a "bus to the beach," the phrase had become her personal mantra for happiness.

"Bus to da beach! Bus to da beach!"

Far from being annoyed, Severus seemed to enjoy provoking her.

"Amanda, where are we going today?"

"Bus to da beach!"

He smiled proudly.

His Baby Girl

Chapter 6 of 40

A moment of reflection in the night.

Hermione drifted awake to the feel of Severus rolling out of bed. Listening more closely, she could hear their toddler crying in the next room. Another nightmare. After a moment, she could hear Severus' soft voice comforting Amanda. Her sobs quieted immediately, and Hermione smiled.

It was amazing. She'd known Severus would do his best to be a good father, but she'd never seen a child take to a parent like her daughter had taken to Severus, from day one – and likewise.

That man loved his baby girl, and Hermione pitied the poor fool who tried to come between them.

Questions

Chapter 7 of 40

The inquisitive mind of a four-year-old at work.

"Will you tell me a story?"

"Of course I will," Severus said, scooping his four-year-old up and depositing her in her bed. He and Hermione took turns, and tonight was his night. "What would you like to hear?"

Amanda seemed to deliberate for a moment. "A princess story."

Severus gave a long-suffering sigh. "Once upon a—"

"Daddy?" she interrupted. "Why do you always start that way?"

"Because that's how one should always begin when telling a fairy tale."

"Oh."

"May I continue?"

She nodded.

"As I was saying, once up—"

"Daddy?"

Severus sighed. That girl and her *questions*.

Indelicate Designs

Chapter 8 of 40

Severus notices something amiss.

"He's *looking* at her again," Severus hissed.

"Who's looking at whom?" Hermione asked, looking up from her place on the Potters' sofa. It was Harry's oldest son's birthday party, and Severus was there under duress.

"That *Potter* idiot is looking at my daughter."

Hermione followed his gaze and choked back laughter when she realized what he meant.

"Severus, James Potter is seven years old. I sincerely doubt he has any indelicate designs on Amanda. Especially considering she's *five*," Hermione assured her husband.

"I don't like it," Severus said petulantly and added a 'humph' for good measure.

Hermione rolled her eyes.

Puzzle

Chapter 9 of 40

Just a typical night.

A sleepy six year old climbed into her mother's lap, suckling her thumb.

"Amanda, you're a big girl now," Hermione said, gently removing the offending digit from the girl's mouth. "Much too big to be sucking your thumb."

Amanda pouted. "Humph. Daddy won't let me *either*."

Severus, who had been feigning disinterest, ignoring the exchange but for a slight twitching of his mouth, confirmed this. "I should say not," he asserted, turning a page. "We don't want to ruin that beautiful smile, now, do we?"

"No, Daddy... Daddy?"

"Hmm?"

"Can we do a puzzle?"

"It's bedtime, love. Tomorrow?"

"Okay!"

“Okay.”

Fears

Chapter 10 of 40

A moment of fear.

“Amanda, what’s wrong?”

His daughter’s lip was trembling pitifully as Severus put his arm around her gently.

“Did something happen today at the Potters?” His voice grew dangerously soft.

“James told me that his daddy doesn’t have a daddy and mummy because they died when uncle Harry was still little like me.”

Ah.

He pulled her into his lap and cradled her against him. “Does that make you afraid?”

She nodded. “I don’t want you and Mummy to die, ever,” she sobbed.

“Shh... shh. We’re not going to die,” he soothed.

“Promise?”

“Promise.”

Her distraught little sobs broke his heart.

I think every child has this moment of fear, of realizing that their parents are mortal.

Time Alone

Chapter 11 of 40

Parents take a time-out.

Hermione wrapped her arms around her husband and kissed him. Time alone, while not exactly rare, was still appreciated.

“Do you ever wish we’d had more than one?” he whispered to her.

Hermione chuckled, unbuttoning Severus’ shirt.

“Sometimes,” she replied. “But usually, she’s more than enough.”

“Quite,” he agreed, undressing her in kind. “And conveniently with the Potters overnight, I might add.” He grinned suggestively and Hermione chuckled against his lips. “Although, I can’t say I approve how much time she spends with that Ja-”

“Severus.”

“What?”

“Shut up.”

She proceeded to shut him up.

He didn’t seem to mind.

Growing Up

Chapter 12 of 40

Severus has a moment of realization.

Severus had to take a trip to Diagon Alley to see about a late shipment of ingredients, and Hermione had suggested he take Amanda with him.

He didn't mind taking her. She was very well behaved in public, if a bit unbridled in her enthusiasm. But Severus loved that about her.

It was as she was putting her shoes on that it happened.

"Do you need me to help you tie your hair back?"

"No, I can do it."

She'd always asked for help. It was such a small thing, but it hit Severus hard.

His baby was growing up.

Pink

Chapter 13 of 40

An accident in the lab.

"Daddy, look what I can do!" Severus' eight-year-old daughter squealed.

"Amanda, what have I told you about being in my lab while I'm working?" Severus muttered distractedly, not even sparing her a glance. He was inspecting a new shipment of powdered Bicorn under a magnifying glass. It looked a bit off-colour...

"But, Dad, watch me! I can do magic now!" she insisted.

"That's splendid..." Severus mumbled, not really hearing her.

"I'll bet I can make your powder change colours!"

"What... you can?" And then her words registered. "AMANDA, NO!"

Too late...

Severus' hair was pink for a week.

Author's Notes - Now, I'm not exactly sure what possessed me to write this one, or how she could possibly have turned his hair pink, or why he wouldn't have been able to turn it back immediately... My only explanation is that I'm taking some *serious* literary license.

Go with it.

Eager To Learn

Chapter 14 of 40

Severus begins to teach Amanda his art.

"Now what?" Amanda asked her father.

She'd been asking him for years to teach her about potions. Now, at age nine, he felt comfortable doing so.

"You've added the porcupine quills?"

"Yep!"

"Read the instructions and tell me what comes next."

"I take the cauldron off the fire, then add the nettles?"

Severus nodded.

"How will I know if it's right?"

"The potion should turn white after twelve stirs."

She focused, biting her bottom lip in concentration, like Hermione. When the potion turned white, her eyes lit up with delight. "I can't wait until I go to Hogwarts!"

Severus could.

Bonus

Chapter 15 of 40

Severus kills two birds with one stone.

"Minerva's been after me for years about it," Severus grumbled. "I don't know why you're making such a big deal over me finally caving to her wishes."

Severus had finally agreed, after a fourteen-year sabbatical, to resume his position teaching Potions at Hogwarts, the following fall. He had absolutely no idea what Hermione was about, insinuating his decision had anything to do with his daughter starting school at the same time... none at all!

He'd simply been in research long enough. It was time for a change. If not having to be separated from his baby girl was a bonus...

Saw That One Coming

Chapter 16 of 40

Amanda is sorted and Severus reacts. *Chapter titled in honor of those who quite literally 'saw this one coming.*

"Snape, Amanda!"

The Snapes watched from the staff table as their daughter rushed forward and shoved the hat onto her head excitedly.

"GRYFFINDOR!"

"You cannot be serious."

Hermione snorted. "Don't tell me you didn't see this coming, Severus."

"Well, I--" he sputtered. "I suppose she has always been a bit... reckless," he said, remembering his pink hair.

Hermione rolled her eyes. "Know what I think?"

"I'm certain you're going to tell me."

"I think you just don't like the idea of her being in the same tower as James Potter."

"Don't be ridiculous, Hermione. Why would I... HE'S HUGGING HER!"

Silly Author's Note: To all those who knew that she would be sorted into Gryffindor, and knew that Severus would have a few *qualms* about a certain Potter sharing her house: good call! Not that it wasn't as obvious as the broad-side of a barn painted purple...

I'll be shocked, **shocked!** if anyone can tell me where this is going.

Not.

rolls eyes at self for being so completely transparent

Real Author's Note: As to why Hermione is sitting at the staff table, I'm undecided. Maybe she's teaching at Hogwarts also. Maybe she just researches during the day. Or something else.

I discovered somewhere after writing the fifth or sixth drabble that this story was leaning toward covering Severus' relationship with his daughter, as you've most likely noticed. For some reason, that's more interesting to me.

Establishing Authority

Chapter 17 of 40

Severus and Amanda have a small moment and reach an understanding.

This was it. The first class of his first year back, and his daughter sat front and center.

Sometime into the hour, as cauldrons simmered gently, a hand waved in the air. "Professor... Dad?"

Severus inwardly cringed, but couldn't bring himself to rebuke her. "Yes, Miss *Snape*?"

She gave him a measuring look, as if testing the atmosphere between them, then smiled, understanding.

"May I please go to the lavatory, Professor *Snape*?"

"My students are required to be prepared and pay attention in my class, Miss *Snape*. Surely, you can wait another ten minutes."

She nodded, and that was that.

Author's Note: I thought it was important to show this moment. Amanda may have him wrapped around her finger, but he would never, ever want it to show in front of his other students.

Pegged

Chapter 18 of 40

Amanda can see right through Severus...

"So, how was your first week?" Hermione asked her daughter and husband over dinner.

"It was great!"

"Tolerable."

"I learned so much, Mum!"

"Barely."

Both girls rolled their eyes.

"Be serious, Dad! You like teaching. I could tell."

Severus arched an eyebrow amusedly.

"Is that so?"

Amanda nodded and Hermione chewed her food with a smirk.

"And how, pray tell, did you come to that conclusion?" he asked.

"Because you like bossing people around. And all the other students are afraid of you," she said knowingly. "You like it."

Severus scowled and Hermione smirked again.

Amanda had her father pegged.

A Score To Settle

Chapter 19 of 40

Severus has a bit of a problem.

The year was moving along swiftly, and sure enough, Severus' worst fears were coming true.

There was another Gryffindor Golden Trio, and to his immense consternation, his daughter made up the female portion. Though James Potter and Edmund Weasley were a year ahead of Amanda, it seemed they'd been waiting to pounce on Amanda.

Severus still had weekends and some evenings with his baby, but it aggravated him to no end that of all the children in Hogwarts she could be spending time with, she chose a *Potter*.

Fate, it seemed, had a personal score to settle with Severus.

Fantastic.

Seeing Sense

Chapter 20 of 40

Severus needs to understand a few things.

"Severus, they've been friends since they were little. Why wouldn't they be friends now?" Hermione asked.

Severus didn't seem to be taking the separation from Amanda, and not having her constantly near him, well. It seemed that Amanda's friendship with James Potter was salt on the wound of her growing up.

Hermione had warned him early on not to make an issue of it with Amanda, and he hadn't. He never brought it up with her. He saved his comments for Hermione.

"I don't like her around him. He'll hurt her, somehow. He'll endanger her. I know it."

Hermione sighed.

abababababab

"Severus, James is not his grandfather. And he's not Harry. He's just a boy like any other boy, and he's a good friend to Amanda, like Harry is to me."

"Stop trying to convince me to like him. I never will. I don't trust him."

"I know you worry, Severus. I know how hard it's been for you, Amanda starting school. She's been your baby from the moment you laid eyes on her. The two of you have a very special relationship. But she'll always be your baby. You could never lose her. It's not possible."

"I know," he whispered.

Author's Notes: You may have noticed that I posted two at once, this time around. That's a first. I did it because it was a vital moment in the story, and I couldn't get the point across in 100 words. So I used 200. If that's cheating, so be it... lol

Livable

Chapter 21 of 40

Severus finds a balance.

As that first year wore on, Severus seemed to settle in. He took some comfort in knowing that Amanda was nearby, and he adjusted. She was happy, so Severus felt he could be happy, too.

His marriage only became stronger with the time they were able to spend together. And he truly did enjoy teaching, though he'd never admit it aloud.

He did his very best to accept, if not *like*, Amanda's choice of friends. He helped her with her homework. He made her laugh and listened when she needed him. He held Hermione in the nights.

Life was livable.

Can You Knock?

Chapter 22 of 40

Severus gets more information than he ever wanted.

"Amanda..." Severus called down the hall toward the room his daughter occupied on many weekends. She didn't answer.

"Amanda!" he called. Still no answer.

Slightly irritated, he made his way down the hall and opened her door.

"Amanda?"

"DAD!"

"Oh! Sorry, I'll just..."

"OUT!"

"Right, sorry. I--"

"GO!"

Severus closed the door, his eyes wide and his breathing heavy. He'd just witnessed first hand that his baby was no longer a little girl. How long had his second-year child been wearing a bra?

"Hermione?"

Later, after an earnest conversation about privacy and *knocking*, Severus gave serious consideration to *Obliviating* himself.

I remember this moment... I was just that age, too. lol

Poor Severus...

Parental Pride

Chapter 23 of 40

A bit of petty vindictiveness never hurt a father, right?

The Snapes watched with pride as Amanda entered the Great Hall for the leaving feast. She'd been at Hogwarts for two whole years, now, and she was as well adjusted as any parent could hope for their child to be.

She worked as hard as Hermione ever had, but unlike Hermione at that age, she knew when to stop and breathe.

Severus still had issues with the two boys she was constantly in the company of, but as he watched her eat he took comfort in knowing that she'd be spending the entire coming summer with *him*.

Take *that*, Potter!

The Real Amanda's Notes: I mainly just wanted to show here how well Amanda (yes, we all know I'm either living vicariously through my fictional character or I'm extremely narcissistic, or both...) is finding her place. But then, I couldn't help myself... Severus just wouldn't be Severus if he wasn't in competition with a Potter in some

way or another, right?

The teenage years are coming. Stick with me!

Stay Close

Chapter 24 of 40

Severus still seems to be having problems letting go.

"Now, I want you to stay close to your... friends. Don't go wandering off on your own. I mean it." It was Amanda's first Hogsmeade weekend, and Severus was downright nervous.

Amanda rolled her eyes. "Daddy, it's just Hogsmeade. You can stop pacing."

He glared at her and paced anyway.

"Honestly," she sighed, "I'll be with James and Ed. What's the worst that could happen?"

Severus froze, horrified.

"That's it. I'm going with you. I'm chaperoning."

"Dad, no!"

"Yes. You could be abducted, or attacked, or..." – he thought of the faces of her two friends – "worse."

He shuddered. "I'm going."

SB's Notes: I'm just sitting here wondering what in Severus' mind could be worse than Amanda being attacked or abducted... and what could it possibly have to do with James and Ed? lol

Harmless

Chapter 25 of 40

Severus' bark is apparently worse than his bite.

Severus glared menacingly at the Potter boy.

"What's the matter?" he heard his daughter ask her friend.

James looked around furtively. "Honestly, your dad sort of freaks me out," he said, thinking Severus was out of earshot.

Severus smirked proudly.

Amanda laughed. "Don't worry about my dad, James. He likes to intimidate people. He's harmless."

Harmless? Severus thought. **Harmless?**

Amanda waved James off and walked over to a brooding Severus.

I'll show her harmless –

"Daddy, have you been scaring my friends again?"

"Of course not." He managed an innocent smile. "What ever gave you that idea?"

He sure showed her...

SB's Notes: Yep. He certainly showed her who's boss, right?

Could it be that he just doesn't have it in him to do something in front of his daughter that would make her think him truly dangerous? Maybe deep down inside, he wants her to think he's harmless. I think he wants her to go on believing that Daddy is her hero, much as it rankles him to be called *harmless*... lol

Not Good

Chapter 26 of 40

Severus makes a disturbing discovery.

Severus really, *really* didn't like the way James Potter was looking at his only child. Through narrowed eyes he watched as the boy watched Amanda. A part of him tried to deny it, tried to convince him that it was just a trick of the light, that he was mistaken. But alas, his suspicions were confirmed when Amanda glanced at James and the boy quickly looked away. Severus' one ray of sunshine in this dreary moment was that his daughter was apparently unaware of this. He silently begged whatever Gods were listening that she remained so.

This was not good.

Asked?

Chapter 27 of 40

Some poor fool has taken their very life in their hands and asked Amanda to the Yule Ball.

"I'll be back this evening!" Hermione called.

"Where are you going?" Severus asked, just loud enough to be heard.

"I'm taking Amanda to Hogsmeade. She needs new dress robes for the Yule Ball."

"The **what?**" Severus asked sharply, launching to his feet, knocking over a bottle of red ink in the process.

Hermione sighed as she entered the room.

"Severus," she said patiently, as though speaking to a child, "we've talked about this. It's her fourth year. Of course she's been asked to go."

"*Asked?*" he hissed dangerously. "Asked by *whom?*"

Hermione smirked. "You'll just have to wait and see."

Author's Note: Oh, dear... someone has a death wish. I wonder who it is? Not really. I already know. ;)

Not By Much

Chapter 28 of 40

Severus is in for a surprise.

Severus paced the front room as the clock began to chime seven. The imbecile who had designs on his daughter would be arriving at any moment.

It's Potter. I know it. It has to be. That little bastard has been panting after her all year!

A knock at the door... Severus yanked it open to find...*Adonis Malfoy?*

It only took Severus a split-second to recover. He narrowed his eyes. "And just what do you think you are doing here, Mr. Malfoy?"

Well, it wasn't Potter, but this was no better. All right, it was better.

But not by much.

SB's Gloat: I still have a few tricks up my sleeve... ;-)

Death Threats

Chapter 29 of 40

Severus contemplates murder.

Severus was just about to inform his daughter's *date* that he had wand, a shovel, and very few scruples about how he used them when Amanda's voice came drifting from the hall.

Severus whirled around to find her in satin robes of dark purple, smiling at him.

"How do I look?" she asked, spinning for him.

"Beautiful," he said honestly. She really did. The death threats he'd been contemplating were forgotten for a moment as she grinned.

The moment didn't last long.

Soon, the two of them left, and Severus was left to continue pondering ways to hide a body.

SB's Note: Cracks up at self...

Amusement

Chapter 30 of 40

Severus observes the events of the Yule Ball.

The only thought in Severus' mind as he walked to the Yule Ball, aside from his contentment at having Hermione on his arm, was that, for once, it was a damned good thing that every teacher was required to chaperone the evening.

He'd be watching Adonis Malfoy like a hawk.

As the evening wore on, Severus' fatherly instincts were never tested by Adonis – luckily. Actually the boy seemed more interested in shooting James Potter gloating looks than manhandling Amanda.

Severus' amusement at Potter being taunted warred with his irritation that his daughter was being used as a pawn.

Amusement won.

SB's Notes: I wonder what Amanda is thinking about all this... And sly little Malfoy. lol We knew he had to be up to something clever. ;-)

A Tale of Three Teenagers

Chapter 31 of 40

A little shift from the norm.

SB's Notes: I'm trying something I haven't done before here. Let's see how it goes...

Adonis had asked Amanda to the Ball for two reasons of equal importance.

First, she was clever, attractive, and spirited. Her father was a little on the insane side, but that could be overlooked if handled carefully.

Secondly, Potter fancied her. Everyone but Amanda knew. Potter hadn't done a thing about it either. That made stealing her from under his nose even sweeter.

It would have been nice to enjoy the benefits of having such a lovely date, but with her father playing guard-bat, that idea was nullified, so Adonis settled for the benefits of his second reason...

Taunting Potter.

abababababab

James was literally seeing green, and it wasn't the green that made up Malfoy's robes, though it was a similar shade.

He'd planned on working up the courage to ask Amanda but had waited too long, only to be informed that someone had beat him to it. He'd been disappointed but had known he only had himself to blame... until he'd shown up tonight to find her dancing in Malfoy's arrogant arms.

Then he'd known. That *arse* had done it on purpose. He'd known how James felt about Amanda and had done it just to spite him.

Oh, he'd pay.

abababababab

Amanda sighed, feeling more than slightly irritated with her date for barely looking at her – and her father for that satisfied look on his face as Adonis kept a safe distance.

She'd been surprised when he'd asked her, flattered; now, she wondered why he'd even bothered.

And her dad... what was she going to do with him?

She'd never even been kissed – hardly surprising with Severus Snape as her father. What boy would ever risk death and dismemberment for a chance to kiss her?

Just as she resigned herself to hopeless boredom, the night suddenly got a lot more interesting.

Another Note From SB: I thought it was time we heard from the stars of the show. Let's see what happens now...

Snapped

Chapter 32 of 40

James loses his cool. Chaos ensues.

Malfoy flashed one smug smile too many, and Potter snapped.

"Evanesco! Augument!" he shouted, loud enough to make most of the room pause. Everyone watched in frozen fascination as the first spell removed all of Malfoy's clothing except for his underwear, then as Amanda jumped back just in time to avoid the second spell, which soaked Malfoy from head to toe with a jet of ice cold water.

Malfoy stood in shock, sputtering and shaking, before he caught the triumphant smirk on Potter's face and cursed loudly. "POTTER!" he roared, then Summoned his wand and fired off three successive hexes.

A Small Price To Pay

Chapter 33 of 40

Adonis gets even, but James rather thinks he got the better end of the deal.

James blocked the first two hexes but wasn't so fortunate when the third struck. Within seconds, his entire body was itching so horribly he'd dropped his wand and was now reaching underneath his robes to scratch where he could.

He looked at his friend and her *date* and couldn't help smiling smugly. Sure, he was itching something fierce, but it was a small price to pay for *Malfoy* soaked and shivering in his white y-fronts—which were not so white now, more translucent, really.

It was a wonderful feeling while it lasted, but then one word killed it. "POTTER!"

Snape.

Deflated

Chapter 34 of 40

James realizes that attacking Adonis may not have been his best idea....

If James' parade was rained upon by the tone of Snape's voice, it was stormed upon by the look on Amanda's face. James' heart dropped as he met her eyes. She looked furious, and her lovely robes had water spots on them.

James fiddled with his wand uncomfortably. He'd been so concerned with wiping the smug look off Malfoy's face that he hadn't thought his actions through.

Well, this is just perfect, he thought. *I ruined her night. She'll never forgive me....*

Still, it may have been a bad idea, but he'd been provoked! Now he looked like the jerk...

A Young Woman Scorned

Chapter 35 of 40

Amanda has a few words for James....

A few moments of stunned silence passed before what had just happened connected with Amanda's brain, and a scowl set into her features. She barely heard her father as he shouted, and as her eyes connected with James', something snapped.

"JAMES POTTER!" she shouted as she marched across the room, her narrowed eyes set on her *friend*. True, she'd been bored and irritated with Adonis for not paying attention to her, but when she'd wished for a more exciting night, this hadn't been what she'd pictured!

She planted herself right in front of a wide-eyed James.

"WHAT were you thinking?"

Expense

Chapter 36 of 40

A little truth finds Severus in the midst of it all.

"POTTER!" Severus bellowed, and he prepared to plow ahead, but stopped short when his daughter stomped across the Hall and stopped in front of the idiotic boy.

As he listened to Amanda berate Potter, he couldn't have been more pleased and proud. He'd been ready to assume the dubious honor of chastising James, but Amanda had taken it upon herself. How marvelous! If this didn't turn her off Potter for good, he'd eat his own wand!

His gloating smirk grew as he listened to his daughter's tirade and saw Potter wilt, his head hanging in the face of her anger.

* * *

He was just thinking to himself that this night had turned out better than he could ever have planned when Amanda turned around and made for the door. Any pleasure he'd felt vanished when he saw her miserable face and the tears streaming down it.

His impulse was to go to her, and he took a step towards her. She met his eyes, and he felt his heart drop. She'd never looked at him like that. She'd never *glared* at him like that... as if she... *hated* him.

Severus suddenly felt ill.

Amanda shook her head and left the Ball.

* * *

Without thinking, Severus made for the door himself, only to feel the restraining hand of his wife on his arm. He met her eyes and felt his stomach sink even further at the disappointment showing there.

“Hermione...”

“Severus, let her be. I think you’ve had enough amusement at her expense for one night.”

“No, I—not at her expense... It was... Potter.”

“Severus, how many people is your grudge against a man who died thirty-five years ago going to hurt before you let it go?”

Severus stood stunned as his wife left the Hall.

He had some thinking to do.

Grudge

Chapter 37 of 40

Severus ponders a part of his character heretofore unexamined.

Severus paced his study, his frowning face tilted downward. He wasn’t holding a grudge against James Potter the elder—really he wasn’t! Potter *had* been dead for more than half of Severus’ life; what reason was there to hold a grudge? It was ridiculous! He disliked this generation’s Potter because the boy was an idiot, not because he was holding onto an anger towards his old school rival.

All he had to do was look around to know who had come out on top in the end; it was impossible that he was still competing with the man, wasn’t it...?

Alone With Her Thoughts

Chapter 38 of 40

Amanda retreats and does some thinking.

Amanda sat alone on her bed, hugging her knees to her chest, not caring that she was wrinkling her dress. She sniffed and wiped away few tears in irritation—with her father for never letting her breathe, Malfoy for ignoring her, herself for allowing everyone to see her cry, and James... for... something. She just didn’t understand why he’d done it. He was supposed to be her best friend. Was his obsession with humiliating Malfoy really so important that he was willing to embarrass her so completely without a second thought? She’d never been so confused.

Her best friend... Why?

Afterthoughts

Chapter 39 of 40

James knows he's messed up. Can he fix it?

“Completely irresponsible! Astounded, Mr Potter, I’m astounded! *What* could have made you think it would be tolerable—”

James stared at the floor, half-listening to McGonagall's tirade. Where had Amanda run off to? If he knew her, she was probably alone somewhere, upset, determined to deal with it on her own. That thought made his throat tighten. He swallowed hard.

He needed to find her, to tell her he was sorry—that he hadn't meant to hurt her....

"Detention for a month!"

He never spoke a word in his defense, and when he was dismissed, he headed straight for Gryffindor Tower.

Unwelcome

Chapter 40 of 40

Why can't Amanda just sulk in peace?

A knock on the door interrupted Amanda's sniffles, and she glared at it, having a pretty good idea of who it was. "Go away, James," she called loudly.

Another knock quickly sounded through the wood. "I'm not speaking to you! And how did you even get up the stairs? Never mind! I don't want to know. Just go!"

The knocking persisted.

"Potter!" she shouted, jumping off the bed, thinking that opening the door just to slam it in his face was the best idea she'd had all night. "What part of 'go away' do you not under—oh! Erm... Hi, Adonis..."