

# Of Need and Valor

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Hermione and Severus, post Deathly Hallows. Written for the GrangerSnape 100 Community in response to a Last Time challenge.

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*Chapter 1 of 3*

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Hermione knew Severus loved her. She was as certain of this as she was certain of her own heart. Five years after Severus had miraculously survived Nagini's attack found their wedding day fast approaching. Hermione knew it was time to act. Despite the successful end to Voldemort, Severus still clung to his guilt. Deciding it was a true quest of need and valor, Hermione entered the Forbidden Forest and summoned the Resurrection Stone. Seeking out Severus, she placed the stone in his hand. "It is time to let the past go Severus. You must speak to Lily, one last time."

## Of Need and Valor - Part 2

*Chapter 2 of 3*

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Severus chose the location, and the time of day, with great care. He understood he had this one last chance to make peace with her. Standing under the ancient Beech, site of the mistake that cost him their friendship, he turned the Resurrection Stone over three times. With a deep cleansing breath, Severus focused his mind and uttered "Lily." He felt her approach. Upon opening his eyes he saw her, framed against the setting sun. Her arms were outstretched and she wore that familiar smile, which touched her eyes. "Severus, my dearest friend, why does the past haunt you still?"

# Of Need and Valor - Part 3

*Chapter 3 of 3*

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"It was all my fault. My lust for power, my desire to belong, ruined everything," Severus whispered with a quiet anguish. "Then I brought the Prophecy to him, and it sealed your fate. I am so sorry."

"You've given your life to make amends. Enough!" Lily demanded. "I should never have given up on you. That was my mistake. You are blessed with one last chance. Hermione will not make my mistakes, and she deserves to have you whole."

At the mention of Hermione, Severus felt a peace, unlike he had ever known, fill his soul, and Lily was gone.