

# A Knock At The Door Revisited

*by Pearle*

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Chapter 2 : Meeting Friends, Acquaintances, and Some People You Don't Know..... Jessica joins Silenus and Garrett for a visit. What exactly does Severus want to "talk" about?

## Who Says You Can't Go Home Again?

*Chapter 1 of 2*

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There were times he thought he touched her just to make sure she was real and not the result of a late night binge. That all of this - Hermione and the children - was not a dream still caught him off guard at times. He expected to wake up alone in his bed one morning and the dream would be gone. He had come by his family later in life. It seemed to give him a greater appreciation for those around him.

"Did Silenus tell you she's moving to London? It will be wonderful having her closer. And much easier to plan the wedding." Hermione smiled. While the twins kept her busy, she missed having Silenus around now that Nicky was living in the dorms.

"They are moving to London." Severus's scowl deepened when he thought about the young man his daughter was engaged to.

"Ah, so that's what's bothering you? Feeling a bit...territorial?" Hermione smiled in the face of his annoyance.

"Unfortunately, my daughter tends to be as headstrong as her mother. What do we know about this wizard?"

"Aside from what you've dug up on him since Christmas? Oh, don't give me that look. Bill owed me to make sure you received the information you requested. Really, give the boy a chance. He seems nice enough." She thought he was acting like a typical father, rejecting his daughter's suitor on principle alone.

"Remind me to hex Weasley when I see him. That was supposed to be confidential. And may I remind you that 'boy' you're referring to is twenty-seven-years-old. Hardly a child." And *that* was what worried him the most.

The Anders family had moved to France when Garrett was barely seven-years-old. His education at Beauxbatons Academy of Magic was unremarkable. Severus had managed to obtain a brief summary of the young man's academic career and his NEWT scores. While respectable, they were...unremarkable. Garrett Anders appeared to be just a nice man, and that *too* annoyed him.

"And may I remind you? You weren't happy when she dated either Neville's son or Harry's son. There's just no pleasing you where she's concerned, is there? Silenus seems happy with Garrett. I doubt she would have said yes when he proposed if she didn't love him. In any event, his parents will be arriving on Friday for the engagement party. Albus has cleared a guest suite on the main floor for them. There'll be less chance of the Anders getting lost in the castle that way." With its constantly shifting stairways and rooms, Hogwarts was impossible to map, let alone navigate at times.

"Oh, goodness," he said snidely. "We wouldn't want to lose them, would we?"

"Severus." Hermione shot him a look he chose to totally ignore. "Silenus said they were very nice people. She met them a few weeks ago."

There was that word again nice. "And?" he asked.

"And what?"

"I'm sure there had to have been some comments. Hermione Granger is her mother and Severus Snape is her father. So I ask you. And?" Severus sat back in his chair and watched his wife.

"Yes, well of course they've heard of us. Silenus said they asked the usual: the final battle, Hogwarts, Harry. I'm sure they're very nice." Hermione knew it was hard for strangers to separate the legend from reality sometimes, especially where Severus was concerned. He had been heralded as a war hero. He had stood with Harry and Albus and brought an end to the evil that called itself Voldemort. She knew he still felt others judged him by his past, regardless of his contributions to the light.

"If you expect me to be human this weekend, I suggest you let me finish my grading. I still have to meet with Minerva to change the Quidditch schedule for the coming term."

The number of students entering Hogwarts had continued to increase at a significant rate since the end of the war. It had become necessary for Albus to appoint a second deputy Headmaster to help with the increased workload. He had asked Severus to fill that position.

Severus was touched by Albus's continued faith in him. It surprised him the Ministry had approved the appointment, but as Hermione pointed out, you don't berate a war hero, even if the man in question was Severus Snape.

Hermione smiled. "Talk about magic. Severus Snape acting like a human being. Maybe I should call *The Quibbler*."

She shrieked as Severus pulled her onto his lap. "Witch!" He kissed her passionately before releasing her and sending her on her way. He had promised himself long ago, when she had returned to him, that he would try to remind her daily why she came back. "Now, go! Leave me in peace."

"I need to check on a few things for Saturday's party, anyway. The guest list seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. I think we're up to a hundred with the staff that is staying over at the castle."

Severus pinched the bridge of his nose in irritation. "You are not putting these people in our sitting room."

"No, even if I thought it would expand to hold everyone, I don't think we'd be comfortable. I'd rather not strip the room of its furnishings, so the house-elves can set up tables. No, I was thinking of the Room of Requirement. I think it will be perfect for what we need," she said.

It had been the same with their wedding years ago. The Great Hall had been too large and their quarters too small. In the end they decided to have the wedding in the Room of Requirement.

Severus nodded. At least his home would not be left in shambles. The sound of a loud crash and yelling interrupted the remainder of their conversation.

"I suppose I should see who or what caused that."

Severus heard his wife's voice as she tried to sort out the three-sided explanation. Whatever Nicholas and the twins had gotten into couldn't have been too bad or she would have called him by now. He sighed as he attacked the third-year essays with renewed vigour.

TBC

AN: While I know you'all are waiting for the next chapter of *Dances* (and it's coming along nicely), I have been working on this for a while. Just a chance to revisit my story, *A Knock at the Door*. For those who choose to read it, please be aware it was my first effort after being away from writing for more than twenty years. While I am proud of the story, it needs to be corrected for punctuation and my lack of commas.

I imagine this story will only be a few chapters long, but then, *I have* been known to write more than what I start out thinking will be the length. How ever long, thanks for coming along for the ride.

Please review and let me know what you think. I love hearing from you! As always, thoughts, comments, reviews, whatever are always welcome.

A grateful thank-you to my beta, Nakhsh, for her corrections and suggestions. Another set of eyes is always helpful, the mistakes, however, are still mine

Regards, Pearle

# Meeting Friends, Acquaintances, and Some People You Don't Know

## Chapter 2 of 2

Jessica joins Silenus and Garrett for a visit. What exactly does Severus want to "talk" about?

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Chapter 2 Meeting Friends, Acquaintances, and Some People You Don't Know

"Gryffindor!" Jessie shrieked. "I'll bet the Professor wasn't too happy about that."

"All he kept saying was 'Remember, your mother was a Gryffindor.' I know he was upset, but Nicky was standing there, so there really wasn't anything he could say. So what's going on with you and Marco? Why didn't he come in with you?" Silenus smiled at her friend's annoyed expression.

"How do you put up with her, Garrett? Honestly, Silenus, tired of your fiancé already? You have to go after my date?"

Garrett merely smiled and shrugged his shoulders. He had learned early on that the first hour or two after Silenus and Jessica visited was spent taking playful digs at each other while making up for lost time. The few times he had tried to be part of the conversation had earned him glares from the two witches and a cold shoulder from his fiancée for days. He would have stayed back at the castle, but the thought that he might accidentally run into Silenus's father quickly eliminated that idea.

Silenus scowled. "As if." Both girls broke out laughing, thinking back to the times in school when the male population of Hogwarts tried to date one or the other.

"You look an awful lot like the Professor when you scowl like that. Better be careful, Garrett, I see a detention in your future." Jessie did a fair impression of Trelawney, her voice taking on an odd wavering quality. She started to laugh until she looked at the young wizard.

Silenus noticed Garrett's pasty complexion. "Love, are you okay? You look like you're going to pass out."

"I'm fine, really. Why don't I take a walk while you two catch up? I think I could use some fresh air." Garrett had gone quite pale. He had taken on a sickly pallor, and he seemed to be breaking out in a cold sweat.

"My father, right?" Silenus stared at her fiancé. "You're worried now that he's going to be your father-in-law?"

Garrett seemed to be having trouble breathing. "He...he said he wanted to talk to me tonight. Alone."

"Don't worry, Silenus wouldn't let him do anything to you." Jessie patted his hand reassuringly. She leaned in toward him and, in a stage whisper, said, "It's really her mother you have to worry about."

Both girls started laughing again.

"Actually, my mother can be worse than my father. Her temper is just as legendary as his. He'll only use you for potions ingredients; Mom is much more creative with her hexes."

"Mum," Jessie said correcting her.

"It's Mom; I'm American, remember?"

"How can I forget? I spent seven years listening to that accent." Jessie laughed in the face of her friend's scowl.

Garrett stood up. "Right, I'll be back in a bit."

"Go. The fresh air might do you good. The others will be by in about a half hour. Just make sure you're back about then." Silenus smiled at the young wizard. "Don't worry. You'll be fine. I wouldn't let Dad do anything to you."

"Tsk, tsk. Trying to get him out of the way already. Why do you want to marry such an annoying witch, Garrett?" Jessie smirked at her friend's expression.

Garrett leaned over and kissed Silenus before beating a hasty retreat for the door. Truth was, Professor Snape scared the hell out of him. He had heard wild comments about the man after the fall of You-Know-Who. Bill Weasley confirmed quite a few of the rumours when Silenus signed on as his apprentice. Garrett had been determined to avoid the young witch at all costs.

The thought of entanglement with a woman whose father was an ex-Death Eater turned spy and a hero of the final battle, not to mention his reputation as a master of the Dark Arts, did not interest him in the least. Add in her mother, who was one of the most famous witches of the age: as part of the Golden Trio at Hogwarts, co-creator alongside the infamous Potions master of the potion that finally destroyed He-Who-Still-Must-Not-Be-Named, he still could not say the wizard's name, and even more famous for her disappearance, reported death, reappearance, and finally, subsequent marriage to the Professor. Not to mention Silenus' adopted 'uncles' - Misters Harry Potter and Ronald Weasley - who were wont to drop in unannounced to visit the girl and Bill Weasley, and it was enough to make any sane-minded wizard grab his wand and head for the hills.





