



Danger Lurks

Severus paced back and forth in front of the floor fireplace inside his rooms, staring at the dark emptiness of the stone insides. He wanted so badly to do something about their impending danger, but he was at a loss. He was threatened many times by Lucius Malfoy, told never to challenge or interfere.

Remus sat on the edge of Severus's bed, watching Severus pace for what seemed like an endless amount of time. "Doing that won't help you know."

Severus stopped abruptly to sneer at the wolf. "We have been living our lives like everything is back to normal, it's incredibly irresponsible!!!" He spat, going back to his insufferable pacing.

"Severus what would you have us do?! The children need to be able to finish their year, to get an education!" Remus sighed painfully at the reminder that they were treading on dangerous ground.

"Hogwarts is supposed to be safe isn't it?"

Severus growled loudly in anger. "It's never been a safe place Remus, that's just a dreamy false reality projected by the ministry!" He stopped to stare at the photo he had on the mantle. "I miss the days where we weren't waiting for violence."

Remus remembered back to the war that had destroyed everything only a few months back, tons dying, their loved ones and friends killed for blood and revenge. "Severus what exactly did you call me in here for?"

Severus stopped in front of Remus. "I want to go talk to Lucius and Fenrir."

"HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!?" Remus shot up to his feet, getting face to face with Severus's pointy nose. "Has all the grease in your hair diluted your brain?!"

Severus shoved Remus backwards. "We can't just go day by day thinking we won't get attacked again! It's not over and the sooner everyone realizes that, the sooner we can deal with the inevitable!"

"But what do you think talking with the enemy will achieve?! You told me last time he had a boot to your throat! He could have killed you!" Remus showed actual concern for Severus. "Sirius would tell you the same thing! Lucius has a bloody guard dog and multiple Death Eaters that could kill you within moments, how could you possibly think talking to him would change anything???"

Severus felt his blood boil, turning away from Remus. "Draco could have been killed by Fenrir... Sirius told me all about the wounds... the bruises."

"I know you're worried about your Godson, but putting your own life in danger wouldn't help the boy." Remus put a comforting hand on Severus's shoulder. "Let's go to Sirius's alright? See what he thinks."

Severus looked at Remus's hand, sighing in defeat. "Let's hurry then, I've had a horrible feeling of dread all day."

Remus pulled himself and Severus into the fireplace, picking up the floor powder. "Sirius's hideout!!!" He said loudly, the flames engulfing them both in a giant green flame.

Severus gracefully landed without any balance issue, looking around at the empty cottage.

Remus clumsily smacked into Severus's back. "Sorry, that was a little rough." He took a few steps in further.

"Something doesn't feel right... it's too quiet." Severus clutched his wand on the inside of his cloak.

"Sirius... mmm!!!!" Remus tried to call for Sirius, stopped by Severus's big hand clapping over his mouth. "Mmm?!?" He complained with an indignant stare.

"Shhh! Be quiet!" Severus hissed harshly, letting go while he tiptoed further into the cottage.

The cottage was cold and empty, a breeze from the outside seemed to wa in from the back of the space.

Severus took his wand out, scaling the walls as he slowly made his way to the back end of the cottage.

Remus followed close behind, wand in hand.

Severus stopped dead in his tracks. "Remus..."

"What is it Sev-oh my god..." Remus stopped, standing in fear as they saw a horrendous sight.

The back end of the cottage was destroyed, doors ripped open, the windows shattered and hanging on the dry wall. Multiple dead Death Eaters were displayed on the ground, leading into the backyard.

"Come this way, stay absolutely silent." Severus walked with Remus to the backyard.

Remus followed the exact footsteps of Severus's path till their shoes touched the grass. "Dear God..." he silently mouthed.

The grass was pulled from the dirt, dead bodies splayed over the broken flowerbeds, blood stained the white fence with broken panels of wood sticking in the ground.

"Remus we need to leave here... NOW." Severus grabbed Remus by the collar of his shirt, rushing back to the floor.

Remus gasped as they were thrown suddenly across the room by a strong wind spell.

Fenrir stepped in front of the floor fireplace, blocking their way out.

Severus pulled them both to their feet. "What is the meaning of this?!?!!" He shouted.

"Where's Sirius?!" Remus demanded, pointing his wand at Fenrir.

Fenrir just grinned an evil toothy expression with a low chuckle.

Severus turned around at the sound of light footsteps to see Lucius standing by the front door. "Lucius!" He shouted deeply, pointing his wand in his direction. "What have you done?!"

"My, my, my Severus, I should be asking you the same thing! What possessed you to come back to such a dangerous location? Did you think it might be unwise to try and hide the children from me?"

Remus stepped in front of Severus with his wand pointed. "Severus had nothing to do with it Lucius! He sharply expressed, taking a step towards him.

"I know exactly who's involved you pathetic wolf!" Lucius snapped. "Sirius and yourself protected Draco and Potter, thought you could hide them here with their sniveling friends."

Remus ground his teeth tightly together. "You better be careful about what you say about them, they've been brave! Brave and strong to keep themselves away from YOU."

Lucius snorted with a light chuckle. "You think they can go up against me???" His glare intensified, his left eye twitching. "Against ME?!?" He shouted.

A large group of black hooded men and women gathered around Lucius and Fenrir on both sides.

Severus and Remus went back to back, realizing they were surrounded.

"Where's Sirius?!" Remus demanded.

"Oh you saw the damage he caused out there?" Lucius pointed to the wreckage and corpses laid amongst the flowers. "He killed many of my men, but I assure you he's been taken care of." His eyes flashed boldly, an evil grin crossing his lips.

"What have you done with him?!?!!" Remus lunged for Lucius.

"Remus!" Severus grabbed him before he did anything stupid.

Remus tried to pull out of Severus's arms, glaring viciously at Lucius. "If you've hurt him I'll-!!!"

Lucius cut him off. "Or you'll what?!? Kill me?! You're a bit outnumbered you filthy little mut!" He looked at Fenrir and a few of his men. "Take them away!!! Throw them in the Dungeon."

Severus knew exactly where they were going now, wishing he hadn't roped Remus into this whole mess with him. "Lucius what is your business with Sirius? With us?"

Lucius came nose to nose with Severus as Fenrir grabbed Remus, taking him away. "You mustn't get in my way Severus... it's a shame I have to dispose of you three... you could have succeeded with me, been powerful and unstoppable!"

Severus curled his lip in absolute disgust. "I'd rather die than work for the likes of you!"

Lucius smiled wickedly. "Then I'll be happy to grant your wish!"

The black hooded men grabbed Severus on all sides, dragging him off.

Sirius awoke to faint moments of impaired bars, the room was pitch black and cold. All he could see were black bars a couple of feet away, no light was able to be seen from any windows or openings.

Sirius tried moving, assaulted by horrible pain and restrictive movement. He looked up at his wrists, shackled above his head to the brick wall. "What...wh-" He could barely speak, his body weak and shaky.

He looked around frantically for anything to identify where he was. Am I in Azkaban again?! No its bigger than the cell I was put in...not even a window or door anywhere...

A screeching metal noise came from the far end of the room he was in, hushed voices and dragging feet kicked loose stone and debris.

Sirius tried to force his eyes to adjust, but all he could see were dark shades of unfamiliar surroundings. Why can't I move or speak very well? I must be under the influence of a potion...where am I?

"Put them just there shhhh!" A deep voice hushed, dumping what sounded like two bodies across the room. Sounds of metal and stone snapping and moving close to the voices followed by more hushed sounds, a slight light leaked in with the loud slam of a heavy metal barrier.

"H-H-Hello?!?" Sirius forced out his voice, heavily panting as he tried to pull his body upright.

"Who's there?!" Severus called out hushed like.

"Severus??? Is...is that?" Sirius strained his vocal chords, coughing violently as his throat burned.

"Sirius! How long have you been here?!" Severus tried moving, falling back by the strain of his shackles.

"Where is here???" Sirius asked, frightened at the pitch black space.

"My friend don't worry, we're not in Azkaban." Remus said so ly.

"Remus?!" Sirius cried out for him, tears building in his eyes. "Then where are we? Who else is with you?!"

"It's just Severus and myself." Remus sat up, pulling at the cuffs around his wrists and ankles.

"We are in the deep basement of the Malfoy Manor." Severus explained. "Sirius what happened??"

Sirius tasted blood on his teeth and lips, confused. "I...I was at the cottage in the garden I...I was surrounded by men." He winced, feeling broken skin around the shackles of his wrists. "Lucius found me...somehow took down all my wands and protective enchantments."

Severus patted down his body, his wand was gone. "Remus...wand?"

Remus fussed with himself for a moment, coming up empty. "No wand...they blindfolded us...we were taken here but...what purpose is this to be down here chained up?"

Sirius laughed darkly. "Do you gentlemen happen to know what the date is?"

Severus furrowed his brow. "What does it matter what day it is?! Let's focus on how to get out of here first!"

Remus let out a harsh sigh. "Severus...the full moon is two weeks away." He looked at Severus in the shades of darkness.

Severus felt his whole body physically stretched beyond compare. "You must be joking!"

Sirius kept laughing at the horrendous situation. "Remus...my dear friend I think we're in trouble."

Severus leaned his back against the brick wall. "We must find a way out! Look around yourselves do you see anything like a lock? Or a door mechanism?!"

Sirius was able to pull himself up on his knees with severe difficulty. "Uhh umm...there's doors on the cells it seems...but there's no physical lock on them."

Remus stood to his feet, walking as far as the chains let him. "Sirius why didn't you apparate??? Did you not have a way out before they took you? What did Lucius say???"

"Remus I had no time, they attacked on all sides, throwing spells and curses to destroy the walls of the house and to hit me...by the time I made any progress to escape they had already knocked me unconscious...and then I woke up here."

Severus rolled his eyes. "Could have, should have it doesn't matter now! We MUST find a way out before the full moon!"

"The school will soon notice we are missing...Minerva will send a search party." Sirius shook violently as he fell back down on his back. "I think they gave me something! I can barely move!"

Severus couldn't make it passed his knees, struggling to even keep his limbs up. "Me too, I can't manage to stand...Remus you can walk and stand up? What do you see?"

Remus pulled his legs till the pain made him stop. "There's a huge steel door...I think that's where we were tossed in here...but Sirius is right there's no physical locks or bindings on the cell doors...if their magically sealed we won't be able to do anything without our wands."

Severus knew what the Dungeon cells looked like during the war and revival of Voldemort when he was alive...but he didn't know if anything had been changed since then. "If we can't get out...we are faced with a horrible problem." He looked at Remus.

Remus knew he would transform during the full moon without any way to stop it. "Well this must have been the dread you were feeling huh Severus?"

Severus kept trying to push himself forward, the pain burning his joints and muscles the more he fought. "It's a body paralytic."

Sirius felt a tear fall down his dirt covered face. "We should have fought instead of going into hiding...now look at us."

Severus wouldn't accept this. "This isn't how it ends, not by a longshot!" He groaned, his body becoming heavier, his eyes weighted. "I'm falling asleep...Remus...Sirius we must get out!!!"

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