

An Unlikely Partnership

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Chapter 1 of 1

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George Weasley came downstairs, preparing to open Weasleys' Wizarding Wheezes. For the first time in nearly three years, he found evidence of an intruder. Nothing in the front of the store had been taken, but the workroom at the back of the store had been disturbed. Checking the doors and windows, George was surprised to find no evidence of a break-in.

The first thing he did was send a message by one of Errol's many offspring. Not long after that, the MLE's most noteworthy Auror showed up to have a chat.

"Hi, George, what's this about a disturbance?" Harry asked as he looked around the showroom.

"Harry, it's the strangest thing; nothing was taken. There were no signs of a break-in. Just a bunch of things strewn about. Stuff that I haven't had a chance to look at since..."

"Show me, George. You didn't clean anything up, did you?"

"No, I left it exactly the way I found it. This is not the first time something like this has happened, Harry. Osbert Brown, at Eeylops said that his supply of Pygmy Puffs had all turned pink one night last week. Ollivander says that strange things are happening there, as well."

"Sounds like pranks, George. What is this stuff on the desk?"

"These things are the projects Fred was working on before he died. You don't suppose..."

"George, we'll put a watch on the shop tonight. I'm going to go talk to Ollivander and Mr. Brown before I form an opinion. Come to dinner soon. I know Gin would love to see you."

The story was much the same everywhere Harry went. Ollivander related that every time a new wand owner stuck their wand in their back pocket it flew back into their hand.

Brown at Eeylops said his Pygmy Puffs kept changing colour every night.

The manager at Flourish and Blotts said that every copy of *Defensive Magical Theory*, by Wilbert Slinkhard, disappeared the minute a student picked it up.

Additionally, the manager at the Apothecary complained that his potions ingredients were re-arranged every night.

Harry was beginning to see where this was all going. Only one more place to check.

At the entrance to Knockturn Alley, he was greeted by the barking and growling of an invisible dog.

That cinched Harry's hunch. Retracing his steps, he assured the shopkeepers that he would look into the problem that very night.

At precisely midnight, he was standing outside the brick wall of the Leaky Cauldron. He saw the ghostly forms take shape and meet in the centre of Diagon Alley.

Fred, Tonks, Moody, Lupin, Snape, and Sirius, the ghosts who had collaborated to watch over Diagon Alley.

Harry laughed as he approached them. Explaining that the shopkeepers were unhappy about the haunting, he suggested they make themselves known to the proprietors.

Sirius was cordially invited to come back to Grimmauld Place as the resident ghost.

No further disturbances were reported.

A/N: Many thanks to my amazing betas and to the admins for such intriguing prompts.

Prompt: An unseen presence unsettles the denizens of Diagon Alley.