

A Peevish Realization

by Rose of the West

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Chapter 1 of 1

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"We think it actually started in Eeylops," said Kingsley as he and Minerva stood in front of Weasley's Wizarding Wheezes. "Something was ruffling all the owls' feathers and upsetting the cats' water dishes. We knew for sure that something was wrong when it breezed up the skirts of Gladrag's customers. It tore books at Flourish and Botts and mixed flavors at Florean Fortescue's. When it reached the Wheezes, George realize it was him and trapped him in a storeroom."

Minerva shrugged. "He's been impossible to control this school year. You know only the Baron could do anything with him?"

Kingsley nodded.

"Since the Ravenclaw tiara was found and the Horcrux removed, Helena felt she could face Rowena again. The Baron followed her. Peeves was impossible after that. Then he got bored, and one Hogsmeade weekend he simply disappeared. The faculty thought perhaps his animus was gone."

"Clearly not," said Kingsley as a rude noise accompanied a green flash. "He found some way to travel, first to Hogsmeade and then here."

George walked up to them. "Are you doing anything? He's destroying my Christmas stock!"

"Trapping him in your store was genius, George. Don't you have any more ideas?"

"I tried a spell Lupin used, but Peeves caught the bubblegum and started popping it. I'm not sure the Pygmy Puffs will ever recover."

A large crowd watched as lights and noises came from George's shop.

"Wait, who's that?"

Minerva looked through a window and gasped. "It can't be. Isn't he in the hospital?"

Kingsley saw where they were pointing and shrugged. "It's him. Released on the night of the battle; they needed every available bed."

"He used the side entrance. Get him out of my shop!"

There was a massive flash of light... then nothing. After a while, the crowd started to disperse. George, Kingsley, and Minerva stood on the cobblestones and continued to wait.

A blond-haired wizard left the store, carrying a cage containing an enormous, glowering Pygmy Puff. "I've got him fast."

"Gilderoy? How did you ever..."

"Riddikulus isn't just for Boggarts, I discovered while researching *Voyages with Vampires*. I know a forest where he'll be welcome." He walked down the alley toward the Leaky Cauldron.

The three left on the street watched him and then glanced at each other. "Lockhart knew that sort of thing all along?"

The possibilities were too disturbing to consider.

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