

Consumed by Darkness

by HBAR

Not everything absurd is fiction.

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Chapter 1 of 1

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Harry set a brightly colored package in front of Ginny.

"What's this?" she asked.

"Open it," Hermione said.

Ginny ripped away the wrappings and reached inside, pulling out a white rabbit. She looked from Harry to Hermione.

"We saw you eying them in Diagon Alley," Harry said.

"He's adorable, thank you." She glanced across the room at Ron. "But I can't keep him."

"Ginny," Harry said, "he didn't cost much."

"We're not allowed to have pet rabbits," Ron said.

Harry and Hermione looked confused.

Ginny sighed and pulled a book from the shelf. "It's the Prewett family legend. All of the oldest Wizarding families have them."

The four squeezed onto the couch as Ginny turned to the appropriate page.

"There's a whole list, and you don't dare go against family legend. It can be quite dangerous," she said.

Hermione began to read. "*Any male member of the family who Apparates while wearing pink knickers will be splinched, regardless of his focus.* She raised an eyebrow but continued to read. "*It is ill advised for any member of the family to own a rabbit, as the creature will be consumed by darkness.*"

Hermione laughed as she looked at the serious expressions on her friend's faces. "Is this for real?"

Harry grinned as they nodded in unison.

"There's an entire chapter," Ginny said.

"And Mum started drilling them into our heads before we learned to walk," Ron said.

Hermione finished the first page, then closed the book. "You know this is all fiction, right?"

"It *is* rather ridiculous when you think about it," Harry added.

"Mum swears it's true. That's why she won't let Percy grow a mustache," Ginny said. "He was born on a Sunday, and that combination ends in early death."

"Of course, Aunt Muriel fits both, and *she's* still alive," Ron said, sending all four into a fit of laughter.

"Do you really think it's fake, Hermione?" Ginny asked.

"I think that years ago when these were written, people had reason to believe them. It's the same in the Muggle world. The difference is that science has debunked a lot of Muggle myths. The Wizarding world is so steeped in tradition no one ever questions things."

"Maybe this is what I'll be known for: the Prewett who didn't splinch. Race you to your knickers."

"Ewww, Ron!" Ginny flew upstairs with Harry at her heels.

Hermione grabbed the rabbit and wandered out back where Sirius was gallivanting through the yard. The only time he ever seemed carefree was in his Animagus form. She watched as he tracked something, then realized that the rabbit had hopped away. She looked up again in time to see him devour the creature.

Well, I can denounce that legend. He wasn't slated to be eaten by a black dog, but rather consumed by dark ... She ran inside. "Ron, wait!"

A/N: My beta is awesome!

Prompt: An improbable family legend is, surprisingly, based in fact.