

The Unexpected Culprit

by *linlawless*

A potion has unusual effects on the drinker.

A Drabble

Chapter 1 of 1

A potion has unusual effects on the drinker.

"I'm telling you, Mr Snape, there's something off about that vitamin potion."

"Are you suggesting my potions are in some way inferior, Mrs Longbottom?"

"Now, Severus, I'm sure Hannah doesn't mean to imply anything of the sort..."

"It certainly sounded to me like she was, Hermione."

"No, I'm not saying it's inferior – I'm saying it's having effects that the last five bottles I've purchased didn't have. Is there any possibility it was mis-labelled?"

"Not in *my* shop!"

"What *sort* of effects?"

"Well, it's a bit hard to describe, really, but right after Neville had his usual morning dose, he started behaving rather strangely."

"Strangely? What did he do?"

"Well, first, he started sniffing at his food, as though he didn't know what it was and thought it might be spoilt or something, even though it was the same porridge he's had every morning we've been together. And then he sort of lapped at it with his tongue. And when he was finished – which took *forever*, mind, considering he didn't use his hands or a spoon or *anything* – he went off and washed up and then went and took a nap!"

"I see nothing unusual about a nap, Mrs Longbottom."

"At quarter past eight in the morning? He had only been awake for half an hour! And that's not even the weird part!"

"What *is* the weird part?"

"He draped himself across my lap without so much as a by your leave, and when I tried to tell him to *geoff*, he rubbed the top of his head against my chin. And if I didn't know better, I'd swear he started *purring*!"

"*CROOKSHANKS!!!!!!*"

A/N: Inspired by Pennfana's SND prompt: Cat hair gets into everything. Kneazle hair doubly so. What happens when Crookshanks sheds into an experimental potion?

Many thanks, as always, to karelia for the beta read. All my usual Britpickers have already gone to bed, so if anyone catches any Americanisms, feel free to drop me a PM...