

# Pulling My Tail

*by ayerf*

Written for 'The Senses' challenge on GS100.

## One-shot

*Chapter 1 of 1*

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Disclaimer: Harry Potter belongs to JKR.

AN: Thanks to septentrion for betaing.

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*'I smell blood.'*

Rich, dark, a cloying metallic tang inside my nostrils. My paws flexed, claws briefly unsheathing to dig into the threadbare carpet.

Whiskers prickling, my ears flicked back to lie flat against my skull. Along with the scent of hunter's lust was one that made my fur stand on end. The olfactory equivalent to basking in sunshine, that comforted me when thunder shook the castle... it had been tainted.

Eyes dilating in my alarm, I padded across to the open door, ignoring the discomfort of the frigid stone tiles on my paws as I left the carpet behind.

\*

Basks-me-in-sunshine lay sprawled just outside the door. A crimson stain widened beneath her, welling from a slash across her neck, the deadly spot where I had strangled so many rats.

Quieting my mews of distress, I listened for any sign of life, but could detect nothing but my racing heart. My mistress was dead!

I could feel my whiskers drooping as I butted my head against her still, cooling hand. Why hadn't I felt something amiss? I could have saved her!

Looking up as I heard the steady tread of footsteps, I saw the Dark One approaching.

\*

Stopping in his tracks, the Dark One reacted quickly, dropping to his knees beside my mistress, ignoring the blood. His power stick in hand, I could feel from the easing ache of my bones that he was trying to heal her. It was only after a crack in the stone floor began to mend that the Dark One finally accepted that it was futile.

I watched him gather her body into his arms, sobbing, as waves of sorrow from him made me wail in sympathy.

In my grief, I didn't detect someone approaching until they spoke, sounding shocked.

*"Riddikulus!"*