

Leechie's Dream Pies

It was Halloween in Acersville and Leechie was busily making Pumpkin pies for Crumpet's Bakery. No-one made better Pumpkin Pies than Leechie and everyone in Acresville knew it! So every year at this time, Leechie could be found busy in her kitchen slicing up pumpkins and kneading dough.

Leechie had been busy all morning and was getting a little sleepy, so sleepy that she didn't notice the little man standing on top of her stove. He was very small but fat, with a red, round little nose. He wore a deep green coat with beautiful brass buttons buttoned neatly at the front. He had shiny black shoes with big polished buckles on his feet. He cleared his throat to see if Leechie would notice him, but she was too sleepy and was soon sound asleep. He skipped over Leechie, eager to have a taste of her pie. Shamus did love pie and Pumpkin pie was his favourite!



The little man looked at Leechie, seeing the sleeping Loopie did give him an idea, a very naughty idea indeed! He dipped his hand deep into his coat pocket and drew out a little bag; in it was magic Pixie Dust. He sprinkled a little of it into Leechie's pies and gave a small chuckle to seal his magical spell. The little man had cast a sleeping

spell, now whoever ate one of Leechie's pies would fall into a deep sleep and be trapped in a day dream, and would only be released by hearing his tiny laugh! The little Leprechaun was pleased, he liked not being noticed and he wanted to keep his presence in Acersville a secret. With his magic spell now in Leechie's pies, it was only a matter of time before everyone in Acersville would be fast asleep so he could roam the streets freely without being seen!

"Oh Shamus, you little Irish Devil!" he said, and in a wink he was gone.

Leechie awoke a short while later a little embarrassed at how she'd fallen asleep in the middle of all her pie making. She finished up her pies and took them to Crumpet's Bakery, which by this time had long queues of Loopies waiting to buy her Pumpkin pies. Shamus the Leprechaun stood nearby watching. He giggled.

"This is going to be better than I thought!" he said and in a flash he vanished.

Soon every LooPie in Acersville had eaten one of Leechie's pies, and had fallen fast asleep, all except for Pufin that is. He was Mango and Sherbet's uncle and had flown in from High Port to see them. He was on his way to Granny's house when he noticed some rather odd things happening in Acersville.

Harry, the Fire Chief was on all fours and neighing like a pony, galloping through the streets, while Mango was in the Fire Truck driving full speed down Main Street. Mango was just a Kinder LooPie he couldn't drive yet could he?

Pufin chuckled, thinking it must be some sort of joke. He looked on as Mango crashed into the fountain in the middle of Acer Square. Pufin stopped chuckling and ran toward Mango to see if he was hurt, this was dangerous, what on earth had happened? He tried to wake Mango, but couldn't! He then noticed Granny who had strung a large rope between two trees in Teak Tree Park and was balancing on it and shouting:

"Wee, look at me, I can walk the tight rope!"

Pufin ran toward her and tried to get her down, he shouted and waved and warned, but it was no use, Granny seemed to be in some sort of trance, just like Mango and Fire Chief Harry!

Just then he noticed the Professor, out on a stroll with his Parrot. The Professor wasn't acting strangely at all, but then again, acting strange was normal for the Professor!

"Hallo there Pufin old chap!" said the Professor happily.

"You mean you're not in a trance?" asked Pufin, glad that someone had noticed his arrival.

"A little bit of a daze I suppose but no, no trance!" the Professor chuckled.

"Why do you ask?"

Pufin was stunned. Had the Professor gone mad? Didn't he see what was happening here?

"Well everyone else seems to be." replied Pufin.

"Don't be ridiculous my dear fellow! Everyone is quite normal, as you can see, bustling about as usual and look Granny seems to have taken up a new hobby. Jolly good Granny! Bravo!" Professor Astro clapped for Granny and smiled.

"But everybody is sleep walking!" shouted Pufin.

"Sleep walking? But what do you suppose brought that on?" asked the Professor, as he took his glasses off, to clean them. He put them back, straightened them a little and took a closer look.

"Well yes, having a closer gander, it seems you're right old boy! Fancy being a detective someday?" laughed the Professor.

"Think Professor, what has everyone done that you haven't?" interrupted Pufin.

"Well everyone has been raving about some new pies that have come into Crumpet's Bakery, I was just on my way to get one now." The Professor explained.

"That's it! Come on!" shouted Pufin as he grabbed the Professor's hand and ran off in the direction of Crumpet's Bakery, with the Parrot flapping wildly behind them.

Pufin and the Professor burst into Crumpet's Bakery quite out of breath. They noticed Crumpet standing neatly behind the counter, smiling contentedly. She welcomed them into her shop.

"I'm going to own a Bakery one day!" she announced.

"It's my dream." she continued.

Pufin now understood what was going on.

"Professor, everyone in Acersville has been sleep walking and acting out their dreams! Mango wants to be fireman, Granny would love to walk the tight rope, and Fire Chief Harry wants to be a pony!" he explained.

The Professor and Pufin laughed.

"But how do we wake them up?" asked the Professor.

Just then Shamus the Leprechaun appeared. He was too proud to let this moment pass.

"You'd need an Irish man's laugh, it's the only way to break one of me spells!" said the Leprechaun. He cackled as he disappeared.

"Oh no! How are we going to catch him to get his laugh? It's hopeless trying to catch a Leprechaun. "We could be at it for weeks!" moaned Pufin.

"Now our friends will be trapped like this forever!"

"No they won't!" laughed the Professor.

"Not when we have our very own voice recorder!" he said pointing to his parrot.

The Parrot cocked its head and gave a laugh, just like the Leprechaun! At the sound of it Crumpet woke up. Puffin whooped with joy and together with Professor Astro and the Parrot they dashed from the shop eager to wake everyone else.

As soon as everyone else was awake, the Loopies decided that something must be done about this Leprechaun.

"We can't let him stay here, waiting to try his magic out on us whenever he feels like it." said Mayor Piney.

"Something must be done."

"Well it's impossible to catch a Leprechaun Mr. Mayor." said Pufin.

"But I do have an idea."

Pufin explained that if they bottled the Leprechaun's laugh they would have some of it anytime they needed.

"It is a good idea." agreed Mayor Piney.

So the Loopies set to work at bottling the Leprechaun's laugh and climbed high to the top of Mount Peakmore where the Great Loopie lived. They tucked the bottle neatly onto one of His great shelves, where it would remain safe until they ever needed it again.

Now I'm not quite sure whatever happened to old Shamus the Leprechaun, but rumour has it that he still lives in Acersville, keeping to himself most of the time. I'm sure we'll be hearing some more from him one day soon, but until then, keep your eyes open, you might just catch a glimpse of him the next time you're making Pumpkin pie!



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