

## Chapter 19

### Certain First Principles

Actually, Griffin threw some stuff around because he's just kind of an angry→ guy, as Kemp notes.

Kemp tells Griffin that he wants to help, but first, he needs to know his→ story. So strap yourself in for Griffin's story. (This is really the only time that we get a story from Griffin's point-of-view, so it's worth re-reading to see how he defends his violence and how he thinks about himself.)

Griffin was a medical student at the same time as Kemp, but Griffin→ switched to physics because he was interested in light. He came up with a loose theory for how to make objects invisible, but needed to figure out a method to actually do it.

(There's some pretty hilarious dialogue here, too. After Griffin gives a long→ comment on reflection, refraction, and absorption of light, Kemp remarks: "that is pretty plain sailing" [19.25]. If it's not plain sailing for you, you can always read up a little more on the concepts.)

Griffin left London (and University College) six years ago and went to→ Chesilstowe, where he was a teacher and a student. What he really wanted to do, though, was continue his research into invisibility.

Still – and this is his big problem – his professor (Oliver) was "a scientific→ bounder, a journalist by instinct, a thief of ideas—he was always prying!" (19.33). Griffin didn't want to publish his research because then Oliver would get a lot of credit for it.

Griffin had done all this work himself. As he notes, "In all my great→ moments I have been alone" (19.37).

One night, alone, Griffin figured out how to make a human invisible. Pretty→ soon he was thinking about making himself invisible, since it would get him out of his life as "a shabby, poverty-struck, hemmed-in demonstrator, teaching fools in a provincial college" (19.38). Harsh!

After three years of teaching and research, he didn't have the money he→ needed to complete his research. So he did the obvious thing: he robbed his dad. Unfortunately, the money he stole was not actually his dad's, and so his dad→ shot himself.

(This is a slightly confusing part of the plot. Whose money was it originally? Why does Daddy Griffin kill himself? The story gives no answers.)

## Chapter 20

### At the House in Great Portland Street

Back at Kemp's house, Kemp offers his chair to Griffin, mostly to get— Griffin away from the window.

Griffin continues his story: after his dad died, he moved into a cheap— boardinghouse in London to continue his research.

He did go to his dad's funeral (which is awfully nice of him), but he didn't— really feel sorry for him. You may gather this if you're a very careful reader and read the following sentence: "I did not feel a bit sorry for my father".

In fact, except for his research, the whole world seemed distant and— unimportant to Griffin.

His research, Griffin adds, is all written down in a code in his books, except— for a few parts that he chose to remember himself. Just in case the code wasn't enough.

Back at the boardinghouse, Griffin continued his experiments. He made— some wool invisible and then he made a neighborhood cat invisible. That cat experiment took a few tries, and the cat didn't seem to like it so much.

Unfortunately for Griffin, the cat's noise attracted an old woman who lived— in the boardinghouse and who had always suspected Griffin of vivisectioning animals. (Around this time, England was making some anti-vivisection laws. Eventually, though, Griffin got annoyed by the cat and let it out.

Then, as usually happens when one gives away his only friend, Griffin had a— little breakdown. He started to have nightmares and was no longer interested in his work. But he took some strychnine (a drug) and felt energized. He is really a terrible role model.

At one point, the old woman and the landlord came up to make sure that— Griffin wasn't experimenting on animals. They got into a little bit of a fight, which ended with Griffin pushing the landlord out of his room.

Realizing that this would lead to trouble, Griffin decided to disappear.

He sent his books off by mail to some place where he could pick them up.— Then he started the process of turning himself invisible, which really hurt. (It almost makes him feel bad for that cat that he experimented on.) During the process, the landlord tried to give Griffin an eviction notice, but Griffin already looked so strange that the landlord kind of ran away.

At some point, Griffin became almost totally invisible, except that "an— attenuated pigment still remained behind the retina of my eyes, fainter than mist" .

The landlord and his stepsons tried to break in, which angered Griffin so— much that he planned to burn down the house. But he couldn't find any matches. Darn.

When the landlord and company finally broke down the door, they couldn't find Griffin. Turns out he was hiding outside the window, "quivering with anger" .

Griffin destroyed his equipment, found some matches, and set his room on fire because "[i]t was the only way to cover my trail—and no doubt it was insured" (20.55).

Now that he was invisible, he started thinking about "the wild and wonderful" things he could do as an Invisible Man

## **Chapter 21**

### **In Oxford Street**

Griffin continues his story:

While he was still pretty excited to be invisible, he realized that invisibility had some drawbacks. For one thing, he couldn't see his feet, which made walking down stairs a little strange.

The fact that people couldn't see him had advantages and disadvantages.

Advantage: he got to pretend that a man's bucket was crazy.

Disadvantage: a man running to catch the bucket jammed his fingers into Griffin's neck.

Also, Griffin was always cold and started to get the sniffles. Oh, and a dog could totally find him.

Wandering around London, Griffin came across a Salvation Army march, which drew a crowd. Crowds are dangerous to Griffin, since he can't slip through them – people can feel him even if they don't see him.

He tried to get out of the way, but he had stepped in some mud and left muddy footprints. Some street urchins started to follow him, which is never good.

Then it started to snow and Griffin got tired of his adventure. Of course, he couldn't go home since he had set his apartment on fire (he probably should have thought of that before).

Back in Kemp's study, listening to this story, Kemp looks out the window. What is he looking for? What does he see? Kemp asks Griffin to go on.

## Chapter 22

### In the Emporium

Griffin continues his story. This is one invisible man who needs to get some— stuff off his chest, apparently.

With a January snowstorm blowing in to London, Griffin needed to find a— place to stay. He couldn't get into a house, so he decided to do the next best thing: go shopping.

Seriously, he went to a giant department store named Omniums. (Omniums— isn't a real place, but there were department stores in England in the 1890s, though they were pretty new.)

Griffin waited until the place closed, then he started searching around for— things he could use. He stole some food and clothes. Over by toys, he saw some fake noses, which started him thinking about wigs and other costume stuff that could help him pretend to be normal. Like Halloween all year.

He slept in the department store, living out every child's dream.— Unfortunately, it wasn't as fun as you'd think: he had nightmares about being forced into his father's grave and buried because no one could see him.

Griffin woke up when the workers came back the next morning, and he— almost got caught. The workers chased him around the store (they could see him because he was wearing clothes); but once again, Griffin took off his clothes to become invisible.

Since he couldn't steal clothes, Griffin had to leave the store with nothing — the sort of sad experience we all can empathize with.

## Chapter 23

### In Drury Lane

Griffin continues his story. Oh, when will it end?

Griffin was getting more and more upset about the whole invisible situation.— He made his way to a costume shop to find wigs, noses, and other stuff, so— that he might appear "a grotesque but still a credible figure" .

When Griffin found his way to a store, the very alert shop owner almost caught him. The shop owner had a revolver, and he kept locking doors behind him.

This made Griffin angry, which seems to be his only emotion. So he— knocked out the shop owner and tied him up. (And that's the last we hear of that guy. Kind of sad for him.)

Kemp interrupts Griffin's story to tell him that he isn't following "[t]he— common conventions of humanity" when he knocks people out in their own homes . Griffin points out, though, that he's not a common person.

Back to the story: Griffin went ahead and stole money and clothes. At least— now people will be able to see him.

Griffin stops his story for a minute in order to give Kemp a long speech— about how being invisible isn't so great. For one thing, he can't eat in public because he can't reveal his mouth. (This explains why he never ate in front of people at the Coach and Horses in the earlier chapters.)

Kemp wants to keep him talking, so he asks what happened after he got all— dressed up. Griffin continues his story: He got his books and ordered the equipment he would need. All he wanted— was to figure out how to reverse the invisibility treatment. Unfortunately, those gossipy people of Iping interfered with this plan. He asks, "Why couldn't they leave me alone?"

Now that everyone has gotten in his way – especially Marvel – Griffin is— even angrier than before and plans on killing people. We would be worried about that, but when was the last time one of Griffin's plans went well?

THIS CONTENT IS TAKEN FROM MY PAPERSTALK