Quibbler resolved ... for the nonce

As of early this morning, the situation regarding the Quibbler has been resolved. The Minister has levied a fine of 200Γ against Xenophilius Lovegood for his scurrilous attempt to sensationalise Black and his so-called 'resistance.' Quite apart from my recommendations to her, Dolores has further proscribed Lovegood from issuing his rag through the rest of the quarter. It seems she took exception to his characterisation of the Ministry (hardly surprising. I only skimmed it, but I do recall the words 'toadies' and 'head bullfrog' bandied about).

Crispin has made me an appointment with Lovegood this Friday to discuss the future of the Quibbler. This is conveniently following my meeting of the Prophet Board of Directors tomorrow afternoon.

Otherwise, the day has had one highlight thus far: Dolores has a new Junior Assistant. Lovely creature. At least it makes being made to wait more palatable.

Off to tea with Ari and then I am invited to an audience with the Lord Protector. I only hope it stops raining before then. Beastly weather for that walk from the edge of the anti-Apparition barrier. Ah, well. It's but a trifling price to pay in order to serve Him.

Shall I confiscate back issues of the Quibbler if I discover them at Hogwarts? I had considered it before, but I doubted that anyone would pay attention to such rubbish.

Kind of you to offer, Minerva. No copies were distributed, apart from the confiscated copies brought back to the Ministry for review.

Though if a student does manage to obtain a copy, please let the
Department of Public Information know as soon as possible, as it suggests either that there are 'bootleg' copies or that Lovegood has flouted the injunction against further publication.

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-02 03:15:24
(no subject)

Well, thank Merlin for small favors.

Of course I will do so.

@alt_pansy at 2008-10-03 03:53:15
(no subject)

I don't know how you keep up with all the rags and their lies. Thank you for seeing to it that the culprits are taken care of. I mean... crumple horned Snorkacks? Please.
2008-10-01 19:42:00
ORDER ONLY: The Quibbler

Xenophilius just arrived an hour ago, and is shut up in the kitchen with Arthur, who is pouring Firewhiskey down his throat. Rash perhaps, but the poor man has received a tremendous blow.

It seems that he got a very smug Floo call this afternoon from that bastard Lucius Malfoy. The Ministry obviously wants to make an example of The Quibbler, AND take their pound of flesh. Malfoy supposedly was informing Xeno that he's to appear at the Ministry tomorrow afternoon for word on his case, but he couldn't resist gloating that they're going to be leveling a fine of two hundred Galleons. AND forbidding him from publishing anything until January.

What do you all think? Is there any way the resistance can step in and pay the fine, if only to keep him in business, as long as we can hide our tracks about it? I know The Quibbler's considered a rag by many, but it IS practically the only non-Ministry above-ground press left. Xeno is in flat despair, because there's no way he can possibly raise that sort of money by himself. He was talking wildly of selling his house (not that I think anyone would buy that monstrosity) but then that would leave him and Luna homeless.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-02 01:23:06
(no subject)

TWO HUNDRED?!

That's ridiculous. Molly, have we any contacts left in the Ministry in a better position than Arthur's? I'm sorry, I don't mean to be insensitive, but he's known to be more sympathetic to the Muggles than he ought to show at times.

Two hundred ... Even if we could raise the funds, how could we explain it? What are the chances we can find someone to help him argue down the fine?
Arthur can't help here, I'm afraid. You're right, he is seen as too sympathetic to Muggles. I'm afraid he does need to keep his head down a little. Besides, he's simply in the wrong department at the Ministry to have a say in this, and we don't have many contacts left elsewhere. Certainly not in--which department is it, Arthur?

The Department of Education and Public Information. And it would be a bloody crime that they'd be the ones to suck away poor Xeno's money; they've got ten times the budget as the Muggle department.

(Xeno's rather pissed from all that Firewhiskey, Molly, and I rather think he's all done in for the night. I settled him down with some blankets for a kip on the couch.)

200Γ? The budget for Moddey Dhoo - well, perhaps Xenophilius ought to have thought before he baited Dolores Umbridge. I cannot imagine how we could produce 200Γ from thin air!

That's my worry, Minerva.

Merlin's Beard, I hate to hang him out to dry when he got in this mess over my manifesto, but honestly. Could he have been any more impolitic?
alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-02 03:04:03
(no subject)

I doubt he could have if he tried.

Sirius, I can hardly find two sickles to rub together right now. The entire operating budget for Moddey Dhoo for a month is less than that fine! Not to mention that it would be nearly impossible to launder that much, even with Mundungus' help.

alt_arthur at 2008-10-02 03:08:51
(no subject)

Could we . . . well, take advantage of the special properties of that little package you have under guard, Minerva?

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-02 03:13:41
(no subject)

Even if I knew how to exploit those properties, I fear it would do us no good: the Lord Protector is on the lookout for just such a thing.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-02 03:22:47
(no subject)

I could look up Albus's friend, Flamel.

Maybe if we tell Xeno it's from a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous?

alt_arthur at 2008-10-02 03:36:50
(no subject)

Wouldn't Xeno ask some awkward questions if someone comes up with such a huge sum of money for him out of the clear blue sky?
He's naive enough to swallow practically anything, Arthur.

Ha. True.

Well, yes, it was foolish, I'll admit. No surprise there: Xeno simply doesn't have a political bone in his body.

But still, it would be a blow to see the Quibbler go under. We've managed to pass a lot of coded messages over the years to operatives using the classifieds, without Xeno ever being the wiser.

Ciphers in the classifieds? Excellent job.

Well, if that's the case, then there's got to be a way to keep it running, outside the complete control of the Ministry.

I'll have a think on it. You lot do the same.

Must head off to bed. I'd stopped for supper but I think I'll take a room here for the night, I'm knackered.
Charms: okay
Transfiguration: the less said, the better. My name's becoming sort of a byword for a bad performance (as in "pulling a Longbottom"). Which, yeah, is sort of humiliating. (Shut it, Seamus. It's not that funny.)
Herbology: better that Transfiguration! I like Professor Sprout a lot.
Flying: Um, I didn't dump myself off my broom. That's an improvement, right? But I don't think the Puddlemere United quidditch team is going to be scouting me for a Chaser position anytime soon.

I wish I was doing better in Transfiguration, because of all the time Sally-Anne Perks has been spending to try to help me. I'm afraid the Slytherins will say she's a hopeless teacher, but that's not it; I'm just a hopeless student. About Transfiguration, anyway. And she is helping, even though it's hard to believe, looking at my latest pop quiz score. I'd have lost twice as many points if the two of us hadn't spent so much time going over texture changes.

We had a good talk yesterday afternoon, after we put the textbook away. She asked me a little about my sister (sort of wistfully, I thought) and it made me realise, yeah, I really am lucky to be getting mail from someone at home each week.

(Oh, and in case you lot in Slytherin are wondering, you don't have to worry that she's going all soft about me or anything. She knows I'm just a hopeless Gryffindor, with a brain that's only good for keeping my skull bones apart.

Still. It's quite nice to have the help. Whatever her reasons. So thanks, Sally-Anne.)

Helping you revise may not be doing you any good but at least I'm getting better at changing textures. I changed my hard-cooked egg to a soft-cooked egg at breakfast this morning, just to see if I could. (And then I changed it back after I tried it to see if I'd got it right, because
I like hard-cooked better.)

And my housemates would be much more likely to object if you actually started doing better, so keep up the bad work, eh?

@alt_percy at 2008-10-03 02:48:17
(no subject)

Thank you for your willingness to help another student, Miss Perks, particularly considering that he is not in your own house. I've passed along a word of appreciation for your leadership and cooperation to your Head of House, as well.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-03 00:32:08
(no subject)

I'd say nothing broken is a sure sign of a successful flying lesson, mate. Or a step up at the very least.

@alt_percy at 2008-10-03 02:44:48
(no subject)

We all do better in some classes than in others, so don't let yourself get discouraged, Neville. You are certainly taking a step in the right direction by doing some informal tutoring with Miss Perks, and it reflects well on both of you, that you have been so proactive in seeking help to address your shortcomings in Transfiguration, and that she has been willing to give it.

As for flying, well, there are some people who never learn to like it, because they have another method which they vastly prefer. I know a number of people who never touched a broom again after learning to apparate. True, a broom has certain advantages, and of course it's necessary if you like playing Quidditch! (Unlike most of my brothers, I prefer staying on the sidelines and cheering, myself.)
**alt_neville** at **2008-10-03 20:58:43**  
*(no subject)*

I'd be happy sticking just to Floo powder, really. That's what I always used before going to Hogwarts, and it got me where I wanted to go.

**alt_percy** at **2008-10-03 21:00:21**  
*(no subject)*

Well, the drawback with Floo powder is you can only use it to go someplace if there's a working fireplace there. Apparition is a lot more flexible.

**alt_pansy** at **2008-10-03 20:41:50**  
*(no subject)*

At least you have a good grasp of your shortcomings.

**alt_neville** at **2008-10-03 20:57:00**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, guess I do. That's not a bad thing, really.

**alt_pansy** at **2008-10-03 21:03:39**  
*(no subject)*

It doesn't bother you? That you share them so freely?

**alt_neville** at **2008-10-03 21:22:28**  
*(no subject)*

Well, of course I don't *like* it when I hear people joke about "pulling a Longbottom."

But there's something to be said for not lying to yourself, or doing a lot of pretending for other people. How can
you ever try to get better at anything, if you won't admit what you're doing wrong?

One other thing good about it is, I'll always know who my real friends are.

@alt_pansy at 2008-10-03 21:26:29
(no subject)

My, aren't we Zen.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-03 21:34:57
(no subject)

Um...Zen? What's that?

@alt_pansy at 2008-10-03 22:00:00
(no subject)

Look it up and learn something new, Longbottom.

@alt_alice at 2008-10-04 23:03:50
(no subject)

I was terrible at Transfiguration as well!

@alt_neville at 2008-10-04 23:35:28
(no subject)

Wait--you're the lady I saw at Ollivander's. When I was in there buying my wand?
You remember that?

Yeah, and there was a man with you there, too, right?

I'm sort of afraid to ask this. But the two of you look like people in a photograph my Gran has at home and--is that why you're talking to me?

My husband, Frank. We were both there when you got your first wand. Cherry, unicorn hair, right?

Don't worry about Transfiguration. It doesn't come easily to some. I think you might do well at something that's less concentration and more intuition. I loved Herbology, myself!

I don't know what to say. I mean, Gran wouldn't ever tell me I just--well, thanks. For being there. That means a lot.

You liked Herbology?

I hope you'll keep talking to me. I won't ask too many questions.
Herbology is lovely. Is Professor Sprout still there? She's a fine teacher.

You're all right, aren't you? I mean, you're being taken care of? How is your Gran?

Yeah, Herbology is still taught by Professor Sprout. I like her a lot.

I'm fine. Hogwarts is great, and me and my dorm mates are getting to be good friends. Gran is fine. I got letters from both her and Evelyn yesterday.

You don't mind that I'm in Gryffindor?
I keep telling myself that I need to get over this and that being homesick will pass. Lucius sent me some tea and I confess I haven't written him back.

but being homesick isn't getting better. I don't know why, really... mum pretty much ignores me and she hasn't owled or sent me anything here. Something's wrong when your father's best friend treats you better than your mum.

I should study, and I am, and that's all I have. I bury myself in my notes but Sally Anne goes walking with Teddy and Draco and Harry are friends and I just feel left out of it all.

I just want... I just want what everyone else seems to have. But, for the first time in my life, I don't know how to get it.

However, I'm finding that I love potions and am really good at it.

Yeah. That keeps me warm at night.

Lucius is so nice to me and I guess I'll do as he says and owl mum yet again. And write him a thankyou note.

Tomorrow will be better. Maybe Longbottom will come to class with toilet paper on his shoe or something.

Oh Pansy I'm sorry. You went to the loo after Herbology and I thought -- well, I didn't want to pester you to come with me if you didn't want to.

I'd say 'let's go have a walk tomorrow!' but from the wind outside I think the weather's going to be terrible again. Do you like to play gobstones? Or exploding snap, even, but I'm really dreadful at exploding snap.
Or we could go to the library and make fun of people?

Oh! That would be perfect!

It always is.

Oh good, that means I won't have to share my tea with you any longer. There are other girls in your year besides Sally Anne that you could talk to, you know.

Thanks so much for your support, git.
Mum finally owled me.

She's drinking, as usual.

Maybe today will get better. Maybe Crabbe will blow up a cauldron or something. He looks even more stupid with no eyebrows.

Lucius, thank you again for the tea. Did you get my owl?

---

I'm sorry Pansy.

Mr Malfoy is always very nice to me. I'm glad he sent you tea. If you want other things I can probably ask for them too, you know, they'll probably be things I want as well anyway.

---

A broom would be nice. I've always wanted to learn how to do a Wronski feint.

Thanks, Harry.

---

Well, d'you mind my old one? I won't even have to ask Mr Malfoy or Father about that, I'm sure they wouldn't mind. It isn't a Nimbus 2000 but it's pretty wizard.
You'd give me your old broom? Really?
What do you want in return?

I don't want to write it down, meet me in the common room.

I'll be there.

Got to admit it, I was actually hoping for the Crabbe cauldron explosion bit.

Yeah, but it's not much fun if you're in the line of fire. I washed my hair about 7 times last time and still don't think I got all the purple slime out. I don't even want to KNOW what he was trying to create. But it was asking for the right to form its own government.
Saw him trying to think once, looked like his head was going to explode from the effort.

Yeah. I ducked when that one blew.

Yes, it arrived this morning and must have crossed with mine.

You are welcome, child. And no, that was not meant as admonition, my dear, but concern that somehow your possessions are targets for jealousy. Remember that despite your mother's emotional state, disappointing as it can be, you are still pureblood and that makes you a true daughter of Hogwarts. Embrace your birthright, and you shall make me proud.

And your father, too.

There's a reason you are Slytherin as he and I were. The sooner you take advantage of the assets afforded by your House, the sooner your homesickness shall fade.
So. Potions wasn't an utter disaster for a change. Reckon you had the right of it, Sally Anne, with the heat under the cauldron. I mean, it wasn't a brilliant potion, but it didn't let off a smell of rotten socks this time.

That and not blowing anything up or totally embarrassing myself in any of my other classes? I'm thinking a fairly good week.

Now I'm going to stuff my books away and enjoy the weekend.

---

Excellent!

I know. I might just be getting the swing of it.

Oh, I think you embarrassed yourself this week. I guess you didn't notice the ink smudged on the end of your nose. Not a complete Longbottom, but it gave me a laugh.

Nice.
2008-10-04 00:26:00
Order only: Home

My house seems to have survived my absence. I left the bike with a friend a village over from mine and crept up on the neighbourhood, on the lookout for interlopers.

No one around, not even after casting a few anti-dissolution spells. And none of the protections I had placed on the premises had been disturbed.

It does appear as if, for the moment, there have been no substantial drawbacks to my proclamation and they still can't find me. So thank Yviane for that!

Of course, I should probably have asked Gregoire to take in the Muggle post. There's a veritable mountain of it on the mat.

Molly, Arthur? How is Lovegood? Any word about what Malfoy wanted this afternoon?

---

alt_molly at 2008-10-05 01:02:01
Order Only

Xeno did have a meeting with Lucius. Minerva, Lucius seems to be dropping hints that the Ministry might consider lowering the fine IF Xeno accepts certain other conditions. Not sure what he has in mind, but Arthur and I have been trying to brainstorm with Xeno to come up with other ways (short of money) to convince them to let The Quibbler stay in business.

If we come up with something that convinces Lucius to bite, can the Order put up any money at all? As long as it's not the whole 200 Galleons (and we can hide the source, of course)?

---

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-05 01:07:16
Re: Order Only

I suppose it would depend how much the amount was. Certainly no more than 100 Galleons. Less than that - perhaps, yes.
All right. We'll see what we can do with that. Thank you.
No word from my sister with regard to her husband and daughter.

Last night during my rounds, I came across a bird with a broken wing. I think it's an immature raven of some sort. It wasn't too friendly at first but I did manage to bring it back to my cottage and have a look. The wing was fairly easy to mend though it may be some time before she is able to fly again. I've got her in an old owl cage with some fresh water and food. She's flown a long way, it seems; her feathers smell of the sea, but there's something else there I can't quite place. No ocean I've ever encountered, anyway. It's rather troubling.

I've called her Poe. She has a very prickly personality that makes me oddly nostalgic. I don't know why.

Oh, and to the first year I accidentally frightened in the second floor corridor, I do apologise. I realise it must be quite strange to be face to face with a werewolf for the first time, but I promise you that I do not bite. I am also not a werewolf at this particular moment. So you needn't worry. But I understand if you'd prefer to avoid me in the future. It's quite all right, I'm very accustomed to it at this point!

Bother, there is apparently some sort of catastrophe in the dungeons. Has someone made something explode again? I hope it isn't that Foot Odor potion again; that takes a lot of elbow grease to get off the ceiling.

Too bad people run away from you. Father would be very upset if he knew that people were treating our friends the Werewolves that way. I know that he values you very much. You also seem like a nice person so I'm not sure why people are afraid.
It is very difficult, Harry, for people to let go of fears they have had their entire lives. Werewolves have long since been the subject of many a horror story, and tales parents told their children to make them behave. If you were raised with that sort of belief, you would have a hard time thinking otherwise.

It's quite all right. As I said, I'm fairly used to it by now. I've been a werewolf since I was a very small boy.

Were you?

How did you get bit?

If it isn't mean to ask I mean.

I was three. My father mistakenly insulted a fellow who exacted his revenge by biting me. We were in our garden in the evening of the full moon - a very foolish thing to do, where we lived - and it happened in an instant. I remember very little, to be honest. Some pain, my mother's crying, and my father shouting at someone. I remember not being taken to the local surgery, because it would have been quite dodgy explaining a werewolf bite to our Muggle doctor. My mother patched me up herself, and they kept my condition a secret for a very long time.

Eventually a very nice man came to my parents and offered to allow me to attend Hogwarts with some security provisions in place. It was the best thing to ever happen to me - I made my first friends and was able to gain an education I would otherwise have not been allowed.
A Muggle doctor? You grew up in a Muggle family?

What's a surgery?

My mother was a Muggle, from Ireland. My father was a wizard, a mathemagician for the Ministry.

A surgery is a place where Muggles go for medical treatment. It is like St Mungo's, only instead of magic they have to use science and their own hands to make people well.

It must be very difficult to make anyone well without magic. I think I'd rather be in pain. At least I wouldn't get any worse.

Surprisingly enough, Harry, there are some very accomplished Muggle doctors out there who are capable of curing even the gravest of sickness. It is decidedly messier and more involved than magical methods, but they do the best they can and with no small amount of success. Even wizardfolk use some Muggle methods for curing disease and identifying illness, though you may not hear much about that now.
Is that how things get taken care of in the camps then? I know that healers don't come round to them very often, not unless something is awfully wrong.

What kinds of Muggle methods?

Muggle doctors were the first to be executed I... don't really know for certain what goes on in the camps, Harry. I've not been to one. I wouldn't begin to speculate on how they take care of themselves there, if they're able to.

Well, let's see - ah, the vaccine for polio, that was a Muggle invention. Your spectacles were as well.

I have. They're really good at coming up with things that I don't think of. Like pulling teeth when they're sore.

I didn't know that about vaccines. I did know that they used to use needles before, though, dyou think that was a Muggle thing? Now we just use a charm and that doesn't hurt at all.

I suppose I knew about my spectacles because no one has ever come up with a good way to charm one's own vision, have they? Professor Acton said something about that once.
I remember having a tooth pulled when I was about seven. Not a fun experience! Even if I did get a lolly afterward.

There are some things even magic cannot do, Harry. We cannot bring people back from the dead, for example. Nor can we cure things such as cancer or other serious diseases. Even magic has limitations.

Trust to hope, Remus. Trust to hope.

Are you well, otherwise? I'm so very worried about you!

Alice, you really oughtn't write here.

I worry for you as well. I am all right.

Don't you tell me what to do, Remus John Lupin. I'll flatten you!

You're not all right. Everyone's so cruel to you. Why is it that your friends won't even speak to you now, Remus? What happened?

Oh, I wish I could be there to put things right!
No one's cruel to me, Alice. Don't be silly. Things have changed, is all. People have grown up, matured, moved on. The world is not as it once was. I'm perfectly all right with my lot in life. It's not a lot, but it's a life!

Now, be a good girl and keep quiet, lest someone trace this back to you. It would not do well for you to be found.

Oh, you know exactly how to make me angry don't you, Remus!

I swear, one day Remus, everything will be all right. It has to be!

Perhaps she would appreciate the presence of my corbie. Arella has been pining for less owlish company.

I'd forgotten that you too have a raven, Minerva. I'm guessing it is a female, as well?

When we get to a point where my handling her will not result in pecked eyeballs, I will bring her by for a visit.
Properly a crow, but she doesn't like to admit it. I indulge her, lest she deposit my mail in some Godforsaken loch. Yes - female, of course. Arella and I will look forward to it.

A reluctant crow. That's rather amusing, actually. I myself have a very cantankerous owl who, if his activity level is to be believed, would much rather be a cushion. Or a table centerpiece. Or perhaps a hat, if he continues on depositing mouse parts in my favourite chair.

A raven is more poetical than a crow, I suppose. If he is the same owl as from your student days, I imagine he is very old and sluggish indeed. Perhaps Poe will serve you better.

I imagine that there are many things in your household that wish they were something other than they are.

Poe will not be flying in the near future. It was a bad break, I reckon she ran afoul of one of the forest's harpies, from the look of it. Which of course means it was an injury infused with magic, which will take quite a long time to heal.

I've been looking into new messengers, but to be perfectly honest I do not send letters that often as I have no one left to
send them to so it's a bit ridiculous for me to have an owl in the first place.

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-04 23:29:44 (no subject)

The harpies can be quite... harpies. I suppose it is their nature. Poor raven, nonetheless.

@alt_lupin at 2008-10-04 23:31:36 (no subject)

I've tangled with the harpies in the forest myself on certain occasions. Vicious things. I wouldn't dream of eliminating them from the forest but a good harpie-repellent wouldn't go amiss.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-05 00:15:49 (no subject)

I'm out of crickets for Trevor, Mr Lupin. Is it okay come by tonight to get some more?

(I'm really sorry about your sister and her family.)

@alt_lupin at 2008-10-05 00:18:44 (no subject)

Certainly Neville. You can call by anytime.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-05 01:39:52 (no subject)

Could I come meet your raven sometime?
I won't bring Crookshanks by then. I think he'd take offence.
Attention, students

We have had a report (from Gryffindor student Oliver Wood) that a particular individual has been spotted at the edge of the Forbidden Forest late yesterday afternoon. This person, Mr Quirinus Quirrell, a former employee who has been sacked by the Board of Governors, has no legitimate business upon the Hogwarts grounds whatsoever.

If you happen to see him, do not attempt to engage him in any way. There is no cause for alarm here, but should anyone else see any sign of Mr Quirrell, or if he should attempt to approach any student, please avoid him and report the incident immediately to a prefect or staff member, and we will ensure that the information is passed directly along to the Headmistress.

Thank you.
Saturday

The weather's a bit better today but still not exactly nice out, so I wasn't outside to see last year's sacked teacher by the forest. Some Gryffindor saw him, I heard people talking about it at lunch.

I wanted to know why he got sacked and I heard a lot of different explanations. One person said it was because he came to class drunk one day. Someone else said it was because he called a school governor a gormless monkey with fancy clothes, and I also heard it was because he said that muggles should be put back in charge. And someone else said it was because he decided to keep a jarvey as a pet and it got loose and bit Headmistress McGonagall, but I reckon that couldn't be true, the Headmistress would never let a jarvey bite her.

Then we talked about why the sacked teacher might have come back and someone reckoned he'd hidden something in the forest or in the school and was back to get it. Because if he just wanted to talk to someone he could've owled.

It's all a bit disturbing but I suppose if he were dangerous they'd have put him away in Azkaban. I never thought about this sort of thing back home. I'd go for walks in the woods and in the abandoned village nearby and I never worried about who might be about, but I didn't have anyone to tell me who to keep an eye out for, so I never thought about it. It was always so quiet, all the muggles were gone so the village was just the houses.

Pansy and I played I Spy yesterday in the library. Only with descriptions instead of colors. 'I spy a gormless monkey with fancy clothes!' Except we weren't talking about a school governor, of course, that was a fifth year from Hufflepuff.

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(no subject)

Starting to be fairly glad I wasn't in the library yesterday.
Have you **ever** been in the library?

---

Once. Maybe twice.

Wasn't in there for long, mind.

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Of course it's entirely natural to want to speculate about the details concerning why Mr Quirrell was sacked (I do admit to some curiosity myself), but it is probably wisest not spread rumours. Mr Quirrell proved unsatisfactory to the Board of Governors, and really, that is all that we students need to know.

---

He's been seen wandering the grounds! I was worried that he was dangerous! But if it's just that he drinks or keeps jarveys as pets I don't need to stay inside to keep away from him. I'll just come back to the castle and tell someone if I see him, like we were told.
late, but boot can't sleep. thinking instead

boot has known he is mudblood for as long as he can remember

since he showed magic at three

at the camp for mudbloods, all the others were like him

but hermione is the only other one here

hundreds of people here are boot's age

just like at camp

but boot must never never never talk to them because they are students and he is mudblood

boot lives at hogwarts, but hogwarts is not for boot

not for mudbloods

even mudbloods get lonely

at least hermione is a good friend

Maybe you can't talk to students, but students can talk to you? Or at least read what you're writing. (Not meaning that to make you nervous or anything, but just so you don't feel all alone. Cause you know people are listening. Or at least one person.)

Students can get lonely sometimes, too
alt_terry at 2008-10-06 02:36:50  
(no subject)  

boot cannot talk to student,
but can say thanks at least. is safe to say that, boot thinks. so boot does thanks

alt_neville at 2008-10-06 02:41:38  
(no subject)  

It's not like I'm reading to do you a favour, exactly. It's just dead interesting, I mean, to read about someone whose life is really different, you know?

alt_terry at 2008-10-06 02:44:47  
(no subject)  

no, boot meant thanks for helping when boot got hurt. boot remembers.
sorry it made you lose so many points from him.

alt_neville at 2008-10-06 02:47:06  
(no subject)  

Oh. Oh, I see. I was glad--well, anybody would have helped.

alt_terry at 2008-10-06 02:50:01  
(no subject)  

no.
not anybody very few, boot thinks
alt_neville at 2008-10-06 02:52:02
(no subject)

Well, I'm glad you're better, anyway.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-06 21:44:07
(no subject)

Was it just children at the mudblood camp or grown mudbloods too?

What was it like?

alt_terry at 2008-10-07 00:28:44
(no subject)

depends upon the parish, how big it is. smaller parishes, like boot's, the muggle, mudblood and squib camps were sort of grouped together, but separated by fences and wards. administration (guards and punishments and food) was in the center, and then the three different camps stick out from there, like triangle.

muggle part of camp was biggest, all ages. families together at first, but when department of muggle domestication said they were breeding too fast then boys and girls, men and women were kept apart.

when child shows magic, gets taken away from parents, taken to mudblood part of camp. boot was lucky: there was a woman who took him in. she was mudblood who got put in camp when ministry took her away from her husband (he was a wizard). if no one watches over really young mudblood children, they die. boot was given to him (boot's master) when he was five. met hermione there at the camp: she started teaching boot how to read and write. boot's master came here to hogwarts last year, brought boot with him. boot was really glad when hermione came here beginning of last summer.

don't know what squib camps are like. muggle camp was really crowded, but boot doesn't remember well.

mudblood camp small. cold. dirty and really hungry. how well you do depends on who you know. boot learned what he had to, to get by. guards are cruel.

hogwarts is better
I'm hoping this entry finds you all healthy and well this morning.

Minerva, I had a small flash of insight this morning while perusing this journal, especially when I saw young Mister Boot's entry. I swear, that child breaks my very heart. Such a sweet child.

I wondered, Minerva, if it would be possible for you to approach the Carrows with a request from me to perhaps have Mister Boot and Miss Granger assigned to me a few afternoons a week? Put it down to help with inventory, bedpan scrubbing, whichever you believe they would find most agreeable or, barring that, the most fitting to their 'station' among us.

I would very much like to keep a closer watch on them, Mister Boot in particular, and this seems an expedient way to accomplish it.

Oi, Madam Pomfrey! Nice to see you finally joining the journal club - I think Minerva was about to give up on you.

Minerva, I hope you can do as Madam Pomfrey suggests and find some way for Boot to have a reprieve from that bastard and his bint sister. I've been reading his posts, but of course, replying would only put the boy in further danger.

You haven't called me Madam Pomfrey since I patched you up after your ill-fated decision to redecorate the greenhouses and the venomous tentacula had at you. If it's all the same, Poppy will do nicely.
**alt_sirius** at 2008-10-05 21:59:21

*Re: Order only*

Right you are, then.

And thanks, I'd nearly forgotten that. Last week of school, that was.

Can you blame me and James for wanting to leave a ... reminder of our impact on the hallowed halls of Hogwarts?

---

**alt_poppy** at 2008-10-05 22:15:52

*Order only*

As long as you found the cure worth the making of your mark. As I remember, it wasn't the height of pleasant.

You both did mark your time here and made it memorable. I daresay I've not had reason to stock the inventory I did then since, though the Weasley twins are forever making a run for your place. As much as they can...given current circumstances.

---

**alt_sirius** at 2008-10-06 00:22:46

*Re: Order only*

No, indeed, given that Professor Sprout caught us before we could charm the vines to spell out our farewell message, I can hardly claim the cure worth the caper, can I?

I've spent a fair few nights worshipping porcelain after one too many, but that purgative you gave me combined all the highlights of acid quills, charcoal-flavoured Bertie Bott's, and creamed jalapeno peppers.

To this day, I can't look at beets without my stomach heaving.
Then my life's work is complete.

I think that perhaps it would play better if you were to approach Professor Carrow yourself. I have been seen to intercede in Boot and Granger's lives rather more than I ought - although of course you may say that I agreed to the scheme if he asks.

I shall play it that way then, Minerva. Thankfully I've learned through years of Healing how to keep my face impassive in the face of something so utterly abhorrent.
At last, Thicknesse and Scrimgeour have seen the light. What use is being a Legilimens, after all, if one cannot employ their skills in the pursuit of justice and righteousness? Praise our Lord, for I know that He agrees.

Malfalda is quite put out, naturally, as the approved use of Legilimency is something she has fought against for some time. I dare say she might feel differently if she had any Legilimency skills of her own. I also have it on good authority that she is completely unskilled at Occlumency. One wonders how she ascended to her position in the first place.

Thanks to Legilimency, I have discovered that Hydra's tutor, Miss Forney, was not following the curriculum that I and my husband developed for her. We spent much time on these lessons, formulating just the right balance of dark arts immersion with practice wand-waving and spell incantation. Miss Forney, bless her beating heart, saw fit to slacken the lessons, fearing that their difficulty would send Hydra crying to us for a reprieve.

This itself is proof that she has not learned one damned thing about my daughter in all these months, and for that, Miss Forney was sacked.

That makes nine tutors in the last four years. Until I can find someone suitably skilled and trustworthy, Rodolphus will be in charge of Hydra's education.

I confess I am not entirely pleased with this compromise. Though my husband will stand by the lessons we have developed, he does have a tendency to allow Hydra her own way. Unfortunately, he is not someone I can sack.

Hydra asked to see my journal the other day, as she knows that dear Harry has one, as well as cousin Draco. I wouldn't allow her to handle it, of course. I've glimpsed things upon these pages that I wouldn't dare subject her eyes or mind to. No, not at such a tender age.
I'm sorry to hear that Hydra's tutor wasn't good, Aunt Bella. She'll be at Hogwarts soon though right? So not too much longer for tutors.

She'll be joining you at Hogwarts when you begin your second year.

I have concerns regarding Hogwarts, as well, but at least Hydra will have you to look out for her while she is there.
After my mother died I cut her wand open. I wanted to see the unicorn hair inside. I still don't really understand how they work though. I know my wand is willow with dragon heartstring, but what makes it magic? Does the dragon heartstring make it magic? And if so, what makes the dragon magic?

Why do broomsticks fly? Why do Portkeys take you places? I know it's magic, but how?

Potions almost make sense. All the things put together make a whole potion. But what makes that magic?

At least I know how birds fly. They have wings and hollow bones.

Isn't the point of magic that we don't know how it works? We'd be Muggles if we had to know how everything worked.

We would not be Muggles. Muggles couldn't do magic, even if they did know how it worked.

Auntie Brunhilda used to shout at me for asking so many questions but I thought when we came to school they'd explain it all. And nobody has explained anything except potions and I'm good at those but I still don't understand.
alt_harry at 2008-10-06 00:37:40
(no subject)

I suppose so. Only we'd be thinking like them, wouldn't we?

I think we get more explanations later.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 00:42:52
(no subject)

Wanting to know how things work doesn't mean you're thinking like a Muggle. It means you're thinking, full stop. There's nothing wrong with thinking.

At least I don't think there is.

alt_neville at 2008-10-06 01:19:14
(no subject)

Even muggles use a lot of things that they don't know how they work. Muggles fly in aeroplanes (or, at least they do outside the British Isles), and I'll bet you a lot of them get onto those things without knowing what makes them go up in the air and stay there.

Do you remember seeing aeroplanes?

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 01:33:51
(no subject)

What's an aeroplane?

alt_neville at 2008-10-06 01:55:01
(no subject)

Well, since the Muggles have been moved into camps you don't see them anymore at all now. They're what Muggles used to use to fly since they can't use magic. Great big machines that fly in the
sky, way, way high up. Higher even than the clouds, my Gran said. I certainly couldn't explain how they work.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 02:03:41
(no subject)

Yeah but if they're machines than there is an explanation though, even if you don't understand it. Machines aren't magic. They work because someone figured out how to make one from stuff. Potions are kind of like that, but the stuff is magical too. I just want to know what makes magic work. Or even what it is.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-06 04:07:57
(no subject)

I do.

They looked a bit like paper darts.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-05 23:58:38
(no subject)

I don't know! I wish I knew. If you find out will you tell me? I helped you find out something you wanted to know after all.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 00:13:00
(no subject)

No, I don't think I can do that.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 00:19:49
(no subject)

Which came first, the dragon or the egg?
alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 00:31:20
(no subject)
Eggs have been around longer than dragons.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 00:36:15
(no subject)
Have they?
I thought you were just tossing out questions with no answers and thought I'd add my own.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 00:45:02
(no subject)
Well yeah, cos fishes lay eggs and snakes lay eggs and birds lay eggs and dinosaurs laid eggs so even if dragons have been around forever there were lots of things that came before them that laid eggs, right?
Although I really don't know as much as I'd like about dragons. I should probably go to the library.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 01:05:54
(no subject)
You're saying the fishes snakes birds and dinosaurs came first then? Not the eggs?
Good luck with that. I'm staying away til your housemates are done nicknaming people in there.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 01:14:20
(no subject)
No, I'm just saying that at some point something laid an egg before another thing existed. So dinosaurs laid eggs before dragons. Which means that the egg came before the dragon.
They've probably already given me a name because I see them even when I'm not in the library.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-06 01:41:32  
(no subject)

I've got a headache now, thanks.

@alt_theodore at 2008-10-06 01:46:35  
(no subject)

Sorry.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-06 03:40:53  
(no subject)

Oh you don't have to drop by to get a nickname, carrot-head.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-06 01:17:14  
(no subject)

I think wands work because dragons and unicorns and phoenixes are all immortal, intelligent, magical beings. And maybe our own magic works because we have a bit of them with us in our wands?

I know our magic works without wands, but it can be directed better and with more strength because of those creatures bits.

I don't know how broomsticks work. Maybe there's unicorn hair inside of them? Though there might be regular old horse hair inside a Cleansweep. Those things barely fly.
I think I just want to know what magic is. I know that we're magic and that we get our magic from our parents and their parents and that magic can be stolen by Muggles. But what is it? All Professor Binns talks about is old wars with goblins and historical wizards. Shouldn't he talk about where magic came from and what makes things magical?

Maybe no one knows where it comes from, or is supposed to know. All I know is that I'm glad I have it.

Maybe you should ask Binns that question in class, though. It would be nice to hear him talk about something else for a change.

I will, but I don't think he'll give me an answer. Or at least, not the answer that I want.

You already know what answer you want?

What if he says it's like rocks or water or matchsticks like everyone else is? That's not the answer I want. I want a real answer.
All Binns does is spout facts, though. I've never heard him make any comparisons before. That's part of why he's so boring. That he's basically see-through is the other part.

Have you ever seen the inside of a Dungbomb? They're fascinating.

Though we do suggest that you cut it open outside. Our room smelled for weeks afterwards.

What's inside? Besides dung, I mean.

Believe me, you don't need to know. And if you opened one up, you won't want to know. You'll just want to excavate your nasal passages.

I know how nasal passages work! Sort of. I found an old medical text in our library at home. I had to hide it so Auntie Brunhilda wouldn't take it away.

Dungbombs must really be awful.
@alt_percy at 2008-10-06 02:07:36  
(no subject)

They are, trust me.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-06 01:39:45  
(no subject)

There's something I didn't want to remember.

@alt_percy at 2008-10-06 01:58:18  
(no subject)

My sentiments exactly.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-06 02:03:15  
(no subject)

Sometimes I still get hints of it when I pass their room. Ugh.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-06 02:06:29  
(no subject)

Still amazed Mum didn't skin you two for that one.

@alt_michael at 2008-10-06 01:38:33  
(no subject)

I think that part of it is kind of that we have this energy in us, like water or something? And the wands are a little bit like making little canals so we can make it move how we want it to. Maybe.
But what about other things like brooms and Portkeys and Floos? Are they lakes?

No, we're lakes. Maybe they're more like fountains, in that they make something happen to the water all the time. Or taps.

That doesn't make any sense.

I don't know, it doesn't work like I thought it did. But things change magic different from the way people change magic. I think.

Well - if you go outside on a sunny day and hold up a piece of parchment with the shape of a star cut out, you'll see a shadow on the pavement with a bright star in the middle.

I think magic is inside wizards, and usually it doesn't have a shape. Our wands and spells let us give it a shape, like the parchment with a star cut out.

Every wand has a wood and a core. I think they let us shape our magic because both the wood and the creature the core comes from are magic, but they're really different kinds of magic. Our magic
pushes against the magics in the wand and they push back. It's like if you took three matchsticks. If you try to stand one on its end, you can't. If you try to lean two against each other and have them stand up, that still doesn't work. But once you have three, if you're very careful you can lean all three tips together and they'll stand up.

That's what I think, anyway.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-10-06 04:02:26
(no subject)

And I think a spell is like cutting a shape out of a piece of parchment and using it just one time. It focuses the magic just for an instant. And the wand is like the scissors you'd use to cut the shape, I guess.

And more complicated things, like broomsticks and portkeys, are kind of like if you carved a shape in a rock. It focuses the magic of the wizard, the same way every time.

**alt_theodore** at 2008-10-06 04:03:49
(no subject)

Rocks, parchment, water, lakes, canals, matchsticks. Can't anyone explain things in plain english?

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-10-06 04:08:58
(no subject)

What's not English about rocks or matchsticks or any of the rest?

**alt_theodore** at 2008-10-06 04:13:39
(no subject)

What do rocks and matchsticks have to do with where magic comes from and why it works?
They help explain why wands work.

I think magic itself is more like air because it's there and it's important but we can't see it. I think it's inside wizards.

Sally Anne, can't you just say what it is and not what it's like?

It's magic. It isn't anything else.

It's not air but it's like air because it's invisible. It's not sunshine but it's like sunshine because it can do things. It's not blood but it's like blood because it's inside us.

If you want someone to tell you in plain words what magic is but the answer 'it's magic!' isn't what you want, well, I don't think you're going to get an answer you like.

Just because you don't know it doesn't mean everybody else doesn't either.
alt_neville at 2008-10-06 11:34:09
(no subject)

I kind of like this way of looking at magic. When did you think this up?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-06 17:34:02
(no subject)

I started showing my magic when I was eight, and there were things I could do but only when I didn't think about them too hard. And my mother doesn't have a wand but... Like some days I could follow bees back to their nest and steal their honey and they didn't sting me, but if I actually tried to make my magic keep me safe it didn't work. I just had to trust it was there.

I spent a lot of time outside in the woods near our house so I suppose that's why I use sticks and rocks and sunlight to explain it.

I guess I started thinking about how magic worked when I was eight but I didn't think it all up at once. Maybe in the last year? I thought a lot about how wands worked after I got my wand so that was only since August, when my father took me to Ollivander's.

alt_bellatrix at 2008-10-06 04:00:02
(no subject)

Small one, you might as well ask why the stars were put in the sky, and by who.

There are some things we are not meant to know, and for the rest, know that the magic lives in you, and is yours to shape the world as you please. Muggle filth know how their tools work because their tools are crude. Ours tools are divine and touched by the infinite. As are we.
But All right, Mrs Lestrange. I won't ask anymore questions that can't be answered.

You will not know that a question cannot be answered until you have asked it.

So... ask the question, but if there isn't an answer, stop asking the question?

What if there's an answer but the first person I ask doesn't know it? Or the second or the third. But maybe the fifth person does and if I stop at the third then I'll never know.

If a satisfactory answer is not available, then ask until you wear yourself thin, or take action and discover the answer for yourself.

I understand.

I think.
You think too much, boy. Some things just are.

I know, but I can't help it. I tried to stop thinking about it when Auntie Brunhilda cast a silencing charm on me one afternoon because I was asking too many questions, but it didn't work.

Um, the stopping thinking. Not the charm. That worked. And she left it on for two days.

Get a hobby, Nietzsche.

Good plan, that.

I'm trying to figure out a proper hobby for him now. I think Home Cat Experiments are just wrong.
Specially for the cat.

Maybe he needs a pet. Puffskien? (how do you spell that)

You're asking me? I had trouble with viliwhatsit and that was with it spelled out right in front of me.

But you know what I'm talking about.

Yeah, so the spelling wasn't that far off.

I had one once. My brother used it for Bludger practice.

Maybe a pet Muggle. Granger, perhaps.
Not funny.

I had a puffskein once.

For a day, before you cut it open to see what makes the hum?

No, for three years, until he died one night and I buried him in the garden under a purple Flitterbloom.

His name was Mordred.

That's a really long time for a puffskein.

Yeah. Father said he'd get me another one but I told him no thank you. Three years isn't very long at all, for me.
2008-10-05 18:59:00
A new place for me!

I am almost done with my punishment! Only six more days. I'm counting! I can't wait to get back to the library. Professor McGonagall mentioned that she has a special duty for me, but she won't have me do it until I've been back in my cubby for a while, so I'm not too tired and mess it up.

I have found a new place to be when I'm not working. It's nice and it has a lot of things I can do in it. I don't want to say too much in case someone takes it away but it's pleasant. Thank you, people who helped me find it!

My word of the day is "vilipend," which means to "disparage," which means to "hold in small worth and say so." People often vilipend Mudbloods. I feel vilipended when I have to scrub floors. Terry is often vilipended by the Professors Carrow. I would like to vilipend a lot of people but I don't usually do it, because it would mean I would be punished, like I am being now.

alt_terr at 2008-10-06 01:24:34
(no subject)

That's a good word.

I know you'll be really glad to be back in the library. And to get those words off your forehead, too.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-06 02:04:16
(no subject)

By now I almost don't remember they're there. No one says anything anymore.
alt_neville at 2008-10-06 11:35:24
(no subject)

They might not say anything, but they still see
them.

I'll be glad when you get them off, too.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 01:43:51
(no subject)

I'd vili--whatever my twin brothers, but they'd most
likely steal all my clothes and leave me Ginny's
instead.

Tempting, though.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-06 02:03:05
(no subject)

That would be mean of them, but I suppose you'd be
being mean too to vilipend them, wouldn't you?
What did they do?

Vilipend! That's how you spell it.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 02:05:29
(no subject)

Reckon that's life with older brothers, it's more
what they don't do, yeah?

Villip

Villipp

I'll stick with viliwhatsit.
Oh honestly! You're pulling my leg. It's right there for you to copy out, on the page!

Vilipend!

Still think viliwhatsit is easier.
2008-10-05 19:31:00

Scary plants

I was walking down by the greenhouses this afternoon and I decided to duck in to check on the knotgrass we had planted yesterday. I was a little curious to see if it had sprouted yet, because Professor Sprout says it's one of the fastest seeds to sprout. I was bending over a pot when a spiky red plant grabbed my foot! I shouted for help and Professor Sprout was luckily nearby and came over. She helped unwind it from my ankle.

I'm not going in the greenhouses alone again!

alt_hannah

alt_harry at 2008-10-06 00:36:16
(no subject)

Was that the Brasilian Tangleweed? Or the Spined Snaregrass? I don't think I know which one is which.

alt_hannah at 2008-10-06 00:43:50
(no subject)

Like I told Neville, It's a venomous Tentacula.

alt_neville at 2008-10-06 00:37:04
(no subject)

Kinda scary. Did Professor Sprout say what sort of plant it was, or what it's used for?

alt_hannah at 2008-10-06 00:40:09
(no subject)

I think she mentioned that it was Venomous Tentacula. No idea what that is though.
alt_neville at 2008-10-06 00:44:50
(no subject)

I haven't seen those yet! I think we'll study them next year.

alt_ron at 2008-10-06 01:45:05
(no subject)

We do?

Might skive off that one.
Busy week-end ...

... At least, as these things go.

Wednesday evening's audience with the Lord Protector extended into supper. Our Lord sets an excellent table. We spoke on a variety of topics, and I was flattered that My Lord solicited my opinion on a number of matters, small and large.

In addition to concerns of the Protectorate, He made known to me His desire to celebrate His birthday at Hogwarts, where Harry and the other students may partake of the festivities directly. It is a traditional day of solemnity, of course, with the usual toasts and holiday trappings, but doubtless the Prophet will be able to make much of Our Lord's devotion to His son in observing His anniversary thus.

Thursday's Board meeting went much as expected. Circulation increased with the seizure of The Quibbler and news that its subscriptions will be suspended through the year-end. The rest of the Board approved my proposal on that score, with a few friendly amendments, which left me prepared for Friday's discussion with Lovegood.

As to that, the man was ... understandably distraught, but nonetheless he presented a rather more desperate plea than I had anticipated. Really there is nothing so distasteful as a man who thinks he can insult power and then beg his way out of his own predicament. I confess it made my wand hand twitch.

Still, I had my own direction and that of the Prophet to consider, so I made Lovegood an offer. He balked at first, particularly our staffing suggestions, but I believe I convinced him that if he were willing to cede some minor points, I could likely arrange for ... lenience ... on aspects of the Ministry's penalty. Of course, I shan't know until tomorrow whether Dolores will accept, but I am certain Scrimgeour will seize upon the fairness of the terms, as he had argued in favour of clemency in the first place.

Narcissa has been wearing herself to the bone looking after Regulus - and thus by definition, Walburga. I provided her a diversion on Saturday evening in the form of inviting the Baddocks to share our box for the performance of Tosca at Covent Garden. One of Narcissa's
old school friends, Athena Belby, was singing the role, so we invited her and a few of the other principals to supper with the four of us afterward.

To-day Narcissa went back to Grimmauld Place for luncheon and to bring Reg more essence of dittany, but I have spent a quiet day at home, catching up on the markets. Carpet sales are up since last quarter, but it seems cauldrons are, as ever, highly erratic, reflecting irregular standards. Should have divested last year after the Brewers' Guild was dissolved owing to a lack of qualified Journeymen being elevated to Master status. At least pewter ingots themselves are holding steady. The other stocks appear in reasonable order.

Ah, and I see, Bella, that Scrimgeour and Thicknesse have relented to reason at last! You are quite right; this is excellent news.

What is not excellent news is that the grounds of Hogwarts are being stalked by a former professor. I'd give three guesses who, except I doubt three tries should be necessary. Crispin can verify the reports this week.

First things first, however: I must meet Minister Umbridge early tomorrow to obtain her assent on Lovegood's mitigation.

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**alt_draco at 2008-10-06 04:50:48**
(no subject)

Why was that former professor sacked, Father? Some of us at school are wondering. Is it true that he was a drunkard?

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**alt_lucius at 2008-10-06 11:19:31**
(no subject)

Have you seen him personally, Draco? Did he appear drunk to you?

If you see him again, you are to inform Headmistress McGonagall immediately, is that understood? Under no circumstances are you to engage him, nor should any of your friends.

He is not dangerous, not by himself, but he is apt to be unpredictable, and probably upsetting, to you children.
Whether he drank to excess prior to his termination I am sure I do not know; it was not the primary reason, certainly.

Do you recall the trip you and Harry took with your tutor to the British Museum and what you were taught there about Muggles?

I didn't see him, Father, I just heard some of the bigger students talking.

I remember that they had Empires, and a lot of wars, and they built a lot of machines that were just for the wars. They also did odd things like worship animals and make mummies. There was even a mummy cat. And the tea that was left behind in the cafe was very bad, also.

All true. I was referring to the lessons on why we had to take over, even though there are far more Muggles than wizards.

Let's say that had Quirrell remained on staff, you should have learnt nearly nothing of the true history of Muggles and instead a load of waffle about how useful Muggles have been over the centuries.

Mr Lupin the groundskeeper was writing to Harry in his book about all the good things muggle doctors did. Maybe he should be sacked, too.
Lupin's opinions are certainly unsavoury, but werewolves are a protected species. Most of them are much more practical and not so sentimental. Lupin's circumstances are unusual, to say the least.

But that's immaterial. The point is that he was not hired to teach you, Harry, or anyone else about Muggles, nor was it his error to stray from the Ministry-approved curriculum in accomplishing his set tasks. He is a groundskeeper, Draco, and as such his opinions amount to little more than empty air.

I heard he hit his students like a Muggle.

With one of those belt things?

No, with a switch he got from the Whomping Willow. Which isn't all that un-magical, I thought. Wouldn't it hurt worse to get hit with a Whomping Willow-switch than a non-magic one?

It probably hurts a lot no matter what. But it seems like a lazy thing to do, because the switch
would do all the work for you, so maybe he was lazy, and that's why he was sacked.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-06 14:37:48
(no subject)

I suppose. I'd rather get hit than be jinxed though.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-06 14:43:46
(no subject)

It might be better to be hit, it's probably over faster, but I wouldn't want anyone treating me like a common muggle.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-06 14:47:28
(no subject)

Well, it's not as though you are a common Muggle so it doesn't matter if people treat you like one.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-06 14:51:27
(no subject)

I'd be offended, though. Wouldn't you?

@alt_harry at 2008-10-06 14:52:53
(no subject)

Maybe, depending on who it was. I don't think I'd be offended if it was a professor or if it was your dad or if it was Father.
Look at that--Acton just looked right at you while you were writing under your desk, and she didn't even say anything. I bet she'd let you leave class for a nap, if you wanted.

Yeah, I bet. Only Percy would get us in trouble, so better stop now.

I've been in meetings all day, but Weasley is not the only one who noticed you were writing during lessons.

I really have no idea where you boys get your ideas. Long ago, corporal punishment was considered a more than suitable penalty for young wizards who do not mind their studies, though nowadays magical punishments and simple non-magical detentions are deemed more appropriate. Ask Professor Carrow, if either of you dare, for a history of torture and its application to over-inquisitive little boys.

No, Quirrell was not discharged for beating his pupils. I think Draco may have deduced the real reason already, given his eagerness to see Lupin meet the same fate for his dilutionary sentiments.

I'd rather not ask Professor Carrow, if its all the same.
And I didn't write this bit in class. Classes are over for the day.

@alt_lucius at 2008-10-07 01:06:02
(no subject)

No, son, I did not imagine you would be so foolish.

On either count.

@alt_percy at 2008-10-06 14:43:31
(no subject)

I do not believe that is correct, Mr. Marvolo. Or at least, if it happened, none of the prefects ever reported it. Again, please, it would be best if you not participate in spreading rumours.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-06 14:46:53
(no subject)

Oh.

I suppose that's good to know. It was just something I heard. I didn't mean any harm.

@alt_percy at 2008-10-06 14:50:30
(no subject)

As I told Ms Perks, being curious is entirely natural. Learning when it is appropriate to air speculations and when to be silent about them is something that may become clearer to you as you grow older.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-06 14:53:45
(no subject)

Alright.
But I started it, sir. Harry was just contributing. My Father doesn't mind if I ask him a question, he's open to being approached on all sorts of things, by all sorts of people.

Yes, and your father answered quite wisely, I think, giving you what information you have a need to know, but otherwise repressing further unnecessary speculation.

(I believe you are in class right now, Mr. Malfoy. Shouldn't you be paying attention to your professor?)
More on The Quibbler....

Started the day early to catch Dolores before her agenda completely overtook her. She had thought over the matter and agreed easily to the terms, which left only the question of the amount by which Lovegood's fine should be reduced. It took a few Floo calls and some trips back and forth to the Prophet and Ministry offices, but all has been arranged to my - that is, to everyone's - satisfaction. The staff changes should take effect within a few weeks, according to the editors' timetable to finish up the current article assignments and to settle in and collect new material for the end of the year. The Quibbler shall resume publication in January with its new, needless-to-say, much improved, model.

And yes, it was most tedious popping back and forth oneself, but Crispin owled this morning to say that he was ill. Apparently he caught cold after spending Saturday with his nephews - something about Quidditch (his writing scrawled off, I'm afraid ... playing or watching?) - and is allergic to Pepper-Up. He assures me that if he is not back to himself to-morrow, he will arrange a temporary replacement.

Assured him that if he is not back to himself by mid-week, I shall have him committed to St. Mungo's for immediate and extreme remedial treatment. It's quite intolerable. Although I will say that Miss Robins, Dolores's new Junior Assistant, has done what she could to make up for my day being less productive owing to Crispin's absence. She offered to have luncheon brought down after I returned the second time, knowing that there was no opportunity to fetch something myself and still arrive on time for the Committee meeting this afternoon.

Ah, yes, and it was Quirrell skulking about the school over the weekend. Saw the prefects' posts only after reading Perks's note on it. Perhaps the Governors ought to remind him that his case has yet to be heard, and that it largely depends on our charity toward him. Making a nuisance of himself and agitating the student body hardly seems the way to appeal to our better natures.

At least none of the students have been so reckless as to approach him, or allow him to approach them.
I've had to shift my meeting with the brokerage to to-morrow, with all this running about.
2008-10-06 16:42:00
(no subject)

Harry--

I worked on some of the stuff we talked about. Meet me by the lake after dinner.

2008-10-06 22:22:39
(no subject)

All right.

2008-10-06 23:27:20
(no subject)

Are you going to walk by the lake and hold hands like the fifth-years do?

2008-10-06 23:35:38
(no subject)

No! Don't be daft.

2008-10-06 23:36:17
(no subject)

What are you doing, then?

2008-10-06 23:37:13
(no subject)

None of your business!
@alt_draco at 2008-10-06 23:42:17  
(no subject)  
Well you don't have to be all shirty about it.

@alt_pansy at 2008-10-07 00:44:34  
(no subject)  
What on earth has got into you? Whatever Harry and I do is none of your business, prat.
2008-10-06 19:39:00

Boot and Granger

You're both to report to the Hospital Wing each Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon to assist me as needs dictate.

If you have any questions on this directive, please feel free to stop by my office or place them here if you're unable to see me in person.

alt_poppy

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alt_hermione at 2008-10-06 23:51:05
(no subject)

Yes, Madam Pomfrey!

alt_poppy at 2008-10-06 23:52:58
(no subject)

Will you see to it that Mister Boot gets the message as well, Miss Granger? In the event he doesn't check his journal?

alt_hermione at 2008-10-07 00:10:58
(no subject)

Yes, Madam Pomfrey!
Carrot-head?

I suppose that only narrows it down if your brothers aren't in the same room.

I thought carrots had all that green stuff on the top.

I've seen you with green stuff on top. Admittedly that was after one of the explosions in potions.

But it wasn't leafy, though. And smelled a bit better.
I think you got off pretty easy, actually. I've heard much worse nicknames.

I've had much worse nicknames.

(No, I'm not going to tell you what they were.)

Come on, then. Not even off the journals?

I was expecting worse.

No. I'm not nutters enough to repeat them.

Don't make 'em think you're asking for something worse!

I reckon they'll come up with something anyway.

The shape is really more turnip.
@alt_ron at 2008-10-07 02:18:31
(no subject)

Ouch.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-07 02:35:00
(no subject)

What, you'd rather it be shaped like a carrot?

@alt_ron at 2008-10-07 02:43:02
(no subject)

I'd rather it not be compared to vegetables at all.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-07 02:43:45
(no subject)

It is kind of pointy.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-07 02:45:43
(no subject)

Not helping, Harry.

@alt_gredforge at 2008-10-07 02:37:26
(no subject)

Well, we could always come up with something better, if you'd like...

Or what would it be worth to you to have us not tell the one we gave you when you were four?
Thanks, really, but no.
About as much as the puffskein I used to have.

Your head is really more potato-like.
Xeno is crestfallen, but mostly resigned. It has not gone as badly as we initially feared. You all probably saw Malfoy's journal entry. Here are the conditions the Ministry is demanding:

1) Fine of 75Γ. Much better than the 200Γ we initially feared, and it gets under your 100Γ limit, Minerva.

2) The Prophet publishing group (which is 35% owned by that wretched blighter, Lucius Malfoy) is assigned a 51% stake in The Quibbler.

3) Xeno will take on two Prophet staff writers. One of them is that meddlesome Rita Skeeter. The other one hasn't been determined yet. Xeno will have to pay 20% of their salaries, as they'll still be working on the Prophet.

4) Publication will not resume until after January 1, and then only with a new design and editorial, introducing 'the new, improved Quibbler' as being under new management.

5) The last condition is the simplest but perhaps the most painful. Xeno is required to personally apologise to the Minister of Magic, or as he rather crudely puts it, "I have to kneel down and kiss that toad's bum." Molly has been using her best artful wiles to make him screw his courage to the sticking point.

I foresee the end of my supply of Firewhiskey. Minerva, I sincerely hope you have some more. I think Molly and I will need some for ourselves before this is all over.

---

I've got plenty, Arthur. I don't want to risk Owl post - I'm fairly sure my Floo connection is unmonitored. Shall I send the Galleons and Firewhiskey that way? Or is it worth using one of the safe-drops?
Safe drop, I think.

Fortunately, Malfoy seems entirely incurious about the source of the money Xeno will use to pay the fine (as is Xeno, for that matter; he takes it for granted that of COURSE his adoring public wants him to stay in business).

I shall put the package in the Little Whinging drop, then.

Sirius says he will pay 1/3, so just forward the 50Γ. That will keep you from cutting into the Sanctuary's budget too badly for the month.

(And send the Firewhiskey on, too, for the love of Merlin.)

Arthur, I'll put up a third of that. Give me a day or two to arrange a confidential transfer from the Paris Gringotts branch.

When is the fine due?

Bless your heart, thank you. The monies are due thirty days from the initial seizure, which was September 28, so that would make it October 28.
I don't know how or why magic works and I
don't know how you'd test that or who you could
ask about that or how you could find that out in
any way. My necklace is still missing and I don't
know who to ask about that, I meant to ask
someone to summon it, but I didn't. Maybe I
didn't want to ask someone, anyway. And I'm not homesick. I feel
maybe like I should be, but I'm not. I kind of miss Bitsy, but that's not
homesick, that's sister-sick or something like that.

Anyway.

And lessons are doing rather well. Not perfectly, not uselessly. Just
well.

Wish I knew where my necklace was, though.

Did you ever try asking the house-elves?

I don't really want to ask them.

What do you have against the house-elves?

You could probably leave them a note if you didn't
want to talk to them face to face. On your pillow, so
they'd find it when they came to make your bed.
I just don't like them, that's all.

I think Sally-Anne's right, you should ask the elves. I've been keeping an eye out but I haven't seen it or anything.

I don't really think I want to ask them.

When I lose things they're always in the last place I look.

Oh that's useful, Teddy.

It was a joke.

I thought it was funny, anyway.
It'd be nice if it was in both the first and the last place I looked.

I'll help you look after lessons tomorrow, if you want.

If you really mean it, then thanks. That'd be nice.

I mean it. I'm good at finding things.

Thanks, then. That would be brilliant.

Why do you wear a necklace? That seems a bit girly.
Because mum gave it to me. It's meant to be good luck.

Are you having bad luck without it?

I might not be having as good luck as I would otherwise.

Maybe if you offer a reward, someone will return it. People are seem desperate for nice tea, I've noticed.

I'm not sure what I could offer as a reward, really.

You could say that its cursed if it falls into anyones hands other than yours?
**alt_michael** at 2008-10-07 02:47:49  
(no subject)

...I like that one.

**alt_draco** at 2008-10-07 02:49:10  
(no subject)

They call that scare tactics. It works really well on most people.

**alt_theodore** at 2008-10-07 02:20:06  
(no subject)

That's what I said. It was a gift from his mum or something.

**alt_draco** at 2008-10-07 02:23:45  
(no subject)

Oh, I didn't read about the necklace the first time.

**alt_theodore** at 2008-10-07 02:25:21  
(no subject)

I read everything.

**alt_draco** at 2008-10-07 02:26:21  
(no subject)

Really? Even what the mudbloods write in their journals?
They could be plotting something.

Be careful. I'm sure that what they write is meant to make people feel sorry for them.

Why would anyone feel sorry for them?

Who knows why, but there are people who do. Muggle lovers and blood traitors.

There are lots of blood traitors in this school that can feel sorry for them. I just want to make sure that they're not going to sneak up on me and do something horrid.

Do you think one stole Corner's necklace? They steal magic, so the probably steal good luck, too.
alt_theodore at 2008-10-07 02:48:23
(no subject)

It's possible, but I don't want to get close enough to one to find out.

alt_draco at 2008-10-07 02:50:20
(no subject)

Of course not.

That girl one just wrote at me! Ugh!

alt_theodore at 2008-10-07 03:01:05
(no subject)

Maybe it thinks we're friends cos we gave it chocolate.

alt_draco at 2008-10-07 03:05:31
(no subject)

It probably wants more. Well, it's not getting any of mine!

alt_theodore at 2008-10-07 03:13:40
(no subject)

It's not getting any of mine either! Auntie Brunhilda only sends me a package once a month and I'm bad at saving it.

alt_draco at 2008-10-07 03:15:24
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't really have much left either.
@alt_hermione at 2008-10-07 02:39:07
(no subject)

No it isn't!

@alt_draco at 2008-10-07 02:40:16
(no subject)

Like I would really believe you.
Aunt Walburga has yet to forgive Regulus. She addresses him through me, which is far more tiresome now than it was when we were children. Of course it was never Reg then...

I have no doubt that she will forgive him in due course, but in the meantime I grow weary of her childishness.

"Narcissa, tell your cousin to pass the chicken."

"Regulus, can you please pass your mother the chicken?"

No matter that he has suffered a grievous injury; in fact, she insists on asking him for things to his right.

He is healing well, though. Bellatrix has promised to get him a hook for his birthday. He found that more amusing than I did, but I suppose his sense of humour has always been closer to my sister's than mine.

I am thinking of bringing him to Malfoy Manor for an extended convalescence. I cannot stomach my aunt for much longer.

Of course, Regulus's comfort is understandably important, dearest, but are you certain it's the wisest thing to install him at the Manor?

If I have to suffer another day within earshot of Aunt Walburga I shall go mad. It seems wise to remove myself and Regulus from 12 Grimmauld Place as soon as possible. I suppose we could install him at the house in St James's. Would that suit you better, my love?
Whatever you think best, dear.

Though as you mention it, I am sure that the peace and quiet of the Manor would suit Regulus far better than continuing in town.

I think the country air will do him a world of good.
**2008-10-08 15:07:00**

*Incompetence*

It is one of the most attractive prospects of Our Lord's beneficent rule that the country, once divided and under threat, is now whole, with no protest nor insurgents, apart from a disjointed, unimportant minority. But if there were any organised resistance, I shouldn't be surprised if Crispin's temporary replacement had been sent to infiltrate and obstruct our operations at every turn.

His handwriting is utterly illegible, for one. And he stammers when I ask a simple question, so badly that it is nearly impossible to discern his answer. I can't even be sure he knows his own name ... Witter, or Witting, I think? No matter. This morning, I was meant to go to the Obscurus offices in Battersea, and instead he sent me to the Ouroborus Club in Belgravia. Since I only had down that I was meeting with old Niles, and he has a habit of choosing strange locations, I wasted over a quarter of an hour waiting. Naturally, by the time Witter determined my actual appointment, I had missed Niles completely.

He even had the Slytherin Quidditch match down for today, instead of 8th November. Thankfully I realised this obvious error before taking an unnecessary jaunt to Hogwarts.

But the worst is the notion that because one can Apparate, one can also be in two places at once. How does he imagine I shall be able to attend a three-hours meeting at two and simultaneously arrive in time for a demonstration of the new broom prototypes at four? Does he think because one of my associations is the Department of Mysteries that I have access to time itself?

Then, when he attempted to reschedule one or the other, he wound up cancelling both. Have used the free afternoon to review the calendar for the rest of the week; it's just as bad. If my appointments are to be believed, I shall be in three meetings at once tomorrow morning, Apparate from Glasgow to Gillingham without luncheon, and then attend a Directors' meeting at the Prophet, which of course just met only Thursday last! Friday was, if possible, worse.

How anyone can so destroy a carefully ordered timetable in less than two working days is beyond me. By Athena, the elf could do better,
and I'm not certain it can read.

For the record, Harry, certain jinxes do not hurt nearly so much as a physical blow, but they do get one's point across astonishingly well. I trust Witter will remember that himself, next time.

Meanwhile, Narcissa is overseeing Regulus's move from his mother's home to Malfoy Manor. Not that I object to aiding his recuperation, but it is tiresome, particularly after a day of battle with one's own subordinate, to return to a home that is not utterly sequestered. May stay in town for supper.

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alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-09 01:06:13
(no subject)

I have great sympathy for your troubles. Imagine co-existing with several hundred Wittings.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-09 02:39:57
(no subject)

That is precisely why I chose to write, rather than teach. I do not know how you have managed, all these years, not to curse half your pupils into the North Sea.

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-09 11:15:37
(no subject)

I have utterly no idea. Today I awoke to discover a note from one of my Ravenclaw prefects to the effect that one of the children in his House had a minor breakdown upon hearing that the Lord Protector was to come for Hallowe'en - something about unworthiness to see him or similar rubbish, apparently kept the entire House awake for hours, and Professor Vector slept through all her alarms and only came down to deal with the trouble well after midnight.

I ask you!
As to that, you must admit Our Lord can be overwhelming to those not acquainted with His magnanimity. Nonetheless, it seems the height of presumption for the child to think He would even notice one lowly Ravenclaw among the entire student body.

Just the other day I read an exchange of speculation regarding the merits of various approaches the magical theory. Truly, the Department of Mysteries could hire a fully salaried specialist just to investigate the workings of children's minds ... if that were not a prescription for retirement to St. Mungo's Closed Ward!

I suppose so. Nevertheless.

It would be quite a coup. Useful for me, as well. Perhaps we might put a word in our Lord's ear about it.

My, but we're loquacious these days.

Dear me, do you imagine you have a point, Lupin?
No, but that seems to be something we have in common, Lucius.

Have a care, wolf. Your life may be safe behind the protections of your species, but there are certain comforts you possess that need not be yours to enjoy.

And I am in no mood for your cheek.
Michael and I found his necklace today. It was in the library under a bookcase. I was looking around to see if maybe it had got caught on one of the shelves or a book or something, and this huge book fell off the shelf and hit me on the head. But since it knocked me down I was on the floor and could see under the bookcase and there it was. The necklace, not the book. Although the book was on the floor too.

And the book is all about magical theory, so maybe the bookcase knew what I wanted and shoved it out at me? Because I wanted to know more about what magic is, and I wanted to find Michael's necklace and now I've got both.

I don't know how much the book is going to help me though, it's awfully big.

Thank you. Again.

And if the book knew what you wanted to know, could it know what page would work, too? Open it randomly, like, and see what you see?

I don't know if it was the book that knew or the bookcase that knew.

But I don't think it's going to work anyway because it's sort of giving me a headache. And not just because it fell on my head.
That's odd that in the whole of this giant castle you found it within a days time.

We went back to where he last remembered having it. That's the best way of finding lost things, you know.

Try reading the book. That's usually the way you get help from them.

I did.

You just answered a lot of questions I had about you. Thank you for that.

At least I know the difference between Charms and Arithmancy.
What do you know. The boy CAN read.

I think we should make this a national holiday or something.

I can read the book, Pansy. I just don't understand a lot of it yet. Just because it's complicated, it doesn't mean I'm thick.

No need to be snippy. I'm just teasing you.

Were you? It's hard to tell.

Good.

P.S. If it helps, there's a lot about magic I don't understand. But don't you dare repeat that. I do have ammunition and I will use it.
I wasn't planning on telling anyone, but you do know everyone can read this, right?

Er. Um. Right. My bad.

So... can you help me with my charms homework?

Okay. But you have to tell me what you think magic is and where it comes from after we're done.

If I must. On the bright side, I can tell you right now where I'd like my charms classes to go.
2008-10-08 20:56:00  
(no subject)  

Yesterday my cat was sick on my bed because someone fed him fish and he is allergic to fish so it smelled bad until the house elves came to clean up the sick but Daphne won't come upstairs now because she says it still smells of fish. Daphne is a stupid swot

Fergus is a nice cat he can't help that he can't eat fish without being sick.

Mum sent the proper food for him so maybe he won't be sick anymore.

It is getting cold in here I should get my jumper now

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alt_harry at 2008-10-09 02:14:12  
(no subject)  

Can cats even be allergic to fish?

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alt_millicent at 2008-10-09 02:15:36  
(no subject)  

Mine is. She is allergic to fish and roses but that's okay because I don't like roses either.

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alt_harry at 2008-10-09 02:17:56  
(no subject)  

Why don't you like roses?

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alt_millicent at 2008-10-09 02:22:09  
(no subject)  

Because they make me sneeze and they have thorns and are sticky and they grew all over my grandmums house and I didn't like it there much.
She would make me eat blood pudding and you know what they put in blood pudding!!!

Harry I heard your dad is coming to Hogwarts for Halloween will he bring us sweets do you think. I like sweets especially on Halloween. They dress up like ghosts in America I heard. The mudbloods dress up like ghosts and witches!!! They must really want to be like us and I hope your dad goes to America soon and gets rid of the stupid mudbloods dressed like witches.

Tell him I like pumpkin pasties.

ayıl_theodore at 2008-10-09 02:37:33
(no subject)

Blood?

ayıl_millicent at 2008-10-09 02:42:50
(no subject)

YES!!!!

It is horrid I hate blood pudding.

ayıl_harry at 2008-10-09 11:17:07
(no subject)

I don't think he'll bring us sweets but there'll be sweets at the Feast, there are always sweets at Feasts, aren't there? And there are always pumpkin pasties around anyway. I just hope they aren't the transfigured kind because they never taste so good.

Do Mudbloods really dress up? That's weird.
Oh okay. I was hoping for sweets from your dad. My dad says everything is better under our lord protecktor so I was thinking maybe he would have better sweets. The pumpkin pasties here taste like sock.

Mudbloods dress up!!! I read it in a book my mum gave me. It was a picture book so I didn't read it but the pictures were of silly mudbloods in bad witch costumes begging for sweets at people's houses. That's Halloween there my mum says. It's very silly.

Harry do you want to play exploding snap with me?

Sure why not? I'll be in the common room.
All Hallow's Eve

It appears that the Lord Protector shall be joining us for Hallowe'en. Of course I am simply overjoyed that he will grace our Feast, but the surrounding hubbub - well, I fear that it will sorely distract the students. The press alone - !

The itinerary thus far involves pulling young Mr Marvolo out of his final class, providing him with a chance to visit with his father and speak with members of the fourth estate; then the Feast itself with various toastings and so forth; then a small meet-and-greet for the Hogwarts staff with the Lord Protector himself. I shall have to appoint someone to mind the students while the meet-and-greet occurs, of course - perhaps Amycus, Alecto, or both.

I must admit that I do not enjoy changes in my routine, even when they are created by such an illustrious occasion as our Lord Protector's visitation.

ORDER ONLY:

Laying it on with a trowel, I see. . .

ORDER ONLY:

Now whyever would you say that?

ORDER ONLY:

I don't know how she manages it sometimes.
Re: ORDER ONLY:

Long practice.
Frank is all right; there was a bit of a row in Whitby last night but he escaped with not much more than a scratch. The more important thing, he escaped with two more children from the camp there. They've been taken to the Sanctuary for treatment and food and comfort. Poor things, they're just babies, wee ones who can barely walk. The little girl is showing her magic already! She levitated a spoon to show that she was hungry. Isn't that marvelous!!

Oh, how I wish I could see my boy again. Talking to him on these things just isn't the same. It wounds me to the heart that he doesn't remember me except for a fleeting moment in Ollivander's. He doesn't remember me holding him or rocking him to sleep or taking him to the little funfair they had down the hill from our house when he was small.

Please, please take care of my little boy. Please watch over him. I miss him so. I feel so wretched not having been in his life and I know, I KNOW my work here is important to his future but... It doesn't change the fact that I have been a mother to hundreds of children except for my own.

Has anyone spoken to Remus recently? Sirius? I want you to look out for him as well. He worries me, he seems so sad and lonely. Please keep an eye on him?

Young Neville seems to be doing admirably. I shall keep my eye on him, but it seems as though he has been flourishing, excepting Transfiguration classes.

As for the children, I must encourage caution. I realise that you and Frank long to save every child, but - Muggles we can spirit away and no one will be the wiser, no one will care. Mudbloods are an entirely different matter.

I spoke with Mr Lupin the other day. His raven is quite a lovely bird, despite her hurts. He was much as he always is.
Oh Minerva, you're being a fussbudget. Frank's all right. It's all old hat to us now. He could do these raids in his sleep. Those children were starving and terrified. Their parents were gone and no one was looking after them. We owe it to ourselves to save every child we can. We have to preserve the future if we have any hope of changing the present.

Remus hides things well you know. I never knew he was a werewolf until the Revelation Decree. He hid it so well! And even with Dumbledore's assistance that was a pretty big thing to keep to yourself. Poor dear. I see he has befriended the little Muggleborn girl (stop saying Mudbloods!) Hermione. I hope she is able to make him smile sometimes.

I do know all, all about Mr Lupin hiding things well. I have not been his Headmistress all these years without learning some things about him.

As for Mudbloods - Alice, you know the things I must do. It's hard enough to treat you all like chums at one moment and like my worst enemies the next; if I were to change the very words I use, it would become impossible. Miss Granger knows and does not mind.

I think you learned all the wrong things.
Alice dear, you did hear of his rather heroic act regarding Mister Boot, did you not?

Enlighten me, Poppy? Quickly, I'm heading out the door.

From what I'm given to understand, he discovered that Boot was injured, rather gravely as it turns out, and left his friends to help Miss Granger bring him to me. His help in a very real sense, saved the young man's life.

You've much to be proud of in him, Alice.

I'm certainly glad that Frank's mission succeeded, but Merlin's beard, it was a narrow thing. It's a good thing I could be on hand with a memory charm or two to smooth his escape, but I won't be there to run interference next time, if Sirius can't scare up more ingredients for more batches of Polyjuice potion.

I also fear that the identity parchments Frank was using for the Whitby infiltration have been compromised, so you should warn him to destroy them and we'll have to construct him a few new identities. I'll get in contact with one of the Order's forgers, and hope to be able to send new parchments early next week.
alt_alice at 2008-10-09 21:50:11
Re: ORDER ONLY

I'll let him know Arthur, thank you very much for all your assistance.

I'll also thump him and remind him to be a bit more careful.

Now, I've got to go and make my way into Scotland it seems. Wish me luck.

alt_arthur at 2008-10-09 22:28:21
Re: ORDER ONLY

Be careful yourself, Alice.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-09 13:23:39
(no subject)

Alice, you don't know what you're asking.

For someone who a month ago was schooling me to be cautious, Remus is certainly throwing his discretion to the wind. I assume he's harrying off because he's had word of his sister's family.

Don't mistake me, I've nothing but good wishes for them. I've always liked her. But Remus keeps his own counsel and always has done. He can hide effectively behind the werewolf protections. I just hope he can extend that privilege to her, but I fear not.

Besides, how do you expect I should be able to 'keep an eye on him' while globetrotting for potions supplies?

(Constantinople is an amazing city, incidentally.)
I've just been told by Dumbledore that I must find Remus and stop whatever he's about to do. Oh, I hope he'll be all right.

Sirius, I wonder what's happened to you. You're not the boy I remember.
2008-10-08 21:11:00

Wednesdays

The lovely thing about Wednesdays is that Transfiguration is over for the week. (At least for me. I already know Gryffindors and Ravenclaws have Transfiguration tomorrow, so there's no need to whinge at me, Longbottom, about how you still have one more class to go.)

I meant to write an entry about my first month at Hogwarts back on October 1 but I forgot so I suppose I'll do it now.

Charms: Professor Acton doesn't dislike me as much as Professor Carrow does. Mostly she just ignores me. I can do the hover charm and I've learnt a few charms on my own like the word-finding charm (it's 'comperio lacuna,' if anyone else wants to know. It was in a book in the library full of spells that are supposed to help you learn things. There's also one that's supposed to help you remember better, but it turns out it only lasts for about ten minutes. Which would probably be useful for people who run to their common room after lunch to get something and then can't remember what they were going for, but it's not much use for revision.)

History of Magic: I really hoped this would be interesting but it all seems to be about goblin wars that happened about a thousand years ago and I can barely stay awake.

Herbology: I like magical plants but even the magical ones grow very slowly. When I'm older I'll be able to take Care of Magical Creatures, I think that will be more interesting, but Herbology isn't too bad. I like Professor Sprout.

Defence Against the Dark Arts: I'm not sure I've really learned very much about protecting myself from Dark Arts yet. Professor Lockhart tells us a lot of stories and he'll tell us what spells he used to defeat his enemies but he hasn't shown us very many of them. Still, at least he has a nice smile. And he smiles a lot.

Astronomy: I like Astronomy because on the night we have it, everyone stays up really late so I have plenty of company.

Potions: Potions is brilliant, now that I've stopped knocking stuff over.
Now that I've said that, I'll probably spill my own potion and Longbottom's too come Friday. But Professor Slughorn is kind and encouraging and explains things very well. I hope I'm allowed to keep brewing potions once we get to the difficult ones. Some ingredients are very expensive so I've heard only the top students are allowed to use them.

Transfiguration: Well, yes. Transfiguration.

It would almost be easier if I hated transfiguration and were terrible at it, like Longbottom. I could just hate it and dread it and look forward to the day when OWLS were over and I could stop studying it forever and ever.

I love transfiguration. I think I'm rather good at it.

Professor Carrow doesn't hate me as much as he hates Longbottom, which would do me more good if we had Transfiguration with the Gryffindors the way we have Potions with them. He'd be busy with Longbottom and he'd leave me alone. But Longbottom's far away when I'm in Professor Carrow's classroom and I'm his least favourite Slytherin, so there we are. I suppose every class has to have a least-favourite and in my Transfiguration classes, I'm it.

Other than that, well, let's see. I like the food here, it's much better than it was at home. The house-elf that makes the beds in Slytherin found out that the smell of rosemary helps me sleep and now my sheets always smell faintly of rosemary, which is lovely. I'm making friends - especially Pansy - and I'm not as homesick as I was.

I wish I had someone to send me mail.

--

@alt_neville at 2008-10-09 12:45:09
(no subject)

Wish you were in our Transfiguration class, too. Maybe he'd sort of split the difference on hating the two of us. Although I'm sure I'd still get the worst of it.

I don't know why he doesn't like you--you're right, you're really good at it.
Five years of transfiguration. Urgh. Wish I could take the OWLS early to get the agony over with.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-09 13:22:37 (no subject)

I know why Professor Carrow doesn't like me. I bet it'll come to you if you think about it. It's why he gets so angry at me when I do well, I think he'd be happier if I were rubbish at it.

It's a shame you can't go ahead and take your OWL right now. Might as well get that T this year instead of five years from now.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-09 22:11:18 (no subject)

And if you still can't work it out, Professor Carrow dislikes me for the same reason Millicent dislikes me, which is that I'm a half-blood.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-09 22:36:33 (no subject)

I hadn't worked it out. Guess I'm living proof that blood doesn't make a difference, since purebloods like me can be really thick. But I wasn't raised to think that way, I guess.

That seems so unfair. You know it doesn't make a jot's bit of difference to me, right?

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-09 23:50:21 (no subject)

I know it doesn't matter to you, Neville.

And you're not half so thick as Millicent, though at least she can manage a bit better in transfiguration.
You rite to much. You should be quiet. Your kind arent supposed to talk so much are they.

It's 'write,' 'too,' 'aren't' (with the little mark between the n and the t) and when you ask a question it's traditional to end with one of these: ?

And I thought Crabbe was thick.

I guess the other half of your blood is made of swot.

Lucky me getting swot and not pillock for my other half, eh? Considering we're full up on pillocks just at the moment in the Slytherin girls' dorm.

You shouldn't be so nasty to Sally-Anne. She may only be a Half-blood, but she's still a Slytherin.
Tell you what: next time I get some random owl from Mum, I'll have her send it to you and you can try to figure out what she's on about. Other than that, I get no mail either.

Lavender is also good for helping you sleep.

Professor Carrow hates everyone, I think. I overheard a teacher saying he needs a girlfriend. I'm not sure how that would help.

Professor Carrow does hate everyone but he hates you less and he hates me more.

I'm sorry about your mum's owl. You looked so happy when it flew in and so sad after you read the letter.
2008-10-08 21:36:00
(no subject)

I'll be away from the school for a bit. I've some business to attend to.

Minerva, might you spare Miss Granger and Mr Boot to look after my menagerie while I am away? I should not be gone for long.

alt_lupin

2008-10-09 11:20:12
(no subject)

And what is the occasion for this precipitous action?

alt_mcgonagall

2008-10-09 21:22:30
(no subject)

I don't know what all your words mean but I think he is doing werewolf stuff.

alt_millicent
I got an owl today!

It was from Teddy.

Thank you, Teddy! I had a very nice breakfast. Getting an owl made my day even if it didn't really say anything.

You're welcome. I hope you like liquorice.

I do! Thank you again.

Next time my mum sends a Howler I could send it to you instead if you want post that much.

I don't think so, dear. Unfortunately, Howlers don't work that way.
Hello Mrs Weasley.

It's always strange to see someone's mum or dad writing replies. I kind of forget these aren't just for students. Do you know if all the adult wizards have these now? or only some?

I think that most adults will be getting a journal, eventually, although I suppose not all will use them. But as you know, we have four children at Hogwarts now, so of course we're paying close attention to what is happening at school.

A thought occurred to me, when I read about your pleasure at receiving owl post yesterday morning. I hope you won't mind my asking, but would you, by any chance, be interested in exchanging letters with a pen-pal? The reason I ask is that my daughter Ginny is 10, and I'm homeschooling her this year along with a friend and neighbour, Luna Lovegood. Ginny's been pining a bit because all her brothers have left home, but she and Luna will both be coming to Hogwarts next year. I think they would be delighted to receive an occasional owl post, too. What do you think?

Mum asked me about this, and Luna and I would be really happy if you would say yes! I love getting letters, but my brothers hardly ever send me any.

(Well, the twins did send me a Hogwarts toilet seat. But that's not really the sort of thing you like to see an owl bringing for you.)
Alright. I'll send you both owls tomorrow.

You're not getting any toilet seats from me, though. Hope that's not too much of a disappointment.

Not at all!

You can tell the owl to take the letters to Ginny Weasley and Luna Lovegood at the Burrow (that's the name of our house), outside Ottery St. Catchpole (Luna's staying with us until Christmas). Thanks!

Yeah, I'd love to have a pen pal.

No one sends me owls. But go you! Owl post!

You got a package from Mr Malfoy just last week!
Oh, I did get one from Lucius. He puts treats in the posts I get from him. He knows I love surprises.
I went down to Mr Lupin's cottage a couple evenings ago to get some more mealworms and crickets for Trevor. He surprised me by inviting me to stay a bit and have tea with him. Maybe he was--well, I reckon that he doesn't have people visit him much. I guess he might have been a little glad to have some company, even if it was just a first year like me. He seemed sort of tired, moving real slow while setting up the tea platter, a bit hunched over. Wonder if his back was paining him a little. There was a deep scratch on his hand that wasn't there last month. I suppose he must get banged up a bit each month with his transformation. No wonder he has so many scars.

Talked about all sorts of things: his raven, my classes. He showed me some of the things he'd picked up on his travels, little odds and ends he keeps around his cottage. Makes things a mite bit crowded, but it's cosy. Talked about how I was rubbish at Transfiguration and a long time talking about Defence. I told him about some of the things Professor Lockhart has said and done in class. He didn't say much about Professor Lockhart, but from some of the things he said, I got the idea that he (Mr Lupin, I mean) knows a lot about Defence. Funny thing--it was so comfortable there, talking about vampires and ghouls and he was so good at explaining stuff. I've always been more used to talking to adults than kids, I guess, maybe cos I grew up being raised by a lot of older relatives, with almost no other kids around. But I was thinking afterwards that really, some people are born teachers. Professor Sprout is one. But I think there are other people who teach for a living who should really find another line of work. Professor Binns isn't exactly a natural and--well, I won't name any other names.

But I think Mr Lupin could have been a really good teacher. Talking to him makes you curious, and interested about stuff, and when you ask him things he really listens.

At the end, he starting telling me a few stories about when he was in school. Guess he had some good friends here back then. And he talked with me about my mum and dad, which was really nice of him. Meant a lot to me. One of his friends was particularly good friends with Mum, so he talked about her the most, and the stuff the two of them (Mum and this other girl) used to do together. He has a picture of that friend up on his mantlepiece, a really pretty lady with red hair. He
even showed me a letter that friend had written to him a number of years ago.

I asked if he would mind if I came to tea again sometime, since we had such a good time talking, and he said that would be fine. I'm glad. It was a really good talk.

---

@alt_millicent at 2008-10-09 21:21:42 (no subject)

You had tea with a warewolf!!!

Was there fur in the tea.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-09 22:23:39 (no subject)

Of course not.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-10 00:47:41 (no subject)

Sounds a brilliant time, mate. Glad it went well.
New houseguest

Xenophilius Lovegood is moving into the Burrow for awhile, now that the Quibbler will be on hiatus for the next few months. He surprised us with the request, but upon talking it over, Arthur and I agreed, and so he'll be installed in Bill's old room until Christmas. It will help him pinch his knuts for the next few months while he is without income, since he won't need to heat his home. I think it will do him good to be away from it for a little while, so he doesn't have to be staring at his silent printing press every day. Luna, of course, is overjoyed. Xeno also offered to help giving the girls some of their lessons, but I'm not too sure about that. (Xeno and I may not see entirely eye to eye about curriculum.) In the meantime, however, he will potter a bit, offering a hand where he can. I'll welcome his help harvesting the potatoes, and he has already offered to repaint the chicken coop. It would be a good thing to get that done before winter, since it's getting to be a bit of an eyesore.

Order Only

Sadly, Firewhiskey is easier to obtain domestically than here in Turkey.

Would you and Arthur like me to lay in some Ouzo?

Has anyone replied to Albus? I can only guess it's to do with Remus' sister and her family, but beyond that I'm stoned if I know what's going on.

Re: Order Only

Never tried Ouzo, but I have a suspicion I might find it quite useful before Christmas.

Haven't replied to Albus, no. We don't have any idea where Remus went.
They're not messing about with things in my room, are they?

No, dear, of course not. Although Luna has gone up to visit the ghoul a few times. She's trying to make friends with it, believe it or not.
Madame Pomfrey has asked that boot and Hermione help her in the infirmary a few times a week. Boot will fetch potions Professor Slughorn has brewed up from the dungeons (so she doesn't have to leave hospital wing to do it) and help clean and inventory. Hermione will join Boot when her punishment is done, a few days from now.

First time for Boot was yesterday. Madame Pomfrey had Boot wash his hands first thing when he arrived, under his nails, too. She explained why being clean is important around sick people. Boot doesn't mind, is glad to be in place that's always clean. Spent morning going over shelves with checklist, pulling potion bottles that were too old, so medicine in stock is fresh.

Afraid Master doesn't like Boot helping in infirmary, though. Made that clear last night. But Boot hopes he'll get to continue.

Madame Pomfrey is kind. In what Hermione calls a starchy kind of way.

Want to try haiku but not sure what to write about. Want to think about it more first.

What is haiku it sounds silly.

I shouldn't talk to you.

Probably shouldn't. Boot won't mind if you don't.
2008-10-09 13:56:00
ORDER ONLY

I see that Remus has left Hogwarts. Has he told anyone where he might be going?

It is imperative that I speak with someone immediately.

alt_albus

2008-10-09 21:34:33
(no subject)

He said something about going north, sir. That's all he said.

What's going on?

alt_albus

2008-10-09 21:41:48
(no subject)

Alice, dear girl, I hate to ask this of you but I think it important that you make your way to Ayr. There is a werewolf community there known as Ulfhednar, and I believe that may be where Remus is heading.

It is vital that you stop him.

alt_alice

2008-10-09 21:46:41
(no subject)

I'll leave at once. I think I have entry papers and if not, I can forge some easily.

Is he in danger? Is he all right?
The situation is most grave, Alice. Use caution.

You will know more when you arrive.
2008-10-09 16:30:00
(no subject)

Whoever took my quill better give it back now. It's my dad's quill and it is an eegal feather and those are big birds. I want my quill back.

Transfig can't spell it anyway it is dull. I like potions. I like the way they smell.

I want sweets now. Does anyone have any.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-09 21:37:27
(no subject)

No one took your quill, you nitwit. You left it in behind in the Astronomy classroom.

alt_millicent at 2008-10-09 21:43:40
(no subject)

Don't call me names. You're not allowed to call me names.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-09 21:59:14
(no subject)

That's not a very polite response, considering I just told you where to find your quill.

And I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be allowed to call you a nitwit only if you weren't a nitwit. Nitwit.

alt_millicent at 2008-10-09 22:04:25
(no subject)

You took my quill just admit it.
I never touched your quill. I couldn't even be bothered to pick it up to give it back to you when I saw you'd left it behind.

Like the smell of potions? Why? Does it remind you of home?
Greetings from Constantinople (or as the Muggles call it, Istanbul)!

My neighbour has two brothers, Guillaume and Gilbert, and the younger (Gilbert) needed a ride to Paris, which gave me a perfect reason to get there and visit the bank. Arthur, Molly, the Galleons should be in your vault by tomorrow.

It's lucky in many ways that Nigel Cullenden is a quasi-famous Quidditch commentator and scout. It makes certain things much easier. For example, I'm able to explain my travel by dropping in unannounced on the Leagues around here.

And it's entirely logical for a man in Nigel's position to want to invest his sports income into something more stable. Like exports, let us say.

The Turkish seat of the International Wizarding Confederation has an expert on preparing shipments to the British Protectorate. I've an application for an off-shore business permit and my counterpart, the Turkish translator for the Byzantine League, is interested in becoming partners. He's even willing to ship through our third silent partner, Victor Laszlo.

So in short order I should be able to line up sources for North African and Mesopotamian ingredients, wand wood, papyrus, and even some wizard-grown Kenyan coffee and a few other small luxuries.

There's a marked difference between Muggle Istanbul and the old wizard sections that still call their city Constantinople. I've taken rooms in the hotel that was built in the site of the Porphyrian Palace ruins - impenetrable to Muggles, but filled with ancient mosaics and even a working bathhouse.

In fact, if my sojourn here is to last more than a week or two, I shall have to find less expensive lodgings, but it's rather marvellous for the short term.

Please don't take that as gloating. In many ways I'd much rather be able to be in England. The thought of Voldemort celebrating his
birthday by passing off Harry as a pawn in his Benevolent Dictatorship makes me sick.
Does *anyone* out there understand our Arithmancy homework? If you do, can you please explain it to me?

Gah. I don't know why I said Arithmancy. I don't even know what it is! I meant charms. Charms seriously suck.

---

Do you mean the Charms homework? Or did you sneak into Professor Vector's class after we overheard it from the corridor yesterday, to see if that would help?

I'm still lost. I almost wonder if maybe Professor Acton wrote down the wrong page number, because I don't think we've covered any of those charms yet.

I don't think we have either! Like we don't have enough to worry about. Let's stress out the ickle firsties even more!

I love this place.

Alright, I found a book in the library. I think the homework has something to do with summoning charms. But summoning charms are really advanced. I asked a prefect and she kind of patted me on the head and said I wouldn't have to worry about those until fourth year.

I tried it out anyway because it would be rather nice to be able to
say 'accio book' from across the room and have it fly over into your hand instead of having to get up to get it. But it didn't work at all.

Surely Professor Acton doesn't really expect us to be able to do this by Monday?

Longbottom, you're in Gryffindor, what was your homework in Charms?

**alt_neville** at **2008-10-11 03:18:18**  
(no subject)

Opening and closing charms. Alohomora and--can't remember what the closing one is. I think she must have written the wrong pages down for you. She gave us pages 35-50. We're supposed to practise opening and closing doors, windows, and then pick another object that can be opened or closed--she suggested a trunk as an example, or a jewelry box--and then to write an essay on what factors might make the spells perform differently depending upon the object. I don't know what she is getting at with that. Like, what, the weight of the door? What the object is made of?

(You'd be more likely to have a jewelry box to practise on than me, at least!)

**alt_sally_anne** at **2008-10-12 02:15:02**  
(no subject)

That makes so much more sense than pages 530 through 550.

I've been practising alohomora and it works much better for me than the summoning spell did. I guess the question is whether Professor Acton actually expects us to write an essay about the factors that would affect the summoning spell.

If Harry tells her HE figured she must have meant for us to work on opening and closing charms she'll probably give him that smile that makes it look like her cheeks are going to crack and fall off, and then tell him how brilliantly clever he is. Harry? Will you do that?
I think we should meet in the Common Room tomorrow and talk about it. Or we could meet in the Great Hall. I'm sort of supposed to help Ron with his homework. But we could all meet there, right?

Yes, I think we could all meet in the Great Hall, maybe between lunch and dinner?

I'll be there.

Dunno, Transfiguration's the one currently driving me mad. But as I've just barely managed to get the feather airborne, I reckon I'm no great shakes there either.

What's giving you trouble in Transfiguration?
Might be easier to say what isn't. I wrote out what did I'd still be writing next week.

Want some help? I'm doing really good in there.

Er, sure. That'd be strange great.
2008-10-10 15:23:00
ORDER ONLY: Alice, please report in

I've heard snatches of talk at the Ministry today that something significant happened at Ulfhednar, but I can't find out what. I don't have any trusted contact in the Werewolf Registry I can safely ask for details; I've only overheard vague bits from people I daren't press for information, but I gather that some injuries have been reported. Nor is there any word over whether the Ministry is going to be getting involved publicly over whatever happened, or endeavouring to sweep it all under the rug.

Alice, were you able to find Remus in time? Please report in as soon as you safely can. We are all most anxious to hear what happened.

alt_mccgonagall at 2008-10-11 00:35:18
(no subject)

I don't know, either. Despite my best attempts to find out, I am being given the firm, impersonal run-around.

alt_arthur at 2008-10-11 00:50:35
ORDER ONLY

This is bloody nerve-wracking, to not know where one of our most important operatives is.

alt_molly at 2008-10-11 00:54:28
Re: ORDER ONLY

She has a very long-standing friendship with Remus, Arthur, you know that. And he, at least was once a member of the Order.
Was. We don't truly know if we can trust him now, Molly. And if you weigh helping Remus against the risk to the entire Sanctuary programme . . . what if she gets captured? Worse, what if she's confronted with a Veritaserum interrogation?

Merlin, I wish she would check in . . .

I would cheerfully wring her neck for giving us such a scare. She takes risks as reckless as Sirius, sometimes.

But she is good, and she's squeaked through many a tight spot before. She's got more lives than a cat (begging Minerva's pardon. So to speak).

I don't think--I don't think Remus would do anything to betray her.

It would be hard to believe that he could, I agree.

But we've seen betrayals we never could have imagined the past few years.

I have not forgotten about Mr Lupin's mysterious disappearance, either; don't think I have.
alt_arthur at 2008-10-11 01:09:33  
Re: ORDER ONLY

I know.

Do you have any hint of where he stands, really, Minerva?

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-11 01:14:32  
Re: ORDER ONLY

None. He has been kind enough to Miss Granger, but that hardly means anything. One can be kind to individuals and cruel to groups - I have seen enough of that sort to know, as I'm sure you have.

alt_arthur at 2008-10-11 01:32:13  
Re: ORDER ONLY

Unfortunately, yes, I've seen plenty of that sort of behaviour. More than I can stomach, really.

I mean, I think I understand Alice's impulse and urge to trust him. Despite the risk. There was a time I thought he was all for the Order, no question about it, but . . . well. Maybe if we watch him closely, we'll see something that will make his true loyalties clear.

I just hope it won't come too late for Alice.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-11 07:00:53  
(no subject)

Bloody time difference - I'm just seeing all these ....

Arthur, I agree with you. Alice wants us all to be the lads we were ten years ago, but too much has happened since then. I never would have thought ill of Remus back then, either ... but I can't deny the evidence, not when so much of it points to his having something to do with James and Lily's deaths. I can imagine a number of scenarios, but even the best is fairly damning.
Alice asked me to look after him, and part of me wants nothing more. I want to talk to him and see if the old Moony is still there ... but I think how all this might have been different, and I know I can't afford to take that chance.

Sorry. Didn't mean to waffle on or get so stroppy. Blame a late night and too early sunrise.

I regret having to say it, but it's too risky to trust him.

There, see, Molly? Not nearly as reckless as all that.

@alt_mcgconagall at 2008-10-11 14:45:11
(no subject)

I envy Alice's role - romantic heroine, saving children, free as a bird. *She* hasn't changed from when you all were simply students. That makes it hard to understand those who have, I suppose.

@alt_arthur at 2008-10-11 17:00:19
ORDER ONLY

But you *are* saving children, too, Minerva. The harder way, right under the Enemy's very nose, by trying to steer their hearts and minds just a little differently. I know you can't save them all, and I know it pains you just as much as it pains Alice. But you are saving some.

Maybe it might have been a little easier to bear if . . . well, I just wish you hadn't been forced to take the Mark. Couldn't be avoided, I know, for you to stay in your position. And your position is critical, you know that. Maybe some of the children that go through Hogwarts will be salvageable because of you. And all those children in Sanctuary, don't forget, they're there not only because of Alice and Frank, but because you're there to guard the Book and lie to Malfoy about it.
I'll be watching to see if there's any news from Remus, but in the meantime I've a bit of a small quandry.

Mister Boot arrived for his time with me this afternoon, bruised and beaten again, but he's now refusing to let me heal him. I've tried every measure I can to help him see reason on this, but he's quite adamant. I'm angry enough at what's done to him, it pains me almost as much as his injuries must pain him to leave them unattended.

Miss Granger? You have a line into the boy's mind, have you any idea why he would act this way?

That wretched Carrow is a sadistic monster. How was he hurt, exactly, Poppy?

That he is, Molly. It's enough to boil my blood most days or, in this case, break my heart.

As for his injuries, he's a split lip and bruises to his cheek, arms and ribs.

I believe that he thinks he'll just get beat again if he seems like he's healed, Madam Pomfrey. And I think he does'n't want to give Professor Carrow the satisfaction.
But to want to remain injured? What they've done to him, it nothing short of criminal.

It goes against my grain to leave him hurt, Miss Granger. Could you perhaps speak to him about this?

I'll try. I don't know. I don't know. He doesn't always listen to me.

There must be some way to serve both needs. I would wait until he is asleep, but I also fear that he has the right of it - that the Carrows would only replace my work with their fists.

That would only hurt him worse then. At least this way he'd get to avoid being hit for a while.

But in the meantime he's hurting, and risking infection.
Well, if you could maybe you could make it look like he's still hurt? Only so it would fade over time?

Do you mean a glamour? That's an interesting thought, Miss Granger.

I suppose so! Only of course Terry and me couldn't do it.

Perhaps there might be some way he could alert Poppy when he gets hurt, through the journals? Some kind of code?

Oh what an idea! I can't tell him, though, or he'll know that I have some way of talking to Madam Pomfrey without him knowing about it, and I couldn't lie to him, I can only just manage not to say anything.
alt_molly at 2008-10-11 01:21:29
Order only

Hmm. Well, I've seen you occasionally post a vocabulary word of the day occasionally, Hermione. What if he were to post a vocabulary word of the day, if he's hurt? No one would think anything of it, because everyone knows you've been teaching him to read. Then Poppy would know he needs to be seen?

alt_hermione at 2008-10-11 01:22:03
Re: Order only

I think that would work fine!

alt_molly at 2008-10-11 01:23:07
Re: Order only

But Poppy should suggest it, of course. Then he wouldn't know you aren't involved in any way.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-11 01:28:15
Re: Order only

Okay, Mrs Weasley. I won't talk to him about it.

alt_poppy at 2008-10-11 01:31:57
Re: Order only

Miss Granger if you will approach the subject of glamours with him, I will discuss the idea of a code with him while I'm healing him.
Amazingly enough, I might be able to perform such a thing. I'm something of an accomplished witch.

Do you think he will agree to this?

I think so.
Oh God, we were too late.

Before you all jump to conclusions like the papers have been I have to tell you one thing: Remus did nothing wrong. He did something stupid but not wrong.

There was a child, a Muggleborn child, that had been serving a Pureblood family in Glasgow. They caught him practising his magic secretly in a cupboard under the stairs, he's very talented for being so small. As punishment he was given to the werewolves of a local community and oh God, they were almost totally feral creatures, no contact with the outside, horrible like that Fenrir Greyback Voldemort is so fond of. They were going to bite the little boy and keep him in their ranks.

I couldn't get much out of Remus but from what I understood is that he knew someone in the tribe who alerted him to what was going on and the foolish man hared off to try to stop them. Do you understand me, I said he was trying to stop them from turning the poor thing into - his words - a "monster." He told me no child should ever have to grow up as he did.

Bugger it all, I'm crying again. Buckets. I'm so tired.

When I arrived with others from the organisation they were already beating Remus senseless, they didn't appreciate his interference. We got him out of there but we couldn't prevent the bite. They bit the child, they bit the child and it was dreadful, blood everywhere and he kept screaming - screaming. We gathered him up and got out of there, Remus barely able to walk - completely wracked with despair that he couldn't save that little boy. He wouldn't stop weeping, and I couldn't tell if it was from pain from his wounds or pain from failure.

The boy is at Sanctuary. They're not amused with having him there but I told them all to just go fuck themselves and take care of the baby. I'm hoping we can get him to a safehouse in a kinder, more humane community on the continent. Remus was another story, one of my operatives took him to Hogwarts because it's the only place we could think to take him. Please, Poppy, please take care of him. He tried so hard and suffered so much.
I've got to go, I want to check on Ian - the boy - and make sure they are treating him well. The bite will take some time to heal. I don't know if it will turn him completely - they weren't transformed werewolves - but it will do something. The poor thing.

Thank you, the little girl who sent Remus to Poppy. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

---

@alt_hermione at 2008-10-12 16:22:02
(no subject)

You're welcome!

---

@alt_poppy at 2008-10-12 17:11:33
(no subject)

I wanted to let you know that Mr Lupin is doing - as well as can be expected, given his condition.

He spent a rather rough night, but he's resting now, and healing.

---

@alt_molly at 2008-10-12 17:42:17
(no subject)

Alice! Never mind Remus for the moment--what can you be thinking, leaving the boy there! Endangering all those children, as well as you and Frank?

Minerva, you absolutely have to overrule this!

---

@alt_arthur at 2008-10-12 17:45:06
(no subject)

Molly, dear, calm yourself. Alice said that they weren't transformed werewolves. It is possible that he won't transform himself, come the new moon.
Arthur, have you lost your senses, too?!? Even normal children bite all the time, especially very young ones, just in play! If those ferals could affect him with a bite, even if it's during the dark of the moon, how much more havoc could the boy create in Sanctuary, doing the same thing?!

Molly, stop it, please. Wait. We need some more facts before you work yourself up so.

Alice, how old is the lad? And do you have a secure place to hold him, come the next full moon, just in case? Are there any locking doors in Peel Castle, or are the walls all ruined? If there are any, do you have the keys?

I can't believe you would even consider this! This is madness!

Hogwarts has a resident true werewolf, and they manage it well without anyone else being hurt, every full moon.

Damn, Remus anyway! This is his fault. If he hadn't--if you weren't so blind--
How dare you blame Remus! He didn't ask to be made this way! He was trying to HELP the poor boy! He risked his LIFE to spare that child the same fate he's endured with NO SMALL AMOUNT OF GRACE for almost forty years!

Sometimes I wonder if Voldemort hasn't twisted YOUR mind about certain things, Molly Prewett Weasley.

I've, er . . . confiscated Molly's journal from her for the moment. Don't worry, I'll give it back once she's cooled down, but there's no point in raising unnecessary ill feelings from rash things said in the heat of the moment.

Alice, please don't be angry with Molly. You know that she has never held Remus' condition against him, and once she calms down enough to think it over, I don't think she'd argue that he shouldn't have tried to save the boy. She's simply afraid for the children, but I know that you guard them all fiercely, and you wouldn't let them come to harm. But it may be best in the end to find a different situation for the boy. Although I don't know how you can imagine you can smuggle him out to the Continent, through the Ward--well, but best, I suppose, that I NOT know if you have found a way that it can be done. Do you plan to move him soon, or will you wait, to see what happens with him during the next full moon?

Forgot to add: and we are all immensely relieved that neither you nor the other operatives were hurt.
Ian is fine. He's a very small, very frightened little boy. He's staying in his own nursery with one of the healers for the time being - he's too weak to be moved or even to play with other children right now. I want to wait until full moon before we move him; if he does not transform it will better help us decide where he ought to be.

Your wife, Arthur - please remind her that we are all of us equal. Even werewolves. To think otherwise is to be just like the very thing we fight against every day.

Honestly, have you all gone batty? Remus is no traitor. If anything, we are the traitors. To him.

We never told anyone this, but once when we were in our fourth year, Remus and James were roughhousing and Remus's teeth scraped over James's arm. He didn't mean to, and he didn't bite down, but after James sat up, he saw that the skin was broken.

We discussed it at the time, and decided not to say anything. It was a tense couple of weeks to the full moon, let me tell you! But we agreed that if James changed, nothing we'd done earlier would have helped, and if he didn't ... no one ever needed to be told about it. We didn't want Remus reported to the Werewolf Support Office, d'you see, or to force Dumbledore to reveal him to the other students.

Obviously, nothing happened. That's in the lad's favour, anyway.

As to the rest, though ... Alice, listen, I don't doubt that Remus doesn't want any other children made into werewolves. But that goal doesn't absolve him of his past actions. And until I have proof, I hate to say it, but he likely betrayed us first - and James, Lily and Peter died as a result. Now, if I know Moony, I'm sure he regrets that! But regret doesn't undo what was done. And if he was brought to it once, it could happen again. Would you rather risk exposing
the whole Order, and all your innocent children, to the mercies of Death Eaters and their minions?
what happened to Mr Lupin?

Does anybody know what happened to mr Lupin? Today one of the staircases moved on me and I twisted my ankle but when I went to the Hospital Wing, Mr Lupin was there. He looked pretty beat up.

Maybe he ate someone and they fought back. I don't think that werewolves eat people when it isn't the full moon though.

Can you fight back against a werewolf? And win?

I don't think so, but maybe you can hurt them. He didn't look hurt that bad, just beat up.

Wouldn't that just make them mad though?

Well obviously Mr Lupin won the fight, so yeah, suppose so!
@alt_theodore at 2008-10-12 01:12:36  
(no subject)

I suppose. Ask him if he's hungry, then you'll know for sure.

@alt_harry at 2008-10-12 01:18:39  
(no subject)

Maybe I will next time I see him.

@alt_millicent at 2008-10-12 01:10:49  
(no subject)

Warewolves always eat people dont you read?!?!

@alt_harry at 2008-10-12 01:18:21  
(no subject)

No they don't! I haven't seen Mr Lupin eat anyone yet and don't think I haven't been watching. It would be amazing.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-12 03:01:11  
(no subject)

Why is he in the hospital wing where they send students? That doesn't seem wise.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-12 18:32:11  
(no subject)

Eat someone?!
Well, he might've, mightn't he?

I dunno. doubt it though. I mean, he's around us all the time, yeah?

I looked up werewolves in the library when I found out there was one at Hogwarts and the books all said that when they're not transformed, they have ordinary human bodies. Which means they have ordinary human teeth.

It would really be a job to eat a person using ordinary human teeth. I'd think if he wanted to eat someone he'd wait and do it under the full moon when his teeth were sharper.

What did he look like? I mean, aside from being beat up. Like a person or like a wolf?

Like he always does I suppose. Kind of grey.
2008-10-11 20:54:00
Vindycation

It's become colder out so I'm drinking more tea than usual, at every meal most times, and today I discovered a surprise in my chest of tea leaves when I went to the other end of the Slytherin table at breakfast to get some milk. I don't know why our jug was empty, but it must have been Goyle since he had a foul milk moustache for most of today. When I came back with the milk a Hufflepuff was shouting and his hand was swollen nearly to quaffle-size. Harry told me that he was fairly certain that the Hufflepuff had been trying to nick some of my tea when the tea chest got him. Mother must have put a hex on it. Mother, if you're reading this, thank you and thank you also for the extra chocolate you sent last week.

I think that Herbert Fleet plays keeper for Hufflepuff. I wonder if he'll be able to catch the quaffle with quaffle sized hands?

Is there anything to do tonight? I'm becoming tired of exploding snap and its hurting my ears beside.

---

@alt_theodore at 2008-10-12 03:18:16
(no subject)

Gobstones? Or we could go somewhere and get a closer look at something.

@alt_draco at 2008-10-12 03:21:16
(no subject)

I know I said my ears hurt but gobstones sounds a bit boring next to exploding snap.

Closer look at what? I don't want to get dirty.
Wizard's chess? I got a set with an ultra violence charm for my birthday.

Um. I don't want to say it here because we'd probably get in trouble. But it wouldn't involve getting dirty.

At least I hope it wouldn't.

Really? That could be good.

Well, I don't care if I'll stay clean I'm not doing anything that will get me into trouble Teddy.

Where are you at right now, anyway?

No, I wouldn't want to get into trouble. We'd lose points.

I'm under the table near the fireplace. All the chairs were taken.

Oh all right, I'll find you and we can play some chess.
A Hufflepuff, really? All that tosh about being just and noble and secretly they're nothing but a den of common thieves. I suppose that's what comes of accepting anyone into the House.

And you're welcome, darling.

I was surprised, too. I would have reported him to a professor but I didn't want them to take the hex off my tea chest.

Will you and father be able to come to the school for tea again some day soon?

If they do, I'll send you another one. It's only fair that you're able to protect your possessions. I think it's shocking that you can't even have your own tea at school without worrying about it getting stolen.

I certainly hope we can. And if your father can't come with me, perhaps I could bring your cousin Regulus. He might enjoy getting out of the Manor.

At least no one's gotten to my chocolate. I might start keeping some of it in the tea chest just to be safe.

Did Auntie Bellatrix really give cousin Regulus a hook?
Are you going through your sweets so quickly because you're eating it all, or because you're sharing it?

Yes, she really did.

Sometimes I share it. People might do what I want later on if they know I've given them some of my chocolate.

Auntie Bellatrix is funny, but I can't tell if she means to be.

Sharing with your housemates out of kindness is better than bribing them, Draco.

I think this time she meant to be, although I haven't decided if I find it funny or not. It made cousin Regulus laugh, at least. He needed that.

It's not bribing if I don't ask them to do anything for it, is it? I always thought people are usually kind so that others will be kind to them later.

Why did the Lord Protector take off his hand? Cousin Regulus just wanted to come back and serve our Lord again, didn't he?
No, it's not bribing then. And some people are kind just for kindness sake.

I could not even begin to know what our Lord Protector is thinking, my son. He has His reasons, and we must be thankful that He has chosen to let Regulus return.

Well, I will try to be kind, but it makes me angry when people don't really seem to appreciate it.

I know you are happy he's back so I will try to be too, even if he did tease me.

I will be honest with you, Draco. When people do not appreciate my kindness, that is when I stop extending it to them. I hope that you will not follow my lead.

Regulus was teased mercilessly by your Auntie Bellatrix when he was a boy. I think that's his way of showing that he likes you.

It could be worse, when he was a boy I showed my affection for him by turning him into a newt.

Why do you hope that? Is it because later, you miss them or think that they might have been useful for you?
I'm glad you don't show your affection that way anymore! I don't care for newts.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-12 04:03:50  
(no subject)

Because I want you to be better than I am, Draco. That is what every parent wishes for their child. I wish a better world for you, and for you to be a better person in that world.

Regulus suffered my affection in many ways. He had his own bed at St Mungos the summer before my seventh year. I was very worried about passing my NEWTs.

alt_draco at 2008-10-12 04:13:38  
(no subject)

Oh...

I've never turned anyone into a newt, Mother. I must be doing better already!

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-12 04:16:46  
(no subject)

I certainly hope so, my son.

alt_bellatrix at 2008-10-12 04:08:28  
(no subject)

What have you missed out in life for lack of kindness, Cissy?

Regulus is all the better for my teasing, and for your affection. Anything less would not have prepared him for the Lord's price. And anything more...well, perhaps he would not have gone astray in the first place, had there been more.
Nothing that I know of, Bella. But who can know for sure?

I cannot imagine how we could have given him more.

More did nothing for our sister, certainly. And yet I was, to borrow your word, kind to you. Kind to you only as a means to torment her, at first, and then later because it became...the way of things.

I want my daughter to be better than I am, too. But I am not sure that I mean the word "better" as you do.

I always treasure the knowledge that your kindness for me is out of habit, rather than actual affection.

Oh, you must have found the hook at least a little bit funny, Cissy, or else you would have scolded me by now.

I have given up on scolding you, Bella. It never does any good.
2008-10-11 21:05:00
ORDER ONLY: Mr Lupin

I hope that it was all right that I took Mr Lupin to the Hospital Wing!!! Terry came and told me about how he was hurt, and I know it's the last day of my punishment but I don't think anybody saw me, so it ought to be all right, oughtn't it?

I don't know where he was but you ought to say something about it because I know that Harry Marvolo noticed, he wrote about it in his journal. I thought that Mr Lupin wasn't to be trusted?! He was just hurt so bad and I know that Mrs Longbottom went to go help him, I read about it, so I thought that maybe something had changed.

alt_albus at 2008-10-12 01:11:50
(no subject)

It is all right, Miss Granger. You did a very noble thing by helping him.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-12 01:15:55
(no subject)

Thank you sir.

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-12 01:13:43
(no subject)

Miss Granger, I am very pleased that you would take the initiative on something of this nature. As long as no one saw you, yes, I suppose it was all right. It is always right to help someone in need. (In this respect, you must do as I say and not as I do, but I expect that you have learned that already).

You are right to say that Mr Lupin is not to be trusted. I shall handle it directly.
alt_hermione at 2008-10-12 01:16:25
(no subject)

Really?

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-12 01:17:39
(no subject)

Really.

You will learn, child, that often untrustworthy people do not deserve punishment (at least not from us) and many trustworthy people, in fact, do deserve it.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-12 01:18:07
(no subject)

That sounds very backwards.

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-12 01:19:22
(no subject)

There are many backwards things in this world. That is another thing I expect you have learned already.

alt_poppy at 2008-10-12 14:05:58
(no subject)

You did quite right in bringing him to me, Miss Granger.
Owl post today, hurrah!

I had TWO owls this morning. One letter from Ron Weasley's sister Ginny (I suppose she's got more brothers than just the one but I don't really know Fred and George and I think I'll pretend Percy's from some other red-haired family) and one from Ginny's friend Luna Lovegood.

Pansy and I met with Longbottom and Weasley (the Ron one, not any of the others) to revise for charms and transfiguration. Between us we had one person who was excellent at transfiguration but pants at charms, two who could sort of manage both, and one who was pretty good at charms and UTTERLY HOPELESS at transfiguration.

We all did our best to explain to each other what the others were doing wrong, but I'm not sure any of us came away feeling any cleverer.

I can do the opening and closing charm pretty well now though the things I open and close tend to be a little too enthusiastic. If I open a box, it tips over backward. If I close a door, it slams itself shut. I tried opening the charms textbook and a page ripped though fortunately it didn't rip all the way out. How do you fix a torn page in a textbook? There's probably a charm for that too but I'm feeling a little nervous about trying it out.

I hope Acton doesn't really expect us to do summoning because I tried that charm again and it still doesn't work for me at all. Harry, can you be the one tomorrow to tell her that we compared notes with other houses and figured that surely she must mean for us to learn alohomora like the others were learning?

Only thing I've found to repair torn pages is Spellotape. It isn't very glamorous but it works.
Could I nick some off you?

Sure. I use rather a lot of it myself. DO NOT let Goyle near it. Last time I loaned him some I was cutting it out of his hair for about 3 weeks. And I thought gum was bad.

Is it possible to have a negative IQ?

Goyle is living proof that it is.

I don't feel utterly pants at charms anymore if that helps? Some of it made a bit more sense.

You felt pants at charms before? I thought you did alright.
I understand it better than before.

Transfiguration's still a nightmare, but thanks for the help and everything.

I was quite surprised to hear you are corresponding with Ginny (and Luna) but pleased, nonetheless. I hope your developing pen friend relationship will give you a great deal of pleasure. It will also be quite an advantage for the girls to have someone they already know when they start school next year (at least a little) among the older students.
Crispin will be back to-morrow, thank Merlin. I had not had to Cruciate anyone for at least six months prior to this week.

Note to aspiring clerks: Given the choice between a routine day of light appointments and a request from the Chair of the Committee for Muggle-Born Labour Services to represent the Committee on an urgent and delicate matter, one might lead with the latter.

By now the Prophet has already reported the unfortunate incident of the fire at Ayr. Lycus Silverlock, the Ayr Alpha, sustained a serious wound and several burns in the fracas, but he was nevertheless able to conduct his negotiations with myself and the representative from the Werewolf Support Office. His alpha female, Freya, was in critical condition after saving several of the pack. Their Healers expect her to recover.

The article has the right of it: the clan had been presented with a valuable piece of property with the Lord Protector's complements. On the night in question, a rogue wolf from a rival clan broke in and attempted to steal the item. Silverlock's clan intervened, though not before the wolf's companions spirited him away - along with the property.

In the end, we agreed to provide a replacement item, since it is unlikely the first one will be recovered. If Freya's condition does not improve, however, we may have to offer additional concessions. Nothing to worry about right now, at any rate.

The Werewolf Registry representative and I then met with the administrator of the Muggle camp in nearby Dalrymple in order to requisition some of the supplies needed in the Ayr enclave. The rival clan will be dealt with, but for now, at any rate, the Werewolf Support Office is withholding the identity of the rogue.

Returned to find an owl post from Crispin apologising for Witter and promising to be back to work on Tuesday. He had already taken my books back as of Friday to restore them to a semblance of order. I expect things should be back on schedule by mid-week. Spent the day reviewing last week's markets and conferring with the brokerage.
Now catching up with the journals.

Draco wished to know when his mother and I shall be able to take tea again. (One hopes this is at least as much due to actually missing us as because he hasn't had pheasant sausage since our last visit.) As it happens, I know that Broome needs to go up to Hogwarts sometime in the next fortnight to oversee the arrangements for the Lord Protector's celebration. I shall have Crispin co-ordinate so that I am free to accompany him.

Narcissa suggested Regulus go with her to see Draco if I could not; on the contrary, I see no reason for him not to come along in any event. It seems that might be a suitable outing for him, if he'd like to make it. Meanwhile, I had offered him full use of the broom stable should he wish to get the feel of flying again. I haven't asked yet whether he availed himself, although the weather this weekend was more pleasant for flying than last.

Also had an owl from Pansy. At least she seems to be making some friends apart from Harry and Draco. I can't imagine why Charms should be giving her such trouble, however. But I think I've a text in the library that might provide assistance.

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**alt_molly** at **2008-10-14 12:52:29**  
ORDER ONLY

Bastard.

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**alt_percy** at **2008-10-14 21:30:35**  
(no subject)

Mr Malfoy:

As one of the aspiring clerks you mention, I have read with interest this journal entry and your last, in which you make quite clear the characteristics of incompetent clerks.

What, in your opinion, are the most critical characteristics of a truly outstanding one?
Ah.

Common sense and discretion, in equal measure, along with attention to detail and the ability to execute disparate operations concurrently and accurately.

The best clerks, by far, are the ones who learn to think as their employers do. A truly outstanding clerk has no life of his own to interfere with the needs of his employer. He is for practical purposes an extension of his master's hand, wand, even his mind.

That is why I say that clerking *ought* to be an aspiration, to do it well. Too many take it up as a means to another end. Unfortunately, it means both that they have not the temperament to subsume themselves as needed to do the thing to perfection, nor indeed usually the boldness to ascend beyond the limitations of the post.

Thank you. You've given me much to think about.
2008-10-13 20:58:00

Hello today!

Everything is much better now that I don't have to be scrubbing floors! I have never been happier to get glue all over myself.

And when I came back to my cubby things were just lovely, and there was a new quill and parchment there. So now I can take notes, real notes, and not just on a chalkboard or on the backs of old papers. And new clothes! Of course Hogwarts gives me some but these ones are pretty, there's even a pair of dress robes with lace on!!

alt_hermione

alt_poppy at 2008-10-14 01:21:21
(no subject)

Have you seen Mister Boot at all since you left the Hospital Wing? He never did arrive for his duties this afternoon.

alt_hermione at 2008-10-14 01:44:23
(no subject)

Terry's been around all day. But he's been awfully jumpy. I don't know.

alt_poppy at 2008-10-14 01:46:47
(no subject)

I was under the impression he wasn't entirely adverse to helping me here. Could you perhaps check and see that he has not been.. an explantion for his absence?

alt_hermione at 2008-10-14 01:59:07
(no subject)

I'll ask him to-morrow morning. I don't know if he'll say, though. He sometimes doesn't.
Try.

If I have to leave my patient to search him out for that explanation, I will not be happy.

Nice to see you back in the library.
A labour reassignment

Received an urgent owl call at first light that brought me into the Exeter camp early. It seems a certain job placement in my division has ended disastrously, and a particular . . . *individual* under the jurisdiction of the Department of Purity Control who was sent out for domestic service six months ago is now being sent back to the camp in disgrace. The slut is pregnant, and to compound her offence, dared to name the young scion of the house as doing the deed. The parents were outraged, as well they might be, and it took all of my diplomacy to keep them from insisting that we simply dispose of the problem with a quick Avada Kedavra. I pointed out that although her offence against the principles of Purity was indeed grave, the Protectorate can expect years of labour from her in the future, and some of the remuneration for her work can go to pay a fine to compensate the insult to their family name. A stiff fee was agreed upon (to be paid from her labour chit) that in the end satisfied all the injured parties.

Well, I should say the slut *was* pregnant. That has been taken care of, properly and promptly. She has of course been sterilised, too, to prevent any such recurrence. Not that she will have the opportunity, of course: she has been reassigned to the manufacturing sector here at the Exeter Camp, in a *female* only barracks. Cloth manufacture, I believe.

This has been the third such unfortunate incident in the past six months. I wonder whether it might be wise to apply a chastity charm to all females entering domestic service, particularly in light of the Department of Purity's strong stance against miscegenation. We simply cannot allow this sort of thing to occur.

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This one quite broke my heart. Jane Tanisbee, age fourteen. The pregnancy wasn't *her* idea. I flipped through her medical records. The family had called in someone three months ago--they *hardly* could overlook the fact that she had a fractured eye socket and broken nose. I imagine that they were jarring sights to see when she served them their morning kippers and toast. Those injuries date from the
exact week that conception must have taken place.

Coincidence? She seduced him? I think not. That bloody young smug sadist. I don't know how I kept from hexing him into a bloody pulp as he stood there explaining why she should pay him a fine for outrageous behaviour.

She is so thankful to be back in camp, the poor girl. At least she can be with her mother again, which is a comfort. She hasn't said a word about the abortion, but I think she is relieved. I snuck in Emmeline Vance, with my last bit of Polyjuice Potion, to do the "sterilisation" spell--she substituted a long-term Contreceptus spell, instead, which will inhibit her fertility for the next ten years. Hopefully, if we ever throw this yoke off, she might be able to have children of her own someday, when it is safe for her to do so.

I keep seeing her in my mind's eye. Just a few years older than my Ginny; even looks a little like her, with red hair and freckles.

alt_molly at 2008-10-14 23:27:49
ORDER ONLY

You did what you could, Arthur. More than almost anyone in your situation would have done. She is somewhat better protected now, and at least can have the hope of perhaps holding her own babe someday.

I'll have your slippers warming by the fire when you get home, and a nice hot toddy waiting for you. And Ginny will be there, ready to sit in your lap if you need her.

alt_poppy at 2008-10-15 00:58:41
Re: ORDER ONLY

I'm glad you were able to get this poor girl the help she needed.

Also very happy that I don't need to come and check you over for head injuries as I'd originally thought would be necessary when I saw your first posting.
It is so bloody hard, sometimes, Poppy. Minerva's right. There are days like today when I'm afraid I'll run mad with all of the outrage I must choke back, with all the fencing I have to do with bloody Malfoy, when I'd rather just run him through with the end of a bloody pike!

I wrote to the boys today. All of them. I don't know, I just--I wanted them to know that sometimes their mum and dad will have to do things, maybe say despicable things in these journals, but that doesn't mean that we mean them. Foolhardy, perhaps (but don't worry, I charmed the notes to burn once they've read them.) But I simply couldn't bear to have them reading the swill I have to spew out for Malfoy and think that I believed it.

Let me appear a villain in the world's eyes if I must; I'll do it, and more, for the Order. But I just can't bear to be one in theirs.

The last of the Polyjuice ... ?

Well, can't be helped. There was nothing else for it, old man. Bugger all, the nasty little toerag.

Given the brewing leadtime, I'm going to see what I can do about procuring some black market potion pre-made. It's more dangerous, but if I can get it through, you shan't have additional lag before being able to use the stuff.

Well, it was the last that I had. Frank and Alice may have some more--except that the last I heard, Frank's supply was getting perilously low, too.
I don't know that I would say they are entirely satisfied, Weasley, but they are at least, for the moment, appeased. I had a call myself, later this morning, from the boy's father. He seemed to think, because we know them socially, I would be predisposed to argue in favour of a more stringent penalty.

Lucky for the girl, I have seen the camps' recent financial statements. Garnishing wages may take years to pay down her fine, but at the least, it will shave a few knuts off the monthly operational costs.

The Committee for Muggle-Born Labour Services discussed the merits of sterilisation before sending teen-aged workers out, but the notion has been rejected each time it has been proposed. Chastity charms might provide a reasonable solution. Perhaps. Interesting notion, Weasley.

What we really need, I think, is a better indoctrination programme before these teen-aged slatterns are released into the community. They have somehow been given the notion that by entrapping pureblooded young men, they shall be able to improve their places. A misguided belief, of course. Sadly that's even more expensive than despatching a squad of Charms experts to enspell the lot of them.

Have you suggested your little idea to Warrington?

I will be happy to do so. I hope that he finds it to be of merit.

Indeed, I should think that a man in your position, not to mention with your reputation, would be eager to make himself useful to his superiors. How
many have you got crammed into your home, now? With Lovegood and his offspring sheltering under your ... protection?

I suppose it makes sense for the rationing, but you are too generous, Weasley. Too generous by half. Have a care that it doesn't lead you to a sticky end.

I am gratified to see you setting at least one or two priorities that offset your otherwise soft-hearted presentiments.

```plaintext
alt_arthur at 2008-10-14 19:15:12
ORDER ONLY
Arse.
```

```plaintext
alt_arthur at 2008-10-14 19:34:52
(no subject)
Well, as all of the boys are out of the house now, we are hardly crammed in together.

As for accusing me of generosity, now whatever put that idea into your head? I intend to get as much free work out of Lovegood's hide as I can the next couple months. Molly can certainly put him to good use with various dreary handyman jobs about the place. I've been burning the midnight candle at the office, you know, and this at least gets her off my back.

My work with the Department of Labour Services has taught me the value of taking advantage of cheap labour when one can get it. And your little machinations with the ownership of *The Quibbler* (very clever, by the way!) hardly puts him in a position to argue. My sincere appreciation for that!
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```plaintext
alt_arthur at 2008-10-14 19:35:21
ORDER ONLY
(Sorry, Molly dear, for the slur about you hen-pecking me. It's all nonsense for Malfoy's benefit. Also, best keep Xeno from seeing this entry, too.)
```
Understood. Will see you when you get home, dear.

Machinations? Now whatever put that idea into your head? I was merely acting upon the decisions of others, in which my role was but a portion of the whole.

As for your own ... sagacity in making use of Lovegood, how ... shrewd of you, Weasley. Keep up this kind of cleverness and one might even 'accuse' you of finally behaving as a pureblood ought.

I'm just looking out for my own, Malfoy.
2008-10-14 20:09:00
(no subject)
Anyone know a good charm to help singed fingers?

alt_ron

alt_neville at 2008-10-15 00:12:28
(no subject)
Lose at Exploding Snap with Seamus again?

alt_ron at 2008-10-15 00:14:21
(no subject)
Something like that, yeah. Usually lose the eyebrows at Snap though.

alt_percy at 2008-10-15 00:19:16
(no subject)
"Aguamenti" is a charm that sends a jet of water from the tip of the wand. Wouldn't help in this case, I think.
I have some salve for blisters. Stop by my room.

alt_ron at 2008-10-15 00:25:07
(no subject)
Not for this, no. Stomping on it worked well enough.
I'll try not to use it all.
Good, because I suspect that Fred and George will ask for some, too.

You reckon? They prolly have better reaction times than me.

You didn't set fire to your notes like Harry did the other week did you?

Nah. I've too few notes as it is to be burning the ones I do have.
I hope my essay for Potions gets a good grade. I've been working on it all weekend.

I think the moon is full tonight. I love the full moon. But I don't like rare meat, so no need to worry.

I found a doll's head way under my bed this morning when I dropped a magazine between the wall and my bed. It's got dark hair and the head looks like it's been chopped straight off.

So I've named her Marie. I like her. Well, it was really more like learning her name, see, since she already had it. Kind of like with kneazles.

There is a huge spider's web in the upper corner of the common room that I guess the elves missed.

I can tolerate it here.

I found a window that overlooks the part of the grounds with Mr Lupin's house. D'you want to go look out of it and see if we can see anything? Before curfew, I mean?

That'd be awesome. Yes. See you in a few?
Do you know anyone with a pair of omnioculars here? I think that shadow we saw was Mr Lupin but it was hard to tell, it was so far away. And of course the light wasn't very good, even with a full moon.

I wouldn't want to get any closer to a transformed werewolf than a fifth floor window (well maybe third would be alright) but omnioculars would let us get a closer look next month.

That's a good idea. I think Harry has some, but I'm not sure. And I'm pretty sure Draco does, because of Quidditch.

You...named a dolls head?

Oh, no, I didn't name her. She already had one, you see.

Did she tell you what her name was?
A bit round the twist, yeah?

And they say Gryffindors are strange!

From the boy who mumbles sweet things to his Venomous Tentacula, that's rich.

Well, of course she did. Who else would have told me?

Gryffindors. Honestly.

She tell you any other things?

Other things? Like what? Your fear of spiders?

I was more thinking of her telling you that hexing redheads was a grand idea.
Why on earth would I let a doll's head tell me what to do? She doesn't. And if she did I wouldn't listen. I'm not mental.

There, didn't I tell you you would settle in after a time? Soon, Hogwarts will feel more like home than your house, or even the Manor.

I shall be coming up to the school within the fortnight. I'll instruct Professors McGonagall and Slughorn to arrange it so you may join Harry and Draco for tea. And we can discuss the topic you mentioned in your owl post some more, privately.

(Your mother is well, Pansy. I had luncheon with her to-day and she's quite in the peak of health. She misses you, of course, but otherwise, there's no need to fret.)

Of course you were right, Lucius. Much as I hate to admit it, yes, you were right.

I would love to see you again and talk in person! I'm not real sure how to approach the subject any other way than in person so that'll be a real help.

Thanks for the note about mum.

I shall take that to mean that you hate to admit you adjusted, rather than hating to admit your 'uncle' could be right about anything.
See you soon, my dear.

 alt_pansy at 2008-10-15 04:29:13 (no subject)

Now why on earth would I hate to admit that you're right about anything? *g*

See you soon, Lucius.

P.S. Did you ever have a nickname in school? One that's suitable for mixed company, I mean?

 alt_lucius at 2008-10-15 11:51:38 (no subject)

... If I did have, I should be very foolish to repeat it to you.

 alt_pansy at 2008-10-15 21:08:38 (no subject)

Haven't I proven that you can trust me, dear "uncle"?

 alt_lucius at 2008-10-16 03:16:43 (no subject)

Oh, so now the little bit calls me 'Uncle'? It wants something....

 alt_pansy at 2008-10-16 03:20:32 (no subject)

Not at all! Why so quick to assume the worst of me?

(though, if I must, I really would love some of those chocolate covered marshmallows you gave me on my birthday.)
Have you really met a kneazle?

I have! Kneazles are so spiff. A friend of mine when I was younger had one. I have *always* wanted one, and when I grow up I'm going to have one.

Are they as smart as they say? I've never even seen one. Does it really have a lion's tail?
The hen house

I asked Xeno to give me some help around the Burrow, and he agreed. **What** was I thinking?!

HE PAINTED THE HEN HOUSE PURPLE!!! When I asked him why in Merlin's name he would do such a thing, he said it would make the chickens lay eggs better!

And he used charm-proof paint. The colour can't even be changed without doing the whole thing all over again.

---

**alt_sirius** at 2008-10-15 17:12:10
**order only**

Well, you never know; maybe they **will** lay better.

Is it a nice purple, at any rate, or one of those insipid bright jobs?

---

**alt_molly** at 2008-10-15 17:46:28
**Order Only**

It's a medium purple--lavender, really. Quite a few shades lighter than the purple used on the Pride of Portree Quidditch robes. Goodness knows what the chickens think. They're colour blind anyway, aren't they?

Ginny thinks it's **pretty**. She's all for leaving it that way. I think it's ridiculous.

---

**alt_arthur** at 2008-10-15 17:50:28
**(no subject)**

Oh, my. That does sound . . . distinctive.

It wasn't like that when I left this morning, but it was dark then, so perhaps I didn't notice.
@alt_molly at 2008-10-15 17:52:24
(no subject)

He got up at 3:00 in the morning to do it! Why I have no idea.

Arthur, it will simply make us the laughingstock of all the neighbours.

@alt_arthur at 2008-10-15 17:55:11
(no subject)

Now, now, Molly. Don't take it so to heart. Perhaps it will be considered a charming neighbourhood landmark.

@alt_molly at 2008-10-15 17:56:49
(no subject)

A hen house, Arthur?!

Believe me, if I had my heart set on making my mark on the neighbourhood, that is NOT the way I would want to go about doing it.

@alt_gredforge at 2008-10-15 22:02:10
(no subject)

What is really so bad about a purple hen house? And isn't it at the back of the house anyway? How are the neighbours going to see it to laugh about it?

Nothing is charm-proof if you really try hard enough. If you blow it up or something, we can always re-build it.
Or if you want a new hen house altogether, we could blow it up for you!

Boys, you are not helping.

Please tell me he's not gone near my room.

No, dear, he has not. He is being entirely respectful of all you children's private spaces. And I know he wants to be helpful.

I'm beginning to suspect, however, that his idea of being helpful is quite different than mine.

What colour was it before? I don't see what's so bad about a purple hen house, though of course he shouldn't have painted it for you without asking.

(I hope you don't mind I'm writing here, Mrs Weasley.)
It was a muddy brown before, which was certainly practical. I'll admit it was an eyesore, though, since the paint was peeling quite a bit.

Now that I've had a day to think about it, I can laugh about it a little. Ginny and Luna keep insisting that it's pretty, which I'll admit isn't usually the first thing to springs to mind for me when evaluating what a hen house should look like!

Well, I know our home (we call it the Burrow) looks a bit odd to some people. When you think of it that way, I suppose a purple hen house will fit right in.

(And no, of course I don't mind in the least if you comment, dear. I look forward to getting to know you a little better, since Ginny and Luna have both enjoyed receiving your letters. They will be soon sending some back, although our owl has been a bit busy lately, making other deliveries. So you might have to wait a bit.)

Well, it is pretty. I'm sure there's not another hen house like it in the whole of England!

That is undoubtedly true, dear.
Well a nice purple sounds much better than peeling brown.

Why is your home called the Burrow? Is it underground?

No, not underground! Arthur started calling it that as a joke when the children started arriving, because we do have a rather large family, and it is quite warren-like. The rooms are a bit narrow, and we're forever squeezing by each other in hallways and doorways and when going up and down the stairs, and having to cram in together when we sit around the dinner table. Sort of a cosy feel, you see.

Once Hogwarts started this year, Ginny and I were feeling like two lonely peas in a pod with all the boys out of the house, especially since Arthur often stays at the office late. It has been a welcome change to have Luna stay with us, and now her father, Xenophilius, too.
I'm slowly worming my way in to the black market here. I've changed lodgings, by the way, and I'm now in the Greek Quarter - less expensive, but considerably seedier. Deliberately seedier.

I've been going to the less attractive parts of town hoping to find someone with a line on the things we need - now adding black-market potions, Arthur - and last night I finally caught a break.

A gang of young men tried to rob me on my way home. Muggles, you understand, but I ran them off with a few well-aimed hexes. Not before they'd managed to get a few licks in, unfortunately. I'm fine! Just a bit knocked about.

They didn't get my galleons, but they did manage to help themselves to the Muggle money I had in my pockets.

On the upside, the incident was an entry to the wizarding underground, in a way. Henrich Laszlo's self-protection attracted the attention of several Turkish wizards with unsavoury connections. Just what we need.

So slow progress, but progress.

Poppy? How is he doing? Remus, I mean - is he up and about yet?

Oh dear, how dreadful. Not dreadful that you may have found a dodgy source of potion ingredients, I mean, but so sorry that you had to get knocked about a bit to do it. I do hope the lead bears good fruit, however. The polyjuice potion situation is soon going to be rather desperate.

Good luck, but watch your back.
Part of the job description, Arthur. Unfortunately, there's no polyjuice potion or disguise spell in the world that will make one look thrashed.

I didn't mind, though. I rather like a melee now and again. Keeps me sharp.

He's recovering well, Sirius, but very quietly with it. For the most part, he is still keeping to his bed.
Many happy returns o the day, mate! Have a pint on us, yeah?
Another couple weeks have gone by, and this time no detentions and tomorrow night we have another detention with Acton. Absolutely swamped with homework, most of it in transfiguration. Doing pretty well in our classes, no T's yet, and we have an exam in Potions next Monday. Potions is always fun, this week we were working on Shrinking Solutions and today George, clumsy sod that he is, spilled the potion all over the

This is George, just stole the journal to say that I did not spill the potion, Fred tripped me.

Fred back here, as I was saying, George spilled the potion all over Slughorn's marks book, which somehow managed to disappear in the chaos. (As the potion also managed to get all over Slughorn's desk and his current container of crystallised pineapple as well).

Care of Magical Creatures is... interesting? Macnair teaches us everything we ever needed to know, but why we would need to see exactly how a flobberworms digestive system works we have no idea. It seems to be a class that Teddy Nott would enjoy quite a bit.

Got a letter from dad two days ago, told us all about how we can do well if we put our minds to it, and try not to get into too much trouble... the usual. Also, apparently our room is being used by Luna Lovegood. We would just like to tell her, try not to pull on the curtain rod too hard... Something unpleasant might happen...

I also would have appreciated a bit of a warning in advance about what would happen when I stuck my scoop into the whole wheat flour canister.

A bit too late for that. Those spring toys that popped out made me scream so loudly that your father came running.
Forgot about those.

Yes, I am looking forward to taking Care of Magical Creatures.
Work in the library is back to the usual. My word of the day is **numinous**, which sort of means "holy," but not really. It also just kind of means the feeling that you get when you go into a church. I can't remember ever being in a church so I don't know if that's true or not.

Today Neville was in looking for Transfiguration books, but I didn't want to talk to him in case we got in trouble. Neville, if you read this, I might have some ideas for you! There are a lot of different kinds and I don't know what you need. Madam Pince told me I was being silly not to just talk to you, but I think she doesn't know how people can be. She doesn't really leave the library much.

Terry has been awfully antsy lately. I don't know if he's been going to his work in the hospital wing or not. Madam Pomfrey has been very nice to me, though. Yesterday I even got to mix some potions - just mix them, mind you, not make them. But it was still loads of fun!

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> **alt_sally_anne** at **2008-10-16 22:20:08**

> (no subject)

You mend books, right? Can you mend a torn page from a textbook? I tried with the spellotape but I couldn't get it to line up right.

I've been in a church. There was an abandoned muggle village near my home and it had an old church. There were a bunch of squirrels that lived in it. I used to go there to look at the sun shine through the big window of coloured bits glass at one end, because it was pretty, but then there was a really bad storm and the window got broken. After that the squirrels moved because the wind just blew right through and it wasn't a very good shelter anymore. So if numinous is the feeling of going into a church, maybe it means sad? Although before the windows got broken -- well anyway, can you fix my book?
alt_hermione at 2008-10-16 22:36:49
(no subject)

Yes, I can mend your book! You should bring it to the library. Just come right in to the back room and tell Madam Pince you're coming to see me, I'm sure she won't mind.

Maybe it does mean sad, but I think that it means what old Muggle churches were like when you would have hundreds of Muggles in one place. Madam Pince gave me an encyclopaedia article about that when I asked and it seems they were really big and full of people. That would probably feel - strange, to be in such a big crowd.

alt_neville at 2008-10-16 22:52:13
(no subject)

Thanks loads, if you have some ideas with Transfiguration books. The library has so many, and I wasn't sure which ones would be best. I'd rather ask you than Madam Pince. She looks so . . . fierce, every time I walk up to her desk, that I lose my nerve and walk away. But maybe you know her better?

Funny that you mention it, Terry stopped me on my way to Charms yesterday, and he asked, real polite-like, if I could deliver a note for him to Madam Pomfrey. I was surprised, but said, 'sure,' and he popped back in the Transfiguration classroom before I could ask him what it was about.

Took it up to her, and she didn't seem half pleased when she read it, but don't know what it was about.

I've been inside a Muggle church once before, too, Lancaster Cathedral. Not far from my home. It was kind of ruined, too, during the war. Had splendid stained glass windows once, they said, but they're all broken now, and the roof's caved it. Pity, really.

I think I get the idea of that word, **numinous**, when I think about walking into the Great Hall for the first time and seeing those floating candles and all.
The Great Hall? You think that's what it means? I suppose it is very grand.

Madam Pince is nice enough when you get to know her, but she's very fierce about her books. I think a lot of people don't treat them nicely. The thing for her is to use an indoors voice. If you speak like you were out of doors she'll get angry because she doesn't think that's library-like.

Thanks, that helps me understand Madam Pince a little better. My Gran's sort of a Harpy about books, too, so that I can understand (although don't ever tell her I called her that!): you can't eat while reading, because of crumbs, and Merlin help you if you ever placed a book open upside down instead of using a bookmark.

Your Gran's right! It's really disgusting to find crumbs in a book!!

I think that some people don't read books enough, or they would know not to hurt their books by treating them badly. If they read books, they wouldn't do it!!
As some of the older students have undoubtedly surmised, the Hogsmeade weekend will coincide with the Lord Protector's visit to Hogwarts. I must admit that I am pleased with this. There will be fewer students underfoot to get in the way of the entourage that he will undoubtedly bring with him, and there will be fewer chances for incident.

The schedule currently stands as follows:

1.00 PM: Lord Protector arrives. Meeting in the Headmistress' office.
2.00 PM: Tour of the grounds for the Lord Protector and Harry Marvolo, culminating in a light tea.
4.00 PM: Press opportunity. Third year and up students return from Hogsmeade.
5.00 PM: Wine-and-cheese reception for the Lord Protector. Amycus and Alecto Carrow excluded for purposes of keeping order in the castle.
6.30 PM: Feast begins.
7.30 PM: Toasts. Reporters
8.00 PM: Students excused; press opportunity.
9.00 PM: Lord Protector leaves.

I have been informed that we ought to expect the Lord Protector to travel with the entire press corps - not merely the Daily Prophet but those reporters sent here from other countries. I expect that we will all do our utmost to make them feel welcome.

I do loathe planning parties.
A reminder to all 3rd year students and up

Your Hogsmeade permission forms must be signed by a parent or guardian, or you will be excluded from the Halloween Hogsmeade weekend.

I will tolerate no exceptions to this rule.
2008-10-17 19:38:00
I'm not sure exactly what happened in Potions today

But I'm really sorry I messed up Harry Marvolo's potion, and I know he was sort of hacked off about it. But what I want to know is, what did he do to me? I mean, what jinx did he use? And how do I get it to stop?

PLEASE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING I MAY SAY TO YOU. I DON'T MEAN IT REALLY, AND IT'S ALL HARRY MARVOLO'S FAULT.

alt_harry at 2008-10-18 00:39:30
(no subject)

It isn't still going, is it?

I was pretty mad. But I thought it would wear off.

alt_neville at 2008-10-18 00:45:33
(no subject)

Your hair sticks out all over your head. Makes you look like dandelion puff.

You see? I've been doing this all day long. Make it stop!

alt_neville at 2008-10-18 01:07:23
(no subject)

Are you trying to make me lose all my friends? Just 'cause you don't have any real friends of your own?
That isn't true.

Of course it isn't. What's he talking about?

No idea what he used, but you've been a right ray of sunshine all day.

Well, at least my breath doesn't stink like yours does in the morning.

I'm sorry, Ron!

Nice.

Nicer than the noise you make when you chew your dinner.
and it gets better and better.

Might want to think about sleeping somewhere else tonight. Mate.

Fine. Then I don't have to smell your farts in the dorm room.

I'M GOING TO KILL MARVOLO!

Hang on. this is the hex?

Yes! That's what I'm trying to tell you! You'd understand it if you weren't so thick!

Going to let that one pass, I think.

And toss these back at you for the next ten years.
alt_neville at 2008-10-18 01:30:43
(no subject)

Oh, you think I even want to know you ten years from now?

(Do you have something to gag me with?)

alt_ron at 2008-10-18 01:33:22
(no subject)

Tempting. Very tempting.

maybe I'll break your quill instead.

alt_neville at 2008-10-18 01:47:54
(no subject)

Ron, I could kiss you. Except that would be totally disgusting.

Look, I'm going to go talk to your brothers. Guess they want to know about this jinx. And I'll give them my quill, so I can't insult anyone in the journal anymore until this wears off.

alt_ron at 2008-10-18 01:50:09
(no subject)

Yeah. let's stick with a 'thanks' all right?

alt_gredforge at 2008-10-18 00:50:16
(no subject)

How exactly did you hack off the potion... for purely academic interests of course.
Since when have you two ever been interested in anything academic? Aren't you too busy getting 'T's and doing detentions?

Argh. Help me think of something to do to get back at Marvolo!

We actually do care about academic stuff when it interests us, we have never gotten a T and sometimes detentions are worth it.

I think we need to have a little chat in the common room tonight, Longbottom.

Didn't your mother think one of you was enough? Couldn't she have sent one of you BACK?

Look, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I hate this. You two know a lot of jinxes, don't you? Can you, I dunno, hex me so's I can't open my mouth until this wears off?

AND CAN YOU HELP ME GET BACK AT MARVOLO?

Nobody's gonna want to talk to me tomorrow.

The problem is not your mouth. At the moment it's in your fingers, so hexing your mouth won't do much good, as tempting as it sounds.

Why do you think we want to talk to you tonight?
I think all your freckles makes you look like you have a permanent case of measles.

Okay, I'm coming down to the common room. And I'm going to give you my quill so I can't insult anyone in writing anymore, at least until this wears off.

You can use me for any kind of guinea pig you like, if you want to learn about this jinx, experiment with counter-jinxes, whatever. Lee Jordan says you're really good at charms. Just help me get rid of it.

Is that why Susan Bones was crying in the bathroom this afternoon? Because you said something to her?

I only said that she has cheeks like a chipmunk. And you're really a busybody for asking.

Longbottom! I've been getting complaints about you all day! Stop this rudeness at once.

I would if I could! I've been jinxed, don't you get it? At least I'm not naturally a rude git like you all the time.
A jinx. I see. Maybe you should go to the Hospital Wing.

I tried. If you weren't so stupid you'd have figured that out by now. And I hacked off Madam Pomfrey-I won't tell you what I told her. Anyway, she said she couldn't help me, that it just had to wear off. I can't get Marvolo to tell me how long it's supposed to last.

How'd you mess his up enough to get him this angry at you? Were there explosions?

I sometimes sort of mix up left and right, and I accidently got confused and dropped my porcupine quills into his cauldron instead of his, and he had already added his.

At least I'm not as bad as you, dumb enough to lose things altogether.

Except then you didn't apologise!!
I didn't even know I'd done it, you git! It was an accident, yeah, and I'm so thick that I didn't even realise it! You don't have any idea what it's like to be me, do you? To be 'stupid Neville' in all my classes, except where I'm 'Dunderhead Neville' in Transfiguration? But then, what would you know about what it's like to have everyone sneering at you because you're so stupid? Nobody sneers at you. You've got Acton sucking up to you, and everybody wanting to be your friend because you're the Lord Protector's son!

But you know what? There's a difference between messing someone up because it was an accident and messing someone up just to be cruel. I didn't deliberately set out to sabotage your potion, okay? I may be stupid, but unlike you, at least I'm not mean.

Harry and I did this one on Hydra once, which was a bad idea, considering who her Mother is.

It's rather funny when Gryffindors get mortified.

Shut it, you prat.

But it's funny.
I suppose you're going to pretend this is why you called me a prissy know-it-all after Potions today.

And if you really had such an ironclad excuse couldn't you come up with a better one for Percy than "rude git"? You need some better insults for next time, Longbottom.
2008-10-17 21:04:00

Madame Pomfrey?

boot is really sorry he missed all his time in the hospital wing this week.

boot wanted to come but couldn't.

can boot come in this weekend to make up time? please? boot really wants to do it.

alt_poppy at 2008-10-18 02:07:07

(no subject)

You will be in front of my office promptly at nine tomorrow morning, Mister Boot. Prepared to work.

alt_terry at 2008-10-18 02:40:36

(no subject)

boot will be there at dawn. boot will work very very hard. boot can work all day, and all through the night if madam pomfrey says

alt_poppy at 2008-10-18 02:52:42

(no subject)

There's hardly a need for all of that. We will discuss your duties in the morning.
**2008-10-18 14:04:00**  
*(no subject)*

I am sorry.

---

**alt_hermione** at **2008-10-20 00:20:51**  
*(no subject)*

Why?

---

**alt_lupin** at **2008-10-21 16:49:27**  
*(no subject)*

I worried some people, and failed others.

---

**alt_neville** at **2008-10-21 17:18:45**  
*(no subject)*

I do that all the time. But I find people take it better if you apologise. Which you did, so I hope it'll be all right.

(Mind if I come down and see you after classes today? I need more crickets for Trevor. I knocked over the jar where I was keeping the ones you gave me last time, and most of them escaped.)

---

**alt_draco** at **2008-10-21 01:39:16**  
*(no subject)*

You could at least say th

Hello. I hope that you are feeling better.
Not better in particular, but I am mobile once more. You are Lucius Malfoy's son, aren't you?

Yes.
Apology

The jinx finally wore off so Fred and George Weasley reckon it's finally safe to give me my quill back.

I must have insulted thirty or forty different people. I can understand if some of you don't want to talk to me ever again, but I just wanted to say, I'm awful sorry.

@alternity
@alt_neville

@alt_terry at 2008-10-20 01:07:30
(no subject)

boot knows what it is like. if that helps.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-20 01:09:26
(no subject)

What, someone put this jinx on you, too?

@alt_terry at 2008-10-20 01:11:33
(no subject)

imperius. same kind of thing.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-20 01:13:55
(no subject)

What?! Harry didn't put Imperius on me!

(somebody's put it on you?)
@alt_terry at 2008-10-20 01:22:43
(no subject)

boot is mudblood. yes, boot knows imperius.

why do you say you are sorry?

forgot. boot shouldn't talk to student. shouldn't talk to mr longbottom.

shouldn't talk

forget what boot said. boot shouldn't talk

@alt_neville at 2008-10-20 01:32:17
(no subject)

No, wait! Forget all that stuff like you can't talk to me 'cause you're a mudblood. I told you, remember? I told you, you could say anything you like in my journal anytime you want, and I won't ever get mad. I promise.

It's not really the same as the Imperius. Is it?

And I don't get how come you asked why did I say was sorry? I hurt a lot of people--Susan Bones was bawling in the bathroom 'cause of something I said.

@alt_terry at 2008-10-20 01:38:09
(no subject)

well, it's not the same, not exactly. he didn't tell you to do anything, did he? not directly.
No. No, he didn't.

that's Imperius, if the caster tells you what to do. but the jinx did make you do something you didn't want to do.

boot heard, back in the camp, that jinx is one of the things they teach them first to train them, so they can go on and learn Imperius. same class of spells.

And that's why you think I don't have to say I'm sorry? But I said awful things.

You said it to mr marvolo yourself

Said what?
you said 'at least I'm not mean'

It isn't like Imperius! It isn't the same thing at all.

No, I reckon it's not the same thing as Imperius. Not exactly.

It's okay Neville. I put it on you mostly cause I knew no one would care. If you say mean things I mean. Cause you never say mean things, so no one would think too much about it, cause they'd know it was the jinx.

Yeah, well, you sort of forgot there was one person who would care. Me.

you did, yeah, but once we cottoned on, it got a bit fun.
S'all right, Neville, really.

alt_neville at 2008-10-20 02:14:52
(no subject)

I guess people understand that it's the jinx that made me say that stuff, but they're all wondering, was I really secretly thinking it, all along? But I wasn't.

I dunno if Susan Bones will ever speak to me again. Or if Sally-Anne will keep helping me with Transfiguration.

alt_ron at 2008-10-20 02:16:48
(no subject)

if there going to let a jinx stop them from being a friend? not much of a friend, I'd say.

alt_neville at 2008-10-20 02:25:47
(no subject)

Yeah, I guess.

Your brothers were real nice to me about it. The twins, I mean. Not Percy. Well, I mean, he suggested I go to the Hospital Wing, which didn't do me any good because I'd already gotten Madam Pomfrey hacked off at me. But Fred and George, they just sat with me in the Common Room and took my quill away so I couldn't write insults in the journal anymore, and they took my mind off of it by telling jokes and they just laughed at me every time I insulted them.

I think they were really interested in the spell. They like charms and jinxes a lot, don't they?

( Maybe they were sort of interested in the insults, too. I mean, they said I'd given them loads of ideas for things they could say to Percy.)
You've no idea just how much they like them. Dead frightening, really.

I can hardly wait to encounter Fred and George's expanded repertoire of insults.

Sorry.

Clearly you need to try hexing them with this so they have an excuse to say them.

Even if you tried and it didn't work they'd probably be happy to pretend it had.

It'd probably last for WEEKS.

In this case, Ron is right, Neville. Jinxes and hexes are simply part of the education here at Hogwarts, and sometimes students make a little free with them. No need to take things so personally.
I looked for you this weekend to see if you wanted to work on Transfiguration but you were hiding in the Gryffindor common room.

I knew you'd been jinxed, you berk, why would I be cross with you? How could anyone who knew you at all think you meant any of it?

my point!

Well, thanks. I'm glad you know I didn't mean it.

Sorry I missed studying with you. Next weekend, I promise, if you're up for it.

Of course.

What a dreadful experience for you to have gone through, Neville. I'm sure Harry's very sorry, and no one will have hard feelings for long.
That's big of you, Malfoy, thanks. Except I guess your dad at least thinks I deserved it.

Maybe you could explain to him I wasn't trying to 'take advantage' of Marvolo. It was just a dumb Potions accident.

Well, sorry, but I don't think I had better do that.

On second thought, no offence, but I think the less attention your dad pays to me, the better.

I did send an owl to Harry this weekend, to say I was sorry about the potions accident. And I did talk with Professor Slughorn (when the jinx wore off, I mean) to ask him to please take those points away from Gryffindor and give them back to Slytherin, cause it was my mistake, and not anything Harry did. He said to forget it, so dunno if he will.

So no hard feelings on my side, you see.
2008-10-19 20:46:00
Neville

Neville is still angry with me I think. I didn't mean any thing by jinksing him. It was just a stupid jinks. I was angry, sometimes everyone gets angry, don't they?

This is stupid. Also I still don't know what I should do for Father for his birthday, and I have to figure it out soon. I wish I had an idea but what could I give him? I know that I need to do something. It wouldn't be nice not to. Only I don't know what.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-20 01:03:43
(no subject)

What have you given your Father other years?

alt_harry at 2008-10-20 01:52:41
(no subject)

Nothing unless my tutor made me make something. A card I guess. But this year it's different, I have pocket money now that I'm at school.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-20 03:37:09
(no subject)

But you can't go into Hogsmeade to spend it. Although I suppose there's owl post.

Longbottom isn't the cleverest or the best at anything magical but the one thing he can usually do very well is be kind to people. The jinx took that away from him. That's why he's so angry at you. If you'd made him look foolish instead of cruel he'd have got over it much faster.

If it bothers you having him cross you could always apologise. Next time jinx him so he grows a walrus moustache, he'd find that annoying in the way I think you meant this one.
Remind me not to make you angry.
**2008-10-20 17:07:00**

*Who hacked off the house elves?*

Tuna Noodle casserole?

That had to be the worst dinner Hogwarts has ever served.

Please tell me that we won't be forced to eat that EVER again.

---

**alt_hermione** at **2008-10-21 00:21:23**

*(no subject)*

Why was it so bad?

---

**alt_penelope** at **2008-10-21 00:28:31**

*(no subject)*

There are just some things that should never be mixed together. Tinned tuna is one of those things.

---

**alt_harry** at **2008-10-21 00:24:06**

*(no subject)*

It was gross wasn't it? I wonder why. No one ever eats gross things like that at Hogwarts I thought.

---

**alt_penelope** at **2008-10-21 00:31:47**

*(no subject)*

I stand by my original theory - someone hacked off the house elves.

Can you do anything about that?
alt_harry at 2008-10-21 00:33:39 (no subject)

I don't think so. I could complain to Father but he'd probably just be mad that I wasted his time on tuna.

alt_penelope at 2008-10-21 03:32:57 (no subject)

Ah well.

Maybe a heads-up next time would be nice so I could sneak a roll out of lunch.

alt_neville at 2008-10-21 03:25:43 (no subject)

Well, I thought it was sort of good.

alt_penelope at 2008-10-21 03:34:06 (no subject)

Good? You've got to be joking, Neville.

alt_neville at 2008-10-21 11:39:13 (no subject)

I like fish. But yeah, fresh fish is better than tinned.

alt_percy at 2008-10-21 03:30:21 (no subject)

If you think this is the worst dinner that Hogwarts has ever served, then doubtless you have forgotten the dish of veal and cherries.
At least that dish had some contrasting colours. I can't bear to eat something that is all beige.

It was better than mutton liver with creamed spinach, I'll say that much for it.

Alright, you do have a point about that one.
**2008-10-20 18:19:00**
(no subject)

Harry, do you need some help in getting a present for your Father? I would be more than happy to assist.

**alt_narcissa**

---

**alt_draco at 2008-10-21 01:47:20**
(no subject)

Am I getting something for Harry's Father, too?

---

**alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 01:52:28**
(no subject)

I can pick something out for you, or you can tell me what you would like to get him when I come to tea on Friday.

---

**alt_draco at 2008-10-21 01:58:12**
(no subject)

I never really know what he would want. I was thinking something made of snake-skin but he might not like that, since he likes snakes a lot.

---

**alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 02:07:52**
(no subject)

No, I don't think snakeskin would be appropriate. But I'm sure we can think of something.

Is there anything you need for yourself, darling?
No, Mother.

Well..maybe some ginger biscuits?

Is that all? You wouldn't like a new chess set? I noticed the Nott boy said has a new one.

He does. I suppose I should have one as well, then, since I'm not allowed to play with him.

Oh, so you've remembered that, have you?

I never forgot. But playing with him seemed like the kind thing to do.

Touché, my son.
alt_draco at 2008-10-21 02:36:52
(no subject)

What's touche?

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 02:47:41
(no subject)

It means you have scored against me, and well done.

alt_draco at 2008-10-21 02:48:33
(no subject)

If you're happy about it, then I will be too.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-21 02:37:44
(no subject)

Mrs Malfoy I really am very sorry about your canary. I should have known better and I didn't. But I do now.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 02:49:47
(no subject)

My sister seems to think you're a clever little boy. I will defer to her judgement.

You are forgiven, young Master Nott.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-21 03:02:26
(no subject)

Thank you very much Mrs Malfoy. I promise you won't be sorry.
alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 03:04:30  
(no subject)

I should hope not.

alt_harry at 2008-10-21 01:58:05  
(no subject)

Yeah, Aunt Narcissa, I haven't got any ideas and it's awful and I haven't the pocket money for a good present anyway because I spent it on chocs. Which I shouldn't have done I know and I'm sorry about that.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 02:06:06  
(no subject)

Don't worry about that, Harry. I'm sure you'll be more conscientious in the future.

We can discuss our gift options at tea on Friday.

I'd also like to discuss that jinx you cast on the Longbottom boy.

alt_harry at 2008-10-21 02:08:21  
(no subject)

All right, Aunt Narcissa. Maybe a book? Or a wand holster? I know he was saying that people buy him all kinds of things, bags and boxes and things to store stuff in. Only no one ever buys him wand holsters and he always wants a new one. Maybe that.

Neville started it.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 02:17:15  
(no subject)

Hold your quill, Harry. The books have eyes. You don't want to ruin the surprise for Him, do you?

Neville may have started it, but you must learn to
hold your temper and not behave rashly. Take your time to think about how to exact your revenge subtly, never act in the heat of the moment. There are so many other ways you could have retaliated besides that silly jinx.

And you're very lucky you didn't get detention for it.

Oh! No I don't. I didnt think.

What other ways? I couldn't think of anything. I tried. I took some deep breaths. At first I had thought to use another jinx but then I picked that one because it was Neville. Only now he isn't speaking to me much.

I know. Only I'm not sure what else I ought to have done.

We can talk about it more on Friday. I am pleased that you tried to remain calm, I understand that sometimes it's very hard.

You're a good boy. Your Father is very proud of you.

I'll try harder next time.

I know you will, Harry. Thank you.
You needn't scold him over that nonsense. Longbottom clearly had it coming.

Dearest husband, I am not denying that the Longbottom boy is clumsy and needed to be put him his place, but Harry needs to understand that there is a proper time and place. If he doesn't learn the art of subtle vengeance now, then when will he?

Subtle vengeance is well and good, but what Harry has effectively done is established his own dominance and proven he is not to be trifled with. Despite, and even perhaps because of, his vaulted status, he will occasionally become a target through no fault of his own. It's better that he make a show of his superiority. There will be ample time for him to practise more long-term strategies.

Perhaps you are right. However, I still maintain we should teach him some more appropriate curses. Shall we discuss them over breakfast tomorrow?

Certainly. I do have to be at the Ministry by half-past-nine, but that should be sufficient for us to generate a list.
But wouldn't Harry get into trouble for that sort of thing, Father?

Jinxes and hexes are part of a Hogwarts education. If you or Harry were to go round hexing students without provocation, or to deliberately harm them, then yes, you could expect to get into trouble. No one would want either of you to serve a detention or receive an unwarranted reputation for being irksome.

However, in a case such as this, the matter arising from an issue in Professor Slughorn's lesson, and culminating in a private resolution to the matter, no lasting harm, and as Harry pointed out, no one took Longbottom seriously - I cannot see what the fuss would be. It's all in the circumstances, son.

So he wouldn't get into trouble, then? That's good to know.

... He would have a strong case to defend himself against punishment, or at least to downgrade any proposed punishment to simple lines or something equally trivial.

Falling asleep in class, however, due to being up too late, is not something he or you could easily defend.
You'll eventually be taught various counters to jinxes in your Defence classes, which can be quite interesting as well as fun. To do this, you'll have to think quickly and have fast reflexes--which takes practise. Eventually, you will learn how to practise nonverbal spells, but we don't expect students to be able to do that until sixth or seventh year.

Excellent, dearest. I had been about to make him the offer, myself, but you're ever so much better at that sort of thing.

Thank you Mr Malfoy.

Shopping is one of my greater accomplishments.

And you do it so well.
You've only now started thinking on this? I've been at it for months. Not that it's done any good. I think it becomes harder every year.

Poor little Hydra is beside herself, trying to think of the perfect gift.

Hydra could draw Him a picture with those enchanted pencils He got for her last Christmas. She's a talented artist, Bella. I am sure He would be delighted.

A picture? I suppose if it came from pencils that He gave her, that might be suitable.

I know of His fondness for rare, specialty objects, especially those with historical and magical significance, but I cannot think of any that are not already in His possession. Well, except for

Bella, He has the entire world at his disposal, and wants for very little. While I do not claim to know what He is thinking, nor could I dream to, I cannot imagine He would expect more than a simple expression of Hydra's love and respect for Him.

Or yours, for that matter.
**alt_bellatrix** at **2008-10-21 03:01:15**
(no subject)

I find it difficult to determine what can possibly be simple about an expression of love and respect.

I will have to just think further on it, I suppose.

---

**alt_narcissa** at **2008-10-21 03:07:28**
(no subject)

Dear sister, get Him something that communicates the way you feel about Him. Surely it isn't that complicated?

---

**alt_bellatrix** at **2008-10-21 03:11:15**
(no subject)

Of course it is!

But I will think of something. I must. Of course. I will do so at once.

---

**alt_lucius** at **2008-10-21 02:42:59**
(no subject)

Harry has had rather a lot to be going on with, Bella. Had we known earlier, surely, we would have offered assistance earlier.

---

**alt_bellatrix** at **2008-10-21 02:47:37**
(no subject)

I will make my own way, Lucius. Though I would hate for my sister and I to present Him with the same gift. I cannot think of anything more horrifying.
I rather think there's little danger. Our presentation to Our Lord is well in hand. I'm sure Narcissa and Harry can between them devise an appropriate gift from son to father.

That is good, as I know that He has devised a most appropriate gift from Father to son.

Yes, so I've heard. When I was lucky enough to dine with Him recently, that gift was one of the matters we discussed. If He continued with the plan He had at that time, I agree, it is most appropriate.
Life after Hogwarts

I miss the security that being in school provided. Classes to attend, homework to finish. Just having a schedule, how I miss that.

My search for a job has not been successful. My foster father tells me that I need to keep trying. My surname has closed every door than my education should have opened. I think Mrs. Crouch has lost patience with my inability to contribute to our household.

If anyone hears of a job opportunity, please point me the way.

Mr Crouch hasn't provided you assistance in seeking appropriate employment?

He has - clipped want ads from the Daily Prophet and the like for me. It hasn't resulted in a position. I have not yet gotten past introducing myself to a prospective employer.

How unfortunate.
Clarification

The feast and its attendant joys does not, in fact, occur on Saturday, the Hogsmeade day. It occurs on Friday.

It required Professor Acton to point this out to me. I am, firstly, horrified by my absent-mindedness, and secondly, horrified by the fact that professors shall have to deal with various mischief-making urchins throughout Our Lord's visit.

The revised schedule is as follows:

1.00 PM: Lord Protector arrives. Meeting in the Headmistress' office.
2.00 PM: Tour of the grounds for the Lord Protector and Harry Marvolo, culminating in a light tea.
4.00 PM: Press opportunity.
5.00 PM: Wine-and-cheese reception for the Lord Protector. Amycus and Alecto Carrow excluded for purposes of keeping order in the castle.
6.30 PM: Feast begins.
7.30 PM: Toasts. Reporters
8.00 PM: Students excused; press opportunity.
9.00 PM: Lord Protector leaves.

Fortunately, Harry Marvolo has Friday afternoons off in any case, so no further modification will be required.
**2008-10-20 22:35:00**  
*Magical Commerce*

Monthly meeting this afternoon.

Approved several new suppliers, including one that I am sure will interest Narcissa (we have been in need of a new source for several of their items).

Things are settling in with Crispin back in his proper place. In fact, after consideration, prompted by a question from the Weasley boy, I have given him a modest pay rise.

Harry's recent altercation with Longbottom seems to have caused some small consternation. Nothing serious, and I think it's all to the good that his classmates understand that although Harry is affable, he is not to be taken advantage of. Also, the 'boot' creature has made comments I fear Harry may find upsetting.

Early morning to-morrow so I shall follow-up on a few posts and then to bed.

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2008-10-21 03:55:02  
(no subject)

Darling, I think you should have a word with Mr Crouch. He has not been adhering to his duties as a principal in the Protective Placement Programme.

---

**alt_lucius** at 2008-10-21 04:01:25  
(no subject)

I could drop by his office, but really, I'm not certain whether the difficulty lies more with the candidate than his efforts on her behalf.

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2008-10-21 04:02:20  
(no subject)

Perhaps effort is lacking on both sides. If Mr Crouch could be persuaded, then possibly she could as well. And if she can't, then the matter is closed.
alt_lucius at 2008-10-21 04:03:36  
(no subject)  
Well, if you wish to undertake the challenge and provide her some well-placed advice regarding her ... self-presentation, I shall at least hold a conversation with Crouch on the matter of more direct intervention.

Shall we discuss in the morning?

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 04:03:58  
(no subject)  
Absolutely, my darling.

I know if we could have had the misfortune of fostering one of the poor creatures, we would have afforded him or her every appropriate opportunity available.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-21 04:06:15  
(no subject)  
Naturally. What, after all, is the point of the Programme if its alumni see no benefit to making the right choice?

But now, love, I know you are fatigued, and I have a few other things to tend to before morning. Good night.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-21 04:07:14  
(no subject)  
Good night, dearest. I shall see you in the morning.
Hah. I knew that stuff would peak his interest. Greedy bugger.
We had a lot of homework this past week. Everyone said it's because they don't expect we'll get much done Halloween weekend.

In Potions last Friday Harry jinxed Longbottom so that Longbottom had to insult everyone who spoke to him -- first face to face and then later when he picked up his journal the hex worked there, too. He called me a prissy know-it-all on the way out of Potions. I thought it was terribly funny since he's the last person who'd ever say something mean to anyone. It didn't wear off for the longest time, I don't know why. Harry and Draco had used it before and they said it always wore off in an hour or two.

We talked in the common room yesterday about whether the insult jinx really is like casting Imperius on someone. I think it isn't. If the worst you could do with Imperius was to make people insult their friends, it wouldn't be so restricted. The problem is that you can use Imperius to make people do really dreadful things -- like if that Hufflepuff git who stole Draco's tea could use Imperius, he could have made Goyle take it and give it to him, and then the hex on Draco's tea chest would've made it look like Goyle was the thief and no one would've known he wasn't.

LOTS of jinxes and hexes make people do something they don't want to do, like dance, or freeze in place, or fall over, or drop their wand. And no one says that those are a form of the Imperius curse.

I want to learn how to counter jinxes like Percy talked about. When does Professor Lockhart teach those? Second year? Third year?

Does it really matter? I know it isn't supposed to be right to cast Imperius against our own, but like you said, a lot of hexes and jinxes make you do things you don't want to do. You should see some of the spells I've read about in my Father's books, from back in the days when muggles tried to burn witches and wizards. There's one that turns a person's skin inside-out.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-21 16:33:40  
(no subject)

It doesn't really MATTER especially as it was Harry who cast it but it's an interesting question, don't you think?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-21 16:50:09  
(no subject)

Sorry, Carrow almost saw me writing in here.

I was going to say it doesn't matter if it's Harry casting it but it might matter if it were someone else casting it on Harry, you know? And it's interesting because some spells really are related, and you can learn the harder one by learning the easier ones first, and sometimes the spells that connect aren't always what you'd expect.

Does the spell that turns a person's skin inside out do it all at once like turning over a piece of paper, or bit by bit like turning a sock inside out? It sounds disgusting either way. You wouldn't want to use it if the person were standing on a rug you liked.

alt_draco at 2008-10-21 16:53:13  
(no subject)

I don't know, I've never seen the inside-out spell done before, have I? I think the idea was to leave the muggles as bloody as possible so the rest would be too scared to keep burning witches and wizards. It just made them carry on with more burnings, though.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-21 16:56:00  
(no subject)

I thought maybe the book would have said.

Muggles are really stupid, aren't they? If they'd just left the wizards alone, the wizards would've left them alone, you'd think they'd have figured that out.
The book might've said, but I don't remember.

Well back in those days we didn't hide ourselves from them like we did later, so the muggles would come to us and try to buy potions and things, since they're basically helpless, and then they would turn around and show their gratitude by trying to burn us. They even burned some of their own in the process. So yes, they're complete idiots, but dangerous, too.
Marie says you're going to hell, Harry, for using a jinx that's Imperius-like.

I disagree. I don't believe in hell. I think your jinx was very clever.

Anyone want to find out whether or not there's a god with me? I have a couple of experiments I'd like to perform.

Why is Marie so uptight?

You'd be uptight if you didn't have a body.

Well, obviously. What a disgusting thought.

Do your parents talk about god?

We talked about gods once in the village school and my teacher said god was something muggles invented to explain wizards. Like, they saw wizards doing magic back before the Statute of Secrecy, and they couldn't explain it so they made up an ultra-powerful invisible wizard in the sky to explain what they
were doing.

But that teacher was a bit of a dolt, so who knows?

Mum doesn't talk about god, no but there are lots of gods out there, I think. I like your explanation. It makes sense.

What sort of experiments?

Ones that will make you question the question of evil incarnate.

Okay, not really. I just have an idea on a variation of Leviosa but it takes another person to see if it works.

Had me a bit panicked there for a mo.

I'm listening...

Meet me after supper tonight? It's easier to explain in person.
2008-10-21 07:09:00
The hen house again

Now he's added pink polka dots!
This, he said, will make the eggs more nutritious!

alt_molly

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-21 13:57:41
(no subject)

It seems to me that you may have to grin and bear it, Molly.

alt_molly at 2008-10-21 20:30:10
(no subject)

Once I got over the shock a bit, I'll admit I began to see a glimmer of humour in the whole thing. When Ginny went out this morning to gather the eggs and saw the hen house (she's the one who told me about it), she collapsed into giggles and kept snorting about it for the next half hour.

What made it almost funnier was that Luna was bewildered by her reaction, and didn't see what was strange about the hen house at all.

alt_arthur at 2008-10-21 14:05:30
(no subject)

Oh, dear.
I'll talk to him when I get home, Molly.

alt_molly at 2008-10-21 14:17:43
(no subject)

I know he's trying to be helpful, Arthur. Pathetically eager to be helpful, even. Yes, I really was grateful that he spent so much time yesterday charming
away the weeds growing along the fenceline. And then he goes and does something like this!

But if I tell him I don't like it whatever-it-is that he's done, tears well up in his eyes, and--well, it's as if I'm savaging a kitten.

The problem is that Xeno has such peculiar ideas of what might be helpful that there's no way to head him off when he gets a notion in his head because it would never occur to me that he would do such a thing. What next? Do I have to tell him, 'Please don't bury umbrellas in the garden' or 'please don't hang tin pie plates from the roof'?
Crums

boot doesn't have a place to eat. Usually the kitchens, but sometimes will take food somewhere else. Not the cupboard (don't want ants or mice there). But sometimes by the lake if it's nice. When it's cold, inside one of the greenhouses is good, too. Professor Sprout doesn't mind.

Lately boot has been eating on the steps outside the kitchen door, the one to the south kitchen garden. The sparrows under the eaves watch for boot now. They fly down when he comes to eat on the steps, waiting for bread crumbs.

There was a boy boot knew back in the camp. He wanted a pet bird so bad and kept trying to catch one. Do you remember him, Hermione? He made a cage out of sticks. He would wait with a pot or a hat and would try to jump on the bird but birds always flew away too quick. Then he would get angry and scream, throw things at the birds. Birds are smart. They started flying away as soon as he came outside.

Boot thought about that boy today when one sparrow came up close. It could have pecked boot's toes.

That boy should have tried throwing crumbs instead. Then maybe the bird would have come up to him. He wouldn't have to catch the bird and keep it in a cage at all, if the bird decided to be his friend.

Being kind would have worked better.

Have you ever seen Mr Lupin's raven? He calls it 'Poe.' Ravens are supposed to be real smart, and they can be good pets, he told me.

ermione and me took care of his animals when he left Hogwarts for a while earlier this month, so yes, boot has met Poe.
You don't know why he ended up in the hospital wing, do you?

no. boot shouldn't no, boot doesn't know.

Oh. Well, I was going down to see him anyway today and--I dunno. I just didn't know if I should say anything. Didn't want to ask him. So I just sort of wondered if you knew.

Guess it's not my business anyway.

boot mustn't ask too many questions about other peoples business, you see. questions just get mudbloods into trouble

Oh. Oh, I guess I didn't think of that. I mean, I don't want you getting into trouble or anything.

(Except Mr Lupin's seems real nice, and it's hard to see him getting mad at anybody for just asking questions.)
boot has never met mr lupin

What--never? But you were both here last year, weren't you?

Mr Lupin

boot hasn't. Mr Lupin probably doesn't need to meet boot. boot is just a low mudblood

I don't get why you call yourself that.

boot can't talk any more
I'm sorry! I didn't mean--
Terry?

Terry?
I don't think what Harry did was wrong. That jinx isn't anything like Imperius. Imperius makes somebody make you do something and you don't have any choice in the matter. Longbottom could have gone somewhere and stopped talking to people and thrown his quill away. But he didn't. Besides, it was just a silly jinx anyway. I don't see why everyone is so cross about it. Everyone knows Longbottom wouldn't really say those things.

Also I said that the ghosts are better here than at home but I was sort of wrong. Our ghosts are very boring and they like to stand behind you when you're having dinner and watch you when you sleep. The ones here mind their own business most of the time and tell good stories other times, but at home we don't have a poltergeist.

I really hate Peeves.

Who watches you when you sleep?

Great-great-great-great-great Aunt Myfanwy. She's done that with every child that's lived in this house for hundreds of years. I think one of her sons died in his sleep.

That's creepy. I'd not like it if the Bloody Baron did that in our dormitory.

Did Peeves do something to you, by the way?
Have you forgot about the other night when he chased us back from the Inf... down the corridor or are you just being that word my Auntie calls me when she thinks I've said something thick on purpose? Obtoose?

I haven't forgot, I guess I'm just getting used to that sort of thing from him. I've seen him since that night and he splattered ink on me, the prat.

He keeps singing that song at me about the You Know What.

Least yours isn't always toppling his head off at the dinner table. Not really appetising, that.

Yeah I wouldn't like that. The Bloody Baron is all right. He's got some amazing stories if you give him a chance.
People just wanted to find a reason to get really angry and out of sorts, I think. With Longbottom and the jinx I mean.

But why? It's not like Harry made him go feed himself to the giant squid or anything.

I think some people just like finding things to be angry over.

That's stupid. I'd rather have something good to get cross about.

So would I, but you don't see me all angry about it, right?

Has your luck come back since we found your necklace?
alt_michael at 2008-10-22 02:24:21  
(no subject)  
I'm not sure. I think it's better, a bit.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-22 02:27:44  
(no subject)  
If it really had come back then perhaps you'd have found something good to get angry about.

alt_michael at 2008-10-22 02:33:34  
(no subject)  
I don't want to be angry that much.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-22 02:41:41  
(no subject)  
Yeah it doesn't seem like much fun. Being angry I mean.  
Do you play wizard's chess?

alt_michael at 2008-10-22 02:51:36  
(no subject)  
People seem to enjoy it enough. Being angry.  
Yes, I do.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-22 02:53:22  
(no subject)  
Do you want to play after dinner tomorrow?
Yes, all right.

Of course, Harry did nothing seriously wrong. It's ridiculous that this incident has become a three-days'-wonder, all over a comment made by some inconsequential Mudblood who has no idea what he's talking about.

Saying the Aspersium Jinx is related to the Imperius Curse is like saying an owl is related to an Occamy.

The mudblood doesn't know its Occamy from its elbow. Sir.

Precisely my point, young man.

Be so good as to remind others that the creature hardly is qualified to offer any such opinion on the subject of magical theory or spellcraft. The very idea is outrageous, let alone that you and your classmates stoop to believe anything it has to say.

If it continues troublesome, it shall rue its indiscretion.
I've heard Peeves is scared of the Bloody Baron, so you'd think he'd treat us Slytherins with more respect.

He tripped me going downstairs the other day and all my books went everywhere and I scraped my knees.
In Defence Against the Dark Arts today I asked Professor Lockhart when we might learn counter-jinxes to defend ourselves against someone trying to hex us. He told us a story about how someone tried once to hex him in an alley to steal the valuable magical pocket knife he was carrying and he fended off the attacker with an all-purpose counter-jinx that makes the other person bite his tongue. He told us the name of the jinx, he called it the Tibetan Tongue-Twister, and then he told us all about this fight in the alley, and all about the pocket knife, which is apparently enchanted so that it never falls out of your pocket, and you can't forget it and leave it behind, and it looks like a paperclip to muggles which was apparently very useful back when muggles were in charge, I guess they didn't like wizards having pocket-knives, and also you can't cut yourself with it accidentally. And he promised to bring it to class another day and show it to us.

But he never told us the incantation for the Tibetan Tongue Twister jinx. I went to the library and tried to look it up but I couldn't find any reference to it in *Magics of the East*. Though I did find a charm to purify drinking water, and a hex that makes someone’s food very spicy. Actually the book called that one a charm, not a hex, it seemed to think you'd use it on your own food if it were too bland. I suppose it might have improved the tuna noodle stuff from last night.

Anyway, does anyone know the counter-jinx he's talking about?

---

I've never heard of it. Auntie Brunhilda uses the spicy food one all the time though.
On her own food to improve it, or on other people's as a prank?

I'm guessing her own. Your auntie doesn't really sound like the practical jokes type.

I can't imagine Auntie ever pranking anyone ever. She says transfigured pepper doesn't do a damn bit of good and father doesn't like pepper so he won't buy the regular sort.

Don't reckon anything could've helped that tuna bit last night. I've known gnomes who smelled better.

Mutton liver really is worse.

Urgh. I'll take your word on it.
Even Seamus' socks smell better. And that's saying a lot.
Agatha contacted me this afternoon to confirm that Laszlo Limited was one of the suppliers Lucius just mentioned as approving. As the contents of the shipment are already near the end of their quarantine, we are a step closer to getting you those much-needed wands and supplies!

Unfortunately, my lead on quality ashwinder eggs turned out to be a load of bollocks. Nothing but common python eggs. Useful, but not worth the 3Γ each they wanted. Ah, well. At least the first shipment is well on its way.

I've been told of a place near the mosque where one can score papyrus and genuine ondine scales. I figure the legitimate materials and products, as well as being a smokescreen for the other stuff, may go a way to generating that budget you need for Sanctuary.

Anyway, I'm to go there tomorrow with Ahmet. He's the young fellow who was so impressed by my spellwork last week. He's a bit dodgy, rather like Mundungus, but younger (and more fit) and a good deal more hospitable. His mother has invited me to dine with them twice this week, but I think that's because she hopes to interest me in marrying Ahmet's sister.

I'll keep you posted. Er, about the potions ingredients, not the sister. (No fears on that score!)

Molly, I sympathise, I really do. Purple is fine. But polka dots? Pink ones, at that? I think Xeno needs a list of chores that will keep him occupied dawn to dusk. Perhaps if he's too knackered to take initiative, you can spare yourselves any more unconventional paint jobs. I can just imagine a green and yellow-striped broom shed, next!
getting in some of the supplies we need through that channel. There are some people who are VERY eager to receive their first shipment from Laszlo Limited, the wands especially.

Keep us posted on the progress on tracking down those critical potions ingredients. I still haven't heard from Shacklebolt, so there's nothing coming from that quarter for now. Perhaps Alice will report in on some sources that Frank might have. I'm afraid the Polyjuice potion situation may soon become quite urgent, although we don't have any missions in mind for now. But I really do feel safest having a supply of the potion ready at hand in case anything comes up unexpectedly.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-22 12:10:18
Re: Order Only

Premixed polyjuice potion, right! I knew I was forgetting something.

I meant to report that it's illegal here, but there's a chap Ahmet knows who runs it from West Africa through to the Soviet Union. Usually passes near enough to Turkey as makes no difference. Ahmet's trying to arrange a drop.

Arthur, is there anything else I can be doing? I know this is important stuff, but it doesn't occupy me completely. Anything else someone outside can do for any of you?

alt_arthur at 2008-10-22 14:18:43
Re: Order Only

Well, if I might wish for the moon, I'd ask for a case of invisibility cloaks. But then if wishes were thestrals, Muggles would ride.

In all seriousness, anything you can think of that would help us with stealth, creating forgeries of identity parchments, stretching supplies or possibly conjuring Galleons out of thin air would be very gratefully received.
For reasons which have yet to be adequately explained, the elf proved incapable of keeping the bath at the proper temperature. Left him to scald himself as penalty. Consequently I was already cross when I arrived for breakfast.

Despite my mood, Narcissa and I spent a pleasant forty-five minutes discussing the boys and their inventiveness (or lack thereof) at maintaining their proper position within the student rankings.

Also discussed the Tonks girl and the ... marketability ... of her skills. Promised at Narcissa's urging to inquire after Crouch's efforts to help. After all, it does no good to anyone if the Half-blood Placements fail to produce favourable results. The whole point is to provide them with a method to become useful members of society. Instructed Crispin to find time in Crouch's books today, if possible.

He did, but not until afternoon. In the morning, I had a scheduled update from the Department of Mysteries regarding each of the Unspeakables' projects and requests for the coming year. Rookwood, of course, had already tried to bend my ear about the subjects he needs; this was passed on to the Department of Muggle Domestication for approval and allocation of suitable candidates. Croaker and Bode had modest requests for testing, but insufficient documentation to support their funding requisition. Umbridge was understandably less than impressed with their presentations, as was I. And of course, Morlock repeated his request of the last three years for additional staff, which was summarily denied.

The meeting concluded, Umbridge invited half the budget review board to luncheon, where the ever-pleasant Miss Robins was on hand to assist the Minister with notes on the discussion from earlier. Should put us quite ahead on the recommendations for the departments for the coming year. Really, hiring this young lady is quite the best decision Umbridge has made in some time. In fact, recalling my conversation with Narcissa from the morning, Miss Tonks might have a much easier time of it were she half as charming or efficient.

At any event, that brought me back to the disagreeable errand of the afternoon. Lucky I had tea with Ari to look forward to; addressing Bartemius Crouch is always tiresome and vexing. He of course had a
host of excuses, each one more dubious than the last, as to why he could be of no assistance at present. I do detest people who prevaricate. He claimed a meeting and rushed off. Spoke to his clerk, Weatherby, I think, regarding another time to readdress the matter. With Warrington along, if necessary. Or even Theodore Nott.

Speaking of which, I’ve had a thought, but I shall wait to discuss it with Warrington until after tea on Friday with Draco, Harry, and Pansy. Oh - must remember to make sure Crispin has made the arrangements for us to go up at end of week.

Tea with Ari, as mentioned before. Crispin has provided me with the agenda for the next week's Board meetings (NRBC, Hogwarts) and the new business plan for *The Quibbler* to approve and forward to Lovegood.

Repaired to the office after supper to review the same, and the journals.

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*alt_molly* at **2008-10-22 03:38:45**

*Order Only*

Arse.

Arthur, have you heard about Rookwood’s requisition request yet on your end?

*alt_arthur* at **2008-10-22 03:53:43**

*Order Only*

No, but the requisition is directed to the Department of Muggle Domestication, not mine.

*alt_molly* at **2008-10-22 03:55:41**

*Order Only*

But you're the Liaison from the Committee for Muggleborn Labour to that department, so couldn't you find out?
Possibly. I might try to sound out Prescott tomorrow, see if I can learn a little more. I'm afraid he won't be able to deflect Rookwood's request, though. I know he tried last year arguing that he had too many other work requests and so tried to cut the number of test subjects they sent on, but frankly, the Department of Mysteries always gets priority, so I'm afraid that argument didn't wash.

Poor blighters.

Arthur, it's ridiculous that you're at the office this late. Can't you come home?

Just a few more memos, Molly, dear, and then I'll be on my way.

I've never understood how Lucina Prewett Crouch and Bartemius Crouch are so unpleasant and their son Barty is so agreeable.

Something must be done, Lucius. His lack of effort could reflect badly on the Programme.
alt_lucius at 2008-10-22 04:05:54  
(no subject)

Dearest, I could not agree more. After speaking with him however briefly, I am convinced his reluctance stems mainly from his own creation. Though I admit I have not seen the girl in years, and he did have a point about pink hair.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-22 04:09:18  
(no subject)

I do not believe her appearance will be of any further consequence.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-22 04:14:01  
(no subject)

Excellent news. Well done, my love! There is a time and place for such talents, and job-hunting is neither.

In that event, I am sure that my next conversation with Crouch will yield more encouraging results.
MISSING BROOM

My broom is missing.
I don't think I could have misplaced it.
If someone knows who took it, you should tell me.

You've checked with the Slytherin prefects, I trust? Where did you see it last?

Yeah.
It was on my bed. I put it there and went in to go play Exploding Snap and then it wasn't there when I came back.

And you've spoken with all your dorm mates?

Not yet. Can't find them all.
I'm in the library working on transfiguration with Longbottom. We've been here since just after dinner.

I didn't take your broom and I didn't see who did. I don't think Longbottom would want it. He broke one arm already on a school broom, if he tried to ride yours he might lose the other arm entirely.

Yeah, that's one person who definitely didn't take it.

Thanks a lot. I think.

(Hope you find it. That's a really nice broom. Not that I want you to beat Gryffindor in Quidditch and all, but still.)

Whoever took it is an idiot. I mean, considering who they stole it from.

Maybe we should grab Vince and Gregory and see if we can get some answers out of people. They look like they'd be threatening. To first and second years, anyway.
Yeah, I think so.

I mean I left it on my bed in the dorm though. So Vince and Gregory are suspects. None of the girls can get into our dorm anyway.

Oh, yeah, I guess they are suspects. The boys from the older years can get in, right?
My latest attempt to keep Xeno busy and out of trouble was to ask him to help harvest the potatoes. I've probably waited too long since we've already had a spot of frost. Not hard frost, though, so I think they won't spoil. We had a good crop this year, thank goodness. For some peculiar reason, he decided to dig them all up with a shovel instead of charming them up out of the ground with his wand. I never saw such a thing, but Xeno said he wanted the exercise, and well, there you have it. He managed to get his trousers covered with mud; I don't know if I'll be ever able to charm them clean. But at least it kept him from wielding a paintbrush for one day. The girls seemed to think this was grand fun and begged off their lessons for the day to help. Their dungarees are filthy, too.

Received a short note from Ron (I rather suspect that Percy bullied him into writing it). He seems to be getting on well with his roommates although apparently the smell of Seamus Finnegan's socks is becoming rather a joke between the three of them. Ron asked me for an air freshening charm. Not much there of note to anyone but his mum and dad, probably.

Percy's latest was rather more interesting. He surprised me by saying that Draco Malfoy seems to be 'sucking up to him.' It made me rather hopeful--first of all he noticed at all and secondly that he is rather suspicious about it. He also mentioned exchanging a few words with Lucius Malfoy in the journals, but it is quite hard to make out what he thinks about it. It sounds as though he is trying to think ahead, making contacts to help him when he leaves school. I want to blurt out that he should stay away from that monster, but I don't quite dare while we're still unsure about Percy's state of mind. Arthur and I talked it over, and at his suggestion I will reply by simply telling him to be careful this year, so as not to damage his future prospects--general advice. Percy's rather cautious anyway. (I wish some of it would rub off on the twins.)

Arthur mentions that there have been some memos flitting 'round at the Ministry about the upcoming of Guy Fawkes Day. Seems that Dolores Umbridge is determined that there won't be any of the sorts of incidents that occurred last year---no bonfires, no demonstrations, no guys being burned with twig wands and straw wizard hats, etc. To this, Arthur snorted and said, *jolly good luck* with all that. Of course
the holiday has become so much more politically fraught now that the Secrecy Act has been repealed and it's generally known that Guy Fawkes was a wizard. Personally, I think that the harder the Ministry tries to clamp down on that day, the more rumblings there will be in the Muggle camps each year. I only hope that no one gets seriously hurt.

Thank you for reminding me of Guy Fawkes, Molly - I had nearly forgotten it in the rush to Halloween and the Lord Protector's visit.

I shall have to warn the students. We don't want a repeat of last time. Perhaps your boys could help damp down any celebratory impulses? If Umbridge is on the warpath there will be very little I can do but accede to her wishes as regards punishment. I imagine she'll be calling for expulsions if things go too far.

I'll mention it in Percy's owl post, appealing to him as a prefect. I'm sure he will be properly repressive. He might influence Ron at least . . . but I'm afraid warning off the twins, on the other hand, would be rather like throwing ashwinder eggs in the fire. I'm rather worried about them.
Minerva, 

There are a number of matters I think we had better discuss in advance of the Board of Governors' meeting. As you know, Narcissa and I shall be up to-morrow and we can talk then.

Certainly, Lucius.

No problems, I hope?

That all depends on our conversation, does it not?

I trust it's nothing you shall not be able to manage, at any rate.
Has anyone lost a broom? Because I saw one flying out a window yesterday. I was walking back from the greenhouses and one came floating out a window and went behind Lupin's hut. I lost sight of it after that because the sun was in my eyes.

Wait, Mr Lupin? What would he want it for?

I did warn you not to trust him, Harry. Not that I really think he would do anything to your broom, but as it's been out of your possession for a while, you probably ought to check it over before flying with it.

Just a bit of friendly advice.

Black, what do you imagine you're playing at? Do you think you can cast aspersions on your old chum in order to make yourself look innocent?

Leave the boy alone, if you know what's good for you.
Steady on, Malfoy. If you're so invested in protecting Harry, you'd think a moment and give him the same advice. Would you ride a broom that's just gone mysteriously for a flight on its own?

I knew you were a fop, but I never took you for an idiot.

What's more idiotic: To openly contact young master Marvolo when you are climbing so high on the Minister's Undesirable Persons list, or to openly insult one of the most powerful wizards in Britain?

I am warning you, Black, the boy himself has told you to stop bothering him. Make no mistake, you will suffer if you continue with your slander and harassment.

Marvolo?

MARVOLO?

That's POTTER, you insidious prat.

I love how you and my cousin are so convinced you can hurt me. Or that she thinks she can hurt people whose pain will hurt me. Or whatever. Believe me, the worst suffering your lot have already caused extends far beyond my life, or the lives of anyone I might personally know.

But all right: I'm leaving him alone. Not because you threaten me, but because he asked it.
Don't mistake me, though, Malfoy: Before I'm done, Harry WILL know the truth.

alt_percy at 2008-10-24 12:18:11
(no subject)

Your pardon, but a clarification: I spoke with young Miss Abbott yesterday, and she says that the broom wasn't flying to Mr Lupin's hut, but merely behind it, but it was still quite high up in the sky when she lost sight of it, because of the sun.

alt_harry at 2008-10-24 03:36:14
(no subject)

Why are you leaving messages for me? I wish you wouldn't.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-24 03:41:38
(no subject)

Look, I don't mean to upset you, or anything. But you did say your broom had gone missing and it looks like it wasn't accidental. You'd be foolish not to get it checked, is all.

I don't blame you for being confused: I know it's confusing, what we grown-ups are arguing about, but I'm on your side, Harry.
ORDER ONLY: BUGGER

BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER
BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER.

Just don't, any of you.

I know.
ORDER ONLY: Cherwell camp

I got a distraught Floo call very early this morning from Richard Tatterson, at the Cherwell Muggle camp. Ignore the lies the Daily Prophet printed about it this morning. It's all bilge.

Well, not quite, not about the damage. Yes, there were injuries: seventeen people trampled, a number of broken bones, and several landed in the barracks infirmary with curse injuries. Tatterson called over to request a work detail from that district's Muggleborn camp to help with the cleanup (they're short-staffed since so many Muggles are out on work assignments), so of course we sent over as many as we could. Besides the injuries, one of the barracks was set afire, but fortunately, it was completely evacuated in time before anyone suffered burns. A number of people had all their belongings destroyed, though. The fence needs to be put to rights, too.

Saw your entry last night, Sirius, and as you already seemed to be quilling your own Howler for yourself, I didn't pile on. I was certainly thinking it, however. But seeing the Prophet today—that's what they want people to think, that somehow your words incited all this. Maybe it did, except not in the way the Prophet is pointing.

Tatterson obviously didn't want to come right out and say it, but his staff confirmed it when I went over this afternoon. It was all Malfoy, Sirius. Well, Malfoy, along with his merry little gang of thugs: Baddock, Avery, and judging from the descriptions, probably Mulciber and Bellatrix. When they came to the camp last night, Malfoy was completely furious—from his back-and-forth in the journals with you, I'd wager anything—and apparently he decided to lift his spirits with a spot of Muggle-baiting. Blasted part of the fence down (the backwash from that was what started the fire), dared a score of those poor blighters to run, and then they all went hunting. Weren't particularly gentle about running their quarry down, if you can imagine.

We all need to think carefully about this. He and Bellatrix mean to punish you, Sirius, and I think this is the best way they can come up with. Yet I know that your name is being whispered in the camps, and there are rumours of the Order, too. Sometimes hope is all these people have to live on.
So if you want to keep writing your 'Grim Truth' entries, I think it does some good. But infuriating Malfoy just to wind him up is dangerous. You may not get hurt, but if not, he and Bellatrix will make absolutely sure that other innocent people will. And then they'll do their very best to pin the blame on you for it.

It would be smashing if Lazlo Limited could manage to fleece him out of every last bleeding Galleon he has.

Hermione, I might manage to see your parents again. Any messages you want me to pass along? The Grangers will probably be there at the Cherwell camp this week doing treatment, as several of the injured had some teeth knocked out.

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[@alt_sirius](#) at [2008-10-24 22:26:54](#)
(no subject)

I know, Arthur, believe me. I'd say the winding up went both ways, but that's no excuse. To top it off, I've made even more of a right cock-up of it with Harry. But yes, you're quite right to chide me. The punishment of innocents for my indiscretion is probably the worst they can do - and it's also the worst thing they could do, if you take my meaning.

Sweet Circe, I'm hungover. On second thought, I shan't send you Ouzo. It's like drinking lighter fluid. But it's what was to hand.

But despite the threat of these reprisals, I'm committed to continue the 'Grim Truth.' In fact, I've been thinking about my next one and I think it will hit home a number of ways.

Which is really the point, isn't it? I mean to say, that's why Malfoy was so enraged - the rage of the impotent. I do regret that Muggles were caught in the crossfire, but it's a sign that our little tiff really got to that lying ______

Sorry. Room tilted for a tick there.

I'm going back to bed until I can hold a quill for more than five minutes without vertigo.
Would you just tell them that I love them please?

Of course, child, that goes without saying. I'll also tell them how much the letter that they sent you through Remus cheered you--perhaps they will be able to give me another one to pass on to you. I'll be sure to bring parchment and ink along with me when I visit--if they can write one, I'll send it to Minerva to pass along to you.

I'll also tell them that you have been keeping up with your studies and helping others, which I know will please them. And that you have more than fulfilled all the hopes we had pinned on you when I picked you to be Minerva's assistant for the Order there at Hogwarts.

You're a very bright and good-hearted girl, Hermione, and we value that, even if this world often does not. I'll be sure let your parents know.

Thank you, Mr Weasley!!
Goblins can be so damnably stubborn.

I aim to work delicately, then. Lord knows we do not want another Goblin rebellion on our hands. Of course, there are ways the goblins can be courted. And their weaknesses are of their own making.

A break-in is no a minor affair when no living Witch or Wizard can even recall the last time one took place. This cannot be allowed to become a trend. Especially not now, with word that the culprits may have been the ones to wreak havoc at Cherwell camp last night, and that the wayward Sirius once-Black was the likely mastermind.

Thankfully, all there is well in hand now. Praise our Lord Protector.
Hairstyles

My aunt is convinced that changing my hair colour will provide the necessary boost in my search for a position. So, brown it is, at least for now. I don't think it suits me as well as the purple did, but I am open to at least trying it out for a few days. Mrs Crouch looked a bit surprised when I came down this morning for tea, but otherwise made no comment.

However, it has not yet made a difference. I walked into Magical Menagerie again this afternoon in hopes of being given a chance to help sweep up a few afternoons a week. It almost worked, until the proprietress recognized my face. I suppose I shall have to try a shop I never have visited before.

alt_draco at 2008-10-25 02:19:25
(no subject)

Ugh, why was your hair purple?

alt_nymphadora at 2008-10-25 02:21:36
(no subject)

I matched my jumper one day, and I liked it.

alt_draco at 2008-10-25 02:22:52
(no subject)

I suppose it would be rather fun to be able to do that.
It's a way to pass the time.

I believe it suits you, Miss Tonks.

Best of luck in your endeavor.
**2008-10-24 20:59:00**
My broom is still missing.

I still don't know where my broom is. It makes me sad and angry cause I had to miss Quidditch practice now. As good as miss anyway. I had to fly an old Cleansweep and it was no good for anything. At tea today Mr Malfoy told me I ought to keep better watch on my things, but I don't see how this is my fault. But it made it a little worse actually because he brought me a copy of *Quidditch Through the Ages* and now I want to fly but I can't really. And then he went and talked to Pansy alot. I think he's angry with me for losing the nice broom he gave me. But like I said it isn't my fault.

Maybe if I get it back it will be okay. Who's going to help me? I've made a list of clues.

Hannah said that it went out the window but I can't find it anywhere. I still think someone took it and is keeping it. Fawcett said that she saw Bob Summerby out there but I don't know how Bob Summerby would be able to cast a Summoning charm like that. It could actually have been a Slytherin girl, because Greg says that they can get up to our dorm since he let Daphne up to fetch a quill to borrow. So it could be almost anyone, really, except the people I was playing Exploding Snap with.

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**alt_draco at 2008-10-25 02:17:48**
(no subject)

You already know that I'll help you.

We should study that book that Father brought for me. It might have some good stuff to use against the broom-thief.

Do you think that this has anything to do with that Gringott's break-in that Auntie Bellatrix has been investigating?
Good idea.

Maybe it is! Maybe there's a thief. Who would be able to break in to Gringotts who's also at Hogwarts?

I don't really know. No one is supposed to be able to break into Gringotts. But if they could do that then I suppose it wouldn't be difficult to steal your broom too.

I'm going to go check my things again and make sure they're all there.

Good idea. Were they?

Yes. From what I can tell, anyway.

What you might do is think who stands to gain from assuring that Harry's broom remains lost. Motive, means, and opportunity, son.

It was good to see you looking fit, by the way. And don't over-
use that book, hm? Remember what I told you about being irksome.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-10-25 17:55:53  
(no subject)

The Gryffindor Seeker is named Ritchie Coote but I don’t know what year he’s in. Is he old enough to have learned the Summoning charm? Because Slytherin plays Gryffindor in two weeks, and Harry’s brilliant at flying. Maybe Ritchie’s the one who took it? And maybe he flew it into the Forbidden Forest just to be sure Harry couldn’t find it? Because he wouldn’t be able to fly it himself in the Quidditch match, everyone knows it’s Harry’s broom, but if he took it and hid it in the forest so Harry doesn’t have it for the game, that would disadvantage the Slytherin team when they play Gryffindor.

**alt_harry** at 2008-10-25 21:26:50  
(no subject)

He’s only a year older than us I think. I don’t know if they’ve learned it yet, but he wouldn’t be that good, would he?

Maybe we ought to go ask him.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-10-26 00:17:15  
(no subject)

Maybe ask Oliver Wood? He’s their team captain. He ought to know if anyone on the team has it. Dunno if he’d say if he did, though.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-10-25 18:01:54  
(no subject)

For that matter anyone on the Gryffindor Quidditch team could have a motive, not just the Seeker. I doubt it was Fred or George Weasley, though, they’d have given it back with
rude words written on the handle or something by now, if it was them.

alt_gredforge at 2008-10-25 20:04:11
(no subject)

thanks for the vote of confidence.
(Though if it were us we probably would have blown it up instead)

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-26 00:17:54
(no subject)

Why would you blow up such a nice broom?
It's a really nice broom!

Do you know if any of your teammates took it?

alt_gredforge at 2008-10-26 13:13:23
(no subject)

well, don't you ever wonder if, in all the protective enchantments that are on it, it could be blown up?

Not that we have heard.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-25 02:47:18
(no subject)

I'm not cross with you, Harry. If someone Summoned your broom it hardly matters where you left it. I thought I said that when we were there to-day.

I don't wish to bring up a ... delicate subject, and I didn't like to speak of it in front of Mrs Malfoy, but you should tell me immediately if that despicable man harasses you again. You're not troubled by him, I hope?
I suppose you did but, you still seemed like you were cross.

He hasn't said anything else and I suppose that if I ignore him he'll go away. I'll tell you if he does.

Ha, likely I did seem out of sorts, but it wasn't your doing, lad.

If only he were so easily dispatched, but I fear it will take more than a cold shoulder to stop that odious oaf. I'm glad, at least, that you do not let his lies affect you ill. By all means, continue to ignore him and his bilge. Good show.

Could your broom have been summoned out of the castle somehow?

I suppose that makes sense. But who by!?

Someone who wants it. Or maybe they want to put a hex on it. Should you get it back, I'd check it out very carefully. Hate to say it, but you could be a target, being who you are and all.
Today I am so tightly wound that I suspect I thrum if you touch me.

Meeting with Lucius today was positively horrible. He, of course, is on to so many things I wish he wasn't - and none of it will likely lead to anything but of course there's the constant fear that it will. He isn't a Legilimens - but he might as well be, for all his probing questions.

Alice, I certainly hope that what Lupin was doing was worth it. Lucius wanted to know everything about it - whether he had told me where he'd gone, whether he'd had help, everything. I responded, of course, that he had been in the hospital wing but Lucius should have to ask Madam Pomfrey himself about Lupin's wounds; he seemed satisfied that I knew nothing about it. Which of course I don't. But I oughtn't have to protect him to Lucius, not with all the other things I must hide.

Oh, and there are plenty of other things I must hide. Before he got onto Lupin, he asked to see the book. Spent quite some time on 1983 in particular. The children from that year who were left out were Jane Dhesi and Felix Ferguson - Felix was the one who we took after the failed attempt for Dennis Creevey. Alice, of course you must be doubly and triply careful about it. They may be searching.

Next, some perceived slight to young Messrs Marvolo and Malfoy - I highly doubt that there is some grand conspiracy against them, no matter what has happened to Mr Marvolo's broom, although of course I mollified him by saying that I would look into it - and then he got on to the issue of the Boot boy. I had to call him in to satisfy Lucius, and I was afraid that he'd Cruciate the poor child, but he restrained himself. It could have been worse, of course, but I hate to see anyone grovel so, especially someone so tiny and insignificant as Boot. What pleasure can Lucius get from humiliating such a wretched creature?

Later, however, I spoke with Mr Boot in the hall, and he said something to the effect of "Boot knows what to say to him," meaning Lucius. I am not certain that his groveling was quite so heartfelt as it seemed. That is a comfort, I suppose.
Deep breaths, Minerva.

You know that the forgery on the book is flawless. You know that. Besides the fact that Flitwick was absolutely the best that there ever was at charms, rest his soul, remember the particular magical power that the castle bestows upon you, as the rightful and acknowledged Headmistress of Hogwarts. You are the castle's guardian, and you are perfectly fulfilling the Headmistress' duties by safeguarding the personal information of the school's rightful students, all of them, from those who would hurt them. Therefore, the school's magic will protect both you and the real book, and I believe with all my heart that Lucius will never be able to see through the deception.

Oh, that poor child, he must have been absolutely terrified. I'm glad that there was no Cruciatius, although knowing the Carrows, I suspect he's experienced it before.

Drink some chamomile or cocoa to settle your nerves. Or better yet, a slug of Firewhiskey. I hope it helps.

Perhaps a little too much liquid comfort last night. My head is quite exploded, Molly, have you any remedies for that?

- I think I would have felt this way regardless, of course. Too much hard thinking.

Poppy would undoubtedly have a better idea about remedies than I would. Let her hand you the potions. Arthur and I'll give you the buck-you-up talks whenever you need them.
the office of the headmistress is maybe beautiful.

but all boot saw was the carpet,

and his own bare feet

and the boots of the great and powerful wizard

he had a cane with a silver snake

he had long hair, almost white

boot only saw that little when he first came in

didn't dare to look again

because he could feel the man staring at him
the snake on the cane staring too

boot was brought to him so that he could whisper to the great man

that boot is low

a thousand times more low than the great man is high

the man is a great and wonderful wizard
and terrible in his power when mudbloods forget their place

but boot always knows his place

boot told the wizard so

boot wonders a little why the great wizard wanted boot to tell him

what everyone knows

that boot is nothing
boot is no one
Trying couple of days ...

The blood traitor resurfaced yet again, like an insect one thinks one has crushed, only to have it scuttle away after lifting one's boot. So of course, the last couple of days have been a bit on the calamitous side.

After the blackguard (no pun intended) retreated from the journal where he made a nuisance of himself, he apparently decided to incite an attempted break-out at Cheswell. It's all in the papers. He must have accomplices in this country, whom he induced through some method (doubtless an illicit and indecent form of magic) to disrupt the camps. Bella believes, as do I, that these culprits are the same miscreants who corrupted the Goblins enough to gain access to Gringotts and rob the bank last month. It makes sense: Their *modus operandi* seems to lie more in encouraging - possibly *forcing* - members of these inferior castes to rise up in revolt, creating chaos and bother for the rest of us.

Bella called upon a number of the MLE consultants to come to the scene, on the chance that some of Black's accomplices were there directing the action. No such luck, more's the pity. It took several hours to round up all the escaped Muggles, but not a wizard or witch mingled among them. Whomever started the riot must have Disapparated as soon as they reached a safe distance.

Naturally, after such a long night, I could not be expected to maintain the better part of my agenda on Friday. I confess I quite forgot to notify Crispin to cancel everything apart from tea at Hogwarts. I had every intention of doing so, but when I returned to the Manor, I found that the elf had allowed the bedroom fire to bank and die. He stammered something about not expecting me back home that evening. Utter incompetence - I ought to have done with it and behead the creature. If it had managed to get issue before now, I might have done so already. At any rate, by the time he arranged things to my comfort, I was both too fatigued and too out of sorts to give a thought to my clerk. Narcissa, wonderful woman, kindly set him to rights when he inquired after me around nine, and then compounded her splendid value by sending up a tray around eleven.

The one item I was certain to keep yesterday was tea. There was really no reason to cancel an afternoon engagement, and moreover, I
had no wish to disappoint the children after we'd promised to be there.

I fear I rather did disappoint, despite all that, for I had many matters weighing on my mind and must have appeared ... distracted during our interview with Harry, Draco and Pansy. I knew that Pansy wished some private discussion and I was happy to oblige her; but even this I had to cut shorter than I would have liked in order to ensure adequate time for my topics of conversation with the Headmistress.

I have been growing concerned of late with a certain sullenness which I detect in the demeanour of some of the other students, even those who claim to have befriended Harry. Some of this is to be expected, of course, and while I shall necessarily do that in my power to prepare him and Draco to take care of themselves, it is part of growing up that we must all, in the end, fight our own battles and stand our own ground, or be trampled.

Nonetheless, the resentment of their status and resulting theft of valuable items (if they are related), suggests that the other students are not, in fact, as respectful of class as they ought to be. Particularly with the Lord Protector planning to attend Hogwarts next week, this presents a potential embarrassment. I should not like to think of His displeasure should anyone dare to show less than the proper deference to His son.

One individual in particular troubled me, and when I mentioned this to Professor McGonagall, she quite accommodatingly sent for the wretch. While his journal comments to students such as Longbottom seemed oddly bold, in person, he was gratifyingly cowed enough. He could barely look up even when I instructed him to do so. She has told me that he is Amycus' creature; presumably that is more than enough to keep him in his place under normal circumstances. Perhaps this additional dose of contact with a real wizard shall remind him what reason he has to fear.

Looking at the urchin brought home to me, in a way I have not felt so viscerally in some time, how vitally important the Lord Protector's New Order is to our safety and survival. I have always believed with every fibre that dominance over the more prolific, more bestial and less intelligent Muggle population is the only way to truly ensure Wizard prosperity. But this ... abomination, born not of the natural conception between witch and wizard, but rather the unnatural product of Muggle interference and blood-tampering, has no sense of birthright, no idea of the heritage to which real witches and wizards
are heir, no cognisance of the higher purpose for which real Wizardkind was meant. This runion, this caitiff, has no hope of truly understanding the power that generation after generation have passed from father to son, mother to daughter, and thus, he is incapable of ever really attaining mastery of his full potential, or more importantly, the extent to which his progenitors have condemned him to a half-life.

In short, he can never be completely a wizard, because he can never be completely trusted not to sympathise with his animalistic forebears.

This week has been quite a study in contrasts: Half-bloods, Muggles and now this Mudblood abomination. I wonder if he has any sense that the ones to blame for his lot are not we, who have at least accorded him some measure of existence among his betters, but the very Muggles who beset him with the burden of powers which he cannot ever truly call his own. By making him the object of a failed attempt to usurp our proper place, it is they, and not we, who have spawned the grotesque creature that he is.

It convinces me more than ever that what we do is necessary, the only acceptable course and above all, right.

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alt_pansy at 2008-10-28 06:11:28
(no subject)

I'm sorry things have been so stressful for you and I hope things calm down. I bet they will after the visit.

Is blood, though, the only measure of a person's worth? I remember hearing about Grindelwald and his crusade against the muggles. I just wonder why it is that people have magic and some don't. Blood doesn't seem to have much to do with it, or wizards wouldn't be born to muggles. What, then, makes their abilities less worthy? I've always wondered this and I can only ask you.

Thanks again for your advice. I'll follow what you passed on to me. Thanks, also, to you and Mrs. Malfoy, for a wonderful tea.
Thank you. (Before I address your query, I assure you I shall convey your gratitude to Mrs Malfoy. But let me ask you to please send a note to her yourself as soon as ever you can, thanking her for including you. She has been a bit ... vexed of late, herself. Not your doing, my dear, or anyone's, really - only that, as you know, she looks forward to time with Draco and there we are making it all of a crowd.)

Now, as to your pondering. For one thing, you make a mistake to prescribe blood status to a class of beings who do not come to their magic naturally. Even now, specialists in the Department of Mysteries are working to discover how it is that Muggles are able to steal magic from its rightful heirs and implant it into the capabilities of their issue. It is essential work, to discover the linkage between Mudbloods and Squibs, and to determine how that transfer is accomplished.

So the Mudblood, by definition, cannot be given credit for his own abilities, filched as they are from those who should have had them. It is a grave error to assume that Mudbloods are equal to Wizards simply because they exhibit certain unskilled, unfocused magical capacity.

Grindelwald is one of many who espoused the notion that Muggles had to be controlled for their own good - and for ours. Muggles have always been incapable of avoiding war. They are a violent and territorial race who threaten our existence, when they are allowed their freedom, as surely as they threaten each others' lives. Grindelwald's flaw (apart from idealistically trusting the turncoat, Dumbledore), was to set his store in the willingness of the average Wizard to spontaneously see the rectitude of his manifesto. He believed, as only the very young can, that the moment other wizards heard his plea for change, they would fall into line with no further instruction. Our Lord Protector, on the other hand, knew that to succeed, He needed not only righteous ideas, but a cadre of supporters and disciples who would ensure that His will turned to action.

My apologies: I'm giving a history lesson when you merely wanted an answer.
Blood is certainly not the *only* measure of a person's worth, Pansy. But it is, most simply, a measure of one's limitations. A Mudblood might become the very best of servants: Loyal, conscientious, attentive to his master's whim, anticipating of his desires, silent, and obedient to a fault. If he understands his place and works diligently to maintain it, then he contributes to society in the best possible way. Should he attempt to vault over the heads of his betters, however, he shall find himself in a world of which he has no proper understanding. He cannot be expected to meet, let alone exceed, the potential of a pureblooded wizard, because he is fundamentally lacking in the other qualities that accompany such a pedigree.

I trust that helps to explain?

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@alt_pansy at 2008-10-28 20:08:40  
(no subject)

Thank you for taking the time to explain.

Does that mean, then, that a mudblood cannot perform the same level of magic as a pureblood? I mean, what are the other qualities that are lacking?

And if Mudbloods don't come by their magic naturally, then how is it they're born with it? Or are they? I mean, babies can't steal.

I hope someday I'm as smart as you are.

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@alt_lucius at 2008-10-28 20:24:35  
(no subject)

It is not the fault of the infant, but a dedicated effort on the part of the parents, that produces a Mudblood. Or so we believe. As I said, this is crucial research being conducted at the highest levels of the Ministry, to better understand how they have managed to transfer the capability of witches and wizards to otherwise base creatures. Remember that magic does not manifest at birth. There is ample time for the essence of a witch or wizard to be infused into the body of a Muggle child. The Department of Mysteries considers this one of its most important projects. The sooner we can discover the cause, the sooner we can prevent further dilution of our children's birthright, and the
sooner we can, in time, restore our Squibs to their full capacity.

As to the other qualities, I am sure that if you compare gentlemen and ladies of breeding to their subordinates, you will begin to comprehend the differences. Much as one can tell, with practice, the subtle distinction between a thoroughbred Abraxan and one that has been mixed.

I must set this aside for now, Little Bit - I have important matters to attend. Pray think on what I have said. I shall check my book later this evening to see if you have come to any further understanding, but by then, I expect you shall be asleep.

(And ... don't let 'Marie's' insolence lead you away from doing your homework, hm?)

Thank you again, Lucius. I will think on what you've said, and I appreciate the chance to bother you with my questions. I'll leave you to your work and I hope to see you soon!

I'm doing my homework! I'm being a good girl. Honest!

I do think, though, that some Honeyduke's would help me focus on my studies. It promotes being able to study, see.
It's really nice outside and I want to go for a walk. Does anyone want to come?

If you want to go after supper I'd go.

I didn't end up going out this afternoon because it started raining, but it's cleared up now so yes, if you're up for it.
All of the prefects have been asked to pass along the following information:

The Lord Protector, as you know, will be visiting Hogwarts this coming Friday, as part of the festivities celebrating both His Lordship's birthday, and, of course, Hogwarts' annual Feast for Halloween. The Halloween Feast is one of Hogwarts' most cherished traditions, and the Lord Protector's visit will make the celebration that much more noteworthy. I have no doubt that all students will be on their best behaviour, and that this will certainly be an evening to remember.

Many preparations are underway for this important event. Of course, we all want to put Hogwarts' best face forward for our most distinguished guest, and so the prefects ask that all students cooperate in helping keep the classrooms and common areas clean and tidy this week. The house elves will be very busy doing extra cleaning and preparing a particularly memorable feast, so please do what you can to prevent unnecessary work for them, which might interfere with their preparations.

Certain heightened security measures will also be in place for this particular visit. There will be Aurors stationed at school entrances, beginning on Wednesday, and on Friday, the day of the Lord Protector's visit, Dementors will be stationed beyond the exterior boundaries around the castle. We ask that you cooperate with any of the Aurors' requests. As for the Dementors, they are not any cause for concern for students who stay strictly within the castle limits as they should.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward, with the rest of you, to His Lordship's visit on this momentous occasion.

What do you mean by the exterior boundaries around the castle? Do you mean we need to stay inside that day?
Not at all. Anywhere that a student can normally go (the grounds, the greenhouses, the near side of the lake, the Quidditch pitch, etc.) will be completely accessible to all students, just as on every other day.

But beyond the usual boundaries (i.e., beyond the gates, on the opposite side of the lake, the road leading to Hogsmeade, the Forbidden Forest--there is a reason it is known as the Forbidden Forest) will be patrolled by Dementors, and students are strictly advised to stay away from those boundaries.
I know that we're supposed to hate muggles and all but Marie's been talking to me and so I've been wondering about something.

If muggles are so bad and horrid, yet some do have magic, why is their magic such a bad thing? Why are they such a bad thing? It's all just who you're born to and from what I can tell there's no sense to who's born to whom. You could be born and become the Prince of Wales, or be born a witch to muggle parents. Chance. It's not as if you had any say in the matter. Just because I was born to Parkinsons... that makes me better? I don't get it. It's not something I set out to do, or to achieve. I'd rather be judged on what I've done, rather than what I am. Because what I am is nothing particularly special. Marie agrees with what I said.

Though levitating Ron is great fun! Sorry about zooming you into the wall!

It's because they steal magic.

People keep saying that, but I just don't get it. How do you steal magic so you can do it yourself, if you're a muggle? Or so your kid, who's really supposed to be a muggle, can do it?

Exactly. You can either do magic or you can't. Look at Squibs. So if magic is so wonderful, why is it that mudbloods can do it if they're so awful?
They don't steal magic any more than you or I do. Either you can do magic or you can't. If you could steal it, then everyone would be able to do it.

That can't be true. Mr Malfoy will tell you. Maybe you can only steal magic if you don't have it already.

Come on, Harry. Think about it. If you could just steal magic, since you don't have it, then everyone in the world would be using it.

Except that if you steal magic it makes Squibs because there's only so much magic to go around.

I think it was Theodore that I told about this. It's a dumb argument. Muggles hurt people anyway. They had world wars and things.

Oh, right. Because wizards never had wars. And certainly they've never hurt others.

Think about it, Harry. Wizards and muggles are different, yes, but not that different.

There's only so much magic to go around? In which case, that means that, since mudbloods are stealing magic, there will be
no wizards born because, ha, it's all being used up! Right. So what... when we die it goes back into this giant cauldron in the sky for the next wizard to come along and use?

@alt_harry at 2008-10-28 19:16:07
(no subject)

Well it's not as if Hogwarts ever gets any bigger, is it? There's only so many wizards and witches born every year.

Yeah, why not?

@alt_pansy at 2008-10-28 19:18:50
(no subject)

You're not much of a thinker, are you? I bet if you look at the number of wizards and witches born each year it stays about the same, despite those awful muggles STEALING our magic.

And I bet those numbers were the same years ago, too. Even when there was no stealing going on.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-28 23:35:38
(no subject)

So, squibs are people who would've been wizards except that muggles stole their magic? I never heard that idea before.

@alt_neville at 2008-10-28 23:42:27
(no subject)

I mean, I'd never been around Muggles or anything growing up, so I don't know what they're like. Never thought much about any of this stuff before coming to school, like where magic comes from and all.
Miss Parkinson, I would like to remind you that these journals are a public forum. I will not tolerate any fomenting of ill-feeling against our Lord Protector and his policies, and I hope you will consider this your warning.

As to your question, you ought to spend more time revising for History of Magic. I am certain that Professor Binns could tell you a few things about how dangerous Muggles have historically been to our kind.

I'm sorry. I don't intend to foment any ill-feeling, really I don't. I'm just asking questions and no adult will even talk to be about it so I thought maybe my friends could.

Haven't we been rather unkind towards muggles? Look how we treat them now.

In repayment of their own unkindness towards us, Miss Parkinson.

In any case, I suggest that you ask your mother or perhaps Mr Malfoy - he serves as your guardian, does he not? - to explain. I understand your curiosity but this is not the correct forum for it.

Yes, ma'am. Thank you for the warning. I shall talk to Mr. Malfoy. My mother is sort of unreliable when I ask her stuff.
But if we just keep them rounded up, well, how does that undo what they've done to us in the past? It goes both ways.

Thank you, Minerva.

Pansy, I have replied to the query you attached to my last entry. Kindly read it and come back to me - privately - if you have additional questions.

Minerva, am I correct in believing that our Muggle Studies Professor Carrow is supposed to be reinforcing the approved theories on Magical Transference?

Perhaps we ought to consider adding more contemporary histories to both curricula.

An excellent thought, Lucius. I shall speak with Professors Carrow and Binns about it on the morrow.

Can you get them to make it less boring?

I shall do my level best, Miss Parkinson.
Oh! I'm so sorry! I didn't mean for you to see that! Please accept my apology. That was rude and disrespectful.

(But they really *are* boring. You can't learn if you're asleep.)

Reckon we could try a few cushions and a sticking charm next time? The walls sting a bit.

I think we could. Hey, how's your elbow? That scrape looked pretty nasty. Sorry!

You kidding? I've got 5 older brothers, if a little scrape knocked me down, I'd never have made it past age 6.

I've always wondered about that. What it's like to have siblings. Esp. brothers. Are they mean to you?
Depends on what you mean by it. They tease, poke, trip me, play tricks and such. But it's just them, you know, it's the way they are.

Could be worse.

Do you get revenge?

I think about it sometimes.

I have some suggestions you might like...

I like the sound of that.

Meet me in the usual place?
I'll be there.

Well, I certainly didn't resort to that sort of rot.

True enough. Means I probably won't be testing Pansy's ideas on you.

Not so he'd notice, no.

Why am I not surprised? I imagine you were more on the receiving end.

I certainly was, especially with the twins. They can be relentless.
Think about it: a poisonous spider can't help that it was born poisonous, but that still wouldn't stop you from squashing it, or at least getting it as far away from you as possible. And even if it was a helpless-looking poor baby poisonous spider, it's still poisonous. Now, what if that baby poisonous spider can do magic? Well, that makes it even more dangerous, doesn't it.

A poisonous spider doesn't act of its own will. It can't think. We can think.

How do you know a poisonous spider can't think or have a will?

Because it has a brain about the size of yours.

And I can think.
Sure, if that's what you want to call it, go for it.

I was just saying. You can't be sure a spider doesn't have a will.

I thought they were just creatures of pure instinct...

But you don't know that.

Do you know that they aren't?

For someone who wants the right to ask questions she certainly thinks she has all the answers.
No, I don't. I might be all wrong. But I'll never know if I'm not allowed to, you know, discuss the topic. They keep telling us that asking questions is how you learn. Then I get shut down.

You should get shut down.

Gee, Draco, you go right ahead and be a mindless zombie. It looks good on you. Since you don't know better than to think for yourself.

You're the one who is mindless, you idiot. You don't even know what kind of trouble you're making--not just for yourself but for my father as well. So do us all a favour and shut your ruddy gob.

I promised Lucius I wouldn't talk about it any more in my journal.
Haven't you heard of Acromantula?

Oh, do try again.

Acromantulas are not just a spider, Draco. Anymore than werewolves are just wolves. We're just talking about regular spiders, like the ones you used to set on fire when you were little.

Acromantulas don't eat their mates. Spiders do. And I doubt Muggles eat their mates.

I've never set fire to spiders, you cow. We don't even have spiders at Malfoy Manor.

Cow? That's new.

Muggles are like animals. If a stupid, drooling dog had magic, the magic wouldn't make it a wizard, it would make it a stupid, drooling, really dangerous dog.
What, you know some muggles, like personally, that were like animals? In what way?

I've known one mudblood. Apart from that, it's what I was taught in school. Are you saying my teachers were liars? Because I believe they wouldn't have taught me that muggles are like animals unless it was true.

No! I'm not calling anybody a liar, I'm just trying to understand. I've not known any Muggles, see, and I'm trying to get what you mean: when you say they're like animals, I wonder how. They walk and talk like wizards, they eat like wizards. They can read and write and learn stuff and invent things and make music and--and everything. Near as I can figure, the only thing they can't do is magic. So that makes them people who can't do magic, right?

I never thought I'd say this but well put, Neville.

So you're saying the Prince of Wales is an animal? I've never met him, but in the pictures I've seen he's doing stuff that we do. Except, you know, what we do isn't royal.
And look at the Warlocks. They certainly never said muggles were like animals and they met plenty of them during their time.

Muggle lover.

Don't you have classes to fail?

Actually I've got top marks in all of them. And don't come to me when you need help with Charms again, Muggle lover.

I think, if you look deep into my eyes, you might just see all of the concern I have over this.

Nice mates you've got there.
alt_pansy at 2008-10-29 01:13:15
(no subject)

You want them?

alt_ron at 2008-10-29 01:13:42
(no subject)

I'll pass, thanks.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-29 01:14:19
(no subject)

I'll teach you all their weak spots???

alt_ron at 2008-10-29 01:21:42
(no subject)

Don't recon the howler I get for it would be worth it.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-29 01:23:05
(no subject)

You only get in trouble if you get caught.

alt_bellatrix at 2008-10-29 03:04:34
(no subject)

I have held my quill as this has unfolded, but it is now clear to me that this school is in serious disorder. The Headmistress has cautioned the child, and yet she continues unchecked. And to think, in the House of Slytherin, our Lord's house! And days before his arrival, at that.
I will be speaking with Him about this straight away.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-29 03:26:28
(no subject)

Pansy,

You will cease immediately. Curiosity is acceptable, but your attitude borders on sedition. I told you I should be checking back this evening, and here I find that your conversations have taken not one, but many turns for the worse. I am quite out of patience with this line of thought.

I shall not allow you to belittle the cause for which your father sacrificed everything. Do you wish to upset your mother?

Be grateful I've chosen only to write to you here. Were I not returning on Friday with the Lord Protector's entourage you can be sure I should have taken other measures to make clear my ... displeasure at you latest chicanery.

Do I make myself plain, young lady? There is to be no more of this nonsense that Muggles and Mudbloods are near to the equal of wizards.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-29 03:37:52
(no subject)

I do not see how asking questions is such a horrible thing. If everything they say about Muggles is true, then what's the harm? There's nothing to fear, right? Why is everyone so uptight? It's not like I'm going to say ANYTHING to our Lord anway. I doubt he'll even notice me.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-29 03:50:37
(no subject)

He will notice very much if you keep up this line of insolence - because it will be brought to His attention by others. And believe me, my girl, you do not wish to be the object of His attention under
such circumstances.

Do not make me invoke the syllogism: "When you are older, you will understand." You are lucky in that you have enjoyed almost your entire life a world in which we are the rightfully dominant race. You have not experienced first-hand the oppression and cruelty of which Muggles are capable en masse.

You realise that even today, outside our blessed State, Muggles murder each other brutally for no provocation other than the colour of one's skin? Or because one speaks a different language? Muggles must be kept tightly in check or they shall overrun us as they did for centuries.

I shall offer you an opportunity: Leave off this fruitless inquisition. It only stirs up a hornet's nest of ill will. Trust me when I say that for now, this subject will do neither you nor any of your schoolmates any good to contemplate. Do that, and come the holidays, I shall arrange to take you to one of the Muggle camps, and you may see for yourself how like animals Muggles truly are.

I want to help you understand, my dear, but now is ... not the right time.

Sounds like we wizards are capable of the oppression and cruelty that muggles are capable of.

Do they really kill each other for skin color? Maybe that's just a few of them.

But I won't discuss the matter any further in my journal. Promise.

What is your interest in the Parkinson child, Lucius? I know that she views you as a paternal figure of some kind, and that being the case, I do hope that you will step in with paternal force and put this to rights at once. I am sure you agree with me that it is a shame and
disgrace that one of His own house should behave in such a fashion.

Should she not be set straight, I shall see fit to do it myself come Friday.

👤 **alt_lucius** at 2008-10-29 16:16:39
(no subject)

You know as well as I Bella that my 'interest' in her stems from my old and dear friendship with Tony. As he is sadly no longer with us, I have been more than willing to uphold my duties to her as her godfather, but I see that since leaving the shelter of her family, the child has become insolent and querulous. As to the disgrace into which she is fast sending herself, I quite agree.

I daresay I am as shocked as anyone that Miss Parkinson has become so willful and backward in just a few short weeks away from home.

It goes to prove that we must constantly exercise vigilance against the insinuation of Muggle influences. I have no idea whence she has conceived the notion to be so impertinent, especially on such a fundamental matter, but I will deal with the child - and find the source that is tempting her to perfidy.
ORDER ONLY: Teaching Terry

Madam Pince is at breakfast late, so I've time to write - finally - hooray!!

Things have been going well for Terry and me when we're learning about magic. Only Madam Pomfrey can't do everything I want to learn. We keep trying to do potions and she says "No, I don't have the materials." Because she can't ask for any materials that aren't used in healing on their own, since Professor Slughorn or the kids in classes mostly make her potions for her. She says she's going to try to come up with excuses but I know that even though she's on staff she could get in trouble for that, so I suppose she oughtn't and I told her so.

Terry is smarter than I thought he was and he's learning really fast, faster than I ever learned things. He isn't afraid of things either. Yesterday he cut his hand and Madam Pomfrey didn't notice for fifteen minutes because he didn't say anything, but the blood got into our potion and turned it blue! I still don't think he'd tell her if he got hurt, but at least now he knows that he has to bind things like that up so that it doesn't ruin potions.

I don't know how I feel about the Lord Protector coming. I suppose I won't see him at all. I'll just stay away. I hope I don't run into any Dementors, they sound very nasty.

---

Perhaps we can find some way for Madam Pomfrey to acquire those materials. I shall consider the matter, Miss Granger.

That would be wonderful, Minerva, if you could. They've got such potential, both of them, and it pains me to see them having to make do with the little I can show them.
2008-10-28 20:40:00  
28-OCT-1991

I never said I was good at wizard chess, just that I played it. So it's not that odd that Theodore beat me a lot. Really. I just have to end up doing better.

It's almost Halloween, and I love Halloween. More than Christmas, even. Always has been. And here it means a feast, which it didn't back at home, and that's even better.

I think I'm out of things to say.

---

@alt_theodore at 2008-10-29 01:00:58
(no subject)

You weren't that bad. I can teach you to be better if you want.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-29 01:10:38
(no subject)

How many times did you beat him?

@alt_theodore at 2008-10-29 01:12:02
(no subject)

It wouldn't be polite for me to say.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-29 01:12:57
(no subject)

So, s'impolite to say that, but you can call Pansy names?

That's not on.
Pansy is a fool.

Your opinion. Not that that counts for much.

Too many.

My brother used to wipe the board with me all the time when I was learning.

And I don't even have any brothers to start out with.

I'd offer to sell you mine, but mum might have a problem with that.
Yeah? Thanks. I'm just useless at it, really, though.

You'd be great if you just understood the strategy a bit more.

Or we can just play draughts next time.
2008-10-29 01:05:00
(no subject)

Everyone's asleep and I can't sleep and I want peanut butter toast and it's getting really cold now! I should get some new pajamas. Little Snitches on them are not cool. And they will never be. I don't even play Quidditch! But they're warm, I guess.

One of my earliest memories is prowling around my grandmother's attic. My dad's mum. She had the coolest stuff up there and lots of trunks of stuff that belonged to my father. And books. So many books. So I'd read these books when I got older and there were all these people like Plato and St. Thomas Aquarius and Aristotel. I didn't understand any of it and I still don't. I hope someday I do. I asked my father who they were and he said someday he'd tell me. But then he got killed.

I remember having something read to me, and I don't know if I have it right: "We hold these truths to be evident, that all men are [something I can't remember] by their creator with some [another word can't remember] rights. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." I wrote it down but it's at home. And it's another country so I'm not sure that even applies but I still don't understand what's to fear from questions is all.

Note to Lucius: I'm talking about something of my grandmother's that I read. That's all. I won't ask questions.

But my head's all weird now.

I can't find Marie, either.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-29 16:53:18
(no subject)

Pansy.

ENOUGH.

Your questions grow more querulous instead of more sensible. Rather than hearing the answers of your elders, you insist upon a disrespectful and altogether insulting demeanour. Do not think you
can prevaricate with me indefinitely. You are growing far too old for such frippery.

I repeat: There will be a time when you will understand better the concepts of which you are just now growing aware. For now, you **must** accept the wisdom of your instructors, your guardians at school, and most particularly, of Our Lord Protector. To do otherwise is tantamount to treason, even in one as young and inquisitive as yourself. And I cannot - **will** not - protect you if you insist upon the path of a blood traitor. It is wholly unacceptable, vulgar, and out of order.

You are too young to know what it was like when Muggles considered themselves our betters. Merlin willing, you shall never *have* to know, first-hand, the savagery of a Muggle when he believes he is threatened by that which he does not know or understand. That is the legacy which I, your father, our colleagues, the Ministry and even the Lord Protector himself, have striven to provide you.

You have been privileged to live in a time when we have restored order to the chaos, design to that which is inscrutable. You enjoy the rights and the endowments to which you refer - but only as a measure of your proper demonstration of the convictions which you ought to espouse. These questions of yours go nowhere, they accomplish nothing except to upset your fellows and incite disquiet beyond the confines of the journals themselves. As Professor McGonagall has already reminded you, these are public documents and may be discovered by anyone. I cannot guarantee that others will not see an opportunity in disgracing your family through your 'musings'.

As to the texts you found and read, they are complicated treatises written by men of other times. Their philosophies are laudable in places; laughable in others; but above all they are a product of far different civilisations to our current society. Jefferson's is an excellent example of late 18th-C. poetry - but do not be fooled. Even such a lofty experiment as the American Colonies had - *has* - irredeemable flaws. Jefferson was a hypocrite as well as a visionary, who spouted about personal freedom while simultaneously maintaining a host of slaves as was due a pureblood wizard of property at the time. He sought to achieve equality but never thought about the ability of the Muggles around him to subsume his vision into a quagmire of internal strife that continues a spiral of violence to this day. And even he never dared to reveal his true magical ability to the Muggles with
whom he served, for fear of persecution at their hands.

I am most displeased that you persist in this ill-advised course. I have half a mind to allow Bellatrix to discipline you her way, if I weren't convinced it would only add to your defiance.

I shall be back at Hogwarts in two days. TRY to stay out of further trouble until then, so that I need not add to the litany of my severe disappointment in you.

---

**alt_pansy** at **2008-10-29 17:21:13**

(no subject)

Well, see, if someone just had told me what it was like when Muggles were in charge, instead of going mental when I even mention the "M" word we wouldn't be having this problem. Adults don't tell us ANYTHING and you know, we can understand stuff if you explain it. Everyone acting all upset just makes it worse.

I'm sorry I've disappointed you.

Did Jefferson really have slaves? You're right, if that's the case: He was a hypocrite.
I found Marie. She never did anything to anyone so I don't see why you feel you have to shatter a doll's head. Bet you feel real tough now, whoever you are.
**Found Broom**

Harry, I've got your broom here. I found it in my pumpkins. If you'd like, I can bring it to you or you can call by and collect it whenever you like.

---

**alt_harry** at **2008-10-29 21:50:31**

*no subject*

Okay.

Did you see anybody near it? I mean, did you see who took it?

---

**alt_sirius** at **2008-10-30 13:40:25**

*Order Only*

I still don't think Moony would do anything to Harry's broom.

I've been thinking, though, and perhaps I could suss him out a bit. Trouble is I can't contact him openly - too dangerous for me _and_ him, right now.

Alice, maybe you could pass on a message for me?
FINE. I just got out of Professor McGonagall's office. One 10 inch essay on the inferiority of muggles--gee, that won't be hard to find-- and 10 inches of "I will not doubt the Lord Protector's wisdom".

What's the point of school if you can't ask questions and learn things?

And now Marie. Can anyone help me fix her? The pieces are ... well, some of them are fairly large.

This has not been a good day.

---

I'll try and help you fix her, if you like. I'm not so bad at Charms, and just because you have funny ideas about Muggles doesn't mean that Marie deserves to be smashed.

Thanks, Harry. I appreciate that.

I found a couple more pieces under one of the chairs and put them in a pocket in my bag.
Thank you.

I'm sorry about Marie.
But it could be much worse, you know.

How so? I've been punished, tripped, had Marie destroyed, Lucius is cross with me which he's never been, Bellatrix is planning to do something to me apparently...
What else?

That wasn't really much of a punishment. And you should probably call her Mrs. Lestrange.

I've never met her, but yes, you're right.
Now I'm going to sulk by the lake. Got any chocolate? I'm right out.
Who broke her?

I don’t know. I left her in the common room. It’s real easy to be all tough when you're attacking a HEAD. But she's in pretty bad shape.

Growing up with the twins I've had to learn a bit about fixing things. If Marvolo can't help, I probably could.

Marie looks about like how I feel.

I'm sorry, Pansy. Anything I can do?

Yeah. Explain why everyone went mental on me.
Er. I'll work on that?

Thanks. In the meantime, I'm going to the lake.

Want company?

Okay.

I mean, if you wanted to come out there or anything.

Fine.

Not planning on levitating anyone thing, are you?

Don't have anything to levitate it seems, well, except for the Giant Squid and with my luck I'd send him flying over London or something.
Just saying I'd rather not end up with the squid, yeah?

I mean. If I were to be near the lake later.

If you were by the lake I wouldn't have the energy to levitate you or bruise you or anything.

If you were by the lake, I mean.

All right then.

Right.
Discipline

Miss Parkinson has been disciplined for her infractions, not so much against Hogwarts' rules, but against pure good taste.

I realise that she has been raised in a haphazard fashion, and I am very grateful to Lucius for stepping in. She requires a strong guiding hand, and I fear that with an entire school to oversee (not to mention a birthday feast to plan) I am not the person who can provide it for her.

Nevertheless, she has been given an assignment that will hopefully help her mend her ways. She ought very well to know that the proper recourse for having one's questions answered is research and thereby understanding the great work that one's forbears have done. Even at the age of eleven! If she had addressed her queries to an encyclopaedia, or even to the Daily Prophet, they would have been answered immediately.

In future, I imagine that she will avoid all such public doubting and inciting of negative energies and pursue any questions she may have in a more constructive manner. If she does not, of course, as she grows older, she will suffer much greater consequences than merely penning a few lines.

Lucius, I do believe you have your work cut out for you; she seemed almost sullen in my office, not as if she had fully understood the lesson I was attempting to teach. Nevertheless, I have hope that the essay she is writing will do some small amount to mend the situation. A sharp young girl like Miss Parkinson must have her inquiring mind honed and pointed towards the right influences; my punishment for her is, naturally, intended to do so without crudely preventing all inquiry.

Order Only

She seemed to cause quite a commotion! I'm astonished that she stood up for herself for so long without folding, despite pressure from you, Lucius and Bellatrix.
There's some hope there, if her guardians don't knock it out of her entirely, if only you can maneuver her into continuing to think for herself. And without blurtling out awkward and unwelcome questions for the wrong people to hear. I know it is a difficult line for you to balance.

How are your nerves holding up for Friday? I'm sure this didn't help.

**alt_mcgonagall** at 2008-10-30 03:02:11  
*Re: Order Only*

I hope so too. I just - I can't do too much, Molly. It makes me frightened on so many levels.

My nerves are as they always are. Better after nine PM.

**alt_molly** at 2008-10-30 03:16:12  
*Re: Order Only*

I see that Ron is starting to strike up a bit of a friendship with her. I'm torn. He might be a good influence on her, I hope. On the other hand, I don't want him caught in the back wash if she keeps drawing unwelcome attention to herself.

Friday will go well, don't worry. Only take care not to dip too deeply into your usual comfort, especially Thursday night. You know you'll need all your wits about you to face the monsters you'll be entertaining the next day.

Fortunately, you have plenty of wit to spare.

**alt_molly** at 2008-10-30 03:21:15  
*Re: Order Only*

Another thought: if your visitors make you too nervous, you can always extend the press time. Even tell the reporters they'll be granted some exclusive interviews. Once Rita Skeeter really gets her hooks into her prey, it will probably be quite a long time before they'll be able to extricate themselves again.
Not to mention it would be a jolly lovely revenge on Malfoy for what he did to Xeno.

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[Image]

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-30 03:29:58  
Re: Order Only

An excellent thought - and best of all, I imagine that our dearest Lord Protector would think of it as quite the loyal, supportive thing to do -!

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[Image]

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-30 03:29:19  
Re: Order Only

I imagine that he'll be fine, Molly, Ron's a sensible boy.

I shall do my best. If nothing else, the fear of him will keep me from the bottle that night, you know. I really cannot be impaired for Friday, it's true.

---

[Image]

@alt_lucius at 2008-10-30 05:01:24  
(no subject)

Narcissa and I only ever intended to raise one child together. We have always been most honoured to be entrusted with the young Marvolo - one could ask for no finer foster-son - but I confess I have found it difficult at times to divide my attention among three charges, all the same age, yet as different in personality and disposition as one could find.

Pansy, of course, is extremely clever and I have - perhaps wrongly - allowed her to pursue her scholastic inclinations without seeing much need for supervision. She has always been a self-sufficient child. I cannot imagine whence this streak of stubborn insolence has suddenly sprung. And there's the matter of her mother. Tragic, that she has never been able to fully recover from losing Anthony. Though in many ways the experience made Pansy more mature than others her age, it has also left her more troubled than I should like to see. Still, I had thought Rosalind put more emphasis on Pansy's education with regard to the Lord Protector's beneficence. I have made sure she is also aware of Pansy's indiscretion and poor judgement.
Minerva, I shall of course wish to speak to the girl on Friday to reinforce the lessons you have brought to bear upon her to-day. I appreciate that you have no wish to quash her inquisitive spirit completely; nor do I. But she must learn that there is a proper time, place, and method to seeking answers. It is most unfortunate that her first foray was conducted in so public a manner.

Perhaps the treatment she is now receiving will help to provide her with some measure of understanding that other teaching has managed to miss.

👤alt_mcgonagall at **2008-10-30 14:07:22**
(no subject)

I hope so.
Word of the Day: sully

hermione is still teaching boot new words to help with his reading. boot thinks he might do a word of the day, at least once in a while, to show what he is learning.

todays word is sully, which can have a few definitions:
1 to mar the cleanliness or luster of, to soil or stain (must remember to look up luster in dictionary, too)
2 to defile or taint, to spoil or make dirty
3 to ruin. the dictionary gave the example 'to ruin (someone's reputation)' boot doesn't know what reputation is either but it must be something good

the word is probably from the french souiller, which also gives us the word soil. boot has been learning about how words come from other languages, or from older roots, and one word in another language can become several new words in ours.

sully is a useful word for a mudblood to learn.

there are aurors around the castle entrances now. they look at boot like he sullies the school.

must go knock up the transformation classroom and storage room. he wants everything put in order.

---

Mister Boot.

I need you to report to my office at once. I realise this is beyond your usual time with me, but I need you to take some things down to Professor Slughorn without delay.

boot will come, as soon as he is done in the classroom.

---
See that you do.

I've been terrible about posting words every day, haven't I?

Sully is a useful word, you're right.

Do you know how badly he's hurt, Miss Granger?

No, I don't.

Reputation is what people think of you in general.
On Sunday I went for a walk with Harry. He's been learning how to talk in parseltongue. He talked in it for me so I could hear what it sounded like, and I tried to copy him but he wasn't sure if I was doing it right or not. We looked for snakes to try it out on but we didn't find any. I would love to be able to talk to snakes. Actually, talking to any sort of animal would be wizard, but I've never heard of a wizard that could talk to birds or squirrels or fish or whatever, just snakes.

So Sunday was very nice but then Monday, well, I didn't sleep well last night and Monday was mostly yes, very nice.

Before I came to Hogwarts I went to village school since I was five. It wasn't actually in my village or anywhere near it, so I got there by portkey every day. We studied maths and proper English and we learned to read and write. Also, pretty much every day or at least every week the teacher talked to us about muggles. When I was little there were some songs and rhymes, like the one about muggles tearing down London Bridge and the one about the muggle boy trying to drown a kitten and the wizard boy saving it, but when we got older the teacher showed us pictures and talked a lot about what things were like before wizards took over. Not just wars, but also famines and plagues and death camps and witch-burnings and bombs and all sorts of terrible things.

Sometimes students said impertinent things because they didn't know any better. We had one teacher who'd jinx us them so that they had to stand on their tiptoes, which doesn't sound so bad but you get really tired walking on tiptoes everywhere, especially if the teacher makes you stand up and walk back and forth while you're on your tiptoes. And another teacher would jinx them by making them sprout hideous boils on their face.

So here are some things I learned:

Muggles are not like wizards and it's not just that they can't do magic. Things were terrible when the muggles were in charge, and they're much, much better now, thanks to the Lord Protector.
If you have questions, they should never start with, 'IF you're right,' or 'IF that's true,' because of course what your teacher says is true or else they wouldn't be your teacher. It's all right to say, 'could you please give me an example,' but you need to say it respectfully, not like you think you're catching them being wrong.

Sometimes teachers can't answer questions right away because they have to go look it up. That doesn't mean they were wrong in what they're saying, it just means you need to be patient until they can come back with the answer.

If they don't ever give you an answer, you need to remember that teachers are very busy, and they're not obligated to answer every question that pops into their students' heads. Especially for halfbloods.

Asking questions is a privilege. Sometimes all you get to do is listen carefully.

Anyway I think Pansy had a tutor instead of going to village school. I think maybe her tutor didn't teach her as much about muggles as we learned in the village school. It's funny to think that you might learn more about something in school than you would from a tutor, but then, Pansy knows who Shakespeare is and none of my classmates in my village school had ever heard of him.

It probably would've saved her a lot of trouble if her tutor had told her more about muggles, though.

---

alt_pansy at 2008-10-30 05:30:53 (no subject)

What does Parseltongue sound like?

---

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-30 18:06:11 (no subject)

It sounds like hissing -- like if you were going to try to have a conversation with someone and just uses hisses, that's what parseltongue is like.
alt_pansy at 2008-10-30 18:49:00
(no subject)

It sounds pretty interesting, actually. I've always wondered what it sounded like.

alt_harry at 2008-10-30 14:38:19
(no subject)

I think that tutors weren't always so good either. They taught us a lot more about grammar than you did in a village school I think, but that doesn't mean that they taught us everything.

I think that a lot of it has to do with being respectful too. Pansy hasn't had to be as respectful as the rest of us have sometimes because she's a girl and because everyone feels sorry for her because of her mum and dad. Which is okay except that now people expect her to be more respectful and she's never had to do that before, which isn't fair.

Sometimes when I was younger I used to think that it wasn't fair that Pansy got to be like she is, but now I think that I got lucky, because I won't make mistakes like that.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-30 18:48:25
(no subject)

Asking questions is disrespectful? Funny. I was taught that asking questions is a good thing.

Thanks a lot, Harry. Nice to know everyone feels sorry for me.

I'll find a way to fix Marie myself.

alt_harry at 2008-10-30 18:54:56
(no subject)

Oh come on Pansy I didn't mean it like that!!
What did you mean, then? Come on... everyone else is getting their shots in at me today. Might as well join the fun, Harry.
Making cider this year is a much bigger job than usual, since we're filling Xeno's barrels as well as our own. Arthur has been logging truly horrible hours at the Ministry, so Xeno was the one to wash out and sterilise the barrels. We had a good apple crop this year--not as good as four years ago, but still enough to give us enough cider for the year. Another couple of days of lessons were sacrificed for the girls so they could help me grate the apples into pulp and put it through the press (imagine what a huge job it would be to do this without magic!). Xeno offered some of his crab apples to add to the mix to bring out some tartness. Never tried doing that before, but I've tasted Xeno's own pressing from last year, and I quite liked it so we thought we'd do the experiment. Luna's fingers got a bit squashed when I started applying the charm to activate the press, not realising that she was still pushing pulp in there, but she didn't cry, not in the least. She's such a dear girl, and I'm getting quite fond of her. It'll be as much of a wrench to send her away to school next year as Ginny.

Arthur was happy that I made him his favourite apple crumble last night, but it just doesn't taste the same without cinnamon. Wish that cinnamon wasn't so impossible to buy now, what with the blockade. (Well, I suppose you can buy it, if you're made of Galleons, but we aren't.)

Xeno really is so touchingly grateful that we've taken him in, until he gets *The Quibbler* up and running again. He tries to show his gratitude in ways, however, that are not always so gratefully received. He offered to cook us dinner one night a week. Well, that lasted for one week! We have rather different ideas of the sorts of foods that are appreciated at the dinner table. One thing he does insist on is that all bread should be baked in rings, not loaf pans. I have no idea why, but he seems to be seized by the conviction that bread baked in rings is healthier. (Where does he get these mad ideas???) He's brought all his (ring-shaped) bakeware over from his house. There's no room for it in my cupboards, so it sits there on the countertops, driving me rather mad. It's terribly in the way as we've been trying to make cider.

The roof on the Burrow is leaking again, I'm afraid, down into Ron's room. Ron, I'm sorry to say your Chudley Cannons poster is ruined. Why couldn't it be leaking down on the ghoul instead? I don't know
when Arthur might be able to get up there to fix it. Xeno has offered, but I shudder at the idea of him up on the roof. If he doesn't fall off because he's too busy watching a butterfly or a barn swallow, he'd be likely to hex the chimney, thinking he's making it draw the smoke better. He means well, but he can cause such havoc!

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@alt_arthur at 2008-10-30 18:03:36
(no subject)

The crumble really was delicious, Molly, even without the cinnamon.

@alt_percy at 2008-10-30 18:04:54
(no subject)

And now I'm missing Mum's cider.

@alt_molly at 2008-10-31 01:08:12
(no subject)

And how is it you've had enough of it to actually miss it? I suppose your father been sneaking you some? You should wait until you're older, dear.

@alt_arthur at 2008-10-31 01:10:58
(no subject)

Now, Molly dear, don't be too hard on the boy. It was only a few tastes, after all.

And it is very good cider indeed.

@alt_ron at 2008-10-31 00:56:15
(no subject)

Brilliant.
I'm sure your father can easily get you another one, dear.
2008-10-30 11:55:00
Order Only: Dysentery and Typhoid

The rumours of typhoid in the Epping Forest camp in Essex are just that--rumours only.

The rumours of dysentery in the Tunbridge Wells, Swale and Ashford district camps are unfortunately true. All out-of-camp work assignments there and the adjacent districts have been stopped, in an attempt to keep it from spreading. Thank Merlin at least the harvest is in, so we won't have to deal with food shortages through the winter because the work force has been laid low. Well, worse food shortages than we already have, I mean.

I almost lost it and hexed Griderson when he sneered that of course the damn Muggles were getting sick; what else did you expect from animals that liked to wallow in their own filth? Managed to restrain myself--barely.

These poor people. Make them live in desperate conditions and then blame them for the diseases that arise. What misery they have to go through just to live their daily lives.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-30 20:38:57 (no subject)

Sad, but typical, Arthur. It's just as much stuff as claiming anyone who ever had an admirable quality as a witch or wizard. Like Malfoy and his assertions about Jefferson. What an arse!

I feel for Parkinson, though, struggling to figure it out when she knows there's something wrong in the whole equation. And getting the ginger taken out of her for pointing out the flaws. Brings back memories, that.

Anyway, I popped in to say I'm putting together a shipment from Laszlo Ltd to provide you with some of the ingredients you requested. No surprises this time. I want to make sure we have some legitimate parcels so that we can establish the business for real. But it's addressed to 'Prongspads Industries' and marked to be held at the central Owl office in London until someone picks it up with a confirmation number. It's also marked for Payment upon Delivery, I'm
afraid, as I've no clue what the postage will come to. Sorry.

I'll send the confirmation in an upcoming post in a couple days. I think we may need some codes to further ensure our safety - in case anything is compromised. I want to test the code I'm devising. I'll post the details, as I said, soon.

---

alt_arthur at 2008-10-30 20:49:58

Order only

Good, I'll wait for the confirmation.

Haven't heard from Shacklebolt yet, by the way, which really worries me. He should have surfaced by now. I wonder if Frank or Alice have heard anything.
2008-10-30 12:27:00

Not a good morning

Charms with the Slytherins today, then Transfiguration. Well, Transfiguration is never fun of course, but even Charms went badly today. Forgot my essay for that class (left it on my bedside table), so won't get full marks for it.

Everyone's excited for the feast, of course, but some people seem off, somehow. Made me wonder if the Dementors got here a day early or something. Can understand why Parkinson would be glum, but even Sally-Anne Perks just about bit my head off when I stopped her after class to ask her about revising for Transfiguration together again. I mean, I get it if you're just sick of trying to help such a dunderhead, yeah? But if there was something I said that was wrong otherwise, I'm really sorry. I'd take it back if I just knew what it was.

Herbology this afternoon should be good, but then there's flying after that. Hope I don't break an arm again.

---

alt_sally_anne at 2008-10-30 19:12:15
(no subject)

I'm sorry I was cross with you, Neville. It's just You're a pureblood, so You don't understand what it's I can't

Maybe we can meet next week? I think things are going to be pretty busy until after Halloween.

---

alt_neville at 2008-10-30 20:22:29
(no subject)

That's all right. I'm sorry that you think I just didn't it want to be anything I said. Glad it's not. No hard feelings, promise.

Next week would be good, thanks.
**alt_terry** at 2008-10-30 20:26:29  
(no subject)

Master isn't angry at you, not personally, and you did manage transfiguring the picture frame today. boot saw that, from the back of the class room. that's better, isn't it?

**alt_neville** at 2008-10-30 20:28:28  
(no subject)

I suppose so. Yeah, I guess that was better than some classes. Of course, that's not saying much.

(You okay? I saw, um, the eye.)

**alt_terry** at 2008-10-30 20:30:57  
(no subject)

boot is fine. no need for mr longbottom to trouble himself over boot

but thanks

**alt_neville** at 2008-10-30 20:32:13  
(no subject)

wish you wouldn't. Well, okay then.

**alt_pansy** at 2008-10-30 20:57:01  
(no subject)

I've been pretty short with people myself, including Sally-Anne, so if she took it out on you, I apologize.
You're going to do fine with flying, mate. After all, worst has already happened, right?

Better not say that. With my luck, I'll find a way to break my leg next time. Or my skull!

Today wasn't too bad. But don't count on me ever choosing to ride a broom voluntarily when I leave school. I'll stick to the Floo, or porting, thanks.

I wonder if apparition is easier?

Dunno. Reckon it'd be a bit harder to disappear then come back than it is to jump on a broom.

Not sure if that's exactly it. (Sounds like you've had a hard couple days of it, too, sorry.)

Anyway, things are all right between me and Sally-Anne now, I reckon, so no worries.

Oh, good, I'm glad it's all sorted, then.
Well, I'm in a good mood.

Tomorrow should be a good day for everyone, better than today was for me. (Well, except anyone who runs into one of those Dementors. I've heard about those.) I'm looking forward to the feast, too. Percy Weasley was telling me all about it.

See you in Potions tomorrow.
2008-10-30 14:55:00
(no subject)

About the Howler I got this morning: Um. Mum's sick. She's been sick for a real long time. That's why she sounded sort of strange. I'm sorry you had to hear that.

This week will never end. I don't think I'm going to wind up with anyone speaking to me now. But they can't stop me from thinking what I want to think.

alt_harry at 2008-10-30 22:05:58
(no subject)

I'm sorry, okay?

It seems like you're the one not speaking to me.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-30 22:10:59
(no subject)

Hey, you're the one who said what you said about me. That everyone feels sorry for me and it's not fair that I get to be the way I am. What way is that? I ask questions because I want to know things and I want to know WHY and noone will tell me why. They just tell me to shut it.

alt_ron at 2008-10-31 00:57:37
(no subject)

Want another walk?

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 01:08:07
(no subject)

Depends. Do you have any chocolate?
alt_ron at 2008-10-31 01:13:50
(no subject)

I've a few chocolate frogs left.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 01:16:45
(no subject)

All right. You know where I'll be. But are you sure you want to be seen with me?

alt_ron at 2008-10-31 01:17:56
(no subject)

Why wouldn't I?

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 01:19:57
(no subject)

I mean... that Howler and I'm... not real popular now. Even Harry's being mean to me. Of all people.. Harry. Draco I expected. But not Harry. And not Lucius.

alt_ron at 2008-10-31 01:22:51
(no subject)

I'm down by the lake now.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 01:25:21
(no subject)

On my way.
2008-10-30 20:08:00

I'm excited about tomorrow. I'm not certain I'll be able to sleep tonight. I've spent the last several nights working on gifts for both our Lord Protector and Mother because Mother's birthday is nevermind. Anyway, I hope the Lord likes it, because I made it, which most people agree means that I worked hard and that my gift comes from the heart. It also made me grateful for my charmed stay-in-the-line coloured pencils, since I'm not as good as drawing as I should be. Definitely not as good as the wizards that make the Martin Miggs comics. Maybe they're not talented at all and use a spell, though? There are spells that can make you good at lots of things.

I'm doing really well in Charms these past few weeks. Father, do you think that when you are here for the festivities that we could have some private discussion? I would like to talk with you in person about some things, like Abraxan horses and...well, I'm not sure yet, but there will be other things I'll want to talk about, I think.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-31 02:35:29

(no subject)

Why didn't you use a spell to make your drawing better then?

I mean, not that it's bad. I haven't seen it.

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 02:37:35

(no subject)

I would have if I knew the spell that would do that. On the Lord Protector's gift, anyway.

Do you know a spell that does that?
alt_theodore at 2008-10-31 02:41:21
(no subject)

No, but I bet there's one in the library somewhere.

I haven't got Him a gift. I couldn't think of anything good enough for Him. Do you think He'll notice?

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 02:44:47
(no subject)

Maybe, but I don't know if I have time to find it.

Yes, he notices everything. But he might not say anything about it. You never know.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-31 02:59:05
(no subject)

Maybe I have something of mine I can give Him...

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 03:08:53
(no subject)

Auntie Bellatrix once said that she gives all of herself to the Lord, and that's what makes him happiest of all.

alt_theodore at 2008-10-31 03:10:19
(no subject)

Do you have time to draw one more thing?
If it's not something too big I probably do.

Meet me in the dormitory and bring some ink that doesn't wash off.

I don't know if I have any ink like that. Harry might. I'll check and see you there in a few minutes.

You're better at drawing than you think you are.

Yes, but not as good as I should be.

I was thinking about it and I've been drawing for probably eight years, which is a really long time.

Well, that is a really long time. And if you look at your old stuff, I bet you'll see that you've got a lot better and you'll keep getting better. Seems like I used to have a Unicorn you drew me when we were
little but I might have got it from someone else. Anyway, I always liked it a lot.

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 02:43:10
(no subject)

I don't know if I drew it. I guess I don't remember everything I've drawn.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 02:44:12
(no subject)

It was a long time ago.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-31 03:02:44
(no subject)

Friday is bound to be hectic, Draco, and I've a few matters that really must be seen to while we are there ... but yes, I suppose I shall be able to free myself to speak with you, if you like.

... You're not going to ask for an Abraxan for Christmas, I hope?

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 03:03:36
(no subject)

Should I give our Lord a present?

alt_lucius at 2008-10-31 03:07:46
(no subject)

You, Miss Parkinson, should keep your head down, I think, rather than attract more attention to yourself.

I've asked Professor McGonagall for the opportunity to meet privately with you as well.
alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 03:08:41
(no subject)

Yes, sir. I will stay away from the feast if you think I should.

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 03:04:11
(no subject)

No, I want a new broomstick for Christmas. I just thought you could tell me about Abraxans, that's all. Since you know a lot about them.

alt_lucius at 2008-10-31 05:22:09
(no subject)

Is that all? Draco, I do not know whether I shall have much patience for a trivial discussion, however pleasant it might be.

I can spare you a quarter hour, if that is to be our topic.

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 13:08:29
(no subject)

Okay, Father.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-31 03:18:57
(no subject)

I shall pretend I haven't read that.
It's best that you do, Mother.
It's concerning, the news out of Hogwarts lately. If even well reared children are not upholding the basic tenets of our society, something is badly amiss. What hope can we have for the other children?

What are we teaching these children? Where is this corruption coming from? Is one lot corrupting the other? If so, we ought to root out the polluting elements and purge them from our midst.

I know the child's been punished, that's not my point. It's not only the one child we must address. There is rot at our core, and I can't be alone in expecting a thoroughgoing assessment of what must be done to take our young in hand.

I expect answers.

I've often doubted the idea of having impressionable students around Mudbloods. Is it really wise to have them so close to our children, close enough to fill their eager minds with lies and filth?

I hardly think that it is the mudbloods' fault. It seems clear to me that these problems have a much deeper root cause. Perhaps the youngsters have imbibed this rebellion from the very air. They have, after all, lived through the great upheavals of our time.
alt_narcissa at 2008-10-31 01:57:02
(no subject)

It certainly isn't from the air inside Slytherin House or Malfoy Manor.

Perhaps in the classrooms? Whatever are you teaching in there, Minerva?

alt_crouch_jr at 2008-10-31 01:48:31
(no subject)

I hardly think that the mudbloods can help, even if they aren't the original source of these problems. It can't be that difficult to get things done without them, can it? Leave the mudbloods until they know fully who they are and what that means.

alt_narcissa at 2008-10-31 02:08:20
(no subject)

Then what is the source of the problems, Barty? I could accept that in some cases it's parenting, but certainly not in all of them.

alt_crouch_jr at 2008-10-31 02:45:40
(no subject)

If I knew, I would be trying to put a stop to it. Or finding someone who could.

alt_bellatrix at 2008-10-31 02:28:06
(no subject)

You know that I hold the same concerns. Why, I would have Hydra tutored until she was of age, were the Lord not such an advocate for a Hogwarts education.

That is one good thing, at least: He will make certain that the school becomes the esteemed institute He has long envisioned, and by any means.

Yet I too would like some answers. I also feel that the mudbloods at
the school should not be allowed to write. What use have they for a voice?
2008-10-31 11:43:00
ORDER ONLY: Party.

Wish me luck.

alt_mcgonagall

alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 17:18:46
(no subject)

Good luck, Minerva.

And hang to your hat. I'm about to make Voldemort’s day - but I hope to Merlin it doesn't ruin yours.

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-31 18:04:19
(no subject)

That hardly counts as a warning!

It's a good thing that I got Mr Marvolo safely packed away with his Father before I read that, Sirius. I am not entirely sure how you expected me to react.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 18:06:13
(no subject)

My timing is quite deliberate - I hope that he shan't see this or be notified before the press conference. Also - you are absolutely secure because you've been occupied all day!

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-31 18:14:10
(no subject)

I suppose so. Nevertheless, a nasty shock - and my reaction itself was not hidden from the eyes of the Lord Protector, so have a care, Sirius.
I've a bit of medicinal Firewhiskey in my office if you've a need afterwards.

Best of luck to you, Minerva.
Greetings, British Wizarding World.

Today is a day of national significance for us all. Of course, it is your Lord Protector's birthday, which I am sure is cause for celebration for at least a dozen of you. But it is also All Hallow's Eve, which has been a holiday throughout the western world for centuries. The druidic sect of wizards, some of your ancestors, marked All Hallow's as the end of the year, the night on which old spirits return to walk the earth.

Ten years ago, two spirits were added to that complement long before they should have been. A brave, skilled wizard and a defiant, strong witch were murdered for no crime other than trying to protect innocent lives. They dared to stand up to one of the most infamous practitioners of the Dark Arts that our people have ever known, and for that, they paid the ultimate price.

In a perfect world, Lily and James Potter would be alive today, watching their son as he continues what is sure to be an illustrious career as student and wizard. In a less perfect, but better world than ours, I would at least have been able to be there for him. Instead he is among snakes and toadies. He has been raised to believe lies, and doubt the truth.

Traditionally, All Hallow's or Samhain is a time for renewal, a time to ask for health, peace and prosperity in the coming year. Some of you may think you already enjoy peace. But it is a false peace. It is a peace built on the backs of slaves, a peace that flouts the principles of equality and opportunity for all that many of our forebears fought to achieve for themselves.

So for my Hallowe'en wish, I wish only for you to know this: It is never a waste of time to fight against evil, never a futile effort to refuse to collude with those who would set themselves higher by bringing others low.

Years ago, not so very long, in fact, our people were oppressed and murdered, feared and misunderstood. It is easy to believe that Muggles deserve the same ill treatment or that they must be oppressed in return in order to protect the wizard population.
But this is a lie. One can debate the wisdom of hiding from Muggles, but the answer is not to show ourselves only to suppress them. It is not to separate families or to beat their children into submission and raise them in an atmosphere of terror and derision. It is not to decry a small voice that dares in innocence to ask the simplest, yet hardest, questions: Questions with answers that stab at the heart of hatred. It is not to accuse Muggles of practising genetic alteration on their children in order to create magical issue, when Muggleborn witches and wizards have been a fact of natural procreation for as long as history has been recorded.

One such Muggleborn was a witch of uncommon talent and immense kindness. She married a wizard born to an old, respected and pureblood line. Together, they served the cause of righteousness. I commend and honour their commitment to that goal. Although they fell to the same dark wizards who now control our 'blessed isle,' nevertheless they live in our memories. They are embodied in our continued fight for justice and truth.

Ladies and Gentlemen, when you raise your glasses tonight in toast to the so-called Protector of Britain, I bid you, in your hearts, salute the sacrifice of James and Lily Potter. Remember them as I remember them: defiant, strong, generous and loving. Remember that they gave everything in their attempt to save, not just their son, but all of us. Remember James and Lily.

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@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-31 18:02:30
(no subject)

Oh Christ Jesus.

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@alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 18:08:04
(no subject)

If hope is the goal, then this is the price.
@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-31 18:12:35
(no subject)

I do not know what you are saying, Mr Black, but please do not say it to me.

@alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 18:14:53
(no subject)

I don't understand what happened to you, Professor. You used to have more sense, I always thought. Don't you care anymore?

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-10-31 18:30:34
(no subject)

Mr Black,

I have no interest in indulging you in your little games. I care very much, just as I always have - I care about the strength and well-being of the wizarding world, the strength and well-being of our children. You, it seems, have forgotten the hard-learned lessons of years under the Muggle thumb.

I shall not be responding to you again. I have a very busy day. Shout, if you like, into the void.

@alt_molly at 2008-10-31 19:15:38
Order Only

Oh, well done. This brought tears to my eyes.

Arthur and I will indeed raise a glass. Tonight.

@alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 19:20:21
Re: Order Only

Thanks, Molly. I worked rather hard on it, I'm sure you can imagine.
I hope yours aren't the only toasts in tribute, even if the words are silent.

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 19:31:31
(no subject)

If you care about Harry so much then why do you do things that will only make trouble for him?

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 21:03:28
(no subject)

Who is their son and why would this make trouble for Harry?

alt_draco at 2008-10-31 21:40:40
(no subject)

Because he's saying lies about Harry's Father, that's why.

We better listen to what my Father says now, though.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 21:42:13
(no subject)

He's saying lies about Lucius too.

alt_sirius at 2008-10-31 22:56:07
(no subject)

Lying is the last thing I'm doing.

You don't know 'Lucius' as well as you think you do. Keep asking those questions that threaten him so much. Your first one was good! You're a clever girl, so I'm sure if you think about it hard you can winkle it out.
**alt_pansy** at 2008-10-31 23:34:18
*(no subject)*

I don't know you so I'm not going to talk to you. But asking questions is bad and I'll get hit if I do. We are lucky to have Our Lord to show us the way. I'm too clever, see, and that's bad and it makes mum drink. I don't know what you're about but thank you for the compliment.

Do you know Lucius? How do you know him?

**alt_lucius** at 2008-10-31 21:10:14
*(no subject)*

What happened to agreeing to subside owing to Marvolo's request, Black?

You may have a flair for drama, but you have surely signed your own death warrant at this latest insanity.

Draco, Pansy, I forbid you to interact with this lunatic any further. He is both dangerous and depraved. I shall see you both momentarily.

**alt_sirius** at 2008-10-31 21:16:08
*(no subject)*

I never said I would subside indefinitely. And you might recall that I said I wasn't finished, either.

I've already seen your idea of payback, Malfoy. Go murder some more Muggles if it salves your bruised ego. Oh, and don't forget to have your paper pin the blame on me, while you're at it.

Why can't you just go have a pint like a normal person?
I don't know what you think your damn business here is or what you're doing with these taunts. But I'm outraged by your accusation that Mr. Malfoy should go "murder some more" Muggles. It's libelous. It's monstrous. I'm with the Committee for Muggleborn Labour, and the Liaison to the Department for Muggle Domestication, and I can assure you that the Muggles under our jurisdiction are treated in a humane manner by the Ministry of Magic. They are not subject to murder by anybody, least of all by Mr. Malfoy.

Lucius would NEVER murder anyone! Take that back.

Grateful as I am for your defence, Little Bit, I had rather you ignore him altogether and go to supper. Do not engage him further. He is unbalanced.

I may not have wholly forgiven your outbursts of earlier this week, but I do not wish you to be hurt by this reprobate.

But he's lying about you! I know you. And you would never do that. Remember you promised you'd never lie to me and so I know you won't.

I'm looking forward to supper! How did it go with Sally? I'm going to try to be more like her. And I hope aunt Narcissa likes her birthday present.
Almost finished!!!

I'm just finished recopying and binding the *Pretiosissimum Donum Dei*, and it's beautiful!!! I'm so happy that I did it well. That was the secret job I had, to recopy and bind it. Madam Pince is excited too. It was the first time I was allowed to copy out a book! Soon she'll let me do it for books that can't be reproduced any other way, and then I'll be a real scriptor!! The *Pretiosissimum Donum Dei* is supposed to be Professor McGonagall's gift to the Lord Protector. She told me it wasn't a secret as of today, so I could tell people. It's as if I'm giving him something too, even though I know he wouldn't want anything I could give him, because I'm a Mudblood.

Anyway I'm looking forward to the Feast so I can see it be presented to him! I keep looking through it, it's so nice. I'm really proud of myself.

I'm learning a little bit of Latin as I go too. Not much but I can say "Ave et vale!" So ave et vale!!!
where are you, hermione? boot has been looking for you for the past hour.
ORDER ONLY: Hang on everyone!

To quote another classic film: 'Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night.'

Or in other words, here we go!

All,

I hope very much that by writing what I've just written while Marvolo and his circle are occupied gives the message a little while to spread, before the manure hits the snitch.

I quite understand if you have to spit at me to protect yourselves; in fact - you might want to do. I'll even argue back a bit if I can, so you can really have a go at me.

Arthur, here's hoping this is a strong dose of hope.

The news has hit the Ministry, and it has caused quite a flurry, as you can well imagine. I think you've got all the attention you could possibly want. I hope that it serves the cause well.

But . . . I gave a silent cheer when I read your words. And I saw one or two smiles on people's faces (quickly hidden) once the word started spreading.

This will enrage the worst of our enemies, as you very well know. Be careful.
I've been so monstrously bad. I have been questioning things that I ought not and Lucius explained everything to me. I had thought, see, from hearing music of my father's, that it was muggle music I was hearing but no! It's opera and it's beautiful and Lucius explained that it's wizard music. He and aunt Narcissa even go to the opera! Oh, I'd love to see one someday.

I asked if I could stay here over the winter break but he suggested that maybe Sally-Anne could come stay with us!! I think that would make mum not be sick and having Sally would be ace. I want to be just like her someday. Or like aunt Narcissa.

Lucius was most cross with me. I tried to ask about Harry's glasses because aren't those muggle? but he said muggles do have flashes of brilliance. I'm working on my essay and did you know they torture prisoners of war? I was reading about a camp in Vietnam and they call it the Hanoi Hilton but that's a funny name for such a bad place.

he hit me, but I deserved it for saying the things I did. And... and mum... well, see, if I were a better daughter she wouldn't be like she is and my father would be so disappointed in me. Lucius agreed that it's my fault that she's the way she is and I don't want her to be that way and I told Lucius I was very very sorry and I'll do anything to make it right.

I feel two ways. I'm very glad that Lucius doesn't hate me after our first serious quarrel and I feel so bad that I've done what I've done to my mum and I don't know how to make it better except try to be a good girl and then maybe Lucius will love me again. Because I hurt him and I wouldn't EVER do that. I hurt Draco and aunt Narcissa too. And mum. So very bad, I am.

I got a present for aunt Narcissa too. It's perfume that my mother sometimes wears. It's called Dark Magic and I got a bottle and wrapped it up really pretty and I hope she likes it. I really want to be a good person and I'm not, now, but maybe someday I will be. My face hurts but it's a good hurt because it reminds me not to say the things I did.
alt_ron at 2008-10-31 23:42:01
(no subject)

...

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 23:42:52
(no subject)

What?

alt_ron at 2008-10-31 23:43:50
(no subject)

Nothing.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 23:48:23
(no subject)

Then why did you comment just to say nothing?
That makes no sense.

alt_ron at 2008-10-31 23:52:22
(no subject)

He hit you???
You deserve it?
It's bollocks that's wha--

Nevermind.

alt_pansy at 2008-10-31 23:54:16
(no subject)

I have to be good. So mum will get better. See, I
didn't know before. Now I do. And she scares me
sometimes but I don't want her to die.
Have you seen my son Ronald since he sent this reply?

No ma'am. I haven't seen him but I'm sure he's in his common room. I'm sure he'll be checking in but things are really crazy right now and so much for the birthday feast.
Hermione?

the Feast is about to begin. they said that mudbloods could sit in a corner in the back of the Great Hall, on the floor. boot knows you don't want to miss it.

where are you?
ANNOUNCEMENT

ALL STUDENTS.

If anyone did not hear the Headmistress' announcement, all students are to return to their common rooms IMMEDIATELY. Once you are there, please check in with your prefects and do not attempt to leave again until the situation is resolved.

It is important that students obey all instructions from their prefects. Above all, do not panic. The Common Rooms for each House are perfectly safe and secure. The Aurors are here doing their jobs, and you may be sure that His Lordship is well-protected.

What is it? What has happened?

There has been a . . . situation. It will be resolved shortly, I am sure. As I said, the Aurors are here, and they will soon have everything well in hand.

What in Merlin's name does that mean? What is going on, Percy?
alt_percy at 2008-10-31 23:55:12
(no subject)
Mother, I can't say right now. The situation is still unclear, and as a prefect, I cannot be any part of spreading rumours. I am sure that the Headmistress will eventually make an announcement.

alt_molly at 2008-10-31 23:58:04
Order Only
Arthur! Do you know what is going on? Have any of the operatives tried anything?

alt_arthur at 2008-10-31 23:59:25
Re: Order Only
No, Molly, of course not.

alt_molly at 2008-11-01 00:00:00
Re: Order Only
Are you sure??? You don't know where Shacklebolt is!

alt_arthur at 2008-11-01 00:01:03
Re: Order Only
Molly, don't be absurd. With all the Aurors there? And Dementors, too? Of course Shacklebolt wouldn't ever try anything at Hogwarts without letting Minerva know first.

alt_molly at 2008-11-01 00:01:38
(no subject)
Are the twins there with you? Is Ron there?
The twins are here, worse luck, and precious little help they are. My biggest problem is trying to keep them from sneaking out of the Common Room again.

Where's Ron?

He's . . . he's not here right now. I'm sure he'll be here shortly.

What?! Where is he! Percy, you have to find him immediately!

Mum. Leave off, please. I'm sure Ron's perfectly fine. There are Aurors here, don't forget.

I have to deal now with checking in all other the students.

Percy? Percy! What is going on?
Molly. Molly, leave be. Percy needs to do his job as prefect, it’s why he was picked.

Check the clock, Molly. What does it say?

ARThUR! RON’S ARROW IS POINTING TO MORTAL PERIL!!

Oh, Arthur, come home. Please!

On my way.

Percy, let us know as soon as you hear something.
Attention

Neville Longbottom and Ronald Weasley, please report to the Gryffindor Common Room immediately.

The hand of the clock is off 'Mortal Peril' now. It says 'school.'

Please let me know as soon as you hear anything.

Of course, Mum. Haven't seen him yet.

But that's good news about the clock. I confess I'm relieved.

Mum . . . it's all right. Ron's all right. He's fine.

WHAT? You've SEEN him? Where is he?
alt_percy at 2008-11-01 03:06:43
(no subject)

No, not yet. But he's been found. The Headmistress sent word to the Common Room by that servant of Professor Carrow's, Terry Boot.

alt_arthur at 2008-11-01 03:08:39
(no subject)

Thank you for letting us know, Percy. Your mother has been absolutely beside herself.

Can you tell us what happened?

alt_percy at 2008-11-01 03:16:40
(no subject)

I don't think it's proper for me to make any kind of statement about exactly what transpired. I'm sure you understand. The Headmistress will have more to say, but I believe she's rather busy with the press at the moment.

alt_arthur at 2008-11-01 03:17:49
(no subject)

And all the other missing students, they are accounted for, too?

alt_percy at 2008-11-01 03:18:27
(no subject)

Yes, they are all accounted for.
Hermione?

Hermione! Where are you! Where are you?
Amidst the confusion, the Lord Protector's son, Harry Marvolo, cannot be found. It is assumed that Draco Malfoy, his Slytherin house-mate, is with him.

If anyone knows the location of Harry Marvolo or Draco Malfoy, please approach either myself or one of the other Aurors. Your assistance shall be rewarded.

Bella, I've sent Mulciber and Yaxley to check the towers on the theory that Draco and Harry sought higher ground than the common room.

Narcissa is overwrought, Bella. I can't leave her just now or I would join the search.

Understandable, Lucius. Be with my sister. If you see my husband, tell him he should be doing something useful.

They're not in our common room Mrs Lestrange.

Thank you, Theodore, for that information.
alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 02:05:40
(no subject)

Is there anything I can do to help?

alt_bellatrix at 2008-11-01 02:07:12
(no subject)

Stay where you are. It would be a shame if any harm came to you.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 02:08:52
(no subject)

Yes, Mrs Lestrange.
He liked it. He really truly liked it.

What did he say?

I don't remember, it was too exciting. I wish I could.
I know He patted me on the head and said well done and Mrs Lestrange was so happy. She was so pretty...

It must have been an experience to be touched by him. Imagine how wonderful it'll feel to get the Mark.

That's what it was! I had Draco draw His Mark on my arm and our Lord Protector and Mrs Lestrange thought it was wizard. She said I showed great devotion to Him. I'd take His Mark for real if I could but I'm too young still. Someday, He said.
alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 01:46:34
(no subject)

Do you really mean all those things you're saying about being wrong?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 01:52:31
(no subject)

What has that got to do with what he said to you?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 01:56:14
(no subject)

It has everything to do with whether or not I'm going to keep talking to you Pansy. You said some really awful things. And you didn't even seem ashamed that you said them.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 01:58:55
(no subject)

Well, you're a big boy so I'll let you decide if you're talking to me or not. In the meantime, play leapfrog with a unicorn.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 02:02:47
(no subject)

You didn't mean them at all. Your whole apology was a lie.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 02:06:49
(no subject)

I suggest some new hobbies for you and that makes me a liar? For such a smart boy, you do have moments where you're not the brightest candle on the ceiling, don't you?
alt_michael at 2008-11-01 00:31:27  
(no subject)

What did you do?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 01:47:14  
(no subject)

I gave a gift to our Lord Protector and he liked it!

alt_michael at 2008-11-01 05:23:28  
(no subject)

Well, yes, but what was it?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 05:26:30  
(no subject)

I had Draco draw the Lord's Mark on my arm and I told Mrs Lestrange about it and then she took me up to show it to him.

I wish it could have been a real one.

alt_michael at 2008-11-01 06:21:53  
(no subject)

That's brilliant. That one will definitely be remembered, I think.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 06:28:05  
(no subject)

I hope so!
Hey do you want to play Wizard's chess tomorrow? You can play white so you'll have the advantage.

@alt_michael at 2008-11-01 06:43:50 (no subject)

Definitely, yes. I'm not sure even playing white will help, but yes.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 15:16:22 (no subject)

It was lovely, Teddy (I could see it from across the common room last night when you were telling people). I'm so glad for you that the Lord Protector liked it.

@alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 18:03:35 (no subject)

Thanks Sally-Anne!

@alt_draco at 2008-11-01 21:50:22 (no subject)

I'm glad he liked it. I guess I must be a pretty good artist after all.

Are you and Michael still playing chess? Do you think maybe I could join?

@alt_theodore at 2008-11-01 21:56:48 (no subject)

They said it was really well done. I told them you were the best artist in the whole school.

And yeah! We're in the Great Hall. I think Michael might actually beat me this time.
You did? Wow, thanks.
Okay. I can just watch and not play, actually. I just feel like being away from other people right now.

I've got other games here, I bet there's something we can all play.

Brilliant.
2008-10-31 21:32:00
Draco, Harry

If you are hiding somewhere and able to respond, tell us where you are and we shall send help immediately.

alternity
alt_lucius

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 01:36:58
(no subject)

They aren't anywhere in the common room but I'm going to ask the ghosts.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-01 01:39:13
(no subject)

Are the ghosts in the common room? Yes, if they are - send them to us. Good thinking, my girl.

Do NOT leave the common room, however. It's not yet all clear.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 01:40:27
(no subject)

It's really crowded in here but I don't see them. I'm going to try the dorms, though and sometimes one will come if I call. I won't leave, though.
I feel like I ought to write about today but I don't even know where to start.

Mr Malfoy had Pansy go up and talk to him, and then when she came back down to our common room she said that he wanted to talk to me, too. He asked me about my village school, and whether I was getting good marks in my classes, and who my friends are, and all sorts of things. It's very kind of him to take such an interest in me but a bit intimidating as he's a very important man with all sorts of responsibilities and concerns. I couldn't tell if he liked my answers or not.

Afterwards Pansy and I went to the library so that she could work on her essay, and I helped her by finding books all about dreadful things muggles have done. There was one book that said muggles didn't just burn witches and wizards, they also tortured them horribly first, and it had pictures of things called thumbscrews. There was another book that was more funny than horrible that was all about stupid ideas muggles have had over the centuries, like for instance some muggles had doctors cut them up and sew them back together and it was supposed to make them prettier. Except it didn't really, that book has pictures too, and mostly it made them look like someone cast a face-freezing jinx on them.

Pansy said that Mr Malfoy told her that maybe during school holidays I could come stay with her. Which would be WIZARD. I love spending time with Pansy. I'd hoped that at least during holidays my foster family would let me borrow an owl to send her letters, but getting to stay with her would be even better.

So anyway, then we all went in for the feast. It was brilliant, I've never seen so many different kinds of food, and I think everything was real, not transfigured. But then just as we were finishing, Professor Macnair came running in and said there was a troll loose in the castle, and the Headmistress said we should all go back to our common rooms to be safe. And when we got back to our common room, they realized that Harry and Draco were missing.

The prefects turned the common room and the dormitories upside down and inside out, trying to find them, but they weren't anywhere
here. And from what I saw in the journal, Longbottom and Weasley (the Ron one) were missing too. They've all been found now and they're all okay, which is good, can you imagine? I want to know what happened but no one's saying. I guess I'll have to wait until morning.

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 14:24:01
(no subject)

We went after the troll a little bit. It was going after that Mudblood girl. So we went after it.

Everyone was okay. Neville got hit in the head. Ron was the one who mostly killed it I think, the troll I mean.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 15:13:58
(no subject)

You KILLED a TROLL? Or Ron did? REALLY? So what people were saying this morning was true?

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 15:50:12
(no subject)

It must be. I haven't heard because I've been stuck up here in my dorm hiding from Dennis.

alt_neville at 2008-11-01 16:03:13
(no subject)

Did we kill it? I thought it was just knocked out.

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 16:06:44
(no subject)

It looked pretty dead to me. Anyway it makes you sound more like a hero if you killed it. Neville Longbottom the Troll-Slayer.
It wasn't me. It was Ron who dropped the club on its head.

It's not his fault that the club then hit my head. I told Ron there were no hard feelings.

I'm calling you Troll Slayer from now on. Weasley, too. Troll Slayer Weasley. There are too many Weasleys running around to just call him Weasley.

Wish I could slay my Transfiguration homework the same way.

You're the Gryffindor so your supposed to be the hero.

It sounds like all of you were very brave. It's not like Slytherins can't be brave any more than we can't be clever at schoolwork.
Okay, I suppose Ron is a Gryffindor too. He wouldn't have been able to do it if you hadn't tackled the troll anyway.

It'll be interesting to see what happens to the mudblood. I'm sure they'll try to pin it all on her. Why someone would set a trap with a TROLL--unpredictable creatures with the IQ of ferret poo--makes no sense.

But then, no one's asking me.

I can imagine someone dumb enough to set a trap with a troll, but I very much doubt it was Goyle. Where would he get a troll, to start with, and anyway Goyle wouldn't want to disrupt the feast, he complained louder than anyone about having to leave without finishing his pudding.

A mudblood (so no wand to defend herself) girl our age (so too small to defend herself with her fists) who made a trap with a troll would be too stupid to breathe and chew at the same time. And anyway where would SHE get a troll? There's no way. Anyway it sounds like the newspaper is blaming her but not anyone else.

And we know how reliable the newspaper is.

Goyle's not smart enough, you're right. I think he's still working on learning how to brush his teeth.
Yeah, I'm pretty sure he hasn't learned yet how to wash properly.

Come to think of it if Goyle wanted a troll he might be able to owl an uncle or something...
2008-10-31 23:11:00
All is well

The missing students have been found and the troll is accounted for. I repeat: All is well.

Return to your common rooms. There is no need to worry. All is well in hand.

alt_mcgonagall

2008-11-01 03:20:46
ORDER ONLY

Oh, Minerva.

I am sure you must be harassed beyond what you can bear, so I won't pester you with questions tonight. But thank goodness.

alt_molly

2008-11-01 03:22:01
Re: ORDER ONLY

Buck up, Minerva. If there is anything we might do to help, let us know.

I'm going to put Molly to bed. She's all done in with the anxiety.

alt_arthur

2008-11-01 03:26:47
Re: ORDER ONLY

Minerva, one other thing: Hermione. Percy said all the other students have been found, but I didn't ask him about her. Is she all right?
Yes, she is fine - and thanks to the Marvolo boy, of all people.

I shall explain more fully when my thoughts are in order.

Oh, dear. Saw the *Daily Prophet* headline this morning: "Mudblood Lures Lord Protector's Son into Trap With Rampaging Troll."

We can count on Rita Skeeter to get almost everything wrong, but they're trying to pin this on her? How much trouble will she be in?

I don't think it will be quite as disastrous as all that. The Lord Protector at least is aware of the true nature of the situation, and I believe I've convinced him that it would be pointless to destroy the girl.

Destroy her?? He actually considered--Merlin . . .

Sometimes I almost forget how appalling the attitudes are that we're really facing here.