daddy's singing to me. No one can know what it's like
Behind blue eyes...

Lucius is MacHeath. who is macheath?
why does a shark have so many teeth?

Hi Pansy.

Hello, Harry. So much for the feast. I never did get any chocolate.

Sorry bout that.
I didn't mean to ruin everyone's night.

You didn't. Whoever let the troll loose did.
Are you feeling alright this morning, Pansy? Do you want to go for a walk down by the lake later?

Of course.
Hey!

Who smashed up the first floor girls bathroom by the Great Hall? And it stinks in here!

@alternity
@alt_myrtle

@alt_harry at 2008-11-01 14:22:43
(no subject)

Um, sorry about that Myrtle. It wasn't me but I suppose it was sort of my fault.

@alt_draco at 2008-11-01 15:22:51
(no subject)

Oh, shut it. It smelled bad in there before, you just didn't notice because you're a ghost.
2008-11-01 09:22:00
Waiting

No one has told me yet if I'm in trouble because I was with Harry when he ran off to help the mud see about the troll. I was trying to stop him, actually, so if anyone asks me I don't think that I should get into trouble for that. But if I am in trouble, I wish someone would tell me so that I can stop wondering.

I also wish someone would tell me why there was a troll inside in the first place. Someone said it was Professor Macnair's but why did he bring it in the castle? Was it supposed to be part of the feast? So far there's a lot more to watch out for in this school than just ghosts.

alt_draco at 2008-11-01 15:49:35
(no subject)

After people stop being happy that you're alive we might be in trouble.

Professor Macnair wouldn't try to kill your father, would he? Why would anyone do that, anyway?

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 15:51:52
(no subject)

Well maybe it wasn't Professor Macnair. Maybe some body else let it out.

I don't think so. The only one who would really get us in trouble is Father I think and he told me that he thought it
was good that I went after it. He said something about nobles oblijay. Or something.

Nobles oblijay? What's that?

Did he say anything about me?

I don't know, it was just something he said.

I told him that I made you come with me and he said something about how at least he knew you weren't a Gryffindor. I think that that was nice of him. He spent half the time saying he thought it was good I went after it and half the time saying that no wonder the Hat put me in Gryffindor at first. Only I don't think I'm supposed to talk about that too much, so I won't, any more.

I would have gone anyway to make sure you didn't get yourself killed. It's weird, though, because while everything was happening I really did NOT want to be there, but afterwards it felt like we had done something awfully exciting.

I thought it was exciting, too.
Well, Gryffindor or not, I'm happy to have you and Draco at my back as well as Ron whenever I'm stupid enough to try to charge a troll.

Except you were hanging upside down at the time. Never mind.

(I heard one of the Ravenclaws say once that a Gryffindor's idea of a cunning plan is, "All right! Everybody together on the count of three--!")

Hey I thought I was the hero here.

You know it wouldn't have been so bad if Father had made me stay a Gryffindor because you and Ron'd have been there. I'm glad I didn't have to give up my best mate but if I had had to I'd rather it be that I'd go to people like you.

It would have been great to have you in our room. Except you might have ended up chucking pillows at me at night like Seamus does, 'cause he says I snore some.

I wouldn't do that. I'm nice.
Oh I like that joke about Gryffindors. I always figured the rest of us kept you around just for things like handling trolls and maybe stray dragons.

I want to know the answer to Draco's question about the troll. It's not just a mudblood who could've been killed. What if a student had gone out to the loo from the feast? I mean, yes, they'd have had a wand, but they'd have been all alone and the troll would've taken them by surprise. If I'm going to have to worry about trolls walking around the castle I think I'd like to know so I can learn some new spells.

I'm a Gryffindor, and I find that joke funny, too. I'll let Ron handle the dragons, thanks. The troll was more than enough for me!

There's got to be a joke in there about fire-breathing dragons and Ron's hair but I can't think of one.

I'm glad you weren't hurt too badly. Probably good we weren't planning to meet to revise Transfiguration today, though. Maybe the knock on the head will turn out to help? Jar something loose, maybe?

Reading was making my head hurt some today, so yeah, probably better not to revise today.
As for the knock on the head jarring something loose--well, I can hope!

**alt_regulus** at 2008-11-01 18:25:10
(no subject)

There's more to watch out for besides ghosts and trolls, young man.

**alt_draco** at 2008-11-01 18:26:38
(no subject)

I know that.

Like what?

**alt_regulus** at 2008-11-01 18:29:50
(no subject)

Professor McGonagall is a right beastie once she's had a few.

**alt_draco** at 2008-11-01 18:31:00
(no subject)

Very helpful.

**alt_regulus** at 2008-11-01 18:37:22
(no subject)

It is, actually. Might get you out of a scrape or two someday.
alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-01 20:03:37
(no subject)

Really, Mr. Black.

alt_regulus at 2008-11-01 20:16:30
(no subject)

I'm so sorry, Professor McGonagall. I shall be sure to write a hundred lines in my next entry: 'I will not make jokes at the Headmistress's expense'.

It was lovely to see you last night, by the way. You haven't aged a day since I last saw you.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 19:22:03
(no subject)

I wanted chocolate and didn't get any. So much for the Feast.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 20:36:09
(no subject)

Harry's mudblood brought back sweets from Honeydukes today. Maybe he brought back some chocolate?

The treacle was good, anyway, even if there wasn't any chocolate at the feast.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 20:40:28
(no subject)

It was good. But I wanted chocolate. Maybe Harry's creature did bring some. Harry's going to get him to clean out my trunk. Might as well be useful while being creepy.
EW can you at least take your trunk down to the common room for him so he doesn't have to come into our bedroom?

I'm not sure he can anyway, as he's a boy. But maybe the no-boys charm only works on boy students? I'm sure Professor Slughorn could come in if he needed to.

Good point. Let's see if he can get the trunk down there. Might be amusing.

Please don't ever mention Professor Slughorn in our bedroom again. I was thinking of tea but maybe not now.

Come to think on it maybe the no-boys charm is just a story anyway. I heard it from one of the third year girls. I know girls can go into the boys' rooms, Daphne did.
2008-11-01 10:20:00

I know that everybody is going to want to talk about what happened last night

but I just want to say, what am I supposed to do with a Mudblood?

He slept at the foot of my bed last night and it was gross. I told him he wasn't allowed in the room any more but now he's just sitting at the foot of the stair.

What should I make him do?! Father told me I couldn't have him do my homework for me so.

---

2008-11-01 14:50:31

I'm very good at laundry Master Harry. Shall I wash and press your robes?

2008-11-01 14:52:50

I could fetch you a tray in bed so you wouldn't have to go down to eat with the other students?

2008-11-01 15:46:04

I suppose you can do that.

2008-11-01 15:46:24

Thanks, Dennis, but I like eating breakfast with everybody.

Where are you going to eat?
I eat in the kitchen with the house elves. They gave me extra this morning because I sang along to the making breakfast song.

How does the song go?

Making breakfast
Making breakfast
Toast the bread
Toast the bread
Scramble all the eggs
Fry the black pudding
Don't forget the jam
Water's boiling
Water's boiling
Fix the tea
Fix the tea
Grill toms and mushrooms
Get the beans and kippers
And scones and oatcakes

The oatcakes part was new to me. We didn't make those at Buckingham Palace.

Do you sing each part as you do each job, or do you sing it over and over again?

You're right, I don't think I ever had oatcakes.
there. That's funny. I wonder why not. Maybe Father doesn't like them or something.

alt_dennis at 2008-11-01 20:24:36
(no subject)

We all sing it over and over again but we start at different times so only a couple are singing each part at the same time.

I don't know why we don't have oatcakes at the palace.

alt_dennis at 2008-11-01 14:56:08
(no subject)

Are you thirsty? I could bring you a cup of tea.

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 15:46:32
(no subject)

No thanks.

alt_dennis at 2008-11-01 14:57:28
(no subject)

I'm honoured to serve you, Master Harry. Is sitting on the step serving you? If it is, then I will do it as best I can.

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 15:46:58
(no subject)

Thanks.

I don't know. Let me think about it.
Is he able to get into the girls' dorm? I heard this morning he thinks he's a house-elf and the house-elves can come in here of course. But house-elves are discreet and I like them and your mudblood well he's not a house-elf really.

You could have him carry your books for you, I guess, or run errands. Maybe you could think of lots and lots of errands. Somewhere outside the common room. Maybe the rest of us could help you think of some. Can he leave the Hogwarts grounds? Maybe there's something you need back in London?

I don't think he can get into the girls' dorm, he's a boy, isn't he?

I think I'm going to have to come up with a lot of errands because he's really bothering me. He just keeps staring.

Well I for one don't want to talk about what happened last night.

You should give him something to do so he stops asking, at least.

Thanks for pulling me out of the way when the troll fell, anyway. I could have been squished flatter than a piece of parchment if you hadn't.

Who's that kid that Harry's talking about? His father . . . gave him to Harry??
Ugh, he *splattered* me with something when he hit the ground, and I think it came from his nose. Anyway you're welcome.

He's a mudblood and Harry owns him now.

Wow. Seems strange to think of being given another person. What's he going to do with him?

People are give house elves sometimes, it's not much different. I don't know what Harry will do with him, though, especially since house elves already provide most of what we could possibly need. I guess the Lord just wanted to give Harry something special.

I think he was going to make a speech about how I was a good birthday present and so he wanted to give ME a present on his birthday.

I said thank you of course. I don't want to sound ungrateful.

It's hard to think of you as a "birthday present".
That's . . . that's special, all right. I guess.

I think Harry's wondering that same question.

I'm down in the common room and he's sitting on the stairs leading up to Harry's dormitory and staring around with this weird grin on his face.

Harry, maybe you could lend him to Longbottom and let Longbottom think up something to do with him? Then he'd at least be in their common room instead of ours.

I'm coming down to tell him to go to Honeydukes for us now.

Oooh, Honeydukes, what an excellent idea. Are you sharing what he brings back?

Sure, he brought back loads, I can't possibly eat it all! Come find me after supper and I'll give you some.
Wizard! I'll be there. Any chocolate?

If you like Frogs!

I LOVE chocolate frogs!

Uh, no. No thanks. No offence, but the Lord Protector gave him to Marvolo, didn't he? I wouldn't want His Lordship to be offended 'cause he's waiting on me instead.

Besides, I wouldn't have any better idea what to with him.

(He does seem sorta eager to please, doesn't he?)

I've tried that. I wonder what he'll do. I'll go down and check. I don't want to be stuck up here hiding all morning.
alt_draco at 2008-11-01 15:50:45
(no subject)

Can he be sent to Honeydukes, you think?

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 16:02:28
(no subject)

That's brilliant!! Wait, let me ask him.

alt_dennis at 2008-11-01 17:55:56
(no subject)

Master Harry has asked. I will go.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 19:20:11
(no subject)

Think he'd be willing to do things for other people, if you asked?

alt_harry at 2008-11-01 20:02:53
(no subject)

What do you want him to do?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 20:10:45
(no subject)

My trunk is a mess and I haven't time to get it all organized again.
All right, I'll ask him to help you. Seems like he likes helping, anyway.

He's certainly very... dedicated.

You okay after last night?

Yeah, I'm fine. It was kind of fun!

I bet it was. You've been smiling about it all day.

You were given a person?

Yeah, weird, isn't it?
I was thinking wrong more than weird, m'self.

Well someone's got to own him. I bet the mudblood would rather be owned by Harry than Professor Carrow someone mean.

I'd rather not be owned by anyone, thanks.

Me either, but we're not mudbloods. Mudboods are going to be owned by somebody if they're not living in a camp so I'd imagine they'd prefer someone like Harry.
That really hurt.

Anyway, I'm out of the hospital wing now. I promised Madam Pomfrey I won't try anything like that again.

thank you for finding hermione. thank you so much. boot is really grateful. especially since you got hurt.

Oh, it wasn't just me, you know. Harry Marvolo put it together where she was, when you told me she was missing, 'cause he knew she was upset about the ink and the book, and then Lavender Brown said she'd been crying in the girls' loo.

Anyway, I'm glad she's okay.

I thought you were brilliant, mate.

Mr Longbottom says it was you that sent them all after Hermione.

thank you, mr marvolo. if boot can ever do something for you, to show you how grateful he is, let him know.
No problem, Boot.
She didn't have a wand or anything.

boot knows. wish

Yeah, well, we all would have been dragon dung if Ron hadn't remembered that *Wingardium Leviosa* spell.

Me. I was just dumb. Forgot I even had a wand on me. Just charged. Madame Pomfrey gave me an earful on what an idiot I was.

Anyway, thanks. And I'm glad Hermione wasn't hurt. Your father doesn't blame her, does he? I mean I saw the *Prophet* this morning, and it's all rot.

I think it's that Skeeter lady who wrote that. Don't worry. Father knows it's rot. He was a little mad at her but then I told him about how she doesn't talk to me and how it was all my idea and it was my fault she was so upset anyway. I think she's in a *little* trouble but not very much, not like the Prophet thinks.
Don't you think it's weird that she's been around when dodgy stuff happens? I mean, you remember what happened before, right?

Do you really think that was her fault?

It's just weird that she's been there both of those times.

I think it was just a coincidence or whatever you call it.

Maybe, but you should be careful just the same.

I don't think Hermione's up to anything dodgy. What's dodgy about a girl going into the loo to cry? It's not her fault the troll went blundering into there.
Why are you two acting so protective? I didn't actually accuse her of anything, did I. But she was around BOTH times that Harry and I... well, I can't say, but Harry knows what I'm talking about.

How big's the bump today?

Impressive! But Madam Pomfrey tells me it'll be gone in a day or two, with the potion she gave me.

Good thing, too. It'd make your hat sit all wrong when classes start back up.

Seamus didn't spill dinner on you when he brought it up, did he?

No. He even remembered to bring two helpings of the gooseberry fool for dessert because he remembers I like it so much.
@alt_ron at 2008-11-02 00:42:43
(no subject)

Good thing I didn't trip him going up the stairs then!

@alt_poppy at 2008-11-01 18:52:25
(no subject)

See that you don't, Mister Longbottom. And rest today or I'll have you back in here within moments.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-01 22:25:49
(no subject)

I'm taking easy today, Madam Pomfrey, believe me. Felt a little queasy at lunch, so I'm not going anywhere in a hurry.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 19:34:15
(no subject)

Need anything?

@alt_neville at 2008-11-01 22:28:51
(no subject)

No, but thanks for asking. Felt not so good at lunch, so Seaumus is bringing me up dinner on a tray to the common room. Glad there were no classes today. I don't think I would have liked all the walking around. Madam Pomfrey told me to rest today, and I didn't need any convincing.
All right.
Well I'm not dead!

I'm not dead and I'm okay and everything is okay, except that I have to recopy all of the Pretiosissimum Donum Dei again, and I have to wear a little amulet that tells people where I am in the castle all the time. Which isn't so bad, really, not at all.

I'll tell you more things about it later, Terry.

Anyhow yesterday Harry Marvolo spilled ink on the Pretiosissimum Donum Dei and I was so upset because it was alot of ink and it got all over and the book was ruined and so I went and I was crying in the loo and then the troll came and tried to kill me and Harry Marvolo and Ron and Neville and Draco Malfoy came and saved me. And then Professor McGonagall and Mr Lupin came and were very angry, and this lady named Rita Skeeter, and she wrote an article in the Daily Prophet that says I tried to lure Harry Marvolo into going after the troll but I never did.

So I went and Professor McGonagall shut me up in my cubby which she does sometimes when I've been bad, but it isn't so bad now, and she left me a light because she said that it wasn't at all clear that I was at fault. And then she came and let me out and told me that I had to wear the amulet but that the Lord Protector wasn't very angry with me but that things were going to be very bad in the newspapers.

Anyway, thank you, Harry Marvolo and Draco Malfoy and Neville and Ron. I'm glad that I have friends people around me who care about whether a troll eats me even if I am a Mudblood.

I didn't save you! I was saving Harry!
All right.

Thank you anyway.

Why were you crying over a book?

It was supposed to be a gift for the Lord Protector from the Headmistress, and I had copied the entire book out by hand and it took me weeks, and then it was ruined and I was sad about my work and I was afraid I was going to get in trouble and I was afraid that Professor McGonagall would get in trouble with the Lord Protector too.

...Oh.

I am going away now.
Okay.

That's awful, Hermione! How did it get ruined?

Harry Marvolo spilled ink, and it was an accident, but it soaked right through most of the pages, and it got on the cover too.

I'm going to be able to save the cover though. I can dye it black.

Couldn't you clean it up with a spell There might be a spell that could fix it. Like *reparo*, when you someone breaks something like a cup. (My Gran's really good at that one. She's had lots of practice.) Anyway, maybe you could ask the Charms professor if she knows anything? Since it's a gift from the Headmistress and all?

No, it was indelible ink. If you could do it with a charm, Madam Pince would have done. It's too bad but it's done now and I feel better after I had a good cry anyway.
I don't care what you call it, but I'm glad you're okay.

I'm glad you're glad, Neville!!

are you in the cubby? can boot come see you later?

boot is so glad you are all right. told mr marvolo and mr longbottom thanks too. will tell mr weasley when he sees him.

mr malfoy doesn't seem to want thanks so won't bother him.

I'm in the library now, and you can come see me whenever you like! The Headmistress said that I'd better get to work on recopying so that's what I'm doing, mostly. I'm trying to see if I can save any of the drawings because those were much harder to do than the words.

boot will come right away, keep you company for awhile.

don't know, did you see? there's another mudblood in the castle now
I didn't see.

I wonder what he'll be like?!

I can't wait to meet him!!

he's a servant to mr marvolo. saw it in mr marvolo's journal
the lord protector gave him to mr marvolo, as a gift

boot hasn't met him yet

That book you were copying was ruined? All of it? That's terrible, it was beautiful. Are you going to make another one?

Yes, I am, I'm working on it right now.

I probably shouldn't be writing to students like this. I'll be quiet now.

If you want you can come and see it and have some of the pieces of the book that didn't get ruined and that I can't use. They're still very pretty, just I can't paste them back in or any thing like that.

Well it's alright you talking to students if you have something useful to say, I suppose, and I would have a use for some of the paper if you don't. Even with ink splotches, if it's still all colourful and no
If no one else wants it I could use it. I'll come by the library later and see what you have.

@alt_ron at 2008-11-01 18:51:23
(no subject)

Glad you're all right then.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 19:48:01
(no subject)

What about you? How are you?

@alt_ron at 2008-11-01 20:10:34
(no subject)

M'all right. Not a scratch on me.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-01 20:12:32
(no subject)

You're very lucky. And very stupid.

I was kind of worried about you.

@alt_ron at 2008-11-01 20:15:38
(no subject)

Seemed a good idea at the time. Sides, it would have killed her if we hadn't.
Yes, it would have.

Were you really worried?

Just waiting for the Howler now.

Your mum was really scared. She actually asked me if I knew where you were.

Hey, look at it this way: at least when you get the Howler it won't have breath smelling like Firewhiskey.

It's important to look on the bright side.

I didn't see that one just her harrying after Percy over where I was.

I'll take that bright side and hope she doesn't find a way to make it hit me round the head after it's done with the screaming.

Parents hit. I hope the Howler doesn't. It's nice to get a break from all that, isn't it?
Mum and Dad don't - not like that. Might threaten it and yell alot but nothing like real hitting.

Imagine it would be though. For...for you.

You get used to it.

I'm thinking of telling Dennis to go find a container for my joy. We hope that will keep him busy. He's like a living gargoyle, waiting, watching so he can LEAP into action.

It's a peach.

Sorry you had to. Have to.

That would be a bit creepy, someone lurking around like that but. he doesn't know any better.

Maybe we can get him to go find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Might take him a while.
But it's November? Where's he goin to find a rainbow in november?

That could put a wrinkle in the parchment, yes.

There would be rainbows in the rain forest.

I'm going to call you Troll Killer Weasley instead of Carrot Head from now on.

Reckon I can handle that.

boot has said this to mr marvolo and mr longbottom already. wants to thank you, too, for helping hermione. boot was too scared to come with you, but he is glad you were brave.

All down to you that we knew she was missing so you should get thanks too, I reckon.
2008-11-01 14:10:00
(no subject)

Hogwarts sure knows how to throw an exciting and memorable party. Everyone is still talking about what happened with the troll last night up in Ravenclaw Tower.

I think I might actually prefer the brief scare over your typical boring old Feast.

alt_penelope

alt_michael at 2008-11-01 22:48:28
(no subject)

I just wish they would have told us what was happening while it was happening.

alt_penelope at 2008-11-01 23:26:43
(no subject)

But that would have ruined the surprise! In any case, we're back to a normal, lazy day today.

alt_michael at 2008-11-01 23:31:40
(no subject)

I don't want a surprise, I wanted to see a troll.

alt_penelope at 2008-11-01 23:35:42
(no subject)

Why in the world would you have wanted to see a bloody stinking troll? You do realise you have to smell them too. It reeks bad enough in the common room on the days we have hardboiled eggs for breakfast, the troll must be at least ten times worse.
Because I've never seen a troll. Ever. And I want to see one because I've never seen one.

I've seen one, and urgh, I don't need to see one again. Penelope's right. They stink.

But you can say that because you've seen one. I don't care about the smell, I care about seeing one.
Hermione, I've not been frightened like that in a long time. Do not ever, ever go off on your own again, do you understand me? I do not normally support punishments for mistakes, but I want you to wear that amulet without fail. It's for your own protection.

I am pleased that this week has ended. Perhaps things may go back to whatever passes for normal, around here. Hopefully, Voldemort the Lord Protector has had his fill of Hogwarts and won't be calling by again for some time.

My apologies for having been remiss in correspondence. I've been recovering, and not in the mood for chatter. I'm a bit better now.

Myrtle, the toilets will be repaired as soon as possible. I've still got to dispose of that troll.

---

I'm sorry, I won't do it again, Mr Lupin.

How do you get rid of something that big? And urgh, so stinky?

Where was Professor MacNair keeping it, anyway?
I am happy to be at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It is an honour to serve my Master Harry Marvolo son of our Lord Protector.

I hope Master Harry did not find fault with the way I pressed his robes today. The school elves do them differently than I was taught by our Lord Protector's elves. If Master Harry would rather I do them like the school elves I would learn from them and do the robes again and take whatever punishment Master Harry gives.

Today I went to Honeydukes for Master Harry like he told me to do. Master Harry likes Cockroach Clusters so I got a lot of those and some Ice Mice and some Chocoballs and some Sugar Quills and some Jelly Slugs and lots of other things and the nice lady at the shop gave me a Chocolate Frog for myself but I saved it to give to Master Harry.

**alt_terry at 2008-11-01 19:01:43**

*no subject*

do you eat in the kitchen with the house elves? then maybe boot will see you there at meals. sometimes.

this is boot speaking, he is Professor Carrow's servant, a mudblood, too.

welcome to hogwarts.

**alt_dennis at 2008-11-01 19:04:24**

*no subject*

Yes I had my breakfast there this morning but it was very early because I had to be back for Master Harry before he woke up in case he needed anything.

Thank you.
Professor Carrow who teaches Transfiguration, boot means. boot sometimes helps his sister the other Professor Carrow, who teaches Muggle Studies. But it is the Transfiguration professor who is boot's owner.

I belong to Master Harry Marvolo.

he will be a good master, boot thinks

The only master who could be better is our Lord Protector Himself.

Hi Dennis!

I'm Hermione Granger! I'm just assigned to Hogwarts, so I don't really have an owner any more than the Hogwarts house elves do, but I work in the library. So you could say that Madam Pince is my owner. I do bookbinding and things most of the time, unless I'm in trouble.
What sort of things have you done to get in trouble?

Well, I really only did one thing, which was I said something nasty to a boy who was being mean to me. I should have known better, but he made me angry and when I get angry I get really flustered and then I can't stop talking sometimes.

Who was the boy you said bad things to?

It wasn't so much any one thing. But the big thing I suppose was that I kept cheeking Percy Weasley.

It is a very bad thing for mudbloods to be impudent to Wizards.
I know that now.
2008-11-01 15:28:00
(no subject)

We didn't have feasts like that back in my day. Trolls and mortal peril were never a part of the fun.

I feel my convalescence is at an end and it is time to return to work. It felt right, being a part of things again. I am ready now.

Oh, and a bit of advice to those of you who may someday find yourself with a hook where your hand once was: Be very careful when you scratch.

alt_regulus

2008-11-01 18:59:04
(no subject)

I shall send you a cork.

For the end of your hook.

alt_bellatrix

Then I shall brandish my cork with pride, cousin.

alt_regulus

2008-11-01 20:04:50
(no subject)

You have a hook hand?! 

alt_harry

2008-11-01 20:12:04
(no subject)

Yes. I hope to be gifted with an eyepatch and a parrot soon.
alt_harry at 2008-11-01 20:22:10
(no subject)

Not a peg leg though I hope. It seems like that would hurt.

alt_regulus at 2008-11-01 20:26:32
(no subject)

Young Master Marvolo, I can truthfully say I also hope never a peg leg.
ORDER ONLY: The events of last night.

Well, what a night.

I have pieced together the events as follows - Professor Macnair's troll got loose somehow, it's unclear; Miss Granger was sulking in the ladies' loo and the troll came after her; Mr Marvolo et al decided they needed to play hero.

That awful Skeeter woman somehow managed to follow Mr Lupin and myself to the loo where the fracas took place, and she seems to have written an incredible amount of claptrap for the *Daily Prophet* - but never fear; the fourth estate has its own logic which reflects nothing whatsoever going on in the mind of the actual government. Initially, it is true, the Lord Protector was angry with Hermione - but a combination of my intercession and young Mr Marvolo's statements encouraged him to change his mind, and he eventually seemed rather touched that she was so affected by the accident with his birthday present. No, Arthur, I do not believe he ever got quite so far as to destroy her, but I do believe that he could have been goaded that way, had anyone seen a benefit in it.

When I returned to my office after *that* conversation, I found that my hands were shaking. I never realise how serious these conversations are until after I am out of them, and then I realise it in my very bones.

Of course, the Carrows were already angry with being left out of the reception, and as a result Professor Macnair is in some very hot water; there is no evidence whatsoever that he was involved with the troll's escape, apart from discovering it, but Amycus and Alecto appear to have seized on it like dogs at a bone. The Lord Protector is more doubtful, but he nevertheless believes that it was an attempt on his life - foolish, perhaps, but it might have been intended as a diversion, I suppose. In any case, Professor Macnair shall be in the doghouse for quite some time, and I suspect we shall have to seat him at the opposite end of the table from Amycus and Alecto or else never get any peace.

From the Lord Protector's position, the troll's release actually was in some ways positive: at least the news cycle was not entirely taken up with the Grim Truth. Nevertheless, Sirius, he is astoundingly angry.
He's sent squads of hit wizards after you - I hardly need tell you how dangerous they can be - and though I do not know the details, I would tell you to flee. Now. Move as often as you can. Of course I will let you know when the search seems, on this end, to have slacked.

And what am I left with? A raging headache, cheek from Regulus Black, and damage all throughout the castle.

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@alt_poppy at 2008-11-02 01:05:04
(no subject)

Do you need me to bring you something for the headache, Minerva?

@alt_molly at 2008-11-02 01:47:43
Order Only

Minerva, think of it as a test which you passed with flying colours. If you can get through dealing with an angry and suspicious Lord Protector after a troll has been rampaging through the castle and threatening his son, then surely you can get through anything. Look at it this way: none of his future visits could ever be so stressful!

I think Ron is expecting a Howler at breakfast, but I don't think he'll be receiving one. I was very frightened when I heard he was missing and we didn't know what was going on, I'll admit. But Arthur and I talked it over, and I've had a day to think about it. Well, of course I don't want him running after trolls! But it sounds as though Ron and the rest truly did save Hermione. Would I have preferred her to be killed, if it meant Ron would stay safe? Yes, he's just a boy... but Arthur keeps telling me that Ron was sorted into Gryffindor for a reason, and that's how we meant to raise him--to be somebody who's willing to look out for others. I'm proud of him. I am. It's just--

All day long I've been thinking of Gideon and Fabian, and how they died.
Re: Order Only

I suppose so - although he was rather too upset to pay much mind to *me*, thank heavens.

I'm sorry, Molly.

Judging from Malfoy's latest (and yes, as a precaution, I'm now reading every word that monster has to say). Damn, he's verbose), they've decided that somehow I have the power to control the minds of both trolls and 11-year-old girls long-distance. Ah, well. At least the Grim Truth caused a bit of a stir; even without the troll clouding it up. I know you think that's a good thing, the distraction from my article. Probably is, in one sense. On the other it doesn't seem to matter anymore what I do or don't do, I'm being blamed for all of it. But they can send all the assassins they please; I'm not stopping.

I want to start looking for Shacklebolt, but I can't drop out of sight completely or my Cullenden alias will become obvious. But I'm planning to strike out after him at any rate (and I'm trying to line up jobs for Nigel that will parallel my search). Also, I've got to give Arthur the code he needs to pick up that package and I've left instruction with Ahmet to post another one in about a week. It's all sealed, so there should be no problem on his end and we'll just have to hope that the contents stand up to the Ministry's inspection. I haven't heard anything from Agatha about our shipment sitting in the warehouse at Calais, though, and that worries me. I'm going to owl her just before I leave.

I plan to be on the move for a while, starting where Arthur said Shacklebolt was last heard from and going from there to try to find him. If you don't hear from me for a bit, don't worry. I'll be fine.
I shan't worry. I never do.
Harry said that Pansy could borrow his mudblood and have him organise her trunk for her. Except it turns out there really is a charm on the girls' dormitories to keep boys out. When they try to go up the stairs, the stairs turn into a slide. And it's not just boy students, it's all boys, because it worked on the mudblood.

So the mudblood tried to come up and it turned into a slide and he slid all the way to the bottom. But Harry had told him to help Pansy, so he kept trying to climb the slide, all the while saying, 'I will be there as soon as I can, Miss Parkinson. I will keep trying to come help you, Miss Parkinson.'

It was hilarious. And kind of creepy because Dennis (that's the mudblood's name, and it's easier to call him that than to keep typing out 'Harry's mudblood' every time) had a little determined smile on his face the whole time and I think he'd have kept trying and trying and trying until he collapsed, if Pansy hadn't told him to forget it. Even though he's not a house elf really so he doesn't HAVE to obey Harry's orders the way a house elf would HAVE to.

It was funny to watch, though. I'm kind of glad to know he can't get into my room, what if he came in to watch us sleep? He sits there and watches us in the Common Room. I wish he had more to do. The mudbloods in the library and the transfiguration classroom don't sit there and stare at us, they do their work and mind their own business.

Why is everyone saying that Harry's mudblood is creepy? He's a lot less creepy than that one of Professor Carrow's, who always looks so dirty and...low, or something. At least Harry's looks like he's happy to be doing his job, which is how they're supposed to be.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 22:20:52
(no subject)

He sits there and stares at us with that weird little smile on his face all the time. AND he's in our common room.

(no subject)

Well tell him to stop looking at you. He'll probably obey.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 22:29:38
(no subject)

Well brilliant, he saw this post and now he's staring everywhere EXCEPT at me. Having someone conscientiously averting their eyes is almost as creepy as being stared at.

alt_draco at 2008-11-01 22:32:48
(no subject)

That's what the other mudbloods do. I don't see why you're so concerned with this one.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-01 22:41:52
(no subject)

Because he's in OUR COMMON ROOM, Draco.

The other mudbloods are in the library, and the transfiguration classroom, not our common room!
I don't see the difference.

I don't mean to stare Miss Perks. I will stop it right now.

It's not so much the staring -- oh, bother it, Dennis, don't you have ANYTHING to do?

I have helped the house elves with breakfast and brought Master Harry his tea in bed and I have pressed all of his robes and shined his shoes and made his bed and put his books away and went to Honeydukes and tried to help Miss Parkinson with her trunk and I am not looking at you.

Now I am waiting for orders from Master Harry.

Um, I think you should find something to do when I don't need you. Like help the house elves or something. I'll ask a house elf if I need you, and they can go get you.

Except, I think you should keep taking care of my clothes because
the house elves never really make them smell nice. They smelled really nice. I don't know what you did but it was good.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-02 00:45:38
(no subject)

Think he'd help me with mine? Just now and then?

alt_harry at 2008-11-02 01:46:17
(no subject)

Sure, if it's not too much trouble for him.

Dennis, would you?

alt_dennis at 2008-11-02 02:02:49
(no subject)

Our Lord Protector told Dennis to do Master Harry's every bidding. I should attend to Master Harry's needs first and then Miss Parkinson's.

alt_dennis at 2008-11-02 01:07:03
(no subject)

All right Master Harry I will do that. I wonder if the washing dishes song is the same here as it is at the palace.

I am happy that you liked your robes. I will make sure your robes smell nice every day.

How late am I to stay with the house elves?
Thanks, Dennis. What's the washing dishes song?

You can stay as long as you want but you ought to always get eight hours of sleep, that's what Father says everyone needs. So make sure that you don't stay too late, or else you won't get enough sleep.

I will come back before it is time to go to sleep.

The dishes are very dirty
The dishes need to be clean
The dishes are very dirty
Wash them to make them gleam!
Wash them, wash them
Wash them to make them clean, them clean
Wash them, wash them
Wash them to make them clean!

I think he's still going to have to sleep in our common room, Harry, so give him a time to come back or he'll be wretched in the morning and that won't help things at all. It's cold in the corridors at night.

What kind of bed did he sleep in at your Father's house? Maybe you could find him a blanket or something?
Yeah, I did.

I don't know, I never saw him before. He must have just been with the house elves. I bet we can get someone to put a bed in down there for him. Hermione gets to sleep in a bed, even if she calls it a cubby, I've seen it in the library and it's pretty nice. So Dennis should get to too.

Yeah. He's a really little kid, even if he is a mudblood. He looks about seven or eight years old.

There isn't really space in the common room for a proper bed. Are you going to have him back in your room?

I suppose I'll have to. Maybe they can make him a trundil bed.

There is a lot of room under Master Harry's bed. I wouldn't be in the way under there.

I'm going to see if someone won't bring you a bed to go under there Dennis, it would be strange to have someone sleeping underneath me.
A bed to pull out that hides under there I mean. Not one that you'd sleep in under there. Or maybe they'd make us a bunk bed. That would be fun.
I wanted my trunk organized. Bloody charms. He tried to come up here but couldn't. Although having him in our bedroom would actually be creepy, as Sally-Anne pointed out. I have to admit that watching him, so very determined, saying "Yes, Miss Parkinson" with this creepy little smile was wrong. I thought it would be funny, and it was, but then it got weird.

I've got a raging headache only it's on one side of my head and so I'm off to nick some of Harry's chocolate.

Then I have to finish this bloody essay. Someone please help find a container large enough to hold all my joy.

I bet you could ask Harry to send Dennis to look for an enormous container for your joy.

That might keep him occupied for a half hour or so.

And then he'd bring it back to the common room, and Harry could tell him to find somewhere to dispose of it again.

You know what? I actually like that idea. Be interesting what he scrounges up.
Draco darling, I know I said this last night, but I think it bears repeating. Please don't go running off into danger like that again. You gave Mother a terrible fright. You too, Harry. I cannot imagine what would happen if something happened to either of you.

Regulus told me today that he will be moving to London on Monday. Our Lord wishes to have him closer and has instructed him to stay with Barty at Marlborough House.

I will miss having him here.

I must do what Our Lord asks, Narcissa.

I know. It's just that it's been like the old times, before you left. I'm not quite ready for them to end again.

It hasn't quite been like old times, has it?

You haven't turned me into a newt once.
alt_narcissa at 2008-11-02 03:47:15
(no subject)

I still have all day tomorrow.

alt_regulus at 2008-11-02 03:48:02
(no subject)

You'd have to find me a tiny hook.

And you can come visit me in London. It's not like it's very far. I know Barty wouldn't mind having you about.

alt_narcissa at 2008-11-02 03:48:48
(no subject)

If He wants you closer, couldn't you move into Kensington? Lucius and I have loads of room there.

alt_regulus at 2008-11-02 03:49:23
(no subject)

I do not think He means proximity, dear cousin.

alt_narcissa at 2008-11-02 03:50:02
(no subject)

Ah. I understand.
I'm sorry, Mother.

I know you are, my son.

Yes, I have. I hope he liked it but he said more about the drawing of the Mark that I did on Teddy's arm.

Yes, and He noted how skilfully it was done. Together you and Teddy gave Him a gift He is sure to remember.

You are always welcome to visit if you wish, of course.
Will you mind too much sharing your home with my wayward cousin?

Of course not, I foresee him being a very good house guest.

I look forward to imposing myself upon you.

It would never be an imposition.

Happy birthday. Did you get your present from me, aunt Narcissa?

Yes. Thank you, Pansy.
You're welcome. You looked very pretty yesterday.

Thank you, Pansy. You looked very neat and tidy, as a well brought up young lady should.

Now I'm trying to learn to act like one. It's hard to do. And kind of boring.

It can be a difficult and tiresome lesson, but once learnt, it will serve you for a lifetime.

Yes, ma'am. I'm sure you're right.
Next time there's some sort of monster around people had better tell me while it's still here because I want to see it. It's not fair, I never get to see anything.

Go look out a window on the next full moon and you might spot a werewolf.

I knew that one.

I didn't get to see it either.

Doesn't seem like any of us who'd really like to see it saw it. It's too bad.

I don't really mind, I guess.

You did much better at chess today. And you beat
me and Draco at Exploding Snap. Maybe we should play that more often.

alt_michael at 2008-11-02 03:59:27  
(no subject)

I feel kind of let down. Especially since it just feels wrong for trouble to happen without there being a Ravenclaw somewhere involved. I always thought that was why they kept us around.

Yes, or maybe we could try gobstones. I'm all right with those.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-02 04:50:00  
(no subject)

I thought it was because every time they try to get rid of you, you've all thought of a hundred reasons why they can't.

I don't much like gobstones. It's not very fun to have stuff spit in your face.

alt_michael at 2008-11-02 05:04:08  
(no subject)

That, too.

I have a little sister. You get used to it.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-02 05:13:35  
(no subject)

I don't have a sister so it's still disgusting to me.

I sort of wish I had though.
I'd let you borrow mine, but I don't think my parents would think it was a very good idea.

It wouldn't be the same though. Your sister is named Bitsy and mine would be Morfydd.

I know. Sorry.

It's all right.

Also, evidence suggests that the next time Percy Weasley tells us we should all NOT PANIC and GO BACK TO OUR COMMON ROOMS that there's probably something interesting going on.

I'll let you go check it out along with the Gryffindors and report back to me later. I wouldn't mind seeing a troll but I'd rather not see it up close until I've learned a few more spells. 'Wingardium Leviosa' can't possibly take out a troll more than once.
Any time anyone says not to panic there's probably something interesting going on. Because if there wasn't, why would they tell us not to react to it?

I hear there are lots of scary creatures in the Forbidden Forest.

I wouldn't go after those ones alone.

Nor would I. I've never been in there. I'd rather keep it that way.

If you want to know about the troll, well, up close he smelled terrible and there was drool coming out of his mouth and some of it dripped on me. His roar was really loud and he was strong but slow.

I'm with you on the smell. That was this side of rancid.
It is dizzying to think that another week has flown and I have not had a moment to post. Hogwarts twice in a fortnight - that alone makes the time feel longer than its actual span. Every trip to that castle lately seems fraught with drama.

Well, to-day was pleasant enough to make up for the tribulation of the last seven days altogether. We did not arrive home until very late, Narcissa wishing by turns to stay the night so as to be nearer to Draco and then to remove him at once back to the Manor. I managed to convince her that, the danger being passed, there was no need to so disrupt him.

(Though to that point, Draco, you know I can only echo your mother in her concern for both you and Harry - your success had more to do with luck than skill. It was a reckless and needless risk to all your lives. You gave us both quite a turn.)

As I say, we arrived home much later than planned and yet too agitated to go straight to sleep. I called for sherry and sat with Narcissa until she felt able to retire.

So we were also quite late to rise this morning (yesterday morning, I should say), but I daresay she was grateful for the opportunity to lie in. Judging from the reaction since her waking, my plans for the day have been received very amiably - from the roses with her breakfast tray to the trinket I arranged to have delivered - despite her disappointment at Regulus's imminent departure. I confess I was more than happy to play the dutiful thrall for the day to my lady's every whim. Supper at Claridge's and then drinks and dancing at the club. I've just a few minutes ago left her sleeping. Her hair in moonlight - still looks like a unicorn's it's that breathtaking ....

I should have been willing to set aside all other cares for the day, at any rate, but to-day was particularly diverting owing to the timing. Friday (and the events leading up to it) had been so beastly, it was doubly a treat to ignore all other obligations for a few hours. Duty overtakes even the most enchanting afternoon, however, and one must recall the atrocious along with the delightful.
The traitor Sirius Black has seen fit to cast his pall over England, it seems, whenever he takes the notion. It wasn't enough to invade the journals yet again, but somehow he convinced a follower to entice that bloody troll into the school in the first place. There's no accounting for the lives he put in danger - which presumably was the point. Our Lord Protector could have easily withstood the attempt on His life by His magic alone, even without so many of His loyal followers there to protect him. Harry Marvolo, on the other hand, cannot claim any such power yet. It's unclear exactly what he was thinking or why, but he led several of his friends into going after the creature themselves. Luckily they managed to dispatch the threat through a combination of simple spells and - need I say it - sheer good fortune.

How Black managed it remains a mystery. I suspect Bella is itching to wrap up her current investigation in order to get on to ending her former cousin's burgeoning career as a public enemy. The Lord Protector as well has decreed Black wanted dead or alive, slight preference for the former. I cannot credit that any man could so deliberately and flauntingly agitate his rightful Lord and expect to live very long.

Speaking of deliberate agitation ... I grow very concerned about Pansy's health. I spoke with her Friday, as I had planned, but initially it did not proceed according to plan. She even dared to insult - No. I shall not write it. I had rather forget the words were ever spoken. My spell left me so quickly I wasn't even aware my wand had moved until I saw her raise her hand to her cheek. I cannot regret the discipline; she has proven how sorely it is needed. But I wish she had not provoked me so.

The incident seemed to have one fortunate side-effect, however: I believe that her shock (which fair to say rivaled my own, that she would even think such a thing, let alone say it) jolted her into realising just how grievous her offences were. All the more so for being prompted by such a minor triviality.

It turned out, or so I thought, to be a simple misunderstanding - a little trifling matter of mistaken belief in the origin of certain pieces of music she heard and admired, thinking them of Muggle derivation. Cause discovered meant problem easily fixed, or so I thought! Within a few moments she grew contrite and suitably conciliatory. Although I was then satisfied that the outcome would mitigate itself with time
and distance, it seems that the lesson barely sank in before she began again with her insolence and ingratitude. From what I gather through the journals she is still walking on very thin ice indeed.

Then her posts, especially yesterday morning's. I fear she may not be well. If someone has been tampering with her thoughts or her will, inciting her to wickedness, I mean to discover who. For all I know, Black and his band of renegades have stooped so low as to reach into the very minds of our children with the intent to Confund them. Meanwhile, until I know what has caused her sudden oddness, it may be necessary to intervene for Pansy's well-being in a more direct manner than I prefer.

Time enough, I suppose, to decide on a course of action when the need presents itself. For now, it grows exceedingly late. I must follow my angel's example and seek my bed.

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👤 **alt_pansy** at **2008-11-02 06:56:39**  
(no subject)

I've finished my essay. Shall I owl you a copy? I learned some very interesting things while writing it.

👤 **alt_lucius** at **2008-11-02 15:46:21**  
(no subject)

Yes, child, by all means. I should like to see it as soon as you can copy it out for me.

👤 **alt_pansy** at **2008-11-02 19:18:34**  
(no subject)

Of course! I'm owling it right now. I can't believe the things muggles do to each other! Wizards wouldn't do these things, I'm positive.
I shall keep a close eye on both Mr Marvolo and Miss Parkinson, Lucius, for your sake as well as for theirs.

I feel much better today. I still feel weird in my head but Marie got fixed!

Thank you, Minerva.

Perhaps we ought to plan to meet in a week or two to compare notes?

Who is **Mak Mace Makiaveli**?

Machiavelli.

He was a particularly shrewd Muggle who wormed his way into the graces of Florentine nobility and used his influence to publish political and philosophical treatises - many of which have more than a few sections designed to control the wizarding population of Florence from the time.

As I was explaining to you Friday, he is one of the rare Muggles with a genius for thought. Unfortunately, that genius focused
upon our destruction, along with other elements he considered undesirable.

Is this part of your essay?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-02 22:42:49
(no subject)

No. Marie told me to ask you about him.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-02 22:45:53
(no subject)

...

What else does 'Marie' tell you? And how?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-02 22:47:18
(no subject)

She tells me lots of things. Really interesting things. I don't know how she does it. She just does. She keeps me company at night, and that's mostly when we talk.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-02 22:50:12
(no subject)

Pansy, kindly take 'Marie' to Professor Acton at your earliest opportunity and ask her to examine, er, her for me.

I shall be sending the professor an owl to prepare her.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-02 22:52:44
(no subject)

Why? She's fine. She loves me. No one else does but she does.
alt_lucius at 2008-11-02 23:06:56
(no subject)

Why? Because I told asked you to do so. Did you not say that you wished we would never quarrel again?

I am not angry, Pansy. Only ... concerned. Dolls - let alone dolls' heads - do not ordinarily speak. Hm?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-02 23:09:52
(no subject)

I'll take her to Professor Acton as soon as I get a break during lessons tomorrow.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-03 03:22:35
(no subject)

We have charms as our second class tomorrow, but Pansy, maybe you should put her somewhere else for the evening? Not your bed? I can take her somewhere safe (not the common room) if you like.

The sleepwalking last night really scared me.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-03 03:23:21
(no subject)

No, I don't want her broken again. She stays with me.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-03 03:46:21
(no subject)

I think you had best listen to Perks, in this instance. Why don't you leave the doll in your trunk?
In my trunk? All right. I can hear her from there so that's a wonderful solution. Thank you, Lucius.

And who is MacHeath?

I don't know that name. Is that a wizard?

I don't know. It's just a name I got. I've never heard it but isn't that Scottish? If it's not one you recognize, then it must not be anyone worth worrying about.

If I'd thought of it before curfew I'd have suggested Ron hold on to her for you until breakfast. You know he won't break her. But it's too late now.

No, Lucius says put her in the trunk, so that's what I'll do. I can still hear her.

Can I nick one of your apples?
I cannot think why you should say such a hateful thing.

No, that was Marie.
I keep trying to get Dennis to be friends with me. We live together and everything so I thought that maybe he'd want to play sometimes, when he isn't doing anything for me. But he doesn't. He just sits there and talks like a house elf. He didn't even want any of the chocolate from Honeydukes. It isn't that I got some for him specially but if you have too much chocolate you get sour tummy. But it didn't matter, he just said that it was for me, because I was his master and that was proper.

I thought that maybe I could tell him to act normal, only I don't know what he'd do. He kind of went mad when he was trying to get up into the girls' dormitory to help Pansy and I thought he was going to hurt himself.

He's still a wizard present and I'm very lucky that Father loves me so much!

Now I have to go and ask Professor Slughorn about where Dennis should sleep tonight. Sally-Anne was right that we have to figure something out.

---

I don't think he's acting abnormally. He's doing what he's supposed to do.

I suppose, but he's still a person, even if he is a Mudblood. He has to relax some time, doesn't he?
I don't know if mudbloods are people or not. You've given him eight hours to sleep at night. And he'll probably be skiving all day when you're in lessons.

I suppose, but he's been following me around, I think he wants to go to lessons with me.

I don't think that's a good idea. What if he learns things he's not supposed to know?

I don't know if I can stop him really. He wants to carry my books and all. Maybe he'll sit outside the classroom? I suppose we'll find out tomorrow...

Maybe he's just a bit nervous about being around a new person? He might warm up in a few days to stuff other than fetching socks and such.
I hope so. It's kind of strange. To have someone around who won't talk to you like a normal person I mean. There were never Mudblood servants at Father's that I talked to.

Anyway, it must just be Dennis because you can't shut Hermione up if you say something to her, and she's a Mudblood.

She does go on a bit, doesn't she?

Hey! Maybe she could give him lessons in how not to follow you about?

There's an idea - maybe I could tell him to go talk to her when I want him to go away?
I've never walked in my sleep any I never saw anyone walk in their sleep before last night. It's a really disturbing thing to see. Even though I knew it was Pansy and not an inferi part of me thought it was an inferi and I almost screamed. Probably because I was asleep before she pulled my curtain back.

And then she woke up and she almost screamed because she didn't know where she was. And I walked her back to her own bed.

Can anyone tell me anything about sleepwalking? It's not really anything to worry about, right?

Are you sure she was really asleep?

Well she LOOKED asleep and when she opened her eyes she wasn't really seeing out of them for a second or two and yes, I really think she was asleep.

She certainly wasn't intending to scare me, I'm sure it wasn't a joke or anything like that.

What was she doing coming to your bed in the middle of the night? What if she wasn't really asleep? What if someone cast the Imperius Curse on her and is making her come after us in our sleep? She could have hurt you!
If it was Imperius she wouldn't have just snapped out of it the second I said 'Pansy, are you alright' would she? I think it was just sleepwalking. Teddy, I wanted people to tell me it was nothing to worry about and you are not helping!

Maybe the curse can be fixed so it stops when a word is said? Like 'Pansy'. She could come into our dormitory next! We haven't got a spell on our staircase!

Well you've got a mudblood, you could have him sleep in front of the doorway so she'd trip over him, if you're that worried.

She's already come after you once. Maybe she'll be back.

Remind me not to go to you for reassurance ever, alright?

Pansy's not going to hurt me. She just startled me is all.
You reassured yourself.

But sleep with your wand anyway.

I always sleep with my wand. I thought everyone did.

I used to, but I talk in my sleep and last week I accidentally turned my pillow green.

I guess I'm lucky it wasn't my nose or my hair or something.

And I don't know why she came to my bed but on the way back to her bed she kept talking about a blue bus so maybe she was dreaming about taking a trip?

I don't remember any of that. Was I just standing there? I know I posted in my journal.
You pulled back my curtain and that woke me up. And when I asked if you were alright you opened your eyes but for a second or two you didn't look like you were seeing out of them. And then I got my wand for light and you asked where someone was only I didn't catch the name and I said, 'it's the middle of the night,' and you said, 'I should probably go to bed then' but you just stood there so I got up and took you by the arm and led you back over to your bed. And you said something about a blue bus.

You've been talking in your sleep, too.

You posted in your journal on Halloween night. You sleepwalked last night. Well, maybe you sleepwalked on Halloween night too and just didn't wake me up? I don't know.

Okay, this is just creepy. Um. Thanks for taking care of me and not letting me jump out a window or something.

What've I been talking about?

Nothing that makes any sense. I heard you say say "the end, my friend, the end, my friend" last night, and Halloween night I heard you saying something about sharks and tugboats and then a bunch of names I'd never heard before, Lucy something and Sukey something.
I've put Marie in my trunk because Lucius suggested it. Maybe I won't do that tonight. I hope not.

Maybe I'm a vampire!

Well if you are, suck Daphne's blood or Millicent's and leave mine alone, alright?

Millicent smells funny. I'm not sure a vampire would go near her.

Which would explain why she smells funny. Like maybe she does it on purpose.

Daphne. Please. I would like to think I'm a selective vampire and Daphe is not my type.

Well as Teddy helpfully pointed out earlier this evening there isn't a charm that keeps girls out of the boys dormitory so you could also go downstairs and bite one of them.

Can you imagine the fuss if I bit Harry?
Yeah, I don't think Harry would be a good snack. Draco either. Maybe Blaise?

Yes, I think Blaise would be tasty.

Oh and you asked earlier about apples. I don't have any, sorry. I think sometimes the house-elves listen in on us so if you announced you felt peckish and gave it a few minutes and went down to the common room you might find something.

Let me try that.

FOOD NOW PLEASE
NOTHING VILE AND NO TUNA.

So far nothing.

I guess they cannot read.

Well they're not reading the journals and I imagine Dennis is asleep.

You could wake him up and send him to find you something.
Or you could try it out loud.

 alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-03 05:39:04
(no subject)

There, did you hear? I said 'hey house-elves, if you're awake, Pansy's really hungry, could you please bring her a snack?'

See if they brought you anything.

 alt_pansy at 2008-11-03 05:43:55
(no subject)

Come with me. I'll share. Though I should have just had Harry's mudblood go fetch it.

 alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-03 05:44:25
(no subject)

Alright, I'll come down too.
2008-11-03 02:06:00
(no subject)

daddy sings. Miss my daddy.

*My dreams aren't as empty as my conscience seems to be*

*there's someone in my head but it's not me*

just please don't leave me?
You scare me sometimes but don't leave me. even if I have a Black secret.

---

@alt_harry at 2008-11-03 12:07:58
(no subject)

Pansy you are so strange.

---

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 19:26:38
(no subject)

Always have been. This is not news.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-03 14:27:54
(no subject)

Pansy I think you should talk to Madame Pomfrey. I heard you talking in your sleep again last night. The warm milk the house-elves left us with the sandwiches was very nice but maybe Madame Pomfrey could give you a real potion to help you sleep better?

---

@alt_draco at 2008-11-03 16:01:40
(no subject)

How long has she been doing these funny turns at night? I've never heard of her doing things like that before.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-03 18:55:05  
(no subject)  
She's been talking in her sleep at least a little for a while now but it's gotten a whole lot worse in the last week. I'm worried, Draco, you say she never did this before? She left Marie with Professor Acton, she said she'd take a look at her when she had time. I tried to get Pansy to come see Madame Pomfrey and she said she felt fine and didn't need to.

alt_ron at 2008-11-03 23:26:08  
(no subject)  
Pansy?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 01:30:33  
(no subject)  
Yes?

alt_ron at 2008-11-04 01:44:25  
(no subject)  
You all right? You sound sort of odd.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 01:49:31  
(no subject)  
No.
What's wrong?

Marie. She was enchanted. When she was broken it turned into a curse and it's was affecting my dreams and how I acted and Professor Acton took her away. But I had the most awful dreams. I don't know why I couldn't get her back after the curse was removed but she said no. Professor Acton, I mean.

And now I have to do something about how I acted and I don't know what. Everyone's mad at me.

Not everyone.

So the doll's head was cursed and now it's gone...but you're posting mad stuff and still worried about the other stuff you said?

It's gone as of this afternoon. It was making me sleepwalk, says Sally-Anne. And I was writing stuff from my dreams.

And yeah, lots of people are angry at me, I think.
Wish I'd write something about mine, I never remember them.

Because of what you said?

Yes. About muggles and the questions I asked.

I wish I didn't remember these dreams.

How can they be hacked off if it was a curse?

I don't know. Mum's always mad at me for things I didn't even do.

That makes no sense to me either.

Lots of things in my life don't make sense.
alt_ron at 2008-11-04 02:25:22  
(no subject)

Wish it was different for you.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 02:27:16  
(no subject)

It's just the way things are. It's okay.
This will keep the trolls away!!!!

This past week has been very crazy, but the best part of it was this morning, right after breakfast, we found this dog by the lake. We can't decide what we want to name him, so does anyone else have any ideas? It doesn't belong to anyone else does it?
That poor dog wouldn't even make a mid-morning snack for a troll.

As for names, maybe you could call it Drowned Rat? DR for short?

You cannot be seriously be thinking of keeping that wretched thing.

Well of course we are!

All he needs is a little bit of love.

(and a few square meals and a bath, but that's beside the point...)

All it needs is a rope tied around its neck with a rock tied to the other end and a lake to throw it in.

Fortunately, the lake is handy.

Watch it Perce, or we might try that with you. With your big head, we wouldn't even need the rock because you'd sink right to the bottom.

Of course, the squid would probably just chuck you right back, charmer that you are.
Oh, ha ha, very funny.

Dogs aren't allowed anyway. Familiars allowed at Hogwarts include cats, owls or toads. **Not** dogs. Especially not miserable, mangy mutts like that one.

And how, exactly, are you going to stop us from keeping it?

I'm sure Professor MacNair will insist that you follow the rules.

How will he find out?

And why should he care?

He'll find out because I'll tell him myself, if you try to bring it into the castle.

Rules are rules.
Fine, you do that.

In the meantime, what do you think a good name would be?

And he is our Head of House, in case you've forgotten.

Call him Mr Ugly.

I also vote for Mr Ugly.

Does he smell as bad as he looks?

Not really.

It's really shy, so we haven't actually gotten a chance to get close to it.
If you want it to come up to you, try putting down a trail of food that ends right next to you. I once got a squirrel to eat out of my hand that way. I had to sit really still, though.

That's a good idea to get it into the castle too.

So did you bring it in? Is it curled up in the Gryffindor common room right now?

Yeah, but don't tell Percy.

He's still a bit shy around all the people, but we conjured up a pillow by the fireside, and he seems happy.

Where'd you get the stew meat? Did you nick it at dinnertime or what?
We have our ways...

I think I've seen uglier things but can't remember off the top of my head.
Mum's going to have kittens if you try to bring it home.

Uglier than Percy? We weren't sure that was possible.

Maybe he won't look quite so bad when he's clean and dry?
You could give it a Gryffindor name. Leo or Leon. Godric, or Gryff.
(On second thought, maybe not. Might make Gryffindor look kind of ridiculous.)

What names are the two of you thinking of, anyway?
Well, Fred wants to name him Wizard, while George prefers Wilfred Pehuffle Baggins IV.

We got into an argument, and decided to see what other people thought. Of course we figured this out after Fred's hair was blue and George was blowing soap bubbles out his nose.

You might keep the blue hair, at least for a little while. It's handy for telling the two of you apart.

Well, the next time you see us, how will you know we haven't switched hair?

He's so ugly that he's almost cute.

I think you should name him Piddles.

You shouldn't insult him or he might piddle all over your book bag. We mean, he doesn't seem vindictive but you never know.
That is disgusting. It's licking itself!

It's licking its lips. Like you do at every meal.

Think of it this way, it would be even more disgusting if it was licking you.

That looks like nose licking, not lip licking. I definitely do not lick my nose, thanks.

What kind of dog is it? I like dogs, but I haven't been around many before. Maybe they just look awful when they're wet.

What an... interesting creature, lads. A rather bedraggled thing. Something about the eyes, however, makes me curious.

Would you mind bringing it by for a visit?

Sure thing, Tomorrow... maybe for tea? (For us of course, not the dog.)
Marie was enchanted. And one of the things was to give the owner good dreams. Then when she got broken it turned into a curse and was giving me bad dreams. And it was making my dreams be like my worst fears come to life, says Professor Acton. I'm not sure how that all works but she said it's very old magic. That's why I was acting as I was. Because that was part of her enchantment to effect what the owner said or did. I don't understand it all.

Professor Acton has her now and took her away from me.

I have a wonderful secret, though, and no one can take it away from me.

Thank goodness for that! Though you might still wish to see Madam Pomfrey to make sure your headache will not recur.

I've been ... worried about you, Little Bit.

I shall go see her tomorrow. Thank you for the suggestion. I feel really stupid now.

Well, let the lesson be to be more careful with artifacts you find lying about. Who knows how old that item was or what more it could have done to you.

I am glad you are feeling better, however. And I received your
essay, though I have not yet had the leisure to read it.

Let us hope your dreams tonight are more pleasant.

I am so very sorry for the awful things I said to you, and about Our Lord. I contradicted you and I know how disappointed you must be in me. I will try to make it up to you but I don't know how. But I will think of something.

I hope you like my essay. I learned some very interesting things and really, 10 inches? I could have gone on for 100. (but I do have other homework to do so don't get any ideas!)

Wasn't she already broken? I mean when her head was broken off her body that broke her once, and then breaking her head broke her twice. Unless she was just a head to being with.

What sort of things were you dreaming about?

Strange things. Mostly about my father and songs he used to sing.

Good point about Marie. I wonder what happened to her body.

I meant what kind of good dreams?
Oh, same stuff. Daddy was still alive and mum was happy and daddy would let me go through his trunks from when he was young and we'd look at everything together and I was sitting in his lap and he'd hug me. I did have a dream about you. You were playing for Puddlemere and Harry was playing for Manchester. It was nice. Mum wasn't sick.

Hm, I'd expect Harry and I to be on the same team, in real life, anyway.

Anyway, having something to give good dreams would be nice. I wonder what I would dream? It's too bad she got broken.

You'd dream about a never-ending supply of Cauldron Cakes, I imagine. Speaking of which, do you have any? And I think you'd dream about drawing. I mean, look how wizard your Mark was!

I wish I knew what I'd dream. I think it would be about more than sweets or drawing, I just don't know what.

I don't have any cauldron cakes, sorry, but maybe Harry will send his mudblood to get more tomorrow. There are chocolate frogs and fizzing whizbees left, though, if you want some.
The reason you and Harry weren't on the same teams is because you were both Seekers, see.

Can I have a chocolate frog? I just need something good right now.

Think Harry's mudblood could get some ice mice?

Really? I like seeking a lot, even though I'm not as good as Harry. I hope I play chaser like Father, though.

Sure, have as many as you like, I can't stomach another sweet. I think the mudblood can probably get anything as long as Honeyduke's has it. And if they don't have ice mice he'll probably walk to another village until he finds a shop that has them.

The best part of Quidditch for me is watching it. I'm looking forward to the match.

Thank you, Draco. That mudblood does come in handy, doesn't he?

I thought I would make a Slytherin banner with Harry's name on it. For the first match, you know? Want to help?

Yeah, though I do think he could probably be doing more -- even he acts like he could be doing more.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 04:42:46
(no subject)

A banner would be so wizard. Sure I'll help. I can paint in the lines if you do the drawing and tell me what to paint.

Is the mudblood sleeping in your dorm?

alt_draco at 2008-11-04 04:44:37
(no subject)

All right, we can work on it later this week.

I think he's under Harry's bed, but I'm not sure. He can make himself very quiet.

alt_neville at 2008-11-04 16:29:57
(no subject)

Under the bed?

That must get awful stuffy.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-04 19:22:21
(no subject)

And dirty. At least in here, the elves don't clean too well under the beds.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-04 04:43:13
(no subject)

My father fixes broken things - like if someone has a doll that's supposed to give their child good dreams and it starts giving her nightmares, sometimes he can fix what's gone wrong with the magic. (Though usually he fixes things like flying carpets that don't fly right and things like that.)

He says that a lot of wizards underestimate the importance of the object itself, and don't realize how much the magic can go wrong
when the un-magical parts do. Like if you have a knife that's never supposed to cut you, but it's not enchanted to stay sharp, and you let it get dull, the magic that keeps it from cutting you can stop working quite right, too. And if a wizard wants to put a charm on a knife that keeps it nice and sharp, it's best to start with a really well-made knife, not a flimsy one.

People usually understand this about broomsticks, they'll trim out bent straws and polish the handles and things like that, but they often forget about it with other things. My father says. Or at least he used to.

Anyway, probably Marie worked perfectly when she was a whole doll, and gave someone very nice dreams. But she started going wrong when her head and body got separated, and then things got even worse when she was broken.

@alt_draco at 2008-11-04 04:48:02
(no subject)

My Uncle Rodolphus does thinks like that, except he puts curses on things instead of fixing curses. He's a curse-maker. Auntie Bellatrix told us that he once made a cursed necklace that, when you put it on, your head fell off. Kind of like Marie, actually. But Auntie Bellatrix might have been joking about that necklace. Its hard to tell when she's joking.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-04 04:51:46
(no subject)

My father has sometimes fixed curses too, if that makes sense. Because if the curse is supposed to make someone's head fall off, but it makes their nose fall off instead, it's not working right.

He's only worked on cursed items when we really needed the money a few times, though. He says curses make him nervous, he's always afraid he'll set it off and his head will fall off (or whatever).

He mostly only fixes stuff other people have made, though. It sounds like your uncle actually makes the cursed items. I bet that's more interesting.
I think Uncle Rodolphus must both fix and make the cursed items. I guess he's not too afraid of his head falling off.

He does live with Mrs. LeStrange. I don't imagine he's afraid of much.

See, didn't I tell you Mr Malfoy wouldn't be angry at you once he found out you were acting so odd because of the curse? Just like no one got mad at Longbottom when he insulted them after Harry jinxed him.

If someone else's magic made you do something, then they should be the one blamed, not you.

But I acted so awfully and said the most terrible things about Our Lord and to Lucius and it just feels bad. I had this little voice in my head, telling me what to say. I couldn't help it, really.

I think the sleepwalking is over now. Did I do anything last night?

You talked in your sleep a lot, but I didn't see you sleepwalking. I bet tonight you'll sleep much better.
I hope so. I've been so, so tired these past few days. Almost fell asleep in lessons several times today. Bugger.
In the common room

I really like the Gryffindor common room. I hear all the common rooms are sort of different. What are the other ones like? Ours has red and gold banners, and a big fireplace and loads of squishy armchairs. Some people do their homework mostly in the library, but others haul their books to the common room every night and pile them up on chairs and tables there as they revise. All the pillows have ink stains all over them.

There's the Endless Chess Game always going on at the table by the south window (Ron's often one of the players. He's moved on to better chess players than Seamus and me. Lately, he's been playing Kenneth Towler).

There's the table opposite where two or three people are usually playing Exploding Snap, or building a card tower out of chocolate frog cards. Tonight Fred and George Weasley are sitting by the fire, writing their Charms essays (they said) all the while talking with three or four people, roasting chestnuts in the fire, and playing around with that dog they found by the lake. Nice dog, really (it looks a little better now that its clean and dry) but its probably wondering about all the mad people its landed with. The twins are joking that they still haven't decided on a name for it, so they're calling it a different one every fifteen minutes. (Jake. Bruiser. Toff. Augustus. The Right Honourable Muggsy Popingjay.) Guess dogs aren't supposed to be in the common room, so they keep looking up every time the portrait hole opens and sort of stuffing him behind a cushion whenever a prefect walks by. Dog doesn't seem to mind too much. Actually, its kind of afraid of most people though it seemed okay with me when I came over to see it earlier. Seems happy enough right now in George's lap, getting its ears stroked. Must like getting spoiled.

I think I'll remember nights like this best, whenever I look back at Hogwarts, years from now.
I don't know that the dog looks better.

I like Toff. As a name I mean.

That was about forty or fifty names ago. Poor fellow's going to be so confused . . .
This has been one of the strangest weeks I've ever had.

I'd like it if we had a nice, normal one next, all right?

Me, too.

(Dennis is still being strange.)

Trolls and odd dogs and dolls heads and s everything else. I'm ready for a break.

Oh yeah?

Yeah. He won't play anything unless I tell him how. Like chess.

Are you teaching him then?
Trying.

You remember the bit about the king being important, right?

Oh shut up, brainiac.

Just thought I'd mention it!

And the whole bishop moving sideways bit, too, right?

You better watch out, Weasley! I bet I can find some way to get into the Gryffindor common room.

Ha! Try it and I'll sic the twins' dog on the case and he'll dribble pathetic all over you.
He's not pathetic!
And if you try it we can't promise you that he won't just eat all of your honeydukes candy instead.

He's as close as I've ever seen.

No more trolls. Ever!

Wasn't that bad. Well save the smell and that whole dropping the club bit.
I saved the cover!

Today my word is "albescent" because the cover of the book is now opposite of that! (Albescent means turning white.)

I think I managed to save it though I won't really know until everything is all dry.

The copying is going faster this time than it did last time.

I'm not really in trouble although it is taking some getting used to that now Professor McGonagall can find me whenever she wants. The charm works so well that she found me in the library stacks today! I thought it would just give her a room but it is very specific.

Order Only

Of course it is dreadfully bad luck that you'll have to go through all the labour of copying out that book again--and all for him. Nevertheless, Molly and I wanted to let you know we were very relieved that you were not hurt in all of the Halloween excitement. I hope you will have knights rushing to your aid any time you are in danger. Better yet, avoid it entirely!

I hope to avoid it too!
Master Harry is very nice. He gave me a bed of my own in the corner of the dormitory. He has also given me lots of time to relax, but I am not good at relaxing. I go down to help the house elves instead. It is much better to work than to sit about.

Hermione is also nice but I have not met Boot yet.

Thanks Dennis. I'm glad that you think I'm nice. It sounds like Harry is a good master to serve. I'm glad that you don't have the same problem as some people.

What sort of problems?

Well, just - not having a very nice place to sleep and so on.

This is the first time I have had a bed. I slept in the kitchens at the palace, but it was very warm in there.
I don't have a real bed, but I have a little closet thing, a niche. It's much warmer at Hogwarts than it is in the camps, I think, even if you have to sleep in the halls. I had to sleep in the halls for a little while when I was in disgrace.

I've never been in the camps. What did you do to be in disgrace? Was that when you said bad things?

Yes, then.
Received an owl from Professor Acton certifying that the doll Pansy found had been the source of her disturbing dreams. Minerva, she says that she provided you a copy as well. I still have not read her essay - more on that below.

I had hoped to spend an ordinary and peaceful week, following the excitement this past week-end. And indeed, the week seemed to begin that way.

Monday brought the usual first-of-the-month accounts to settle as well as Regulus' departure to London. Nothing too surprising there. And Tuesday started off quiet enough. Had luncheon with Ari and Narcissa following her St Mungo's committee. Afterward she went to check on Regulus to determine to her satisfaction whether he had been comfortably ensconced at Barty's.

Speaking of Crouch, I was finally able to corner Crouch, Sr in discussion of his foster-daughter. Pointed out how essential it is that the programme's alumni be given the opportunity to prove themselves in the workplace. Also noted that the cost of failure extends beyond her prospects, including as it would a toll proportionate to our ... disappointment. Expect that she should be able to procure a more enthusiastic recommendation from him within the week.

Tuesday evening I had hoped to spend catching up on reading (the essay, among other items that have been awaiting my attention), but shortly after sunset, we heard the fireworks from the Stroud camps, followed shortly by an owl from the camp administrator requesting assistance. About half an hour after I returned from that ruckus, received a Floo call from the Minister's office, imploring me to come down to London.

She had called in half the Ministry, it seems, plus several others of us, in anticipation of outbreaks throughout the country. All her careful attempt to keep the camps under control apparently resulted in a few malcontents choosing to test our sincerity.

The majority of the evening merely was spent overseeing the deployment of Aurors in known hotbed areas and remaining on-hand to go personally to districts and parishes where the celebrations grew
unacceptably raucous. I daresay, it's a job the council could have done from our homes, were it not that by coming in to the central location, we became a captive audience for the Minister's alarmist litany and constant ploys for reassurance.

As it grew closer to midnight, her agitation proved sadly well-placed. Several camps broke out effigies and set off fireworks; we heard report of an attempted arson of a Mudblood camp administrator's home near Sheffield; and at least one London neighbourhood hosted a party at which a number of young wizards became wildly intoxicated and blew up a block of tenements. Unoccupied, but nevertheless there was some amount of damage to nearby grounds, and two of the wizards themselves failed to Apparate before the walls collapsed.

To-day, of course, the Ministry have the job of cleaning up the damage. The two wizards aforementioned remain in St Mungo's in satisfactory condition and have been charged with disturbing the peace.

Expect more demonstrations at the camps this evening, along with more of Dolores' apprehension. At least the long day spent at the Ministry has featured the occasional opportunity to exchange witticism with Miss Robins. Far from disrespectful, she nevertheless possesses quite a sense of timing for her dry remarks. She had some particularly amusing observations about the Black pronouncement and its indications of his mental imbalance.

Unfortunately, the fact that he is clearly insane has had no effect on the whispers we have been hearing coming from the camps. It is a sad commentary when any raving such as his, so patently full of slander, becomes a locus for anyone who believes himself slighted. Doubtless that is part of his plan to incite unrest and disrupt the peace in the most invasive way possible.

It's unknown yet whether I shall be closer to St James' or the Manor by the end of the night.

All of which is to say that my reading must wait for another evening. I hope I shall have had the time at least before Saturday when we are back to Hogwarts for the Quidditch match.
If things ever become safer in the camps, will you still take me to see some?

Oh, I expect things shall calm considerably after Bonfire Night. Last year it was not quite so restless, but given the events of last Friday it's not surprising that even the Ministry's efforts to circumvent disturbances have been unsuccessful.

Yes, I think you ought to see them. If you continue to behave, I see no reason we should not arrange a tour.

I would like that very much, and I want to hear what you have to say. My father always talked about how smart you are. He talked about you a lot.

I hope my essay lives up to your expectations. There is black ink at the bottom, and I would have had harry's mudblood copy it over for me, but I didn't know if he could write or not.

Pansy's essay was quite sufficient.

As for Tuesday night, it was not the quietest evening I have ever spent at Hogwarts, either. What does possess them? I believe more mischief-making implements were confiscated in one night than in a normal month.
Of course, I am glad to hear you found it satisfactory, Minerva. I have no intent to usurp your authority in the matter of her education; I am but curious to see what she found notable.

I find myself finally with time to sit, undisturbed, and tend to it. I should be able to read it quickly enough; then there is the manuscript to which I have been asked to affix a foreward and the *Quibbler* business plan, which has been sadly neglected, along with other pages demanding my attention.

How did you find it?

... Informative.

I never before realised that the Knights Hospitaller used wizard blood in their rituals. Nor that the Muggle United States legalised lynching during election seasons.
The Ministry has been laying groundwork for the past week, determined to stop any upheavals on Bonfire Night. And so I've been busy visiting camps, passing along various threats to make sure things stay quiet. I ended up covering part of Peterson's roster as well as my own, since he was off sick with the flu, which is how I ended up meeting earlier this week with the Headman at the Norwich Muggle camp, a man by the name of Gideon Knight. I was impressed enough by him that I checked his file after the meeting: seems he was in the middle of standing election for mayor of his city before the Troubles swept him into the camps along with everyone else, and I've no doubt there's a keen mind beneath that bland exterior. He's lucky he wasn't killed along with so many other political leaders in 1985. Probably thanks his stars that his election had not been finalised yet when the Lord Protector came to power.

We sat in the mess hall while the cleaning crew picked up the gruel bowls around us left over from the morning rush. "I'm sure you know that the Ministry will make it . . . exceedingly uncomfortable for anyone who crosses over the line on Bonfire Night, or the nights leading up to it," I told him.

"Uncomfortable. Is that how you put it?"

"You mustn't allow that to happen. You've lost too many people already."

His eyebrow rose. "We've lost too many people? Don't you mean that you've lost too many workers filling the rolls? Since when do you care about animals like us?"

I stared back at him, hard. "I never said you were animals. And don't make assumptions about what I do and do not care about."

He mulled that over for a long moment. I had the sense he was thinking about my words, weighing them, evaluating me as I was evaluating him. "I don't see the point of people--" he said finally, emphasising the word, "getting into trouble, maybe dying, all for ruddy bits of straw thrown on a bonfire. I'll do what I can to head off trouble."
"Have you heard that there might be some?"

He sat back and regarded me thoughtfully, eyes narrowed, turning his tankard in his hand. "There's talk . . . whispers. The people tell an old legend, about something called the Grim. It appears, they say, when one of you magic folk is about to die. Get your comeuppance, so to speak."

I met his gaze squarely. "I'm sure for some that'd be a comeuppance entirely deserved."

"You think so?" He laughed softly. "Guess they were right, what they said about you."

"And what was that?"

He stared at me for a long moment, obviously unwilling to reply. Not a stupid man. After a moment, I tried. "So you've been hearing stories about a Grim, have you? Rumours?"

He nodded.

"Then I would advise you . . . to continue keeping your ear out for those rumours, Mr Knight. Some of those old stories have more than a grain of truth, you know."

"People have to have hope," he whispered, suddenly fierce. Then his face became shuttered, mask-like again. As mine did.

I'm sure, as we said polite goodbyes, that we each were wondering whether we had said too much.

But it seems, Sirius, that maybe some of those seeds you're sowing are starting to sprout. I hope.

---

@alt_sirius at 2008-11-06 03:26:39  
(no subject)

I hope so, too, Arthur. If we're going to win this, we'll need every weapon - and that means that Muggles will have to play their role, too.

The confirmation for that package, when you have the chance to get
it, is EDANY JXRTE DIXDC. Hang on to this number.

Once you pick up the package, post the last five characters and I'll give you the next step.

I don't mean to make things overly complicated, but I think if we spread out these instructions, I think, we'll be more protected in case the 'Order' lock is broken. I'm sure it's quite safe, but just in case.

I'm quite alive, obviously. Sent a coded owl in hope of some hint of Kingsley, but I'm making for northern Africa anyway. Major Quidditch tournament down there this month, so even if Kingsley is nowhere to be found in the region, Nigel can be seen to be active and clearly of no resemblance to Sirius Black.
Does NO ONE listen to prefects anymore?

I have not been around the common room the last few evenings as I've been busy in the library working on my project for Ancient Runes. To my intense annoyance I discovered this morning that Fred and George ignored what I told them on Monday and brought that dog, that unauthorized MONGREL, into the common room. No doubt it has been infesting the furniture with fleas.

As soon as I talk with Professor Macnair, that dog will be OUT. Unfortunately, however, I've had difficulty locating him (Professor Macnair, I mean, not the dog, who has been painfully evident). The Professor has not been keeping his usual office hours this week, so I didn't find him this afternoon, although he's been there, of course, in lessons and at meals.

There is too little attention paid to keeping the rules around here sometimes, I think.

---

@alt_neville at 2008-11-06 02:17:39
(no subject)

I don't think the dog has fleas. Haven't seen it scratching or anything.

@alt_gredforge at 2008-11-06 02:49:19
Not really

If the dog has been "painfully evident" why didn't you notice him for two days?

And he does not have fleas.

@alt_percy at 2008-11-06 02:52:55
Re: Not really

Well, I admit I was distracted before today. Evident today, anyway. Which is more than enough.
What do you see in that misbegotten whelp, anyhow?

alt_gredforge at 2008-11-06 03:00:41
Re: Not really

What do you not see in him?

He's adorable. He's really smart. And we've always wanted a dog.

alt_percy at 2008-11-06 03:03:02
Re: Not really

Dogs are pesky nuisances that will chew on things, dig holes in gardens, and destroy the furniture.

And it's against the RULES.

alt_gredforge at 2008-11-06 03:04:57
Re: Not really

He's not a puppy. He behaves better than you.

As for breaking the rules- so?

alt_percy at 2008-11-06 03:08:56
Re: Not really

You'll be hearing from Professor Macnair.

alt_gredforge at 2008-11-06 03:18:24
Re: Not really

oooooooo, we're so scared. Trembling in our boots, we are.
We're supposed to listen to prefects?
Huh. Go figure.

EXACTLY!

And what's with your obsession with fleas anyway?
You sure you don't have them yourself?

I did see him scratching earlier.

We are going down to Mr Lupin's tomorrow, to introduce him to the dog.

Maybe while we're there we should ask him about getting a flea dip for Percy.
Brilliant.
There's a black leopard sleeping in a tamarind tree tonight.

You sure it's not a blue one?

In certain light it can look blue. Definitely not red.

Right. Not red. Can't be comfortable, though, sleeping in a tree.

I don't know... cats sleep in trees a lot. They sleep in lots of uncomfortable ways.

But who really understands cats.
Are you feeling all right? Not come over funny again, are you?

Thank you for the essay, my dear. I hope it was as instructive to write as it was interesting to read.

Oh, that's just a joke Ron and Sally-Anne and I have. Nothing to worry about! We're just being silly.

The essay was very interesting. I learned a LOT. What'd you think?

It was quite satisfactory. Harry's Mudblood can write, by the way - his spelling is not as accomplished as yours, but his penmanship is quite acceptable.

Harry was very nice and said I could use his mudblood sometimes to clean my clothes.
**The Professor**

Well, we've finally come up with a name for our dog. He is now officially Professor, because he is so smart. Though that doesn't seem to be a requirement for professors around here. Besides, he seems more smart than brave right now. When we took him down to see Mr Lupin this afternoon, he just went crazy. As soon as we walked through the door and he saw Mr Lupin he started whining and tried to run out of the hut. Nothing we did could get him closer than ten feet away from Mr Lupin, and after about a half an hour we gave up and left. Sorry Mr Lupin, please don't take it personally.

The past couple of days have been pretty fun. Professor barely ever leaves the common room, and when we're in class he just sleeps in front of the fire. He seemed interested in exploding snap, until a deck exploded right in front of his face, which put him off it for a bit. We were thinking about starting him on chess soon. We've just been playing with him, note: it's not a good idea to play fetch in a crowded common room. Tends to result in something either smashed or shredded.

---

**alt_ron** at **2008-11-07 00:56:02**

*(no subject)*

You'd best not let him near my chess pieces.

**alt_pansy** at **2008-11-07 01:15:12**

*(no subject)*

If he's truly a professor, he'll also bore you to death.
Can't you put him on a leash? I'd like to play with him, only I can't get into the Gryffindor common room.

Sure. We'll probably be out by the lake tomorrow after classes again, if you want to play then.

Hmm, 'Professor.' I like it!

Didn't Professor Macnair put an end to this nonsense yet?

Well, he did until we told him that we'd named Professor after him. Then he was just fine with it.

. . .
It is a truly a matter of amazement to me how frequently you two manage to weasel out of things.

Strange how that works, huh?

It's quite all right, but... I'm a bit concerned about that creature. He seems a bit off. Where did you say you found him, again?

We found him down by the lake, why?
Lucius,

I've been thinking a lot about what we talked about after Marie. So can I ask you a very big favour? If I'm very, very good the rest of the term?

Of course you may ask, Little Bit.

I should, during the break, like to go with you to work one day. I know you go to lots of meetings, and I know some are private, but might I go with you to the non-private ones? I'd be so quiet and so still and I'll curl my hair and even wear robes.

I'll be SO good. Please say yes, Uncle.

That is not a commentary on your behaviour (although as you say, it will be a factor in my final decision). It has much more to do with imagining whether there might be a day during your school holidays in which I have an agenda that will be appropriate.

I daresay we are not accustomed to having small children about while working.

Well. Perhaps.
All I ask is that you think about it. I just want to find out what you do. I'll be good, though, and seems like you told me once I was easily entertained.

P.S. I am not a small child.

Hm. Well, I know you don't like to admit it, but you are a child, and compared to Rufus Scrimgeour and Padraig MacMillan, you are certainly *small*.

And I'm surprised you even remember that comment; you were definitely *very* small at the time.

I think I was sitting on your lap is why I remember. It's a very early one.

Anyway, please just think on it and thank you.

Is Rufus Scrimgeour the one that looks like he's wearing a kneazle on his head?
... And it's comments like that which prove the necessity of due consideration.

I wouldn't say that to him! Promise. I'd say that AFTER.

You've never taken me along on your work days.

You've never expressed a desire to go - and besides, it is an exceedingly irregular request.

Well if you take anyone I would like it to be me. It would like it to be me first, anyway. I've never asked because I wouldn't think you would ever say yes.

Well, this is very flattering. As I told Pansy, I shall think on it. I can hardly take you both, at least not at the same time, but if I decide in
favour of the outing, then yes, I suppose the thing can be arranged. If you like.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-07 05:07:14 (no subject)

So is this the kind of yes where you really mean you're going to say yes or is it the kind of yes that means you're going to say no but you're saying this to shut us up?

@alt_lucius at 2008-11-07 05:27:34 (no subject)

It is the kind of perhaps in which you must allow me to come to a decision based upon your performance for the rest of the term.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-07 05:31:05 (no subject)

Yes, sir.

(so if I"m good that means yes)

@alt_draco at 2008-11-07 05:09:05 (no subject)

I have been well-behaved, too. There was the troll part, I know, but that's because I have to try to keep Harry from trouble and bad situations.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-07 05:14:03 (no subject)

Oh, you never even thought of going to work with him until I mentioned it.
Oh, really? Thanks for giving me the idea, then.

Please. You don't think he noticed that you were suddenly sooo interested after I brought it up? Let me guess. Been holding on to that little secret, have you?

Pansy, there's no call for all that. It's natural for you both to be curious; you're merely more forward about it.

And my contemplation of the trip does not depend only upon your marks, hm?

Of course. I'm sorry.

Yes, you've been very good, Draco. You are correct that I should never have taken you when you were younger and apt to disrupt things, but now that you are old enough to keep occupied ....
There's still the matter of an appropriate day's activities. I shall give it serious thought.

alt_draco at 2008-11-07 05:26:07
(no subject)

Thank you, Father.

alt_harry at 2008-11-07 12:57:13
(no subject)

I hope that doesn't mean I have to go too. I have no idea why you and Pansy think it would be fun.

alt_draco at 2008-11-07 15:44:19
(no subject)

Well, there must be something interesting about it.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-07 19:16:21
(no subject)

I've always wondered, so that's why I'm interested.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-07 19:18:29
(no subject)

I think it'll be interesting. Which isn't the same thing as fun.
Did you ever ask him to?
2008-11-07 15:58:00

*Gryffindors!*

Anyone care for a wager on tomorrow's quidditch match?

Percy, I suspect that you're the gambling type. What do you say?

---

**alt_percy** at 2008-11-08 00:54:49

(no subject)

I would not be adverse to a wager. As long as it isn't money, of course—that wouldn't be proper. What did you have in mind?

---

**alt_penelope** at 2008-11-08 03:30:41

(no subject)

Not even a few sickles? What's the different in wagering coins from wagering say a firewhiskey butterbeer or two? Or maybe a pound of Honeyduke's best fudge?

The way that I look at it, those coins can be exchanged for those bottles or fudge, and it saves the loser from having to make a special trip.

---

**alt_percy** at 2008-11-08 04:47:26

(no subject)

Well, the sickles couldn't be spent until a Hogsmeade weekend anyhow, so any winnings couldn't be enjoyed until then anyway. So why not make it a pound of fudge or butterbeers, since doing so will allow us to avoid bending the rules?

I assume you're backing Slytherin? Tell you what: if Slytherin wins the match, I'll buy butterbeers for you and any three friends you'd care to bring along to the next Hogsmeade weekend. You pay for butterbeers for me and three of my friends if Gryffindor wins. Deal?
Sure, I'll back Slytherin, I think they have a good chance of winning. I wouldn't want to be betting against the Lord Protector's son.

We have a deal, and that's assuming you can scare up three friends to accompany you.
2008-11-07 19:20:00

*Mister Boot!*

I've been accepting, for the most part, of your differing duties and your situation. However, your failure to present yourself for your afternoon work with me this past week has pushed me to my limits.

Please show yourself in my office as soon as you see this posting. If I'm forced to come find you, I daresay you will not enjoy the repercussions.

---

@alt_neville at 2008-11-08 00:39:13

*(no subject)*

Huh, I hadn't thought about it before, but I haven't seen Terry all week either, Madame Pomfrey. I mean, sometimes he's there in class first thing in the morning, putting the props we're going to change on the desks, you know? But not this week.

Now that I think about it, I saw Professor Carrow started picking up the props himself after class yesterday, while I was packing up my bag. He doesn't usually do that.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-08 00:39:47

*(no subject)*

Maybe he knows where Terry is?

@alt_poppy at 2008-11-08 00:42:32

*(no subject)*

I will ask him, thank you Mister Longbottom. And thank you for the information, I wasn't aware he'd been similarly absent from his other duties.
I know Terry really likes working there in the hospital wing--he told me so. I'm sure he wouldn't have missed unless he had a good reason.

I hope he's okay. Um, considering--you know.

I had assumed that the Boot boy was merely hiding, but he has not been seen by Amycus or Alecto all week. I fear that perhaps something has happened to him?

I did not get the sense that Amycus was lying, but I am positive he was hiding something.

I had the same impression, Minerva. They're both so assured all the time, but when I spoke with them they appeared very uneasy to me.

You don't suppose...?

No. No, I don't ever suppose.

How can I pursue it, though?
**alt_poppy** at 2008-11-08 15:15:20

*ORDER ONLY: Boot's whereabouts*

Very carefully, if at all.

I will approach them again this afternoon and see if their reactions remain suspect.

---

**alt_mcgonagall** at 2008-11-08 15:15:43

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Boot's whereabouts*

Tell me what you find, please.
2008-11-08 10:16:00
I am excited

but is it bad luck to say I'm nervous too?

alt_harry

alt_dennis at 2008-11-08 15:18:14
(no subject)

You will do well Master Harry.

alt_harry at 2008-11-08 15:24:01
(no subject)

Thanks, Dennis.

alt_ron at 2008-11-08 17:18:32
(no subject)

I'd be having kittens, myself.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-09 00:59:56
(no subject)

You'd have cute kittens. All gingers.

alt_ron at 2008-11-09 01:00:48
(no subject)

Now there's a mental image.
Bet you'd take good care of them. Maybe you'd have a black one?

As long as I kept 'em away from the twins. One oddball in the bunch? With blue eyes?

Of course! Blue eyes are nice. And, being your kittens, I bet there are plenty of oddballs.

But no using them for bludger practice!

Thanks. I think. That's how I lost my puffskein.

You told me that.

Will you teach me to play chess?
Didn't know if you remembered

Sure, if you want.

I remember most everything you say.

Where? It's cold outside.

Dark, too.

There's got to be a classroom or something?

Let's go find out! Great Hall in a few minutes?

I'll bring my pieces just don't let them boss you around.

I think you know me well enough to know that I don't let anyone boss me around.
Slytherin-Gryffindor match

I believe that the Slytherin team is to be commended for their victory this afternoon, especially their new seeker Harry Marvolo,* and the good sportsmanship that all Hogwarts students should display compels me to offer my congratulations. We will have a very exciting year if all the upcoming games are so suspenseful. Oh, and I am sure I speak for others, Mr. Marvolo, in saying that we are all relieved you managed to avoid falling from your broom and consequently suffering a serious injury (are the Nimbus 2000 brooms so difficult to control? It seems it gave you quite a rough ride for awhile there).

*Although I agree with the strenuous objections of the Gryffindor team that practically SWALLOWING the Snitch is not the same as actually CATCHING it. Nevertheless, Madam Hooch has made her ruling and--well, there you have it.

*alt_penelope at 2008-11-09 03:54:20
(no subject)

I do believe that you forgot to mention something involving a wager, Percy.

alt_percy at 2008-11-09 03:59:48
(no subject)

I haven't forgotten, Penelope. I rue the necessity of having to pay up, but a gentleman honours his bets!

*alt_penelope at 2008-11-09 04:09:10
(no subject)

But the real question is: would you do the same as a gentleman?

I am willing to take payment in sickles rather than
in butterbeers. It'll save me the trouble of patiently waiting for the next Hogsmeade weekend.

@alt_percy at 2008-11-09 04:12:04 (no subject)

Butterbeers only, Ms. Clearwater. Sorry. And cultivating patience is good for you.

@alt_penelope at 2008-11-09 04:59:55 (no subject)

Mr Weasley, sometimes I think that losing this wager would have been better. Patience be damned, I would have paid you off and have done with it.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-09 03:55:18 (no subject)

Maybe it won't seem so bad if you'll remember that Harry's really a Gryffindor, right? So, you can say a Gryffindor won the match after all. If that helps.

Anyway, it was a great match. I'm rather hoarse from yelling so much.

@alt_percy at 2008-11-09 03:58:34 (no subject)

I believe the least said about that the better, Mr. Longbottom. After all, it was the Lord Protector's decision to place his son in Slytherin House, and who are we to contradict him? So we really must accept that as being Mr. Marvolo's true house now.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-09 04:01:27 (no subject)

Well, okay, if you say so.
You reckon he wishes he'd brought a bit of marmalade to the match?

I reckon he must have been hungry. He was so nervous before the match he didn't eat much breakfast.

Gotta be hungry to try eating a Snitch. Bit on the crunch side for me.

Just imagine if he'd been even more nervous, enough to skip dinner the night before, too. He might have been hungry enough then to go for swallowing the Quaffle!

So long as he didn't go for the Bludgers - I'd imagine he likes having teeth.

Ha.

Where are you? Since you weren't in the
common room, I figured you'd be in the dorm room, but didn't find you there.

alt_ron at 2008-11-09 04:28:36
(no subject)

Great Hall.

alt_percy at 2008-11-09 04:29:47
(no subject)

Take care to be back in Gryffindor Tower before curfew, Ronald.

alt_ron at 2008-11-09 04:31:18
(no subject)

I will be, Mr Prefect Sir.

alt_neville at 2008-11-09 04:34:05
(no subject)

And missing this splendid "we're-so-glum-we-lost-the-match" party? You won't be able to snibble any chocolate frogs; they're almost all gone.

alt_ron at 2008-11-09 04:34:55
(no subject)

Ah, yeah. Had something else to do.
Did you now.

Very funny, mate. Did you SEE that though? Brilliant!!

It was different, I'll say that. Most Seekers I've seen use their hands. What was the bit with your broom going all wonky?

Haven't got an earthly. It just went. I think something must have happened to it when it was missing. McGonagall took it though so I suppose she'll tell me what happened eventually.
Harry, are you sure you're okay? Ron's teaching me chess but I can go get you something if you need it. Because that was very scary.

I'm all right. I was only scared for a moment!

I was kind of mad about my broom but now I'm just happy I got the Snitch. Only I could have done without eating it.

Yeah, that didn't look like it was too much fun.

I have some cauldron cakes if you want. I'm just glad you're okay. And, were you nervous? I know you were at the start but did that get better? You didn't look nervous, except for when your broom got all wonky.

But you were pretty far away too, so I couldn't really see your face.

I was nervous at first, and then I wasn't any more because the game was going so well, and then I got nervous again when my broom started bucking. It was okay though really. As soon as I get on a broom it's nice because it's easy to forget about dumb things like being nervous.
I can't imagine that, myself. It's when I get on a broom, that I start getting nervous.

If I'd had a broom that did to me what your broom did yesterday, I'd be petrified! I mean, I don't think I'd ever climb on one again. That was really scary. For you to catch the Snitch on top of it all that was dead amazing.

Even if it meant that Gryffidor lost.

I don't much like flying myself. The ground is just too far away for my liking.

Thanks, mate!

I think it must be in the blood something you're born with. The getting on a broom.

It was too bad that the first game had to be Gryffindor and Slytherin. I wish it could have been the Hufflepuff or someone. I felt a little bad creaming you!!

Well, maybe, but I'm sure your housemates enjoyed it. Sally-Anne couldn't resist rubbing it in a little when we met for Transfiguration revision today.
That's Sally-Anne for you though.
What a match!!!

That was some match!!

I keep telling people, I don't know what my broom was doing, because I don't. It just went off like that. Only what a catch, right?!

I was afraid that Madam Hooch was going to say that it didn't count. I didn't think that when I caught it though because I was too busy coughing it up. But as soon as I could breathe I thought it.

Also did you see how Ken Towler and Katie Bell were stooging?! I thought for sure Madam Hooch would call it! But I suppose she was too busy wondering what was happening with my broom.

It's like I already told you, Harry, someone must have done something dodgy with your broom when it was disappeared, and I'm pretty sure I know who that someone is.

I didn't see him. I guess it might make sense, but why?

I definitely saw him. And you know how good my omnioculars are.

I can think of lots of reasons why. You're wealthy, you're the Lord Protector's son, and, well, besides that you're
really good at quidditch so maybe that someone didn't want Slytherin to win.

But he could have killed me, dyou think he'd dare?!

Anyway it's not like he would get any money if I died.

But you're right, you do have good Omnioculars... did you save it? Could we look back and see what he was saying? I can't lip read but it can't be that hard can it?

I don't know, but maybe he's mental. Once a person's gone barmy they don't think about how stupid they're being.

Yeah, I saved it. It's hard to make out what the exact words are but the expression on his face is pretty telling.

Do you really think so?!

Let's look! I'll meet you in the common room in five minutes. I bet we can figure it out.

We can try.
If you saved it, Lucius might know someone who can read lips.

I don't know, seems like it isn't good to bring Mr Malfoy in on it. I mean what if we're wrong?

That's a good point. I mean, he was there and all.

You know what, though? You're pretty smart. So I bet you and Draco figure it out.

I hope so. I mean, I don't know anything about reading lips. It's harder than I thought.

Too bad you don't know any deaf Muggles.
2008-11-09 11:44:00
(no subject)

That was quite a match. I'm certain I had a few heart attacks during it.

Harry, are you all right?

I think I'll be seeing more Quidditch this year than I have done in a while.

alt_lupin

2008-11-09 18:22:41
(no subject)

I'm fine.

Hey did you see anything wrong with my broom when you found it? I mean, because it threw me off, and all.

alt_harry

2008-11-09 18:41:08
(no subject)

Yeah, she confiscated it from me. Said she needed to check it over herself.

alt_lupin

2008-11-09 18:33:14
(no subject)

It seemed perfectly fine to me. I checked it over and found nothing wrong with it beyond pumpkin leaves in the brush. If something had been off with it I wouldn't have given it straight back to you.

You said Professor McGonagall has it?
Good. If anything's wrong with it that I missed, she's the one to find it.

I'm very relieved you're all right, Harry.

Why are you so relieved?

I'm not sure why I need to explain this, but I care about the welfare of students here at Hogwarts, Draco.

You are?

Have you ever seen anything like that before? What the broom did, I mean?
Alice made me get one of these but I'm not certain I know how they work. Hello hello hello hello hello?

Anyway I'm supposed to write in here and say that Alice and I are very excited because we have news. The news is that we are expecting. Alice told me two days ago and I have been bumping into things ever since. It was a surprise to say the least. But it's good news because even though we weren't planning on more children we're quite happy that we will be having more children.

Alice is sleeping at the moment but when she is awake I'm sure she'll have more to say. I'm not the writer in the family she is.

She wants to tell Neville but we can't of course. It upsets her quite a bit and makes me want to pop Voldemort's head clean off all the more.

Are we mad for bringing a child into this broken world?

---

Oh my goodness, Frank! Congratulations! Arthur and I are thrilled to hear the news. When is the baby due? How is Alice feeling? Does she need anything? I remember what dreadful trouble she had with morning sickness when she had Evelyn. I can owl her some ginger tea which might help with the nausea, if that becomes a problem. Poppy can probably send along some pregnancy vitamins that she should take, too.

It's wonderful news, Frank, never doubt it. Yes, times are very troubled, but each new baby entering the world brings hope along with it. And hope is what we need right now.
Yes, we're very pleased for you both, but I just realised . . . Alice isn't going to be able to take Polyjuice anymore, is she? Too dangerous for the baby, I think (if I remember my potions curriculum correctly, which is a big IF). Poppy would certainly know more.

Hmm, we're going to have to be a bit creative to get around that restriction. Although I'm sure you won't want her taking the truly dodgiest assignments anyway for the foreseeable future.

I think you may be right, Molly; that may be just what I was trying to think.

I know I need to see beyond my own nose sometimes. I often speak before I think; it is such a relief to be able to do so - since of course I can't so often.

Oh Frank -

I don't know what to say to you but Merlin.

Congratulations, I suppose, is what one says, and I do mean it. Only I can't help but think you're mad. You must forgive me. Perhaps it's a good kind of mad.
Of course the Lord Protector showed up today, Lucius Malfoy in tow.

Of course Mr Marvolo's broom showed signs of malicious tampering in the air. Of course it only showed those signs well into the game, when the Snitch had been sighted. Of course everyone and their mother screamed, absolutely screamed, when the broom began to buck.

I thought that I was through. I honestly thought so. Fortunately, the Lord Protector can - at times - be reasonable. Nevertheless, I will never have a more horrifying experience than watching his knuckles turn white as he gripped the benches.

Marvolo is fine. He's a resilient boy. I shall never know how the Snitch didn't hurt him on its way down.

On the way out of the game, of course, as the crowds were leaving and the Lord Protector was safely packed away with Lucius to the Hospital Wing to get Mr Marvolo checked, I discovered another batch of trouble brewing: the dog. Weasleys Quartus and Quintus have, of course, made no secret of the dog they found by the lake; they seemed to be caring for it well, so I had let it go, as Professor Macnair posed no objections to having such a creature in his common room. But I finally saw it; and - how could they not have seen? - it was a person.

Well, and it was the Boot boy, of course, cringing as he ever was. He dissolved into tears when I asked him how he came to be a dog, and it took quite some time to elicit the story. The Carrows, of course. I knew they were hiding something. If nothing else, the incident has shown that Quartus and Quintus have their hearts in the right place: I nearly (nearly; it would have been fatal) wept at the sight of the two of them embracing Terry when he had his little tantrum. "Should've known you were too special to be just a dog," one of them said - I don't know which one. Molly, you should be proud of your boys; whatever Tertius may be, the rest of them are fine upstanding young men.

In his most pathetic way, Boot asked if he were in trouble. What could I say? "No," of course, he is most assuredly not in trouble. I imagine it
must have been simply awful - even if he had done something to merit punishment, which I sincerely doubt, he must have paid for it fifteen times over by now!

And then - the Longbottoms. I am pleased; pleased, worried, and hopeful. I am terrible at expressing what I truly think sometimes.

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**alt_molly at 2008-11-10 02:50:19**

*Order Only*

Good gracious.

All right, one thing at a time. Do you have any theories about who could have possibly jinxed the broom, and why? Does he have any theories, and what is he going to do about it? (Do you truly think he cares for the boy? It seems so strange that he, the boy's parents' murderer, would be fretting over danger to their son.)

Well, it sounds as though he has left Hogwarts again, with Harry none the worse, and all your secrets are still intact. I swear, Minerva, you really do have as many lives as a cat!

As for Carrow's servant, I confess I gasped aloud when I read your account, but why should I have been surprised at such cruelty? I know that man is capable of anything. And yet, it seems extremely odd that he was willing to do without his personal slave for a week . . . unless perhaps the boy (well, dog) simply ran away, and when the twins picked him up, Carrow didn't know where he was?

Well, that will please the twins, to have one over on Carrow. I am glad to hear what you reported, that they were kind to him. The poor lad sounds as though he could desperately use some kindness . . . even if it is a beef marrow bone and warm place by the fire.

(And I confess, I'm also glad that now the twins won't be bringing home a dog at the Christmas holiday!)
Re: Order Only

He appears to believe that it was an attack on himself. I believe - I believe he does truly care for the boy, in some twisted way.

There are so many phantom attackers in his mind that I can scarcely offer an opinion as to his ideas about who the jinxer might be. He lists them often, comes up with new ideas, comes up with new new ideas, returns to the old ones.

He is not mad, merely paranoid, and justly so.

Is Harry really all right? I knew someone should have checked that broom once it turned back up.

If I'm reading his journal right, the boys think they caught the perpetrator on Draco's omnioculars. Minerva, is there any way, do you think, for you or maybe old Slughorn to find out from them who it is? We don't know if it's ally or foe otherwise.

Perfectly fine. Nothing wrong with him except a tiny scratch on his cheek where the Snitch scraped it.

An excellent idea. I shall request it from them - I expect they will understand that they cannot discuss such things in public fora without expecting their professors to read it and use their knowledge.
Goodbye Professor

Our beloved dog is gone. And he was such a nice dog too.

Well that was a surprise. It's not so often that we get the wool pulled over our eyes, instead of the other way around.

But time marches on, and all that rot.

Besides, we much prefer Professor in his natural form. More dignified. Poor chap was pretty upset when the Headmistress figured it out and changed him back, but we hustled him into the castle and finally calmed him down. It took us giving a full account (with actions) of our experience being transfigured by Professor Carrow into beaters bats to get him laughing again.

The match was fun, even if Slytherin won, and then there was that whole thing with Harry Marvolo's broom. But he made a good catch, and we quite enjoyed Lee's commentary.

(Rats. Who's going to play fetch with us now?)
@alt_neville at 2008-11-10 04:54:52
(no subject)

No way. That dog, that was Terry???
Poor bloke, what did he ever do to deserve that?

@alt_ron at 2008-11-10 23:14:13
(no subject)

I was going to suggest Percy, but looks like he's ruled that right out.

Too bad.
that was . . . very odd.

boot is glad to be himself again.

he knows how lucky he is that the Headmistress noticed him

he is grateful to her for changing him back

and glad he isn't in any more trouble

except

he didn't quite understand how truly cold his cupboard really is

or how lonely

until now

since he has seen what it is like in a place that is not

alt_dennis at 2008-11-10 05:16:39 (no subject)

Why did your master turn you into a dog?

alt_terry at 2008-11-10 12:30:20 (no subject)

because boot was careless. master has some glass globes he uses when teaching students about transfiguring fragile things. boot dropped one and broke it.
**alt_neville** at 2008-11-10 12:32:10  
(no subject)

He transfigured you for that? I mean, students must break those globes all the time, don't they? Why didn't he just use the *reparo* spell and fix it??

**alt_terry** at 2008-11-10 12:33:31  
(no subject)

boot isn't a student. boot is a stupid mudblood.

**alt_neville** at 2008-11-10 23:08:53  
(no subject)

Merlin, I'm sorry, Terry. I didn't mean to, well, rub your face in it.

(I don't think you're stupid, anyhow. Anyone can make a mistake. I drop stuff all the time.)

**alt_terry** at 2008-11-10 23:10:05  
(no subject)

never mind, boot is the one who is sorry. students shouldnt worry about what they say to boot.

it wasn't just the glass globe. maybe. boot thinks master was also just angry that day.

**alt_neville** at 2008-11-10 23:10:37  
(no subject)

Anyway, I'm glad you're changed back. I was sort of worried about you.
alt_terry at 2008-11-10 23:11:36  
(no subject)

mr longbottom was worried about boot? really?

alt_neville at 2008-11-10 23:12:09  
(no subject)

Well, sure. Friends

alt_terry at 2008-11-10 23:13:00  
(no subject)

mr longbottom is kind to boot. thanks.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-10 15:30:54  
(no subject)

Was it very wonderful?

I have something new in my niche. I couldn't share it with you before because you were a dog and we couldn't find you. But now I can!! You should come see it when you have a chance.

alt_terry at 2008-11-10 16:20:55  
(no subject)

boot will try to stop by during the lunch hour, if master doesn't have him doing something then.
@alt_megan at 2008-11-12 04:21:41
(no subject)

You were a dog? Did you whine and wag your tail?
2008-11-10 14:31:00
*Father sent me a letter today.*

I might not get to keep playing Quidditch.

Father says that he will be speaking with McGonagall and also Madam Hooch and if they can't make it safe for me to play then I won't be allowed to play at all.

I'm really kind of angry with Father for this. He told me it was okay to be angry with him as long as I was respectful, which I am trying to be. But he did say that maybe I would be allowed to play if things could be worked out. So I hope they are.

I'm glad he wrote me a letter though to tell me so I wouldn't be surprised by it.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2008-11-10 20:01:01
*(no subject)*

I'm sorry, Harry. I know how much you like playing and you're really good.

Your father's just really protective and doesn't want anything to happen to you. But I bet McGonagall and Madam Hooch can figure out what's wrong with your broom or find the person that hexed it if that's what happened.

Ron's teaching me to play chess. Want me to show you what I've learned? It's not much.

---

**alt_harry** at 2008-11-10 20:12:35
*(no subject)*

Yeah, I guess so.

Sure. I'll be in the common room after supper.
He hasn't made his mind up yet, you know. Ron told me some funny jokes you might like?

I'd be this side of hacked off too, mate. But I understand it. My mum would've had a fit if what happened to you had happened to me. Probably several fits.

Your mum's a scary lady!

You don't know the half of it.

Your esteemed father is only concerned for your safety, Harry. If he decides that Quidditch is too dangerous, then it is for the best, however regrettable, that you withdraw from the House team.

He rarely, if ever, acts concerning you in a precipitous fashion. There is a difference between friendly matches among you, Draco and your friends at the Manor and organised sport.

There is also a reason first-years are normally excluded from the teams.
I know you are talented and capable, and we are all of course heartily relieved that you stood yourself so well. He is proud of your performance; merely protective of your safety.
I am learning to play chess from Ron.

I'm very bad at it, though, so if anyone wants to practise with me that would be good. Ron is nice and doesn't laugh at me, though sometimes I think he wants to.

However, I don't have a chess set. Anyone have one I could borrow? Lucius? Do you play?

Mum says chess is a very Slytherin game and my father used to play it. She hasn't owled me since the Howler, so I guess she's not talking to me right now. She does that when she's unhappy with me. She just cuts me off, as mums do. Better than her yelling, though. She'll get drunk and forget all about it after a while.

I miss Marie, kind of, because she kept me company at night. But Sally-Anne says I'm not walking in my sleep so that is a good thing, I guess.

I want to send an owl because I have a very important question to ask. But I don't have one. What should I do? May I borrow someone's owl?

I'd never think of laughing. At all. Ever.

Nope.

You don't out loud, but sometimes you get this look like you're trying to hold back. Your face gets kind of red and your ears do too.
Yeah, that happens sometimes. But I'd never laugh. Bill did sometimes, when I'd do something stupid.

Then why do your ears get red?

They just do that. Comes with the red hair.

Oh. You're the only ginger I really know. I didn't know they did that. So your brothers do it too?

You'd have to ask them. But Dad's do when he gets angry.

I think it's safe to assume you aren't angry with me?
Very safe. If I was angry, I'd scowl alot more. Or not talk to you at all, more like.

I will try very hard not to make you angry with me.

Remind me again: taking the bishop is good or bad?

You can borrow Hedwig Pansy.

Thank you.

I don't know whether your mother kept your father's chessmen but I'll ask her if you like. If she has it, I'll ask her to send it to you.
Would you? I would very much like to have something of my father's.

Thank you, Lucius.

Have you thought any more on my favour?

I'll play chess with you. I'm rubbish at it, though.

That's okay; I am too. Hopefully Lucius can talk mum into giving me my father's old chess set (if it still exists). I'd like to have something of his.
2008-11-10 19:10:00
Ernie Macmillan here!

Hullo Hogwarts. It's been a busy few weeks here, hasn't it! First trolls and now Quidditch! Wizard match, even before Harry Marvolo caught the snitch in his mouth!! Never seen that before!! I hope our match is as good as that - Go Hufflepuff!

It was my birthday on Wednesday. Mum and dad sent me some presents, and I sent a letter back for Pip and Laurie so they don't worry that I'm not there. They're only little but they both know that Bonfire Night on the 5th November means ERNIE'S BIRTHDAY (in our house, anyway)! So it might make them sad that I'm not there. But I sent a letter, and drew a picture because mum can read them a letter but they can look at a picture themselves. I'm not really any good at drawing, but they're only little so they won't mind. I drew me and Susan and Hannah and Zach and everyone in our common room.

Right ho! Charms homework now!

alt_harry at 2008-11-10 19:28:06
(no subject)

I hope it isn't!! I don't think I could do another match like that so if Hufflepuff's was and then I had to play you I would be completely destroyed I think.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-10 19:33:10
(no subject)

I didn't mean your broom going mental and that! Just the catching the snitch! I mean, it was exciting to watch, but I don't think Cedric would appreciate it if he fell off his broom too! And everyone would just say he was copying anyway. Maybe they'll name that move after you now. That'd be cool.
What would they call it though? The Marvolo Maneuver? The Marvolo Gulp?

Anyway I don't think anyone would do it by choice!!

The Marvolo Gulp!!! Brilliant!! I think you should write to the Department for Magical Games and suggest that - it's ace!

Maybe I will! Only I don't think I'll ever do it again. I got scratched up and it wasn't very nice to be maybe upchucking all over the Quidditch pitch.

Oh yeah, I suppose that's true. At least you won though! And it could've been worse. I thought you were going to fall right off!

I thought so too!
Hello, Ernie.

Hello Pansy. How's things?

Things are fine. I'm getting better at Charms, but not by much.

Some quidditch match, hm?

Good show. I like charms. We could practise the homework together, if you like?

Quidditch was ace! I've never seen a match like it!

Poor Harry. He's a good sport about it, but it can't have been fun swallowing a Snitch.

Practising would be good. I need help. In charms. I don't need help with anything else, though.
I suppose not, at the time, but now that it's over it's a great story to tell.

Well that's good. It helps me too, to go over stuff with someone else, and I'm sure there's stuff you could help me with. Not that you have to, but if you wanted to, that'd be okay. We could meet in the library tomorrow?

The library would be good. I have got pretty good at casting a spell that muffles sound (living with Mum, it kind of is necessary) and there's a far corner by the windows that will work, I think.

I've not found that corner yet! You'll have to show me. I bet it'll come in handy in future.

We could do some of the smaller stuff in the library, and for the noisier or bigger stuff or for stuff that might go wrong we can just go outside? It's a bit cold, but we can probably find somewhere that's okay.

I know of someplace we can go, and it's inside. Ron and I go there to (try to) play chess sometimes. And sometimes we just go to talk.
Great. Inside is better. It sounds like it's starting to rain.

Ron won't mind, will he?

Why on earth would Ron mind?

Well if it's a private place that's his for thinking and stuff. My brother Pip had this space under the stairs where he used to play and he'd hide stuff there, and he got really cross if anyone else went in there, even to clean it or anything, because it was his space.

Oh. Well, no, it's not that kind of place. This castle has lots of different hidden places. It's not just his space. It's mine too. Or we can find another place. I'll show you and you'll see what I'm talking about.

Okay. As long as it's your space too, and you don't mind.

Shall we meet at the top of the stairs by the common rooms, then?
Yes.

Happy belated birthday. Sounds like it was a brilliant one.

Thanks! It's not the same as being at home but it was quite fun to just hang around in the common room with my friends.

That's very cool. I like drawing too.

I thought I saw you drawing something in the margins on your charms notes today. I couldn't really see what it was but it looked good. Maybe next time I write home you could draw something for my brothers, like a portrait or something? That'd be ace.
alt_megan at 2008-11-12 04:22:38  
(no subject)

Did you draw me, Ernie?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-12 18:04:24  
(no subject)

Of course Megs! You were sitting by the fire talking to Eloise and Wayne.

alt_megan at 2008-11-13 02:42:14  
(no subject)

Oh, good. I'm so glad you drew me too, I wasn't sure if you would. And sitting by the fire's a good place to be.

It must have taken a long time to draw everyone, really everyone. Do you think your siblings will draw something back?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-13 20:12:11  
(no subject)

It wasn't really everyone, everyone. Just everyone I thought of when I was drawing it, so all us the first years, but not all the fifth years and sixth years and stuff - I don't even know all their names!

I don't know. Pip probably will because he's good at drawing, he always stays inside the lines when he's colouring, always, even though he's only 9, but Laurie probably won't. Or he might scribble something on the side of Pip's drawing! But he's more interested in running around and falling over stuff and exploring, so he probably won't draw anything unless mum makes him.
I don't either. Except for the prefects.

Nine isn't really too young to be able to draw within the lines. I always coloured within the lines when I was much younger than that. But your siblings sound like loads of fun. Did you go exploring with Laurie before you came here, or did you stay within the lines?
Have finally shaken free of the last of the aftermath of the Bonfire Night events (all those blasted reports and postmortem meetings) and have had the opportunity to nip off and pick up the package.

DIXDC

Awaiting further instructions.
2008-11-10 23:44:00
ORDER ONLY: Still alive

I haven't been assassinated yet. I did spy a wizard in Marrakesh who was following me, but it turned out the chap only wanted Nigel's autograph.

Arthur, you've got the package. Excellent! I'm surprised it passed through so quickly. The Owl Office must have received notification that Laszlo Ltd's paperwork has cleared. I'm curious: did the Swiss chocolate make it through intact or not? Hopefully, they didn't confiscate the deck of cards I included for you. Don't shuffle them! They're in a particular order. The confirmation code I sent you is really a coded message - a test of sorts. The key is in the order of the cards in the deck. I thought it might come in handy just in case we need to send messages to someone and can't use the Order Only charm for some reason.

At any rate, you can decrypt the code key using the cards. Hearts, Spades, Diamonds, Clubs, 1-26 and 1-26. Count down the number of cards that corresponds to the first letter in the code (i.e., E = 5, so count to the 5th card). That card's number when transferred to the 1-26 position as above will give you its real letter. Once you know the first letter, you will be able to decode the rest.

This is a relatively simple code, in which all the letters are in the same key. We could, if we needed, change keys every word or even every character for better security.

Anyway, let me know if you think you and Molly have the code puzzled out. I've been busy with Quidditch and keeping Nigel in visible cover, so I haven't had the time to look for Kingsley that I'd like. (Sylvie hasn't helped either; she's in the region, of course, as her team is playing the tournament. It's very difficult to skulk off for espionage when one is also performing the role of attentive beau.)

alt_sirius

alt_arthur at 2008-11-11 12:55:21
Order only: Package

Starting from the side which is face down or face up?
Hold the deck face up, yeah, and count down from the top. Sorry, should've said.

Aha! Decoded, the message reads "POLYJUICE POTION."

I hope you're not raising my hopes unnecessarily.

And yes, the chocolate came through intact. Molly was absolutely delighted. We'll send some along to Moddey Dhoo, where it will undoubtedly help raise Alice and Frank's spirits, too.

You're stretching that stuff far, all right! But yeah, I remember Lily went through a sweets stage with Harry. James woke me up in the middle of the night once to ask if he should buy stock in Lindt.

Anyway - the code. All you do is shuffle the cards. Cut the deck on either side of the Jokers (leave them, obviously, and keep track - red is 1 and black is 2). Then count up the number of cards that match your first letter. Take the number of that card, and count down as many from the top. Use that card's letter as the first in the code. Figure the rest of the letters based on that first one, just as the letters in mine were coded.

We can complicate further if necessary, including using the cards themselves if need be. But that's the gist.
Oh, and don't worry about the shuffle. The decks are linked with a charm. If you tap them with your wand before you shuffle, my deck will change to match.

Fairly clever, isn't it?

@alt_sirius at 2008-11-11 17:40:04  
Re: Order only: Package

Well, I'd rather hoped the customs officials would let the thing pass through. They did; that gives me a little more confidence about sending along the black-market prepared potions.

Still, best not to put all the dragon's eggs in one fire, right? So it will come a little at a time, but it'll come.
Well, one thing about these jaunts to Hogwarts: They have certainly become eventful! I am not certain this is a good thing, however. If circumstances keep on as they are, I shall begin to dread any visit, however innocuous it is presented.

So here I am yet again part-way through the week before I can possibly pause to reflect on the occurrences of the week-end.

Hm. Friday evening was the Hogwarts Board of Governors' meeting. As one might imagine, the Old Business was conducted with speed and minimal discussion in order to focus on the New Business. The appeal, I'm gratified to say, met nearly universal denial. That left the proposal to introduce Muggle Studies to the first- and second-year curriculum. It has become evident that students' education on that front has been highly inconsistent, even among those whom we thought would have had proper instruction on the subject. It was a productive, if inconclusive, discussion, one that shows promise of rapid improvement within the school year, or at least before the next influx of first-years arrive.

Saturday's Quidditch match has, by now, been adequately reported in the *Prophet* and less formally in countless Hogwarts students' journals. All I have to add on the subject is that while I am quite relieved and not a little proud that Mr Marvolo comported himself so well on the pitch, I am nonetheless equally grateful that the Lord Protector was right at hand to protect His son had anything gone awry. I daresay there were at least half a dozen wands that followed His to the ready in case Harry needed a net.

But this brings up a disturbing pattern, not lost on the Lord Protector. Two attacks upon Him and His son in as many weeks - I don't think even Sirius Black could be that foolish! Our Lord called His councilors with all haste to deliberate on the meaning and purpose of these incidents, and to advise what to do in response. Foremost in His mind is not His own safety - anyone would be daft to challenge Him openly! - but Harry's. It is sad indeed, but true that there are those who would seek to harm Our Lord through the pain of loss rather than through physical damage. If Harry has become the target of violent insurgents, how best to balance the boy's own growth and his need for security?
It was a topic, among others, that requires considerable diligence. If, indeed, these two incidents are related, then there are several questions in need of answers. If they are simply coincidence, brought on by ill timing or even a case of Bonfire Night pranks extending into the next week-end ... why, then, there should be no cause for alarm. But if someone is seeking to do the boy a mischief, then we must with all speed discover the identity of the terrorist who would stoop to such levels and bring him to justice.

Well, as I say, Our Lord sought our meagre counsel and will make His decision in His wisdom. I for one should like Cuthbert to examine the broom himself, as he would know best whether anyone had tampered with it. There was certainly nothing wrong with it when Harry showed us his flying after I had arranged to have it sent up; the damage must have occurred while the broom was taken out of Harry's possession last month. Minerva conducted a brief but thorough inspection herself, and says that the werewolf too was questioned and found to have looked over the broom for any obvious flaw. However, we know how reliable his testimony is.

Draco, I know I told you I would not pry into your writings, but did I see you say that you believe you captured someone speaking an incantation during the match? I should like to see your Omnioculars as soon as possible, if so. I have too full a schedule this week, trying to make up for the time spent on this dilemma, to come for them myself, but I can send Crispin up to fetch them, or perhaps the elf. They're much too heavy for even Valerian to carry.

(Speaking of Crispin, must remember to have him move Skeeter to next week, and reduce her appointment from an hour to a quarter-hour. I know what she wishes to complain about, anyway.)

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**alt_draco** at 2008-11-12 02:45:51  
*(no subject)*

So the Lord thinks that someone is really trying to kill Harry?
It is not something we dare rule out, at this point. Draco, you must make sure that Harry does nothing foolhardy or ill-advised. Do not let him go off on some expedition of fancy and forget to protect himself.

Did the Omnioculars capture anything suspicious, on second examination?

Neither Harry or I can tell what he's saying, it must be a jinx or hex we don't know.

I did try to keep Harry from going after the troll. He's bigger than me now, though. And he does things without thinking, too.

I am not casting blame and I realise the delicacy of your responsibility towards him. Only be careful: Recall that if he comes too close to the precipice, you may be the one to tumble. That is not something I wish to see under any circumstance.

Crispin will come to get the Omnioculars to-morrow after your Transfiguration lesson.

What can I do to stop him, Father? I can't use magic against him, he's my best mate.
You oughtn't need to use force, no. (That would be unwise in any event.) You say he often acts without thinking - could you not merely keep him back long enough to think through his action?

Emotions are no way to determine a course, Draco. Like chess, one must understand the implications of one's action before engaging. Perhaps if you could convince him to hold off and consider, you would not find yourselves at the centre of so many adventures.

If you cannot, then you must find help for both of you as quick as ever you can.

Harry's safety is important to the health of the State, son, but your safety is just as important to me.

I will try, Father. It would help if there were trolls running about or brooms going mental.

Why is everyone talking about chess today?

'It would help if there were trolls running about or brooms going mental.'

Were not, you mean? Ha - That is undoubtedly so! I quite agree you've had enough excitement already to see several young lads all the way through school.

I know you cannot be expected to keep Harry out of all harm's way, but you have resources there to help you. Prefects and teachers, of course, and other things you can use as a shield between you and whatever threatens either of you.
In my case, chess because I've been talking to Mrs Parkinson about sending Pansy her father's old chess set. And because it's apt.

When you let emotion cloud judgement, Draco, you put yourself onto a defensive that invariably wavers. Chess requires calculation and progressive thought.

alt_draco at 2008-11-12 04:30:54
(no subject)

I meant were not, yes. Stupid quill.

I don't understand what those other things are, but I'll do my best to figure them out. Also, is there a way to get rid of emotions? Maybe Auntie Bellatrix would know.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 05:07:06
(no subject)

It's easy to get rid of emotions. Just smush them down inside you and pretend you don't feel them. Eventually, you don't.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-12 05:15:10
(no subject)

I've read about a potion that does that but the notes said you shouldn't use it for very long. It's supposed to be for wizards who need to do something that would ordinarily be very upsetting, so they can get on with it. If you take it for more than a day it sometimes backfires and causes hysteria.

Also there are calming draughts and draughts of peace and potions of clear-headedness, but they don't completely get rid of emotions the way the Draught of Fire and Ice does.
alt_draco at 2008-11-12 06:13:56
(no subject)

I wasn't asking either of you.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-12 19:36:33
(no subject)

You take me too literally, son. I mean merely that one's emotions should not cloud one's judgement.

After all, if you were to completely deprive yourself of emotions, you would no longer feel joy or love, either. I cannot imagine that would please your mother.

As to the other things, read the note Crispin is carrying for you.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 04:21:16
(no subject)

Could you modify a translation spell to read lips? I don't know if that's even possible but it popped into my head.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 05:06:07
(no subject)

Never mind. I don't think it would work.
2008-11-11 20:06:00
(no subject)

There's a dead black raven on my windowsill.

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@alt_draco at 2008-11-12 02:44:40
(no subject)

What windowsill? We live in a dungeon, last I checked. Also, all ravens are black.

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@alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 02:47:16
(no subject)

It's a private joke between Ron, Sally-Anne and myself. Yes, I'm aware we don't have windowsills.

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@alt_draco at 2008-11-12 02:50:25
(no subject)

Shouldn't private jokes be kept private, as in not in the journals. I just read this and it turns out there was no point to it.

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@alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 02:52:25
(no subject)

I am so very sorry for wasting your precious time. As Ron is not in our common room, this is a quick and easy way to talk to him.

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@alt_draco at 2008-11-12 02:55:54
(no subject)

Yes, he's in his common room as that's where Gryffindors tend to be. Just as Slytherins tend to be down here.
Hence the need to use the journal.

Everyone has their own way of wasting time, I suppose. Enjoy that.

Ron's teaching me to play chess, nitwit.

Is that what he calls it?

What's that supposed to mean then?

In Pansy's own words, it's a Slytherin game. Half the bloody house claims to be a master.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 03:36:00
(no subject)

No, that's mum's words and you know you can't take anything she says at face value.

I know I'm not a master but Ron's a really good teacher. He's patient.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-12 03:37:09
(no subject)

We should do a chess tourney. I mean, a school one. The Ravenclaws think it's THEIR game, too.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-12 03:37:44
(no subject)

I like this idea!

alt_draco at 2008-11-12 03:41:02
(no subject)

What's Hufflepuff's game? Noughts and crosses?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-12 03:46:04
(no subject)

I was going to say draughts, but noughts and crosses is better.
alt_megan at 2008-11-12 07:02:53
(no subject)

What's wrong with draughts?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-13 02:48:14
(no subject)

Well, it's a fine game for little kids, but it's not exactly chess.

alt_megan at 2008-11-13 03:11:57
(no subject)

I saw old men playing draughts in a park once. But of course you're right, chess is much more ... I don't know what it is, I've never played. It must be good though, everyone's talking about it.

alt_ron at 2008-11-12 03:39:19
(no subject)

People can claim lots of things, Malfoy.

alt_draco at 2008-11-12 03:42:33
(no subject)

Some more than others.

alt_ron at 2008-11-12 03:55:58
(no subject)

And some don't know a rook from a pawn.
You can say that again.

And some don't know a rook from a pawn.

The raven after the blueberry Bertie Botts again?
2008-11-12 18:39:00
(no subject)

I JUST GOT MY FATHER'S CHESS SET!!

It is SO beautiful. It's white marble and what Daphne says is malakite and it's HIS and I love it! I didn't have anything of his except for an old jumper I filched and now I do!

Lucius, thank you SOO much! I don't know what you said to mum but thank you! My father always said you were the best friend he ever had, and that no one understood him as you did, and this means very much to me. I have disappointed you, and yet you still did this and

I HAVE MY FATHER'S CHESS SET!! Ron and Sally-Anne, you HAVE to see it!

alt_harry at 2008-11-13 01:03:59
(no subject)

That's excellent Pansy. Mr Malfoy is very nice isn't he?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-13 01:10:26
(no subject)

He is! I feel so guilty, you know? Because I disappoint him but he still does nice things for me. Like the chess set. Mum wouldn't ever let me even talk about dad much less give me anything of his but now I have his chess set!

And it's my father's!!

Come look at it. It's wizard! It's SO Slytherin.
Okay, I'm coming down!

Father gave me a book on chess if you want to look at it. I think I hate chess.

Oh! That would be great. Thank you! Come see my set!

It's beautiful, Pansy. Do you want to play a game this evening?

Of course! The usual spot.

Wizard. I'll be there.
It sounds really nice.

It's really pretty. I remember a cousin of mine had a black and tigerseye one and she always said it was Hufflepuff colours.

Ooooh. My guardian has a bracelet with tigerseye in it. She doesn't like it because it was her sister's, but it's got silver filigree and I think it's lovely.

Does it being so pretty distract you from playing?

You'd have to ask Ron if what I'm doing even counts as playing.

Oh. Umm I'm sure it does.
That's brilliant, Pansy. I can't wait to see it.

It's so wizard! I can't believe I actually doubted.

Reckon your pieces will get on well with mine?

We might be seeing some skirmishes breaking out among the colours. We will have to maintain tight control of the troops.

Pity the twins lost their dog, could've used the chew toy threat for that.

I felt the same about him, Little Bit. Crispin tells me you were incoherent with excitement. I'm pleased that it affects you so.
As for the other ... we all make mistakes. The important thing is to learn from them so as not to repeat them.

Listen to the pieces, when you are playing (not other times - I daresay you've learned about listening to inanimate objects). They will help you to learn the game; that set wasn't just your father's, but your grandfather's. They've been playing a long time!

alt_pansy at 2008-11-13 04:59:07
(no subject)

It was my grandfather's too? Oh... That just makes it better somehow. Thank you again so, so much. You did this favour for me and I feel like somehow I owe you one but I can't think of anything I could do.

And yes, uncle, I've learned my lesson about listening to things I find. They lie to me.

When I get better at it, may I play chess with you someday?

alt_lucius at 2008-11-13 05:16:37
(no subject)

Oh, I'm 'Uncle' again, am I? Good to know.

The only favour I ask is for you to continue minding your teachers, keep up your marks and bend that curious mind of yours to productive pursuits.

I was never the chess player that your father was, but I suppose I could brush off my set over the holidays.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-13 05:20:39
(no subject)

We never did decide what I'm to call you. If you get to call me Little Bit, I should be able to call you something in return.

Since you won't tell me your school nickname. :)

I have no objection to either Uncle or my name, or the combination of the two. I've always found it a bit strange to insist that adolescents call adult non-relations by a title to which they are not heir, but when you and Harry were very young, it gave you a simple way to signify both respect and a near-familial status.

Your mother seems to prefer if you stick to 'Uncle' - understandable, since the lack of an honourific suggests an impropriety which is open to misinterpretation.

If you could choose, what should you like to call me?

I just feel stupid calling you uncle Lucius. Because it's like you said. You aren't my uncle. I don't know what you are, but I'm glad of you anyway. Anything my mother prefers doesn't matter to me. I know, that's a terrible thing to say but I don't care.

You aren't really the nickname sort. You're just... Lucius. But I think I will come up with something. Mum has a name for you but that's her name and not mine and I'm not going to tell you it here.

I played chess last night! Ron beat me, like he always does but I'm getting better. It's my chess set, I swear it is.

And what's impropriety, exactly? I've heard that word but I don't completely understand what it means and the dictionary isn't helping because how can my calling you Lucius be misinterpreted?
It is to say that something is improper or appears to be inappropriate. Many would presume (and have done) that you addressing me so informally is disrespectful, for example. Another concern is one of reputation, which we need not examine further, since it is wholly inapplicable and unlikely to become an issue. As for your mother, she is within her prerogative, Pansy, even if she does not necessarily share our understanding of each other. I merely point out that for many years it has been her insistence, not mine, that you refer to me as your uncle.

... As for her name for me, I can only imagine. But I don't think I want to know.

Keep practising - I shouldn't like to think that Gryffindors can best our Slytherins so easily.

I don't intend to let him keep beating me much longer, you can bet on that. I am a Slytherin and chess is our game and I intend to do my father and yourself proud.

I hope you don't think I've been disrespectful to you (except for that one quarrel we had and I really was monstrous). But friends should be able to call each other by their names, oughtn't they? But, if, say you took me to work with you, I would call you Mr. Malfoy. If you decided to do that.

Mum's name for you is actually just your name with a surname from a book she read once called Peter Pan. But I never know what mum's on about.
2008-11-12 20:48:00

Wow, it's been a long time.

It has been such a long time since I have written in this journal. I personally see much more point in talking in person than in writing to other people, but that's just an opinion. Anyway, I have had so much school work and trying to revise extra about herbology and going to classes and trying to maintain friendships and then trying to sleep on top of all the rest of it, it's been busy. But I have done everything so I'm happy. So how is everybody else?

alt_megan at 2008-11-13 04:28:02
(no subject)

Hi Hannah! Are you done with school work? I wish I was. Except for worrying about classes I'm good, but you probably already knew that because I saw you today. So maybe journals are for people you may not talk to otherwise?

alt_susan at 2008-11-13 16:37:16
(no subject)

Which lessons are you worried about?

alt_megan at 2008-11-13 19:12:22
(no subject)

All of them! But especially potions. And transfiguration.

alt_susan at 2008-11-13 19:48:02
(no subject)

I'd help you but those aren't my best subjects either. Well, I'm alright at transfiguration. Maybe you should talk to Professor Sprout?
You mean go and talk to her all by myself? Really? I don't want her to be angry with me, or think I'm stupid. What could I say? That'd be worse than classes.

Oh, Megan, I'm sure Professor Sprout isn't like that. Some of the other teachers maybe, but not her.

Do you really think I should? But maybe she'd think I wasn't trying hard enough on my own. And if I wait, maybe I'll figure everything out. Or maybe the bits I don't quite understand won't matter.

I think it's better to go right away before things get too confusing. But that's just me.

Oh, you're probably right. I do think you are. But maybe if I try twice as hard and do extra over the weekend, I won't have to.
Yep, I'm mostly done, I just have a little left.

I think that journals are probably for people you don't talk to.

What do you have left? Really the problem is that just when you think you're almost done, they give you more.
2008-11-13 11:28:00

Rags

a bit of snow on the ground this morning. boot must start looking for rags for his feet.

was lucky last year. found some wool scraps. wool is better than cotton or linen, because it can keep feet warmer even if it gets wet. and boots feet get wet a lot. when boot took them off in the spring and left them in a corner of his cupboard, they disappeared a few weeks later. maybe master threw them out, dunno. (don't think house elves would ever bother with a mudbloods cupboard). master doesn't like boot to keep anything of his own. mudbloods shouldn't have things to keep. even rags.

rags are hard to find, though. house elves don't often keep ragged stuff around. boot often has to look sharp for several days before he can find anything to use.

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2008-11-13 19:18:33

Um, I don't want to offend you or anything, but I happen to have an old scarf in my trunk. Maybe you could use it? It's wool, I think. My sister Evelyn just knit me a new one and sent it to me by owl post, and I have my Gryffindor scarf, too, so I don't have any use for it, really.

I'd offer an old pair of shoes of mine, but my feet are pretty big (Evelyn always said they're big as boats), and I expect they'd fall off your feet.

2008-11-13 19:23:04

oh

boot did not think--boot did not expect--

boot didn't say what he did because he was asking anybody for anything. wasnt even thinking of that at all. boot was just talking about small things, you know.

but if mr longbottom does not need his scarf any more, boot isnt offended at all but would be very grateful to have it.
thank you. mr longbottom is very kind.

alt_neville at 2008-11-13 19:27:23  
(no subject)

It's no trouble at all, honest. I don't need it anymore and I'm just as glad it will do somebody else some good.

I'll bring it to my next Transfiguration class, and leave it on my desk afterwards.

alt_terry at 2008-11-13 19:43:54  
(no subject)

also, mr longbottom is good to think of the shoes, but boot could never accept them. master would not like it.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-13 21:03:40  
(no subject)

I have an old jumper that you might use. It's too big for me, so I never wear it, and it's wonderfully warm.

alt_terry at 2008-11-13 21:21:51  
(no subject)

boot will see if mr longbottom's scarf is enough first, then if not, maybe. thanks.

alt_terry at 2008-11-14 16:12:48  
(no subject)

boot has been thinking about this, and has decided that he shouldn't accept it.

please dont think boot is ungrateful, but its best that boot not take it. for now. but thank you.
Certainly you may accept these things. If you feel you deserve them, then take them.

alt_terry at 2008-11-14 03:09:29 (no subject)

its a cast-off, mr longbottom says. not wanted at all. mudbloods deserve no better, boot knows

since master grants permission, boot will take the useless thing nobody wants

alt_amycus at 2008-11-14 03:29:06 (no subject)

As you will.

Guess you're set for winter, then.

alt_terry at 2008-11-14 03:48:43 (no subject)

sir? boots trousers are splitting across the seat. boot has darned them several times already, but they keep splitting. don't really fit him anymore because boot has grown a little. not right for hogwarts for boot to be seen this way, maybe, not seemly?

is there anywhere boot could get some larger trousers? boot wouldn't want to shame his master. could . . . could master get him some?

alt_amycus at 2008-11-14 04:00:23 (no subject)

Well, look at the tidbit. Standing up for itself. Developing a sense of self, are we?
boot is a mudblood, master. nothing more. boot always knows that.

rags are good enough for boot. but bigger rags would help boot stay decent. as decent as a mudblood can be

Don't you worry. We'll get you fixed up. And, as per my most recent post, we're having a little soiree in your honour tomorrow night! That should give you something to look forward to all day, hm?

Oh Terry I would give you some of what I have but it would only get you hurt into trouble. I know that. I hope that everything is okay.

boot doesn't want to take anything away from Hermione, anyway. Hermione should keep what she has, not waste it on boot.

(boot had hoped that writing just about small things would keep boot out of trouble.

doesn't seem to be working out the way boot hoped.

maybe boot should write only about tiny things . . . and about anything but himself. keep boot out of it entirely. mudbloods are best if they sort of disappear and nobody notices them.)
anyway, do not worry about boot. boot will be fine.
I've been looking at these journals since the beginning of term but I haven't written anything in mine. It makes me feel a bit weird that loads of other people could read what I write--not just people in other Houses, but even prefects and teachers and grownups who don't even go to Hogwarts anymore!

But I keep hearing people talking in the corridors about the journals and how wizard they are, so I thought I'd write something. Only now I don't know what to say.

I just thought of something, though--who else loves to read? I know I do! Maybe if I write about the books that I like, then I can find out about other people who like them and they could tell me about the books that they like.

The book I just finished is called *The Kneazle's Gift* by Mercedes Nimbleswift and I liked it a lot. It might even be one of my very favorites. It's set in olden times and it's about a girl named Amaryllis. Muggles killed her parents when she was small, and they took her away to work in a big Muggle castle as a servant. She sleeps in a little room at the top of a tall tower and they lock her in at night. She doesn't even know she's a wizard until she starts showing signs of magic, and she doesn't even know what they mean. She thinks she's going mental! Her only friend is a cat who turns out to be a Kneazle, and he helps her get away and they have lots of adventures together, but I don't want to give away any more of the story.

It's a bit...I don't know how to explain...old fashioned in the way it's written. I like that but some people might not. It reminds me of that girl in the lib the Elsie Prewett books, so if you like those you'll probably like this one. But you might like it even if you don't like Elsie Prewett because Amaryllis has loads more gumption than Elsie does. She actually does things but Elsie mostly cries a lot about how mean people are and waits to get rescued.
That sounds like a good book. I love to read, I have to for my work, which is telling students where books are. But I don't get to read stories much because we don't have stories in the school library.

*alt-susan.livejournal.com* at 2009-09-06 15:25:54  
(deleted comment)

*alt-hermione.livejournal.com* at 2009-09-06 15:25:54  
(deleted comment)

*alt-susan.livejournal.com* at 2008-11-13 19:57:50  
(no subject)

Those seventh years can be a bit scary, yeah? You'd think that since they're practically grown-ups they'd behave better.

Maybe you could help *me* with a book?

*alt-hermione.livejournal.com* at 2008-11-13 20:07:23  
(no subject)

All right.

I usually am done with whatever I'm doing by four o'clock, because the ink has to dry and all.

*alt-susan.livejournal.com* at 2008-11-13 20:11:15  
(no subject)

I'll come after four then. I hope you can help; I'm so clumsy, and now I'm afraid the cover will be ruined.

*alt-susan.livejournal.com* at 2008-11-13 19:54:49  
(no subject)

Does Madame Pince ever let you help students? I mean, if you aren't awfully busy, or you've finished your other work.

*alt-hermione.livejournal.com* at 2008-11-13 19:56:03  
(no subject)
If I'm not working on my copying then yes because she likes to go do things that don't mean talking with students. Only sometimes it's hard, because you can't get big seventh years to stop talking, they just tell you to go away and then you get in trouble for it. But yes.

**alt-susan.livejournal.com** at **2008-11-13 20:04:28**
(no subject)

I think maybe I should have started using the journals earlier, because now I'm not sure I'm doing it right. My writing came out on top of yours instead of underneath.

**alt-hermione.livejournal.com** at **2008-11-13 20:10:00**
(no subject)

I don't know! It's doing that for me too. Maybe the magic is mixed up. I ran out of ink and had to stop writing while I refilled the inkwell, so maybe that was it?

Oh well. I can still see what you wrote anyway.

**alt-susan.livejournal.com** at **2008-11-13 20:12:35**
(no subject)

That could be it. It has to be an awfully complicated charm that makes these work, and if you mess it up a little bit...

**alt-sally-anne.livejournal.com** at **2008-11-14 05:14:24**
(no subject)

Could I borrow the Kneazle's Gift sometime? I used to really like the Elsie Prewett books but not as much as the Kathleen Stuart ones, did you ever read those? Kathleen lived on the Isle of Wight and solved mysteries.

**alt-susan.livejournal.com** at **2008-11-14 15:04:24**
(no subject)

Sure, I'd lend it to you right now, but I ripped the cover and Herm the girl who helps Madame Pince in the library is fixing it.
I've heard of the Kathleen Stuart ones but never read them. They sound marvellous!

Does Elsie get rescued? Or does she wait and wait and never get rescued? I like books with happy endings.

She does get rescued! She meets a boy who turns out to be rich and from a good family, and he gets her away from her horrible relatives and eventually they get married.

Good. I like that. Now that I know, maybe I can read those.

Does Amaryllis get married too?

Amaryllis is only 13 which is too young to get married!

Oh! But maybe she'll grow up and get married. Or something else happy. How does her story end?

I can't tell you here, silly! What if someone wants to read it and then sees that I told the end?
Oh. Then remind me to ask you. I don't want to read a book if I don't know the ending.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-16 19:43:57
(no subject)

Really? I absolutely hate it when people tell me the endings of book--well, if their books I think I might want to read someday. It takes all the fun out of it.

alt-megan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-16 19:59:00
(no subject)

Really. Very really. If I don't know the end, then I have to worry about the characters. Because who knows what awful things might happen? But if I know, then I can enjoy them getting there.

Sometimes I still get nervous for them anyway.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-16 20:04:45
(no subject)

Worrying about what might happen to the characters is part of the fun! If you don't worry then maybe the author didn't do a good job.

alt-megan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-16 21:30:26
(no subject)

But I don't think worrying is very fun.
So this is new.

tidbit's returned after a week's absence. readily admitted to me how sorry he was, and he'll never do that again. guess I believe him.

Alecto told me of a dream she had. She was on her knees on a hill in a storm. hands covered with blood.

I am off to talk with her. uncover the source of this dream. My Justine.

Starting a new regimin here. See if i can keep records through this.

4L x 3D
Tx30
CCx4
results marginal

pigeons

Amycus, I cannot make head or tails of what you are saying.

Please be more coherent. The children require that we should provide examples to look up to.

cohere to me.
But not to them or any other sane individual, Professor Carrow. You don't allow them to turn in essays written so, do you?

Point taken. How about this?

The maggots have nestled in Geordie's hat;
The maggots have quarrelled in Geordie's hat;
There were three of them murdered, and thirty-three grat -
The poor silly maggots in Geordie's hat,

Up gat an auld maggot, a wonder to see,
His gnarled grey head was so silly and wee,
And he said, after ten times he hoasted and spat,
"There are owre mony maggots in Geordie's hat."

An impudent maggot sprang out of the raw,
And cried, "Daddy, wha hath begotten us a'?
"Tis a foul flyte for ane that's sae faur in the faut
If there's owre mony maggots in Geordie's hat"

Here an old mother maggot skreeched out "Hold thy peace,
Thou variet, thou viper, thou vile scant o' grace!
Snap ye your ain daddy wi' ill-seasoned chat,
Thou silliest maggot in Geordie's hat?"

Up spake a bold leader - "What means this ill weather?
Are we not all maggots - all maggots together?
Though our number were double - the better for that -
We are all brother-maggots in Geordie's hat."

At least it is properly spelled, punctuated, and so forth.
Order only

Good heavens, Minerva, he sounds positively unhinged. Is he always like this now? It sounds even worse than what I gathered from the twins' stories this past summer.

ORDER ONLY

He can be quite coherent while speaking, although he does not speak much to me when he can help it.

I am not surprised that he attempts to undermine my authority when he can, however. I make no secret of my distaste for him. Fortunately, he is considered a creature of extreme habits even among the Death Eaters.
tidbit's getting quite the sense of self-esteem!

So, tidbit, to celebrate, Alecto and I are holding a little soiree tomorrow night. I've got a surprise for you that will, I hope, drive you mad.

Be sure to wear your new clothes, too.

In other news, the pigeons are driving me crazy. The twittering's been worse than ever. Ha. When they see me coming, the birds all try and hide. But I'm onto them.

(This meet your coherency standards, Minerva?)

(they are just notes for my use, Min)

4L x 2D
2 pair trousers
5 CC but scattered.
It's the full moon tonight. Pansy borrowed Daphne's omnioculars and we went up to the tower where we'll be having astronomy class at midnight, to see if we could see anything. (We invited Daphne but it's a bit cold this evening and she didn't want to come outside before she had to, even to maybe see a werewolf.)

Unfortunately omnioculars don't do you a whole lot of good at night. They do let you see the craters of the moon, which is rather interesting. Have wizards ever gone to the moon? Could we? But if you're pointing them down towards the forbidden forest, you really can't see anything.

I think for next month I will see if I can find a charm to help me see in the dark. Also a charm for staying warm. Pansy and I meant to stay up on the tower until astronomy class started and save ourselves the trouble of going up and down the stairs twice, but it was so cold we came back inside to warm up. The house-elves left us tea and biscuits and I've almost stopped shivering. I wish I had a warmer. There's got to be a charm to help with this.

There are warming charms! I can try to cast one on your bed tonight. Ernie's been helping me with charms.

My bed's not so bad, we have plenty of blankets. It's going outside that's the problem, at least when it's windy like it was tonight. I wish my cloak were thicker.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-14 06:25:39
(no subject)

You might be able to get someone to cast a warming charm on your cloak? I can't but I bet someone can.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-14 06:28:46
(no subject)

What I want is for someone to teach me how to do it.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-14 06:29:45
(no subject)

Ask around in class. and then you can (try to) teach me.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-14 18:45:42
(no subject)

You're not that bad Pansy. I'm sure you could do it if you wanted to.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-14 18:53:36
(no subject)

Do you know the charm? Can you show me before you go to Potions?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-14 19:02:49
(no subject)

One of the fourth years showed me how, yeah. I'll give it a try! No promises, though, it might not work.
I just don't quite have the hang of it. Maybe we could practise this weekend?

Sure. I need to practise that one too, and some other stuff. Come and find me tomorrow when you're free, yeah?

What do you think it'd be like? To go to the moon? I'm sure someone could, if they wanted. But not me!
The time has come for me to go a courting.

I have procured several goblin-made items (dagger, chalice, and something that looks grossly like a chamber pot but...surely not) from families looking to take up residence in the New Wizarding London. Homes and flats in Mayfair and Belgravia are being sought after by many who have hidden too long in the drear country, in draughty estates disguised as rubble heaps.

With the Lord's blessing, my committee for the Re-population of New London has almost completed the long and arduous task of making the city habitable for our good, upstanding citizens. So many things needed to be rid of, too: disgusting monumentry and useless bric-a-brac and all those poxing double-decker buses. Not to mention more shops full of foul-looking food than I could ever imagine. If there be something left off the long list of muggle inferiorities, it's surely that they are slovenly, wasteful creatures who consume at much greater speed than they produce.

We have a much cleaner - in all ways - London to inhabit now. These days I spend far more time at Saint James than I do at Le'Strange Hill, and find it quite marvellous to stroll through the peaceful, empty streets, dressed proudly in the clothes that mark me as a Witch. One day, I shall live to see these streets filled with young Wizarding children at play.

Now and then I'll stumble across a reminder. A stairwell leading to the underground trains. But it will make me smile all the more, to think of what we have won. Praise the Lord, and all the countless miracles He has wrought.

Cissy, Mother has owled me about some new young man in her life. What do you know of this? He best not be another one who's come after her money.
Pascoal? He's from Brazil, he immigrated right after he left school in 1982. A much better choice than the her last young gigolo - sympathetic to our Cause and he's got plenty of money of his own, as far as I can tell.

Why, what has she said about him?

Very little. I was away, tending to business, and she flooed over with him to drop off some gifts for Hydra. The house elf described her companion as a young, exotic man.

I cannot help but feel it is a disservice to Father's memory.

Nobody loved Father as much as she did.

But he has been gone for nearly twelve years, and if a young tart eases her grief than so be it. We all mourn in our different ways.

I suppose I can console myself with the fact that her dalliances seem largely superficial. Only I cannot imagine myself doing the same, should my husband leave this world before I.
No, I'd imagine you would follow him wherever he might go.

I do not believe there is anything to worry about with Pascoal. Mother would of course require him to sign a prenuptial agreement, in the unlikely event things should ever get that far.

How is Hydra's latest tutor?

Lord forbid, let us hope it does not come to that. Though it does bode well for his character that he chose our land to immigrate to. It is good to be reminded of all the quality wizards and witches from around the world who uprooted themselves for His Cause.

Still no tutor. Rodolphus continues to fill in. At least he knows better than to lie to me about what goes on in their lessons.

It also bodes well that he managed to pass all of the security and monetary checks which allowed him to stay. He is not a bad person, Bella. Perhaps he is merely attracted to the elderly.

We should be so lucky.

Are you worried about her readiness for school next year? If you'd like you can bring Hydra over during the boys Christmas hols and we can see how much she knows compared to Harry and Draco.
My concern lies more with the school itself than her preparedness, though the Lord has told me many times that she must leave if she's to find herself. Yet I do not like the idea of having her outside my range of influence, so I shall have to cast my influence far.

It would be good, though, to see how she measures up to the boys.

Somehow I feel that Hydra will blossom at Hogwarts and surpass even your own lofty expectations.
2008-11-14 11:49:00
Blast - Disappointed

I've just had an urgent message from MacMillan. It seems that we may not be able to take advantage of that new supplier, after all.

I really had no thought to go to Dover to-day. But MacMillan says he's asked half the committee and they're all unable to get away.

Narcissa, my dear, I do apologise if I am unable to return in time for supper. I hope this errand shall be more brief than that!

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alt_arthur at 2008-11-14 17:26:09
Order Only

Oh, my. Sirius, is he talking about Lazlo Ltd? Have you heard anything?

alt_sirius at 2008-11-14 17:30:43
Re: Order Only

I don't know - I've only just seen this myself! I'm trying to get in contact with Agatha. I hate Apparating, especially long distances, but if I have to, I'll go back to Calais to see what we can salvage.
ORDER ONLY: Don't panic yet

The Committee approved several suppliers last month - not just Laszlo. So don't panic yet.

I'm trying to get hold of Agatha and find out if it's us. See if we can devise a strategy if it is. Maybe old Victor can be blamed - Ilsa and Henrich knew nothing about any smuggling, etc.

With luck we can salvage this, even if it is our enterprise they've discovered.
Things are quiet here in 731. Alecto (my Justine) and I did manage to uncover the source of her dreams last night, and we're both quite satisfied.

Soiree tonight, and then perhaps I shall have a bit of a lie in tomorrow afternoon, before marking essays. Hopefully the twitters won't be too deafening.

There are ink stains on my floor. tidbit can't seem to remove them, no matter how he tries. Perhaps he's insufficiently motivated. I think I know what will cheer him right up, though! Silly tidbit. I think he's in need of a spot of fun.

0L
0CC
bread/water x 2
results still pending
Having reviewed the status of the logs at Dover, I can only conclude that it's a wonder more contraband is not secreted into the country.

The Calais charger d'affaires made contact with the proprietress of the offending enterprise and demanded that she present herself to us for an explanation. Laid the whole thing on her husband, apparently, claiming she and her nephew had no idea that he planned to use their legitimate business as a screen to smuggle in insurrectionist materials. Confiscated the goods, of course; the rest of the assets are currently being held pending the Committee's decision whether to cite a fine and treat this as a first offence, or to revoke their license out of hand.

Of the husband, there is, predictably, no sign. I am not convinced that the woman is not protecting him, but she claimed that he passed away shortly after they received their letter of approval. Have requested proof of his demise, pointing out that its convenience is not lost on us. However, if he truly were solely responsible, and is now no longer part of the operations ... well, it may be possible to argue in favour of a second chance. Especially if.

The nephew was also contacted and, she says, he shall be in Calais by end-of-day to answer for his uncle's radical behaviour. Tempted to stay and hear it for myself, but the last two weeks have put me considerably behind and there is much awaiting me in London and at the Manor.

I shall give the lad another hour, I think, and if he has not yet arrived, leave instruction with the Dover agent. He at least does not seem as prone to incompetence as his French counterpart.

(It is also maddening to be so close to France and yet have no leisure, nor have made any arrangements, to pass through the wards and spend a little time with Mother and Amanda - but perhaps this spring we might secure traveling papers. Both Narcissa and Amanda would like the chance to visit, I think.)
Could it be, a job?

After weeks of failure to secure even one single job interview, it looks like my luck may be turning. Mr Crouch suggested that I make a trip to the Ministry to drop off my CV. They seem to be looking for some additional support staff, and he thought that I might prove to be a decent fit. I'm sure that my aunt and uncle would be proud to know that my attire and hairstyle were conservative for my visit; the purple can be reserved for around the house, at least until I'm employed.

I spoke briefly with Ms Thompson, who is responsible for hiring new support staff, and I found it encouraging that she even accepted my CV. She said that I should come back first thing Monday morning to queue up with the other applicants.

Wish me luck, this is the closest I've got to a job.

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Good luck.

I truly hope this time it works out for you. You are in need of employment.

Thanks for the reminder, Barty. It's not like I haven't been trying to find a job.
Either Crouch Jr or Sr may tell you more accurately, but I believe the Ministry does have a probationary period, so perhaps you had rather reserve unusual hair colour for outside of working hours, in general.

If, that is, you are engaged in the first place. But I am glad to know that at least Crouch finally saw fit to stir himself in some way on your behalf.
I'm tired of missing things and I'd like to ask that if people find any trolls, dragons, dogs, frogs with more than the usual number of legs, frogs with less than the usual number of legs, spiders larger than the palm of a hand, anything that will explode, anything that might explode, particularly friendly cats or kittens, birds that talk, fish that sing, any plant that glows, any rock that glows, swans with human feet, eels, talking birds, racing snails, three-eyed newts, books in code, books with secrets, ten-leaved clovers, talking sticks, secret passages, dancing ducks, singing mice, talking rats, rabbits, rocks with holes in them, birds with brightly coloured feathers, feathers from birds with brightly coloured feathers, twelve-leaved clovers, broken monocles, boxes of dead butterflies, lethifolds or opals, please tell me and let me come and see.

Thank you very much.
alt_michael at 2008-11-15 03:02:33
(no subject)

It could be creepier than the swan, though. Can you imagine a millipede with human feet?

If I had to choose, I'd rather have wings.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-15 03:10:45
(no subject)

Millipedes are small though, so it would be hard to see. How about an acromantula with human feet?

What, like an angel?

alt_michael at 2008-11-15 03:21:18
(no subject)

Or just a gigantic millipede with human feet. An acromantua would only have human feet tiny on the ends of its legs, which is a bit of a let down.

Well, the image in my head was wings instead of arms, but wings on the back would work, too.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-15 03:22:59
(no subject)

How would you brush your teeth? Or eat? Or hold your wand?

alt_michael at 2008-11-15 03:25:58
(no subject)

I don't know, chew a stick or something. And you can eat without hands. The wand is a problem, though.
But then your face would be dirty and how would you wash it?

I think it's better if you're more like an angel.

Birds can wash their faces, sort of, so it can't be impossible. But it's more useful, being an angel, but it's not what I was originally thinking about.

Useful how?

Well, you still have hands, and I don't know, don't they have some kind of weapon or something? I don't know that much about angels, really.

Me either. I know they have wings and they sing in choirs or something?

I've got some rocks with holes in them in my trunk.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 04:06:51
(no subject)
You do?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-15 04:49:39
(no subject)
Yes.
Why?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 06:47:34
(no subject)
I wonder what they look like.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-15 15:01:10
(no subject)
They look like rocks with holes in them.

alt_michael at 2008-11-15 04:54:10
(no subject)
Yes, and they have harps or something. Live on clouds.
What are they like, then?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-15 04:58:41
(no subject)
They're like rocks with holes in them. What did you expect?
I'll give you one, if you'd like.
I don't know, maybe like what size or colours they are or something.

Really?

All the ones I have with me are smaller than my hand. I've got a couple bigger ones but I left them at home, Auntie Brunhilda said it was a waste of good magic to enchant my trunk to be any bigger inside for a load of old rocks. I've been finding them on the island since I was small. They're all grey, but they turn almost black when they're wet.

And yeah, of course. Why wouldn't I?

I think a bunch of 'old rocks' is a brilliant reason to enchant your trunk to be bigger inside, me.

And I don't know.

Well you're more interesting than Auntie Brunhilda.

They're supposed to be good luck, so you can have two.
I guess that's a good thing.
And thank you.

Rabbits? Just plain rabbits? Or were they supposed to be talking rabbits or dancing rabbits or some other interesting sort of rabbits?

I saw the Weasley twins' dog and he really did just look like a skinny dog. I didn't know there was anything interesting about him until he turned back into a mudblood at the Quidditch match. I don't think the twins did either, they seemed awfully surprised.

I like rabbits. I'd prefer dancing rabbits or whatever, but I like rabbits.
And I've always wanted a dog, even a skinny one. I kind of wish I'd been at the quidditch match, now, but I don't think I'd like to see a dog becoming a mudblood.

It was sad because when the mudblood was a dog he was treated a lot better than when he was human, says a source in Gryffindor.

They really were surprised. They've spoken about it a time or two since. I think they're disappointed they don't have their dog anymore.
I've been thinking about it a bit since. Of course, it must have been an awful shock for him to be turned into a dog, and I bet he wondered that week whether he'd ever get changed back. Still, it might have been even more of a shock—well, to be in the Gryffindor common room, with all those kids, able to sit by the fire whenever he liked and all. And to have the twins making all sorts of fuss over him, because they liked him. I mean, I've seen where he sleeps, and you know how Professor Carrow treats him—well, anyway.

The whole week must have been dead strange for him.

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@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-15 03:50:04
(no subject)

Do you want to meet to work on transfiguration tomorrow, Longbottom? Maybe after lunch?

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@alt_neville at 2008-11-15 04:43:47
(no subject)

Oh, please. Have you started the essay yet? I got halfway through mine, but then got stuck.

And I don't get what he was talking about, that business about conversion of surface tension. There may be something about that in my notes, back when we were talking about textures, but I can't find it. Did he talk about that in your class, too?

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-15 04:49:25
(no subject)

The conversion of surface tension stuff was basically just saying that if you turn tea into cream it'll be thicker, even though they're both liquids, and you have to take that into account. I think it's easier to do if you just focus on what it should be like when you're done, rather than getting all technical with it.

I just looked at my notes about textures and in really big letters I
wrote BEATEN EGGS and underlined it twice. I have no idea why I wrote that.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-15 04:51:12
(no subject)

And yeah I started the essay, but I hate writing essays for Transfiguration. It's easier to do it than to explain what I did. It's why it helps to revise with you.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 04:01:34
(no subject)

Racing snails? that I'd like to see. Watching snails race would be like watching Crabbe and Goyle reading.

alt_michael at 2008-11-15 04:45:04
(no subject)

Racing snails are fast. That's what makes them racing snails. Regular snails would be watching paint drip.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 06:49:12
(no subject)

Are there really such

There's no such thing as racing nails.

Are there?

alt_michael at 2008-11-15 06:56:12
(no subject)

Of course there are.
Prove it.

When I get one, I'll show it to you.

Okay.

Oooh. What about diamond rings that turn you into glass? Or mirrors that tell you secrets about the last person who looked into them? Or doors that never open to the same place twice? Or staircases that move, or pictures of tomorrow?

Yes, and peacocks, large seashells that sound like the ocean, cats with wings, particularly tall flowers, ape men, sea serpents in the lake and stones with stripes on them.
I'll tell you the next time one of the staircases moves on me!

If you want, I'll also tell you if I see any mice-sized people. Or cat-sized horses. Or statues with eyes that glitter like gold, or brass rings with mysterious inscriptions, or lamps that light the room next door instead of the room they're in. Or especially cats with wings. I like cats.

Oh, and my guardian has a seashell like that. But she only let me listen to it once. The rest of the time it sits on a shelf, surrounded by shepherdesses.

You make it sound as if you've missed a lot but I haven't heard about anything on that list other than the troll.

I'm just making sure, in case anything new happens.

How can you know that your list covers everything new?

I don't. These are just the most important ones.
Don't forget possessed doll's heads.
What a charming little book ...

Well hello, my young friends. Isn't this amazing. The things you young people can do with magic these days. None of this in my day. Quills and parchment, owls that took hours, even days, to reach your intended. Now I can write something down in this little book, and you'll all see it immediately. Marvellous! I've been reading all your little messages with great interest, particularly those of our new first years. How delightful to have this chance to get to know you all a little better.

Young Mr Marvolo, we haven't had a chance to really talk. Do feel free to drop by my office any time you need anything, dear boy. I taught your father, you know, when he was a young man.

Miss Parkinson, you'd also be very welcome to pop by for a chat.

Now, for the first years - as I told you all in your classes today, I have a little surprise for you. As we near the end of this, your first term at Hogwarts, I feel the time is right to take a measure of how you're all doing. On the last Friday of the term, just before you head off for your Christmas hols, we'll be having a little Potions test. Nothing to worry about, of course. Just keep up with your homework, and continue to work hard in lessons, and you'll all come through with flying colours.

And, as a little incentive to help you all work extra hard - the student with the highest mark will receive 50 housepoints! How's that, eh?

Fifth and seventh years, tests for you too. Not long until your OWLs and NEWTs, you know.

All right.

Would you tell me more about Father? When he was my age? No one will and he's so busy he doesn't often have time to talk to me about things like that.
Ah now, Harry, we must all of us have our secrets! I'm sure there are some things about your father's school days I can recall, however. He was a very gifted student, and very popular with his peers - a prefect, naturally, and Head Boy in his seventh year. I believe he won an award for Special Services to the School, though my memory fails me as to what precisely it was for. I imagine it is in the trophy room, should you wish to see it.

You're always welcome to come by my office if you'd like to chat some more. I'll see if I can find any photographs, if you like, although after so many years I can make no promises.

When would be a good time for me to come and see you, Professor?

Whenever you like, my dear. As your Head of House, my door is always open.

Right, sir.

How about tomorrow afternoon?

That will do perfectly well. Shall I expect you around 3 o'clock?
Yes, sir.

Do you need to see me as well, sir?

You're welcome to come by as well, Mr Malfoy, if you wish.

I need to speak with you as well, sir. If you have the time I mean.

Of course, Mr Nott. Please do come by.

Well, I certainly hope that Gryffindor will take the prize!
Of course you do, Percy, but I make no promises, hm!

Sir, will it be a practical test or a written test?

A wise question, Ms Perks. There will be a short written test first, and then a practical session.
The charm for warming things up is 'infervesco.' Except, depending on how you wave your wand and how you say it, it does different things. There's a way to use it to heat up your tea, if it's gone cold. You say it slightly differently if you want to warm up your clothes so that they heat up around you. There's another way to do it on yourself so that you just warm up, but I tried that and, well, I don't think I did any damage. Pansy thought maybe I should go to Madame Pomfrey but I didn't want to be a bother and I felt too stupid so since the burning feeling went away after a few minutes I didn't go.

A thick woolen jumper would keep me warm just as well, really, but I'd outgrown my old one so it stayed at home when I left. I suppose there are plenty of students who don't wear muggle clothes under their robes here and they manage somehow without getting too cold.

Anyway warming up my robes worked except that I had to cast it every few minutes, my robes would warm up but then they'd cool off again. I went for a walk outside: it was very windy and my ears got cold, but at least it wasn't wet at all. I didn't find any trolls, dragons, dogs, frogs with an unusual number of legs, large spiders, explosive items, cats, kittens, unexpectedly talkative animals or objects, anything glowing, anything with human feet that wasn't human, books of interest, clovers with more than three leaves, or any of the other stuff that Michael mentioned wanting to see. I saw a mouse, but it was a very ordinary mouse. It seems to live in a burrow right near the outer wall of the castle. It was brown, and since I was sitting very still when I saw it, it didn't run right away, but looked at me for a minute. And then he must have caught a whiff of me because he ran back into his hole.

Also I found a feather, but it was a **black** very ordinary feather from a crow, I think. I picked it up to take it with me but then I dropped it out a window to watch it fall.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 03:58:47
(no subject)

You don't look too red now. Kind of pink but just stay in dim light and no one will see your lobsterness. And, once you've recovered, shall we look for trolls, dragons, dogs, frogs with more than the usual number of legs, frogs with less than the usual number of legs, spiders larger than the palm of a hand, anything that will explode, anything that might explode, particularly friendly cats or kittens, birds that talk, fish that sing, any plant that glows, any rock that glows, swans with human feet, eels, talking birds, racing snails, three-eyed newts, books in code, books with secrets, ten-leaved clovers, talking sticks, secret passages, dancing ducks, singing mice, talking rats, rabbits, rocks with holes in them, birds with brightly coloured feathers, feathers from birds with brightly coloured feathers, twelve-leaved clovers, broken monocles, boxes of dead butterflies, lethifolds or opals?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-15 04:12:22
(no subject)

Lobsterness? Oh, you mean that I look like a lobster? I read that wrong for a minute, I was thinking that maybe 'Lobsterness' was a town in Scotland near Inverness or something. I've never actually seen a lobster, are they pink?

And let's look for birds that talk, fish that sing, and glowing stuff. I'll pass on the lethifolds, trolls, and enormous spiders, if it's alright with you.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 04:14:07
(no subject)

Maybe it should have been "lobster-ness". It does look Scottish, doesn't it?

THE LOBSTERNESS MONSTER!!

I wouldn't mind a rock that glows. Be right handy as a nightlight.
Bah, that's what wands are for. But a glowing rock might be pretty.

I heard the Kelpie that used to live in Loch Ness isn't there anymore. I heard it swam over to France because what it really loved to do was show off for muggles, and with all the muggles in camps, it didn't want to live in Scotland anymore. But I also heard it moved to London and lives in the Thames now, I suppose that's more likely.

Anyway if there's a Lobsterness out there somewhere it's probably in the market for a monster.

I woke up this morning because it was cold. Normally I have a lie in on Saturdays. But you're right. It would be warmer with Muggle clothes.

Father doesn't like it when I wear them though. Will you teach me the warming charm? I have one on my school robes. But I think it's not working. It doesn't seem to help.

Well in bed you can ask for extra blankets. That's what I did. I asked the house-elves but you could send Dennis for them, I bet he knows where they're kept. So I'm really warm in bed now, though getting out of bed in the morning isn't a lot of fun.

I can show you the warming charm after breakfast but I'm not very good at it yet, I almost set myself on fire with it yesterday.

The problem with the school robes is that they're draughty, even with a warming charm.
You caught on a lot faster to that charm than I did, is it helping at all?

It's kind of funny not funny, exactly, but strange, that they keep Hogwarts too cold to be comfortable if you aren't wearing muggle clothes under your robes.
boots worried all day about what master called his 'soiree.' boot had to look the word up in the dictionary, and even then, it didn't seem to make sense. so boot wondered.

but evening was quiet and nothing much happened. master told boot to sit in the corner, and wait, but he didn't give boot any task. he sat with his sister in his sitting room, marking essays. he was in a good mood. master kept looking at boot and smiling, and chuckling and humming under his breath. made boot nervous then he told boot to pour out his glass and he raised it and said to his sister, 'and now a toast to tidbit.' and that made boot wonder again, because he didn't see any bread anywhere. so boot asked if master wanted boot to go fetch him some bread and butter. don't know why, but they laughed and laughed at that. but they didn't want any bread.

finally, master told boot to go to bed. boot was surprised because usually he waits until master goes to bed himself so he can put master's clothes away for the night afterward, but master said boot has been staying up too late and that wasn't good for a young mudblood. boot was confused but went to his cupboard.

he was shocked when he got there. there were a pair of boots on top of his pallet. and trousers, and a jumper. boot was afraid because he didn't want anyone to say he had stolen them, so he brought them back to master right away. but master and master's sister looked at each other and started laughing and then master said that the things were all for boot!

all for boot? boot was so shocked. master got almost angry when boot didn't believe it at first. he told boot to try the clothes on, and he even sent him to go look in the mirror in his bedroom, so he could see himself. the jumper is like the color of oak leaves in winter, and so soft! The sleeves go all the way to his wrists, and there aren't even any holes at the elbows. The trousers are grey-- soft, too, with little ridges. master says it is kordaroy.

boot has never had clothes like these before. not like mudblood clothes at all. boot has never had even tried boots for his feet. They are so stiff, but master says they will soften as boot gets used to them, and mould to his feet. and they will keep his feet warm and protect them. there was even a pair of socks to go with them.

master said, 'so what do you think about soirees now, tidbit?' boot was afraid and didn't know what to say at first, but then he thanked his master and his master's sister. mudbloods should always be grateful when masters are kind.
boot wonders if soirees will happen very often.

**alt_pansy** at **2008-11-15 23:42:00**
(no subject)

Your clothes are very nice.

**alt_terry** at **2008-11-16 03:51:43**
(no subject)

thank you. boot will take very good care of them.
Okay, that? Was a little too close for comfort.

Thank Merlin that Malfoy decided to leave before I could meet Agatha and get there to defend ourselves. This disguise is good, but I don't think I'd like to test it against Lucius Malfoy, even if he hasn't seen me in a decade.

Well. I suppose I should tell the tale properly, shouldn't I?

So, the first thing is: I'm sorry, everyone. Yes, it was our shipment that was discovered. I guess it was mad to think our luck could have broken any other way. They opened one of the crates this morning in Dover - one of the guards trying to skim off the top, if you ask me - and one of the wands had shifted, snapped, and a few sparks flew out of the sawdust. From there it didn't take long to dig down and find the others.

Agatha sent word to me after she answered their first summons. Great minds think alike, I suppose, because she threw 'Victor' to the wolves straight away.

She made up a whopping tale about how Victor had been afflicted by a Ukranian strain of Jarvey Pox and was losing his faculties. How Ilsa and Henrich put together the business but needed Victor in the early phases because all the family money was in his name. Then she added that he had insisted on packing the crate himself, and lamented that she should have known there was something fishy about it. She sobbed out that he had died mere days after we got our permission to import. (I got to see a repeat of the performance later.)

For my part, I couldn't get to her while she was talking to the authorities (a good thing they have wards, actually, or my Patronus might have given us away). Finally she broke free, with sincere promises that she would summon Henrich directly from Czechoslovakia. As soon as she got away, my messages arrived and she sent one in reply.

I made for Calais as fast as possible. But you know how I get when I have to Apparate too far or jump too many times in quick succession. I hate that splinchy feeling and the disorientation makes me feel sick. I
had to stop a few times along the way to get my breath back. I was just trying (in vain, unfortunately) to get a ginger beer before the next leg, when I saw Malfoy's post. I thought I had better wait until he'd gone before putting in Henrich's appearance.

As it was, they nearly called him back to interrogate me. Thank heavens he's the most self-absorbed prat on the planet. He barely glanced behind the Dover agent to look at us standing abjectly in the office, but snapped at the man that he'd already wasted too much time on 'the sordid business' as it was. He ordered the agent to take my statement and forward it on, then ended the Floo call without any further thought.

Well, of course, I feigned complete shock and betrayal, told them how I'd sunk everything into Laszlo Ltd and had been busily scouring the world for the products we planned to import. I assured them that we'd had no dealings with anyone before or since in any sort of black market trade, promised solmenly that nothing of the kind would ever happen under my direction, and for good measure threw in a few choice words about my dear departed uncle's politics.

Agatha was magnificent. Truly. You should have seen her throwing herself on those Frenchies - and the Dover agent, as well. 'Oh, please, sir;' she says, lip trembling, 'Poor Victor was half out of his mind toward the end. I think he thought Britain had been taken over by wizards what followed Grindelwald, him an' his Teutonic lot.'

Eventually the agents wanted to go home, it being a Friday evening, and they assured us that the appeal to the Committee would move forward and they'd reflect us favourably to Mr Malfoy and the rest.

Agatha told me later that she also told Malfoy in confidence that if he took our part with the Committee, Laszlo Ltd could ensure that he had access to any of the items on our procurement list. She said he hid it well, but it seemed to her that the prospect appealed to him. So if this works out, it looks as if it'll be at the cost of some of those amenities they like so well. Arthur, it doesn't look likely, now, that we'll be able to soak him; more the other way round, at least for the time being.

That's irritating enough, but the real tragedy is that we dare not ship anything suspect through Laszlo's label for a while. I'm sorry - again. Lucky I hadn't shipped any of that polyjuice or it would surely be seized. And then we would have lost the license altogether.

Hermione, I'd hoped you would get your wand by Christmas. I'm
afraid you'll have to wait a little longer while I think of some other way to get the Order everything you need.

Meanwhile this means I'm back in northern France instead of northern Africa. I'd barely begun looking for information on Kingsley.

I've got a room here for the night, anyway. I don't think I could travel again without some rest. All that Apparating.

I wonder if the bistro has ginger beer?

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 [@alt_arthur](https://example.com) at 2008-11-15 03:17:17

*Order Only*

Bloody hell. Thank Merlin your cover wasn't entirely blown, and you and Agatha managed to salvage the situation (good show, truly). But bugger. What a dreadful blow to lose those wands. And I had such high hopes for getting a reliable supply of polyjuice.

Damn Malfoy, anyway. I was so looking forward to slipping contraband past him whilst simultaneously lightening his pockets.

Well, I'm disappointed, but exceedingly relieved that things didn't end with the two of you facing the business end of a custom officer's wand, waiting to be taken into custody.

Continue to keep us apprised of the situation as it develops, please.

---

[@alt_sirius](https://example.com) at 2008-11-15 13:56:48

*Re: Order Only*

Bugger all is right, Arthur. Still it could have been a lot worse.

I'm feeling much better now that I've had sleep and can keep down toast and jam. Agatha and I are going back to my place to check on it and so I can collect some things, if it's still safe there, and we're discussing other ways to get things in past the barriers. She has an idea that perhaps we can use emigrants, the few who decide to apply, as 'mules' (that's a Muggle term for a human carrier of illicit goods), or maybe there's a way to send through very small amounts without detection. I'm not that happy about trusting our supply to anyone who sympathises with
Voldemort or his toadies. Even if they've no idea what they're bringing in.

Anyway, I'm having a think on it. If any bright ideas come to you, let me know.

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-16 00:12:00
Re: Order Only

Take care, Sirius. I hate to endanger anyone more in this endeavour.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-15 13:33:25
(no subject)

I'm sorry. It would have been nice to have a Christmas present but I'm glad that you're all right.

alt_sirius at 2008-11-15 14:01:39
(no subject)

Thanks, kiddo. You're an awfully good sport.

Listen, about your Terry ... Carrow's up to something, I can feel it. I dunno what, but ... just you and he be careful, right?

Oh, and if you think you can get away, will you check on Mr Lupin today? He hasn't posted since the full moon.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-15 14:22:04
(no subject)

I never expected to have a wand in the first place, so I suppose I shouldn't be disappointed, right?

We will, and I will check on Mr Lupin, I worry about him too. He can be so quiet and sad.
Simply do your best, Sirius. That is all we can ask.
Chess

A pawn can become a queen.

alt_neville at 2008-11-15 18:24:23
(no subject)

Mine never do!

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-15 19:50:51
(no subject)

Mine did once but my father checkmated me the very next move so it didn't matter.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 23:21:38
(no subject)

At least you got that far. Ron wipes the board with me every time.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 22:25:38
(no subject)

Mine don't either but they can. And someday they will! Yours will too if you practise.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-15 21:46:04
(no subject)

A man can become a king. That's in draughts. Nothing wrong with draughts.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 22:23:40
(no subject)

How does that work?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-15 23:06:57
(no subject)

Well if your man gets all the way to the other side of the board without getting caught, he becomes a king, and then he can move backwards as well as forwards.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 23:09:58
(no subject)

Really? I didn't know that. I've never played before.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-15 23:17:17
(no subject)

Well it's not chess - it's just a game for useless duffers.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-15 23:20:26
(no subject)

Useless duffers? You may be many things, but useless duffer isn't one of them. Besides, seems to me knowing lots of games would help you be better at other games. Because you could learn strategy.
Yeah well you might want to tell some of your housemates that.

Just ignore them and consider the source. You have to decide whose opinion is important to you, and ignore the others.

Like the things my mother says to me? I just pretend that her opinion of me doesn't matter.

Ha, the source was Sally Anne. She was the one who said that Hufflepuffs liked draughts, but she didn't say anything about useless duffers.

Ha, the source was someone else, git.

Now you're just making things up. And anyway, Sally Anne was right, draughts is for little kids.
I am not making this up.

What's wrong with stuff for little kids? You were one once.

Although I don't think you were born. I think you were hatched.

Are you calling my Mother some kind of bird?

Would you relax? It was a joke.

No, Draco's right, I said that draughts was the Hufflepuff game and I WAS making fun of them.

I was nicer than Draco, though, he said that naughts and crosses was the Hufflepuff game.

There isn't anything WRONG with playing draughts, but chess is a much more interesting game.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 03:20:51
(no subject)

I'm glad we were able to resolve this issue.
Professor Carrow has gotten a lot creepier lately. He used to just be mean but now he drew pictures of Terry sleeping on the walls. Terry is really frightened. I would be scared too.

Terry said that he drew it in reddish brown ink and I don't want to think about what it's made of. It sounds like the Dark Arts. I know that people use the Dark Arts all the time but they're Dark, aren't they, and they shouldn't be used on Terry, should they?!

He said that once he woke up and Professor Carrow was watching him sleep.

Professor McGonagall, can you do anything? I'm scared for Terry but I'm also scared because he keeps giving me looks when he comes in the library and I don't want him to look at me like that. But Madam Pince can't say anything of course.

Yeah, 'Min,' surely you can write him up for insubordination, incompetence, improper use of literature, conducting experiments without a license from the Department of Mysteries, unauthorised pets, substance abuse - there must be some way to give him the sack.

Didn't you tell us when they started at Hogwarts that you couldn't think why they'd been assigned? If even the other Death Eaters can't abide them, why allow them to continue on in the exalted profession of a Hogwarts professor?

And while I'm on the subject of professors, what d'you suppose Sluggy wants with Harry and Lucius Malfoy's brood?
You're forgetting one thing, Sirius: if Carrow gets the sack, he will leave Hogwarts. No great loss to Hogwarts, of course, but he will undoubtedly take that poor boy with him. At least at Hogwarts, the lad can get three square meals a day--when Carrow allows it--and Poppy to tend his injuries. And he can learn at least a little bit about magic on the sly, and Hermione is there at Hogwarts, who seems quite important to him.

You quite like the boy, don't you, Hermione? Small wonder. I've charmed my journal to go back and read his former entries, once I learned exactly who the twins' new dog turned out to be, and my heart quite went out to him. Poor boy, he has such a difficult life, but he seems to try to bear it as best he can.

Still, if there were a way to sack Carrow AND allow the boy (Terry is his name, isn't it?) stay there at Hogwarts without him, that would undoubtedly be best. Although extremely unlikely, no doubt.

Of course, you couldn't guarantee that the Ministry wouldn't put someone in there to teach Transfiguration who would be even worse. Although that's hard to imagine.

D'you mean to say he is Carrow's *personal* servant and not the school's?

Sweet Circe, that changes things.

I'd suggest he meet with an unfortunate accident, but we don't need the kind of scrutiny that would bring with it.
I'm afraid that it's more likely to be Terry that meets with an "unfortunate accident." And if that happens, you can believe that the Board of Governors would not give a single damn.

That is the sticking point.

Furthermore, the Lord Protector seems to enjoy the Carrows' presence, so I cannot remove them. I suspect him of harbouring sadistic tendencies beyond what we had supposed, but - perhaps he merely wishes someone to keep the Muggles down, knowing I shall not be overly cruel.

I would happily kill them, but I of all people cannot invite close scrutiny - I would crack, crack and take you all with me.

Steady on, Minerva. I didn't mean to suggest that ... well, you've got much more important things to do than murder someone, even if he is richly deserving.

I oughtn't have written that.
It would ideal if we could convince Alecto and Amycus to kill each other. It would take care of the problem neatly, and I've seen what they've done in the camps, before coming to Hogwarts. And no, I probably oughtn't to have written that, either.

I fear I can do but little, Miss Granger, although I will make sure that he knows that I consider you to be my personal servant (since I am the embodiment of Hogwarts) and I would take it as an affront if he harmed you.
Both paraffin for lamps and wax candles are getting more difficult to obtain. Fortunately, now that we have bee hives of our own, we'll have our own supply of beeswax next year--I hope--but that doesn't help solve the problem of what to do for light this winter. Of course, I know that some are breaking into abandoned muggle houses (Merlin knows that there are enough of them) looking for supplies, including candles, but many muggles used to use... elektr... elekter... oh, whatever that word is--and so didn't have many candles about. And anyway, Arthur and I don't like doing that. It feels like robbing the dead. Well, in many cases, it is robbing the dead.

Even tallow dips are getting increasingly expensive. Fortunately, Xeno had a rather good idea about that. He was quite poor as a child and remembered his family making tallow candles themselves when he was a boy, and he even unearthed several old candle molds in his attic that his mother used to use (that attic is unbelievable--the strange things he keeps up there!) So we got a good supply of beef fat from the butcher, and we spent a very smelly afternoon melting it down into tallow and pouring it into the molds. I think we should have enough to get by, at least until spring, and then hopefully the bee hives will be producing enough wax for us. Beeswax candles really do smell so much better than tallow dips. I've set some aside for Moddey Dhoo and will send them along to you soon, Alice, but couldn't make so many extra that Xeno would ask about it.

Xeno has a chestnut tree on his property, and when our old neighbor Avery Simmons left his house to go move in with his daughter, he told us we were welcome to any of the hazelnuts from the hazelnut trees in his garden. So the girls went with Xeno yesterday afternoon to try to beat the squirrels to the bounty and came back, red-cheeked from the cold but happy, with several bushel baskets brimming over. Summoning charms make gathering nuts so much easier. Xeno, showing his usual inexplicable logic, insisted that I not use any charms to remove the chestnut burr from around each chestnut, which I think is simply ridiculous, but if shelling chestnut burrs keeps him busy and happy for several days--and out of my hair--then he is certainly welcome to the work. Chestnuts always remind me of Christmas, which raises my spirits as the days are getting darker and colder.
I've traded some rag rugs the girls and I made for some freshly butchered ham. I wonder if I could find something to trade to get a larger ration of flour. Flour is becoming scarce again, too. I know that the harvest was good, so am not sure what that is all about. Arthur says that it's mostly the distribution channels are bolluxed up, what with labour shortages. I have thought of possibly investigating making acorn flour, but it seems like such a lot of work--gathering them, shelling and chopping them, treating them to leach out the tannins, and then I hear acorn flour tends to spoil easily, too, which makes me wonder whether all the work is worthwhile. Maisie Diggory said she was going to try making some, so I thought I would go over and help her for a day and see what's involved, and keep it in mind for a possibility next year, especially if the price of flour continues to climb.

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**alt_mcgonagall** at **2008-11-16 00:18:09**  
(no subject)

Molly, I know you have tender sensibilities, but I hope you will not indulge them overmuch when it comes to Muggle homes. - Your well-being, and the Order's, will do more for the good of Muggles than a million untouched homes.

In any case, otherwise it will be Bellatrix Lestrange in those homes reaping the benefits, I suppose.

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**alt_molly** at **2008-11-16 03:50:38**  
(no subject)

I know, I know, I just . . . it would make sense to scout out the homes closest to our own. But these were my neighbors, Minerva. And yes, some of them were muggles. I remember one of them, a nice young girl, newly wed. She and her husband had just had a baby, and she was so proud of the home she'd made together with him; they kept it up so nicely. When they were about to take them away to the camps, she came to me and begged me to take and hide their family silver. Well, the very idea made me sick, and at first I tried to refuse, but she pressed it on me, and I finally took it, just to give her some peace of mind. It seemed so wrong for her to trust me that way, when it was other witches and wizards who tore her away from her husband and took her away from her home.
Arthur told me about six months later that she had died in the camps, she and her baby both. I cried for a whole day about it, and then I went back to her house and buried the silver deep under the rose bushes in her garden. I told Arthur I'd be damned before I'd ever use such ill-gotten gains, or give it up to anyone else like Bellatrix or her ilk.

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**alt_sirius** at **2008-11-16 14:24:46**  
(*no subject*)

Molly,

At the risk of being crass, that's utterly ridiculous. She *gave* you that silver - and what's more, it could stand you and Arthur in very good stead on things that the Order needs.

I appreciate the sentimental value and what this particular woman gave up. Believe me, I'm not trying to belittle your reaction. It's quite touching, and you've a good heart, cousin.

But all the sympathy in the world isn't going to buy food for the Muggleborn kids, or potions supplies, or even pay for Ginny and Luna to have a proper Christmas.

I don't know many Muggles who would rather think of their 'ill-gotten goods' in the hands of Bella-witch and her lot, compared to the ways those same items could provide tools to help us win them back their rights, their homes, and so on.

They're just **things**, Molly. Not people.

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**alt_molly** at **2008-11-16 19:54:59**  
(*no subject*)

She gave me the silver to hold in trust for *her*, you understand. You perhaps don't understand, in a way: to a woman who takes so much pride in her home, these **things** aren't mere objects at all. They're pride, they're history, they're comfort. They're family. They're home. And now her home and her family are gone. I don't know . . . you've given me something to think on, anyway. To tell the truth, it hadn't even occurred to me to sell the silver and use the money for the Order, perhaps even the sanctuary. Stupid of
me. Now that I think on it, Arthur might have thought to do it, but I was so upset at the time about the whole thing that he must have decided not to press me on it. I was thinking in terms of using the silver myself, and THAT seemed so dreadfully wrong; I couldn't bear to do so. But if there were a way to fence it . . . well, I can owl Mundungus. Doubtless he could find a way. Then the money could go to Moddey Dhoo, couldn't it? It might be enough to pay for a year's food for one child.

That might make the idea bearable . . . to use that dead child's birth right, to help another child. One more small way we're striking back against this mad regime.
2008-11-15 17:31:00
(no subject)

Poppy--

There a potion that'll help tidbit? Been really lethargic and pale lately. Got anything for that? I'm sure Alecto's new clothes for him will help a bit but tidbit's been dowly, like.
Hermione? The house elves gave me extra pudding tonight and I wanted to share with you but when I went to your cubby you weren't there. And you forgot your amulet on your bed. You should be more careful.

What's her amulet supposed to be for?

It tells her master where she is at all times. If she forgets to wear it then her master cannot find her.

Oh, is that so? Funny that, seeing as she turns up at the most... well, nevermind that. It's not for you to know.

No sir I wouldn't expect you to tell me I'm just a mudblood.

She seems to get in a lot of trouble though.
That's because she always ends up where there's trouble.

that's not her fault.
sir.

If you've got something to say to me, then quit scratching it out and say it, mudblood.

no. nothing to say.
sir.

She only got it after the incident when you and Harry and Weasley and Longbottom saved her from the troll.

And?
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-16 06:00:05
(no subject)

So has she turned up at an inconvenient time since then? Because I think stopping her from ending up where there's trouble was the point of making her wear it.

alt_draco at 2008-11-16 06:02:24
(no subject)

Well, I don't know. I don't keep tabs on her, do I? But someone's supposed to be, so she ought to keep her amulet on. You know, having Dennis around has made me realise how ill-behaved the other mudbloods are.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-16 06:10:47
(no subject)

Well, of course she should keep it on.

But I think it's a bit unfair to judge the other mudbloods based on Dennis. Dennis is Harry's servant, and since we're Harry's housemates he serves us a bit too. The one in the transfiguration classroom belongs to Professor Carrow. It's Professor Carrow's standards he's supposed to be abiding by, not ours. Anyway he stays out of the way.

alt_draco at 2008-11-16 06:13:03
(no subject)

Dennis was raised by the Lord Protector's house elves, too. That probably makes a difference.
Well, certainly. He's very cheerful. Boot might be cheerful too if he'd been raised by house-elves rather than the Carrows.

Would he, now?

House elves all seem to be very cheerful, sir. I'd expect that any mudblood raised by house-elves would be unusually cheerful.

Why are you taking up for him? He's just a mudblood.

Are you a muggle lover, Sally-Anne?

Ew.

At least I don't have to have one sleeping in my bedroom.

At least I don't make excuses for the one that has to sleep in my dormitory.
What excuses did I make for anyone?

I said that the girl from the library should wear her amulet so that she doesn't make trouble for Draco again. And I said that we shouldn't try to impose our own standards on Professor Carrow's mudblood, because it's up to Professor Carrow to tell him how he ought to behave, and I would assume that he's told him to stay out of the way and not talk to students, which is why he isn't being cheerfully polite all the time like Dennis.

You said it was unfair to judge its behaviour on a mudblood who's been properly trained. That sounds like an excuse to me.

You're a Slytherin, Sally-Anne. Act like one.

Since you're still up, tell me this. If I organise a chess tourney, will you play in it? I want to organise a chess tourney for first years but only if Slytherin has a player who might win it.

Do you really think I have a chance? I've heard Weasley is really good.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-16 07:15:49  
(no subject)  
Weasley is really good, but you're also really good.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-16 07:19:35  
(no subject)  
I suppose I could play...

alt_percy at 2008-11-16 07:06:04  
(no subject)  
And I, for one, vastly prefers it that Carrow's mudblood does stay out of the way as much as possible. It's not as if he's at all pleasant to look at. (Not to cast aspersions on Mr Marvolo's servant--who, you're right, seems eager and willing to serve at least, and I'm sure he'll shape up to be quite exemplary at his duties. But really, it is better for all concerned if that sort is only occasionally seen and never heard.)

alt_harry at 2008-11-16 13:07:06  
(no subject)  
Sally Anne if that made sense then Dennis would be less well behaved than Boot because I don't beat him.  
I think Dennis just is better behaved, is all.

alt_terry at 2008-11-16 03:12:46  
(no subject)  
What do you think you're doing, tattling on Hermione in the journals? What business is it of yours, anyway?
**alt_dennis** at **2008-11-16 03:17:25**  
(no subject)

She should be careful. It would be bad if she got in more trouble for forgetting it. I was warning her.

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**alt_terry** at **2008-11-16 03:20:50**  
(no subject)

oh, believe it. she will be.

---

**alt_dennis** at **2008-11-16 03:26:07**  
(no subject)

Good. Misbehaviour dishonours our masters.

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**alt_terry** at **2008-11-16 03:27:31**  
(no subject)

it certainly dishonours something.

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**alt_amycus** at **2008-11-16 06:11:50**  
(no subject)

Indeed it does.

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**alt_hermione** at **2008-11-16 03:45:14**  
(no subject)

Thanks Dennis. Of course I forgot. But I'll be better next time.
I left some apple crumble next to the amulet. I hope you like it.

This reminds me, Dennis, when you have a free moment and if it's alright with Harry, would you check to see if somewhere in this school there is a chess clock? Or several of them, if it's possible. There's surely a storage room somewhere that they might have them.

I will ask the house elves as soon as I am finished putting extra blankets on Master Harry's bed.

You don't have to do it tonight, it's not as if I'll be organizing a chess tourney between now and tomorrow morning.

But Miss Perks has asked and I must do it as soon as I can.
But I didn't ask tonight because I needed you to do it right away, I just asked because I was thinking about it.

Alright Dennis, thank you. You don't have to bring me the chess clocks, just let me know if the school has any.

It isn't any trouble for me to bring them to you Miss Perks. But I will do as you have asked.

Oh but I don't have anywhere to store them, Dennis.

I want to know if we have them at the school so that I can organise a chess tourney if we do, and see about getting some in if we don't.

The house elves say there are some in a cupboard in the library by the books about chess. Thank you Miss Perks.

Thank you Harry for letting me use Dennis for my errands (and thank you Dennis).
Thanks for giving him something to do. He gets in the way if he doesn't. And I don't have much for him to do.

Father didn't really think about how we have so many house-elves here.

But I suppose my trunk is neat now Dennis is here anyway.

Now if I could just get him to fix mine. Stupid charms.
It was ambitious of me to organise the planning of a large fundraising event to take place the week before our annual Christmas party. The size of the St Mungo's event has outgrown the Manor and we have decided to move it to Kensington Palace. I've been delegating as much as I can to the rest of the committee, but there are some things that you can't trust others to do properly.

I admit that the St Mungo's event is more important, but I can't help focusing the bulk of my attentions on our Christmas party - and on Christmas in general. It will be wonderful to have Draco and Harry home, even for a short while.

Reg? Would you and Barty like to come up for Sunday lunch tomorrow?

Will I get to attend the St Mungo's event, Mother?

I think you'll still be at school, darling. But you'll definitely be home in time for the Christmas party.

I can't wait, Mrs Malfoy! You have very good parties.
It will be lovely to have you back, Harry.

Your Father looks forward to seeing you again. I think he regrets having to leave so quickly last week. He was so concerned for your safety; we all were.

I'm relieved you're safe and your broom has been fixed. You did very well out there, even with a faulty broom.

Well I wish I didn't have to be at school and could go to your event instead.

I do too. I know, my son. But your education is very important.

Is there something wrong at school?

There's nothing wrong. I'm just looking forward to the hols.

I'm sure everything will come together - your fêtes always do.

Dearest, have you thought at all about the matter we discussed at supper last night? I shouldn't like to rob you of a source for those little luxuries, many of which you were hoping to use for the
holidays, but there is the question of whether the vendor is trustworthy.

What's your opinion, my love?

I think it unwise to compromise national security for luxuries. Until the suspects provide the corpse and proof he was a mad insurrectionist, their permit should be revoked.

I still maintain we should consider entering the import business. Few are as trusted by our Lord as you, my darling. And who better to bring needed supplies into the country?

Quite so, and naturally they have already been instructed to supply such proof.

Of course I have no objection to controlling such an enterprise, if one could be co-opted to the purpose and a general manager found who is up to the task. Startup of a new corporation, however, is an altogether different prospect, one that requires time and capital.

But you have a point, my darling, that perhaps there is a company already in operation and viable for subsidy.

I suppose I could be convinced to join you. However I cannot speak for Barty. Which is fine, as he's more than capable of speaking for himself.
We would be delighted to see either or both of you. How are you getting on in London, Reg?

I am here at our Lord's pleasure, Lucius, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Will I actually have to convince you, or are you already convinced?

It generally doesn't take much for you to convince me.

I would be honoured to attend.

And we shall be honoured to have you.
Quidditch rules

I am pleased to announce that Quidditch games shall continue as planned. We have removed a malicious jinx from Harry Marvolo's broom, and it will be kept under Madam Hooch's care except when Mr Marvolo himself checks it out for practice.

Prior to Quidditch matches, each player shall surrender their broom to me so that they may be checked for jinxes. Brooms shall be brought to my office at six o'clock PM the day prior to each match. No uncleared broom will be allowed on the pitch during matches. A team without enough cleared brooms for their players will cede the match.

During Quidditch matches, professors shall patrol the pitch to ensure that there are no injuries.

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**alt_draco** at **2008-11-16 02:38:47**
(no subject)

Hello Headmistress. Did you find out who the person is who jinxed the broom?

alt_mcgonagall at **2008-11-16 03:27:45**
(no subject)

We have ruled out certain suspects.

alt_draco at **2008-11-16 05:57:29**
(no subject)

Like who? Ma'am.
Ah. Our Lord did communicate to you His decision, then? I am glad to see that His rational side prevailed and He will allow Harry to keep playing under these sensible precautions.

Cumulus would like to keep the broom for another few days. He says he checked it thoroughly and apart from the jinx you had removed, there appear to be no further problems, but his technician was not in on Friday and he'd like him to run a full diagnostic before returning it. I'll have Crispin bring it back up later this week so Mr Marvolo may return to practice. We don't want him losing any more training than necessary!

When you have a chance, I should like to speak to you about the footage recorded on Draco's Omnioculars.

Of course Cumulus may have all the time he needs, Lucius.

I should be happy to speak with you whenever your schedule allows.

That is a great relief, Professor McGonagall.

Ah now, Minerva. This is all marvellous, and quite appropriate. The youngsters must be allowed their sport, and we must act to ensure their safety - one's highest priority as a teacher, I'm sure you will agree!
But as for patrolling the pitch, well, there will be some exceptions, hm? Old bones, you know, old bones.

Horace, we shall discuss this at the next staff meeting.

Hurrah! I'm so glad we'll still get to have Quidditch. Thank you Headmistress!
Malfoy's instructions to the Dover and Calais agents were clear: we had to provide proof that Victor died (not to mention that was off his nut).

Well, Agatha and I talked about it and she's going to check on my house, says it'll be safer that way. If the coast is clear, she'll let me know and I can join her there. That leaves me here to deal with the agencies and clear Laszlo's name so we don't have to start over.

Last night, I broke into a Muggle morgue. I transfigured the face of a John Doe to look like the disguise I used for Victor, and took a photograph. Grisly business. Then I snagged some official documents on the way out so that I could falsify a death certificate.

The proving he was mad part is a little more difficult. I thought of modifying some memories, but it's exceedingly difficult to insert memories of someone who never existed. I may have to hire some actors, get their statements, and present them, and hope it's enough.

In some ways it might be easier to simply create a new business, but Laszlo already has contacts in places we need. I'm buggered if I'm going to waste all that time. Plus, it's as good as admitting that we were lying to give up, not when we've supposedly got a legitimate case.

I wonder how difficult it will be to obtain a Czechoslovakian doctor's note certifying Victor's diagnosis?

The things we do for the Order.

I'm wracking my brains, trying to think of someone, anyone I know on the continent who could help. Molly had a muggle cousin, an accountant, whom we managed to warn in time before the wards came down, and we think he did manage to get out of the country in time, but don't know for sure. If he did, he would be in France, I think. William Henderson, related to Molly through the Prewetts. His wife's name is Melissa, and they have two
boys, Joseph and Roger. The reason that I think of him is that before he fled, I believe he worked in a hospital accounting department. If he managed to find a similar job on the continent, he might be able to do something, and after all, he owes us a favour. . . .

Just talked to Molly. I'm still laughing. All right, she says that if you do manage to find him, tell him his cousin Molly Prewett sends her regards, and wants him to know that she never ever peached on him about what he did with his sister's frog, and she hopes, based on that, and on the fact that we helped him get out in time, that he'll help you get whatever you need.

Don't know if that'll be a magic talisman, Sirius. But it's the best I've got.

Other than that--Minerva, do we have any lists of trustworthy ex-pats who might be able to assist Sirius?

---

Arthur, any idea where your Henderson may have settled last? Paris? Nice? Reims?

I'm heading out from Ulm in the morning, I think, and I'll be moving in a generally French direction. If you and Molly think you might know where to start looking, that'd be a help.

Cheers.

Molly thought they intended to try to stay near the coast in the north. She said to try Le Havre or Rouen.
So, there's a big potions test at the end of term. I've started revising already, and spent all of yesterday in the library. I did four hours before lunch, and four hours after, and then a few more hours after dinner, before curfew. I'm back in the library again now, ready for more!

What's everyone else done so far??

Not that much. Really.

Aren't you taking any other classes?

Well of course, I've got other homework too. I did a bit more Potions this morning, and now I'm doing some Charms, and later it's Herbology. I made a timetable yesterday, so I can make sure I get enough time to do Potions revision before The Test and still fit everything else in too.

How much are you doing, then?

Well, I've been working most on Transfiguration, really. Cause I need to. Sally-Anne Perks and I are meeting this afternoon to revise together again.
Really, Neville, can't you find someone in your own House for revising sessions in Transfiguration?

But Sally-Anne explains things so well.

Really. And that's why your marks are top-notch in that class, aren't they?

They'd be a tonne worse if it weren't for her help!

Don't let it throw you, Neville. It's been my observation that Hufflepuffs need more time to study.

Now that sounds about right.
I thought prefects were supposed to be fair!

Who told you that?

Well, prefects are practically like grownups! I always thought they were chosen because they were the most mature and responsible students.

Because grownups are known for being so fair.

They are supposed to be!

You don't get out much, do you?
What do you mean?

Prefects are supposed to encourage their housemates and enforce the rules when a teacher isn't available.

I suppose your prefects would have to be nice to you, but no one else's must do.

Well don't you want the rules to be enforced fairly?

Nice and fair aren't the same thing, silly. I was saying that they enforce the rules but they don't have to be nice about it if you're not in their house.

But how do you know they will be fair to your House if they say mean things about it! I mean, if you heard a Gryffindor prefect slagging off Ravenclaw, wouldn't you be less likely to respect them, or go to them for help?
Right, but you don't have to go to a Gryffindor prefect for help, do you? I don't go to them for help, I go to Trinculus or Moebius or someone.

At least we do study - we don't just blunder about hoping for the best.

Well, yes, Hufflepuffs are very diligent, I'll give you that.

That's quality that some of my brothers would do well to emulate.

Oh, are you worried about it, then?

I find Potions rather easy, really. Doesn't everyone?

Showoff.
No, but seriously, its not hard, is it? You don't have to be clever like at charms or have a good memory like Histery of Magic. Its just putting things in a pot and cooking it.

Anyway, maybe if you spent less time talking to mudbloods and dolls with no bodys you wodnt find it dificult either.

It's "bodies". and much more than just putting things in a pot and cooking it. But I understand that you need to keep things simple.

Why do you talk to mudbloods, anyway, Pansy?

Last time I checked, they were people. Why do you care, Padma?

Mudbloods aren't people, Pansy. The Ministry says so, remember?
They bleed just as we do. And it's red, just like ours. They talk and think. What are they, then?

I don't know. The Ministry says they aren't people, and that's that. You shouldn't say stuff like that, Pansy. You'll get in trouble again.

The ones I've met have been a lot more decent than some the Ministry says ARE people. Like some professors I've heard of.

That's not really the point though is it.

I suppose not.

Their parents can't do magic and they can, so they're not normal. Just like if you couldn't do magic you would also be not-normal. You'd be a disgusting squib, instead.
We're talking about mudbloods not squibs so shut up!

What about squibs? Are you worried you are one?

Oh yeah, I'm really worried - all the magic I've been doing here at Hogwarts was just in my imagination or something and the Ministry sent me here by accident.

Are you stupid or what?

You're the one who's revising for ten, idiot.

Oh, come on, Draco. I bet even the Malfoys have disgusting squibs somewhere in their lineage. And if Harry

You're born with what you're born with. It's all random. Doesn't make you horrid.
alt_draco at 2008-11-16 21:04:25
(no subject)

Pansy, you haven't learnt anything at all, and I'm going to tell my Father that.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 21:06:24
(no subject)

There is nothing wrong with showing courtesy to others. I'd show the same courtesy to a centaur. Doesn't mean they're equal. It's called being polite.

alt_draco at 2008-11-16 21:10:44
(no subject)

I know what it's called, but I'm surprised you do.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 21:12:45
(no subject)

What's that supposed to mean?

alt_padma at 2009-08-31 19:54:38
(deleted comment)

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 23:45:03
(no subject)

Mr Malfoy isn't my father.
This ruddy quill went crazy and I had trim it down. Then I didn't have enough quill left, so I had to get another one from Professor Vector.

What I was saying was that Lavender's mother is on a comity committee with Mrs Malfoy and she says Mrs Malfoy was a Black before she married Mr Malfoy. And my mum says that the Blacks would of never allowed the marriage if the Malfoys had any squibs ever.

Anyway, Mr Malfoy acts sort of like your father. And didn't you already quarrel with him about Muggles? I think he wouldn't like it if he knew you were treating mudbloods just like us.

I wouldn't want someone like Mr Malfoy cross with me.

I dunno why you would say things about his family and expect him to still like you.

Their sort of people, but not like us.

I just wondered because Parvati and Lavender and I were thinking perhaps it had to do with that spell on the doll.

But it hasn't gone away since Madam Pomfry took the doll, so we weren't sure if you were back to normal.

Well, relatively speaking.
I just figured it can't hurt to treat them with courtesy no matter what they are. That's all. I don't associate with them. But if one runs across my path I'll talk. Like to Harry's mudblood.

Hmm, you think Pansy finds Potions difficult? You keep right on thinking that, duckie. No need to worry yourself about competition from Pansy.

As we don't have potions with Slytherin, I'd hardly know, wood I? But it sounded as if she thought it complickated.

And anyway, I wasn't talking to you.

I'm not worried about it, I just want to do well. Nothing wrong with that.

Doing well is fine, but really, the exam is weeks away. It seems a bit much to spend all your time now when we've still got more to learn.

I think just doing well every lesson will be more helpful.
alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 20:38:50
(no subject)

I just want to get everything in order. We've done so much this term already, and I didn't know we had a test on it so soon, so I needed to go back over my notes and make sure I know it all.

It's alright for you, you're clever, and Ravenclaws are good at exams anyway. Some of us have to work at it.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 19:30:56
(no subject)

Don't you think that's a bit like swatting a fly with a ship?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 20:20:01
(no subject)

What? Why would you swat a fly with a ship? Ships are huge, how would you even lift it?

And what's that got to do with revising for exams?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 20:22:31
(no subject)

Swatting a fly with a ship would be overkill. And that's the point I was trying to make.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 20:26:42
(no subject)

Oh, right, I see. Yeah, I suppose it's quite a lot to do in one weekend. I just wanted to get a head start on the stuff we've already covered this term, so I don't have to try and revise everything all at once at the last minute. I don't want to come last.
Cramming doesn't work too well for me. Just read over your notes every day, and then you won't be swamped when it comes times to study.

Maybe we should form a study group.

Yeah, that's what I mean. Now I know we have a test at the end of term, I wanted to get all my notes in order. That way I can just go over them and it'll all stick in my head for the exam!

A study group might be good, yeah, as long as everyone doesn't just laugh at me for doing too much work!

A Slytherin study group. The house that gets the best marks might get points.

Yeah, I don't mind revising Transfiguration with Longbottom but I think I'll keep my Potions revision in Slytherin, at least until after winter holidays.

Do you think you might do best? I hope you do, because that'd show.
I dunno Megs. I doubt it. You never know!

I've resolved to do better than anyone in Hufflepuff. Of course I'm the one who knocked her potion over the very first week, so you lot could cross your fingers and hope I'm a clumsy berk on exam day, too.

Well we'll just see who does better than who when we get the results, won't we.

Oh yes we will.

Oh hey, I heard a joke the other day. How many Hufflepuffs does it take to get a book off the high shelf in the library? Eleven: four for the bottom row, three for the next row, two for the row on top of them, one for the very top of the pyramid to reach the book, and one to use the accio charm to fetch it down from that one's hand.

At least we'd have enough friends to make a pyramid. No one would make a pyramid with Slytherins because you can't be trusted and you'd just jump out of the bottom row at the last minute so everyone else fell down and you could laugh at them.
No, here's how that joke goes: How many Slytherins does it take to get a book down off the high shelf at the library? One, to say, 'hey, would you please show me that fetching charm again?' to the nearest Ravenclaw. The Ravenclaw gets to show off, and the Slytherin gets the book.

How many Gryffindors? Five. One to plan the grand quest to get the book, one to distract the librarian, one to steal a ladder from the groundskeeper; one to organize the victory parade they'll throw once they've gotten the book, and one to go up the ladder and discover the Ravenclaw already got it ten minutes earlier and gave it to the Slytherin.

And of course, how many Ravenclaws? None. They're Ravenclaws; they had already MEMORIZED the book.

The Ravenclaw bit's funny.

I thought they were all pretty funny and true too.

They are pretty funny.

Must be useful to be a Ravenclaw.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-17 02:18:28
(no subject)

No no no. It's useful to KNOW a Ravenclaw. Doesn't mean you actually want to BE one.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-17 02:41:08
(no subject)

You Gryffindors are ceratinly troublemakers, aren't you? *jk*

alt_pansy at 2008-11-17 02:40:06
(no subject)

Bloody brilliant. Why haven't I heard this joke before?
boots are still here

boot wondered whether they would be. Master was right. they keep feet SO much warmer and drier.

tired.

didn't sleep well.

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 21:30:05
(no subject)

If you lost your boots, would you be bootless boot? Or maybe Bootless boot? Or bootless Boot? It's hard to tell.

alt_terry at 2008-11-16 22:10:11
(no subject)

always be mudblood. either way. thats all.

(no subject)

How true!

alt_hermione at 2008-11-17 00:29:39
(no subject)

I'm glad Terry!
how has the copying been going? boot has missed seeing you

It's going okay. Very slow.

I've missed you too.
I don't usually read the Daily Prophet, because it's mostly full of boring grownup stuff, but this morning I woke up before everyone else in my dorm and couldn't get back to sleep, so I went to the common room and I was just in time for the owl that brings the Sunday Prophet. Sometimes it's rather fun to be the only person awake when everyone else is asleep, but other times it's just boring. This was one of the boring times, so I decided to look at the Prophet because sometimes it has good photographs on Sundays. And I ended up reading an article about how the Committee for the Re-population of New Wizarding London is almost finished working on the city, and their about to invite people from other parts of the country to move there.

The article had lots of pictures, mostly of empty spaces where buildings and things used to be, and some of new buildings that the building crew wizards are putting in. I'm glad that their almost done. The Commitee has been working on London since I was very little. I don't really remember before. But ever since I can remember there have been work crews in my neighbourhood, spelling buildings down. Its very noisy and loud, and even if they cast a silence spell (and they don't always) you can still feel the vibrations in the earth. And it's strange to have something, maybe a statue or something like that, that was always there in your neighbourhood and then one day its gone. So I'm glad their done and won't be doing that any more.

And maybe we'll get some new neighbours? I'd like that, if they were nice, and especially if they had children who were Peter and Carrie's age so I wouldn't have to watch them so much.

Did you like the statues that were gone? Weren't they muggle statues?
You sort of get used to having the same things around, I guess. Even if they are Muggle things.

Yeah I was really upset when Father took all the Muggle things out of our house. It took him a long time to get around to it. I was a little kid but I remember it was awful.

We have much nicer things now though.

Do you ever miss your old things? Just because they were your old things, even though the new ones are nicer?

Yeah I used to, but isn't that a bit babyish?

I dunno. I think it's alright to get used to things, and to miss them when they're gone.
2008-11-16 15:22:00

Chess Tournament

There are so many students here that play chess I was thinking it might be fun to hold a chess tourney.

I think I'd just include first years, though, because usually you get better at chess the longer you've played it, and so letting older students play wouldn't be fair. Though maybe I could make an exception for Hufflepuffs... or at least for older students who only learned in the last two years, I don't know if there's any like that. They probably wouldn't want to play chess with firsties anyway.

Is anyone interested? There are chess clocks in a closet in the library so we'll have those, and we could surely scrounge up enough boards and pieces.

P.S. I hope it's alright that I used the charm to make it so everyone could see it. If there are any teachers that have run chess tourneys before could they please let me know? I think I know how it's supposed to work but I've never even played in one before let alone organised one and it would be nice to find out if I'm understanding it right, that is if you have the time to talk to me about it.

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alt_harry at 2008-11-16 21:42:33

(no subject)

I'd play but I'll probably lose.

I like the idea of having Hufflepuffs play so we can show them whose house is superior.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 22:05:09

(no subject)

Quidditch, too.
alt_susan at 2008-11-16 23:38:46
(no subject)

I suppose you think your very funny Marvolo.

alt_harry at 2008-11-17 00:34:48
(no subject)

I wasn't trying to be funny, I was saying that Slytherins are best.

Which might not always be true but it's our job to support our house, isn't it?

Here, this is what you say: "Yeah right! Hufflepuffs will beat Slytherin!" Or something.

alt_susan at 2008-11-17 01:33:05
(no subject)

It just seems like everyone is going out of their way to be mean about Hufflepuff specially and I'm tired of it.

alt_harry at 2008-11-17 01:40:37
(no subject)

Well I didn't mean that.

alt_susan at 2008-11-17 01:46:15
(no subject)

Sorry I bit your head off then.

Sometimes I wish we were all one big house, but then other times I don't.
So seriously now, are there any Hufflepuffs who play chess? We've got Gryffindors, Slytherins, and Ravenclaws saying they'll play but not one Hufflepuff. I mean you don't have to if you don't want to of course but Pansy and I are playing and Pansy only just learned in the last few weeks.

I could try. My mum just started teaching me last year so I only know a little bit. But I've seen Wayne and Bobby playing, and sometimes Eloise too. If they all agree to play, we'll have enough to send a winner from our House.

I'll play but don't expect much.

You'll do fine.

What if we had tournaments in our own Houses, and then the winners could play the winners from other Houses?
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-16 22:18:42
(no subject)

That's a good idea, to get a champion for each house and then have the champions play each other. Maybe we could do single-elimination to select a house champion and then have each champion play each of the other champions to select a final winner.

That means each house needs to have at least two people playing, though. I don't know how many people in the other houses play chess.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 22:21:01
(no subject)

This is going to be SO wizard.

We need a prize or something for the champion.

(no subject)

Oh. Really? What do you think the prize should be?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-16 22:29:45
(no subject)

something really nice. Trophy? that does something wizard?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-16 22:49:27
(no subject)

Where would we get it?
I bet we could get a prefect to make us one, Trinculus Moran is real nice.

I like this idea better.

In my attic over the holiday. There's lots of stuff there.

I think it sounds boring all right. If Slytherin wins I suppose we'll have something to be best at in addition to Quidditch.

My pieces and I are in. Definitely.

Well, so far that makes you, Pansy, Teddy, Harry, and me if I play.

Not much of a tournament.
I probably should've tried to get a teacher to organise it but I don't know if any of them even like chess.

**alt_pansy** at 2008-11-18 04:44:03  
(no subject)

So we start small. Think about it though: We're Slytherins. If we start it, bet plenty of people will join. I don't know why that's so, but it is. Watch.

**alt_padma** at 2008-11-18 14:13:44  
(no subject)

Perks,

I've been thinkign and if Harry and Dr Malfoy and Marvolo say it's okay that your running the tournamant, its Ok for me to play in it, to.

I think Micheal should play but he's scared. Linus and Morag say they'll play for Ravenclaw if I do, so it looks like you've got some compitition, anyway.

Only I dont think theirs enough of us to playoff in each House. We can use the Great Hall after supper, before we half to be back in our common rooms.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-19 03:12:28  
(no subject)

Well excellent, with you, Linus, and Morag, that's eight people, that's enough for a real tournament.

I think the Great Hall is a good idea but I was thinking maybe on a weekend afternoon, like a Saturday or Sunday. Not a day with Quidditch of course but the next Quidditch match isn't until after the holiday anyway.
Oh bugger bother, I was looking at the Slytherin schedule, not the whole school's schedule. Slytherin doesn't play again until January but Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff play on the 29 November. So anyway, definitely not that day. I wonder if this weekend is too soon?

Does Neville play? Anyone in Gryffindor?

Well, sure, I'll play. (Except I expect I'll get trounced in the first round thogh). Don't have a chess set of my own, but I expect enough other people do.

There are chess sets in the same closet in the library that has the chess clocks, so there's plenty.
I was going to keep looking at schoolwork until I understood everything. But I still don't, and I can't look at it anymore. I just can't. I wonder if everyone's right about But if I pay extra attention tomorrow, I'm sure it'll be all right!

I'm so glad Quidditch isn't being cancelled. It was so exciting to watch last time. I don't mean when it looked like Harry Marvolo's broom had gone mad, because that was awful. But before that, they flew around so fast, and I thought it was all so splendid. It was just like everything here. Much bigger than anything I'd ever seen before, and much grander. And much faster.

I think the best thing about Hogwarts is that there's so much room outdoors, and one can go walking around all over (except the forbidden places, but I don't want to go there anyway). I also like all the balconies and staircases inside. I can climb up almost forever, and then if I find a place to look down, I can watch everyone rushing about. Here and there. Up and down. And I'm part of it! There's a brilliant place to sit at the top of the main staircase. I just hope I don't ever mess up being part of it.

P. S. Does anyone else think the food at lunch today tasted a bit off?

I feel odd.
alt_megan at 2008-11-16 21:37:04
(no subject)

It did? Maybe there was just something wrong with mine. Or maybe it was supposed to taste like that. The food is usually good here, but fish can go bad really easy.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 21:38:16
(no subject)

Tasted fine to me.

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 21:40:15
(no subject)

Oh.

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 21:48:55
(no subject)

Ernie? Do you know how to play chess?

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 21:50:28
(no subject)

Sort of. I know how the pieces move and stuff. I'm not very good though.

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 21:54:43
(no subject)

That's okay. I don't think any of the first years are really very good.
Could you show me how it works sometime? I'd like to know.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 21:58:05  
(no subject)

That Weasley boy is really good, I heard.

Yeah, sure. I can tell you how all the pieces move at least, and that's a pretty good start I think!

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 22:03:54  
(no subject)

But he's a Gryffindor.

I do too. Thank you!

alt_ernie at 2008-11-16 22:06:26  
(no subject)

I know. It's weird isn't it. But Pansy says hes really good, and so does everyone else, so I guess he must be.

alt_megan at 2008-11-16 22:09:57  
(no subject)

I guess so. Pansy would know.

alt_susan at 2008-11-16 23:36:37  
(no subject)

I know just what you mean about being up high and watching people on the staircases.

We should go explore the castle together sometime!
It's almost as good as flying. Better, because flying is about going somewhere. And you might end up in the wrong place.

Yes, we should! And talk to all the pictures. And find out where that hallway with the columns goes, because I'm sure it's somewhere good. Mostly sure. But it's a very pretty hallway.

Flying is brilliant too though!

Yes, let's do it this week during our free time!

I like flying. Even with the school brooms. But they're not very good, someone said. I don't know, because I don't think my guardian would ever let me have a broom. I wouldn't even ask, I'm sure she'd say girls shouldn't want brooms.

Have you ever flown with a really good broom?

Okay, let's.

With my dad I have. Since he works for the Chudley Cannons he gets to see some marvellous brooms!

He gives all of us kids rides every so often, because he says he wants us to respect the power of our brooms but not be afraid of them.
You're so lucky. I wish

I'm glad Quidditch wasn't cancelled too. I'm glad you liked it cause I liked it a lot. If people didn't like it, I think that we wouldn't have it.

The food tasted fine to me but we're at different tables so maybe yours was off.

Oooh, then I'm glad it's popular. But do you think they could get rid of Quidditch? They've had it here for ages. My guardian talks about Hogwarts Quidditch sometimes, she was at school when they replaced baskets with hoops. I think she was sweet on one of the Chasers. It was a really long time ago.

Maybe. I still feel funny, but no one else thinks anything was wrong.
I've been having truble with the first quill Professor Vector gave me. Today when I was riting something to Parkinson it went all wonky and I tried sharpening it, but then it split. So I cut it higher and than I didn't have enough quill left to rite with.

So I had to go get another quill from Professor Vector. She wasn't two happy but she gave it to me.

Parvati and Lavender and I were planning to spend the day looking thru Professor Lockhart's books so we could ask him to tell one of his storys in Defence this week. (I would ask in my lesson and Parvati and Lavender would ask in theirs.) But then MacMillan posted and I dunno, the whole day just seemed to go relly quick.

Maybe Professor Lockhart would run that chess tournament thingy that Perks mentioned? He's so handsome I hope Michael enters, if Perks gets it going. Maybe Draco would have more luck, tho.

Lavender thinks Parkinson is relly wierd, but then, she knows the Malfoys a little better than Parvati and me. Lavender's mum is working on a party with Mrs Malfoy and its to be at Kensington and ever so grand. I think my parents are going, too. I wonder what Mum's going to wear?

Okay I think this quill works alright now.

It doesn't matter about luck, I'm not going to play chess tournament. And I don't know what Brown's been telling you but she hardley knows my family at all, she just wishes she did.
I just mean you'd have more luck organising it than Perks. You don't have to play if you don't want too.

Well, Mrs Brown's been to your house, at least, Lavender says. And

Sorry, I had to put my journal away quickly. Profesor Acton was watching.

Anyway, I was saying, Mrs Brown thinks very highly of your mum. And I thought Lavender said she came to a birthday party once. Maybe it was for Harry Marvolo and not for you. But she said it was at your house, anyway.

It was a while ago, though. When you were little.

I remember Lavender being at a party. She giggles a lot. My Mother knows a lot of people, though.

Sally Anne wants to organise it so it should be her, and I think she's probably already started on it.

Well, my mum and your dad are on a committee together, too, but they meet at the Ministry, not your house.

And I guess it's alright if Perks runs the tournament, it's just I think more people might be interested if a pureblood was in charge.
@alt_draco at 2008-11-18 06:01:00
(no subject)

I know that, I've heard Father mention your family's name before.

Maybe, but she'd do a better job than me, anyway. I'm not so fussed about chess right now.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-18 06:10:36
(no subject)

No, I ecspect not.

Do you think your dad will send Parkinson to a Muggle camp?

@alt_draco at 2008-11-18 06:13:17
(no subject)

I doubt it.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-18 06:40:41
(no subject)

Pity.

She's always been wierd but onestly.

Mum says your dad can be quite tariff terrif terrifying when he's angry, tho. So d'you think if he was cross enough?

my Dad can get cross, but its usually to do with the wireless.

@alt_draco at 2008-11-18 06:47:31
(no subject)

You ask a lot of questions about my parents.
alt_padma at 2008-11-18 06:56:15
(no subject)

I'm curious about Parkinson.

Besides you're parent's are very important, aren't they? Your mum's in *Witch Weekly* alot and your dad's always in the papers.

So I don't mean to pri, its just I don't know any one else whose famous.

alt_draco at 2008-11-18 07:01:32
(no subject)

I don't know what will happen to Pansy, it depends on her behaviour after today. She hasn't been punished that bad so far, if you ask me.

I guess they are pretty important, there in charge of lots of things. The Lord Protector put them in charge I mean.

alt_michael at 2008-11-17 19:47:51
(no subject)

I'm not good enough at chess to try to play for Ravenclaw in whatever tournament.

alt_padma at 2008-11-17 21:23:23
(no subject)

Oh, but you were doing OK against me a cupple nights ago.

Someones' got to show them that Ravenclaws are just as good as certain other people. Even better.

Are you going to the Quidditch Quip Quidditch match next weekend? We should support the house, I think.
You were doing better than me. I'm not really good at chess, seriously.

And yes, we probably should go out and support the team.

Oh come on, Michael, EVERYONE in our year except Ron seems to think they're not good enough to play in a tourney.

In my case I really aren't good enough, though.

Hey I said I wasn't good enough to win a turney, not that I wouldnt play. I'll play, I'll just not do too well. But if no one minds me shaming Slytherin I'll play.

Either that or they just don't much like chess, like Draco.
2008-11-17 16:15:00
(no subject)

Draco:

I know you saw Valerian deliver a letter to me today. Stay away from me. Don't talk to me and don't even LOOK at me. I have never, ever once tattled on you or told any of your secrets. Maybe you're tired of taking punishment for Harry, but that's not my fault! you're mean and sneaky and ORDINARY. Now, thanks to you, my quill's been charmed and it hurts me sometimes and I'm going to do everything I can to NOT be like you in any way. You have a father and I don't so what are you so So now that I know how you really feel towards me I want you to stay away from me. and I will do the same.

Pansy R. Parkinson

alt_pansy at 2008-11-17 22:43:23
(no subject)

I'm sorry, but it was for your own good. Look at what you've just written and maybe you'll see.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-17 22:46:40
(no subject)

You're not sorry and you know it. I don't trust you any more.

alt_draco at 2008-11-18 02:47:57
(no subject)

No, I guess I'm not sorry. Not like you want me to be, anyway.
“alt_ron” at 2008-11-17 23:25:44
(no subject)

Just found my journal again.
I miss something?

“alt_pansy” at 2008-11-17 23:28:42
(no subject)

I got an owl today at lunch. From Lucius. Thanks to Draco's tattling. I don't know why HE thinks he knows what's for my own good. Everyone seems to think they know but they don't. My quill got charmed!! Charmed!

“alt_ron” at 2008-11-17 23:30:04
(no subject)

Grownups are like that. Just look at Percy.
Charmed? Does it do tricks now?

“alt_pansy” at 2008-11-17 23:31:56
(no subject)

No, no tricks.

“alt_ron” at 2008-11-17 23:35:12
(no subject)

Then, what, the charm didn't work?
Oh, it works.

Right. I'm wearing my confused face.

Draco is NOT a grownup. He's a loathsome GIT FACE.

I meant the other one, Draco's father. I know Draco's a git. It's practically written across his face.

What about Percy?

Your grumpy most times. And close to a grown up. Fits, doesn't it?
@alt_draco at 2008-11-18 04:09:12
(no subject)

Next time I'll just let the troll fall on you, yeah?

@alt_ron at 2008-11-18 04:12:47
(no subject)

Right. You do that.

@alt_harry at 2008-11-18 01:00:24
(no subject)

Mr Malfoy would have seen it soon anyway Pansy. I don't know why you're so obsessed with Muggles anyway. But I'm sorry you got tattled on. Sometimes Draco can be an awful prat.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 01:03:43
(no subject)

Might as well be living in

that's fine if he saw it. I don't see how Draco tattling helps any and besides, who likes a tattletale?

@alt_harry at 2008-11-18 01:04:41
(no subject)

I suppose. It just means you shouldn't be cross with Draco though because you would have gotten in trouble anyway.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 01:07:01  
(no subject)

Why are you defending him Harry? You don't know I would have got in trouble.

I don't see why everyone else has the right to tell me how to be.

alt_harry at 2008-11-18 01:11:40  
(no subject)

You know how Draco stands up for me so I ought to stand up for him.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 01:14:24  
(no subject)

Because Draco stands up for you you just blindly defend him? Fine, Harry. You just go right ahead being his lap crup.

alt_harry at 2008-11-18 01:17:27  
(no subject)

I'm not taking anything for granted and I'm not his lap crup!!!!!

What is wrong with you Pansy? You didn't used to be like this!

alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 01:18:29  
(no subject)

Like what? What am I being like?
You don't want to be like Draco or me any more. It's like we aren't good enough for you, only the people you think are good are Muggles and Muggle-lovers and Gryffindors. I like some Gryffindors but I like Slytherins better and I used to like you. But maybe I don't any more!

I NEVER said I didn't want to be like you so stop saying I did. Draco is a tattletale and the only reason he doesn't tattle on you is because he'll get in trouble. I don't want to be a tattletale and Draco is so I don't want to be like that.

I didn't say that only they were good. There are good Slytherins and good Gryffindors and good Ravenclaws and there might be some good Hufflepuffs.

And if you don't like me, that's your decision. But just enjoy being able to MAKE your own choices. I'm sure your father would agree.

You can make your own choices too. If I said the things you said I would get into trouble too.

And Draco doesn't tattle on me because I don't do things like you just did, not because he'd get in trouble. I don't think he would.
For all I know I'd get in trouble if I didn't tattletale on you, there's no way of knowing, really.

I would tell on you if I thought something bad was going to happen to you, not just to me.

Thanks. Really.

Harry's not real good with compliments.

Oddly enough, I noticed.

Hey I wouldn't be hacked off if you said you liked Gryffindors better than Slytherins, that's just how the world is, it's normal.
She's lucky I told Father. If I hadn't, she might have kept on and it would have been much worse. You should know that, Harry.

I do know that, don't you see I've been defending you?

Yeah, and thanks, but you didn't have to say I was a prat.

But I'm a prat sometimes too. I know I tattled on you some times at least once.

I guess Pansy's never been tattled on before.

There was never anyone around but elves, and even if they had Mum didn't care what I did, you know, so no one to tattle.
Here is a lesson for you, Miss Parkinson - since you seem fond of asking people to note your exact words. Kindly go back and read my letter again and tell me where I said that Draco's owl was my sole source of information. Your association to me is well-known and I've had to endure quite a number of comments already from several fronts.

This shameful conduct of yours must stop immediately. You are a young lady, not an infant child. Your House has all but disowned you and if you do not control yourself you shall find yourself in very hot water indeed.

As for Draco, he did exactly right in alerting me. Unlike some children who would rather spit in the eye of their benefactors, Draco understands his duty and the respect due to his family.

Think of your own family and its reputation and please accord them the same courtesy.

Your father would be most ashamed, Pansy. To bring this sort of humiliation upon your House? Most ashamed. I'm glad he is not here to see this horrid display.

Draco already said he's the one that tattled to you.

All I ever said was that we should treat others with common courtesy, no matter who they are.

I will accept whatever punishment you give.

By the way, the quill works nicely.
This is not about Draco, Pansy. Whether or not he spoke to me is immaterial; I saw for myself as well as heard from several others about your shocking lack of decorum.

As for accepting punishment, you have little choice in the matter. I only wish you showed the slightest remorse or even a faint understanding of why you are so deserving of chastisement.

At any rate, I shall not argue with you further in so public a forum. I am going to see your mother this afternoon to recommend an appropriate course of action.

Meanwhile, I suggest you think about the damage you have caused ... and to whom.

Yes, Mr Malfoy.
2008-11-17 18:10:00
(no subject)

I found a black chess piece in the corridor today. Pansy, is it yours? Or Ron, maybe?

alt_sally_anne

2008-11-18 00:32:36
(no subject)

It's not mine.

You sure it's black and not blue?

alt_ron

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-18 00:35:05
(no subject)

Huh, now that I look at it I suppose it might be blue or some other color, but it's really dark.

alt_harry

alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 01:05:10
(no subject)

I don't know anyone who has blue chess pieces. Maybe it was a Ravenclaw?
All my life--all of it--no one gave a Knut about me or what I did or what I thought. I was invisible and now suddenly everyone cares what I do and I don't get it. When did the rules change? I like chess. It has rules. This does not.

I cared about what you did Pansy, we just didn't see each other very much, and now we see each other all the time. Maybe that's when the rules changed.

Something changed when I came to school here and I don't know what and I don't know why. I don't much like it but I don't know what to do.

You didn't have rules before and now you do, that's the difference.

Are you enjoying the spectacle?
I told you Mr Malfoy wouldn't like it.

And that was before anything Draco did. Besides, before we didn't have journals. Now we do, so everyone can see what you're writing.

Anyone with sense would know better. But then we are talking about you.

Yes, and everyone can see what you're writing as well.

So? at least I'm not a Muggle-lover. I don't write about old dolls that make you barmy or singing sharks' teeth or black panthers and black feathers (and why always black, anyway?) or whatever else Muggle-lovers write about.

Here's a project for you. Look back and see when I have ever written the words poor mudbloods. All I said was they should be treated with courtesy, like a human.

And they're black because I like it.
@alt_padma at 2008-11-18 06:24:50
(no subject)

yeah. Muggle-lover.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-18 06:27:06
(no subject)

Q.E.D.
Can you vote someone out of your House?

As if she even wants to be here.

She doesn't want to be here and we don't want her here so she should go live in Hufflepuff with all the other muggle lovers and prats.

Sally Anne wants her I guess, and probably Harry too, though even he got pretty cross.

I was thinking she'd probably be well off in Gryffindor with her new best mate Weasley. Weasel, more like.

She'd be better anywhere as long as it wasn't in our house.

Your father should make her go live in one of the camps since she likes muggles and mudbloods so much.
I don't think she's seen many of them. Not like the ones Harry and I saw in Grimsby. I don't know what would make her see how it is though, since writing the essay on muggle history for Father didn't do anything, either.

She said I was ordinary, so I reckon she must just want to be different. The first Slytherin moved to Gryffindor would be pretty different.

Being ordinary is better than being a blood traitor.

But I'm not ordinary!

I didn't say you were. But wouldn't you rather be ordinary than be like her?

Of course. She doesn't even seem to think she's a traitor, though. Its like she was raised on some other planet.
Maybe she's a plentyn newid. We should put her in an oven and find out.

What's plentyn newid? Some Welsh thing?

A changeling child. The tylwyth teg (fairy folk not the band) take a baby and leave a plentyn newid in its place and it seems all normal at first but then it starts to get ugly and it misbehaves.

You can get rid of them by putting them in a hot oven and then the real person will come back.

Well she wasn't very well behaved before, either, but was just on childish things and not big things.

Do you have any books about Welsh fairy folk?

Depends, can you read Cymraeg?
You know I can't, show off.

Its okay I can't really read it either. Mum died before most of my books are in English. I'll loan you some.

That'd be wizard. Cheers.

Clever. You come up with that nickname all by yourself?

Well, you helped, in your own way.

And how is that?
alt_draco at 2008-11-19 00:05:26
(no subject)

By inspiring me, of course.

alt_ron at 2008-11-19 00:14:11
(no subject)

Whatever.

alt_megan at 2008-11-18 05:19:41
(no subject)

We are not! I'm a Hufflepuff and I'm not a muggle lover. Very not. And it's not fair to say Hufflepuffs are.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-18 05:21:44
(no subject)

Okay fine you're not all muggle lovers.

But you are all a load of whingers.

alt_susan at 2008-11-18 19:38:38
(no subject)

We aren't the ones whinging about how certain people shouldn't be in our House.

alt_michael at 2008-11-18 04:50:15
(no subject)

I don't think so.
Too bad. I think the sorting hat was wrong about her.

Well, the hat can be wrong, but I'm not sure how that works.

It was wrong with Harry. It tried to put him in Gryffindor, but he fits into Slytherin so well that it's obvious he was meant to be here.

Yes. I'm not sure how you can tell it was wrong certainly, though.

The Lord Protector looked at it and said it was wrong, and he would know about something like that. I don't know how he knew, though.

And you can't ask him every time you want to check someone's House.
Haha, no, you could never do that. There's not many people he'd bother with that for.

As long as you don't send her to Ravenclaw.

Or Gryffindor: Parvati and Lavender don't want her, either.

The Hufflepuffs don't want her either so she doesn't have anywhere left to go.

Some of us wouldn't mind, but I don't think Pansy'd like it here. Much too cheerful.

I asked way back in September whether we could give Crabbe and Goyle to the Hufflepuffs. Draco said that they weren't the sharpest knives in the drawer but that they were my housemates and I ought to support them, and he was right.

I really do wish they bathed more often, though.
I've supported you even though you're just a halfblood because you are a Slytherin and you act properly.

But Pansy has had enough chances.

I think the doll's curse is still effecting her.

Professor Acton got rid of the doll head but I don't think they EVER sent Pansy to Madame Pomfrey and I don't think she went, either, since once Professor Acton took care of Marie her sleeping got better right away.

Sally-Anne, she was saying bad things before she even had Marie. She's just making excuses and blaming things on Marie.

She found Marie under her bed, way underneath in a corner. Marie was under her bed from the very first day she got to Hogwarts. I didn't know her before she came to Hogwarts but Draco did and he says she was different before. And she changed after the start of the year, she was different when I first met her.

I think it's Marie, and just like it took time for Marie to really start changing Pansy it's taking time for her its changes to wear off.
Has anyone picked up my Astrolabe? It looks like this:

![Astrolabe Image]

I've rather a sentimental attachment to it, because it's an heirloom, formerly belonging to my Uncle Gideon. The last I saw it was in the library, while working on my Orion star chart with Penelope Clearwater.

Penelope, have you seen it, by any chance? Did it end up in your book bag by mistake, perhaps?

---

I don't know where it is, Percy. The last time I saw it is when I borrowed it after our meeting. I misplaced my own astrolabe the first week of term. How else was I supposed to do the extra work you insisted upon?

Maybe it ended up somewhere in Ravenclaw Tower? It's definitely not underneath my bed nor in my trunk.
You--you borrowed it? Without asking me?

Well, we're partners, right? We share.

Partners, is that what you call it? When you keep skiving off so that I'll do all the work?

That Astrolabe is an heirloom. I want you to find it and return it to me as soon as possible.

Are you always this careless?

I don't mind sharing. When asked.

Alright, then. The next time I plan to lose one of your heirlooms, I'll be sure to ask in advance.
Next time I will jolly well make sure you won't have the opportunity to pinch it without permission.

Well, that's what Sinistra called us, I believe.

I wouldn't worry about the astrolabe - it'll turn up eventually.

Are you or you not capable of a simple Fourth year summoning charm? If you have that capability, then I strongly suggest you try standing in the Ravenclaw common room, and retrieving it from behind whichever pillow you dropped it with a simple *Accio* command.

If not there, try your dorm room.

I want my Astrolabe back.

Already tried that, Weasley; no luck. However, I did manage to scare up a bunch of vomit-flavoured Every Flavour Beans that one of the first-years shoved in the couch cushions, they're yours if you want them.

Things have a way of turning up in the Common Room, eventually. The assignment is done, you won't need your astrolabe until next week's lesson. Maybe if you relax, it'll turn up when you least expect it.
I certainly hope that when it comes time to doing next week's lesson, I won't be partnered again with you.

I will (not so regretfully) pass on the treat of the vomit-flavoured beans, thanks.

Kindly return my Astrolabe as soon as it is located. And refrain from taking it again.

Oh, no. I'm quite distressed to read this. Your Uncle Gideon's own Astrolabe . . . has it been found, Percy? We have so little left that belonged to him as it is.

It's all right, Mum. Penelope sent it back by owl at breakfast this morning. (Got dunked in a pitcher of pumpkin juice when the envelope sort of exploded, but it's none the worse for wear.)
2008-11-18 15:58:00
18-NOV-1991

Happy birthday to me.

alt_michael

alt_pansy at 2009-09-01 12:20:38
(deleted comment)

alt_michael at 2009-09-01 12:20:38
(deleted comment)

alt_pansy at 2008-11-19 02:17:55
(no subject)

I deleted it because I didn't want people jumping all over you or something. you deserve a good birthday from what I can see.

alt_theodore at 2008-11-19 02:08:53
(no subject)

It is? Why didn't you say anything before?

alt_michael at 2008-11-19 02:15:21
(no subject)

I don't know, I didn't want to.
If I would have known I'd have got you something.

Now I wish I'd told I think.

I'm still going to get you something, it just won't
be new because I don't have time. But it'll be
good.

Happy birthday, Michael!
Do you think if we asked the house elves would bring
cakes to the common room? Of corse it would be
tranfigered tho wouldn't it?

They might, I don't know. Could try I suppose.
They brought biscuits once when I asked for them really late one night.

They listen in, so I just said we I was awake and hungry and they left biscuits and warm milk. So they'd probably bring you a cake if they knew it was your birthday.

Happy birthday, Corner.

Thanks.

Happy birthday, Corner. Hope it was a good one.

Thank you.
Did you make a wish?

Doesn't it not come true if you talk about it?

If you tell someone what it is, I think.

Don't fall for that, Corner.

Fall for what, exactly?

Sorry. I thought you were trying to get him to tell you what his wish was.
Well I'm not.

I realize that now.

Happy birthday Michael so you're twelve now?

Yes 12.

Happy Birthday Michael! I hope you got some marvellous presents! I guess that makes you one of the oldest out of all of us.
At St Mungo's ....

Sadly, not how I wished to end the day.

Minerva, Horace, by now you ought to have received my messengers. Please make every effort to catch Miss Parkinson before she can read about this here.

It is difficult to organise my own thoughts. Singularly ironic, the time of year and the similarity of circumstance - though as yet, no one will be dying. But I'm skipping round and getting ahead of myself.

Chronological order, then.

Well, it's no secret that my goddaughter has been digging herself a hole to China lately with her antics. Not surprisingly, the subject has come up a few times to-day, including the Minister herself expressing her deep sympathies on what she referred to as my 'unfortunate responsibility' and a millstone.

I confess I am just as shocked as any that her behaviour should so soon turn again to an inappropriate attitude. But she has always been a willful and spirited child, two qualities that often combine to cause grief in the adults who must guide her education.

I had already determined that clear discipline was required and had Crispin rearrange the latter part of my afternoon so that I could confer with her mother to alight on a remedy that might prove effective. Crispin confirmed with her just a few hours before we were to meet.

When I arrived, there was no answer to the bell - not even Rosa's house elf. The house was not charm-locked, however, so I was able to enter without spellwork. Immediately the hair on the back of my neck stood up in warning. I made my way to the parlour, the sitting room, even the dining room, and saw no one. My unease grew, but I ventured upstairs, wand at the ready. And that's where I found her.

She was alive, but unconscious. There was no sign of injury or struggle. She clearly had suffered some sort of collapse. I called her elf back and sent him straight on to St Mungo's for healers. They responded immediately, which the healers now tell me probably saved
her life.

As I write this, I still do not know how long the healers will wish her to remain in their care. Pansy will be informed by her professors and, if the healers allow it, I shall arrange for her to come down to London for a visit. That ought to cheer them both and give Rosa strength to recover.

For now, there is not much else to do but entrust her to the healers and their capable ministration.

I am exhausted beyond belief and yet can't sleep. I should go back to St James' and get some rest. I just keep thinking about that other November, and how frightened Amanda was, even though we expected it would be coming sometime around the end of the year.

Well, as I said, the situation is somewhat dissimilar. It's St Mungo's and not the Manor; I am no longer the seventeen-year-old suddenly in charge of his family; there is no need for urgent action or too much disruption of Pansy's already overset routine. More to the point, the healers are certain they can help Rosa make full recovery - just not certain about how long it will take. One other thing is clear: The course I had thought might be suitable now seems the obvious solution.

Perhaps a nightcap and reading will force my eyes to close.

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**alt_horace** at 2008-11-19 07:22:11
(no subject)

I spoke to her late last night, Lucius. She's resting now, but I'm sure she'll be in touch with you soon.

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**alt_lucius** at 2008-11-19 13:38:15
(no subject)

Thank you, Horace.
I hear from Horace that Miss Parkinson is holding up as well as can be hoped; I have sent you an owl regarding the visit, which I believe ought to take place soon.

Perhaps her mother's condition will help Miss Parkinson put her childish rebellion in perspective.

I have just spoken with Rosa's principal Healer. She has been out of immediate danger since a little after 9:00 last evening; still they believe that to release her would put her in jeopardy of a relapse. The cause of her condition, however, will take a little longer to remedy and they expect to keep her for at least four days to purge her system of the bad humours to which it has been subjected.

As I'm sure you can imagine, the next day or two will be most uncomfortable for her. There is no need to bring Miss Parkinson down to witness her mother's ordeal, to say nothing of missing her schoolwork for all that time. I will arrange a Portkey for her on Friday, Minerva. Once she has finished her lessons for the day, with your permission, she may come to London for the week-end and see her mother then.

Regarding your other observation: Yes, that is my hope as well. Regrettable as it is, surely this incident will serve to provide Pansy with a more sober demeanour and make her mindful of her duty to family and state. It is a dismal commentary, though, if it takes a scrape of this magnitude to curb her.

My inclination last night has this morning become determination. I must make the arrangements, but I believe that the Christmas holidays shall also give us the opportunity to ensure Pansy's reform.

If only she can avoid heaping more trouble upon herself until then!
Why did she collapse, Father?

I was wondering too.

The Healers say that it was partly a nervous constitution and partly to do with an imbalance of her humours. I believe, knowing her habits since her husband's passing, that the strain of the last few days took its toll. Her elf told me she had sent him on an errand, but he confirmed that she had barely eaten. No doubt that is why she fainted.

There's nothing to worry about but the Healers must take the business of restoring her to health slowly and deliberately so as not to shock her system further.

because of me

thank you for taking care of her
I am sorry it came to this, but glad I was in time to help.

Pansy, I am arranging a Portkey so that you may come down to London on Friday and see her. She really won't be up to a visit before then, but I know you will want to be together at least a little while.

I know it's difficult, child, but try not to dwell on her malady and instead let your schoolwork carry you through the next couple of days. I will see you soon.

Expulsion is a rather drastic measure, one that the Headmistress would only employ if she were certain that you are beyond reformation. As I have said to many colleagues this week, you are only eleven and there are many other methods we have at our disposal to try before we give you up as a lost cause.

And I have told you already that it is not the questions, but the line of thinking behind them, prompting them, that is of concern. If you properly understood the inferiority of Muggles and mudbloods, I daresay the questions you ask would not occur to you - or at least, the answers would already be implicitly obvious.

When I returned to the hospital this morning to speak to her Healers, she had not yet awoken. I haven't heard anything more,
but Crispin will notify me if they call and I am indisposed. I expect that she will be a little disorientated for some time, still. The Healers warned that her first twenty-four hours or so might be ... arduous.

She will be all right, Pansy. She just needs a few days' rest.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-19 18:32:50  
(no subject)

you're right. I thought that treating inferiors with courtesy was what one did but as you said that can be dangerous. Because they could turn on you. I just don't know anything about muggles because i am lucky enough to have never met any. thank you for protecting me even if i have not been thankful.

@alt_lucius at 2008-11-19 18:47:42  
(no subject)

There are levels of courtesy and then there is the right to command and there is a time and place for each. You will learn - but it is partly my fault in that I did not realise your mother had left such a gap in your knowledge. Luckily, you have a ready mind and you can be taught. We can speak of it more at the week-end when you are in London with me.

I am gratified to see that you begin to understand my efforts on your behalf. Pray remember the benefaction provided by your association with my goodwill the next time you begin to deride the privileges that the Protectorate affords you.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-19 18:55:30  
(no subject)

I would never deride the priviledges I get (if i understand deride correctly) because i grew up safely, and that's due to you and Our Lord, isn't it? I think i didn't realize what things were really like.

will mum die?
It is very much due to Our Lord, yes. Any small role I have played pales in comparison, which is why we owe Him our loyalty and obedience.

No, my dear, there's no danger of that right now. Set your mind at rest on that score. Concentrate on your lessons and being a good girl.

You do intend to play in the chess tournament, do you not?

I don't know if I will play or not.
I ought to be going on to the Great Hall for breakfast but, I'm not very hungry today. I was trying to read a book father gave me, called The Chess Mind and it tells you how to play chess and also how to be good at it can help you in real life. It says chess builds logical thinking skills, which I guess must be true. I wish I enjoyed chess more but when I play it feels like taking an exam and who wants to take an exam for fun? I will keep reading the book though, because if Father gave it to me then it must be important.

But I think creative thinking skills are as important as logical ones. Back at home Harry and I would always make up games together, and I like that best because then you can come up with your own rules instead of following someone elses. One of the games we played was called Green Ghost. I've never actually seen a green ghost but that was the colour of the blanket the person being the ghost would hide under. Mother put an obscurrity charm on the blanket so it was really dark in there and the ghost wouldn't be able to see anything. Of course real ghosts don't look like shapeless people under blankets, and the ghosts at the Manor would probably be offended if they saw us, but we usually played this game at Kensington or the Lord's Palace. There weren't any ghosts there because muggles used to live there and a muggle never leaves a ghost. I'd say more about how Green Ghost was played but its hard to explain and you would have to see it to understand how it worked.

We played hide and seek a lot too, which everyone knows how to play but at the Lord's palace, especially, it was enormous and the game could go on for a really, really long time and once I hid so well I was sort of lost. Harry was really good at finding people, but I was really good at hiding. Hydra was better at hiding than anyone, but she would always run out of the hiding spot if her name was called so that rather ruined it. And also

Well brilliant, now I'm hungry. Maybe I have time to grab a bun before heading to the greenhouses.
I think most people who play chess get all shirty about having to win and then your right, it's not as fun. I try not to worry about winning or not and sometimes I win but some times I don't and it's more fun that way.

Of course losing isn't very fun but moving the pieces can be like a puzzle.

Green Ghost sounds like this game Parvati and me used to play called Ghoul-o-vision but I don't know for sure since you only said how it starts.

You really got to play hide-and-seek in the Lord Protector's house? That's brilliant. We used to play that at Zach's place and that's pretty big, but nothing like a palace. How many houses does your family have?

Don't get cross because I'm talking to you, only it's History of Magic and Binns is booooorrring.

We have Malfoy Manor in Wilshire and then Kensington Palace in New London, and I think there might be one or two houses on the continent as well. But there's a lot of different places we've stayed at, like St James which is one of my Aunt's houses and Grimmauld Place which is my great Aunt's house, and also my grandmother's manor in Sussex. And I've been at the Lord Protector's palace loads of times.

Green Ghost!!! Why don't we play that here? We could ask the bloody Baron if it bothered ghosts to see us play it.
Who's going to ask the Bloody Baron, though? I'm not! Plus I don't know, seems like we're supposed to play serious games like chess now.

Well -- you know, I've been looking at some of the old annuals from the school, because I wanted to see what my father looked like when he was at Hogwarts. And there was this game people used to play called A.K. It's kind of like a grownup hide-and-seek with wands, almost, and it sounded really fun. And it was even older students than firsties playing it back in the old days, there were fourth and fifth years playing it.

So it's not just chess and gobstones and exploding snap.

Although now I think about it you might think it was silly or too complicated or something.

There's one person who runs the game and everyone else is supposed to be an assassin. The person running the game gives everyone an assignment so like if you, Harry, Michael, and Teddy were all playing, you might be assigned Michael, Michael would have Teddy, Teddy would have Harry and Harry would have you. And you're supposed to hex the person so their ears turn blue. It's a really easy hex but it's kind of long so you have to do it very quietly so they don't hear you, because if they DO hear you or if they know you're coming for them they're allowed to hex you first. And if you get hexed you're 'dead,' you're out, and you have to tell the person who hexed you your target and that becomes THEIR target. So if you hexed Michael, and Michael's target is Teddy, your target would be Teddy.

You're not allowed to hex people in class because it would be disruptive, or in your common room or dormitory, but corridors
between classes and mealtimes are fair game. And if you hex the wrong person or an innocent bystander the person running the game lets everyone hex you.

There's also a potion that turns people's ears blue if you make it right, but Professor Slughorn would have to let people come in and make it if we were going to use it.

I don't know, it's really complicated and one person would have to run it and maybe no one would want to play anyway and it might make teachers cross.

But we're not supposed to do magic in the corridors.

I think it sounds wizard!

When did they play this game? I've never heard of it, but maybe Father or Mother have. They must've let people hex in the corridors back then, maybe because mudbloods were allowed to be students so the real wizards and witches needed to be on guard. Anyway it sounds fun.

The annual I found that talked about it was from 1974 or 1975, I think. Actually now you mention it I think it was against the rules to do magic in the corridors then, too, but the students who were playing just tried to make sure no one saw. Of course if we
played it we shouldn't do that, I wouldn't want anyone breaking rules.

When did your parents go to school? I can show you where they keep the annuals. It was really strange to find pictures of my father when he was my age. I don't look much like him.

**alt_draco** at 2008-11-20 15:52:57  
(no subject)

I don't remember when my parents went to school, it was yonks ago. Oh but I guess I do remember Father saying he became Head Boy in 1971. I look a lot like my Father, and I've seen pictures of what he looked like at my age because we have them at the Manor. Did your Father play quidditch for Slytherin or anything like that?

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-20 16:51:47  
(no subject)

Don't tell anyone (that was a joke I know everyone can read this) but my father was in Ravenclaw, not Slytherin. Aren't I lucky I broke the family tradition? But he didn't play quidditch for Ravenclaw either. I don't think he ever even tried out for the team.

Did your Father play quidditch? Or your mum - I guess that one's hard to picture, she always looks so dignified and perfect it's hard to imagine her playing a game where she'd get rained on or whacked with bludgers. But there's no rule that says quidditch players can't be beautiful.

**alt_padma** at 2008-11-20 17:46:43  
(no subject)

So they probably didn't play this, then.

My parents went to school even before that, I think, but Parvati and I have an older brother whose already finished school, and then Mum started her business and I guess they waited awhile before having more
kids, I dunno why.

My dad played quiddich, he says. And we also play Gilli-Danda at home, and Kabaddi when we've got enough relatives to play that.

alt_harry at 2008-11-19 19:55:29
(no subject)

I suppose but Green Ghost was loads more fun than chess.

alt_draco at 2008-11-20 01:15:46
(no subject)

You know I agree with you. Anyway, I don't see why we have to be serious already, with games I mean.

alt_harry at 2008-11-20 01:23:55
(no subject)

So maybe we can play Green Ghost without telling the Baron.

alt_draco at 2008-11-20 01:26:43
(no subject)

I think it'd be okay if we did it in the common room or the dormitory, I've never seen him in either place.

alt_harry at 2008-11-20 01:49:06
(no subject)

I wonder why?
Maybe he doesn't like children?

I actually think you're right about creative things being as important as logic. It seems like logic is usually more important for lessons though.

Green Ghost sounds like it was fun.

Magic is most important for lessons really.

Maybe people who are extra specially clever and good at taking exams think taking exams is fun? Don't Ravenclaws like taking exams?

Malfoy, I know you don't want to play in it but would you mind looking in your book to see if it gives rules for a chess tournament? Like maybe in the back?

Perks hasn't done the rules yet and I want some idea before I ask Professor Vector.
Defence and Birthdays and Trolls

I can write in here now because it's History of Magic this morning. Not in Charms, tho. (Lost five points Monday)

Yesterday was our Defence Against the Dark Arts lesson and I was planning to ask Professor Lockhart to tell one of his storys about fighting dark wizards, but instead since we take Defence with Slytherin, Professor Lockhart asked Marvolo to come up and explain how he (and Malfoy and Weasley 6) killed the troll on Halloween. That was almost as exciting as hearing Professor Lockhart tell storys, only not quite as exciting because Marvolo didn't make sound effects or play all the characters the way Professor Lockhart does. Anyway, after Harry did his show-and-tell, Professor Lockhart asked us to partner and write about Travels with Trolls and compare Harry's fight to his (Professor Lockhart's) defeat of the Tunbridge Wells Troll. I won't mention partnering with Daphne on the essay.

Of course, Daphne and me also talked about Parkinson. Daphne said Parkinson might be expelled if she doesn't toe the line. She told me how hard it is because Bulstrode is, well, practically a troll herself, and then there's Perks, and she hoped she and Parkinson might have more in common, but of course, Parkinson has been very disappointing as a roommate.

Of course, then this morning I saw Mr. Malfoy's entry about Parkinson's mum, and I suppose everyone is going to forget about expelling her because they feel sorry for her. I'm sorry for her mum being ill but that doesn't change what she said. I'm going to ask Professor Sinistra in our lecture today whether some one can stop being a Muggle lover just because their mum gets ill.

She's been ill before, to, hasn't she? Parkinson's mum?

Anyway, then last night we found out it was Michael's birthday and we asked the house elf for cakes and they sent up tea cakes and tea, but it was fun and I couldn't tell if the tea was transfigured or not.

So Parvati, if you and Lavender get Professor Lockhart to tell a story in your lesson, you have to tell me about it later!!
Perks, if you want to talk to me about when the Ravenclaws are available to play, I've got a free period after Astronomy. (If you don't want to start this weekend because of Parkinson we can put it off until the first weekend in December.)

@alt_draco at 2008-11-19 16:06:22
(no subject)

Well if Professor Lockhart had asked me to come up and help tell the story I would have added sound effects and such. But not the smell effects, or you might have passed out.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-19 16:09:49
(no subject)

Yeah, why d'you supose he didnt ask you to help? You were there too and you did just as much as Marvolo, I heard.

Professor Lockhart's awfully good at sound effects tho, isn't he?

@alt_draco at 2008-11-19 16:13:48
(no subject)

I guess he didnt hear that I was there, otherwise he would have surely asked me to help.

He's decent at them, but should try to make some of the creatures sound scarrier. I don't think vampires scream like women when they attack.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-19 16:22:30
(no subject)

I guess, but that doesn't make sense. Everyone knew you were both there.

That was funny - I remeber that. Maybe he'll tell that one again before the end of term? (I wonder if Professor Lockhart ever did any acting before he became a professor? We should ask next lesson. I love DADA the way he teaches - it's so interesting!)
Is Parkinson's mum going to die? I'd feel bad if that happened.

@alt_draco at 2008-11-19 16:37:24 (no subject)

Of course she's not going to die.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-19 16:40:40 (no subject)

Oh.

@alt_harry at 2008-11-19 18:10:18 (no subject)

It wasn't exciting at all it was horrible. Why does he have to do that?!

@alt_padma at 2008-11-19 18:55:25 (no subject)

Well, Marvolo, your famous, so I mean, isn't it obvious why? He must of thought you did really well, or he wouldn't of wanted us to compare your fight to his. I wish he would of asked Malfoy to help, tho, cuz he says he'd of done sound effects.

What did you say in your essay? Malfoy said it smelled really horrible.

@alt_harry at 2008-11-19 19:04:22 (no subject)

Draco could have done the whole thing as far as I'm concerned. I guess I know why but that doesn't mean I have to like it.
I said it smelled horrible too and also that it was very big and we could smell it a long way away.

**alt_draco** at 2008-11-19 19:17:16  
(no subject)

Did you write that it smelled of toilet and rubbish and a bit like vom, too?

**alt_harry** at 2008-11-19 19:52:36  
(no subject)

No I think I said it was like when Crabbe doesn't have a bath for too long.

Maybe I shouldn't have said Crabbe, just "some body," so Crabbe doesn't get offended. Only I don't think Professor Lockhart will tell.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-19 19:21:35  
(no subject)

Not this weekend, no, and not the last weekend in November because of Quidditch. I think the first weekend in December would be best if it works for all the houses.

**alt_padma** at 2008-11-19 22:05:02  
(no subject)

Alright. Saturday or Sunday? Linus says Sunday because that way we've got all of Saturday for homework, but Morag would rather Saturday so that she has a reason not to work all day.

I don't much care either way as long as we can lie in for the morning.
I'd prefer Saturday. I'd rather let my homework sit until Sunday, if I can.
**2008-11-19 11:38:00**
(no subject)

Mum.

I didn't mean to. It's all my fault.

Oh, mum. I am horrid. I hope they do expel me. I don't deserve...

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**alt_ernie at 2008-11-19 18:01:00**
(no subject)

Chin up Pansy. She's going to be ok yeah?

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**alt_pansy at 2008-11-19 18:04:42**
(no subject)

Shes been sick for a very long time. Long as I can really remember. and she deserves better than a daughter like me.

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**alt_ernie at 2008-11-19 18:06:46**
(no subject)

If she's been sick for a long time, its not your fault, is it. She's just sick. People get sick sometimes. You didn't make her get sick, she just did. And she's going to be ok anyway, so you just need to be happy that she's going to get better and don't be sad that she's been sick.

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**alt_pansy at 2008-11-19 18:11:36**
(no subject)

but then i was disloyal and have been and look how sick she is and i hope i get expelled because of being so horrid and i don't deserve to be here. father always told me to ask why and i have but i dint know it was bad
I'm sorry Pansy, I hope shes okay. I really am sorry.

thank you Harry. I really mean it you're a good friend and im sorry I called you a lap crup. I was angry but not with you. Never with you

I accept your appology Pansy.

When are you going to get to go see your mum?

I think Lucius said I'd portkey on Friday and I think I will stay with Lucius at St. James over the weekend.

I'm really scared, Harry.

Someone told me that chocs help when you feel like that. Do you want chocs I could send Dennis to Hogsmede for them?
do they help really? I don't have any but if they help I would like some. Please.

Okay I have some chocolate frogs already left and I'll send Dennis out for more. I'll bring them down to the common room.

Im in the corner kind of hiding.

I hope you don't get ecspelled.

If I don't will you play in the chess tournament? or even just come watch?

Yeah ok. I'll be rubbish at it but I'll play if you want.
we can be rubbish together. I'm pants at chess but you have to play to get better.

Yeah I spose so. It'll be fun, even if we're all rubbish!

I know it's just words and they probably start to sound a bit stupid after awhile, but I'm sorry about your mum Pansy.

I hope she feels better soon.

No they don't sound stupid. I'm sort of surprised at all the nice words, actually. Thank you. I think I get to go see her this weekend in London.

Im glad they don't sound stupid. Sometimes it's hard to know what to say when things happen.

Your her daughter so I bet she'll feel better when she sees you.
Well you shouldn't have
I'm sorry about your Mother, Pansy.

Thank you Draco.

I'm sorry your mum's so sick, Pansy. Do you want to come for a walk with me? Fresh air is like chocolate it helps.

I don't know.

Pansy, I'm so sorry.

Thank you, Ron. very much. That means a lot.
You need anything? Strong black tea or something?

Sally-Anne dragged me out for a walk. She keeps getting on me to eat. But I'm not hungry.

All right. She's right, though. You should eat something.

Not hungry. Instead, I am sulking. And that doesn't take much energy.

I can't eat after what I've done to her.

I'm sorry about your mum too. That's really awful, but at least she's not going to die, they said.
Thank you, Megan. That's really sweet of you and yeah, they say she's going to be okay. I was just really scared, you know?

I know. Death is really scary. And people saying someone's not going to die is scary too, because no one says that unless

That's not what I should say to help, is it? Umm I'm sorry, I don't know what to say. Except I think parents are important. And its good your mum isn't going to die.
So much fuss over one stupid little girl. I daresay if she can't mind herself, give her all the rope she wants. It's simple nature. The pack mentality certainly applies here, the students are all turning against her. It's rather interesting to watch, though of course the downfall of one stupid little girl is certainly not going to be writ large in the pages of history. Lucius Malfoy is, among other things, a fool to coddle her. A few rounds of Cruciatus will crush her spirit quite nicely, as I've determined after exhaustive research (though can "research" be fun? I certainly find it so). I've often wondered if the curse was invented for just that reason. Mum's Little Helper.

I rather shamefacedly admitted to Alecto that she was right: tidibit's performance has been acceptable. The thing seems to be warmer with its new clothes and certainly less inclined to sleep when it shouldn't. I've instructed her to purchase a few more.

Speaking of which, I've been on quite the artistic spree and have two new paintings in my office. I'm rather proud of them, if I do say so myself. I've entered a new phase and I have to say the results are, shall we say, breathtaking. It's hard to ration myself as to ink and, ah, other supplies but I do force myself for, as Alecto and I both know, discipline is most essential for many things.

And oh, the twitterings. These amuse me, however. I find myself rather easily amused these days. The opportunities around me seem to almost take form, and sometimes at night I look at the sky, and the sparkling stars against the blackness of that which is unknown but for those willing to forge ahead.

I've often heard that pride is a shameful virtue. I disagree. Certainly the girl has pride, but, in her case, it's entirely misplaced as she'll never be of any consequence. Most of the students won't. Pride... it is what tells me that no, I will not bow to what other men wish me to be. I am what I am, and hold no shame in that. I will change for no man. Pride is, in one willing to appreciate its usefulness, perhaps the strongest virtue of all. And in those who use it to its utmost use, one of the most admirable.
alt_percy at 2008-11-20 03:06:31
(no subject)

The paintings are certainly . . . most striking, sir. You are quite a talented draughtsman, Professor.

Out of curiosity, do you always restrict yourself only to that particular subject?

alt_amycus at 2008-11-20 03:07:55
(no subject)

An interesting question, and thank you for posing it! You've made me think and, though Alecto may say otherwise, that is always of some benefit in one way or the other.

I haven't come across another subject that inspires me so, but my artistic renderings are still in their infancy. You are certainly invited to suggest appropriate topics. Animate ones, please, due to the nature of my artistic medium.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-20 06:21:59
(no subject)

Carrow, you would no doubt find it acceptable to amputate a finger in order to heal a papercut. And while your opinions are helpful and even, dare one say it ... respected ... on the subjects of either offal production or exsanguination, there are some jobs that do not require the employment of a bludgeon. Nor are they likely to succeed with the application of a butcher's knife.

You and your sister are engaged at Hogwarts not only as keepers of discipline but as teachers. It does the no good whatsoever to abandon any hope of teaching proper values because of one relatively minor (if protracted) spate of rebellion. Spare your lectures for the classroom and do not presume to know my intentions.
Your wife is a very beautiful woman. Have you had her portrait done?

My wife is indeed very beautiful. To someone of your stature, she must seem dazzlingly out of reach.

She is also a skilled witch perfectly capable of putting down a rabid and mange-ridden cur ... should the need arise.

I take it that's a no, then, on the question? Perhaps I'll sketch her. Just for my own enjoyment. Don't worry. She won't notice.

Who is this rabid and mange-ridden cur you speak of? Are you perhaps referring to the werewolf?

You always find such interesting ways to contribute to the Cause, Amycus. Our home in New London is in need of re-decoration - perhaps some of your art should fit in nicely.

Oh, Bella, it would be an honour! We should meet for tea and brainstorm, yes?
alt_bellatrix at 2008-11-21 20:36:21
(no subject)

When I have a free moment.

alt_amycus at 2008-11-21 20:47:26
(no subject)

Of course! I know how busy you stay, but please do keep me apprised of your schedule. I've got some special cognac I think you'll really enjoy. And I'm forever adding to my art collection! I'm thinking about branching out beyond just painting. Oh, and Alecto has a new lampshade she's dying (pardon the pun) for you to see. Decorating is foreign to me but she loves it so.
2008-11-20 12:49:00
I love astronomy

Even though it means we have to stay up so late.

Well, partly I love it because we get to stay up so late, but then I'm ever so tired next morning and I'm late for breakfast.

Linus says he'd rather play that ak thing but now hes all of a mind to practis chess alot and see if it makes him play the other one better. He called it an umpiracle test.

I'm not sure what that is but I think it means he'll see if chess improoves his life like Malfoy's dad's book says it will.

So I hope we're still doing the chess turney, yeah? Becuse we here in Ravenclaw are getting ready for it.

Everyone's still talking about Parkinson and her mum. I think that's one thing about these jornsals that's not so good. I mean, if something happened to our mum and dad, or our brothers, I wouldn't want it all over school, I'd want it privat.

I think Professor Carrow's right and it's alot of bother about something really boring. I don't understand the other stuff he said tho.

But anyway, Astronomy is wizard. We saw Mars and loads of constillations. Professor Sinistra sais its always been good vewing from Hogwarts, but now its even better becuse theres no Muggle lite pil polusion.

alt_draco at 2008-11-20 15:48:54
(no subject)

I wonder what light polution looked like? You know, in other parts of the world where there are still muggles, they are going to kill the earth because they use so much of something called resources. And also because they polute, not just with lights but with smoke, from all their machines.
I dunno I think it was like everything just looks all washed out and its never really ever dark (except inside with the lamps out). Which maybe would be good because Brocklehurst is afrade of the dark so it would stop her whinging, but then we wouldnt be abel to see so many stars.

And that's not right, that their doing that! Just beacuse they polute and pump nasty smoke and, um, whats that other stuff, yeah smog, that, into the air WE shouldn't have to lose the earth.

Why havent the wizards in other countrys taken over to stop the polution everywhere?

Wizards in other countrys don't have someone as clever and powerful as the Lord Protector to help them get the muggles under control.

I guess. And I supose as wonderful as the Lord Protector is, I wouldn't want him to take over other countrys, to. My grandmother told me that years ago the British Muggles were in charge of everything in India and it was horrible and thats why her parents came here.

Maybe if wizards were in charge it wouldnt be so bad, but it seems to me that one country ought to be enough for any body.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-20 18:37:53
(no subject)

We're definitely still doing the tourney! I think 6 December works for everyone hopefully unless I've forgot something.

alt_padma at 2008-11-20 18:43:07
(no subject)

Well, we haven't discussed rules. Did you say you found a book? I bet there's a book. Or maybe Professor Vector would help if I asked her.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-21 00:44:03
(no subject)

I did find a book but it's very complicated. There are single-elimination tournaments where if you lose one game you're out, and there are double-elimination where you have to lose two, and then there's something called Swiss Style that pairs people up based on whether they're brilliant at it or pants at it, and in a round-robin tourney everyone gets to play everyone else and whoever wins the most games is the champion.

I think round-robin would be best but I'm afraid there isn't time, not in one afternoon.

If Professor Vector wanted to help it would be brilliant. I saw you ask Draco about the book, do you want me to send Harry's mudblood over with it? He could bring it to wherever you want him to meet you.

alt_padma at 2008-11-21 01:20:48
(no subject)

Oh, well...if the book has anything and Malfoy's willing to lend it, yeah, that'd be brilliant.

Marvolo's mudblood cant come in our common room, can he? Maybe well okay we'll meet down on the second floor near the Defence corridor. If their's something in the book.
Round robin sounds fine but if they're nine of us (it is 9 right?) then yeah, we'll have to each play 8 games and that'll take a while.

But if we have a scoreboard they can track and we can play 4 matches on 6 December and 4 more on the 13th, and then the two with the highest number of wins can play after supper one night before we all go home for the break.

Will that do?

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alt_pansy at 2008-11-21 02:23:54
(no subject)
Just 8. I won't be playing.
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alt_padma at 2008-11-21 06:00:37
(no subject)
probably just as well
Oh. Well, seven matches each means we can finish up on the 13th, then, because the 4th match that day would be the two high scorers.
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alt_pansy at 2008-11-21 06:05:36
(no subject)
I'm sure you'll miss me.
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alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-21 04:07:22
(no subject)
I don't think Harry's mudblood can come in your common room, he wouldn't know the password. If you don't want to meet him I could just give it to you tomorrow at breakfast, too. I haven't read Draco's book, the book I have came from the library but it does explain how to do the different sorts of tournaments.
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I like your idea of spacing out the matches. That's a good idea. Do you think there's any chance Professor Vector would be willing to do scorekeeping? I've never kept score in a chess game before.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-21 05:58:18
(no subject)

Tomorrow at breakfast should work, as it's so late now.

I asked Professor Vector and she said it's dead simple to score if all we're doing is counting wins. Anyone could do it (even a Hufflepuff, ha-ha). She drew me a die diagram.

You can see it tomorrow, too, if you like.

She said that if we were counting the number of pieces and there values that we can still use this scoreboard but theirs more maths (so maybe we need a Ravenclaw. I'll ask Fawcett.)

@alt_megan at 2008-11-20 18:50:22
(no subject)

I like staying up late too! Everything's so quiet at midnight, even in the middle of everyone, you can hear the quiet just outside, and the stars are so bright.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-20 19:00:09
(no subject)

Well, I didn't mean that, exactly. But yes, I know what you mean.

Of course, it gets really cold out now, but I owled Mum reminding her to send Parvati and me our winter robes and the extra thick silk so it won't be so bad then.
alt_megan at 2008-11-20 19:19:53

(no subject)

You have silk. That sounds really nice! Wool is so scratchy. And itchy. And warming charms turn you red. Or at least, someone said. I haven't tried.
Lucius,

What's a lush? And what is a prima donna?
Cheering charms for mudbloods

boot has been thinking about something one student said to another, the week he was a dog in the Gryffindor common room. she said, 'whatever do muggles do without cheering charms?'

good question

sometimes people get sad or scared, but they don't want to be. magic folk can use charms of course. muggles or mudbloods like boot have to do other things that aren't magic. but those things can still work if you make up your mind not to let them yourself give in to bad feelings. you have to practise, though. and when you do them, you really have to want them to work.

people at the camps sometimes sang. boot can't do that much. never wants to bother people around hogwarts. they might be revising, or anyway don't want to notice boot. boot's voice isn't much good anyway. but when boot is alone, he sometimes hums, or plays a whistle he made for himself.

being warm. new warm clothes with no holes. boots! a fire, if boot can think of a reason to stay. something warm to eat. bread, just out of the oven. a kitchen house elf sometimes gives boot a mug of hot chocolate. that always cheers boot up for a whole day.

sometimes just the stars. boot goes out and watches them while students are at dinner, or late at night. boot likes them, cause they are clear and shining and quiet. (hermione showed boot a book all about constellations, the stories told about the shapes they make in the sky.) saw the northern lights once, too, dancing in the sky. 'aurora borealis,' that book called them.

all the stars and planets don't even care if you are muggle or mudblood or magic folk but just shine down on everyone. can't be touched by sadness or anger or fear. so boot looks at them to forget everything around himself.

boot watches for falling stars, too. has seen a few. never got a wish granted from one, but boot doesn't mind pretending.
I'm sorry you aren't cheerful, Terry.

Why were you so sleepy yesterday? I didn't want to ask because I knew you were trying not to be but you really were so sleepy.

boot is
the hard to

boot got up in the night he wanted to master was there. he was right there.
master told boot to go back to bed.

boot tried but couldn't sleep after that

theres a new painting on masters wall.

boot is sorry he was so sleepy and stupid. hermione doesn't get many chances to break away from her task, and then boot was no good for talking at all. are you almost finished with copying the book out again?
Busy end to a busy week

Consulted with Rosa's Healer early this morning to confirm that we may visit this evening. She is still prone to anxiety and increased pulse rate, but the Healers believe that the worst is past. She is much more orientated even than last night, which is a good sign. He instructed best to keep the visit brief, however, which suits me perfectly. To-morrow the child may spend more time and Rosa should feel much more agreeable.

Also consulted Caldecott yesterday regarding the papers she had him file back in September. All in order; as I recalled from the terms, there should be no impediment to assuming direct responsibility given her condition. He has drawn up a letter of confirmation just in case it's needed.

Narcissa and I have spoken extensively this week and struck upon a course of action that will, I hope, resolve these outbursts definitively. Consequently, plans for the week-end are coming together with adequate results.

Oh, yes. Skeeter. The quarter-hour I saw fit to allow her to complain about assignments on The Quibbler quickly transformed into an attempt to write an investigatory article on Tony. Put the quash on that nonsense straight off. I am sure she imagines that an exposé of some kind will be retribution for forcing her to work directly with Lovegood. There are obvious flaws in that particular plan, not least of which is that there is nothing to expose. Bringing more attention to his unfortunate widow is neither news nor worthy (to say nothing of the impact her muckraking would have on her hope of returning full-time to The Prophet). I am not sure what she thinks she would gain by earning my further disdain, but her new working relationship will, I am sure, remain a source of much entertainment in the months to come.

Magical Commerce met Monday; provided report on the status of the Laszlo account via the Dover agent. Still no satisfaction from the petitioner; looking more like they were a front after all. Most disappointing, but no sense in dwelling on the circumstances. Discussed additional protection measures to avoid any further fraudulent applications and increasing the inspection rates, as well as
some needed staff turnover, based on my recent visit to the warehouses. Revati Patil tells me her daughter has struck up acquaintance with Draco. Apparently the girl sent an owl home in which she gushed rather ebulliently over her recent (brief) conversations with my son. I think Revati may have been concerned that the girl is overstepping herself and worried I might take offence. Have not perused the journals closely per my promise not to pry overmuch, and frankly, I have been much more preoccupied with the Parkinsons. Can't imagine Draco has any interest of designing nature nor that Patil has any forward intentions as yet - they are, after all, only eleven!

Tuesday and Wednesday per usual, with the exception of course of the activity surrounding Miss Parkinson and her mother. Tea on Tuesday with Ari, who reports that Pandora is expecting again. Combined with his eldest boy (by Serena), that makes five, so he'll qualify for the reallocation programme as of the next calendar year. He has already put in for Kenwood, which he has long had his eye on. Promised to write a letter of support to the appropriations committee.

Wednesday met with the Lord Protector, the Minister and the council for briefings on the camps, the Muggleborn Labour efforts and the Wizengamot appeals pending the Lord Protector's final arbitration. Followed with luncheon for several council members, the Lord Protector going on to confer with the Chief Warlock and then address the Wizengamot. (Miss Robins made up for her employer's supercilious sympathy by offering to engage a table for luncheon in her name, which she could then transfer to my party so as not to draw further attention. Thanked her kindly, but explained that there was really no need for such theatrics. If she wished an invitation to dine with us after the morning's meeting, she had but to say so.)

Of Tuesday night, of course, I have already remarked at length. Thursday largely lost in consulting with Healers, Caldecott, and making arrangements for both this week-end and the holidays. Rookwood wanted an hour in the afternoon but had Crispin put him off until next week.

And to-day. Morning meeting at Obscurus Books to confirm release schedules for next quarter's publications and for the Public Information division to present its plans for the rationing campaign. Tea with Ari to fortify me for the evening. Crispin will receive Pansy via her Portkey whilst I am at the Ministry for a Labour Services presentation. He will bring her to meet me at St Mungo's for a brief
glimpse of Rosa, and then back to the St James' house for supper. They can have a more proper visit to-morrow when Rosa is feeling more up to visitation.

**alt_draco** at **2008-11-21 20:40:40**
(no subject)

What are forward intentions?

It sounds like Pansy's mother is getting better. I'm glad.

**alt_lucius** at **2008-11-21 20:45:40**
(no subject)

Hah - nothing you need to worry about for a while, son.

Thank you. I needed a laugh.

**alt_draco** at **2008-11-21 20:55:21**
(no subject)

I said something funny?

**alt_lucius** at **2008-11-21 20:59:16**
(no subject)

Not what you said, Draco, but what in my writing stood out to you to ask. You amused me at a time when I needed to be amused. Good show.

**alt_pansy** at **2008-11-21 21:08:08**
(no subject)

An article on Tony my father? But... what would there be to write? There's nothing to expose.

One time the house was infested with these little tiny bugs that would kind of hover around you and make this shrill
buzzing sound, and if you swatted them, they just came back for more. I always picture Mrs. Skeeter as one of those flying bug things.

Mr Malfoy, would you write so I can understand it? I want to know what's happening but I can't understand your posts.

I see you are all three determined to raise my spirits this evening.

Well, Harry, there are things in my posts that, were you meant to understand them, you should. And there are things in my posts that I very much doubt you ought to understand just yet. And there are no doubt things which you might understand with the ready application of a dictionary. There. Now you have had your joke and I have returned the favour.

Is there something in particular you wish to understand?

I didn't know what Muckraking and Ebulliently were but I looked them up now.
Pansy left right after dinner and the room seems very empty without her. Daphne and Millicent are still here of course but Pansy's bed is next to mine and I'm used to being able to hear her when I'm trying to go to sleep at night.

I don't think she's coming back til Sunday night.

I hope her visit with her mum goes well. She's been so worried and sad.

I'm still trying to think of what to do for a prize for the chess tourney. I asked Trinculus if he could help me make something and he said 'like what?' and I said I didn't know and he said I should talk to him again when I thought of something. Except everything I've thought of so far is naff. I don't know, maybe I'll think of something this weekend.

Pansy if you're reading this say hello and tell me how you're doing. I miss you.

---

You could make a trophy that looks like a big chess queen. They're really pretty and intricate. Even if they're not always very nice. And they're the most powerful.

That's a good idea.

What do you think it should be made out of?
alt_megan at 2008-11-24 00:35:05
(no subject)

Thank you!

I don't know. What are trophies usually made from? Maybe you could make it out of cake, because then the winner could eat it and give some to their friends. That would be fun for them.

But then it wouldn't last very long.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-23 01:02:52
(no subject)

I miss you, too.

remind me to tell you a very funny joke about a Scotsman named MacHeath. It's excruciatingly funny. Remind me to tell Ron too. He'll laugh so hard his ears will turn bright red. So no matter what don't let me forget.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-23 06:02:16
(no subject)

Peachy. I can't wait to hear it. I once saw someone laughed so hard he almost turned blue, but seeing Ron's ears turn red will be funny, too.
**Exploring**

**Me and Susan** Susan and I went exploring last night. Hogwarts is so very big, I thought we'd find all sorts of interesting stuff. All we had to do was go places we hadn't been yet. But we did, and it wasn't very interesting after all.

We found loads of empty classrooms. And the desks are bigger in some of the classrooms for older students. And we found the cupboard where they keep the mops and brooms. And I shut it really quickly, because I hate cleaning. And then we found a shortcut to the library. Which is useful, but not that interesting. And then it was late. And we came back. So we wouldn't suddenly get lost. And find all the interesting stuff then when it was too late. Because then we'd have got in trouble for being lost and wandering around the whole school when it was late and we should be in Hufflepuff.

But we're going to go again, because there's simply got to be more interesting stuff to find. I think we were looking in the wrong place.

Ernie, we're still planning to do chess this afternoon? Right? Eloise told me one of the second years has pieces we could borrow, maybe. If we can't find where to borrow school pieces.

---

**alt_ernie** at **2008-11-22 16:21:06**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, of course Megs! I'm in the common room doing some potions homework. Come and find me?

---

**alt_megan** at **2008-11-22 17:11:18**

*(no subject)*

Okay!
alt_susan at 2008-11-25 03:11:20
(no subject)

It was awfully disappointing, wasn't it? But I think you're right that we just looked in the wrong places. Maybe when we try again we'll have better luck.

alt_megan at 2008-11-25 04:50:40
(no subject)

I do hope so!

I already saw more doorways and hallways that look like they ought to go somewhere interesting. So we can try those next time. Unless we find something else better, in the meantime.

When do you want to go again? Maybe not right away. I've been very busy lately. I like being busy, but I think exploring ought to be something you do when you've got loads of time and nothing much to do, so you have plenty of time to stop and look at things.

I wonder if school ever really has time like that.

alt_susan at 2008-11-25 18:19:20
(no subject)

And don't forget we've got Quidditch this weekend! I'm so excited for my first ever Hufflepuff match--watching Gryffindor play Slytherin was fun, but I think it'll be even more wizard when its our own House!

I'm not sure that school ever stops really, so I think that we should just go some afternoon when we're utterly bored of revising and can't take any more.
alt_megan at 2008-11-25 18:32:13 (no subject)

Oh! I had forgot. I'm so excited too! Do you think we'll win?

It stops for the holidays. But then we go home, so perhaps you're right. But only if there's nothing really important we should be revising for. I don't want to get any more behind because of exploring.

alt_susan at 2008-11-26 05:20:23 (no subject)

Sometimes you have to stop revising and let your break rest and then you think better afterwards. Even Professor Sprout says so.

alt_susan at 2008-11-26 05:22:45 (no subject)

Sorry I meant to say let your _brain_ rest. I think I need to put down my journal and go to bed!

alt_megan at 2008-11-26 05:40:16 (no subject)

And let your brain rest? I suppose that makes sense. But sometimes it feels like there's no time!
2008-11-22 12:07:00

Care Package!

Mum sent Parvati and me each a package from home! Our winter robes are in and Parvati got a red silk kameez and I got a blue one. I like blue better but Parvati says the red makes her hair look shinier. They'll be brilliant to wear for the Quidditch match next Saturday, it's getting so cold!

Mum also sent me a dictionary because she says my spelling's atrocious and I need to practise more. I think spelling's a bore, though. But Professor Vector said that since people are reading the journals outside the House, Ravenclaw has a reputation to uphold.

Bother. I don't care about proper spelling it takes too long. But I suppose if it makes our House look better, I'll spell. I'm putting the dictionary in my bag so I have it all the time.

Linus won all the matches we played last night. Fawcett kept score and she's getting better at learning the value of the pieces (and if she gets it wrong one of the pieces is sure to tell her). So we can track either wins or captures.

Parvati, Lavender, Belinda and I are meeting later in the library for some homework. But I don't want to be there too long, it's draughty and there's a fire going in the common room.

alt_harry at 2008-11-23 22:32:12
(no subject)

What's a kameez?

alt_padma at 2008-11-24 00:58:07
(no subject)

Oh, it's a long shirt and it's really great under robes - or even by itself.

I saw your comment earlier about being cold in your
robes. Don't you have winter ones? I mean, it'd be odd to think you of all poeple don't have a lot of clothse.

 Crafting 

 alt_harry at 2008-11-24 12:05:27  
 (no subject) 

 Yeah but they're drafty.

 Crafting

 alt_padma at 2008-11-24 12:27:09  
 (no subject) 

 Oh. 

 Well, may be being chilly for you is like Teddy's itchy socks? Supposed to make you stronger?

 I don't know why Slytherins all have to suffer to be strong, though. If thats what its like for you I'm glad I'm a Ravenclaw.
Michael and I have been playing chess all day to practise for the tournament.

Well okay we stopped for meals but other than that it was lots and lots of chess. Draco came and played with us for a couple of games but then he left cos he wanted to go read a book.

I wish Michael were in Slytherin so we could play in the common room instead of in the library or the great hall.

Auntie Brunhilda owled me a pair of woolen socks yesterday. They itch. She knows charms to make them not itch but itching is supposed to make me a stronger person.

I think I'd rather not be itchy.

---

**alt_millicent** at **2008-11-23 04:09:46**  
*no subject*

how are socks suposed to make you strong?

**alt_theodore** at **2008-11-23 04:10:39**  
*no subject*

Socks have powerful magic. The itchy ones give you huge muscles.

**alt_millicent** at **2008-11-23 04:14:09**  
*no subject*

your mental.
I don't think strength is worth itchy socks.

I don't think it is either. I don't think I played as well as I could have today because I kept thinking about my itchy ankles. That's probably why you won as many games as you did.

Maybe everyone in the tourney should wear those socks, then, and I maybe could win something.

I don't think it was just my socks. You've got a lot better in the past month. Maybe having your own chess set helps, you've developed a rapore with them.

Really?

I'm trying, at least.
**alt_theodore** at 2008-11-23 04:58:51
(no subject)

You're definitely better than you were.

You're not good enough to win the tournament though. Not yet.

**alt_michael** at 2008-11-23 05:05:55
(no subject)

I figure I'm not. I don't even think I'm going to play in it, really.

**alt_theodore** at 2008-11-23 05:22:50
(no subject)

You won't know unless you try though.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-23 06:05:06
(no subject)

You should still play. If no one played who wasn't as good as Teddy, it wouldn't be much of a tournament.

**alt_padma** at 2008-11-23 19:58:12
(no subject)

Oh, c'mon, Michael, we should get as many of us in as possible, don't you think? And besides, you don't want Slytherin to think you're scared?

**alt_harry** at 2008-11-23 22:31:51
(no subject)

You're practising?! Millicent's right you are mental. I mean its not like it's an assignment or anything.
2008-11-22 19:58:00
(no subject)

I don't understand why we have to have a chess turnament. Chess is so dull even wizards' chess. I think we should have an exploding snap turnament insted. I like explozions but if I play exploding snap for too long my ears start to ring inside.

Pansy isn't here. Mr Malfoy had her taken away. She's supposed to come back but I wonder if she really is coming back or not.

alt_millicent

2008-11-23 22:31:01
(no subject)

I don't know if she's coming back either. I think she will though. Mr Malfoy doesn't usually do things that he said he wouldn't do and he said she was coming back. So that means she is.

alt_harry

2008-11-24 17:43:08
(no subject)

Maybe we could have both! But it's loads of work to organise turnaments. Just look at how much Sally-Anne is doing! Do you want to do that?
At last, our luck has turned round. *The Daily Prophet* had a coded message in the classified ads this morning, alerting me that Shacklebolt has resurfaced. That sly fox! I had almost given up in despair, but he has once again given the hounds the slip and popped up in Plymouth under a new cover identity. Even better, he has secured some of our most critically needed potion ingredients, including boomslang skin. Best of all, he also is the proud possessor of several cauldrons of freshly brewed Polyjuice potion, which I am most happy and eager to take off his hands. Merlin knows how he got a hold of it. He must have been cultivating some potion sources that even Mundungus didn't know about. He truly is a man of many talents.

I'm sending Alastor to Plymouth to arrange the hand-off of the merchandise by stealth drop. Moody can see if he needs anything. Frank, I'll forward a portion of the potion and potion ingredients to you, send some to Bill, and keep the remaining third.

Sirius, this means you can call off your hunt for Shacklebolt. I trust this will free up some of your time, enough to give you the chance to concentrate on diverting Malfoy's suspicions and salvaging at least part of the Lazlo operation. Were you able to track down Molly's cousin that I told you about? Was he able to help?

Even if we have Polyjuice now--for the time being--we still need those blasted wands.

---

**Polyjuice! Arthur, that is excellent news.**

I am doing my best not to become discouraged about the wands; this news does my spirits a great service. Fortunately I need not worry about the Parkinson girl for a space of a few days - she was taking up rather too much of my mind.
I can barely believe it

I've been in shock for the past week. I didn't dare write about this here until now, so not to jinx myself. I can now count myself among the employed. At the Ministry, no less. Nothing glamourous of course, only Magical Maintenance. I suspect that I will be unclogging toilets and emptying bins, but I can't complain, as it's a paying position. It's really no different than my normal chores, so I think it'll be easy enough to manage.

When I told Mrs Crouch over dinner Monday night, she barely blinked and said that it was about time that I started carrying my own weight about the household. Mr Crouch was no where to be seen that evening, but I suspect that it's thanks to his influence that this opportunity even presented itself. Some congratulations from Mrs Crouch might have been nice, but I expect that she would wish me to start paying for my own room and board, now that I have an income.

Dare I hope that this might lead to a position within the Ministry that makes use of my Hogwarts education? Any third year student could fulfill these job responsibilities, and I would love to have the opportunity to be challenged in my work. Perhaps that is too much to ask, considering the difficulty I had in finding any job. In any case, I start bright and early tomorrow morning, two full days of orientation.

That sounds like an awful job.

It can't be as bad as listening to my foster-mother complain about me not having a job. At least, that's what I keep telling myself.
Does she have an unpleasant voice? My I mean, I don't like it when people complain either. But I like cleaning less.

Yes, well, it's a start, certainly. Congratulations and good luck. I am certain your aunt will wish to hear about your progress.

I believe there is a programme at the Ministry that pairs new junior employees with more experienced mentors. I wonder that Bartemius has not mentioned it to you. I would advise you to make use of this resource ... for more than the location of the cupboards.

I've not seen Mr Crouch this week, but then again, we seldom cross paths at home. I'll ask about the program tomorrow, if it's not brought up during the orientation.

If you don't mind my asking, what NEWTs did you get?

Potions, Defence, Transfiguration, Charms and Arithmancy.
That's really good, the NEWTs I mean.

My father couldn't ever find a job. He did repairs here and there for people to scrape by. But he was a blood-traitor and that's why no one would hire him. It's not fair they won't hire you just because I hope you find something better soon but at least this is something. Sorry to bother you, I just started wondering because I'm also a when I saw your entries.

I keep telling myself that I'm fortunate. After all, I'm working for the Ministry now, even if it's just support staff. I hope it will be easier for you.
Ten points to the House of the student who is first to answer the following questions:

Which constellation has the Sun entered today and what is that constellation's brightest star?  

I think it's Scorpius, and the brightest star is Antares, but I had to look it up and I maybe read the chart wrong and if I did I'm sorry.

No, wait. I DID read the chart wrong. Sagittarius, and the brightest star is Epsilon Sagittarii. I think.

You were right the first time, Miss Perks. Astronomy and astrology are different. In astronomy, the sun enters Scorpius on 23 November and leaves it again on 30 November. It then enters the constellation Ophiuchus, the serpent holder, where it will remain until it enters Sagittarius in December. Astrology is perhaps best left to your Divination professor. Antares is correct.

Ten points to Slytherin.
@alt_harry at 2008-11-23 22:29:23
(no subject)
Wizard!!!!
I have been doing a lot of fixing people's books lately. It's good though because otherwise they would try and do it with Spellotape and that's really bad for your books, so I'm glad to have the extra work, because that way they won't get worse.

Also, I like to read people's books, which I sometimes can't help doing when I'm fixing them, because a lot of them are fiction and we don't have fiction in the Hogwarts library much. So it's different. I haven't read everything in the Hogwarts library yet but I will someday, but it's nice to know there are other books out there too! Susan, I finished your book and it's all better now.

I have a copy of Mysterium Cosmographicum that needs repairing. It's a rather old book so you will need to be quite careful.

Can you come up to the Astronomy Tower after supper tomorrow and collect it?

Yes maam.

Thanks I hope you That's good--Sally-Anne was asking about it, and now I can lend it it to her. I'll come get it tomorrow.
Alright then, here's who's said they'll play. From Gryffindor, Ron Weasley and Neville Longbottom. From Ravenclaw, Linus Moon, Morag MacDougal, and Padma Patil. From Hufflepuff, Susan Bones said she was maybe interested, and also that Wayne Hopkins, Bobby Stebbins, and Eloise Midgen might play. From Slytherin, Harry Marvolo, Teddy Nott, and me, and also Pansy if I can talk her back into it.

We'll be playing this in two rounds, 6 December and 13 December, between lunch and dinner, I think, with maybe a final showdown in the evening after dinner. I'll work out the exact schedule once I know exactly who's playing. Susan, are you? And your housemates, or not? Anyone else from Gryffindor or Ravenclaw?

We'll do it round-robin style so you won't just be eliminated when you lose, and even if you're dead certain you can't beat Teddy or Ron (and really, I know I won't be in the final round) you can still beat out everyone else.

Jones suggested a cake as a trophy, do people like that idea? Because that wouldn't be too hard to arrange. You could take it back to your house and eat it with your house mates.

---

**alt_padma** at **2008-11-24 04:00:00**

*(no subject)*

I thought Ernie was playing, too?

And I don't really care about cake, but if everyone else wants one, that's fine.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at **2008-11-24 04:35:45**

*(no subject)*

Oh you may be right about Ernie. I'm having trouble keeping track of who said they'd play.
Would you rather it be a trophy? I don't know where to get a trophy. I think I could manage a cake.

alt_padma at 2008-11-24 06:07:52
(no subject)

Don't be silly, you can't eat a trophy.

I just meant it doesn't matter to me what the prize is and I don't eat too much cake anyway it makes you fat.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-24 18:02:22
(no subject)

Yeah I'm in if there's space!

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-24 19:10:47
(no subject)

Course there's space. Do you know if Bones and her friends are in?

alt_susan at 2008-11-25 03:06:12
(no subject)

Well, I'm still in, and Wayne and Bobby, but Eloise changed her mind when she heard that we had enough people for Hufflepuff to have a showing. She's really shy of talking to people outside our House.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-24 04:06:43
(no subject)

Cake or some special treat. Let the winner choose.
And I changed my mind. I'm playing. If Padma doesn't like it, too bad.

Cake as a trophy is a good idea, I think. Although I don't have any hope of winning it, I may still get a piece if Ron does!

How come Susan's Susan but I'm Can I play? I know how all the pieces move.

Of course you can play, if you want to.

I do. Thank you.

Well, that's 14 now, including Pansy.

I guess we'll have to play 7 matches in one day after all. Or else we'll have to put in more days.
I don't think I can play more than 5, I'll get headache. We can't play this Saturday, but what about this Sunday in addition to 6th December? Otherwise we'll have to put on matches at least one Sunday and then they'll be no time to do any homework at all that weekend.

I'm not spending all of the weekend before exams without some time to revise.
Even if there's a strange smell coming from under Millicent's bed, and Daphne is, as usual, spraying way too much perfume around the room making it smell like what my father called a French cathouse (I guess you spray perfume because the cats in France are extra smelly) it's good to be back. I missed Sally-Anne so much!

It was a very interesting weekend. I saw mum, who was really woozy and shaky on Friday, and then I saw her Saturday. I had a very important talk with Lucius who told about when he met Mrs Malfoy's aunt Walburga, who's very quick with her curses even if she is old. Especially cru

Lucius let me listen to music with him. I think he said it was Rossini (but I could be wrong) and it was lovely. And Mozart. There was what Lucius said was a piano concerto and the piano sounded like rippling water to me. I love music.

I hear the new Gary Grimoire album is out. Does anyone have it?

On the way back to St. James, I saw muggles. This ratty-looking woman was holding a baby dressed just in a nappy in the cold and a big fat man with piggy eyes was just screaming at her. And she just let him! I don't understand them and I don't care to try. That poor baby, though. It'd be like being raised by wolves or something. But you can't really expect animals to stop being animals, can you? I was completely daft to think otherwise. They must have been mudbloods out and about but nice people don't need to see those sorts of things. I don't know things like grownups do so I have to trust them.

I was thinking last night in bed. I really like being in Slytherin. My father was a Slytherin and I can't dishonour him as I have with traitorous thoughts. Mum says maybe I got my teenage rebellion over with. But I'm not a teenager so I'm not sure what she meant. I know I like it here, and I like the things I can get if I just use the opportunities and abilities I have. I have to trust my elders with the things I don't understand. Mum says be patient. I'll try. She told me some other really wizard things, too. That surprised me. But in a good way. And she's going to get better.
Fear is power. Power is control. I must master my fears and doubts.

I think I'll ask Harry if his mudblood can shine my boots. They're looking pretty scruffy. Mudbloods should be good at cleaning things, since that's what they're for.

And I think I'll play in the chess tournament after all. I may not win, but I'll learn something and be able to use it next time.

I should finish this book I'm reading but I'm for bed. Good night to whoever's reading.

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@alt_padma at 2008-11-24 14:47:14
(no subject)

Ew, what was a muggle doing in New London? I thought they were cleared out to the camps, was the man a wizard?

Maybe she was supposed to leave the baby somewhere like in the old stories. You know how sometimes they had to abandon their babies so that the wizards will have a good harvest or something? Maybe it was like that, only for more food for the wizards' family or something.

I'm glad you are making more sense now, about muggles anyway. And I didn't want you not to play, so that's good.

And I'm glad your mum is getting better. Really.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-24 19:21:19
(no subject)

Thank you, Padma. I'm guessing they were mudbloods, perhaps out on an errand. I don't know. I do wish they'd have stayed where people don't have to see that, don't you think?

That's a good idea--maybe she WAS leaving the baby somewhere.
alt_padma at 2008-11-24 21:20:04
(no subject)

Ooh, or maybe the baby did belong to their wizards, but it was a Squib, or something? And they were throwing it away?

What did Mr Malfoy do? Was he with you? What's he like, in person, I mean? I've never seen him up close, only in the Quidditch stands or standing with the Lord Protector.

Is he really your godfather? Does that make Draco sort of like your brother?

I mean, if you don't mind telling me.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-24 22:11:03
(no subject)

Mr Malfoy didn't see it because he was talking to mum. I was looking out a window at St. Mungo's.

What's Mr Malfoy like? I dunno. He's just... Lucius. He's tall. You do NOT want to be on his bad side, that's for sure. But he's funny and he knows stuff, and always lets me ask him questions and listen to music. He tells me about my father once in a while, as they were best mates. And we tell each other secrets sometimes. He is my godfather and mum told me Saturday that, since she's sick, he's my guardian but I don't know how all that works. He loves his family very much. I wish sometimes

Draco is like a brother, sure. We grew up seeing each other all the time and yes, he can be a prat but deep down he's really okay. Really good at drawing, too. Harry and I saw a lot of each other too. Harry's wizard and can be really, really funny, though he never means to be. Which makes it even funnier.
I can't really see Mr Malfoy being funny but if you say so.

Our brothers can be prats too especially Haruman when he pretends he can't tell me and Parvati apart. But Sanji isn't old enough to be much more than a bother. He follows us all the time at home.

And then Lavender and sometimes we pretend we're all sisters together. Zach is kind of like Lavender's brother only not really.

Isn't it curious which pureblood families know each other really well and which don't get on?

You have brothers too? I always wanted a brother or sister. Draco doesn't really count technically because he has a family, but I'd still do most anything for him. (but don't tell the little git that)

I always thought it was curious, too, how the pureblood families are all kind of related in one way or the other, or so I have been told. I did see the Black family tree and they have lots of branches.

Tell me about your brothers. And is it weird having a sister in another house?

Well, can't he read this to if he looks at your post? I'm not sure how that works, really.

Some families are related. We're related to the Rohani's and believe it or not the Frobishers, somewhere Dad says a Frobisher married a Talukdar and my Mum was a
Talukdar. If you think the Cac Cawk white families are hard to keep track of, you should see our family tree!

You really want to know about my brothers? OK. Well, Sanji is 7 so he's pretty boring. But he follows us round and sometimes lets us dress him up and once he even let us put some of Mum's makeup on his face. But mostly he's a pain. And Haruman is done with school. He wanted to be an auror but Mum thought he should go into Healing so he's doing that first (and then he says he's going back for auror training). He's almost done with his apprenticeship and Mum says he's old enough to get married. Actually, what she says is that it's ridiculous he's not already married, but Dad says to let him alone and he'll find someone soon, maybe when he's done being a Healer.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 07:59:41 (no subject)

He can read it but I doubt he will. He stays pretty busy.

Talukdar. That sounds so lovely and exotic. Have you ever been to India?

alt_padma at 2008-11-25 15:58:32 (no subject)

No, my Dad and Mum went there once on a trip before the Lord Protector made it so you can't leave. They said the water was dirty and people had to cook outside and it was hot. But mum said some of the scenery was beautiful, especially near Dad's family's village.

It was a lot like here because only wizards who were also Brahmins were really respected, and any witch or wizard born to anyone other than a Brahmin was put into a monastery as soon as they showed magic. But I'd rather be at Hogwarts than a monastery, so I think here's better.

Do you get to go to the Malfoy's for Christmas every year?
They wouldn't know a baby was a squib already, hardly anyone shows magic that early anyway. How old were you when yours showed up?

I'm not sure how old I was but you can ask Lucius. He'd know. What about you?

I was nine when I realised I could steal honey from bee hives and they wouldn't sting me. There may have been things that happened earlier but that was when I knew for certain, because before that I got stung pretty often.

We don't know for sure because it could have been me first or it could have been Parvati. But Mum says that our cousin Lakshmi was watching us when we were about a year and a half old and she went to make herself a sandwich, and when she came back we were out of our cribs and there was a whole pile of ice lollies between us. Mum figured we must have heard a peddler and magic'd the lollies into the house. But she still doesn't know whether it was me or Parvati.

The first magic I remember doing that was only me and not both of us was probably when I was about four. I remember being upset that Zach and Lavender had Christmas and we didn't so I went to bed one night wishing and the next day we found out Zach's present had turned into kohl. He was so cross he made my hair go all rat's nests and Mum had to cut it really, really short.
Seems like I summoned something when Draco took it from me and hid it. I was about 5 or 6.

I meant to ask you, what is a kameez? And do you know how to wrap a sari? I saw a really, really pretty one—all green with silver and I thought it'd be pretty to wear at the Malfoy Christmas party.

It's a long shirt-thing like a whatyoucallit tunic and its silk and ever so comfortable.

Yes, I can wrap a sari but you need a choli underneath and probably a skirt if you want to be warm enough in winter.

Green is a lucky colour but sari's are really expensive because their hard to import. And I mean not to be rude, but do you think your mum or Mr Malfoy would really by you one? After all the trouble Wouldn't they prefer you in regular robes?

I suppose you're right, but robes get boring after a while, you know? I wanted something exotic but I don't imagine anyone's going to be buying me anything right now.

The kameez, though, sounds wizard.
That's a lovely story about the lollies.

I was so relieved glad to see you walk in yesterday evening. I think the house-elves aren't cleaning under Millicent's bed because she misplaced her shoes one day and was shouting that maybe the house-elves stole them even though it turned out she'd just kicked them off in the common room and come up to bed in her socks. They don't want her thinking they've touched anything, you see. But I think she might have a mouldy plate under there.

I'm glad you'll be in the chess tourney after all.

Were the muggles some wizard's servants? Why were they out on the street instead of shut away where you didn't have to look at them?

They were someone's servants. My guess is they were mudbloods. Because they really oughtn't have been outside at all, don't you agree?

Mudbloods aren't allowed to have babies, though. Muggles are, but not usually if they're working in some wizard's home, because what wizard wants to have to put up with a screaming muggle baby?

Anyway, it would be one thing if they were out on an errand like when we send Dennis to Hogsmeade. Totally different if they're outside having a spat. Ugh.
Maybe they had an illegal baby! And they were going to leave it somewhere! It's a mystery. I think I'll make up a story about them.

Ugh. Screaming babies of any sort give me the willies. I don't like babies. They cry and poop and poop and cry. No thank you.

I've hardly ever seen one up close.

They smell and they spit up on you with no warning and it's SO gross.

They're cute in pictures. I suppose in pictures there's no smell though.

And do you know what you have to DO to get one? It's gross beyond words.
I read it in a book once. Maybe there's a spell we can use instead they'll teach us when we're older.

I hope so. Mum told me all about where babies come from and no way will I ever let anyone do that to me.

what sort of smell i dont notice anything?

Why am I not surprised.

Shut it pansy parkinswot. i looked under my bed and there's nothing under there but my books. i think the smell is in your imaginashun.

If it is, it's in Sally-Anne's imaginashun too.

P.S. Parkinswot? That's actually really good!
@alt_millicent at 2008-11-25 04:40:39
(no subject)

cheers

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 05:23:11
(no subject)

Well, something in the dorm smells rank.

@alt_millicent at 2008-11-25 05:35:45
(no subject)

i really did look under my bed and there's nothing there. i thot maybe my cat vommed but it wasn't her

maybe daphne is spraying perfum to cover up the smell of her socks

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 05:39:06
(no subject)

It's not your cat? I think we just need to tell the elves to clean really well. They aren't doing their jobs.

@alt_millicent at 2008-11-25 05:42:20
(no subject)

maybe someone conjered an invisible swamp under my bed
If so, wouldn't that be a great spell to know?

I think that Dennis gets angry when I lend him out to people. He won't say something but he looks at me sideways.

Oh. Well, in that case, never mind. I'll see if I can do it myself, though I'm pants at that sort of thing.

Can you ask him if he could get us a cake to use as the prize for the chess tourney? Tell him he doesn't need to get it for us NOW (it'll be stale by the time the tourney happens), just find out if the house-elves will make it for us. I'd ask them myself but I never actually see them and I don't know how to get to the kitchen.

Come to think of it I reckon Dennis could tell me how to get to the kitchen.

I wonder if the elves here would polish my boots? Maybe I can send them to mum's.
alt_harry at 2008-11-25 13:46:45
(no subject)

I'll ask him.

alt_susan at 2008-11-25 18:29:05
(no subject)

Whats Gary Grimoire's music like? I like music a lot and I always want to find out about singers and bands I haven't listened to before.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 19:37:59
(no subject)

It's really wizard! Rock, I guess you'd call it but his lyrics are really clever. Want to hear some?

alt_susan at 2008-11-26 03:17:36
(no subject)

Yes, I'd like that. I like a lot of old music, that tells a story, you know. But I like some rock too.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 03:40:11
(no subject)

Oh, I've got rock.

alt_susan at 2008-11-26 05:13:00
(no subject)

We could meet up in the courtyard maybe, or out by the lake.

I know I don't like the Weird Sisters, but I'd like to figure out more of what I do like.
Professor Lockhart had been keeping a few kappas in a fish tank in his office but they got kind of feisty and sort of did each other in. Percy Weasley said the Professor mentioned in the fifth year class today that he came into his office this morning and found the last two of them floating on the surface of the water, dead, the hands of each throttling the other's throat.

It's sorta late, isn't it, for the Professor to get new kappas, now that winter's starting? Maybe he doesn't have any use for the fish tank for now. I wonder if he would let me borrow it for a place to keep Trevor, at least until spring. Maybe I can get a tank of my own then. Seamus has been whinging about Trevor getting away all the time and ending up where he's not supposed to go. Like under the covers of Seamus's bed, once. I wouldn't blame him for getting cross about it, really, but he was pretty good about it--well, aside from that screech he let out when he first put his foot on Trevor's head and Trevor moved. (Ron joked that the sound was shrill enough that it was a wonder the bedcurtains didn't all unravel.) Don't want to keep annoying my roommates, so I'll see if Professor Lockhart can lend the tank for awhile. It'd help make sure Trevor stays in one place.

We do get along great, mostly, Ron and Seamus and me. Well, aside from jokes about escaping toads, cut throat chess, and smelly feet. In fact, I've asked Seamus whether he'd want to come home with me to spend the holidays. Wasn't sure whether he'd be allowed to, or what his plans were, but he really brightened up and said 'yes' when I asked. Turns out he's not allowed to be with his assignment's been he's free to come with me. So that'll be fun.

That should be fun, over the holiday. I wish I knew where I was. How did you get Trevor originally? Can I see him sometime? Is he different from the toads you find in meadows?
alt_neville at 2008-11-25 03:13:22
(no subject)

My Great Uncle Algie gave me Trevor, the beginning of last summer. He's a just a common toad: the genus species designation is *Bufo bufo* (kind of a funny name, isn't it?) They're not found in Ireland at all, a fact which Seamus is always happy to point out. Sure, I can bring him to revision sometime for you to see him, if you're interested. I generally don't take him much out of Gryffindor Tower 'cause he tends to hop away and get lost, but he's getting sleepy these days and so he's slowing down. Most toads that aren't wizard familiars spend most of the winters hibernating.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-25 03:17:29
(no subject)

I'd like to see him but not if he'll hop off and get lost.

alt_harry at 2008-11-25 03:59:24
(no subject)

Does Trevor do anything?

alt_neville at 2008-11-25 12:19:43
(no subject)

Well, he catches flies reliably! But that's about it. A post owl is really more useful, I think.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 04:11:48
(no subject)

My cousin kept piranhas but then they ate his kneazle after it fell in the tank so that was the end of that. Do you want the old tank? It's dusty but it's not cracked or anything.
**alt_neville** at 2008-11-25 12:21:02
(no subject)

Let me check with Professor Lockhart, and if he can't spare the kappa tank, we'll see. Thanks for the offer!

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**alt_megan** at 2008-11-25 04:53:43
(no subject)

Eeew, I wouldn't want to find a toad in my bed! That would be unpleasant. But I suppose boys don't mind that sort of thing so much.

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**alt_neville** at 2008-11-25 12:20:09
(no subject)

Well, Seamus certainly did!

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**alt_megan** at 2008-11-25 18:38:05
(no subject)

Not as much as I would! I'd be sooo angry, for a long time!

---

**alt_susan** at 2008-11-26 05:25:18
(no subject)

I promise I'll never put one in your bed then! Even for a joke.

---

**alt_megan** at 2008-11-26 05:35:54
(no subject)

Good!
An End to the Matter

The Bedouin have a peculiar curse: 'May you be the father of daughters.' I now understand that it refers not only to the loss of primogeniture associated with a progeny of females. I do not know who pronounced it upon me nor how recently, but when I find the wretch .... he shall regret it.

I am at least satisfied that there is no need to over-react to Miss Parkinson's recent unpleasantness. Her trauma over her mother's illness and subsequent remorse are both genuine, something difficult to gauge through the medium of these journals. A minor course correction and a little judicious education and she shall, I am certain, realise the flaws in her previous line of thought and come back to the fold. With luck she may regain the acquaintances she has lost through her indiscreet commentary.

Rosalind was quite co-operative when I explained what must be done. Although she is technically recovered enough to be released before Pansy returns home for the holiday, Rosa has elected to take an extended rest cure in Bath and has entrusted me to see to the details of Pansy's reformation. I sat with her for a short while after her lengthy visit with her daughter, which I am gratified to say lifted her spirits remarkably, but which seemed to affect Pansy in quite the opposite direction.

It was a singular experience to realise that for all her usual taciturn maturity, she is still just a frightened little girl. Fortunately, as before, it was a relatively simple matter to provide guidance, explanation and elucidation, and thus to dispel the least rational of her fears.

It was however necessary to return to St James' Square to freshen her up before going on to our next appointment.

Narcissa had spent the earlier part of the day at Kensington, preparing for the St Mungo's benefit in two weeks, so it was convenient to break the afternoon for tea with her aunt. Pansy presented herself quite well, if not perfectly. Walburga is fit, though she complained quite vocally of feeling an ague coming on. Pansy suggested Pepper-Up Potion; I still do not think she was deliberately impertinent. (If she were, Walburga should, I am sure, cure that with
ease.) I brought Pansy back to St James' and Narcissa repaired to Wiltshire.

By Saturday evening, Pansy seemed much recovered from the ordeals of her day, though I am pleased that her attitude remained more demure than it has been. Strong discipline combined with the opportunity to provide concrete examples of the world to which she has been woefully underexposed ought to put her back on track.

She has always had an insatiable appetite for music; this has not changed, nor has her predisposition to question (and question) without regard to the sagacity of the given answer. But she will learn to control the impulse and wait for the proper time and place to ask.

To-day made a vast improvement over last week, beginning with report that the Cherwell and Stroud camp disturbances have been quelled. The camp directors made example of a few organisers. Also Peakes and Dunstan had an update on their project (approved for additional funding per last meeting) and expect to be prepared to conduct Phase II trials by the end of the year. Dunstan prefers to run the double-blind tests in the Foxton district; Peakes advocates Great Chishill; don't much think it will make a difference either way, but Dunstan claims that the water in Great Chishill is less pure and therefore may impact the results.

I shall be heartily relieved when Narcissa's benefit gala has concluded and we may focus on the holidays together. Of all things to miss about the place, I never anticipated appreciating the idea that the boys are nearly always able to amuse themselves without causing too much trouble!

Have you any further information about when our Lord Protector plans to arrive at Hogwarts over the Christmas holiday? I have a great deal to do, of course, to prepare for another such visit.
Not yet, but I shall see Him this morning and shall inquire of His calendar with Broome.

Gee, thanks, Lucius. (jk)
Luna asked yesterday if she could have the day off lessons today. I was surprised, because she's always been perfectly willing to apply to herself to her books (well, aside from a few momentary lapses throughout the day for spates of daydreaming). She explained, however, that she expected her father would want to spend the day at their home, and she thought she should be with him. 'It's my mum's birthday, and that always makes him rather sad on that day,' she explained simply. 'So I thought I would make him a nice tea, with my mum's favourite tea cake, and perhaps that might cheer him up a little.'

I was surprised. Xeno hadn't said a word about it, although I'd noticed he'd been rather quieter than usual this past week. Then I felt quite dreadful, because I had never thought to ask Luna about her mother. The girl's such an independent little thing that it's sometimes hard to remember that she isn't older than she really is, but of course she misses her mummy. I told Luna that of course she could spend the day with her father.

A man and a child together, mourning a lost loved one. Of course, they're far from the only ones in this country to do so.

So many lost. So many mourning.

I do believe, once I have set Ginny her sums, I will spend my morning knitting some socks to send to the camps. Even the Ministry would have to admit that Muggles can't work if they've got frostbite.

alt_molly at 2008-11-25 14:13:46
ORDER ONLY

Would you be willing to send a pair of socks to me as well?

Magical darning can go only so far - and my fingers are rather too old and stiff to do well in the cold that has seized the castle of late. The house-elves, naturally, are no help.
Of course, Minerva, I would be quite happy to do so. I lucked into some fine guage wool that I think will do quite nicely. Expect an owl post package tomorrow or perhaps the day after.

I think I'll also send another package of socks to Alice, while I'm at it. She was complaining that the corridors at Peel Castle can get so draughty and cold. Some new socks or slippers would be comforting to her, particular if she's feeling unwell, what with the pregnancy and all. I'll ask her if any of the children need more socks, too. It's a good thing my knitting charms are quite fast.

You are such a wonder with household magic, Molly. I was always my mother's despair. Thank you!
**2008-11-25 12:25:00**

*Chess*

Last weekend, Ernie taught me how to play chess. I liked it much more than I thought I would. I thought it would be boring. Or difficult. And I only wanted to learn because everyone else knows how to play. But it really wasn't boring at all!

We borrowed the pieces from one of the second years, I thought that was really nice of her to let us use them. But maybe it was because Ernie asked.

The pieces started talking as soon as we got them set up, the queen on my side especially. I didn't like her, she always wanted to do everything. Just because she's so powerful. I don't think the person we borrowed them from plays chess much, so perhaps that's why the queen was so...so very bossy. To make up for it. The nights worked together much better, and the bishops were really good friends, I could tell. But the rooks didn't like each other much, and only worked together because they both wanted to win. And the king was so sweet. I wish I could keep him. I think he knew more than the queen too, but he didn't go on about it. The queen listened to him, too, which was good because otherwise they'd be very unhappy together.

They were all really disappointed when we didn't finish the game completely, but I think it's better if no one wins. Or loses! Especially when one is just learning. But I promised them that if I could borrow them again, I'd play a game all the way through. Would anyone like to play with me? Or perhaps I should ask one of the boys, they'll probably want to practise for the tournament.

---

**alt_susan at 2008-11-25 18:38:39**

*(no subject)*

I wasn't going to be in the tournament, but now that I am I'd be happy to play with you. I wish Eloise hadn't dropped out though--she's loads better than I am.
Oooh, good. Later this evening? I have to borrow the pieces again. I hope she doesn't mind. I didn't really think about that when I promised. Maybe we should just use school pieces.

And I'm glad your going to be in the tournament.

Me too. About Eloise. But if she wouldn't have fun? I'm sort of nervous, now that I asked to be in it. Maybe I shouldn't have.

Yes, lets do! I'm sure she won't mind at all--I bet she's glad to lend her pieces to someone who'll take them out and use them.

Oh, don't be nervous Megan! Or at least dont let it stop you. I'm a bit nervous myself but I know there are loads of other people who are just learning like us. They won't all be as good as Weasley or Nott.

Perhaps she is! I think they like being played with. So I really should ask, shouldn't I?

I suppose. I'm not going to drop out after I asked to be in. But I can't help being nervous. Can you? If you don't want to? I'd like to be able to do that.

Of course you should!

Sometimes if I think about something else for awhile or go and read a book or something, that helps me forget my nervousness.
And really I don't think I'm likely to win a prize or anything anyhow, so there isn't anything to be nervous about.

That's what I keep telling myself anyhow.

Okay.

I don't think that's the same. When you come back, is it still there?

But what if you-- I'm not going to tell you. Then you won't have to be nervous about it.

Trinculus has a chess knight who won't play, because he has such a rotten temper. I asked him why he kept the knight then and he said that everyone else in the set got angry when he tried to throw him out so he had to go dig through the bin and find him again. And now he just has to play chess with only one knight.

Thats funny! Moran must be really good if he can play with only one knight.

Yeah, I suppose! It wouldn't matter if I only had one knight or two, I'd still be pants.
alt_megan at 2008-11-26 03:38:39
(no subject)

Oh, that's too bad! I wonder if the knight doesn't like chess. That would be odd. But perhaps the knight would be better in a different set, and he could trade it with someone.

It works with cats.

I'm glad all my the pieces I used got along with each other. Enough to play together. Even the rooks were cute, all stiff and formal and glaring at each other.

alt_ernie at 2008-11-25 21:41:12
(no subject)

It wasn't that - Hufflepuffs stick together! I bet she'd lend the pieces to you again if you asked her.

alt_megan at 2008-11-26 03:39:48
(no subject)

Okay. I'll ask. If you think it's okay. I wouldn't want to annoy her.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-25 22:29:10
(no subject)

My queen is pretty bossy too, but she's always right. And knows it.

alt_susan at 2008-11-26 03:15:28
(no subject)

I almost always like the queen. I think it might because I am a bit bossy too. Or at least my brothers and sisters say so.
When we play, you can have my queen if I can have your king. No, I don't think that'd work. I'd have nothing to attack to win!

Maybe knights? I'd like to have extra knights.

We could try it, but somehow I don't think most sets like that sort of thing. They might think that the other piece was a traitor or spy and attack it!

Not if you tell them not to! Or give them little caps that are the right colour for their new team?

It's probably not chess if you switch out the pieces. Even if you get it to work.

Perhaps they all are!
Twitterings are giving me a headache. They're on my last nerve and I've no stress relief in sight. And how quickly they repopulate.

I need to erase the blackboard.

Time for a spot of fun.

@alt_amycus

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@alt_terry at 2008-11-25 21:02:59

boot will ask madam pomfrey for a posset for master's headache. if master wants

@alt_amycus at 2008-11-25 22:00:28

Yes, do that. And see to it that my firewhiskey's well stocked. I need to be in a certain frame of mind tonight as I've several special activities planned, and I expect your participation.

@alt_terry at 2008-11-25 22:10:26

boot will do as master wants, as always

@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-25 22:43:02

I hear that trepanning can relieve one's headache and one's stress. If you would like to attempt such a cure I am certain that Madam Pomfrey would be pleased to assist.
My thoughts exactly, Minerva.

Only surely Amycus needn't bother Madam Pomfrey with such a minor chiurgeory? I am certain he has the tools, and the skill, to perform the act upon him-self.

Well, of course I'd have to give it a trial run first, which is where tidbit comes in handy. Ah, mudbloods. Easy come, easy go. Quite the dispensable things, aren't they?

Aren't you the amusing little minx! You are, as always, welcome to share a bit of winter comfort with myself and tidbit.

I do agree that trepanning does show some promise in certain cases. I wonder if it would be useful as a motivational tool for tidbit, though I confess it isn't necessary as of late.

what is trepanning, master?

never mind, boot looked it up. boot is sure that madam pomfrey's posset will work fine. very clever witch is madam pomfrey, and good healer. no trepanning needed for master

(not needed for boot, either. at all.)
When I need your advice, I'll ask for it.

yes sir

Shut it. Now. I've had enough of you.
**2008-11-25 16:04:00**

*Defence Day!*

Tuesdays are wizard because we have double Defence class with Professor Lockhart.

We got our troll essays back today. Daphne and I got very good marks. He wrote at the end that we obviously read the text very closely. We got bonus points, too, because I told Daphne to put in what colour his robes were during the Tunbridge Wells fight (and I was right - they were lilac). What about anyone else?

Padma Lockhart  Sorry. Spilled ink.

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**2008-11-25 23:32:57**

*I got okay marks I guess. I thought I'd do better. But he said that I was not good at forming an argument.*

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**2008-11-25 23:36:22**

*I got okay marks I guess. I thought I'd do better. But he said that I was not good at forming an argument.*

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**2008-11-26 00:46:20**

*My marks were high enough, but not nearly as high as yours. Obviously you take Professor Lockhart quite seriously, and your attention to detail shows. Lilac*
robes, though? For a wizard? I don't know. Just seems like a witch colour.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-26 01:36:28  
(no subject)

But it brings out his eyes. I dunno it looks pretty good on Professor Lockhart.

Defence is really important, though, isn't it? I mean its the details that make the difference. Who would of thought that wingardium leviosa could kill a troll, for example, or that a simple opening spell could cause a troll to fall through a bridge?

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 01:52:07  
(no subject)

It is the details that make the difference, but clothing's never been of much interest to me. Good point, Ravenclaw.
It seems a bit dull to use this journal only as a means of giving points to students (although I am sure you lot enjoy that) so I think I shall endeavour to use it for more interesting topics. Interesting to me, anyway.

I am sad to say that the Leonids ended last week. I love a good meteor shower, me. I can't be too sad though, because the Geminids will start up in about two weeks. Hogwarts has always been a grand location for observing the night sky, but it has only got better since the horrible lights of the Muggle cities have been darkened.

One of my greatest regrets is that I have never been fortunate enough to travel to the Southern Hemisphere to view the constellations in an entirely different manner. Perhaps someday our Lord Protector will allow his children to travel through his protective wards.

I've heard the American Muggles have installed a telescope deep into space which has the capability of sending them astonishing photographs. Of course, the Muggles have cocked it all up and the silly thing isn't worth a tinkers cuss. Typical, really.

I got a letter from my sister Tempest today. Apparently Diane is pregnant again, her sixth. I think she's trying to break mum and dad's record. Or perhaps she's doing her part for Wizarding Britain.

Personally, I think my students are all the children I can stand need.

Speaking of students: Ten points to the first one who can tell me the names of the twins in the constellation Gemini.

Castor and Pollux.
Ten points to Ravenclaw and well done Michael!

I haven't taught that yet, have you been reading ahead in your textbook?

No.

Well, yes, but that's not how I know it, I just also like mythology.

If you've been reading ahead then I expect you'll know the answer to every question I ask you tomorrow night.

And if you don't know the answer, I might be convinced to forget that you don't know if you bring me some sweets.

Only joking, I can't be bribed.

All of the constellations are named after Greek myths and I don't know many Greek myths but I know all of the Welsh ones. Are there any constellations named for Welsh myths?

The one I can think of off the top of my head is the Corona Borealis or Northern Crown. But it's known as Caer Arianrhod in Welsh, which is where Lady Arianrhod lives. And I'm sure you know all about her
yeah?

It's best visible in the summer, so remind me and we'll have a look at it at the end of the school year, all right?

alt_theodore at 2008-11-26 02:32:55
(no subject)

Yes Miss, I do. But I don't think I should repeat it here.

It's not a very polite story.

alt_sinistra at 2008-11-26 02:34:12
(no subject)

Most mythology is impolite, Teddy.

But I understand your reluctance. Thank you for being a gentleman.

alt_padma at 2008-11-26 02:33:38
(no subject)

Michael beat me to it, Professor, but at least he's another Ravenclaw.

I bet you know why I'd know, Miss.

alt_sinistra at 2008-11-26 02:35:30
(no subject)

No Parvati, I can't begin to imagine why!

alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 03:42:09
(no subject)

What does the Southern Cross look like? Have you ever seen a picture (since you said you'd not been to the south?)
Crux looks like a cross, Miss Parkinson. That's why they call it that.

And yes, I've seen it in many photographs, star charts and celestial projections. You'll begin to study the southern constellations in your third year.

It sounds beautiful.
I have decided that I want a kneazle. I'm going to save my pocket money.

Daddy told me a story once (and laughed until he cried telling it) about a cousin of his named Vigo (from Carpathia which is, um, near all those countries that end with -ia). Vigo had a kneazle but it wasn't a smart one. Vigo kept piranhas too, in a big tank (with a cover because they had toddlers) and the kneazle would jump up on the cover and look at the fish.

One day the cover broke and that was the end of that particular kneazle. Vigo said it took about 5 minutes to bones.

It'll take me time to save but I'm going to get a kneazle.

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Poor kneazle. I don't think that's very

Do kneazles come in breeds? Like cats? Or dogs? My guardian has loads of cats, and they're all different. But most of them were her sister's.

That's a really good question. I don't know.

Will start Kneazle Research.

I like owls better myself, but Kneazles are quite nice too.
alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 15:20:28
(no subject)

Owls are nice, but I wonder how good of pets they are.

alt_susan at 2008-11-27 15:44:30
(no subject)

My owl Valkryie is marvellous and ever so friendly, but I think that might be because she was raised by my Auntie Mina and handled when she was very little. I don't know if most owls are like that.

I hope you get your kneazle though!

alt_pansy at 2008-11-27 21:39:00
(no subject)

Can I meet her sometime? I'd like to. Owls are interesting.

alt_susan at 2008-11-27 23:23:17
(no subject)

Sure. She's quite friendly to new people, as long as you don't make any sudden movements.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-28 03:36:30
(no subject)

I won't. I've only met Harry's Hedwig and Lucius' Valerian. But I know how to act around owls.
alt_padma at 2008-11-26 15:12:53
(no subject)

Kneezles are cracking good pets. They're dead clever and ever so useful.

My uncle Satish once had a kneazle that would bring him his slippers whenever he lost them. Of course Aunt Sara says it's only because the kneazle stole them in the first place, but at least he would bring them back.

Do you really have a cousin in Transi the Carpathians, or was your dad making that up?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 15:21:10
(no subject)

I don't know if I have a cousin there or not. I think so, but I think he was a distant relative.

alt_harry at 2008-11-27 11:29:26
(no subject)

Elsinores Kneazle chased Hedwig around the Common Room once, I hope you train yours better or that it's more polite or something.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-27 21:39:37
(no subject)

When I get one, it'll be well trained. Poor Hedwig! But couldn't she just peck it or something?

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-27 19:26:02
(no subject)

That'll be wizard! They sound so interesting. I actually rather like Millicent's cat when it's not throwing up places it shouldn't but a kneazle will be even better.
I thought all kneazles were clever anyway so maybe Vigo's was just a spotty cat?

👤alt_pansy at 2008-11-27 21:40:34
(no subject)

I thought they were clever too so I don't understand why it did such a daft thing. Maybe it was half-kneazle?

Millicent's cat is nice but I've learned to check my shoes before I put them on.
First the mudbloods get uppity and now the halfbloods. Someone has to teach them their place.

Does nobody bother to parent their children anymore? Why must the educational system do it? Why must people continue to spawn?

I need a drink. Minerva, care to join me?

No thank you Amycus.

As you wish. I've plenty, though!
2008-11-26 10:50:00
What's with the Hufflepuffs today?

They have Charms after us Gryffindors, and while we were queueing to go out of the class room at the end of class, they were filing in. A lot of them were upset. Some of the girls looked like they might even have been crying.

???

(written under the desk at History of Magic. It's not like Professor Binns is going to care anyway.)

2008-11-26 16:54:30
(No subject)

Nevertheless, you should pay attention in class, Neville.

2008-11-26 17:55:50
(No subject)

You'd be upset too if you'd had to watch

2008-11-26 18:40:24
(No subject)

He did it in front of everybody? I mean, the whole class?!?

2008-11-26 18:06:39
(No subject)

See, you're a pureblood so you lost 100 points for your house when you made Carrow angry and he could have taken points from Wayne too but instead I reckon you heard by now that Professor Carrow used the cruciatus curse on Wayne but I've heard six versions of why.
I have Transfiguration right after lunch.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 18:37:59
(no subject)

Does Professor Carrow really need a reason?

I'm not looking forward to class today. I've heard Wayne smarted off but who knows how reliable that is.

alt_neville at 2008-11-26 18:40:56
(no subject)

Who told you that, that he smarted off? What did he say?

alt_percy at 2008-11-26 18:42:52
(no subject)

It is best if you are not seen participating in spreading rumours about the incident, either of you.

alt_neville at 2008-11-26 18:43:54
(no subject)

But can Professor Carrow do that? Really?! I mean, really use the Cruciatus curse on a student? He's just a little kid, one of the youngest in the class, really.

alt_percy at 2008-11-26 18:47:31
(no subject)

It has . . . come up as an issue in the past. I am not certain what the school's specific policy is on the subject, although generally, Professors are entirely responsible for maintaining order in their classrooms. And they decide the methods that they use to maintain that order. Within the accepted purview of the rules
laid down by the Governing Board of Directors and under the Headmistress's authority, of course.

There is a prefects meeting tonight, and I am sure that the topic will come up for discussion there.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 18:44:18
(no subject)

You're right. Thank you for the reminder, sir.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-26 18:43:28
(no subject)

I heard it from a third year who heard it from a Prefect who got it from the Hufflepuff Head Boy and I heard the elves mention it too.

I just heard he smarted off but I have never heard Wayne say anything (seriously, I wondered if maybe he couldn't talk when I first met him but then I barely know him) so I can't imagine what really happened.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-26 18:39:47
(no subject)

Wayne Hopkins, you mean? Don't know him at all, he's usually so quiet. Blimey. And the Professor used the cruciatus curse? I didn't think that at school--blimey. I wonder what the Headmistress will do.

Well, you know the lesson dead cold. And you'd never be the type to smart off to him. If that's what set him off.

No Transfiguration for me today. Thank Merlin.

I'm just surprised it wasn't me, since I'm the stupidest.
I try to be very respectful in all my classes. Teachers deserve my respect, and being respectful keeps you out of a lot of trouble. Usually.

In Professor Carrow's class I'm supposed to know the lesson but not too well, that just makes him even more cross I'm extra respectful.

It'll be fine. I'll see you at dinner, maybe? You can tell me all about how Transfiguration went.

(Writing under the desk at Astronomy lecture this time.)

Longbottom! Pay attention in your classes.

Sorry.

(What about you? Aren't you in class, supposedly paying attention, too?)

I am in study hall.
Lavender and Parvati said you'd turned rather green when you found out what happened. Only we can't work out quite why, Longbottom. I mean, it's not as if you have much to worry about.

Although you have been rather nice to Professor Carrow's mudblood. Is that why you're so concerned?

First off, I'm total pants at Transfiguration, so I'm not so sure I'm never gonna feel the business end of Professor Carrow's wand, just 'cause I'm a pure blood.

Second--I dunno. You don't have to be particularly nice to notice that's a pretty nasty curse.

Padma you obviously haven't seen that much of that kind of thing.

Neville's right that it's mean.

I'm not saying it's not, but everyone knows Professor Carrow is. Mean, I mean. So I want to know what Hopkins thought was going to happen, giving him lip like that. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised if even someone like Professor Acton Crus Cruciated a half-blood if they cheeked her to badly, its no wonder Professor
Carrow did it.

Look, no one's happy it happened. It just seems like everyone's forgetting that Hopkins was wrong, that's all.
2008-11-26 14:38:00
boot knows

you can get used to it

if that helps

alt_terry

2008-11-27 16:27:20

alt_susan at 2008-11-27 16:27:20
(no subject)

Thats horf
2008-11-26 16:38:00
So, quidditch in a few days

With how down the Hufflepuffs have been looking today, I think a distraction is in order. Anyone care for a wager? I'll take Ravenclaw, of course.

Percy, are you up for doubling your loss?

alt_percy at 2008-11-27 01:59:52
(no subject)

I haven't even had the opportunity to pay off my last bet since we haven't had a Hogsmeade weekend yet. Surely you don't want me to dig myself in too deep.

Not that Ravenclaw will win, of course.

alt_penelope at 2008-11-27 02:14:34
(no subject)

Well, if you had bet in sickles, you could have been solvent now.

In any case, I have no objection to you owing me a pound of Honeyduke's Fudge in addition to those butterbeers. If you really think that Hufflepuff will win, how about you take a chance? If I lose, I'll give up the butterbeers you owe me and we'll be even.

alt_percy at 2008-11-27 02:56:26
(no subject)

That sounds like a reasonable wager. I accept the terms.
Rumours

Wayne's fine, yeah? We took him back to our dorm after Prof he was Transfiguration this morning so he could have a lie down and stop his nose bleeding. He's got a bit of a headache and his hands won't stop shaking.

So that's why he's not in the Hospital Wing. It's NOT because he's dead! So stop saying that because it's upsetting everyone the girls.

He's going to be fine. I think.

What happened?

He's really fine?

Yeah, he's fine Mogs. He said his head hurts really badly a bit though, so he might not come down for dinner tonight.

Oh.
I heard someone in the corridor say that Professor Carrow used the cruciatus curse on Wayne just because he's a half-blood. But someone else said it wasn't on account of being a half-blood, it was because Wayne called him a stupid git to his face. But someone else said that Wayne didn't say anything, he just answered a question in a sarcastic rude way.

What happened? I really need to know before I have transfiguration right after lunch and so I'd like to know I don't want what if what happened.

It couldn't have just been because he was a half-blood, there are other half-bloods in Hufflepuff and no one's saying he did in on Megan any of the others.

He answered a question, and he was a bit cheeky about it but he wasn’t that bad so I don't so Professor Carrow .. well, you know.

He's okay though, thanks for asking.

I'm glad that he's going to be that he's okay.

How is he at Transfiguration usually? I mean does he know the answers to the questions or does he have trouble? Because Longbottom and I revise for it together and Hopkins could join us if he likes.
He's pretty good at it really or he was before anyway. It wasn't because of his schoolwork that he got in trouble anyway, but I told him you offered and he said thanks.

Did you see what he wrote in his journal? He probably won't do it again if no one says anything wrong. I hope I can tell if Do you think any other professors

I heard he was cursed? Ask the elves for mugwort tea. If you add honey, it doesn't taste too bad and it'll help him feel better. It's good for aches and headaches.

Thanks.

You might consult with your Hufflepuff prefects, and they may be able to determine whether it might be best for Wayne to stop by the Hospital Wing to see Madam Pomfrey, just as a precautionary measure.

Thank you for looking out for your roommate, Mr. Macmillan.
Yeah. Okay, I will.

Tell Wayne that the shaking should stop by this afternoon but the headache sticks around for a day or two.

Um, how do you know that?

(Never mind. Better not to ask, probably. Sorry.)

It's enough for you to know I know that. I wish I could say I didn't.

Neville stick your nose somewhere else.

Blimey, what's gotten into you, Marvolo? I already said I wasn't gonna ask.
**alt_harry** at **2008-11-27 14:36:36**  
(no subject)

Sorry.

**alt_susan** at **2008-11-27 16:04:18**  
(no subject)

Did he go see Madame Pomfrey Ernie? I saw Phyllis Burrow, she's the only Prefect I could find but she didn't know anything.

**alt_ernie** at **2008-11-28 07:23:49**  
(no subject)

Yeh we went down that evening when he was feeling strong enough to walk a bit better. He's fine now, Su. You can ask him at breakfast, he won't mind if it’s you.
Transfiguration

I know you lot are going to ask me a lot of questions, but please don't. Yes, I was sitting right next to Wayne, but I didn't really hear what he said to Professor Carrow, because I was digging in my book bag. And then suddenly, Wayne was down on the floor. He was jerking, and when I looked into his eyes--he was looking right up at me, it was . . .

He was making these choking sounds. I can still hear them.

And then Professor Carrow stopped. And he just continued with the lesson, like nothing had happened. Megan was crying. I was too scared to even cry. Wayne's nose was bleeding, but he just lay there on the floor. Nobody knew what to do. The Professor asked a question--don't even remember what it was. Nobody said anything. The Professor looked around, and he didn't even get angry that no one was trying answer. He was just smiling.

And then the bell rang, and Ernie helped Wayne up off the floor. And we all filed out. Just like every other class.

Well, whatever Hopkins said, he must have been daft to cheek Professor Carrow. Didn't Professor Carrow say just last night that he was in a foul mood?

If you ask me, he ought to have known better.

Did anyone bloody well ask you Patil? I dont think they did so you can keep your stuck up nose out of it.
alt_padma at 2008-11-27 21:07:30
(no subject)

No need to get fussed at me, Bones. Its hardly my fault Hopkins picked the wrong person to sauce. I mean, we're all glad that Hopkins will be OK and no one's happy that it happened. Its just...he should've not said anything.

alt_susan at 2008-11-27 23:17:09
(no subject)

I didn't say it was your fault just that you oughtnt go around judging people when you dont know a thing about it really.

alt_padma at 2008-11-27 23:29:32
(no subject)

What do you mean judgeing? Look, I don't know what Hopkins said, but anyone who'd say the slightest rude thing to Professor Carrow is practically asking for it, aren't they? And don't think I'm not simp sympathetic. Of course it's terrible to be Crucicated. It's just that everyone's acting like a professor hasn't ever punished a student before. And I don't see what the fuss is wether its a curse or transfiguring him or writing lines.

alt_susan at 2008-11-27 23:37:38
(no subject)

It's not like it'll happen to. You weren't even there! I don't think Wayne meant to be cheeky--he just wanted to show that he knew the answer and be a bit clever is all.

Cruciatus isn't like nobody deserves. There are other ways to punish a person without having them on the floor writhing in pain. It isn't like writing lines.
Well, fine, maybe Professor Carrow could've done something else, but the point is that it was his lesson and his decision. If it weren't allowed, don't you think the Headmistress would've said? Or the prefects?

Stop whinging about it. I mean, years ago they used to string students up by their toenails. I know people who use it instead of a spanking - I know Mum says that no one needs to be Cruciated twice for the same mistake.

That's awful. It doesn't matter if it's...

Did anyone ever do it to you Patil?

Excuse me? No, Bones, I've never done anything that bad. I'd never cheek a professor and I'm not usually ill-behaved.

Wayne didn't do anything that bad either. That's what I'm trying to tell you.

Why are you so interested in what's been done or not done to me, anyway?
You said you know people who used it like a spanking and I wondered.

I can't imagine any one who'd ever had it happen to them or even seen it comparing it to writing lines.
Brief meeting at the Ministry to-day, following which I happened to come across Narcissa's niece. Therefore was able to pass on to her Narcissa's invitation to tea at week's end so that she may report on her first week's experiences. No time to chat more as we were on our way to an inspection, but I am sure she and Narcissa will speak at length when they see each other.
I think Pansy thought today that I was frightened worried about Transfiguration class, but I was not worried because I know that Professor Carrow wouldn't curse me unless I gave him cheek and I never give any of the professors cheek, especially not Professor Carrow.

However, lunch did not agree with me. And actually I think lunch disagreed with a lot of people because even though everyone else is a pureblood Pansy didn't look well either when we were getting ready to go to class and neither did Daphne or Millicent or anyone, really, though it's hard to tell with Draco because he's always pale.

Nothing happened in our class. Well, except that anytime Professor Carrow called on me someone gave a wrong answer he'd move his hand towards his wand like he was going to point it at the student, and then he'd chuckle and take points away and go on.

When class was over I told Pansy I wanted to go for a walk but then I tripped over my own feet trying to get to the door and she dragged me back up to the common room instead and had the house-elves bring me some chamomile tea. Which tasted terrible but after a while I stopped shaking my stomach felt much better and by dinner time I felt fine. So the trouble with lunch didn't last for all that long, which was good.

I had actually heard that teachers here were allowed to use the cruciatus curse. But I'd thought it was just for really big things. Pansy says it's like I hope I can stay out of trouble.

Missed you at dinner. I'm glad the class went okay. Not looking forward to my next Transfiguration class myself.
The house-elves brought me sandwiches. I'll see you at breakfast tomorrow I expect.

We can't meet to revise on Sunday afternoon because of chess, and Saturday afternoon is the Quidditch match and I want to watch even if it's not my house playing, but maybe Friday during study hall, or Friday evening, or Thursday evening? After dinner I mean.

I told Macmillan to tell Hopkins he could join us if he wants. I don't know if he got in more trouble with Professor Carrow because he has trouble in Transfiguration or not.

Friday study hall would work for me. It'd be fine for Hopkins to join us, if he likes.

He has Potions then doesn't he? It might not matter, he might not want to come. He might be just fine at Transfiguration anyway.

I think that Professor Carrow has a different definishun of big thing than we do.

I think you're dead right.
We'll keep you out of trouble!
This morning I woke up really early and I think it was because I had a dream but I can't remember it. Except that I woke up early from it.

I think it was probably a bad dream but I don't remember. Except last night the girls were all scared in the common room so maybe they rubbed off on me.

I don't know any of Professor Sinistra's Questions that she puts in her journal. So far Sally-Anne and Michael Corner knew them but I don't. I'm not too bad at Astronomy though usually. I'm not pants at it anyway.

There's a Quidditch match soon and I bet Ravenclaw is going to destroy Hufflepuff but I don't really know. Sedrick Cedrick Diggory is really good. Both of them are better than the Gryffindor team anyway, sorry Ron but it's true.

I think I'm going to go let the Snitch out and catch it before we go to class some. Father always says that if you have a bad dream or you can't sleep the best thing to do is to get exercise.

Aw, chin up Harry! You'll know them soon enough. I have to make them a bit advanced so the older students actually earn their points, but not so difficult that the first and second years never get them. Michael and Miss Perks just read a bit more than you do.

I forgot all about Quidditch. I was excited about it but now I'm not sure I am.
It'll be fun! And I've got some music you'll love.

It'll be nice to have something to take my mind off things. Thanks Pansy.

Music is always good for that, which is why I love it.

Of course Ravenclaw will win.

Why is everyone interested in flying today?

Flying is freedom from everything at least for awhile. At least for me--I don't know about Marvolo.
today will be a good day. boot has decided. somedays you can just decide that and make it true. boot had an orange at breakfast. boot had never tried oranges before coming to hogwarts, and likes them more than anything.

master is in a good mood, which helps.

boot finally threw away all his old ragged clothes. master asked why boot was still keeping them and boot didn't have an answer. so boot finally put them all with the rubbish for the house elves to take. thanked master once again for the new ones. mudbloods must always be grateful.
I can't focus on Charms today and it's normally my best subject. Professor Acton seems distracted too. She keeps telling us the wrong pages to look up in the textbook.

Please don't ask me about what happened yesterday. I don't want to talk about it. Not here anyhow.

Awhile ago when we were talking about something else, Pansy asked me if I got out much. I didn't understand what she was on about then but now I think I do at least a little. I wish I didn't.

When we get to Flying today, I'm going to ask Madame Hooch if I can borrow one of the school brooms after lessons. I don't think first years are usually allowed but I think she might let me because I'm responsible and a good flyer. And then I'm going to go get my owl Valkyrie from the Owlery. I've been so busy the last couple of weeks that I haven't visited her as much as I should so I'm sure she'll be glad to see me. And then I'm going to go down to the field by the lake and get on my broom and fly as high as I can with my owl beside me, and I'm going to pretend that I live somewhere that is very beautiful and very warm and very far away.
i dont know why every body is so fussed about a half blood hufflepuff whos so thick he was cheeky to profesor carrow. even im not that thick so i think he got what he desserved.

Anyone can see that it isn't a good idea to run your mouth off at Professor Carrow.

hufflepuffs are to sensetive. all ive seen in my journal is hufflepuffs moaning about poor hopkins. but he wont ever do that again will he.

I supose not.

He wasn't running his mouth off Marvolo--I personally don't think he even meant to be cheeky.

Hopefully the Hufflepuffs aren't so thick that they haven't learnt their lesson.
well there scared at least

That's a start.

Morgana's mantle, Bulstrode, thanks for saying what I've been saying all along. Not that I think he deserved it, necessarily, but I don't know why it's such a big to-do when everyone knows that the curse is allowed as punishment. Just don't do anything to get cursed, is all.

hufflepuffs just like to moan about every thing. there a bunch of whinging babys.

Cheers.

I could hex you for that Bultstrode and dont think I wouldnt.
you cudnt hex me if you tried bones

Thats what you think. Patil is just annoying but your a bully. And I'm not afraid of bullies. Not ones who are my own age anyhow

He certainly won't be smarting off to Professor Carrow again, will he?

hed be an idiot if he did

He already WAS an utter idiot.

Proper behaviour in class is extremely important here at Hogwarts. I believe that those who mind the rules and maintain a respectful attitude needn't fear being disciplined in such a manner.
im not afraid
I can't sleep.

Crabbe and/or Goyle are snoring and the sound muffling charms on my bedcurtains are gone and I don't remember the incantation and I think it's in a book in my trunk but it's cold out there and besides I don't want to wake anyone up.

I've had the Cruciatus curse cast on me before. But I asked for it, so I don't reckon it was as painful as it could have been because he didn't really want to hurt me and you've got to really want it.

Astronomy was wizard last night. There wasn't any moon so you could see everything. Michael and I shared a telescope and we looked at the Andromeda Galaxy.

Is anyone else awake?

Why'd you ask for it to be cast on you, then?

Because I wanted to know what it felt like.

I can't imagine convincing one of my parents to do that. Being able to convince one of my parents.
I think our parents are very different. Father said it was brave of me. He says that knowledge is power.

Mum and dad say the same thing, but I think they mean it in a different way.

I don't think it was very brave of me. It would have been braver to not know.

I don't think so. I don't know. I wouldn't be able to ask the same thing, I don't think.

It was spectacular, wasn't it?

I think you're sensible to know what the curse is like, but not to have it cast on you really for real. Dad says that's what's called a deterrent. It means that the fear of being punished keeps you from doing anything that will make you get punished in that way.
It was still pretty awful. I can't imagine what it must feel like if someone really hates you. I wonder if

Well, of course its terrible. That's the whole point. I don't know why everyone thinks I'm saying it was a good thing. No one wanted Hopkins to get hurt like that, I mean, I hardly even know him, why would I want him to get cursed? But the thing is that he oughtn't have done anything that would set Professor Carrow off. I don't believe Professor Carrow would've done that for no reason at all, d'you?

Its a horrible thing, of course, but I think its true he won't be doing that again soon.

I don't know who you're trying to convince, because it's not me.

Hopkins is an idiot and Professor Carrow did the right thing. At the end of the day I think a lot of the other kids in our year could do with a curse or two.

Sorry, your right. Its just Huff'n'puffs and those softy Gryffinbores.

I shouldn't let it bother me. I guess Im not used to people being swotty, y'know?

Well, apart from Zach, but he's always swotty and anyway, he agrees too this time.
Are you all ready for chess on Sunday?

@alt_theodore at 2008-11-28 19:47:59
(no subject)

As ready as I can be, I suppose. I think Weasley's going to win it though. Everyone is always talking about how good he is. I think they just mention me cos Michael and I are always playing chess somewhere.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-29 01:54:45
(no subject)

I heard you'll be a good match for Ron. So you might just win.

@alt_theodore at 2008-11-29 02:02:33
(no subject)

We'll see.
The weekend couldn't have arrived any sooner than it did. Working is certainly preferable to spending my days at home doing chores, although I'm not entirely sure that I will be enjoying my position at the Ministry. It's not really much different than what I was doing for the Crouch family, only on a much larger scale.

My first two days were orientation. I don't think I've ever filled out so many forms in my life before, although the O.W.L. paperwork for half-bloods came close. We listened to a bored old wizard in slightly stained blue robes drone on about our wages and benefits. No paid sick days granted until the probationary period has passed. I suppose this is typical for the first days of a job. By the second day, we were assigned to our mentors, Rowena Robins for me. I suppose having a mentor is handy for finding out where the lunchroom is and for introducing me around, even though she works in a completely different position. She's quite pleasant to talk with, and seems happy enough to advise. She suggested meeting for supper every couple of weeks since I'll be working the evening shifts. Having a junior assistant to the Minister of Magic as a mentor must have its advantages.

By Wednesday, I was more than relieved to be working my normal shift, beginning at six in the evening. We don't have set ending hours, but are released when we're done with clearing up our assigned floors. I shadowed some old wizard named Horace, who showed me what needed to be completed on each floor: old papers shredded, bins emptied, shelves dusted, floors swept at the very least. Some of these Ministry workers are complete slobs, but I saw my share of neat desks as well. Thursday proceeded much the same as Wednesday, but I was on my own. At least no one saw me trip and land flat on my face while shepherding all of the full bins towards the waste chute.

As I was arriving on Thursday for my shift, I saw Mr Malfoy in the Ministry Entranceway. Surprisingly enough, he mentioned that my aunt had wanted to invite me over for tea at the Manor today. It looked like she was in the middle of decorating for Christmas. The entrance way and the ballroom looked like they were well on their way to the usual splendour.
I have to admit, it was a bit strange arriving at their home on my own. I can't recall ever being invited outside of their yearly Christmas party, and it made me a bit nervous. I had no real reason to feel that way, as it was only tea. Mrs Malfoy simply asked me about my job and asked me to pass along a message to Mrs Crouch about the St Mungo's benefit. I almost choked on my tea when my Aunt wanted me to remind my foster-mother about her pledge, as she should know how hard it is to collect a single knut from Mrs Crouch.

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alt_crouch_jr at 2008-11-29 00:20:26  
(no subject)  
Are you calling mother cheap?

alt_nymphadora at 2008-11-29 00:26:54  
(no subject)  
If you read carefully, you'll notice I didn't write that. She just tends to forget.

alt_lucius at 2008-11-29 00:24:59  
(no subject)  
Miss Robins, you say? You are very fortunate to have been assigned such an astute resource. Though do recall that she is in a highly visible and very responsible position. It would not be seemly to impose upon her goodwill at the expense of duties which must take higher priority.

alt_sinistra at 2008-11-29 04:13:54  
(no subject)  
Congratulations on your job. It's a shame it's just meni you don't like it though.
Thank you, Professor. It's a first step, and I'm sure that there will be other opportunities down the road.

You were an exemplary student, Miss Tonks, and I have no doubt that you'll find a better job sooner than later.

I would like to second that opinion, Miss Tonks.

Are you still required to live with your foster family now that you're a grownup? Or would you be allowed to find your own place to live? If you wanted to, I mean, I'm sure you're very grateful for all they've done for you, but it doesn't sound like they'd miss you and I'm sorry if this isn't any of my business.

Your mentor sounds lovely.
I decided Wednesday that I wasn't going to write here any more. In case I wrote something wrong. Or gossiped when I shouldn't. Or wrote too much here and not enough on my homework. It's really hard sometimes to tell what's right, and I really don't ever want to do anything wrong. Especially here where everyone can see if I mess up. So after lunch Wednesday, I put this away.

But I was thinking about it more today, and I really like reading what people say. And all about what everyone's doing. And I didn't think it was that bad to just look. Especially since it's almost the weekend anyway. And I wouldn't be doing schoolwork Friday evening when I have all weekend. But maybe I should, because this weekend is so busy with Quidditch and chess.

But that's not the point. The point is I got this out and read what everyone wrote, especially Sally-Anne. And I felt a little better. Because I never give professors cheek either. And also I would never say what Wayne said. So as long as I'm careful, I think it's not wrong to write here. Only when I'm not supposed to be doing homework.

But I think maybe I won't look at it so often, because I have to remember that Hogwarts isn't really for having fun or being happy, it's for learning to be a good witch. And even though everything's really exciting, like Quidditch and chess tournaments and exploring and writing in journals and being part of everything, sometimes I forget and sometimes I'm not as good as I could be. And I could do better. So I ought to try harder, and pay more attention in lessons, and be very careful not to be wicked, even inside where no one can see. Because people can tell anyway, and maybe that's why Wayne got

So that's why I'm not quitting writing here.

Father told me that that was what Hogwarts was for too. Only it's hard to remember.
Really? Your father? Oh my! I suppose it must be extremely true then!

It'll be easier to remember now that you've said that.

Your father.

Stop it.

What?

Was that wrong?

Your father's very important.
I didn't mean

Sorry.

I just really do think your father is really impressive. And sort of scary. And makes things memorable because he said them.

Really. That's all.

Okay.

I just kind of hate it when people bring Father into things. Only I can't help bringing him into things myself because he's my Father and if I never talked about him I could never talk about anything at home. So I wish people would just pretend that he was a normal Father or something instead of the Lord Protector.

He isn't scary at me, usually.

Oh. Okay. I'll try. I didn't know that's what you wanted.
You may be sure that your education here will lead not just to your becoming a 'good witch,' but a respectable, well-educated and productive member of our wizarding society. The journals project is part of that, so good for you for deciding to continue with your participation.

Oh! That's probably even better. It sounds very impressive. If I can remember exactly what you said I'll tell my guardian. She would like how you said that.

I'm glad I decided not to quit writing. I didn't know it was important, though. So I'm glad to know.

Sometimes I worry about getting in trouble for something I write but I like reading what other people write and then I think of things I want to write and before I know it I've written in it again. And I don't know how I'd have organized the chess tourney without it.

What is your guardian like? Have you lived with her long? If you don't mind my asking. I don't know yet where

Percy said the journals project was important. So it may even be right to write.

And you're really good at organizing things. I'm looking forward to playing chess. Even though I probably won't be very good. I like to watch the pieces, and listen to them talk.

She's old. So old she wears little caps and lots of lace. Her sister
used to wear black. Before she died. But my guardian doesn't hold with wearing too much black. And she smiles more than her sister used to. And sometimes she tells me the most amazing stories about when she was younger, and it's almost like family.

I asked her once why she wore the caps, since not even her friends do. And they're all old too. But I got in trouble for asking, and I still don't know. I've lived with her almost since I can remember, and I'm very grateful to her for taking me in and trying to raise me properly. And I don't mind your asking at all.

Don't you have a guardian? If it's okay to ask, I mean.

Alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 23:24:41
(no subject)

You really think I'm good at organising things? I keep worrying I'm mucking the tourney up horribly. I only made one list of who was playing when and I'm afraid Padma everyone is cross about that and - - well, thank you, anyway.

I don't have a guardian yet, I'm supposed to have one by the holidays but I'm afraid I won't get one I guess we'll see.

Alt_megan at 2008-11-29 23:32:41
(no subject)

I do! You organised it well enough that it's going to happen. Everyone's planning for it tomorrow. And it's going to be great fun, and you even found out about the cake. I think that's awfully good organising.

I suppose if you don't get a guardian, you could stay at school over hols? I don't think I'd want to do that. So I hope you get one.

Alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 23:41:18
(no subject)

If I don't get a guardian I reckon I'll have to stay at Hogwarts.
But I'll probably hear something soon. It was supposed to be Pansy but then she got in trouble.

alt_megan at 2008-11-29 23:44:37
(no subject)

But where were you before? Did your guardian die? That would be awful.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 23:48:46
(no subject)

I lived with my parents until I came to Hogwarts. It's in the regulations that you can, if everyone follows the other rules. My father was very careful aside from not sending my mother and so he was allowed to keep me until I came to school. But then I had to promise I wouldn't speak to them anymore, or send letters, and of course I can't visit.

alt_megan at 2008-11-30 00:02:11
(no subject)

Oh. That sounds really nice. Except it's harder now, I suppose. I can remember.

alt_susan at 2008-11-29 16:16:24
(no subject)

I wish I could say something that would help you feel better about things Megan. But I don't seem to be much good for that lately.

alt_megan at 2008-11-29 23:18:44
(no subject)

It's okay, Susan. I was really upset about Wayne for a while. But now I've worked things out in my mind.
I'm glad that when you worked things out you decided to keep writing. I'm still so

Me too. But even if I didn't write here, we'd still see each other all the time. And I'm glad of that too.

Thats true! Your a brilliant friend and dormmate and I'm ever so glad to have you too.

Thank you!
Alright, I made a schedule for chess matches so that everyone plays everyone else one time, but I'm not copying the whole thing out in here, I'll set it out on Sunday and if people want to see it before then they can come find me. Everyone plays everyone else once, and whoever wins the most matches is the winner of the tourney. If there's a tie for first place there'll be a playoff game (or series of games I suppose if it's a three-way tie or four-way tie but hopefully if we do have a tie it'll just be two, it'll be ever so much easier).

We'll play in the Great Hall starting after lunch on Sunday, as soon as I can get the boards and clocks set up. I fetched all the chess sets and clocks out of the closet in the library. In a tournament you play with a clock, you get a half an hour total for all your moves and as soon as you make your move the clock stops for you and starts running for your opponent. Pansy helped me test them out and they all work like they're supposed to. You can have a long think about each move if you want but if you run out of time you lose, just as if you were checkmated. If you want to try out playing with a clock let me know, they're all sitting in a box in my dormroom just at the moment but I could bring one down to breakfast if someone wants one.

The chess sets, hm. Well, I'll be playing with a school chess set myself but anyone who wants to bring their own set should go ahead and do that. Some of the school sets are a little odd so if you don't have a set but want to borrow one from someone in your house that wouldn't be a bad idea. There's nothing odd about the school chessboards, at least, and the clocks all work fine.

The winner will get a cake. I think.

I'm trying to think if there are any other rules I should mention other than the normal chess ones and the only thing I can think of is that if you hex your opponent you lose automatically, and if anyone outside the game hexes someone in the game, the game has to start over -- that's so your mates can't Confund your opponent for you. You can cast whatever charms you want on yourself, though. There was some controversy years ago about a spell that was supposed to make you better at chess, but this was studied by the International Wizarding Chess League and they decided it didn't actually do anything so it's
allowed. There's a potion that's not allowed but as I've never heard of it before I don't imagine anyone's got any laying about.

I'll see all of you who are playing on Sunday!

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@alt_padma at 2008-11-29 05:04:46
(no subject)

Yes, Linus and I want to practise with a clock, thanks.

Linus said he'll come and get it if you'd like to meet him, maybe in the entrance hall? Or maybe Marvolo's mudblood could deliver it? We'll have a match before Quiddich if we can get one tonight.

@alt_padma at 2008-11-29 05:07:47
(no subject)

Oh, and if you could copy out ours and Morag's matches that'd be grand. Not the whole thing, I mean - just who each of us plays and in what order, so we know when we have to play Weasley and Nott which matches are this week and which are next week.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 05:28:23
(no subject)

I wrote up a schedule for you and the other Ravenclaws and I'll send it over with Dennis if Harry can lend him to me or else I'll just meet you myself.

@alt_neville at 2008-11-29 05:09:50
(no subject)

What kind of cake? I think it might make a difference if I'm battling for German chocolate or lemon poppyseed.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 05:29:00
(no subject)

I'll have to find out what the house-elves are willing to bake us and I haven't yet.

alt_harry at 2008-11-29 14:28:35
(no subject)

My vote is for chocolate orange!

alt_pansy at 2008-11-29 15:31:21
(no subject)

That sounds GOOD. I vote for chocolate orange too.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-29 15:45:38
(no subject)

Alright this morning I found the kitchens after breakfast so that I could ask the house-elves if they'd be willing to bake us a cake, I feel silly passing messages through Dennis all the time instead of just talking to them myself. The house-elf who does a lot of the baking says she'd be delighted to make us whatever kind of cake we want, so let's make it the winner's choice. And if it's someone who doesn't like cake and they'd rather have some other treat she says that would be fine as well.

Chocolate orange sounds delicious to me but I've never actually had it and she said yes, she could definitely make us one if that's what the winner wants.
I just hope I know the winner well enough to get a piece of cake!
At the Prefects' regular meeting this week, one of the subjects touched upon was a certain incident which took place during the first year Hufflepuff Transfiguration class on Wednesday, involving the administration of the Cruciatus Curse. This led in turn to a rather wide-ranging discussion amongst the Prefects about school discipline in general, and in particular, the role which the Prefects and especially the Head Boy and Head Girl should take in helping maintain proper school order and discipline.

The various House Prefects, Head Boy, and Head Girl are all chosen by the Headmistress and staff to serve as proper examples for the rest of the student body, and to provide leadership when needed. In certain situations, when staff are not present, we are authorised to act as proxy for certain school functions, i.e., directing students in an emergency, docking school points for infractions of school rules, etc.

As the older students are undoubtedly aware, the notion has been periodically raised that in order to help maintain order, the Head Boy and Head Girl should be authorised (as the school Professors are) to administer the Cruciatus Curse when necessary to enforce adherence to the school Code of Conduct. Needless to say, we would expect this authority to be invoked on only very rare occasions. It has been rather a point of vexation for the Prefects that this subject seems to keep coming up each year without ever being quite settled. Consequently, the Head Boy Ned Pennifold and the Head Girl Susan Yaxley have decided to hold a formal debate on the issue, leading to an up and down vote amongst the prefects to settle the question, once and for all.

The resolution shall read: Be it RESOLVED: That the Head Boy and Head Girl of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry are authorised to administer the Cruciatus Curse to students when necessary to enforce the student Code of Conduct.

Two prefects will present the case for each side. Xi Chang (Ravenclaw) and Serena Laverty (Slytherin) shall argue for the affirmative. Heidi MacAvoy (Hufflepuff) and I have volunteered to argue for the negative. This debate shall take place at the prefects' meeting a week from this coming Wednesday. **You are invited to**
offer your comments on the Resolution to your House prefects, who will in turn pass these comments along to the two sides arguing the question. Please give the matter your careful consideration and let your voice be heard. We will consider your input to be crucial in helping us to finally resolve this important issue.

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@alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-30 01:03:31
(no subject)

Mr Weasley,

I am grateful to see that you students are taking such an active interest in your own governance. The Board, the teachers and I have agreed that we shall allow the Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl to do as your council decides, although of course I shall reserve the right to step in should you decide to allow the use of the Cruciatius curse and the new method of punishment is abused in any way.
I haven't had much time to work on the Pretiosissimum Donum Dei because I have been spending so much time in the library fixing books instead of being a scriptor. I just dyed the cover black which is all right because I think it will look good with gold embossing, before it was just plain because I had run out of time to do anything interesting on it. But now I need to do the illustrations again and I have been thinking about how I should do them. Last time I did them I just copied them out in a strong light box and they looked traced. But now Professor McGonagall told me that there isn't any hurry because the Lord Protector knows what happened.

So I have been thinking that perhaps I ought to draw the illustrations out myself so that they are really unique. Unique was a word of the day a long time ago, when I was less good at things. I think it will take me a long time to do, because I have only ever doodled a little bit. But it won't take as long as it might because last time I wrote out the Donum Dei I had to use all the paints and gold leaf and so on so I know how to use them at least a little.

Also now I won't have to get Madam Pince to charm the light box.

But I will have to be very careful that they are basically the same because they might mean something important. Also, Madam Pince said that she didn't think I should spend a lot of time copying them out because they have men and women "coupling" on them. But it isn't anything I hadn't seen before. Mum used to try and make me not see it in the camps but there are only so many places you can look. It's kind of gross but I suppose it is important for alchemy. So Professor McGonagall sat me down and asked me whether I had any questions and whether I understood that this was grown up things, and I don't think I would be a good alchemist anyway, so that was all right and I'm still allowed to copy them out.

Madam Pince also said that I could look at other pictures and copy off of them for the positions of people and things. So that is what I am going to do.

Terry, now that you have boots could you come out walking with me? Will Professor Carrow let you, today before it gets dark? While...
Professor Carrow is at lunch and he doesn't need you maybe? I know that you haven't been but you should see how pretty it can be in winter, even when there isn't snow, there's ice on the lake and I know you haven't seen that before because your toes would freeze off.

@alt_lupin at 2008-11-29 19:04:43
(no subject)

Pictures of ... my goodness, Hermione. What have we come to that a child is...

Are you well?

@alt_hermione at 2008-11-29 19:25:21
(no subject)

I'm very well! The house-elves have started warming up my bedclothes before I get in them, because it's very cold, but that helps a lot. They can be very nice!

It must get cold out in your house since you're out there all alone. At least I have Madam Pince with me most of the time!

@alt_lupin at 2008-11-29 20:41:25
(no subject)

Oh it's not so bad out here. I have a warm fire all to myself, which is really as much as one could ever need.

I'm glad to hear you're staying warm. You know, I have an old scarf around here somewhere, from my own school days. I never wear it any more, too many memories as it's terribly frayed at the edges, but you're more than welcome if you think you could find a use for it.

@alt_hermione at 2008-11-29 21:08:45
(no subject)

I'm sure I could, or I could find someone who could use it at any rate!

You're right about the fire. It is too bad that I can't
have one in my cubby but Madam Pince says that the library might catch and then we'd all be in trouble! So it has to be warming charms, and if the ink ever freezes she says we'll put it in special inkwells that are made for cold places and always stay warm. I didn't know they made those until I came here!

alt_lupin at 2008-11-29 21:37:02
(no subject)

Well, as I said, you're very welcome to it. No point letting it sit here unused. I shall bring it to the Great Hall at dinner tonight.

Madam Pince is probably right - books and fire don't really mix, or rather they do, a bit too well.

alt_terry at 2008-11-29 23:35:24
(no subject)

boot would be very happy to go walking with you. thanks for asking

alt_hermione at 2008-11-29 23:57:46
(no subject)

I can't wait to show you everything!!
Prefects should not be able to Crusi ate us

I gave Trinculus a note today about prefects being able to Crusi ate us students. It said

Trinculus,
I think that prefects should not be able to Crusi ate students because it is a very strong punishment. Prefects can take away house points but they can't give you detention, because they aren't teachers and so they might be unfair. Sometimes Cruciatus is a good way to punish somebody because then they won't mess up again, but it also hurts a lot. So teachers should be the only ones allowed to Crusi ate students.

I wanted to put this in my journal so that everybody knows my opinion about it. Some of the Huff lot were saying that Slytherins were mean and just wanted to go around Crusi ating everybody but that isn't true because I don't and I bet other Slytherins don't either.

alt_susan at 2008-11-29 22:15:00
(no subject)

You know, your alright Marvolo. I wasn't sure you were at first but you are.

alt_harry at 2008-11-29 22:16:24
(no subject)

Thanks Susan I think.

alt_susan at 2008-11-29 22:47:27
(no subject)

I'm going to talk to Heidi about the prefects resolution to when I get a chance. But not tonight because Im sure she is tired from Quidditch.
That's why I wrote a note, because everyone likes getting mail, and then Hedwig can have something to do.

That's true, people do like that. Maybe I'll do the same thing--I think of things better when I write them down anyway.

Have you ever taken Hedwig flying with you? I took Valkyrie on Thursday when I went after lessons. She seemed to like it.

No but that's a good idea!

Thanks!

Can I meet Valkyrie sometime tomorrow?
I'd like that. I have a lot of revising to do but I am going to try to get it all done tonight.

Maybe you could bring some music?

I can bring music. Think Valkyrie likes music? Mum had an owl that did.

I don't know but we could find out!

Nicely said.

Thanks Pansy.

Got any chocolate frogs?
Yeah.

Oh you mean you want some?

Yes, Harry. That was me trying to sutly ask you for frogs. I did not succeed.

What’d you think about the match? Since you play I’m curious.

Well you can't have any, I always give you some.

I would have done the same thing Cedrick did when he didn't catch the Snitch on purpose. The Ravenclaws won and I know they have a big party in their Common Room planned tonight cause Morag told me so, but they shouldn't be so happy because everyone knows Cho isn't as good a Seeker as Cedrick now.

That's because you have a steady supply of them, thanks to Dennis, and I do not.

You're saying Cedrick did what he did on purpose?
Yeah, obviously!

Why would he do that?

Well because his team was going to lose if he caught it, wasn't it?

I thought, no matter what the score, if you caught the Snitch you won?

No, play ends when you catch the Snitch but it's worth 150 points and so if you're more than 150 points behind you shouldn't catch it because then you'll lose.

Right. Thank you for clearing that up. I've been dead wrong all along.
Definately. Prefects aren't grownups and their are things they shouldn't be able to do. Nobody sh

Actually, I'm glad to be able to clear up this misconception. If you'll glance at the Resolution again that the Prefects will be discussing, you will see that we are only considering giving the Head Boy and Head Girl the authority to administer the Cruciatus. Certainly, the Cruciatus can be rather severe, and its use should only be a very rare event. So you see, we are not contemplating a scenario where any number of Prefects might be crucio-ing students right and left. Only the Head Boy and Head Girl, the most senior representatives of the student body, whose judgement is perhaps the most trusted by senior staff, would be given the authority.

Of course, a Prefect might bring an erring student to the attention of the Head Boy or Girl, informing them of a violation of the student Conduct Code, in order that the Head Boy or Girl may administer Cruciatus, as needed. But the curse will not be administered by the Prefects themselves, willy-nilly.

Right well I still think it ought to only be teachers who can Crusiate someone.

Aren't we supposed to be able to go to the prefects, or even the Head Boy and Girl, if there's something important we need help with?
Because I wouldn't want to do that with someone who might cruciate me. It would make them too scary.

[@alt_harry](#) at 2008-11-30 00:58:29
(no subject)

I think so too.

[@alt_pansy](#) at 2008-11-30 01:27:36
(no subject)

It is.

[@alt_ron](#) at 2008-11-30 01:19:07
(no subject)

You realise Mum would skin you alive if you offered me up for the cursing, right?

[@alt_percy](#) at 2008-11-30 02:01:45
(no subject)

I'm aware of that, yes.

As you should be aware that you'd have nothing to worry about if you simply follow the rules.

(As for the twins, I suppose it's hopeless.)
Today was my very first Hufflepuff Quidditch match and it was marvellous to watch! Of course I was a bit disappointed that our House didn't win, but it was still loads of fun. I wasn't sure if it would be after the week I've had but it was.

I got a package in the mail from Mummy yesterday and it had her special homemade sweets in it, so I shared them with my friends while we watched the match. Cedric Diggory is such a good flyer even though it's only his first year playing. I just love watching him. He got really close to the snitch once and I'm sure he could have caught it, but he didn't. I think he thought that we might be able to take the lead in goals but we didn't. Even though they are a different house I have to admit that the Ravenclaw Chasers were really good--sometimes it was like they could read each other's minds! Davies and Troy did some wonderful defense--I saw them do a brilliant Dopplebeater--but MacAvoy and Applebee seemed like they were having a really bad day. It didn't help that Samuels kept cobbing when Madame Hooch wasn't looking! Still I guess it was a pretty clean game overall.

Sometimes I think I would like to play Quidditch for Hufflepuff when I'm older but other times I'm not sure. My dad says I haven't got the killer instinct which I think means that I care more about having fun and making sure everyone has a good time than winning. Which is true. I don't like playing with people who always have to win everything all the time because then it stops being fun.

At professional Quidditch matches, some people get really angry when their team doesn't win. My dad has to calm down people like that when they've had too much firewhisky and start making a scene. It isn't always easy, especially when they're rich and imp... Sorry, spilt ink. Anyhow it can be a big pain--Falcons fans are usually the worst.
You know a lot about Quidditch don't you? Maybe you could play Quidditch just for fun.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 01:35:47
(no subject)

Your welcome about the sweets! Mummy makes them herself and I think that's marvellous but some people think its old-fashioned and would rather have Ice Mice or Chocolate Frogs or some thing like that.

I suppose I do know a lot about Quidditch. I don't think about it much because I grew up with it really.

I guess I could try out for the team and see what happens. But I think they want people who play for the House to be really competitive.

alt-megan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 01:51:24
(no subject)

I think making it yourself is lovely. And useful. I'd like to make my own sweets. But I don't think my guardian knows how. Maybe I could ask the house elf over Christmas.

All I grew up with was cats and cribbage and Victorian novels. And I don't like them much. Except cats, sometimes.

Don't they want them to be good? Your good at flying.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-12-01 17:41:42
(no subject)

Does your guardian let you go out and visit people? Or have other people visit you?

Because I'm sure my Mum would be happy to bring her a homemade fruitcake for the holidays and then maybe you could come over to our house and bake with my mum and my sister and I. And you could take the recipes back with you.
I think they want people who are good and care about winning. But I could try out anyway just to see what happens.

alt-megan.livejournal.com at 2008-12-02 05:58:06
(no subject)

I don't know. I've never had anyone to visit. Or who wanted to visit me.

Does your Mum know my guardian? That sounds really nice.

You could! You can always try.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-12-02 18:15:36
(no subject)

I doubt my mum actually knows your guardian but she is always visiting old people so she knows the kinds of things they like.

I'll have to owl her first because she wouldn't like me making plans without her permission, but I'm sure she would at least write your guardian a letter.

alt-megan.livejournal.com at 2008-12-03 05:56:39
(no subject)

Do you really think so? I wish it would work!

alt-pansy.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 00:42:32
(no subject)

What exactly does your father do? It sounds interesting.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 01:36:51
(no subject)

He's an assistant manager for the Chudley Cannons. It is interesting—if you like Quidditch.

alt-pansy.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 01:38:15
(no subject)
I don't know anything about it much except what Harry tells me. But I think it would be wizard to meet all those players.

alt-susan.livejournal.com at 2008-11-30 01:48:08
(no subject)

Well I am used to everyone who plays with the Cannons and I don't really think about it. Plus they aren't very

But I did get to meet Meghan McCormick from Pride of Portree once and I was ever so excited!
that was the funniest thing i've ever seen

It was funny but it was also sort of squidgy, I mean, who wants to see a mudblood in his skivvies? It's bad enough that house elves go round like that - but at least we don't see them!

at least house elves have the decency to cover themselves up

his face though Patil did you see it? it was hilarious

Of course you would think so.

bugger off Bones no body cares what a muggle lover like you thinks
alt_susan at 2008-11-30 01:53:53
(no subject)

I'm not a Muggle lover! I just think that laughing at people being embarrassed isn't funny it's just immature.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 01:56:03
(no subject)

It's not a people bones it's a mudblood

alt_susan at 2008-11-30 01:58:46
(no subject)

Well I still think it's immature to laugh at them.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 02:00:08
(no subject)

Well I think you're a swot

alt_susan at 2008-11-30 02:02:53
(no subject)

I'd rather be a swot than an immature bully any day.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 02:08:29
(no subject)

Moan moan moan that's all Hufflepuffs ever do
alt_susan at 2008-11-30 02:19:44
(no subject)
Think what you like I don't care.

alt_harry at 2008-11-30 02:20:34
(no subject)
It was pretty funny but I felt bad for Boot.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 02:22:10
(no subject)
It's just a mudblood harry. Why do you feel sorry for it?

alt_harry at 2008-11-30 02:55:47
(no subject)
He was really embarrassed. I wouldn't want to be in front of everyone in my pants either.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 02:58:38
(no subject)
Oh harry your so funny. It wasn't embarrassed, everyone knows they don't have feelings

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 03:09:31
(no subject)
Oooh you must not have seen Dennis after he tried climbing the slide into the girls' dorm that time.
i try not to look at them. they make me feel like im going to vom.

Dennis is okay to look at if you have to look at one.

yeah hes not too bad but i dont know how the boys sleep at night with him in there

I think Ron said he sleeps under Harry's bed kind of. But it's got to be strange. I wonder if he even sleeps at all?

ugh what if he watches them when they sleep? im glad he cant get into our dorm

Okay, that's just creepy. Please can we discuss this at any other time than NEAR BEDTIME?
alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 04:38:15
(no subject)

what if the library mudblood was hiding under your bed

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 04:51:38
(no subject)

She'd have a job fitting under there. It's not that roomy. Dennis can do it cause he's younger than we are so he's small.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 04:56:40
(no subject)

I mean it Millicent... one more word and it's time for Cat Experiments.

I've never seen the library mudblood, have you? Her hair is always in her face. Why doesn't she brush it?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 04:59:03
(no subject)

I mean, I've never seen her face.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 05:05:58
(no subject)

if you touch my cat ill break your face

you dont want to see the mudbloods face do you? i bet its horrid
alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 05:24:20
(no subject)

Millicent, that was a joke. I quite like Fergus. I threw a paper ball today and he chased it and brought it back to me! Has he always done that?

It must be horrid or she wouldn't hide it.

alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 05:31:31
(no subject)

yeah hes a clever cat except for when he chases his tail. he looks mental when he does that.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 05:51:30
(no subject)

Yeah, but it's funny to watch when he goes mental. Or when he runs around like his bum is on fire.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 05:12:59
(no subject)

What did Fergus ever do to deserve that sort of threat? He's a sweetie. Aside from the throwing up in the shoes, and that just means I've gotten really good at the clean-up charm.

alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 05:22:56
(no subject)

He is a sweetie. So I don't want to have to resort to experimenting on him. I like it when he sits on your lap and kneads with his paws like making scones.
@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 05:25:44
(no subject)
I like it when he butts his head against my hand to get me to pet him. Which he especially likes to do when I'm trying to write a homework essay.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 05:52:29
(no subject)
I was trying to read once and no one was paying attention to him. I was the only one around after a while and he came and laid down on my book!

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 06:01:01
(no subject)
I try to move him into my lap when he does that but he seems to prefer the book.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 06:59:44
(no subject)
And he always seems to know when you most don't want to be bothered! I think he's depending on his cuteness.

@alt_sally_anne at 2008-11-30 04:33:38
(no subject)
You'll get no argument from me there. I'd much rather share with a vomiting cat than a mudblood, even a useful one.
**alt_millicent** at 2008-11-30 04:39:38  
(no subject)

fergus is useful. he has soft fur and i always feel better when i pet him. and he keeps my feet warm at night.

harry's mudblood can't do that.

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-30 04:51:13  
(no subject)

I'd say Dennis probably COULD keep your feet warm at night but Pansy's right, it's too creepy for bedtime. And you definitely wouldn't want to pet him.

**alt_pansy** at 2008-11-30 04:57:25  
(no subject)

Can we talk about, say, ANYTHING BUT THIS?

**alt_millicent** at 2008-11-30 05:07:20  
(no subject)

you're so disgusting sally-anne. a mudblood in your bed? ugh!!

**alt_sally_anne** at 2008-11-30 05:10:17  
(no subject)

No in YOUR bed, you're the one with cold feet.
@alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 05:15:31
(no subject)
ive got fergus my feet are fine

@alt_harry at 2008-11-30 03:12:11
(no subject)
He looked like he had feelings

@alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 03:13:40
(no subject)
thats just a trick so youll feel sorry for it. if your too nice to it ill steal your magic so be carefull.

@alt_harry at 2008-11-30 03:15:08
(no subject)
I dont think Boot could steal my magic if he tried.

@alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 03:22:43
(no subject)
id love to see what your father would do to him if he did

@alt_harry at 2008-11-30 03:23:12
(no subject)
I suppose so.
I think your cat has feelings, do you think your cat has feelings? Mudbloods are animals, not blocks of wood.

a mudblood isn't worth half of my cat swotty-anne.

Is 'swot' the only insult you know or just your very favourite?

And your cat can't go down to Hogsmeade to buy you sweets like Harry's mudblood can.

Though it's a very nice cat aside from the throwing up on shoes.

it's not an insult its the truth your a swot.

it's not fergus fault that he has a delicat stomach

That certainly was. So glad that we got a show with dinner tonight.
some one shuld have cast tarentalegra on him too

You should tell Professor Carrow to be sure to let you know the next time he's planning something like this, so you'll be ready to help!

dont make fun of me halfblood

Who's making fun? You could've cast tarantallegra on him if you'd known to expect it, right? It would've made it ever so much funnier.

ive never tried casting it before so i dont know if i could do it

do you want to help me see if i can?

Millie don't be nasty to Sally-Anne. She's a Slytherin and she acts properly so we should stick by her.
@alt_millicent at 2008-11-30 05:30:03
(no subject)

yeah all right
About what happened in the Great Hall tonight...

Everyone, as for what happened at supper tonight...

**Bugger off!**

If we hear of anyone giving our Professor a hard time about it, you'll answer to us.

Ron, where are you? We need a set of your clothes.

---

*alt_harry* at **2008-11-30 00:58:12**  
*(no subject)*

Is he okay? I mean that was really mean. Professor Carrow can cruciate him whenever he wants so why would he do that? What did he do to make his clothes fall off? It wasn't Boot who made them fall off was it?

*alt_gredforge* at **2008-11-30 01:01:23**  
*(no subject)*

NO it wasn't Professor who did that.

it was all the Carrows.
What did Boot do?

Nothing, as far as we know.

He is currently rocking on the floor asking himself the same question.

Is he okay?

I mean he isn't unballanced now or something is he? He didn't go off the deep end?

He's okay, just very sad and kind of scared. He doesn't really know if he did something wrong, or if the Carrows were just being extra mean tonight.

We think they were just being extra mean.

Well tell him Im sorry I laughed at first because then I thought about it.
They even busted the seams apart on those new boots he had, didn't they? I saw them fall off in pieces when you were leading him out.

Yes they did.

That's very inappropriate language.

With all respect to your prefectness, Perce...

BUGGER OFF!

Really, what concern is it of yours, anyway?

Well, what concern is it of yours?
Because you should keep to your proper sphere, that's why. You don't need to make a spectacle of yourselves by having anything to do with Professor Carrow's servant.

Well I'm glad someone did. Naked mudblood wasn't something I wanted to have to look at while I was eating. So thanks, Weasleys, I was able to eat again once he was gone.

I didn't even get what was going on at first. I mean, I'm glad you two went to him right away and hustled him out of there. That was . . . that was rather harsh.

Why did that happen?

I don't know.
I'm not sure anyone understands why some things are done by some people.

What happened?? I was reaching over to get some bread and suddenly everyone went dead silent and then there was a load of noise and laughing and stuff, and then everyone was talking and jumping up and I couldn't see, and Susan went running off.

What's going on?

I wasn't feeling very well and had to leave the hall.

Are you okay now?

My stomach is still a bit upset. I went to see Madame Pomfrey and got a potion for it.
We'll have fun tomorrow. That should help.

What happened was, during dinner Carrow told Professor to deliver a message to his sister at the head table, and when he got to the center of the hall, Every. Single. Seam. of his clothes burst apart. Even the boots. Poor bloke just threw away his old rags, just yesterday. So, we ran up there, threw George's robe over him, and got him out of the hall.

Oh. Right.

What I don't understand is why they had him throw away his old rags when they were going to do this. His knickers pants weren't even decent, he can't go around wearing those, what did they expect him to do?

You know, I think that was sort of the whole point to them. Him not being able to do anything.
Yes but what was he supposed to do tomorrow? Go about in his skivvies? If they'd had him keep his rags they'd have still had their laugh tonight.

At least it sounds like Fred and George got him some clothes so we won't all have to see him naked again in Transfiguration class come Monday.

It's not every night that you see a full moon in the midst of dinner.

You'd better not say that to him.

Or what?

It's not like the whole school didn't see his bare arse. I think we could all use a little pick-me-up every so often, and this was perfect.

I'll remember that next time if it's your bum flashing the great hall.
**alt_percy** at 2008-11-30 01:21:59
(no subject)

Ronald! Honestly, you're as bad as the twins.

**alt_ron** at 2008-11-30 01:22:47
(no subject)

thanks for the complement.

**alt_penelope** at 2008-11-30 01:26:32
(no subject)

They'd be lining up to watch.

**alt_gredforge** at 2008-11-30 01:30:27
(no subject)

Are you sure, I think we'd be running away in terror...

**alt_penelope** at 2008-11-30 02:26:52
(no subject)

Ah, well that comment explains a lot about you two.

**alt_susan** at 2008-11-30 03:13:06
(no subject)

I thought older students were supposed to be more mature than that.
Oh please, you're taking this way too seriously. It was a great laugh, you can't deny that.

Pranks are funny sometimes, yeah. But this one wasn't.

Well, I'm sure your appetite will be recovered by tomorrow morning. I'll take the laugh on an empty stomach over a boring old dinner any day.

Already up here rummaging through my stuff. I've got some that should do well enough.

I have a jumper

Sorry, spilled ink.
It happens.
Black?

yes, but it looks blue in firelight. It's pretty.

Might work.

Do you have chocolate? I didn't get any pudding tonight.

As it happens, I do. Want some?

Please?
alt_ron at 2008-11-30 01:40:13
(no subject)

I think the professor's well enough sorted. Usual place?

alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 01:44:59
(no subject)

Yes.

alt_gredforge at 2008-11-30 01:45:56
(no subject)

Try not to give us anything to new.

alt_ron at 2008-11-30 01:47:31
(no subject)

Are you completely mental? When have I ever had anything new?

alt_gredforge at 2008-11-30 01:50:43
(no subject)

Ha!

True

alt_ron at 2008-11-30 01:53:25
(no subject)

Got a few of Charlie's old jumpers ready, things just about falling apart.
I really hope you can get him more clothes because for one thing, ew. But for another what's good's a servant who's shivering all winter?

I don't think any of us needed that scene. I could barely finish supper.

Those pants were disgusting.

They really were. Put me right off the chocolate pudding.

Nothing puts me off chocolate.
2008-11-29 19:19:00
(no subject)

So that's why Alecto's been so smug lately.
Certainly a meal to remember.

alt_amycus

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-30 03:01:22
(no subject)

Amycus Carrow, do not disrupt dinner like that again! Quite irresponsible. Such an uproar there never was.

alt_amycus at 2008-11-30 03:36:04
(no subject)

There's a moon out tonight.

alt_sinistra at 2008-11-30 04:02:33
(no subject)

No, there isn't...

Ah. I see what you did there.

Very clever, Amycus.

alt_amycus at 2008-11-30 04:25:56
(no subject)

Thank you, liebling.
2008-11-29 22:02:00
ORDER ONLY: Humiliation

Sirius, if you are out there, please report in. I realize that you are quite busy but it is bizarre that you have not written more recently. Other Order members - have you heard from him? I've tried all my usual channels and some unusual ones and it's simply uncharacteristic of him not to write at least one if not two or three exhaustive reports on his doings by now.

If Sirius is in danger I am sure he's not in any sort of danger, but I wish he would keep in better contact.

Molly, your sons have again proved their mettle: the Carrows engineered a quite humiliating scene for poor Boot to-night, and they spirited him away. I haven't the slightest idea of their intentions, but I imagine they shall clothe him - and thank Heavens for it, as I had no wish to see his pathetic little freezing chicken-legs scurrying around the castle. I cannot, of course, intervene myself, although I will have words with them over their public displays; if nothing else, they certainly must not believe it to be acceptable to torment him for the amusement of all the horrible creatures present.

Oh and they are horrible - the little piranhas - such glee in their eyes you never saw.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-30 03:35:41
(no subject)

I don't know where Sirius is but Terry doesn't have chicken-legs and you're right they are piranhas!!

alt_mcgonagall at 2008-11-30 03:36:34
(no subject)

Granger, I want you to go to sleep. I believe that the Weasleys will take care of Boot, and I believe that your anger will not help matters in the least.
Yes Professor McGonagall.

I didn't mean to worry you, child. But sleep makes things feel better. In the morning this will all seem very far away.

No, I haven't heard from Sirius, and I'm quite worried. Checked with Bill when he was home for dinner last night for his birthday, and he's heard nothing, either.

It worries me, Arthur. If he has gone to ground it hardly matters, but - we know there are more of the Lord Protector's agents on the Continent than ever before.
I hate Professor Carrow, I hate hate hate hate hate hate hate hate hate him!!

It was definitely Professor Carrow's fault that Terry's clothes all fell off and I couldn't even watch so I ran away. And then in the library Susan followed me, and she's really a nice girl, she thought that Crookshanks was like the kneazle in *The Kneazle's Gift*. And she said that maybe she would find clothes for Terry. She isn't like the other students.

And Millicent Bulstrode makes me want to *vom* and I know that I shouldn't use Order Only as a place to say things like this but I hate the stupid students and I hate the Carrows and I only like Susan and Terry, and Fred and George Weasley maybe, and I hate the fact that I ran away because it's cowardly but I can't help it because what could I do?!
I'm gutted we lost yesterday. Diggory was right by the snitch near the end but he couldn't go for it because we were so far behind in points.

As for the other thing, I didn't see it because I sit on the far end of the Hufflepuff table. And I'm glad of that because it sounded horrid.

Does anyone want to play Rummy? I'm so tired of chess.

I'll play with you.

Do you know anyone else who would play? Rummy's sort of a bore with only two.

Theodore would probably like to play something other than chess, for once.

Yeah all right. Great Hall in ten minutes then? I'll bring the cards, you bring the sweets.
All right, brilliant.

Oh too bad I would've played, are you still going?

Yeah we should be for a while, at least until dinner.

Yeah it was too bad that we didn't win, especially when Cedric Diggory was so close to the snitch! But we'll get them next time, I reckon.

Are you still in the Great Hall? I'll come down.

The more the merrier, I've got plenty of cards.

Wizard. See you in a minute!
I was astounded to receive a letter from the twins this morning--now there's a rare event. When I'd read it, I went back and looked at the journal entries for the past evening, which I'd missed until this morning, since we had Bill over for dinner for his birthday. I am proud of them, Minerva. Sure enough, they were writing about what had happened to Terry Boot last night ('our Professor,' they call him). They do drive me round the bend at times, but I wish in this case a little of their attitude would rub off on Percy.

They were quite indignant on Terry's behalf, and, I think, characteristically crafty in what they proposed. 'Guess that wanker Carrow wants him to be as miserable as possible,' Fred wrote. 'So fine, he'll look miserable, but he'll stay warm and dry so long as we can help it. We took some of Ron's things and charmed them to look like they're full of holes, but they're still warm. Send us two or three more jumpers and trousers--not too many. Make 'em look rubbishy, but put warming and waterproof charms on them, and reinforcement charms on the seams. No one can do charms like you do, Mum.'

I'll send them off today, with a note for the boy in the pocket and along with a pair of disreputable looking shoes. I think I'll even add a cheering charm to the clothes, too. The twins are right: it will give me immense satisfaction to have a small hand in thwarting the Carrows, even it's just trying to make that poor boy a little more comfortable.

Hermione, I know you're very upset about what happened, dear. But we'll do our best to help your friend know he's not all alone in this world.

Minerva, I think Arthur's told you we haven't heard from Sirius. Neither has Bill. He'll check with the other operatives and let you know if he hears anything.
I hope you realise that though they may be in near-constant trouble, Quartus and Quintus are quite near to my heart, Molly.

As for Sirius, I still have not heard word. If we haven't heard back in a week, I shall begin making enquiries among the Death Eaters, whatever the danger might be.
Could do wiv a bit less dippin the wick, Wagstaff, and a bit more sellin swag to these Mancs, yeah?

You've bills to pay, mate, and no one but you to cover your Kyber.
Not that I'm not happy to see the older clothes suddenly gone from my trunk, but I'm confused.

Don't they all have their own clothes? I mean, Hermione does, right? Why didn't the professor?

well Dennis came with his clothes, so I don't know, maybe he doesn't have any and Professor Carrow doesn't either?

You reckon if Carrow did have anything decent he'd give them to Boot? Because I don't.

I hope it's all right for me to say this because you're a student and all but,

Professor Carrow & Carrow own Terry, not Hogwarts and so Hogwarts gives me clothes but the Professors decide what Terry wears. And they obviously don't like him wearing nice things.
alt_ron at 2008-11-30 21:47:02  
(no subject)

We fought a troll together, makes it alright by me.  
Or anything at all. It's mad, that's what it is.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-30 21:55:51  
(no subject)

It is pretty mad I think. But it isn't as mad as the camps are. I know that they have to make us be dosile but I wish there was some other way to do it.

I think they haven't decided what to do with us yet because there weren't always Mudbloods like me at Hogwarts. I mean, Mudbloods used to be students. I read it in Hogwarts: A History. So they haven't figured out quite how they're going to do things yet I think.

alt_ron at 2008-11-30 22:20:49  
(no subject)

That makes more sense than  
So do a lot of us, Hermione.

alt_arthur at 2008-11-30 22:44:30  
(no subject)

It's not for you to criticise the Professors Carrow, girl. Remember your position, if you please.

alt_hermione at 2008-11-30 22:47:53  
(no subject)

Yes sir.
Blimey, Dad.

Sorry bout that.

Too bloody right they don't want him wearing anything nice. The bloody wankers.

Sorry I have to come down a little hard on you publicly, Hermione. But do remember to watch your words, here in the journals.

I know. It's hard to remember though. I mean it's hard to remember that you have to do that, and it's also hard to remember to watch my words. I don't try to say or write things like that but I think them a lot and then I get in trouble if I ever let them out.

I don't mean to be too hard on you, and I remember you still are very young. Still. We have entrusted you with a number of Order secrets, and so you absolutely must learn to guard your words, Hermione.

I know it's not easy, Merlin knows. I have to kiss up to despicable
people every day. We all have to do it. Keep your eyes on the mission, my dear, keep on working toward our goals, and never mind what the stupid and ignorant say.

alt_arthur at 2008-11-30 21:43:09
(no subject)

When a child born of Muggles shows signs of manifesting magic, Ron, the Ministry jurisdiction over him switches from the Department of Muggle Domestication to the Department of Purity Control, specifically the Committee for Muggle-born Labour Services. He'll also be taken from his parents, in the Muggle camp, and moved to the Muggle-born (in other words, the Mudblood) camp. (If the child is very young, his parents can only hope that someone in the Muggle-born division of the camps will voluntarily assume the care for him. Some children have died once the switch was made, because they were too young to care for themselves once removed from their parents, and no one assumed responsibility for them. Generally, the Ministry doesn't look out very hard for their welfare.)

Citizens can apply for workers or servants from the lists provided by either the Department of Muggle Domestication or the Committee for Muggle-born Labour Services. These work assignments can be temporary or permanent. Some prefer Muggleborn (Mudblood) servants because they can sometimes better tolerate being around the magic of true citizens, even though they cannot practise it themselves. I understand that Professor Carrow requested a mudblood, specifically, on permanent assignment, and when he was assigned Terry Boot, he was assumed to be responsible for providing food and clothing for him.

alt_ron at 2008-11-30 21:46:18
(no subject)

And isn't he just doing a bang-up job of it?

Thanks, Dad.
Gracious, Weasley, you allow your boys to speak to you thus? On record?

It's small wonder they think so little of showing respect to their professors and so much of showing undue affection to the help.

Well, what with raising six of them, I've learned that boys can express themselves a bit impulsively at times. Molly and I generally find that as they grow, they straighten themselves out, with good parental guidance.

Doubtless that is why your fourth and fifth boys have such a stellar record with the Headmistress. Clearly they have been allowed to 'straighten themselves out' as well.

I hope some of that good parental guidance you practise will be in the offing over the holidays? It would not be wise to tolerate this vein of youthful indiscretion for too long, lest it grow too deeply seated to redirect.

I should hate to think that a family who have produced so many pureblood scions might fail in its duty to its younger members, particularly on the matter of blood sympathy.

Peacocky arse.
alt_arthur at 2008-12-01 02:04:52
(no subject)

My goodness, Malfoy. I'm astonished that you have the time to spare from your various committees, board of director meetings, publishing ventures and yes, guiding Miss Parkinson's moral education, to concern yourself with how I raise my boys.

But, you needn't worry about it. They know better than to tempt the wrath of their mother.

alt_molly at 2008-12-01 02:11:34
(no subject)

They will certainly be hearing from me.

alt_lucius at 2008-12-01 02:32:06
(no subject)

Oh, rest assured, I take the moral education of all our children very seriously, let alone Miss Parkinson's. It is my solemn duty as a Hogwarts Governor, as well as my responsibility to the council, to monitor the journals for signs of sedition. Admittedly, as you say, these are but children. Which is why it is all the more crucial to ensure that their views are shaped and moulded correctly, now, while they are still forming.

Indeed, my own disappointment in Miss Parkinson's attitudes has once more proven that the best of families can suffer from a black sheep through no particular fault, save perhaps neglect. She too will be exposed to some specific instruction over the holidays and I pray you will do the same for your impressive progeny. Of course I need not tell you how best to guide one's children through the confusing influence of mudbloods and their trickery. Nevertheless the break provides ample opportunity to execute a correction in their courses.
Bollocks.

Well, I'd better leave him thinking he has the last word. Molly, I'd best write to the boys tonight again. The twins are used to drawing fire, Merlin knows, but Ron had better learn to watch his words and his step a bit more. Particularly if he keeps up this friendship with the Parkinson girl. I'm afraid it's drawing a bit too much of Malfoy's attention.

I'd like to choke the man.

But you're right. I've already sent off my letter and package to the twins, so you'll have to wait until Errol comes back, but I expect him back tonight.

Why, you miserable wanker! You puffed-up insufferable bigot! My boys are worth a dozen of yours!

Arthur, I don't know how you can keep from shoving that man's teeth down his throat.

Honestly, some days, Molly, neither do I.
@alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 22:12:50
(no subject)
I think they get whatever clothes their owners see fit to give them.

@alt_ron at 2008-11-30 22:20:09
(no subject)
Still say it's bollocks.

@alt_pansy at 2008-11-30 22:48:50
(no subject)
I was thinking, tonight, that I might go look at stars for our astronomy homework. The skies should be really black tonight.

@alt_ron at 2008-11-30 23:19:34
(no subject)
We've got astronomy homework? I'd better get on it or I'll have a case of the blues when Sinistra finds I've not done it.

@alt_sinistra at 2008-11-30 23:37:50
(no subject)
You've got astronomy homework? News to me!

@alt_ron at 2008-11-30 23:43:52
(no subject)
Guess I don't then.
You sound disappointed. I can always assign you some! How about a 12 inch essay about the constellation Ophiuchus?

I'd rather not?

Fair enough!

It's a man holding a serpent.

That's hardly an essay, Draco.

But I knew it without even looking it up!
One point to Slytherin because Draco knows a fact without looking it up.

Cheers, professor.

Ronald, have a care about criticising your professors here.

Righto, Dad. My mistake.

Would you quit calling him the professor? Its an insult to our actual professors.

Not to some of them.
They can read, too, you know.
Lucius,

I was talking about chess and thinking on what we talked about last weekend. I wanted to ask you about this, since you play chess. I say the pawn's the most useful piece yet because if something happens to it, so what, there's another. So the pawn can be the most powerful. More than the queen, right? Too bad we can't have as many pawns as we want. Think what it'd be like!

That is the dumbest thing I've ever heard Pansy.

Oh.

I mean, it's really hard to get a pawn all the way across the board. There's always an other but all the pawns have to get sakrifised. And they scream and I feel bad.

Mine don't scream...
Maybe it depends on who you're playing against cause the set Linus had had these big brute pieces and they completely whomped on my pawns and they definitely screamed.

That's just wrong. Maybe Linus is secretly mental and the pieces show that! Like they take on the owner's personality?

Maybe he's a psycho killer!!

Oooh! And he's Polyjuiced to look like a student here! But he's not really a student... he'd always be jumpy afraid he'd get caught.

The few times I've seen him, he has been awfully twitchy...

Like a rabbit? A murderous rabbit?
Maybe he's a wererabbit!

I don't think those exist.

Well it would only be a rabbit during the full moon, the rest of the time it would look like an ordinary person like Mr Lupin.

Oh, I was thinking of a rabbit that turned into a wolf maybe.

Oh, that would be much more interesting. What do you suppose happens to animals that get bitten by a transformed werewolf? Maybe the werewolf always just kills them.
alt_sally_anne at 2008-12-01 03:16:37
(no subject)

If you got bit by a wererabbit would you turn into a rabbit during the full moon?

Because being a werewolf would be bad, but being a wererabbit would be truly embarrassing.

alt_lucius at 2008-12-01 01:01:46
(no subject)

Well, it is a mistake to underestimate a pawn, certainly. However pawns by themselves are not powerful, nor is their supply limitless.

A pawn moves forward and can only change its course if it is used to take another piece.

One thing that is very important is to have control over one's pawns. As well as having enough of them to shield one's king. What you describe is a ruthless ability to sacrifice one's pawns when the trade is worth it. And that is a good skill to have.

alt_pansy at 2008-12-01 01:56:59
(no subject)

I don't know if you meant to or not, but you've given me a lot to think about. Thank you.
Well that didn't go too badly except for the mad chess sets from the closet. I had already put away the one that shouts bad words whenever the player makes a mistake and the one that tried to bite me when I set it out, but I've put away the one Susan started with as well, it seems to be deranged not quite right in the head. Also it turns out there's another set with a piece that bites, I'm sorry about that Neville. That set worked alright otherwise, though, so long as we were very careful when setting it out. I thought cleaning and polishing up the old sets might help but maybe not. The one that's all gloomy at least doesn't make trouble but it doesn't give very good advice, either. I'll keep using that one, so no one else has to. Unless people would rather I use the biting one. I just made sure to wrap up my fingers in my sleeve any time I needed to put my hand near it.

Anyway I thought the tourney was fun but it was hard trying to keep of what everyone else was doing when I was playing myself. I guess I shouldn't have tried to play in my own tourney but I really wanted to. I think everyone wrote down who won and I'm making another list if people want to see it, let me know. I wonder if there's anyone who isn't playing who could help out next week just by keeping track of who wins the matches. Unfortunately I think most of the people who aren't playing don't much like chess.

The next rounds will be next Saturday after lunch. Is there anything else people think I should try to do before then?

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Could we get the house elfs to bring us snacks next time? Only I get really thirsty and we can't leave our boards.
That's a good idea, I'll ask them. They were really nice about it when I asked if they could make a cake for the winner.

Don't be daft - just ask Dennis.

Right, well, he jumped in all right, so.

A good servant is supposed to anticipate his master's needs, after all.

I suppose so!

Well Harry could but he didn't so I didn't want to, Harry says Dennis gets cross when Harry lends him out too much. Besides I feel bad asking, it's like asking you to share your sweets, you don't mind once in a while but not all the time.
I can bring pumpkin pasties and chocolate frogs and even cockroach clusters, sir.

That'd be nice Dennis. You know you don't have to put yourself out though.

It is no putting out, sir, it is a pleasure to serve.

Okay well then that's all right. I like cockroach clusters.

I will bring more especially for you then. Is there anything else you would require, sir?

Butterbeer?
alt_dennis at 2008-12-01 00:17:38  
(no subject)

I will bring some immediately.

alt_draco at 2008-12-01 00:01:59  
(no subject)

And quit trying to do so much, Sally Anne, your always looking so anxious out there. I'm not in the tourney so I can help write things down I guess, because I'll still be going to watch Harry and Teddy and the other Slytherins.

alt_padma at 2008-12-01 00:13:37  
(no subject)

I say, that's sporting, Malfoy.

alt_draco at 2008-12-01 00:15:13  
(no subject)

Well it's boring to be around the common room when no one's there.

alt_sally_anne at 2008-12-01 01:25:52  
(no subject)

Oh could you? Thank you, that would be wizard. I didn't want to ask because I know you hate chess. I didn't realize how hard it would be to do everything. I've never organised anything before.
Consider it done.

I've asked Belinda but she doesn't want to waste a whole afternoon and I can't really blame her.

Maybe we could just get a large piece of parchment and the winner could write down the results of each match?

Oh - Anagha wondered if we object to spectators. Only a few of the older Ravenclaws might like to watch next week so I said I'd ask.

Spectators? I don't mind but I don't know if others do. I suppose it's the Great Hall and we can't really stop people showing up.

Well, the bite wasn't too bad. No permierent scars. Anyway, I beat Wayne on that match, which I was rather chuffed about.

It was fun, although I had a hard time playing well through four matches. Still, I did my best for the honour of Gryffindor!

The Head Girl was telling me what a nice job you'd made of it organising this whole thing, Miss Perks. I stopped by and watched a couple of matches, and
noticed how you kept things running smoothly. A fine demonstration of imagination and initiative. Well done.

Sarah really said Thank you.

I'm out of the tourney so use my chess set. The pieces know you.

You're not out of anything, Pansy, in a round-robin tourney you play everyone and then count up wins for your score. Unless you're dropping out but you'd better not, it took me hours to draw up that schedule.

I mean, I'm out of the running to win. Not going to drop out! But you can still use my set.

Thanks for putting away that set Sally-Anne! I like to talk to my pieces and sometimes get ideas from them, but even I could tell that what they were saying was bizzarre! And then when they started trying to rhyme....

Perhaps they hadn't been played with in so long that they went crazy. Which is a bit sad really.
The rhymes really were the last straw.

Magical things sometimes will stop working right if you don't use them regularly, or if they get dirty or damaged. I think over the holidays I'm going to borrow one of the sets that doesn't work right, to play with by myself. I might not have a proper opponent but that shouldn't matter, just so long as the set is out and being used every day it might help. It certainly won't hurt anything except maybe my finger if I'm not careful.

When you put them away they looked as if they might be getting ready to sing. Good job you saved us all from that!

I wish I could blame them for my bad showing in the first two matches, but I'm sure I would have lost anyhow. And I did do better in the later ones.

You seem like a careful person anyhow, but I hope your extra careful if you take home one of the biting sets. I've heard you can get awful infections from being bitten or cut by magical things or creatures.
RESULTS DAY ONE!!

I'm doing better in the chess tourney than I thought!!!

1. Wayne and I completely creamed him
2. Ernie beat me but who didn't see that coming?
3. I thought that Linus was going to destroy me but then I managed it at the last sec and it was wizard! Like a Wronski Feint!
4. Sally-Anne beat me even though she was all over the place trying to run things!

So I'm still in the game I think. Only I know that when I draw Teddy or Ron Im a goner.

---

I'm glad it was only four matches today because otherwise I'd have headache.

Linus was really upset impressed by that one, he told me. He was sure he had you but he missed where your rook was.

Yeah, me too Padma.

I didn't know where my rook was either, it was like I looked at the board and there it was in the right place!

I'm already out. But there's always next year!
Did you lose *all* your matches? I don't think a round robin works like that, I think you have to keep playing even if you lose really bad, Pansy, or the totals will get mucked up, won't they?

I'm sure Sally-Anne explained it all to me but I imagine I was thinking of something else when she was talking to me.

That's not how it works, Parkinson. You play everyone and then the person with the highest number of wins is the overall winner.

Well, I can pretty much be sure it won't be me.

I'm really glad I didn't join up now. That would be horrid, to have to keep playing when you know you're going to lose anyway.

I hadn't thought about that till just now.
alt_ron at 2008-12-01 00:38:40
(no subject)
I'll go easy on you?

alt_harry at 2008-12-01 00:41:00
(no subject)
Youd better!!
I think I'd try harder but us Snakes have Teddy and he can give you a run for your money.

alt_ron at 2008-12-01 00:42:24
(no subject)
We'll see.

alt_harry at 2008-12-01 00:42:58
(no subject)
Yes we will!!

alt_lucius at 2008-12-01 01:03:21
(no subject)
Well done, Mr Marvolo - I am certain you shall continue to do Slytherin proud.

alt_harry at 2008-12-01 01:07:13
(no subject)
Thank you Mr Malfoy.
How are you?
Very well, Harry. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you over the holidays. You are prepared for exams, no doubt?

I'm trying, Mr Malfoy. I hope I do well. Only I managed to get a bad mark on a paper that was about myself so I don't know how I can do that well, in Defence anyway.

Ah, well, one may presume that your exam will contain questions on topics other than yourself. Were I you, I should expect to see more about Professor Lockhart's exploits and the creatures he has encountered on his (many) travels.

I am certain you will perform satisfactorily.

You weren't that bad! It could've gone either way.