

**2009-01-01 03:06:00**

*(no subject)*

I'm sore and achy all over, so I am awake.

Happy new year, all.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2009-01-01 14:13:19**

*(no subject)*

Happy New Year Pansy!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2009-01-01 16:16:07**

*(no subject)*

Happy New Year. Three more days until I see you at King's Cross!



 [alt\\_megan](#) at **2009-01-02 02:50:40**

*(no subject)*

Happy New Year!

**2009-01-01 10:16:00**

A K

Happy New Year, everyone. I've been thinking for the last week about that game I read about in the old school annuals, AK where students hex each other.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I think I really want to try playing it and I think the best time would be the first weekend after we get back, ~~because the full moon's then and Mr Lupin won't be around to enforce~~ because we won't have loads of homework yet and there's no quidditch match. Also if we do it on a weekend it won't disrupt classes.

That means people need to tell me soon if they want to play, either by posting here or by owl (if you don't want other people playing to know you're in the game). I suppose you could also send a note without an owl once we're back at school.

Anyway here's how it works. Everyone playing is supposed to be applying to be wizards in an organisation called the Brotherhood of the Just. (Back in the old days they'd say you were applying to be Aurors but I'm not sure what Mrs Lestrange would think of that so let's just call it something else, I don't want to offend her.) You apply to the Brotherhood's secretary, who is me, and will be assigned a target. Your goal is to hex your target without being hexed yourself.

If your ears get turned blue, you're out of the game.

If you turn your target's ears blue, you get ten points and your old target's target becomes your target. Does that make sense? So if Draco has Longbottom as a target and Longbottom has Pansy, and Draco hexes Longbottom, Pansy is Draco's new target. Sometimes this gets a little confusing and I will straighten it all out (by owl or note, obviously, because your target is supposed to be a secret to everyone but you) as quickly as possible.

If you know who's hunting you, or if you catch someone trying to hex you, you can hex them first. You get five points for that and they're out of the game.

If you hex the wrong person -- like if you THINK Longbottom is after you and you hex him, but actually he was trying to hex Pansy -- you

lose five points unless you have a really good reason for thinking he was after you. So if you heard him starting the hex and you were sitting near Pansy, no penalty. But if you heard from your mate that Longbottom was after you and you ambush him but you weren't really his target, you lose five points. So if you decide to take out your hunter you'd better be sure you're right.

If you hex a civilian, someone who's not playing the game, you will be subject to penalties from the Secretary of the Brotherhood. I might declare that for eight hours, anyone in the game can score points by hexing you.

You are to use discretion in choosing time and place. If you bring shame to the Brotherhood by getting in trouble (either with a prefect, or with a teacher), there will be consequences like for hexing a civilian. (I actually think most teachers won't mind as long as students don't disrupt classes, it's harmless fun isn't it? And we'll be doing this on a weekend so no harm done.)

It's a really clever hex, by the way, I tried it on myself. You can't feel it happen, but if you've been hexed - if your ears are blue - you can't cast it on anyone else, it doesn't work. I'm pretty sure if two people cast it at exactly the same moment they'll both get blue ears, but if you're too late the spell makes sure you know. It wears off after about an hour and your ears go back to their regular colour but they're a really BRIGHT blue in the meantime. Gemma thought it looked wizard.

For everyone playing, I will try to make sure that your first target isn't in your house. Over time as the group gets smaller it could wind up with a lot of people in the same house who have each other as targets, at which point I expect it'll be over really quickly.

The person with the most points wins.


In the event of a dispute (and there are always disputes with this sort of thing, the old annuals were full of them) I will be the arbitrator. I will try to be fair. If someone doesn't like how I run it they can volunteer to run the next game so I can go around casting hexes on people instead of assigning people their targets. I will try to use prior precedent when practical, back at school I have the annual from the library where they went on and on about the game. Like they ruled that if your mates cast petrificus totalis on your hunter but NOT the blue-ears hex, and let you cast the blue-ears hex, that's allowed. But if they cast it on your target, you're penalized because you're supposed

to be doing the work yourself. Also, if civilians choose to involve themselves the Brotherhood Secretary is supposed to approach them and warn them that if they join the game, they will be assigned a target and a hunter like everyone else. This doesn't apply to prefects of course (or teachers), it's more to keep your mates who aren't really playing from trying to give you an advantage.

I'm expecting this will just be firsties but I suppose if older students want to play they should let me know too. By breakfast on Wednesday after we get back, and then I'll decide who gets which target and make sure everyone knows their target on Friday morning. The game starts Friday after classes are over and goes until Sunday dinner or until there's only one person left (or none).

And you can tell me here if you want to play, it's a little bit of an advantage when no one knows you're playing but really, everyone will guess quickly when they see you looking over your shoulder all the time.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-02 02:51:11](#)  
(no subject)

Can I pl

I suppose no one's going to tell if you they want to play here. After you said not to.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-02 04:25:19](#)  
(no subject)

You know come to think of it I'd really like to be able to put up a list of everyone who's playing on Wednesday just to be sure I didn't forget anyone, so it's not going to be a secret who's playing anyway. You can just go ahead and tell me in the journal. Or use owl post or a note at school if you prefer.

And anyone who wants to can play.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-03 19:07:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay. I want to play I really would like to I don't want to I want to play.

But I can change my mind and not play if I decide later, can't I? And not get hexed or anything?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-04 02:37:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Actually if you quit mid-game I'm going to hex you to make your toenails grow ten feet long.

Just kidding. If you change your mind before it starts I'll just take you off the list. If you change your mind after you start I'll re-assign your target to your hunter just as I would have if you were killed (except you don't lose all your points when you get killed and if someone just up and quits I think I'll take all their points away for being a prat).



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-04 03:33:20](#)**  
(no subject)


I won't quit in the middle then. I won't quit at all.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-02 04:28:24](#)**  
(no subject)

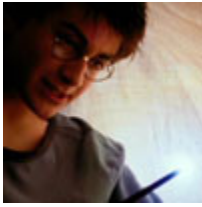
Count me in Perks. This game sounds way better than chess.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-02 06:36:35](#)**  
(no subject)

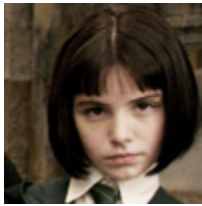
Harry and I have talked about this game before and we both like the sounds of it.


And I guess I agree with Seamus. It should be better than chess.



 **alt\_harry** at [2009-01-02 19:14:50](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, Im definitely in



 **alt\_pansy** at [2009-01-02 22:53:46](#)  
(no subject)

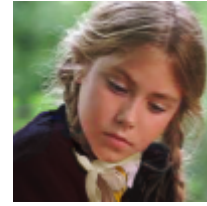
I'm in.

Just two more days till I see you!

**2009-01-01 20:10:00**

*New Year's Eve*

I'm not in trouble. Not really. My guardian said I can even still go to Susan's. But I wish I had just sat in my room and read a book.



 [alt\\_megan](#)

But I didn't.

My guardian went to a New Year's Eve party last night. And I didn't. And it was so quiet here. And I didn't have any good books to read. And the house kept making noises. And even the house elf had gone off somewhere. And it was also dark in all the rooms. Even with all the lights, there was dark round the edges. I could feel it. I know that doesn't make sense. But it was like that.

And nothing kept happening, over and over again.

So I decided to see if I could find my stuff that wasn't in my room when I came back here. It's not because I'm ungrateful. I just wanted to know where it went. So I looked in the wardrobe and I looked in the cupboard in the hall, and I didn't find it, so after a while I decided to go look in the attic. There's loads of old stuff in the attic.

I wasn't spying. Really I wasn't. At least, I didn't mean to, but I couldn't find my stuff and it was interesting. I found pictures and plans for this house from before it was built, and letters other things that were interesting, and I was looking through the trunk filled with old clothes when my guardian shouted at me and I jumped and knocked over a vase and it broken into pieces all over the floor.

She was very angry.

She was very angry this morning too. But I was very quiet like she likes all morning, and she only snapped at me a few times so I knew that was right. And I read her book to her while she was sewing, and then at lunch I couldn't stand it any more and I started crying and I thought she was going to get even more angry, but she started crying too and said she wasn't a good guardian. And she didn't know what to do with me. And didn't they teach me manners at that school? And I cried more and said it was wicked of me to look through her things and she stopped crying said it was. And I cried some more and said I was sorry.

And then she made me polish the silver and I hated it just like I always used to. But she said that I could go to Susan's after all. I think ~~that's because she doesn't want to have to take me to the train~~

So I suppose that's all right. I think. But I still feel awful.



[2009-01-02 15:20:00](#)

*New Year's*

It's a singular irony that one has *less* time to write and update, rather than *more*, when one is on holiday.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Of course, it helps to actually *be* on holiday, instead of constantly called upon to offer direction to people whom one would think ought to be able to guide themselves.

Minerva, that is not to say that your company was at all unpleasant; in fact your presence was one of the few things that made Tuesday's grueling itinerary at all tolerable. I quite agree with the droll sentiment you expressed on Tuesday evening. In fact, I believe we ought to impose a time limit on discussion of any one student; it's impossible to credit that even as much as a quarter-hour should be necessary to review any of their records for classification. Furthermore, if Sedgwick and Burroughs cannot be trusted to understand the difference between texts on Charms theory and texts on theoretical charms, they have no business remaining on the Board of Governors.

At least the new *History of Magic* editions have been approved. Though Merlin only knows whether Binns can be convinced to teach using it. (His tutelage was woefully inaccurate even when I was a student! But there is no real way to keep him permanently from the classroom, more's the pity.)

(On Tuesday afternoon I was able to bring to the Lord Protector some concerns about His son's recent exploration at Buckingham. We had an ... enlightening discussion. I remain confident as ever in Our Lord's plans, inscrutable though they may at times be to those who lack his foresight or puissance. Nonetheless, I am more assured now, knowing that He acknowledges the risks inherent in His latest venture, and has agreed to seek additional avenues to success.)

Wednesday there was a programming meeting at the WWN, which went as well as expected. It had the advantage of affording me an opportunity to honour my promise to Miss Parkinson that she might see first-hand the sort of thing that occupies too much of my time. I daresay she was grateful for the chance to quit Grimmauld Place for a little while and get some fresh air.

We then spent New Year's Eve quite amused by Draco's and Harry's attempts to keep themselves awake to watch the calendar turn. The camp at Stroud was given fireworks, which we could see from the courtyard, but the upper balcony over the guest wing afforded the best view.

Yesterday, after attending to the first of the month accounting, I took Narcissa down to New London for the New Year's Day performance of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Met Mulciber and Warrington there as well (Ari and Pandora being still on holiday through to-morrow). Unfortunately, we were disrupted during the second interval by an urgent appeal from Minister Umbridge, the Lord Protector being disinclined to answer her first request for counsel. Upon hearing her concern, I was hardly surprised that Our Lord thought His direct intervention unnecessary, but the matter did take rather longer to resolve than I might have thought.

At least I was able to rejoin our party for supper at the club following the performance. Still I was most disappointed to miss the third and fourth acts - Narcissa told me that the *Sull'aria* was a triumph.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-03 14:08:11](#)  
(no subject)

Umbridge? What possible reason could she have for interrupting you?

Were I still teaching, I can well imagine spending more than a quarter-hour on a student - after all, one must vent one's feelings somehow. But none of the Board of Governors, as far as I know, are forced into contact with students for more than a few minutes at a time. Unless the student in question is a Governor's student, and of course those children's records need not be examined.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-03 15:09:10](#)  
(no subject)

You have no idea how ridiculous it was - trifling, really, and yet the resolution still required more than two hours' time. There are days I bitterly regret any involvement in politics whatsoever.

And as for extolling the virtues or expounding upon the ills of

individual students, yes, were ours a staff meeting, for example, or the board of review to determine NEWT-level students, I could quite agree with you. For our purposes, however, the only conceivable reason to dwell on a particular record would be that the committee have not already reviewed them sufficiently. You know how I abhor such lack of preparation and the lax attitude toward responsibility that it implies.

**2009-01-03 00:09:00**

## *Observations and Discoveries*



 [alt\\_gredforge](#)

Well, we certainly have been very busy lately. Besides tormenting Percy with snowballs, we have been exploring the castle almost every day, with everyone gone, and no classes and all. And we've actually learned quite a lot. We'll even share some of our hard earned knowledge with all you out there too lazy to go out and find things for yourselves.

- IF you know what's good for you, you won't turn the spear in the hand of the 2nd suit of armor on the left side of the main corridor coming away from the main staircase on the 3rd floor. Take our word for it. Just don't.

-The slytherin quidditch uniforms from fifty years ago look just as poofy as they do now.

- There's a ten-pin bowling alley right off that little odd corridor next to the stairs leading to the headmistress's office, the one that doesn't look like it's going anywhere. But, seriously. WHY?

-In the antechamber to the classroom next to the tapestry of the Battle of the Bloody Axes from the eleventh goblin war on the 4th floor we found quite a few cans of turpentine. Just the thing if the Fat Lady needs to remove a few stones. That way she can fit into the fetching lavender dress in the painting of the goblin market next to the arithmancy classroom.

- Peeves took us by surprise and locked us into this lovely room that smelled like rotting cheese. It was a pleasant experience. There was a grand bonfire that consumed our incredibly stinky clothes in the Gryffindor common room afterwards.

- We found the room where they keep the mousetraps. Well, George's foot found it.

-What a place of fascination, the old caretakers office. We found the chains and manacles on the wall rather intimidating, but the filing cabinets proved to be a treasure trove of information. All kind of ideas! And a few interesting confiscated artifacts. We will certainly make good use of them, now that we've liberated them.

Oh, but have no fear... never on school property. Ever. Really.

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 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-03 14:09:19](#)**  
(no subject)

The Slytherin quidditch uniforms do not make us look like poofers!!



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2009-01-03 15:41:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sure that you had no proper business whatsoever rooting through those file cabinets, and if you took anything from them, you should put it right back.

I hope the frequency of snowball ambushes will diminish once the rest of the students are back.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-04 03:02:37](#)**  
(no subject)

You should organise a bowling party, it might be fun.


Why do you suppose Mr Lupin doesn't use the caretaker's office?



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2009-01-04 04:02:07](#)**  
(no subject)

It's probably just easier for him to work from his hut, instead of going all the way up to the castle whenever there is a problem.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-04 04:39:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Judging from the description, I'd guess that the hut is loads cosier than that office.

*Chains on the wall? Ugh.*



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-04 05:18:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well he could take them down couldnt he?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-04 05:47:23](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose. Didn't think of that. But his hut's nice, so I can see why he needn't bother.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-04 03:33:02](#)  
(no subject)

What happens if you turn the spear in the hand of the 2nd suit of armor on the left side of the main corridor coming away from the main staircase on the third floor? Is it worse than rotting cheese?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-04 04:03:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yes it is worse than the cheese, and if you want anything more specific than that you'll just have to find out for yourself.

Though we really don't recommend it.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-04 04:06:49](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh. I'm not going to do that!



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-04 04:37:19](#)**  
(no subject)


It sounds as though you found loads of stuff to do, even if you couldn't go home for the hols. But really, I think I'll leave all the castle exploring to you.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2009-01-04 04:40:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose neither of you cracked a single book open during the entire holiday, did you?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2009-01-04 04:44:56](#)**  
(no subject)

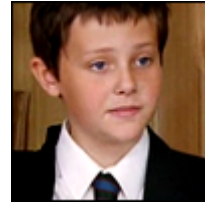
I trust that your Mum and I won't be receiving any letters from the Headmistress concerning any, er, adventures concerning anything that was originally in those file cabinets? That way, you won't be receiving any Howlers back.

Missed you over the holidays very much, lads.

**2009-01-03 16:58:00**

*03-JAN-1992*

Bitsy stole this from me as soon as I got home and mum said she didn't want to help me look for it because it's Christmas and Christmas is family time but I found it an hour ago anyway, so that's fine.



 **alt\_michael**

It was wrapped up in a blanket and tied up in ribbons under her bed. I don't know why she'd think I wouldn't eventually look there but I did. Right before we're going back from hols, of course.

Dad gave me a book about spells and charms to change how music sounds while you're playing with, which was brilliant, and mum gave me some glass that's supposed to confuse bad luck and spells cast at you while you're asleep if you hang it in your window, so that was that.

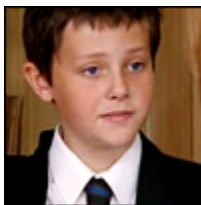
Happy New Year, I hope you're all enjoying it.



 **alt\_draco** at **2009-01-04 03:02:15**

*(no subject)*

Your family seems to have a lot of objects having to do with luck. Does any of it work?



 **alt\_michael** at **2009-01-04 08:02:32**

*(no subject)*

I think it works.

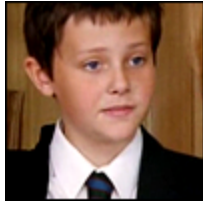


 **alt\_draco** at **2009-01-04 16:42:05**

*(no subject)*

How do you know?






 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2009-01-04 17:01:01](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't had anything really horrible happen to me, yet.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-07 19:54:17](#)  
(no subject)

Bitsy sounds like a house-elf name, but it's not, is it?

**2009-01-04 16:31:00**

*Peace and Quiet - Relatively Speaking*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Since Monday, Draco has been quite infatuated with his new broom - and while satisfying to see, it is perhaps not so healthy for him to obsess to the exclusion of all other interests. Luckily it has not been as cold this week as last. Yet despite the inclement weather, he and Harry have barely come inside from flying all week. Twice I had to insist that Heddy dose them with Pepper-Up and draw them hot baths to keep them from catching cold.

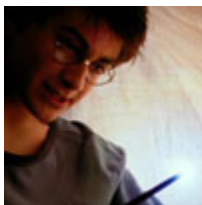
Each time, they asked to drink chocolate to clear away the taste of Pepper-Up. Frankly I don't know which is worse: The blatant appeal for chocolate or the recklessness leading to the need for it in the first place.

In fact I became a little concerned that he might suffer separation disorder when he had to leave it home to-day. But I needn't have feared; he's more sensible than that.


I was surprised, however, when Narcissa came into my rooms last night, quite melancholic over having to put him on the train back to Hogwarts. I know precisely how she feels - having him and Harry in the house has filled it with noise and bustle of a good sort - but their education must come before sentimental notions of keeping the lad home indefinitely.

At any rate, we managed to collect them, their baggage (sans broom!) and go round for Pansy as well, and deposit them at King's Cross before the final whistle. I proposed that Narcissa and I take tea in town and perhaps to accompany her on a few errands to cheer her up.

One more evening of repose and then the year shall begin in earnest.




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 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2009-01-05 00:28:57**  
(no subject)

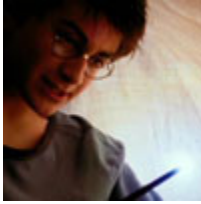
Ill miss you and Aunt Narcissa even if I don't miss pepperup potion, Mr Malfoy.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-05 00:30:44](#)**  
(no subject)

No-one 'misses' Pepper-Up potion (I know it's a foul taste) but it's preferable to becoming ill, believe me.


We enjoyed having you stay, as always.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-05 00:32:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Well I don't think I really was going to become ill, but if you say so, Mr Malfoy.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-05 01:17:47](#)**  
(no subject)

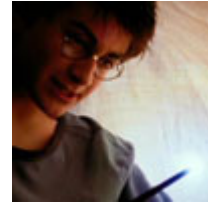
Consider it a panacea, then. It never pays to take chances with one's health, Harry.

**2009-01-04 19:42:00**

*Back!!*

No more Pepperup Potion because I'm back at Hogwarts!!!

I'm excited about AK too. Sally-Anne has really wizard ideas for things to do. Only I think that once I get all my exam results back I might not be so excited. I might have to do more revising this term. Oh well.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

**2009-01-04 20:41:00**

*(no subject)*

I'm writing this in the Slytherin common room and it's so lovely, some second-years are playing Exploding Snap and I can smell ginger biscuits that someone brought from home and there's a lovely fire in the fireplace and it's cosy and I'm so happy to be back.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Gemma cried this morning when Mr Morrison said it was time to take me to the station. She wanted to come along to see me off but Mrs Stretton had errands for Mr Morrison to run in London and he couldn't be expected to do them with Gemma along, so I gave her a hug and said I'd see her in the summer. Except at the station, the way Mr Morrison said goodbye made me think the Strettons don't want to have me back. I don't know. There was another row yesterday, Mrs Stretton had me helping her in the office with testing out different foods. She had samples of potatoes, turnips, carrots, and apples and she was transfiguring all of them into oranges and then she'd have me peel the orange and eat it. It was fascinating how different the results were depending on what you started with, you'd think the apple would work best but I'd say it was actually the turnip. Anyway Jeremy came in and asked her why she had ME doing this and she said she didn't want to disturb him because he never wants to help and he said that's because she never lets him do anything interesting and I wanted to leave but they were between me and the door.

Anyway Jeremy seemed to think I was doing something his mum ought to have asked him to do. And Mrs Stretton also seemed to think I was doing something he ought to be doing only she seemed to think he'd rather be out flying. ~~And after a while I realised that she'd only asked me to help with this because she wanted to make him jealous~~

Finally I said I had to go pack up to go back to Hogwarts and I thought Mrs Stretton was going to hex me for interrupting but she let me go.

When I came to King's Cross in September I was terrified a little overwhelmed by all the strangers, but today I couldn't stop smiling, everywhere I looked I saw one of my friends. Pansy and I sat together on the train and talked about hols and music and AK, which is going to be wizard, and about classes, and I showed her some of the

transfiguration tricks I learned from Mrs Stretton. I'm so glad to be back.

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 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-05 03:29:03](#)  
(no subject)

It's good to be back, isn't it? You're getting to be so good at transfiguration, too!

And forget the Strettons. Sounds like they just wanted an unpaid nanny.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-06 00:45:47](#)  
(no subject)

Miss Perks it sounds as though the Strettons want to treat you like a Mudblood. And you're not to be treated that way, you aren't ~~as muddy as us~~. You ~~ought to complain~~.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-06 02:33:41](#)  
(no subject)

That's not really fair to the Strettons, plenty of pureblood families expect their own children to help mind the younger ones. Taking care of Gemma wasn't bad, it was the babies at night that were awful I didn't like, because I wanted to sleep.

They *have* mudblood house servants, if that's all they'd wanted it would've been easy enough to get another one. And she'd have been older than me and probably better with babies.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-06 03:22:08](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, Miss Perks.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-06 05:14:48](#)  
(no subject)

I think they'll want you back. You're clever and good at things and it's their duty now. You even made an eye for one of their muggles!

Do you want to go back in the summer?

**2009-01-04 21:23:00**

*(no subject)*

It's lovely to be back at school and with Sally-Anne again.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

the less said about the holiday, the better. I never did see Mum, so I wonder what I'll do over summer. But I'll worry about that when the time comes.

AK sounds wizard, but I wonder how long I'll last. Still, it'll be good experience for me.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at **2009-01-06 05:15:21**

*(no subject)*

Why would it be good experience? I thought it was just a game. Is losing good experience?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-06 05:28:09**

*(no subject)*

It'll teach you to be wary of everyone you know. Now, being a Slytherin, I'm like that naturally, but in this world, I think all wizards should learn that.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at **2009-01-06 18:40:11**

*(no subject)*

Oh. But I thought *Everyone*? Perhaps you're right. Sometimes things happen. But most things that happen, you should have known to expect. I think. And usually it's because you were wrong. Or someone was wrong. So I don't think everyone. Except perhaps you're right.



**2009-01-05 12:06:00**

*Mondays*

Why are Mondays so busy?

I know we've just come back from holiday and ought to be well-rested, but for some reason I'm ever so much more tired than usual. (It doesn't help when Professor Binns is ~~drowning~~ droning on about centaurs. Parvati may be horse-mad but I'm not!)



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Still, Herbology was fun and kept me awake. And there's Transfiguration after lunch. Have to pay attention there! But by the time we get to Charms I'm sure I shall need a lie-down. It's so silly, but it's true.

Why is it so hard to come back from a holiday?

Also, it sounds as if several people are playing Perks's silly ~~asa assassin~~ AK game, but I don't know if I want to or not. It sounds like a dreadful bore to always be looking over one's shoulder, and I quite don't like the idea of my ears turning blue, even for an hour.

But Linus wants to play and Belinda said she would if I do, and even Daphne mentioned it on the train, so it doesn't seem as if ~~they care that Perks~~ it matters whether it's silly or not.

I just haven't decided. Lav, what do you think?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-05 22:50:31**

*(no subject)*

I can't believe you'll play chess but won't play a game where you get to pretend to curse people.

Also, your hair is long enough to hide your ears and anyway they'll match your robes, won't they? And Daphne is definitely playing.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-06 00:34:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, that's just it, it's only pretending.

D'you really like my hair? Long, I mean? I guess my hair could cover up my ears. That's one good thing about it, I guess. I keep wanting to cut it but Mum won't let me.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-06 01:06:54](#)**  
(no subject)

It might be good practise for when we're older and curse people for real.


Why would you want to cut it? Girls are supposed to have long hair.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-06 05:16:18](#)**  
(no subject)


Oooh. Do you want to curse people for real when you grow up?



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-06 15:59:35](#)**  
(no subject)

If they bother me I'll do it. Or if it's part of my job.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-06 18:39:50](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a good reason. I suppose there are loads of jobs where you might have to curse people. Like camp guard. Or teacher.



 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-07 18:04:26](#)  
(no subject)

What sort of job do you want to do when you grow up?



 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-07 18:03:28](#)  
(no subject)

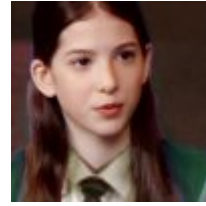
Well, it's all right for winter, as it's warm. But in nice weather it's really heavy, so I'm always tying it back.

Besides, all the men in my family have long hair, too, not just the girls. Only Haruman and my dad always wear it up in turbans.

I wouldn't want it too short, either, or I couldn't plait it.

**2009-01-05 12:18:00**

*(no subject)*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Just as I was finishing breakfast this morning, Cedric Diggory from Hufflepuff came over to the Slytherin table and asked me if third years were allowed in that game I was organising. I said sure, if they want, and he said what about fourth and fifth years and I said yes, anyone can play, they just need to let me know by Wednesday at breakfast so I can assign targets by Friday.

And he grinned and said I should put his name down. And then he glanced back over at his own table and gave them a thumbs-up.

So yeah, if anyone else is wondering, I was kind of assuming just firsties would want to play but anyone's welcome, just let me know I guess. If you're a big kid wanting to play you'll need to write down your name and house for me though, I know all the Slytherins and all the firsties but the rest kind of blur together still. I only knew Diggory because he's the Quidditch Seeker.

-----  
Alright I'm adding a rule: aside from the hex that turns people's ears blue you can ONLY use spells from the Standard Book of Spells, Grade 1 in the game. That still puts firsties at a disadvantage because we've only made it through the first half, but that should keep things a bit more even.



 **alt\_padma** at **2009-01-05 19:34:53**

*(no subject)*

Cedric *Diggory*? Cedric DIGGORY?

Oh.

Well.


If older boys students are playing, then I guess I will. Which means Belinda will, to. And Linus already said he wants to, though I dont know if hes told you yet.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-05 19:40:46](#)  
(no subject)

Didn't I spell his name right? The ~~really good looking~~ Hufflepuff Seeker, I mean. Anyway I'll put your names on the list.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-05 19:42:05](#)  
(no subject)

You spelt it right.

Oh - as I was writing the last comment, Anagha Goshal and Vespasian Peakes both asked if they could play. But that's probably because they only have theyre NEWT classes and theyre bored otherwise. And Xi Chang said he might be interested too.

Its up to you but I dunno about 7th-years in the game. Maybe we could handicap them somehow?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-05 19:47:18](#)  
(no subject)


SEVENTH years?

Don't they have

Really

NEWT students can do a lot of really difficult spells, I don't know how we'd handicap them but it wouldn't be much fun to be a firstie in that game.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-05 19:51:04](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'll tell them no because it's too easy for them, shall I?

Maybe tell everyone they can only use spells from Standard Book of Spells, Grade 1?

That way everyone's playing at the same level, no matter what year they're in.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-06 02:00:43](#)  
(no subject)

That's a really good idea. Well plus the hex that turns your ears blue.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-07 20:00:34](#)  
(no subject)

I just had another idea - do you think we could practise on house elves? Or maybe the mudbloods? I want to make sure I know how to cast it but I dont want my ears to turn blue for

no reason.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-08 02:43:01](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think we should practise on the mudbloods, they're not ours and do you really want to hack off Professor Carrow? Or even Madam Pince? I suppose Harry could practise on his mudblood but that wouldn't be fair to everyone else and I don't think he's going to loan Dennis out for hexing practise.


And absolutely not to practising on the house elves, don't you remember the tuna stuff they served for dinner that day that everyone complained about? Besides I'm not sure the hex even works on non-humans.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-05 20:00:04](#)  
(no subject)

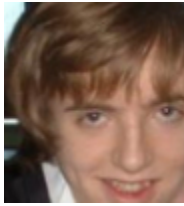
They just laughed at me when I tried to tell them they could only play if they didnt try to cast all sorts of difficult spells. I think they were having me on about playing in the first place. Xi Chang says he wasn't, tho, but I still think we might tell any older kids that they cant use spells we havent learned.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-05 19:57:22](#)**  
(no subject)

This is going to be so. freaking. wizard. You are brilliant! I don't know how long I'll last in the game, so once I'm out I'd be happy to help you out.


P.S. Did you see my origami critter last night? It was bathing itself! SO cute.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2009-01-05 20:41:03](#)**  
(no subject)

A game of AK sounds wizard. Count me in!




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-05 22:54:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Diggory seems alright for a Hufflepuff, I reckon.


I just hope the older students don't take over AK like it was their idea or something.



 **[alt\\_millicent](#)** at **[2009-01-06 01:00:28](#)**  
(no subject)

even if diggory wants to play your game. Im not going to. its duller than chess even.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-06 01:04:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Harry and I are playing. You think you're better than us, or something?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-06 02:25:25](#)  
(no subject)


Oh don't talk her into it Draco! If she doesn't want to play that's fine, I've got about twice as many people playing as I was expecting and all of them seem to have friends who want to play too.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-06 05:17:59](#)  
(no subject)

If you run out of spots someone can have mine. If you want. And if they want it.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-08 02:04:06](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Sally-Anne, I forgot to tell you that I wanted to play, if you can fit someone else in at the last minute.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-08 02:43:21](#)  
(no subject)

It's okay, I can fit you in.



**[2009-01-05 13:57:00](#)**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Going to work with Lucius was really wizard. I had a good time! I love watching people and those meetings certainly gave me an opportunity. It's interesting to watch Lucius work. It's like there's two Luciuses (Lucii?). There's the regular one and then there's Serious Working Lucius. Then he'd look over at me and smile and he was back to Regular Lucius and then, just like that, Serious Working Lucius again. I learned a lot. I wish he worked at Gringott's, because I'd like to see how they work. I like money.

This game of AK is turning out to be really amazing. Seems like everyone wants to join in, which means we ickle firsties are likely to be wiped out pretty quick but I plan to pay attention to how I'm wiped out (I think we get blue ears) and remember it because I think this should be an annual event. And Sally-Anne is brilliant. She gave me the cutest little origami kneazle! It stretches and yawns and last night it was bathing itself. So I pretend it's a real one but paper is nowhere as soft as fur.

I think, now that we're all back, that it's time for a music party! Only this one will be different. I'll play music, because Lucius got me so much wonderful stuff, for like an hour. Then someone else gets to play what they want for an hour. Then someone else. And we'll all take turns, which sounds Hufflepuffish and fair but, really, it's a good way to turn other people onto music that's out there.

Cedric Diggory came up and talked to Sally-Anne at our table! I spilled some pumpkin juice in my lap but I don't think he noticed. ~~You should have seen his smile.~~

I am saving my pocket money, and nearly have enough for a kneazle. I think it will be a birthday present to myself. Though I don't know much about Kneazles but Fergus is good for giving me an idea of what it might be like. Except when he farts he can clear out the entire dorm. So I have to be sure to find a non-farting kneazle. Though how you determine that, I've no earthly.

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 **alt\_draco** at [2009-01-05 22:59:21](#)  
(no subject)


I don't know what you think you saw, exactly, but I've only ever seen one Lucius. I mean, Father.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2009-01-05 23:07:15](#)  
(no subject)

He's different when he's working; at least, to me he is. But you see him all the time, so there's that. I don't see him as much as you.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2009-01-06 00:42:13](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not certain whether that means you want me to be a banker or a goblin. (Unfortunately the goblins refuse to allow the Ministry greater oversight or it's likely I *would* be more involved. Not that I need another committee!)

In any event, it's good to see you back in better spirits.




 **alt\_pansy** at [2009-01-06 00:58:50](#)  
(no subject)

I like you the way you are. No goblins. But do humans work at the bank? I'm just very curious as to how it's run.

Maybe you should make a new year's resolution to be on less committees, but I can't imagine how you'd decide which ones not to be on.

Did you make a new year's resolution?




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-06 21:03:26](#)  
(no subject)

Goblins may retain some humans, for certain tasks they are ill-equipped to perform themselves. There are precious few humans compared to the number of goblins, however. Maddening.

If it were that simple, I should have reduced my commitments years ago. However, the survival and success of our people take precedence over any leisurely pursuits I might wish to indulge and of course I've a duty, as Draco shall have, to maintain the interests and connexions which assure our continued ... good fortune.


I do not set store by resolutions. If one means to do a thing, one ought simply to do it. There's no use making prating promises one generally has no intention of honouring.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-07 18:09:08](#)  
(no subject)

Is that why no one ever keeps their resolutions? I know that mum has made them (in the past; I don't know about this year) but she never keeps hers. I don't make them myself. I'm 11. What kind of resolution could I make? Not to kill people, maybe. That should be easy enough to keep, I'd imagine.




 [alt\\_millicent](#) at [2009-01-06 00:58:13](#)  
(no subject)

fergus is a good cat. he cant help farting. it isnt that bad anyway

i dont know why you all fancy diggory. he's a ponce.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-06 01:00:44](#)  
(no subject)

Fergus is a very good cat, and I'm glad to have him around. But I think when he's been eating gnomes or something (not his usual food) that he unleashes his version of biological warfare. If only we could get

him to do that in the boy's dorm.


I didn't say I fancied Diggory. He's nice to look at, though. But we're just ickle firsties so I doubt he even really notices us.



 [alt\\_millicent](#) at [2009-01-06 21:06:55](#)  
(no subject)


I could lock him in to the boys room when i now he ate something funny.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-06 21:07:41](#)  
(no subject)

I will gladly help! That'd be wizard, don't you think?




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-06 05:17:01](#)  
(no subject)

I'm going to pay attention too. But I don't think I'd forget. Even if I wasn't specialy paying attention. Being hexed is memorable. Even just ears being hexed. Even if you can't feel it. I hope you really can't

feel it.

Can people who don't have their own music play what they want from other people's music? When it's their turn? If they get a turn?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-06 05:27:07](#)  
(no subject)

Being hexed is definitely memorable.

You can play whatever music you like, and you can play from other peoples' music if you want.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-06 18:39:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, I just thought. Hexing people is probably memorable too. I wonder if you can feel that. When you do it. I hope not, too.

Good. I hope I get a turn then. And no one minds if I want to play their music.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-06 19:37:11](#)  
(no subject)

I certainly don't mind if you want to play my music. I'll make sure you get a turn.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-07 04:26:13](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you!




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-07 04:31:06](#)  
(no subject)

Perks is really good at origami, and at charming them to move, too.

I couldn't ever make anything like that; I'm all thumbs.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-07 18:07:37](#)  
(no subject)

I'm all thumbs too. But you are wizard with herbology. I can't grow *\*anything\**. I killed my cuttings I brought from home. I had thought something green would be pretty in the dorm but between me and Fergus, they hadn't a chance.

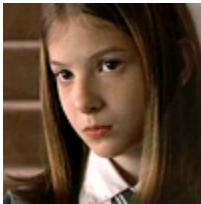
Though it'd be amusing to see Fergus v. Venomous Tentacula. I'm not sure who'd win, actually.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-08 01:34:56](#)  
(no subject)

I've never met your roommate's cat. I've heard stories, though.

Judging from what I've heard, I'd bet on the cat.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-08 03:51:40](#)  
(no subject)

If you want to grow things you might want to arrange to keep them somewhere other than the dormitory. Between Fergus and the lack of sunlight, plants don't stand a chance.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-07 18:18:59](#)  
(no subject)

Pansy, you're so weird. Who likes to go to meetings? (And it's ever so strange to see you always call Mr Malfoy by his first name like that. Mr Malfoy! I mean even Marvolo calls him Mr Malfoy. It's just odd. Our mum and dad would have a fit if we called Lavender's mother Daisy. Honestly.

It looks like I'm playing Perks's game. This time, anyway. We'll see. Though I expect your right and we'll all be ~~elem turn~~ hexed pretty quickly because of all the big kids. ~~I wouldn't mind tho if Chang or Diggory~~

Music. Hey, we never did your colour chart last term, did we? Parvati can do it this time and I can do your stars. Your going to think this is daft, but we dont have that much recorded music. Dad has it all at the WWN and he says that as much as he loves it, he's serrounded by it all day and its the last thing he wants to listen to when hes at home. But we have a couple recordings. Have you ever heard Ranjeet Mukerjhee? He's wizard.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-07 18:38:56](#)**  
(no subject)


You never did do my colour chart, no, but I'm curious to see what it'd be like. I did get some clothes over the holiday, and have more money to spend, though I haven't yet. I just don't know what to buy.

And the stars would be interesting too.

I've never heard Ranjeet Mukerjee but I do have some Srikanth Sastry. I like world music.


I don't know... I've known Lucius all my life and he is my godfather, so to call him Mr Malfoy to me, would be strange. He's just... Lucius. I never really thought about it, to be honest.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-07 18:59:13](#)**  
(no subject)


Srikanth Sastry? Oh, we can do better than that! He's like ... like Faith Percy. But with a sitar.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-07 19:02:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Now I can't wait to hear his stuff! Do you have some for Friday? I'm starting a new thing at the music parties, and letting everyone play what they like for an hour or so. Shall I put you on the list?



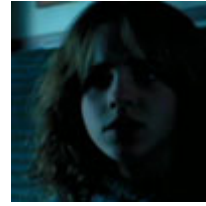
 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-07 19:04:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, well, I don't have a whole hour, I don't think. But you can play his album if you like, or at least a sample of it.

**2009-01-05 19:47:00**

*Students*

Now that the students are back I don't get as much time to work on my project. But it will be done soon. It's taken so much longer than I ever imagined!




 **alt\_hermione**

And all the fir branches are down and the decorations too, and it's a new year. I wrote '1992' for the first time two days ago and that was very strange.

Terry hasn't been around and I am always nervous when Terry isn't around, although I know I oughtn't be. I'm glad Dennis is back. He's a little strange but at least he's someone that I'm allowed to speak to properly. I can't speak to my betters properly and the house elves don't really listen, I mean they do, but they don't care about any of the same things I care about at all and it isn't any use to talk to them because of that.



 **alt\_terry** at **2009-01-06 16:26:37**  
(no subject)

sorry boot hasnt been around so much. boot is back where he's supposed to be now. master insists.

it was a very good holiday.

dent dennis



 **alt\_hermione** at **2009-01-06 16:32:46**  
(no subject)

Yes it was!!

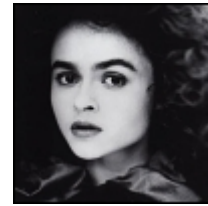
It's all right Terry. I'm sure it won't be too awful.



**2009-01-06 12:23:00**

VI

I wonder what it is about the West Country that keeps its inhabitants here for so many generations. I cannot say that I see the appeal, unless one enjoys exploring abandoned seaside resorts, or climbing up Little Hangman. But it is business I'm in for, not pleasure, so the lack of recreational activity is neither here nor there.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#)

Meanwhile, I shall sit on this hill with my book and eat a mango - got from Rodolphus for New Years. Who knows where he gets such things, but I appreciate that he does so. *Livre des figures hiéroglyphiques* is such an interesting read. The wind keeps flicking the pages, which is helpful since they are difficult to turn while wearing gloves. For the moment, it is easier to write.

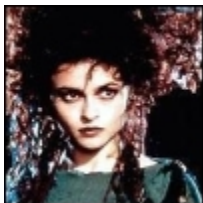
It is unimaginably empty. And cold. Yet if I kept wandering, I think it shouldn't be too difficult to find some elderly, hospitable home that is willing to take me in for tea and sympathy.

I am very good at waiting.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-06 20:59:06](#)  
(no subject)

Mangoes? I must admit I have never had a taste for exotic fruit. Which serves me well now, with times being what they are.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2009-01-06 22:33:42](#)  
(no subject)

I have always had an appreciation for the exotic. In moderation.

**[2009-01-06 22:05:00](#)**

*Order Only: another owl; another clue*

I got another owl from Harry today. It matches his handwriting, and it sounds like him, so I don't think it's someone pretending to be him to draw me out.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

He asked for a photograph of Lily and James - so that he'll know I'm not lying, he says.

What I want to know is *how* he would know it's them. I mean, he says he'll recognise them. How is that even possible?

But then I got to thinking that it might be related to whatever it was he found, that Malfoy doesn't want him to think about. Malfoy tells him it's dangerous. Could Voldemort have something that shows one's past? Or one's family? I can't think why he'd own something like that.

If we could just figure out what he's got, we might have a clue what he wants with that other item. Or is he still looking? Minerva?

I found something else while I was rummaging about for the photo (yes, I sent him one. Two, actually. And before you say it, Molly, I'm being careful). Might come in handy, so I packed it away in my traveling rucksack and I'm heading back out in search of boomslang skin and powdered bicorn horn. With any luck I should have a shipment for Laszlo Ltd within two weeks.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-07 22:04:30](#)  
(no subject)

I am still quite befuddled, although I shall of course keep my ear to the ground - Hermione, perhaps you will be able to overhear something? The students ignore you in a way that they will never ignore me.

What did you find, Sirius? Oh, never mind - if you're being secretive, I'm sure you'll tell us about it soon enough. But I *am* curious. I didn't believe that I would ever say this, but with the students in school I am back into the humdrum daily rhythm and I almost wish it was the hols again.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-07 22:35:03](#)  
(no subject)

I'll keep my ears open, Professor McGonagall, although Harry Marvolo hardly spends any time at all in the library so that will make it more difficult won't it?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-07 22:36:14](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think - do you think Harry really is all bad? I mean if he's willing to talk to Sirius he can't be, can he? He doesn't seem so nasty as some. He's not like Patil or Bulstrode. But he's the Lord Protector's son

and all.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-07 22:37:36](#)  
(no subject)

I doubt that *anyone* is entirely bad, Miss Granger. Even the Lord Protector himself has human kindness in him - or so I am told.

As for Mr Marvolo, he is yet young, a full year younger than you even, I believe. We shall have to wait and see. His letter to Sirius is hopeful, that is true.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-08 01:06:21](#)  
(no subject)

Listen to Professor McGonagall, child. Harry is no Death Eater, that's for sure. The more we can gently nudge him in the right direction, the less likely he'll be to turn out like his bigoted


caretakers.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-08 01:08:45](#)  
(no subject)

I'll try to nudge him, then, if I can.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-08 01:12:45](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, but be careful, Hermione. He still sets quite a bit of store by Malfoy and that snake he calls Father. If you think you can get him thinking, that's one thing. But don't risk yourself for the sake of converting him. Leave that to those of us with more practise, hm?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-08 01:15:10](#)  
(no subject)

All right.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-08 02:12:19](#)  
(no subject)

I see. You think I won't scold you if you tell me you're being careful.

You're forgetting my experience as the mother of George and Fred Weasley. It's when they tell me that they're being careful that my hackles go up the most.

In all seriousness . . . well, I can't quite see how sending the poor boy a photo of James and Lily could hurt. I don't know. It's just--well, it was Harry who asked, but did he know about the request? Or even order him to make it, for some mysterious reason of his own? It all comes down to, we don't know what the monster wants with the boy. That's the problem I keep worrying away at in my own mind. Could a photo of James and Lily, if it falls into his hands be used to hurt Harry in any way? If he is keeping the boy for some dark purpose, could a relict of the boy's parents, like a photograph of them, be used, I don't

know, for a harmful charm against him or something?



 **alt\_arthur** at **[2009-01-08 02:15:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

Really, Molly, what a lurid idea.

Sirius, I've given it some thought but don't have any idea what, if anything, might have prompted Harry's

request.



 **alt\_sirius** at **[2009-01-08 03:30:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, it was worth a shot.

And yes, that's the kind of thing that worries me - that they're using Harry to make me show myself.

But something tells me that the last thing Voldemort wants is to remind Harry that he's not the man's natural son.

As to what he might do if he finds the photo? I've no idea. But with any luck the boy will be interested in keeping this little rebellion a secret and will make sure no one sees the evidence.

**2009-01-07 17:05:00**

*A return to normalcy*

Well, after the goings-on of the holiday I am quite equally elated and deflated at returning to the everyday humdrum of school. I come in, I come out; I review disciplinary reports, I review budgets; I occasionally go a-mousing, although Mr Lupin does an excellent job of maintaining a vermin-free castle.




 **alt\_mcgonagall**

Discipline reports: I am anxious to see what will be crossing my desk with the institution of the Cruciatus curse as a method of punishment accessible to the Head Boy and Girl.

Budgetary concerns: Students will be displeased to note that we shall be entering another term of Transfigured delicacies. Fortunately, we have plenty of basic foodstuffs to serve as bases for Transfiguration. Personally, I am quite content with what we have - good solid food for good, solid people. As long as there is Muggle whisky remaining, and as long as the stills still function, I am content. (I must admit that some of the Muggle bottles are quite as good as anything old Ogden ever made.)



 **alt\_lucius** at **2009-01-08 01:39:09**  
(no subject)

Yes, it's a pity we had to disrupt production of the better labels for a few years. A good single malt ought to be old enough to have passed its O.W.L.s, so to speak.

As I mentioned last week, I had a word or two with Ned about his newly appointed permission to use the Cruciatus. He's a sensible young man. I very much doubt you shall see any abuse of the privilege.



 **alt\_molly** at **2009-01-08 02:19:28**  
*Order Only*

The privilege to use the Cruciatus! Really!  
Monster.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2009-01-08 21:41:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not entirely sure whether that's a compliment or a complaint.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-01-08 23:13:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Both, I believe.

**[2009-01-07 22:02:00](#)**

*Settling into winter*

Well, all the Christmas decorations are packed away again. We didn't do a big tree this year, since we were going to be spending Christmas itself with Charlie, but Ginny couldn't bear the thought of not having any tree at all. So we had a little tabletop tree. The dragonhandlers had a simply ENORMOUS tree at the dragon reserve, though, so she was perfectly satisfied. I find I'm still measuring Christmas by how thrilled the children are at the various traditions.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)**

We're home now, after spending a perfectly lovely time with Charlie. It was wonderful to meet all his friends that he's been writing about for the past year. Everything seems sadly flat, though, now that Twelfth Night is over and I've taken all the decorations down. I find I'm facing the dark and cold days of winter with rather a sinking heart. This time of year just seems so hard. The girls are not at all eager to resume their lessons.

I even almost miss having Xenophilus around to harass me with inexplicable behaviour. He's home, busy getting out the first issue of the New and Improved *Quibbler*.

Butter and vegetable oil are almost impossible to obtain now. And I am already so sick of turnips, even though it's only January.

I do believe I'm going to go down into the cellar and get some of the dried apples I put away this autumn to use to make up an apple cake. Maybe it'll cheer us all up a bit, even without the cinnamon and cloves.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-09 02:38:16](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Butter*

I may be able to scrimp up some oil from the house-elves, if you're in dire straits, Molly. I can't guarantee that it will be the most delicious.



**2009-01-08 11:39:00**

*(no subject)*

I wish we'd get back all our exam results. All at once. Right now. Or Monday, so then I'd already know. And have got used to it. Whatever it is. Instead of having to wait for each class to happen.



 [alt\\_megan](#)

(I haven't failed anything yet.)

Oh! I never wrote about visiting Susan. And I should write about it. Because it was brilliant. Mostly We baked biscuits and they were delicious and at breakfast I spilled jam on my sleeve and no one said anything. It was really messy too, and I'm lucky it didn't stain, but I rubbed most of it off with water. I didn't want to unpack my whole trunk to find something else to wear. And no one even looked at it. Or sniffed at me. Or said anything about cleanliness being a virtue. Or said stains made them feel ill. Or got the house elf to dump a bucket of cold water on me. Or anything! But I don't know if they have a house elf. I didn't really notice. When Susan's mother noticed (noticed the jam), she just said the spell for cleaning stains, that I don't know yet. Perhaps we'll learn it by summer.

I think Susan was right, though. About her siblings being a bit much. Sometimes. I ended up squashed against things. I don't know why. I didn't like it much. But I just did. Sometimes there weren't places to go where there weren't other people. And they just did things. And took up loads of space doing things. Even when it was space I was being in. I was trying not to be in the way. But I had to be somewhere. That's why I ended up squashed against things.

Susan told me I shouldn't let them walk all over me. But even when I tried I don't think I got that part right. I don't think she's cross with me still. About shouting at her brother to go away. I didn't really mean to. It just happened.

But I'm still glad I got to go. It was much better than anything else would have been. And I do like Susan's family. I like them a lot. I even like how they do things. And take up space. I just wish I knew how to take up space too. I hope they don't hate me. I don't think they do. Because they were all nice. Like Susan.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-10 02:17:05](#)

*Don't Worry*

I'm not still cross at all! I yell at my siblings all the time, but somehow I don't like it when other people do it. Eddie really was being an enormous pain, though. I hope he ends up in Gryffindor and not Hufflepuff next year!

And Mum was thrilled to have someone around who really *understands* about baking because I sure don't! If it were up to me everything would get burnt because I'd start reading a book or something.

Maybe you can come again for a few days during spring hols? Mum said she got a very nice letter from your guardian thanking her for taking you to the train.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 19:14:55](#)

*Re: Don't Worry*

Oh good! I know you said you weren't upset. But I thought you might be. And just saying that. But you wouldn't want to put your brother in Gryffindor if you were really upset. I mean, not that there's anything wrong with Gryffindor. But if I had a brother I'd want him in my house. I think. It looks so nice when people have siblings in the same house. And comfortable. But your brother Eddie isn't very comfortable. So perhaps not. But I'm glad you're not cross.

But it smells good! It's fun to watch it baking. And turning different. And know we made it. You're good at the first part, getting it all together right.

Ooooh! I hope so.

Oh dear. My guardian is always very correct. So does that mean I ought to have sent a letter too? Or do I not need to because she did?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-10 05:03:08](#)  
(no subject)

See, and you didn't fail Potions, either. You did just fine. ~~I hope your guardian feels bad for thinking you might have when she gets your marks~~



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 19:15:18](#)  
(no subject)

Isn't that lovely? I did much better than I thought I was going to do.

**2009-01-08 18:33:00**

*Points*

Today in Transfiguration I was sure Professor Carrow was going to say something horrible when I said that relative size was one of Gamp's Exceptions, when obviously it's not.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

But when I changed my answer he just gave me five points. Not that I'm complaining, but I've no idea why he would do that. (Maybe it's because I decided to play the AK game?)

Linus and I went down to the kitchens last night, while we were waiting to go to Astronomy, and we hexed all the house-elve's ears. They didn't mind, and they even offered us some biscuits to take back to the Common Room with us.

So I reckon we're pretty well practised on the hex, anyway.

And I'm so excited to find out what our Potions marks are! I'm sure I did ever so well.

I think I might want to be a Potioneer. Even if Mum would rather I take on her business. Maybe Sanji will do that - he quite likes the colours and ~~im embroy~~ embroidering on the fabrics.



 [alt\\_millicent](#) at **2009-01-09 01:43:11**  
(no subject)

bet the elves looked funy

**[2009-01-08 22:20:00](#)**

*Situation Normal*

Here we all are, back again after what was, for me at least, an unexpectedly pleasant Christmas. Christmas Eve was spent in the Great Hall, in the company of Miss Granger, where I learned some truly fascinating things. I know I am surrounded by young people day in day out, so I should be used to their ways, but their capacity for enthusiasm, about all manner of things, still surprise me sometimes. I wonder, on occasions, just how the current situation has changed us all - maybe the young now hunger for knowledge and truth in a way we didn't when I was young. Then I remember Lily some of the people I knew at school, and think perhaps it was just me who expressed my passion for learning quietly!



 [alt\\_lupin](#)

Speaking of which, I hear someone has been into the old caretaker's office. Those items were confiscated for a reason, lads. I do hope they manage to find their way back to the office, so I'm not forced to hunt them down and confiscate them again.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-09 01:45:14](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, never fear. My eye is on both Weasleys of the twin persuasion.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-09 04:43:15](#)  
(no subject)

Why, headmistress, we didn't know you cared! We are quite simply *touched*. Really.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-09 04:48:29](#)  
*Order Only*

Oh, good heavens. What are those two scoundrels up to now?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2009-01-09 04:50:13](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, Molly dear, I always did feel they get their remarkable facility in charms from you.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-09 04:40:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, never fear, we won't actually *use* them. They're just for research purposes only. We're thinking of doing some reverse engineering, and some of the charms are quite *fascinating*, and of course you *know* how much we want to impress our teachers.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-09 04:48:52](#)

*(no subject)*

I really don't want to have to send you two a Howler. Again.

**2009-01-08 23:46:00**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Well alright here's the list of everyone who's playing. Everyone will get the name of their target tomorrow morning during breakfast. Be sure to keep safe your parchment with the name of your target, Xi Chang helped me with a spell so it will change itself when your target changes. Like for instance if your target gets hexed by the person they were hunting, your parchment will change to show your new target. It's a really clever spell. Also I have a master copy that will help me keep track of everything, thank goodness, there are over thirty people playing.

In Hufflepuff House:

Megan Jones  
Ernie Macmillan  
Susan Bones  
Anthony Rickett  
Anne Cadwallader  
Cedric Diggory  
Malcolm Preece  
Heidi MacAvoy

In Gryffindor House:

Seamus Finnegan  
Fred Weasley  
George Weasley  
Vicky Frobisher  
Cormac McLaggen  
Jack Sloper  
Katie Bell  
Lee Jordan

In Slytherin House:

Draco Malfoy  
Harry Marvolo  
Pansy Parkinson  
Daphne Greengrass  
Antigone Fletcher

Richard Vaisey  
Aurelia Archer  
Melinda Pennifold

In Ravenclaw House:

Padma Patil  
Belinda Dunstan  
Linus Moon  
Sarah Fawcett  
Eddie Carmichael  
Grant Page  
Lares Tamblyn  
Xi Chang

I set it up so no one will have someone in their own house right away, but eventually people will start getting their mates as targets, remember it's just a game and don't take it personally!

I think I said before no getting yourself in trouble with prefects, well obviously you're allowed to hex Chang, MacAvoy and Preece since they're in the game! If they're your targets, anyway.

The game starts at 5 pm on Friday and ends at 9 pm on Sunday or when there's only one player left, whichever comes first. Good luck!



**2009-01-09 15:19:00**

*(no subject)*

Don't forget: music party tonight! Tonight something different starts. Anyone who wishes can take a turn at playing music of their choice. So let me know if you'd like to do that, and feel free to invite anyone you like. I got some amazing music. Bring yours, too.




 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Owls, cats and toads are welcome but I don't think toads and owls together are a good idea. I'd hate to see Trevor Sushi.

So who's coming?


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 [alt\\_lavender](#) at **2009-01-10 02:51:21**  
*(no subject)*


I am! I want to Dance!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-10 22:18:44**  
*(no subject)*

You're a good dancer. Oh, and Padma said you might do my colours?



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at **2009-01-11 00:58:38**  
*(no subject)*


I'm sorry I forgot to bring my Palette! We'll have to do it another time.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2009-01-10 05:00:18**  
*(no subject)*

Belinda Dunstan looked good with blue ears, don't you think? I'm glad she still came to the party even if she got hexed on the way, I rather liked some of the music she brought.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-10 22:19:31](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad she came too. It's fun to see new faces and did you get a chance to talk to her? She's really funny.

The blue ears did actually look really good on her, I guess because of her skin colouring.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 19:11:40](#)  
(no subject)

I was going to come. But then I was coming and I saw all the other people coming. And I thought about how hard it would be to get there. ~~Especially once I hexed~~ And how hard it would be to leave. So I didn't come.

But I'll come if you have another one. When we're not trying not to be hexed. I really don't want to be hexed.


It's really very-- I don't think I'm going to get any schoolwork done either, this weekend.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-10 22:04:02](#)  
(no subject)

Ah, but see, there was no hexing allowed for the party, so you'd have been safe. Otherwise, no one would have come!



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 22:07:38](#)  
(no subject)

But someone could have followed me when I left. That would be easy.

This game is really hard.

**2009-01-09 16:28:00**

*Rules Update*

The Secretary to the Order of the Just (that would be me, remember) has a rules update to report to all the prospective members (that would be you people playing the game). There will be a general ban on the blue-ears hex at Pansy's music party tonight. This is on account of the Order's general approval of music as a recreational activity. (Also Pansy's my friend and I don't want to ruin her party.)



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

You'll still want to watch your back on your way to or from, though!

**2009-01-09 17:21:00**

*Order Only: Interesting conversation with coworker*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

Minerva: I can confirm that Norma Brownmiller (with the Department of Muggle Domestication) is definitely someone the Order wants to cultivate. You might remember I mentioned her in my journal entry of December 15: she's the assistant to James Prescott (another chap I suggested the Order keep an eye on.) Prescott had assigned Ms Brownmiller to project out the longterm effects stemming from the break in the chain of the transfer of institutional knowledge, a result of the deaths of so many educated Muggles (her background is in public health).

As Liaison from the Department of Purity Control, I sat in yesterday on some of the regular round of biweekly meetings within the Department of Muggle Domestication. Ms Brownmiller presented the figures on the increase in the deathrate of new Muggle mothers from puerperal (hope I spelled that right) fever and tetanus infections. She was arguing that the few remaining midwives be allowed to train assistants to assist at births, to lower both the neonatal and maternal deathrate.

Griderson first tried to bluster that there wasn't any money in the budget for such a program. When she politely insisted that the midwives were eager to train apprentices and wouldn't expect any pay; they WANTED more hands to share the work, his real reason emerged. 'Those Muggle bitches are nothing but animals anyway. Let them drop their calves in the fields like all the rest of the animals do.'

Brownmiller turned white, with anger, I think, but she kept her wits about her and replied with perfect control (a very good sign), quite politely, that even cows had veterinarians to assist when they gave birth. When Griderson brushed her off and moved on to the next item on the agenda, she subsided as if she had been convinced. I kept an eye on her for the rest of the meeting, though, and it was clear she wasn't paying much attention.

So, on a hunch, I dawdled over several conversations afterward and then drifted back to her office as the corridors were beginning to empty at the end of the day. She was talking in a low voice, but with some heat, with Prescott, a conversation they cut short when they saw me leaning against the door frame.

Prescott left then, and Brownmiller eyed me, obviously wondering what I was doing there. 'It was a good try,' I told her. 'Griderson's a heartless beast, but you did your best.'

She shuffled some papers around and then burst out, 'I don't see how he can think like that. If he had ever seen a woman in labour for three days, bleeding to death before his very eyes, when a simple healing spell would--' she stopped then and pressed her lips together, shaking her head.

'Is there anything else that can be done?' I asked. 'Anything you could get by Griderson, anyway?'

'Well, when he cut me off, I was just about to suggest we distribute birthing kits,' she said. She explained the idea: packets that could be put together and distributed to women about a month before their due date, containing gauze, soap, plastic sheeting, cord ties, and a sterile razor blade, with explanatory pictures. She'd gotten the ideas from midwife programs in Bangladesh, of all places. 'However--'

'Yes. Griderson.' We both sighed, thinking distastefully about Griderson.

'You know,' I said slowly, 'one of the major tasks of the Muggles in the camps is animal husbandry, after all. We wizards are very fond of our beef and pork.'

She looked puzzled for a moment. 'So?'

'So. All those animals, you know. So many animals. All those veterinary expenses . . . '

She gasped and started to laugh. 'You think we could slip it into the veterinary budget, you mean?'

So we talked about the creative use of budgeting to slither around the most poisonous of the Ministry's policies towards Muggles and Muggleborns, pussyfooting around quite a bit at first. But it became clear, the more that we talked, that we were definitely on the same page. I gathered, reading between the lines of what she said, that she and Prescott don't like much of the work they are forced to do, but they stay because, well, no one else will care the way that they do if they leave.

Eventually, a clatter of buckets out in the hall warned us that we weren't alone, and then the night janitor (charming young girl with a very odd tinge to her hair colour) poked her head in and asked if it would disturb us if she came in to mop up and empty the bins. So we said good night to each other, but Brownmiller was smiling in quite a different way when I left.

I'll ask Bill if he knew her in school and whether he has anything to add. I think she might have been three or four years ahead of him. If you have no objections, I will continue to drop in casually on her and Prescott. They're smart, they know when NOT to argue, and Brownmiller at least is willing to be devious to achieve her ends. Ends that, I think, mesh with the Order's. At least for now.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-10 20:11:49](#)  
(no subject)

Brownmiller. I can't think of anything I know of her, although I shall look her up in the old annuals and see what I shall see - I do have my notes on former students to look at, which is a blessing, as my memory isn't what it used to be. I shall get back to you tonight, Arthur.

**2009-01-09 18:59:00**

*Attention: First Years*

Well now, you've all received your papers back for last term's Potions exam. Congratulations again to Mr Nott, who did exceptionally well, gaining the highest mark and earning 50 house points for Slytherin - all above board and proper, I assure you!



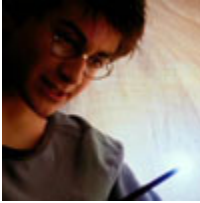
 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_horace](#)

If any of you have any questions about the comments on your papers, either for the written section or those about the practical exam, do come and see me.

And for those who wanted to know, here's the list in order of your scores.

- 1 Theodore Nott
- 2 Padma Patil
- 3 Pansy Parkinson
- 4 Michael Corner
- 5 Draco Malfoy
- 6 Ernie Macmillan
- 7 Sally-Anne Perks
- 8 Blaise Zabini
- 9 Linus Moon
- 10 Morag MacDougal
- 11 Zacharias Smith
- 12 Su Li
- 13 Mandy Brocklehurst
- 14 Ron Weasley
- 15 Belinda Dunstan
- 16 Megan Jones
- 17 Seamus Finnegan
- 18 Hannah Abbott
- 19 Parvati Patil
- 20 Steven Capper
- 21 Harry Marvolo
- 22 Wayne Hopkins
- 23 Neville Longbottom
- 24 Daphne Greengrass
- 25 Sarah Fawcett
- 26 Katrina Bundy
- 27 Robert Stebbins


- 28 Susan Bones
  - 29 Lavender Brown
  - 30 Eloise Midgen
  - 31 Millicent Bulstrode
  - 32 John Summers
  - 33 Vincent Crabbe
  - 34 Gregory Goyle
- 



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-10 19:52:00](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Ugh.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-10 22:41:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Third? I guess all the revising I did paid off! Thanks for posting this, Professor.



**[2009-01-09 21:28:00](#)**

*Marks*



 **[alt\\_susan](#)**

I was pretty certain that I didn't do very well on the Potions exam because several of my potions were the wrong colour and a couple of them didn't smell right either, but I didn't think I did *that* badly. I almost got a T! The only reason I didn't was because Zacharias helped me revise, and he's good at coming up with little tricks to make things like lists of ingredients stick in a persons head. I'm glad he and Ernie did well.

I guess I had better revise instead of going to Pansy's music party tonight.

I hope the rest of my marks will be better.

---

 **[alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-10 19:09:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh Susan! Almost a T? I think the only reason I did good was because I practised making potions with Pansy. She's so good at it.

Don't revise too much or perhaps you'll get killed. Some of the prefects are playing. Our prefects.

 **[alt-susan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-10 19:14:10](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose everyone has things they're good at and things they aren't so good at. I'm just a bit dissapointed in myself is all.

Nobody can get me if they don't know where to find me!

 **[alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-10 19:19:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose so. It's unpleasant to be not good at things. But you can get better. And you did better in other subjects.

Ooooh. Me either! It's hard to find places where there's no one at all. I went

[alt-susan.livejournal.com](http://alt-susan.livejournal.com) at **2009-01-11 02:28:04**

*(no subject)*

But some things I want to be good at because I care about them myself, and other things are because I feel like I should.

But you're right--Professor Sprout is always reminding us that we can do better if we work hard, and she is one of the wisest people I know.

[alt-megan.livejournal.com](http://alt-megan.livejournal.com) at **2009-01-11 03:27:14**

*(no subject)*

Is potions because you think you should?

I don't think that's why I want to be good at things. I want to be good at things because it's fun! At least, being good at AK is fun. So far. I'm hardly ever good at anything. But I got a prefect! She was really nice about it too.

Trying to be good at potions is because otherwise people would think I couldn't. And I can. At least, I can be sort of good. And not fail.

Professor Sprout is the nicest professor. I think she's the best, too.

**2009-01-10 01:30:00**

*potions and ak*

I would have thought that someone who'd melt someone else's cauldron and then not even admit it for days would've been disqualified to win the potions exam. But I suppose that's too much to expect as he's a Slytherin.




 **alt\_padma**

So I only came in second. I'll do much better next time.

I'm at Pansy's music party but it's hard to enjoy it knowing Ravenclaw didn't get those points. At least no one's allowed to hex each other here. That's something.



 **alt\_lavender** at **2009-01-10 02:37:23**  
(no subject)

Congratulations Padma! You were quite Brilliant and you didn't even have to melt anyone's cauldron.

I'm glad that *I* won't need Potions in the World of Fashion.




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-10 22:07:40**  
(no subject)

How Fortunate!

What sorts of skills does one need in the World of Fashion anyway? Also, do you know any spells that change the colours of clothing?



 **alt\_lavender** at **2009-01-11 00:57:00**  
(no subject)

I think so! In the would of Fashion, You need to know what kinds of things make people look Pretty! I suppose that the people who make cosmetics and perfume might need to know Potions, but I'll have someone else to do that, I'm sure.

Parvati says there is one near the end of the *Standard Book of Spells* for our year. We haven't tried it yet but we're going to. She

says it doesn't last very long though.

I think there are other spells (maybe using Transfiguration?) that can do it for longer but they are hard.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 16:59:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh god, only a ravenclaw would be disgruntled about coming in second.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-10 19:52:42](#)  
(no subject)

I was going to say how can you do "much" better than second? Second is second and the only better you can do is first.


I could do much better than 21 though.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-11 04:33:34](#)  
(no subject)

Well, precisely!



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 19:10:01](#)  
(no subject)

I thought so too. When it happened. But he didn't melt your cauldron. So if it was on purpose, he melted the wrong one. I thought it turned out it wasn't on purpose.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-10 20:34:55](#)  
(no subject)

It did turn out to have been an accident. And Teddy let Smith use his cauldron and used a school one. And he still did better than everyone else even with a school cauldron, and I saw the cauldron he used

and it's not as if he found a really nice one, it was all dented and chipped.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 21:17:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I didn't notice that. I was only paying attention to my own potions. He must be really good at potions. If he's that good, it'll be hard for anyone to beat him ever. But we might not get points for it


next time anyway.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-10 20:37:56](#)  
(no subject)

Padma would you really have wanted to win those 50 points because the person who really came in first was disqualified? I would think you'd want to come in first because you did best on the exam.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-11 04:32:21](#)  
(no subject)

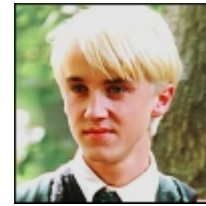
Well, of course I would rather have done, but I also would have expected there to be some penalty for Nott as well. And not just the school cauldron. Who cares about the cauldron, anyway?

But it doesn't matter. As I said, I'll do better next time. Perhaps I'll even revise.

**2009-01-10 09:57:00**

*Exam results*

Unlike some people, I'm just fine with the results of the potions exam. My goal was to make the top ten and since I made the top five, I've gone beyond that. My next goal will to be higher in the top five.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

If you were wondering why I wasn't at the music party last night, it's because I was writing a letter to Mr Cuthbert about my Nimbus 2001 and what I thought of it. I didn't have a bad thing to say, aside from the fact that it was too bad I wasn't allowed to bring it to school and show it to everyone. But that's not anything to do with Mr Cuthbert, of course, and I told him so.

Auntie Bella, if you're reading this thank you for replying to my Owl so fast, especially since Mother said you are feeling delicate lately.

AK is pretty brill so far. It's funny to see people running around and covering their ears - as if that could stop the hex somehow! I'm only worried because I woke up with part of my right hand all tingly with pins and needels. I went to Madame Pomfrey and she said I slept on it wrong and pinched a nerve and that I would just have to wait for it to go away. So far it hasn't.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2009-01-10 18:29:29**

*(no subject)*

Well, done, Draco!

Fifth place is quite respectable, though I agree you can do better. Still, we're quite proud of your performance thus far.

Perhaps you simply slept wrong on your arm. If it persists, return to Madam Pomfrey for further testing.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-10 19:33:31**

*(no subject)*

Thank you Father. I will definitely try to place higher next time.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 19:09:00](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, I had that happen once. It went away after I moved it around some. Perhaps yours is worse. That's very unpleasant.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 19:34:16](#)  
(no subject)

It is quite unpleasant, yes.

Your name is Megan, right?



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 21:17:35](#)  
(no subject)

~~Ye Do you have me as a targ No, my name is Susan~~  
~~Ele~~ Oooh, I know your name is Draco!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 21:44:06](#)  
(no subject)

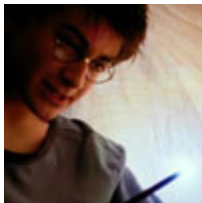
That it is. Nice one.

So, Megan Jones, Hufflepuff. Okay, cheers.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-10 22:51:24](#)  
(no subject)

But



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-10 19:54:07](#)  
(no subject)

Too bad on the nerve pinching.

I dont think I can possibly AK the person Im supposed to but I think Im doing pretty good at hiding. Unless

you had to get me. In which case I'd be doing terrible at it, but I think you'd get it out of the way and just hex me already wouldn't you?

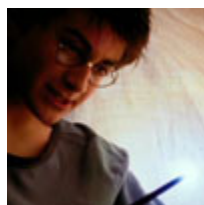


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 19:55:42](#)

*(no subject)*

I didn't even think about how I might get your name and you might get mine.

Maybe we should make a plan about what to do if that happens.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-10 19:58:11](#)

*(no subject)*

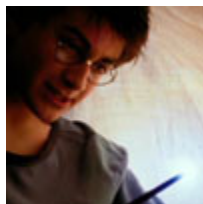
I say just get it over with. It wouldn't be very slytherin not to take advantage of it would it.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 20:02:18](#)

*(no subject)*

You're right. At least if you get my name, or I get yours, it'll be a pretty easy task. Which is good for me with my wand hand all tingly and odd.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-10 20:08:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Do you think someone made your hand tingly? To cheat?

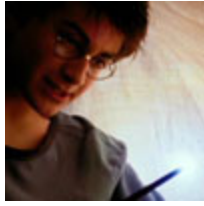


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-10 20:11:03](#)

*(no subject)*

Probably not. Wouldn't they do it to a bunch of people and not just me? It's not as if I'm the only one playing.






 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-10 20:16:40](#)**  
(no subject)


Unless suppose they knew you were coming after them?



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-10 20:20:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't see how they would know, but you might have a point. There could be people at our school who are just scared of me, haha.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-10 21:19:16](#)**  
(no subject)

That would be cheating. And Sally-Anne would be upset.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-10 21:49:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Unless there's a spell in the Standard Book of Spells Grade One that causes hand tingling. I'd say if someone could manage to hex Draco in his sleep to make his hand go tingly they probably could've come up with something better though.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-10 22:03:41](#)**  
(no subject)

I was happy with the potions exam results too. A specific goal is a good idea, mine was just to do well and I did that.


Professor Carrow promised he'd have our exam results for us this Monday and I'm looking forward to finding out how I did on that exam. What did you answer for the question about his mudblood's essay?



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2009-01-11 17:33:02](#)  
(no subject)

Despite your Mother's words, I am by no means feeling delicate. I am, however, busy - enough so that I trust the information in that Owl was enough and you will not need me again, nephew.



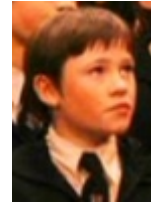
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-11 17:33:26](#)  
(no subject)

I think it will be enough, Aunt Bella. Thank you.

**2009-01-10 14:38:00**

*(no subject)*

Well Grant Page hexed me last night almost as soon as the game started. And I thought I was out of it. But I heard Aurelia Archer from Slytherin asked Daphne Greengrass to point me out at breakfast and I guess she still has my name on her slip? So am I still in the game or not? Also Grant Page hexed a lot more people so he's really doing well, unless he's hexing people on purpose who aren't his target. I couldn't find Perks to ask her, does anyone know?



 **alt\_seamus**



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-10 20:48:40**

*(no subject)*

Wait, GRANT PAGE hexed you? Ravenclaw second year? Were you hexing anyone else at the time, like he might have thought you were aiming at him?



 **alt\_seamus** at **2009-01-10 20:49:47**

*(no subject)*

No! I was minding my own business I wasn't doing anything!



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-10 20:58:51**

*(no subject)*

Alright I checked my own records and you're back in the game. Watch your back! And there's a ten point bonus now if you hex Grant Page.

**2009-01-10 14:48:00**

*(no subject)*

Alright I checked my record-keeping parchment. Seamus Finnegan, Katie Bell, Eddie Carmichael and Sarah Fawcett, you are all officially back in the game, the wanker who hexed you was just hexing players randomly for the fun of it. None of you were Grant Page's target.




 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I hereby declare Grant an open target, first person to hex him gets a 10-point bonus. So if he's not your target, you get 10 points for hexing him, and if he was your target you get the bonus plus the usual 10 for getting your target.

And I'm going to say that unless I've declared you an open target, if you get hexed by someone who wasn't hunting you, and who wasn't your target, it just doesn't count, because it turns out the targets don't update properly when that happens and it's just a mess.

My paper does show it though so if you hex someone who wasn't your target or your hunter I can dock you points. Grant currently has -20 points I think but I might decide to impose further penalties later if I'm still cross.



 **alt\_susan** at **2009-01-11 00:43:02**  
*(no subject)*

That certainly made things easy for me! He was so angry about everyone else hexing him that I got him from behind that statue of Egbert the Unready in the corridor by the boys' lav!



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-12 05:36:13**  
*(no subject)*

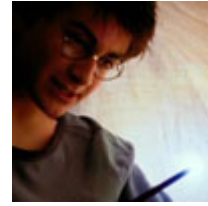
I think he got hexed by a dozen different people. You get the ten points for getting your target but not the bonus, that goes to the first person who hexed him and I'm still working out who that was.

**2009-01-10 14:54:00**

*Ugh potions*

Father is going to be upset that I got number 21 in potions. Its my fault though, not Professor Slughorn's. At least I didn't fail or get really close to failing. I did respectable.

I can't beleive who I have to kill in AK though, I'll never do it! I suppose I'll just have to wait and see.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_harry](#)



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 [alt\\_horace](#) at **2009-01-11 12:25:46**  
*(no subject)*

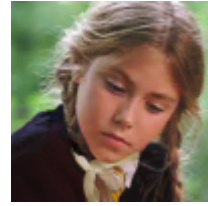
Respectable is certainly the word, Harry. You have nothing to be concerned about. This is only your first potions test, after all, and there's plenty of time for improvement.

If you'd like to talk about your paper, you're very welcome to pop by for some tea. My door, as I hope you know, is always open.

**2009-01-10 16:46:00**

AK

I'm sorry, Susan!



(Oh, and that was a brilliant hex you did!)


 **alt\_megan**

This game is hard. Now I'm not going to dinner either. If I quit it would mess up Sally-Anne's papers. And I said I wouldn't quit. So I won't. But I don't want to be hexed. I wish I had a mudblood to fetch things for me.

~~Hexing isn't very memorable. It's easy.~~

---




 **alt\_susan** at **2009-01-11 00:40:35**  
(no subject)

Im not fussed; I was getting a little tired of sneaking around and hiding behind statues and things anyhow.

It was a good hex though, wasn't it! I wasn't sure if *Tantallegra* would distract her enough but it did. I guess it's kind of hard to hex someone else if you're dancing around like a mad person!




 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-11 01:19:55**  
(no subject)

Me too! Getting tired of it, I mean. But a little bit not, too. Or maybe a big bit not. It's so exciting. And I want to do good. And I really want to not be hexed. But I keep thinking someone's after me and then I turn around really quick and there's no one there.

It was! She'd have got me for sure if you hadn't got her first. And then when you hexed her ears blue I knew you'd have me next, so I just did it without even really thinking about it. I'm glad you don't mind much. But I'm sorry it was us who got each other as targets.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-11 02:23:36](#)  
(no subject)

It is exciting! But I like to walk slow and think about things and it's hard to do that if your always looking 'round waiting for someone to hex you.

I still can't believe I got Melinda, especially since she's older than us! She seemed a bit cross about it too.

Hey, I wonder if I can help you now that I'm out, or if that's against the rules?

Can you meet me at that painting, you know, the funny one we saw when we went exploring that one time?



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-11 03:22:23](#)  
(no subject)


Oh! Walking slow is bad. Someone could get you easily.

She shouldn't be cross. It's just a game. That's what Sally-Anne said. She probably thought she'd do better than first years. If we play again next year, I wouldn't want to be hexed by firsties!

I read all through the rules and I thought it was going to be okay for you to help, but then at the end it says your mates who aren't playing aren't supposed to help. But then it says they can do some things and not others. So I don't know.

Perhaps you should ask first? I don't want to mess up Sally-Anne's game.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-11 03:53:23](#)  
(no subject)

I think we can talk and plan, because I saw in Neville's journal that he was going to tell Seamus who he thought was after him, and I'm sure he wouldn't try to bend the rules.

As long as I don't directly help you get your target I think we're alright.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-11 04:09:14](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh! You're right. I'm sure you're right. Okay.



**2009-01-10 18:20:00**

*If anyone's wondering . . .*

no points for hexing me, 'cause I'm not even in the game.



I spent a lot of time ducking today, anyway.

 **alt\_neville**

I think people should stay out Megan Jones' way if they want to try to claim that Hufflepuffs aren't good at hexing. And be prepared to look over their shoulder and duck. I saw her take out one girl from Ravenclaw and another from Slytherin . . . can't remember their names.

Fred and George Weasley are having FAR too much fun at this. It's kinda scary.

Seamus, um, I think I figured out who's after you. I'll tell you at dinner.



 **alt\_lavender** at **2009-01-11 00:51:10**  
(no subject)

I'm so glad that someone else thinks it's a bit Silly. Though I don't know why you do, since you don't need to concern yourself with being Ladylike.

I know what you mean about Ducking! Some second year boy in Slytherin tried it on me right as I was coming out of the common room!



 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-11 01:22:26**  
(no subject)

Oooh Neville, have you been following me?

I'll have to be really careful not to hex you by accident.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-11 01:25:27](#)**  
(no subject)

On the contrary, I'm staying out of your way. I'm not a fool.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-11 01:32:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose that may be a good idea. Perhaps.

(I even hexed Susan!)

It's awfully exciting. It's too bad you didn't want to play.

**2009-01-11 15:29:00**

*(no subject)*

McLaggen, since you whinged about getting Heidi MacAvoy as a target because she was a fifth year and you 'never had a chance' and it wasn't fair, I just thought you might like to know that Megan Jones, who's a HUFFLEPUFF first year, succeeded where you failed. Maybe because she kept her trap shut while sneaking up on MacAvoy?



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Watch your back everyone! Only a few hours left!

---



 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-12 19:00:26**

*(no subject)*

I didn't really sneak. Sneaking's so funny looking. People notice right away if you sneak. And then they say "What are you doing, sneaking around like that? You look like a mudblood. A proper witch walks with her back straight and her eyes to the front, and always makes sure her robes are properly arranged, not in a twist from trying to be a sneak. You should know that by now, Megan. I'm disappointed in you." So it's better not to sneak. People don't notice as much if you walk correctly.

**2009-01-11 15:38:00**

*This absurdity must STOP*

Students are NOT allowed to hex other students in the school corridors. I don't care what kind of silly game you are playing, and I don't give a toss about house pride. This means YOU, Cormac McLaggen, Jack Sloper, Melinda Pennifold, Aurelia Archer and **Malcolm Preece**, you are a prefect. What are you thinking!???



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_percy](#)

(Ron, I'm pleased to see that at least you have more sense.)

I'm sure my dear brothers Fred and George Weasley, have committed the deed as well, although I can't prove it. At any rate, their display at dinner last night seems deeply suspicious.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2009-01-11 21:47:24**  
(no subject)

McLaggen, Sloper, Pennifold, Archer, and Preece, I warned there would be consequences for bringing shame to the Order. I'm subtracting five points from each of your scores.

**[2009-01-11 15:59:00](#)**

### *Helpful Hintys*

This is a list of helpful hintys for all of you still in the game. And, you know, for future reference.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_gredforge](#)

- Even paranoid people fail to look up.

-There is a delightful niche just above the entrance to the charms corridor, which you can reach by swinging down from the balcony of the floor above and stretching your arm *waaaaaaay* out and reaching for the neck of the gargoyle next to it that is the perfect size for hiding in. Aiming your wand between the gargoyles ears gives you a lovely shot of the people coming around the corner from Transfiguration. Unfortunately, the flagstones *beneath* said niche are very hard when you make the ten-foot drop.

-When your target is a prefect, always remember that the younger years can be bribed with Honeydukes chocolate, to get said prefect into the perfect hexing position.

- Never forget the power of alliances, two against one may not be fair, but it works really well.

-Everyone expects you to hide *behind* a suit of armor. It's better to hide *in* one. They're surprisingly roomy.

-Never listen to *anything* Percy Weasley says. We don't. And look what a success we are!



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-12 02:54:24](#)  
(no subject)

Do you mind? It's quite bad enough, trying to enforce the rules around here, without the two of you giving people advice in anarchy!

You'd jolly well better listen to this.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-12 19:03:16](#)  
(no subject)

But he's a prefect!

**2009-01-11 19:53:00**

*(no subject)*

I cannot, and I will not, take responsibility for the actions of another. I am above that. To give me such power would be to deify the profane and make a mockery of what we hold out as Truths. I am no god. I merely create possibilities day after day and sometimes such as to night, when the Moon herself is pregnant with mysteries found under a silver veil and the thin line between Sacred and Profane is thin, gossamer thin. Light as a butterfly's caress and stirring in one an energy and a desire that goes much deeper of what we should desire. This desire cannot be sated, ah, but it can be appeased, and I do, for not to do so would be a suicide of sorts--a suicide of self. And then the Truths would cease to be. I cannot disturb the Order. I am a Solider, working to restore Order. To restore to a world that should be, that could be, but it's now a world run by the four horsemen. Dank, and dark, but with my every action, no matter how small, I breathe a tiny shard of silver into the world round me. And then I can look to Diana in this silver world I created, and claim myself a hunter such as she.



 [alt\\_amycus](#)



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2009-01-12 02:40:24](#)

*(no subject)*

is master in his rooms already? boot can attend master there for the evening, if he likes




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2009-01-12 02:57:01](#)

*(no subject)*

oh

uh



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2009-01-12 02:59:22](#)  
(no subject)

boot guesses

master doesnt want boot attending him tonight.

~~boot thinks master wants to be~~

~~boot wont say anything about what he saw~~

boot will come if master calls, but otherwise boot wont bother master tonight



 [alt\\_amycus](#) at [2009-01-12 02:58:10](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, my rooms should be adequate for tonight's activities. I need you to procure the following:  
Jam tarts

Clotted cream

3 knives, of varying sizes

Extra rags

Stop by the infirmary and ask for Potion 24.

That will do.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2009-01-12 03:02:44](#)  
(no subject)

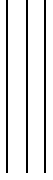
master, please

boot is sorry

~~boot didnt mean to interrupt~~

boot will do everything master says. mudblood boot always obeys master in everything





 **[alt\\_amycus](#)** at **[2009-01-12 03:08:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Then obey me in this.

**2009-01-11 20:16:00**

AK

Wow. I suck.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2009-01-12 02:28:19**

*(no subject)*

Well, when you think what that game's about, maybe you wouldn't want to be good at it?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2009-01-12 02:29:28**

*(no subject)*

That's the reason I didn't play.

Well, one of 'em, anyway.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-12 15:57:25**

*(no subject)*

Oh of course, because it's better to be dead than to be alive. It's good you didn't play Longbottom, you'd have been out within the first hour.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-12 19:36:55**

*(no subject)*

Leave him alone. He's got a good point.

I'd be dead pretty fast myself. But that happens sometimes.


I knew you were sneaky, but not this sneaky. I guess being paranoid is good in a game like this?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-12 19:52:21](#)  
(no subject)


Ugh, you're such a gryffindor-lover, its embarrassing.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 20:18:36](#)  
(no subject)


You win a game and suddenly you're Cock of the Walk? Well, I suppose you should enjoy it, considering it's a rare event.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-12 20:22:31](#)  
(no subject)

You're embarrassing whether I'm winning or not.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 20:25:26](#)  
(no subject)

If conceding that Longbottom's got a good point makes me embarrassing, then oh well. I don't much care.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-12 20:28:47](#)  
(no subject)

You are embarrassing for more reasons than that, don't worry.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 20:32:20](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm no relation to you so you needn't worry that it will rub off on you. I have friends and that's all that matters to me.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-12 20:18:45](#)  
(no subject)

*Oh of course, because it's better to be dead than to be alive.*

I think in some cases, that's actually true.

And yeah, I know I would have been taken out in the first twenty minutes. But that's not why I didn't play. I get taken out in the first twenty minutes playing chess, too, but I still play chess all the time.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 20:19:42](#)  
(no subject)

There are much worse things out there than death, I think.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-12 20:40:18](#)  
(no subject)

It's a boxing game, Longbottom, and I reckon it'd do you good to play something less serious than chess once and a while. Too late now.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-13 00:55:27](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's my loss then.


Congratulations on winning, Malfoy.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-12 03:38:31](#)  
(no subject)

I got caught pretty quickly too. Actually, I think it's sort of fun being knocked out early. You get to watch everybody else.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 21:28:11](#)  
(no subject)

It was fun watching everyone, especially at meals.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-12 05:33:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oh Pansy you don't suck! I've been figuring scores and you're not winning but you're nowhere near last place either. Well last place is Grant Page and he's in a special situation but you're also nowhere near


second last.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 21:28:42](#)  
(no subject)

I just need to work on Being Sneaky. I'm not used to sneaking around, like others we know.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-12 19:03:53](#)  
(no subject)

Who got you, Pansy?

(And you're still really good at potions. And that's more useful. But wasn't AK fun? But not when I hexed the wrong person. That was awful. I thought I really would die. My heart was beating so fast. Because I shouldn't have done that. But it really was an accident.)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-12 21:29:11](#)  
(no subject)

I think I need to take some lessons from you.

Who would ever have guessed it would come to this?



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-13 18:21:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, really? I could ~~start an AK school, and teach~~

Not really. That would be silly. It was mostly luck.  
Like when Susan got that Slytherin for me. The  
second year. Otherwise I'd have been out early.

**2009-01-11 21:31:00**

*word of the day: pulverise*

word is 'pulverise'

like

when

you

smash

somethin

r eal y bad

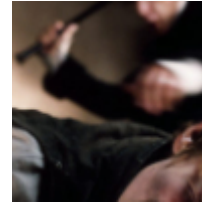
break into

a powder

make it

be dust

(hermie



 [alt\\_terry](#)

**[2009-01-11 22:21:00](#)**

*Weekend*

Well.

I think I accidentally warned Xi Chang when Preece was about to hex him. And I definitely hexed Page - he was just sitting in the common room last night after supper, and I came in with my wand drawn in case - but he got really cross and said Bones or Jones or someone had already hexed him (and so did some other people I think, it was hard to understand him because he got really shrill).



 **[alt\\_padma](#)**

I managed to come up on Vaisey (my first target) on the way back from the party Friday - but then I couldn't get at my next target until this morning. But when I followed the person to cast my hex, I heard someone say the charm behind me! And I thought I was surely going to have blue ears. But I turned round and hexed the person behind me, anyway. And it was Marvolo!

I was so embarrassed I went straight back to the common room after that. But then - Lav, Parvati, you'll never guess! - Xi Chang came over and thanked me for squeaking when I saw Preece leveling his wand at him. I guess the Weasley twins caught him later, anyway, but he said that at least he knew who his allies were. ~~I'm not sure what that meant~~

I'm not sure who's left still playing. But I still have the same person on my parchment.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-12 04:10:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

That's so...Wow! Xi actually *thanked* you. That's brilliant!  
Maybe I should have pla






 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-12 04:15:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I know! And its not even as if I did it ~~di~~ on purpose - I just saw Preece and the noise came out! Not that I said that to Xi, of course.

This game isnt so bad but it would be easier if you had a few mates working together, I can see that. Next time you and Parvati should join.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-12 04:19:01](#)**  
(no subject)

That was very suave of you Padma, to let him think you did it on Purpose!

I'm still not sure if it's really Ladylike to run around hexing people in corridors though ~~but if it got you close to your~~ ~~eru~~.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-12 13:36:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, Morgan le Fay and Morgause and even Parvati (the real one, I mean, not our Parvati) were all Ladies and they certainly hexed people! Even Rowena Ravenclaw practised duelling. So I

think its ok.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-12 21:09:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Haven't you ever meant my Aunt? Ladies hex people all the time. Even my Mother does, and she's very ladylike.

Your friend Loz has some funny ideas.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-12 23:55:46](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I mean, I know who your aunt is and that she's an Auror and all, but Lavender means someone like a princess or the very high-born nobles from stories.

And theres a difference between casting hexes like any witch ought and skulking about to ambush poeple which is a decidedly underhanded thing to do. (~~As is pretending to be injured, even if its not against the rules!~~)



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-13 00:05:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Loz thinks she's a princess?

If you're a hit-wizard you're supposed to be underhanded. It's not the same as walking up to someone and challenging them to a duel.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-13 00:36:19](#)**  
(no subject)


I didnt say that. Did I say that? Thats not what I meant, anyway. Your mixing me all up, Malfoy!



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-13 00:39:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe I'll make Loz a crown so she can keep up her silly notions.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-13 00:44:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh ha-ha.

Make one if you like but be careful - Lavender's liable to want to Kiss you if you do

that!


(But only to see if your really a toad in disguise.)



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-13 00:53:48](#)**  
(no subject)

~~She would?!?~~ What? I thought it was toads who turned into princes and not vice-versa? Those kind of stories are silly anyway.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-13 01:41:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes but someone with your charms could only ever possibly be a toad.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-13 02:09:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Criminey, what jumped up your skirt?

**2009-01-11 23:06:00**

AK

The game is officially over. I need to add up points, the parchment updated automatically like it was supposed to but all the information is crammed in together and it's hard to read. I'll post the winner in the morning, or sooner if Pansy can figure out all the notes on the parchment better than I can.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**



---

 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-12 19:02:03**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Sally Anne, for running the game. It was brilliant fun.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-12 21:52:34**  
(no subject)


You're welcome. I'm glad people enjoyed it.

**2009-01-11 23:22:00**

*Who's Still Playing?*

Hey Sally-Anne, can you tell us who's still in the game, or is that against the rules? I know a couple of people besides me have posted that they're out, but I kind of want to see who's still in.



 **alt\_susan**

---

**alt-sally-anne.livejournal.com** at **2009-01-12 05:26:58**

*(no subject)*

The game is over! But I know Megan Jones and Draco were both still in at dinner. I'm actually not sure whether anyone else was by then, the record-keeping parchment is hard to read there's so much written on it.

**2009-01-12 08:34:00**

*Congratulations to Draco Malfoy and Megan Jones!*



Draco Malfoy is the winner, he had 65 points.

Megan Jones is the runner-up on account of being the last person standing when the game ended last night, and not because she'd been hiding in her dorm or anything, she'd gotten a respectable number of targets.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Anyway I hope everyone had fun playing this and didn't get too far behind on homework while dodging jinxes.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-12 19:04:21](#)  
(no subject)

Oooooooooooh! Truly? I almost won?

I almost won!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-12 19:53:58](#)  
(no subject)

You?




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-13 18:22:13](#)  
(no subject)

Me!

Only almost. I know you won for real.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2009-01-12 20:04:39](#)  
(no subject)

Good show, Megs!



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-13 18:22:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Ernie!



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-12 21:26:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Wizard!



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-13 18:23:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, isn't it?! Thank you, Pansy.

**2009-01-12 10:05:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Terry & Harry*



 [alt\\_hermione](#)

First of all as you probably know Terry is in the infirmary again. Last night he was all black and blue and he couldn't walk. He said that he got hexed. I don't know about what hex would do that but he said it knocked him off his feet and slammed him into the wall, and that it didn't seem like Professor Carrow meant to hurt him as badly as he did. Which I don't believe for a *second*, Terry is such a marter, and he won't ever let anyone pity him, but he ought to!! So I'm going to go see him. And Madam Pince said I could, because I have been such a diligent worker this week-end.

We dusted almost all the books in the Restricted Section, and took them out and cleaned them all off. Some of them wanted to bite me but I wouldn't let them!

In other things that happened, Harry Marvolo came in and wanted to look at the old annuals on Saturday afternoon. I was taking a break and Madam Pince was at her tea so I showed him them, and he wanted to look at the one for 1977, and when he did he was paying an awfully lot of attention to the Gryffindor section. After he left I went in and looked at it and there's a boy in there who looks *just like him*, which I suppose I knew, because of everything that Sirius has been saying. But he's the Lord Protector's son and I didn't really believe it, I suppose.

He was nice. I mean, he was really very nice and he talked to me more than he had ever talked to me about anything. I think he wanted to know what Muggles were like because he asked me about them. I told him that they were just like we were except that they don't have magic and they don't live in nice places. Usually I think that he wouldn't let me say "we," because he isn't like me because I'm a Mudblood. But he didn't say anything about it. I wasn't sure if he was happy or sad because of the things that he read in the annual because he looked like he was half about to cry and half about to start laughing the entire time, but anyway I am going to go visit Terry now.

---





 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-12 15:49:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, my goodness, the poor boy. Both of them, really.

Poppy, how badly hurt is young Boot? (That wretched Carrow!) I find myself taking quite an interest in the boy since the twins have more or less adopted him as a sort of personal mascot. Will he be there in the infirmary long enough that I can send him something to cheer him, if the owl arrives this afternoon? I'd send him some of my shortbread, if only I could get my hands on some butter! Nevermind, I'll send him some Honeydukes sweets, with a note. Better yet, I'll send it to the twins, and they can visit him and hand it over personally, even if he's out of the infirmary by then. He would probably appreciate receiving it from some friends. Hermione, I hope your visit with him goes well.

As for young Mr Marvolo . . . it does sound as though he's trying to find out more about his parents, doesn't it. And on his own, apparently, not for any purpose on the Lord Protector's agenda. That seems hopeful. Your description of how he treated you, Hermione, seems promising, too. My advice to you is to be open and friendly toward him as you can, while still remaining careful.

The pictures he was looking at were probably of his father, James Potter. Does he look very much like James, Minerva?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-12 15:55:22](#)  
(no subject)

Quite the spitting image of James - but with Lily's green eyes, Molly.

Hermione, do be careful. We simply don't know if this is genuine, or if he's a snake in the grass.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-12 16:03:09](#)  
(no subject)

It's a pelvic fracture, Molly, and bad. I hadn't planned to start him on Skele-Gro until this morning, as he truly was not coherent enough to endure the pain last night; this morning, however, he took quite

the hysterical turn, and I've given him the Draught of Peace and some mild soporifics, which settled him down. Now, of course, he can't have the Skele-Gro for another twelve hours, because it interacts quite poorly with the Draught of Peace. Unless we wish him to have purple pustules, of course, which Professor Carrow might find amusing but I do not.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2009-01-12 16:45:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, how dreadful. Hysterics? Was it the pain that caused the hysterics, then? Not that he doesn't have plenty of cause, of course, but he's always struck me as unbelievably stoic about his injuries.

Perhaps he just reached some mental limit.

(Honeydukes AND a new jumper, made with my softest wool.)

I'd like Professor Carrow have done to him what I'd find amusing.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-12 23:25:58](#)**  
(no subject)

No, it wasn't the pain. I believe he was distressed at seeing the other people in the infirmary with him. I've noticed that he has a terrible fear of Mr Lupin, and I suspect that that is the trouble - but he was not able to express his fear in any way at all. He kept insisting that he was fine, fine, utterly fine, and that he would just nip off to his duties - although it was excruciatingly clear that he was nowhere near fine.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2009-01-12 20:49:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I saw that post of your Terry's, and my palms itched - if I could've got my hands 'round Carrow...

But well done, child, on showing Harry the annuals. Perhaps that means he got my latest owl and meant to check the photos against the pictures of James and Lily from them. In which case, he might have been bluffing about having seen them before, Minerva. It's quite confusing.

Wonder why your Terry'd be upset about Moony Lupin being in the hospital wing with him? I mean, up and about, I understand - there's loads of people who are afraid of werewolves - but on the day after the full moon he's usually half-dead with exhaustion and couldn't hurt anyone even if he wanted to do.

Not that I can imagine he'd want to harm Terry, anyway.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2009-01-12 21:30:58](#)

*(no subject)*

I've heard many parents threaten their children with being bitten if they don't behave. And I wouldn't put that past Carrow.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-12 23:58:04](#)

*(no subject)*

Nor would I, Kingsley, but Moony can't very well bite anyone when he's unconscious.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-13 01:05:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Hmm. Well, I must say, if that's what Carrow did (and I certainly wouldn't put it past him either) then the boy's reaction makes sense. I forgot, last night was the full moon, wasn't it, so that's why Lupin was in the infirmary. But the boy might not have realised that was the reason Lupin was there. I mean, think about it: if Carrow injured Terry Boot, all the while telling him it was because he was being bad, and then he woke up in the hospital wing and Lupin was right there beside him in the next bed . . . well, the poor boy might have thought Carrow sent him to make good his threat.

No wonder he panicked so badly then.



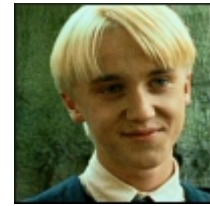
 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2009-01-13 01:33:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh poor Terry! I suppose I've never tried to show him what a nice man Mr Lupin is - only ever tried to get him to just be friendly - and he must have been so scared, not knowing. I wonder whether he thought I was awfully stupid to be friends with a werewolf? Well I know what I need to do to help him now anyway!

**2009-01-12 12:51:00**

*All done*

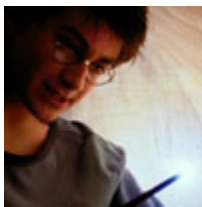
Well, that was brilliant. Not really as difficult as I expected it to be. After all that talk about how clever Cedric Diggory is, he wasn't so hard to take out. And he looked just as funny with blue ears as everyone else.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Sorry I had to hex you, Harry, but at least I did it to your face and told you what was coming, yeah?

---



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:05:22](#)

*(no subject)*

No hard feelings mate, we said we'd do it that way and we did, didn't we?

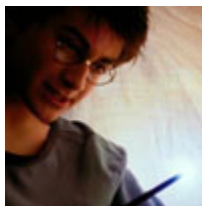
I was sorry about it though. I would've liked to keep playing.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:06:57](#)

*(no subject)*

Really? I sort of thought maybe you didn't like the game.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:12:20](#)

*(no subject)*

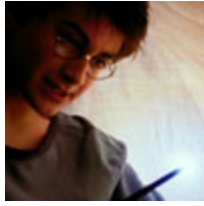
How come I mean I liked it well enough?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:13:41](#)

*(no subject)*

I guess you didn't seem as into it as I thought you would be? Even if you did like it, it seemed like you were distracted or something.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:23:49](#)  
(no subject)

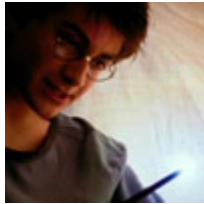
I havent been distracted.

Well maybe but I've just been thinking about some things.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:24:42](#)  
(no subject)

Backwards things?



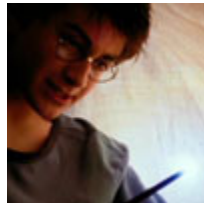
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:27:03](#)  
(no subject)

I dont know what youre talking about.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:28:57](#)  
(no subject)

Harry, I think you do. But if you're saying you don't, that's probably good.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:30:18](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

Lets not talk about it then.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:32:01](#)  
(no subject)

Alright, but if you ever *need* too.

We never talked about my backwards.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:35:26](#)  
(no subject)

Do you want to? We can if you want to.

I mean you never said what it was really. I ought to have asked. But I didnt. Sorry.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:37:34](#)  
(no subject)

It wasn't like yours, that's for sure.

There's no way I'm telling you - it's so stupid, hah.



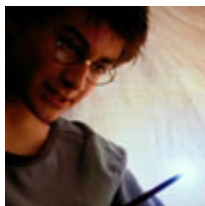
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:38:31](#)  
(no subject)

What did you see yourself snogging someone? Ew!!!! You didn't did you?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:43:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it was me and stunning Eloise Midgen, snogging up a storm, and now I dream about it every night.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:50:28](#)  
(no subject)

DRACO! That cant be what you saw she is such a minger!!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 01:01:26](#)  
(no subject)

Don't you talk about my bride like that!



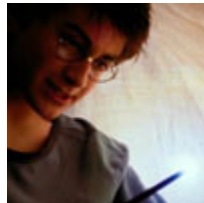
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:27:49](#)  
(no subject)

Im really surprised that you took out Diggory so well. After the Weasleys I thought he was the one to beat.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:29:59](#)  
(no subject)

He probably thought he didn't have anything to worry about with a firstie. That's how most of the bigger kids were acting.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:31:30](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah probably. I think thats probably why I didn't get taken out early.

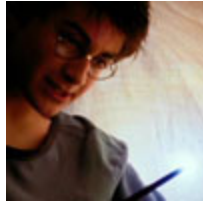
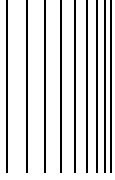
I never really did get the hang of that hex  
though.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-13 00:33:02](#)  
(no subject)

That's alright - I don't think you'll ever have a need for turning someones' ears blue in the future.





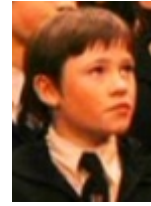
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 00:34:40](#)  
(no subject)

Thats true!

**2009-01-12 19:15:00**

*(no subject)*

I did terribly in AK, that wasn't such a surprise. And I dont mind being one of the first to go out tho I really think Id have done better if it hadnt been for the thing with Page. But today I got my mark back in Transfiguration and I did terribly and I cant blame anyone else for that. And I didnt do very well in Charms either and the best mark I got in anything was in History of Magic. And thats not because I listened to Binns, its because I had a good book on some of the goblin wars that I read last year.



 **alt\_seamus**

Maybe its true Ill never be much of a

---



 **alt\_draco** at **2009-01-13 02:24:26**

*(no subject)*

Page was being a wanker.



 **alt\_neville** at **2009-01-13 03:24:38**

*(no subject)*

I think you were brave to try playing AK, really.

And I reckon we don't have to feel too bad about the Transfiguration mark, since a LOT of people did real bad on that exam. I doubt they'll toss the entire first year out on their ear.

**2009-01-12 19:17:00**

*Transfiguration, urgh*

Trying to please Professor Carrow in Transfiguration is like trying to hit a constantly moving target (sort of like a game of AK, I expect). And you've no idea where it's going to swerve to next.



 [alt\\_neville](#)

I keep thinking I've figured out the rules, only they keep changing.

Got my exam back, with a grade that, well--just hope I don't get a Howler from Gran. I did revise for it, honest.

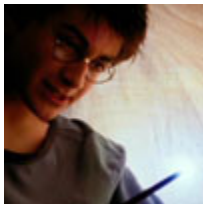
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 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2009-01-13 01:21:18**

*(no subject)*

My mark was terrible. I left the question blank about his mudbloods essay because I thought surely he was having us on. And I got a zero. But Parvati didnt answer it either and she got five extra points. She didnt leave it blank, she wrote that she doesnt read trash from mudbloods so I guess we had to refuse to answer it instead of just not answering.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2009-01-13 01:34:43**

*(no subject)*

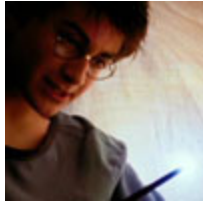
I did all right, funny how it goes isnt it? Only I think maybe he was trying to suck up to Father.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2009-01-13 01:43:04**

*(no subject)*

Professor Acton sure does. I mean your alright in Charms dont get me wrong. But she acts like your dead brilliant.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-13 01:51:40](#)  
(no subject)

Well I cant say as I mind all the time. But it gets old.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-13 01:39:43](#)  
(no subject)

Morag answered it and she got points (she said she couldnt help reading it as it was there). I suppose its to do with explaining why we didnt answer. Maybe?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-13 01:44:31](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah I think your right. I just left it blank. Id have done okay despite that if Id gotten the scales right. Neville's right, we never even did scales, and I got all cross about it and couldnt make it work.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-13 03:21:27](#)  
(no subject)

Perks and I talked about scales, actually, when we were revising on our own. That was one I was sure I had right, but no, he marked it off.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-13 03:19:40](#)  
(no subject)

That one about the essay I answered, and he even gave me five points for it. But I got zeros on a bunch of other stuff I thought I'd answered right.

Like I said, I can't figure it out.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-13 02:05:48](#)  
(no subject)

I'll vouch for you if your Gran wants proof you revised. I'll tell her you do a lot better when Professor Carrow isn't watching, too.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-13 03:20:40](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Perks. My grade was not so good, but I reckon it would have been a 'T' if you hadn't been helping me revise so much.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-14 20:38:27](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Rosier sent me two books on transfiguration. He said they might help me. So let me know if you want to look at them.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-14 23:18:28](#)  
(no subject)

I would, thanks!

**2009-01-12 21:15:00**

*(no subject)*

AK was wizard! I was out pretty early, but it was really fun! I hope we get to do it again.



 [alt\\_ernie](#)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-12 21:23:57**

*(no subject)*

It was fun, wasn't it?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2009-01-12 21:26:52**

*(no subject)*

Yeah. It was like being a hit-wizard for the Aurors - sneaking around, finding your target, getting them without being caught! Or being caught, if your me, because I wasn't very good. But it was fun!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-12 21:32:05**

*(no subject)*

I wasn't very good, either. But we're just ickle firsties so we just have to learn to be more paranoid.




 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2009-01-12 21:42:32**

*(no subject)*

I think I need to get to know the castle better too, so I know better places to hide and stuff.



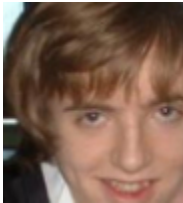
 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-13 18:20:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Perhaps you could come along the next time  
Susan and I go exploring.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-13 01:46:21](#)**  
(no subject)

It was a lot of fun, I liked it but next time I hope Perks  
doesnt let Page play.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2009-01-13 17:34:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I agree, he's a dirty cheat! We'll do better next  
time, I reckon, now we know how it all works.

**2009-01-13 09:08:00**

*VII*

I've made a friend. He lives just south of Tavistock in a cottage that's quite humble, considering.

He's a quiet chap, and he brews a strong, perfect cuppa. Even so, I do hope that our visit won't be long. Mubarak's been requesting a meeting about his shop ever since New Years.



 **alt\_bellatrix**

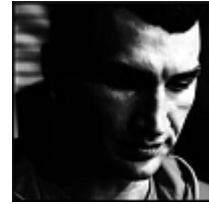
I am pleased to see that my advice was of use to you, nephew. Though it seems unfortunate that you were not the last left standing.



**2009-01-14 10:47:00**

*quidditch*

I don't usually care for a look in here. Can't say it seems wise to be peeking at what the children say to each other when I'm not around. Reckon this might save them from having to voice their feelings about me on the walls of the toilets, though.



 [alt\\_macnair](#)

Don't suppose anyone needs reminding that there's a quidditch match this Saturday? Ravenclaw v. Slytherin. Mind you do your betting where I can't see it.

---



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-14 23:06:43](#)  
(no subject)


And you are the referee, are you not?



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-14 23:08:13](#)  
(no subject)

That is my request.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-15 03:50:57](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

What's he want as referee?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-15 14:57:12](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

I haven't the foggiest clue, but I haven't any good excuse to prevent him, so referee he shall.

**[2009-01-14 12:12:00](#)**

*Order Only: Shipment on the way...*

I've just packed off a number of crates on behalf of Laszlo Ltd and there's an additional parcel going to the central owl office in London.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I trust our usual receivership will be available in Dover?

(Also, I got another owl. Hermione, whatever you showed Harry seems to be getting him moving in the right direction. Of course, it's tricky figuring out what to say and not say. But as far as we know, he's our best asset simply because he's of such importance to Voldemort, so I think it's worth the risk. And yes, I'm covering my tracks.)

Weather in Tunis is picturesque - hard to believe how much nicer here than even southern France can be this time of year. I don't believe I shall be emigrating permanently, however; too difficult to find acceptable company. By which, I don't mean that the company isn't acceptable - just that *reaching* it bears unnecessary risks. Luckily Fatima, for example, is a charming and intelligent witch who is more than capable of handling our North African Laszlo operations, even if she is woefully under-appreciated (and under-estimated) by her male relatives.

Minerva, I'm sending you a little parcel, too - but it'll come in under Malfoy's signature so with any luck no one will dare to open it. Do me a favour and follow the instructions on the note inside.

I'll be swinging back through Marrakesh to discuss the partnership with Nigel's Quidditch contacts in Morocco. Any special requests?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-14 23:15:13](#)

*(no subject)*

As far as I know, it will, Sirius. The receivership, I mean.

A parcel? I burn with curiosity. Is it a present?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-15 01:11:21](#)  
(no subject)

Well, there's something in there for you. But you'll just have to wait to find out what!



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-14 23:23:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh hooray!!!

He's been coming in ever so much more often than he used to, and I think he wants to talk to me. Perhaps I'll talk to him back then, shall I?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-15 01:13:53](#)  
(no subject)

Whatever you've been doing, it's just right. Just don't go too far too fast.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-15 02:04:38](#)  
(no subject)

You can get spices quite reasonably in Morocco, can't you? I'd--well, commit SOME reprehensible act if only I could get some cinnamon. Or ginger? Alice is still suffering horribly from nausea, and ginger tea helps more than practically anything. I imagine Laszlo Ltd could manage quite a tidy mark-up if it added spices as a side-line.

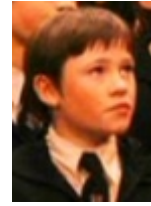


 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-15 02:29:01](#)  
(no subject)

Excellent suggestion, Molly! Spices will present quite an adequate smokescreen - and the funds will do us well for the future.

**2009-01-14 14:19:00**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

Mr Rosier sent me an owl this morning. That made me feel a lot better about everything. Both my transfiguration exam and AK and all of it really.

During the holiday he said I should be proud of my wizard blood even if I'm not pure. That wizard blood is stronger than muggle blood so even in the way I look I'll be more like my mum than like the muggle. And I do look like my mum. I believed him but then came my exam results and they mostly weren't so good. And that made me wonder. And also I got knocked out so fast in AK.

But Mr Rosier said it's fine. Lots of wizards have trouble their first term and go on to be brilliant. Also that AK is fun and his real son Evan used to play it but not to take it too seriously. He said my marks in History of Magic show I have a good mind and he suggested now Binns is going on about something I've never read about before I should think about how I'd make it interesting to see if that helps me pay attention.

And he sent me sweets! Neville and Ron meet me before dinner and I'll share, I've got chocolate frogs and sugar quills and Bertie Botts and some things I've never even seen before. It's wizard.

Mr Rosier also said one good thing about being a halfblood is my accomplishments are my own. I don't ever have to worry a teacher gave me a good mark to kiss up. I think the pureblood students from families that aren't important sort of get that too though. I mean I don't think anyone tries to kiss up to Neville, no offense Neville. Professor Carrow sure doesn't.

That reminds me of the other thing. Mr Rosier also sent me two books on transfiguration. He said that might help me a bit and I should practise outside of class. I really think I hate transfiguration but I want to make Mr Rosier proud glad he decided to be my foster father.

---



 **[alt\\_macnair](#)** at **[2009-01-14 22:27:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Rosier's doing well by you, Finnegan. Now mind you keep those sweets in your trunk and not under the bed, else you'll bring mice.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-15 16:20:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes sir.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-14 23:21:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Well you should be glad people don't kiss up, its kind of awful.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-15 16:20:28](#)**  
(no subject)

We could trade sometime and you could try it the other way if you want!



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-15 01:51:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks for the sweets! When I opened the chocolate frogs you gave me, one of them was the Hengist of Woodcroft card that I've been waiting for forever.

Well-spotted: yeah, no one kisses up to me, or Ron, either, really (and no offence taken, either). Huh, I never really thought of it like that. Well, guess we can right be proud of our accomplishments, then, cause we really earned 'em (if we ever HAVE any).



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-15 16:21:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah having some would be nice I think.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-15 05:29:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh. Is all wizard blood stronger? So I'd be more like my father? I'm not sure




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-15 16:38:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Thats what Mr Rosier says. He says its true for all halfbloods. He says halfbloods are very rarely squibs.

This is why they know mudbloods must steal their magic. Because wizard blood is stronger so it doesnt make sense magic would hide in muggles and then suddenly come out.

But he says the difference between a mudblood and a halfblood is like the difference between a dog and its master. You can dress a dog up in clothes and teach it tricks but its still a dog. And you could take a wizards wand away and you could make him kneel and grovel and bark if you used the Imperius curse. Like a dog I mean. But hed still be a wizard.



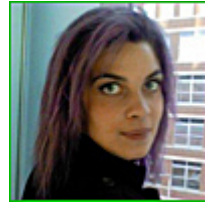
 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-16 05:12:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, I like that. Like the mudblood who was a dog. And he must be right. Mr Rosier must be, I mean. He's important. I know because I've heard people talking about him.

**2009-01-14 16:31:00**

*(no subject)*

My flat is looking quite nice, if I do say so myself. A few posters slapped up on the wall over my (somewhat sloppy) paint job has livened it up in a way that my old room at the Crouches never was. It really is a pity that I don't spend many waking hours here though. I've been snapping up all of the overtime I can get at the Ministry in order to get some more household goods.



 **alt\_nymphadora**

Still, life is not all work and errands - I had an owl while I was getting ready to leave for work this afternoon. Not a usual occurrence, although I hope it may become one. I may have to pick up an extra handkerchief along with a frame for the picture of my parents that was inside.

**2009-01-14 18:14:00**

*(no subject)*

Monday morning was rather more eventful than I was expecting, so I had a bit of a lie-in yesterday instead. There's nothing quite like going back to bed with a nice cup of tea. Today, however, I had to nip into the Forbidden Forest so I was up at the crack of dawn. As the name suggests, it is Forbidden, so this is absolutely not a recommendation for students (Fred, George, I'm looking at you), but it's really very beautiful in the early morning. As long as you don't get eaten, bitten, stung or otherwise injured by any of the residents. Myself included.



 [alt\\_lupin](#)

It all passed off quite uneventfully except for the oddest thing - I thought I saw Professor Quirrell. I was probably mistaken, as there was no one there when I looked again, but ... Well, it's a little odd. I must remember speak to Professor Macnair about it.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at **2009-01-14 18:26:38**

*(no subject)*

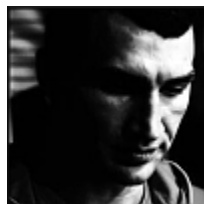
Mind the things that bite, old man. I haven't been to the Forest yet today, but I'll be out to collect grub worms after lessons. I'll collect Quirrell too, if I see him.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2009-01-14 18:41:37**

*(no subject)*

I'll just bite them back and we'll see who wins, eh? I'm probably imagining things - I can't think why he'd be here at all, never mind wandering about the forest. Keep an eye out though? Just in case.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at **2009-01-14 18:52:43**

*(no subject)*

If he was here before he may be here again. I will keep an eye out.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 20:39:44](#)  
(no subject)

Are we allowed to go in the Forbidden Forest if someone takes us there? I mean someone like a teacher.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2009-01-14 20:50:57](#)  
(no subject)


If there is a teacher present to ~~take responsibility~~ when keep you safe, then yes, you are allowed to go in. If one of the seventh years tells you they have permission to take you into the Forbidden Forest for a Care of Magical Creatures project, they're lying.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 22:05:57](#)  
(no subject)

Are older students in Care of Magical Creatures allowed to go in?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2009-01-14 22:13:10](#)  
(no subject)

That's up to the Care of Magical Creatures Professor, but generally no, they aren't allowed in unsupervised either.

The Forbidden Forest is off-limits for a very good reason, Miss Perks. I hope I can trust you to take a sensible attitude towards this restriction.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 22:17:56](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not about to go explore it by myself, Mr Lupin, I'm not a ~~Gryffin~~ stupid.

I just wanted to know if I might ever get to go in when I'm older.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2009-01-14 22:28:49](#)  
(no subject)

I certainly wouldn't wish to suggest that you were stupid, Miss Perks. Far from it. But if you're already taking walks along the edge of the forest, as you told Professor Macnair, and are stopped from going further in only by the rules, it's my duty as one of those responsible for your care here at Hogwarts to make sure that you remain safe, and by safe I mean out of the forest and not munched on by any of its more forward residents.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 23:00:08](#)  
(no subject)

I don't understand why everyone seems to think that I'm asking about it because I want to go sneaking in there all by myself. It's against the rules AND it's dangerous and I don't want to be eaten or bitten or anything. Of course.

It's why I asked if a teacher could take me in. Or if Care of Magical Creatures classes ever go in.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-14 21:50:31](#)  
(no subject)

Is there a reason you'd need to venture there, Miss Perks?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 22:05:25](#)  
(no subject)

No sir. I'd just like to see it sometime. I've walked near the edge but of course I don't go in because it's against the rules.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 22:18:57](#)  
(no subject)

And also dangerous of course, that's another reason I don't go in.

But I'd like to go in if I could find someone to take me. Do you ever take students in your classes in?



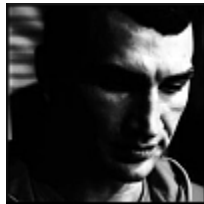
 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-14 22:26:00](#)  
(no subject)


If I take students into the Forest for a lesson, I take the whole class. Can't think of a reason a young girl would need to go in there on any occasion other than that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-14 22:57:16](#)  
(no subject)

Well of course I don't NEED to go in sir. It just sounds very interesting and I'd like to get to see it from the inside. I was planning to sign up for Care of Magical Creatures anyway because I like animals. Getting to go in with a class would be wizard.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-14 23:02:52](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe when there's no chance of a loony radge hiding out there, then.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-14 21:42:39](#)  
(no subject)

~~Usually about 4:30 or so in the morning was the best time. Tired but not asleep yet, and the sun just about to start breaking up the darkness.~~

Will you stop joking about biting people or being a 'resident' of the forest? Unless things have really changed for you, anyway. That's the sort of thing that keeps people so sure werewolves are all bad. I

thought the point was to improve your lot. Wasn't that your goal?

Though you're right about needing to keep an eye on the Weasley twins. Takes trouble to know trouble, eh?




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2009-01-14 22:10:04](#)  
(no subject)

The fact that I can joke about it rather suggests there has been an improvement in our lot. If nothing else, at least I'm not living with secrets and lies any more.

I very rarely caused trouble, as you well know. I simply witnessed it far more than most, and as such developed a finely tuned trouble-detector. Those boys - I swear, they'd give you and James a run for your Galleons.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-14 22:36:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's a comfort to you, I'm sure.

As I recall it, you had just as many devilish ideas as we did. You just had the sense not to *implement* the plans without, well, more encouragement from us.

Now, Quirrell's another matter. No sense at all, from what I've seen. What's he to do with Macscaredy, anyway?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2009-01-15 21:01:40](#)  
(no subject)

It's better than nothing.

Spending so many years trapped and helpless in a dormitory room with you and James, I could hardly help finding myself indoctrinated into the creed 'If in doubt, prank it!'

I was still far better behaved than either of you, of course. I have the prefect badge to prove it.

If there's any connection between Walden and Quirrell, I'm sure I don't know, and if I did I probably wouldn't say. I only wanted to mention it as he's likely to be in the forest later, and may be able to confirm whether I am, as suspected, going senile in my old age.

**2009-01-14 20:56:00**

*ORDER ONLY: The New Improved Quibbler is out*



 [alt\\_molly](#)

Apparently the Ministry is finding their plan of turning Xeno's paper into a propaganda tool for the Ministry very uphill work. I overhear the most fascinating bits through the Floo connection

(whenever Luna steps through to come over for lessons, or pops back home for a moment to fetch a book, for example.) Two days ago, I heard a shrill stream of complaints, followed by what sounded like a crashing tea cup, flung against a wall, perhaps. When Luna arrived in our kitchen a moment later, she merely said, 'Oh, that's Ms Skeeter. She doesn't exactly share Daddy's editorial vision.'

At least one of the people who have been assigned to 'work for' Xeno (really to oversee him) has already quit in disgust. Frankly, I'm surprised the boy lasted a week. Judging from a chance remark or two dropped by Luna, I suspect Xeno's dottiness had driven him almost completely mad.

Xeno came over for dinner last night, supposedly to treat us to a dinner of vegetarian shepherd's pie (inedible, trust me), but really because he wanted to show off the first issue. Stylistically, it doesn't look very different, still with that eye-popping typeface, although Xeno says there will be a new design for the masthead within the next issue or two. As excited as he was at first about resuming publication, he was thrown into complete gloom by the content of the articles, which he certainly didn't write. Really, they are perfect specimens of the worst Ministry drivel. But by the end of the dinner he was brimming with another idea: he wants to insert faked letters into the letter column, 'to liven things up a bit' and, apparently, work in some of the mad 'anthropological and zoological breaking news' he is convinced his readers are simply panting to read. I was astonished to learn that the letters in previous issues of the *Quibbler* were NOT fakes. It seems that there really are people out there who write into the *Quibbler* who are as dotty as Xeno is.

Well, I hope he doesn't get TOO carried away. If he starts making too much mischief in the letters column, the Ministry might step in, which might, in turn, draw uncomfortable attention to their Classifieds section. It would be a pity for the Order to lose that avenue for sending coded messages.

Otherwise, we're bearing the dead of winter as best we can. The weather's not been too bad, but the damp and the cold is depressing all of us. We have enough fuel, but we're being stingy with it, worried about how long winter will last. Ginny and Luna and I wear shawls and slippers and drink endless mugs of hot drinks (tea for them, coffee for me), trying to stay warm. Once in awhile, we'll roast some chestnuts or apples, to put something warm in our bellies as we work. History and remedial potions in the morning, mathematics and literature in the afternoon. (Really, convincing Luna to study literature is not the problem; the bigger problem is nicking whatever book she's reading and keeping it out of her reach when she's supposed to be working on her multiplication problems). Me, I've been working on quilts and more knitted socks for the children of Moddy Dhoo (they have less access to fuel this winter than we do), and a layette for Alice's baby.

Arthur is still working appalling hours, the poor man. He's been fighting a cold again this week from being so run-down. I need to dose him with some Pepperup Potion.

---



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2009-01-16 01:24:32](#)**

*(no subject)*

What's a layette?

I've never been around a baby really, not even in the camps, because babies don't really have teeth, do they, ~~and they don't live long~~. Are they nice?



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2009-01-16 03:28:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, a 'layette' is just a fancy term for what you call a collection that mothers put together of the little clothes that newborn babies wear and the things that they need: nightgowns and wee sweaters and such, along with nappies, of course. Babies need to have several different sets of clothes every day, since they tend to spit up their milk and need to have their nappies changed, but they also grow very quickly, so they'll quickly grow out of the clothes they have when they're just born.

I think babies are quite nice, myself. But then, I've had seven of them, you know!



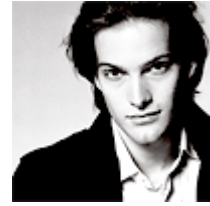
 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-16 01:28:34](#)  
(no subject)

My! Well, do tell me if there is anything I can do to support Lovegood from my end - fortunately, Lucius Malfoy seems quite as skeptical of Rita Skeeter as I am, and as she is the only one who seems likely to put up any kind of significant resistance to Lovegood's agenda, perhaps we could work something out.



**2009-01-15 02:51:00**

*Two Sides of the Same Coin, Part I: The Band*



 [alt\\_owain](#)

A couple of weeks ago, as I was filing out of the ministry one evening with all the other ministry workers, to all appearances a simple ministry crowd surrounded by others of my kind, I was waylaid at the tube station by the incredibly lovely and infinitely talented Ms Anastasia Goshawk -- who would never be mistaken for a ministry worker even before she opened her mouth and her voice put to rest all doubts on that score. She, despite her name, is a songbird, with a voice as clear as the dawn and the brilliant plumage to match.

She grabbed my arm and pulled me out of the stream of workers, and led me to a floo junction, whispering promises that I couldn't resist. Eagerly, I floored home to grab my lute and then apparated to her house, where I found the rest of the band already gathered and awaiting my arrival.

Somewhere in the wilds of the lake district, in a mansion filled with every luxury, we sat down together in a room as large as it is spartan, with thick walls and bare floors and a few chairs and a grand piano, and two tapestries placed just so, to perfect the acoustics (and incidentally to make anyone who sees them wonder just what the artist who designed them had against hippogryffs). In that room, we played music all evening and far into the night.

Far too soon, I had to go. I had work the next afternoon.

'Bloody hell, why don't you drop that ministry gig like you'd drop a dead rat with plague?', Zelda asked, as cheerful as ever. She beat a tattoo on her snare drum. 'We'll write a song without you, and then you'll be sorry.'

'Bloody Zel, why don't you quit asking?', I said. 'I'm already sorry. Maybe this time I'll stay.'

'Goodbye, Owain', Ana said, smiling sweetly.

Kirley and Myron looked at each other and then Myron threatened to push me out the door if I didn't quit talking and either go or stay. So I went home and slept the sleep of the perpetually overworked, and

went to work in the afternoon.

Yes, the break after our last tour (thoughtfully timed to coincide with the holidays) is over. The Weird Sisters are back at Thestralia Thursday and Friday nights until the middle of March, when we may be doing something else. I can't tell you what, we're deep in negotiations too delicate to breath on, much less announce to all of Britain, but we think you'll like it if it comes off. More later.

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 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-15 23:24:36](#)**  
(no subject)


Where do you get off, pretending to be Owain Pritchard!



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-16 01:26:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Dyou think you can pretend? On the journals I mean?



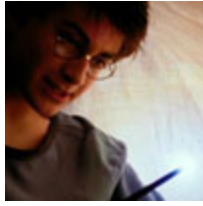
 **[alt\\_owain](#)** at **[2009-01-16 02:26:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Why not? Pretending is such a decidedly *human* thing to do.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2009-01-16 03:19:07](#)**  
(no subject)


To what?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-16 03:20:19](#)  
(no subject)


Pretend to be someone youre not I mean.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-16 03:22:46](#)  
(no subject)


Maybe. I'm pretty good at play acting. Why, do you think it's the real Owain Pritchard?



 [alt\\_owain](#) at [2009-01-16 04:48:03](#)  
(no subject)

In fact, you'll find that I'm the world's premier Owain Pritchard impersonator. I've been pretending to be Owain Pritchard for 25 years, and I defy anyone to produce a man more apt for the job than I.



 [alt\\_owain](#) at [2009-01-16 02:26:07](#)  
(no subject)


And who are you, pretending to know with such prodigious presumption precisely who is or isn't Owain Pritchard?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-16 03:19:54](#)  
(no subject)

I'm Draco Malfoy. And it doesn't seem very likely that a famous star like Owain Pritchard would have time to scribble about in a book.




 [alt\\_owain](#) at [2009-01-16 04:51:33](#)  
(no subject)

Care to prove it?

That's where you're wrong. A famous star like Owain Pritchard has time to do exactly what he wants to do, including writing about things that interest or amuse him. What's more, at the risk of sounding like I've been spying on the man, I can tell you with no fear of contradiction that he *loves* to argue about whether he is in fact Owain Pritchard with people who have no way of knowing. He's extremely fond of novelty, and also of referring to himself in the third person as the occasion warrants.

But don't worry, I'll grow bored with it soon enough.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-16 05:52:22](#)  
(no subject)

You're batty. I'm going away now.


But if you are Owain Pritchard, then I think your music is wizard.



 [alt\\_owain](#) at [2009-01-20 02:49:36](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-16 03:22:25](#)  
(no subject)

I believe you!! It must be ever so Brilliant being in the Weird Sisters!




 **[alt\\_owain](#)** at **[2009-01-16 04:57:50](#)**  
(no subject)

No doubts? Why thank you.

And I do think it's rather brilliant, I wouldn't give it up even to become Minister for Magic. Not that anyone's been offering lately, you understand, but one never knows what the future may hold.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-16 05:28:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd feel just the same if I were you. Being Minister for Magic sounds dreadfully hard and Boring, especially compared to being in a brilliant, famous, wizard band!


I wish I were old enough to come to your show!!!



 **[alt\\_owain](#)** at **[2009-01-20 02:50:31](#)**  
(no subject)


Hold that thought.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:10:51](#)**  
(no subject)

What does that mean? I know it's an expression grownups use, but I don't understand it really.



 **[alt\\_owain](#)** at **[2009-01-21 05:47:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Like many phrases, the exact meaning often depends on context -- and worse, intent.

In this case, you can take it to mean that you should remember to come see the Weird Sisters when you're

||| | older. Or sooner, if you have any extremely unexpected opportunities to do so, of course.

**2009-01-15 07:41:00**

*(no subject)*

Well, this certainly has been a productive week. We even did our homework!



We went up to the hospital wing to visit with the Professor, and brought him some get well gifts, from our mum. We told him about the AK game, and entertained him for a while telling war stories. He was particularly interested in how we managed to get out of the game. We explained what happened, we were teaming up and going through Fred's targets (because prefects are so much more fun to target than first years), when we realized that George was Fred's next target. So, we took each other out simultaneously at dinner on Saturday night.

 [alt\\_gredforge](#)

Classes have been boring, and we're looking forward to the weekend. We're still exploring the castle, and unfortunately, we don't have any drops of wisdom for you today.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2009-01-15 15:51:03**

*(no subject)*

thank you for visiting boot, and for making boot laugh. ~~talking to you took boot's mind off how much the Skele-grow hurts.~~ boot likes the hospital wing, but not so much being a patient there. and you will also please say thanks to mrs weasley for being so

kind to a mudblood like boot.

**2009-01-15 09:51:00**

*back*

boot is fine now. boot is back to his duties.



 [alt\\_terry](#)



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2009-01-15 15:54:41**

*(no subject)*

So glad that you're feeling better, dear.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2009-01-15 16:01:55**

*(no subject)*

Oh! Mrs weasley, boot already told messrs Fred and George weasley to tell you thank you. boot really likes the jumper, and thank you for the sweets from honeydukes. boot had never even seen a chocolate frog before.

you are really good to think of boot.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2009-01-15 16:04:42**

*(no subject)*

It was my pleasure, dear.

If you find your re-grown bones are aching a bit the first week or so, particularly if you get too cold, ask Madam Pomfrey for a hot water bottle, and that will help.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2009-01-15 16:05:06**

*(no subject)*

thank you. boot will remember.





 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-16 01:13:38](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for thinking of him, Mrs Weasley, I was so glad for it!

**2009-01-15 11:21:00**

*Quibbler, Muggleborn Labour, Minister and Family*



In reverse order:

Bella, kindly help me assure your sister that you are taking care of yourself quite adequately under the circumstances. She seems to be certain otherwise since your penultimate entry - and the last did nothing to assuage her. Something about being outside too much in the cold and ... what was it? Ah - accepting tea from strangers. (Gentlemen, whenever addressing one's spouse, remember that as a male of the species, you are allowed no opinion on issues of female health, not even to point out that as mistress of her own form a level-headed witch can surely be trusted not to jeopardise herself.)

 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Perhaps some of Narcissa's ill-temper of late has another source: The Minister of Magic, I understand, contacted her last week in a bold-faced ploy to engage her in the planning committee for the anniversary celebrations to come in late spring. Dolores's timing is, as ever, exquisitely atrocious. Given Narcissa's harrowing experience herding cats to pull off the St Mungo's benefit, I should consider it miraculous if she ever agreed to plan so much as a dinner party again. The idea that she might devote the next **four months** or so to planning a solemnity that will involve half of Britain is as flattering as it is preposterous. To make matters worse, Dolores had not even the courtesy to ask on her own behalf, but left it to Miss Robins. And while Miss Robins has every ounce of discretion and decorum that her employer is lacking, even she cannot be expected to coax blood from a stone, as it were. No: It was exceedingly bad form on Dolores's part. (To show there were no hard feelings levelled upon Miss Robins, however, I invited her to tea earlier this week and brought along Narcissa's apologies for her stern reaction to the request.)

Last month I met with Warrington and Nott to discuss the plan I hit upon for placing Mudblood servants with more success. Nott found it amusing and worth pursuit; Warrington I think may have wished he had thought of it first, but no matter. He volunteered to begin a pilot programme within the first quarter of the year. This week we sat down again to review progress. Sad to say Warrington has not come along as we had hoped. He wishes to appoint a task force to 'dig deeper' and

actually asked to borrow Crispin to clerk for the project. Absolutely not! I've only just got things back where they ought to be following his irresponsible illness and all the bustle of the holiday season. Let the man find his own clerk, if that's what it takes for him to get anything done. Told him he might spend a night or two re-organising that disaster of an office of his, before he attempts to organise anything more complicated than an inter-office memorandum.


Fourth, but certainly not least, the new edition of *The Quibbler* came out this week. That's also nothing short of a miracle, judging from the way Skeeter has been carrying on about her 'rights' and what is 'owed her' by the *Prophet*. Ridiculous, as if the publication doesn't already pay her a living wage and provide her more than enough gossip for her rumour-mongering pea-brain. At least if she and Lovegood do murder each other it will be entertaining. And she's not about to risk her position with the *Prophet* by refusing her assignments to *The Quibbler* - unlike Bobolis who has already quit, I'm told. Summerby would rather die, I think, than let Lovegood defeat her, and I've no doubt that Laverty will not stand for any of Lovegood's usual nonsense.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-16 00:07:33](#)  
(no subject)

I do wish I could be a fly on the wall for Skeeter's arguments with Lovegood. I imagine that they must be *quite* something.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-16 01:08:36](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed, they are perfectly matched: A man who never listens to anyone and a woman who never stops talking.


If she loved investigative reporting half as much as her own angle on anything, she'd be half a good writer. I suppose it's too much to hope Lovegood will send her on a hunt for a snorkle or whatever that beast is he insists is real, and she'll be lost in the wilds of Dean forever.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-16 01:25:23](#)  
(no subject)


I don't suppose we could put a bee in Lovegood's bonnet about it? Or would that be an abuse of power, do you think?



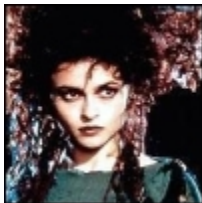
 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-16 01:45:39](#)  
(no subject)

Well. Skeeter at least can have her uses. Lovegood remains to be seen. But ... an in-depth study of the politics in the werewolf colony at Clyde might just pose the answer.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-16 03:35:51](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*


As much as I hate Lucius Malfoy, this observation made me laugh out loud, because that's exactly what Xenon and Rita Skeeter are like.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2009-01-16 03:22:10](#)  
(no subject)

Cissy knows that I can take care of myself, no matter the circumstances, but I shall Owl her my assurances.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-16 17:30:26](#)  
(no subject)

It's only that with Draco back at school she has little to fuss over, I think. And, as I said, Dolores's meddling does little to improve her mood.

I've had word to-day that a new shipment of imported goods from several suppliers has passed inspection, so perhaps I can arrange some little luxury to appease her senses.

We are heading into town this week-end, at any event, so there should be some distraction for her. (Although it's questionable

whether time spent with Druella and her paramour counts as 'distraction' - at least it is not idleness.)

I think what she needs is a project - not something like the Ministry celebrations but something of her own interest. The *Witch Weekly* editorials are enough to drive anyone mad. Perhaps she'd find it diverting to assume patronage of one of our national treasures, such as the New London Orchestra or the new gallery district?



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2009-01-17 02:49:33](#)

*(no subject)*

If it's patronage that would suit her there are several opportunities coming up soon, only I don't have the details with me at the moment.

Understandably. Selma Hawkins would be the one to speak to about the galleries, though.

**2009-01-15 19:56:00**

*(no subject)*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

It's been a really excellent week. AK went well, except for Page being a wanker and McLaggen being a whinger. And Pansy gave me a jumper she didn't want anymore because she said it made her look like a Dementor. I don't think it's THAT bad on her but I'm happy enough to have it, it's kind of a cream-coloured wool and I think it suits me though the green jumper she gave me for Christmas is still my favourite. Also I did very well on the Transfiguration exam, better than I expected really. I did well on all my exams actually.

I fell behind on my homework last weekend because running AK was so much work but I'm mostly caught up now, there's just the Potions essay and that's mostly done.

**2009-01-15 20:13:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Terry's Birthday*

Well today was Terry's birthday and would you believe that Fred and George Weasley got him a *birthday present!* Or, anyway, Mrs Weasley sent things and they gave them to him and they're saying to people that it was to get well soon but they know and I know that it was a birthday present.



 [alt\\_hermione](#)

And Madam Pince was cleaning out the old books that no one uses anymore, like the old edition of *Ancient Runes Made Easy* and a copy of *Great Wizards of the Twentieth Century* with half the pages torn out (but it's still useful because it's alphabetical and so we still have all of names M through Z) and she gave them to me and so *I* gave them to *Terry*, because he can't come read anything he likes in the library, and there were about fifteen of them and when I saw the Headmistress she gave me a bow to put on them (thank you Headmistress) and Madam Pince let me make a birthday card with the inks I was using on the *Pretiosissimum Donum Dei*, even though of course I couldn't tell her that I was giving him the books too.

The only thing that would have made it better would have been if Terry wasn't so afraid of Mr Lupin, but I think that perhaps if he would only just get to *know* Mr Lupin he wouldn't be so scared, because he'd never bite anyone, not even if the Lord Protector told him to himself! And I know that not everybody in the Order thinks so and I'm sorry because you all probably know him better than me, but you haven't talked to him in years and years, and I'm sure I'm right!!

But in any case Terry is out of the Hospital Wing and I think he had a good birthday.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-16 01:33:01](#)  
(no subject)


Think nothing of it, Miss Granger, but - do be careful with Lupin. I know you haven't any wish to listen to me, but it is important.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2009-01-16 01:33:30](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd never tell him anything about the Order, if that's what you mean.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2009-01-16 01:40:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I started talking to him - Lupin, I mean - to see for myself. But of course in these journals it's hard to tell.

No one thinks he would purposefully bite anyone, Hermione. At least not literally. That's not what makes him dangerous.

Anyway, tell your Terry happy birthday from the outlaw Sirius Black. Wink while you say it; makes it sound better. Trust me.



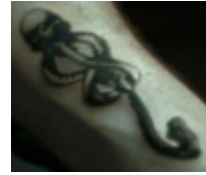
 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2009-01-16 03:19:42](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't even realise that today was Terry's birthday. Now I'm even more pleased that I sent along the package for him, and that the twins passed it along to him. What wonderful timing! He was ever so polite when he thanked me for it, too, so I can only imagine how happy YOUR present and card must have made him, Hermione. He certainly deserves a little happiness, after all he's been through, and so I'm glad he had friends to help make his birthday a genuine celebration.



**[2009-01-16 01:56:00](#)**

*(no subject)*



 **[alt\\_amycus](#)**

And on this day we lost the Black Dahlia. Oh, that someone would solve the mystery of Elizabeth Short, and why must those with the moniker of Elizabeth suffer so? We only know of two, and both strong monarchs indeed, and both have bathed in the silver light and have been blessed by Diana. I have come close, oh so close, but not close enough, or perhaps I am not worthy enough to partake of the silver. Yet still I try, a man traversing a long distance with nothing to sustain him, nothing but the thought of what might be, and what could be, if only they would listen.

Yet, they will listen someday, they will, and they'll look back and bleat sentiments such as 'how could we have stopped him' and 'I never saw it in him' and yet the monster lives among you and shows his face, but in your arrogance you do not see.

tidbit. Birthday. And oh, such dreams I have for him! tidbit's mine and he will make such sacrifices as necessary to ensure a permanent part of my heart, of my soul, of my being. For if I am the manifestation, tidbit is the mechanism and, in his unworthiness, still there is a measure of the Sacred. It's funny how one instance can damage so much grace.

But oh, the silver. I could gladly drown, but to do so would be to honor those whose voice I would not make stronger. For if they grasp the truth, it is but in a mirror darkly. I am Truth, and I am Justice, and, though it may pain me, it's a charge I carry with me for all those I encounter.

Oh, silver light and purple dreams, for this I give my soul, and I am yours, and you are mine, and the Sacred and Profane are no longer separate, for here, we mingle all that which is.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-16 14:39:37](#)**

*ORDER ONLY*

Oh, merciful heavens. Minerva, can't you please, please sack him? For . . . for insanity???



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-16 17:57:32](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

If only it were that easy.

The Lord Protector has a sweet spot for - well, shall we say, useful creatures. And Amycus Carrow can be a useful creature when it suits him to be. His sister, she's the snake; he's the big snarling rabid dog. I've brought it up with him, Molly, you know I have - but as long as young Marvolo is safe, and the other pureblooded children too, he won't hear reason.

I wonder, sometimes, whether the other pureblooded children *will* be safe for long - but that's a bridge that will have to be crossed when we get there. At least he can't enter the other Houses' dormitories, and Slughorn keeps him in check, for now.

[2009-01-16 12:07:00](#)

## Charms

Charms is not generally my favourite class (I prefer Ancient Runes and Arithmancy for the most part), but I will admit that the lessons these past few weeks have been rather absorbing lately.

Somewhat childish, perhaps, but unexpectedly fun. Professor Acton, apparently in a desperate attempt to jar the fifth years out of their winter torpor, hit upon the novel idea of organising lessons rather like a treasure hunt and dividing us up into teams of four to try to find the prize (I suspect the treasure chest at the end will prove to be full of leprechan gold of the sort that any self-respecting Niffler should refuse, but the idea is still an imaginative one.)



 [alt\\_percy](#)

Last week, we studied revealing charms, both with the idea that treasure maps themselves could be disguised (as ordinary blank parchment, or a fish and chips bag, etc), and that that treasure itself that we're trying to find could be hidden, behind a disguised door or false wall, for example.

This week, we're studying various charms that could be used as wards to guard the treasure. Some of them are quite imaginative. An age line, so that no one below a certain age could retrieve it. (She'd set the date for those reaching their birthday before December 1 of this year, which meant half our team could cross that line, and the other half grew ridiculously long grey beards when they tried). A gender-guard charm (and my, weren't some of the girls insufferable about that. Boys just got blasted back). The *sinister* charm so that only left-handed people can perform it (and then we experimented with the question of once the charm is performed, can a right-handed person step across the line to retrieve the chest? Apparently not. Susan Spinx, who is right-handed, tried once Max Wentworth performed the charm, apparently removing the line, but she ended up with no arms at all, until Madam Pomfrey sorted her out.) My study mates and I spent the morning trying to crack another charm, but can't figure it out. I must re-read those sections of the text book. Maybe it will offer some clues.

Anyway, well done, Professor Acton. Why can't History of Magic be this interesting?

**2009-01-16 16:46:00**

*Quidditch!!*

Match against Ravenclaw tomorrow! Ive set Dennis to getting my broom in order. He always does a good job with things. Because he is good at that.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

Im a bit worried about Chang but I suppose it'll all be all right. Wish me luck Snakes!

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 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-17 02:43:05**  
(no subject)

Luck, Harry! I've finished the banner and now its drying in our dorm, so mind you dont trod on it.



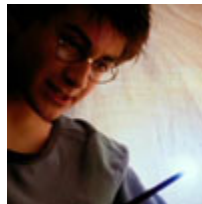
 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2009-01-17 02:46:09**  
(no subject)


Thanks!! I wont step on it. I cant wait till next year when you won't just be holding a banner, you'll be on the team too!!



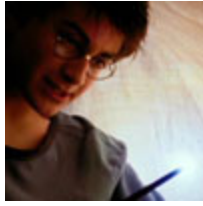
 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-17 02:51:25**  
(no subject)

It'll be brill, won't it? Me chaser, you seeker. And we'll get Hydra to make the banners.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2009-01-17 03:11:26**  
(no subject)


She'll probably make them better too. Your penmans ship stinks.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-17 03:11:55](#)  
(no subject)

Not that I dont like your banners!! But itll be better when you're playing!!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-17 03:14:22](#)  
(no subject)

It does not either stink! It's just hard to write so huge and keep everything straight.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-17 04:54:21](#)  
(no subject)

Good luck Harry!

**2009-01-16 17:03:00**

*Change of plans*

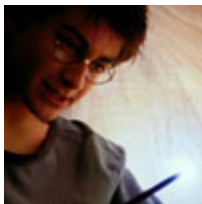
We were going to town this week-end but at the last moment I consulted the books and realised that there is a Quidditch match this week-end. Narcissa would much rather see Draco and I've no objection to watching Slytherin sail its way into easy victory, so we shall be in New London this evening and Hogsmeade to-morrow.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Draco, we'll see you at the match.

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 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-16 22:40:48](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm glad you'll be there Mr Malfoy and I'm sure Draco will be happy to see his mum.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2009-01-17 02:31:44](#)

*(no subject)*

Really? That's brilliant. I don't suppose you could bring my broom down, just for the day?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-17 02:58:12](#)

*(no subject)*

No.

Though Mr Cuthbert says he received your owl and was very glad of the compliments. Don't worry: Your broom will still be there when you come home at Easter.

**[2009-01-16 19:41:00](#)**

*Catching up on some correspondence*

Older students may remember that in the fall of 1990, one of your observations was of the Great White Spot of Saturn. Younger students: this is a large white spot, visible only with a telescope and good viewing conditions, that appears on the planet Saturn at long intervals (at an interval of 27 to 30 years, depending on other factors).



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)**

This particular event has been an interest of mine since I first heard of it, and 1990 was my first chance to observe it for myself. Since that fall, there has been some discussion amongst astronomers about the nature of this phenomenon, and what it might indicate about the heavens. I recently got an owl from a friend fellow astronomer, who has been doing extensive research into previous observations. The research is tricky, as many of the titles are obscure.

My correspondent noted that in 1990, the spot seemed to increase, almost encircling the planet - it was apparently much smaller in past observations. Astrologers might argue it heralded some momentous event, but honestly, I cannot think what that might be.

Students: please consider for class this coming week the possible causes of such an event, and what information would be useful in future observations to understand the phenomenon. Questions here are welcome, especially for younger students who are only beginning their study of the theory.

And now, me, I'm up to the tower for some other observations.



 **[alt\\_macnair](#)** at **[2009-01-17 02:35:42](#)**  
*(no subject)*

The centaurs may have their theories about saturn and a momentous event, but it would not be a good idea to ask them.




 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-01-17 02:51:27](#)  
(no subject)

Well, of course not.

(Besides, do I really need to give the speech about astronomy as opposed divination? I'm sure many of the students could recite it word for word now - at least if they've been paying attention in class.)



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-17 02:56:09](#)  
(no subject)

Can't say I know what speeches you need to be giving, but if the students can recite it in any part you'd best not waste your breath.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-20 02:42:45](#)  
(no subject)

Is the spot on Saturn anything like the spot on Jupiter?



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-01-20 02:54:10](#)  
(no subject)

Excellently done, Megan.

Yes, they're thought to be similar, but astronomers are still trying to figure out exactly how they're related. (They occur at different times, the spot on Jupiter is, of course, red, and so on.)

In fact, it looks like the Great Red Spot on Jupiter has been getting darker recently: I suspect it will be part of our regular observations for some time, to see what patterns form.





 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-21 05:39:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, thank you. I'm glad that wasn't a stupid thing to ask.

**2009-01-16 23:32:00**

*I can hardly Believe it!*

I talked to Owain Pritchard yesterday, as in *the* Owain Pritchard, the one who's in the Weird Sisters!! Well, I wrote, I didn't *really* talk, but still--I wrote something and he wrote me back!



 [alt\\_lavender](#)

Malfoy thinks it isn't really him, but I think he is being too Sceptical. He seemed to know the kinds of things a person in a band would know, and there really is a club called Thestralia. My brother has been there. I wish I were old enough to go!

I wonder if Kirley McCormick ever writes in the journals? I think I'd be too shy to talk to *him*, though. He has such *Presence*.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-17 04:46:14**  
(no subject)


I think it really was him, too! I sent Dad an Owl to ask him if it's really the real Owain Pritchard. (I know Parvati was afraid to owl home because her marks were ... well, not the best. Sorry, Parvati, but its true!

I mean, Dad's not too happy even with mine, but he told me to help her revise and then maybe my marks will improve, too. You could revise with us if you want. Anyway)

Anyway I asked Dad and he owled back today (thats how I know he and Mum want me to revise with Parvati more) and he said yes, its really them. Him, I mean. Mr Pritchard.

But he also said not to, um, to ... 'monopolise' him. I'm not sure what that meant That means don't pester him.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:08:01](#)**  
(no subject)

That's wizard that it's really Owain Pritchard! I never thought of your dad knowing him, but of course it would make sense because he knows lots of musicians.

I wonder if your dad would let us come to the studio and meet some musicians if Parvati and I improve our marks this term?




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:25:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I dunno, I mean, Dad's a little funny about letting us get to close to famous people. But maybe - I mean, Malfoy and I guess Parkinson got to go with Mr Malfoy and meet grown-ups so maybe Dad would take us to the WWN sometime. But we'll have to make sure Parvati's marks improve ~~subtan~~ ~~substin~~ alot.

Want to revise after dinner?



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-21 01:56:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe if we promised to be perfect ladies and not Pester anyone, he'd let us. And promise to revise a lot, of course!

I think starting after dinner is a good idea! Maybe we should start with Potions, because that was Parvati's worst mark, and mine too. And since it was your best one, you could help us!



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-17 04:48:55](#)**  
(no subject)


Do you think your brother will go to Thestralia? If he does, would he get you an autograph?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-17 04:49:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Ooh! Maybe if your brother goes, I could get Haruman to go, too. And if he brought his girlfriend, your brother could tell us about her!



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:04:30](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a Brilliant idea! Maybe I will owl him and mention it!

**2009-01-17 17:00:00**

*Splendid Match*

Harry's truly coming along as a marvellous Seeker - despite Macnair trying to favour Ravenclaw over Slytherin. (Really, no-one is fooled, Walden: One cannot call an attempt to put another House's performance between Gryffindor and Slytherin 'non-partisanship.' You might as well give up on your House's chance at the cup now and save yourself further embarrassment.)




 [alt\\_lucius](#)

I can't say I'm disappointed that Harry caught the Snitch so quickly, either, even though we had changed plans to be there. I'd quite forgot how cold those stands could be this time of year!

Well, we have given the Slytherin team adequate time to glorify their star player and now Narcissa and I shall be taking Draco and Harry into Hogsmeade for a celebratory dinner at *Sorçère* ... that is, if Harry can only be located.

Mr Marvolo, should you happen to be reading the journals for accounts of your praiseworthy strategy, kindly join us in the entrance hall. We are leaving for the village in ten minutes, with or without you.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-18 23:25:55**  
(no subject)

It was a pretty short match, wasn't it? Which actually I don't mind as it was rather cold in the stands.

**2009-01-18 09:15:00**

*Eavsdropping*

Well the match wasnt very interesting. But afterwards was.



Fathers really angry now though. I wouldnt want to be Professor Macnair. I'm glad Fathers my Father and can make this all stop happening. Its really scary when your broom stops working right. Even though this time it didn't, it could have. Thats the point.

 [alt\\_harry](#)

I found out about something *totally wizard* though!!! And Professor Macnair is the one who has it!! Draco you have to hear about it.

Oh and sorry Mr Malfoy for missing you. I know that I shouldnt be eavsdropping. But I couldnt help it. And I think it was good that I did in the end.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2009-01-18 16:40:16**

*(no subject)*

Did Professor Macnair try to help Ravenclaw win? Father seemed to think so. I'm still confused about what happened, nobody explained it right to me. What's the totally wizard part?




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2009-01-19 00:44:17**

*(no subject)*

No, no, Harry - you did exactly right to bring the matter to the Headmistress. Though I do wish we had not already left for Hogsmeade or I might have been of more assistance.

She filled us in when we returned Draco to the castle after dinner. I've just seen the Lord Protector and He has the situation well in hand.



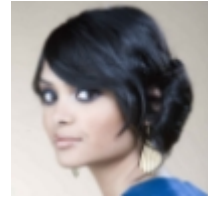
 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-20 02:41:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Is it secret? Whatever's totally wizard?

**2009-01-18 17:08:00**

*Hospital Wing*

Even though it was a really short match yesterday, it was cold enough to make me ill. I've been in the hospital wing all day and Madam Pomfrey says I ought to take another dose of Pepper-Up but that I don't need to stay the night.



 **alt\_padma**

I'm glad if I had to be ill it was this week and not last week, because there was only one other person in the hospital wing (Jane Bradley said she was trying a charm to turn her hair blonde and instead it made her bald!).

I'd never been up there before. Madam Pomfrey is very stern, isn't she?




 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-20 02:41:42**  
(no subject)

Oooh, it really was cold. But it was fun to watch. I'm surprised I didn't get a cold from being outside.


Is she stern? I never noticed.



 **alt\_padma** at **2009-01-20 02:57:01**  
(no subject)

Well, she was stern to Bradley.



 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-21 05:38:57**  
(no subject)

Perhaps people aren't supposed to charm their hair. It's not like being ill. No one can help being ill, sometimes.





 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-21 12:23:20](#)  
(no subject)

Well, but there are loads of charms for hair and so on. Theyre in *Witch Weekly* all the time.

She was a bit short with me because I waited a day to come up, but then I didn't realise I was ill until I'd slept straight through dinner and all.

Want to know what I think it was?



 **alt\_megan** at [2009-01-22 02:49:08](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, are there?

I always go as soon as I think I may be ill. I suppose that's good.

What?



 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-22 03:15:06](#)  
(no subject)

Of course there are. Don't you read *Witch Weekly*? You simply have to if you dont now. It's got loads of important tips!

That's very sensible of you, Jones. I didnt think I was getting ill, of course. Do you feel ill often?

Well, I think this wasnt the first time Bradley had been there for something Madam Pomfrey thinks is ~~frev~~ ~~frivil~~ silly.



 **alt\_megan** at [2009-01-23 06:33:51](#)  
(no subject)

No, I never have. I don't think anyone in my dorm gets it. I've never seen it. I saw your sister reading it once.

My guardian says I have a delicate constitution. That means I

get ill easily. So I have to be extra careful about things.

Ooooh, I suppose I'd better be careful not to do anything silly ever.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:01:13](#)**  
(no subject)

I was looking for you after the match and I couldn't find you Anywhere! Then Parvati told me that she thought you were ill. I don't know how she knew--maybe it was twin magic!

I'm so glad it isn't Serious! It would be dreadfully dull to be in the hospital wing for a long time.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-20 23:19:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, sorry - I wasn't feeling well so I went back to the Ravenclaw dorms directly after the match.

I didnt even get dinner that night! And the next morning one of our Prefects made me see Madam Pomfrey.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-21 01:58:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Ugh! Missing dinner is so Unpleasant! I hope Madame Pomfrey had the elves bring you something once you felt better.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-22 05:22:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I haven't been sick since I came to Hogwarts. Is she sterner than Madam Pince?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-23 04:00:06](#)**  
*(no subject)*

In a different sort of way. Madam Pince makes you feel as if your destroying the perfection of her library by taking out a book. Madam Pomfrey scolds, as if it shouldn't have been necessary to need her in the first place.

**2009-01-19 20:16:00**

*My Guardian and Zacharias*

I got a letter from my guardian this morning. It was a lovely letter. She said she was proud of me for doing better than she expected on my exams. I didn't fail any of them. And I wasn't even very close to failing. She told me a funny story about Quidditch, too.




 **alt\_megan**

I'm going to write back and tell her about the Quidditch game this weekend. Even though it wasn't very long. Harry Marvolo was in it. So she ought to be interested. I mean, she ought to be interested because he's so good at Quidditch!

I wonder if Zacharias is still angry with me for hexing him. I did it while we were playing AK. At the very end. And then he looked so surprised I laughed. But only a little. Mostly I was horrified, because I didn't mean to hex him. I was only laughing because I was so startled and sort of scared that I hexed him by accident. I've been avoiding him, so I don't know if he's still angry. But it's been a long time. So maybe he's not.



 **alt\_susan** at **2009-01-21 02:05:50**  
(no subject)

I'm glad your guardian isn't cross with you anymore. She seems very unproupra the way she feels changes a lot.

I dont know about Zacharias; it can be hard to tell how he feels too. But you could ask.



 **alt\_megan** at **2009-01-21 05:40:15**  
(no subject)

Perhaps it does. The way I feel changes a lot sometimes, too. Don't you? When different things happen?

If I asked and he was still angry, he'd get angry at me even more! And wouldn't forget for a longer time.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:46:51](#)  
(no subject)

Well I guess I do get into moods sometimes. But the...I don't know, the underneath feeling I have about a person or a thing...that doesn't change too easily.

If I did terribly in Charms one day, it wouldn't make me hate it and if I did well in Potions it wouldn't make me like it. I think I'm a bit the same with people too.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:56:11](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know if I have an underneath feeling about things. Maybe everyone doesn't. Maybe my guardian doesn't, especially. But maybe I do. I think I do, actually. What does it feel like?

Do you have to be completely still and patient to feel it?



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-22 04:05:16](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know if I can describe it because I think it's a little bit different for every person. But I guess it's a bit like a feeling that's stronger than the feeling you have for just one moment.

With me, I take a long time to make up my mind about things, but then I take a long time to change it to.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-23 06:36:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, that's not what I was thinking it was going to be at all.

Perhaps some people have lots of underneath feelings at the same time.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-21 04:06:54](#)**  
(no subject)

It sounds like you worked really Hard for your exam results. That's very good of you.

Parvati and I didn't really work very hard last term, but we're going to try to do better this term. We're going to have a revising group because I think we both learn things better when we revise with other people. Besides, revising by yourself is so dull, don't you think?




 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-21 05:41:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I did. So I'm glad it all turned out okay. Because I wasn't sure it would.

I think revising with other people is brilliant. That's why I did so well at potions. Because I practised with Pansy!



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2009-01-22 03:47:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I was talking with some of the other people who are going to be in the revising group, and we thought you might like to Join.


You'd be a good person to have around on account of being so ~~conshe~~ ~~conshe~~ hard-working. Parvati and I can be awful Chatterers if we don't have someone else there to help us concentrate!



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-23 06:36:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, that's really nice of you. I'd like to be in your revising group. Are you going to revise for everything together?



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-24 16:06:16](#)  
(no subject)

I think we're going to start with Potions, because Parvati and I got our worst marks in that. And then we'll do some Transfiguration and History of Magic, because that's what Daphne and Belinda want to do.


And of course we'll have Padma and Linus who are clever at nearly everything, to help us along!



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-24 18:48:52](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh. That's a lot of people I ~~barely know~~ revising together.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-21 04:14:56](#)  
(no subject)

Don't fret about Smith; he's always been a right punter. None of us ever minds when he gets on a high hippogriff about something.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-21 05:43:11](#)  
(no subject)

Oh! Okay. If you say so. And you should know. Since you know him from before school.

But I still hope he's not cross.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-21 12:17:29](#)  
(no subject)

If he is, it doesn't matter. He won't be for long - well, I mean, he'll find something else to be cross about.

Besides, we'll set him straight. It wasn't your fault. Look at me and Marvolo. Though I guess that doesn't count because I missed, but it's the same idea.

And then theirs Page, too. I mean, I had no idea he'd already been hexed loads of times. If anything, it's Perks' fault for telling us all to target him. Don't you agree?



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:51:20](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose so.

You will? I suppose it is sort of the same thing. But he wasn't playing. So he had a right to be cross. But it has been a long time. So he's probably forgot. Like you said.

~~Umm~~ I Yes, I agree.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-22 05:27:05](#)  
(no subject)

Don't worry about it Jones, accidents happen and the hex is really harmless. I mean I got hit by a leg-locker jinx in the common room last week because one of the fourth-years tried to hex a friend as a joke and missed and got me, that was loads more annoying than getting blue ears. If Smith is really still cross with you maybe you should hex him on purpose just to give him something better to be cross about.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-23 06:34:05](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not really worried. Especialy after everyone said not to be. I was just thinking about it.

I don't want anyone to be cross with me.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-22 05:26:01](#)  
(no subject)

It's Page's fault for being a wanker. No one who hexed him ought to feel bad about it.





 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-22 12:18:48](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, that's just what I mean. It's not Jones' fault she hexed him and she oughtn't feel bad about it.



 **[alt\\_millicent](#)** at **[2009-01-22 01:30:17](#)**  
(no subject)

dont know why you worry so much about hexing. stop being a winer jones.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:48:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-22 05:32:59](#)**  
(no subject)

You whinged plenty when I made your nose glow last week, Milli. And that wasn't even a hex, that was an accident.

**[2009-01-19 20:42:00](#)**

*Macnair*

Rather upset about Macnair.

I had not thought, and I flatter myself to typically be quite perceptive.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)**

It was not quite pleasant discussing his status with the Lord Protector.

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 **[alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-20 03:32:56](#)**

*Order Only*

A little less cryptic, please, Minerva? What about Macnair? Given that he's the Head of Gryffindor and all, and therefore in charge of all our boys, can you fill us in?

Sympathies on having to deal with the LP.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-22 00:58:37](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

It seems that he had some kind of friendship with Mr Quirrell - the Quirrell that has been lurking about the grounds - and was attempting to prevent Quirrell from *assassinating* young Mr Marvolo! Marvolo followed him out to the Forbidden Forest after the Quidditch match and caught him trying to talk Quirrell down. It was evidently Quirrell who has been causing problems with Quidditch; this explains why Macnair wanted to referee the Quidditch match, of course. He wanted to be able to save Marvolo without anyone realizing that it was his friend's clumsy attempt on the boy's life!

In any case, I had always thought Macnair to be quite the loyal lapdog. It is, to some extent, encouraging that he values something more highly than the Lord Protector's approval; yet I cannot help but be disturbed at missing such an enormously important situation. They were meeting right under my *nose*, Molly!



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-22 18:49:01](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Steady on, Minerva. It's not as if you've had nothing else to be getting on with, you know.

But the idea that Macscared is in league with Quirrell, now, that's an interesting one. Moony said - well, he intimated, rather - that he and Macnair interact a bit. I suppose it's a little encouraging, their getting along, if it turns out Macnair's not really as rabid as some of Voldemort's other hounds.

But he's back at the school, right? So...so Voldemort must not have been too unhappy with what Macnair had to say for himself. Which means whatever this alliance between him and Quirrell, it could still mean he'll side with the Death Eaters if given a choice.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-22 18:58:23](#)

*Re: Order Only*

And yet - if I can fool the Lord Protector, surely others have the same capacity, do they not? What do we really know about the makeup of Macnair's mind?

No: I must classify him as an enigma. For now.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-21 18:30:47](#)

*(no subject)*

It would have been most surprising, had he actually intended any harm. Fortunately it seems he had the boy's interest at heart. Trying to win himself back into favour, no doubt, by handling the situation him-self instead of bringing it to more competent hands.

At least we now know who tried to jinx that broom. And what to look out for in future.

I trust you have already instructed the werewolf to apprehend the culprit if he is glimpsed again on the grounds? I can vouch that Scrimgeour has already issued a warrant to the Aurors.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-22 01:03:50](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose - although I had rather interpreted it as an act of defiance towards our Lord Protector. Never mind; never mind. I'm certain that the Lord Protector's Legilimency has ferreted out the truth.

I certainly have instructed him to apprehend the culprit - by any means necessary! Although it would be rather nasty to have a new werewolf running around the Forbidden Forest without benefit of Wolfsbane, so perhaps I ought to amend my instructions.

**[2009-01-20 23:26:00](#)**

*Charms!*

I got an O on my Charms exam! It almost balances out that awful P in Potions. I'm trying to revise more for the subjects I don't like this term, instead of just the ones that I do.



 [alt\\_susan](#)

But it's so much nicer to revise when I'm actually interested in the subject. Sometimes I wish Hogwarts had classes in music or writing stories or that sort of thing. But then other times I think it might take the fun out of them.

Imagine if you had to read novels and then write 13 inches of parchment about them for lessons!

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 [alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-21 05:45:29](#)  
(no subject)

Hogwarts has choir. I forgot! I was going to find out what you have to do to be in the choir.

I think it'd be fun to write about stories. At least, it'd be fun to read the stories. As long as they were good stories. But what could you write about them? They're already made up.

 [alt-susan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-22 02:30:06](#)  
(no subject)

We could ask Professor Sprout! I'm sure she wouldn't mind.

The reading part would definitely be the most fun! I don't know about the writing part though. That's why I thought it might take all the fun out.

I always have lots to say about books when I talk about them with people. If I liked the main person in the book or didn't, that sort of thing.

 [alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-22 02:49:48](#)  
(no subject)

We could!

Do you think anyone would be interested in that? In writing. It's not like the five uses of aconite. Those are true. And useful. Talking about books is just talking. Because books of stories aren't really true.

† [alt-ernie.livejournal.com](http://alt-ernie.livejournal.com) at [2009-01-21 07:43:20](#)

(no subject)

Writing about books?? That would be awful!! I'd rather do Potions anyday!

† [alt-susan.livejournal.com](http://alt-susan.livejournal.com) at [2009-01-22 02:32:07](#)

(no subject)

But you *like* Potions Ernie! Or at least it seems like you do.

I feel like I ought to like the subject because Professor Slughorn is a good teacher and nice, but I simply dont.

† [alt-harry.livejournal.com](http://alt-harry.livejournal.com) at [2009-01-22 01:27:55](#)

(no subject)

I dont think I'd like reading any more books than I already have to, Bones.

† [alt-susan.livejournal.com](http://alt-susan.livejournal.com) at [2009-01-22 02:35:13](#)

(no subject)

But reading story books is loads different to reading *The Standard Book of Spells* or some old text about the Goblin Rebellions or something.

I guess I can see how you might rather do things than read about them though.

† [alt-sally-anne.livejournal.com](http://alt-sally-anne.livejournal.com) at [2009-01-22 05:35:11](#)

(no subject)

I like reading novels but I don't think I'd want to have to write 13 inches about them afterwards, I think that would suck all the fun out of it really.

**2009-01-21 13:31:00**

*Hogwarts, Commerce and New Developments*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

If I had any suspicion before that visiting Hogwarts shall invariably result in a scrape of some kind, this week-end has confirmed it. Henceforth I am instructing Crispin to leave tentative my schedule for two days following any trip up to the school.

Fortunately this week-end's excitement ended both quickly and, I may say, favourably, with some progress on Our Lord's latest efforts. Such resolution made it unnecessary to absent myself from this month's Magical Commerce meeting.

The Committee is turning its eye inward, now that the new suppliers are all settled (at least as much as can be expected), to the revitalisation of the shopping districts in New London and elsewhere. Naturally, the traditional locales are in no need of reform: Diagon and Knockturn Alleys are prosperous as ever; the expansions of Sainsbury's, Harrod's and Whiteley's to overtake the formerly Muggle sections have met all expected success; Bentley, Austin and Daimler have been nothing short of relieved to be able to concentrate their production on wizard makes and the import carpet trade; and the new licenses extended in the last two years to refurbish Clarendon and Portobello have resulted in a bevy of openings.

However, there were license applications for a number of shops in other districts, which shall need to be reviewed with the Department of Purity Control and the New London advisory board before approval. Selma Hawkins provided a presentation on the gallery district and there was one on the effort to restore Picadilly Circus as a performance centre. Naturally the theatres and companies shall need to be licensed to perform, those without charters already. The British Museum of Wizarding History has also hired a new curator who promises to uphold the museum's fine tradition of presenting an unvarnished account of our collective experience. Brought home a number of proposals for Narcissa's input, as well.

She seems quite pleased with the fresh supply of some of the mundane staples which our holiday celebrations had somewhat depleted: *sel de Guérande*, paprika, cinnamon, saffron, etc. Further I think that she has once more adjusted to the lack of bustle associated

with young boys occupying the house and seems again to have her spirit back. (It's also probable that her mother's recent offer to descend upon us, with Pascoal in tow, to 'cheer her up' has been a better restorative than any other so far proposed.)

At any event, avoiding Hogwarts does seem to have the effect of keeping affairs more or less in order and uneventful. How unfortunate that there is a Board of Governors' meeting next month, as well as, I am sure, other reasons that will require travel to the school.

For the time being, however, routine can be relaxing.


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 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-01-22 01:20:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I imagine we shall have to add the Macnair Incident to the agenda for the Board meeting. Pity; we've more than enough on our plates as it is.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:02:18](#)**  
(no subject)

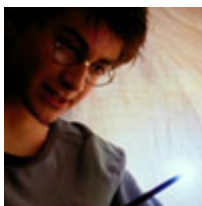
Indeed, with the expansion of Muggle Studies and the textbook allocations, there is already a full agenda.


Well, presumably Macnair has learnt a valuable lesson and shall not soon again look askance at his fortune. The Lord Protector will hardly forgive a third time, no matter what the excuse.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:04:55](#)**  
(no subject)

One can only hope so.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-22 01:32:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry Mr Malfoy. I didnt mean to cause a fuss you know.






 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:06:52](#)**  
(no subject)

No, of course not, Harry. It does seem that at least for the time being, fuss shall continue to find *you*.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2009-01-22 18:10:51](#)**  
*Order Only: spice*

I take it from Malfoy's comment above that my shipments have arrived in Dover. Only I haven't received the signal that the package in the central owl office has been retrieved. Arthur, Minerva, Kingsley - has anyone heard whether it's still waiting or if it's safe with our agent?

**[2009-01-21 20:32:00](#)**

*Professor Macnair*

Somebody really was trying to kill me. I didnt believe Father when he said so. Not all the way. But he was right.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)**

Professor Macnair and Father had words, which means I am not supposed to ask what hapened. Father was angry with me a little but much more angry with Professor Macnair. I didn't say that last time I wrote because I was too ryled up (Professor McGonagall said that) to think straight about it. But now I see that Father was angry with me too.

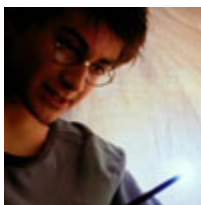
Anyway Professor Macnair was back at the castle. Just like normal on Monday. Im glad I don't have classes with him because I don't know what I would say.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:23:28](#)**  
(no subject)

It was only that you put yourself in danger by following Professor Macnair, Harry. Although your intervention ultimately alerted us to his activities, it was a great shock to us all that you might be a target right within the school grounds, of all places. I am sure you can recall other occasions when we have been sharp with you or Draco after a close call.


Professor Macnair would not have been restored to the castle had your Father not been satisfied as to his intentions. However, you must execute greater caution and learn to trust your instincts: If you suspect your situation may require an adult, you must involve the Headmistress or another professor as quickly as possible rather than put yourself in jeopardy.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-22 02:33:54](#)**  
(no subject)

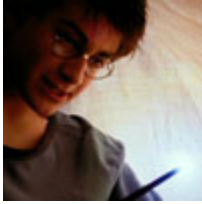
I suppose so Mr Malfoy.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:40:02](#)  
(no subject)

I can't beleive someone tried to actually kill you! That's horrid--whoever it was must be completely mental.

I'm glad your all right Marvolo.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-22 02:50:37](#)  
(no subject)


Thanks Susan.

Father says he probably wants to kill me because hes a Muggle lover which is like being mental.

Muggle lovers are even worse than Muggles Father says.

Anyway I suppose it doesnt matter because he couldn't even knock me off my broom! I didnt feel a thing not a bit of a spell!!

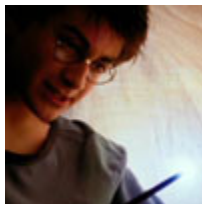


 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-22 03:54:35](#)  
(no subject)

Anyone who'd want to kill someone our age has got to be sick.

It wasn't Professor Macnair though right? It must have been somebody else because they wouldnt just let a person who'd tried to kill students come back to school.

Would they?



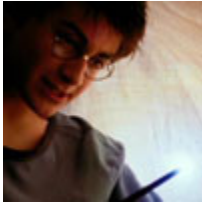
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-22 11:59:40](#)  
(no subject)

No no it was Quirrell. The creepy old one who was hanging around.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:47:02](#)  
(no subject)

Ooooh, aren't you scared?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-22 02:47:58](#)  
(no subject)

No of course not!



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-22 02:53:14](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. You must be very brave. It's sort of like AK for real, if someone's trying to kill you.

I'd be scared.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-22 05:37:26](#)  
(no subject)

That's terrible, Harry! Who was it jinxed your broom? I heard someone earlier this week saying it was Macnair but it surely wasn't because he'd be dead or in Azkaban now, not back teaching again.



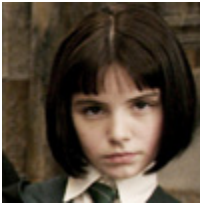
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-22 12:00:08](#)  
(no subject)


It was Quirrell. He used to teach Muggle Studies. But they fired him.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2009-01-22 15:43:22](#)  
(no subject)

You need not turn tail when you see me, young Marvolo. I'll hold no ill will for someone tryin to do the right thing.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-26 22:13:10](#)  
(no subject)

I'm just glad you're okay! You don't feel creeped out? I would.

**[2009-01-22 14:16:00](#)**

*Order Only: Worry about Nicholas*

Minerva, Kingsley or Frank--have you heard anything from Nicholas? I received a patronus from Perenelle with just a brief message saying that they had an unexpected houseguest. Very odd. I am guessing she sent it to indicate that Nicholas wasn't free to claim the package from the central owl office that Sirius sent. The fact that the message ended with the warning, 'do not respond' makes me somewhat alarmed.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)**

Minerva, have you heard anything on your end about any move against the Flamels? Any idea who this 'unexpected houseguest' might be? For the time being I am going to sit tight and wait to hear more. It is quite frustrating, however, to think of that package just sitting there. If Nicholas is being too closely watched to safely claim it, or worse, if the enemy has him in custody and somehow has learned he had intended to fetch it, I fear it would be most unwise for Bill or me to try.




---

 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-22 20:36:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Great minds, Arthur. I just asked (though perhaps you didn't see, it was in reference to Malfoy's post) whether any of you had heard from him that he'd picked up my parcel.

Sounds like he hasn't. Blast.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#) at [2009-01-22 20:41:33](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I don't think he has. He was supposed to contact me by patronus once he did.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-22 20:38:57](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't any idea - although I know that Bellatrix Lestrange has been on the case of the Philosopher's Stone, and I've long been uneasy about her involvement. She's far too clever. But of course there was no avoiding it.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2009-01-22 20:44:32](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, my. If she is the unexpected guest . . . Minerva, if Nicholas' role in taking the stone from the vault is discovered, there's no way they can trace its eventual removal to Hogwarts, is there?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-22 20:47:28](#)  
(no subject)

No need to panic. I'm certain it will all come out in the wash. There is no reason to believe such a thing.

I doubt that they could trace it, however - we took *every* precaution. We always knew that Flamel might be a weak link; he knew it himself.

I'm most worried about Perenelle. She never asked for any of this involvement - only a peaceful life with her husband, poor woman.

**[2009-01-22 18:21:00](#)**

*Who took my charms textbook?*

I missed it this morning. Oliver said I must have left it in the library, but I knew I hadn't. I distinctly remember putting it in my book bag in the common room last night when I was done revising, but it wasn't there this morning. I left the bag there in the common room when I was doing my prefect rounds.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_percy](#)

Did someone borrow it without asking? I would like it back. Immediately, if you please.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-23 00:23:04](#)  
(no subject)


I didn't see anyone go near your bookbag, and I was down in the common room until maybe 9:30 last night.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-23 00:24:21](#)  
(no subject)

Why did you leave your bookbag in the common room?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 00:27:34](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'd planned on revising a bit more when I got back from rounds, although I got talking to Oliver and then went to bed instead. It's never been a problem before; people don't usually pinch things from me.





 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-23 00:44:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

But, excuse me, aren't your brothers Fred and George? I mean, don't they ever nick your things? Not that I think they did this time, but...well, if my brother was at school with me, I'd never leave my things where he could get them.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 03:12:50](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yes, they do nick things from me, but it didn't occur to me this time because it's never books.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-23 00:24:30](#)  
(no subject)

Don't worry Perce, we've got it.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 00:25:04](#)  
(no subject)

What? What on earth for? What do you want with a fifth year charm book?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-23 00:30:19](#)  
(no subject)

Don't worry, just a little project we're working on.

We'll give it back in a week or so.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 00:30:39](#)  
(no subject)

Rubbish. I need it NOW.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-23 00:31:52](#)  
(no subject)

Well, just borrow woods. He probably doesn't use it.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 00:32:27](#)  
(no subject)

And the last time you said you were working on a 'little project' you just about blew the roof off the Burrow.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2009-01-23 00:32:59](#)  
(no subject)

So?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-23 00:33:25](#)  
(no subject)

**I WANT MY BOOK BACK. NOW.**



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2009-01-23 03:17:31](#)  
(no subject)

I doubt the Headmistress would be willing to overlook such a thing, that's what.

Nor would your father and I once we've heard from her.



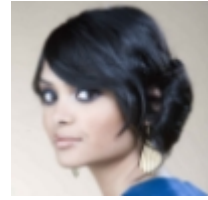
 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-23 00:45:11](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, so you did take it. Sorry - I didn't mean to accuse you to Weasley. It's just...well, I have brothers, too.

**2009-01-23 15:36:00**

*Potions!*

Potions was loads of fun today. I got partnered with Hopkins so I made him cut up all the roots and crush the snake fangs and measure everything out. It was sort of like having a sue-chef. And I didn't have to get pricked by those nettles even once.




 **alt\_padma**

I quite like having two study periods on Friday. I'm nearly finished all my homework already, which leaves me free for revising.

Lavender, did you ask her?



---

 **alt\_lavender** at **2009-01-24 16:04:05**  
*(no subject)*

I did! This is going to be such Fun!

(And we'll get some revising done too of course.)

**2009-01-24 10:59:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Carrying on.*




 **alt\_hermione**

Harry Marvolo is in the library right now. He wanted to look up a lot of things. I helped him find books about the Lord Protector's rise to power, but he kept saying that they didn't make sense, and I wanted to tell him that he was right, but I'm not sure if he meant that they really didn't make sense or if he meant that he didn't understand them. Some of them were written for adults and all. So now he's sitting across the table from me and Madam Pince told me that I should make sure that he has anything he needs. Only he seems not to need much.

Someone left out an advanced Charms textbook and I've been reading it instead of talking to Marvolo. I wonder if the Protean Charm is what makes the Dark Mark go? It seems like a useful thing to know how to cast. I think that the seventh-years are doing it maybe. It mustn't be what makes the Dark Mark go, then, because they wouldn't teach students that, would they?



 **alt\_sirius** at **2009-01-24 17:15:29**  
(no subject)

Sounds like he might've got my recent owl. He had questions about Voldemort and, well, a lot of other things. It's interesting that he seems to go straight for the books to try to figure out what really happened.

Pity the history books won't tell him anything about reality.

I don't suppose we could smuggle in some books that were no doubt pulled from the shelves, eh? *Rise and Fall of the Dark Arts* or *Great Wizards of the 20th Century*?

And what do you know about the Dark Mark, young one?

The Protean charm is powerful but it has different applications, so it'd be a bit hard to suppress teaching it. Though I dunno, Minerva, is it that bad? Are we training up a generation of dolts who can barely ensorcel their way out of a sack?




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-26 01:45:40](#)  
(no subject)

I think that that's my fault really. When he was in the library before I told him that he'd know a lot more about these things if he read more. I think he was surprised that I said it because he looked at me funny. But he did come back.

If someone gave me the books I could put them in. Madam Pince wouldn't notice. She usually has me put the new books into the card catalog anyway. But I don't know how I'd get the books.

I know that Professor McGonagall has one and that it hurts sometimes.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-26 03:05:34](#)  
(no subject)

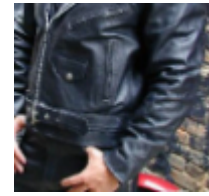
Oh, it's good that he's trying and looking; I just wish we could give him something a little more informative.

But no, it's won't do to put the books back on the shelves, I'm afraid. I'm sure Lucius Malfoy and his cronies forced the Headmistress to ban those volumes for a reason - if not a good one - and sooner or later the wrong person would notice. And then you **and** Professor McGonagall would be in the soup.

**2009-01-25 09:31:00**

*Order Only: correspondence*

I've gained a couple correspondents recently. You all know about Harry already. I think that's going well, especially with what our Hermione has told us.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

But I struck up another acquaintance that I want to make you aware of, especially you, Arthur. Nymphadora Tonks - Andromeda's daughter by Ted Tonks. You've met her, Arthur, haven't you?

Anyway, there are two little comments in her latest owl that I want you all to see:

*I have no intention of telling Aunt Bellatrix or anyone else of your letter. It's none of their damned business.*


and

*Apparently the might of the Ministry doesn't extend to cleaning toilets and emptying wastebins.*

Two very brief statements in an equally short letter, but I think they point out a possibility.

Talk to her, Arthur. You've got a way with sussing out supporters. She might be another very good prospect.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **2009-01-26 04:22:44**  
(no subject)

That is exceedingly interesting, Sirius. Yes, I've met her, and in fact, we've already had two or three nice chats at night when I'm working late while she's emptying the bins. I had gotten the impression that she's been thinking quite a bit beyond what she has said.

I will definitely follow up. Thanks for the tip.

**2009-01-25 11:27:00**

*The depths of winter*

January brings up such complex feelings. On the one hand, the night skies are so clear, especially around the new moon (as occurs on Monday). On the other, even I recognise the challenges of stargazing in northern climes in January.



 **alt\_sinistra**

Wool cloaks and jumpers and good gloves are all well and good - and necessary, this time of year. But a good simple warming charm is even better. It's a wonder Muggle astronomers ever got anything done, really.

Regrettably, the first years are not all up to that level of charms work yet (and to be honest, neither are some of the older students without rather a lot of time-wasting fussing), so I am here at my desk trying to decide on how to balance their observation time this week against Poppy's insistence that I deplete her stock of Pepper-Up potion more than necessary. There are some particular observations I'd like them to make this week, after all, if it's clear enough.

We did have a good conversation in class about the Great White Spot on Saturn, however. At least, I thought so. We'll see how much they retain for exams in the spring.



 **alt\_mcgonagall** at **2009-01-26 01:28:44**  
(no subject)

One must hope they retain a good deal.

As for Pepper-Up, while I would prefer that you not risk any student's health, surely students who lose their winter gear can borrow some from the school. Professor Sprout has earmuffs stored away somewhere in those greenhouses of hers, for instance. That ought to reduce the number of illnesses.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2009-01-26 02:03:07**  
(no subject)

I'll ask Professor Sprout about earmuffs but are there gloves or mittens somewhere I could borrow,



Headmistress? And wool socks. ~~My warm socks were out. I didn't lose~~



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-26 02:06:09](#)  
(no subject)

I shall look into it, Miss Perks.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-01-26 11:55:46](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for your attention, Minerva.

Miss Perks, while I don't have enough extras for the entire year, I do have a pair of socks that should fit you, and a few extra pairs of mittens that students have left on the tower over the past few years. Do come and stop by my office after dinner some day, and we'll see what I have in the lost and found box.

(The same, of course, goes for any other students who have a need for them.)



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-26 03:37:39](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps it is eccentric of me, Aurora, but I have always thought that we are charged with the well-being of our students above all else. Of course, their education is of great importance; it is the mission of Hogwarts to teach to the highest standards, but it is our duty to preserve the health and wholeness of the young people in our care. Health and learning fit hand in glove. As it were.

*Primum non nocere.*

Surely it is not only Hippocrates's heirs but Socrates's as well, to whom this motto applies.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-01-26 12:02:59](#)  
(no subject)

Poppy -


I am not so much arguing with your priorities as with the unfortunate fact that we already lose a number of observation days to clouds. Add in cold weather, and the younger years may go weeks at a time without actually observing what they are learning.

It is rather too much like teaching them charms without a wand to practice with, and thus less than what one might prefer.

With the older students, it is a bit easier - they are better prepared with warm clothing, they know more suitable charms, they are faster with the telescopes and other devices, and of course, there are fewer of them. But I still struggle, particularly with the first and second years, with balancing their class time in the most useful way. Perhaps a revision of the order of teaching may be in order, I don't know.

How to give them enough time to truly become interested in my beloved subject? Never mind enough experience to do well on their OWLs when the time comes?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-26 04:28:26](#)  
(no subject)

The thing with gloves is, they make it real hard to adjust the focus on the telescope. Especially for someone like me, who's got sort of bigger fingers. Makes me clumsier than I'd like, I reckon.

Anyway, I'm awfully sorry I knocked the telescope over, Professor. I'm glad it didn't break, and I'll try not to do it again.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-01-26 12:06:24](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for your apology, Mr. Longbottom. You do have a point about the gloves - it's something several people I knew struggled with at school.

Next week, I'll see if we can give more room to those who are observing, rather than crowding close. I know the subject's tempting and all, but really, I never much liked people breathing down my neck while waiting their turn, and it does make it easier for an accident to happen.

**2009-01-25 13:22:00**

*School*

I'm doing much better this term than I was last term. Last term was hard because we all came to school and it was strange and I didn't know things. This term school is still splendid. But it's splendid in a way that makes sense. And even if I don't always like all my classes, I know what they'll be like. Mostly. But even the ones I don't, I know which ones will be like that. So I don't have to worry about all of them.



 [alt\\_megan](#)

And I think I'm still doing good in most of my classes. And even though I got behind when I was playing AK that weekend, I worked at everything and I don't think I'm very behind any more.

And I revised with the Patils and Lavender Brown and loads of other people yesterday. And I learned a lot. Even though it was mostly people I don't know very well. They were all really nice. It was exciting to revise with them. And I don't think I said anything wrong. And I made a really good point about one of the transfiguration exercises. They said it made it easier for everyone. And they'd never thought of it that way. So I helped.

There are still some things I don't understand. Like the new charm we did last week in charms with the funny way of moving your wand. And I wish it didn't seem like it ought to be easy. Because I didn't think it was easy. And how hard can it be to move your wand? But it's hard to get right. But I'm not upset about not knowing right now. Not very upset. Because I know I'll get it. And that's good.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-26 00:14:05**

*(no subject)*

It was a good point, Jones. You ought to come revise with us again tomorrow. I'm going to be helping Parvati with her Charms and Belinda wants to go over chapters 4 and 5 of *History of Magic*.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-26 00:31:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Really? Okay. Thank you! Can we



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-26 00:56:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Cheers. Only ... Don't Nevermind. It's okay. See you tomorrow.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-26 00:59:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Only what? What's okay?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-26 01:04:31](#)**  
(no subject)

No it's nothing. I was only going to say that, well, you might want to be a little careful about telling the others you're revising with us. Midgen and Abbott and, and Bones and all, I mean.

Only I wouldn't want them to feel like you're ~~aben~~ ~~abanden~~ deserting them.



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-26 01:13:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. I'm not deserting them. I don't think I am. I'm just revising with you. Like I practised potions with Pansy. But that was only once. And now I'm revising with you. More than once. But


Do you think they'll be upset? Because I already wrote about it.  
And



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-26 01:15:46](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, I'm sure it's fine. Like I said, forget I even mentioned it.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-26 01:17:52](#)  
(no subject)


Okay...



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-26 01:00:06](#)  
(no subject)


I mean, yes. See you tomorrow!



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-28 22:33:24](#)  
(no subject)

We don't bite! Well, Daphne used to, but that was when we were only little.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-29 06:42:46](#)  
(no subject)

I know, you're all awfully nice! I just didn't know you were.

**2009-01-25 20:04:00**

*(no subject)*

This week in Potions Professor Slughorn said that he was going to make us change switch who we usually worked with and he was pairing up weaker students with stronger ones so that people who'd done well on the exam in December could help the ones who did badly. I was afraid he'd make me partner with Gregory but he put me with Longbottom. Maybe Longbottom will understand my explanations in Potions better than Transfiguration? Anyway when we were working on Friday Longbottom wanted to know why we had to crush the snake fangs so finely. I looked it up but I didn't think the explanation really applied for this potion, so we tried my cauldron with the really fine snake fang powder and his with the snake fangs just crushed a bit, and it did make a difference but I'm still not sure why. Pansy's *really* good at Potions, so I was usually the one asking questions, it's strange being the one trying to come up with answers.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I got so cold in Astronomy this week I tried the warming charm again but this time it didn't work at all. I think maybe because I was afraid of burning myself again I couldn't do it. I couldn't feel my toes by the time we went back inside and Pansy thought I should go to the hospital wing but I thought they'd warm up after a bit and they did, so no harm done. I hope it's warmer this week though.



---

 **alt\_poppy at 2009-01-26 15:08:38**

*(no subject)*

I realise that it can be difficult sometimes to know when one ought to come to the hospital wing, but frostbite is a very serious thing. In this case, you should most assuredly have come to see me, Miss Perks -- and, in general, it is best to err on the side of caution.


Do not hesitate to come to me if there's a need.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 01:51:50](#)  
(no subject)

Of course I'll come if I need to Madam Pomfrey.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-26 22:19:12](#)  
(no subject)

I still think you should have them checked out. It's supposed to get really cold tomorrow, according to one of the Ravenclaw prefects.

I have money for a kneazle! Mum will probably forget my birthday (she usually does) so it'll be my present to myself and you must come with me.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 01:52:42](#)  
(no subject)

I saw that Mr Malfoy says he'll take you during the spring hols, do you think I could come too, really? Because that would be wizard.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-27 01:55:36](#)  
(no subject)

I got Goyle for my potions partner. Want to trade?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 02:43:46](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you so much for that kind offer but do bear in mind I share a house with Gregory so I have a pretty good idea of what he'd be like as a potions partner. I will keep Longbottom.





 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-27 03:10:16](#)  
(no subject)

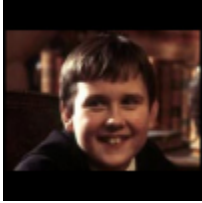
Thanks for that. At least I'm not nearly as hopeless in Potions as I am in Transfiguration.

Though that's sort of faint praise.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 04:44:30](#)  
(no subject)

I think you'd be less hopeless on a Quidditch pitch than you are in Transfiguration. It really does set the bar low.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2009-01-27 03:12:02](#)  
(no subject)

I'd like to work with you, although I'm used to working with Perks, too, since we've done a lot of revising in Transfiguration together. Pity we can't work in groups of three and leave Goyle on his own.

Although he'd probably blow up the classroom.

**2009-01-26 11:07:00**


*(no subject)*

It is nice to be back at Hogwarts even though it was nice to see the Lord Protector's elves again. It feels like a long time since I left to come here. There is still lots of toffee left in the box they gave me for Master Harry if Master Harry wants some?




 **alt\_dennis**



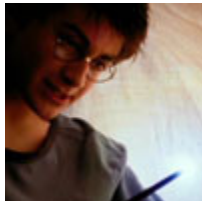
 **alt\_harry** at **2009-01-26 01:12:30**  
*(no subject)*

No thanks Dennis, I dont want any.



 **alt\_dennis** at **2009-01-26 01:13:11**  
*(no subject)*

Oh but they wanted me to give them to you.



 **alt\_harry** at **2009-01-26 01:13:37**  
*(no subject)*

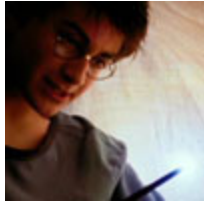
They know I dont like toffees though. Are you sure?



 **alt\_dennis** at **2009-01-26 01:15:52**  
*(no subject)*

~~Oh. well. oh.~~

They didn't say but i thought so.



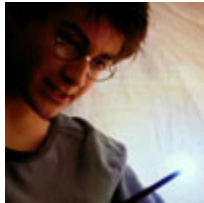
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-26 01:18:22](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe you should keep them Dennis. Do you like toffees?



 [alt\\_dennis](#) at [2009-01-26 01:21:52](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe Sweets are not for mudbloods.



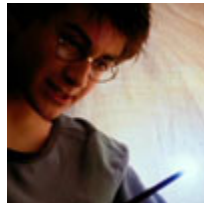
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-26 01:22:42](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno I saw the library mudblood eating a choc once.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-26 01:25:14](#)  
(no subject)


I like toffees, too!



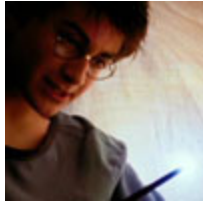
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-26 01:25:54](#)  
(no subject)

Well if you want them you can have them as Dennis doesnt seem to.



 [alt\\_dennis](#) at [2009-01-26 01:26:03](#)  
(no subject)

Not proper mudbloods.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-26 01:29:44](#)  
(no subject)

Hows she not a proper mudblood? Last I saw she worked in the library same as you work for me, and shes got blood just like yours for sure, her dad's a Muggle and sos her mum.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-26 01:56:14](#)  
(no subject)

You don't like toffees? Why not?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-26 02:00:39](#)  
(no subject)

They get all sticky and make my teeth hurt.

**2009-01-26 16:13:00**

*(no subject)*

HA. Tomorrow's my birthday (and if you don't have something nice to say keep it to yourself) AND I have enough money for a KNEAZLE!



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Now I just have to decide what kind. Siamese? Tabby? Abyssinian? I love black cats but we've already got Fergus so I'd hate to step on my kneazle at night like I do with Fergus. It's a bit scary to think you're putting on a slipper only to have that slipper grow teeth and claws. Mill, you really should trim his claws. I look like I've been wrestling trolls.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2009-01-27 01:20:42**

*(no subject)*

Ah, so you *are* still there; you have been most quiet of late. I was beginning to be concerned. Your present should arrive to-morrow.

If you wish to purchase a kneazle, I suggest you wait until Easter holidays when you can select one in person. It's not the sort of decision one wants to trust to mail-order.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2009-01-27 03:51:53**

*(no subject)*

You're right... I suppose I should meet in person before I get one. I don't even know where to get one, really. And I know you aren't an animal person.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2009-01-27 04:15:21**

*(no subject)*


That's not precisely true: Your aunt Narcissa is allergic to cats. My sister had one when we were younger; she was always vexed when it preferred my room to hers.

Like cats, kneazles are very particular in their personalities and colour of fur alone does not determine what is desirable. You might ask the Headmistress, if she is not too occupied with

important matters, to counsel you on ways to identify traits one would wish one's kneazle to possess.

Wait for the holiday; there are places in Knightsbridge where we may find them for a reasonable sum.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-27 04:27:37](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for the advice. I hate to bother the Headmistress but perhaps she can give me a few tips.

And waiting, see, will give me time to find out all about them. Like how do they know just where you're going to step so they can spew there like Fergus does? Or maybe kneazles don't do that.


Do you like cats?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-27 04:33:33](#)  
(no subject)


Certainly I do not *dislike* them. I prefer them to birds or crups, though they are not as useful as Abraxans or even common horses. As I said, Narcissa cannot have them about, so I have never given it much thought. I got on with Amanda's cat, I suppose - or rather it got on with me. I don't much care for the way they shed fur, however.



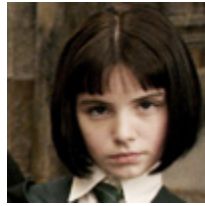
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-27 04:36:16](#)  
(no subject)

I'm having trouble picturing you snuggling with a cat. Or with anything, really.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-27 04:39:51](#)  
(no subject)


I never said anything about snuggling, unless you count scratching the creature's ear occasionally and allowing it to sleep at the corner of the bed 'snuggling.' Perhaps it was because I did *not* smother the animal that it preferred my company (even at Hogwarts).



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-27 04:55:09](#)  
(no subject)


Snuggling equals smothering? I do hope Aunt Narcissa set you straight on that score.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-27 04:58:46](#)  
(no subject)

Don't be impertinent, Little Bit.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-27 05:02:45](#)  
(no subject)

I'll be good. I'm off to bed now. Good night!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 01:54:28](#)  
(no subject)

I thought all kneazles have spots? Were you thinking maybe one with some cat in it for the looks? I think you should choose the kneazle that acts like it likes you the best and hope it's not a colour you'll step on by mistake in the dark.

I can't wait til you get it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-27 03:58:14](#)  
(no subject)

Do they have spots? Hm... the ones I've seen do have spots but I've seen other colours although perhaps they are part cat and part kneazle. I need to do more research.

You and Lucius are right. I need to meet it and find the one that fits my personality. Maybe if I go over the spring holiday you can come with me?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 04:38:21](#)  
(no subject)

It would be lovely to come if it works out.


I've read that they're always spotted but you can buy cross-bred cat-kneazles in any colour. It has to be one that likes you, if you buy one that doesn't like you and try to make it live with you I've read they'll do much worse things than throw up in your shoes. Like use your pillow as a loo.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-27 04:40:35](#)  
(no subject)

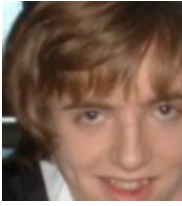
But if it DOES like you it'll try not to spew where you're going to step. Because they're much cleverer than cats.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-27 05:47:00](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh. Happy Birthday Pansy!






 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2009-01-27 17:25:53](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Again For Today!! Are You Having A PARTY!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-29 01:53:31](#)  
(no subject)


The party is set for Friday night, I think. I haven't decided if I'm having one or not, because I don't know if anyone would come.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2009-01-29 08:44:42](#)  
(no subject)


I'll come!



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-30 02:52:01](#)  
(no subject)


I want to come but I don't know if my parents said but I might have revising to do. I'm still trying to pull up my potions mark.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2009-01-28 22:44:27](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Pansy! I'm glad you have enough money for a Kneazle even if you can't get one just yet.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-29 01:51:25](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you! I really want one badly but waiting is good, too.

**2009-01-27 13:53:00**

*Order Only: Happy birthday, Kingsley!*

By now I hope you've gotten my owl, and that the jumper fits all right (that is, if you haven't lost too many stone from your life on the road). I've also enclosed a book I found in a second-hand bookstore, thinking that some of the children's stories included might lend themselves well to being rewritten into plays the Peacehaven Players could use.



 [alt\\_molly](#)

Arthur asked me to pass along how delighted the administrator at the Tewkesbury Camp was with the troupe's three day visit there this past fortnight. He thinks he can set something up at Maidstone next week--he'll owl you the details. It sounds as though the Players are becoming quite a success, which is wonderful news.


How I wish Arthur and I could be there to celebrate the day with you personally, but I'm sure Emmeline, Benjy, Dorcas and Caradoc will be more than happy to help with the all-important carousing. Just mind that you don't burn down the tent!



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at **2009-01-28 01:25:46**  
(no subject)

Many happy returns from me, as well!



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2009-01-28 03:53:25**  
*Order Only: Many Happy Returns*

I hope this year brings you good health, safe harbour, and the rewards of a sound conscience, Kingsley. Carry on! Know that the work you are doing does not go unadmired.

I am raising a cordial in your honour tonight. Happy Birthday!

**2009-01-27 15:40:00**

*New Commitments*

Narcissa has returned to her customary volunteer hours at St Mungo's and she joined me and Ari for tea this afternoon. Pandora, according to Ari, has been experiencing quite a lot of morning sickness. Narcissa offered to have her Healer drop in on them this week to see what might be done to make her more comfortable.



 **alt\_lucius**

Have not heard from Rosalind in nearly a week, which is not especially odd, but her daughter's birthday is to-day and I might have thought she would at least send the child an owl. Quite pleased, incidentally, with the lack of any further difficulties in that arena, though I had been growing concerned that Pansy has withdrawn more completely than strictly necessary. Luckily last night she displayed a spark of her usual impudence, so I believe she has not lost all her ginger, only perhaps trimmed away some of the roughness, which is to the good.

After reviewing the year-end figures, have decided to take on two additional ventures this annum: First, I have accepted Nolan's offer to join the board of Presto Records; and second, we shall be acquiring a small customs-house in Folkestone. One of the previous partners wishes to remain on, which is to my liking as it will save having to hire staff. Over the next two quarters he is to diversify the stock somewhat, as prior to his partner's retirement they dealt primarily with magical items from the continent, whereas at this point the market would be more profitable in everyday staples (particularly those difficult to transfigure well) and a few specialty artifacts, potions supplies and so on, that cannot be substituted with the properties of another substance. I am still not convinced I shall be able to divide my time among yet two more undertakings - but we shall see.




 **alt\_owain** at **2009-01-29 06:43:53**

*(no subject)*

Presto, eh?




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-29 18:21:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Indeed. Well, Nolan is a family friend and looking over the requisites it does not look to be too arduous. The RoI reports for the last fiscal year looked promising - due in large part, I'm sure, to the sales from your recent compilation.

Nolan mentioned you are back in negotiation for your next effort?



 **[alt\\_owain](#)** at **[2009-01-30 02:33:26](#)**  
(no subject)

I certainly hope so. If we couldn't do our part toward keeping the record companies in business, where would we be?

Preliminary negotiations. They want to tie us down, we want to burst the cords of contractual obligations and be free to follow the music, wherever it takes us. Round and round and round we go, and where the two meet, only Merlin knows.

Not that I've been sticking my nose in on the progress that often; I leave negotiations to Ana and her uncle the businessman. They're so bloody *good* at it.

**2009-01-27 18:32:00**

*Congratulations!*

Good job Lee! We've never had such an interesting Transfiguration class before, what an extraordinary thing to do with chicken feathers!



 **alt\_gredforge**

**2009-01-27 19:10:00**

*Order Only: Happy Birthday, Kingsley!*

Many happy returns, mate. You'll be pleased to know I'm toasting you with your present to me. And I've posted a Laszlo package for the Players - things you may wish to have in your travels.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

It's at the Dover drop point by now; the pickup code is in Arthur's deck of cards (I've shuffled them so they're once again active). Start with the third card down, Arthur, and then note every fourth card six times. Use that card to represent the first letter and then each letter follows in the same order and with the same interval between them. Understand?

If we send someone for that parcel - Benjy or Dorcas, perhaps - it ought to tell us whether you're being watched or not.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **2009-01-28 14:58:27**  
(no subject)

Got it. Kingsley, I'll be forwarding the codeword onto you.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2009-01-29 01:55:30**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Arthur.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2009-01-29 01:55:06**  
(no subject)

Glad you're enjoying your little libation there. I had a nice day, but was, er, occupied for most of it.

**2009-01-27 22:23:00**

*Happy birthday, Pansy!*

Many happy returns of the day! No Kneazle yet but I hope you had fun otherwise.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

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 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-28 08:44:24](#)

*(no subject)*

It was an excellent day, and lots of it is thanks to you! I LOVE my flower. I put it so it's the first thing I see in the morning. Other than you and Lucius, those were the only gifts I got, so it means a lot to me and the cake was lovely. Chocolate orange is a good combination, don't you think?

No Kneazle but wait till the spring hols, hm?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2009-01-29 00:41:53](#)

*(no subject)*

Right well happy birthday Pansy, sorry, I forgot.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-29 01:48:33](#)

*(no subject)*

No worries. I'm sure you have lots of other things to worry about, yeah?




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-29 01:38:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Happy Birthday Pansy! Did you still want to do a Makeover sometime?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-29 01:49:09](#)  
(no subject)

This could be interesting.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-29 18:49:58](#)  
(no subject)


We've owed you for a while now. We're doing Jones over on Teusday, come along. It'll be fun!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-29 19:36:09](#)  
(no subject)

All right. I'll be there.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-30 02:46:51](#)  
(no subject)

Well, of course! Fashion is always Interesting!



**[2009-01-28 10:48:00](#)**

*Revising club*



 [alt\\_padma](#)

The revising club is really getting to be quite the crowd. I told Belinda that she'd better get a move on if she wants to keep her place with us. For one thing, it doesn't look well for a Ravenclaw to be doing worse in most of her subjects than Hufflepuffs or Gryffindors. But for another there's only so much room at the table before it gets too hard to here everyone.

Jones, you really ought to do something about your hair if you're going to keep coming, too. Since we have to revise somewhere outside our common rooms. Lav, why don't you and Parvati bring a few ribbons tonight and we'll see what we can do to make her more presentable? You are coming tonight, right? We've got that essay Binns just set us and no reason to put it off.

Oh, and Jones, did you want to borrow that extra pair of gloves for Astronomy tomorrow night? I've got a pair Mum sent that have the fingers out, so I can still work the telescope, but you could borrow my other pair. If you want.

(Lav, did Professor Lockhart tell your class what he told ours? About how it was a shame we didn't do Christmas pantomimes? I bet he'd have been perfectly wonderful in them!)



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 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2009-01-29 01:35:31](#)  
(no subject)

He did! He told us all about a panto he was in when he was at school, and how he had to get rid of a doxy infestation so that the show could go On, even though he was only a second-year.

He sounded quite Heroic! If he hadn't become a hunter of Dark creatures, I think he would have been amazing in the Theatre.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-29 02:15:49](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, but if he hadn't started hunting dark creatures, think how many people would have been hurt!

about?


Have you picked something to write your essay



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-29 06:42:16](#)  
(no subject)

About my hair? ~~But~~ You're right, it's so boring. Perhaps I could charm it lighter. Like Lavender's. Her hair is so pretty. If I was really careful not to do anything wrong. It could work.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-29 13:33:17](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, don't fuss, Jones. The colour is alright, I think (though you could do with a few highlights), but the style is all wrong. Those two plaits make you look quite babyish. We'll fix you up.

How about Teusday next - we could leave off revising and do your colours and try a few charms from the latest *Witch Weekly*?



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-29 16:09:56](#)  
(no subject)

~~They do~~ Oh. You're right. That would be ever so much better.

Okay. Thank you. It's awfully nice of you. And it'll be fun! To see what my hair looks like not in plaits. My guardian always made me do it like this. But I shouldn't have to while I'm at school. And some of the charms from *Witch Weekly* are brilliant. They really are.




 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-29 18:48:24](#)  
(no subject)

I think down and loose would be quite fetching, but then if we pulled it up in a twist, that would make you look very meture indeed.

Parkinson's interested too and we promised her a while ago so we'll do both of you Tuseday, alright?



 **alt\_megan** at [2009-01-30 02:25:02](#)  
(no subject)

Ooooh. Do you think so? I just pulled my hair out of its plaits and tried to twist it, and I think it looked really good. But I know I can't do it half as good as you can.

With Pansy? Ooooh, okay.

**[2009-01-28 13:06:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

We are learning about the Goblin Rebellion of 1711 in History of Magic. I was trying hard to pay attention. And its a little easier because Padraig the Patient is one of my heros. (He wasnt really patient. That name makes him sound so dull.)



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)**


But then Professor Binns said that Padraig was a mudblood. That cant be true, it just cant. Padraig was a half-blood. I learned about him from my mum and I had a book about him growing up. Padraigs mum was a muggle but his dad was a wizard. So I raised my hand and asked Binns if he was sure. It didnt seem polite to just correct a teacher.

He seemed really suprised and then he got all impatient and yelled that there was absolutely no evidence for Padraig having a wizard father and started going on about the marriage and birth records of his parish. I said that maybe his mum was married to a muggle but that doesnt mean his real father wasnt a wizard. And Binns said there wasnt any evidence for that. I said Padraig was a brilliant wizard, he invented some really powerful charms, and a mudblood wizard couldnt have done all that because their magic isnt going to be strong enough. Binns said that isnt true and then he said that lots of great wizards have been mudbloods and started listing people.

Parvati said maybe those parents stole the magic from really strong wizards and maybe there were strong mudblood wizards in the past. But I dont believe it. Padraig had wizard blood for sure, he was way too good to be a mudblood.

Im going to write to Mr Rosier. Maybe my mum lied to me but Mr Rosier will know for sure.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-28 23:43:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Binns is dif defen definitely wrong, he has to be. Don't blame Parvati for trying to make sense of it. Padraig must have had a wizard in his family somewhere because even when muggles steal magic from wizards and make mudbloods, the magic is all bad and twisted, right? I mean,

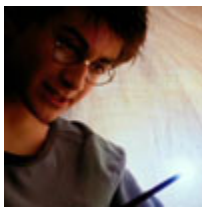
they do bad things with it and hurt people, right? And Padraig didnt hurt anyone with his magic, except maybe bad people, so he must not have been a mudblood.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-29 02:40:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Padraig was a great hero and he did all sorts of good stuff. He put down that goblin rebellion. And then came up with a treaty that solved some of the problems well enough that the Irish goblins didn't rebel the next time the English ones did. And he invented the charm for the Unbreakable Vow.

I dont blame Parvati. It was Binns who was insisting he was a mudblood. Parvati was just trying to make sense of it like you said.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2009-01-29 00:43:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Tell us what Mr Rosier says mate. Im dead curious.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-29 02:41:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I will! I owled him this afternoon.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-29 04:19:15](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't see why it has to be wrong, really. People can come from all kinds of different backgrounds and go on to do brilliant things. I don't know why Professor Binns would make something like that up or anything.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-29 05:41:39](#)**  
(no subject)

But mudbloods aren't like us. There are magical things like portkeys that would work even for muggles if you gave it to them and mudblood magic is kind of like that. Our magic is in our blood.

Padraig was really noble and brave. Maybe you don't understand because you aren't Irish.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-29 12:43:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Uh . . . people who aren't Irish don't understand anybody being noble and brave?


Maybe people with magic who don't have wizards for their mum and dad are the only ones who can understand how they might have magic of their own. But I don't get that stuff about them stealing magic from others.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-29 14:10:57](#)**  
(no subject)

No people who aren't Irish might not understand how it feels to have a teacher insult an Irish hero.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-29 14:52:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, okay. Sorry I misunderstood.

I don't think you need to think of it like that your mum had to be lying to you if Professor Binns is right. I guess whatever we know about people we've never met has to come from what someone else has said about them. Or books written about them. Then you have to figure out what would be most likely to have the truth. Maybe both your mum and Professor Binns learned about Padraig the Patient from something they thought was good evidence. For Professor Binns, it's whatever he said, the parish records, for your mum it's--I


dunno. However she learned about him.

Don't know if I'm making much sense. I guess for someone who lived so long ago, it may be impossible to know for sure.

The thing is, I don't quite agree that what Professor Binns said was an insult to someone who's a hero. Don't mean to make you mad, Seamus, but I don't.

But I know that not many people agree with me on that.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-29 18:46:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Honestly, Longbottom, you call yourself a wizard!  
Only real wizards can do magic properly - everyone knows that.

Or are you some sort of mudblood-lover?

I think because he died so long ago, Professor Binns just is outdated. Like when they used to think that the sun revolved around the earth and then Copernicus saw that it was the other way round and so they rewrote the books then - wizards, anyway. Muggles didn't I guess, they tried to kill him instead.


So maybe Professor Binns keeps teaching us out of old books that aren't right anymore.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2009-01-29 20:02:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Well I checked the library and in Great Wizards of Ireland it said he was a half-blood and that his father was named Osgar Connolly. Professor Binns definitely needs to read some up to date books.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2009-01-30 00:08:58](#)**  
(no subject)

*Honestly, Longbottom, you call yourself a wizard!*

Uh, yeah, I do.

*Only real wizards can do magic properly - everyone knows that.*

Well, doesn't that mean that Padraig the Patient was a real wizard, then? Cause he could do magic? That's all that's important. Not who or what someone's mum or dad is.



 **alt\_padma** at [2009-01-30 03:29:11](#)  
(no subject)

*Well, doesn't that mean that Padraig the Patient was a real wizard, then?*

Well, of course it does! That's why his parents must of had some wizard blood somewhere, because otherwise he never would of done proper magic!

Parvati was right, you are thick as anything.



 **alt\_megan** at [2009-01-29 06:40:43](#)  
(no subject)

Doesn't no evidence mean no one knows? Only we do. Sort of. Because if he was a mudblood, he couldn't have done all that. Everyone knows that. So that's evidence.

Look at the ones around the castle. Can you imagine them making treaties?

Professor Binns must have been confused. I suppose? He's awfully old.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2009-01-29 14:11:22](#)  
(no subject)

Hes not just old, hes dead!





 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-29 16:09:29](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, but he was awfully old before he was dead. Older than my guardian! So he may have got mixed up. Some of my guardian's friends get mixed up. Not very often. And it's not funny at all. And my guardian never does.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-29 20:02:39](#)

*(no subject)*

If he gets mixed up then why is he teaching history. None of your guardians friends are teachers are they?



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-30 02:24:31](#)

*(no subject)*

I don't know.

Of course they're not. But they still tell me things. And expect me to know them. And remember them.

Maybe no one else wants to do it.

**[2009-01-28 14:11:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

The month-end inventory is nearly finished. (I've never been late with it yet, Minerva, and I've no intention of failing the deadline this month.)



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)**

One might expect that with so many empty spaces on the storeroom shelves, the record-keeping would be simpler to complete. Of course, the reverse is true: if we've any hope of moving the Board and the Ministry to help us with restocking, then every last pinch of headache powder and every half-draught of Pepper-Up must be documented in septuplicate.

And pupils complain about filling thirteen inches of parchment with a report for Professor Slughorn?



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-01-29 00:31:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

I am sorry about the bureaucratic nightmare, Poppy, and I never doubted your ability to get it done in time - but surely 'septuplicate' is an exaggeration?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-29 03:39:46](#)**


*(no subject)*

Sorry, Minerva. It's not so much the record-keeping that's a problem. Of course not. That's routine, after all. ~~It's that I'm having difficulty reconciling~~ ~~It's that certain odd bits have gone~~

It's maddening when the lists don't come out right. It always seems that this sort of problem with the daily Totting-Up charm hits just when there's a run on the beds here in the hospital wing.

And no, indeed, septuplicate is no exaggeration: there's one for my files, one for you, and two for the Board, in addition to the Minister's insistence on triplicate -- and, obviously, one can't rely on a duplication charm as that would leave the window open for ~~the magic to be jiggered~~ error to creep in.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-29 04:14:18](#)  
*Order Only*

You'll back me up, will you not, if I tell Carrow that you suggested Boot might help me sort this inventory issue? I'm not sure what I'll do with him besides check him over, but the fact that he offered himself makes me wonder-- well, I don't want to turn him away.

...

Minerva, I don't like to say it, but I think some things have gone missing from the shelves here. Just minor items. Not the sort of things you'd suppose anyone one would take, and only in small quantities, but...

Tsk.

Above all things, I dislike having to fudge my figures. I keep thinking I've overlooked something and it will all come right on the next tally.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-29 13:08:57](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Of course, Poppy.

It sounds as though the situation may not be resolvable, however. Perhaps it's time to keep the figures as they are, present them to the Board and the Minister, and set out a plan to catch the pilferer?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-29 18:55:40](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

I think it's best to watch this carefully over the next month. I've talked myself round to thinking it might all be a matter of mismeasurement: all of the items in question came up from the greenhouses, so perhaps it's an innocent mistake on my part or Sprout's -- or perhaps...

I'm sure I don't know, but I don't want to set off an investigation if it's nothing more than a clerical error or a measuring charm that went wobbly.

You don't think this will make matters worse if it turns out to be theft, though, in the end?




 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-01-30 01:59:14](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

It shall all depend who the thief *is*. No-one in the Order, I take it, or we would have heard, and Granger would have warned us were it the Boot boy. No; it must be a student, or perhaps another professor, although Merlin only knows why a professor would need to steal simple tonics.

Of course, it seems that Malfoy the Elder has at least partially resolved the situation himself. I hate to be grateful to the man, but there it is.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 02:49:58](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

Agreed.

As for Malfoy, I shiver whenever I see him swoop in to pounce on what someone's written in a journal. I realise that what one writes here is not private, but it is simply chilling to see how he jumps to catch the unwise and the unwary.


On the other hand, it sometimes works to the good: in this case, his impulsive rush to take my troubles in hand may be a lucky turn for us. At least I dare hope so.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2009-01-29 00:49:36](#)**  
*(no subject)*

boot would be happy to come early before classes tomorrow to help count things, if Madam Pomfrey thinks more time is needed doing inventory than what boot can help with on Friday



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-29 03:42:20](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, indeed. That would be most helpful.

I will thank Professor Carrow for sparing you.


Most helpful, indeed.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-30 02:05:46](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

Oh thank you Madam Pomfrey!! I know that you know, but Terry prefers the hospital wing ever so much to the Carrows, he tells me all the time.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-30 02:53:43](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

I am always pleased to have Mr. Boot and you, Miss Granger, as helpers in the hospital wing.

You are both always welcome here. And not only  
to work.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-29 02:03:05](#)  
(no subject)

Now, really, Poppy, that's hardly good form. The Board is more than willing to supply those provisions you need for the safe care of Hogwarts' students.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-01-29 04:03:27](#)  
(no subject)

I apologise.

Of course, the Board has been most helpful in approving those requests it can. I'm sure you share my frustration, however, with the scarcity of certain ingredients crucial for a number of our staple healing potions and ointments.


We've been fortunate so far, but this dreadful weather is putting a

strain on our supplies of even the most generally available ingredients.

~~If we were to have an outbreak of something contagious~~ I hope that Fortune continues to smile on us: all will be well as long as this year's students prove less adventuresome and more hardy than those in years past.

I confess, however, that I dislike having to wager on Fortune.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2009-01-29 18:37:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Naturally. Your solicitude on behalf of your charges does you credit, Poppy, but surely this cannot be the first hard winter we have had in recent years? Nonetheless I am cognisant of the increased difficulty of late; I am sure you, in turn, understand the necessity of tight controls over the introduction of potential contraband into the Protectorate, particularly when it may easily come into contact with our young, impressionable population.

That said, I mistrust mere luck as well. It is much preferable to practise preparedness.

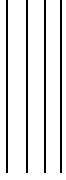
There is also a deliberate reason the Governors number several parents with as much concern as you have for the children's well-being. Kindly provide the list of your most critical needs - shall we say the top dozen? - to my clerk and I shall endeavour to intercede through the relevant channels.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-29 18:45:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

The list will be in your clerk's hands tomorrow along with the monthly reports.



 **alt\_sirius** at **2009-01-29 18:51:43**  
*Order Only*

Well, that was easy, I must say.

**[2009-01-28 18:42:00](#)**

*Calling Anyone Who Wants to Sing!*

I learned something just marvellous today!

I spoke to Professor Sprout after Herbology to try to find out how to join the choir, and she told me that they were having auditions for this term next Tuesday after dinner! Professor Carpenter is in charge of it this year, and I suppose she didn't think about the first and second years, since she only teaches the older classes.



 [alt\\_susan](#)

I'm excited to audition even if I don't get in; it might be one of those things where not many first years do. I meant to tell Megan about it at dinner, but I ended up talking to Eloise for a long time and forgot. Sorry, Megan. But now you know! Isn't it brilliant?

---

 [alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-29 06:41:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, you really asked? And it's really that easy?

 [alt-susan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-30 02:42:58](#)  
(no subject)

I did! I like Professor Sprout, she's easy to talk to and ask questions. Even if I don't like Herbology as much as I feel I should sometimes.

It really is that easy to audition, but it might not be easy to join! We should try to borrow a practise room and choose the songs we want to do.

 [alt-megan.livejournal.com](#) at [2009-01-30 05:03:43](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps you should talk to Neville. He likes Herbology. Perhaps he could tell you how to like it.

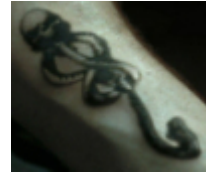
Songs? How many do we have to sing? Can we sing together? Oooh, I'm nervous just thinking about it. We should practice loads.



**2009-01-28 19:57:00**

*(no subject)*

Lee Jordan will be serving detention, and I shall come up with a punishment suitable to his actions. Discipline is a harsh mistress, and it's a lesson best learned early on. I will do my best to endeavour that Mr Jordon ceases such actions in future.



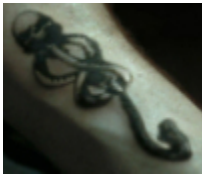
 [alt\\_amycus](#)



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2009-01-29 14:21:16**

*(no subject)*

I wish to thank you, Professor Carrow, for the loan of your servant this morning. It was timely help at an especially busy moment.



 [alt\\_amycus](#) at **2009-01-29 19:40:21**

*(no subject)*

I am always glad to assist in any way possible.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at **2009-01-30 01:57:23**

*(no subject)*

I am pleased to hear you say so, Amycus.

**2009-01-29 08:52:00**

*Grabbing a minute before class*

Haven't been keeping this journal up like I ought to. It takes me longer to revise for my classes than most people, cause I'm sort of a slower reader. So it's hard to find time to write.



 [alt\\_neville](#)

Flying: I haven't been dumped off my broom for a week. Progress! I really hate flying class in January, though. My hands are always so numb when I get down on the ground. I try warming charms, but I'm not good at them yet, and I guess they're not too strong.

Herbology: I know a lot of people were real bored by the stuff about soil composition we learned this week (all about additives like peat and blood meal, pH, and types of compost), but I thought it was dead interesting. After the last class I asked Professor Sprout about something I've been thinking about ever since that lesson in Transfiguration class, where we tried turning turnips into other foods to see which foods a transfigured turnip could imitate best. (I've never had so many different kinds of foods since coming to Hogwarts, by the way. My Gran's real good at transfiguration, so I never really noticed the differences in taste, and we did get to eat a lot of other stuff that was real. Still, Gran pretty much sticks to meat and potatoes and the usual sorts of fruits and vegetables. I'd never even tried things like mangoes, pineapple, or kiwis until I came here. Even if they're transfigured from something else, whoever's doing the magic on them is real good. They taste great to me.)


On the other hand, I've talked to Perks some students who must have lived on transfigured turnips and potatoes most of the time. If your diet just has a few foods, even if the food's transfigured, it'll keep you alive, maybe, but it won't keep you too healthy.

Anyway, I asked Professor Sprout whether turnips might transfigure better if you changed the soil pH. She looked real surprised, and said that it's not the sort of thing a first year would think to ask. She asked me if I'd like to set up an experiment to find out. So I think I will.

Oops, was going to write about my other classes, but I have to get to Charms. Later.

---



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-01-30 02:24:17](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, I never would have thought of that. But I bet it doesn't.

**2009-01-29 13:41:00**

*(no subject)*

tidbit, you shall serve detention with Mr Jordan. Any punishments assessed to students will also be assessed to tidbit, so do think twice before contemplating any malfeasance.



 **alt\_amycus**

**2009-01-29 13:58:00**

*Order only: Harry and Nicholas*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

First, has anyone heard more from Perenelle or Nicholas? I'm concerned - my gut tells me that dratted cousin of mine is watching them like a hawk, wearing out her welcome before they can do anything about it.

Second, on a better note, had another owl from Harry. He's certainly asking questions! Though his latest gives me a proper glimpse of how confused he is:

*Father is always worried that someone is going to hurt me .... And I don't think that's very fair. If your friends in England are the people who want to hurt me you should tell them to STOP and make them do it!!!!*

Also, interesting insight, and right in line with what we know to be Voldemort's protectiveness of the lad. I wish I knew why he thinks Harry's so key, but as long as he does, at least we needn't fear for his safety from Voldemort himself, or his loyal followers.

Wild cards like Macscared, however...


Well, anyway, you lot, take care. Poppy, if you want to send **me** the list you're giving Malfoy, I'll see what I can do about Laszlo having the supplies in stock by the time he gets round to ordering them. No sense your going to the trouble of tricking him into helping only to have the bid go to another vendor. Now if only Nicholas can be freed up to go and fetch them!

D'you think Dung can be trusted to wholesale them on our behalf? No, probably a bad idea. But Laszlo is going to need someone to help with receivership and resale in England, especially if Flamel is compromised. Hm....

Well, I'll have a think on it. Supposed to go out tonight after a Quidditch exhibition and I think Neil Velazquez is going to be there, so it might be a rather late night for me.

---



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2009-01-29 22:12:07](#)  
(no subject)

I've heard nothing, Sirius, and neither has Bill. Neither of us dares do anything to approach them directly, as we certainly don't want to endanger them. Molly is owling Frank and Alice to see if, for some strange reason, they might have made contact that way.

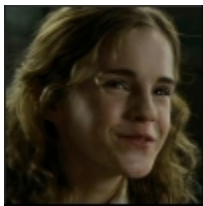
Kingsley? You?



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-01-30 01:56:58](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't heard anything of either of the Flamels - and I have been exercising myself to my *fullest* for news. It would help if I weren't tied to the school; of course, then we should have a whole other host of problems. Suffice to say that no-one has been quite forthcoming.

As for Mr Marvolo, I am not surprised. I've heard the Lord Protector say such things to him frequently, and I can only imagine they have been redoubled with recent occurrences. I do believe that Marvolo himself may be our best source of knowledge about his importance. You must continue cultivating him carefully, and Granger shall continue encouraging him, I'm sure.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-30 02:03:20](#)  
(no subject)

Of course I will!!



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2009-01-30 02:04:30](#)  
(no subject)

That sounds awfully like what he said to me, well, except he didn't say 'your friends' or anything, he only said that he wanted to read more about the beginnings of the Lord Protector's rise to power because he wanted to know more about the kind of people who

wanted to hurt him. He said it in passing though and I didn't remember until just now. I'm sorry I didn't say so before.

**2009-01-29 21:00:00**

*Attention Students*

There's been an Advanced Charms textbook left lying about in the library for quite some time now and no-one has come to fetch it. It was found about a week ago on the table closest to the Ancient Runes section, open to the Protean Charm. If it's yours please come and get it, I think it must belong to a seventh year and it ought to be very useful for studying for one's N.E.W.T.s oughtn't it?



 [alternity](#)

 [alt\\_hermione](#)



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-30 14:43:40](#)

*(no subject)*

Is that my charms book? (Fred and George, you rotters, you said you'd get it back to me.)

Never mind, I'll check on my way to class.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2009-01-30 14:44:32](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, I missed that you said it might be for a seventh year. I'll be by to check it anyway.



**2009-01-29 22:30:00**

*Venus*

I'm just jotting something down so I don't forget it for Astronomy tonight. Venus has always set by the time we do our observations, but it was really pretty tonight. The moon was a perfect cresent and Venus was terribly bright.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

On the other hand, Aldebaran will be brilliant later, if it's not cloudy. And I'm looking forward to seeing Tethys and Dionne in een conjunction.




 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **2009-01-31 01:10:51**  
(no subject)

Excellent comments, Miss Patil, both here and during your class's observation time.

If you are still interested in the Tethys and Dionne conjunction, I got an owl from another astronomer today with some interesting research: some of it is a bit beyond your knowledge right now, but not all of it. Do stop by some evening after dinner if you like.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-31 01:12:12**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Miss. It won't be tonight, because...well, it might not be until next week. Is that alright?

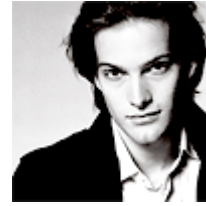


 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **2009-01-31 01:33:31**  
(no subject)

When you have time, Miss Patil, of course. I certainly understand that you might have other things on your mind this evening.

**2009-01-30 01:53:00**

*Two Sides of the Same Coin, Part II: The Ministry*



 [alt\\_owain](#)

The door of the conference room opens and we all rush out, crowding eagerly through the doorway as if propelled by the pressure of all the words in that room -- the echoes of arguments fill the room to bursting and beyond. Amazingly (no one said we had any sense) we're still talking as we leave, like steam from a kettle that has to shriek its escape. Booming one more bon mot about the design, insinuating one last slur on another's taste, issuing one last rebuttal -- who could resist?

I could. And so it was me to whom Nutcombe, our chief, turned to offer his own observations on the plan we've just put together. 'It'll do, lad, it'll do, however they scream that it could have been better. If only... There's always an if or a but, however you decide. But this plan of ours, yes, it'll do.'

'Yes sir, I think you're right', I said. Something of my real opinion must have filtered into my voice despite my great care; the chief barked with laughter and pulled me into his office. He put the kettle on the fire, then turned back and said in a low voice,

'Don't hold back. Which part would you go after with a sharp knife and a bottle of ink, if you were here alone some dark night and had nothing better to do but improve all the documents without a committee to hold you back?'

'No fear of that', I said, sitting down in the guest chair. 'I hardly have time to sleep, much less come sneaking around the office at night to make unauthorized changes.'

'But--'

'But', I agreed, and explained how I would have gone about constructing a truly infallible publicity campaign, complete with diagrams on on wall detailing each prong of the programme (easily erased with the flick of a wand).

'I don't disagree', the old man said, handing me a cup of tea. It was a polite lie. 'Except--' and he scribbled all over my drawings and told me everything that wouldn't work or could be improved from my plan,

finishing with a chuckle and a cheerful 'You'll learn.'

He shook his head, still chuckling, and asked with studied casualness, 'Still playing with that band of yours, eh?'

'Yes sir.'

'I don't say it's a bad idea, everyone has to make ends meet, and even though a ministry salary's better than it once was...'

'Yes sir', I agreed.

As if there was no connection at all, he added, 'It'll be Twiddle getting that promotion everyone's been talking about, which is the choice I'm sure you were expecting. You could hardly expect anything else, could you?'

'No sir', I said. True enough, but Twiddle is a -- shall we say she's very good at what she knows how to do, and leave it at that?

'Well, there you are then', he said, and waved me out. I thought I heard him muttering something about *he'll learn* under his breath as I left his office.

As for that, yes, I'll learn. Whether I learn that particular lesson, so neatly presented on a silver platter for my effortless digestion -- we shall see. Maybe. Maybe not. More later.

**2009-01-30 11:41:00**

*Minister, Mysteries and more Meetings*

The Minister for Magic will insist on holding meetings in her office, but at least she provides a decent cup of tea. (How one can drink it surrounded by her décor is something I try not to contemplate too closely.)



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

At any rate, now the budget approvals have all been completed and passed to the Council, Dolores may focus on the task she has been anxious to claim her attention: The Tenth Anniversary celebrations scheduled for this spring. Thankfully, I was not subjected to another transparent attempt to embroil Narcissa but to be doubly certain, I recommended that some portion of the allocation for the event be earmarked for professional planning services. At least then the proceedings will be spared an overabundance of pink. I would hope that even Dolores is clever enough to keep the occasion tasteful; I am less confident that she can be trusted to dictate the direction with an eye more toward the public than her own whimsy. Suggested that Miss Robins be prevailed upon to oversee many of the details, as I am quite sure she would not allow the Ministry to embarrass itself.

This afternoon Croaker has asked me to come to his laboratories in the Department of Mysteries. I doubt his presentation will result in additional funding, but if it is intriguing enough, he may be allowed to petition for the next fiscal quarter (he might have thought of it *before* the Minister's staff finalised the budgets for the year!). He refuses to accept that under no circumstances may he apply for private sponsorship, no matter how vital he believes his work to be. Shall have to monitor the situation closely to ensure he does not break protocol for any reason.


Hogwarts is apparently depleting its medicinal supplies this year more quickly than recent terms. Once we receive the official reports and Madam Pomfrey's list we shall be able to better assess the best supplier - and the best methods - of acquiring what is lacking. Crispin is then to arrange meetings with certain Governors who have, shall we say, an interest in assisting the school with its stores.

Miss Parkinson - have you any special message you wish me to convey to your mother? I contacted her earlier this week regarding your

birthday and she requested to see me this evening, so I am heading there before leaving London for the week-end.

---



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 19:39:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I would appreciate it very much if you'd convey my good wishes for her continued well-being. Thank you very much.

**2009-01-30 18:17:00**

*(no subject)*

Poppy - I have a couple of students coming over to see you.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_horace](#)



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-30 18:21:37**

*(no subject)*

I don't

I'm okay.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2009-01-30 20:50:42**

*(no subject)*

Miss Patil. You will report to me immediately.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-30 21:33:50**

*(no subject)*

I came up but you were busy with Hopkins. He got it worse than me.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-30 21:34:35**


*(no subject)*

OH NO!

I just looked in the mirror... Madam Pomfrey, do you think you might excuse me from class until... until it goes away?

It will go away, won't it????!!!!



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 22:19:48](#)**  
(no subject)

It will go away, but not on its own.


If you will simply return to the hospital wing, we'll have you on the mend in no time.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-31 02:26:38](#)**  
(no subject)


Thank you for the help, Miss. Sorry. I was upset before, sorry.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 20:43:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Ah, I see that Mr. Hopkins is in the antechamber. Thank you, Horace. I might have missed him there: he's so quiet.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 22:24:58](#)**  
(no subject)

When you have a moment, I'd be most interested to hear how this particular fiasco came about. Mr. Hopkins is a young man of very few words (I got nothing at all out of him, except that it was all his fault), and I fear that Miss Patil is intent on avoiding me.

Am I really that off-puttingly stern, Horace? I'd hate to think that students are so frightened of me that they won't seek treatment when they need it!




 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2009-01-30 22:56:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Ah, Poppy, these things happen. I didn't see the exchange, but I believe Mr Hopkins dropped a rather large amount of lionfish into the cauldron all at once. Not the first incident we've ever had, nor

the last, and certainly not the worst!

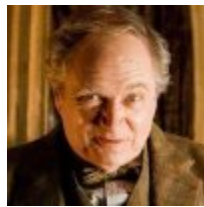
You're not off-putting at all, my dear. Miss Patil was quite unwilling to leave the classroom to seek assistance after the incident, but I choose to believe it's because she enjoys my lessons so and didn't want to miss a moment of joyous education.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-30 23:06:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Rather as I suspected. Well, I think that the burn paste and complexion coolant I've given him should set him right in short order. I worried that I might have been able to offer better aid if I'd been more certain what caused the damage. I suppose experience is a near substitute for knowledge in a pinch.

I certain you are right, Horace. Still, I would feel better if Miss Patil would stop in to see me. I gather that it may have splotted her face, poor girl.



 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2009-01-30 23:13:55](#)**  
(no subject)

She hasn't been by yet? I'll send her down, if I see her. She'll certainly need some coolant, if nothing else.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-31 02:22:10](#)**  
(no subject)

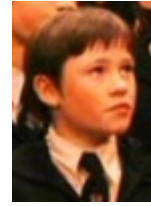
It's not that, Madam Pomfrey. Maybe you were a little sharp with Bradley, but really, it's nothing to do with you, Miss.



**2009-01-30 19:06:00**

*(no subject)*

Well I got an owl from Mr Rosier this morning. And he said that Binns was wrong and I was right. He included a copy of a book with a whole chapter on Padraig that talked a bit about the reasons we know he must have been a half blood. Actually the whole book was about great half-blood wizards.



 **alt\_seamus**

Mr Rosier also said in his time no one listened to Binns because he was so deadly boring. Its funny to think about that because Mr Rosier is so old went to Hogwarts so many years ago. Binns has been teaching practically forever. And Mr Rosier also said hed talk to Mr Malfoy because hes on the board of governors.

So thats what he said.

Also did Padma Patil ever go to Madam Pomfrey? I saw her in the coridor and her face looked horrible. I hope she went back to the hospital wing to get fixed up.



 **alt\_padma** at **2009-01-31 02:04:35**

*(no subject)*

YES, I went, and YES, I KNOW, and I don't appreciate you teasing me, Finnigan!



 **alt\_seamus** at **2009-01-31 02:56:09**

*(no subject)*

I wasnt teasing. I was just asking.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-31 03:05:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, youd hardly be the only one. Troy said I looked like a 7th-year experimental charm and now Perks is taking the mickey, too.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2009-01-31 02:55:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I still can't believe you paid enough attention to Binns to even notice what he'd said.

**2009-01-30 19:11:00**

*Another week gone.*

After various comments last week, I've done a few new things - worth noting here as a reminder, if nothing else.



 **alt\_sinistra**


Chilly during your class time? I've a collection of woolen gloves, hats, scarves, and socks in a box by my office door, if students have need of them for any reason. Someone never has their gloves or their hat or whatever. I hate to waste time with them going back to their room and all the way up the tower once more. (And I do agree with last week's comments: it's far too chilly to be up there without suitable clothing.)

However, I must say, I can't recommend many of the color combinations, so contributions in colors other than lime green, bright orange, fuchsia, or an odd salmon/peach mix are most welcome. (Or, perhaps, students working on perfecting color in Transfiguration might like some practice objects?) Though, perhaps, the colors explain why the item has been 'lost' and was available for my loaner box.

We also spent a fair bit of time in the first and second year classes going over appropriate behavior while observing. No jostling, pushing, or otherwise interfering with use of the telescopes and other equipment, of course, even in fun. And we talked about the best ways to adjust settings when it's cold or the wind is blowing fiercely.

I'm awaiting a new set of short essays to be turned in next week, so could spend my afternoon today reading through some past correspondence - some lovely bits about the recent conjunctions and some other thoughts about some other ongoing areas of study. It's nice to feel properly caught up.



 **alt\_poppy** at **2009-01-31 17:48:40**  
*(no subject)*

I stumbled across a box of warm things at the back of a shelf yesterday. I'll send them your ways. I'm afraid they are at least thirty years old. You may want to pull the hats out if you think they'll inspire too much

*giggling.*

Could you send me a spare afternoon if you've an extra of those?




 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-02-01 16:49:23](#)  
(no subject)

Warm things always appreciated. And honestly, thirty years old or not, they can't be worse than the current box.

As to afternoons - Monday's best for me, as I'm free from 3 or so until the evening observations. Otherwise, I've a few hours between dinner and 11pm or so, any night that's convenient for you.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-02-01 16:50:48](#)  
(no subject)

And of course, as soon as one writes, one reads...

Spare afternoons are scarce up here, as well. Just a conjunction of not having too many papers to grade, and no urgent demands that let me get caught up a bit more than usual.

(And is it me, or has this month gone particularly quickly?)



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2009-02-01 22:29:00](#)  
(no subject)

Not to worry. I was wound a bit tight this past week and got rather beside myself. I do apologise. Of course, none of us has as much time as we'd like. I was simply jealous of your lovely afternoon.

In any case, Aurora, if you do have a bit of time one afternoon or evening and would like to pop down for a cup of tea and some of the lovely burdock biscuits the house elves make for me, I would love to have the company. Would tomorrow suit?

(I agree about this past month, and now it's February, which always flies.)



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2009-02-01 23:28:36](#)  
(no subject)

I do hope your week improves from last - it sounds, in the little bits I've heard, like you've had quite the time of it. I do hope you get a rest soon.

I'd love tea and biscuits - lovely offer, and tomorrow would suit just fine. I don't teach the last class of the day, so perhaps I'll come up then?

As far as February, at least there's a logical reason it flies - fewer days, and all - which is what I can never figure out about January.

**2009-01-30 20:03:00**

*Accident*

Yes, I *KNOW* it looks like a map of Poland!  
Madam Pomfrey says it will fade in a few days.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Jones, when you come to revise tomorrow, you'd better bring Hopkins! Professor Slughorn is ~~being~~ completely unfair making me keep Hopkins for a partner even after what happened.

I can't even stay in the dorm until it goes away because I have to redo the potion tomorrow morning in order to keep my mark from being ruined.

OOOOOH, HOPKINS I could HEX YOU!!!!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2009-01-31 02:53:19**  
(no subject)

What's really unfair is I saw Hopkins and it didn't get on his face at all, or else Madam Pomfrey was able to get it to go away right away, and you're stuck looking like you had a run in with a nest of hornets.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2009-01-31 03:07:50**  
(no subject)

He has it all down his arms, actually.

Do I really look that awful? I'm not coming down for breakfast then, I'll ask the house-elves for food here.

But I still have to do the potion over again. I can't believe Professor Slughorn!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2009-01-31 03:12:34](#)  
(no subject)

Really it's not that you look awful, it's that it looks like it must hurt terribly. I stepped on a hornet's nest once and it was horrible.

That's so unfair you have to do that potion over! It wasn't your mistake! Do you have to do it with Hopkins or can you at least make him go do it by himself over on the other side of the potions room so if he makes a mess of things again he only gets it on himself?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2009-01-31 03:18:38](#)  
(no subject)

No, no, I **asked** to do it over - Professor Slughorn was just going to mark us off, can you imagine? And no, thank Lakshmi, I don't have to have Hopkins. But he said I have to help Hopkins along and I don't think that's fair AT ALL.

One thing is certain: I'm NOT having my marks ruined because of some half-blood half-wit.

I *asked* if I could switch partners for someone less doltish, and he said no. It's SO unfair!



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2009-01-31 03:56:49](#)  
(no subject)

If you'd be happier with a pureblood half wit you could have Goyle.

Actually hes not really a half wit. Maybe an ~~eight~~ <sup>eight</sup> sixteenth wit.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-01-31 04:16:47](#)**  
(no subject)

No, thank you, Finnigan. In case you hadn't noticed, the point was not to lose ALL hope of improving my potions marks over last term.

I'll bet if I'd been a Slytherin he'd of let me switch



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2009-01-31 23:56:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay.

He's very sorry. I know that doesn't help. But he is. So I thought you should know. Even though you probably knew already.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2009-02-01 04:57:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I hope he's sorry enough to keep revising until he's as good at potions as Nott. I'm not going from second to somewhere in the middle like a right punter.

I did that potion without him this morning and it was just fine, so if Professor Slughorn marks us off on any other work, he'd just better watch himself.

At least by taking breakfast in the Ravenclaw common room while everyone else was downstairs, I was able to get to the Potions classroom without running into Xi or Troy anyone. It was harder getting back, though.

It looked like you and Daphne were having a good time tonight. Was that Charms you were working on or what?





 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2009-02-01 17:07:09](#)  
(no subject)

He's very sorry. But he can't be as good as Nott.  
Even Zacharias isn't.

He'll try. I'm *sure* he'll try. At least, sort of sure. It's really hard to tell what Wayne is thinking. But he ought to. I'd try really hard if I was your partner. I try really hard anyway. And at least I don't mess things up so much. Even if my potions aren't perfect.

Oh! We were doing embroidery!

**2009-01-30 20:33:00**

*Order Only: Sirius*

Sirius,

Here is a copy of my list for Lucius Malfoy. He should have received it by mid-day. I apologise it's taken me so long to get back to annotating the list for your eyes. This was a bit of an eventful day on the ward.



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

As you know (and as I reminded Malfoy) we're perfectly well equipped to replenish any number of medicinals ourselves with native British ingredients or with the exotics Sprout is able to cultivate in the greenhouses and gardens here at the school. Pepper-Up, tummy tonics, burn salves, common headache powders are amongst those, and Horace Slughorn brews other necessary things for us (calming draughts, sleeping potions, boil cures and the like). And, thankfully, we can still obtain certain products (from Skele-Gro to sticking plasters) from domestic suppliers.

However, there are a number of simply crucial items that have grown scarce or wholly unavailable within the Protectorate. In order of necessity, these are:

- 1. Chocolate:** (by which I mean medicinal grade true chocolate) The transfigured stuff available in Britain is fine for eating but utterly worthless for hospital use -- and you know that we have daily need of it!
- 2. Dragon's Blood:** I know that you can do nothing to help us with this, Sirius, but it's on my list for Malfoy because, of course, our Romanian source has been cut off and now they've shut down our supply from the domestic preserves. I impressed upon Malfoy that Cinnabaris -- living dragon's blood -- is required in all of the draughts and ointments needed to treat truly catastrophic wounds. No hospital can afford to go long without.
- 3. Blood-replenishing potions:** There are plenty of good labels, so it shouldn't be hard to get hold of this. Sadly, though, most of the ingredients are unavailable here.
- 4. Magistry of Bezoar:** (or some other reliably universal

poison antidote)

**5. Bohemian Fluxweed:** Picked and preserved will do, but the best solution would be a shipment of tender pot plants. Sprout assures me that it was a once-in-a-century blight that killed off Hogwarts' last crop of fluxweed a dozen years ago. There's no reason we couldn't cultivate it again. (As I told Malfoy, fluxweed is necessary in countless medicinals -- purgatives, blood-cleansers, all manner of palliatives. I did *\*not\** remind Malfoy that fluxweed is needed for Polyjuice, and with luck he'll not think of it himself.)

**6. \*EITHER\* Alpine Digit Defroster \*OR\* Himalayan HotWot:** We're having a terrible winter for frost bite and chilblains.

**7. Egyptian or Greek or Chinese Tincture of Time:** Any brand will do, so long as it's an elixation of white willow bark. If you cannot find a suitable ready-made label, then send me the white willow bark itself (Chinese, preferably). The tincture is easily made, but it would be much bulkier to ship the bark than a gross of bottles.

**8. Hercules' All-Heal Paste:** This Greek label is by far the best.

**9. Pomegranates:** Preferably Algerian or Afghan, but not Indian and absolutely not from the Americas.

**10. Turkish salamanders:** Dry packed and Stasis-charmed. The common ones in the lake here are fine for many uses, but for limb reattachment and appendage regeneration -- when those are possible at all -- the Turkish ones are head and shoulders above the rest.

**11. Eupatoria Pliny's Dry Dreams syrup:** You'd think by second term, the bed wetting would have stopped, wouldn't you? If you can't find Pliny's, send me dried agrimony from the Black Forest, and I'll make it to my own recipe.

**12. Tooth-ache Tonic**

I expect that some of these requests will be denied or deferred, but I

have not included anything here that is not truly needed. I do hope that you are able to help us to some or all of these, Sirius (saving the Cinnabaris, of course, and for that I'm hoping Malfoy will slice through the Gordian snarl of Ministry red tape).

Thank you in advance and from my heart, Sirius.

Do be well.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2009-01-31 03:48:51**

*(no subject)*

Bohemian.. and Greek...?

Great Gunhilda, Poppy. That's some list! I'm not really a full operation, you know!

But I'll do what I can. Chocolate certainly, bezoars I can get anywhere, same with pomegranates - Algerian shouldn't be too hard - but some of the others ... well, I'll just have to tell Neil that it might be another three years, hm?

Circe, I feel like I'm back in Advanced Herbology.

Well - I have some contacts in the Baltic and Constantinople wasn't too long ago; I'm sure I can work something out. By the time Malfoy finishes shaking down his cronies for the coin, we'll have something credible for you, never fear.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2009-01-31 16:50:27**

*(no subject)*

There, there.


I think you'll find that many of these are widely available (everywhere but here). I've mentioned the best and most commonly stocked labels, all of which should have well-established wholesale operations you could contact from anywhere (again, except from *here*).

And, yes, I've asked for the very best (so you'd know not to snatch up the cheaply available rot without realising), but I'm sure that certain substitutions would be acceptable. Do see if you can't find these things, though. It used to be as simple as a firechat with this

distributor or that, and I'd have all that we need.

But enough whingeing -- on both our parts.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2009-01-31 18:13:09](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Poppy. I admit I was a bit bleary-eyed when I flipped through my journal earlier this morning. Now I've had a cup of tea and a little more time to organise the list some more, it shouldn't be impossible. Though the import fees for some of those items, depending on where one gets them, can be murder. Then there's the drayage, of course. Ah, well.

I think I may see what I can gather up on my way back into France - the French ministry leaves a lot to be desired, but at least they have rather lax standards for customs heading into the country.


Hm. Will Basque-grown fluxweed do, or perhaps Genovian? I know it's not quite the same climate....

I remember Malfoy saying summat about the Romanian dragon heartstrings and livers. Do you mean that they've closed off all imports from the Romanian preserve? I'd have thought, with Voldemort's contacts in eastern Europe, they'd keep those channels open. Odd.

Well, there's the preserve in the Gobi, perhaps. As I said, never fear. I'll have to do some fancy stepping to get it all together quickly, but I can at least promise we have them in stock and then make up some waffle about back-ordering - not as if he'll know the difference!

But first. I sent Neil off claiming that in my advanced age I need more time to recover, but he made me promise to meet him for drinks. I'll dash off an owl to Fatima, at least, before I go, so she can work on the North African items.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-31 19:36:08](#)**  
(no subject)


Actually, with the fluxweed we could probably do with whatever you can get. Bohemian is the most robust for medicinal purposes, but there's not an insurmountable difference and its power can be augmented by the addition of things we have to hand here. Now that we're on the subject, it occurs to me that you might best think in terms of which fluxweed varieties are most suitable for certain other uses.

You did see my point about the advantage of having the plants themselves? For at least one of those Other Uses, it needs to be freshly picked by the light of a full moon. Best to have it close to hand. (This may be a long-range goal, as pot plants can hardly be left to sit in a dark warehouse for weeks on end.) So, yes, Genovian or Basque would suit just fine if we're to go the picked and preserved route.

The issue with the dragon's blood (as opposed to hide, heartstring, liver and the rest) is that it must be no more than six hours from drawing to delivery, and the Lord Protector is not admitting couriers from the extra-Protectorate preserves. We had a reasonable domestic system in place until recently, but for reasons that are best left at a guess, that's been stopped. St Mungo's is petitioning the Ministry about this, you may be sure, so we'll see what comes of it.

The short of it is that you needn't trouble yourself about the dragon's blood, that's Malfoy's to worry about.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2009-01-31 13:54:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh my. You always were an optimist, Poppy.

I trust Moddey Dhoo's needs as well as Hogwarts' are reflected in your totals?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-01-31 17:08:14](#)**  
(no subject)


He invited me to submit my list, and there you have it. We'll see what comes of it.

You know that I'm happy to share our resources as far as they will stretch -- with the Sanctuary, certainly, but if we're able to cultivate fluxweed again, that should be of wider usefulness, if you take my meaning.

I'm worried, however, that our bureaucratic overseers are growing more attentive. I fear there may be an audit request coming my way soon, though it could simply be that someone's been promoted and thinks it's keenly important to demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness. Still...

You don't suppose anyone's whispered a hint against us in someone's ear at the Ministry? That would be most awkward. Would you be likely to hear anything about it if that were the case?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2009-02-01 14:11:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Forgive the delay in getting back to you on this, because I wanted to check with Bill. Neither of us have heard anything, but of course we'll keep an ear out.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2009-02-01 22:35:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I may be worrying needlessly, then.

I've learned, however, that it is not unwise to anticipate the worst.

Thank you, Arthur -- and thank Bill.

**2009-01-31 00:42:00**

*Should be sleeping*

Can't seem to find sleep to-night, nor concentrate on anything. Tried reading to no success. Even tried getting a jump on the first-of-month accounts. No good.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)


Ari, if you're up for tea to-morrow (to-day, I should say), I could use it.

My meeting with Rosalind went ... not at all well.

I discerned her intention in time to stop her embarrassing herself, in one sense, at least. Tried to set her straight on a few things. Imagine my shock when, quite inexplicably, she grew utterly nonsensical. Her body may be recovered from her recent ordeal, but I fear she is rather losing her mind.


Pansy, don't worry about this, if you see this entry (and I know eventually you shall do). I'm sure when your mother has had a little time to reflect, she'll come round to reason.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-01-31 22:46:51](#)  
(no subject)

What happened? Why are you angry?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-01-31 23:28:37](#)  
(no subject)

Your mother


It's not

I am not angry, Pansy. Merely a little perturbed by your mother; I'm sure you are familiar with the feeling.

I'm sure it will all work out with a little time.






 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-02-01 01:01:08](#)  
(no subject)

But what happened? What did she do? You said she wasn't making sense. Is she sick again?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-02-01 04:48:00](#)  
(no subject)

No, she is perfectly well, in body. In fact, she made a point of her improved health. No, unfortunately, it seems your mother has ... laboured under a false impression on a number of matters, an impression I'm sorry to say I had to correct. Believe me, I tried to do so gently, but I'm afraid she made it quite impossible to remain sanguine.


She has suffered, shall we say, a disappointment. But she shall recover in due time.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-02-01 06:08:43](#)  
(no subject)

Am I in trouble again?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2009-02-01 06:28:50](#)  
(no subject)

Mercifully - and remarkably - no.

It's just a disagreement, I suppose you might call it, between your mother and me. Let us close the subject.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2009-02-01 08:42:49](#)  
(no subject)

||||| I told you: I'm good now. I just wanted to be sure. Sometimes  
when mum is angry at someone she's angry at me too and  
~~she'll h~~ so I just wondered.