2009-05-01 08:16:00
Annoyances

Well Ned stopped trying to get Dennis to do things for him, so I guess Professor Slughorn must've told him to stop trying to get at my property. Which is good, except on Tuesday Sarah Yaxley gave me a shove on the stairs and said I was a nasty little telltale. If you don't know who Sarah Yaxley is, she's a seventh year Slytherin with a big, misshapen pumpkin head that looks like it took a hit with a bludger one too many times. She's always fancied Ned so of course she'd try to get into his good books by terrorising me. Though really, she needn't have bothered with all the shoving - one look at her face is terror enough, ugh.

Anyway, I talked to Melinda about Ned and she said that he's just jealous that I have a servant, and that he even said that first-years shouldn't be allowed to keep mudbloods because it makes the first-year owner look more important than the older students. He said it's the same reason why first-years aren't allowed broomsticks. I wonder if he'd spout that opinion in front of the Lord Protector, seeing as Harry's a first-year with both a broom and a mudblood. Not that anyone would really be jealous of Granger as a servant, since she's really terrible at it.

Someone's cat was sick in my second-best shoes last night, and I'd be really hacked off about it but Dennis had them cleaned up in no time. Still, I can't ever wear those shoes again. I bet it was Pansy's kneazle.

©alt_pansy at 2009-05-01 21:24:01
(no subject)

Pyewacket wouldn't do that, Draco. Sounds more like Fergus to me.

©alt_pansy at 2009-05-01 21:27:15
(no subject)

And anyway if Dennis cleaned them, why couldn't you wear them again?
Fergus was never sick on my shoes before, and your kneazle is the new cat in the castle.

And I can't wear them again because I'd just think about how they'd been vommed on.

That is one of the problems with pets, especially cats.

But nevermind, sweetheart, I expect between growing and all the walking you do about the grounds and castle, you'll need new shoes over the summer, at any rate.

And nevermind about Ned, either. It won't be too much longer before he's left school and you'll be a second-year.
**2009-05-01 08:36:00**  
*Reminder*

Reckon it bears repeating:

My storage is one hundred percent off limits to all students at all times. I don't care what noises you think you hear coming from it, stay clear of the building if you want to keep your house points. And your hands.

And to the NEWT students who've been asking: no, it's not a manticore.

---

**alt_mcgonagall** at **2009-05-01 15:37:15**  
*(no subject)*

I shall repeat your message at supper, Macnair; I imagine that the students need as many warnings as they can get.

**alt_macnair** at **2009-05-01 20:56:48**  
*(no subject)*

Ta, Headmistress.

**alt_lupin** at **2009-05-01 17:36:14**  
*(no subject)*

You've done it now. You'll be fending Sally-Anne Perks off with a stick.

**alt_macnair** at **2009-05-01 20:57:19**  
*(no subject)*

Is that the little Slytherin who's always asking about the forest?
alt_padma at 2009-05-01 21:32:40
(no subject)

That's right, Professor.

It's not the unicorn, is it? The one my sister helped catch?

I thought Marvolo said it was released, though. Oh and it wouldn't bite off someone's hand or anything, would it?

Will we get to see a manticore in our NEWT lessons, sir?

alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 21:38:13
(no subject)

Not a unicorn at all, and it's nothing so dangerous as a dragon, either. But it is a wild creature, and those should always be approached with care.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-01 21:21:37
(no subject)

I trust that all of our students will take your warning very seriously. I would remind them that while I am able to patch up many of their scrapes and prevent most scars, I cannot regrow lost limbs. Truly catastrophic injuries will likely result in death.

It's best we all be clear on this score, don't you think?

alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 21:36:23
(no subject)

Didn't you see what I wrote about it not being a manticore?
Indeed, yes. I am able to read.

Surely you are not maintaining that the only thing dangerous enough to rip limbs from bodies is a manticore? I wasn't born yesterday, Professor Macnair.

I'm certain you share my hope that our pupils will properly consider the risks of foolish behaviour and refrain from it.

If don't trust me to adequately caution the students, or think that I've brought in something that eat limbs, you're welcome to visit my storage and determine how dangerous the creature is for yourself.

There's no need to get shirty with me, Walden Macnair. I take it that you make a proper effort to do your job, and your job is to introduce our upper-form students to the full variety of magical creatures in our world, so it stands to reason that some of the creatures you've brought in for this year's examinations will be fierce, feral, dangerous creatures.

And given that this is so, it would be well if our pupils understood that larking about without your supervision could well result in injuries that are untreatable given current restrictions on what I can stock.

I thought you understood this after the dragon episode, but it's crucial that there be no confusion now: while I have restocked many items, there are certain treatments we once took for granted that I can no longer administer for lack of the necessary medicinals.
So no major blood lettings, if you please!

alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 22:54:25
(no subject)

Woman, my entire journal entry was a warning to students against larking about. If you think it not enough, or not sincere, then I shall post a new one at once... one which follows school protocol.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-01 23:03:21
(no subject)

Indeed, that is the point. I join you in cautioning Hogwarts' students against any foolish impulses they might have entertained with regard to your creatures. I wish merely to underscore a practical reason why they ought to heed your warning: medical magic is not as omnipotent as it once was, so it is at their peril that they ignore your edict.

I'm sure I have no idea why you persist in believing that I've picked a quarrel with you, man.

alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 23:20:44
(no subject)

We've got a werewolf living on the grounds. A good man, yes, but still a werewolf. We've ghosts and poltergeists and much, much more. My class is no more a peril than anything else in this castle. Speeches and edicts are well and good, but in the end not much more than a daft little show.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-01 23:36:32
(no subject)

We do have all those things, and it is easy for our students to grow overly at ease with them.
As you yourself said, Walden: 'it bears repeating'.

That is all.
Victory Day

The celebrations of Our Lord Protector's tenth year of leadership are going as planned. The Head Boy in particular has prepared a speech that does him credit. I am proud to preside over a gathering of such promising and patriotic youths!

Professor Sinistra suggested that the members of the Young Protectors League ought to receive badges of honour today. I Transfigured them myself: red roses to symbolise the good Wizarding blood that has been shed to bring us to our current happy state. The children have been remarkably careful about them, and even the Slytherins did not argue about wearing an object in a Gryffindor colour. It is well that they should learn to put aside such petty differences for the greater glory of our Wizarding nation!

Interminable feasting and speechifying today. I thought about transcribing my own remarks, but I haven't the least wish to copy them out once more. Suffice to say that the Lord Protector is being properly fêted and fawned over. The one blessing is that he's chosen some other celebration to grace with his presence, it seems: the Hit Wizards would be crawling all over Hogwarts by now were he making a "surprise, unplanned" visit.

it's a damned shame that you've got to jump through hoops, but I'm sure you'll do a fine job.

what are your thoughts on this young protector thing? seems like Neville wants to do it, but I wanted to hear from you before giving Augusta the word.
@alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-01 20:01:07
Re: ORDER ONLY

The Young Protectors - well, I can't imagine it shall do him any more damage than living in this world does, that's for certain. It seems to be along the lines of campfire sings and so forth, but the real purpose is to identify promising youths for the Lord Protector's service. So: more indoctrination, but I don't fear for Neville; he seems to have an excellent head on his shoulders, and Augusta has raised him well, you needn't fear.

@alt_frank at 2009-05-01 21:34:06
Re: ORDER ONLY

good to hear, Minerva.

thanks.

@alt_poppy at 2009-05-01 19:38:57
Order Only

Oh for pity's sake! Badges.

@alt_poppy at 2009-05-01 19:45:14
(no subject)

Headmistress, would you be so kind as to ask that the elves include me in the number at table? Barring anything unforeseen here in the hospital wing, I hope to join you for the celebration.

One wouldn't wish to miss the Loyal Toast.

@alt_molly at 2009-05-01 19:54:07
Order Only

No, of course. One wouldn't.
Certainly, Poppy.

Thank you again for your assistance with that - you know I enjoy transfiguration, but I must admit I'm rather out of practice on the fine touches that flowers really require.

I also appreciate your support of this scheme - especially as I'm still finding my way in terms of how best to meet the programme's goals and desires.
Crikey!

What's with the Head Girl? She threatened to Crucio me if I didn't get out of her way!! I was just walking down the corridor is all!

I can't believe we've all got to scrub up and comb our hair for dinner. Dyou know the elves cleaned my robes and polished my shoes while I was in the showers just now! I guess that'll be good for the rest of the term, at least.

I wonder what's for pudding tonight. Maybe it'll be something fantastic like when we had the feast after the Hunt.

---

Crucio, really? That's a brilliant effect you've got on people, Weasley.

---

Well, she didn't shove me down the stairs or sick up in my shoes. Talk about having an effect on people, Smallboy! Creatures, too.

---

The effect of jealousy, you mean? Better than inspiring an urge to inflict pain.

---

That doesn't even begin to make sense. You think Bulstrode's cat was jealous of you? Or that Yaxley didn't mean to bruise you up (and maybe break your neck while she was at it)?
Had too much of that port at the end of dinner, did you?

@alt_draco at 2009-05-02 03:29:22
(no subject)

Well, they were very nice shoes, weren't they. And Yaxley wishes she had a mudblood, because if she did then Ned might pay attention to her.
**NOTICE**

PROFESSOR MACNAIR'S STORAGE AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA IS OUT OF BOUNDS TO EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT WISH TO DIE A VERY PAINFUL DEATH.

---

@alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 23:02:01
(no subject)

Another... nothing. Another notice, I mean. You wrote one earlier today, and now you have another one.

@alt_macnair at 2009-05-01 23:02:51
(no subject)

Yes.
Well. At least we're in agreement about that.

Honestly. Do you suppose the man has difficulty reading? He certainly has difficulty recognising agreement or corroboration when it's staring him in the face.

I SWEAR I was not planning to try to sneak in, I don't know why Mr Lupin said I was!
2009-05-01 21:58:00

*Banner Day*

The New London celebrations were, in a word, flawless.

Not a whisper of disturbance, I'm quite glad to report (and told Dolores it would not be a problem, with so many Ministry officers there). Miss Robins' preparations paid off in abundance, and apart from a minor bobble over the convocation (old Peakes really is far too doddering for public speaking anymore!), the festivities hit just the right note. The populace enjoyed the performances, I think, and listened with interest to the remarks. Most importantly, Our Lord was particularly pleased. I don't doubt that the young soloist in the chorale shall not soon forget being gifted with one of His rare smiles! Narcissa commented that if the child does not go to sing with Athena's coaches it will be a loss for her - and the nation. I trust the wireless coverage was adequate; there were certainly enough reporters and photographers to fill the newspapers with articles for at least a week. Even Lovegood turned up - and Skeeter, more's the pity.

It was also rather lucky that the weather was partly cloudy; it should have been a little too exposed on the dais for unbroken sunshine. As it was the breaks were just far enough apart to offer a little warmth without being too bright. The mudbloods Purity Control arranged for attendants worked out well, I must say. It was useful to hand off cloaks and be able to take them up again when desired. Very glad Narcissa brought her fur, as she grew a little shivery partway during the presentations.

Two major revelations to-day, as well: Miss Robins introduced us to her parents, and Crispin to his young lady-friend, Elaine Kirke. (Mrs Robins quite embarrassed me with a small tin of crystallised ginger as a token of appreciation 'for the encouragement' I've given her daughter this year.) As for Miss Kirke, she was a little tongue-tied at first, but Narcissa told me later that she was much more relaxed at the ball this evening. Crispin him-self seemed a touch nervous, presumably anxious for my approval of his choice of escort. On the contrary, there is nothing at all objectionable about Miss Kirke that I could tell. The Kirkes are not well off, as far as I know, but they have relatively few questionable relations and it would be altogether a suitable match, should it come to that.
Home now, though very tired. (Incidentally, Draco, saw your posts regarding Ned and since I saw Charles at the ball, I mentioned it. He has news for you which I shall include in your Owl to-morrow.)

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2009-05-02 04:33:35  
(no subject)

Yes, meeting Miss Robins was quite a revelation. Careful, my love.

---

**alt_lucius** at 2009-05-02 04:43:18  
(no subject)

Dearest, it is only natural for someone in Miss Robins’ position to look to a mentor. Emrys knows she has hardly found much of one in Dolores.

After all, she is barely twenty. Still just a girl, really.

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2009-05-02 04:44:22  
(no subject)

Exactly my point, husband.

---

**alt_draco** at 2009-05-02 15:25:14  
(no subject)

I wish I could have seen the celebrations in New London, they sound brilliant. And the Owl hasn't come yet, but breakfast is still going, so.
2009-05-04 08:39:00
Rn? Sms?

Cn n f y lnd m qll? Mn jst dnt sm 2 b wrkng.

'rn gnn FL th Trnsfgrtn qz f cnt fgr t hw 2 wrt th wrds dwn.

alt_neville

(no subject)

Surely not again, Neville?

alt_neville

2009-05-04 13:48:54
(no subject)

'rn frd s.

alt_percy

2009-05-04 14:03:02
(no subject)

Honestly, Longbottom. This is this third time this week.

alt_neville

2009-05-04 14:03:35
(no subject)

'rn rl rrr! Dn't g rnd lkng 4 t.

alt_percy

2009-05-04 14:08:16
(no subject)

Well, someone has decided to make you a target. And you are apparently making it easy for them.
D y knw wht ths hx s? R hw 2 cn gt rd f t?

I don't know the spell myself, but we prefects have seen it around. Some call it the 'disemvowelling' hex. The only way I've ever heard of to get rid of it is to write a lot. After a certain number of words, the vowels will start appearing again.

I suggest you explain the situation to your professors today and simply resign yourself to start writing lines. Hopefully you'll have your vowels back by the end of the day.

Hw mny wrds wll t tk?

A great deal. I suggest you get started.

Bt m Trnsfgrtn qz!
alt_percy at 2009-05-04 14:17:38
(no subject)

You'd better ask Professor Carrow if you can make it up another time.

alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:21:46
(no subject)

D'n't thnk h'll lt m d tht.

alt_ron at 2009-05-04 14:28:39
(no subject)

Yeah, bad luck.

If it was anyone but Professor Carrow, you could probably just tell the teacher your answers and take the quiz that way. But even if he'd do it, whod want to go alone to Carrow's office to be tested?!

alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:48:30
(no subject)

D'n't thnk f tht. Myb h'll llw tht. 'll sk.

'd rthr g 2 hs ffc thn gt n crdt t ll.

alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:56:48
(no subject)

H ddn't g 4 t.
Aw. Bad luck, Nev.

I'm probably going to fail it, too, even without having my vowels hexed off the page. I didn't really spend much time looking it over, but I'll maybe check a few things after lunch. If there's time. You know, it's not like it's OWLs or anything.

Speaking of OWLs: did you hear those Ravenclaws screeching at each other at breakfast? I think they were fighting about library books or something. That's just mad!

Oh.

Huh.

Lot of help you are.

Well, at a certainly point, even prefects cannot help those who continually allow themselves to be hexed again and again.

Really, Ronald.

Allow themselves? Wot?

You think Neville lets people hex him? What planet are you from?
alt_percy at 2009-05-04 14:49:38
(no subject)

The same one as you, I assure you, Ronald. One in which some people do a better job of avoiding nuisance hexes.

alt_ron at 2009-05-04 15:25:52
(no subject)

So all those times the twins hexed your lips shut or put a bulls eye on your back, you were just letting them do that?

Nice, Percy.

Good job sticking up for your Housemates.

alt_ron at 2009-05-04 14:19:11
asldkjfgfjj

Wot?

alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:21:06
Re: asldkjfgfjj

Vr fnn.

alt_ron at 2009-05-04 14:23:12
Re: asldkjfgfjj

I don't get it. You're talking just fine.
alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:27:49
Re: asldkjfglj
'ts nl wth m wrtng.

alt_ron at 2009-05-04 14:32:04
Re: asldkjfglj

That's just mad. I can't understand a word you wrote there except wrtng. Could you maybe use words with less vowels?

Actually, I think vowels are over-rated. We ought to have some words without them. And we could get rid of a lot of them anyway. Lik all thos Es at the end of words--most of thos could go.

alt_neville at 2009-05-04 14:39:37
Re: asldkjfglj

'm frd vwls r vr mprtnt. n wy 2 vd thm.

Prfssr Crrw wn't lt m mk p th qz, s 'm nt gng 2 gt n crdt t ll. M mrk n Trnsfgrtn ws lrd bd ngh!

alt_draco at 2009-05-05 02:42:52
(no subject)

H h h h h h

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-05 15:59:37
(no subject)

Do you have your vowels back today Lngbttm?

You just failed the test in Transfiguration right? He didn't decide you were having a go at him with the vowel thing and give you detention?
I was up real late writing lines, but Percy Weasley was right, and yeah, I got them back.

Professor Carrow didn't give me detention, no. He seemed to think it was real funny. He was grinning when he told me I'd get no credit at all for the quiz.

And I'd studied so hard for it, too.
**2009-05-04 09:47:00**

*Oooh Padma...*

I just wanted to say that you are positively brilliant! I am absolutely 100% not bored at all now; I knew I ought to have talked to you before I went moping about.

---

**alt_lavender**

---

**alt_padma at 2009-05-04 14:11:12**

*(no subject)*

I know, it really helps, doesn't it?

And Minister Umbridge said on Friday that it was good for the nation, too.

It's much more fun than History.

---

**alt_lavender at 2009-05-04 14:41:56**

*(no subject)*

It is nice to have something to pass the time. I didn't realize the Minister wanted us to do it though.

It's rather funny to think that we've done something good without even planning to.

---

**alt_padma at 2009-05-04 14:52:51**

*(no subject)*

Well, she didn't *say* it exactly, but were you listening Friday when she talked about making sure that witches and wizards remain pure in their values and their hearts? And there was something about keeping everyone in their proper sphere.

So in a way, it's right.
Why's she brilliant?

You know why, if you think about it.

I do?

Oh, right. I do.
John is out of bed, and fully healed. He has decided to stay with us for the time being, which is a rather large relief all round. I just wanted to let everyone know.

Thank you for the letter, Sirius. I really do believe that it's helped tremendously, and I'd imagine it wasn't easy for you to write.

As per your wonderful suggestions, Poppy, Arabella and I worked out something where John is now her assistant, and will have much more of a hand in the day-to-day running of Moddey Dhoo. Frank has also decided that now that he's got a wand, John should get additional training in Defence. Frank and I both think that this will help instil some discipline and control, and will channel at least some of that energy he's got burning up inside. We've offered to brush up Stephen and Laura as well, as it's been years since either of them left school and neither of them had to do anything in the way of fighting in their lines of work. They both agree that it would be prudent. We hope that by the end, all three of them can be in good shape to help us protect our little corner of the world if the need should ever arise.

In other news, the garden is coming along marvellously, and Colin and Alec have both mastered *Wingardium Leviosa* to great effect. They've been shooting chicken feathers into the air all morning. It looks like it's been snowing.

Cheers.

It was a little 'cauldron-meet-kettle' to tell him to curb his hot temper, but we can't have him going round with misdirected hate. Hate the Death Eaters, that's fine with me. But I told him if he's looking to impress Frank, it's not going to happen with a chip on his shoulder about everything. And if he wants a taste of a really unpleasant task, he ought to look to our Arthur or Minerva, facing the enemy every day and unable to spit in their eyes.
But I also told him not to worry, we're a forgiving lot. Speaking of which...any thoughts about what I asked you, Allie?

Well, darling, I figured the cauldron would be much better at getting through than the rest of us ever could.

And yes, I think that it's high time we cleared the air. I don't like that we'd have to do something that extreme, but I understand how we might have to go that route, because it would be very hard for the Order to take his word at face value. I think he'd see the logic in that too, as painful as it is.

Do you think it would work on him, though?

What, VS? I don't think there's a lot in the literature to suggest they're immune. Resistant, possibly, but...I dunno. S'not like we've got Albus here to test him like he did me back then.

I'd like to think that if I could look him in the eye, I'd know if he's lying. But that's exactly the reasoning that got us in this potion in the first place.

(Incidentally, looks as though your Neville's having a rough time of it. If that's aught to do with me, sorry, luv.)

That's true. I just worry that if we want to be absolutely sure, and there's reason to doubt the results, it might throw everything into jeopardy all over again.

And I wouldn't worry about our Neville. It looks like he's
inherited a bit of my stubborness, which tends to make life a little harder sometimes. Still, I couldn't be prouder.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-05 17:33:24
(no subject)

Ah, Alice. I've been meaning to write to let you know something of your son, but I've been busy and have let it slip down my list. Unfortunately, I've seen rather a lot of your Neville lately--he really is a lovely boy from what I can see--but I don't think you need worry overly about it. He doesn't appear to be. Worrying about it overly, that is. So far it's been a rash here, club foot there; the first thing he brought to me (more than a week ago) was a bubble breath hex, which had him hiccoughing and gagging. I got the impression there might have been one or two other things he had seen through by himself, but that one wasn't wearing off.

He's not alone. I'm seeing rather a lot of hexings of late. It could just be end of term stress and irritation, of course: we always see an uptick in frustration hexings and duels this time of year. But I'm beginning to think it's more than that. Certainly, I'm seeing more cases than usual--and lots of repeat customers in my waiting area.

I'm sorry, though, that he seems to be a target for this sort of thing. I've spoken with Minerva, and I believe she is looking into whether there is anything more than immaturity and spring fever brewing in the school.

alt_sirius at 2009-05-05 19:48:45
(no subject)

Well, I have to admit I'm not up on the latest research. I'm not even sure if there is a whole lot of research, truth to tell. Hm. Perhaps I can nose around quietly to see what the current thinking is on weaknesses and such.
Wonderful news about John, Colin and Alec. I can't help but think that seeing Alec beginning to master magic will also help reconcile John to staying with the community. I do think it's a wise idea to pair him with Arabella. She's been slowing down a bit in the past year or two, hasn't she? I seem to remember hearing she was occasionally complaining about having a touch of arthritis? Well, having a young and energetic assistant should certainly help her as well.

Oh, most definitely. There's so many countless things she does around here, and all without the benefit of a wand. We all depend on her quite a bit, and it's good to know she's got someone by her side now.

I'd say Frank's certainly wise to set up some tutoring in Defence. We could probably spare Dorcas for a week or two occasionally, if Frank thinks he could use some help evaluating the new recruits' Defence skills or tailoring a course of study.

That would be brilliant, really! We'd love to have her here, and it would most certainly prove worthwhile.
Gathering the threads

My, I've been swamped the past days! Fortunately, the details are mostly settled, and we're in the final stages of selecting the older students for the YPL trip this summer.

A few notes of interest:
- The vast majority of this year's first years have signed up. I'm delighted. (If you have not yet done so, and are interested, please do so by Friday evening so I can make final arrangements.)

- We're arranging a suitable number of Wizarding tents (able to sleep 4-5 people each), but are still in need of one or two more. If your family has one they can spare, please let me know.

- The trip will, in fact, be the first week in August. We'll be going to Cornwall, which has a great deal of magical history, and some fascinating ecology.

- We'll be arranging transportation to a central point through the help of various Ministry employees, and using a port-key from there.

- I've had a few inquiries about pets. If you are able to keep track of your pet and can take full responsibility for their food, waste, and well-being, you are welcome to bring them. If you're not sure you can do this, please leave them at home for the week.

- There will be a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss other details like what to bring, our planned events, and so forth. Keep an eye out on this journal for details. (And speaking of journals, you should plan to bring them: I will be posting a brief daily update throughout the week to keep your families updated as well.)

Now, I must go and continue grading the last round of star charts. The top one, here, seems to have confused the Pleides rather badly somehow.
Our son will be able to bring his own pavilion. It sleeps six comfortably.

May I stay with him, Mrs Malfoy or ought I be asking Professor Sinistra?

I had a feeling you and Draco would want to stay together! Especially as you will not have seen much of each other for the first part of the holidays.

It's certainly all right with me; Draco may invite boys whom he chooses to stay in his own tent. However, the programme may have some ideas about mixing you up a bit. We must defer to your Professor if that is so.

We'll be talking more about this in our upcoming meeting, but we will be mixing things up during the daytime trips. For the evenings, however, I think it's far best if people can have a say in who shares their sleeping space.

We do expect to have full tents - no sense in bringing more than we have to. Each tent will also include an older student. (So, for example, in your generous offer, your tent would hold five first year boys and one older student to supervise.) But within that, I'm glad to start by having students work out groupings that they would enjoy.
I'm glad to hear it. I'm certain my sister would not have put you in charge had you not displayed such sensible attitudes, but knowing the goals of the programme I feared it might have been determined to force the issue somewhat by randomising the sleeping assignments.

August? The holidays are practically over by then. It's so far away!

Professor, are we supposed to bring our trunks? My dad said he thought we'd be hiking, but Mum says we'll only be going out for short trips and coming back to a regular, um, base camp.

Oh, and yeah, do we get to pick whose in our tents, Miss?

Oh, and also, what about broomsticks? Some of the others were asking. We don't have to fly, do we?

We'll probably be in two different base camp locations over the week (so one for a few days, another for a few days), but there will also be short hikes. We'll be talking about what to bring in our meeting.

As I said above, I'm happy to let you choose who to share a tent with in some limits (all tents need to be full, and there'll be an older student in with you.)

As far as brooms - it will depend to some extent on the older students selected, and how good a flyer they are. We obviously want someone available to help out if there any problems. You won't have to fly, but there are a couple of side trips we're considering that
would only be possible for people with brooms. Our thought would be to split the group at those times.
Preparations

It's not easy to prepare a household to go abroad for nearly a month.

One cannot take the elves, of course, but Margaret has servants to see to us. Still there is so much to do to make sure that all is in readiness. I am using the trip as rather an excuse to do some spring cleaning, as well. There are items we are setting aside for Bella when the new baby is ready for them; the rest will go to the Witches' Aid Society for the benefit of the needy. I've just promised our smaller tent for Draco to take on the Young Protectors' League trip, as well, which (thankfully!) will not be until after we return, but it's been a few years since we used it and it wants airing.

I've got some columns lined up already for *Witch Weekly* but one must find time to write them. And as I'm sure I've said, I'll be supplementing them from Paris with all the latest Do's and Don't's - so ladies, look forward to new influences! I assure you I shall not let any trend worth adopting pass us by!

Yesterday Lucius asked his attaché if he should like to accompany us; it will be much easier than relying on either journal communication or the services of an unknown French clerk. Surprisingly, Crispin asked for a few days to mull the opportunity (imagine anyone considering whether or not to go to Paris!), so that is an open question for the moment.

(I think it has put Lucius in a bit of a Mood, however. He found his eggs too hard this morning when mine were perfectly acceptable. I hope Crispin realises the singular nature of what Lucius is offering, though I suspect his reluctance has *much* more to do with leaving Miss Kirke.)

Draco, darling, please tell Mother your exam timetable as soon as you have it. I think we may come to visit on your birthday if you will be all done with your assignments by then. It will be a miserable wrench to have to wait a week to celebrate properly, especially with the furor over our final packing and preparations. I'd much rather your father
and I come up to Hogsmeade than risk his schedule becoming crammed in the last few days before we leave.

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**alt_draco** at **2009-05-07 14:41:28**
(no subject)

I think the exams start on the first of June, Mother. I'm glad that going to France won't mean missing the camping trip. I really won't see much of Malfoy Manor at all, will I?

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**alt_narcissa** at **2009-05-07 18:03:59**
(no subject)

Yes, dear, but when you know whether you have anything scheduled for Friday itself, do tell me. I'm sure your Father will be able to occupy his time with Governors' affairs should we come up earlier than necessary, but if you have an exam that morning or afternoon, we may wait until later in the day.

We're not leaving straight away after you come home and there will be at least a week between our return from the continent and your trip. And of course, following the trip you'll have the rest of August, sweetheart, all at home.

---

**alt_lucius** at **2009-05-07 18:50:14**
(no subject)

I am most certainly not in a 'Mood' - not over Crispin's hesitation, at any rate. It is understandable he should wish to assure that his absence shall not disrupt his family or other obligations.

My concerns are over entirely different matters, as you know.

Do you wish me to take up the matter of bringing Draco home early with Minerva next week? It would simplify our travel to have him home instead of at Hogwarts awaiting his exam results.
Prefects' meeting report

The Prefects held their usual Wednesday night meeting tonight, and a concern was raised that the Prefects feel must be brought to the attention of the school at large.

Specifically, a significant number of students have been suffering from repeated hexes from unknown assailants in the last week and a half. Most have been first years, primarily half bloods, although there have been one or two purebloods. Students in all four Houses have been affected.

Yes, we understand that Things Will Happen. Yes, we understand that sometimes students are practising their spells, and that sometimes tempers will flare. This situation, however appears different: those who are doing the hexing are acting in a completely underhanded way, apparently too cowardly to face the consequences of their own actions.

This behaviour must stop. Several students have suffered setbacks in their studies, because they have missed quizzes or exams necessary for their school credit, due to impairment from hexes. All the Houses are seeing resultant losses to their House point totals.

All students must follow the Hogwarts Code of Conduct. This includes refraining from spell-casting in the halls, and certainly from vindictive hexing.

If any student has any information concerning these issues, please speak to one of your House Prefects. The identity of any students who come forward to make such reports will be kept confidential.

Good.

It's about time you lot did something besides blaming the people who are getting hexed.
Governors' Meeting

Minerva,

I apologise for not responding to your request earlier. As you may imagine, the last two weeks have been extremely full.

However, Crispin has reviewed my agenda and I shall be able to visit Hogwarts Monday next, if you can make yourself available. I realise that may put you at a scramble to arrange whatever it is you need to arrange in advance of the Governors' meeting, but that is simply the soonest I can manage.

And am I given to understand that this rash of hexing has been disrupting lessons? Perhaps your Prefecture ought to concentrate its efforts on assisting the unfortunate victims with their defence rather than complaining that their charges are unable to shield themselves adequately. You do have a Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher, do you not? What, if anything, has he managed to teach his pupils in the last eight months? Why are not the other professors able to detect and eliminate the unauthorised use of magic in their classrooms?

If this is merely a case of spring fever, then clearly, the student body have not enough other activity to occupy it. Invariably that is the source of mischief amongst the young.

With all due respect, sir, of course our students learn to shield themselves from an open attack, but the attacks have all been surreptitious, which is quite a different matter for a student to handle, particularly the less experienced first years.

Of course, a certain amount of hazing can be expected (particularly, again, among the first years). But the problem does seem to be escalating.

As for the Professors' monitoring, we Prefects would certainly hope to spare them the aggravation of having to do so (if only the miscreants would instead follow the student Code of Conduct!). The
hexes have been occurring, however, not only in the classrooms, but in the corridors, Great Hall and common rooms as well.

alt_lucius at 2009-05-07 19:26:31
(no subject)

If that is the case, then I suggest you and your fellows put a swift end to the matter not through exhortations to follow the Code of Conduct but by application of those powers to which you are privileged.

These spells cannot be difficult to trace; find a likely suspect and make an example of him. Fifty points from the offending House ought to suffice, I shouldn't wonder. I am certain any professor who wishes to restore order would be happy to authorise the deduction.

alt_percy at 2009-05-07 19:28:43
(no subject)

I'm sure they would, sir. Thank you.

alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-08 19:26:38
(no subject)

I am amenable to Monday next, Lucius. I shall write you in.

As for the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher, I haven't the faintest idea what he is doing with the students, but it surely isn't Defence Against the Dark Arts. I have attempted to broach the subject with Our Lord multiple times, but he holds that it is wise to maintain such an illustrious personage on staff - never mind that his actual behavior is less than illustrious. Naturally, I desire only to serve the Lord Protector, and therefore he remains.

I have considered the possibility of private tutorials on duelling magic, but I suspect that those students who are falling prey to hexes cannot be improved by mere tutelage. Certainly, I believe it is time for me to make clear the dire consequences that await any student caught participating in this mischief.
It’s raining here in Derbyshire—hard—and we’re all heartily sick of wet firewood and soggy ground. (My friends, may none of you ever have to spend days stuck in a tent with Benjy, grousing endlessly about the downpour!) We can’t be as sick of the wet as Davidson and his little band, though. At least we have wands for drying charms and the like. Frank and Alice, I’m sure you’ll have plenty of takers for the wands Sirius brought you. If you ever find one in that cache that doesn’t suit anyone there, however, and you can spare it, I think Davidson might be getting more receptive to the idea of having at least one wand for the group at Sherwood. It sounds as if the past month has been rather a struggle for them all. Not surprising, I’m sure.

We saw them last week at this time. To our surprise, they’ve been joined by two others, a husband and wife they quietly liberated from the muggleborn section of the Derby camp. I wondered at how they pulled it off without raising an alarm, but apparently they nipped the two away during a large inter-camp transfer. At any rate, there has been no hue and cry at all, so they seem to have managed the trick undetected. I believe they’ve set up some mysterious chain of communication with some parties inside the camp, because there is clearly some coordination going on, although Davidson is reticent about the details.

The two new members are Rafferty (called Rafe) and Kate Dickerson, both in their early thirties. Kate is blind in one eye, from an old infection that was ignored at the camp until it was too late. Otherwise they’re healthy enough—Emmeline checked them over. Rafe was a theoretical charms researcher before the war, quite a good one, too, I take it. For the past ten years, though, he has been busting rocks in a quarry. He’s fearfully strong. Kate was trained as an herbologist, specialising in magical plant breeding, but has been working as a farm labourer.

Davidson let us add some protective and waterproofing charms to their camp, and we left more supplies, including cord hammocks to let them sleep off the ground, out of the wet. That was Caradoc’s idea. They were also mighty pleased to get the potions that Stephen sent along for them. I think they will do well enough for this summer. I
wonder, though, how many they can realistically support if the group grows any larger, particularly when winter comes on. Kate and Rafe might be better candidates for joining Moddey Dhoo eventually, though I haven’t broached the subject with them yet.

Otherwise the Players are managing well enough although, as I said, we’re all entirely ready for some sunshine. There has been a bit of tussling going on within the group about the plays we’ve been doing. We already use satire of course, but Emmeline keeps pushing us to broaden it, even to working in references to Sirius’ Grim Truth reports. Caradoc is having none of it, and Dorcas is so sick of the two of them bickering over it that she’s not talking to either of them. We might need a break from our performance schedule, I’m thinking, perhaps just three days away for some rest and relaxation. Knocking back pints in a pub, maybe, or a spot of some broom races or defensive drills. Anything to blow the cobwebs and muck out of the brain. Maybe that will get the five of us cheerful again.

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rain is never fun, mate. reminds me of that time I had to camp out in scotland for a month and it rained solid the entire time. didn't think my socks would ever get dry.

our total wand haul is an even dozen with five already spoken for. Al and Arabella and me talked, we figured we could part with two without feeling too bad of a pinch. if you get the wands to them and neither work, just get them back here and we'll send along two more, see if those work any better.

and glad to hear they took the potions without fussing. Stephen made sure to seal them so they wouldn't get shirty about using them, looks like it worked.

and it sounds like the sooner you lot come up and visit, the better.
Could you put us up week after next, perhaps? We could get the wands from you then.

consider it done, mate. it'll be good to see you.
2009-05-08 13:48:00
(no subject)

Nice one Lav and Perks! I don't think I've seen a mess that big in potions class ever. But I'm pretty sure that was a bigger explosion than the one Hopkins set off. You know the one that gave Padma the map of Poland for a while.

Ron and Neville did Madam Pomfrey get you sorted?

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-08 18:54:09
(no subject)

Don't blame ME for that mess. I wasn't the one who let it boil and then threw in the porcupine quills while it was boiling.

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 19:16:09
(no subject)

Marvolo's right when he calls her Lavy-loo. There's not a lot of brains in there, is there?

Uh. Have you ever seen a suit of black armour with gold decoration on? Do you know which wing that's in? I'm a little bit turned around, I think.

alt_seamus at 2009-05-08 19:21:24
(no subject)

Well you definitely wouldn't call Lavvy a swot. The armours near the staircase to the astronomy classrooms howd you wind up there?

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 19:29:06
(no subject)

Can't remember.
Yeah! That was pretty amazing, wasn't it?

I was lucky. Crabbe walked by just as it happened, so I hardly got splashed at all. Bulstrode, though, tipped over our cauldron when she was diving out of the way and it got all over her robes.

I just got a little on my hand when I was trying to help Neville. Did you see him? He was just covered in it!

Um. Dyou know the little twisty staircase down from the fifth floor? I thought it came out near the library, but I don't know which way to turn.

And it's really dark down here.

It doesn't come out by the library mate unless it traded places with another staircase again. It comes out near the potions classroom, that's the last place I'd think you'd want to be!

Oh.

I made it up to that place where the corridor divides three ways by the girls' loo, but I can't think which way I should go. One of them goes to Carrow's classroom, doesn't it?
Yes! Don't go that way!

Which?

Well if you're by that three way corridor don't go down the branch that's on your right. That would go to Carrows classroom and I really don't think that would be an improvement over being lost.

Yeah, Longbottom was really doused. Hope the bloke's all right.

Er. Wot?

He's my potions partner, so I saw it up close. Looked pretty bad.
alt_ron at 2009-05-08 20:12:34
(no subject)

Yeah.

Uh.

You takin' the piss here?

Or what?

alt_draco at 2009-05-08 20:20:22
(no subject)

No, why do you ask?

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 20:29:30
(no subject)

I can't remember, innit?!

wait

wot?

Hang on. Here's Marvolo. Maybe he knows.

alt_harry at 2009-05-08 19:17:50
(no subject)

I dont know whether Ron and Neville got fixed but I

I believe I got a bit too.
**alt_seamus** at 2009-05-08 19:21:06  
(no subject)

Didnt you get sent to the hospital wing with the rest?

**alt_harry** at 2009-05-08 19:22:35  
(no subject)

No I didn't believe I got any on me!!

**alt_harry** at 2009-05-08 19:22:55  
(no subject)

I cant remember what I've forgot. What have I forgot?!

**alt_seamus** at 2009-05-08 19:23:23  
(no subject)

Oi Marvolo I think youd better go see Madam Pomfrey like the rest. Dyou need help getting there?

**alt_harry** at 2009-05-08 19:28:40  
(no subject)

No I know where hospital is, only I need know what I forgot. Don't want waste Madam Pomfrey's -

hour? day? minute? minutes. Don't want waste Madam Pomfrey’s minutes.
Hey, mate.

I could come get you and take you to the hospital wing.

If I can find my way down to the dungeons. Is that where you are now?

No Im in library. Didnt want hang around Potions classroom.

Which way's the library again?

I was near there a bit ago.

Sextus, it is always wise, when one is lost, to stay where one is, in order to not get further lost.

How can I stay here if I don't know where here is?

Does that make sense?
alt_harry at 2009-05-08 19:49:33
(no subject)

No it doesn't mate. Wait I'll come find you.

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 19:51:41
(no subject)

Wow.

That's a lot of bedpans! But I don't see Madam Pomfrey anywhere about ... just a lot of bed pans!

alt_seamus at 2009-05-08 19:57:42
(no subject)

Well whatever you do don't go to the place where Macnair's storing his monsters. Unless you want to die a painful death or whatever it was he said.

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 20:00:50
(no subject)

Where was that again?

alt_macnair at 2009-05-08 20:10:42
(no subject)

Outside. Where there's trees.
Oh. Right.

Sorry, Sir. I don't think I'm anywhere near there, so you don't need to worry.

Only, I don't exactly know where I am, either.

So I'm just going to sit here now like Professor McGonagall said.

Mr Marvolo, since you clearly have been affected by the incident in Professor Slughorn's class this morning, please report to Madam Pomfrey immediately, whether you can remember what you have forgotten or no. Since the potion does not seem to have affected your knowledge of where you are, please collect Mr Weasley on your way and see to it that he is delivered to Madam Pomfrey for the antidote as well.
2009-05-08 13:57:00

Uh

Erm. Has there always been a statue of a paunchy goat-man thinger in the Charms corridor?

I can't seem to find the Charms classroom.

alt_ron

alt_harry at 2009-05-08 19:20:19
(no subject)

I don't know if, er, if goat man has always been placed in place??

Are you looking in right hall? Did you go Madam Pomfrey?

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 19:34:48
(no subject)

You are sounding a bit, erm, not yourself, you know. You sure you're okay?

alt_harry at 2009-05-08 19:37:42
(no subject)

Yeah Im fine. Just can't remember ... what? What can't I remember?!

alt_ron at 2009-05-08 19:38:31
(no subject)

Dunno. What'd you forget?
I don't know!! If I could remember I wouldn't have forgotten!!

Well, yeah. That makes sense.

More sense than this staircase I'm on. It keeps putting me off right where I started.

Now you're in the Charms corridor? Why are you trying to get to Charms anyway we don't have that again until Monday!

Huh. What's today?

Friday. Brilliant, eh?

Oi!
What, you don't like Fridays?

I like them fine. What's that to you?

Nothing, really. It'd just be weird if you didn't like them. You'd be the first I've met, anyway.

Erm. You all right there, Malfoy?

Of course! It is Friday, after all.

Well that's good then, innit? Guess I don't have to get to
Charms after all. Since I'm not sure where they've moved it anyhow.

**alt_draco** at **2009-05-08 20:28:55**
*(no subject)*

We had potions today so it has to be Friday. I don't think they've moved Charms, someone would have said something.

**alt_ron** at **2009-05-08 20:37:56**
*(no subject)*

Huh.

That's what Marvolo says, too.

Oh.

And he says to ask you if you got splashed at all.

Now he's laughing. I dunno.

**alt_draco** at **2009-05-08 20:39:21**
*(no subject)*

Splashed with what?

**alt_ron** at **2009-05-08 20:42:58**
*(no subject)*

Oh, the potion Lav blew up.

We're going to see Madam Pomfrey, I think. If Marvolo can find the hospital wing.

He says you should maybe come too.
alt_draco at 2009-05-08 20:53:45  
(no subject)

Oh, that. I don't think so, but Longbottom sure did.

alt_seamus at 2009-05-08 20:44:20  
(no subject)

Lav's potion.
2009-05-08 15:18:00

Tsk.

It never bubbles but it boils around here!

I do hope, Professor Slughorn, that your afternoon class are managing their cauldrons better than your morning group did. What a mess! And scarcely one of them could say what had got on her. Gracious, what a lot of to do it's taken to set them more or less to rights.

I was able to send most of them on their way to afternoon lessons, though there are one or two here who simply need to lie still for a bit while the befuddlement passes.

I don't generally criticise the curriculum, but I do wonder why we teach pupils to brew Forgetfulness potions just as they are coming up on end of year examinations.

2009-05-08 20:51:39

Order Only

The worst of it is that I lent Miss Granger to Pomona for the afternoon to help her prune some of the more unruly things in the greenhouses. It's good for her, of course, but I could surely have used--

Gracious! Weasley again! And Marvolo.

I must run.

2009-05-09 14:57:50

(no subject)

Madame Pomfrey, I must apologize for my unladylike behavior last night.
Not to worry, my dear. It's quite understandable that you were anxious, given the severity of what happened to you.

I do hope that you are feeling much more yourself today.

I must say, it's not often we get such a spectacular explosion. But it's practical learning, Poppy. They'll remember this potion for years.

Well, perhaps not this particular potion, given its nature.

But as a general principle, I do favour a more active teaching style - my apologies that you once again find yourself mopping up the aftermath. Do let me know if I can provide any assistance in the Hospital Wing.

No use crying over spilled potions, as they say. (Do they say that?)

I confess that I would dislike it if things were too dull around here, but for their own sakes, I wish our pupils would take better care of themselves and need me less often.

But never mind. I believe that most of your first years have recovered their normal abilities to remember the day, the alphabet, the castle, the timetable, and whatnot. Those who were most affected, however, may have a bit more difficulty. It's unpredictable, this forgetfulness potion of yours.

I suppose that's the difference between your field and mine: we
Healers have a definite bias for substances whose effects are precise and predictable.
What is this? It looks like I can put words into and other people can too. Maybe I can send some one a message?

Anyone? Anyone? Is anyone looking at the words I'm making on this thing? HELP!

What is this place? I'm in a place with rows and rows of the things that people lie down on at night, and there's a person, an old person, who says I mustn't leave! Is this the place where they put bad people?

My name is Lavender Brown and I'm ten years old and I live with Mummy and Daddy and my two brothers whose names are....well, there's the tall dark-haired one and he's called...and then the other one...and we live in a house that's well, it's somewhere in England. Yes, I'm almost sure it's in England.

Could someone please get me out of here? And make the old person stop trying to give me things!

I want my Mummy!!!!!
Oh, Padma--I'm so glad that you and Parvati are here too, and I can remember your *names* now!

That lady, Madame Pomfrey, says we're at Hogwarts, but I don't remember it properly yet.

You're only TEN?

Madame Pomfrey says I'm eleven, but I don't remember it.

You're Draco Malfoy, aren't you? I haven't seen you in an age!

You must've gotten it bad if you've forgotten a whole year. The only thing I forgot was that Wrongbottom and Weasley are a pair of tossers, but now I remember it.

Oh, and we see each other now and again. Quite a lot, really, considering we're in different houses.
Nice.
2009-05-09 08:45:00
Saturday morning

Madam Pomfrey says my short term memory's come back, so I've left the hospital wing.

That was weird.

I hope you don't feel bad about what happened or anything, Sally-Anne. It sure wasn't your fault, and it didn't hurt at all, anyway. And the effects were, uh, sort of interesting.

(Seamus and Ron, how come you weren't at breakfast?)

alt_neville

alt_ron at 2009-05-09 13:55:00
(no subject)

Huh?

We were right across from you, mate.

You sure you're all right, then?

alt_neville at 2009-05-09 14:13:25
(no subject)

You were? Nah, you're having a bit of a go with me, right? I didn't see you at all, I saw . . . I saw . . .

Well, there were people there, I know there were . . .

alt_percy at 2009-05-09 14:45:00
(no subject)

Hmm. Keep an eye on him this weekend, Ronald. Memory problems from the Forgetfulness potion can have some subtle effects, even if his short-term memory is back, in general.

And you're all right now, aren't you? You did have to go back to the Hospital Wing for more treatment, correct?
@alt_ron at 2009-05-09 18:05:21
(no subject)

I'm fine today. At least, I haven't got lost at all yet. I made it to lunch all right. And back.

Neville's still a bit off, isn't he? Keeps calling Seamus Lavender, and just now he called me George. I dunno. I wonder if he got hexed again. You know, on top of the potion accident. It'd be hard for Madam Pomfrey to tell that, wouldn't it?

@alt_seamus at 2009-05-09 14:00:15
(no subject)

Yeah mate I reckon you should go back to Madam Pomfrey.

@alt_neville at 2009-05-09 14:16:28
(no subject)

Don't see why. She said my short term memory's back.

(Anyway, I think she must be a little sick of seeing me so much. I was up there three times this week for hexes, before the accident yesterday.)

@alt_padma at 2009-05-09 14:29:44
(no subject)

Maybe you ought to hire a bodyguard.

@alt_neville at 2009-05-09 14:41:18
(no subject)

Maybe some people need to do a little less hexing.
Yes, maybe you should tell them to stop. If you can remember who they are.

But I bet its older kids and they might just hex you instead.

Tibs and Dio told me that older students at Hogwarts hex younger ones all the time, but I thought they were just joking!

Nobody's been hexing me, have they Padma?

No, you had an accident.

So you do remember your brothers now?

I remembered them before, I mean I remembered that I had brothers, and I could see their faces in my mind, but I couldn't remember what to Call them!

It was like that with so many words--Horrid!

I've been watching real carefully during the first year Transfiguration classes, but I can't tell who's been putting
the hexes on him. Anyway, I haven't been able to catch anyone doing it.

I'll bet anything that Padma knows, though. She's so smug about it.

It's not any of you, is it? I mean, I know you pull pranks, but you wouldn't do that to him, surely? Do you have any ideas who it could be?

Wayne Hopkins and Katrina Bundy have been getting hexed a lot, too. And Eloise Midgen, Susan Bones and John Summers, too. So I wondered whether whoever was doing it was picking on them because they're half bloods. But Neville's a pureblood.

@alt_gredforge at 2009-05-10 23:25:57
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Nah it hasn't been us.

Probably some snot-nosed firsty whose gotten to big for their britches.

@alt_lavender at 2009-05-09 15:00:37
(no subject)

Someone else lost their memory too! Ooh I'm ever so Glad it wasn't only me. I'm still waiting for mine to come back.

@alt_neville at 2009-05-09 20:51:10
(no subject)

Well, you got even more potion on you than I did. So I suppose it'll take you a bit longer to get back to normal.

@alt_poppy at 2009-05-09 18:07:34
(no subject)

Mr Longbottom.

If you are continuing to have difficulties, perhaps you should come back and let me see if there's something more to be done for you.
I hate to be a bother, ma'am.

It's no difficulty at all, Mr Longbottom. In fact, treating people who are feeling less than fully fit is why I am here.

I keep saying things that make people look at me funny, so, um, I'll come up to see you again before dinner.
**2009-05-09 11:23:00**

*Arithmancy*

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

Thanks for all those old essays and problem parchments, Lee. Arithmancy is FANTASTIC!  

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**alt_terry**

@ 2009-05-10 23:44:43

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Better you than me mate, I don't like Arithmancy much, too much math.

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**alt_terry**

@ 2009-05-12 13:43:20

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That's exactly why I like it so much! But I bet there's other stuff I'd be pants at. Like Divination. Can't see myself ever really liking that.

---

**alt_lee**

@ 2009-05-13 01:59:47

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I can't really see anyone liking divination.

---

**alt_hermione**

@ 2009-05-14 03:33:02

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

It seems rather fuzzy, doesn't it? But perhaps there's something to it, I mean they teach it, don't they?
I have my words back!!!!

Well I have my S words back. And my T words. Madam Pomfrey made me talk at her a while until she figured it out. It's hard to say anything without S words and T words. I don't know how I did it. Only I did. So.

Weasley made a cake of himself trying to find things!! I found him in the end. He was up the Astronomy tower. I dont know what he thought was up there. He kept trying to get away from me when I came to take him. At least he stopped wandering once he got there and saw Madam Pomfrey.

Seems like Longbottom's still forgot loads. Not new for Longbottom I suppose. I think Draco is back to normal. He was awfully odd. Only he wouldn't go to Madam Pomfrey, so maybe it didn't wear off yet. Me, she just gave some tea thing. She said she didn't know if it would be efficient if it would work because it wasn't made for forgetfulness potions. It was for hexes that make you talk funny. But it worked and I didn't have to spend the night in the Hospital Wing with Brown flipping her wig. I hope shes alright.

Yeah, yeah, I forget a lot, but yesterday I was forgetting A LOT more than usual. Trust me.

It's better now. Except . . . I dunno, I think there's still something that seems a bit off somehow. Can't quite put my finger on it.

How was Malfoy acting odd, exactly?

It must've wore off. I woke up this morning and remembered that Wrongbottom shook all over me like a great wet dog after he got drenched. I thought I
ducked most of it but I guess not.
I Remember

Oh. My. That felt very...Odd. It felt a bit like having a whole lot of those fireworks they use at Quidditch games--the spinny ones--go off in my Head.

I think I'd like to lie down now. I'm going to find Madame Pomfrey and ask if I may lie down in the Hospital Wing and be excused from lessons for the day.

I'm not sure I'll ever come ou
Sorry I haven't been keeping you lot up to date. I reckon you've seen Nigel's posts, so you know I'm at least alive.

Truth is I haven't had much to report. Well, I do have a lead, anyway. There's a small ... colony, I guess you might call it, of British refugees, just outside Dijon. Luckily, there's also a fairly compact school here to prepare their children for wizarding academy, so Nigel Cullenden was able to visit somewhat unremarkably. Timing worked out that I could honestly say I was scouting for the Junior Quidditch Championships and Summer Training Programme (and you can read all about that over in the other journal!).

Anyway, I asked about the incident from L'Étoile and eventually learned that it wasn't someone from the wizarding community around here. I mean, that is, it was clearly a magical child, but he's not part of the community. The boy isn't enrolled in the school at all. But the authorities have been watching the family it happened to, ever since they had to go in and reverse the effects.

So I followed one of the chaps when he was watching the house, then chatted him up a bit and got some information. It's just a mother and son, from what I gather. Mum dotes on the boy something insane but doesn't really let him go out much. Paranoid type, I'm guessing. Private (Muggle) tutors, no real chums - not even other Muggle kids - and according to my source the mother was dead set against any suggestion her son might be magical himself. My bloke said she did her nut every time he even said the word.

I'm going to try to get closer to them and see what I can learn - find out if this is really one of our missing families. Chap I talked to thought their name was made up, again, due to the mother's paranoia I suspect. Course I can't blame her for wanting to hide, or for holding a grudge against magic, if they did escape England after Voldemort took over, but if she doesn't allow the boy to be trained at all, he could become a danger to everyone around him.

I might even have more luck with her than the French Ministry have had if I simply tell her who I am and what I'm doing, but of course that's much too risky, especially with their officers camped out.
Although my friend there seemed to think they would be stepping off their surveillance soon, after making sure the boy wasn't going to set himself off again.

Might see if Padfoot can gain admittance where others can't. Then at least I'll have some first-hand information - and we can figure out how to proceed from there.

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@alt_alice at 2009-05-13 16:11:49  
(no subject)

Dear Sirius,

Thank you for keeping us all posted. I must admit to being concerned about the boy -- and, more precisely, his mother. Please let us know how things progress, and, above all, please be careful.
I'm back from my visit to the Manchester Muggle camp, to do the birthday report with Divyesh Shah's parents. Tracking them down within the camp took me three days, which was certainly a headache, but I ran them to earth eventually and handed over your report, Alice, as well as the letter from Divyesh. Mr and Mrs Shah certainly wanted to talk to me, but I knew from experience that they would not be able to concentrate on the interview at all until they had read their son's letter. So I charmed it with a translation spell for Mrs Shah's benefit (as she reads Hindi much more easily than English) and then handed it over for them to devour. You have no idea what joy the children's letters give the parents, particularly with the older ones, who are now able to write a little more at length about their lives. Once they had finished it and carefully folded it up again, they looked over Alice's report and peppered me with questions. They were exceedingly interested to hear of Moddey Dhoo's new residents, and they asked after all the news concerning the older ones. Mr Shah was extremely proud to hear of Divyesh's arithmetic prowess, and told me that he was not surprised, as many of the men in their family were mathematicians and engineers.

The magical sketch they have of the boy is a great comfort, too. Mrs Shah mentioned how much he has changed in the past year. As he grows, he is starting to resemble one of her older brothers more and more, she claims.

Divyesh has a new baby sister, named Chandra, and his older siblings are doing well, or as well as can be expected. They did have trouble with pneumonia in the Manchester camp this past winter, and his older sister caught it, and is still not quite as robust as she should be. Along with their letters and a photograph of the family which I'm sending to you, Alice, the Shahs gave me a small pewter figurine that the boy's mother wants him to have. Very peculiar looking thing, I must say: looks like a man's figure but with four arms, and with an elephant's head. Mrs Shaw called it 'Ganesha' and said that is revered as the Patron and Lord of letters and learning. Very fitting, then, isn't it? 'He's happy,' Mrs Shah said as we parted, looking down at the ring Frank and I gave her the day we took Divyesh away. 'Thank you. Tell the kind people caring for him, that we thank them and pray for them
every day.'

The rest of the week will be spent in the followup to the diphtheria investigation at Epping Forest. I hope to use the opportunity to find out more about Dean Thomas' background. Based on the information you sent me about Louis Thomas' class records, Minerva, Bill has compiled a list of the addresses of individuals who were in his House around the same time. Surely there might be someone among them who might have a scrap of information we can use to pull a thread that will get us in to look at those auror records. Will keep you posted about what Bill manages to find out.

---

 alt_alice at 2009-05-13 16:06:45
(no subject)

Arthur -- sorry it took so long for me to reply to this.

It was lovely to hear that the meeting with the Shahs went so well. It's good to hear that they are all in good health as well. Even though this month's birthdays crept up on me a little, it was still quite fun writing those letters with Arabella and Judith. Divyesh is such a pleasant child, and he's already so excited about getting his wand and joining his friends in their coursework, even though it's a year away now. I suspect Colin has been slipping him some of his notes, because every now and then, I'll see Divyesh practicing Charms by waving a small stick around and muttering the words. I told him about his new sister, and he is most anxious to receive her picture.

And please keep us posted on Dean Thomas, and give our regards and love to your Bill.
2009-05-12 19:40:00
(no subject)

Well I hope everyone is better, I mean everyone who got splashed with that potion. The thing I forgot is back anyway. Today in Defense I thought maybe it was still causing problems because Fawcett got all stupid right as Professor Lockhart asked her something, but then I remembered she wasn't even IN my Potions class. I think she got jinxed by someone but maybe she just wasn't paying attention. Mandy Brocklehurst had some problems too but she always seems kind of thick for a Ravenclaw so I'm not sure if it was a jinx or not.

I got an owl today from the Half-Blood Affairs Office saying that the Strettons don't want me back. Well that's not exactly what it said. It said that on consideration they felt that they did not have the time and resources to manage a foster child right now. So they're going to do another placement for me for summer but they don't know where yet. I wish I could go stay with Pansy but her mum's still not entirely well and I doubt it will work out.

alt_pansy at 2009-05-13 01:05:18
(no subject)

I'm sure you could come visit! But I already tried asking and she sort of didn't answer.

We could always just see how long it takes her to realise there are two of us.

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-13 01:12:32
(no subject)

That might work! But they're going to assign me a foster family so I'd also need to have a foster family who wouldn't notice I was gone.
Well, maybe this family will be nicer, anyway, and let you come stay most of the time.

And there'll be the camping trip, but that's not for ages.

I can't WAIT for the camping trip.

I think I'm all sorted out now. It took me awhile, I mean, even after I got the short term memory back. Well, it was Madam Pomfrey who realised it, and it took her until Sunday evening to figure out what the problem was. The thing is, I just couldn't recognize faces. I'd look at someone and have no clue who it was at all, unless they said something and I heard their voice. Then I knew who was speaking to me. What was weird is that I didn't exactly realize it. I'd see a face and think it was someone, but it would be a totally different person. So I was calling everybody by the wrong name.

On the Strettons--well, anyway, it sounds like you didn't have a very good time with them at Christmas. I hope whoever you're assigned to over the summer is a lot nicer to you.

I'm sorry Nev. Well that explains why you called me Parvati on Sunday.
Well I'm glad you don't have to go back there and be a nanny for the Strettons' kids, but that's just not Quidditch, the way they've messed you about. I hope you get a really good foster family this time.
Thus far the week has not been nearly satisfactory, beginning with the elf leaving the window open during the storm Sunday night. Claimed it was rushing about shutting them - why it did not begin in the right place astounds me.

Crispin confirmed that he will be glad to accompany us to Paris, but otherwise has been exceedingly distracted. Tardy this morning, as well - and had forgot to note the location of my earliest meeting. Luckily Dawlish had overheard Mulciber and Montague on their way to the fourth floor.

Unluckily the meeting proved a waste of time. It had been a last-minute addition yesterday, thrown together and supposedly 'urgent,' but in reality the sort of thing Mulciber ought to have been able to address without additional Conciliatory input. Purity Control is more than equipped to monitor and maintain the camps against additional circulation of contraband. Montague's brief was ill-prepared and uninteresting, into the bargain. Left what I hope shall be a lasting impression not to trouble me in future if the intent is to squander my attention - or any other resource.

Rather an unproductive meeting with the Headmistress yesterday. What is it about women that they demand an attentive and listening ear, but then do not wish to accept proffered advice or simple solutions to their predicaments? Complaint is all very well, but it does little to improve one's situation, and if one's situation cannot be remedied, then what is the point of complaining? I certainly take her meaning on several issues, yet sadly agree there is little one can do to force children always to obey without question their betters. I still hold that students shall take advantage of one another for so long as their fellows allow it, and nothing prefect or teacher may do shall change the outcome. If it disrupts the classroom, then it is the responsibility of the teacher to discipline, no doubt - but to curb the practice altogether is, I fear, an entirely fruitless proposal. Some of them will likely never learn their lesson, never convince their tormentors to find an easier target.

At least my jaunt to Hogwarts proved - for once - not to result in some
bizarre crisis requiring additional days of recovery. Furthermore I was able to see first-hand that Draco appears to have suffered no lasting ill effect from Friday's Potions incident. I spoke with Horace and received a better account of what precisely occurred; Draco had an imperfect recollection, though that is to be expected. However, I was able to ascertain that he continues to thrive much better than last term at this time. Assured him that he may stay out the full week following exams, if he prefers.

Following this, however, received word from Caldecott regarding the matter of Parkinson's absurd and ongoing campaign. He had a positive raft of parchment requiring review and signature in preparation for our month abroad, as well. Sorely tempted to indulge in a little hexing myself, after spending over two hours attempting to achieve a simple outcome! Had Caldecott himself been a little less apologetic, or a little more inept, I doubt I should have resisted the urge!

Tea with Ari this afternoon. The new baby (Natalie) gets on well, though Pandora it seems has been taken ill with a bout of depression. Her Healers have been unable to dissipate it adequately. Ari has chiefly concerned himself with fitting out Kenwood, which unfortunately leaves him on-hand for her outbursts of temperament. Suggested he might wish to provide consultation to the Derby and Nottingham camps, which have remained short-handed since Higgins or Hibbert - whatever the man's name - was removed from his post. The idea perked him up somewhat; believe he may pursue the activity if solely as an occupation that provides diversion from the usual duties of hearth and home.

Received the agenda package for to-morrow's Board meeting at Presto. Still acquiring the basic knowledge needed to make any impact on the proceedings, but one can but persevere.

@alt_draco at 2009-05-14 03:29:27
(no subject)

Well I do want to stay out the full week, if that's all right. Especially as it seems that I won't see much of Harry this summer.
alt_harry at 2009-05-14 03:36:54
(no subject)
Yes stay! I'll be bored from now til August otherwise.

alt_draco at 2009-05-14 03:38:19
(no subject)
Too bad you can't come to France too, even for a little while. I guess the Lord might have important things for you to do with him now.

alt_lucius at 2009-05-14 03:49:06
(no subject)
Unfortunately, it would complicate matters considerably to assure Harry's safety abroad.

But I'm sure you will pass the time quickly enough. I daresay you will be surprised at how soon it will feel when we return.

alt_harry at 2009-05-14 03:53:34
(no subject)
I know. I suppose he does but I don't see it. I don't mind if Father knows that I don't see it anyway. Just standing around with him at state functions and things where no one talks to me. I'd rather be in France.

alt_lucius at 2009-05-14 03:39:54
(no subject)
Yes, of course it is fine, if you wish it. Only be aware that we shall be turning round within days after your homecoming.
I'll remember that, Father.

Thank you for the kind words, Lucius, I am exceptionally pleased to see the depth of your affection for me.

In any case, I believe that it is a well-documented fact that witches and wizards behave differently when it comes to conversation - and this should hardly come as any surprise to a long-married man such as yourself.

That we approach communication differently is no surprise at all, Minerva. That we nonetheless continue to try is, sometimes, remarkable indeed.

I suppose so.
Did you see what happened to Althea Deverill? I thought she was going to flip her nut when she found out why everyone was staring at her at lunch. She nearly took off Towler's head when he told her what was on her face!!

I wouldn't have thought anybody'd hex her. And anyway, I heard it happened to her boyfriend, too, that Frobisher bloke from Ravenclaw.

---

Yes, I heard Frobisher's hiding in his dorms.

Maybe that's why Stretton wanted to send a note to Spinx.

Do you think maybe he's behind all the hexing and someone got him back?

Frobisher behind the hexing? No, I don't think so. And I should know. I never see the bloke, but I get hexed plenty when he's not around.

Well, not by himself, obviously. I mean, didn't the Weasley who's a prefect say that its happened in people's lessons?
Yeah. But he's not in any of the classes of any of the first and second years who are getting hexed at all. He's a sixth year. How come someone like him would want to pick on firsties, anyway?

Well I dunno, do I? I mean, how should I know, Wrongbuttocks? And haven't you ever heard of a... a kingpin?

Anyway, it would be a good thing to look guilty about. If someone was going about looking guilty.

Ah yes, the stupid pun on a person's name. How puerile. Really, I thought that Ravenclaws were cleverer than that.

Hey, you don't have to challenge her to think up more clever insults, honest.

I was the one who called him Wrongbottom first, so you're insulting a Slytherin, actually, and not a Ravenclaw.
Hmmm. Well, don't you think a little dignity seems more mature? Put it this way, Malfoy: is it really the sort of thing you could imagine your own father doing?

When he was my age? Yes.

Fortunately, he grew up.

Grew up to be something even worse, more's the pity.

(Still, Alice and Frank, it does do my heart good to see Percy at least trying to get Draco Malfoy and the rest to stop giving your Neville such a difficult time.)

I don't think you should bring up my Father to me anymore.
alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:58:08
(no subject)

hes just mad cause his father does something boring. not like your da.

alt_ron at 2009-05-13 20:58:23
(no subject)

So what does the note say?

You read it, right?

alt_padma at 2009-05-13 21:16:18
(no subject)

I thought Gryffindors were honourable.

Besides, I cant while hes looking right at me.

(no subject)

So go take it to Slytherin, already. And take a look while your on your way. If it's a big secret, Stretton should take it down there himself. Serves the lazy git right if you read it.

alt_padma at 2009-05-13 21:53:37
(no subject)

Thanks alot weasel-breath.

He put a hex on it.

alt_ron at 2009-05-13 21:56:09
(no subject)

Ooh! What'd it do to you?
It stings now. Ow.

It's like...ow. It hurts to write.

Maybe you should go see Madam Pomfrey, then.

Maybe Madam Pomfrey will wait a good long while before treating her.

Heh.

Why? Will she be busy fixing up your latest problem?

Don't you have anything better to do than be nasty? It's probably you who's doing all the
hexing. After all, you were the one who was so good at that 
AK game, weren't you?

alt_draco at 2009-05-14 19:16:26
(no subject)

That's right, I was.

alt_terry at 2009-05-14 02:48:28
(no subject)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Good.

alt_neville at 2009-05-13 20:17:14
(no subject)

I wouldn't have thought she'd have gotten hexed, 
either.

What d'ye suppose it means? I mean, a 'T'?

alt_ron at 2009-05-13 20:51:24
(no subject)

I don't know. I heard somebody say there's another 
Ravenclaw sixth year who's got the same big red T 
on his face. So there's at least three of them.

alt_ron at 2009-05-13 20:56:27
(no subject)

Maybe it means like 'threesome' or 'trio' or 
something. Like maybe they got caught together 
doing, um yknow.
 Caught together doing . . . wha?

Yeah, it's kinda gross.

Don't ask me. It was Lee's idea.

UGH Ron tell Lee to get his mind out of the gutter!

But maybe their in a love triangle and all jinxed each other because

well no that wouldn't make sense. Its probably something else.

Maybe they're joining some kind of club and you have to get that mark on your forehead to join.

I dunno. What do you think it means?

That can't be it, they looked really unhappy about it. Furious even. I thought at first maybe it was something like AK, but they didn't look paranoid enough to start with. And they didn't look like they thought it was funny at all, nearly everyone who got hexed in AK laughed after they got over being cross.
Yeah. You're right. Althea Deverill went totally spare when she found out what had happened to her face. I thought at first it was because everybody was looking at her and talking about her, but the more I think about it, she looked really scared, too. And then she rushed off and nobody's seen her since lunch.

I mean, I guess I might be scared, too, if I found out I had an enormous red blotch all over my face that I didn't know how it had got there.

Maybe but Neville just shrugs and goes to find someone to unhex him when that sort of thing happens.

Yeah, but Neville kind of knows it's just another hex, now. Since it happens to him all the time.

Maybe she thought she'd caught something and that her face was going to stay like that forever.

Trouble?
Maybe THIEF it goes with the red hands. Dyou remember when someone tried to nick Malfoy's tea and his hands swelled up? I reckon it was some jinx like that. Maybe they nicked something from a seventh year.

Ooh! Like caught red handed!

I bet your right!

Who's really good at hexes? Maybe they stole something from the Head Boy.

Maybe! They'll be sorry if they did. Pennifolds allowed to use crucio on them.

Frobisher, for one, is a Prefect. I certainly hope that isn't it, Ronald.

I think Siobhan thinks they've done something really bad. She's really cross this evening and has been muttering darkly about Ravenclaws. Calderwood's her cousin but I think he's the only one in the family who wound up in Ravenclaw.
So you don't know what they did then? Has Deverill turned up yet? It's after hours now and I heard she's still not back.

No, I don't know. I'll check around, ask the other Prefects if any of them know.

It does concern me that she's out after curfew.

It wasn't just the T mate. I heard from someone who saw Calderwood washing up that he had red hands when he woke up this morning. BRIGHT red. Tried to wash it off but it didn't come off and tried to spell it off and scorched himself and finally hurried out and did you notice he was in gloves all day? The lot of them were.

So that's why Deverill had gloves on at lunch? I thought she was just being girly. Hah.

I really wonder what they've gone and done. Or what's been done to them! It doesn't sound like they're joining some kind of secret society if he scorched himself trying to get the red off, does it?

Huh. That's too bad, really. I was just thinking it would be kind of fun to make up some sort of secret club and have a sign you have to wear when you join it. I mean it wouldn't be much fun when you had to go through it and have red hands for a day or whatever, but then you could make new people do it when they join and it'd be something you all did to become members. Like an inishi
That would be wizard. Red hands seems kind of naff though. Anyway if it were a secret club it ought to be an ordeal you'd go through like a biting hex for a day and you couldn't let anyone know about it. Not something everyone could see like red hands.

Yeah, if it's a secret club, that's right. But if it's the kind of club that only lets in some people and not others, then you kind of want other people to know you've got in it. And they haven't.
Oi Perks

I was sitting in the common room after lessons, minding my own business, when your friend Jeremy Stretton sat down right next to me! At first I thought he just wanted to say something about your not coming home with his family over the hols, but no, he asked me if I'd take a note to you or Pansy (or anyone in Slytherin, really) to give to Spinx, down in Slytherin.

I asked him why he didn't just wait until supper but he told me it was too important.

I don't suppose you'd meet me outside the Great Hall?

I'm not sure what its about but I saw him go talk to Chau and Whitaker right after he gave me the note, and he keeps staring at me as if he wishes I'd go already.

If Perks isn't about, Marvolo, or Malfoy, will you take it?

Weasley just wrote about Frobisher and yeah, I forgot to say, he went straight up to the dormatoreys after lunch, at least that's what Chang says (um, the girl Chang, not her brother) and he won't come out. I saw the big T on his face at lunch, but I can't tell if Stretton's note has anything to do with that.

Sorry, I didn't see this earlier. Did you ever find someone to carry it?
Well, the mice have caught themselves in my trap at last. I'd hoped that they would have left well enough alone, but in the last several weeks I've had several suspicious loiterers and it seemed clear that something was afoot.

I thought, for instance, that I had surprised my thieves when I returned from our Victory Day supper to find several sixth-year pupils in the ward, two of them rather closer to the cupboards than seemed likely--but when I arrived, they all complained of stomach ache, and that was that. Nothing had been taken.

And then, this weekend while I was treating so many youngsters with forgetfulness injuries, one of them told me he'd seen some suspicious characters open one of the cupboards at the back of the ward--but he couldn't be taken at his word, poor lad, as it was precisely names and faces he was apt to forget. And, again, nothing had been disturbed in the stores, so there was nought to do but bide my time.

The wait ended this morning when I returned inside from gazing at the heavens out on my little balcony perch to find that my cupboards had been broken into and a number of dried ingredients and not a few vials of various essences had gone missing.

The culprits will find it difficult to hide themselves: each container in the cupboards carries a hex that must be removed before opening (which, let me tell you, has been a nuisance to work around all this time). And carrying the things out of the hospital wing will have set that hex to work at once. By morning, anyone who carried or touched the stuff should have found themselves in unmistakable possession of a pair of vividly red hands--and seeing that they made it to lunchtime without having turned themselves in so the hex could be neutralised, they should suddenly have been blazoned with a scarlet T on their faces.

I gather that my hexes have worked, as it were, like a charm. I expect that I will be summoned sooner rather than later to discuss the matter with the Headmistress and our young ne'er-do-wells.
Nicely done, Poppy. I wonder why they were stealing?

On another note, thank you for helping out our Neville this past week or two. Naturally, I'd love to march up to Hogwarts and throttle whoever has decided it would be fun to target him, but I can't fight his battles for him. I hope it will all sort out, and whoever is doing this will get bored or be caught.

But thank you for patching him up so well. I can't be there to pick him up and dust him off, but I'm glad you're a friendly face he can go to in my stead.

You are most welcome, I'm sure. It's no trouble at all to treat your Neville. He's a good boy. I'm very sorry that he's having such difficulty at the moment, but I think he's handling it admirably.

As for my thieves. Judging by what's been taken, earlier in the year and again just now, Minerva and I expect that they are brewing potions aimed at enhancing pupils' abilities on their examinations. Of course, such things can be risky, so I'm hopeful we have closed the trap before they do any harm.

Oh, dear. Those sorts of things do tend to crop up around NEWTs. I remember, when I was a Prefect we uncovered a scheme where one of the Ravenclaws was selling quills made of "Jobberknoll feathers" at an absolutely ridiculous markup. They turned out to be pheasant feathers dyed blue.
Oh, how very clever of you, Poppy.

I rather think they should be made to pay the value of all that they've pilfered.

I saw from a comment of Percy's that one of them is a Prefect? That's quite shocking, I must admit.

If it's true, it's simply appalling.

But then, why should I think that this Prefect will uphold his office any more honourably than our Ministers uphold theirs? Corruption is the flavour of the day, is it not?

I am quite horrified to discover that Frobisher was in on the plot. It is equally unacceptable behavior from the other two, of course - but a prefect! I shall be speaking with Professor Sprout about the situation, you may be sure. She ought to have better judgment. Sprout, if you are reading this, shall you cease your objections to the journalling system and explain how Frobisher gulled you?

In any case, if you would, Poppy, please come and meet with me after breakfast tomorrow? I still have not devised my punishment for the miscreants - I am tempted to expel them, but before I can decide I must look into their families and see if any could cause me trouble. In any case, after breakfast I shall know, and if there are detentions to serve I imagine that they shall serve them under you, Poppy.
2009-05-13 23:47:00

A warning to all students.

All students should be advised that any form of mental enhancement, however novel, clever, or inexpensive, is not permitted on examinations. Should any student be found to use mind-sharpening potions and the like, they shall be subject to the utmost punishment, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

alt_lucius at 2009-05-14 04:07:44

(no subject)

Shall I trust that this means you have resolved at least one of your difficulties, Minerva?

alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-14 04:08:24

(no subject)

We shall see. To some extent, in any case; I believe that there is little more than moppings-up remaining.

alt_lucius at 2009-05-14 04:15:11

(no subject)

Splendid. There, as I said Monday, I do not believe there can be a great deal of activity you have not already encountered during your tenure. Students who think they may, ah, put one over on the staff are foolish and, ultimately, bound to fail. Not to worry, then, it all works out in the end.
2009-05-14 12:23:00
Shocking events

Last night's Prefect meeting was certainly memorable. As if we didn't have enough stress here at Hogwarts, (what with OWLs and NEWTs coming up, and the miscreants who've been hexing first and second years remaining uncaught), now we have this shocking news concerning the pilfering of Hospital Wing supplies. The parties responsible are Althea Deverill, Wil Frobisher and Troy Calderwood. Of course as a Gryffindor I am quite disturbed that Deverill is apparently among the guilty culprits. All the Prefects were genuinely shocked, however, to learn that Wil Frobisher, one of our own, was involved, too. (I know that there have been rumours flying around that it was Wesley Frobisher, not Wil. The confusion is entirely understandable, but no, Hufflepuff will not lose points for this; the shame must instead fall entirely upon Wes's twin in Ravenclaw.) I suppose Deverill and Frobisher managed to entangle one another. I'm not sure which gives me more pain, the thought that a Gryffindor ensnared a prefect into doing something so appalling, or that a prefect lured a Gryffindor. Certainly it is a lesson to all that character should be considered when choosing a romantic partner!

Frobisher, of course, was not at last night's meeting. I assume that the Headmistress will soon name a replacement, as I cannot imagine that he will be allowed to keep his badge.

We Prefects perfectly understand the anxiety that the prospects of OWLs and NEWTs arouses, but resorting to potions or charms to enhance one's performance on the tests is NOT acceptable behaviour. Please take note: the consequences for such a gross violation of the school's rules will be severe.

alt_percey at 2009-05-14 17:29:31
(no subject)

(Aside: Clearwater, I assume you still have my Charms notes from fourth year? I need them back. Please bring them to our table at the library tonight.)
alt_penelope at 2009-05-14 23:17:22  
(no subject)

I'm still trying to figure out all of the abbreviations you've used on those notes, it's impossible to make any sense of the lot.

They'd be a lot more useful if you took notes like a normal person, Weasley.

alt_percy at 2009-05-15 00:07:49  
(no subject)

I apologise. I should have given you the key. Well, at any rate, if you could give them back tonight, I'd appreciate it, or at least the part on heat and water-based charms. I have your Astronomy notes.

alt_penelope at 2009-05-15 00:34:23  
(no subject)

Good. I was getting ready to go raiding one of my roommate's trunks to see if I could find their notes.

How 'bout we swap notes over tonight? You bring your key, I'll see if I can smuggle in some chocolate.

alt_percy at 2009-05-15 01:24:41  
(no subject)

Re: the chocolate: you'd better hope that Madam Pince is not reading the journals tonight.

alt_penelope at 2009-05-15 04:56:58  
(no subject)

I'm sure that she's busy chasing the students who smuggle in bags of crisps instead. At least the chocolate is quieter - we're less likely to be heard.
Weasley, do you have any idea if maybe Stretton's involved to? Only he made me take a note down to Slytherin and your brother tried to get me to open it and it hexed me. So I went to Madam Pomfrey and she fixed my hands but kept the note and I dont know what to tell Stretton - I mean about losing his note.

I'm sure that if the note itself is for an innocent purpose, than Stretton should have no difficulty in retrieving it from Madam Pomfrey.

If it's not, then it's all to the better that it's in Madam Pomfrey's hands.

Oh.

I just wondered if you knew anything. From the other prefects I mean.

And I guess your right loosing his note wasnt my fault.

I shouldn't wonder that Madam Pomfrey confiscated the note, if it caused you to suffer a stinging hex. No, it's not your fault at all.

I don't know about Stretton. Nor am I inclined to spread rumours. If the note indicates that Stretton is involved somehow, too, I'm sure that the school authorities will deal with the matter appropriately.
Well cheers there, Mr Weasley. Making my job easier once again.

Thank you, Mr Weasley, for reminding your fellow students of the consequences for their actions.
2009-05-14 22:42:00
Prefect replacement.

Leander Bobolis shall be replacing Wil Frobisher as a prefect, as Mr Frobisher has demonstrated his inability to lead his fellow pupils in any capacity.

Miss Deveril, Mr Calderwood and Mr Frobisher shall be assigned detention every Monday evening for the rest of their time at Hogwarts, and a truly punitive number of House points have been removed from their Houses. There is no evidence that they used the potions that they had created; otherwise, the punishment would be rather more strict - and may yet be, when the purchasers of their potions have been identified.

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@alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:48:40
(no subject)

is it true that you cruciod them headmistress or if you didnt why not

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@alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-15 02:49:46
(no subject)

I fail to see how that is any of your business, Miss Bulstrode. You may ask Frobisher, Deverill or Calderwood yourself if you would like to know the details of my interview with them.

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@alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:50:38
(no subject)

well deveril said you did
calderwood said your too soft and you didnt and deveril was lieing.
While it is quite heartening to hear about such inter-house discussions, Miss Bulstrode, I am afraid that you shall have to exercise your mother wit and decide who is telling the truth for yourself.

One small piece of advice: I would not spend over-much time concerning myself with the doings of miscreants.

whats miscreant?

Its someone who does bad. Honestly Millicent do you even listen to anything that anybody says?

what

nobodie says that

Except professor McGonagall she says it all the time.
alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:54:50  
(no subject)  
stop beeing a brown noser marvolo.

alt_harry at 2009-05-15 02:55:29  
(no subject)  
Is this about your cat. Cause that isnt fair if it is.

alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:55:53  
(no subject)  
i dont care what you did to my cat its not about my cat its about you being a brown noser.

alt_harry at 2009-05-15 02:56:12  
(no subject)  
Well thats good cause I'm not sorry about the cat.

alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 02:56:50  
(no subject)  
i hate you

alt_draco at 2009-05-15 16:35:11  
(no subject)  
Why? Do you hate purple?
alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 16:46:58
(no subject)

it isnt a cat colour

alt_draco at 2009-05-15 16:48:27
(no subject)

I think he looks good. But if you hate it so much why not just change it back?

alt_millicent at 2009-05-15 17:13:16
(no subject)

dont know how

finit incantatem doesnt work i tried that.
I can't believe it's raining again!

So how about it? Anyone want to play chess?

SHEESH!!! It's not like we were being noisy or anything! I'm bringing the board to the great hall, so if anyone wants to, we can play after dinner.

That'll be better, anyway. It's hard to concentrate on chess when some people are harrumphing over in the corner and slamming their books about all the time.

I'll play. Although you'll probably mop the floor with me again. But anything's better than listening to Seamus whinge about the weather.

Great.

Tell Seamus to come down, too. I'll play him next.
Yeah, cause it probably won't take you very long to wipe up the board with me.

You're getting better, mate. Both those games lasted almost half an hour.

So. Who's next? Where'd Seamus get to?

I went to bed early mate. You didn't really need to beat me again anyway did you? I mean if you can't find me next time just pretend you played me and I resigned first thing.

Heh.

Actually, it's fun playing you. You do unpredictable stuff sometimes that keeps it interesting. It's not like playing some chess book, like with some people, y'know? Sometimes when people get, I don't know, comfortable playing chess, they just get to playing the same set moves every time. With you, I never know what you'll think up to do. And sometimes it works out for you, like it did in that third game yesterday.
How's your prefect brother doing tonight? Do you need to come to the Great Hall and thrash me at chess again?

I didn't see this 'til just now. Sorry! Towler caught me at dinner and said he wanted a rematch, so we played in the common room. I think Percy went to the library tonight 'cause the rest of the fifth years were all moaning about today's exam or bounding about cause they'd had to sit still and think all day and they were about to explode.

Anyway, if you have time tomorrow after dinner, I'll bring the board to the Great Hall again, yeah?

So. We're playing after dinner tonight, yeah?

I'm bringing the set down, anyway. See ya!
2009-05-17 09:34:00
Do you MIND????

Will people stop making so much NOISE in the Common Room? Rattling crisp bags, popcorn in the fireplace, nattering over stupid games of chess and Merlin, Exploding Snap? Now????!! Some people are trying to prepare for a very important test, one that could determine the course of their entire future.

SHOW A LITTLE CONSIDERATION!

alt_neville at 2009-05-17 14:36:14
(no subject)
Maybe you'd be a lot happier in the library?

alt_percy at 2009-05-17 14:37:26
(no subject)
Madam Pince kicked us out. Clearwater and me, I mean.

alt_neville at 2009-05-17 14:38:05
(no subject)
She did? Right before O.W.L.s? Why?
She caught Clearwater trying to smuggle in contraband, worse luck.

What's 'contraband'?

In this case, chocolate.

Oh.

Anyway, good luck when the O.W.L.s start tomorrow.

Thanks, Neville.

If you hadn't been looking so nervous and sweaty, we would have gotten away with it.
I'm not so sure. Madam Pince has a truly uncanny way of spotting smuggled in food. I'm starting to suspect she might have an alert hex on the doorway to the library.

Oh, dear. I thought it was about time for his cauldron to explode, judging from his last letter. Right on cue, I think.

Arthur, could you say something to calm him down? I think he'd take it better from you than having his Mum fussing over him right now.

Right, I expected this, too. He's always been the nerviest one of the boys.

Can't imagine where he gets it from, Molly.

Oh, shush.

I'm sure it doesn't feel like it today, son, but you will get through your O.W.L.s, and your mother and I have every confidence that you'll do well. I haven't forgotten sitting down with you over Easter break on those flashcard drills and how well you did then. I know you've studied hard, my boy. Try not to let yourself get absolutely overwhelmed by the stress of the thing. We know you'll do fine.
Thanks, Dad.
2009-05-18 22:42:00

Bobolis is a prefect...

and its really gone to his head. The OWL students were really horrible this weekend. They stayed in the Common Room all night and kept sending us first-years to fetch them things. Finally Fawcett said she was done running there errants for them and from now on they could go to the library themselves. And Green said 'quite right' but no one else agreed with her and they all started arguing about it.

Then Bobolis came down with his new Prefect badge all polished up and told us off for starting fights, which we didn't and anyway it was Fawcett started anything. The rest of us hadn't done any thing at all. But he said we were disturbing the fifth-years trying to revise, when we were just doing our own homework. We do have homework, still.

Also, he hexed Fawcett with a really amazing silencing charm to 'make an example' of her. I mean, it would of been amazing if he hadn't been so shirty to the rest of us. It actually made her lips fuse together for a few minutes until his sister (she's a prefect, to) took the hex off for her.

It was rather a nifty charm, tho, so all the fifth-years wanted to revise even harder because it was a NEWT-level.

Tonight they kicked us out to celebrate getting over the beginning of OWLs and get ready for tomorrow. At this rate none of us will be ready for our own exams!

alt_seamus at 2009-05-19 03:49:21

(no subject)

He actually sealed her mouth shut? I can't decide if that's wizard or creepy. What if she'd had a stuffy nose and hadn't been able to breathe?
**alt_padma** at 2009-05-19 19:08:21  
(no subject)

Well, as it was Fawcett, it was a little more wizard than creepy, but it was a little disturbing. Apparently theirs one that hexes your mouth right off and your lips flap about, but that's a seriously difficult one to do properly.

Not that I disagree with her about fetching books for them just because their older, but I wouldn't have said anything. Certainly not if I was in her position. And certainly not to someone like Sandoval. He'd of hexed her just for saying hello. Daft, really.

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**alt_draco** at 2009-05-19 18:38:49  
(no subject)

Well at least Ned hasn't been asking to borrow Dennis, but he and his mates are still taking over the common room. They talk like our exams don't even count.

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**alt_padma** at 2009-05-19 18:59:32  
(no subject)

But at least he's Head Boy. Bobolis has been a prefect for five minutes.

And IKWYM about our exams. I'll be alright in Potions and Charms but Transfiguration will need a lot of review. Professor Carrow can be so...er, random.

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**alt_draco** at 2009-05-19 19:43:53  
(no subject)

What's IKWYM?

Harry and I practised transfiguration on Millie's cat. Fergus didn't mind but Millie sure did. I can't wait til we're second years. It'll be wizard, don't you think?
IKWYM = I Know What You Mean.

Second year will be better than wizard. It'll be nift! Just think, the OWL and NEWT students will have all new firsties to boss about. And we can, to! I can do the spells for Transfiguration, but sometimes I'm not sure what he will put on the parchment. Did he give your class that awful multipal choice quiz just after the holiday?

Oh, cool. IKWYM now.

Professor Carrow's quizzes are sort of challenging sometimes. They require some creative thinking, you might say. It is sort of hard to prepare for.

I know! Like how are we supposed to know what bitters tastes like?

At least its more interesting then Professor Binns and endless dates.

You should come down to the Great Hall and play chess tonight. I mean, it sounds like you won't get anything done in your common room except running errands for the upper years, so why not?

Corner and Moon said they'd come. I told Macmillan, and he said he might. Pansy's coming, and Nott may come.

So come along if you like.
Well, alright then.
I’ve taken my journal up to the lea of the old gatehouse. There’s a warm stone here near the sundial where I can sit and stretch out my legs and write. I’ve got a long view northwest over Peel Bay toward the Stack and Cain’s Strand. There’re shrill voices drifting up from the Green, along with the baaing of goats, and the clatter of the cistern pump. Above everything is the susurration of the sea, the ceaseless lullaby that’s always there in the background here at Moddey Dhoo.

[Actually, I have to confess: I’m also hiding from the kiddies for the moment. The little nippers can sure be exhausting.]

The Players got here Sunday night, causing all the usual excitement. We checked in with Mundungus before arriving, and we had the flotsam and jetsam we’ve been stuffing in our collection packs for the past six months for the Sanctuary. The older kids all know that ‘the Players are here’ means ‘Christmas has come early,’ whatever time of the year it is. Emmeline spent the winter whittling knitting needles, and she brought those. Cauldron tripods and burners for Stephen, and rakes and spades for the greenhouses. Victor gladly pounced on the flour, sugar and oil we pulled out of our packs and promised the kids pancakes for breakfast this week, Cue shouts of delirious joy. Laura fair cried when Benjy proudly showed off our surprise for her, fifteen sets of second and third year Charms textbooks, older editions we snabbed from the remainder shelves at Flourish and Blotts. But the biggest hit of all was the prize that Dung managed to find for us, Merlin knows where: a flying carpet. It’s ratty and faded, with a hole in one corner, and it can only get about twelve feet off the ground. But it’s a genuine flying carpet, goes really fast. Arabella’s already had to stash it in one of the out-of-the-way storerooms to keep the kids from nicking it for joyrides.

The carpet sparked some talk about something I guess Arabella’s been fretting about all winter, the question of a second secure location if Moddey Dhoo ever has to be evacuated in an emergency. Dorcas has been closeted with Arabella and John the last couple mornings, talking it over with them. I think they’ve come up with a possible site, although I don’t know what it is, not being the Secret Keeper, of course. They’re going to try to find some more carpets in some of the empty houses in Peel and see if Laura or Frank can figure out a way to
charm them to fly, too. It’d take loads off everyone’s mind if the Sanctuary could have a flock of carpets to ready zip people out of the way in a hurry, if necessary.

Otherwise, the rest of us Players have spread out in different directions. Benjy’s always got two or three of the older boys hanging on his back. Usually Freddy, Judith’s boy, and sometimes Divyesh and--what’s-his-name, the one who got bit by a werewolf? Oh, yeah--Ian. He was a bit shy at first. Arabella said she’d wondered how well he’d do with strangers, but he’s starting to warm up to us all right. Last I saw them all, they were ruthlessly dragging Benjy off to help Danny and the rest milk the goats. Caradoc’s usually got a circle of kids around him, too, fascinated by his juggling tricks. He loves it, the big ham; he’s almost as much a kid-magnet as Frank. And Emmeline’s all about cuddling with the babies in the nursery. One of the girls assigned there this week has been shadowing her--Felicia, her name is. Stays glued so tight to her side you’d think Emmeline used a sticking charm.

Me, I’ve been helping Frank lead Colin and Alec in some easy Defence drills. They’re sure proud to show off what they can do with their new wands! I’ve also been catching up with Frank and taking a look around the place. It’s simply amazing, all the improvements they’ve made in the past year. The greenhouses have been expanded, and Victor’s put in some new cold frames to extend the growing season. (Not everyone’s happy about this, Alice says, since it means more kale and spinach, never very popular.) The tubs in the bathhouse are a downright luxury, although I’ll admit that pumping all that water can be a pain. John hit on a rather brilliant idea about that last night. Benjy was joking it was a shame there wasn’t a better way to harness all the raw kid energy around the place for that chore, and John remembered there’s a muggle gizmo at an old run-down children’s park in Peel. Something called a ‘merry go round’ that children push in a circle so they can ride it. Why not salvage it and install it by the bathhouse, attaching it to a pump that will fill the cisterns? We’re going to see if we can do something about it this week while we’re here. It was a clever idea, and John flushed and seemed pretty pleased when I told him so.

This holiday from the life on the road has been so good for us. I hadn’t quite realised until now how grouchy the Players had all been getting. I think I know why, watching the kids here for the last few days. The children in the camps are so different. They love watching our plays, of course—any youngster would. But they keep their mouths shut for the most part, and their heads and eyes down. It’s clear they’re all exhausted from too much work and too little food, even the younger
But the kids here are entirely different. Curious. Happy. And they’ve got hope for the future. I saw it a little, talking with John last night about how his little brother Alec is starting to open up.

Arabella, Frank and Alice, you’re doing fantastic work here. Important work. I know it seems like all too little at times, but I’m downright inspired, seeing the way the kids look out for each other, care for each other, learn from each other. Hang on to that, when you’re feeling worried and hassled and it all seems too much at times. We’ve seen the alternative, and without the flame you’re keeping alive here, it’s downright black and grim. Trust me on that.

We're going to perform one of our little plays night after next, right before we leave. Everyone's looking forward to that. It's one of our best rehearsed numbers, and we'll throw our hearts into it for sure. Best way we can thank the people here for their fine hospitality.

(Oh, and Alice? We’re really really sorry about the eggs.)

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**alt_alice** at 2009-05-20 13:56:12
(no subject)

Oh, Kingsley, I'd gladly pay the cost of a dozen eggs to see all of you again.

Caradoc mentioned he practiced juggling with "bean-bags," so I whipped up a couple for Sarah and Freddy to practice with. They should make a good deal less mess with the bags than they did in their earlier efforts. Although with those two, Merlin knows.

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**alt_molly** at 2009-05-20 15:59:15
(no subject)

Oh, that's what Kingsley meant about the eggs. Oh, dear. What a mental picture!

Bill's mentioned Sarah, come to think of it. He told us a bit about her when he's come over for dinner. Apparently she made quite the impression when he was there--a complete urchin, I take it? Always with streaks of dirt on her cheeks and a cheeky grin, according to him.
Alice, I haven't forgotten the idea of coming for a visit once Ginny's off to Hogwarts. I think I should have another couple queen bees by then, and so I'll be able to help set you up with some bee hives. It would be fun for the children (Ginny finds beekeeping fascinating) and I'm sure you can make very good use of the wax and honey.

She's a handful, that's for certain. She loves climbing trees even more than I did when I was her age, and I've put more plaster on her skinned knees than on all the other children put together.

I would simply adore a visit from you, Molly, and the bees would be very worthwhile. We actually talked about that very thing over dinner the other day, and Stephen mentioned that it may be important to test the children for allergies first, as apparently, some people can react very strongly to bee stings. We'd still want the bees, of course -- we'd just have to take extra precautions.

Perhaps testing the children for allergies is something that Poppy can do while she's there, when she makes her visit?

Indeed!

I've been giving thought to when that visit might be possible. When term ends, of course, I will have a great deal to do here to set things straight, and, of course, Horace and Pomona and I have some plans that need working on in hopes that we can increase our self-sufficiency here and reduce our dependency on expensive imported supplies. I suppose we'll need to consult with Macnair, as well, though that thought gives me no small apprehension. The man is very difficult to work with. Then there's that fact that he is
certainly a spy here for the Protector, and one who is like as not sending deliberately coloured reports to our detriment. I hate having any dealings with him that might bring what we are cultivating and brewing here under scrutiny. I'd sooner see him gone than Carrow in that respect, as I feel certain whatever Carrow (either Carrow) might report about us is discounted heavily for his (and her) unreliability. Not so with Macnair, I fear.

Enough of that. The point I meant to make is that I expect it will be July before I could set out for the summer ramble that should allow me to slip off to Moddey Dhoo for a week or two.

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@alt_sirius at 2009-05-21 00:52:16
(no subject)

I'm not so sure about Macnair's loyalty to the Death Eaters, Poppy. For one thing, he was recently pretty poorly treated, wasn't he? And then there's the rather odd exchange he and I had when I last posted a Grim Truth. Did you notice?

I certainly don't trust the man, never did like him, prickly is possibly the best thing I can think of to say about him. But I don't think he's on Voldemort's side any more than he is ours.

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@alt_poppy at 2009-05-21 02:08:14
(no subject)

Be that as it may, Sirius, I haven't the luxury of trusting the man, and I shouldn't like to be in a position where it was necessary to gamble that he's really had a change of heart or loyalty where Voldemort is concerned. Do you really believe that he was poorly treated (as you call it) or was it a front to put us off our guard? It wouldn't be the first time that one of them claimed that he was misled or misunderstood or had only pretended loyalty but was, all along, a skeptic or resister. And too often it's been a trap.

I'm sorry. It's true. I personally dislike Macnair. Perhaps my instincts are skewed by that, but they are all I have to go on.
You won't get any arguments about liking the man from me. But I do believe he was in some hot water, at least. Though how he leapt out of it is beyond me. It's a convoluted sort of logic, Poppy, but if I understood Minerva correctly Macnair has an intense dislike for Harry. But from everything we've learned from within the Death Eaters, Harry's Voldemort's most prized possession. That combination can't bode well for him over time.

And the proverb he quoted to me - I didn't say anything at the time because I hadn't wanted to worry Ali anyone and it could have just been coincidence.

But if he did know what we were up to, he must have kept it to himself.

I dunno. Like I said, I don't trust the man, I don't like him ... but sometimes the enemy of my enemy, and all that.

I can't say that I see a coherent argument for trusting that he's set himself against the Protector in what you say here. I can't remember what the proverb was you're talking about... something Scottish, I suppose? Does it somehow make him seem more-- what? I can't imagine what would make me feel better about a man who, as you say, appears to loathe your godson. Minerva and I have discussed this a number of times. I have no idea what it portends, but it doesn't stand to his credit in my book! And I do not dare take it at face value. Perhaps it is his task to try to ferret out those who wish the boy harm by appearing to share their aim. Perhaps it is merely a means of appearing to stand against the Protector to put the Protector's foes off their guard.

I-- well. What was that proverb?
Yes, I'll freely admit that the logic is unacceptably imperfect. I would never trust him alone in a room with Harry, that's certain! And if I ever get the chance, you can bet I'll teach him a thing or two about disliking my godson. But I'm not sure whether it's really Harry or what he represents that Macnair detests.

I do take your point that we can't assume anything.

As for the proverb, it was Cha tig muir mhor tron chaolais chumhann. My Scots Gaelic pretty much ends at famous quotes and a few choice phrases, but that one I recognised. It roughly translates to 'A great sea comes not through a narrow strait.'

Like I said, probably a coincidence. But it did give me a moment's pause.

I must be particularly dim tonight, but I can't make heads or tails of that. Is he himself meant to be the narrow strait? But what then is the great sea?

Oh, bother. I'm certain I'll feel a complete idiot once you've explained, but I do want to be certain I understand your point.

S'all right. The problem was at the time there were at least three ways to figure his meaning.

I believe he meant to tell me that big changes don't happen...
overnight.

But the fact that he mentioned a sea voyage up a narrow strait on the very eve of our excursion into the channel? I found that ... extraordinary.

In any case, the phrase itself is curious - I mean to say, it's more encouraging than I'd've thought likely, considering the source. Though he could as easily have been telling me that I'm getting nowhere fast.

Merlin's bones, Sirius! If the man had any inkling of your mission in the channel... how on earth could he have? Unless one of us here said something unwise, something entirely unwitting in his presence or... it doesn't bear thinking, but you make me wonder if, after all, he's found some way to listen in to Minerva's private quarters! She speaks to the portraits, sometimes, you know, and also to herself when... when she's under a great deal of stress. And that's not all that rare. It's the only thing I can think, though I can't imagine how he'd have managed it.

I-- But then, Sirius, it's not that he kept your secret, it's that he taunted you with knowing it! Gracious!!

You simply mustn't be right about that. I prefer to think that he was telling you that your Grim Truths are falling on deaf ears, but I find it impossible to believe he'd construe your message as a great Sea/Truth. I see your optimistic construction of the thing now, and I simply cannot believe it of Macnair.

But if there's any chance at all that he knew? Then he's far, far more dangerous than I dreamed. I shall speak immediately to Minerva about the possibility that her rooms are not secure!
I've actually had some talks with Minerva about security in her rooms before. The portraits keep a very close eye on everything that happens in there, you know, so I don't think it likely that Macnair had any way to, say, sneak in there to overhear any Order business.

I'm inclined to think it was more likely a lucky stab in the dark. But I don't pretend to know anything about the way his mind works at all. He's a strange bloke, Macnair is, from what I've heard. There were some rumours about his family among the old Auror crew. Seem to remember that his father was a hot-tempered man, killed a neighbour in a dispute, then was offed himself by the neighbour's wife. His mother and half-sister ended up in the camps because she remarried a muggleborn. Frank, did you ever hear anything about Macnair actually turning them over to the Deatheaters?

I'd say that you lot at Hogwarts should keep a close eye on him. There's no guessing where his loyalties really lie. And the Potters' boy would be smart to watch his step around him, too.

Well, I'm not at all an expert on surveillance magic--I owe most of what I imagine I know to reading novels, so we may discount most of it--but Macnair wouldn't have needed to be physically present in Minerva's rooms to have managed some means of eavesdropping on her conversations, would he?

I'm very glad to know that you and Minerva have discussed security, and I'm certain you have helped her ward against such incursions as much as possible. It's just that this bit of information suggests a terrible possibility: what if Macnair proves to have been, all along, a very, very competent spy? what if he is compiling a dossier of damning information and merely biding his time to spring his trap? Perhaps end of
term would be a logical moment, as it would allow the students to finish their year uninterrupted, and--

It makes my blood run cold to think it.

@alt_alice at 2009-05-21 02:23:57
(no subject)

We'll plan on seeing you in July, then. I'm already looking forward to seeing you. It's been far too long.

@alt_poppy at 2009-05-21 16:01:51
(no subject)

I can't tell you what a lovely thing it will be to have a bit of time with all of you and the children there. Do be thinking if there's anything at all I could try to bring for you.

@alt_frank at 2009-05-20 13:58:28
(no subject)

don't think I've laughed that hard in a long time, the look on Caradoc's face was bloody priceless.

it's been good talking with you lot in person. feels like an Auror reunion of sorts every time we all get together in the same room.

@alt_poppy at 2009-05-21 16:07:19
(no subject)

I do wish I could have seen that. My cousin Caradoc brought down a peg or two by some children and a dozen eggs! He was always full of piss and vinegar as a boy, you know, so it's undoubtedly a dose of cosmic payback that he's earned over a lifetime.
Calmed down, then, has Turner? Good.

I do have a report for you lot, but it's a bit difficult to post a lengthy entry just now. I can only risk a few minutes per day just to keep up with everyone.

I've been playing a lovable stray...it's working. But it's also exhausting.

working with Arabella has done wonders. you could tell he was chuffed when he got to sit in on the meeting with Dorcas.

That's what he needs the most, I'd say, the conviction that he's making a significant contribution. Once he's found the right harness, he'll throw his whole heart into it.

Victor told me he finally found the wrenches, so if you want us to make that excursion into Peel to salvage that Muggle contraption John was talking about for the pump, we could go this afternoon.
**2009-05-20 08:58:00**

*PACKAGE*

Parvati, Lavender, did you see? Mum and Dad sent the MOST UTTERLY WIZARD care package EVER!!!!!!

It's too positively nift for the Great Hall. Meet me in the spot we used last November. After lessons, before dinner.

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**alt_lavender at 2009-05-20 22:04:21**

(no subject)

We saw the Gigantic owl that came at breakfast! That's too brilliant!

---

**alt_padma at 2009-05-21 00:47:31**

(no subject)

I think I like the butterfly one the best, but the little robins are pretty too.

Belinda thought the cat suited her best. She's mad; it doesn't match her eyes or her hair at all.

---

**alt_ron at 2009-05-20 22:34:22**

(no subject)

I spose this means your not in for chess tonight, then?

So what'd you get?

---

**alt_padma at 2009-05-21 00:44:56**

(no subject)

It probably wouldn't matter to you, its clothes.

Well, technically its something that goes on your clothes. Its utterly, completely nift!
Huh.

Well, if you get done with that and want to play, we've got four games going, and it looks like Macmillan and Nott are almost finished, so you'd be sure to have a game if you want one.

You're a pretty decent player, y'know. You might have won against Moon last night if you hadn't let Lav talk to you so much you forgot what you were meaning to do next.

You look absolutely ridiculous, the whole lot of you.

Just because your parents never send you anything this cool thats no reason to be shirty, Clearwater.

Cool maybe for a 5-year old. I guess you're embracing your inner infant?

Next I'd expect you would be asking for your ba-ba before night-night time.

Cool for anyone whose cool.

Considering what you look like in the mornings,
Clearwater, I'm surprised you don't want one to wear over your head!

@alt_penelope at 2009-05-21 20:22:02  
(no subject)

If an itty-bitty cheeky snotrag firstie is the one who decides what's cool, I'll pass thanks. I'll be standing with the folks who don't wear animals galavanting up and down their robes.

@alt_padma at 2009-05-21 20:27:28  
(no subject)

With the boring people you mean? That sounds about right.

@alt_penelope at 2009-05-21 20:51:10  
(no subject)

If you say so.

Not that any reasonable witch or wizard could take someone who has such babyish taste in clothing seriously.

@alt_draco at 2009-05-21 17:47:34  
(no subject)

Don't they tickle?

@alt_padma at 2009-05-21 17:57:48  
(no subject)

No, their brill. And on a day like this the movement creates a bit of breeze, which is good because its hard to keep awake when there's no air in Professor Acton's classroom.
Tell me about it. I heard she uses warming charms cause shes cold all the time otherwise and I think its true.

Those are really wizard. Do they make those for boys? I mean Im not going to put a butterfly on my clothes anyway but a golden snitch that moved around wouldn't be so bad.

I'm sure Mum can make them with anything. I bet she'd do a snake for Marvolo if he wanted.

There's dogs and cats, and owls. I think there's an owl still in the box, if you want it.

Really? That would be totally niff.

It's N-I-F-T, silly, as in 'nifty' but shorter. (Linus said it also sounds like something that got discovered by a niffler - you know, it's been 'niffed'?)

And sure, you have the owl. I'll bring it to dinner. Now that they're mostly given away, it's safe to share them in the Great Hall.
Oh nift I get it. It sounded like niff.

The owl is nifT! Thanks!
2009-05-21 11:18:00

Warning

The alert ward on my storage went off early this morning. I was already up, but by the time I got outside, whoever set off the alert was long gone. The tracks in the area looked to be a dog's, so I reckon a curious creature might've got close enough to trigger the ward. There were human footprints, too, but too muddled by the dog's to make out the size. Still, something in my gut tells me that someone's been snooping about. All I can say is that it better not be a curiously noble first-year Slytherin, his mate, or his mudblood.

alt_padma at 2009-05-21 18:03:45
(no subject)

I dunno why you'd say that about Malfoy or Marvolo, sir, but Stretton's just come in to the Common Room with mud on his shoes.

He said he was practicing on the pitch for Saturday's match, but that can't be, can it? Aren't Longbum and Smirks some people still taking flying?

alt_macnair at 2009-05-21 18:21:54
(no subject)

I'd say that about them because they've broken in before, whereas mud is common enough this time of year. And flying lessons don't go on at all hours of the day.

alt_ron at 2009-05-21 19:20:10
(no subject)

You know what, I saw Stretton, too, must have been before you did, but I was behind him, walking down from the greenhouses towards the broom shed down by the pitch.

Anywiz, when I got out there, I didn't see where they went, and I was looking for Neville or Madam Hooch, anyway and couldn't find
them, so I thought I'd check the shed, but Stretton and Marcus Flint were back there sort of skulking about. I mean, it looked like they were trying to hide back there, and I'm not sure what they were up to, but I thought Stretton was giving Flint some sort of sack. Anyway, they were both sorting through it or something and Flint took it. So yeah, I was really just looking for Neville--he's taking the flying test today--and I ducked back around the corner of the shed before they saw me, but I think they headed off sort of in the direction of the greenhouses or it might have been towards the creature hut, I don't know, cuz Seamus turned up, and now we're waiting to see if Neville passes. Or not, y'know. Yeah, Seamus says better not write that, but it's like reverse luck, innit?

_reverse luck would be telling him to break a leg. To go along with the arm he already broke.
You'll do fine Neville! I know you can do it! Pass the test, I mean, not break any more bones.

Yeah. No broken bones. I'm not spending the evening in the hospital wing again.

Though I guess we could bring the chess sets in there and keep him company. He could even play as long as it's not two arms.

Hey, look! There. He's up!
You were more certain than I was! It must've worked, because I did it! I still can't believe it.

Neither can anyone else, really.

You don't say OR NOT when someone's taking the test! Show some confidence in Neville mate!

He's gonna pass, no problem! I mean, look at him! He's up and the broom's not bucking or anything.

Uh. Oops.

I thought that was a pretty good recovery. Considering.

Yeah. Not quite a Sloth Grip roll, but a dead good save.
Oh shut it Weasley. He's doing fine.

Yeah, he is, isn't he?

Not that I'm surprised! I'm not! Hey! Leave my fea-

Yeah. He's doing great!

No. What's that thing Patil's always saying? He's totally nift!!

Heh!

Don't suppose you lot could cheer somewhere other than in my book.

Er.

Sorry.

But he passed!

It's sort of a big deal, you see. I think we're going to have a little celebration for him in the
Common Room after dinner. Is that okay? I mean, if we're pretty quiet and all?

@alt_macnair at 2009-05-21 22:02:50 (no subject)

Do what you will.

@alt_ron at 2009-05-21 22:08:07 (no subject)

Thanks, sir.

I'll tell Percy you said so!

@alt_percy at 2009-05-22 01:17:31 (no subject)

Having Longbottom pass the flying test is remarkable enough that it is probably worthy of celebration.

@alt_neville at 2009-05-22 01:18:25 (no subject)

Thanks. I think.

@alt_seamus at 2009-05-21 19:47:52 (no subject)

Nevilles testing today and I think hes the last in our year. Katrina passed the test last week and she was the only other Gryffindor still taking classes. Perks was the last Slytherin and she tested out in April and didnt you tell me even Fawcett passed a few weeks back?

There might be someone in Hufflepuff though.
@alt_harry at 2009-05-21 21:39:39
(no subject)
It wasn't me honest professor! Or granger!!

@alt_macnair at 2009-05-21 21:43:34
(no subject)
Didn't even come around to have a little look, then?

@alt_harry at 2009-05-21 21:56:14
(no subject)
No!! And I don't think Draco did either.

@alt_macnair at 2009-05-21 22:01:48
(no subject)
Mmm. No, if you didn't go there, then he wouldn't have, either.

@alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-22 01:33:12
(no subject)
It wasn't me either. I haven't been anywhere near your storage. Mr Lupin said I'd want to go near it after you warned us but I HAVEN'T.

@alt_lupin at 2009-05-22 06:23:57
(no subject)
I'm glad to hear it.
Mind your suppositions, if you please, Macnair. Our Lord suffers from more than enough spleen of late; believe me you have no wish to see it once again directed toward you.

As for implicating my son, might you care to tell me exactly your objection to their close friendship? It has always seemed to me a natural and laudable connexion for them both.

No objection here so long as they stay out clear of my property.
**2009-05-21 15:23:00**

Errr, Megan?

Do you want to come down to the Common Room with us tomorrow night? We, that is, everybody in our room, did a little something for you for your birthday tomorrow. And, um, my mum made sweets. We're claiming the corner alcove and hoping no fifth-years kick us out!

Ernie and the boys planned something too, but they're being very mysterious about what! I asked Ernie and all he said was that he thought you'd really like it.

And, ah... I can't I don't know how to... I'm sorry I've been such a beast to you for so long; I'd like to be friends again. Only if you want to though.

But I hope you'll like your birthday sweets anyhow.

---

alt-megan.livejournal.com at **2009-05-22 01:30:45**

(no subject)

Oooohh. You did? For me? Really? All of you? And the boys too? I'm sure I'll like it. I'd like anything, I wasn't expecting anyone to even know it was my birthday. So even if you didn't do anything, that would be brilliant that you knew. And cared. And sweets is even better.

You're not angry any more? Are you

---

alt-susan.livejournal.com at **2009-05-24 18:37:04**

(no subject)

I'm really glad you liked the party and the sweets!

And, no, I'm mostly not angry with you anymore.

I was really hurt that you talked about me, but I realized it wasn't fair of me to blame you for what the Dreadful Duo and their mates did. You didn't know what they had planned.
I did!

That's brilliant! I'm so glad you're not angry. But why are you not angry now, I didn't even apologise again. Do you think you'll be not angry about it forever now? Or are you just not angry for my birthday. I'm not trying to tell you what to do. Really I'm not. I just want to know what to expect. But it's okay if you change your mind too. I know I'm really lucky everyone else isn't so cross as you are were for such a long time

I really didn't know.
2009-05-21 15:57:00
Flying!!!

I PASSED FLYING!!!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY DID IT!!!

I plan to never ever get on a broom again if I can possibly help it.

alt_neville at 2009-05-21 21:33:34
(no subject)

Congratulations, mate!

That was great!!

I think Madam Hooch might be okay with it if you don't fly again!!

alt_padma at 2009-05-21 22:50:48
(no subject)

I think we all would.

alt_ron at 2009-05-21 22:58:52
(no subject)

Yeah, it's probably good that they don't require flying past first year.

'Course, I wish they'd let us take flying as a proper subject. We could learn all the stuff you need to know to fly for professional Quidditch and for being an Auror or an Enforcer and
for dragon handling and a lot of cool stuff that'll be really important for the jobs we'll get once we're out of school. Um. For some of us.

Those twiddly pin thingers you got are ace. Did you say your Mum made them? Or knows the person who does make them? That's sorta cool. Can you make them fly from one person to another and carry messages or anything? That'd be wicked.

Oh, I don't. Want to take flying anymore, that is. I'm just as glad I passed when I did.

My mum's having them made for her shop, yeah. I guess they'll be in full, er, what's it called--production!--that's it. They'll be out this summer, she says.

She wanted me and Parvati to get ideas from friends, so I guess that's something I'll tell her. About going from one to another, I mean. I dunno if they can.

So I guess that means you don't think there so boring now, huh?

Did I say they're boring? I mean, don't get me wrong, they're not as dead cool as wizard chessmen, but it's not so far off. You could use them to play games, too, probably.

I wonder if you can charm them to talk. Like they could tell you what you should do if you ask it. (Should I answer A or D on this question? Should I be an Auror? Should I study tonight? Should I castle yet? Should I tell Lav she's got a beetle crawling up her jumper? Stuff like that, and maybe it would tell you the right
thing, but maybe it would just be all puzzling or funny, y'know?)

alt_padma at 2009-05-22 03:27:43
(no subject)

Chang says you ought to take Divination if you want something to tell you the future.

Anyway, I dunno about you but my brother tells me and Parvati what to do all the time when we're home. I can't believe that Prefect brother of yours doesn't boss you around like he does everyone else.

So why on earth would you want a little pet to tell you off as well?

alt_ron at 2009-05-22 12:44:10
(no subject)

Who said anything about it telling you off? 'Though it'd be funny if you could get it to tell other people off! I totally buy one if it'd tell Percy where to put his Prefect badge!

I was thinking more like this magic ball thinger my father found one time: you'd ask it a question and it'd tell you things like 'Signs point to yes'; 'The outlook is poor'; 'Doctors doubt that'; 'I wouldn't if I were you'; 'A lucky bet!'; 'Not if you value your life.' Sometimes it was cagey and said stuff like 'Wouldn't you like to know!' or 'Better not tell you now' or 'My lips are sealed'. It was pretty funny to think up questions to ask it.

alt_neville at 2009-05-22 01:14:46
(no subject)

I promise to never try out for the Gryffindor Quidditch team. I'm sure you're all relieved.
Well you wouldn't make it any worse. They haven't won a match all year have they?

Congratulations Longbottom! You should ask for a broom for your birthday and see what it's like flying on a good broom instead of a school broom, maybe you'd like it better.

I have to laugh: my Gran would never give me a broom in a million years. She says that Floo and apparition are the only way that decent folk need to travel, Portkey in an emergency. Never seen her on a broom in my life.

I hope I'll like apparition better. Won't have to worry about that for a few years, though!

Oi!

Our team is just having a rebuilding period, that's all. And if Marvolo'd been in Gryffindor like he was supposed to, we'd be leading the standings.

But you're totally right about those school brooms. They're even worse than the banged up one I have to use when all my brothers are home. That one's pretty sad, but it's not as dire as the ones here!

You could maybe keep statistics for the team. You don't need to fly for that! And you'd get a really good seat! Or you could be one of the broom-minders, they get to sit with the team.
Keeping statistics might be okay. But I dunno about being a broom-minder. My luck with brooms is so bad, people might not want me to get near 'em at all, like I'd jinx them or something.

Congratulations mate.

Thanks. It really helped to hear you and Ron and the rest cheering for me.

Thats wizard Longbottom! I can tell you're happy about it.

I hope I pass potions. I've been doing a lot of extra studying, but I guess I won't know until the exam.
**2009-05-21 17:44:00**

Exams

It is exams so soon, I have not revised at all enough. I wish I had some of those mind enhancing potions. I suppose they did not sell to firsties. I must do better this time or Father will be angry. He says I must do well because the future of the wizarding world rests on my shoulders. So I am trying to revise but it is hard with classes still going on. I am trying to improve my grammar because Professor Acton said it needed work. If Professor Acton said it it must really be true. She does not say bad things much.

I wish it was summer.

---

**alt_ron at 2009-05-21 22:06:29**

(no subject)

I'm sure you're going to do fine, mate. And there's loads of time still 'til our exams. I mean they're not even next week, yet, so I wouldn't worry yet.

Is that why you didn't come to play chess last night? I don't know whether I'll be playing tonight. I think we're going to have a little celebration thinger in our common room for Neville cause he passed flying. You should have seen it! He did some really cool moves, trying to keep on the pattern Madam Hooch told him to fly. He nearly did a Woollongong Shimmy one time, but I told him he needs work before his Starfish and Stick's good enough for Keeping!

Anywiz, I'm pretty sure we'll be playing chess again tomorrow afternoon if you wanted come to the Great Hall and have a game. Or if it's nice out again, maybe we should all go fly now everybody's passed the test!

---

**alt_harry at 2009-05-23 17:27:35**

(no subject)

Im no good at chess really, and I don't need to lose to a Gryffindor, thanks. I'd never hear the end of it. But I'd like to go flying. At least I could catch Neville if he fell!!
You're not bad at chess, mate. Not as good as you are at flying—that's true. So if the weather's good, let's go tomorrow afternoon!

Allright, but I'm bringing Draco.

I wonder if Mudbloods are allowed to fly? We could try to make Granger go. I bet she'd be horrible at it, she doesn't even like being at the tops of staircases.

Yeah, okay. If he's not a git.

Granger doesn't like staircases? That's mad. I bet she'd be allowed to fly if you wanted her to. You could say you needed her to carry your broom mending kit in case you needed the twigs trimmed while you're flying.

He's not a git really. He just likes Slytherins better than anybody is all.

That's a thought. And then she could get to Hogsmeade faster if we wanted Honeydukes. Really she'd be ever so much more useful, since she won't ever learn to Apparate.
I think it's a bit more than that with Malfoy. But if you say so, okay.

Huh. I'd never thought about that. You can't Apparate without a wand, can you? Seems like that's kind of inconvenient, cause even elves can Apparate, y'know. I mean, isn't that sort of like hiring somebody to tend dragons and then telling them that they can't fly or use fire-proofing charms? or getting a job as a broom-maker and being told you have to cut and tie all those twigs by hand? That's kinda mad, innit?

Guess that's why some people like elves bet

Oi did you hear what the headmistress said there?! About Stretton?! Glad I didn't bet on this match, Ravenclaws gonna get creamed.

No kidding!!!!

Stretton was dealing potions? Whoa. That's dead serious.

So they're playing with just two chasers? Ravenclaw's SO dead!

Go, Gryffindor!!!!!
alt_harry at 2009-05-23 18:47:13
(no subject)

Looks like they got a second-stringer on. Cant tell who it is though, did Jordan say? I didn't hear.

alt_ron at 2009-05-23 18:49:55
(no subject)

Never heard of him.

Second-string's right! He's really scrawny, isn't he?

Heh.

alt_harry at 2009-05-23 18:54:01
(no subject)

Looks like a second year. Don't know him at all though. Their other two are doing okay though.

Hey do you think they'll get kicked out? Stretton and people I mean.

alt_ron at 2009-05-23 18:58:39
(no subject)

Score!!!!!!

I don't know. I mean Frobisher isn't getting kicked out, is he?

Though the Headmistress said they might get more punishments if things were worse than it seemed at first, didn't she? I've only seen Deverill a couple of times since it happened, and she looks pretty dire, y'know.
I mean, look at him! Neville can fly better than that!

Neville, mate, d'you see that?

Hey, Marvolo. Is Perks sitting down there with you lot? I can't see anybody past Crabbe and Goyle. What did she say when she heard the Headmistress? I bet this won't go down a treat with the Strettons!

I dont see her but shes probably here, she usually is.

Wonder if theyll be nicer to her now? The parents? I mean she didn't cheat on anything.

I bet they'll be pretty sorry they told the Ministry they didn't want to be foster parents anymore.

Oh, wow! Did you see that roll? Davies is flying too well today. Too bad it wasn't him that's off the team!

Oh Ron. You are FUNNY. About the Strettons I mean not the quidditch.
Your not mad are you? About me saying that, I mean. It's just they weren't very good foster parents at all. And you were really decent to them and did everything they wanted.

Um. Yeah.

Okay, I won't say anything else, except that I'm not sorry Stretton got caught.

I was at the game sitting with Pansy but we came in just before the game started and had bad seats. That's why you couldn't see us. I almost felt sorry for Gryffindor the way it turned out but I suppose they're used to losing now don't you think?

The Strettons already said they didn't want me back. But I'm sure they wouldn't have been nicer to me. It made everyone angry when I showed Jeremy up it would make them proud. But I wasn't one of their kids so they wouldn't like it if I showed Jeremy up BUT they'd have thrown it in his face anyway.

I was glad before I wasn't going back but I'm really glad now. Also one time over winter hols Jeremy asked me about whether my mates were fussed about exams yet. It was one of the only times he came to my room to talk to me alone. I think he might have been trying to figure out whether anyone in our year would buy the potion.

They aren't allowed to use broomsticks silly. I don't know what would happen if you ordered her
to do it, she'd kind of have to since you said to but I think she'd still get in enormous trouble.

@alt_harry at 2009-05-27 13:02:19
(no subject)

Id tell them that I told her to and make sure she didnt get in trouble. Since when aren't they allowed to use broomsticks? Thats mad!! How can they do anything without at least broomsticks? Im going to ask Father if we cant get an exception made. What if I got hurt somewhere far away from anyone and she was the only one with me. Then Id die if she couldnt get help cause she cant use a wand.

@alt_lucius at 2009-05-22 00:28:35
(no subject)

If that is your Father's wish, then you must do your utmost to please Him. Certainly you have never been a poor student, when you apply yourself. I am sure you will perform admirably, in any event.

@alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-22 01:37:31
(no subject)

I'll help you revise for Transfiguration if you want Harry. Longbottom says I'm good at explaining things, not that you'd ever know it from his marks.

@alt_harry at 2009-05-23 17:28:17
(no subject)

Thanks Perks, I think I'll take you up on that. (Also I remembered my apostrophy, I think I'm getting better at that)
I think those apostrophy things are over rated!

Mr Rosier thinks their important though. He says he might get me a tutor over the summer hols to learn better writing. Over hols! I wont have to miss the camping trip at least.

Tutoring for writing?

In the summer? Oi!

You'd best not miss the camping, mate!

Your writing looks funny like that.

Like what?
2009-05-23 11:06:00

O.W.L.s are over

I survived.

I think

alt_percy

---

alt_ron at 2009-05-23 17:47:20
(no subject)

Good.

That OWLs are over. And maybe now

I'm sure your scores will be fine. You must've studied fifty times harder than you needed to. I mean, I don't think it's really normal to take your notes into the showers with you, is it?

alt_arthur at 2009-05-25 17:03:32
(no subject)

I'm sure you did fine, my boy.
We bid a fond farewell to the Players today, with many hugs and a few tears for good measure. It was a lovely visit, and a joy to see all those good old familiar faces. The children are all at work writing everyone, so expect a raft of letters in your next package. I suspect that once again, you’ve managed to convince each and every child here that they want more than anything to become actors and actresses and join the Players when they grow up. Oh, and Kingsley, you might want to warn Benjy -- I fear that Lucinda might be crushing on him yet again - she was quite despondent when she had to say her good-byes, and has been moping about ever since.

On Tuesday night, after putting all the children to bed, Frank, Arabella, and myself sat down with Kingsley, Dorcas, Benjy, and Emmeline for an Order meeting, which proved to be quite productive. We talked about the Sherwood group and how best to help them, where we saw Moddey Dhoo going in the coming months and years, and what we could do to start amassing more numbers.

Emmeline suggested we take an inch from the Sherwood group’s parchment, and work in cells - have one Order member be the point of contact for a group that they recruit, so that if the group should be compromised, it would only lead back to one person. I think this is a potentially good idea, but for the fact that the Players would have to be left out -- all of them would be potentially endangered should one of their party be revealed as a member of the Order. It’s a start, certainly, and the more we can learn from other groups the better. Frank also suggested formally inviting the adults at Moddey Dhoo to join the Order – naturally, we’d hold off for a little while longer, until we thought John was no longer a security risk. Each and every one of them already do so much to help our cause, and although it would be mostly a symbolic gesture, I still think it would be a good one. In addition, Victor, Lucinda, Judith, and Danny are all Muggles, and would provide much-needed diversity to our group.

After the meeting, Dorcas took me aside and we had a nice long talk about Remus, and her thoughts on the matter. She remains wary of him, but I believe is starting to recognise the value of discovering the truth, whether it clears his name in the process or no. She also
suggested using a Pensieve in addition to Verisatum, as the use of such a potion on someone with his condition may not be as effective.

We managed to get the big metal wheel-thing – the merry go round – back to Moddey Dhoo on Thursday, with quite a bit of help from our guests. Victor and Danny are tinkering away on it as we speak, and hooking it up to the cistern. Hopefully, we should have a working pump by tomorrow, just in time for morning baths.

We also passed off the wands to Kingsley – I do hope that those two work for the Sherwood people. If they do not, we can exchange them for others – the wands are far too precious to have one or two go unused.

Last night, we got quite a treat. After dinner, we stacked up all the tables on one end of the dining hall to make room, and the Players put on quite a show. Each year they just get better and better. The first one, the Unicorn and Her Girl, was quite well done. Benjy made a wonderfully witty Fox, and had us all in stitches with his running commentary and silly faces, and Caradoc’s Unicorn costume was quite elaborate. Everyone was utterly captivated, even the babies, and we all laughed uproariously when Kingsley’s Hunter was made the fool. The children were quite excited when they got to shout out ways to help the Unicorn escape, and took great pleasure in pointing out the Hunter whenever he snuck onto the stage and tried to hide. After that, we finished up the night with The Wizard and the Hopping Pot – the children took turns pretending to be villagers with different ailments, and Caradoc would come up with something ridiculous for each one, and he just got sillier and sillier as he went. Everyone had great fun coming up with ways to pantomime their problems -- Louis Barton is still pretending he’s got beets growing out of his armpits. And when Benjy started chasing Kingsley, hopping around the stage while dressed in that ridiculous cauldron outfit, well, I don’t think I’ve laughed that hard in a long time. The ending was, of course, a grand finale, where Kingsley gave “cures” for everyone in the audience in the form of a large bag of candy. Between the sugar and the excitement of the show, it took absolutely ages to get all of the children to bed. We all had just a marvelous time.

Thank you for all of the supplies, Kingsley, and for giving the children such a wonderful experience. I only hope we don’t have to wait nearly as long for you to come around here again.
Thanks to you and Frank and the rest again for putting up with all us dodgy characters for the week. It was a real pleasure for us, too. I'll try to make sure it isn't quite so long next time before we see you again.
What an exciting weekend!!

I can't believe how quick some things happen. I got that care package from mum and now people are asking me about the animals—if I have more. Which I don't, I already told you, Daphne!

And then the Ravenclaw match! I was so worried for a while that Dames was going to get blown off his broom—or nocked off by a bludger, he's that scrawny. Belinda and I must of squeezed each others hands till we couldn't feel our fingers. For a while it looked like Gryffindor would take so much of a leed we'd never catch up. Davies was so brilliant, really!

And Chang!!! She was amazing. Even if I liked flying, I don't think I could've ever made that catch, not in a million years. And if she hadn't done it right then, I'm sure Gryffindor would of scored again, too, and then we'd've tied or something. I wonder if we'd tied--d'you imagine Madam Hooch would've made them play again?

But anyway, we won. Amazing! If Quidditch was like that all the time, I might watch more. And more people wanted to know about the raven on my robes in the common room after. It's doing very well, even though Moon's little puppy is getting kind of squidgy already. I think its because Moon didn't pay any attention to his. I petted mine every night and its still looking chipper.

Well, then things didn't go so well. Well, they didn't for some people. They got really interesting for some of us, though! We were still celebrating when Stretton got back. I guess the Headmistress questioned him pretty hard, he didn't look happy at all. He was sort of limping, too. Anderson wants to be his girlfriend, I think. She went running up to him asking if he was okay and he was sort of sharp with her. A few other people wanted to ask him questions, mostly about what happened and if he was expelled and whether he told Professor McGonagall any other names. Bobolis (Leander, I mean) looked like he was either about to vom or do his nut, I dunno. Then Peakes, Xi Chang and Sandoval (the brother, not the sister) told everyone to shut up and then they took him up to the dormitories. I think they all went to see Frobisher and Calderwood--I guess they were up there all day--and that sort of left everyone else looking round at one another. Then the NEWT students kicked us all out, saying they ought to study a little because they start their examinations on Monday.
Which is my birthday!!! Mine and Parvati's, of course. I can't think of anything more nift than the Robe Pets, but I'm sure Mum and Dad will think of something. I wonder what Haruman will give us?

@alt_neville at 2009-05-24 14:56:16
(no subject)

Is that why Stretton didn't play yesterday, 'cause he got called into see the Headmistress?

What for? Guess it isn't any of my business why.

@alt_padma at 2009-05-24 22:57:14
(no subject)

Didn't you hear he got caught with Flint selling those prehib elegal banned potions?

Surprised Flint didn't get taken off Slytherin's team, really.

But I heard Professor McGonagall cursed Stretton and that's why he's limping.

The black eye is new, but I think that's from Frobisher.

@alt_ron at 2009-05-25 02:52:34
(no subject)

Well, Slytherin haven't got any more matches this year, do they? So that's probably why. But I think she should have taken away the points for at least one of their wins to make it fair. Don't you?

D'you really think the Headmistress cursed Stretton? I heard she was making the ones that were caught take the potion and then eat disgusting stuff to see if they'd hurl. I heard somebody say that about Deverill this morning--that she's been sicking up all week and that's why she hasn't come out of the girls' dormitory. I figured it was just because she's too embarrassed to come out and have everybody looking at her.
Towler said she broke up with Frobisher, too. By owl, I guess.

@alt_lavender at 2009-05-24 18:41:55
(no subject)

Happy early birthday!

I've got a surprise for you and Parvati of course; I bought it during hols and I can't believe I've been able to keep it secret and not tell you!

How do you think Chang stays looking so good when she's flying around getting all sweaty?

@alt_padma at 2009-05-24 22:48:18
(no subject)

I can't wait to see what it is!!

She's really fast so I think the wind sort of keeps her cool. I dunno. But she's much prettier than Li.

@alt_seamus at 2009-05-27 02:01:21
(no subject)

I was gutted that Gryffindor lost again. GUTTED.

Cake helped a bit though.
Well, I’ve spent a great lot of the day receiving and answering owls from parents concerned about their children’s exposure to mind-altering potions brewed by their peers.

Molly, let me set your mind at ease, if that’s possible: Horace and I have thoroughly examined samples of two different potions that were in circulation here at the school these past weeks, and I can assure you that even if one of your boys had ingested the stuff, it does not appear to be lethal and its properties are of limited duration. (The short effective life of the substances has been good for business, it would appear, as those students who used it would have needed a fresh dose every day in order to sustain the enhancement of their mental capacity.)

As the Headmistress must have made clear in her announcement before yesterday’s Quidditch match (I wasn't able to attend, alas!), these substances are dangerous. There have in some cases been some very unpleasant side effects, including projectile vomiting, sudden unconsciousness, vertigo, and excruciating headache, which hint at dangers we seem very fortunately to have escaped this year. I believe the Headmistress must have led students to understand that there IS a lethal potential to any illicit potion, and, if one may judge by the level of anxiety in today’s post, many students must have reported a rather excited version of this to their parents, who, in turn, shared their concerns with me.

For what it’s worth, the worst side effects have afflicted those who swallowed the potions and then also ingested certain not uncommon foodstuffs. Bertie Botts' fruit- and meat-flavoured beans, roasted turnips, and (transfigured) terrine of tuna are amongst the substances that appear to be incompatible with the contraband substances. (The first interaction came to light quite accidentally whilst pupils were sitting Wednesday morning’s Charms O.W.L.; the second and third came to our attention during Thursday dinner.)

I believe that knowledge of these interactions has been quite helpful to the Headmistress in her investigation.

I don’t know all the details of which students were culprits in the brewing and sale of these things, or how many of their peers may
have been enticed to purchase and use them. As you all know, these sorts of things happen occasionally in a school, despite the staff’s best efforts to keep our students safe, and, of course, while certain of the ingredients came from my stores, they could as well have been brought from the outside. It really is impossible to entirely prevent this sort of entrepreneurial activity. In fact, certain of the key ingredients in this case were things available only from quite dodgy sources, certainly nothing we keep on hand here at Hogwarts.

That’s not to say that I have not done what I could to keep school supplies safe from unauthorised use--and, of course, I’ve done my utmost to assist in assessing the risks and treating those affected.

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**alt_molly** at 2009-05-25 15:43:58
(no subject)

Thank you for explaining the situation, Poppy. I don't fear for Percy. He has a rather rigid sense of honour, which would prevent him from either making or ingesting such concoctions. And Ron's too young, both to know how to make them or really, to care enough about his test results to take them.

I must confess that my biggest worry is for the twins. They don't care about their marks, but, well, they DO have an entrepreneurial spirit, I think. Over the Easter break Arthur was talking with them, asking whether they had any plans for the future, when they left school. Fred told him they had some ideas for going into business. They wouldn't tell him much about what they had in mind, but they did hint a bit that it involved Potions and Charms.

I don't think they would have been involved. (But of course mothers are sometimes the last to know when their children get involved in something reprehensible, aren't they?) I would have hoped that their upbringing with Arthur and me would have prevented it, but I don't know.

Poppy, you don't have any reason to think they're involved, do you?
No, Molly, I've heard nothing to suggest that your twins are entangled in this mess, and for that I'm very glad. I'm afraid that the culprits--and those suspected of involvement in any way--are having an unpleasant time of it at the moment.

I must confess, however, that from what I know of the twins, they have the ability and ingenuity it would take to cook up a scheme like this one, so I share your hope that their sense of integrity will prevent them from using their talents for dubious purposes.

This scandal might provide you with an opening for a pointed conversation with those boys during the long vacation ahead.
We are severely disappointed

Well now, just look at all this mischief that we didn't cause because we were actually revising for our exams. For some reason.

We just don't get the attraction of revising so much, so this shocking change probably won't last very long. It just seems so wrong of us to imitating Percy.

Besides, the quality of student mischief has gone awry in recent weeks, and we need to get back to work and set a better example.

Sloppy work, very sloppy.

I suppose it was too good to last for you two to actually be seriously paying attention to your lessons. But try to stick with it at least long enough to pass the examinations.

What! You were revising! I thought you were doing something interesting! Where were you hiding anyway?

Well, you see we found this curious room (we're sure you've never been there), and it's large, and it's filled with all of these, these, books.

And people sit around and actually read them! Students even!

And they're guarded by this horrible, vulture-like monster, who gets
horribly shirty if you bring any food in there.

It's called the library, and we will never, ever go back in there if we can help it. Now we know why Percy is like he is.

@alt_terry at 2009-05-25 23:37:52
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I've heard of that place. It's actually not so bad, according to Hermione.

@alt_terry at 2009-05-25 21:36:00
(no subject)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

You're telling the truth--you don't have anything to do with all that potions stuff that Madam Pomfrey's so upset about?

@alt_gredforge at 2009-05-25 22:48:16

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

No, that wasn't us.

If we were going to sell something, we wouldn't go about it like that.

@alt_terry at 2009-05-25 22:51:38
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I'm glad. I was...well, I was a little worried, to tell the truth. I know that you don't mind breaking rules, exactly. But I wouldn't want to see you getting into trouble like that, and I like Madam Pomfrey.
Studying? You lot?

Chess in the Great Hall after supper. Come play! Somebody needs to beat Towler. He's a menace.
Bill came over for dinner last night. He comes over generally on Sundays, a couple of times a month. It's a little odd, sometimes, because we can't talk freely over the table about the things foremost in our minds with Ginny right there. So we've gotten into a pattern that Arthur will take Ginny for a walk after dinner, ostensibly for a little one-on-one father/daughter time, and I'll do the dishes with Bill, with a Muffliato spell up around the kitchen while we talk, just in case.

Last night . . . well, it didn't go very well, I'm afraid. Arthur talks with Bill regularly about Order business when they go out for lunch from the Ministry a couple of times a week. That seems to work well for them. When I talk with Bill, it just seems to get tangled up with other things.

I do worry so about him. I just can't help it. Because of his position with the Division of Wizarding Communications, he's ended up being the point person for so many pieces of Order business. Working with the forgers, ferrying bits of information between operatives. Sending supplies to Kingsley, and to Moddey Dhoo. Operations with Frank. Trying to trace Louis Thomas's school friends. Trying to help Sirius set up Laszlo's warehouse in London. Not to mention that he was the one who created the Order Only spell for the Order in the first place! We just couldn't do without him, but oh, the mother in me protests, *but he's so young*. *How can he take on so much responsibility, when the danger is so great?* I talked with him about Emmeline and Frank and Alice's thought that we should be using the cell model, that only one or two other people should know what he's doing. He told me impatiently that it was too late for that and--well, I'm afraid I lost my temper. It ended badly, with me shouting at him, and Bill growling at me that were things he had to do, and there wasn't a thing I could do to stop him. He threw down the dish towel and apparated home before Arthur and Ginny got back. And then I had to come up with a fumbled explanation to a puzzled and hurt Ginny as to why he had left without even saying goodbye to her.

Where did he get his dedication to the cause, his burning conviction? I saw it, really saw it laid bare for the first time last night. Was there someone he cared about who was lost in the Troubles and I never even knew? Is it really all just from whatever it was that Arthur and I
instilled in him, growing up? I think about the rest of the boys. Charlie's already involved now, too. I don't know about which way it will go with Percy, but if he should join us someday, and the twins, too . . . and if the worst should happen . . .

It's thoughts like this that rob me of my sleep at night.

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**alt_arthur** at **2009-05-26 01:06:42**  
(no subject)

I'll talk to him, Molly, dear. I'm sure it will all be smoothed over, and he'll be back to dinner the week after next as usual. He never holds a grudge, you know.

He is being careful, you know--exceedingly so.

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**alt_molly** at **2009-05-26 01:08:43**  
(no subject)

I know, Arthur. And it's not that I want him to refuse to help us.

I'm just being silly.

---

**alt_arthur** at **2009-05-26 01:12:40**  
(no subject)

Not silly at all, Molly. And Bill understands, too, my dear, I'm sure of it. Or he will once he's cooled down a bit.

I'm just about done with this report, and I'll be on my way home in just a few.

---

**alt_sirius** at **2009-05-26 01:12:02**  
(no subject)

I'm certainly not the best to give advice about mothers and sons, Molly. But Bill has a level head on his shoulders, I've seen that.

We've been chatting intermittently about the Laszlo premises, as you
know, and it's given me a fair amount of insight to him.

All I can tell you is don't push him. He's old enough to know his own mind.

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**alt_molly** at 2009-05-26 01:16:32  
(no subject)

Oh, I know. I know I handled it badly. I'll try to do better next time.

Thank you.

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**alt_kingsley** at 2009-05-26 02:19:04  
(no subject)

I'd second Sirius on this. Bill's not the sort to ever make a rash mistake or blow his cover unnecessarily. I've seen all types, you know, Molly, and I have to say he's mighty steady for one so young.

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**alt_alice** at 2009-05-26 01:25:34  
(no subject)

Oh, Molly. That does sound hard, all round. There really are no easy answers to this one, are there?

Neville's still so very young that it's hard for me to imagine how I'd behave if I were in your shoes, but my heart goes out to you.

Let me know if you want to talk -- I do owe you a nice long letter.

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**alt_molly** at 2009-05-26 01:32:38  
(no subject)

I was just sitting down to write a letter to you about it. You should get it tomorrow, along with a small package containing the latest collection of newly knit socks.
I do wish that I could see you any time I liked, just like any neighbour popping down the lane to share a cuppa with you. It would be such a comfort! I might be able to visit a bit more frequently when Ginny and Luna are off to school next year.

alt_alice at 2009-05-26 16:01:00
(no subject)

oh, that would be lovely.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-26 14:55:22
(no subject)

Molly, I'm very sorry to hear about this set-to you've had with Bill. I hope he's cooled down by now.

I think it's simply the nature of things that we are perfectly able to find courage and to take risks for ourselves and be relatively calm about it, while, at the same time, we find it totally unnerving that people we care very much about should take similar risks. Sirius and I have discussed this from time to time: there's nothing harder to bear than waiting in suspense whilst others face terrible dangers when we can do nothing at all to help or to share the risk (and the injury if necessary).

In this regard, I think it's much harder to stand on the sidelines than to fly into danger's maw oneself.

alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-27 13:12:07
(no subject)

It sounds as though Bill is rather like you, Molly - you won't be out of the thick of things, not for one moment, within the limitations of caring for your family of course. Or hadn't you thought of that? In any case, he does what he's seen modeled for him throughout his young life, and does a wonderful job of it too.

As for the cel structure, I do hope that it might be useable in future; however, we all of us have gone too far to institute it now. There is hardly any one in the Order who doesn't know all the rest of us - at the core, I mean.
Violations

Skeeter has filed with her editors at the Prophet, asking to write an investigative article on the concoctions sold to the O.W.L. students at Hogwarts. Bole, of course, thought to consult me before granting or denying her permission. Ordinarily I should object to unleashing her on the staff (to say nothing of the students) but under the circumstances, I can think of no better reporter for the job. Have communicated certain sensible restrictions, however, that I think shall suit everyone (excepting perhaps Skeeter herself) and limit her ability to disrupt the final days of term.

I find it singularly contemptible that so much energy was spent over the relatively minor transgressions of a few students firing surreptitious hexes at their fellows in good fun, while this ... black market trade in illicit enhancements was taking place right under the administration's noses. Even the Commerce Committee had a number of colourful observations regarding the irony, in light of our recent exertions to provide the school with 'necessary' ingredients.

Minerva, I hope you are prepared to answer the Board's questions on the matter. Best make sure that Madam Pomfrey is available as well, should she be called upon to provide an account in person. It will make for a much livelier Governors' meeting than I had expected, though not, I am sorry to say, in an anticipated nor a welcome way.

Speaking of welcome, the decision of the most recent civil division of the Wizengamot came as a pleasant greeting this morning. Between the ludicrous nature of the claims and my accuser's ... dubious credibility, the courts have ruled that there is no basis to bring a suit. Moreover, as plaintiff, she was instructed to pay damages for the detriment to my name which this sordid business has caused in certain circles. I have waived payment in exchange for the agreement that my access to the child is as unfettered as it had been. It is certainly the case - and the courts agree - that she needs a steady influence of the proper ideals or she may well fall back into unsavoury habits which her mother is inadequately able to manage. So there's an end to that. All to the good, since I hardly wished to go to France for a month without being able first to instill some goals for her summer holidays. The outcome, of course, was never really in question; but it
is a relief to have the official proceedings over and the record set to rights.

Crispin's performance of late continues to confound me. He will provide a week's solid service, reliable as ever, then without warning there will be a day when he fails utterly or overlooks some minuscule, yet vital, detail, resulting in near catastrophe. He assures me his health is adequate, his family all well, his sleep unperturbed, his appetite normal and his finances quite satisfactory - leaving only one possible explanation for this alarming trend. One does not like to pry, but I can only conclude that these deficiencies lie in some way with Miss Kirke. It is most distressing. Perhaps while abroad he will be able to reconsider his priorities. I should not like to lose a clerk after investing so much time and effort into his training; but one cannot tolerate these faults if they grow more frequent. Furthermore if his intentions toward Miss Kirke are at all approaching, dare I presume, a lifelong attachment, or any kind of understanding, and this behaviour can therefore be expected to become the norm, then it is inevitable we should soon find our arrangements intolerable on both ends. I can currently whole-heartedly recommend him should he wish to move on; if his personal commitments threaten to precede his obligations in my employ, however, I do not know that I could so gladly provide an unqualified reference.

Well. As I said, perhaps it is transitory and more related to the pressures of our impending sojourn than to the routine to which we have become accustomed these five years. Can it really be five? Remarkable.

Amidst those usual duties, I was summoned to attend Our Lord over the week-end to see the latest fruits of His work. Extraordinary accomplishment! He honoured me by demonstrating a part of His creation's capacities and I must say I was most impressed - more than customarily, I mean - by Our Lord's ability to control His invention. Particularly at long distance. Regulus has been quite right all these years to note how inestimable Our Lord's powers, how foolish to cross them.

I am glad to say that, at least for the time being, the doubts that I understand have plagued Our Lord appear to be dissipating. I only hope that we all continue to satisfy Him as to the integrity and intensity of our sincere devotion to His causes.
Draco, I trust you are all set for your exams? Your last letter seemed a little anxious. Is there anything you would like your mother to send you to smooth the last few days' revision?

---

**alt_molly** at 2009-05-26 20:28:14  
*Order Only*

'I can think of no better reporter for the job,' indeed. No better reporter for throwing muck at Minerva and Poppy, he means.

Minerva, **will** you and Poppy be able to limit the damage enough at the Governors' meeting, do you think? I'd volunteer to write a letter as a 'concerned parent supporting the school hospital wing matron' if you think it would help, but perhaps it would just make things worse for me to stick my stirring rod into the cauldron.

(Ooooo, that **horrible** man.)

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**alt_mcgonagall** at 2009-05-27 13:19:52  
*Re: Order Only*

I do believe we will. Lucius Malfoy is, after all, not the only governor - and your letter might just help. I am sorry, however, that Lucius seems to turn on me; I knew he was a tricky Slytherin, but I had thought I had done a better job of cultivating him than all that. My damned pride, I suppose.

---

**alt_molly** at 2009-05-27 17:10:08  
*Re: Order Only*

Poppy raised the point of whether it is a good idea for the two of us to be tied together in terms of loyalty. I don't know, but I'll leave it to your judgement. I'll be sending you two copies of the letter, Minerva. If you and Poppy still think it's a good idea once you've reviewed it, you can give the sealed version to the governors (they don't have to know you've already reviewed it).
alt_arthur at 2009-05-27 17:11:30
Re: Order Only

I do think that's a sensible precaution, Molly.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-27 15:38:37
Re: Order Only

Honestly, Molly, I'm not sure. Have you sent off your letter yet?

I just worry that it might be best if you did not hitch yourself to me, so to speak. This idea that we would do better to operate in isolated cells has me thinking that it might be best if you did not do anything to put the idea in anyone's head that we are associated in any way. Do you see what I mean? That way if anything horrible were to happen and either of us ever faced questioning, it would be less likely that anyone would think to ask the one of us about the other.

alt_molly at 2009-05-27 17:07:54
Re: Order Only

Tell you what: I'll send two copies of the same letter to Minerva, one sealed for the governors, but the two of you can read the other copy and if you both think it a good idea, she can give the sealed one to them at the meeting.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-26 20:30:27
Order Only

Well, Minerva, you were quite right. (The insufferable prick.) I am ready with my dossier on each step of the case, whenever it may be called for.

If you wish to speak with me before that Skeeter woman descends upon us, things are relatively quiet here this afternoon. Simply say the word.
alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-27 13:20:35
Re: Order Only

I am quite grateful for your careful documentations, Poppy.

alt_arthur at 2009-05-26 20:49:45
Order Only

What the ruddy hell does he mean, seeing 'the latest fruits' of the L.P.'s work, 'extraordinary accomplishment,' 'His creation's capacities' etcetera? Anyone have any idea what he could possibly be talking about?

alt_frank at 2009-05-26 23:46:33
Re: Order Only

damned if I know. if it is as impressive as that kissarse makes it sound, though, it's sure to mean loads of fun for us.

Re: Order Only

I have very little idea; but I have been summoned to the Lord Protector's side in a few days, and I hope that I shall discover it then. I would think it isn't nearly as famous an accomplishment as Lucius suggests, however; - he is an awful brown-noser, and in any case if it were truly revolutionary I believe he would have used it against the Resistance already.

alt_pansy at 2009-05-26 21:13:04
(no subject)

Does that mean what I think it means, Lucius? We can be friends again?
We have never not been friends, Little Bit. But yes, it means that the barriers I explained to you have been removed. What's more, I shall see you before I go abroad, certainly.

Oh, good.

You don't hate Was Mum all right?

As far as I can determine, your mother was not unwell. Not more than usual, at least. You'll forgive me if I tell you we did not actually converse.

Of course I'll forgive you! You didn't do anything wrong.

Does this mean you can also send me chocs again? Only exams are coming up and they really do help me concentrate.

Let's just be grateful for the victory, for now. I am certain you'll do fine without the supply of sugar.
Well, now, here I am envying you. Seeing as how you've got a ringside seat at Our Lord's elbow when he shows off his new toy.

Maybe when you come up to the school you can tell me all about it.

And I can repay you by telling you a few things, too.

Perhaps. I've a feeling the intricacies of Our Lord's plans shall soon become evident to everyone, and felt even so far away as Hogwarts.

As for the intelligence you may have to offer, I welcome it. I saw your recent post, regarding your theories on the source of the theft and contraband - if you have evidence, I should be interested to know it.

Oh, I've all sorts of secrets, you can count on it. Ears in the walls, like.

The old girl might be none too happy at what I have to say, but I'm sure the Board of Governors will.

Yes. Well, by all means, if you would be so good as to share your secrets with me, I can determine the best way to present them to the other Governors.

We can speak more of it when I arrive.
Can't see the silver for the red. Highly irritating, this is. And term end marking is interfering with my research.

If it isn't the stupidity of misbegotten excrescences like Longbottom (such a pleasure to dock points on him), it's those smarmy sneaksbys, the ginger-haired Gemini.

A word of advice, Minnie: the powers that be should look there for the culprits. A good gout of flame would go a long way to refining the red and the gold.

And there's another thing: I'm sick of you haring off to the hospital wing, tidbit. You're my tidbit, mind, at my beck and call. No one else's.

Maybe it's time for a leash.

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

bloody hell, no.

the mudblood knows it belongs to you, and no one else.

the mudblood tells that to everybody, sir.

sir, the mudblood is almost finished sweeping up the classroom and dusting the storage cupboard. Will bring you the tea tray once the house elves have lit the fire in your room.

the mudblood will sit there at your feet. that's where the mudblood belongs.
alt_amycus at 2009-05-27 02:44:36  
(no subject)  
Don't you forget it.

alt_terry at 2009-05-27 02:45:05  
(no subject)  
never, sir.

alt_mcgonagall at 2009-05-27 13:26:17  
(no subject)  
Professor Carrow, I believe we have spoken - at length and on several occasions - of your deplorable habit of referring to me as "Minnie."

As for the Weasley boys, they have been curiously rule-abiding of late. Nothing to suggest that they have earned punishment. You know this - unless something has come to light that I am unaware of?

alt_amycus at 2009-05-27 15:37:54  
(no subject)  
You didn't like 'Min,' but never heard any objection to 'Minnie.' It suits you.

I'm sure I can make something come to light.

alt_molly at 2009-05-27 15:38:56  
Order Only  
YOU KEEP AWAY FROM MY BOYS, YOU LOATHSOME MAN!
@alt_frank at 2009-05-27 16:56:50
Re: Order Only

you hold I'll punch.

@alt_molly at 2009-05-27 17:03:37
Re: Order Only

With pleasure!
**2009-05-26 21:30:00**  
*Nift Birthday!*

Professor Lockhart said to me today that he wished he had known yesterday was my birthday! Thats just what he said too: 'I wish I had known.' And he said I'm about the cleverest witch in our year! And he wished me happy 'belated' birthday in front of the whole class! I thought I'd die I was so embarrassed!!

But it was a really nift birthday, anyway. Mum and Dad sent shoes and a new Solstice Night album and one by Ranjeet Mukerjhee. And we got earrings and a little tiny phial of perfume each, and real henna and of course birthday cakes. And Haruman charmed some ice cream so it would stay frozen until we ate it. Chocolate for me and strawberry for Parvati.

It was brill I love birthdays.

Oh and Lav? I LOVE IT!!! Thanks again - it's utterly perfect.

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**alt_seamus** at **2009-05-27 01:57:52**  
*(no subject)*

Thanks for the cake Padma. And happy birthday again.

---

**alt_padma** at **2009-05-27 02:04:33**  
*(no subject)*

Well, it's only fair since you shared yours. Sorry this didnt have pudding in, though. That was really wizard.

And I guess I'm sorry your team lost. But not too sorry because Ravenclaw won!
Attention, Slytherin Prefects

Please come to the corridor leading from the library to the Charms classroom.

I have Perks with me, and as she has been caught in the act of hexing a pureblood, I think it best that she be disciplined by her own House prefects.

Oi, Weasley, Sally-Anne wouldn't ever just hex someone like that. (Not without a reason, anyway.) You must be mistaken.

She most certainly did, Parkinson! Now I've got to go to the hospital wing and it means I'll never get the perfume out of my books thanks to your mate, Longbum!

It was brand-new, that bottle.

If Neville did something, I'm sure he didn't mean it. And that still doesn't mean Sally-Anne did anything. Stop being so mean, Padma.

Of course I didn't.
alt_neville at 2009-05-27 03:24:20  
(no subject)

I really sorry, Patil. I never meant to ruin your stuff. I'll use my pocket money to replace it, if you want.

alt_padma at 2009-05-27 03:27:42  
(no subject)

You just better!

I'm waiting for Madam Pomfrey to stop my ears flapping and the smell of all that perfume in one place is horrid. Perfume is meant to be dabbed, not drenched.

My parents just gave me that bottle for my birthday, too. And now my ears won't stop flapping and they hurt and I'll get in trouble and it's your fault.

alt_neville at 2009-05-27 03:34:23  
(no subject)

Well, I know all about hexes hurting. You don't have to convince me.

Anyway, I know it's my fault. I'll pay for the books, if they can't be scourgified right. And the perfume.

alt_seamus at 2009-05-27 03:45:44  
(no subject)

What happened to your ears? That sounds awful.

alt_neville at 2009-05-27 03:50:42  
(no subject)

They're, uh, really big.
They're flapping and it feels like my head's about to take off and OW.

Oh ouch! Hasnt Madam Pomfrey fixed it yet?

I'm guessing it might take awhile.

I don't know where she is! Oh. Wait a minute. I think she's just coming now.

On the contrary, I witnessed it with my own eyes. She hexed Padma Patil, bold as brass, just as I rounded the corner.

It was mostly my fault anyway, Percy.
How, for Merlin's sake, did you have anything to do with a half-blood forgetting her proper place?

What do you mean blaming Sally-Anne because she's a half-blood? It's not her fault and it's not Neville's fault, either, Weasley. It just isn't.

People in Perks' position need to be aware that their actions are necessarily scrutinised quite closely here at Hogwarts. As I am sure the Slytherin Prefects will inform her.

At any rate, I have been quite magnanimous, I think, to leave her punishment up to them. If you have any complaints, you can take it up with them.

Mr Rosier says Im allowed to hex people if they deserve it. I mean not ALLOWED because its still against the rules. But he said not to let anyone push me around and that anyone who graduates without ever serving detention isn't taking full advantage of their opportunities.

I mean not that Perks should have hexed Padma for no reason. But Ron shouldn't either. Not that he would I mean it was just an example.
Wow. That's sure an interesting take on serving detention. I never knew I was *taking advantage of opportunities* whenever Professor Carrow's having me stay after class to turn a hundred flyswatters into teacups.

(Not that I go around hexing people much, though.)

Well I think he mostly meant detention for breaking rules. Not being thick in class. He said this in a letter back when Malfoy got detention for about the rest of the term, and that was for getting in trouble along with Marvolo.

Well, I've gotta say that detention in the forest was a totally wizard opportunity. I mean, I probably learned more that one night than all year in History of Magic or Defense. I mean we didn't learn any Charms or Transfiguration because we couldn't use magic to help with the brush clearing stuff we had to do, but it was like a whole year's worth of Magical Creatures right there and we didn't have to wait for Third Year!!

It's just a guess, but I don't think anyone's going to think it's a good idea to let me serve my detention in the Forbidden Forest.

Professor Slughorn said he'd ask around to see if any of the professors needed help with something suitable.
Yeah, I spose not.

But maybe Professor Macnair needs help getting ready for the NEWTs Creature exam--that would be dead sorcerous!

Yeah if I had spent the year acting all scared of anything bigger than a kneazle they'd probably think that would be a perfect punishment. Maybe if he needs manticore manure shoveled out they'd let me do it!

Of course you would. And I would, too, if they deserved it.

And I bet there was a good reason she did it, too.

Her proper . . . wha???

I dunno about places. I just made a mess, that's all. We were all in the library, and Padma got mad when Hermione said when I spilled ink all over the table, and Padma's bag got pushed over when people were trying to rescue their stuff, and I guess people got hacked off and--well, nobody would have hexed anybody if I hadn't made a right mess of everything.
I hardly believe it, but Longbum has a point. It really did all start with the mudblood.

Merlin, all she did was suggest a book to help you. That's what she used to do, you know: help people find the right books in the library. How come you're getting all shirty over that?

But she wasn't asked to help, was she? They're supposed to be helpful only when you want them to, and only speak when they're spoken to. I don't think Marvolo would like if if she spoke out of turn like that do just anyone. It's just... uppity. And creepy

But they're supposed to anta- antisi- they're supposed to do stuff for you before you even ask. That's what that Dennis does all the time, and nobody gets cross with him for that.

I still don't think it's fair to get hacked off at her for just trying to help you.

Well, she should have just gone and got the book then. That would have been alright, I suppose. But didn't you hear her? She spoke up and put her oar in, like she was one of us.
And you were about to stick up for her then and there, weren't you? That's why you jumped up so quick, isn't it?

alt_neville at 2009-05-27 04:01:49 (no subject)

I just was . . . just fumbling my books. Like I always do, I guess. Anyhow, I already said it, I'm sorry.

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 04:03:24 (no subject)

That's all that any of us can say, Neville, and I'm sure Patil will accept your apology. Won't you, Patil?

And I'm sure that Perks will be around to apologise eventually, too. Once her House Prefects have settled on her punishment.

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-27 04:20:36 (no subject)

Well they sent me to Professor Slughorn and he gave me a detention and I apologised to Padma and he said I should apologise to you too.

I am sorry that I caused trouble in the corridor.

It was very kind of you to get Siobhan to deal with me. She took me to Professor Slughorn because she thought I should get a detention. And he is a very fair person. Not everyone is fair like Professor Slughorn is.

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 11:49:32 (no subject)

Apology accepted.
**alt_padma** at 2009-05-27 16:45:50
(no subject)

Yes, I accept it. If he pays for the perfume.

**alt_millicent** at 2009-05-27 13:37:07
(no subject)

nevs a mudblood lover you know that patel

anywy i like the perfume. even if it is too much. nice.

**alt_ron** at 2009-05-27 15:53:04
(no subject)

Hey, Bulstrode!

Did somebody hex you or do you always spell like you're 4 years old?

**alt_pansy** at 2009-05-27 04:03:34
(no subject)


**alt_terry** at 2009-05-27 03:47:07
(no subject)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Hermione? What happened in the library? You're not in trouble, are you?
I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Oh TERRY!!!!

I'm not in trouble exactly, I was only walking by and you know we've been studying ever so hard and Padma Patil was saying the stupidest thing, and she's a Ravenclaw and she ought to know better, so I told her what book to look in, just because I thought she'd appreciate it maybe, only then she got all shirty and I don't know why. And I don't think I'm in trouble but Harry put me in my cupboard without supper last night, only then he snuck me some later when nobody was watching, and I'm still there, so I think he'll sneak me breakfast too. I think I might've gotten hit with a little bit of a hex because I dropped right off to sleep after I ate supper, I was ever so tired. Can hexes do that to you?!

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

I dunno, maybe. I've never experienced one like that, and of course, I've had a lot of hexes thrown at me. But making someone sleepy is a bit . . . simpler than the sort of hex Master prefers.

Anyway, I'm really glad you aren't in worse trouble.

I'd like to hex that Padma Patil myself. Makes me ashamed to think she's in the same House as me.

(Master was really tetchy last night. But I think I got him calmed down enough that he's not going to do that stupid idea of putting a leash on me. He's saying I can't help Madam Pomfrey this week, though.

Saw Fred and Lee this morning, early, and they were making me laugh, talking about the sort of collar they'd pick out to put on Master. One with pink spangles.)
And it's right nice of Marvolo to sneak you your meals.
I'm glad he's treating you decent.

Do you have any idea how long you're going to be stuck in there? I have some new Astronomy notes Lee gave me for us to use. He found all his notes for first year! (Have to admit, they're sort of hard to read. And they have mustard smeared over a lot of the pages.) I can leave them for you in our secret classroom.

Sorry they're hard to read, and the mustard smears weren't my fault!

Oh that's right before I forget Neville I'm also supposed to apologise to you, Professor Slughorn said. I wasn't sure why and he said it was because you were inconvenienced. Also you might have been disturbed seeing Padma's ears get huge and start flapping. I told him I didn't think you'd hold it against me but he said that when in doubt it's good form to apologise.

So anyway I'm sorry for inconveniencing and disturbing you.

Actually I think he might kind of suspect I hexed you some of the other times and that's really why he wanted me to apologise. But I know you know I've never hexed you and that's what's important.

Denial only compounds the offence, Perks.
Come off it, she doesn't have to confess to something she didn't do. I know she isn't the person who's been hexing me. Most of the times it happened she wasn't anywhere around at all. And she just wouldn't.

Don't be naive, Neville. Or taken in by half-blood ingratiation.

I should know. I was there all the times I got hexed. You don't know what you're talking about, Percy.

'Course I believe you, Sally-Anne. If you need me to, I'll tell Professor Slughorn you apologised just fine. But you didn't have to do it at all.

Don't be daft, you. Or go all pompous arse because you've got such big head.

Ronald, language!
I have never hexed Neville. Ever.

But you don't deny hexing other students. Well? Are you the one responsible for the epidemic of hexing that has been creating problems for all the Prefects? Katrina Bundy? Wayne Hopkins, Susan Bones, John Summers, Eloise Midgen, all the rest? Trying to eke out a little advantage for your House by hexing all the competition, were you? Trying to throw suspicion off by hexing other half-bloods? I'm not sure they'll be particularly pleased once they've realised you've been turning on your own kind to suck up to purebloods.

Oh, Percy!

Oh, Arthur, I can hardly believe it, hearing accusations about--about blood consciousness like this coming from him.

I don't know, Molly. I honestly don't know how to read it. He might be putting on a show for the benefit of the other Prefects. But he might really mean it, which would be appalling.

Maybe we'll learn more when we get this week's letter from him.
alt_neville at 2009-05-27 16:14:10  
(no subject)

WHAT?? That's ridiculous! Perks would never do that!

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 16:15:08  
(no subject)

Never? I wouldn't be so quick to defend her. You forget, Neville, that I saw her administering a hex on a pureblood student with my very own eyes.

alt_neville at 2009-05-27 16:20:18  
(no subject)

That's crazy. I was the one who got the brunt of it, and I'm telling you, she wasn't even there the times it happened. Same with Summer, Bones and the rest.

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 16:22:24  
(no subject)

Well, I'm sure her Head of House will get down to the bottom of it. And perhaps the Headmistress.

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-27 16:18:12  
(no subject)

I don't deny hexing Padma Patil.

But I really appreciate how clever you think I am. So brilliant that I can hex people in classes I'm not even in. Midgen and Bones got hexed in Defense, which they have with Gryffindor. And Hopkins and Summers got hexed in Charms, which they have with Ravenclaw. The only class the Hufflepuffs have with Slytherin is Astronomy and Midgen did get hexed in Astronomy once but I wasn't the one who hexed her.
I have never hexed Bundy or Hopkins or Bones or Summers or Midgen or any of the others and I don't see why I would. I mean Wayne Hopkins slinks around with his head down and he cringes when anyone looks at him cross-eyed. Hexing him would be redundant.

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 16:23:26
(no subject)

Hmm. Well, I assume if you explain this to your Head of House AND these facts can be verified then your name will be cleared.

alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-27 16:35:15
(no subject)

Professor Slughorn seemed to think last night that he was done with me. So if you think he needs to ask me about Bundy and Hopkins and all the rest you'll probably need to go to him and tell him that you think he needs to ask me more questions.

alt_percy at 2009-05-27 16:47:51
(no subject)

If Professor Slughorn is satisfied, then no more needs to be said. Of course it's not my place to stick my wand in the cauldron where the internal discipline of Slytherin House is concerned.

alt_ron at 2009-05-27 20:20:09
(no subject)

You know, Perce, before you start not sticking your wand in, you'd have to pull it out and wipe it off.

Honestly, I don't what's up your bum, but you'd better stop being horrible to my friends. You big
Leave Perks alone!

And mind your own BLOODY business.

@alt_percy at 2009-05-27 21:31:02  
(no subject)

Don't be ridiculous, Ronald. A mighty poor Prefect I would be if I ignored school rules purely on the basis that Perks is your friend. And I'm doing nothing more than enforcing the school rules that everyone must follow, purebloods and half-bloods alike.

@alt_ron at 2009-05-27 13:25:16  
(no subject)

Oi! She's a person just like you, and she'd never do anything just to be mean. Unlike Pat Fine, you caught her casting a hex, but you don't need to make it a Wizengamot case, y'know.

And you bloody well don't need to be all Puffy Prefect about it.

@alt_percy at 2009-05-27 14:11:17  
(no subject)

Prefects need to maintain order, Ronald. And that includes enforcing the no hexing in the corridors rule.
Padma I'm sorry I hexed you. And I'm sorry to everyone else in Slytherin House that I lost points but I'm especially sorry I hexed Padma and that her head hurts.

Professor Slughorn said I should make a public apology and this seemed the best way.

He also asked why I hexed her. I told him I got angry because I thought it was her shouting that got us thrown out of the library.

Anyway I'm going to have to serve a detention. Magic in the corridors is against the rules and especially hexing. And I'm sorry to everyone for breaking the rules, especially right outside the library when people were trying to study for NEWTs. But mostly I'm sorry for hurting Padma, because hurting people for no reason is wrong. And I won't do it again.

You mean you didn't tell

Apology accepted, Perks.

Madam Pomfrey fixed my ears back down to normal, but I stayed in the hospital wing last night because they were still flapping for hours.

It was kinda funny, though, once it didn't hurt anymore.

When I saw the hex in a book it didn't say it would hurt. It made it sound like it would just look really funny.

I'd add a little note about what happened but it's a library book.
Anyway I'm very sorry.

Madam Pomfrey says it only hurt because my ears got so big when it hit. maybe there was an engorgment part too.

If you and Parkinson want to come have a music party instead of chess, we'll be listening to Parvati and my new albums in the usual spot.

Well I really ought to be revising but a music party sounds fun. I'll see if Pansy wants to come.

Well, the thing is, we're revising for Astronomy tonight so we have to be up late, anyway.

(We asked Professor Vector if we could go out to look at the stars and study and she said yes.)

See, this is why you should always play chess instead of revising. I finally beat Towler again last night. I mean, I was beginning to think he'd hexed the black pieces to throw the game when I'm playing with them.

Too bad the corridors aren't a little darker, then maybe Percy wouldn't have seen you do it.
Ronald! It would have been far better for her not to have done it at all!

Or if they'd been brighter, maybe you'd have seen what Patil did to make Perks hex her.

Or maybe you did see, but you decided to pretend you hadn't.

Oi, you weren't there Weaselkins, so you've no clue what happened or didn't happen.

Anyway she's apologised so it's okay now.

Except Longbottom owes me for the perfume bottle.

Maybe I'll come play chess tonight. Only it really is getting close to exams which is why I was in the library to begin with.

Also I really don't think your brother saw anything except me hexing Patil. He looked angry just at me. He didn't have that shifty look people have sometimes when they

The library just gives me the willies. It's so musty and, really, it's too DARK to see what you're doing in there in most of the corners they leave for first
years to sit, anyway, don't you think?

You should totally play. I'll take the black pieces just in case they really are hexed. And if you want, we could look over some notes in between games. I've got a couple of pages from Potions, I think, where the ink ran and its just one big black blob you can't read at all. Maybe you've got notes on that stuff.

@alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-27 16:07:20
(no subject)

Wait, you want me to come to the great hall so you can beat me at chess and THEN you want to copy my potions notes?

I'm going to make up a special set of notes just for you and you can have them for keeps, Weasley.

@alt_ron at 2009-05-28 03:02:35
(no subject)

Well. If you want to give me your notes, I've got plenty of time to look them over now. Except for whenever Macnair decides to give me detention. Hah! Maybe it'll be me, mucking out the Manticore dung!

Stupid brothers.

@alt_draco at 2009-05-27 15:05:53
(no subject)

Way to go, Sally Anne. You know, just because you're in the pureblood house doesn't mean you can act like one.

@alt_sally_anne at 2009-05-27 15:49:55
(no subject)

No, you're right there.
Halfbloods need to be much more careful than I was yesterday. I was stupid. Percy Weasley was right behind me when
2009-05-27 09:39:00
I'm sorry

Mr Marvolo says I need to apologise like Miss Perks because I bothered everybody yesterday.

I'm very sorry that I was uppity and I spoke when I hadn't been spoken to and I ought to have known better. Miss Padma Patil can I do anything for you, like chores, or something? Because Mr Marvolo says that I need to do something for you to atone, and I really am ever so sorry, and I will never do it, ever again.

And I am also supposed to say that Mr Marvolo put me to bed with no supper nor yet any breakfast and so I am very, very sorry and I won't do it ever again.

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Oh it makes me so mad!!!!

How can she be a Ravenclaw?! And why won't she admit that she was hexing Sally-Anne?! She was hexing her!! It was obvious!! She must have been!! And she's so dumb I bet she couldn't make the hex go anyway!

And Harry said he couldn't bring me breakfast because people were looking at him too much so I'm ever so hungry.

2009-05-27 14:29:10
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

If Marvolo will let you have water, you can maybe fill your stomach up with that. It'll sort of trick your stomach into thinking its full. That sometimes helps when Master docks me my meals. I'd sneak you some bread if I could, but you know there's no way I can.

Of course, that only works if he'll let you out to use the loo. Hope he will.

I'm ever so sorry, Hermione. You really have to do chores for that snob?
Well, I hate to say it, but you'll probably have to grovel and suck up to her a lot to convince her you believe she's better than you.

Then you just concentrate on studying hard, and you can leave her in the dust. You're tonnes smarter than her. She may never know it, but you and I do. That's all that matters.

**alt_terry** at 2009-05-27 14:30:03  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

And if I had my way, no way would she be a Ravenclaw.

**alt_hermione** at 2009-05-29 13:39:30  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Well I suppose you know by now but he did let me out - said I'd done my due diligence, only he didn't say it that way, becuase I don't think he knows what "diligence" means, I just read it in a novel that was lying around the common room.

Anyhow I haven't heard from Patil yet, so I don't know if I have to do chores for her, I suppose I'll see, won't I? But Harry did sort of seem sheepish when he let me out, like he knew I wasn't in the wrong.

**alt_draco** at 2009-05-27 15:06:45  
*(no subject)*

Time is running out for you.

**alt_poppy** at 2009-05-27 15:43:07  
*Order Only*

Gracious!

That sounds very much like a threat. Miss Granger, you must tell us if you feel that you are being threatened by young Mr Malfoy--or by anyone else. I'm not certain
what we can do, but we will do our utmost to see that you are not harmed whilst you are in this school!

alt_hermione at 2009-05-29 13:40:38
Re: Order Only

I don't think so. He hasn't done anything bad since he wrote that. I don't know what it means.

alt_poppy at 2009-05-29 13:53:58
Re: Order Only

Well, do be careful of yourself--especially around this young man. If it is quiet in the ward this afternoon, I believe that you and I should have a lesson in comportment. You need to develop skills to avoid attracting attention.

alt_hermione at 2009-05-29 13:41:58
(no subject)

What -

Mr Malfoy I'm sorry if I did anything wrong by apologising.

alt_draco at 2009-05-29 14:53:57
(no subject)

If you don't know what I'm talking about then you're really in trouble.

alt_molly at 2009-05-27 15:34:24
Order Only

Oh, Hermione. I hope that Harry isn't making you go without your meals entirely?
Re: Order Only

Oh don't worry Mrs Weasley, he isn't, or anyway he was but he let me out after breakfast and I got to eat lunch, which was rather nice of him, he even brought me something.

I can't think of anything I'd trust you to touch, mudblood. But if Marvolo wants you to make up for what you did, than you can come to the empty classroom on the third floor after supper, if he'll let you.

We've got defencive charms to practise and need a target.

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I want my own wand if only so I can HEX her.
2009-05-27 16:23:00
Oh, for the love of Merlin!

There is something seriously wrong with this year's batch of first-years. They're all so damned cheeky. I swear we weren't as bad as this lot.

Listen, children, it's time to GROW UP. You know who I'm referring to.

alt_penelope

2009-05-27 23:54:52
(no subject)

I'm sure you're not talking to me, Clearwater.

But Su Li and Brocklehurst could certainly take a leaf out of that book.

alt_padma

2009-05-28 00:03:45
(no subject)

Way to pass the sickle, Patil.

It amuses me that you were the first to take note of my advice. Perhaps I struck too close to home?

alt_penelope

2009-05-28 00:05:38
(no subject)

don't be silly. I'm just the first one done with homework.

alt_padma

2009-05-28 00:11:12
(no subject)

So you DO have some Ravenclaw in you afterall? Could have fooled me, dance parties and all. I've been wondering all year why the Sorting Hat placed you here.
Those of us who are really clever don't have to choose. We can get our assinments done and still have fun. And we don't need to borrow anyone else's notes, either.

I think this response goes a long way to prove Clearwater's point about cheekiness.

Huh. It figures.

Maybe she doesn't know what the word means.

I have a suspicion you are correct.

It was only a matter of time before you showed up to defend your girlfriend. Honestly.
Whether or not she is my girlfriend, which is absolutely none of your business, she is perfectly capable of looking out for herself.

How chivalrous.

Surely there must be another Weasley around you can boss about. Those twin brothers of yours - haven't they blown something up recently?

Go be pompous to someone who cares.

Why?

Is there something you particularly want us to blow up?

Oh, I could think of a suggestion...

Don't.
Oh, you must be thinking the same thing, admit it.

They'll be powerful sorry if they do. Another party might be even sorrier.

Um, I'll make that very clear to them. Sir.

See that you do.

See? Doesn't know what cheeky means, that's for sure.

I know what kiss-up means....
Perhaps you're in need of a spell-checker quill instead of those notes? I would bet that one of the Hufflepuffs would be able to provide. The professors who must mark your ASSIGNMENTS would be eternally grateful.

Oh, tush. I've already said loads of times that I spell just fine when it's for professors and classes. I just think proper spelling's a bore. It's too much of a bother to rewrite anything just because of a tetchy little spelling error. You knew what I meant to say, so what's the difference?

Sounds like an argument a Hufflepuff would make.

Maybe I should look over your homework for you, dearie, just to be safe. Wouldn't want the entire school to get the idea that Ravenclaws are daft just because of your little problem.

Why would you want to lower yourself to look at a firstie's homework, Clearwater? Looking to pick up extra pocket money with tutoring?

Or is it just that you're starved for someone else who'll talk to you besides Perfect Prefect Percy the Priss?
alt_penelope at 2009-05-28 01:32:34
(no subject)

I'd much prefer to talk to the Mudbloods over a cheeky firstie, anyday.

However, Ravenclaw's honour must be upheld. I wouldn't want to be associated with the uneducated.

alt_padma at 2009-05-28 01:38:22
(no subject)

Too late.

alt_penelope at 2009-05-28 01:40:13
(no subject)

Too right.

alt_padma at 2009-05-28 00:06:36
(no subject)

And besides, if I'm the first, then you're not very popular. You must've wrote this, what, an hour ago? And no one's noticed yet?

alt_neville at 2009-05-28 00:12:06
(no subject)

Of all the things I've been called, I'm pretty sure that 'cheeky' was never one of them.

(Can't speak for my roommates, though. Ron 'specially seems to be sort of on a tear today.)
alt_percey at 2009-05-28 00:19:04
(no subject)

Cheeky you definitely are not. Perish the thought.

(Ronald, on the other hand . . . )

alt_penelope at 2009-05-28 00:40:58
(no subject)

What did Ron do?

alt_percey at 2009-05-28 00:48:36
(no subject)

What, you missed all the fireworks at dinner? I thought the whole school would have heard us.

alt_penelope at 2009-05-28 00:56:38
(no subject)

Of course, we all heard you. Just couldn't figure out what the row was about.

alt_percey at 2009-05-28 01:00:02
(no subject)

Ronald has been taking exception to my authority as a Prefect. I turned over Sally-Anne Perks to the Slytherin Prefects when I caught her hexing Padma Patil in the corridors. Somehow Ronald is labouring under the delusion that he can stop me from enforcing the rules by telling me to leave his friends alone.

I've told him to report to Professor Macnair, who I devoutly hope will set him straight. It might take whacking him over the head with a bludger, however. Ronald can be a trifle thick when he's upset.
Well, I *tried* to make him come away and maybe talk to you later when he'd had a chance to cool down. But he didn't listen to me. He doesn't usually listen to anybody when he's hacked off.

But I guess you already know that.

Quite.

Well, perhaps not all of them. But cross the ones that are with the ones who are more like wet noodles waiting to be pushed around and it's no wonder the Prefects are feeling a bit harassed this year.
**I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good**

Fred, George and Lee:

I dunno if you saw the comments that Master made last night on the journal of that white-haired man, Mr Malfoy. They said they'd talk when Mr Malfoy comes to Hogwarts for the school governors meeting. I think Master wants to make trouble for the Headmistress and Madam Pomfrey over all that business that's been going on with the potions stuff some students were selling. And he REALLY wants to make trouble for you, too. He hates you. I heard him muttering about it last night. He might even try to get you expelled.

This is really, really important. DON'T let Master get anywhere near your book bags. Watch them closely when you're anywhere near him. You might even keep them on your laps when you're in class with him, if you can. I'm awful afraid that he's going to try to sneak some of that potions stuff into your bags and then 'discover' it to get you into trouble. Can you charm all the openings on the bags so that no one but you can possibly put things into them?

Be careful!

Your friend,
Terry Boot

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**alt_gredforge** at **2009-05-28 12:37:55**
(no subject)

Hey, don't worry Professor.

We've got a few ideas on how to deal with this.

Thanks for the warning, we really appreciate it.

**alt_hermione** at **2009-05-29 13:45:18**
(no subject)

Oh does anyone listen to what Carrow says? I'm sure Headmistress McGonagall doesn't, she said so, she sometimes talks to me says things when I'm around, like I don't even exist, when I'm running errands for
people. And I don't think she thinks very much of Carrow, and she's the Headmistress, so she must be rather well able to take care of herself, mustn't she?

Well, yeah, but it's not so much Master as Mr Malfoy that I'm worried about. All Master has to do is convince him. And if Mr Malfoy repeats a bunch of lies to the school governors, then I'll bet they won't even care that Master said it first. They might do whatever Mr Malfoy says, maybe something as bad as sacking Madam Pomfrey. Or even the Headmistress! Everyone says Mr Malfoy is really important, and he sure acts like he's used to people doing to whatever he tells them to do.

Would the school governors really listen to the Headmistress more than him? I sure hope so, but I'm not sure.
Arthur, I dunno how recently you heard from Bill or if his, er, disagreement with Molly was the last time you spoke, but I wondered last night how you and he were getting on at finding premises for Laszlo.

I ask because I've been gathering intelligence on the family here in Dijon - the Muggle mother and wizard son. Well, I decided I'd learnt about as much as I could through observation, so a few days ago I marched up to the door bold as you please and rang the bell.

I spoke to the butler and then the governess before I was admitted to the mistress of the house. She wanted to know if I'd been sent from the French government; when I told her I was English, she seemed caught between fear and eagerness - afraid that I had come to bring them back and throw them in the camps, and eager to hear news of home. I quickly explained that I've lived abroad as long as she had, more or less, but she pressed me for information about Britain anyway. Of course, I answered her as best I could, but carefully.

I didn't want to make things worse upsetting her. I've seen her type, a lot. My cousin Narcissa comes to mind. That same sense of ... entitlement, the sort who's accustomed to having anything and everything she wants.

You can guess that she wasn't long asking me why I'd called. Poppy, I'm sure you can relate to the act of tearing off a bandage as quickly as possible so as not to draw out the agony.

Well, she took the news better than I expected. I think it's because I'd made it clear that wizards are more accepted back at home, but that I belonged to an organisation attempting to restore equality. (I know what you're all thinking, but I decided truth was the best course - if she'd done her nut on me, I could have Obliviated her without much trouble.) Frank, I showed her the 'Wanted' poster you sent me a while back, when the Grim Truth first stirred up a fuss. I think it convinced her I'm trustworthy. Luckily she doesn't know about Polyjuice; she stared for a long time at the moving portrait, comparing it to my face.

I thought that was more than enough to start with, so I told her I'd leave her and come back the next day. That's when I told her I meant...
to tutor her son in magic - at least enough to protect himself, I said, but of course we know that learning one thing leads to learning more. (Speaking of that, Poppy - what news of your Terry?)

Anyway, she introduced me to Justin - that's the boy's name - under the condition that I not tell him I'm a wizard. He's got a healthy fear of magic, apparently, something she herself likely fostered all these years. We got on well enough, though, and she consented to let me come back - under supervision - to commence the lad's lessons.

I called her attention to the watch that the French ministry have on the place since the incident. She was quick to pick up my meaning and, although she wasn't too happy about offering it, allowed me to stay in the house to avoid constant coming and going. Justin's a virtual shut-in, too, which doesn't sit too well with me, but one thing at a time.

I'll cut to the chase: I'm ensconced as his tutor in magic and I hope soon to put the Finch-Fletchley resources to our benefit. I think I can convince her that backing Laszlo will give us an advantage in deposing Voldemort.

So, first off, anything we can find out about the Finch-Fletchleys before they fled to France, might help me out. But second, I hope soon to have more than a good down-payment on premises for Laszlo; we'll just need staff and willing helpers once we find a likely shopfront.

Meanwhile, I'm sitting pretty here for the time being. I think Padfoot will do wonders to assuage Justin's fears and get him wanting to learn. Not to mention improve the kid's health, he's devilish peaky.

Minerva, have you had a chance to gauge Malfoy any better to prepare for the Governors? You know you and Poppy have your case in order, so it can't go too badly for you.

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**alt_arthur at 2009-05-29 02:10:38**
*(no subject)*

My word, Sirius. You do move fast when you spy a situation that you can use. Well done. I think you're right; tutoring the boy puts you in an ideal position. And I'm simply glad, for the boy's sake, that you are there to help him, not to mention mighty pleased to cross his name
off the 'Missing, Feared Dead' list.

You needn't fear about Bill working himself into such a snit that he's unwilling to help us at this juncture. Weasley tempers burn hot, but they generally cool again quickly, and he's made his peace again with Molly. It helps that he knows, deep down, that she said what she did simply for the admirable reason that she loves him and is worried about his safety. 'And I'm not going to go off and sulk to the point that I'd miss out on Mum's chicken dinners every two weeks,' he added. Weasleys can be very practical, too!

At any rate, yes, he does have two or three prospects for a London Laszlo location. The best option, I think, will not open up for the business to move in until July 1, which gives us a little time to decide. I think his experience negotiating on behalf of the goblins has been exceedingly useful; at any rate, the rent rate quoted seems amazingly reasonable. He hasn't yet found a likely prospect for who could actually run the place, but perhaps you might have some thoughts about likely candidates?

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alt_sirius at 2009-05-29 03:30:13  
(no subject)

Heh - I told Molly I'm far from the best judge of a normal family, but no, I didn't figure Bill was in anything like a huff at you. I just wasn't sure you'd had the chance to speak about it recently.

July 1 ought to do nicely; it'll give me loads of time to convince Mrs Finch-Fletchley that our movement and her money should become better acquainted.

As for running the place, the only person I can think of is my cousin, Nymphadora, but I'm not at all sure she's ready. I know she'd like better work, I know she doesn't wish to leave the Ministry altogether and I know we ought not put her in any potentially compromised position - only Laszlo's legitimate business. Still, I'm not sure she's the right choice, but we may not have a choice.

One thing's certain and that's that I'd rather we hire someone we do know, who we think might eventually come on board for the Order, even if not just now.
I have had a chance to gauge him better, and I feel - rather less worried than I was. I am not a Slytherin, and it takes time for my mind to work its way down those twisty little passages - but I do believe he was being almost chivalrous, warning me about the Governors' meeting. I don't think it's nearly as deep a rift as I'd feared. So, Molly, I won't be using your letter, I believe - at least, not this time.

Nevertheless, he bears watching. I don't believe it would take much to achieve the kind of rift that I'd feared.

In any case I don't believe we shall have any trouble at the meeting, now. It may be unpleasant, but then, they usually are. Some of the Governors do make one's spine crawl; and, too, poor Poppy isn't used to them.

Good. Growing up surrounded as I did, I do sometimes have an idea of how their sordid little minds work, more's the pity. But the problem is that it's blessed hard to tell, sometimes, what they mean and what they're just saying.

Still, the thought of Malfoy thinking he's doing you a favour ... makes my flesh crawl. You know that the more he thinks you owe him, the worse it'll be for you when he tries to collect?

Justin knocked on my door last night, just as I was finishing up this entry. He asked about the journals. Apparently, he got one, but neither he nor his mother knew where it came from, so he's wisely left it alone. I told him best to just do that for now, until we're a little more certain how to explain his cropping up all of a sudden.

(Then he asked if I'd change into a dog for him again and sleep at the foot of his bed 'like a real dog.' I couldn't help laughing. What boy hasn't wanted a pet at some point? I think he's eager to learn magic, but hasn't admitted it to himself yet. I also think his first lesson is going to be that I may be able to change into a dog, but
I'm neither tame, nor a pet, nor a servant he can order about. It's going to be a long summer!

alt_poppy at 2009-05-29 16:21:40
(no subject)

My Terry?

He's hardly mine, Sirius. And that has been brought home to me in the sharpest possible way this week: Carrow has forbidden the boy to come for his regular hours with me, claiming that the lad is his possession and that I and the school have overstepped by insisting that the servant of a member of staff owes some service to the institution. Mr Boot wrote me a rather plaintive note expressing his regret that his master seems adamant on this point.

I suppose it matters less now that summer is at hand. I'm not certain what Carrow's plans may be for the long vacation, but I suspect he does not intend to remain in residence here. In any case, I take comfort in knowing that the boy has determined to learn all he can, and I trust that he is clever enough to keep those activities secret from Carrow.

You haven't asked about her, but I will answer nonetheless: Miss Granger is also blossoming as a student of all subjects we are able to cover. Mostly this has consisted of basic potions work and of mastering the intonation of first-year charms (and practicing wandwork with a faux wand I devised for her--the weight, length and springiness of which are quite a good fit for her, if I do say so myself). She is a voracious reader, and I've tried to keep her supplied with texts. She seems especially keen on runes and history. (To wit, she devoured *Hogwarts: A History* and has raced through every other title I've handed her--until we reached Grunert's history of the Goblin wars, which was, I believe, a rather tedious slog for her. At any rate, it took her several weeks to return it, and then she asked if she might have some Astronomy texts as a break from histories.) She has had some lessons with Pomona, as well, and she was present (though obviously not participating) whilst Horace and I worked to determine the makeup of those illicit potions.

I regret that I've not had as much time to work with Mr Boot. I believe that he would prove to be every bit as apt a scholar as Miss Granger.
... I take it I've hit a sore spot.

We're all worried about what will happen to the boy, Poppy, particularly should Carrow take him along again.

Minerva, I know it's the same question as always, but can't you think of some way to trick him into letting Terry stay at Hogwarts? And sweet Circe, Terry's been working with Poppy for what? Three months now? Four? And Carrow hasn't said a word against it. What a hypocrite.

As for Hermione, I'm glad she's still able to put in time on her scholarship. I wasn't too worried because, at least from what I understand from Harry, he's determined not to treat her too ill.

It's not hypocrisy so much as sheer bloody mindedness. And with Carrow, one means that phrase in its most literal sense, of course.

He's doing this now simply to irritate me and challenge Minerva's authority. I suppose that he allowed Mr Boot to come to me at all in hopes of learning some useful bits of information against me. Boot has hinted as much. No matter. There's nothing the boy could tell him save for the things he would never tell, so I have no worries at all in that regard.

Nonetheless I am irritated. And then some.

Er, yeah. Rather caught that much.
Cheeky.
2009-05-29 08:58:00

Holiday preparation

Mother sent me a book that's meant to improve my French before we go away on holiday. French used to be a part of my and Harry's lessons before we went to Hogwarts, but neither of us worked at it very hard and I've since forgotten a lot of it. This book actually speaks French if you hold your wand or your finger to the word, because accent and pronunciation is supposed to be important. And last night I fell asleep reading it, but soon woke up because it was squawking "je me rends!" in my ear, which made everybody else laugh.

And then Blaise told us that his Mother used to go to France a lot before, and that she says that all of the muggles there are naked. Not completely naked, but walking around with a lot of their bits showing, or with only a fan or a shawl to cover them. I said his Mother must be exagerating and then Teddy tried to join in and say that he'd heard the same thing, that the French muggles are all naked and also maniacs for sex. Even though Teddy is Welsh and hasn't been anywhere. If it's true and the muggles are all naked and maniacs, then I think that the French Ministry is doing a shameful job of handling them. I know that France has all the best food and robes and entertainment, but they obviously don't know how to govern.

Even if Blaise is wrong and they wear clothes, it will be odd to be around muggles the way they used to be, just out in the open. I know that Mother and Father will try to keep them away from me but still, it's strange to think that they won't know I'm a wizard and how to treat me with the proper respect. That's why we're leaving Dennis behind, because I don't want him to get confused or upset.

2009-05-29 16:08:08

(no subject)

Muggles are particularly animalistic when it comes to bathing costumes, it's true. Especially in the southern climes; since they are unable to cast cooling charms, they instead strip layers. There is also a fashion for sun-bathing, which invariably leads to premature aging and disease.

All part of the evidence that muggles are much closer to apes than their religious sects would have them believe. They would rather go
unclothed and undignified. However, if you observe anything like, it will be under ... controlled conditions, I shouldn't wonder.

I am glad you are using the book, at any rate. I have engaged a translator among your tutors but it is always helpful to be able to speak - and understand - a choice phrase or two when needed.

alt_draco at 2009-05-29 16:17:12
(no subject)

So you mean they really are naked?

alt_lucius at 2009-05-29 16:33:13
(no subject)

Nearly. And there are beaches where it is permitted for them to be fully unclothed, yes. Barbarous.

alt_draco at 2009-05-30 00:35:30
(no subject)

Are we going to those beaches?

alt_lucius at 2009-05-30 00:42:42
(no subject)

Is that a request?

alt_draco at 2009-05-30 00:47:06
(no subject)

Pansy said I should draw a picture.
Pansy has an interesting sense of humour.
We'll see. It might be valuable to your education, at that.

Naked?
Now I think I'm not sorry I wasn't invited to go with you.
But if you see any, draw a picture!

Why do you want a picture if you're not sorry you're not going?

Curiosity? I dunno, it just seems like it might be funny. If it's not gross.
If it was in the style of Martin Miggs, maybe.
Yeah, and you could maybe draw them getting pinched by giant sand crabs or something? That'd be wizard.

Ew.

Ew.

Everyone. Even old people. That's what Blaise says.

Double ew.

doble ew? W????
Careful, Bulstrode, or people might think you are clever.

Or do you mean that you like thinking about old naked Muggles?

I never heard that before.

How did the French got to be the best at making robes if everybody just goes naked all the time?

French muggles, Longbum. m-u-g-g-l-e-s. Not the wizards.

At least I hope not.

Oh.

Allright I'm almost glad I'm not going to france now.
The abuse of cats.

I find myself struggling to say nothing when I encounter cases of cat abuse. I do not believe that I shall bring this up with the governors, but there's been a veritable rash of it - Bulstrode's creature was the beginning, and somehow it seems that others have got their mind around it, too. Then there are the usual strays, when students don't know enough to neuter their creatures - not that I approve of neutering, but it is better than the alternative. The crook-legged tom that hangs about my office is quite a darling, although cranky in the mornings unless I leave a saucer of coffee out for him. And somehow they all have been teased mercilessly of late. The stress of exams, I suppose, and students not realizing that their friends' familiars are more than just a route to irritate their friends, but are creatures in and of themselves; still, every time I hear of one, I think, why couldn't it be a toad?

Should I ever encounter such a tormentor in the act, I shall certainly show him my claws.

Toads are fun to chase.

Cats are too, but they're much cleverer. Plus, cats purr.

You do know that once I nearly got myself neutered? Most frightening night of my life, that.

But seriously, I thought Harry'd only turned Bulstrode's cat's fur purple? Was there more to it than that?

Not with Marvolo, no. It seems that Bulstrode's cat is not a favourite in the Slytherin common room. Nor elsewhere in the castle. I believe that the stress of
finals has created a rash of incidents, however; Bulstrode is not the only party whose familiar has been tormented.
Well, it's almost exams.

I guess I wasn't really convinced we'd get here. Or I'd get here. Sometimes this year I wasn't sure I'd make it to the next week.

I was just reading back at the very beginning of my journal and it's hard to believe I didn't like it here. Now I don't want to leave. Well, I won't miss some things, but I'm used to it now.

And I think I may actually do pretty well in most of my subjects.

Still, it seems like we barely started and yet we're almost done. Does anyone else think that's weird?

I still think it's dead unbelievable that I passed flying.

It's going to be weird to be going home again, after exams.

Yeah, but at least you get on with your gran and your sister.

I got another owl from mum and I guess I'll be back on my own a lot. I still hope Sally-Anne can come stay. I've sort of got used to having friends.

And there's the camping trip, that'll be wizard. Are you going on that?
**alt_neville** at **2009-05-31 05:06:31**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah, I am going. I don't know what to expect. I've never gone camping before, ever.

(Hope Perks will be able to stay with you, that'd be loads better for her than having to stay with another foster family she doesn't know at all.)

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**alt_sally_anne** at **2009-06-01 18:43:40**  
*(no subject)*

I still haven't heard anything. Maybe if no one takes me I'll just go home with Pansy and see if her mum notices.

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**alt_pansy** at **2009-06-01 20:27:47**  
*(no subject)*

Seriously, I bet she won't. We should just try it!

---

**alt_megan** at **2009-05-31 15:57:36**  
*(no subject)*

I think it's weird. I mean, I would. Except I don't think it seems like we barely started. It seems like this year has been forever. So much new. All crammed in. And we're not really almost done. There's still years and years. And years. I suppose.

---

**alt_pansy** at **2009-05-31 18:41:34**  
*(no subject)*

Sure, but done with this year, anyway. And I know what you mean, because some things feel like they happened a long time ago. Like finding Marie, and then finding out she had a spell on her. I feel like I've grown up a lot since then.
I suppose things have changed since the beginning of the year. Perhaps I've changed too. Perhaps I've grown up some.

Yeah, it's just mad, isn't it, how fast this year's gone. Especially since Easter hols. It seems we just got back and now we're leaving again.

I'm not fussed about exams. I mean, either I've learned what we've done or I haven't and there's not much to do about that. Or it won't matter anyhow like in Transfiguration. I mean you could spend loads of time reading everything in the book and looking over everything everyone wrote down during class and then he'll just ask something we never talked about at all or that isn't even about Transfiguration. Like what Mr. Lupin's bird eats for breakfast or something.

I was going to look over some Charms chapters this afternoon, since I can't play chess and since it's raining again, but I can't find my book. I think I might have left it in the Great Hall on Thursday but I'm not sure. So, eh! I guess it'll just have to be all right. Whatever I know, I know.

How do you think you did on Charms?

I bet you did fine Pansy quit worrying!
I know I did okay (although question 14 was sort of a trick), I'm asking Ron.

Meh. I don't know.

That one about what colour sparks you see when you cast a dicing charm instead of a chopping charm? Did you know that one?

I made a couple of things up, I think. Like, I think I said that the charm for getting stuff out of a bottle is Evackuare (that's not how you spell that, is it), but I kinda don't think that's right. What did you put for that one?

Um. Dicing charms make blue sparks and chopping ones are red. Is that what you put?

And you're way off on the other, I'm afraid. It's Solumnuntius. At least that's what I think she wanted.

Solumnuntius is for messages. I think she wanted Effercio. Only now I'm not sure.

Oh, good! I got the blue sparks, then. But I think I said vermillion not red for the other. Or is that pruning charms?
Are you sure about Solumnwatsit?
ORDER ONLY

Al? keep everyone away from the bath house for the next few hours, could you?

alt_frank

alt_alice at 2009-05-31 21:40:39
(no subject)

I've been wondering where you were. What happened?

alt_frank at 2009-05-31 21:42:09
(no subject)

you know that storm we had the other day?
winston found a large pile of dead fish on the beach.

alt_alice at 2009-05-31 21:44:13
(no subject)

Oh, dear.
And now he's smelling up the bathhouse, I suppose?

alt_frank at 2009-05-31 21:45:39
(no subject)

and me.
Please don't use the nice towels.

which ones are the nice ones?

The white ones without the stains on them.

oops.

Oops?

yes, dammit, oops.

I'll get you new ones.

we'll have to burn these anyroad.
Right. And how many towels are we talking about, all told?

he's a newfie, for merlin's sake.

I figured as much.

light blue what?

Towels, of course. And we need some new sheets as well, come to think of it.

do you want the sheets to be light blue too?
alt_alice at 2009-05-31 22:02:24
(no subject)

Oh, I don't care about the sheet colour one way or the other. As long as it isn't yellow or pink, that is.

alt_frank at 2009-05-31 22:04:10
(no subject)

right. well, while you think on what colour you want our toilet paper to be, I'll just be here, in the bathhouse, cleaning the world's smelliest dog.

alt_alice at 2009-05-31 22:06:21
(no subject)

Oh, my poor darling. I do hope you'll survive this terrible ordeal somehow.

alt_frank at 2009-05-31 22:07:11
(no subject)

I'm never eating fish again. ever.
**2009-05-31 22:17:00**

*Exams*

I know I'm ready for exams, but I can't sleep anyway.

I'm actually looking forward to most of them, though. I know that sounds swotty but it's true.

Well, since I'm up I might as well revise a little while longer.

By the way, did anyone else see someone out near the Forest earlier tonight? I was looking out the window but by the time I called Morag over, whoever it was was gone.

---

**alt_ron** at 2009-06-02 03:29:43

*(no subject)*

Hey, Patil.

What was it you thought you saw about by the Forest last night? I saw something this evening when I went out for a walk after dinner. It was really creepy, I mean it looked like a man, but he was walking really odd like a zombie or an inferius, like there was something wrong with its legs and arms so it moved all jerky and awkward.

It was sort of in the tall weeds beyond the greenhouses but not all the way to the Forest. Is that what you saw?

---

**alt_padma** at 2009-06-02 23:31:46

*(no subject)*

I'm not sure. I mean, he wasn't really moving much. Though I guess he was sort of shuffling.

And yeah, it was definitely near the Greenhouses. Kinda close to Professor Macnair's storage. You'd think after all the times Professor Macnair told everyone to keep away no one would go near it.
Can you see anything out there now? Are you in your common room? The windows here don’t look out that way, but I wonder if it’s out there again.

I thought it had something odd about its hands. Now that I think about it, I think it might have had long fingernails or claws or something. Is that what you thought?

Well, I’m not there now, and before it was getting dark and it was hard to see. I think our common room might be higher up than yours, if you saw his hands.

But I think it may have had only stumps for legs and not feet. Morag says to stop making it sound so frightful or she’ll get nightmares.

No, I saw it last night when I was out walking. But I was over by the lake, so it was kind of a ways away. Which was good because whatever it was is pretty scary. I mean, I thought about it for a while after lights out, too.

Hey, wasn’t the moon full or almost full last night? Cause the thing I saw was sorta snarling and it seemed like it had really nasty, glinty teeth. Dyou think it was another werewolf? Here to visit Mr Lupin, or—
Yeah nasty glinty teeth and eyes that shot fire wasn't that right? And enormous horns growing out of its head. Six of them.

And it was ten feet high!

Stop taking the mickey, Seamus!! I know I saw something and Ron says he did too.

I believe you saw something but I don't think Ron saw anything. He's just messing with you.

Well I did see something and it did look sort of like Ron said - at first, though, not after you started in on it - and it was kinda creepy.

I wonder if any of the professors saw it.

Hey, d'you reckon Percy Weasley might try to check it out and then he'd get et?

Heh.

That's the cleverest thing you've said all year, Patil!
Or wait was it flames shooting out of the horns and six eyes? I can’t remember now.

Oh, shush.

Heh!

Or maybe Mr Lupin’s in trouble with the werewolves.

Or maybe it heard from him about the school and thought it could come and find a kid to eat before the year’s over!

Well it didn’t eat us.

Maybe your possessed though! How would you even know?
I could be possessed, couldn't I? And not even know it. I mean, you wouldn't do, would you? Know it if you were possessed, I mean.

I reckon you wouldn't but I've never been possessed so I'm not sure.

Oi, there!! What're you implying about me, mate?

I wasn't implying anything before.

I bet Percy wishes he could possess the twins and make them behave properly.

That's how it works right? They'd have to do whatever he wanted. They let the Head Boy and girl use crucio but no one's suggested letting prefects use imperius yet.
Well, Percy hasn't used it on me yet. Bet he'd try if they'd let him, though.

I thought he was going to take my journal earlier. Made me read through my History of Magic notes while he watched. Lucky I didn't take that many pages of notes!

Bet he'd try if they'd let him, though.

I think not.

*I thought he was going to take my journal earlier.*

I should have done so, if only to spare the rest of us of this nonsense. Really, Ronald, I don't think you've written a single thing in your journal this year that's worth reading.

Don't know who asked you to read it, then.

What're you going to do, give me detention again? Take points?

Go bother somebody else, Percy. You're worse now you're done with exams than you were when you were all swotty and shouting at everybody.

I bet they like to eat children better than anything.
RED HAIRD CHILDREN.
And Irish ones.
Also twins. Watch out Padma!

Yes, I'm quite sure a werewolf can get into the castle and eat us all. Opening the doors with its opposable claws and all that.

Pillock. You're not fooling anyone.

Besides, I did see something and it was really creepy.

And even though you and Ron are taking the mickey, he says he saw it too.

And nosy Prefects.
I hope.

Oh, stop it. When Morag has nightmares she can wake up the whole of Ravenclaw.

Anyway, you might tell Seamus he's not having anyone on with that six foot stuff, either.
But you *did* see something, didn't you?

Um, yeah.

But it was kinda a long way off.

And it was falling dark. Well dusky, anyway.

And I was kinda creeped out by it, so I didn't wait around looking at it. I just kinda hurried up to catch up with Seamus and get inside.

But. I think it was coming towards the castle. It was like it was looking up here really hard, y'know, like it wanted to get inside.

And, no. I don't know how I know that. I just thought it, okay. I mean, it just looked that way to me.

Wait you really did see something?

Well alright then. I thought you were having me on too.

I did, actually. See something. But I don't really know what it was. Maybe nothing.

But it was pretty fun to have Patil on about it! And MacDougal. I mean, who gets too scared to sleep?!
Particularly extremely foolish children who entertain themselves by telling ridiculous stories.

Really, Ronald.