

2009-12-01 19:45:00

(no subject)



 [alt_pansy](#)

Well, I haven't written in this thing in ages, so I guess I ought to. I'm in a writing sort of mood today - I sent off a letter to Lucius this afternoon about hols. I hope that I can visit him and Aunt Narcissa and Draco while we're home. I know they're all awfully busy during Christmas with all sorts of social events, though, so if I can't, that's understandable. And if Lucius and Aunt Narcissa are busy entertaining, maybe Aunt Narcissa will let Draco come over to visit. If he wants.

I'm also really excited about Sally-Anne coming over for Christmas. It'll be brilliant. I know mum will want to decorate our house way before Christmas Eve, but I've asked her to save hanging the icicles and ornaments and things on the tree till Sally-Anne gets there, so we can do it together. And I hope we get some hot cocoa too, I've asked for it special.

Other than that, classes are going well. All those study sessions are paying off, I think. Although I'm not doing as well as I'd like in Transfiguration, I think I'm getting better marks in Potions and Charms. And the History Club thing has been okay, too. I'm looking forward to learning more about that book about Slytherin, for certain. And duelling will be brill. I was pants at Aurors last term, but I think I'll be better when I'm standing face-to-face with someone. And it'll be interesting to see what sort of spells people know and what they come up with when they have to think fast. I also think that even if I turn out to be not so very good at duelling, at least I'll be able to practise my spellwork a little.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2009-12-02 01:42:42**

(no subject)

I was just saying to Dean this afternoon that we should work some more on duelling spells to get ready for the club. It's going to be so wizard! Do you want to get together with us after lessons tomorrow afternoon? Seems like it would be a good idea to practise with different people so we don't just get used to using the same couple of spells over and over, y'know? Like maybe that fish fin spell would be a good idea once, but probably not over and over again, right?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 01:45:15](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that would be fun, sure.

And I probably do have to learn some better spells. It really isn't very incapacitating to turn someone's ears into fish fins. It's still really, really funny looking though.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 02:06:21](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it probably does more to incapacitate you with laughing at the other person!

Maybe we could learn to make it turn their wand-hand into a fin. That would be dead clever, don't you think?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 02:23:19](#)
(no subject)

Oooh. Definitely. We could look it up at the library -- I'll bet they have all sorts of spells for turning different body parts into different things, and we could figure out how to make it hands instead.


I think it'd be brill to turn someone's hands into squid tentacles, too. That would just look dead cool. And they wouldn't be able to hold a wand that way either.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 02:44:39](#)
(no subject)


You don't think squid tentacles would just wrap around the wand and let a person wave it faster in more directions?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 02:49:31](#)
(no subject)

Mmm. Maybe. But I'd bet they'd have terrible aim.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 02:47:58](#)
(no subject)

ooh, maybe if we sort it out, we could show it to Professor Acton and get extra points or something for Charms.

I don't need them too much, but every little bit helps, and I know Charms has been hard on you this term what with your wand and everything.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 03:01:45](#)
(no subject)

Uh, yeah.

You can probably get points. I just get zeros from Ae Professor Acton.

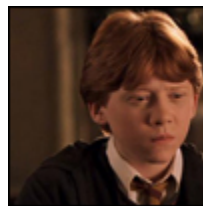



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 03:46:55](#)
(no subject)

Zeros?

Well, that blows.

Even on the essays? I know ~~she doesn't like~~ I know she can be tough sometimes.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 04:11:20](#)
(no subject)

Just on the practical stuff, but that's enough


And I only ever get really average marks on the essays. She says I don't rise above mediocrity. I

didn't even know that word until her class.

I don't know what I'm going to do when


Have you ever heard of anybody having a wand repaired? How much d'you think that would cost?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-02 15:26:29](#)**
(no subject)


I don't know. It might be fixable if core is still in one piece, but I don't have any sort of idea what it would cost.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-02 16:45:34](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't think it's gonna happen.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-02 03:47:16](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe you can make it up with Astronomy and History of Magic.

I mean, it's not like you're stupid or anything. You just don't have a wand that works properly.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-02 04:04:46](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I understand stuff in Charms. Transfiguration, too, y'know, but I can't do any of the practical work because I might blow stuff up or

I mean, it's going to be really dire when Marks come out

I don't even want to

Yeah

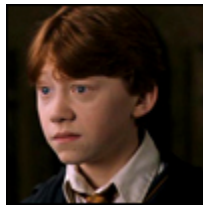
I dunno




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:07:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's the important bit, isn't it?
Understanding stuff? I mean, OWLs and
NEWTS are the really important things to ace.

And you'll have a new wand by *then*.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 04:26:32](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, but OWLs aren't for ages.

What if they don't let me


D'you think you could think of something more depressing we
could talk about?

Like dragon pox.

Or wet shoes.

Or that stuff they served at dinner in the big bowls that
smelled like stewed pants.

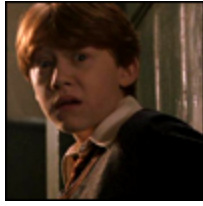



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:36:14](#)
(no subject)

So *that's* what it smelled like.

I was wondering.

I was too busy gagging at the taste to notice. It was *awful*.
Like meat-flavoured dishwater.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 04:43:59](#)
(no subject)

You
tasted it?

It was seriously like something from that deathday party.

I mean it. I just ate a load of bread with butter.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:46:39](#)
(no subject)

Hah! That works. I should stock up on chocs over hols just so I'll have something to eat at dinner.

Between those and pudding, I'll be set.


Urgh. Never mind. That makes my stomach hurt just thinking about it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:48:33](#)
(no subject)

...or maybe that's the soup, getting its revenge.



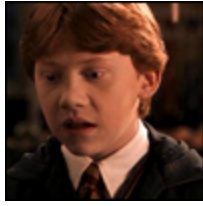
 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 04:49:45](#)
(no subject)


Maybe you should go see Madam Pomfrey?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:57:47](#)
(no subject)

It was just a momentary twinge. I'll see her if it continues twinging, though.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 04:48:45](#)
(no subject)

I heard a bunch of girls got really sick last week eating chocolates. I guess they weren't transfigured right. Or whatever they were transfigured from was bad to eat.

Yuck, huh?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 04:55:50](#)
(no subject)


Ewww. I want my chocolate to be made out of chocolate. Is that too much to ask?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:34:15](#)
(no subject)

Bet I beat you all to pieces Pansy!!!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 23:29:58](#)
(no subject)

Hah! Well, it would be a one-sided bet, cause if it was a fight against you, I'd bet against me, too! You're so fast as a Seeker, I'd bet you'd be a pretty good dueller too.

2009-12-02 14:00:00

gobstones tonight if you want



 **alt_hydra**

Something dreadful happened on Monday.

Tully's leg was hurt.

I found him huddling behind my trunk, and his left back leg was bloody and twisted.

I took him to Professor Brutka before dinner and he fixed it, thankfully (and without removing any of the bones on accident, too).

He said that maybe the charm that protected Tully from the cats in Slytherin had wore off, so he put it on Tully again.

Tully was just so frightened when I found him and that frightened me, too.

But now he seems alright, almost as if nothing happened at all.

Maybe rabbits don't remember for very long, which could be useful sometimes and not at all at other times.

A girl from Ravenclaw wrote in her journal about how her Mummy died doing a charms experiment.

It made me afraid of doing my charms homework for a little while but then I realised I was being silly.

Still, it scares me a little to think of how Daddy works with dark, cursed objects all the time.

He's never had one of them hurt him, but what if one did?

Dark, cursed objects can do worse things to you than killing you.

I told Draco about it and he said I worry too much, and that I should play more games like imploding snap and gobstones.

So does anyone want to play gobstones in the common room tonight?

Let me know if you do.

Mummy's owl this morning wrote about how we're going to have a special guest staying with us over the holidays.

I wonder who the special guest will be?



 **alt_pansy** at **2009-12-02 21:37:55**

(no subject)

I'm sorry Tully was hurt. I hope it wasn't Pyewacket, although I'm pretty sure he's far too smart to do something like that. I'm glad Professor Brutka fixed him up though.


I might be free for gobstones if no-one else takes you up on it.



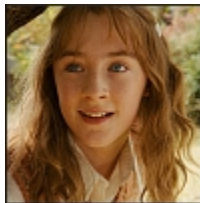
 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:36:20](#)
(no subject)


I'll play gobstones Hydra.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 22:42:35](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't mind adding a third! See you there, Harry.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-03 01:11:51](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you really will?
Thank you so much, both of you.

From,

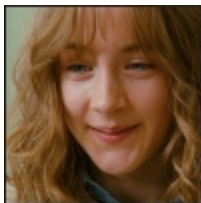
Hydra




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-03 01:29:23](#)
(no subject)

Hallo there, Duckie. What are you up to, worrying about your old Dad and his mouldering toys? I've been on the bad end of one before, you know, but you were too young to remember. But I learnt from my mistakes, see, and now I scarcely make them at all.

Course, it's easier this time of year. Today I was actually sent a Christmas ornament that's suspected of having infested a lovely Cheshire home with nargles. Next, I'm sure to receive a pudding that curses one with unpleasant experiences on the loo.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-03 01:34:56](#)
(no subject)

Daddy, you must be having a laugh, a pudding wouldn't be a dark object!
But I'm glad that you learnt how to not make

mistakes.

What happened to you before, when you did?

From,
Hydra

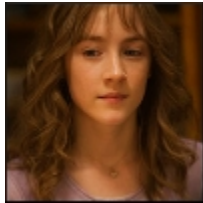


 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2009-12-03 01:37:40](#)**
(no subject)

You must have never tasted Nanella's pudding before, then.

And nothing happened to me that is suitable for your young Duckie ears. What matters is that I'm in one piece now, eh?

And ho now, you haven't sent us a Christmas list yet, have you? What do you want, then? A big, fast shiny broomstick like Draco's and Harry's?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2009-12-03 01:39:55](#)**
(no subject)

Nanella makes pudding?

A broomstick might be nice, but I can't bring it to school until next year.

Perhaps I should ask for games, since Draco feels I should play more of them.

Will you be working a terrible lot over the holidays, Daddy?

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2009-12-03 01:42:24](#)**
(no subject)

No, your Mother convinced her to give it up.

Games can be had, certainly. We'll try to pop in Harrod's at the weekend and see what's all the rage. Or what's totally "wizard," as you kids say.

'Fraid I will be working a bit, Duckie. But you know I'll always make time to spend with you.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-03 01:44:18](#)

(no subject)

They say nift or wiz-nift more now than they say wizard.

No, I think it's good that you are working.

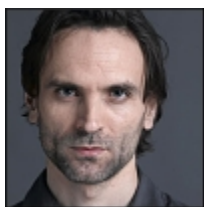
Maybe I can watch you work, if it's not too

dangerous.

I am not afraid of nargles.

Do nargles even exist?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-03 01:46:01](#)

(no subject)

Perhaps you can watch a bit, from a safe distance. It'll depend on what I'm working on.

And no, I've never seen a nargle, but some people are convinced they exist, the dotty souls.

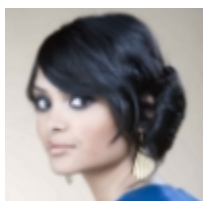


 [alt_luna](#) at [2009-12-03 18:30:06](#)

(no subject)

If it helps, I don't think the sorts of charms my mum was experimenting with are anything like the charms they're teaching us at school.

I'm sorry your rabbit got hurt, and I'm glad that Professor Brutka was able to help.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-03 20:20:05](#)

(no subject)

I guess that's one thing about the robe pet rabbits, they never get their legs all chewed up. But then they're not soft like a real rabbit, so I'm glad Professor Brutka could fix him back up for you.

I bet you could ask ~~Leony~~ Lovegood there all about the nargles. If you want to have the other one pulled, that is.

Anyway, I'm sure your dad's really good at what he does, and very careful.

2009-12-02 15:32:00

duelduelduelduel

I wish study hall would end.

bat bogey hex

jelly legs curse

leg locker curse

rubber fingers hex

pantsing hex? or curse?

blimpy blubber jinx

sponge knees curse

knee reversing hex

snout snogger curse

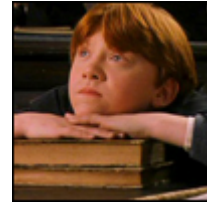
snug nubbles jinx

body bind

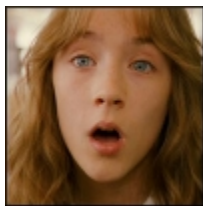
fur face hex

knuckle locker jinx

evanesco? could vanish somebody's wand, maybe



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2009-12-02 21:18:27**

(no subject)

Why've you written down the names of jinxes and hexes and things?

From,

Hydra




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2009-12-02 21:24:27**

(no subject)

For duelling club!

I'll bet your mum knows loads of good ones, being an Auror and everything.

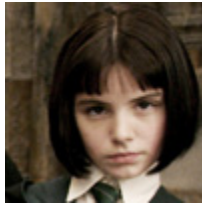



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-02 21:25:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see!
I don't think she uses any of these ones, though.

From,

Hydra




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 21:27:12](#)
(no subject)

Well, no, these are just starting ones, really. She probably knows more advanced ones that we aren't allowed to use just yet. But she might use the binding one and the leg-locker one every now

and again.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-02 21:30:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh yes, she uses the binding one, she taught me that one a long time ago.
But she also once said that an Auror mostly needs to be really, really good at Imperius.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 21:35:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, I guess if you can just make someone do something, you don't have to worry about them running away or trying to get you back.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:05:51](#)
(no subject)

Oh. I was just thinking about the hexes and jinxes I know or know other people know that might be good in a duel.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2009-12-03 01:18:23](#)**
(no subject)

That's what Pansy said.
Which of the spells makes a person belch slugs,
though?

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-02 21:26:01](#)**
(no subject)

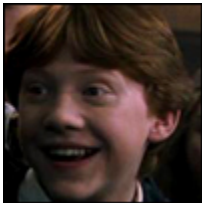
I desperately want to try out the fur face hex in
combination with the fish-fin one. Any volunteers?


Are you done with classes yet? I'm horrifically bored,
and can't wait to learn some of these.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-02 22:06:19](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. I totally forgot the fish fin one. That was
dumb.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-02 22:48:37](#)**
(no subject)

Hey, fish-fins!

Harry says he wants to get together after dinner,
and I bet we can find a place then. I can't believe all
the rooms we tried this afternoon had people in. Anyway, it'll be
great. We can all try out stuff.

I'll look for you when we're done eating.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 23:32:32](#)
(no subject)

Ace.

And I know some places we can go. Pirate showed Hydra and me all sorts of little out of the way rooms I bet hardly no-one knows about.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 21:37:38](#)
(no subject)

I asked Professor Lockhart today when we might start actually duelling, and not just reading up on the hexes and all, and he said that right now he's busy putting together our exams, but maybe toward the end of next week, or in the last week before the holidays, he can get us properly started.

He said that we have to be very careful not to try out any of the stuff we're learning until we have supervision because bad things can happen if we do that. He told me about two boys he knew who went duelling when they didn't know what they were doing yet and one of them lost his knees.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 21:42:50](#)
(no subject)

Killjoy.

We weren't going to *actually* try them on *each other*, Patil. Just practise the wandwork and what to say, and look up tips. Honestly. I was joking.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:05:55](#)
(no subject)

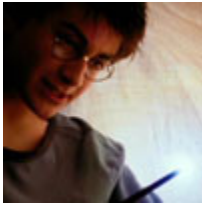
I never said you were (although it looks like Weasley thought you were).

I was just telling you what Professor Lockhart said. If you want to go and blow yourselves up, of course, it's no business of mine.



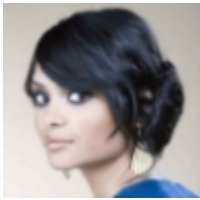
 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 23:09:55](#)
(no subject)

Well, obviously we can't try them on each other because with my wand you never know what might happen. I might really turn her into a tuna.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:20:19](#)
(no subject)

Couldnt they fix their knees?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:04:53](#)
(no subject)

No, they were missing. That kind of lost.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 23:10:27](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

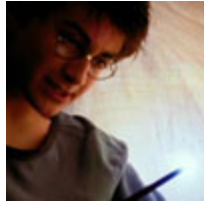
So what'd they do?? Did they give them fake knees?? Do they bend backwards now like dolls with knee joints??



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:11:40](#)
(no subject)

I didn't ask. I guess they had to do something because the rest of their legs had to be reattached.

Maybe they fused the two parts of their legs together. Do you think?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 23:12:55](#)
(no subject)


But then could they walk? Maybe they walk like they're on stilts.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:15:12](#)
(no subject)

That'd be funny.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 23:14:41](#)
(no subject)

Wait. Is this meant to have happened here? At school?

I never heard anything about that.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:17:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, obviously not this year, or even recently. I'm not sure it even happened at Hogwarts - with Professor Lockhart you never know whether it's something that happened when he was a student or whether he learned about it on his travels.

But anyway, here there's no magic in the corridors, of course, so I'm sure it wouldn't have happened to people here.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:37:47](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, that's just dumb. Madam Pomfrey could fix them right up. I mean, it's not like they lost all the bones in their arm or anything.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:03:41](#)
(no subject)

No, not that kind of lost. They couldn't find them. Their feet and calves were lying on the ground and their legs ended just above the knees, and the knees themselves where *gone*.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 23:07:10](#)
(no subject)

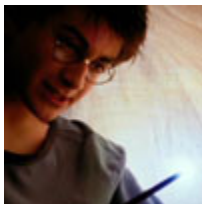
You mean, like, they'd splinched themselves Apparating? I've never heard of parts going missing from a hex.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:10:38](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, he said that one boy completely hexed the other boy's knees to China or something.


It sounded like he'd mispronounced it or waved his wand wrong.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:19:17](#)
(no subject)

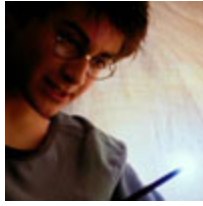
I don't know any pantsing curse but I know one that will turn you upside down. And if your Father makes you wear old fashioned robes it's the same thing.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:23:07](#)
(no subject)

Hahaha!


Really?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:28:03](#)
(no subject)

Well I'm not teaching you it now!!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:30:24](#)
(no subject)

Ha!

Sorry.

Actually, I'd settle for one that makes somebody trip over their own feet. They don't have to go all the way hems-up.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:29:12](#)
(no subject)


Do you know that one that causes somebody's ears to grow?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:31:50](#)
(no subject)

No but I bet I can find out!!! I know somebody whose really good at finding things like that out.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:35:53](#)
(no subject)

I heard somebody saying that all the books on basic jinxes and hexes have been taken out of the library, but maybe it's somebody in Slytherin that's got them all.

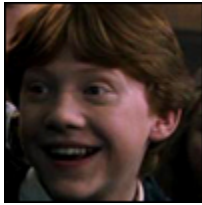
I don't think it's anybody in Gryffindor.


Unless. Hey, I should maybe ask the twins. I think they've got some of their own books on jinxes. Curses, too.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:37:49](#)
(no subject)

Well what about the ones in the Restricted Section? I bet there's good ones in the Restricted Section.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:43:07](#)
(no subject)

Oooh. I bet there totally are!

And nobody'd know how to protect against them. You'd probably win in just one curse!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:44:08](#)
(no subject)


Actually, that's the kind of thing I need to find. I mean with my wand the way it is, I'd better win straight off, cause if it keeps going, who knows what my wand might do to me?!



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:44:55](#)
(no subject)

Don't know mate. It stinks your wand is broken. Why don't you fix it?? Or get new?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:50:47](#)
(no subject)

I haven't been able to find out if you can get a wand fixed. Everybody says something different.


Hey, maybe that person you know could find out about that!
We could talk about that tonight, maybe.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:52:52](#)
(no subject)

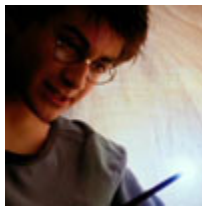
Sure!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:36:27](#)
(no subject)

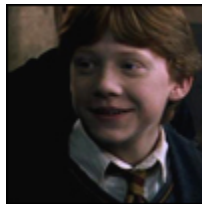
Actually, it'd probably be better in a duel to make their fringe to grow so it covered their eyes and got up their nose and in their mouth, cause that'd be more distracting.


The ear one wouldn't do much unless they got so long they made the person trip.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:38:17](#)
(no subject)

Unless it was someone with big ears already. Who was embarrassed about them. Then they might be distracted.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:40:44](#)
(no subject)

HAHA!

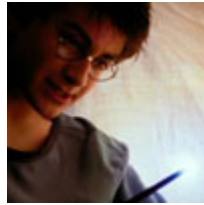
We should totally get together to practice. Pansy and I were going to do some now before dinner, but the place we were going to use already had people in it.


I was thinking maybe we should go somewhere right after dinner, you know. Want to come?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:41:57](#)
(no subject)


Lets do it! Only I have to be back before curfew so I can play gobstones with Hydra, I said I would.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:42:21](#)
(no subject)

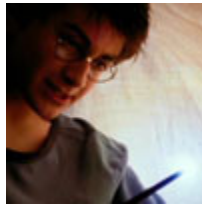
Awhile before curfew I mean. We have to be back before curfew anyways.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-02 22:45:39](#)
(no subject)

Definitely before curfew, yeah.


So let's meet up after dinner. If it's as foul as yesterday's that shouldn't take long.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-02 22:48:21](#)
(no subject)

Meet you then!!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:13:33](#)
(no subject)

What about History Club?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-02 23:34:33](#)
(no subject)

We're just getting together tonight, not like we're planning on making it regular, like History Club. We'll all be there next week.

And I'll even read something special and talk about it with the group next week, if you want, so you don't have to do all the work.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-02 23:37:53](#)
(no subject)

Well, if you don't wind up splinching parts of yourselves.

~~Or get caught duelling~~




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-03 04:20:01](#)
(no subject)

The thing is, there's a difference between dueling like a formal duel, I mean with bows and what-do-you-call-'em, flourishes and everything and maybe you're trying to do something really fancy to impress people, and the kind of duel where you're really defending yourself. Like you're fighting for your life. That'd be a different kind of training, and I bet you'd use different kind of hexes and curses.

I mean, Professor Lockhart talks a lot about the second kind. But I dunno---he strikes me more like the kind of bloke who'd spend more time trying to get good at the first kind. The, uh, flashier sort.

Which kind do you want to learn, really, do you think?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-03 04:40:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah, you're definitely right about Lockhart. And I really wish it was some other teacher who was the adviser--cause, for one thing, I'd bet we'd have been practising for real for a month already--but I think they're not completely different things. I mean, yeah, there are rules and stuff for formal duels, but once it starts, you've got to think fast and be accurate and cast again before you have time to recover and it takes sharp instincts and knowing what you're about. So, I guess, just fighting wouldn't teach you how to duel, but I bet duelling makes you better at all kinds of battling. Anyway, it can't hurt, can it? And it's dead nift.

Um. Except for when your spell bounces back at you off a torch and sets your sleeve on fire. That wasn't so nift. And I think Pansy forgave me for making a piece of the ceiling almost drop on her head. Or, yeah, it fell, but only almost on her head.

Are you thinking of dropping out of the club before we even have a proper chance to duel?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-03 04:48:09](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And Hermione?

I'm really sorry that one spell went pear-shaped and caught you in the, well, yeah. It looked like it stung, and I didn't mean it.

You're really sure there's no way to fix my wand, then? I mean, I don't guess I could get enough money to pay for it anyway, but I was sort of hoping I wouldn't have to go all year like this. Actually, I may just have to keep this one, y'know, until I can afford to buy one of my own, but I don't know how I'll be able to do that if I can't pass my OWLs to get a job.

Sorry. That's not what I meant to talk about. Just, I hope you're not going to have an enormous bruise tomorrow's all.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2009-12-03 13:09:34](#)**

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

1. Yes, it stung, what dyou think??
2. No, there isn't any way to fix your wand, spellotape's as good as anything I think you could do, or buying a new one, which I'm sorry you can't afford, honestly.
3. Well I do have a bruise, but it isn't nearly the worst I've had, and it won't be, so.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-03 16:02:39](#)

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

Madam Pomfrey has a really good bruise balm. I expect you know that. I used it quite a bit my first year here because of all the time I ended up barking my shins from falling through the trick

steps.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 05:07:39](#)

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

Cor, sorry about that, then.

I figured there wasn't anything to do about the wand, but I guess I sort of hoped there was something I hadn't thought of.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-03 16:01:05](#)

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

Can't you talk to your parents about it when you get home for the holidays? If they knew how much trouble your wand's giving you, they'd maybe try to do something to get you another one, right?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-03 16:07:44](#)

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

Oh, uh, yeah. Parents are a sore subject, so not so likely maybe.

Sorry.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-03 16:05:15](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


No! I'm not thinking of dropping out at all. It's just that I wish we had someone decent to teach us.

I mean, my own mum and dad were aurors, remember? They trained for years and years to learn that stuff. To use it seriously, in a fight. I bet if-well, they'd have taught me. If

things were different, I might have come to school knowing more about dueling than anybody.

Blimey, did you really almost drop part of the ceiling on Pansy's head? No offence, Ron, but with that wand in your hand, you're really sort of a menace. And I don't mean that in a dueling way. Have you talked with Professor Acton to see if she can figure out some way to mend it? If Spellotape doesn't work good enough anymore, I mean?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 05:12:00](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Acton? Help me?

About as likely to happen as Malfoy inviting me to that party of his.

Right. Not bloody well happening.

2009-12-03 09:16:00

Minister and Holiday Planning

Interminable meeting with the Minister to-day. At least Miss Robins' tea continues to compensate, a little, for Dolores' usual waffle.



 [alt_lucius](#)

(I must tell you, Regulus, that she remains quite put out over the outcome of the auction. I cannot think what she might have been like had she *won*, but by the third sidelong mention I made it clear that the matter interested me not in the slightest and you even less, I suspect.)

Was treated then to a litany of matters requiring the Council's and Lord Protector's input. Noted with some surprise that nearly forty per cent of the muggles dispatched to fulfill work orders have been returned as 'defective,' by which, further inquiry discovered, they mean ill. Must determine whether their susceptibility is a side-effect of having been kept dormant so long or whether this strain of flu is somehow more virulent than previously suspected.

Also pointed out the MLE's efforts to locate certain persons suspected of providing inflammatory and false reports to the traitor Black. Authorised the Minister to offer rewards for information leading to a successful arrest of anyone colluding or conspiring with the traitor or his guerillas, and advised her, per meeting with Scrimgeour on Monday, that the MLE are considering as a suspect any person who in the course of work has contact inside the camps and subsequently falls missing. (Also recommended they review the department attendance records throughout the Ministry and camps for additional intelligence.) It is also possible that Black's men are kidnapping those whom they believe may be coerced into giving up details which Black may then misconstrue in order to continue the public panic.

Endured her requests for additional funds for various projects and departments; ignored her simpering over the boys' return to their Quidditch side and the state of her Christmas shopping. Had to return her to the agenda more than usual, which again, I think, attests to her disappointment of the week-end.

Discussed Draco's Christmas request with Ari over tea, and later with Narcissa. Believe we have reached an accord on the matter. Ari's advice was quite sound and valued, given that his eldest is a few years

ahead of Draco, giving him a perspective beyond that of our recollection of our own youth.

Holiday season is already in full bloom. Narcissa has scheduled the winter garden preparations early next week; we are considering whether to open Kensington during the week between Christmas and New Year's, though I doubt there should be the need. Crispin surprised me by having the elves lay in toddy and punch early and he has already finished compiling the invitations from last year (acceptances, declines) so that Narcissa may finalise her batch to-day. (Unsure whether to think he is in such a merry frame of mind because he has renewed his attention to his work, or because he has found a new distraction from it.)

Pansy: Received your owl. In light of the decision rendered by the courts, I see no reason we should not be able to spend some time together. In fact, where a month ago it might have been necessary for *you* to approach your mother with the request first, these days, it seems she is very interested in my friendship again. I think we both know the reason why. But let us not dismiss our opportunities when they present themselves. I have been thinking I might go with you to Mrs Black, which would accomplish two of your goals together, wouldn't it? Still, likely the prudent thing will be for you to express your wishes to her directly, but of course I shall consent.

Regarding your other topics: Your father used to use the *Tintinnabulum* hex quite effectively (it causes a ringing in one's opponent's ears) and I recall a half-year when we were all very fond of *Heliovox*, which although it is in no way debilitating, used to provide hours of amusement, particularly if aimed at sixth- and seventh-year boys. You might also try *Nebulosus Visio*, which blurs the vision of the opponent and was another of your father's favourites. Though that is a little more advanced than second-year work. It is also never too soon to practise casting silently - the really accomplished duellists never disadvantage themselves by announcing their intentions.

We shall be able to discuss other matters in more detail when we see each other.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-03 18:07:40](#)
(no subject)

I'd like that.

I'll write her and say as much.

And thanks for the duelling tips. A lot. The *Nebulosus Visio* one sounds like it would be something to work towards. I'll work especially hard on silent casting too, because that does sound like it would be really, really useful.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-04 02:34:20](#)
(no subject)

Nebulosus Visio, Little Bit.

While we are on the topic of things you would like, have you a Christmas list? Or are you also in the market for a single larger-than-life gesture like Draco?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-04 15:17:22](#)
(no subject)


I need to work on my pronunciation skills. And my spelling. (Hah! Both sorts of spelling, really.)

The main thing I've asked mum for is new dress-robos, which should be ready in time for the party, Hurrah!

I feel a little silly to ask you for girly sorts of things, but I'd love something matching to go with the dress robes, like a cloak or shoes or hair clips so it'll feel like a whole new outfit. The robes are going to be deep Slytherin green, so anything black or silver (or even white) would match wonderfully. I don't want you to go through too much trouble finding something, and even though she's really good at that sort of thing, I know Aunt Narcissa is frightfully busy this time of year, but Malkin's has all my sizes for things and that's where we're getting the robe from anyways so they're bound to have other things that would go.

Also, I got your letter this morning. Thank you for all the useful advice.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2009-12-05 02:57:52](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I knew sooner or later you'd begin asking for clothes and 'girly' things.

But I think we can run to something that will accessorise your robes admirably.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-05 04:10:18](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you! I'm sure it will be perfectly lovely and that I'll adore it, because it will be from you.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2009-12-05 04:19:09](#)**
(no subject)


You will be most welcome, Little Bit. A little genuine gratitude will be a pleasant change from your cousin's attitude of late.



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2009-12-04 00:39:48](#)**
(no subject)


(I shudder at the thought.)



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2009-12-04 02:31:38](#)**
(no subject)

Don't we both!



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-04 02:36:34](#)**
(no subject)

Crispin was very helpful. He contacted Peakes' clerk for me and got the list from the Governors' rolls. The invitations should be out tomorrow morning.

Are you going to tell Draco or must I?

2009-12-03 15:30:00

(no subject)

There you are: Honest Wil Wagstaff, Pedlar and Pothecary to the hoi polloi. Man o the people, extraordinaire.



 **alt_wagstaff**

People'll always need cauldrons, mate. An they'll always be wantin a steady supply of certain things that not just any wizard can brew, am I right? I am right, indeed.

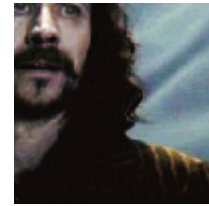
Yes, indeed.

2009-12-03 20:42:00

Order Only: Moving on

I'm leaving in the morning.

I was chatting with my neighbour, Gregoire, asking after his brother and so on, and he mentioned that a man came round the house while I'd been gone - about a month ago, he thought. He told Gregoire he was looking for Nigel, but Gregoire told him I travel a lot for work. The bloke asked him a few more questions, and when Gregoire asked him why he wanted Nigel he grew impatient and tried to Obliviate Gregoire. Luckily Greg pulled his wand and cleared the chap off. But he described the fellow to me, and I think it may have been Dolohov.



 [alt_sirius](#)

The house protections hadn't been disturbed, and I covered my tracks when I came in, so I don't think they know I'm back. But in case they have a watch on the place, I'm heading out before first light.

I think I may take a room in Monte Carlo for a few days and then stake out my own house, just to see if I see anyone skulking.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-04 03:07:50](#)

(no subject)

That's most alarming, Sirius. Do be safe, but also, do please let us know as soon as you've found a secure place to stay.

I shall not rest easy until we've heard from you again.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2009-12-04 03:46:50](#)

(no subject)

Do you have much in the way of gear that you'll have to abandon? Or will you be able to miniaturise and take with you everything you need, if you have to move fast?

Stay safe, my friend.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-04 04:10:47](#)
(no subject)

I've been going through the house putting together my kit, essentials and a few necessary if impractical items. Also cash. I'm not sure when I'll be able to come back again. It's not particularly easy when I'm also moving about with as few lights as possible.

What worries me is how they know to come looking for Nigel. I sincerely hope the cover is still good. Guess I won't know for sure until I show up to commentate at the Quidditch match later this month.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-04 03:51:23](#)
(no subject)

Dolohov? Bugger. Mad-Eye's last report hinted that he was thought to be in Ireland. I'd hoped someone had popped him on the head and trussed him away in a potato sack by now.

He's a nasty one. Do be careful, Sirius. You were lucky your neighbour said something to you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-04 04:40:12](#)
(no subject)

Well, it could have been him. Could have been Karkaroff, only I hear he's found a cosy home for himself at Durmstrang (and don't worry, I'm not going anywhere near Durmstrang soon if I can help it!).

It's always possible that it's nothing to do with anything. Just a random if fractious wizard looking for Nigel Cullenden. Except I can't think why he'd try to wipe Gregoire's memory, if so.

As to that, he's a good sort of chap, always has been. (Helps that Gilbert is so Quidditch-mad.)



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2009-12-04 09:45:08](#)**
(no subject)


Please be careful.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-04 15:20:04](#)**
(no subject)

Agreed. Please, darling, don't take any undue risks.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-04 15:21:03](#)**
(no subject)

And speaking of careful, Remus, love, you might want to watch out yourself and Ms. Tonks, too. You're associated with Laslo, after all, and it might filtre down to you as well.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2009-12-04 16:36:05](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Yes, of course. I hadn't even thought of that. I'll do what I can to warn her to take extra care.

2009-12-03 22:25:00

Christmas Party!

Malfoy thank you for the invitation! I'm positive Mr Rosier will let me come so count me in!



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-04 04:37:04**

(no subject)

I got my invitation too! It's going to be utterly nift. Have you been to Malfoy's before? I haven't. I hear it's spectacular.

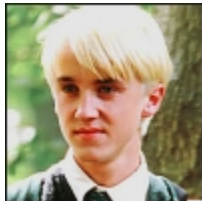


 [alt_seamus](#) at **2009-12-04 04:54:53**

(no subject)

Yeah I have, Mr Rosier took me to their Christmas Party last year.

It'll be wiznift with so many students coming.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2009-12-04 05:15:23**

(no subject)

Brill. Make sure you tell him that it's a no adults allowed party, though. I mean, obviously my parents will be there and he can probably chat with them if he wants to stay, but they'll be off in another part of the house entirely.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2009-12-04 05:18:17**

(no subject)

Oh I will! Like I said since its at your house I'm sure he'll approve.



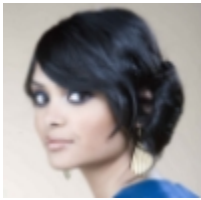
 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-04 05:16:42](#)
(no subject)

He's been to the Manor, but not the Palace. Or maybe he has when I wasn't there - not sure. But do you think your parents will allow you to come?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-04 05:17:47](#)
(no subject)

Right just the Manor.

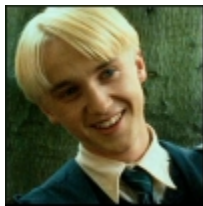


 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-04 13:43:36](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure they will! They'd better!

This morning Moon said there was going to be a three-level ice fort, all out of ice, and that there would be little cups of flavoured syrup and we could each chip some of the ice out to make ice lollies. That sounds lovely!


And Belinda heard Bulstrode say that there's going to be someone giving rides on an Abraxan. Really?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-04 15:17:27](#)
(no subject)

Well I've got a lot of plans for the party and I wouldn't want to spoil them, but let's just say that you won't be disappointed.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 13:13:16](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for the invitation too Malfoy. I'd be honoured to attend.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 13:14:55](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To Good

I really don't get why he invited me. I mean, I always thought he sort of hated me. Or at least doesn't think very much of me. Did he invite every kid in our year? Except for Ron?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 15:53:46](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To Good

He invited all the second-years in Slytherin but that's not surprising. Also Hydra.

I told him yes right away, I can't imagine the Strettons not letting me go when it's DRACO MALFOY asking, they started treating me better last year after Harry visited so... did he really invite everyone but Ron? I mean I don't know anyone in Hufflepuff very well to ask, I'd expect him to include Ernie but Wayne Hopkins and Megan Jones, really, that's going to blow their foster parents' minds.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-04 15:17:45](#)

(no subject)

My pleasure, Longbottom.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 15:55:04](#)

(no subject)

Draco I can't wait! Thank you again for the invitation.



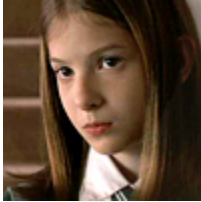
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-04 16:20:02](#)

(no subject)

It'll be brill, won't it! I think between this, and you spending Christmas at my house, this is shaping up to be one of the most exciting Christmases I've ever had.

I've asked for new dress robes for Christmas, and they ought to be ready in time, which is quite exciting!

Do you want try and plan what to wear so we can match? We can try on some things before you go, so you can be sure to bring them to the Stretton's with you. My black velvet ribbon would look perfect, especially with your hair colour.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 16:55:50](#)

(no subject)

Oooh good idea. Maybe we could do that this afternoon?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-04 20:13:01](#)

(no subject)

Lets!

2009-12-04 10:58:00

Christmas Holidays


Any student who wishes to remain at Hogwarts for the Christmas holidays is requested and required to sign up. The form is in the care of the gargoye outside my office.



 [alernity](#)
 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

The form shall be available until 10 December, at which point any student who has not signed up but wishes to remain must arrange to meet with me and discuss the possibility.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-05 02:29:15](#)
(no subject)


Well, Headmistress, as it happens, I shall be staying at the school for the holidays this year. Shall I stop by and sign the form, then?



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-12-05 12:48:03](#)
(no subject)

Students, Poppy!



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-05 16:18:23](#)
(no subject)

What do you suppose the gargoye would say to me if I asked to sign? It might be amusing to attempt it, though that would require being able to step out of the ward for more than a moment or two together.

I do wish Lockhart would get on with teaching this duelling business so our young people were not left to create their own, wholly ungoverned occasions for challenging one another. He's awoken their enthusiasm and has failed utterly to channel that energy into an educational programme; instead, he's wound them up and set them loose. My admittance records look as though

we've had a week of April Fools, and I've seen no stemming of the tide this morning, despite yesterday's attempt by the Head Boy at using violent retribution as a deterrent.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-12-05 16:27:58](#)
(no subject)

You haven't been seeing the half of them, Poppy; the professors and I have all been reversing what hexes we can on our own, in an attempt to stem the tide. But, of course, I simply can't do anything about reversed kneecaps, when they're not merely transfigured - and over half the time the students can't say if they had intended to perform a charm or a transfiguration in the first place.

2009-12-04 11:48:00

Party

Thanks for the invitations, Malfoy.


I've got to check and make sure it's okay with my mum and dad, and so have some of the others, but I've asked everyone here and they're all really excited about coming. It sounds wizard!



 [alt_ernie](#)

Thanks very much.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-04 17:28:46](#)
(no subject)

You're welcome, Macmillan. Be sure to bring ice skates, if you have any. If you don't, we might have enough for people to borrow.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-04 23:12:45](#)
(no subject)

Ice skates? I have some at home yeah, I'll bring them along. Sounds wizard.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-05 00:49:31](#)
(no subject)

Should everyone bring skates if they can?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 01:49:30](#)
(no subject)

Yes.



 **alt_padma** at [2009-12-05 04:33:12](#)
(no subject)

Should we still bring skates? I mean, as it's your parents' party now and not yours. Not only yours, I mean.



 **alt_padma** at [2009-12-05 04:32:07](#)
(no subject)

Did you see Mrs Malfoy's post? ~~glad I'm not Draco~~

I'm still planning to go to any party they invite us to, though. Don't you think?



 **alt_ernie** at [2009-12-05 09:30:22](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I saw that. It's a shame, the party sounded really nift.

I don't know about a grown up party. They're usually just a load of adults standing around talking about money and work and boring stuff. I suppose if everyone from our year is there, though, it might be fun.

[2009-12-04 14:06:00](#)

If anyone has any questions


concerning this morning's altercation in the corridor between Mr Rickett and Ms Fletcher, you may speak to one of your House Prefects. The Head Boy, as you are all aware, has been entrusted with extra authority, as necessary, to enforce the school rules and preserve school decorum.



 [alernity](#)
 [alt_percy](#)


I realise that this is a stressful time of year and that there is a great deal of excitement about the Duelling Club. Nevertheless, the longstanding school rules forbidding the use of magic in the corridors--much less duelling--must still be obeyed.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 20:24:41](#)
(no subject)

They were duelling in the corridors? And Moran caught them? What'd he do, Crucio them?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 21:33:25](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yes, he did.

Everyone in the Slytherin common room is whispering about it right now, I think they thought if Trinculus used it on anyone it would be someone from another house.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 21:43:09](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Whoa! Really? I was just kidding when I asked it!

What'd they do, hit Moran with a curse? I don't really know either of them. What're they like?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 21:48:47](#)

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

Well I don't know Rickett, he's in Hufflepuff I think, but when Antigone gets in trouble it's usually points taken for whispering in Charms or something. Oh and she's gone through three robe pets because she keeps getting them confiscated by teachers for playing with them in class, I think Lockhart lets her get away with it but she's lost one to Acton, one to Slughorn, and one to CARROW if you can believe it.

So I'll admit I'm not surprised she wasn't paying attention to who might see her when she tried hexing Rickett. She didn't quite hit him but it was a near miss I guess. Oh unless it was Rickett who almost hit Moran, I've heard it both ways. Which probably means it WAS Antigone.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 21:50:02](#)

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

Wait I mean she didn't quite hit MORAN.

She did hit Rickett with something and he hit her, too. And then Moran turned up and one of them almost hit him with something and he put Crucio on both of them.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 22:29:03](#)

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

Whoa! On both of them? I mean, I've heard you have to seriously want to hurt somebody in order to be able to even make that spell come out of your wand, let alone make it hurt, so you couldn't just be feeling cheesed off at someone and do it.

Have you seen Fletcher since it happened? Did she have to go to Madam Pomfrey after?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 22:32:23](#)

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

I heard she went to the nearest bathroom and Elizabeth went looking for her and found her throwing up.

She came back to the Common Room a little while ago and everyone stopped talking and stared. She looked like her head hurt. And she looked angry but she didn't say anything to anyone.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 22:44:09](#)

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

That's just awful.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-05 00:47:49](#)

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

Yes.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 21:53:24](#)

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

You know when they announced that the Head Boy and Head Girl can do that spell, I never really thought they would. Or at least they'd save it for, I dunno, someone going spare and attacking a teacher or something. But hexing in the corridors happens every week.

(Merlin, it's a good thing I don't think anyone would ever pick me for Head Boy. "Cause I don't want to have to do that. Ever. Anyway if I did, I think Gran would kill me, Head Boy or not.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 22:12:24](#)

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

You didn't think they'd use it?

I'm surprised Sandoval hasn't yet. Now that Moran's used it I reckon Sandoval will use it on someone before Christmas.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 22:37:13](#)

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

I just can't imagine doing that to anyone. Guess I sometimes forget not everyone's like me.

Yeah, I could see Sandoval using it, now that I think about it. She's the sort that would, I dunno, secretly enjoy it, while still telling everyone she's only doing it cause she has to do it.

Ugh.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-04 22:39:18](#)

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

I can imagine doing it to Carrow.

Do you reckon Percy would use it ever, if he were head boy? I don't think he'd ever use it for fun, at least.

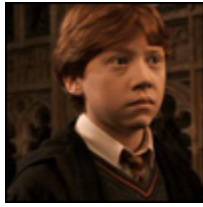



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-04 22:43:38](#)

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

I'd still rather duck and take whatever he dishes out than do that to Carrow. I mean, you've never seen my Gran, and what she'd do to me if she ever knew I'd used that curse--well, that would be almost as scary as anything Carrow could do. And Gran's family, so she'd hold it over my head forever, unlike Professor Carrow, who I hope I'll never see again after I leave Hogwarts.

About Percy---I dunno, Ron, what do you think?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 23:01:20](#)

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

I dunno, sometimes I think he maybe could. Y'know, he's always so sure he knows better than anybody else and that he knows what they deserve done to them. I mean, look how he talks about as an important lesson, like it's the obvious thing you do.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-05 00:55:39](#)

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

But could he maybe be just saying that? Cause he has to, cause he's a Prefect, especially in the journals? He was the one who argued against the Head Boy and Head Girl being given the right to do the curse, when the Prefects voted on it, right? Horatio Hooper said so, and he should know.

I saw Gareth Archer and Ed Bones trying to talk to Percy about what happened in the Common Room right before dinner. Didn't seem to me that Percy liked talking about it much. He sure wasn't gloating over what Moran did or anything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-05 01:49:39](#)

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

Well you both know him better than I do.

But he's clever enough not to let on in the journals if he disagrees with anything anyone in power does. He might let you know later.

He does like being in power an awful lot though. And there's nothing quite like a curse no one else is allowed to use to show off how powerful you are. If they make him Head Boy


next year it'll be interesting to see if he ever uses it. And on who. Moran used it on someone from his own house, I never would've thought he'd do that. I thought we were more likely to get it from Sandoval.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-04 21:45:38](#)
(no subject)

Moran did what he is authorised to do, Ronald. As I said.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-04 22:08:27](#)
Order Only

Oh, Minerva. Is he talking about *Crucio* then? Did it really happen?


To think that we would ever see this day, that one Hogwarts student would do that to another, and it's defended as school policy.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2009-12-05 12:40:13](#)
Re: Order Only

I am afraid so, Molly.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-04 22:26:20](#)
(no subject)

But what about Rickett and Fletcher? Did they get hurt?

I mean did they do something so bad he had to do it to make them stop? Or, wait. But the curse doesn't work like that, right? I mean it's about hurting somebody not about, like, calming them down or making them stop before they break something or


Right?



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-04 22:40:42](#)
(no subject)

It's meant to teach an important lesson so it's not easily forgotten. The effects are temporary, of course, when applied correctly. But I trust that the memory will make a permanent impression.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-05 03:16:48](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To Good

When applied correctly? What's that supposed to mean??

And what happens if it's applied incorrectly?
Hannah Abbott said Anthony Rickett shook for two hours afterward.

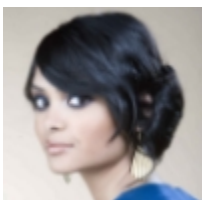



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-04 23:08:52](#)
(no subject)

~~It wasn't really an altercation though, it was~~

~~Anthony didn't even do anything much, they were just messing around~~

What's decorum mean? Is it about not damaging school property, like the paintings and tapestries and that?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-05 00:32:39](#)
(no subject)

It means behaving properly.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-05 00:46:13](#)
(no subject)

~~But he~~

~~Anthony was shaking all~~

Oh. Of course that's important.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-05 00:46:57](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, it is.



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2009-12-05 09:15:17](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, right yeah, I see.

2009-12-04 19:23:00

Interesting Things

I received my letter from Mr Peakes today. He said I am to come stay with him over the holidays. It will give us time to get to know each other a little, even though he will still be very busy. Until then he told me to focus on my studies, and to stay out of trouble. Especially now, since anything I do will reflect on him.




 [alt_dean](#)

He also told me that he will not be meeting me at the station personally. He will send someone for me and we will meet at his office in town before heading to dinner and "home". I really wonder what things will be like while I am there, and if I will be allowed to see anyone from school over the break. Speaking of which, thanks Malfoy for the invite. It was very nice of you, since we don't really speak to each other. I am sure Mr Peakes will allow me to come to your party, as he already knows your father.


Things, it seems, will definitely be interesting this holiday season.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-05 01:53:47](#)
(no subject)


Would Mr Peakes let you come visit me, maybe not overnight if he doesn't want to let you do that, but at least to come over for dinner one night? Because I wrote to Gran, and we'd be pleased to invite you over.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-05 02:21:03](#)
(no subject)

I will ask and see. That would be great to get to come over and hang out with friends



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-05 04:27:42](#)
(no subject)


Well, that sounds good, doesn't it? Perhaps he'll be like Mr Rosier.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-05 04:28:20](#)**
(no subject)

I mean, Finnigan really seems to like his guardian.
So maybe that'll be true for you.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2009-12-05 04:29:07](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe. I hope so.

2009-12-04 19:34:00

Draco?

Am I to understand that you have issued invitations directly to your classmates?



Please explain all these things your father and I have been reading, particularly about the activities you seem to be planning.


 [alt_narcissa](#)



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 01:50:26](#)
(no subject)


Well I had to, Mother. Everyone was already making plans for the holidays and if I hadn't done so it would have been too late.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 02:23:33](#)
(no subject)


But ... darling, had your father told you our decision yet?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 02:24:11](#)
(no subject)


I had planned to this evening.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 02:24:49](#)
(no subject)


Draco, exactly what have you told your proposed guests?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 02:53:20](#)
(no subject)

I told them I was having a party on the evening of Wednesday the 23rd.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:01:04](#)
(no subject)

You

What?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 03:01:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh, sweetheart.

I rather wish you hadn't done that, dear.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:03:22](#)
(no subject)

This is most irregular, son.

And not what your mother and I agreed to do.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 03:04:21](#)
(no subject)

Well, you hadn't told him yet.



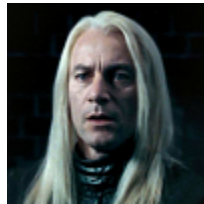
 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:05:04](#)
(no subject)


Which is *precisely* why I would not have expected him to have taken action **on his own**.



 **alt_draco** at [2009-12-05 03:09:04](#)
(no subject)

You said "we'll see." That's what you said last year when I asked for a broomstick.



 **alt_lucius** at [2009-12-05 03:21:25](#)
(no subject)

And you assumed that you could simply proceed without even confirming a date with us?



 **alt_draco** at [2009-12-05 03:27:28](#)
(no subject)

It's a party for kids. You wouldn't even have to be there if you didn't want to. And I didn't promise anything about ice forts and Granian rides, people just started with their own

rumours.




 **alt_narcissa** at [2009-12-05 03:32:32](#)
(no subject)

Sweetheart, if there were specific attractions or activities you wanted, you ought to have come to us with them. You're young and you may not realise all the work that goes into something like you had in mind.


I know you're disappointed, my son. But you'll see, we can have a much more jolly party in summer. And there will be other presents for you under the tree.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:34:16](#)
(no subject)


Not at this rate.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 03:35:45](#)
(no subject)


Oh, stop.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 03:36:40](#)
(no subject)

People are going to be disappointed.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:39:09](#)
(no subject)

And whose fault is that?

If the prospect of coming to our Christmas party is so disheartening, I assure you, son, they need not accept.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:42:09](#)
(no subject)

Rumours you fomented, rather than dispel.

Your mother would hardly leave you alone with a passel of children in the Manor. And she has a calendar of her own, not one that exists for you and you alone to dictate.

You will apologise for upsetting her.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:19:29](#)
(no subject)


Draco. You will retract these invitations immediately.

Your mother and I had decided that we could not hold yet another party during the season. However, it had occurred to me that as our usual party is intended to be our family party, it is only right that you have the opportunity to invite whom you wish, as well.

To that end, we had decided to extend your invitations to the list you provided to our usual holiday party. Not a party of your own, with no adults, ice forts, Granian rides, or whatever else you have dreamed up in the past forty-eight hours.


I have half a mind to rescind these invitations, as well, but your mother insists that this ... misunderstanding ought not cancel out your attempt at playing host.



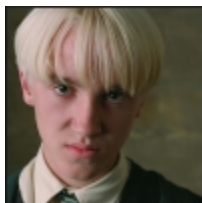
 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 03:22:04](#)
(no subject)


But it was my Christmas present! I didn't even ask for anything else!



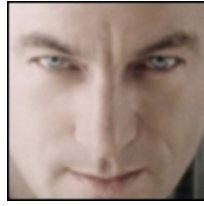
 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:28:24](#)
(no subject)

And is it Christmas yet?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 03:30:04](#)
(no subject)


Not just yet.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-05 03:33:34](#)
(no subject)

Exactly.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 03:26:51](#)
(no subject)

Draco, we'll have your grand celebration over the summer, and you and I may plan it together, son. That way you shan't surprise us with ideas that are simply impossible to arrange in a few weeks.

You'll be able to have your friends at our regular Christmas reception, so you see you'll still have them about and you shan't be so bored with all the grown-ups.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-05 03:46:54](#)
(no subject)

Sorry for upsetting you, Mother.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-05 03:51:16](#)
(no subject)

I'm not upset with you, Draco. Not exactly.

But, next time you ask for something, please, let us be the ones to decide whether it is appropriate.

Just think how much fun we shall have thinking of all sorts of wonderful entertainments for your birthday. All right?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2009-12-05 03:55:59](#)**
(no subject)

I can tell that Father's angry.

I suppose a birthday party would be pleasant.
It's just a long way off.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-05 04:09:29](#)**
(no subject)

Father will recover.

But he is right, darling, that you have put us in
rather an awkward position.

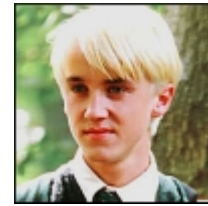
Imagine if you wanted to surprise someone with a gift, like asking someone to go with you to a Quidditch match, and before you ever said anything about it, that person went round telling all his acquaintances that you were going to put him in the top box.

Wouldn't you be a little put out that your friend just assumed you'd take him with you? And if you had decided *not* to take him, after all, but he had already told everyone, what do you suppose that would be like?

2009-12-05 12:15:00

A change in plans

It's been decided that there really isn't enough time to plan my own party by the 23rd, so the party will be moved to 5 June of next year, my birthday. That will allow ample time to plan a utterly, epic and wiz-nift celebration. Meanwhile, those of you who received an invitation are all still invited to the Malfoy Christmas party on the 19th. There will be adults there, but the food is very posh and the entertainment is typically spectacular as well. Really, only the most important people get to go to that party, so you're all very lucky.



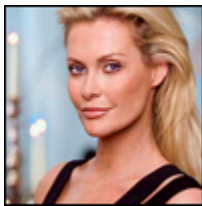
 **alt_draco**



 **alt_pansy** at **2009-12-06 02:34:19**

(no subject)

I'm sorry things didn't work out exactly as planned, but I'm very glad there's still a party we can go to over hols, and your birthday does sound like it will be fantastic. It'll be nice to have more people our age at the holiday party.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2009-12-06 04:06:40**

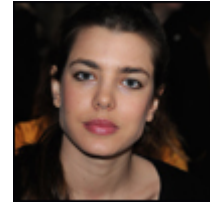
(no subject)

Son, your father and I talked a little more today (as I suspected, he was much more agreeable this morning). In light of the atmosphere you wanted to create, we will give over the east wing salon on the second floor entirely to you and your guests. You may still come downstairs as often as you wish, but if you desire an 'adult-free zone,' as it were, where you may have games, your own sideboard and a few special treats, I believe that will suit nicely.

[2009-12-05 15:00:00](#)

IX.

Serena Laverty, if you're reading this, I have a proposal for you.



 [alt_lana](#)

When Johns and I saw Professor Carrow today about our part of the Transfiguration project, he told us he's really pleased with the group's NEWT-level work, and--this is really brilliant-- he said that for the first time ever, he's got a large enough number of high achievers to push what we've been working on beyond the regular curriculum. He said we might even be able to take on a bit of really advanced research when we come back after Christmas. The thing is, he'd need at least six of us to commit to continue working on it for the remainder of the year, but he says it will be the sort of project guaranteed to impress when we're applying for work or trying to get into top training programmes. Professor Carrow is going to send something around to everyone preparing for NEWTs, inviting us to apply for a place. (The ones who don't take part or aren't accepted will just continue on with the standard NEWTs material.) Johns and I talked over lunch, and we decided that it does seem a seriously good opportunity, but it comes down to who'd be in the group, doesn't it? If you've got some time tonight or tomorrow afternoon, we want to tell you more about it. I think we all know we're top of our year, so if we'd all do it and could get the right three or four others in with us, it would be fantastic. Come find us in Ravenclaw Corner and tell us what you think.

I've had another bit of really good news that I want to mention here because some of you might wish to arrange something similar for your Easter hols. I had a letter today from the Department of Magical Law Enforcement, offering me an internship with the Aurors for this coming holiday. My supervisor will be Bellatrix Lestrange, and I'm really chuffed about this, because she's the very best there is. It's amazing, really, to think that I'll get to spend three weeks working in her department, learning what a top Auror does from day to day. I couldn't be more excited.

Finally, and on another subject entirely:

Honestly, people. It's not only bad form and against school rules to duel in the corridors, it shatters concentration for all of us who take our studies seriously. We were not sent to school to practise turning


one another's ears into chrysanthemums, nor would our parents wish to learn that rather than revising for exams, some of us are studying to ambush people with stumbling hexes as they leave the library. The Head Boy and I have practised restraint in dealing with these disturbances, but things have only grown more and more chaotic. Moran was quite right, therefore, to use the Cruciatus curse in the situation that confronted him yesterday, and you may expect that from here on, neither of us will hesitate to use the full range of disciplinary measures entrusted to us as head students. We will not allow the unruly elements amongst us to drag this school into utter chaos. I hope I have made myself entirely clear.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-07 14:46:48](#)**
(no subject)

Warmest congratulations on the internship, Sandoval. That's really quite impressive!



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2009-12-07 15:46:29](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Weasley. It's a really brilliant opportunity. This is the first time they've allowed an internship, and I was worried they might not say yes.

I think you've said you're interested in going to work in the Ministry? You should consider writing the Head of whichever department you're most interested in to see about setting up something like this for yourself--perhaps over the long vacation in summer as you've still got a year left.

2009-12-06 12:02:00

(no subject)

I got the most wonderful package today! Patil, I won't need to borrow that Slytherin book after all. I've got one of my own.



 [alt_pansy](#)

And I've also got a brilliant book about a wizard pirate, Magister Wigbold, and that's what I can talk about in History club if you still want me to next Wednesday. Because it looks really interesting, and I think other people would find it interesting too!

I'll write a proper thank-you note tomorrow, of course, but thank you thank you thank you!

I'll take extra care of the book about Slytherin, because I know you got it from family, and I'll give it back after I'm done, if you want, but it is lovely to have it to read through.



 [alt_regulus](#) at **2009-12-06 20:09:30**

(no subject)

I'm glad you were pleased.

You may keep both books with my compliments. I've read them, and I don't have anyone to pass them on

to.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2009-12-06 21:41:21**

(no subject)

Well, then, I'll take the books and the compliments.

I'm going to really enjoy spending time reading them over hols. I mean, I'll read enough for the History Club meeting, but really, really reading them will be awful fun.


Will you be at the Malfoy's Christmas party?



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-06 21:52:40](#)
(no subject)

I'm hoping for an invitation, yes. In the meantime, I'm on best behaviour lest I be stricken from the list.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-06 22:00:59](#)
(no subject)

I know what you mean.

Well, I'll hope to see you there, then.


You've probably heard as much, but I'm having tea with your mum over hols too.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-06 22:03:12](#)
(no subject)

I meant to ask whether you'd set a day for that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-06 22:10:04](#)
(no subject)

The 17th. So you see why I have to be on my best behaviour til right before the party. Well, I have to be on my best behaviour all the time, which is exhausting by the way, but I have to be especially good up til Christmas at least.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-06 22:29:33](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps you could set aside Boxing Day to be a bit mad?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-06 22:42:34](#)
(no subject)

What an excellent idea! I could stomp around and kick things and say every swear I know at the top of my lungs.

I could talk in verse.

Or I could just grin at everyone for no good reason and cackle every now and again, for added effect.

I'd probably get into terrible trouble, though. Even if I did warn everyone beforehand, and told them the reason why. Perhaps the best solution is go off and be a bit mad on my own.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-06 22:54:54](#)
(no subject)

Stomping and swearing would certainly provide a break from being 'lady-like'; I've always thought that must be very difficult, having to behave like a lady.

You might get away with blank verse, but I shouldn't think that heroic couplets would be wise, though they are much, much more mad.

I find that cackling for no apparent reason is a very good strategy when one wishes to be left alone in public places. It works best on strangers, though. Family do seem to take a dim view of such behaviour.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-06 22:59:16](#)
(no subject)

All duly noted.

I am pants at rhyming, so I'd have to practice first.

I will keep in mind what you have said about what's worst.

Well, that's a start.

A poor one.

It seems like it takes a lot of effort to be mad. Almost as much as being good, if not more.



 **alt_regulus** at [2009-12-06 23:03:44](#)
(no subject)

Ah. Now that is a terribly wise observation. I think I'll write that on a slip of paper and attach it to my mirror so I can consider it every morning:

It takes a lot of effort to be mad. Almost as much as being good, if not more.

Good words for going on with, those.




 **alt_sally_anne** at [2009-12-07 02:14:04](#)
(no subject)

You're having tea with Mrs Black on the 17th?

Are you going home early then?



 **alt_pansy** at [2009-12-07 02:17:28](#)
(no subject)

No... oh! I am going spare.

I wrote it wrong in my calendar.

It's on the 21st.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2009-12-07 02:18:53](#)
(no subject)

Oh well good.

I mean I'm glad you're not leaving early.

I can't wait until Christmas. I haven't heard back from the Strettons but surely they won't mind.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 02:30:24](#)
(no subject)

They'd better not! Or else we'll get Harry to come over and fetch you.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-07 03:46:02](#)
(no subject)

A wizard and a pirate? That sounds pretty nift.

Did Mr Black really give you his copy of the book about Slytherin? Why are you always talking with him? I mean, I know you said that Mr Malfoy is like an uncle, but Mr Black's no relation at all, right?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 04:08:05](#)
(no subject)

He did.

He's related to Aunt Narcissa, isn't he?

And you don't have to be related to someone to talk to them. That's a pretty narrow way to think about things.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-07 04:16:47](#)
(no subject)


If I randomly talked to a man who wasn't my father, my brother, my uncle or my professor, or something like that, my parents would go spare.

I mean, I suppose at a party, or something. That would be okay. I dunno. It's just...

Well. Don't you worry that your mum will accuse Mr Black the

same way she accused Mr Malfoy last year? Or whatever that was. Wasn't there some sort of trial? That Mr Malfoy won?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 04:24:37](#)
(no subject)

That's all really none of your business, Patil.
I suggest you keep out of my family affairs.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-07 04:48:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, excuse me very much, but honestly, you might have thought of that before you started carrying on so publicly.

I'm only trying to help. You seem to have a knack for blundering into awkward situations, Parkinson. I would think you'd want to avoid embarrassing yourself again.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 05:09:33](#)
(no subject)

~~Oh, won't you please shove off.~~

~~Honestly. We're just talking. Why does everyone~~

Look, I know you think you're being all helpful and everything, but I mean it when I say this is none of your business.

If I want advice from you, I'll ask for it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-07 05:10:05](#)
(no subject)

Your parents really don't trust you to have a simple conversation with a man who isn't a blood relation?

I think Mr Black is going to be at Draco's party -- I mean he'll be at the Malfoy's party but Mrs Malfoy is having him make some of the arrangements for the part of the party with Draco's

classmates. I hope your parents will still let you come, it would be dreadful if you had to miss out. I know you said parties are alright but if you really think it's that dreadful that Pansy would talk to him in her journal, which isn't even face to face, I shouldn't think you'd want to be in the same room as him.



 **alt_padma** at [2009-12-08 01:57:30](#)
(no subject)

Oh, for Lakshmi's sake, it's not a question of trust at all, Perks, it's a question of custom and ~~propi~~ propriety. But I wouldn't expect you to know anything about what's proper and what's

not.

Anyway, it has nothing to do with who makes what arrangements or parties. The way Parkinson talks to Mr Black is.... Well, it's hard to describe why it doesn't seem right, but it's a little like it ought to be a private conversation, not one that other people are part of. And for someone our age to have that kind of chat with someone old enough to be our father, well, that's just sort of.... weird. ~~Dad says it's brazen~~

2009-12-06 16:52:00

Narcissa

Cousin, I couldn't help but notice that you've just expanded your plans for your holiday entertaining. I wonder if you could use help with any of the preparations. I seem to be less in demand at the moment, so I'd be glad if there were something I could do for you.



 [alt_regulus](#)

I had a bit of a surprise yesterday. I stopped into one of the little shops down my street for sticking plasters and several other things, and while they couldn't supply the plasters--can you imagine: they stock wound cream but not plasters and then were out of washing up liquid?--Sorry. The point is, who should be there behind the counter but our cousin Nymphadora? Says she took the job to supplement what she's earning at the Ministry. I hadn't realised she was working there, either, though I guess I wouldn't have done. If I hadn't just seen her at the funeral, I doubt I'd have recognised her at all; before we were all together that day it had been ages since I'd laid eyes on her.

She's just as I remember, though: well, I can't say whether the hair was purple back then (and, obviously it wasn't at the funeral), but it was always one sort of odd or another, and there's always been that same inability to pick up one thing without knocking something else over. Merlin's tiny pants, that girl was always hopelessly clumsy, wasn't she? Well she's just as awkward now. Fortunately, it was the tin of biscuits and not the bottle of lamp oil that she knocked off the counter and then stepped on. I thought she was going to overturn a whole table of fruitcakes when she bent to pick it up.

I wonder how long she'll keep the job, honestly. I'd think she might break more than she sells. On the other hand, she did persuade me to buy a quantity of cinnamon and several other things that were nowhere on my list. She plied me with spiced cider and a sample tray of cinnamon biscuits that tasted just like the ones Kreacher made when we were children.

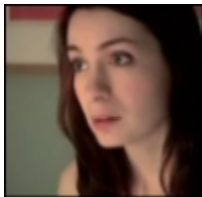
I asked her about that, why even when you can get the ingredients, nothing tastes as good now as then, and do you know what she told me? She says you can't buy proper cinnamon these days. I had no idea! Says it's not really cinnamon at all that they're selling in the shops, but cassia, instead. I suppose it's to do with import restrictions and pricing issues, but the point of it all is that her shop's got the

goods. They've got a supplier for true cinnamon--the packet says it's from Sri Lanka--and they've got marvellous-smelling, fresh cloves and nutmeg and candied ginger. And now I have, as well.

I couldn't wait for Fifi to come round on Monday, so I summoned Kreacher last night and set him to baking. My flat smells a treat, I can tell you!

I suppose that was entirely more than you wanted to know, wasn't it, cousin?

Clearly, I need something more to occupy myself with than writing things in this book. Do, please, tell me you have some task I could do for you. Or at least agree to have tea with me some afternoon this week. Otherwise I may go mad and begin putting up fairy lights and pine boughs and baking mince pies. It won't be pretty, I can assure you.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2009-12-06 22:17:09](#)

ORDER ONLY

Remus, love, did you see this? Did you catch a glimpse of him at all?

If you need to make a quick getaway, you come right here as fast as you are able.

I'm worried. I suppose if we can fool customs, we stand a fair chance, but he's far smarter than a customs agent, and he's so unpredictable. Was he just remarking, or did it mean something more?

Bugger.

I think it's high time we either tested the water with Tonks, so she knows what is riding on her discretion, or let her go so she won't be hurt if it all falls down round our ears. Arthur, Minerva, it's up to you, but I think we should move quickly. I've said it before, but we don't want to wait until an emergency to tell her everything.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2009-12-06 22:54:47](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I'm with Al on this one, you lot.

I hope to merlin the fact this happened right after Sirius's incident is coincidence, but at this point, I don't know. someone very high up could be checking in on lazlo, and everyone associated with it.

tread careful, everyone. and stay safe, remus and sirius. Al will have your heads if you don't.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2009-12-07 15:12:05](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I was going to suggest that Remus might find it advisable to keep a supply of polyjuice on hand that he can swallow quickly in case Narcissa or anyone else dangerous comes calling. However, that wouldn't work very well if Tonks is still in the dark.

On the other hand, that's another strong reason to bring her in.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-07 10:28:12](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY


I did see him, Alice, yes. Fortunately I spotted him before he spotted me, so I was able to keep out of sight in the back while he spoke to Tonks.

It may be best, for now, to keep Tonks in the dark. She already gets quite nervous around her so-called family members. I'd rather not give her any additional cause for anxiety.

I don't think there's any need to leave just yet, although if Her Highness Narcissa Malfoy shows up in my tatty little shop, I may have need of an escape route after I hex her into oblivion!


It's all okay, Alice. No need for worry. How's my little godson doing?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-07 15:14:56](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

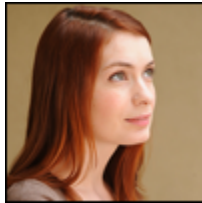
Sorry, didn't see this before I replied to Alice. Of course, you must be willing, too, before we tell her.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-07 19:59:14](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

You're right, of course. You're all right, it is time to bring her in. She's more than proved herself both loyal and capable, and beyond that, I do feel like I owe her the truth.

If we're all agreed, then - Arthur, does Wednesday suit you?




 [alt_alice](#) at [2009-12-07 22:45:19](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

I agree, I do think she deserves to hear the whole story from both you and Arthur.

Did I ever tell you about when Frank recruited me to the Order? I was still in training, and we'd been dating for a few months. When he told me about the Order, I was a bit angry with him for not being open with me, but I gave it some thought, and recognized that it was about something more than just me and him -- he'd done it because he had to, not to hurt me. And, in the end, it made us so much closer, because we didn't have those secrets hanging between us.

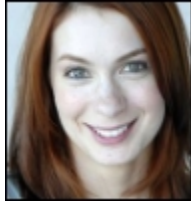
I know she'll understand why you didn't tell her right off. I really do.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-07 22:59:22](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

I'm sure she'll be a bit angry too. It's a big secret to keep from someone, not just the Order but something as basic as who I actually am. I hope you're right, and that she'll understand why it had to be that way.

I mean, not that there's anything like that going on, of course. She's just a friend. Or a colleague. A colleague and a friend. That's all.




 [alt_alice at 2009-12-07 23:24:43](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, yes. And although she might be a little taken aback once you tell her the truth, it's precisely because she's a friend that she'll come back round again and see why it had to happen the way it did.


And it can be hard having to pretend to be someone you're not. We all know how much easier it is to have someone to share that burden with. And I'm fairly sure she feels the same way, and will be happy to finally have people she can really speak her mind to.



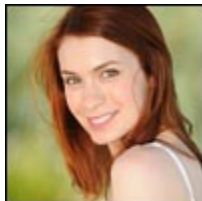
 [alt_lupin at 2009-12-07 23:35:33](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY


I hope you're right.



 [alt_arthur at 2009-12-08 15:09:58](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Wednesday will work well. I'll pop by during my lunch hour, and I'll let it be known I have a meeting out of the office in the early afternoon so I can take a little extra time if necessary.



 [alt_alice at 2009-12-07 16:41:43](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Of course, you're the best judge of what is safest for you. I just worry about you!

And I do think, love, that if she's already nervous, it wouldn't change how she would react around her relatives -- it'd

be trickier if she all of a sudden became nervous where she wasn't before. Just a thought.

Kevin is fat and happy, and constantly chuckles at everything. Frank can make him laugh just by looking at him. I'm afraid he's got a bit of an identity crisis, though, because Frank insists on calling him Tiny.



 **alt_arthur** at **2009-12-07 15:09:28**

Re: ORDER ONLY

I'll say it for you.

Bugger, bugger, bugger.

I think it would be good to bring her in. I've been talking to her for over a year. She kept the secret about my request to pinch Dean Thomas' file, even when it got her into hot water at the Ministry. She is cautious about what she says to other people, but it's clear her sympathies are aligned with the Order's goals, and she's frustrated over the impediments in her way because she's a half-blood.

Minera, the final decision is yours, of course, but if you agree, I might suggest that Remus and I sit down with her together. I agree with Alice; it's hardly fair to expose her to more danger without letting her know the risk she's running. Especially when she's run a risk for the Order before and proved trustworthy already.



 **alt_mcgonagall** at **2009-12-07 16:30:12**

Re: ORDER ONLY

I do agree, Arthur.

I must ask, however, that you keep my role secret - at least at first. I grow particularly wary around holiday-times; there are so many more opportunities for people to brush up against those they usually ignore, so many more chances for spying, for eavesdropping, even subtle Legilimency.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-06 23:31:14](#)**
(no subject)


See, now, that seems to be the good sort of mad. The kind where you get really involved in something, and have mince pies to show for it.



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2009-12-07 00:30:22](#)**
(no subject)

You only say so because you've never tasted my cooking!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-07 00:34:01](#)**
(no subject)


Well, I've never baked a thing in my life, so you're one step ahead of me. I'd probably forget to add sugar or leave it in the oven for too long and set it on fire.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-07 02:16:34](#)**
(no subject)

Baking's really not that hard. It's easier than potion making. But you've got an elf for that anyway right?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-07 02:37:14](#)**
(no subject)

Well, yeah. But it's not like I'll have one of my own when I leave school. Unless I do well enough to have a place of my own that comes with one.

Or unless mum leaves me Hitty, but that wouldn't be for years and years.

Perhaps we could mess around in our kitchen when you come? I'm sure Hitty wouldn't mind showing us a few things if we asked. She's a bit helpless when it comes to laundry, but her sticky buns are top hole.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-07 02:46:58](#)
(no subject)

I can show you how to bake bread if you want. I expect Hitty's is better but mine doesn't need house-elf magic to come out right.

I know a cookie recipe too.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 03:01:44](#)
(no subject)

Oooh, that would be fun!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-07 03:06:23](#)
(no subject)


Would your mum have honey? It uses a lot of honey.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-07 03:10:33](#)
(no subject)

I'll write her so she'll be sure to have plenty.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-07 02:14:50](#)
Order Only

We don't have plasters because they're made with elastic, which is a *Muggle* product, you berk! Your short-sighted friends didn't think about that when they closed down the trade, did they?

Speaking of his friends, you lot, ought to let you know that I've tracked round the house for the last two days as Padfoot, going back into Monte Carlo each night. No sign of trouble so far.

Still, I doubt I'll head back anytime soon. At least not until after

Nigel's next scheduled public appearance - by which point we ought to know who's looking for him and why.

As for Regulus, am I missing something? It doesn't seem to me as if he suspects anything particular, about Remus or anything else. The cinnamon - well, the papers that came with it should certify to their satisfaction that it has a credible wizarding source. And anyway we had to test Sabola's front company sooner or later. Better before we sink more of our effort into this enterprise. I do hope that the stuff will start showing up in more than our shop.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-07 03:10:01](#)

Re: Order Only

A Muggle product, Sirius? I use self-sticking plasters nearly every day.

Now I think of it, I have had one or two students express surprise as though they've never seen them before. Did your family not ever purchase plasters? I suppose the magical sort might have derived from a Muggle idea, though I hadn't considered that before. Hm.

In any case, I believe you'd find that they'd sell very well if Remus were to stock them. You wouldn't need to import them, either. I'm able to purchase them from my domestic supplier.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-07 03:39:30](#)

Re: Order Only

Er ... I suppose I'm just so used to the Muggle kind. They're fairly ubiquitous on this side of the wards.

I hate to admit it whenever the little goblin has a point but he is right: there are glaring holes in what I can easily provide.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-07 03:45:56](#)

Re: Order Only

As I read it, he was rather impressed with what you and Remus have in the shop.



 **alt_sirius** at [2009-12-07 04:34:08](#)

Re: Order Only

Your luxury, then. You see him being impressed with candied ginger and cinnamon biscuits; I see him whinging because there's no scrubbing liquid or plasters.



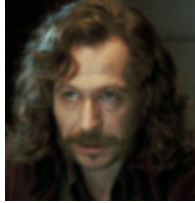
 **alt_poppy** at [2009-12-07 04:10:55](#)

Re: Order Only

I ought to have said before: I'm awfully glad to hear from you. I was beginning to worry as the silence dragged on.

When is the next match Nigel's due at? Is there a way you can do any reconnaissance ahead of it or a way for Nigel to protect himself without betraying the disguise?

At least you know to be wary.



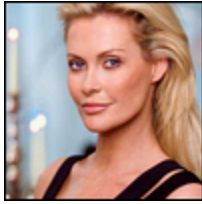
 **alt_sirius** at [2009-12-07 04:41:06](#)

Re: Order Only

I've a match in Gibraltar in a week's time. I suppose I could send a postal owl off to the Confederation managers and find out if anyone has been looking for Nigel through them, and if so, about what.

Might raise suspicions, though, if no one's thought to come calling on them already.

In point of fact, though, it's a fairly safe place to be, definitely public and once I'm in the commentator's box, hard to interrupt. I might just be able to draw him out, if I appear to be alone long enough. But rest assured, I'll be sure to connect to some mates to arrive with them, and to leave with players or officials, if I see anything very out of the ordinary.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-07 03:07:12](#)**
(no subject)

You're dear to offer. It would seem that you know how to appeal to young people, and they certainly seem to take to you. Besides I can't bear the thought of you putting up fairy lights in a state of derangement. I'd be grateful if you helped determine what amusements we ought to devise for Draco's juvenile guests.

One can get cinnamon, though this is the first I've heard of it being available in a shop as tatty as you describe. It's only that quantities have been very limited, as I understand it. Lucius could explain better I'm sure.

I suppose Nymphadora did say something about taking another job. I must confess now I'm curious. Perhaps I shall have to find it and stop in to the place.



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2009-12-07 04:03:52](#)**
(no subject)

I believe I can help you there.

I'd say we should begin by adding some muffling charms on the salon you're planning for their use, and then we'll look into finding the right music for the occasion and a truly magical way of playing it.

Then it's just a matter of--well, we should meet for tea to discuss it.

I was well over my head with the discussion of spices, as you can imagine. I don't believe I've ever purchased anything beyond salt and pepper before. Anything more than that, Fifi's brought with her or Kreacher's had from Mother's.

I'll show you the place after our tea. What day would suit you?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-07 04:45:25](#)
(no subject)

Tuesday suits me fine. I'm certain you'll have a wealth of creativity to bring to the project.

Does this mean I finally get to view your little bedsit? Or am I to meet you somewhere quaint in the vicinity?



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-07 05:31:29](#)
(no subject)

Do you really want to see this place? I'm afraid you'll despair of me completely if you do.

Really?

I don't want to be unwelcoming, but what this place conveys is more hospice than hospitality.

You did ask, though. More than once.

I'll send a proper invitation tomorrow, then, with directions to the flat.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-07 10:17:14](#)
ORDER ONLY

She'll keep the bloody job as long as she wants it!

2009-12-09 18:54:00

Order Only: Nymphadora Tonks



 [alt_arthur](#)

I popped around the shop at the noon hour as Remus and I agreed. Tonks was pleased to see me but surprised when Remus put up the 'Closed' sign and we sat down in the back room for our talk.

I think for the most part the discussion went rather well, all things considered. It was quite evident that the surprise was huge, and we've certainly given her much to think about. I found myself feeling quite nerve-wracked when it came to the point. I've grown quite fond of your cousin, Sirius, and the last thing I wanted her to feel was that Remus and I were merely using her. I stressed that part of the reason that the Order exists at all is that we think that the waste of the talents of halfbloods like her is simply criminal, never mind muggleborns and muggles. She asked a number of questions, very much to the point. She was quieter when Remus filled her in about his identity and dropped his disguise for her to see. Don't know what she was thinking, except that not only did she blush quite a bit but her hair flashed a rather startling shade of magenta there for a moment. (Remus, did she say anything more to you about it after I left?)

One of the questions she asked was whether the information I asked her to nick (Dean's file) was for the Order, and when I told her yes, she seemed pleased. "So I can be useful," she said, half to herself.

"Yes, you can," Remus told her. "But only if you wish to be. You must know that our work can be dangerous, and the penalties if any of us are caught would be severe."

"You'd have to obliviate me, right now, if I don't want to help, wouldn't you?"

Remus caught my eye and hesitated for a very long moment. That was blunt. But at least it was clear she was grasping the seriousness of what she was being asked to join. I had the sense as though something was weighing in the balance, depending very much upon his answer. "I'm afraid so," he said apologetically.

She stared at him for almost a full thirty seconds, expressionless, and then blew out a breath. "Then I'm in." She gave a small tight smile. "Thanks for telling me the truth." At last hung in the air, unspoken.


Keeping in mind your caution that you don't want her to know that you're involved with the Order, Minerva, we are holding off telling her about the Order Only lock for now. She's going to think about what we've said for now and we'll talk some more about how she may be of use. Until you approve, she'll only know about Remus and me.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-12-10 01:50:12](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Arthur, it does ease my mind. It isn't *Tonks* who concerns me, you realise; it's those she may come in contact with. Give her a month - let the hols pass and the furor die down - around the holidays people are disarranged and their patterns differ, and they notice strange things and people. A dangerous time for us.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2009-12-10 01:59:11](#)**
(no subject)

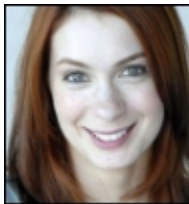
That makes sense. A month for the news to sink in isn't a bad idea.


I'll see if my analysts have any missions to suggest for her. I know one or two who will certainly rejoice to have another pair of eyes for us at the Ministry, in a few areas where we've never had access before.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-10 03:08:23](#)**
(no subject)


Glad to hear it went as well as could be expected.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-10 04:31:06](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I am glad. She certainly has a lot to think about, but we've done the right thing by telling her, I'm sure of it.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-10 06:50:51](#)**
(no subject)

I'm relieved to hear that it's done.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2009-12-11 17:24:30](#)**
(no subject)

It went as well as could be expected, really. I think she was just a little embarrassed at not having realised that something was afoot, not that she could have known. We'd all be in trouble if she had been able to just work it out like that, so I'm relieved rather than anything else on that score.

It may take me a while to get back into her good graces, but I know she values the opportunity to do something to help, and that's worth a lot.

2009-12-09 19:04:00

(no subject)

I can't think why you hid your whereabouts for so long, Reg; it's really quite a charming little neighbourhood.



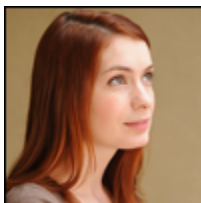
 **alt_narcissa**

Your bedsit isn't so terrible, particularly with the settle and the other things from the Manor, but Reg, dear, I do wish you'd consider spending the holiday with us. I'm sure it will make our preparations go that much more smoothly.

The shop was very entertaining. I agree with you - it's rather astonishing that your little hole-in-the-wall has items even Harrod's doesn't. But then when I told Lucius the name of the place, he said that he recalled a Laszlo Limited being approved for the importation business last year. Our own clearing house orders from them, or so he says - and now it seems they are trying to circumvent the middleman. Only natural, I suppose. Still, I believe Lucius plans to tell Clarriker to be sure that not all the imports go direct to Laszlo's of London! Meanwhile, I'll certainly be sure to get back when I've more time - and when our cousin is in to recommend the best they have to offer.

Unfortunately I shall have no time for the rest of the week. I've agreed to take Ursula Avery's shift at St Mungo's tomorrow in exchange for mine next week. Then I've luncheons tomorrow and Friday and on Saturday we're going to the Baddocks for their annual holiday open house.

I'm still heartily intrigued by the identity of your mystery bidder. I can't wait to see the results; I only wish I'd thought of it first.



 **alt_alice at 2009-12-10 04:42:53**

ORDER ONLY

I'm beginning to hope that Regulus's going to our store (and talking so endlessly about it) really was just an unhappy coincidence. It does worry me that she was so keen to look us up, but Tonks is her cousin, and the Malfoys do make a regular habit of checking in on her situation.

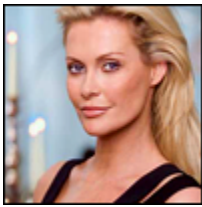



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-10 05:26:15](#)
(no subject)

I have considered--for perhaps three and a half seconds--and believe that I could tear myself away from my hovel. When should I arrive?

As for the shop, I'll be terribly annoyed if Lucius meddles with my newfound gem and diverts their best goods elsewhere.

See if I share secrets with you again!



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-10 20:46:58](#)
(no subject)

Come when you like. I'll have Heddy prepare the green room for you.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-10 21:00:16](#)
(no subject)

Sunday, then.

Unaccustomed as I am to socialising, I find I've now got invitations for both Friday and Saturday evenings.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-10 21:14:24](#)
(no subject)

Oh?

I'll expect a full report when we see you.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-10 21:39:39](#)
(no subject)

Well, Friday's just Barty. I expect he's wanting to complain about family and the holidays; last year they tormented him with demands that he come home for this, that and the other thing.

This year he can't fob them off by making noises about his duty of watching over me. I was a very handy excuse while he had me.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-10 21:42:13](#)

(no subject)

And Saturday?

Oh, but that's the day it comes out, isn't it?

Do you plan to hide somewhere or have you arranged a little release party?



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-10 21:46:18](#)

(no subject)

I'm not sharing secrets with you anymore, remember?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-10 21:48:57](#)

(no subject)

Oh, pish. Now you sound like you're nine years old again. Too much conversation with schoolgirls, no doubt.

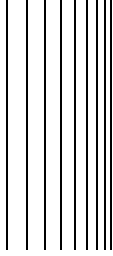
We'll see what secrets you share, cousin dear.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-10 22:02:22](#)

(no subject)

Oh, I'll tell you all about it after the fact. But I'm not sure what might come of it, and I'd rather not jinx it ahead of time.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-10 22:04:16](#)**
(no subject)

That sounds deliciously wicked. I can't wait to hear. I hope it doesn't disappoint - for both our sakes.

2009-12-09 23:38:00

ORDER ONLY

I know it has been a while since we reported in last, but we've had quite a month!



 [alt_alice](#)

Jacinda is still fairly weak, and will most likely always need the assistance of a walking stick to get around, but she's in high spirits. During her lucid periods, she fairly peppered Stephen with questions, and now that she's out and about, she can't seem to get enough of this place. She wanted to see every little thing - from the stables to the water-pump - and I think she already knows the names of half the children here. We've found a wand for her, too. It isn't a perfect fit, but she says she'll be able to use it well enough. She said losing her wand was like losing her arm, and she'd rather have her arm back than her leg any day. According to her, "it's a fair trade." She can't say much about how bad it really is in the camps - she got out right as people started getting sick, and at the time, people in the camps just thought it was a nasty bout of flu.

She was also quite taken with the fact that we were all in regular contact with the infamous Sirius Black. She remembers you from school - she was a Ravenclaw a few years younger than you and Remus. Apparently, you've become quite a legend in the camps, darling. The latest attempts to discredit you certainly haven't worked for the Muggles and Muggleborn, who are much more likely to trust you than anyone else in authority at the camps.

She's an amazing person. I think all of you would like her very much. She grew up with an extensive family, lots of cousins and nieces and nephews - she was the only magical one out of the lot, so she was separated from them right off. She's not sure if they're in another camp, missing, or dead. She worked for the Magical Zoological Institute in London for a couple of years after she left school -- her speciality was winged creatures like hippogriffs, griffins, and thestrals and the like. When she was in the camps, they had her work in the sheep pens, mucking them out. They called her "muckblood." It's obviously a sore spot - she blanched a little when she saw the goatpen. She turned it into a joke - that she was glad at least we didn't have sheep. I assured her that even though we all have chore duty, we pick and choose what we'd prefer, and that for as long as she's with us, she never has to do any mucking, which made her grin. Despite all she's been through, she's an incredibly cheery person.

Now that we've gotten everything sorted with Jacinda, we've started to decorate like mad for Christmas. It's a bit early yet, but the children have been so anxious about their families that this was the best way we could think of to distract them. We've transfigured a large bit of driftwood into a passable tree (topped with a dried starfish, naturally), we've dug the garlands out of storage and started draping them about, and there are paper snowflakes sticking to every window. Danny has spent days collecting petrol for the boat - more on that in a bit - and to power his film projector, and managed to jury-rig a vee sear to it so that we can have a bit of a wider selection to watch than our old reel films. We're showing Alistar Sims' "Scrooge" tonight, which is one of Judith's favourite films, she said it was on the Telly all the time when she was young. It should be a treat to see a movie version of a story Frank and I know so very well. The children are writing long letters to their parents, and there seems to be lots of secretive present-making and card-decorating going on whenever they have a spare moment. Arabella is helping our older children make crackers, and Victor has been incredibly patient at teaching our little ones how to make gingerbread cards so they'll have something to give out as presents. He's also promised us a "genuine plum pudding," which I haven't had in ages. Merlin knows where he's managed to track down plums, or decent brandy for that matter, but I have every faith.

Repairs on our boat have been going slower than expected, but we are planning on being ready in time for the winter solstice, and should be able to work faster now that Steven is out of quarantine and able to lend a hand. John is working on mapping out ideal places where we might meet along the coast - close enough to get to in a few hours, and far enough away from the original spot to miss any patrols they might send our way. We shall keep you informed as we narrow down our options. We'll most likely start out the night before, so we can be sure to get there in time. Is there anything else you need from us, Sirius? Just let us know.



[alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-10 13:03:46](#)

(no subject)

It's lovely to hear about the childrens' Christmas preparations. Arthur picked up a nice selection of spices for me while he was at Remus' shop yesterday, and I'm sending an owl with a selection to you. I'm sure Victor will be delighted to have some real cinnamon on hand.


Glad to hear that things are working out with Jacinda. ('Muckblood,' how very cruel!)



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2009-12-10 13:05:34](#)**
(no subject)


I'll pass along the good news about Jacinda to Davidson. He'll be mighty pleased to hear it.



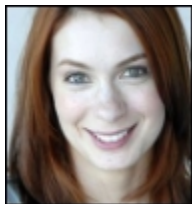
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-10 16:06:43](#)**
(no subject)


Oh! I forgot to mention -- Remus, I know you'll be busy with the shop right up until Christmas eve, but if you can get away, I do hope you'll spend Christmas dinner and morning with us.



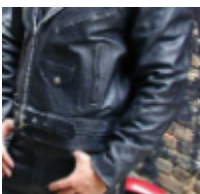
 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2009-12-11 17:25:59](#)**
(no subject)

That sounds delightful, Alice. Thank you.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-11 18:59:36](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent! We'll set up a room for you.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-10 20:32:06](#)**
(no subject)

I was just about to ask whether we're moving forward with a test run.


I ought to check in on the warehouse in Calais, anyway, I suppose, and see if I can find someone mad enough to try again. Merlin knows I can't ship out of Bordeaux this time.

I'll make sure I've more wands, in case it works. No use letting the

opportunity go to waste. Just tell Mr Turner not to muff it up this time, will you?

I'm glad your new member is settling in, though. Wish I could say I remembered her, but tell her it's not personal, anyway.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2009-12-10 21:22:01](#)**
(no subject)

mr. turner is being quite helpful at organizing our smuggling party from home base. he hasn't been invited aboard for the trip, and he knows why.

the wands would be ace.

and you know how it is at school. you always look up to the older kids and hardly remember the younger ones.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-10 21:25:27](#)**
(no subject)

I'm very glad to hear that Stephen's patient has recovered so well. Please thank him for sending his notes on her case; they were very thorough.

Does Stephen have all he needs? Pomona and I were just debating whether one of us might arrange a very quick trip for a delivery if there's anything here that would help you replenish your medicinal stores.

I think it will have to be Pomona; I really can't leave young Mr Boot lying here unattended. Of course, his condition will not change a jot whether I am here or not, but stay I must.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2009-12-10 21:44:07](#)**
(no subject)

Regarding the childrens' letters to their parents and vice versa: you know I do so love playing owl every December, but Alice, I'm afraid that the restrictions on entering the camps may make it impossible for us to pass letters back and forth this year as we have usually done. The camp sick censuses keep going up and up, and more camps are

restricting every entrance and exit, even of Ministry personnel. And of course, I can't simply send the letters to the camp administrators via floo and ask them to deliver them to the parents--that would be sheer madness!

I fear you probably will have to break it to the children that they mustn't expect Christmas letters from their parents this year, and that their own letters won't be delivered until after the epidemic subsides. I am really so dreadfully sorry to have to give you such disappointing news, but might it be better to tell them now, early, rather than have their hearts broken on Christmas morning itself? Of course, I will faithfully deliver all the letters once St Mungo's has a handle on this disease and the restrictions are lifted again, but I don't have the faintest idea when that might be. Perhaps they might think of it as receiving their chief Christmas present weeks or perhaps even months later than usual.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2009-12-10 22:12:55](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Arthur, don't fret. The children know full well the letters won't get delivered on Christmas proper, and I know you'll do the best you can to get the letters to their parents just as soon as you can.

2009-12-10 19:18:00

Revising tonight is useless

because **DUELLING CLUB** is tomorrow!

I can't wait. I don't even care if we have a quiz in Herbology or something tomorrow (and if you're reading this, Professor Sprout, please don't take that as a hint).




 [alt_padma](#)

It doesn't even matter that Troy and Capper told me to go somewhere besides Ravenclaw Corner tonight, and that Morag wasn't around when Belinda and Linus and I went looking for her. We're back in the common room now, planning out all the spells we can think of. Moon says it's sort of like chess, but faster and you need to know ahead of time what can counter what.

It's going to be so utterly nift. I wonder what Professor Lockhart will wear? I bet he looks especially dashing!

(Oh, and did anyone else read Fawcett's entry where she says she's looking for more charms to replace the ones she bought earlier? She's sure someone will get attacked before the end of the term - I mean, honestly, how ridiculous. I think it was just a horrid joke and whoever it was is too busy revising now to go to any more trouble.)




 [alt_ron](#) at **2009-12-11 00:48:58**
(no subject)

It's going to be totally wizard!

Yeah, I saw what Fawcett wrote. People are just mad about all these charms and talismans and tokens and whatnots. I wouldn't waste the knuts.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-11 01:02:06**
(no subject)

Well, I mean, only 'enemies of the Heir' need to worry, anyway, right? And you and Marvolo are sort of mates, so I guess you don't have to worry. But Fawcett... well, I mean, with what happened last

year I guess she can't be too careful, can she?


Still, I think those talismans are rubbish. Even if anyone was going to get attacked again, which they're not.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-11 03:42:01](#)
(no subject)


Very sensible of you, Ronald.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-11 03:43:09](#)
(no subject)

I wish more of the students, particularly the younger ones, felt the same.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2009-12-11 19:38:51](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad to see you're being sensible about yesterday, Patil. Time's getting tight and some of us are really feeling the need to tuck into revising in the most serious way--Capper and Troy especially, you know, because their places in the standings aren't as secure as they'd like.

While it's true that you were a bit over-excited yesterday about this duelling business, they were wrong to send you off like that. I've spoken with both of them now, and we want you to know that you're still welcome in Ravenclaw corner.

[2009-12-11 19:01:00](#)

In the Spirit of the Holidays

Well, after listening to the younger years complaining about the loss of Malfoys ice fort (and spending the past week slogging through a foot of water every time we go to charms), we charmed the water in front of the second floor to ice, so there is a rather impressive ice tunnel instead of a pool.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_gredforge](#)

Enjoy.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-12 03:15:51](#)
(no subject)

You are in So. Much. Trouble.

You KNOW magic in the corridors is forbidden.



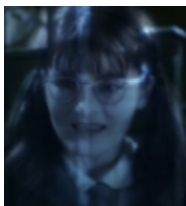
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2009-12-12 03:22:48](#)
(no subject)


We weren't even *doing* magic in the corridors! We stood in the doorway of a nearby classroom to charm the water, so we weren't technically in the corridors. No rules broken, and we were practising our transfiguration like good little students.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-12 03:24:52](#)
(no subject)


I'm sure that practising Transfiguration was your primary motivation here.



 [alt_myrtle](#) at [2009-12-12 03:25:55](#)
(no subject)

Right outside my bathroom!!! And all the girls are skidding in and complaining at the top of their lungs and I DON'T LIKE IT!!!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2009-12-12 03:53:53](#)
(no subject)


It's rather fun, really. I was able to slide all the way from the charms classroom to the end of the corridor if I made a good running start.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 03:56:21](#)
(no subject)

I fell five times in the same distance.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:02:10](#)
(no subject)

That's dead awesome! I love how you got the walls to reflect each other so if you look at it from the right angle it looks like you're in this endless set of corridors all beside each other and there's one of you in each one! Brilliant. Oh, and all the carvings on the ceiling beams you did are nift, too, especially the one of the lion rearing up on its hind legs.

How long did it take you to do all that?

Must have been ages!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:12:38](#)
(no subject)

Dunno, but it's a real sight, isn't it? Even if it's a bit cold.

Your brothers are dead amazing at Charms and Transfiguration.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-12 04:16:19](#)
(no subject)

They are even more amazing at doing things they're not supposed to do. And getting away with it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:17:24](#)
(no subject)

Do you remember that model of Hogwarts they made with matchsticks? That was so wizard!



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-12 04:18:02](#)
(no subject)


Please. I've been doing my very best to forget all about it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:18:16](#)
(no subject)


Sorry.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 06:07:47](#)
(no subject)

That was the best! Dead nift!!




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:27:33](#)
(no subject)

Does this mean you're talking to your brothers again? At least those two?

(We went to see it after Duelling Club and it's dead clever. I wish I had ice skates.)



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 04:32:34](#)
(no subject)

I found a spell that can turn your shoes into ice skates. Maybe if you are nice I will share it with you.

Who is down for a skating party tomorrow?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-12 04:34:24](#)
(no subject)

Count me in!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:35:02](#)
(no subject)

Oh please share. And the sooner the better. That corridor would be a lot more nift if I didn't have to cross it in shoes.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:37:32](#)
(no subject)

That sounds lovely.

And I'm always nice. I mean, sometimes some people don't understand what I'm trying to tell them (~~Ron Weasley~~), but honestly, I'm only trying to help them!



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 04:40:22](#)
(no subject)

Well I suggest that anyone who wants to skate should meet at the beginning of that corridor right after lunch tomorrow.

We can go over the spell then, and have loads of fun!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:59:14](#)
(no subject)

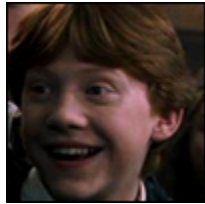
I'm not sure I'd fall less with skates than without them, but I'm willing to try!




 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 05:16:30](#)
(no subject)

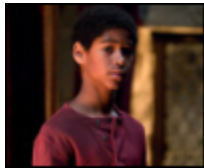
Don't worry I won't let you fall. I promise!
Skating is second nature to me. It was one of the things i learned before... Anyway I wont let


you fall



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 06:06:25](#)
(no subject)


Count me in!



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 06:18:43](#)
(no subject)

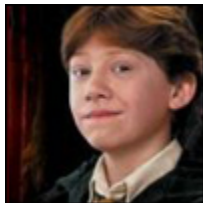
That's great! And for all interested I will write the incantation before lunch.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 06:05:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh, please.

Don't do us any favours, Patil.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 06:03:14](#)
(no subject)


When was I ever not talking to Fred and George? Or d'you mean Percy? It's not like we can get him to stop talking to us. As much as we try.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 06:24:13](#)**
(no subject)


Sorry, for a while there it seemed like you weren't talking to anyone in your family. My mistake, I'm sure.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 07:02:00](#)**
(no subject)

Keep your nose in your own business, Patil.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2009-12-12 07:03:25](#)**
(no subject)

Honestly, if the two of you would put half the effort and brilliance into your schoolwork that you put into breaking school rules, you could be top of your year.

I mean to say, you'll never make of yourselves what your older brother has in his field. Dragon-keeping is not an especially intellectual field, but it requires dedication to the training regimen and commitment to the protocols--the rules--for safely, effectively handling the most awe-inspiring creatures in our world. He's chosen to apply his skills, his sheer, raw talent to a trade that makes an important contribution, and the two of you show every bit as much magical ability as he does--more, perhaps-- yet you show no promise of following his path to success.

Such a waste.

2009-12-11 19:15:00

(no subject)



 **alt_nymphadora**

I've learned something important this week. Working *inventory* isn't nearly as tedious as it sounds, and will result in the discovery of something completely unexpected. My shift the other day left me a bit drained for emptying bins and mopping floors that evening. Fortunately, no one saw me knock a full bucket of dirty water down the lift shaft. I need to make sure that the mop head doesn't get caught in the doors the next time I'm clearing up in there.

Since I didn't have to work either at the shop or at the Ministry yesterday, I tried to stop in to see Mildred. The bloke across from her said that he hadn't seen her outside her flat all week. I guess he had a late night craving for some cakes, but when he knocked on her door she wouldn't open it up. She said through the door that she wasn't feeling well and didn't get around to baking. She didn't answer when I knocked on her door. I checked with her other immediate neighbours, not one of them had seen her up and about since Monday. All of us were worried about her, so we broke down her door.

She wasn't there. Her things were all strewn about, like she didn't clear up after herself. Towels on the floor of the loo, a cup of tea untouched on the table. Her immediate neighbour sent an owl off to her foster family, trying to see if she went to stay at their house across town. The letter came back an hour later, unopened.

We don't know where she is, or if she's okay. Please, if you hear anything, tell us that she's healthy and safe.



 **alt_arthur** at **2009-12-12 04:47:18**

(no subject)

If you knocked over the water bucket at the end of your shift, I'm sure it was most probably all dried out by the time the morning shift began. No harm done.

That is quite alarming news about your neighbour, my dear. Mildred, you say? Isn't she the one you said had baked the lovely scones you brought in that one time?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2009-12-12 04:50:07](#)
(no subject)

That's her - she's a wonderful baker. Have you heard any news on where she's gone to?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-12 04:53:45](#)
(no subject)


What's her last name?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2009-12-12 04:57:19](#)
(no subject)


Wycliff



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-12 05:15:57](#)
(no subject)

Wycliff, hmm. Well, I do know some people here at the Ministry I can ask. Stop by my desk in a couple days and I'll let you know if I've learned anything.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-12 05:21:34](#)
(no subject)

Send me her address, won't you? That will help when I'm making inquiries.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2009-12-12 05:25:23](#)
(no subject)

I've got a shift at the Ministry Sunday night, I'll drop it off at your desk then.


Thanks, Arthur. We're all very concerned about her.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at 2009-12-12 05:52:13**
Order Only


I'll forward it on to you, Bill, and you can send it on to Kingsley.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2009-12-12 05:52:43**
Re: Order Only


Understood, Dad.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2009-12-12 05:48:18**
Order Only


Another missing half-blood? Bloody hell.



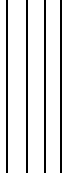
 **[alt_bill](#) at 2009-12-12 05:49:21**
Re: Order Only


Find out what you can from her, Dad. I'll add it to the inquiries Kingsley's researching for me about the other missing people.



 **[alt_kingsley](#) at 2009-12-12 05:50:28**
Re: Order Only

I haven't found out anything on that job yet. It's as if they disappeared into thin air.



 **alt_bill** at **2009-12-12 05:51:04**
Re: Order Only

I know.

2009-12-11 19:19:00

That. Was.



TOTALLY WIZ-NIFT!

Only now Fawcett won't stop going on about how Marvolo sent that snake after Stebbins. (Honestly, he deserved it. I'd have done it too if Stebbins had said that about me!)

 [alt_padma](#)

Do you think Professor Lockhart's alright? I mean, Professor Carrow really knocked him back with that spell. He still seemed a little disorientated even after they sent everyone out. I tried to help him back to his office but he told us all he was going to walk it off for a while.

Mum and Dad, what happened was that Professor Brutka and Professor Lockhart were going to start us, but then Professor Carrow said he would do it and he pushed his way up on the platform. Professor Lockhart was so gracious, really, and so was Professor Brutka, I guess. He just shrugged and bowed a little and then he sort of stayed around to watch.

Well, Professor Carrow and Professor Lockhart showed us duelling stance, only I guess Professor Carrow wanted to show us that in a real duel, you don't wait for the, um, niceties because if you wait you might just get killed. So he cast a disarming spell and it was really powerful. It was actually dead cool ~~even if it was Professor Carrow~~ and Professor Lockhart went tumbling. But he was okay. I mean, he got up really quickly. He was still a little dazed, though.

And then they had us all pair off, but after a few minutes it was utter chaos. It was kind of funny, actually. I mean, all that practising we've been doing with our manuals and it didn't really make a difference to anyone, much. Well, maybe Malfoy was doing really well. I couldn't see, because Belinda and I paired off and I know, I'm supposed to be working with Parvati but she was all the way across the duelling platform, so I really couldn't you see, and anyway Belinda and I traded off pretty well, but she bumped into Weasley and he's got that broken wand, and it went off. And it sort of made everything go really white for a minute. I'm not sure what spell that was, I'll have to look it up.

But then when I could see again, half the kids had their hair singed off or they were covered in boils and some were sopping wet, but Professor Carrow called everyone to order and Professor Lockhart said perhaps they'd better have one team demonstrate. So Professor Lockhart called up Marvolo and Malfoy. And that's when Stebbins said that it was no surprise they got picked, and then he said something really rude that I won't repeat, but it made all the boys nearby snigger and Professor Carrow sort of looked at them and they stopped really quickly, but then he said, 'On second thought, Lockhart, let's see what they do against a real opponent,' and he called up Moran, you know, the Head Boy, and he whispered something in his ear. Then he told Malfoy and Marvolo to prepare and WHOOSH! Moran made a great snake come out of his wand just like that!

Well, everyone tried to take a step back, except we couldn't because the people behind us didn't see it so they didn't realise we needed to move back, and we all sort of got jostled, and Stebbins stumbled forward because he's really clumsy on top of everything else, and he fell against the platform. And the snake went straight for him!!

Professor Carrow told everyone not to move, that he'd get rid of the snake, and then the most amazing thing happened! Marvolo started talking to the snake!! In snake talk, I mean!! ~~Parcel~~ Parseltongue. Like the Lord Protector and everything!

And the snake went. after. Stebbins!!! It was completely terrifying! Belinda and I moved away as fast as we could, but it was really hard with no room to go anywhere.

Professor Brutka made the snake disappear then, but goodness, it was exciting!

Fawcett's even more worried now, of course, but that's just mad. I mean, unless she goes and says something daft to Marvolo, what is there to worry about?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:28:29](#)
(no subject)

I got to hold his cloak! Professor Lockhart's, I mean!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 03:32:46](#)
(no subject)


Do girls really care about that sort of thing?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:33:49](#)
(no subject)

Of course! It was Professor Lockhart's cloak!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 03:34:26](#)
(no subject)


I'd think you'd care a little bit more that one of your housemates was facing down that giant snake.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:36:47](#)
(no subject)

I couldn't see much from down at the end where I was standing. So I don't know what Bobby said to get Malvolo so angry at him. Anyway, I'm sure Professor Lockhart would have taken care of it, if Professor Brutka hadn't stepped in first.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 03:37:46](#)
(no subject)


What do you mean about Marvolo?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:39:42](#)
(no subject)

Why, he was egging that snake on. Everyone could see it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 03:40:14](#)
(no subject)

I thought you said you couldn't see much from where you were standing.




 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:43:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, Bobby's sure to steer clear of Marvolo now.

Funny, I always thought he was rather nice to us Hufflepuffs. Marvolo, I mean. Not like some people in his House.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2009-12-12 03:44:38](#)
(no subject)


What kind of snake was it? Did you see?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:45:42](#)
(no subject)

Merlin, I don't know! All I know was that it was enormous. And that it's a jolly good thing that Bobby didn't get bit.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2009-12-12 03:46:39](#)
(no subject)

What a pity. I would have liked to have seen it. We don't get very many big snakes here in Scotland.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-12 03:48:01](#)
(no subject)

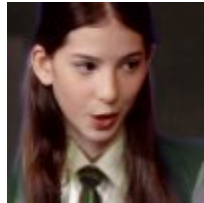
Well, I'm sure Bobby would have been happy not to have been facing it! He was really scared!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 03:49:05](#)
(no subject)

It was black and it had giant fangs.

Marvolo has a pet snake, he could probably tell what kind. All I know is that cobras have the big collar-things, and this didn't have that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:36:36](#)
(no subject)

Harry wasn't egging the snake on. He doesn't attack people because they accuse him of showing off, or send snakes to attack them either.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:38:03](#)
(no subject)

And Harry wasn't the one who summoned the snake anyway.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:40:45](#)
(no subject)

No, but he talked to it and it went for Stebbins, that much we could see for ourselves.

Anyway, how do you know what he said? It was all hissing. Has he said anything to you about what he was telling it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:50:39](#)
(no subject)

I don't think he's talked to anyone but Draco since he got back from duelling club.

I don't understand Parseltongue but I could see Harry's face and he looked ~~scared~~ worried not angry.

Besides the snake went for Stebbins as soon as it was out of Moran's wand. If Harry wanted it to attack Stebbins he didn't have to say anything at all!




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:56:56](#)
(no subject)

Are you serious? It went for Malfoy, first, I thought, and when we all moved back Stebbins knocked the platform, and then the snake turned, and then Marvolo hissed and it

kept going.

Anyway, it's not like anyone's upset with him. Marvolo, I mean. It's just that we're impressed. I mean, I've seen him write about learning Parseltongue from the Lord Protector, but it's really quite amazing when you see it close up, isn't it?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 03:40:05](#)
(no subject)

Honestly, weren't you reading what I wrote? Stebbins said something really rude. Don't ask me to say what it was here because it's the kind

of thing that ought to lose Hufflepuff points if the professors had heard him, and I'm not about to lose Ravenclaw any points for writing it out.

But that's why Marvolo sent the snake after him instead. I mean, he attracted its attention, but Marvolo was encouraging the snake, it looked like.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 03:37:17](#)**
(no subject)

I dunno, most of us were worried about just staying out of its way, once Marvolo started sending it after him.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 03:51:13](#)**
(no subject)

Speaking of housemates, Longbottom, can't you and your mates do something about that wand of Weasley's? It's a proper menace.




 **[alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-12 04:09:59](#)**
(no subject)

What on earth are we supposed to do about it?

Personally I recommend getting out of the way when Ron takes it out. That's what I do!




 **[alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:13:28](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, and we get out of your way since even with a good wand you're still setting things on fire and blowing them up!

Between the two of us, we could have totally taken care of that snake.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:18:22](#)**
(no subject)

Between you and Finnigan if you'd tried, we'd have had to send the rest of Stebbins home in a matchbox.

You're lucky you didn't try.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:23:12](#)**
(no subject)

Well, ~~Car~~ Professor Carrow didn't look like he needed any help.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:30:50](#)**
(no subject)


Oi what's that supposed to mean?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:33:09](#)**
(no subject)

What? You do tend to overdo it, Finnigan. But at least you don't keep on trying to do magic with a broken wand.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:21:33](#)**
(no subject)

He's set fire to my parchments twice this week. But to be fair, he put the fire out both times!

It's just the sort of thing we need to liven things up in Gryffindor Tower.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:24:27](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Maybe it's best you didn't try. I mean, what if you'd hit Professor Carrow or something?

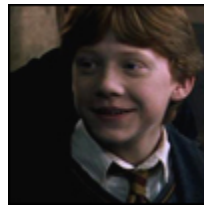


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:38:48](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Oh that would have been JUST TERRIBLE if anything had happened to CARROW.

I'm sure Ron wouldn't have been able to live with himself.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:13:27](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Yeah, that would have been dead awful.

Wish I'd thought of it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 06:02:12](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Then duelling club would have been REALLY exciting!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:40:23](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

And I think it's dead unfair that everyone's acting like HARRY attacked Stebbins when it was Moran who summoned the snake and Carrow who told him to do it.

Carrow who told him to do it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:57:18](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I do, too. But I'm sure not pointing that out in public.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:07:27](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Yeah I mean both Carrow and Moran are allowed to use crucio and Carrow already hates both of us.

Do you know if he's got some grudge against Stebbins? Carrow I mean not Harry, I don't think Harry even really knew who he was other than 'some Hufflepuff.'



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 05:13:49](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Well, he's a halfblood. Stebbins, I mean. And Professor Carrow despises halfbloods, as you very well know! But other than that, I dunno. We don't share classes with the Hufflepuffs for Transfiguration.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:24:41](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Are you friends with anyone in Hufflepuff?


There isn't anyone in Hufflepuff I know well enough to ask.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 05:58:14](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Wayne Hopkins, maybe. I can ask.

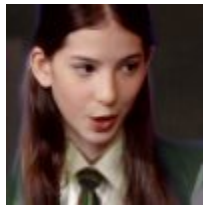



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:28:21](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

You're totally right about Moran and Carrow, but you have to admit it looked really queer what the snake did when Harry started talking to it. I mean, being a Parselmouth is--

Just, I dunno.

I knew he was learning it, but when I saw it. It was, yeah. Dead scary.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:34:43](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I am shocked that a Gryffindor would find Parseltongue to be inherently creepy.

It's just a language you can use to talk to snakes. It sounds like hissing because snakes hiss. If someone discovered a language to talk to dragons would that be all queer and scary?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:51:53](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

You really didn't think it was

well, unusu--

unnatural?

Did you watch his face while he was doing it?

It made him look like

not like Harry.

I dunno. I'm not saying he was trying to hurt Stebbins because I really, really don't think he'd do that, but

It was like he wasn't himself, y'know?

Did it really not seem that way to you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 06:00:14](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Parseltongue isn't any more unnatural than anything else. The unnatural thing is that Harry learnt it, he's not a born Parseltongue like the Lord Protector is.

Harry doesn't always get the words right. He's said that he has to concentrate hard because if you get it a little wrong the snake will stop listening to you.

He looked scared to me when he was doing it, like he was afraid he'd get the words wrong.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 06:05:29](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I mean he's not a born Parselmouth.


I really should stop scribbling in this and go to bed. That stray hex Pansy got jinxed by made her really sleepy, she went to bed as soon as we got back from duelling club. Daphne and Milli were downstairs trying to get Moran to show off the serpent thing again but now they've gone to bed as well.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:13:54](#)
(no subject)

We weren't *in* the way, but maybe Weasley ought to stop trying to do magic in crowded places until his wand gets sorted out.



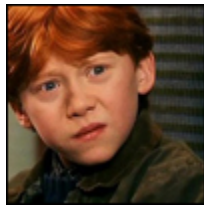
 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:20:01](#)
(no subject)


I'm sure he does the very best that he can with it. I don't think you could do any better.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-12 04:31:49](#)
(no subject)


We'll feel free to suggest to the professors that they excuse Ron from his class work!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:11:00](#)
(no subject)


Oi! If you hadn't sent Dunstan crashing into me, none of that would have happened. I had it totally in control. Or, anyway, I wasn't casting any spells really, and if she hadn't made me shout there wouldn't have been a problem at all.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:16:54](#)
(no subject)

Nobody sent her crashing into you, you dolt. She just backed up a bit and hit your elbow.



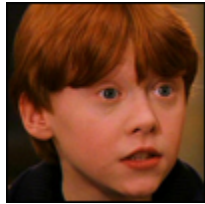
 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:31:14](#)
(no subject)


Looked to me like she was jumping out of the way of something you sent at her. All I knew was she squeaked like she'd been pinched and jumped back right into me.



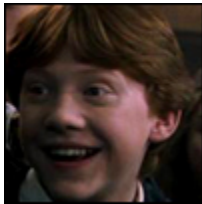
 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:41:54](#)
(no subject)


I'm glad to see you were paying attention to your own duel, then.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:54:03](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, like I said, I wasn't casting any real spells, just practicing the wand motion without saying a spell. Until she bashed into me.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 04:21:05](#)
(no subject)


It was really nift. Even the snake. I really want to find out what that spell was Moran used. Serpent-something. I didn't hear it very well.

Serpentsalia? Serpentgorgio? Serpentauro?

Something.


Maybe Harry knows. I'm dying to try it out.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:22:51](#)
(no subject)

Are you nutters? I don't want to find a snake like that in my bed one night!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:44:31](#)**
(no subject)

I wouldn't set it on you, mate. That'd just be mad. But it would have been nift to have known it when we were camping last summer.

Would have been just what we needed when the girls got all girly and annoying.



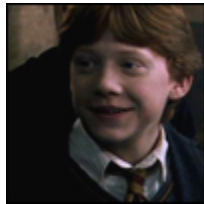
 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2009-12-12 05:04:41](#)**
(no subject)


It's one thing when girls are annoying. It's another when they start screeching. And you know they would if one of us set a snake loose.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 05:06:31](#)**
(no subject)

It might have slipped your notice, Longbottom, but you're writing in a girl's journal.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 05:11:09](#)**
(no subject)

Heh.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2009-12-12 04:33:11](#)**
(no subject)

I think it was serpenstoria but I think I want to know how you make the snake disappear again before I try it out.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:40:02](#)
(no subject)

Ask Professor Brutka, then.

I'm rather looking forward to taking his class next year.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 04:41:10](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Anything'd be better than Transfiguration.



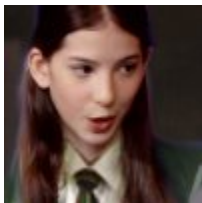
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 04:44:37](#)
(no subject)

You're all wrong but I'm not telling you the incantation as I don't want it to be MY fault if there's no Gryffindor house in the morning because you all got eaten by scores of enormous snakes you summoned up without having thought out what to do with them after.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:04:38](#)
(no subject)

We wouldn't conjure them in our own House. That'd just be daft.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:08:25](#)
(no subject)

All the more reason not to tell you what it is then!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 05:09:15](#)
(no subject)

Too right, Perks!


Boys.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:10:07](#)
(no subject)

Although I am almost tempted to tell you just because it would be so interesting to see what your wand and that spell would produce.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:31:13](#)
(no subject)

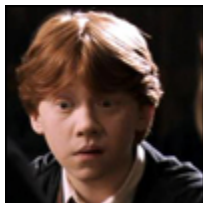
We could conjure them down by Hufflepuff.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 05:37:37](#)
(no subject)

You could, if you knew the incantation.

Lucky for Hufflepuff you don't.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:01:18](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I think that might have been it.

Serpenstoria.


Yeah, maybe.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 05:01:59](#)
(no subject)

Wrong.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 05:09:14](#)
(no subject)


Oh, like you know.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 04:25:26](#)
(no subject)

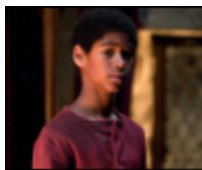
I think the disarming of Professor Lockhart was interesting. You would think the way he goes on about his achievements, that he would have seen that coming and could have handled it accordingly. I guess that goes to show that he is what some of us already think. All talk and flash, and most importantly no skill.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 04:30:01](#)
(no subject)

trouble at all.

He wasn't expecting Professor Carrow to jump ahead like that, Thomas! Obviously, if he'd gone into it thinking they were recreating field conditions, instead of classical duelling, he'd have had no



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 04:34:59](#)
(no subject)

skill!

The man acts like he has eyes in the back of his head, and can see any attack coming from a mile away. He just should have known. Like I said, no



 **alt_padma** at [2009-12-12 05:04:18](#)

(no subject)

Ordinarily I wouldn't say this, because it's Professor Lockhart, but I hope for your sake he's not reading this, Thomas. I mean if you're serious about wanting to do well in every subject. I wouldn't disregard all his experience if I were you.



 **alt_dean** at [2009-12-12 05:13:16](#)

(no subject)

I guess you are right. I should mind my manners. But one day I will be able to say I told you so. Until then I have no problem passing tests with questions like:

When is my birthday?

What is my favourite colour?

How many times have I won Witch Weekly's most Charming smile award?


How did I eat my eggs on the last morning in _____ book?

etc.

Oh give me a break.

But I do see where you are coming from. I just rather hear that from someone who doesn't find him dashing and who doesn't swoon every time he walks in the door.




 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-12 05:39:28](#)

(no subject)

You forgot 'What is my greatest ambition?' and 'What is my greatest accomplishment so far?'



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 05:43:21](#)
(no subject)


True. Thanks for bringing that up. I can't believe I forgot those.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 05:50:00](#)
(no subject)

And of course, it wouldn't occur to you to see how asking us those questions makes us think about all he's done and why it's important, let alone aspire to be anything like him. Honestly, don't you get that Professor Lockhart's efforts have led to greater understanding among wizarding people and especially with all sorts of creatures like trolls and banshees and all? And that he's making the world a better place for us? It's an honour that he decided to stay and teach us.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-12 06:12:12](#)
(no subject)

I don't think you would be saying that if you did not find the man so utterly irresistible. I think he has given us at least two displays of incompetence. But lets end our quarrel for tonight. What I say doesn't matter after all. First I'm an underage wizard, and secondly I'm halfblood, I couldn't possibly know what I am talking about.

Have a good night. And see you tomorrow on the ice.

[2009-12-11 22:31:00](#)

(no subject)

As annoying as the pigeons can get, at least they're better than a strutting rooster every time.



 [alt_amycus](#)



 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2009-12-12 19:16:46](#)**

(no subject)

Where's the strutting rooster?
I've seen lots of pigeons and owls here but not a rooster.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_amycus](#) at **[2009-12-13 03:26:40](#)**

(no subject)

If I had my way, you'd find nothing but a plucked bird strung up for dinner.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **[2009-12-13 15:35:38](#)**

(no subject)

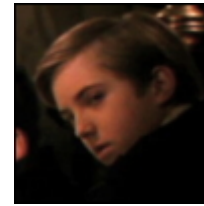
Directed as your efforts were at a suitable target, they nonetheless resulted in collateral damage. I presume you were fully prepared to dispel the snake had young Marvolo not been able to demonstrate his achievement in Parseltongue? Otherwise, inducing a student to endanger two others would be reason for further disciplinary action, and with your record, Carrow, I know none of us wish to see the consequences that might bring.

Still I should have liked to see his face when you disarmed him. My son reports via owl that the popinjay went *coiffure sur bouilloire*, as it were. It must have been both satisfying and diverting.

2009-12-12 04:17:00

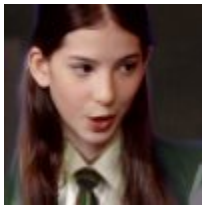
Yesterday

I don't want to say anything much about yesterday, except that Bobby probably shouldn't have said that thing about Marvolo, but sending a snake after him was well out of order.



 [alt_ernie](#)

Bobby's going to lay low for a bit, but there's nothing else we can do about it. It's Marvolo, so we can't even really complain about it or his dad will have us thrown in prison or something. And no one cares if a Hufflepuff gets eaten by a snake anyway, except us Hufflepuffs. We just have to look after our own.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 15:21:32](#)
(no subject)


Ohhhh there's nothing we can do about it because he's so scary and powerful! Except insult him in the most public way possible, that is.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-12 18:57:29](#)
(no subject)

Shove off, Perks. Who asked you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:42:59](#)
(no subject)

Macmillan, mate, that's just daft.

There's no way he meant that snake to attack Stebbins. I mean, maybe if Harry'd been the one who conjured it, you'd have a point. But he wasn't.

Try thinking a little before you say stuff, yeah?



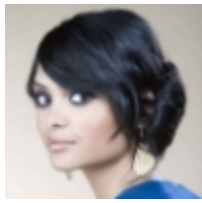
 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 17:19:18](#)
(no subject)


That's ridiculous. Nobody thinks he conjured it, everyone knows Moran did that. But it sure looked like he sent it after Stebbins, and well, who could blame him? I heard what Bobby said, it was really rude.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-12 18:57:05](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, you reckon sending a snake to kill someone is fair play for being a bit cheeky!? I wouldn't want to get on your bad side, Patil.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-12 19:00:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, first of all, he says he didn't send the snake after Stebbins, really, and I guess we ought to believe him. And in the second place, I hardly think he was going to make the snake kill Stebbins, you're overreacting.

Anyway, we're revising for Charms up on the third floor if you want to come. I don't expect Morag will, but maybe Belinda and Linus.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-12 19:18:01](#)
(no subject)

I'd like to believe he didn't do it, because he generally seems like a decent sort, like when we away in the summer and stuff. But I reckon he's got a bit of a temper, and maybe he didn't plan to do it, but when Moran conjured that snake it just sort of stood there looking a bit nervy and then Marvolo was talking to it and it was going for Bobby. It's a bit of a coincidence, isn't it, that the snake goes for the one person who happened to have said something bad about Marvolo?

And we don't know what it would have done if it had got to him,

do we. Maybe it has a super poisonous bite and he would've been dead in one second, or maybe it would've just scared him a bit. I don't know, but it looked pretty fierce and scary to me.

I don't know. What I do know is that I don't blame Bobby for keeping out of Marvolo's way until the heat's died down!

Charms revision sounds good. I'll get my notes and come up to find you.



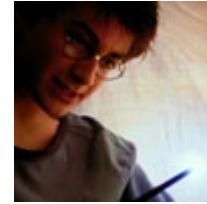
 **alt_ernie** at **2009-12-12 18:55:40**
(no subject)

I know what I saw, Weasley, and so does everyone else.

[2009-12-12 08:22:00](#)

You are all daft

I didn't send a snake after Stebbins. You are all daft to think I'd want to. If I wanted to get Stebbins I would do it some other way, than sending a snake after him in front of everybody.



 [alt_harry](#)

DAFT.

I won't come to the skating party. So you don't have to worry. About snakes I mean.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-12 13:28:04](#)
(no subject)

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

You know that he means it, don't you? I mean you were right about what you were saying in Patil's journal. He really didn't do it, he isn't good enough at Parseltongue. I mean he can talk a little but I don't think he could convince a snake to do anything. He can't usually convince his pet snake to do anything anyway much less a big monster like that!!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:23:42](#)
I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good


You mean me, don't you, Hermione? Yeah, I do know he didn't make that snake attack Stebbins. That's not what I was saying to Sally Anne. It's just Parseltongue. It's not a nice thing, no matter what you're saying with it. It's

I still don't know.

It's like he had this Power that was

like he wasn't really Harry right then, but someone else



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:32:04](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

And, y'know, maybe it's about what snake you're talking to. How queer it sounds.

Cause I've been with him when he had his snake, and he showed me, but it wasn't like last night. With that snake.

I don't think we're meant to be able to talk to snakes like that.

I dunno. I mean, it was good he was able to talk to it, and if there hadn't been anybody to break the spell and make the snake disappear, that snake would have killed Stebbins unless Harry could stop it. So it could have been

not good

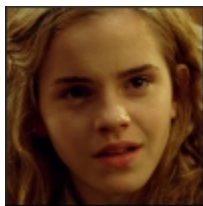
but, y'know, important

that he can do that.

But it still felt

well, WRONG.

I dunno.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-12 16:03:26](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Well, I think you're being very foolish. Parseltongue is just a language.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 16:26:21](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

But it's not just a language. It's snake language, and snakes aren't just any old creature, Hermione. They're the creatures really Dark wizards keep for familiars, and those are the only wizards who can ever speak Parseltongue. I mean without lessons.

It's just

We haven't talked about this before, but

Harry's father is

There're things that are really wrong and it's because

Like you not being able to be a student and having to be-- having someone own you instead-- That's not right. And it wasn't like that before-- Harry's father is

I don't want to write about this cause

I wish we could just talk sometime, but

Yeah, okay, I don't know how to explain at all, but it's all sort of part of the same thing, y'know? And I think it's not good that Harry's father wants him to learn to talk to snakes. That's the point, really.

Sort of.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 18:13:27](#)


Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Ron, I am a Slytherin and I am proud of my house.

I think everyone on the lock agrees with you about the Lord Protector, did you see what your brothers wrote last year when they got the lock working? but that doesn't mean we see anything wrong with snakes or with speaking Parseltongue. You're being daft.

There are dark wizards with all sorts of pets, did you know Narcissa Malfoy had a pet canary for years? that doesn't make canaries evil!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 20:15:20](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Fine.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 15:24:05](#)


I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh I think they even KNOW he didn't really do anything or would Macmillan be talking about it in his JOURNAL of all place?

What an ass. Macmillan I mean.

This was Carrow and Moran but they really ARE scary so it's much easier to just pretend everyone thinks it was Harry.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:26:01](#)

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

D'you really think they're just pretending?

I dunno. I think some of them really are that daft.

Macmillan, though. I thought he was smarter than that.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 15:30:13](#)

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

Oh it's not exactly that I think they're pretending. They really are that daft.

But they can't even bring themselves to THINK 'say, it wasn't Marvolo who summoned it -- it was Moran and Carrow told him to!' Because, well, I don't know. But really WHY would Macmillan put that in the journals if he really thought Harry did it? Would he write about Bellatrix Lestrange in his journal and whinge about how you can't do anything about it when she's cross with you? NO, because he has more sense than that!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:35:31](#)

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

Ha!

Yeah, you really wouldn't do that. No one's that daft.

So, you're right, aren't you. I hadn't thought about it that way. Macmillan know's it's not Harry, but he doesn't know he knows. But if he really thought Harry would do what they're all saying, then he wouldn't dare say it in the journals.

That's really clever, actually. You are, I mean. Not Macmillan.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-12 16:04:23](#)

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

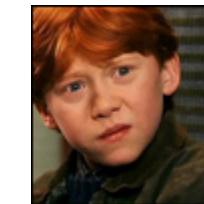
Oh good show! I wouldn't have even thought of that. You really are a Slytherin, Sally-Anne!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 16:24:56](#)

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

Awful useful to have around sometimes, those Slytherins! Unlike us chuckleheaded Gryffindors.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 16:28:09](#)

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

Oi! Speak for yourself, chucklehead!

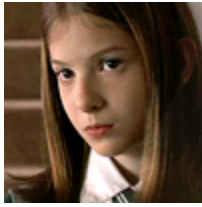


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 18:15:03](#)

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

You're not all chuckleheads! I'm sure if I think for long enough I'll be able to think of a

Gryffindor who uses his head as something other than a convenient target for other people's hexes!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-12 18:14:09](#)

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

Why thank you Hermione.

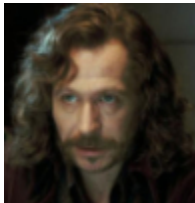


 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-12 13:31:29](#)

Order Only

Now they've torn it. You all aren't to know, because you aren't teachers, but no one will talk to Harry, we came down to breakfast and they're all sitting next to him but they won't talk to him. So that's why he's writing in his journal instead of eating, and it's not fair, because I'm sure he didn't mean to hurt Stebbins, or if he did then it was only because he got mixed round about Parseltongue, which he isn't really that clever with, only people think he must be because he can speak it at all. But it doesn't come naturally so he might've said 'go get him' instead 'no don't get him' or something like, by accident.

Harry isn't used to being ignored and I don't think he's doing very well at it to tell the truth.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-12 14:38:56](#)

Re: Order Only

Hang on, Hermione. I've been travelling. I'm just trying to catch up but there are too many journals to read.

So. I take it that there was a duelling club, and that someone conjured a snake. Is that right? And then Harry tried to calm it down in Parseltongue, but it went after another boy instead?

But everyone thinks he was setting the snake on this other lad. Is that it?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-12 16:07:35](#)

Re: Order Only

Yes, that's it. I suppose it isn't a very big problem, only Harry's moping now like nobody's business, and I suppose at least some people are trying to cheer him up. Like Ron Weasley, but it isn't really the same.

And I'm almost certain that Professor Carrow told Moran to call the snake, he said Serpentsortia, which I don't think is a spell that Moran ought to have known, is it? I haven't seen anyone use it before in any class. I think he's *trying* to make people suspect that Harry's Petrifying everybody, which I don't know why he'd want to, unless he's the one doing it. But Harry's Father doesn't seem bothered by it, I mean he doesn't say anything about being bothered, which you'd think he would if he thought Harry was in danger. So I don't know what Carrow thinks he's doing, not at all.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-12 16:23:33](#)

Re: Order Only

Believe me, the less you understand about Professor Carrow's thinking processes, probably the better for your own sanity.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-12 17:01:25](#)

Re: Order Only

Didn't seem to me like they think he summoned the creature, Hermione, only that he made it go after the other boy.

Still, Parseltongue, that's - that's very difficult if you don't have the innate talent for it.

The others will come round. If I were Harry, I'd make a cake of it, you know, 'Right. I'm a seriously evil wizard so back off if you know what's good' and really push so they'll know he's having them on. But perhaps he's not used to being on the hot seat.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-12 17:18:10](#)

Re: Order Only

No, I shouldn't think he is, the poor boy, judging what Ron said about him last summer. (On the other hand, neither is he type to appreciate people fawning all over him because of the Lord Protector.)

I think it is a terrible pity that his true House was overruled when he was sorted. He would have been in Gryffindor with my boys then, and perhaps I would have been able to learn a bit more about him. He seems to be a sweet boy, in spite of his upbringing.

Has he written to you any more this year, Sirius?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-12 17:28:29](#)

Re: Order Only

Not recently, no. But then I don't expect he's much for writing, our Harry.

And his Sorting is the least of the things I pity about the situation, Molly.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-12 16:22:24](#)

Re: Order Only

Conjured a snake, egged on by Carrow, it looks like.

That man is a menace.

I'm sorry that Harry's having such troubles with the other students, dear.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:17:15](#)

(no subject)

Hey, mate.


I know you didn't do that. It's just, y'know the Hufflepuffs are just going shouty crackers is all.

They'll calm down eventually. Though I don't know if they'll ever see reason. I mean, they're the ones buying all that ridiculous protection stuff, those talismans and things. Well not all of it, but they've bought more it than any other House. They're just, y'know, scared.

But I know you didn't do it, and I was talking to Fred and George, and they agree. And Neville, I think, but sometimes you can't really tell. I mean, he's definitely worried about the whole Enemies of the Heir thing, but he doesn't think it's you. And I know it's not, right. I mean we were at Nick's deathday tinger when the first one happened, and you were in the hospital wing conked out when the second one happened, and if anybody did anything funny last night, it was

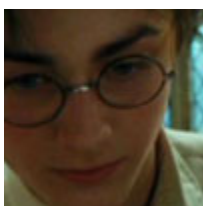
well, we know who it was, and it wasn't you.




 **alt_pansy** at [2009-12-12 15:42:31](#)
(no subject)

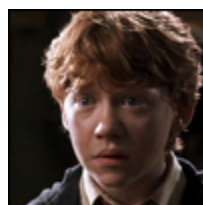
I know, right?


How stupid can people get?



 **alt_harry** at [2009-12-12 15:52:04](#)
(no subject)


Well at least someone thinks that.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-12 15:53:27](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, I do.



 **alt_neville** at [2009-12-13 02:56:05](#)
(no subject)

I don't think you did it, either.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:18:05](#)**
(no subject)


You're really not going to come skating, then?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:26:02](#)**
(no subject)

Harry you should come skating. If you clear the corridor out because no one wants to get in your way, that'll be more space for those of us who noticed you weren't even the one who summoned that snake.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:38:40](#)**
(no subject)


That'd be awesome!



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:53:04](#)**
(no subject)

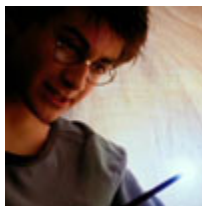
Only I don't like it when people look at me like I've grown a third head. And that's how it is you know.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:58:12](#)**
(no subject)

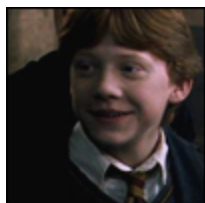
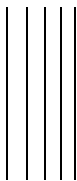
I hadn't noticed you had two to begin with!


The second one's usually invisible, then?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2009-12-12 16:02:14](#)**
(no subject)


Ha ha very funny mate. You know what I meant.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 16:12:43](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

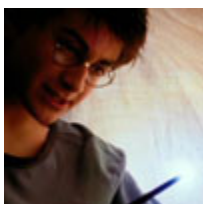


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-12 15:45:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't think it was you either. So I guess that makes me the opposite of daft, which should make mum happy when our marks are posted for this term.

People are just being stupid and scared, and not thinking things through.


Sally-Anne is right, you really ought to come skating. You shouldn't let some silly people spoil everything.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-12 15:53:28](#)
(no subject)


Maybe I'll come.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-12 16:20:44](#)
(no subject)

You should. It'll be fun. And you'll probably get a laugh at how often I fall down, even on skates.

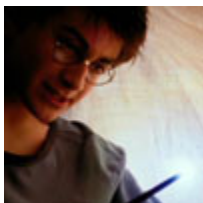



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-12 15:52:47](#)
(no subject)

Listen, mate. I've been thinking. (Yeah, I know, I actually do that sometimes.)

Maybe after lunch we could go outdoors. If you really don't want to go skating, yeah?

I mean, it's an actual nice day out there if you don't mind a little snow and some wind. I haven't been outdoors in a month except for running to the greenhouses for Herbology and getting drenched. So, what do you say?




 **alt_harry** at [2009-12-12 15:55:02](#)
(no subject)

Sure. I sent away for some hand warmers and I haven't used them yet. So we could use them. They're just stones but when you touch them they feel like warm little mice. Breathing and so on.

Which is nice.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-12 15:57:19](#)
(no subject)

Whoa. That sounds ace!


Do they look like mice?



 **alt_harry** at [2009-12-12 16:01:34](#)
(no subject)

No. They look like little grey stones. But they feel furry when you touch them. It must be a really hard spell. Or someone didn't Transfigure them right. Only they sell a lot of them so it must be supposed to be that way.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-12 16:15:58](#)
(no subject)

Or it's one of those accidents that turn out to be dead brilliant. George says that's how a lot of things get invented. And then they earn a boatload of galleons and never have to work again!

Actually, I think that's just what the twins tell Mum and Dad when their marks come in. Y'know, to explain why it's not really all that bad that they're not doing as well as they could.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-12 16:48:10](#)
(no subject)

I overheard Smith going on about your ominous powers after breakfast, so I hissed in Parsletongue at him. I wonder what I said? Any idea what *ssstthhht ssswwwffff* means?

But look, you can see that plenty of people don't think you commanded the snake to eat Stebbins, right? Personally, I think you ought to have. That pillock deserves it.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-12 16:52:41](#)
(no subject)

Well of course I know that YOU don't think that I told him to eat Stebbins.

I'd have to hear you say it. It's something called a 'tonal language.' So that means if you hiss too high or too low it means something different. Anyway you don't spell it like that.

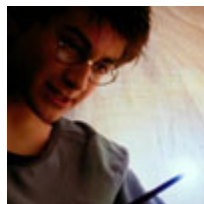
Stebbins is a pillock though. He keeps whinging. The snake didn't even touch him.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-12 19:07:13](#)
(no subject)

Can parseltongue be spelled at all? Snakes don't write.

He just wants attention, on account of no one ordinarily noticing him, of course.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-12 19:14:55](#)
(no subject)

Well snakes can't spell it. But some old Ravenclaws came up with a way to do it. So they could teach themselves it. Only they died trying to talk to an adder. So maybe their way isn't that good. Father thinks it is though.

He isn't very noticable is he?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 16:55:10](#)**
(no subject)

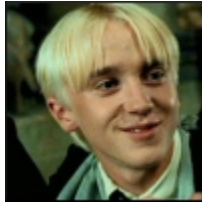
That's what I said: he deserved it.


Anyway, Marvolo ought to come. It's going to be wizard.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-12 18:21:46](#)**
(no subject)

You hissed at Smith? Good show Draco!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2009-12-12 19:11:41](#)**
(no subject)

He went all white in the face, too. What a scaredy puff!

[2009-12-12 10:21:00](#)

The Word for the Day is...



Frigus Scarpas.

This is the spell we need today for the party.

See you after lunch.

 **[alt_dean](#)**



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:36:58](#)**

(no subject)

And the best part is that the older kids will all be in Hogsmeade!




 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2009-12-12 15:39:27](#)**

(no subject)

I forgot I saw that posted somewhere. This will be great then. We can all have fun, and it wont be too crowded.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-12 16:40:54](#)**

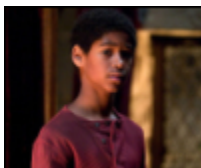
(no subject)

Hey, mate.

I may not be there, but don't take it wrong.

I just need to do something else after lunch, okay. But you'll have to show me the ice skate charm sometime--that's dead nift.

So, yeah. Have fun!



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2009-12-12 16:46:14](#)**

(no subject)


That's too bad mate. But its okay. You are going to miss a lot of fun

2009-12-12 11:38:00

A Wonderful day!

Its going to be a great day. A lot of the first years are talking about going. Fred and George finally did something everyone can enjoy. I can't wait to try out the spell Dean found, and even see what he knows about ice....



 [alt_ginny](#)

Luna will you be....

I know we will have a bla...



 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-12 18:46:06**
(no subject)

I think you've been hanging about with Lovegood too much, Weasley. You're as barmy as she is.

2009-12-12 13:15:00

(no subject)

Righto, boyo!



 **alt_wagstaff**

2009-12-12 13:33:00

Stopped before it even started.



 [alt_dean](#)

I can't believe that our skate party got canceled. Silly prefects. They get to go to Hogsmead, all we get to do is sit around all day, and they stopped our fun. Its not like it was going to be a huge thing. Just some 1st and 2nd years. It wouldn't have gotten out of hand. Of course people would fall, that's to be expected. Even the best ice skaters fall occasionally, but no one would have seriously been hurt. I guess we will have to try again another day.

Anyone up for revising for Charms?




 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-12 18:40:34**

(no subject)

I know, right? Well, I guess they're just doing their jobs.

I'll revise with you. We can go up on the third floor, there's a cosy spot with a working fireplace.



 [alt_dean](#) at **2009-12-12 18:42:43**

(no subject)

Really?! O.k. I will meet you there.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-12 19:35:29**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron and Nev I don't know if you heard this but we're all going to try again with a skating party this evening. Pass the word but NOT WHERE PERCY MIGHT HEAR YOU. Or any of the other prefects of course! And DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT ON THE JOURNALS. Publicly anyway.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-12 22:38:14](#)

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

Got it. I'm not sure Harry's going to be up for it, though. He's really upset about how people are staring at him and whispering about him. I mean, it's like they've all been waiting for something they could use against him, something they could hold against him. It's sick, really, isn't it? Anyway, I don't know if he's even going to want to go to dinner. We were kind of talking about seeing if the elves would bring us food somewhere else. Hermione thinks they would.

So I don't know if I'll be there, either. Maybe.



 **alt_susan** at [2009-12-12 22:16:29](#)

(no subject)

I know, it would have been *brilliant!*

I'm all for being safe but I think this was a little silly. It's not as if we're still in infant school.

[2009-12-12 15:24:00](#)

(no subject)

It's snowing gently outside my windows today, a really lovely sight. It softens the light that comes into the room, making everything seem calmer somehow. If all of winter were like this, it would be tolerable, but I don't have high hopes for that after the stormy autumn we've had.



 **[alt_poppy](#)**

It's quiet here at the moment, but that will change as soon as those who have gone off to Hogsmeade return needing tummy tonic and headache powder. I expect I'll see at least one who needs a dose of toffee solvent to free his teeth and one or two others who have fallen afoul of joke shop gadgetry. No doubt the largest contingent will be those who have not yet learned their limit for butterbeer. I keep a special book for noting post-Hogsmeade cases, not that it has revealed any surprises; mostly it chronicles remarkable continuity in the history of youthful folly.

At least they've had a beautiful day for enjoying it.



 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:14:34](#)**

(no subject)

Madam Pomfrey? Oh, please come here, quick. Right outside, um, Moaning Myrtle's bathroom, you know the one? By the Transfiguration classroom.

It's Bobby Stebbins. He's--he's like the others. We found him when we came for the skating party, and none of us want to leave to go find you alone.

Please, please hurry!



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:15:06](#)**

(no subject)

Gracious!


How many students have been hurt? Are you all right, dear?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:19:27](#)
(no subject)

It's Stebbins. But Weasley's round here, too - Ginny, that is. She's not petrified, though. She's sort of floppy.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-13 03:21:49](#)
(no subject)

I will be there in just a moment, dear. And the headmistress, as well. I've just called for her.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:22:20](#)
(no subject)

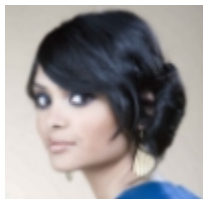
Do you think we should stay in the area? I mean ... they might come back.


To finish the job.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-13 03:21:02](#)
(no subject)

Bobby's petrified. And Ginny Weasley is here, too-- she's not stiff like Bobby, but she's, I don't know, she's hurt somehow. Please hurry!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:27:25](#)
(no subject)

I think we should maybe move them away. What if it comes back?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-13 03:31:13](#)
(no subject)

What IS it?? What's been doing these things??!!



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:31:44](#)**
(no subject)


For Lakshmi's sake do you think I know?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:44:20](#)**
Order Only

Poppy? Poppy!! What's happened to Ginny?! I was in the living room, and I saw her clock hand turn to Mortal Peril! It was there for a minute or two, and now it just says she's at school. But she's hurt? Oh, tell me, please!



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:47:41](#)**
Re: Order Only

Steady on, Molly. Let her examine the girl properly.

I know how you feel, though. I hope they can let us know what's going on. Sounds as if Harry's at the centre of it. Again.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:06:55](#)**
(no subject)

Madam Pomfrey I think you should know Ginny's been acting really queer. She said in her journal she's having gaps in her memory. So if she doesn't remember things properly it might not just be the knock on her head.

2009-12-12 18:04:00

New Publication



 [alt_lucius](#)

Home from the Baddocks' - Pandora is still a trifle vexed that she was wrong several weeks ago and little Natalie has not yet exhibited her magic. Narcissa assured her that it will come in due course. Malcolm grows taller every time we see him and Lucy and Antonia seem well over their shy stage. Ari has been working with all three of them; we were treated to a short display of wand work before going in to supper.

Everyone is talking about this *Londinarium* periodical that debuted today. I daresay that leaving *The Prophet* was the best thing young Bobolis ever did. To say nothing of his flare for the dramatic - imagine pulling such a stunt merely to secure the interview in the first place. Well, the Witches' Institute certainly thanks him, and from what I hear, he has reason to thank them in return! If the next issue matches this one it promises a most ... interesting future for him. (In fact, Ari has a mind to let him photograph Kenwood, now that it is fully appointed.)

Regulus, wherever did he get those photographs? There are at least three Narcissa and I had never before seen. We had a long chuckle over that ludicrous shot of the traitor - quite a find on Bobolis' part, I must say.

Otherwise, lost track of the number of times I was drawn into conversations on some pretext or other, only to find that the assembly wished in reality to inquire about the state of the labour crews and the retraining progress. Do I strike them as a camp administrator? The training will progress as quickly as possible. As for the defective labour details, it is not surprising, although I must agree it is distressing. The Council have reviewed the reports and find that this season's flu epidemic has debilitated much more of the population of mudbloods and muggles than anticipated. The situation is in hand, however, and I am sure the Council will devise an appropriate solution before the holiday season reaches its peak. Nonetheless, it bears a mention to MacMillan so that the Labour Committee can once again assess the demand and supply of ready workers.

On a brighter note, saw Rookwood this week at the Ministry and he believes he has made something of a breakthrough in his research. If all goes well, it should alter the course not only of the labour shortage but the quality of that labour, once the industrial rates can again be increased.

Spoke to Clarriker this week as well, chiefly regarding the items Narcissa reported seeing at Laszlo's of London. Never fear, Regulus, we shall not deprive you of your local source. On the other hand, it would be mad not to ensure that other outlets may grasp at the same luxuries as can be found in the opulence of Doughty Conduit. Though you might wish to find another 'little gem' for a while anyway; if the article generates the sort of interest I suspect it shall, you may not be able to walk out your door without legions of admirers dogging your steps.

While on the subjects of contagions, cures and importations, Minerva, have you reviewed the consumption rates of your hospital wing this year? I hope that, despite the increased infectiousness of this year's colds and flu, we do not face another winter like last year, with dire predictions of mortality lest the Governors act expeditiously.

Looking ahead to the school holidays, have arranged with Walburga (and Rosalind) to accompany Miss Parkinson to her tea. (Must remember to gauge her reaction to the *Londinarium* since surely she will have seen it by now. Overall, expect her to be pleased with the light it puts on Reg and Orion, but of course, there are some distressing inclusions.) Deuced inconvenient, since Muggleborn Labour may go overlong, but then it also serves as a good reason to keep the meeting short. Pansy, you will be happy to know our strategy worked admirably well, just as I predicted. Your mother believes I am doing her the favour, rather than the other way round. Well done, my dear.

On the other hand, she has not grown so grateful as to defer her requests on her own behalf. Consented to allow her and her Mr Campbell to accompany Narcissa and myself to the release party for Solstice Night's new album. Apparently Mr Campbell fancies himself in the recording industry, among other things.

Finally, noted the incident at Hogwarts yesterday. Mr Marvolo, I am sure your esteemed Father has already assured you that you need feel

neither remorse nor apprehension at displaying your abilities to good effect before your classmates. In a duel, such tactics are not only expected but often necessary. Your conduct was in no way unseemly, particularly not if provoked by events such as have been described. Think nothing of it.



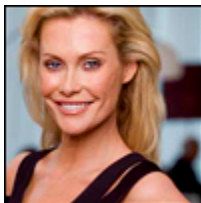
 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2009-12-13 15:52:20](#)**
(no subject)


The pictures? That's an excellent question--and, dash it, that's the other thing I meant to ask last evening but forgot. Well, there's an excuse to owl, at least.

Yes, two of them came as a complete surprise to me; I was under the impression that I'd seen all of the photographs he planned to print. It's those two group shots: I didn't realise he had them, and I've no idea where he got hold of them. I hope he asked Barty for permission to publish the one. Obviously, Snape's permission was unnecessary. But the other one? I can't imagine. I mean to say, I can guess who took it, but I've no idea who's kept it all these years or would have given to Bobolis to print.

I gave him the one with the motorbike, of course. Priceless, isn't it?

Merlin, what time is it? And, also: if you were my sachet of headache powder, where might you be hiding?



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-13 16:01:51](#)**
(no subject)

Had a good night, then?

We were expecting to see you shortly after breakfast - shall I plan for luncheon, or do you think you'll be later yet?

Lucius never has the headache (at least not that he will admit) and says he has no idea what a 'sachet' is meant to look like, but as for me, I keep mine in the bedside table or in the medicinal cupboard.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 16:20:07](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, yes. A few too many loyal toasts late in the evening, perhaps, but the launch party was a jolly affair.

One might argue that as I haven't breakfasted yet, I've not entirely missed my time. But I suspect that if one were to argue such a thing, it would be easily put down. Truth be told, though, mid-afternoon might be wiser: I don't believe I could face the Floo just yet.

As for the headache powder, it turns out mine was on the shelf in the broom cupboard.

I've no idea.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-13 16:30:36](#)
(no subject)

I didn't mean the party, exactly.

Don't trouble about pushing yourself; Fifi will be glad to set you up whenever you arrive, if you like.

So long as you don't rush off to your room to repose in the country air, for I plan to conduct my own interview just as soon as ever I can.

Given how small your flat is, I'd imagine you could reach the broom cupboard from the bed, anyway, so perhaps that's not such a bad place for it. Perhaps you ought to write yourself a note for the next time you need it.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 16:46:18](#)
(no subject)


Supper and afters were delicious, thanks.

I will prepare myself accordingly. Relatedly, I am primed to have my revenge at the card table.

You'll remember we agreed to play with my decks this time.

Yes, I could affix little reminders to every cupboard door in the flat, but that would spoil the game. It's my small revenge on myself for overindulging in headache-inducing behaviours.



 **alt_lucius** at [2009-12-13 16:54:19](#)
(no subject)


If you propose to play my wife at Spite when you are less than duel-ready, I hope you are also prepared for the consequences, Reg.



 **alt_regulus** at [2009-12-13 16:57:25](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I have nothing but experience when it comes to losing gracefully. Hope springs eternal, however, in the foolish breast, so I intend to put up a good fight.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at [2009-12-13 20:02:44](#)
(no subject)

Fraternising were you? How cozy.

I'll make it a point to look him up so I can have a glimpse. And a few pointed words.




 **alt_regulus** at [2009-12-13 20:37:31](#)
(no subject)

What? Do you object?

Fair enough. But none at wand point.



 **alt_lucius** at [2009-12-13 16:16:40](#)
(no subject)

In my experience the press would rather ask forgiveness than permission, but perhaps Bobolis performed his due diligence. I was quite surprised to see the three of you, myself. Particularly in that ... context.

Did you also give him the other one - the one right after you joined

the effort? I thought for a moment your mother, perhaps. If she'd known about the article ahead it might make for a different conversation altogether when we see her next.

Still I think she ought to be pleased with the coverage of your late father. Even if we are both less than happy that he thought to bring Miss Parkinson into it. Thank you, of course, for avoiding the subject so adroitly.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-13 16:19:08](#)

(no subject)

What?

Am I part of the interview?

I didn't think I was nearly *that* interesting. What did they ask about?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-13 16:26:27](#)

(no subject)

I haven't a copy to quote it to you, understand, I only glanced through it at Ari's yesterday. He mentioned you only in a roundabout way, Little Bit. It had to do with your visit with Mrs Black last year and was rather Well, let us say I am just as glad the interview did not succeed in sensationalising your stay in any manner.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 16:29:35](#)

(no subject)

Agreed. He was decidedly out of bounds with that question.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-13 17:21:01](#)

(no subject)


I'm sorry he put you on the spot like that. It's not like it's got anything to do with you, really, anyways.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 17:28:35](#)
(no subject)

It's all right. It was really an oblique attempt to ask a prurient question about my family: he ought to have asked what he really wanted to know and not involved you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-13 18:04:52](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's a relief. I suppose I won't have to worry about flocks of reporters clamouring to interview me over hols, then.

I've finished the part in the book about the mail. It does make a little more sense now that I've read the entire thing. I wonder if it's on display in a museum somewhere?



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 20:58:13](#)
(no subject)


I'm not certain, but I think it may be in the collection at Buckingham.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-13 17:24:42](#)
(no subject)

Well, if it's just about my spending time with Mrs Black, that's a rather silly question to ask. It's hardly newsworthy. If anyone ever were to ask me about it in an interview or something, I would laugh and just say it was none of their business.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-13 17:31:37](#)
(no subject)

I wish it had been that simple, Little Bit. But nevermind. It was in fact none of his business, and as Regulus says it was really a roundabout attempt to probe at something that had nothing to do with you.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 16:28:30](#)
(no subject)

I was responsible for that one, but I had it from Mother. She was aware that the interview was going to happen. I gave her a copy of the journal's prospectus, which rattles on about its attention to London's prominent families and their contributions to its history and future.

We haven't spoken since I gave the interview. And there's been no sign of her owl at my window. I'm not sure how to read the silence.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-13 19:55:25](#)
(no subject)

Where the deuce did that picture come from? And no, there was no attempt to ask my permission.

No wonder you were nervous about this thing coming out. You couldn't have warned me I was going to be splashed across its pages?



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-13 20:47:49](#)
(no subject)

What are you on about? Splashed across its pages?

You knew I'd told him about the day we joined Our Lord's cause. I told you that.

And I had no idea about the picture until I saw it in print. Can you think where he got it? I don't even remember who took it, do you? Yaxley? Avery? I don't remember the occasion at all.

2009-12-12 22:09:00

Headmistress! Madam Pomfrey? LANA?

We need help, please.

In the corridor outside Myrtle's bathroom. Near Transfiguration.

Where the ice is. Was. Is. Over by the ice.

I think -

Just, please, someone. It's happened again.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_padma](#)



 [alt_lana](#) at [2009-12-13 03:27:21](#)
(no subject)

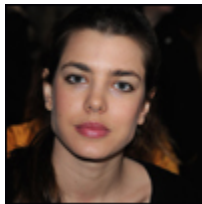
What on earth?


Patil?



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-13 03:29:33](#)
(no subject)

I'd get here right away if you can, Sandoval. I understand the Headmistress is on her way. She'll probably have instructions for you and all the Prefects.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2009-12-13 03:30:52](#)
(no subject)

I'm on my way. Moran, too.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:35:04](#)**
(no subject)

Good.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:30:01](#)**
(no subject)

It's Stebbins, he's been attacked. And Weasley, too, but she's not petrificated.


Should we move them round the corner? What if the Chamber opens again?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:47:33](#)**
(no subject)

Is my daughter hurt? Is she hurt!?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:50:05](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Mrs Weasley.

I don't know, ma'am. She's unconscionable. I mean, unconscious.

Madam Pomfrey's here and she's looking her over. Looks like she hit her head. Maybe she slipped on the ice? But she's not petrified or anything. Her arms were limp. And she's breathing and all.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:48:24](#)**
(no subject)

Ginny! Is she all right?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:50:24](#)
(no subject)


I think she fell on the ice.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:42:08](#)
(no subject)

Boy, Marvolo must have been really upset with Stebbins.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-13 03:43:55](#)
(no subject)

Now is not the time for Jokes Patil




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-13 03:45:57](#)
(no subject)

What?

Oh, come on. Didn't you see what he said in his own journal?

But no, you don't seriously think anyone thinks he did it. Do you?



 [alt_dean](#) at [2009-12-13 03:47:29](#)
(no subject)

No I don't, but lets not give the Hufflepuffs any more reasons to fly off the handle.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2009-12-13 03:50:47](#)
(no subject)

You say that as if we're making a silly fuss over nothing! Bobby Stebbins has been petrified! He's lying there, staring up at the ceiling with a look of terror on his face!



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:51:47](#)**
(no subject)


But Ginny! What about my little girl?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:52:43](#)**
(no subject)

Percy! What's going on!?



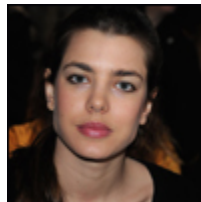
 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:55:01](#)**
(no subject)


Mum--I don't know. Madam Pomfrey left for the Hospital wing with both Stebbins and Ginny. I would have gone with her, but there--there are a lot of upset students here, and Sandoval needs my help with crowd control. I'll let you know as soon as I find out anything.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:59:14](#)**
(no subject)

GO AND FIND OUT RIGHT NOW!



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:59:44](#)**
(no subject)

Honestly, Weasley. The Head Boy and I can manage this.

Go see to your sister. And get your priorities in order!




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:04:21](#)**
(no subject)

I was just doing my job as Prefect.

But thank you.

Mum, I'm on my way to the Hospital Wing now.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:52:28](#)**
(no subject)

True, and I don't like any more than you do. But Harry couldn't get the look out of anyone, no matter how hard he tried. He is simply not that type of person.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-13 03:53:25](#)**
(no subject)

Well, look, whether or not Marvolo did it (which he didn't, don't be daft), someone thinks Stebbins made himself an enemy of the heir. Obviously.

Which just shows that it's really important for all you Hufflepuffs to be as loyal as possible.



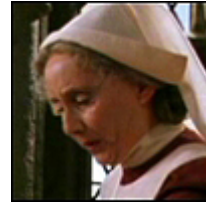
 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2009-12-13 11:21:49](#)**
(no subject)

Of course we're loyal, but we're loyal to each other too, and that means to Bobby!

[2009-12-12 23:22:00](#)

Order Only: Molly

Molly, I'm so sorry I wasn't able to write any sooner. I know you must be terribly worried.



She woke for me, but made very little sense-- nothing more than disconnected phrases. She said everything looks fuzzy to her, and she seemed to indicate that her vision was blurred before she lost consciousness. As you've undoubtedly seen, Miss Perks has reported that there have been other spells of memory loss and unusual behaviour.

 **[alt_poppy](#)**

I've given her something to ease her confusion, but I will be keeping her awake tonight. Losing consciousness bears careful watching. She'll stay here where I can keep an eye on her through tomorrow at the least.

I know this is not as much reassurance as you'd wish, but I promise you, Molly, that I will take very good care of her.

As for the other child, he is alive, but like Mr Boot, he's been completely petrified. It's perfectly maddening, but there's not a thing we can do for either of them until the Mandrakes mature in spring.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:40:56](#)**

(no subject)

I hope there's more that can be done than simply *wait*, Poppy.

What has been done to actually investigate all this so far, then? What have Malfoy and his bloody, Medea-cursed *Governors* done to find the actual source of the attacks?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:43:30](#)**

(no subject)

Merlin's eye-glass, Sirius.

I hope you know I meant that there is nothing Healing magic can do until the Mandrakes are

available.

I know that Minerva is attending to this as best she can, but I really think she will have to answer you about the Governors--and about her own investigation, for that matter.




 **alt_sirius** at [2009-12-13 04:47:31](#)
(no subject)

I know, I know that's what you meant. I don't expect you to march out, wave your wand and find the culprit, of course.

I just ... you know, I've been thinking all day about this business of Harry speaking Parseltongue. Now this. Someone seems to be going out of their way to put him at the point of every incident.

And anytime that Malfoy turns a blind eye Do you think there's any chance Voldemort is orchestrating all this to make Harry seem more formidable?



 **alt_poppy** at [2009-12-13 04:51:22](#)
(no subject)

Do I think...

How would he manage that? Through Carrow, perhaps.

To make the boy seem more formidable? What an utterly repellent thought. Though, I admit, it might be exactly the sort of thing he would think.

Gracious.



 **alt_poppy** at [2009-12-13 15:37:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, Sirius, you seem to have put your paw on it: have you seen what Minerva says below of her firetalk with Himself? Supremely unsurprised and not concerned in the slightest.

If you could see the look of utter horror frozen on the Stebbins

boy's face. If there were any justice in the world, that monster would one day learn how it feels to experience such terror.

Sorry. I missed all thirty winks last night, and I'm afraid it's showing.




 **alt_molly** at [2009-12-13 04:41:23](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for giving us a report at any rate. If there's a mystery afoot there at Hogwarts--and Merlin knows there is--we would rather have Ginny in your hands than anywhere else, even St Mungo's.

Let us know how she does in the morning, and tell her I'll be sending her an owl she'll get with her breakfast.

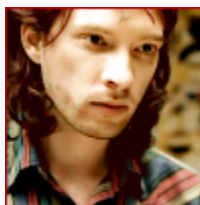
Minerva, have you managed to learn anything more?




 **alt_arthur** at [2009-12-13 04:43:44](#)
(no subject)

Thank you indeed, Poppy.

I've brewed one of Molly's calming tisanes for her to help her sleep--she was very upset--and I hope we'll both be able to sleep soon. But don't hesitate to send us a patronus during the night if there is any drastic change.



 **alt_bill** at [2009-12-13 04:44:44](#)
(no subject)


Dad, I was out tonight, meeting with one of my analysts and just saw this. Do you want me to come home to the Burrow to be with you and Mum tonight?



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:46:14](#)**
(no subject)


I appreciate it, Bill, but I think no. Your mum needs to sleep more than anything. But she said she'd love to see you at breakfast, if you come over then.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:46:55](#)**
(no subject)

I'll do that. I can go over some of the analysts' reports with you both then.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 04:46:24](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Molly.

I hope I will deserve your trust. I will certainly do my best, though that falls short all too often.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2009-12-13 13:17:50](#)**
(no subject)

I've been ignored on this issue for weeks, now; but last night I finally put in a Floo call to the Lord Protector himself, and damn the consequences. I know it's counter-intuitive that I should want to speak with him, but really, Harry Marvolo is at the school and surely, surely he would be concerned, one would think.

'Your concerns do you credit, Minerva,' he said in that unctuous way of his, 'and I knew I should have to speak with you eventually. But you needn't fear. My child is quite safe, as are all good and pious citizens of the Protectorate.'


Well, I don't know how little Bobby Stebbins wasn't a good citizen, but one can't contradict the Lord Protector. And now at least I know why none of my inquiries have been achieving anything: as I've been assuming that everyone will be properly terrified by the Petrifications. But now, too, I mustn't pursue it further, or I shall be

putting myself in the Lord Protector's line of fire.

As far as I can tell, this must mean the Lord Protector is behind the attacks somehow. Otherwise he would be frantic over Marvolo's health and safety. But he hasn't traveled within the boundaries of the wards in months; they warn me when any Death Eater does. He may be powerful, but I doubt even his ability to operate entirely from afar. So there must be a hidden Death Eater within the school. One of the seventh-years, perhaps? Or - and this frightens me, I shall admit - has he given special orders to Carrow?

I shall have to think, hard, on what my next actions shall be.



 **alt_poppy** at **2009-12-13 14:24:08**
(no subject)

Mordred.

Well, it comes round again, does it not? There's no protection against the Protector.



 **alt_sirius** at **2009-12-13 15:51:42**
(no subject)

You can't even conduct your own?

That tears it. That's

I'm

I'd like to sink my fangs right into that pasty throat.

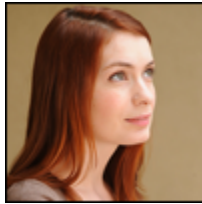
My Galleons're on Carrow. The way he manipulated that duel, or at least that's what I could make out. That other professor was there, Brutka, wasn't he? Minerva, were you? Can you at least find out what he thought of the matter? I know he's fiercely loyal, there's no zealot like a convert, but surely he can be objective about the way Carrow pushed himself forward and made his pupil conjure that snake. It's like he was trying to force Harry to use that damned snake-talk. So the other students would fear him.


That's what I'm coming to think: They're making Harry out to be some dark wizarding talent. Talented maybe, but dark? Never.

By Circe, I'm sure poor James is turning in his grave at the thought.

Well. Something has to be done. I mean have you glanced through the journals this morning? I've counted at least a dozen entries by students all worried they could be next, but afraid even to say that because someone might think they're an 'enemy of the Protectorate' - oh, it's just ridiculous. I mean, this Bobby Stebbins kid aside, how can a *cat* be an enemy of the state? For Merlin's sake.

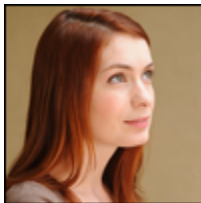
Well, there's something *I* can do, anyway. I just hope it does more good than harm.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-13 16:12:14](#)**
(no subject)

The thought of it alone makes me ill, Sirius.


What if he's trying to position Harry to be the "True Heir of Slytherin" and all that rot? You saw how hard he pushed for Harry to be in that House first year, even though he wasn't sorted there. Perhaps this is the next step in his plan?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-13 16:16:28](#)**
(no subject)

Molly, dear, I'm sorry about Ginny. She'll be home soon enough for Christmas, though, and that has to be a comforting thought.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-13 22:41:16](#)**
(no subject)

She's resting in bed this afternoon after a day full of visits from her brothers and friends. I do believe she is past whatever episode she had yesterday, and I don't see any reason for further concern about the knock on her head. I do, however, intend to keep her here overnight again so she can have a good night's sleep before I allow her to return to her routine.

I suspect that the problem is sheer exhaustion. She concedes she's not always been sleeping well, and it's no wonder: it's always like this at end of term, even for the first years, who often seem to absorb and amplify their older peers's anxiety. And, of course, this term there are other, very good reasons for all of our students to feel fearful and stressed.

I am going to insist that she come to the hospital wing every night for a Sweet Dreams draught: it's a very mild sleep aid that shouldn't cause any daytime drowsiness, but it should help her rest. I will also instruct her that she must come to me at once if she has any further episodes of blurring vision or gaps in her memory. I'm hopeful that there will be none and that she will do just fine until the holidays begin.

Obviously, you should expect that she may require many extra hours of sleep in order to catch up: even adolescent girls have a tendency to wake later than they did as children. (I feel sure you'll have experienced this pattern with your sons.) I'd suggest that you accommodate her need to sleep later at least for the first week she's home. (And, of course, she may surprise me by bouncing back immediately. It's impossible to predict these things.)

[2009-12-12 23:52:00](#)

The Chamber

So. What do you think happened? Why Stebbins but not Weasley?



And who's behind it?

 [alt_padma](#)

(Fawcett is hiding in our dormitory, by the way, and she says she won't come out. And Li and Brocklehurst have all pledged to go everywhere together from now on, for protection. They're convinced that halfbloods aren't safe. Stebbins even had one of those charm things and it didn't protect him, so you know that's rubbish.)



 [alt_ernie](#) at **[2009-12-13 11:38:04](#)**
(no subject)


Well.. Bobby's a boy and Weasley's a girl, so maybe the attacker didn't want to curse a girl, so he just knocked her down instead?

Or maybe it is because of what Bobby said - not that I'm saying Marvolo had anything to do with it or anything, but maybe it is someone who thinks they're doing him a favour?

Or Li and Brocklehurst are right, and someone's out to get the halfbloods.

I don't know. It could be anything. But I know Bobby didn't deserve it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2009-12-13 16:09:17](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think any of them deserved it.


And it's all silly without any sort of pattern. What does a cat, a mudblood servant, and a halfblood have in common?? And just because one halfblood was petrified, I don't think that makes it obvious that halfbloods are all in danger. I don't think whoever it is goes after anyone in particular.

Course, that means we're *all* in danger, which isn't a very comforting thought.

And if just saying something rude makes you an Enemy, well, then, I should watch my back.

And thank you for not saying outright that it was Harry, because it *wasn't*.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-13 14:33:41](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Sally Anne?

Listen. I know Harry and Pansy and Malfoy and the rest will look out for you, but if you're ever, y'know, if you want someone to go with you somewhere, you can just write here and tell me. I'll be sure I've always got my book with me. I've got it charmed now to thump me if anyone writes.

It doesn't matter what time it is. Or where. Really.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-13 22:09:30](#)

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

Thanks Ron.

I'm not going to act like Sarah Fawcett though and go around scared of my own shadow, I'm NOT.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-13 22:34:05](#)

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

I know you won't. But, all the same, if you ever feel like, y'know, it would be better to have someone along and none of the others are around, you just have to ask.

Okay. I just wanted you to know that.

So have you and Pansy had any ideas about what happened last night? Madam Pomfrey's keeping Ginny another night. Thanks for what you told her last night about what Ginny had written. I don't

think any of us would have thought of it, and she seemed to think it was important. She wrote it down, I mean, on the parchment where she was taking notes about Ginny.

2009-12-13 15:55:00

Very Tired

I really don't remember much about yesterday. I remember trying to write in my journal, but looking back it doesn't make sense. And then the next thing I knew I was in the ice corridor.



 [alt_ginny](#)

Someone told me I fell. I guess I hit my head really hard. It still hurts badly. Madam Pomfrey made me stay awake all night long. And I haven't been able to sleep yet today. At least its quiet, so I don't have to deal with any noise. I don't think I can take the noise.

All the boys came by to see me earlier. Fred and George were disappointed that the corridor was restored to normal. It really was a lovely sight. to bad no one got to skate, from what I hear. I also heard that another student was attacked. I knew it wasn't over. Even after Percy talked to me after Terry Boot was attacked, something just didn't feel right. I am really scared now. That could have been me. I heard that we were both in the same area when people found us.

Thanks Luna for stopping by. That kitten was adorable. Thanks for the Quibbler, although I don't think I will read it today. I just want to sleep. Maybe after dinner I will get to sleep.

Mum, I want you to know I am alright. You don't have to worry much. I will be home soon, and I can't wait to see you. Wish I could come home now.

And guess what, Luna gave me the loveliest crocheted dragon today. She even charmed it to move, I mean if flaps its wings. Its really nice. Luna is a really good friend.

Luna, you will have to show me how to make this. And I want you do do another one for me, but we will talk about that tomorrow.

For now I will just sit here... bored.

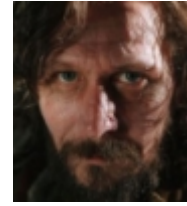
Extremely tired, but bored.

2009-12-14 00:13:00

Grim Truth 92/14/12

Greetings, British Wizarding World!

Last time, I wrote about a literal plague - one that the Ministry have denied, but which by all reports continues to rage despite their blind indifference.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_sirius](#)

Today, I think it's high time we consider with more gravity the trouble plaguing the corridors of Hogwarts. Who is petrifying people and what can the authorities do to bring it to an end?

I've seen some shameful arguments against worrying. They range from dismissing the incidents as pranks to discounting their impact because the victims so far have been deemed 'less important' than wizards. That argument, even if it were ever valid, certainly can no longer be believed. After claiming three previous victims, a student is now among their number. Regardless of the justifications or their cogency, whoever is responsible is as misguided as the individual who callously murdered uninvolved innocents in reaction to my last couple of columns. There is a fine line between civil disobedience and vigilantism - and anyone who engages in murder or mayhem to further an agenda of fear, reprisals and oppression cannot claim to have the betterment of society as his goal. He is in moral, as well as ethical, danger.

More to the point is the danger in which the students at Hogwarts now find themselves. Read half of their entries and you may perceive a climate of fear and distrust. No child can thrive in such a constant state of anxiety. To make matters worse, it seems that at least until now, no one has been tasked to find the source of the attacks. The general and appalling attitude seems limited to the idea that once a mandrake restorative can be brewed, the effect can be reversed, thus resolving the threat. This treats the symptom, not the disease. Like the ravages of the Hertfordshire Scourge, the real problem has received next to no attention from the proper officials.

To truly resolve the situation, we must ask and definitively answer several questions:

Is the Chamber real? Prevailing wisdom says no. The castle was searched thoroughly the last time rumours spread about a Chamber

and no such room was found. I can testify that as a student, my classmates and I discovered nearly everything we could about the castle, including its more elusive hiding places, tunnels and oubliettes, and found nothing that matches any description of the Chamber. It seems likely that someone is using this old legend to heighten the drama surrounding these attacks.

What sort of dark magic can petrify an animal, a person, and a ghost?

Much to the disappointment of my late father, I have never been a great scholar of the dark arts. How lucky for us all that your current government is peppered with wizards who have delved into the field with positively ghoulish delight. I humbly suggest that they be pressured to conduct an exhaustive search until some credible theories may be discovered and tested.

Who is behind it? This is the one that counts. Again, there is certainly no shortage of dark wizards at present within the realm. There is always the possibility that the very people trusted to find the answers may themselves be the perpetrators! But we must also consider that at no time have Hogwarts' protections been compromised or broken, so far as we know. This assurance alone rules out most of the available suspects, leaving only a handful of candidates. Recall that last year, the culprit in a plot against the school's safety turned out to be a Professor; it may be so again.

The Hogwarts Board of Governors must investigate any and all persons who had the opportunity and ability to orchestrate these attacks, or else they must appoint someone to pursue the matter on their behalf. If they will not, then they must fully empower the Headmistress to conduct her own inquiry and provide her with any assistance she may require. The threat to the students and other inhabitants of Hogwarts *must* be neutralised.

I've seen people wave away their concerns by claiming that the victims must somehow be enemies of the Protectorate, therefore deserving of whatever they get. This intimation is both unfounded and specious. It's unfounded because in the first place, it has not been determined whether they are anyone's enemies and in the second, it is entirely unknown whether the Protectorate's goals and the attacker's are the same. It is specious because these claims deliberately mislead everyone from the central issue - whether for reasons of prejudice, a personal or political agenda or to ensure continued blind insensitivity to the realities of the oppression in which you all live. It is also at this point a harmfully spurious attitude, because all signs indicate the exact opposite of the claim. The timing,

identities and disparate circumstances point to an attacker who shows neither rhyme nor reason, nor even a premeditated choice. These are victims of opportunity - that is, they were bystanders simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Regardless of their guilt or innocence, if they fell to this mysterious force, anyone can. Until the attacks are unmasked, there is really only one acceptable, if Grim, Truth: Your children are in danger. Call for measures to ensure their continued well-being, before another is claimed in this bizarre campaign.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-14 11:24:43](#)

(no subject)

Ten paragraphs of self-righteous shouting? You always did go on and on.

It's enough to put one off one's breakfast.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-14 17:35:10](#)

(no subject)

If this is a publicity stunt, Bobolis will find it a costly one. You might want to warn him that we've opened an investigation into his family connections abroad.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-15 03:07:44](#)

(no subject)

Publicity for what? You're raving, Crouch.

It's typical of you lot to go mucking about taaking revenge on people who've nothing to do with the real object of your rage. Impotent, daft buggers, try a fair fight once in a while.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-15 11:09:53](#)

(no subject)

Turn yourself in, Black. Then we'll focus just on you.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-14 15:48:41](#)
(no subject)

What sort of dark magic can petrify an animal, a person, and a ghost? I'm sure you will be startled to hear that you are not the first to raise such a question. In the realm of dark spells, there are two or three that would produce such effect, and in the realm of self-made spells, there are surely even more. One wonders, however, why the self-appointed Heir would continue to use such a spell when he or she must surely be aware by now that there are plans afoot to revive the victims with mandrakes. If it is His or Her goal to harm these victims permanently, they haven't managed it yet. Which brings us to another possibility, that the self-appointed Heir is not using a spell, but has procured an object that carries with it a petrification curse. I've seen such objects before, particularly in Greece, where the legend of the chthonic Medusa holds such fascination. In almost all cases, to use such an object would come at great personal risk, especially when using it on several occasions spanning a relatively short period of time.

I have other thoughts on the matter, but I think I've gone on long enough. I found your post a quaint amusement indeed, for it is always quaint and amusing to see one so outcast express such a hearty, confident opinion in what we are and should be doing.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-14 18:01:09](#)
(no subject)

And what do *you* think you lot should be doing?

You'll likely be irritated to see me say it, but I'm glad at least one of you has given thought to the cause of these scares. Still, even if the damage is reversible, it would be better to eliminate any new incidents altogether. Don't you agree?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-14 18:23:17](#)
(no subject)

You think I'm the only one who's given thought to it? How very flattering, but I am certainly not alone in my ruminations. Not all of us are so loquacious as the Blacks and the Malfoys of this world.

From a parental and practical standpoint, elimination of new incidents would be ideal, but from the standpoint of curiosity, one does wonder what grand message we are to take from these piecemeal happenings. To see the message in its entirety may require letting the process run its course, and only then can an appropriate conclusion be formed. The real question, then, is whether I align with the standpoint of parental practicality or inquisitive curiosity.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2009-12-15 03:55:38](#)**
(no subject)

Is that comment meant to equate me with our young blowhard? I'd no idea you held me in such regard, Rodolphus.

As it happens, the attack of this week-end was the subject of much discussion at Court to-day, though not in the way this excrescence would prefer.

Mulciber, Avery, Yaxley, Reg and I are meeting this evening at the Manticore and Sphinx in King's Lynn. Barty may join us as well. If you're in the mood



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2009-12-15 04:16:26](#)**
(no subject)

Some people talk more than others. No crime in that - it's whether they're worth listening to or not that matters.

Ah, yes, I believe I could be convinced. I'll see you there.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-15 05:36:10](#)**
(no subject)

Not the only one, I'd say, but certainly one of a few who have ventured any opinion as to the source.


Not that I can credit much for your attitude, however. Wait and see, is it? Merlin's beard, you've got a child there yourself.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-15 05:52:10](#)
(no subject)


Talking too much to listen, eh? Or read, as it were. That's not really a surprise. Good evening to you, then, wherever you think you are.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-14 17:26:56](#)
(no subject)

Can't bear to have your little brother upstage you?
Pathetic.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-15 03:09:24](#)
(no subject)

Why, has Reg done anything remarkable recently?
Oh, all right, I'll bite: Who has he killed now?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-15 03:11:05](#)
(no subject)

Oh, he's the darling of the media, our Reg. On the cover of the latest glossy.

As if you didn't know.

But on the off-chance you didn't: you should ask him about the ludicrous photos of you he gave them to print.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-15 05:15:43](#)
(no subject)

Care to meet us in King's Lynn?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2009-12-15 02:16:10

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I think he thinks it's Carrow too. I mean he all but says he thinks it's a professor and which other professor could he mean?



[alt_ron](#) at 2009-12-15 03:37:54

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

He does think it's a teacher, talking about last year and Macnair. He's right, too. It's got to be Carrow.

But, whoa, what about Mr Lestrangle? We should just let it keep happening to see what? Whether someone actually gets killed next time? Whether it's a teacher next time? What?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2009-12-15 03:49:15

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

Who the enemies of the heir are.

I hope they aren't planning to do anything bad to Stebbins or Terry after Madam Pomfrey fixes them

up.



[alt_ron](#) at 2009-12-15 04:41:49

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

I think it's just whoever Carrow catches when he feels like petrifying someone, don't you? Do you really think the stuff about the heir is real?



[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2009-12-15 04:50:12

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


I think you're right but I think Mr Lestrangle thinks there's more to it than that, that's why they don't care about stopping it.

Anyway I don't think it's ANYone Carrow catches, he didn't petrify your sister and I think it's because you're purebloods. Or maybe he just likes your sister better than he likes you, but I

doubt it.

Unless there's something about the spell that makes it only work on boys. Was the cat who got petrified a boy cat? Do you know?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-15 05:00:45](#)

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

We should ask Hermione. She'd know for sure. About the cat.

If you're right, that's another reason for Dean to watch out. Or me. I mean, it was an animal, then a ghost and a Muggleborn, then a halfblood, and next it could be pureblood he hates. And after that a teacher.

But, yeah, maybe Hermione will see this and tell us about the cat.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-15 05:06:41](#)

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

Don't let Neville go anywhere alone. If Carrow were going to go after any pureblood that's who it would be.

Or else Fred and George, but they've each got the other to go places with.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-15 11:05:38](#)

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

Urg, yeah. You're right about Neville.

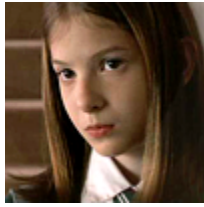


 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-15 14:39:02](#)

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

Dean and me are sticking together pretty close now.

Ugh, it makes it even worse to sit through Transfiguration every day. Thinking he's been doing this.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-15 05:10:12](#)

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

Maybe we should get together and practise that disarming spell. And some other hexes. Because if Carrow came after me and Pansy I'd want her to be able to get away even if I didn't, you

know?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-15 11:08:05](#)

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

Yeah, okay. I was just going to play chess tonight with someone, but that's okay, he'll find someone else to play with, no probs. I'll see if

Nev and Dean want to come? That okay?

I'd almost like to see what my wand would do if I tried to disarm Carrow. Heh.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-15 15:18:35](#)

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

I'll come for sure. Don't know if I can do that disarming spell, but it would be good to practise.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-15 21:23:37](#)

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

Yes Crookshanks was is a boy cat.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-15 21:27:46](#)

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

Well maybe it's a spell that only works on boys then. Maybe he cast it on Ginny and it didn't work but it knocked her out -- except that she's been saying queer things in her diary for weeks. Maybe Carrow did something to her that made her forget things? But why Ginny, really, she's never done anything wrong. Not that Bobby had either.

None of it makes sense.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-15 14:43:31](#)

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

Anyway, once Madam Pomfrey makes that potion, and Stebbins and Terry wake up, they could tell us who did this to them. Maybe they wouldn't take the word of Terry against Professor Carrow alone, but surely they'd have to if Stebbins says its Professor Carrow too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-15 14:50:10](#)

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

Yes, if they saw who did it to them.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-15 15:19:14](#)

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

Yeah. He's just the type to hit somebody when their back is turned, isn't he?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-15 21:30:50](#)

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

Well if I were going to take a shot at him, I'd wait till HIS back was turned.

||||| But that's only fair, seeing as I'm a second year and he's a professor. I'd need every advantage I could get.

[2009-12-15 09:53:00](#)

(no subject)



 **[alt_narcissa](#)**

Men will be boys, it seems. Both Lucius and Regulus were out into the wee hours on their jaunt to Norfolk. No doubt they found the night's exercise brisk. I had gathered from Lucius that they might inspect a few of the camps in the area, as a surprise to the staff to ensure that the places are not being cleaned up in advance of a planned visit.

I, of course, had already arranged to forgo my volunteer shift at St Mungo's today, in light of Regulus' visit, but as neither of my men were awake, I breakfasted alone. I suppose sometimes it is unavoidable, even if it is tiresome.

Lucius did come down for luncheon, but still no sign of Regulus; told Fifi to stand ready with a tray for him whenever he feels up to it.

Draco, your father told me yesterday he was sending you a message with Valerian. Did you get it this morning?

Minerva, I trust you will adjust the arrangements accordingly. No doubt you have heard from Buckingham directly. I shall be sending a few things up - clementines and assorted other treats - for those staying over the holiday.

Aunt Cassie is still under the weather. I've asked Healer Fletcher to look in on her; I don't much like the sound of the mediwitch she has been seeing. Her remedies strike me as highly irregular. Mustard plasters and pennyroyal pastes may be perfectly useful for scrapes and bruises, but this has gone on more than long enough.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:42:17](#)**

Order Only

Those bloody, bugging, grindelo-sucking bastards-- they should eat doxie dung and die.

Yes, last night's exercise was brisk all right. They were briskly hexing and even thumping all the muggles they could get their hands on, in Bawsey, in Norwich. Burned down one of the camp's warehouses while they were at it. Took out at least a month's

supply of food, so besides the injuries, will be more babies starving there this winter.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-15 17:43:33](#)

Re: Order Only

Oh Arthur, no.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:44:57](#)

Re: Order Only

It can't be a surprise really, Molly. You know what those bastards are capable of doing.

Once, just once, I'd give anything to have Lucius Malfoy and his bugging cronies helpless at the business end of my wand.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-15 17:47:27](#)

Re: Order Only

Bloody hell.

Will you be able to shift some supplies to make up the shortfall, do you think, Dad?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:51:01](#)

Re: Order Only

I don't know. Maybe.

How I wish one of those muggles had managed to brain one of them with a pick-ax or something. Except anyone who did would probably be crucio'd to death.

Bugger, bugger, bugger.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:51:58](#)

Re: Order Only

Molly--more bad news. I just got an owl from Ron.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-15 17:52:54](#)

Re: Order Only

What? To you there, at the office? Why didn't he write to me at home?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:53:44](#)

Re: Order Only

I don't know.

He says he's not coming home for Christmas. He's planning on staying at Hogwarts.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-15 17:54:31](#)

Re: Order Only

WHAT???!?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 17:55:30](#)

Re: Order Only

Get on the Floo, dear, and I'll read you the letter.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2009-12-15 17:59:59](#)

Re: Order Only

you and me both, mate.

arseholes. bet they can only get off on hurting people. sick fuckers, the lot of them.

do they honestly think this is helping?

that people will just sit and take it? that they won't hold a grudge?

they may have wands, but they sure as hell don't have the numbers. this can't last forever, and when it breaks, there will be hell to pay and more. you and me, mate, we're going to have them right where we want them. if the poor bastards in the camps don't get to them first, that is.

in the meantime, they can just stick their wands up their collective arses and spin. bloody hippogriff screwing hag lovers.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2009-12-15 20:12:33](#)**

Re: Order Only

sorry hermione



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2009-12-15 21:25:35](#)**

Re: Order Only

You know I've heard a lot worse in the Slytherin common room, Mr Longbottom.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2009-12-16 03:10:31](#)**

Re: Order Only

well, I should really watch my tongue any road.

believe it or not I used to be a lot worse.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-15 23:07:01](#)**

Re: Order Only

It's not about helping anything, Frank. It's about punishing us all for my rants.

But you've got the right of it, mate. Every time

they react with violence, they only make themselves more obvious. It's got to make a difference, eventually, it's *got* to.



 **alt_sirius** at [2009-12-15 23:03:46](#)

Re: Order Only

To be honest, Arthur, I was expecting some kind of retaliation. Have you noticed that lately whenever I post a Grim Truth, they make my brother do something heinous? This proves it.

It won't help with the camp food stores, but I have managed to send in a whole shipment of clementines and cranberries and other assorted holiday treats. Some of it ought to make it to Hogwarts, certainly. I wish I could do something besides make their situation worse, but that would mean shutting up about it all. And I know, we can't afford to lose ground just because they choose to make themselves more hated in reply.

I know how you feel about Malfoy, though. I daresay I wanted to throttle Rodolphus Lestrangle myself. I can't believe he could be so sanguine when his own daughter is just as much at risk as anyone else!



 **alt_poppy** at [2009-12-16 13:23:41](#)


Re: Order Only

Unless he knows her to be perfectly safe. Lestrangle, I mean.

Of all the reactions you've provoked, that one makes me more persuaded than ever that you're right in thinking this business must be in the Protector's control and that some, at least, of his people know this to be the case. Lestrangle may claim no knowledge of the culprit and may feign puzzlement about the motives and meanings of the messages, but if that were the case, he'd have pulled that daughter of his out of Hogwarts.

Mind you, if it had been the mother saying these things, I'd be less certain: she has always seemed less than properly parental to me, but for Lestrangle himself to declare interest in allowing events to play themselves out? I think he knows there's no risk to his child.

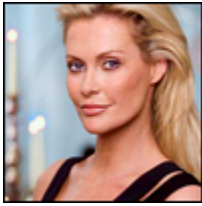


 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-16 21:21:54](#)
(no subject)

How is Reg to-day? Still feeling ill? I hope he didn't catch a chill.

And no answer from our son, I see. Sulking, I expect.

I shall be a few more hours at least before we can disband.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-16 22:07:44](#)
(no subject)

Reg is doing much better, I think. Although I flattened him at Spite and Malice, so that might explain why he looks pale.

Draco will understand, darling. Eventually.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-16 22:29:59](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps Reg ought to keep to his room - and the elves can continue to see to him - until he is quite sure he's completely mended?

There was a great deal of flu in the camp populations. Do make sure you protect yourself fully.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-16 23:00:25](#)
(no subject)

No, I'm fine. Humiliated at the card table, to be sure, but I'm quite well.

I think it may have been what I consumed at the Manticore more than anything else. Surely it would be days yet before a flu would make itself felt.

2009-12-15 14:10:00

Order Only: Ron

Ron sent Arthur a letter (to his office), telling him that he won't be coming home for Christmas. He wrote that he's been getting behind in things, and he figures the holidays would be a good time to get work done. As if Ron ever cared about being behind in school! 'And, anyway,' it went on, 'that way it won't be so many of us for Mum to cook for and things won't be so mad.'




 [alt_molly](#)

!!!

Things have gone so dreadfully wrong with Ron this year, and I just don't know anymore how to fix things. I sent him a letter to apologise for sending him the Howler over all that business with the car at the beginning of the year. But it's clear he hasn't forgiven me. He couldn't have even send an owl to his own mum at home? For Christmas? Talking as if feeding him and welcoming him home is a burden???

Arthur says we should just act as if we're taking the letter at face value, let him have some distance to work things out on his own. But, oh, I don't know how much longer I can bear to go along with the pretence that there's nothing wrong.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2009-12-15 20:29:35**
(no subject)

You might ask Charlie if he knows anymore about what's going on with Ron. He was there at Hogwarts for a visit, wasn't he?

What do Percy's letters say?




 [alt_molly](#) at **2009-12-15 20:33:44**
(no subject)

That's a thought. Perhaps Charlie would know something. As for Percy, he's mentioned Ron in passing in his weekly letters, but he hasn't said anything in particular about what might be bothering Ron. But if I asked him directly...


I'll write to both of them tonight.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 20:37:38](#)
(no subject)


Try not to take it too much to heart, Molly dear, at least until we've managed to learn a bit more from Charlie or Percy. Teenage boys can be a bit thoughtless when it comes to considering their mother's feelings. As you very well know.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-15 20:39:00](#)
(no subject)


Oi, is that supposed to be a commentary on your other sons?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-15 20:40:09](#)
(no subject)

I'll leave that to your conscience to decide.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-15 20:43:18](#)
(no subject)

Ha. I wouldn't call it 'a little bit thoughtless,' myself.

More like 'a little bit thick.'

Don't know how you put up with me and Charlie all these years, Mum.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-15 21:27:21](#)
(no subject)

I don't know anything about what he's doing with you, Mrs Weasley, but Ron's not *dark*. I mean he's all right

in that way. He's not going bad. He isn't, even if he doesn't talk to you about it.



 **alt_molly** at [2009-12-16 16:29:57](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for that, Hermione, dear.



 **alt_sirius** at [2009-12-15 23:18:07](#)
(no subject)

I dunno, Molly, I think I may disagree with Arthur.

Ron may be waiting for you all to extend the olive branch, wanting to hear from you something other than how much you expect from him or warnings to toe the line.

I know you were upset, and for all the right reasons, but I know a little bit about feeling like a disappointment. Especially if he thinks no one in the family supports him - that's hard enough when it's just your parents, but with all the brothers you've given him ... well, I'm not surprised if he's feeling put-upon.

I'd be interested to hear what Charlie thought when he saw the lad.

Incidentally, what on earth is all this rubbish Malfoy and the others are saying about some new magazine? I take it I'm made out to be some sort of buffoon?




 **alt_arthur** at [2009-12-16 16:27:10](#)
(no subject)

My intention is to get the boys together this Christmas and to piece together their conversations with Ron to see if we can get to the bottom of this. I do intend to take whatever steps necessary to heal the breach with him, but first we have to find out what the trouble is, since he's apparently refusing to talk with us. I'm beginning to suspect he may have never read Molly's letter.

Molly just got a prompt reply this morning from Percy to her letter of yesterday, unexpectedly offering to stay at Hogwarts to keep Ron

company this Christmas. He suggests using the same excuse that Ron has offered: the press of work is keeping him at Hogwarts. That was quite a surprise, but upon talking it over, Molly and I think it's actually a rather good idea. Molly strictly instructed Percy in her own letter NOT to try to interrogate Ron, but we hope Ron might open up a little bit more about what's bothering him if Percy can spend a little time with him, playing chess and so forth. And it's a comfort to both of us that he won't be alone without any family at all over the holiday. Of course, Percy's probably not his favourite brother--I suspect he'd appreciate the company of the twins more. But Percy has promised to be tactful, and his Prefect's training has given him a little experience in subtly encouraging troubled students to open up. Perhaps this scheme will break the ice and help us to learn a little bit more.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-16 22:51:46](#)**
(no subject)

I hope you're right, Arthur. I'm sure you know your boys better than I do, after all - and it sounds like you've chosen a wise course, to find out from his brothers what, if anything, they've observed.\

Good luck.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2009-12-16 05:04:01](#)**
(no subject)

Molly, I'm sorry you're having this difficulty.

If it's any consolation, he seemed genuinely concerned when his sister was injured. And now I think of it, all your boys were here--Ronald, the twins, and Percy--and they did not appear to be at odds with one another. There were no signs of strain or estrangement amongst them; all of them were here to be sure their sister would be all right, and they behaved like brothers do, teasing but also concerned.

I know that's no help with whatever misunderstanding is between you and your son. If there's anything I could do to help, please let me know.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-16 16:28:19](#)**
(no subject)

That's very good to hear at least, Poppy, thank you.

2009-12-15 23:43:00

Yikes!


What is it with all the spiders? I mean seriously, all over the castle it seems like they are all queuing up to get out of this place! It's like they've all gone mad and decided that since it's got cold, they should all come out of wherever it is they hide all the time and go outside and freeze to death. Either that or they're afraid they're going to get petrified. I mean, bloody h***, have you seen how many of them there are??!! I just wish they'd get it over and leave already, cause I don't want to know how many of them have been lurking in the corners, watching us.



 [alt_ron](#)

Oh, and Pansy! I meant to ask earlier, but I forgot. Have you seen that magazine about your pirate bloke? There's a copy here in the common room, and it's got pictures and everything. There's even one of Mr Lupin, you know, the old groundskeeper, with his mates when he was in school. One of them's the traitor, Sirius Black, your bloke's brother. I guess that's why it's in the magazine, anyway. You should try to get a copy. Or I could ask around and see if whoever owns this one would mind if I lent it to you.




 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-16 05:06:40**
(no subject)

I haven't seen any spiders, but they can go outside and die, it doesn't bother me. Of course, if they do, then there will be more flies in the spring, but I'd rather swat flies than spiders.

We've several copies of that magazine here. The editor-in-chief, the wizard who wrote the article and all, he's Leander and Electra Bobolis' brother. So they got a few of them. It's been very interesting.

I liked the pictures from the Witches' Institute auction, too. And he did a piece on the St Mungo's gala coming up, with a picture of Sandoval's parents.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-16 21:00:20](#)
(no subject)

There were some pretty amazing costumes at the Witches Institute thing. Towler and I were trying to figure out who those three blokes in that one picture were meant to be: Towler thinks they were Barnabas the Barmy and a couple of trolls in tutus. Oh, and did you see the picture of the witch who went as the snake charmer? Those robes were, um.

I'd think she'd have been cold.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-16 10:13:52](#)
Order Only

What's that? There's a picture of me in this magazine? Why on earth.. Well, I suppose I ought to track down a copy and find out for myself.



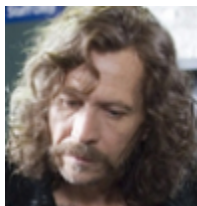
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-16 21:06:40](#)
Re: Order Only


I re-read what Malfoy and Reg had to say, and it seems there's a picture of the four of us.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-16 22:34:11](#)
Re: Order Only

Yes, there is. I tracked down a copy of this magazine of theirs today. I don't remember it being taken. It's from years ago, and we're all larking about, but we did that a lot. It's nice, though. I can hardly believe we were ever that young.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-16 22:44:00](#)
Re: Order Only

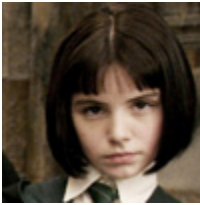
Cheers, I never thought we'd live to be this *old*, thanks. Thirty-three - just the sound of it is enough to drive me to the pub.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-16 22:53:21](#)

Re: Order Only

Imagine how I feel - I spend my days as Junius Ponds. Thirty-three seems quite sprightly in comparison.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-16 20:05:24](#)

(no subject)

I've heard, yeah. I've asked Morag to get me a copy of my own, she said she'd try to.

Apparently, they talk about me in it too. Just a little. And it's not really about me. But I still want to read it.

I hadn't really noticed the spiders... where did you see them? Spiders are awfully creepy. Especially the hairy ones.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-16 21:05:55](#)

(no subject)

The spiders were all over the place last night when we were coming to meet you, and there were even more of them when we were heading back to Gryffindor. And they were in the ice corridor the other night, scuttling towards the windows to get out of the castle.

And, yeah, it does mention you. And Mrs Black. The interviewer asked whether she used the Cruciatus hex on you. Um. Do you want me to go find the article and tell you what it says?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-17 00:39:21](#)

(no subject)

Tell you what, I'll make you a deal: I won't ever wonder aloud why you're in Gryffindor when you're so scared you hate spiders so much, so long as you don't ever wonder aloud how come I'm in Gryffindor when I never want to take a broom more than four feet off the ground.

I'll even kill any spider you find in the room for you, if you ever find one. They don't bother me all that much, really.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 01:17:11](#)
(no subject)

Heh. Deal.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 01:32:22](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Well, not here. You want to meet before curfew? Or breakfast tomorrow?


We really all should get together for one last study group session before hols, too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 01:34:28](#)
(no subject)

Sure. I'll bring the magazine with me.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 02:45:01](#)
(no subject)

Thanks. And maybe Morag'll come through with a copy of my very own before I leave!

Merlin, I didn't think I'd say this, but I can't wait to go home. There aren't any paralyzing whatsits ~~and Carrows~~ lurking around. And there'll be hot chocolate, AND Sally-Anne is coming, which will be ace. And mum always takes me to hear carolling and do last-minute Christmas shopping in Diagon Alley, and we get mulled cider after. I really hope we're doing it this year too. Even if he has to come along, too. Mum's new friend, I mean.

What sorts of things do you do for Christmas?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 02:57:43](#)
(no subject)

Well, eat, of course.

And so it always smells great even when we're not actually eating, so we're all pretty much hungry all the time.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 03:04:21](#)
(no subject)

You are rather like a Bottomless Pit when it comes to food. I've watched you tuck in at supper.

I can only imagine how much food your mum has to make to feed everyone, if they've got as much of an appetite as you do!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 03:00:04](#)
(no subject)


And I always used to go out with Charlie and Bill to get pine boughs to hang over the doorways. They'd make me drag them into a pile while they climbed up and cut just the ones they wanted. I can't remember what spell they used for that. Actually, I think they used to try out different spells.

And they'd always make loads of snow fall on my head.

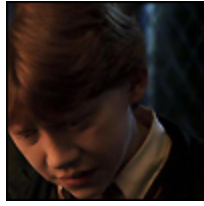
Or Percy's the year he came with us. Heh.


Yeah, he never wanted to come again after that!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 03:01:35](#)
(no subject)


And there's always jam for breakfast; Mum always makes sure we each get our favou



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:02:03](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:05:18](#)**
(no subject)

What? That sounds sweet. Literally and figuratively.

Hah.

My favourite is raspberry.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2009-12-17 01:56:28](#)**
(no subject)

Spiders are really so very interesting. Do you know that their silk can stretch to one and a half times its own length without snapping, and that for its weight, it's even stronger than steel?


Perhaps you'd like them better if you saw some of the bigger species, like the African Red Globule, or the Tanzanian Merrylegs. They're so fascinating to watch!



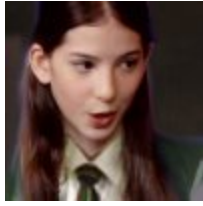
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 02:24:02](#)**
(no subject)


You think Ron would like bigger ones better?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2009-12-17 02:46:31](#)**
(no subject)

Perhaps, because when they're bigger, he can see how lovely they truly are.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:37:20](#)**
(no subject)

I do not think that would help.

At all.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 02:39:19](#)**
(no subject)

Um. No?!!

2009-12-16 20:26:00

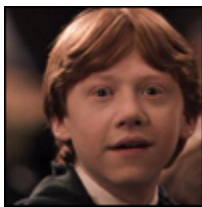
Something cheery


Alright I don't want to think about petrified people or Chambers of Secrets or flu or spiders or any of that rot and I certainly don't want to think about exams.



 **alt_sally_anne**

I want to think about Christmas! Pansy does your mum put up a tree? What sort of special things do you do at your house on Christmas? I can't WAIT.



 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-17 02:44:42**

(no subject)

Yeah. Do you have roast? Plum pudding?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2009-12-17 02:59:53**

(no subject)

I have My parents have plum pudding on Christmas. At least they used to. And roast chicken.

What does your family eat on Christmas Ron?



 **alt_pansy** at **2009-12-17 03:01:37**

(no subject)

Don't forget the cookies you're going to teach me how to make!




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2009-12-17 03:35:12**

(no subject)

Of course! That's going to be so much fun.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:02:13](#)**
(no subject)

Well. It depends what they can get or trade for, you know. So sometimes it's duck (well, ducks) and other times it's something else. One time Dad and some other people went in together and got a great lot of beef and split it up. Doesn't matter what it is, really.


Dad always talks about how Mum tried once to make something called a crown roast, and it was supposed to come out with all these little paper hats on the ends of the bones, but they all burnt up and, anyway, the whole thing was tough and Mum cried a lot, but then they took it out the back door and gave it to the garden gnomes and they were really happy to have it. I think they just had Bill then, and he was really little.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:09:48](#)**
(no subject)

Oooh duck is good. Especially when you roast it in a really hot oven so the skin is really crispy. I can't imagine duck for nine people, though, it's nine in your family right? How many ducks does it take to feed all of you, I expect you can eat one duck all by yourself.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:20:48](#)**
(no subject)


Huh. I don't know. I guess I never counted. I mean, it's not like Mum brings them all to the table for Dad to carve or anything. They joke about him chopping it into bits sometimes. I guess somewhere in the world, Singapore or somewhere, there's something called 'flying duck' and Mum says that's what Dad makes when he tries to carve a goose or a turkey or, y'know, ducks whatever it really is they're carving up.

Now Dad makes Charlie do it.

Yeah.

It seems like ages since we had Christmas dinner. Last year, Mum and Dad went to visit Charlie at the dragon preserve. But the elves make a good dinner here. Amazing, really, since there aren't really that many people here for Christmas, but they do it up like it's the leaving feast. There were flaming puddings and plum pudding castles and cakes and cookies. So, yeah, it's pretty good here, too. Just not as mad. And afterwards there's not really anything to do. No games or singing or anything or playing keep away with Ginny's presents or anything.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:26:18](#)**
(no subject)

And nobody telling all the stories.

Or the twins hexing all Percy's presents to explode like crackers when he pulls the ribbons.

Or jam. Mum's jam.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:28:28](#)**
(no subject)

Does your family sing? Or play games?


The Strettons don't sing but some of their muggles did, last year. I heard them when I was going around to the farms on Boxing Day, or maybe this was just before Christmas, I can't remember.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 02:45:16](#)**
(no subject)

Mince pies?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:00:47](#)**
(no subject)

Oooh! Now I'm getting excited. I was just telling Ron about the carolling and mulled cider in Diagon, that's one of my favourite things we do.

I'll bet we get roast for sure, and Hitty our house-elf makes these little mince pies that can fit in your hand, and are so good hot.

And yeah, we have a tree. I've even asked if we can wait to decorate it until you get there, so it'll be extra fun. Mum always transfigures a fancy twisty bit of glass to go on the top, a different design each year.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-17 03:41:04](#)

(no subject)

This all sounds so wizard. What does Diagon Alley look like at Christmas time? Does everyone decorate? I can't wait to see the transfigured ornaments that sounds beautiful.

What does mince pie taste like anyway? I've never had it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 03:58:40](#)

(no subject)

Oh! It's just the most beautiful thing. There are trees and garlands hanging everywhere, and they charm the entire alley so there is snow falling, and all the store windows have moving displays. Two years ago, one of the toy shops had a toy train that looked exactly like the hogwarts express, with real steam and everything.

It's got nuts and raisins and figs and things. And I guess it actually has meat in it too, but it doesn't taste savoury, it tastes sweet.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-17 03:59:42](#)

(no subject)

Oh the toy train sounds nift. Meat in it but SWEET? That sounds less nift.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 04:03:34](#)
(no subject)

It's just a little meat. I can never even taste it at all, but I asked Hitty once why they called them mincemeat pies, and she said it's because the recipe calls for a little chopped meat mixed with all the other things.

And if you don't like it, there's always just the hot chocolate. I can't *tell* you how happy I am to get that!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 02:46:51](#)
(no subject)

Mmmm.

Mince pies!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 02:48:16](#)
(no subject)

Great. Now I'm not thinking about spiders, but I'm hungry.

We couldn't have talked about this while there was still time to go by the kitchens? If I go now, Dawlish'll catch me.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-17 03:00:31](#)
(no subject)

Won't the elves bring you something? They don't read the journals so you have to say something out loud about being hungry.

Although come to think of it maybe they just ignore you seeing as you're hungry all the time



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:29:58](#)**
(no subject)


I think they like you better.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:35:53](#)**
(no subject)

They leave me warm milk when they think I'm up too late, do yours not do that?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:41:46](#)**
(no subject)

Percy always makes us go upstairs before it gets too late, so I guess I don't know. Your Prefects let you just stay up in the common room however late you want?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:56:08](#)**
(no subject)

Well so long as we're quiet. No one's ever made me go to bed. I had a lot of trouble falling asleep when I first came to school so I'd creep downstairs and read by the fire in the common


room.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:38:51](#)**
(no subject)

I mean the Gryffindor elves, not your elves at home, if you have any, which I think I remember you saying you don't.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:43:11](#)**
(no subject)

No, we've just got a ghou. And he does do anything.

Well, he moans a lot and bashes stuff around up in the attic, but he doesn't do stuff like elves do.

Mum says she doesn't need an elf since she's got so many of us.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 03:58:46](#)**
(no subject)

I reckon none of you leave her warm milk when she stays up too late though.

But maybe your father does?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:03:44](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe they do for each other.

Dad gets home really late a lot.



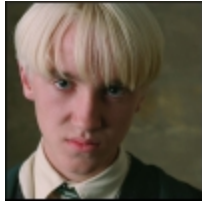
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:57:34](#)**
(no subject)


Christmas? Who gives a toss about it? I certainly don't. Christmas is stupid and I can't be bothered with it. And neither can anyone else, apparently.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2009-12-17 04:59:41](#)**
(no subject)

Oh Draco I thought you were excited about the holidays! What's wrong??



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 05:04:29](#)
(no subject)


It seems I'll be staying at Hogwarts this year.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-17 05:09:32](#)
(no subject)

Staying? All by yourself, or is Harry staying too?
Why??



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 05:12:06](#)
(no subject)

Our Lord decided he wanted Harry to stay at the castle, so I'll be staying, too. As will Hydra.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-17 05:25:28](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Well I'm sure He has His reasons but that must be really disappointing to all three of you, I'm so

sorry!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-17 15:47:03](#)
(no subject)

I am too! The Christmas party won't be the same without you, Draco. Or Harry either. It'll be so weird to be there and not have you both around to keep me entertained. I think the first time I ever met Harry was at one of your family's Christmas parties, actually. Well, properly. And we all snuck away from the adults and played Exploding Snap, and got very ill on too much gingerbread and icing.

That's really sad.

Ron says the Christmas feast at Hogwarts is really, really good, so there's that. And you'll be with Harry, so you won't have to do it alone. And I'm sure you both will get loads of prezzies on Christmas.



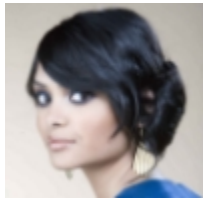
 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-17 13:11:50](#)
(no subject)

You're staying for Christmas?!!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 15:22:09](#)
(no subject)

That's what I wrote, isn't it?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-17 15:24:11](#)
(no subject)

WHAT?

What about your party?!


I thought you said we were all invited!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 15:29:43](#)
(no subject)

You are invited, I just won't be there, as it turns out.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-17 15:54:58](#)
(no subject)

That's dreadful! I mean, won't that be weird, being at your party without you?

Why are you staying, anyway? I mean, I saw


what you said, but why did the Lord Protector decide that? ~~And why should that mean you~~



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 16:02:57](#)
(no subject)

I don't know why the Lord decided that Harry should stay, but if Harry has to then it's only proper that I do, too.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-17 16:11:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, that doesn't make much sense. Harry had all his bones out of his arm and had to regrow them, but you didn't have to do that, too.


What's proper about not being at your own party to host all your guests?

I suppose it's no use pointing that out to your parents, not when it's something the Lord Protector wants, is it? I mean, there must be some reason they're not telling you, something that explains it.

I'm sorry you won't be there.

Oh, dear, does that mean you won't be at the St Mungo's gala, either? I mean, I don't know if you were going, so I guess that doesn't matter.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 16:14:15](#)
(no subject)

There might be a reason but my Father's letter seemed rushed, I guess the Lord had just decided.

Who cares about the St. Mungo's gala? It won't compare to the party at the Manor, that much I can tell you.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-17 16:38:58](#)
(no subject)

Well, did the Lord tell Harry? Why he has to stay, I mean. He must be really disappointed, too.

And I know the St Mungo's party will be really different, more like a grown-up party, but I was just thinking that here that's another thing your parents are making you miss out on.

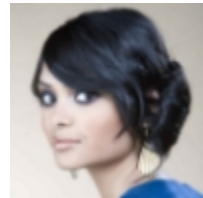
It's really too bad.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 16:48:48](#)
(no subject)

I don't think Harry got much of an explanation either, because Harry isn't saying much about it right now but I can tell he's upset.

So you think my parents shouldn't have made me stay, then?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-17 16:52:36](#)
(no subject)

Well....

I mean, they're your parents, so obviously they can tell you what they want you to do. But it seems really odd to me. And without telling you why, that's what's really awful. I mean, if there's a good reason, that's obviously one thing. But since they'd already planned to have us all come to the party, and everything else, and all...I just think maybe they could have explained and then let you choose. You know?

But parents are like that, I guess. Mine can be too. Sometimes they just want you to do things without saying why.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 16:57:59](#)
(no subject)

No, I think you're right. It isn't fair and I should at least get an explanation. They cancelled my Christmas! Like it was an appointment at the medi-witch that can be rescheduled any old time. They're not even trying to make it up to me!




 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-18 02:25:38](#)
(no subject)

What you're not sorry I won't be there either Patil?

Sorry I made everything stink then. It's Father really you know.



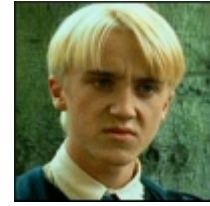
 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-18 04:21:42](#)
(no subject)

Of course I am but it's not quite the same as how I feel about Draco. If it were your party and you were missing it then I'd be much sorrier for you than him. I'm sorry that you have to stay, too, of course, but it's sort of worse for Draco because it's his own party he's missing. See?

2009-12-17 09:54:00

No thanks

Mother and Father, I'm writing here to let you know that I won't be owling your Christmas gifts off in time for Christmas Day.




 [alt_draco](#)

I'll send them off later, at some point when it's a bit more convenient for me. Possibly this could be months from now. Sorry about that, I'd give more explanation but I have exams to think about right now. Let's just say that something's come up, yeah?

Your son,
Draco



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2009-12-17 19:51:25**
(no subject)

Oh, Draco.

I know you're upset, sweetheart, but really. Mother's going to send along all sorts of treats. It shan't be that bad.

You know we'd both prefer you come home as planned, but sometimes these things just happen.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2009-12-17 23:04:10**
(no subject)

Oh really? What things happened then, exactly?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2009-12-17 23:11:18**
(no subject)

Well, darling, there are a few things going on. I think most importantly, Our Lord wants no one to feel that Hogwarts is unsafe, no matter what that lunatic blood-traitor has to say about it.


And, there are other things.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 23:45:16](#)
(no subject)

Well of course Hogwarts will be safe over the holiday. You know why? Because no one is here! No one but ghosts and house elves and old people and Ron bloody Weasley. What a grand time.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-17 23:51:00](#)
(no subject)

Enough.

You will not speak to your mother in this manner. You are staying and that is an end to it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 23:53:53](#)
(no subject)

Oh, of course, you only get upset only when she gets upset. If I'm upset I'm just throwing a wobbly or having a pout.

Maybe I'm glad I have to stay.



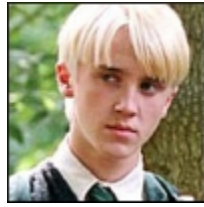
 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-18 00:03:20](#)
(no subject)

If you are aware that you are pouting, then why do you persist?

You are lucky that your mother has already insisted that you receive the full measure of her generosity with no penalty and no punishment. Otherwise I should be sorely tempted, young man, to truly *cancel* your Christmas indefinitely.

I am displeased not because you have upset your mother but because you are behaving in a most immature and

disrespectful manner. Mind you remember that we are still your parents, not your servants to bend to your whim.



 **alt_draco** at **2009-12-18 00:12:25**
(no subject)

Right. Servants don't cancel Christmas, parents do.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2009-12-18 00:17:10**
(no subject)

Oh, sweetheart.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2009-12-18 00:09:28**
(no subject)


Oh, darling. You don't mean that.

Listen to your cousin. It will be a wrench not to have you home, but you'll enjoy yourselves.

Do try to understand, son. And please don't vex your father further. He really had little choice in the matter - not, of course, that we feel you're in poor hands. Hogwarts is really quite lovely at Christmastime.

Perhaps we might come and see you, would you like that?



 **alt_lucius** at **2009-12-17 22:25:41**
(no subject)


Draco, neither your mother nor I have time for this nonsense. It is understandable that you are disappointed, as are we. But I am most surprised to see you succumb to these outbursts of childish

temperament.

You were provided an explanation that ought to have been sufficient. If you required more detail, you might have remained calm and written to us privately.


Now, I want no more of this foolishness.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2009-12-17 23:08:58](#)**
(no subject)

The tone of my writing is quite calm, actually. I merely wanted to inform you of circumstances that have come up which prevent me from acknowledging you properly on this holiday. I'm sorry that you think the explanation that I've provided you with is foolish and not sufficient. I would have written privately, but seeing as you're so very busy I wasn't certain you'd have time to read it, you see.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2009-12-17 23:22:33](#)**
(no subject)

The tone of your writing in both your message and your reply is decidedly surly and do not think that prevaricating with me is in any way acceptable, my son.

Be assured that you need not fret over sending our gifts. That is the least of our concern. As for your claim that I am too preoccupied with business to read your letters, consider that this show of petulance taxes my time and my patience much more greatly than your usual letters.



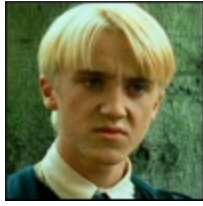
 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-17 23:33:45](#)**
(no subject)

Lucius, please. It's no use getting cross with him, anyone can understand he's upset.

Draco, he didn't mean it to sound as ... well, as dismissive as all that. Did you, my love?

We always value your letters home, son. And don't worry, dearest, we'll be sending you all you need for a jolly Christmas with Harry and your cousin Hydra. You'll barely miss being home.

Please you two, don't quarrel.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-17 23:38:52](#)
(no subject)

If you don't like it then why don't you just punish me, then. At least then I'll know I deserved it this time.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-17 23:48:10](#)
(no subject)

No one is punishing you, Draco. Neither you nor Harry have done anything wrong.

You've every right to be dismayed. Your father is just ... you know how he is.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-17 23:55:19](#)
(no subject)

Narcissa, I'll thank you not to encourage our son's display of temper.

You are naturally correct that we none of us are pleased with this outcome, but Our Lord has expressed His will and that must be enough for us all. You need make no excuses for me or for yourself; it is for Draco to accept his parents' decisions on his behalf with grace and dignity.

Our confidence in the safety of Hogwarts can be demonstrated no better than by entrusting him to the care of the school. As for the 'other reasons' that is a matter of confidential deliberation at the Ministry, as yet, and he will learn of it when it is appropriate and not before.



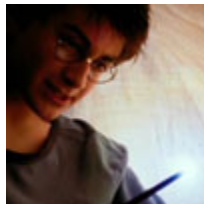
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-18 00:15:14](#)
(no subject)

Lucius, really. He's not out of bounds to be so disappointed. You two are just feeding off each other. Let him get it out of his system and he'll feel much better.

You can't expect him to accept things like an adult would, he's

still a boy. He hasn't had to grow up quickly like you did, and thank Merlin for that.

Now, I thought I heard you say that you have a few letters to return. Why don't you put the journal down and let our son cool off before you revisit the topic?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-18 02:27:38](#)
(no subject)

Well if we haven't done anything wrong then why don't we have Christmas then?

I suppose I'm not allowed to send Father a howler. I'm not allowed to do anything. And he won't say anything to me here anyway. I bet he doesn't even write me. Sometimes he forgets. But you're meaner than him. You promised Draco!!



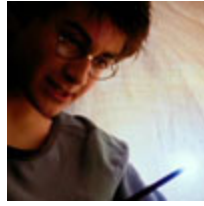
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-18 05:35:50](#)
(no subject)


You shall most certainly have a Christmas, Harry, just not the one we any of us intended.

I don't much recommend sending Him a Howler, no.

As for our promises to Draco, dear, that is for us to address with him. I do appreciate your impulse to support him, of course. We have always been pleased that you two boys are such very good friends.


But to be quite honest, I thought you would be glad that he is staying with you. Weren't you unhappy when we went away last summer and you two could not spend time together? I thought you might prefer having him there at Hogwarts with you than think of him home with us, playing host to all your classmates without you there as well.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-18 14:06:54](#)
(no subject)

Well I don't think I like EITHER very much.
Cause now it's my fault he doesn't get
Christmas!!




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-17 23:27:10](#)
(no subject)

Draco, really. I know you're upset but you hardly
need to adopt such an attitude.

about it. It's horribly unfair, of course. None of us is happy




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-18 00:02:37](#)
(no subject)

Don't you think we might make it a grand time,
Draco?

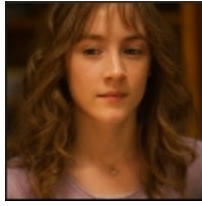
You and me and Harry, we can look all around the
castle, and it will be so much quieter than usual, with
just us, and we can go anywhere.
We can go flying in the snow, if it snows.
Maybe there will be real hot cocoa to drink.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-18 00:04:43](#)
(no subject)

Hydra, what did your letter, the one from Auntie, I
mean your Mother, say about why you had to stay in
the castle?




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-18 00:06:20](#)
(no subject)

Oh that, it didn't say a lot just that the Lord has decided Harry will stay and so I will stay too to keep Harry company and that if I keep Harry company I will be making the Lord pleased.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-18 00:07:18](#)
(no subject)

And that's... you're not upset that you have to stay? Why not?

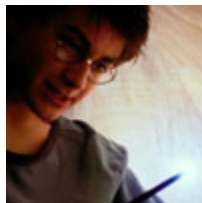


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-18 00:09:23](#)
(no subject)

I don't know.
I did want to watch Daddy work on his dark objects, so I'm sorry I'll miss that.
But I'll still get gifts I think.

And this way I can make sure that Tully doesn't bother Mummy at home.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2009-12-18 02:23:13](#)
(no subject)

Well at least we all have each other. I suppose.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-18 21:22:54](#)
(no subject)

You have the manticore by the wrong end, cousin. Your mother had no more notice than you did of this change of plans, and it is terrifically insensitive of you to rail at her when she herself is suffering disappointment. Your mother's only Christmas wish was to welcome you home.

There's more to it than that, however. It's time you learnt that we have a duty to serve in any way we are asked and at any time. I guarantee you my father and mother would have flayed me and sent my skin to the tanners had I reacted to instructions from them--let alone instructions from Our Lord--as you have done.

Our families, cousin, have always borne wizarding society on the backs of our dutiful service to the greater good, and in return for our unquestioning service, we enjoy great privileges. You behave as though it were the other way round: as if your privilege were your right before you've grown to an age where you can offer service of any note at all.

Luckily for you, your mother can't bear to have you disappointed. She and I spent the morning preparing a large array of parcels to equip you should you wish to host a holiday party of your own there at the school. You will want for nothing that the guests here will enjoy. You should expect to hear from the caretaker there this evening or tomorrow morning at the latest that a whole parliament of owls has arrived for you.

If I were you, I would begin now to rehearse an appropriate thank you for your mother.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2009-12-18 23:19:54](#)
(no subject)

Thanks ever so much for the advice. It's funny to see you talk about duty, of all things.

I appreciate Mother's efforts, but I would have rather been at the Manor with no gifts than be here with a whole parliament of them.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-18 23:34:55](#)
(no subject)

Funny? Maybe from your vantage.

Let's say that I've learnt some things about duty--and that some of those lessons have been more recent and more severe than others. I hope you never need the sort of remedial instruction I've required.

As we both know, my family illustrates a particularly bitter truth: parents may do their very best to instruct their sons in the traditions and obligations of their noble (and ancient) names, and yet those sons may stubbornly disappoint.

If you'd like to blame someone for your current lot, you need look no further than my elder brother. (And if you're wise, you won't follow the path either of us chose--as sons or subjects.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-19 05:32:49](#)
(no subject)

What?

Don't go laying the whims of that madman at *my* feet, little brother. He may claim I'm at the heart of the timing, but his depraved idea of justice just keeps getting further and further away from anything resembling reason. How is leaving these students at Hogwarts going to solve anything about the Chamber? How does it prove me wrong? It's just another case of transferring his impotent rage onto some other innocent target.

As for disappointing in the face of traditions, names and houses, perhaps it's about time the lad begins to question what lies beneath those 'noble' attributes his families boast. And who they've harmed to attain their vaulted status, as well.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-19 18:02:51](#)
(no subject)

Spreading your lies in children's pages, Black?
That's low, even for you.

As Draco knows, Our Lord sacrificed the pleasures of His own holiday so the parents of all Hogwarts's pupils will rest assured that all is well at the school. The things that have happened there are malicious pranks, nothing more; their perpetrators will be brought to light and to punishment in due time. Of that you may be quite sure.

2009-12-18 11:32:00

Order Only: Getting Ready

Frank, I was out Wednesday celebrating my birthday (a couple of times, actually) and had a bit of luck. André has a small sloop - nothing that will attract notice, I think, but definitely able to get us up to the channel. I've also been laying in wands and more fluxweed. I've not as much of the plants as last time, but I've managed to store up a dozen wands.



 [alt_sirius](#)

I'm happy to report that I didn't see anyone of note at the Quidditch match this week. I'm still keeping an eye over my shoulder, though, and I even Apparated out of the stadium, though it meant a little recovery time. So it's still a mystery, but the wizard hasn't shown his wand yet. I'll be sure to take extra precautions before we head out on Monday.

Poor Harry. I've got his Christmas present, Frank, if you don't mind getting it to Minerva? I've got to admit it'll be much easier having him at Hogwarts than Buckingham, but I admit it's hard to see the kid out of sorts.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2009-12-19 05:04:07**

(no subject)

excellent news, mate.


Al told me she sent off the coordinates to you -- did you get them? it's about twenty nautical miles east of where we had the first trade-off.

she's taking off tomorrow with victor and danny so they'll have plenty of time to get there. let's hope to merlin she doesn't get sea sick or I'll hear no end of it and she'll forget how it was her idea to go in the first place.

they'll camp on the shore the night before, and set out at morning to meet you by solstice. according to laura, it falls at 2:43 in the afternoon. not sure how much time we'll have, so we'll make the handoff as quick as we can. we've got a little package to hand off to you, too -- early christmas, late birthday.

and twelve wands is brilliant -- we can pass on two more to davidson for sure.



 **alt_alice** at [2009-12-19 05:05:20](#)
(no subject)

If I recall, darling, you're the one that gets green around the gills on open sea.

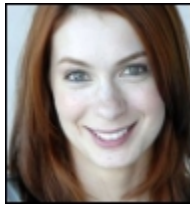



 **alt_frank** at [2009-12-19 05:07:00](#)
(no subject)

well. you be careful, any road.

and wear your lifejacket.

where are you?



 **alt_alice** at [2009-12-19 05:09:04](#)
(no subject)

Down by the boat, Victor needed help loading some things, so I lent him my wand arm for an hour. We're done, so I'll be right up.

Merlin, it's cold.

And don't you worry about me. Besides, I'll have Danny and Victor watching my back.




 **alt_frank** at [2009-12-19 05:10:33](#)
(no subject)

well get yourself up to bed and I'll warm you up right.

still, I wish we could have more wands along, in case the patrol shows up again.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2009-12-19 05:14:13](#)**
(no subject)

Well, you know how big a snit Laura would throw right now if Stephen came along. And Jacinda is in no shape, and I don't want to spend the entire trip concerned that John will do something foolish.

He has gotten much better, but I still wouldn't want the extra worry.

I'll be there in half a second. You'd better be prepared. My hands are *freezing*




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2009-12-19 18:23:16](#)**
(no subject)

The smaller the crew and craft, the better, Frank. I'd like to do this with as little magic as possible, actually - I think perhaps our use of magic is what tipped them off last time.

André and I are heading out tomorrow night, hoping to cover most of the distance under cover of darkness. I'll see Allie at the rendez-vous point just after half-past two. If you're lucky, she'll decide not to run off with me.

Two wands for Davidson sounds good, but I want to make sure that Hermione can have her pick. There's got to be some way to protect her from being discovered, but it's high past time she had her own wand. I think we ought to save one out for Terry Boot, as well, once Poppy and Pomona are able to revive him. He'll need to be able to protect himself as soon as Carrow has him back, I fear.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2009-12-20 02:02:11](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, how I hope this works! Arthur, Charlie, Bill and I will all be waiting anxiously for word that everything has gone off without a hitch.

So many wands? Wonderful! Perhaps Hermione and Terry could keep their wands for safekeeping in their secret classroom? I believe Hermione mentioned that there are wards up protecting that space for them. Or I suppose Terry can keep his in Minerva's office. (It would be utterly disastrous for Terry to let Carrow catch him using it, of course, but I'm sure he's very well of that.)

2009-12-18 17:12:00

Nev

Hey I forgot to tell you that Mr Peakes said that I could have dinner at your house. But he narrowed it down to two days. He said that you can choose between the 23rd and Boxing Day. So tell your Grandmother and let me know what she decides.



 **alt_dean**



 **alt_neville** at **2009-12-20 00:35:58**
(no subject)

Boxing Day would be wonderful. Thank you!

2009-12-19 15:47:00

Thank you, Draco!!

I'm really, really sorry you're not here, but I had to write right away because oh my goodness, your house is really BIG. And lovely!



 **alt_padma**

There's a tree here and everyone has a snowflake ornament with our names on. And each of us has a little present under the tree - I guess we're to open those later. And the food! I hope your mum sent you some of everything. It's really nift. The little crab puff things are delicious.

Oh, I have to go we're going to play musical chairs with the new records your mum put in (or maybe that was your cousin, the pirate). But really, thank you SO MUCH for this idea. It's really awful that you can't be here. I can't wait for your birthday party, now, if it's anything like this!

2009-12-19 22:58:00

Christmas Party

Well, that was brilliant. Draco, thank you very much for inviting me and I'm really sorry you weren't there, I missed seeing you.

Your family has the most amazing house ever and I hope that the next time I see it you're there so you can point out anything particularly nift that I missed. Pansy was the one who told me about the sink in the loo that plays music, I never would have noticed it otherwise as usually I just wash my hands, I don't play with the faucets to see what they do. And, I tried faking a sneeze in there and it took me three tries but the tissues finally appeared, that was also really nift to see.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Not that I spent the whole time in the loo of course, and I also really loved the food, especially the pomegranites and the starfruit. I have put the little statue of the Lord Protector on my desk here at the Stretton's and I hung up the snowflake ornament in my window. I'm going to bring it along when I go to Pansy's and hang it up on the tree there.

I'm sending a proper thank-you to your mum tomorrow Draco but Mrs Malfoy if you're reading this thank you very much for your hospitality, I had a lovely time.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-20 05:18:20**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It really was nift.

Why do you suppose Harry had to stay at school? And Draco and Hydra? I mean it does make sense that if Harry had to stay, Draco would too, but if it was just to prove the school is really safe they could have left for half a day to go to the party.

Anyway at least the Strettons let me go, they were cross about it but they didn't want to offend the Malfoys. Mrs Stretton said she'd have to think about whether to let me go to Pansy's but I think after Harry's letter arrives she'll let me, I think Harry's going to send it tomorrow and that ought to help a bit. The trouble is this year they're having me do their cooking, and they'll still want that on

Christmas Day but I don't care, they'd better let me go to Pansy's or they'll be sorry.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-20 14:40:27](#)

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

Yeah, Harry really doesn't know why they had to stay. We played chess some and snap and went exploring a bit, looking for parts of the castle we haven't seen. I think it'll get a little better for Harry now that party's over, but it's right awful for him that Malfoy has to stay because of him when he really really wanted to be home. And Malfoy's not making that any easier. The git. Or maybe he's just cheesed off that Harry's gone off with me some times.

Are you good at cooking? Is it really difficult? I mean how many of them are there? That'd be like cooking for my family! You could write my mum and get recipes. Or hints to make it easier.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-20 15:41:17](#)

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

I'm alright at cooking but I've never cooked for so many people before. Also I don't know how to do fancy things like roast beef, I'm better at soup and bread. Writing your mum is a good idea, I'll owl her this morning, I expect she knows some charms to make the washing up easier too.

I was expecting they'd send me around to the farms some like last year but I haven't set foot out the front door since I got here. I went to the Malfoy's by floo and came back by floo and the closest I've come to the outside is looking out my window. I heard shouting early this morning, I think Jeremy isn't being allowed out either.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-21 04:14:23](#)

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

Just think of it being like a Potions class. You're good at Potions. I do think it's rotten of them to expect you to cook for them on your holiday.

Do you mean they're keeping you stuck in the house? You're not allowed outside? I wonder why.

(The snowflake from Malfoy's party does look quite nice hanging in our window, but my Gran was cross about the little bust of the Lord Protector that everyone got. She wanted to throw it out, but my Great-Uncle Algie told her no, I should take it to school and keep it by my bedside there. He said it's an easy way to convince people I'm loyal and all that without actually doing anything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-21 04:22:48](#)

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

You only think I'm good at potions because you've forgotten about the times I spilled things midway through.

EVERYONE'S stuck in the house, it's not just me, and Jeremy is so cross about it I can't even tell you. They had a row about it today. They haven't even let him go out to fly and that's like making Oliver Wood stay indoors, he's furious.

Your Great-Uncle had a good thought about the bust. I was a little worried it might be charmed somehow to spy on us, but I suppose there isn't any reason to suspect the statue more than the snowflake. Anyway Gemma wanted to borrow it today so the Lord Protector got a ride on her toy flying carpet all over the house.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-21 14:27:06](#)

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

Yeah, what's to say that both things aren't charmed to watch you? I think it'd be pretty creepy to have a little statue of HIM sitting around watching you. Even if it's not really watching you, know what I mean?

So when you all come back to school, there'll be three of those standing around our dormitory? It'll be like a tiny Lord Protector museum.

He can't move, can he? I mean like Charlie's little dragon models.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-21 04:32:50](#)

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

And about the cooking, they had a muggleborn who did it for them, but the ministry made them send back all their muggleborns so they don't have their cook or their nanny or the girl who did the laundry or any of them and for some reason they haven't gotten replacements for ANY of their house servants.

Last year Mrs Stretton was hardly home at all. What she wanted me for was holding the babies as she went from farm to farm to farm on their estate. This year she hasn't set foot out the door, Mr Stretton either, even though they pace constantly and act like it's driving them absolutely mad not to go out.

It is tiring though. They're having me do ALL the cooking and ALL the washing up although at least they had Jeremy help me carry the food up from the kitchen to the dining room and then they had me sit down with them to eat, although that's probably just because Gemma begged. And honestly I think I'd rather eat separately, except for the fact that when I eat with them it reminds them I'm not really a ~~mud~~ muggleborn and they have to at least pretend to treat me like a foster-child.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-21 04:49:47](#)


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

Anyway I feel like I shouldn't complain here too much.

I could say that they're treating me like a muggleborn and that would kind of be true except for the part where they have to let me go back to school in January.

I wish I were with the Woods again though. It's really lonely here. No one talks to me except Gemma.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-21 14:32:30](#)

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

Stretton doesn't talk to you? Jeremy, I mean.
What a git.

I hear none of the Ravenclaws talk to him anymore. After what he did last year, selling those potions. Or maybe it's more because that got him dropped from Quidditch: it must be killing them they can't have one of their best players.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-21 21:27:23](#)

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

He actually talked to me a little on the train, he asked if it was true I'd practised Quidditch with Oliver over summer hols and I said yes. I thought he was going to ask me to fly with him but as long as his parents aren't letting him out he doesn't have much use for me. Or anyone else in the house.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-21 19:12:43](#)

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

I wonder . . . would Gemma tell you if you ask her why they're making everyone staying inside? Maybe she knows. Sometimes little kids pick up more than their parents realise. Maybe she's heard something.

I keep thinking about what that Sirius Black said about that sickness that's been going on in the camps. Gran usually goes to serve in the soup kitchen at Wyre once every two weeks but she hasn't for the past month because they're not letting anyone in.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-21 21:37:30](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

That was a good idea, I would have asked her but there was another enormous row with Jeremy today and I heard.

It IS the sickness, at least I think it is. Some of their muggles are sick and the Strettons are really fearful of getting it. Jeremy shouted at them that the Ministry said it was no danger to wizards and they were bad subjects. And then after more shouting he said if they didn't let him out to fly on his broom he was going to report them to MLE for having the wrong sort of ideas. I think he was bluffing and anyway would Mrs Lestranger care when all they're doing is keeping their own kids in the house? it's not as if they're writing in the journals saying 'be afraid everyone! we're all going to get sick! the Ministry is lying!' but they let him go out provided he stayed in the air and didn't go past some boundaries, I think that keeps him away from all the farms.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-20 05:56:51](#)
(no subject)

It was *beautiful*, wasn't it? You looked lovely, by the way.

Everyone looked so nice and dressed up, and the food was excellent, and I'm supposed to be in bed, but I can't sleep. I think I ate too much sugar. And my new cloak and gloves are *gorgeous*! The cloak is hanging up where I can see it from my bed, and I can hardly believe that it's mine. If it wasn't too hot to wear inside, I'd keep it on all night!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-20 06:09:29](#)
(no subject)

I should go to bed too. I'm going to have to be up early tomorrow.

[2009-12-20 09:12:00](#)

For Draco Malfoy

Thank you very much for inviting me to your party yesterday. I've sent a thank you owl to your mum too.



 **[alt_ernie](#)**

It's a shame you weren't there yourself, and Marvolo too, because it was really fun. The food was great, especially the pomegranate slices, and the pastries. The music was nice too, and the games were fun, and your house is really nice. The gifts were very generous too, thank you.

I hope you have a good Christmas, even though you're stuck at school.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2009-12-20 16:30:44](#)**
(no subject)

It was marvellous, wasn't it? I could have had a whole dozen of those little fish sandwich things, with the fennel in.

(By the way, did you see Bundy? She had about twenty packets of Ice Mice in that little bag of her when she left. She could use a few less, if you ask me!)

I heard Summers and Capper tried to find Draco's room, and they got bounced down the corridor back to the party.

What are you going to do with your statue of the Lord Protector? We've put one of ours on the mantle and the other one in the family shrine.



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2009-12-20 16:40:49](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't see that, but it's a bit cheeky, I reckon, taking that much from someone else's party. I suppose that's Gryffindors for you though.

John said they were just looking for the loo, but I think you're right and they were having a nose around. He said it was like running into a big bouncy wall and it was quite fun, but he was probably just

embarrassed that he got bounced over and fell on his backside! I wish I'd see it.

I put my statue in my room. It's in a box, so it's safe and doesn't get broken or anything. It's good that you have two. Did your sister enjoy the party too?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-20 16:56:11](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, she enjoyed it loads. But then she won at Exploding Snap and got herself a whole handful of licorice whips (and she plans to use them on Sanji!).

Did you see when Mr Black came in to check on everything - his eye? It looked like someone had really socked him a few days ago. I wonder if someone was upset about that article, you know in Bobolis' new magazine. Maybe he'll start sporting a patch to go with that hook!



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2009-12-20 17:20:43](#)
(no subject)

I was looking at his hook, I didn't really notice his eye. Did he say something bad in the article? I didn't read it, it looked quite long and the magazine seemed to be mostly lots of pictures of big houses and stuff, so I didn't think it would be very interesting.

2009-12-20 11:03:00
UN HAPPY CHRISTMAS

I HATE IT HERE

ALL MY GIFTS ARE STUPID AND I OPENED THEM ALREADY. AT LEAST THE ONES FROM FATHER AND FROM HIS FRIENDS.

DRACO IS HACKED OFF AT ME I THINK.

AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE PARTY!!!



 [alt_harry](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-20 20:05:56**
(no subject)

I'm really sorry you're having such a bad time, Harry.

Look, Parvati and I don't even celebrate Christmas, so think about that - everyone else getting presents and going to parties and we never do. This was really special.

I thought Mrs Malfoy told Draco she'd be sending loads of things up to Hogwarts, so you can all have a good time together. But maybe if Draco's cross with you he won't share.

Still, you're right it's not fair that you have to stay when no one else does. But maybe if this helps your dad prove that that awful Sirius Black fellow is barking, it's worth it?

Anyway, we're sending you a card - I asked Mum and she said it's okay. You'll like it, I bet, it's not dumb.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-20 20:37:04**
(no subject)

Oh Harry I'm sorry.

Would it cheer you up to hear about the Strettons instead of the party? I could owl you.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-20 22:30:27](#)**
(no subject)

Hey! I found a staircase I never knew about. It's over near Ravenclaw and tucked in behind--maybe I should just show you. Anywiz, it must go up to the attics!! Don't you reckon?

[2009-12-20 23:32:00](#)

Two Things

On Friday when I got off the train, Mr Peaks had an assistant to meet me there. From there we went to his office in town and then had our evening meal at a really fancy restaurant. Mr Peaks seems really nice. He told me that as long as I behaved well, that I would have nice things, and that he might even supply me with pocket money occasionally. I thought that was wiz-nift considering I have never even had any type of money, much less wizard money. But he also said that any misbehaviour would also have its repercussions.



 [alt_dean](#)

When we arrived at his house, he told me to make myself at home and that he wanted me to feel like this was my home. Especially since I will be coming here during all my breaks from here on out. I will try to settle in well, but it may take some time to adjust to the situation. When I was taken to my room to unpack and get ready for bed, there was a rectangular package sitting on my bed. It had a note sitting on top with my name on it.

The note said:


*Something nice to wear for the party tomorrow. We will get you some more things on Monday. But **remember** good behaviour is rewarded while inappropriate behaviour is not tolerated.*

Draco,

I just want to say thanks again for the invite. Your parents were nice. Your Mum will also receive a thank you from me, as its only appropriate. I experienced so much I hadn't before. It was a great party. Hopefully I will get invited to your birthday celebration.

Thanks



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-21 14:40:19](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad things are good for you there. That's great.

About that note. That's how it's supposed to work in families, I think. Just nobody bothers to say it right out like that, most of the time. So that's all right.

Unless he reckons somethings inappropriate that you thought was okay. That happens sometimes, too.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2009-12-22 02:51:14](#)**
(no subject)

Do you think he'll let you come visit here? Mr Rosier says I can have you over for a day if your guardian agrees.

[2009-12-21 09:58:00](#)

Stuck inside

It's good the train home was on Friday, because otherwise nobody could have gone. You know how it was a blizzard beginning of last week? Well it started again Saturday morning, and it's still coming down! You can't really see anything out the windows between the frost and the clouds and the snow chucking down.



 [alt_ron](#)

I mean to say, there's SO MUCH SNOW here! Mr Dawlish said yesterday it took him five hours to shift enough of it that he could get out the entrance doors. It's right up to the top of them on both sides. I bet today he'll have to build a tunnel to get out there.

Anywiz, I've been sat in front of the fire in the common room since breakfast, so I thought I'd look at that article again 'cause I didn't really read all of it before. And it's interesting about this Mr Black and his brother. I mean, he's really close to the Lord Protector, and obviously his brother's a traitor, and he talks about how they were always really, really different and how he always tried to do what his parents wanted, but his brother was always doing things he knew his parents wouldn't approve of, like wear muggle clothes and bring muggle things home and leave them where their parents would find them, just to upset them. (Like he says one time his brother, Sirius, left a muggle shaving machine on his father's chair in the dining room, so his father accidentally sat on it--and then he made Sirius show him how it worked by shaving off all his hair and wouldn't let him regrow it for the whole vacation!)

But, anyway, Mr Black--Regulus, the one the story's about--says his brother was always this big disappointment to their parents, and he says he always knew he'd never be anything like his brother because they disagreed on everything, but

But, y'know what? The way he talks about his brother when he tells stories about them, it's like

Well, it's two things. You can tell he really, really loved his brother. And he still does, just the way he talks about him, it's really sad. And then, the other thing is, I think he always just wanted his brother to-

it's like his brother never wanted him around and never acted like

anything he did was right, and it could have maybe been different if he'd cared or said he did, because I think maybe he did care but just never said. Or maybe their parents just made them, I don't know, jealous of each other, like they'd only love one of them and not the other one. They didn't treat them the same, and that turned out really awful.

It's like this one story. Regulus Black says when he was small, like 5 maybe, and his brother was 6 or maybe 7, their mother took them shopping with her in Diagon Alley, and while she was being fitted for dress robes, the boys slipped off together. So Regulus says his brother would never shirk a dare, so he dared him to show him Knockturn Alley, because the older one, Sirius, had been saying he knew all about it. So they went. And the younger brother, Regulus, kept daring things. Some of them were really little things, but maybe not too good an idea in Knockturn Alley (like 'Tell that witch her nose looks like a rutabaga.' or 'Ask if that warlock has any Goblin fingers on his cart,' when the bloke they were asking looked like his mother probably WAS a goblin.) But some of the things were bigger, and the worst was when he dared his brother to take something off the counter of one of the shops, and they got caught by this really scary man who owned the shop and he took them into the back part of the shop and told them he was going to sell the little one to a man who wanted a pureblood boy for a slave. And he was going to chop the other one up and sell his parts to apothecaries and potions dealers. But while he was busy looking the little one over to see if he was healthy, the older brother stole the man's wand and stunned him.

And, see, the thing is, the way he tells about it, you just know that Mr Black really knows his brother saved his life then and he knows his brother is a really strong wizard--that even when he was just 7 and had to use some other bloke's wand, he could cast a stunning spell that totally stupefied that man--you just know they really did care about each other. But they didn't know it then, and, actually, I don't know if he knows it now. It's like he says one thing, but it's really something else he doesn't maybe see.

It's like, the writer says he asked Black what he'd say if he could talk to his brother now, and he says he'd say, 'You can never go home again.' But then the writer says he said the same about himself now he's come back from wherever he went for a long time. He says he came back, but it can never be the same again--it's not really home ever again, even though his mother wanted him home, it's just all different than it was or was supposed to be.

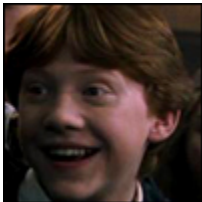
Yeah, I don't know. It just seems dead sad.




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-21 19:47:01](#)**
(no subject)

Very sad, I agree.

I've had enough of reading for today. I got a couple large serving trays from the elves in the kitchens and transfigured them into a pair of toboggans. What do you say to trying them out on that hill behind the owlry?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-22 01:50:52](#)**
(no subject)

That was really wizard, whizzing down towards the lake. I don't think I've ever seen so much snow! My eyes are still sort of sparkling from how bright it got when the sun came out.

If it's fair again tomorrow, maybe Harry'll want to go with us. Or are you going to be back to reading?




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-22 05:31:04](#)**
(no subject)

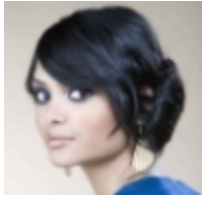
Even Prefects need time off from revising, especially during the holiday.

I'm sure I can get the house elves to dig up another couple trays if Harry'd like to join us, or even Draco Malfoy.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2009-12-22 17:32:51](#)**
(no subject)

We've had snow, but not as much as at Hogwarts, I reckon. But it's been cold, and my Great-Uncle took me and Evelyn ice skating yesterday.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-21 22:05:23](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah, it's obvious that if that Sirius bloke were any sort of good wizard he'd have had the same kinds of interests as Mr Black. And then they'd have got on better.


I mean, like that bit where Mr Black talks about assisting his father with duels and all. And meanwhile his brother was being a little toerag and making his parents all berserk with filthy muggle stuff all over the place. Anybody can see that Mr Black must have had a horrible time trying to be twice as good because his brother was so bad.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 02:27:14](#)
(no subject)

Is that how you feel about your marks? Since Parvati doesn't do very well, you have to try twice as hard? Seems like it's dead awful for her, too--y'know how she gets every time they give out our standings in a subject, like you should really not get in her way or you might get hexed. That's no joke, either. Ask Bundy!




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 03:15:34](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't feel like I have to try twice as hard, and I certainly don't think my parents love either of us less than the other, but yeah, there's some pressure to sort of make sure that I don't fall

behind at all.

Bundy deserves it, anyway. She's always telling Parvati her nose is crooked.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 03:23:43](#)
(no subject)

Did you hear after the Potions standings came out, she had to go to Madam Pomfrey to get her mouth put back. I think they were all trying to keep that one pretty quiet, and anyway, it might've been Lav


that did it.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 04:29:32](#)
(no subject)

Oh, who cares who did it? I'm sure it's only because she's always saying things she oughtn't.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 02:28:30](#)
(no subject)

That was interesting stuff about Mr Black's duels, though. The father's, I mean. And about all the stuff they did to prepare, like brushing his robes to remove any kind of what did he call it? like extra magical leftover stuff-residue? so his opponent's spells wouldn't be attracted by that. I didn't know that could happen.

And I know there was stuff we read for duelling club about oiling a wand so the magic passes through it better and resonates more as it collects the spell and sends it out, but I'd never heard of anyone actually doing that. I mean, I guess I thought it was just sort of theory--y'know, book stuff that you don't actually ever do.

And the Rites of Fair Fortune, I mean, everybody's heard of them, but I thought it was just something in adventure stories. I didn't know they were actual, real things people do before a duel. Or maybe Mr Black thought he was like a knight from the old times, riding out to fight for his good name and the honour of wizard kind.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-22 02:40:04](#)
(no subject)

Maybe you should oil your wand. Reckon it would help?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 03:04:00](#)
(no subject)

No.

But it probably wouldn't hurt so maybe it's worth a try.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 03:09:35](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm pretty sure mine's past the point where that'd help.

Have you tried it with yours? Maybe you've done it too much, and that's why you set stuff on fire like you do sometimes.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-22 03:37:45](#)
(no subject)

I hardly ever set things on fire!

My wand doesn't need oiling anyway it works fine the way it is. Though maybe if I were planning on duelling I'd try it.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 03:13:24](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I mean, I guess because it was his first one? D'you reckon maybe they were more formal about it all? Like when you make a potion or follow a recipe for the first time, you're always looking at the instructions and measuring it all out really, really carefully. With some potions you have to do that all the time, but sometimes you

can make your own changes to it, or not be as precise, and it comes out okay. Like when we make naan or papadams. We don't always use exactly the same amount of flour. Maybe when they started it was really important to follow the rules exactly, but as he got more practised he didn't need to every time.

Or maybe he did!




 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-22 03:37:27**
(no subject)

I thought it sounded like they took the rituals pretty seriously, so I bet they did it each time the same. Like how the son should do those things for his father.

I guess that's part of it, too, why his father was so wrecked about the other one leaving the family. I mean, they vanished his name off the family tree! If you ask me, they're dead committed to rituals, the Blacks, and really old magics. Stuff you don't hear anyone else doing anymore.

I wonder what they do when somebody dies. Didn't they just have a funeral recently? I wonder if they did any really ancient stuff for that?



 **alt_padma** at **2009-12-22 04:38:07**
(no subject)

Didn't your mum go to that funeral? Huh, I just realised that means you're related a little bit.

Too bad you're not home or you could ask her.

And they vanished his name off the family tree because he's a blood traitor. And yeah, I mean, my parents do get sort of upset when they think Parvati doesn't apply herself, but really, I can't imagine her up and deciding to go be like a muggle! I don't even want to think what it'd take for my mum and dad to disown one of us! But it sounds like he was always, what's the word, um, flouting muggle things, too. Like he wanted them to disown him.


But I'm sure that when someone gets married and all, they have rituals to add names to the trees, so I'm certain there must be

one to blast someone off, too.

That's more of a western thing, though. Our families do it differently. We have these little shrines, with all our ancestors represented, see. That's where we put one of our busts, of the Lord Protector--oh, you didn't get one because you weren't at Malfoy's party--the Malfoys gave everyone these nift busts of the Lord Protector. We put one up in our shrine, so we can leave offerings there along with the ones for the ancestors, and it'll bring us good fortune. Just like that Rite of Fair Fortune's supposed to do, only more general. Not specifically for a duel or anything.

Hm, I'll have to ask my dad about Indian duels. I'm sure it depends who you're duelling--like if you're duelling someone from your own caste it's different to a duel with someone lower or higher.



 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-22 20:16:09**
(no subject)

Yeah, Mum did go. That's how I knew it happened.

We're all related, you know, and not just a little bit. Well, all the English wizarding families, I mean. If you go back far enough, we've all married each other five or six times at least, or else we've killed each other. Some of both in every family, I reckon. So we're either joining trees together or blasting each other's names off the trees to make separate ones.

That's one of the sad things about the Blacks--they're dying out. Maybe there are still cousins somewhere, but what if Sirius Black, wherever he is, ends up being the only one to have children. I don't know whether he has any. Do you? I don't think I've ever heard. But if he did have, and if his brother doesn't, those could be the only Blacks someday, and would that mean they wouldn't count? Because of who their father was? Would one of the really old families just die out, y'know, officially? Because their father was a traitor and moved out of the country and all? You know, there are actually a load of old families that are sort of down to their last one or two, it seems like. I mean, isn't Nott the last one in his family? And Malfoy? And

||||| Parkinson. I mean, my family's not and some others, but I guess it's good families like yours and the Sandovals moved here when they did.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2009-12-22 02:39:20](#)
(no subject)

Theres snow here to, its wizard!

Mr Rosier has a copy of the magazine so I borrowed it to read the article. I know what you mean about it being sad. ~~Mr Black~~ I mean the good Mr Black tries so hard to be a good subject of Our Lord but he'll always be stuck sharing a name with his brother. You can tell he has good memories from when they were boys because how couldn't he?

I reckon he wants MLE to find his brother so his brother quits embarasing him. But it makes him sad too because once they do, you KNOW what will happen and he'll miss that awful bloke when he's gone. Because he's his brother.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 17:29:37](#)
(no subject)

Ugh, imagine having to miss someone as horrible as him. I mean, he's one of the ones the Ministry is always trying to catch, right? Most wanted.

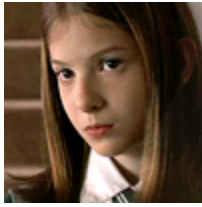
Mum took us to her shop yesterday and there were signs all over at the Owl Post Office and outside Gringott's, offering rewards for his capture.

It must be awful to care even a little. I can't even bear to think about if it were Parvati. If Sanji wound up being a murderer, then I guess it would be.... Well, it would still be awful, but honestly when he's following us around sometimes I think it might be nice to lock him up forever somewhere where he couldn't bother us.

But if Haruman went and started saying all sorts of daft, soft stuff about muggles and mudbloods, then it'd be dead awful. I mean, obviously, he'd be wrong and he'd have to be stopped, but--

Okay, yeah, I don't want to think about that.

What did you ask Mr Rosier for for Christmas, Finnigan?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 02:59:26](#)
(no subject)

Pansy got a copy from Morag so I had a look at it before I left Hogwarts. And it turns out Jeremy brought a copy home and he said I could take it if I wanted so I had another look.

It's an interesting article. I wonder where he really was during those ten years? He doesn't sound like he expects people to believe him about the bedsit.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 03:10:08](#)
(no subject)

I dunno where he was but I don't think it was Milton Keynes, that's for certain. Who would stay there?

And besides, I don't think he wanted anyone making a point about it, but didn't he come back with two hands?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 03:14:11](#)
(no subject)

Did he?

I didn't know that. What happened then?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2009-12-22 03:18:55](#)
(no subject)


I don't know for sure. It was in the old journals. The ones they gave us last year. But I think I remember that he came back, and then he got hurt somehow, and he wasn't staying with his mum, but then he was, and Mrs Malfoy had to stay there too for a bit, to help him. And I think Mrs Les Lestran Hydra's mum gave him the hook. Ask Parkinson, I'm sure she'll know. She knows all about him!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 03:32:22](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I remember that now, and him getting hurt.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 03:57:11](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

I thought the Lord Protector cut it off. Like a loyalty thing. Because he went away and didn't come back when he was supposed to.

I thought it was like those marks some of them are supposed to have, that mean they belong to the Protector's court or whatever, only this is something everyone can see, so it's like a reminder of how he made a hash of things and can't afford to do that again.

I'm not sure we're supposed to talk about this stuff, though. I thought maybe that's why the story didn't really say.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 04:26:16](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Oh the Dark Mark isn't a punishment though, it's an honour. Or it's supposed to be anyway.

I think you're right about the Lord Protector cutting it off though, or having someone else do it. I wasn't paying much attention back then to what he wrote in the journals. It was hard enough keeping track of my housemates' families and how they were all connected without worrying about an uncle Draco didn't like anyway.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 13:18:19](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Yeah, I didn't mean it was a punishment, the mark, but it's a sign they belong to Him. And giving up his hand, that's sign that's the same and different all at once, you know.

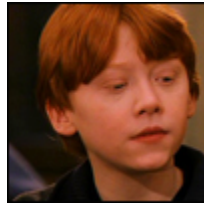



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 04:28:34](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Do Gryffindors really not know what they're called or were you just pretending you didn't know?

I mean you at least know whose parents have them, don't you?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 13:18:41](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

I know a bunch of Slytherins' parents have it. Malfoy, Goyle, Crabbe, Nott, Avery, but I bet there are others I don't know. I mean, obviously, your parents don't, but what about Pansy's mum? I think her dad did. What about Bulstrode? or Greengrass? And that's just our year. And just the Slytherins.

But we don't talk about it at home, and I didn't know anybody did really. It's kind of. Well, you know about it, but you try not to ever say anything directly about it. It's one of those things my parents don't like to talk about. Like you shouldn't. I never thought about why. Just. I don't think my parents think it's an honour, y'know. More it's a mark of who you should stay away from.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-22 17:27:37](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

My Gran's the same way. She won't talk about it really, but there's a man in our town who has the Dark Mark, and my Gran won't have anything to do with him, even though he's on the committee that runs the local hospital where my Gran volunteers. She's real polite to his face whenever she has to speak to him, but she crosses the street to the other side whenever she sees him coming, if she thinks she can get away with avoiding him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 05:33:20](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Pansy's father did. Milli's parents don't, nor do Daphne's. Moran's father does. It's more fathers than mothers but Hydra isn't the only one whose parents both have a Dark Mark.

A lot of the people who have them are quite dangerous. I mean no one in their right mind gets in Bellatrix Lestrange's way. But Hydra's father doesn't seem too bad. And Regulus Black isn't -- well at least he isn't like Bellatrix.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-22 17:24:53](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Just imagine having your hand cut off to prove that you're loyal. Ugh.

I don't reckon I ever want to do anything to serve anybody like that.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 20:17:04](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

Too right.



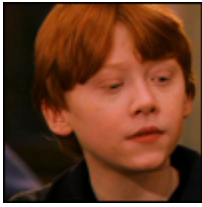
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 03:03:19](#)


I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Also you don't reckon he said that bit about not 'being at the right place in life for starting a family' because he has his eye on PANSY do you? I mean if he does he'll have to wait, she's only twelve, but maybe he thinks he'll just wait until she comes of age, five years doesn't seem that long to adults. UGH.

I mean Padma goes on about how Pansy talks to him, she acts like there's something wrong with it and there isn't anything wrong with

Pansy talking to HIM but I'm not sure what I think about Regulus Black talking to HER.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-22 03:19:26](#)

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

Oh, uh. I don't know. Psyche Bobolis was saying Mr Black's dating her cousin. You know, the bloke who wrote the article? She and Kirke were talking about it and laughing, y'know, saying that's what he meant about not starting a family. Like he hadn't told his mum he's not very likely to, y'know. Get married.

I don't know. He does seem to like to talk to Pansy. But it's about books and cooking and elves and pirates and, I dunno. D'you think there's something wrong with that? I mean, it's sort of like he's her uncle or something. Almost. But, yeah. He's not really.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2009-12-22 03:34:39](#)

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

Oh he's dating a

So he

Well that's alright then because it means he's not after Pansy, not that way anyway.

He talks to her in a way that's fine if he thinks of her as a cousin or a younger sister. And, she did stay with his mum for a while and I don't think he likes his mum either.

2009-12-21 14:22:00

Order Only: Waiting

I'm here - at least, the compass says we are.

We've been patrolling back and forth a bit.

It's just like before: horribly uncomfortable feeling, like we ought not to be anywhere near the ward lines. And it's cold. I mean, it's cold anyway, but it's really cold here near the wards.



 [alt_sirius](#)


Allie, is that your boat over by the horizon line?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2009-12-21 20:00:41**
(no subject)

Do be careful out there. Both of you.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2009-12-21 20:09:19**
(no subject)

We're all right. That was Allie's craft and everything else is clear in all directions.

The wards dropped about 2:40. We're transferring the goods now. André says he'll sound the horn if anything shows up to trouble us. I want to see how long they stay down. Don't worry we're not risking getting caught on the wrong side, either of us.

You said you'd read the article on Reg? Allie's got a copy of it for me.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2009-12-21 20:30:51**
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear it's going well, although I doubt any of us will rest until you're all safety back to where you ought to be.

I've read that article, yes. I picked up a copy to look at the pictures

and just intended to skim through the article itself. I expected it to be the same old Protectorate propaganda, but there was actually rather a lot about you. It's an interesting read. I suspect it will make you quite cross.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2009-12-21 20:46:50](#)
(no subject)

Wards have closed up now. Just about an hour; good to know.

I'm planning to read it on the trip back. Saw Arthur's son's post about it - dunno if that tells us more about Ron or my brother, though.

Allie gave me a picture of your godson, too. Goofy-looking kid. He's got your ears. Anything I ought to know?




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-21 21:25:51](#)
(no subject)

The wards were down for an hour? That's wonderful--much better than Charlie had hoped.

I got a patronus from Charlie. There's been no alarm of any kind there at the dragon reserve, so I think that your incursion has escaped detection entirely. Excellent news!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-21 21:28:54](#)
(no subject)

I've been monitoring the emergency communication networks here at the Ministry. No alarms here at all, either. Well done, Alice and Sirius!



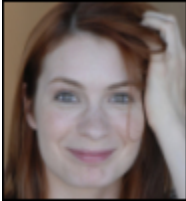
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2009-12-21 21:28:11](#)
(no subject)

A whole hour. There's a lot of potential in an hour.

I think it tells us quite a lot about both. I look

forward to hearing your thoughts when you've read it.

Only that one set of ears looks very much like another. I think he looks very like Frank.



 **alt_alice** at **2009-12-22 00:41:44**
(no subject)

We're back ashore and just finished setting up camp for the night. We didn't see a soul in the air the entire time we were at sea, so I'm fairly positive they didn't even bother sending out a patrol.

I'm glad I got to wish you Happy Christmas in person, darling.

[2009-12-21 15:36:00](#)

Order Only

First of all, congratulations to those of you out there bobbing along in boats in this cold weather, and also to Charlie. That was a fine bit of undercover work on his part to discover the gap in the ward's coverage.




 [alt_bill](#)

Secondly, I've put together some of the reports that Kingsley and the Players have been sending me about those missing half-bloods, but the clues have been frustratingly sparse. However, one of my analysts sent me something this morning and I'm wondering if it's related: it seems very hush-hush, but we have indications that there's a new locked ward at St Mungo's. Budgetary reports are missing from that specific location: I have no idea how big the ward is or from where they're getting their supplies. As best as we can determine, it was apparently set up three days before the first missing person report was filed.

Kingsley, have you managed to find out anything more since last we spoke?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-22 16:44:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes, yes! I second Bill's congratulations to Alice and Sirius and all who managed such a daring escapade. Bravo!

That's most interesting, Bill, about St Mungo's. I'm afraid I haven't been able to confirm it--and not for want of trying. I've had several firetalks with a variety of folks there--end of year business, you know--and none of them has said anything I could tie to this suggestion that there might be a secret ward. We did talk about the closed section of their spell damage ward where they treat those unfortunates who have suffered irreversible damage in the interrogation wing at Buckingham--they continue to operate well above capacity there. You might have thought the talk would have turned to this 'new' ward, if it exists, but if it does, they must all be on strictest orders not to breathe a whisper of it.

I will keep my ears open, though.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2009-12-22 16:54:16](#)
(no subject)

Nothing new on the half-bloods on the list you've given me. But another half-blood is missing, and this one had a roommate. The roommate said she sickened with something that hit her very fast, so severely that the roommate summoned a healer via Emergency Floo. They transferred her immediately, and now St Mungo's is refusing to answer any questions about her.

2009-12-21 15:37:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



So I wrote to the Strettons right away and told them I was going to Pansy's for Christmas, it was all arranged already. They didn't answer, but they didn't send me any owls at all so that wasn't surprising.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

When I got here they didn't want to talk about it and then Mrs Stretton said she didn't know what they were going to do without me, it's been so hard for them without anyone to help with the cooking. Except by Christmas Eve all their parcels are shipped! So Mrs Stretton (or Mr Stretton! it's not like there's some charm on the stove that makes it work just for girls) can make their Christmas dinner and leave me out of it. They did let me go to Draco's party, but then afterward Mrs Stretton said, 'well, you see, we DID let you go to THAT party' and tried to make out that I was being unreasonable for wanting to go to Pansy's.

I wasn't sure if it would be better to stay calm and act like I was taking it for granted that they'd let me go, or if it would be better to shout and stamp my foot like the rest of them do. I decided to stick with staying calm at least for now, I could always fly into a temper at them later if I thought that would help. One thing I was certain of was that crying wouldn't do me any good, Mrs Stretton doesn't care if she makes me sad but I think she's just a little worried about making me angry.

Back at school when I first found out I was going back to the Strettons I asked Harry to send me a letter so I could act like we were best chums, and in exchange -- well anyway, Harry had the letter delivered today and I was only expecting an owl but he had a man in the Lord Protector's livery bring it by floo and hand-deliver it, he even snubbed Mrs Stretton when she tried to take it and said it was from the Lord Protector's son for Miss Sally-Anne Perks, she had to call me up from the kitchen and I was all covered in flour from kneading the bread dough, which honestly was just about perfect, it couldn't have embarrassed Mrs Stretton any more if I'd planned it out.

The letter just said 'Dear Sally-Anne, Cheers, Harry,' but I acted all mysterious about it and tucked it in my pocket so Mrs Stretton didn't read it and then I asked if the messenger could wait and I sent a letter


back with him to Harry. He said he was happy to wait for a message to the Lord Protector's Son, so I borrowed paper and pen and sat down right in Mrs Stretton's study while she glared at me and I wrote a little note back to Harry and the messenger took it off to him.

Anyway Mrs Stretton just came down to the kitchen and told me that she and Mr Stretton had discussed it and it will be perfectly all right for me to go to Pansy's, I may leave after lunch by floo on the 24th and return first thing in the morning on the 26th.

Also, they're letting Jeremy 'borrow me' tomorrow so I'll get to go flying, he wants someone to throw the quaffle with even though he's not on the Ravenclaw team anymore. Which will also be wizard. I'm supposed to make sandwiches for everyone to have for lunch after breakfast is over and then I can go out until mid-afternoon when I have to come back to make supper.

And Ron I did write to your mum and she sent me a letter full of helpful advice. I couldn't get the washing-up charm to work yet but I made mashed potatoes at lunch and the mashing charm worked perfectly. At least I liked them, everyone else complained I didn't use enough butter. I don't know what they were complaining about, I thought I put in loads, at least twice what I'd have used at home. With my parents, I mean.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-21 23:21:56](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

You are **SUCH** a Slytherin!!


That's a compliment, y'know.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 00:11:06](#)
(no subject)

Of course it is. Thank you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 01:42:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and I'm glad Mum had some spells to help with all that cooking. It sounds awful the way they're treating you, but how funny Mrs Stretton got caught out like that when the messenger came! I bet she didn't like you sitting down at her desk and getting flour all over. That's only a little of what she deserves to happen to her, though.

So there really is a bad disease out there that the Ministry's not saying anything about? Why wouldn't they just tell the truth about it? I mean, other times when Muggles have got sick with nasty diseases, there're articles in The Prophet about how Muggles aren't as strong as wizards and since they don't keep clean, they get sick, and how it all just shows the Ministry is doing the right thing keeping them all locked up in camps and whathaveyou. So why aren't they just saying that now? Or maybe they are. I don't really read it all that often, but I haven't heard people saying those things.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 02:17:52](#)
(no subject)

During that row today Mr and Mrs Stretton said it was flu going around at the farms and factories. But Jeremy thought if THEY really thought it was flu they'd use a bubblehead charm and get on with it, because flu's not usually that dangerous and anyway the Ministry keeps saying there's no danger to wizards. Mrs Stretton tried to say they're trying to keep the babies safe, Marcellus and Valentina are toddlers now but they're still really little. But Jeremy didn't believe them.

They'd ALL read that Grim Truth about the 'Scourge' or whatever Black called it. That was really obvious. Even if none of them wanted to admit they read the things he writes.

Anyway, it sounds like they might have a lot of sick muggles here.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 02:52:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, I hope you don't get sick. That'd be awful on top of having to work for those people like you're their servant. They should take better care of the people who do work for them and then they wouldn't be in such a mess.

Anywiz, I hope you have fair weather for flying. I bet you can fly rings around Stretton now, after training with Wood.

We went sledding today, and it was wizard. Percy transfigured toboggans out of trays from the kitchens, and we went out past the owlry, but the snow was so high, we had to walk in this path Dawlish made that goes out to the creature pens, and then Percy charmed a set of steps into one of the banks and we climbed up on top of all the snow. I'd have tried it, but I'd probably have caused the whole great wall of snow to cave in on top of us. So, anyway, it was really great. We went whooshing all the way down the hill almost to the lake.

I thought maybe the lake'd be frozen over, but it's not. Not all the way. And the part that is freezing up keeps making these really horrible cracking noises, so we stayed well clear of that!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 02:56:12](#)
(no subject)

It snowed here too but not that much. At least, it didn't look like that much from inside.

Jeremy's been pacing around and messing with his broom and saying we're going flying tomorrow no matter HOW hard its snowing. I think he's a bit mad from being in the house since we got home, he didn't even have Draco's party to go to.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-22 02:57:03](#)
(no subject)

Also I don't expect I'll get sick as I'm stuck here in the house and no one in the house is sick.

I mean I'd have to be around a sick person to catch it from them wouldn't I?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-22 17:20:35](#)
(no subject)

My Gran's been real worried about it, ever since they closed the camps so she can't do the soup kitchen at Wyre. She's been asking around, because she's worried about the people she's used to seeing there regularly. From what she's heard, it's nasty for the muggles, but even worse for the muggleborns. But she hasn't heard of any halfbloods or purebreds getting it.

At least, not yet.

I think it's a good thing the Strettons are keeping you inside. I mean, it must be awful to be cooped up like that, but better not to take the chance.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-22 17:17:41](#)
(no subject)

I'll say. And good on Harry Marvolo for helping you out that way.

2009-12-21 23:47:00

(no subject)

Well, another successful Christmas party is over.



Though it wasn't nearly the same without our son, I daresay our guests all enjoyed themselves (some more than others - it always seems that someone overindulges and has to stay until the next morning). And most of them behaved, as well. I was quite surprised to find that Lucius and I had no cause to regret our decision to indulge Reg by including his own (admittedly small) invitation list. One can never be too sure.

 [alt_narcissa](#)

Draco, it was a lovely idea to have your friends from school come. It was certainly enlightening to see them all. I've received many of their thank-you notes already. It's always reassuring to know which families instill proper manners in their children. I'm so sorry that you missed it, dear.

And Harry, we would have loved to see you, as always. You and Draco ought to receive your own presents and everything you and Hydra need for a proper Christmas celebration, assuming the owls can carry it all through the snow - and if not, I shall make sure that the Headmistress makes arrangements to let me send it by Floo.

Lucius had a few meetings today, including taking his god-daughter to Aunt Walburga for tea. I had planned to go as well but with the handful of guests still here yesterday, coupled with packing up the last of the items for Draco at school, I chose to spend a few precious moments alone instead of accompanying them. I do think I might pop into that shop of Reg's tomorrow morning, though, for a few last-minute items.

That will have to be the last of the shopping, however. Our agenda through the week is extremely full. The Ministry holiday reception is tomorrow, after the St Mungo's Junior Auxiliary luncheon. Then there are cocktails with the Sandovals' before the opera, Christmas Eve supper at Buckingham, of course, and our traditional family Christmas on Boxing Day at my mother's.

It's hard to believe it's our first Christmas in over ten years without Draco with us. I suppose it had to happen sooner or later.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-22 16:20:49](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, cousin. I thought he behaved himself admirably, and I must say, he knows how to meet people.

Pity about Bagman and that dreadful girl. For several minutes there, I thought it might descend from burlesque to become an actual scene.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-22 16:41:48](#)
(no subject)

Indeed, I'm fairly certain he lined up articles for the next six months. Possibly the entire year. I do see what you see in him, I'll give you that. Charming.

Ludo. Well, it's always a chance with him, but what can one do? Lucius finds him amusing, and I admit that in past years, he has been more than entertaining. I believe Pandora still talks about the year Ludo convinced two of the *Witch Weekly* models to help him reenact his famous match with Wimbourne against Appleby. They played his bludgers and ... well, best leave it there. It was vastly diverting. And that was a long time ago, as well. He used to be every bit the Adonis as your young Ganymede.

Lately, however, it seems he cannot maintain the line between just enough and far too much. However, no scenes at my parties, that's an absolute rule.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-22 20:23:16](#)
(no subject)

I think that may prove true. The most difficult thing he'll face is determining which property and persons to profile first and which must wait. That could become ticklish very quickly!

And about Bagman, I give you credit: I was impressed with how efficiently he and his banshee were whisked out of view and earshot. Do you offer lessons to the Witches Institute on hostessing finesse?



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2009-12-22 16:24:15](#)**
(no subject)

Tea with Mother went reasonably well. Which is to say that she was pleased with the girl and no more than usually sour with me.

2009-12-22 10:29:00

you can hear the sound of the quiet now



 [alt_hydra](#)

The castle's very different when there aren't many people in it.

It's quieter and bigger than ever, and the common room stays tidier for longer.

Instead of eating at the Slytherin table, everyone eats in the same place, one long table in the centre of the room, but still a bit spread out, with Slytherins and Ravenclaws and the other houses on their own sides, but talking more to each other than they usually would at mealtime.

The food seems better, too, I wonder if that's because there are fewer people for the elves to cook for?

A lot of the other children who've stayed behind are people I don't know.

I saw a ginger haired boy, though, he must've have been a Weasley, and then I thought I saw another one, too, but I didn't see all of them.

I wonder why some would stay at the castle and not the others?

Maybe they were ordered to stay, but I wonder why.

Just wondering, not asking.

It was nice to read about the Malfoy party, it was always the best part of the year.

Last year there was a gingerbread house big enough to walk in, and a fountain of hot cocoa to drink from.

I wonder how hard it is to make a fountain of hot cocoa?

I wouldn't mind trying.

Harry, did you notice how many owls have come for Draco?

He hasn't opened any of the parcels yet, though, I'm not sure that he wants to.

Maybe if we said we would help him, he'd open them?

Because it still doesn't feel like Christmas yet at all, and there's only a few days left to feel it.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2009-12-22 23:29:26**

(no subject)


I think perhaps you ought to see if Draco will let *you* open the parcels, dear, if he won't do it. There's no reason for him to continue in such a sulk.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 02:18:48](#)
(no subject)

A fountain of hot cocoa sounds wizard. They didn't have one this year but they had a lot of other nift stuff. I wish you'd been able to come, the party would have been more fun with you and Draco and Harry.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-23 20:12:32](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Hydra.


I was just talking with Pansy Parkinson--well, writing back and forth here in the journals, anywiz--and she said I should introduce myself to you.

She said you play chess. Is that right? I like to play, too, and thought maybe, if you'd like, we could play some time. I've got my board in the Great Hall and was thinking I'd go down there now to see if anyone's around who wants to play--since it's nasty outside again and there's not a lot to do in our common room, y'know.

So, anywiz, if you'd like to play sometime, that'd be great.

And, oh yeah, I should have said. I'm Ron Weasley.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2009-12-24 14:44:48](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'm sorry.
I didn't see this until now.
I play chess with my Daddy, I don't know if I'm very good because I think he lets me win.

If you still want to play today I would.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-24 15:41:51](#)**
(no subject)


Hi, Hydra.

We could play today if you wanted. Maybe after lunch? I just like to play, so it's okay if you've only played with your father. It'll be fun.

See you later, maybe.

Ron




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2009-12-24 17:15:40](#)**
(no subject)

Alright, I will find you after lunch.
Or I suppose I'll see you at lunch, since the great hall isn't very full.
Why're you staying at the castle over hols?

If I may ask.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-25 03:12:53](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it's kind of complicated to explain. Why I didn't go home. But we all stayed last year because my parents were visiting my brother, Charlie, at the dragon preserve, and we couldn't all go along there. I kind of like it here when it's almost empty like this and there are no lessons. Anywiz, it's okay.

Yesterday Professor Brutka came and played a game of chess with me, and then I went with him to the owlry because some of the school owls have got colds or something, and he needed to check on them. They seemed all right to me, but I guess maybe it's hard to tell if an owl's caught cold.

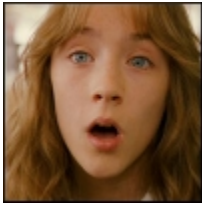


 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-25 14:10:18**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Hydra Lestrangle.

It was nift, playing chess yesterday. Thanks for bringing the chocs along.

Oh, and I enjoyed meeting Tully. He seems to like it here, doesn't he?



 **alt_hydra** at **2009-12-25 18:52:22**
(no subject)

I got a new hutch for Tully for Christmas, he seems ever so pleased with it.

And some nice sweet hay for him to eat, too.

Thank you for the chess game.

I hope you got nice things for Christmas.

From,
Hydra

2009-12-22 15:56:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



~~Jeremy and I went flying today and~~

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

~~I saw something today I~~

~~Jeremy counted, he's such a Ravenclaw, there were 134~~

It's true what Sirius Black said about the sickness.

I have to go make dinner now. ~~I washed Neville I wish I just want to leave, I want to get out of here, floo myself to Pansy's or Hogwarts or anywhere, and Gemma's coming~~



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-22 22:16:41**
(no subject)


I didn't go down close enough to get infected so don't worry. Jeremy and I rode our brooms and he also showed me how to cast the bubblehead charm and we just looked down from the air.

There were 134 bodies lying in a field. Lined up in rows. Jeremy counted. There were more the next field over but he decided not to count those. And we didn't go to any of the other farms.

We saw people out trying to dig graves only they couldn't the ground was too hard and I saw one of them fall down right where he was digging.

~~If I'd been a Gryffindor I would've gone down to try~~



 [alt_ron](#) at **2009-12-22 22:32:39**
(no subject)

Do you really have to stay there? Do you think if you asked the Headmistress you could come back here? Or if you asked Professor Slughorn?

134 is a lot.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 00:59:33](#)
(no subject)

It's alright Ron, I'm not as upset as I was earlier.

I can just stay in the house, like the Strettons want me to anyway.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 22:33:07](#)
(no subject)

Did Stretton tell his parents?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 00:58:53](#)
(no subject)

No. We agreed before we set out it would be a secret, he doesn't want to get in trouble any more than I do. And then after we got back he made me promise him I wouldn't breathe a word to them, and he promised me too without me asking.

I think he just wants to forget everything he saw.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-23 21:53:24](#)
(no subject)

Blimey, I don't even know what to say.

Do you . . . do you think that's why they're making Harry Marvolo stay at school? Because they know? But they let all the rest of us kids go home?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-24 04:40:05](#)
(no subject)

You're cleverer than your marks make you look, Nev.

I think you're dead on. I mean yesterday I wanted more than anything to go back to Hogwarts, no matter if Carrow or some never-aging thousand-year-old monster is going around petrifying people.

Mr Malfoy has to know how bad it is. The Lord Protector too.

Though surely Ron's father knows too, doesn't he work in Muggle Domestication? And they let Fred and George go home, and Ginny, instead of making them stay at school with Ron. Maybe Mr Malfoy was afraid Draco would slip away like Jeremy and I did to go look, I don't think there's a muggle camp near Malfoy Manor but there might be muggles working on an estate nearby.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-24 06:01:46](#)
(no subject)

DID YOU SEE what Mr Malfoy wrote in his journal tonight? About Mr Avery?

They ARE afraid of getting sick. They know wizards aren't immune to whatever it is, and they don't know if St Mungo's can cure it if they catch it.

2009-12-22 16:16:00

Holiday

My holiday with the Strettons is going very well!



Gemma Stretton saw me reading my journal and wanted to see it so I'm writing this entry so she can see how it works!


 **alt_sally_anne**

Gemma is four years old so it'll be seven whole years before she gets to go to Hogwarts. She thinks she'll probably be a Ravenclaw like her big brother Jeremy and their parents but she says it wouldn't be SO bad to be a Slytherin because after all, I'm a Slytherin and she likes me a lot. Her magic manifested this year which was very exciting to her, her parents gave her new brown shoes and she had wanted new red shoes and she turned them red! She's wearing her beautiful red shoes right now in fact.

She says she'd like to wish a Happy Christmas to all of my friends.

Now I'm going to post it so she'll be able to see how it looks in the journal when I'm done writing it. The exciting thing is that EVERYONE ELSE can see it too, not only my friends but people I haven't even met (though I don't know why they'd bother reading my journal). Happy Christmas to everyone!



 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-22 22:44:04**
(no subject)


Happy Christmas, Gemma Stretton! And, you, too.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2009-12-23 01:06:01**
(no subject)

Gemma says, 'Happy Christmas, Ron Weasley!'



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-22 22:46:09](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

Whoa. How do you even do that?

Just pretend everything's all right when it's totally not, but you can't tell a four-year-old kid any of it. I couldn't do that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 00:57:47](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I had to do something fast, Gemma came in while I was writing and wanted to see.

I distracted her enough she stopped wondering why I'd switched inkwells.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-23 21:58:57](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

If everything depends on you keeping the secret, I guess you could. I mean you have to, if you don't have any choice.

It's must be awful though, Sally-Anne. Trying to pretend after seeing that. At least you've got the lock, so you can tell somebody, so write to us if you need to. I'll keep my journal close this week.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-24 04:41:21](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

It would have been awful to keep the secret from everyone until I saw Pansy on Thursday. I might have sent an owl but those get read by the Ministry every now and again so this is better.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-23 00:54:18](#)
(no subject)

Say hello to Gemma for me, Sally-Anne!

I cannot *wait* to have you come for Christmas.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 01:06:47](#)
(no subject)

I did, and she says 'hello' back.

She thinks these journals are the niftest thing ever and can't wait until she has one of her own. I told her they're more fun if you learn to read first.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 01:07:58](#)
(no subject)

And I can't WAIT to see you. I'm really looking forward to having a nice long talk. And to decorating the tree of course and baking cookies!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-23 01:37:35](#)
(no subject)

Oh, believe me, we'll have tonnes and tonnes to talk about.

Thanks, by the way, for helping me with that thing. It really, really helped.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2009-12-23 01:31:55](#)
(no subject)

Everyone can see what you write here. It's wise of you to recognise that.

Happy Christmas to the Strettons, and to you, Miss Perks--from those of us with eyes to see.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-23 02:17:18](#)
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Mr Crouch.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-23 22:00:13](#)
(no subject)

Hello and Happy Christmas to Gemma Stretton! If you don't end up being a Ravenclaw, you might be a Gryffindor--and that would be a wizard thing, too!

2009-12-22 19:57:00

(no subject)



 [alt_pansy](#)

Well, I had a long day.

Lucius came to get me, and we went to see Mrs Black for tea. Mr Black was there too. And we were there for about an hour, but it felt like it took a lot longer than that.

I was a little nervous, only because I wanted very much for her to be pleased with me, and I wanted to be sure that I was on my best behaviour. But I guess it went well enough, at least Pirate and Lucius and Aunt Narcissa seem to think so. I told her all about my History Club report, and my favourite parts of the Slytherin book that I've been reading. She asked whether I'd got in any trouble this term, and I told her about my detention, so there was that, but at least it was only one detention, and it was for being late rather than something wrong I said.

After, Lucius took me for a little walk around Diagon before going back home, which was very nice.

Other than that, we're just all sorts of busy getting ready for Christmas around here.


Mr Campbell, mum's friend, has come over every day so far during hols, and stays for hours and hours after we're done with dinner. ~~I don't like him very much at all~~ He and mum were waiting for me when we got back, and they *both* asked me about every little thing that I said. And they talked about it all during dinner too.

And now I'm in my room, because they are *still* talking about it, and I didn't want to any more.

Honestly.

It was just *tea*.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-23 03:23:55](#)**
(no subject)

Hey!

That's good it went well with Mrs Black. I couldn't remember when you were going there, but she was pleased with you, then? That's wizard. Now you can just enjoy Christmas, right?




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-23 04:20:32](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, that's for sure.

I bought your present yesterday. I think you'll like it. At least I hope you will! You should get it in the post in time for Christmas day.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-23 15:36:06](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, um. You didn't have to buy me anything, y'know.

I'm sorry I couldn't really get you anything good for Christmas. Just. I dunno. I hope it makes you laugh when you open it.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2009-12-23 17:06:40](#)**
(no subject)

Well, yes I did!

And a lot of people don't get extra pocket money for presents, or can get out and go shopping. I'm sure I'll love whatever it is! After all, one of the best parts of Christmas is getting parcels and cards and things from friends, and I like that part just as much as what's inside the parcels.




 **alt_pansy** at [2009-12-23 17:08:46](#)
(no subject)

How has Hogwarts been treating you, by the way?

Have you been able to spend time with Harry?

And Hydra is there too. I don't know if you've met her or anything, but you should. She's awfully quiet, but very sweet, and it would be good of you to play a little chess with her, I'm sure she'd like it.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-23 20:02:21](#)
(no subject)

It's all right. The food's really brilliant here during the holidays. I think the elves like not having to cook for so many of us at once.

Everyone seems a bit jollier. Last night at dinner, I think the Headmistress was telling jokes to Madam Pomfrey and Professor Brutka. Oh, and you should have seen Professor Lockhart, building a gigantic pyramid with all the rolls except all of a sudden it went crashing down and all of them landed in Professor Acton's soup. I don't know what she hexed him with, but his hair stood straight up and you could see smoke coming up out of it! Even Professor Carrow seems to be in a good mood, which I admit is a bit worrying.

And, yeah, I've seen quite a lot of Harry. We've been exploring a bit and went sledding yesterday, which was wizard. It's stormy again today, and it's getting dark already.

I don't really know Hydra. And I didn't know she liked to play chess. I'll see if she'd like a game.


So, yeah, it's good being here with no lessons or homework to take up all the time. But it'll be good when everyone gets back, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-24 01:20:19](#)
(no subject)

Hydra is very sweet. If she doesn't want to play chess you could ask her to show you her rabbit.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-24 05:14:05](#)
(no subject)


That does sound brilliant, with sledding and Professor Lockhart's hair! I'll bet it took him ages and ages to get it looking proper again.

I know how you mean, about looking forward to things going back to normal. It's nice spending time with mum, but it's weird because Mr Campbell is there too, so I can't just be me, I have to be extra polite and clean and sit up straight all the time, and it's tiring.

And I guess he's okay and everything, at least he's nice to mum and all, but it's just *weird*. I don't think he's been around younger people at all.

So yeah, I'm looking forward to coming back to school, for sure.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-24 01:19:19](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Just so you know Hydra is NOTHING like her mum.


I mean she doesn't even eat meat at dinnertime! though that might just be because she doesn't much care for anything but sweets.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2009-12-23 03:57:43](#)
(no subject)

You did well. Tell Mr Campbell that yesterday's visit is none of his business; you acquitted yourself admirably and that is all he need know.



 **alt_pansy** at [2009-12-23 04:16:35](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Lucius.

And I'll be sure to tell him as much next time he asks.



 **alt_regulus** at [2009-12-23 19:37:36](#)
(no subject)

After you left yesterday, I spent a bit of time in Father's study hunting for the book I mentioned about our adventurous ancestors. I'd got the title wrong, but I found it just where I'd thought. Mother agrees you should have it since you're showing such an interest in history. (She really was pleased with you, you know.)

At any rate, it's called *Les Travaux Fameux des Quatre Chevaliers les Plus Illustres de L'Age Obscur* and it was written in the fifteenth century by Alcyone Black who claimed to be translating (from Norman French) the memoirs of her great-great-uncle Cygnus. In any case, it's a rather rollicking account (once you get the feel for her dialect and spelling) of the adventures this chap, Cygnus, had with his companions in knight-errantry, Clement Parkinson and Ardevant Rosier. The fourth, as I told you, was Rosier's sister Phillipa (called 'Pip'), who went about in knight's kit and nobody knew it except her mates, who kept her secret. They thought it a huge lark to set her up for duels and single combats with the biggest braggarts they met because she'd always win and then push back her hood to show her long braid just to rub it in. Then they'd get the poor blighter to buy them a round of drinks before obliterating him so he couldn't give her away. (As if any bloke was likely to tell how he'd been put off his horse or brought to his knees by a woman!)

I don't think you'll find any pirates in this one, though it does tell about one adventure they have where they rook a bargeman out of his boat and have a jolly time travelling one of the rivers. Maybe you can remind me how that turns out; it's been ages since I read it.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-23 19:39:57](#)
(no subject)

Meant to say. I sent it off by owl this noon. Don't know whether you were planning to be at home today, but I suspect she'll find you one way or another.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-24 05:06:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh! That's lovely! I cannot *wait* to read it. Honestly. I've never liked history at all before, but I had so much fun telling people about the pirates, and I think it's just so funny that your ancestor and my ancestor were such good friends. Funny *and* wizard.

I'm awfully glad you were there, by the way. You and Lucius both. It made it feel much more like just tea and less scary. And thank you for reminding me to tell your mum about my History club report and things.

2009-12-23 08:39:00

Getting ready for Christmas list

Cut some holly. I found a lovely bit of it this year in the woods, with many berries. It will look nice over the fireplace and door.

Hang the mistletoe.

Pull out the ornaments, if I can find the boxes. I think they're buried under the back issues of the Quibbler in the second bedroom upstairs. Father's been a bit preoccupied with getting the next issue out. (We don't have a Christmas tree because there's not quite enough room in our big room with the printing press. Instead, we hang the ornaments right on the press.)

Paint stencils of snowflakes on the kitchen cupboards. I'm ready for a change.

Finish making gifts.

Find the Christmas cloth for wrapping gifts.

Cut paper snowflakes for the windows.


Make suet seed balls to hang on the trees outside for the birds. They deserve Christmas, too.

Oh, and clean the kitchen and dust. Father's not been thinking much about housekeeping since I left for school.



 [alt_luna](#)




 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-23 15:03:36](#)
(no subject)

Oh, my. I know your father, but I hadn't thought...oh, dear, Luna, what a sight must have met your eye when your father brought you home from the station.


Why don't I come over this morning for a couple hours, dear? I can help you get things cleaned up a bit.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2009-12-23 15:04:34](#)
(no subject)

That would be lovely, Mrs Weasley. I can give you your gifts to take home then.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-23 15:04:53](#)
(no subject)

I've made some gingerbread. I'll bring that with me.

2009-12-23 22:02:00

Too Many Meetings

One would think that with the holidays in full swing, the amount of time spent in committee and council would diminish.



 [alt_lucius](#)

One would be wrong.

Barely got away from the Ministry long enough to meet Ari for the briefest of teas and then a rushed jaunt home to change for the Ministry reception. Deadly dull, incidentally - never one of the highlights of the season, although at least this year the lobster tail was not transfigured.

Rookwood has been anxious to gain access again as soon as possible. He remains convinced he is only a few trials away from resolving his previous efforts' failings.

Meanwhile, Avery owls nearly every hour in fear that the cold he contracted last week will burgeon into something more sinister. He has entirely lost any perspective on the inspection activities - as if he could suffer dire consequences for merely observing the muggleborn training. (And if he did not observe proper precautions or take appropriate action afterward, it is his own fault!)

We are nearly ready, I think, for Christmas - later each year, it seems! - except that Narcissa is still morose over the lack of our son. Must admit that his absence leaves a void. Hope that his gifts and the parcels of food and so on improve his mood. Reading the *Londinarium* profile reminded me that we have been lucky thus far in our son's complicity and sense of duty; not all young men are so exemplary, no matter what their upbringing. Despite occasional displays that betray his age, Draco has always proven mindful of his loyalty to family and to the Lord Protector, and for that we are most grateful.

Speaking of loyalty, agree with Walburga that Pansy's reformation remains most satisfactory. Rosa has asked us to meet her and Prospero for drinks on Sunday. Fear that she means mainly to press for us to ease his entry into society and not a little bit to renew her attempts to pry into matters that are not her concern.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2009-12-24 17:13:42](#)
(no subject)

Trust Avery to work himself into a lather. Though I can't say that I would much enjoy being in his position.

It is odd to not have the little ones about. Makes the season feel a bit less magical and special. Rigel is far too young to realise there's anything festive afoot, particularly since Bella is as occupied as ever, showing the ropes and scaffolding to her new protégé .

2009-12-24 10:21:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




 **alt_sally_anne**

Hermione, I meant to wait until Christmas to tell you this but I realised I don't know how much privacy I'll have to use the special ink at Pansy's house. And I wanted you to know, I hid a Christmas present for you in the Slytherin common room. If you stand by the velvet chair that Moran likes to sit in, then go behind the couch that's just to the left of that, and turn around so you're facing THAT fireplace, and then look behind the firewood holder, there's a brick near the bottom that's loose and you can pull it out and there's a little niche.

I left your present in there. I didn't want anyone to stumble across it before Christmas and think it was rubbish or something but I didn't want to owl it to you either as that might attract attention. It's not anything much but I wanted to give you something. I also sent Ron an extra jar of jam and marked that one with a star, so Ron just so you know the one with the star is for Hermione, and you should give it to her when you have the chance. The one for Hermione is peach-raspberry, the peaches are transfigured but I think Mrs Stretton does really excellent peaches actually, that jam is really tasty.

Happy Christmas! Ron and Nev, I sent you presents by owl, they'll be there tomorrow morning. And I'm leaving for Pansy's, hurray!!!




 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-24 16:52:57**
(no subject)

Nift!

Don't let Parkinson feed you any tunafish, yeah? Have fun!



 **alt_neville** at **2009-12-24 20:14:28**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Sally-Anne! I'm awfully glad that you'll be able to get away from cooking and baby-tending for the holiday, at least for a little while.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-25 05:35:16](#)
(no subject)

Well I didn't completely get away from cooking but baking cookies with Pansy is COMPLETELY different from having to make dinner for the Strettons all by myself.

Happy Christmas!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2009-12-27 01:14:27](#)
(no subject)

Thank you!

I only just got it - it's beautiful - thank you!!!

[2009-12-24 14:52:00](#)

Taking a break from peeling potatoes

Christmas is at our house this year (last year it was at my Great Aunt Enid's). I spent much of yesterday re-potting lots of Gran's African violets. She has dozens and dozens of pots of them, all over the house, set out on lacy doilies on just about every table and shelf. Evelyn hates that job, but I don't mind doing it when I come home on holiday.




 **[alt_neville](#)**

Great Uncle Algie's taken us out ice skating on the river a couple times since I've come home. Well, when I say he's taken us out, I don't mean he skates himself. He used to be a champion skater when he was a young man, but he's not very spry now, and my great aunt always fusses that he'll break a bone or something if he goes out skating (I reckon she thinks that if Evelyn or me break a bone, we'd just heal faster). I mean he takes us down to the river and stands on the bank and bawls out things he thinks will be helpful: 'Watch out for that frozen tree branch! Mind the ice closer to the bank, it'll be all lumpy!'

Today Evelyn and Gran were up early, getting things ready for Christmas dinner. Gran gets a bit cross because she worries about everything being ready on time, especially for so many people. She was also fussing because she didn't have any sage for the stuffing for the goose. But Gran's dinners are wonderful, even if we do have to squeeze quite a bit to get everyone 'round the table.

Gran's calling me to help lift the goose out of the oven. Have a happy Christmas, everyone!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-24 21:39:32](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Nev. I'm glad you're having fun with your sister and all. I'm sure your Gran is really good at making a big meal. It sounds great. Wish your gran a happy Christmas from me.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-25 15:50:15](#)
(no subject)


Happy Christmas to you too, Ron!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2009-12-25 15:35:50](#)
(no subject)


Happy Christmas, Neville!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2009-12-25 15:50:55](#)
(no subject)

Happy Christmas to you and Sally-Anne both.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-26 23:07:59](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for the sweets, Nev. I ate loads of them yesterday, which maybe wasn't the best idea!! But they're great!

I guess today's the day you were having Dean at yours, so I hope you're having a nift time together.

See you soon!

2009-12-24 22:58:00

Christmas Eve

The ghosts just came to our common room carolling! Well, not all of them. The Bloody Baron stayed away, and Myrtle, too, thank Merlin. And Nick's still in the hospital wing, of course, but they all said they'd been by there to sing to him, not that he knew it, but the Friar thought Madam Pomfrey was pleased.



 [alt_ron](#)

I didn't know half the songs they sang, but they sang parts and all, and they weren't half bad.


So, yeah. Happy Christmas, everyone!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-25 05:34:19**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas! I'm at Pansy's now HURRAY and we baked cookies, they turned out perfectly. I should probably go to bed, Pansy threatened to get me up EARLY for Christmas morning.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2009-12-25 15:30:37**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Ron!

I love my cracker. I've been wearing my crown all morning, and the drawing is really funny! Thanks!



 [alt_neville](#) at **2009-12-25 16:12:04**
(no subject)

That's a rare way to celebrate Christmas, to get caroled by a ghost!

Happy Christmas, Ron. Hope you still have snow there. Here's all dissolved into sloppy rain today.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2009-12-25 16:13:38](#)**
(no subject)

The Grey Lady had a quite a lovely voice. I was rather surprised.

I'll bring my gifts to your room in a couple minutes, so we can open our presents together.

2009-12-25 06:29:00


(no subject)

Happy Christmas!!!



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2009-12-25 14:06:07**

(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Macmillan!



 [alt_padma](#) at **2009-12-25 18:30:34**

(no subject)

Happy Christmas! Did you get anything good?

2009-12-25 12:46:00

Happy Christmas!

This has been ~~the best~~ a really lovely Christmas, I am having a wonderful time at Pansy's. Yesterday we baked cookies and decorated the tree and today we opened presents and in a little while there's going to be roast goose (I think it's going to be goose anyway, Hitty acted all mysterious yesterday when I asked). Ron we already did our crackers and I loved mine, the jokes are very creative and Pansy and I have decided we're going to wear our paper crowns ALL DAY. Because



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Draco, thank you for the quill; I love how it makes my handwriting look. Totally wiz-nift. I'm going to write that out in big letters to see how it looks: TOTALLY WIZ-NIFT. Oooh that's a bit hard to read, I'd better not do that again. But definitely wiz-nift. I'm definitely writing all my Defense Against Dark Arts parchments with this quill from now on and I think I will **use purple ink**. I reckon that will improve my marks from Professor Lockhart, don't you?

Neville I look forward to seeing the flowers when I get back to Hogwarts and Harry, thank you so, so much for the shoes. I used the charm on them to change the color five times already, right now they're bright green for Christmas! And Hydra I love my pink parchment and am going to use it to write some letters to friends later during the hols, so look for my owl!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2009-12-25 19:09:40**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron just so you know we are wearing our paper crowns all day because it irritates Mr Campbell so much. He says they look silly but can't quite bring himself to make an issue of it.

I gave Mr Campbell the oddest jam in the Stretton's cupboard, it was

melon with hot pepper I think? one of their 'experimental' jams that no one was mad enough to buy. There was LOADS of it in there. I pretended it was because I thought he was too sophisticated to want something ORDINARY so then he had to pretend he liked it. I tried a little while he was out of the room and it's dreadful. We might try to get him to eat more of it at dinner.



 **alt_ron** at [2009-12-26 23:22:33](#)

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

Heh. Sounds like Mr Campbell is a right git. Does Pansy's mum really fancy him? Melon and pepper jam sounds perfect for him.

So what were you trying to say with that origami rhinoceros? He's really great, actually. He went charging up and down the table at breakfast yesterday until Malfoy tried to stab him with his fork.

And, hey. Thanks for my jam. How did you even know that blackberry's my favourite? It was almost as good as Mum's, really. And I'd been really missing that about being home--she always keeps some of each of our favourites so we'll have them at Christmas.

Y'know, it hasn't been so bad being here. And Percy's been, well, decent. I can't really tell if he really was going to stay anyway or if he did it because I said I was staying. I mean, yeah, I don't really get why he'd do that, but I think he might have done. Anywiz. It's a bit odd, being here with Christmas going on at home, and I was a little, I dunno, yesterday I sort of spent most of the afternoon in our room just thinking about

Sorry. I know you think I should have gone home.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2009-12-27 02:29:55](#)

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

Mr Campbell is a git. I don't know if Pansy's mum fancies him or if she just likes the attention, I don't think she's had a lot of men come around since Pansy's father died.

As for what I was trying to say with the rhinoceros: 'look, I worked out how to make an origami rhinoceros!' No one got a snake this

time, that just seemed like a bad idea all around.

And you've mentioned once or twice that blackberry is your favourite, it was something I started paying attention to after I stayed with the Strettons last year. I'm glad Percy's been decent, he certainly sounded in your journal like he was trying to be kind.

And I wasn't going to say anything about what you should have done on holiday, I mean at least this way you were company for Harry.

2009-12-25 14:18:00

Thank you!

Oh, Lana, thank you so much! Mum made me wait until today to open your package. The tin is gorgeous and I think the sweets are the best-tasting thing **EVER!!** They're better than the best chocolate at Diagon Alley!



 **alt_padma**

Sanji keeps asking for a piece but I'm going to make it last. If I give in to him he'll gobble it all up before dinner!

The tiles on the box are so beautiful. It makes me wish I had something for you, too.

Oh, and Finnigan, the comics are pretty nift. How'd you know we liked The Trouble with Trina--oh, I bet Parvati told you, didn't she? And the Bertie Botts' - I'm sharing those with Sanji, too, because for one thing that keeps him whinging about wanting more Turkish delight. So thanks.

Lav, I love the pin! It's wizard.

And everyone else - I'm sending notes, too, but Sandoval's really surprised me (and it's utterly NIFT) and I didn't expect anything from Finnigan, so wow.

Draco, Harry, I hope you're enjoying Christmas even a little bit. It's still awful that you have to spend it at school, but everyone says that if you can't be home at Christmas, Hogwarts is the next best place to be.



 **alt_lana** at **2009-12-25 21:19:01**

(no subject)

You're very welcome, Patil.

I think really good Turkish Delight is one of the best things in the world.

Someday you'll have to come see the Arab Hall in our home in London. The tiles on the tin are reproductions of the tiles Frederick Leighton used to decorate that part of our house.

Enjoy the hols.

2009-12-25 18:12:00

A Great End to a Good Week.

This week has been a really good one. It started out with Mr Peakes taking me shopping so that I could get clothes that would allow me to look appropriate not only during down time at school, but when attending functions with what he calls 'polite society'.



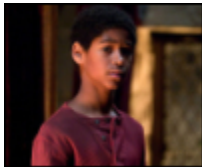
 [alt_dean](#)


Its been on the quiet side here with no other kids around, but all in all it's not too bad. I could get used to this.

When I awoke this morning, I was surprised to see the gifts that were sent to me. I didn't expect anything, especially since I couldn't do much for others. Most of what was given to me were sweets, and it should last me a while. Ron, the sketch in the cracker was very funny.

I have already read the comic you sent Seamus. Thanks, I liked it. I also want to say thanks to Pansy and Neville. I hope I haven't left anyone out, but I will be sending out proper Thank Yous anyway. Mr Peakes says its the polite thing to do.

I hope everyone is having a very Happy Christmas. I know I am, its the best one I ever remember having.




 [alt_dean](#) at **2009-12-25 23:37:29**
(no subject)

I almost forgot...

Thanks Neville for inviting me over tomorrow. What time would you like to have me over. Mr Peaks would like to know so he knows what time to have me dropped off and picked up.

And Seamus, he says that I can come over to your guardian's house. Mr peaks just says give us a date and time.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2009-12-26 23:17:24](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks for the card, Dean. About the stuff you said, I don't know what to say, really. Except I'm glad you're having a good Christmas this year, and I'm glad you came to Hogwarts and you're with us in Gryffindor.

Enjoy the rest of the hols. See you soon.

2009-12-25 18:39:00

A Wonderful Day

This has been a really wonderful Christmas.

I even received a gift from an unexpected place.
Thank you every one for all the gifts I received.



 [alt_ginny](#)

Dean- I really like the carving of my name. I have even charmed it so that the little compartments only open when I touch them. This is a lovely accessory for my bedside table, when we get back to school. I hope all is going well with you.

Percy- I really love the ribbon with the charms. They are absolutely lovely. I hope you don't mind though, but I turned the Phoenix into a pendant to wear on my school clothes. I liked it so much, but I was worried that it would clash with my hair, and this way i get to wear it everyday.


Luna- I love the hat, and I can't wait to wear it. I didn't get to go outside today, but hopefully you will get to see Mum and me model them soon.

Ron- These flash cards will come in handy, thanks so much. Especially since I need to catch myself up to where I think I need to be in a couple of areas. Those blackouts came at really inconvenient times. I really hope they don't happen again. Its been very relaxing being at home. I hope you and Percy are having a good time at Hogwarts. We miss you so much.

Mum and Dad gave me jumper this year that finally doesn't clash with my hair. I really like it. The jumper is in green and the G is in gold.

Thanks everyone for a really wonderful day, and I hope you all continue to have a Happy Christmas.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2009-12-26 15:56:22**

(no subject)

Hey, Gin!

Thanks for the blanket thinger: you really got the colours just right for the Cannons--Seamus'll hate it!!

Did you remember to make them sing all 572 verses of 'Granny Got a ___ for Christmas'? It's not Christmas if we don't, y'know.

2009-12-26 14:38:00

Order Only: Happy Christmas

As it happened, I spent yesterday with Marguerite and my landladies, who insisted that they required someone to do the carving for their excellent goose.



 [alt_sirius](#)

So it was only this morning that I opened all the parcels Alice brought for me. (See, I *can* be patient when I try.)

Thank you all - I love the muffler and the beanie, Alice. In fact, I wish I'd worn it on the way back from the Channel, it was so cold. Really, Frank ought not to have troubled. I hear red's a hard colour to work with and I can just imagine him going blind and arthritic, knitting all that time he was in quarantine.

Kingsley, I don't even know where to begin. Good on you and Emmeline, mate, for remembering all the lyrics to A Whiter Shade of Pale. Long as I don't have to return the favour!

Molly, thanks. I was surprised, honestly - I mean to say, it seems to me you ought to keep your efforts use them on your side of the wards, as barter or something. But I'm also very impressed. I had some of the honey on my toast this morning and it's tremendous.

Poppy, I shall save the brandy for some major cause for celebration. It's kind of you, though again, I think you'd be wiser to barter it for something you really need, rather than wasting it on me.


I hope you lot all got your gifts in time, as well. Minerva, were you able to pass Harry his parcel? I hope they fit, I had to guess his size and charm them to alter themselves if necessary. Nothing like last year's present for him, but then I only had the one cloak!

Anyway, I only meant to wish you all a happy Christmas, even if it is a bit late.

Oh, Marguerite says that the Calais *charger d'affaires* will be changing over right at the new year, so we may have new bribes to place. Charming, isn't it?

Still no sign of the wizard who was looking for Nigel last month. Odd, that. I'm sure he'll turn up sooner or later.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2009-12-26 23:53:17](#)
(no subject)

chocolate!

Thank you for the parcel that found its way to me. It's full of truly useful things--the Re'em spleen, the pre-stewed shrivelfigs, and the dragon's liver are all things we're sure to need, but bless you for the

2009-12-26 20:53:00

(no subject)

Well, that was an entirely pleasant day. Until it wasn't.



As is our family tradition, we gathered with the extended branches of Black, Rosier, Pennifold and Lestrangle on Boxing Day to exchange gifts and spend the day with good food and good company.

 **alt_narcissa**

Regulus had already told me he wished to sneak away as soon as we'd dined and I was happy to help him when he made his excuses to Walburga.

Unfortunately, shortly after he left, Mother's elf interrupted with the *Evening Prophet*. The piteous creature was fairly trembling in fear to give it to us. Not an unfounded concern, sad to say; no sooner had Lucius and Bella read the headline than they set off straight for the Ministry.

Between Regulus' early departure and Bella and Lucius rushing off, I had quite a time making apologies and the evening soon concluded. At least I got to hold Rigel for about half an hour. He's such a darling little thing.

I'm sure the Ministry will have a response to this incendiary article before morning, but as for me, I do not expect to see my husband until he has discovered who is responsible (and made them pay handsomely for their mischief)!



 **alt_regulus** at **2009-12-27 20:33:44**

(no subject)

No end in sight here, I'm afraid, cousin. Progress, but no resolution. I don't imagine Lucius has had a chance to keep you apprised.

Sorry to have put you to the trouble with Mother when it was all for naught. It was good of you, though.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-29 02:59:12](#)
(no subject)

I must thank you for your Christmas present, cousin. It's proved endlessly useful over the past several days. I believe your card suggested that the charm could change it to a blade, a two-tined fork, a two-pronged pincer, a three-pronged grasping tool with an opposable digit, or a pen/cigarette holder as necessity and imagination might command, but Our Lord has found much greater potential in your spell and considerably more function in my hook than you or I could have imagined.

It seems I'm to have several hours' respite now, perhaps until morning but perhaps not. Would you mind terribly if I came there?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2009-12-29 03:09:24](#)
(no subject)

Yes, of course, come if you prefer. Are you well?

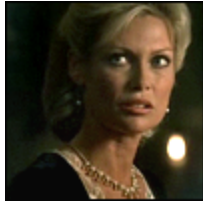
Perhaps you can tell me if you've heard or seen anything of my husband. I received only the briefest of owls from him yesterday that he elected to stay overnight at Buckingham and planned to be in the field all day today.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2009-12-29 03:17:33](#)
(no subject)

I saw him briefly this morning, but not since. All I can tell you is that not all of the owls that came in from the field today seem to have brought the desired reports. I've no idea whether Lucius has met with more or less frustration than others.

I'm on my way if you'll open your Floo.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2009-12-29 03:24:12](#)**
(no subject)

Why not App

Nevermind, dear, I've sent Heddy to open the grate in the Blue Room.

2009-12-26 22:20:00

Dinner with the Longbottoms

This evening I got the chance to hang out with Neville and his family for a while. It was an interesting experience.



 [alt_dean](#)

I think everyone knows that Nev lives with his Grandmother and his sister. Mrs Longbottom is a nice lady, and she will not hesitate to ask all kinds of questions of interest. It wasn't bad though, she just wanted to know about parts of my past. I didn't mind answering her questions. Evelyn, Neville's sister, she was really nice too. Just quiet and shy. I think she just wants to know what Hogwarts is like. She definitely doesn't seem like one of those little sisters that would always be a thorn in your side.

Dinner was very enjoyable. We had corned-beef, cabbage and potatoes. Nev, please do tell your Gran that I said thanks again for her wonderful hospitality.

After dinner, we played some board games until Mr Peakes sent his butler to pick me up.

I think what I really liked about Nev's house was the classical charm it has. The furniture gives you the feeling that you have stepped through time into the Victorian Era, as most if not all of the pieces are from that time period. And I don't think I have ever seen a cleaner house. Things just sparkled or were really glossy. I don't think I saw a fingerprint anywhere. I was afraid I might drop something, and was relieved when dinner was done because I made it through without spilling anything.


Overall it was a great night.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2009-12-27 17:12:51**
(no subject)

It was wonderful to see you, and Evelyn said to tell you specially how glad she was to have you over. Especially since you let her win at the backgammon game afterwards.



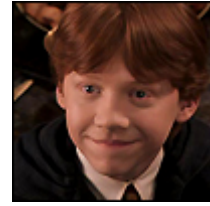
 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2009-12-28 05:49:28](#)**
(no subject)

It was fun. Your sister is a nice kid. She can win anytime.

2009-12-26 22:33:00

(no subject)

Got all my notes done tonight ~~cause Percy~~ so Percy could take them up to the owlry along with his when he went out to do his rounds.



 [alt_ron](#)

But, hey, Harry--I guess I should say thanks to you here since it seemed kinda naff to send you an owl when you're right here in the castle, too. But, anywiz, thanks for the wand holster: it'll be really handy to have it right there in my sleeve. And the chocs are really wicked, though the ones with the really green syrup in made me feel a bit queer. Was that some kind of liqueur or something? I've never had anything like that before. So, I'm going to bring the Quidditch Spectaculars Pansy gave me to breakfast tomorrow--they're like omnioculars only they show highlights of really great plays the Cannons have made against all the other teams. It's totally nift--even if you don't really care about the Cannons. It's just really great Quidditch. (Thanks, Pansy!!) And I can't wait to see the stuff you were telling me about. I'll bring the comics Seamus sent me, too, so we can trade if you're done reading yours. Mine's *Fearless Flyers*. (That was a dead nift present, Seamus.)

Oh and Fred, George: thanks! I know exactly what I'm going to save it for. And, um, would you tell Mum the jumper fits and the mince pie was really nice?

2009-12-27 09:29:00

Owl came

Thanks, Dad.

Tell mum my jumper's got a little room for growing, but the arms are just the right length, so it fits.


And the mince pie was as good as always.

Oh, and tell Charlie I'm sorry about his wand.



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 16:53:14](#)
(no subject)


You're welcome, my dear boy. I hope that what I said helped.

Your mum will be very happy to hear that the jumper fits.

And about the wand, Charlie knows--we all know--it was simply an accident.


Merry Christmas, son.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-27 16:54:31](#)
Order Only

I'm so glad that he read what you wrote.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-27 16:55:16](#)
Re: Order Only

So you finally got through to him, then? Good show.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 16:55:37](#)

Re: Order Only

Well, we didn't leave him much choice.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-27 16:56:03](#)

Re: Order Only

What do you mean?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 16:57:19](#)

Re: Order Only

I put a 'Read Me' charm on the envelope. Once he touched it, the envelope stuck to his hand like glue until he opened and read it.

It was also charmed to be fireproof, waterproof, and impossible to tear into pieces.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-27 16:58:22](#)

Re: Order Only

Dead clever, I must say.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 16:59:20](#)

Re: Order Only


It was the twins who thought of it.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-27 17:04:51](#)
(no subject)


We've had quite a good holiday here, Dad. Ron and I have gone out to enjoy the snow every day, and we've played a good number of games of chess. Ron's getting really good, and he beats me most of the time now.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 17:06:36](#)
(no subject)

Really? Ron, I hope you'll be able to spare your Dad a game or two the next time you come home. I'm sure you'll trounce me, but I'll still enjoy it.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-27 17:35:48](#)
(no subject)

Easter hols, yeah?

I'll play you as many rematches as you need, Dad!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-27 17:42:08](#)
(no subject)

Uh, Dad?

Is there something I'm supposed to do to make this sticking charm stop? I tried Finite, but that just put out the fire in the grate, and the loosening charm I tried unravelled the binding on the rug. (Don't worry, we've got that fixed now.) And Percy's tried some things, too, but I can't put it down yet. Can't rip it in bits, either. Or burn it (which was probably a good thing, actually, since I can't let go of it).

I tried washing my hands, too, but I guess you imperviused it?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-27 18:12:43](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry about that, I should have given you that information at the end of the letter. Finite will work, but it takes saying it three times and three taps of the wand, because there were three separate charms involved: the sticking charm, the anti-incendio and the waterproof charm.

(I must say, Fred and George were rather proud it worked so well.)




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2009-12-27 18:39:07](#)
(no subject)

Well, we knew it would of course, but it is gratifying to see something we worked on succeed.

It is really good that you've come to your senses Ron.

If you never came back to the Burrow, how would you set off all the lovely pranks we've set up in your room?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-27 19:02:41](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

Just remember that I'm not responsible for anything my wand does accidentally now!



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-27 17:09:23](#)
(no subject)


I'm glad the pies arrived safely, dear. It's a relief that Errol managed to deliver them intact!



 [alt_percy](#) at [2009-12-27 17:10:28](#)
(no subject)


Well, the crust was bunged up a bit on a couple of them, but they tasted just as good as ever.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-27 17:45:37](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, he was pretty much done in when he got here. Professor Brutka checked him over for us, though, and gave him something to perk him up.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-27 17:46:13](#)
(no subject)

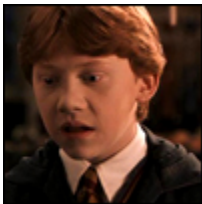
Oh, and the broken bits are just as good as the rest, so no worries!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-28 16:04:21](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So are you talking to your family again then?

What did they do to ~~get through your thick~~ fix things?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-28 23:30:29](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, well, my dad sent me a letter, and he said some things

I guess they don't ~~still~~ think it's my fault the Ministry arrested him and tore up the house. He said he should have told me that the car was a big secret, which it totally wasn't--I mean he took us all to the train in it, right? So if he wanted it secret, yeah, he needed to say something about that, cause it's like the most utterly wizard thing he's ever made, and we were sure to say something about it, weren't we? Even if Harry and I hadn't used it to escape from ~~that~~ whoever was trying to hurt him at Kings Cross.

Anyway, Dad still says it was wrong, my helping Harry like that, and I guess he just doesn't understand because he wasn't there when it happened to know why we had to get out of there fast, because I know he'd have done the same thing if he'd been there. He totally would. Bill, too, even though they acted like I was

Anyway, yeah. He said I'm still part of the family, and he meant they don't think what I did was wrong in a bad way, like I'd tried to do something to cause trouble or to hurt someone, and they know I didn't want bad things to happen to them.

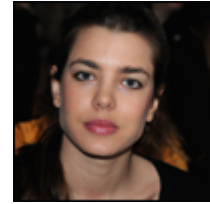
And he says Charlie knows it was an accident what happened to his wand, though I don't know about that. When he was here, he sure wasn't

Whatever. I don't know. Dad wanted to say sorry, and he hexed the letter so I had to read it, so I did, and it's all right now--as long as you don't squint at it too hard. And as long as I don't get mixed up in anything else that involves Harry, probably, too. And, I dunno. We'll see what happens, I guess. The thing is, I still wouldn't change what I did.

2009-12-27 18:24:00

X.

Christmas hols are always brilliant, but this year is better than ever. I actually have so much scheduled that some things have had to be put aside in order to accomplish what's more important.



 [alt_lana](#)

For instance, last Monday I was only able to attend the meeting and missed the luncheon for the new St Mungo's Junior Auxiliary because it was also the first day of my internship, but I've been able to do my part to help with preparations for the Gala on New Year's Eve. Everything is just on schedule for that event and Mama has been very pleased with the participation from our junior members.

There have been the usual round of holiday gatherings and my parents' cocktail party before the Opera the other night. In the past, I've always been able to help Mama manage all of her seasonal duties, visits, charitable obligations, gift logging and thank you writing, not to mention all of the engagements she manages on Papa's behalf this time of year, but because of my work with the Aurors this season, I've had to leave most of the family obligations to Orion and Honoria—and I suppose it's time that they understand all that's required for people of our station.

We went as a family on Thursday evening to sing carols with the loyal crowds along the walk between Trafalgar Square and Buckingham. The Protector came out onto his balcony to acknowledge our good wishes, and the only disappointment was that His Son could not be with him. I know this pains Our Lord, but it is an important sacrifice He has offered to comfort the parents of my schoolmates who might otherwise have spent a holiday overshadowed by worries for their children's safety in the term ahead. Of course, there is no cause at all for concern, as Our Lord has amply demonstrated. All of us who love our realm are grateful to Him and to Harry Marvolo for setting such an example at the price of their holiday comforts and pleasures. One notes, too, the extraordinary loyalty of the Lestrangle family and the Malfoys in following Our Lord's pattern in this regard.

I am not insensitive to the fact that I have benefited from Mrs Lestrangle's unexpected freedom to concentrate on her work this week without also feeling the demands of welcoming her daughter home for her first holiday from school. I know it can't have been easy,

but I am most thankful for her efforts on my behalf. I could not have had any better introduction to the Aurors than this past week has provided! And Mrs Lestrange has patiently discussed and dissected each of the many layers of what we've witnessed, participated in, and contributed to.

There has been so much to see, so much to learn because I arrived when they've got a really major case in progress. I've seen how the departments collaborate and pool their efforts for investigation, intelligence-gathering, witness-management, and case-preparation. On Tuesday I was able to go along to an interrogation, which was ever so interesting, and on Wednesday, I accompanied Mrs Lestrange to Buckingham. I'm learning so much about methods, protocols, and chains of authority, and I can see that there's loads to be learnt about piecing together evidence, and distinguishing truth from fabrication and obfuscation. I discovered right away that it's no simple matter to comprehend how a traitor thinks--the assumptions and strategies are so radically different from the way I consider things: it's a brilliant mental challenge! I know now that I was right to aim for the Auror programme: I can't imagine anything I'd rather work at.

I thought I might spend my internship just making tea and filing parchments, but I've really been allowed to take part. And now, with this scandalous article out in *The Prophet*, things have wound up to fever pitch. My task today was managing communications, in-coming and out-going, making certain that every message reached its intended recipient as directly as possible. That meant I was the single fixed point in an amazingly fluid operation: it was breath-taking to witness how it all works, each Auror doing his part or contributing her expertise to the overall endeavour. And there will be much more to do tomorrow!

2009-12-27 21:35:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Did any of you lot see The Prophet yesterday?


 **alt_sally_anne**

The disease has killed 30,000 Muggles just at one camp.

The 'Ministry source' said twice it couldn't be passed to half-bloods and rumors about the secret ward at St Mungo's were lies. If they're that intent on denying it, it has to be true, that half-bloods can get it I mean and probably the bit about St Mungo's as well. Anyway Lucius Malfoy clearly thinks purebloods can get it as that's why Harry and Draco stayed. I told Pansy about what I saw when I went flying that day, and she told me Mr Malfoy had tried to get her mum to leave her at school over the holidays. But her mum thought his reasons were silly and anyway her mum missed Christmas with her last year, so Pansy went home.

The Strettons get the Prophet delivered and they've been talking about that article all day, they try to whisper but sometimes they forget. Mr Stretton said 'they'll HAVE to admit it soon' today and I heard Mrs Stretton say Sirius Black's name but I didn't hear what she said about him. Jeremy nicked the paper after lunch today and brought it down to the kitchen so I could read it too.



 **alt_neville** at **2009-12-28 14:40:14**
(no subject)

I hadn't seen it because my Gran doesn't take the Prophet. She always says it's no good for anything but wrapping fish. But my Great Uncle Algie does, so when I saw this, I made an excuse to go over to his house and look at it.

Guess that Sirius Black is a lot better source of knowing what's really going on. He warned about this weeks ago, didn't he?

I took it home to show to Gran, and she's pretty worried.

It's a good thing the Strettons have kept you at home pretty close. Can you get permission to get back to school early, do you think?

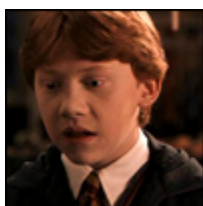



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-28 15:26:14](#)
(no subject)

Jeremy was talking about that this morning while I was making breakfast, he'd like to go back to school right now both because he doesn't want to be anywhere near the estates where his parents have all the sick muggles, and because at school he could get out to ride his broom -- well a school broom anyway, his parents took away his broom after all the trouble he was in last year. Anyway he wouldn't be stuck inside all the time.

They're having a big row about it now. His parents are worried about the petrifications. I think they don't really trust that he wouldn't be considered an 'enemy' after what he did last spring. Here, they say he's safe as long as he stays in like he's supposed to.

Anyway not that they care whether I get petrified but they probably want me to stay here and cook. And look after Gemma.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2009-12-28 14:41:27](#)
(no subject)

The Prophet really said that? I didn't see it. You mean it was an article that showed the Ministry's been lying? How'd they get away with saying that?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-28 15:21:22](#)
(no subject)

If you look at what Mr Malfoy said, and Lana Sandoval, I don't think they exactly 'got away' with saying that.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2009-12-28 16:08:34](#)
(no subject)

You know what, I think I'm going to write an entry about this that everyone can see. So Pansy knows. I don't know if she's seen the article.

Don't say anything daft where Bellatrix Lestrange can see you!



 **alt_ron** at **2009-12-28 23:03:56**
(no subject)

Meaning me?

Thanks loads!

2009-12-28 10:08:00

Yesterday's Prophet

Did anyone else see the Prophet yesterday? Well actually the day before yesterday, but I didn't see it until yesterday. The Strettons have it delivered and I like reading it. And usually it's a reliable newspaper, I mean, they aren't allowed to print anything that isn't true. Normally.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Anyway I didn't know what to make of this article. They had someone with a false name saying all sorts of awful, scary things about the disease in the muggle camps, and then at the end of the article they said he was probably a traitor planted by Sirius Black! Which clearly he was but then why did they spend so much time telling us the rubbish he said AND why didn't they tell us first that he was lying? I'm sure it was all lies because the Ministry said so, but after reading about 30,000 muggles dead at one camp and mudbloods dying where they dropped and people having their whole body paralysed AND then that there were rumors the disease can infect halfbloods -- I had horrible nightmares all last night!

It's not right. I ought to be able to read the Daily Prophet and expect to find good information there! That's what a newspaper is for. I

At least they did say right at the top it can't affect halfbloods. But they printed so many lies (a locked ward at St Mungo's for the sick halfbloods! 40% of the mudbloods getting it dying!) it was a very confusing article. Especially since the Prophet normally doesn't print lies, they aren't reliable the way announcements directly from the Ministry are reliable but it's not supposed to be rubbish like that traitor writes in the journals, either.

And then yesterday's Prophet didn't say anything AT ALL about sick muggles and mudbloods. I don't know if today's does or not, I haven't seen it yet. I'm not actually sure it's come.

2009-12-28 10:33:00

Order Only: Christmas in Derby



 [alt_kingsley](#)

The Sherwood Band invited the Players to spend Christmas with them, and so we've had a quiet few days here in the woods, celebrating the season in a definitely rustic way. The Band now has fifteen people, although their goal of quietly liberating more from the camp has been put on hold for now, because of the epidemic. Davidson's taking the opportunity to do some long-range planning, and so Emmeline and I have been holed up with him the past three days, talking strategy and tactics.

It's clear that Davidson is thinking ambitiously, but I am impressed enough with the man's charisma and leadership to think he can probably pull off anything he bloody well pleases. He's sent scouts to scavenge supplies from nearby muggle villages, and they are eating all right, if sparingly. They are pooling all the knowledge that they can to help them live better and safely. They've expanded their territory to include a network of hidey holes and tunnels in an abandoned nearby muggle village, to which they can retreat if threatened, although with their new wands, they're making extensive use of concealment charms. Once the epidemic is no longer a threat, Davidson wants to resume smuggling people out of the Derby camp, and he's asking for the Order's support to help forge identity papers and work permits. But I think he's also mulling over ways to organise something even greater. He's talked about scavenging equipment to start radio broadcasting, in the hopes of finding and linking together pockets of resistance. As they expand, he hopes to send out splinter groups to start bleeding escapees from other camps. He even talked about seeing whether they can assemble a group with the skills to build seaworthy vessels, in order to smuggle people out of the country entirely when the wards go down on each solstice. And although he hasn't said it, I think he's also thinking about training people to eventually take up arms (using muggle technology) to actually fight the MLE.

Bill, I'll send you a report of the supplies they could use, although they're doing their best to address their needs on their own.

2009-12-28 21:42:00

Order Only: Selwyn is absolutely furious

Rittenhouse, formerly with the Department of Education and Public Information (until he got sacked this morning) is no doubt extremely sorry that he decided to take two days off for the holiday. That was right about when that reporter at the *Prophet* was checking with the Ministry for responsive comment before running their article on the epidemic. I'm absolutely amazed it got printed at all, but apparently some brave soul over at the *Prophet* took advantage of light holiday staffing over there to sneak the report past their editorial gatekeepers.




 **alt_bill**

It's a public relations disaster. Lots of closed door meetings as Selwyn and his staff are scrambling to figure out what to do next. The first impulse was obviously to deny everything (see Warrington's quote, for example). But I've seen the St Mungo's reports, and they can't get away with that much longer. I heard a hint from Tanisby that Selwyn's toying with the idea of declaring he's going to open an investigation, and then he'll use that as an excuse to clean house.

Dad, what have you heard over at Muggle Domestication?



 **alt_arthur** at **2009-12-29 04:09:29**
(no subject)

Spencer-Wells is also bloody livid, and looking for others to blame, too. Whitby and Thatcher got sacked this morning. That was daft; they had nothing to do with anything. Fletcher and Kirke are combing through files of incoming and outgoing memos between the department, the camps, and St Mungo's, looking for any possible source for the leaks.

I'm staying out of the way, and counting myself fortunate that there's certainly nothing they can pin on me for once.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2009-12-29 04:11:37](#)
(no subject)

Having nothing to do with what happened didn't protect Whitby and Thatcher, apparently.

Are you sure you'll be all right, Arthur?




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-29 04:15:07](#)
(no subject)

Quite sure, Molly, as far as Spencer-Wells is concerned. Not my department, of course, which helps.

But I'll admit Nott's turning over his own rocks, too, here in Purity Control.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2009-12-29 04:16:23](#)
(no subject)


I can help you lose documents if necessary, Dad. Or for that matter, plant 'em somewhere if you need 'em, to protect your back.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2009-12-29 04:17:08](#)
(no subject)


Yes, I'll certainly keep that in mind, son. Thank you.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2009-12-29 15:08:00](#)
(no subject)

Fletcher? Since when is Dung working for the Ministry?



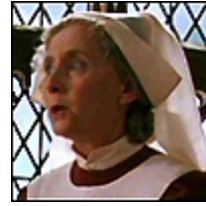
 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2009-12-29 15:10:15](#)**
(no subject)

No, no. Artemis Fletcher. Distant cousin.

Same lack of personal hygiene, though.

2009-12-29 12:28:00

Order Only: St Mungo's



 [alt_poppy](#)

I've just finished talking with Antigone Cantwell, my closest, most reliable contact at St Mungo's, and she's terrified. She's convinced that she is going to be taken in for questioning today, and she does have reason to be fearful: several of her co-workers were apparently arrested as they arrived for work this morning. She's had to stay on for an extra shift because of their absence. All of them worked with the woman--Healer Fitzpatrick, I think she's called--who went missing just before Sirius's Grim Truth in November.

Healer Cantwell was fairly beside herself with exhaustion and anxiety, so it was difficult to sort some of what she said. She was afraid she might have only a few minutes to speak with me safely. More than anything, what she wanted to do was alert me to the fact that she might be taken away and that she, like others before her, might 'disappear'. She's been at St Mungo's long enough to know what becomes of many poor souls who suffer interrogation at the hands of this regime: they disappear permanently into the closed ward kept for victims of irreparable torture damage.

In the midst of telling me her worries about facing arrest, and quite without meaning to, she alluded to another locked ward they've established--for halfbloods ill with this 'scourge'. She was detailing the questions she believes she'll face when she's taken in: When did she learn of her colleague's disappearance? When did she realise that sensitive data had gone missing with the woman? Did she report this information directly and to whom and how was the matter dealt with? Has she or anyone in her department knowingly had contact with staff from *The Prophet*? or with the traitor, Sirius Black? How can she explain the information he clearly gathered from insiders in her department? What does she make of the timing of the most recent reports? Does she have any idea how *The Prophet* came to hear rumours of the locked, halfblood ward?

And there it was.

She stopped and stared out of the fire at me, completely horrified that

she'd mentioned the verboten subject. 'Oh, Poppy!' she whispered. 'I oughtn't to have said that. Now I've involved you! If they question me...' She looked at me again and thought for a silent moment. I saw her raise her wand to her own temple then, and, as I watched, she Obliviated herself. I closed the connection before she came to herself again; it's surely best if she forgets the conversation altogether.

2009-12-30 17:56:00

Progress

Having promised Narcissa I would return home tonight, am gratified to be able to state that this week has seen significant strides in addressing the scandalous claims in Saturday's *Prophet*.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Between numerous meetings at the Ministry, went several times to Bole and his senior editors to backtrack the allegations to their sources. Most particularly, the 'informant' in league with the traitorous Black.

Crispin has been fairly encamped at the St James' house, as indeed have I the last few nights; it has been easier to return there as a base of operation close to Buckingham and the Ministry. There have been numerous jaunts to camps and a good deal more interviews conducted in the relative ... comfort ... of London.

The entire Council are shocked by the apparent extent of deception required to conceal such a large problem, if indeed it is the case that the chattels are under threat from an unknown virus. Moreover it has been most unsatisfactory and egregiously damaging to allow our previous efforts to proceed, knowing or suspecting that the underlying problem was an altogether different issue.

Of less clarity is the negligence, incompetence or complicity on the part of the Ministry personnel who ought to have caught wind of these events - if indeed, they are confirmed - long before the risks grew to such proportions. The Council are committed to any measures necessary to bring to justice all who have played a rôle in this deplorable situation.

Draco, I hope you passed a pleasant holiday, despite your separation from home. Do not think I have no appreciation for the gifts, although I thought you indicated they would not arrive in time? Perhaps you underestimated the speed of the owls you selected.

The clasp is particularly appropriate for your mother, since your cousin also gave her a new cloak. It is almost as if you consulted - though of course, that is unlikely! She shall make quite the entrance at the gala to-morrow.

2009-12-31 16:25:00

(no subject)

Oh, not again.

Reg, have you heard from your mother yet today? Bella, has Mother spoken to you or Rodolphus?



 [alt_narcissa](#)

She's just come to see me before getting ready for the gala tonight. Apparently, Walburga has been out at Great Aunt Cassie's house all day. She didn't want to disturb the rest of us with the celebrations this evening, but grew agitated as time passed with no satisfaction.

Aunt Cassie's elf came to get her when she didn't wake this morning.

I've spoken with Mr Sinclair, who tells me that Aunt Walburga did contact him and he had promised to have their specialists come to the house, but that they were waiting for release from St Mungo's. So I contacted Healer Fletcher, who informed me that between the holiday and the 'circumstances' of her death, she could not be given to Mr Sinclair's team without clearance following a mediwizarding exam. A few pointed questions later, I determined he meant that because there had been mudbloods on the property recently, they wished to satisfy themselves that her death was neither related to the alleged disease nor in any way unnatural. I informed him of the ridiculousness of these hypotheses, to which he agreed, and offered to intercede with the St Mungo's mediwizards immediately. Of course, many of them are already involved in tonight's gala - but really, she's one rather dear old witch who simply died in her sleep! It's unconscionable that they should hold things up in this way - and on New Year's Eve!

Well, at least the news assured Walburga that Cassie would not lie there all night with only her elf to guard her. So there's nothing else to be done, at least not right now, but I suppose we shall have to discuss it more this weekend. And I shall have to follow-up with Healer Fletcher and even Chief Healer Acton herself, if necessary, to make sure that all is well otherwise!




 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-01 00:01:38](#)**
(no subject)

I'm here with Mother now at Auntie's. I can't get Mother to agree to come to the gala--and, of course, she's taking a martyr's line and telling me I must go without her to hold up the family's obligation when it's quite clear she doesn't wish to be left here.

I'm very close to doing as she asks and ignoring what she wants, I assure you. Any suggestions?



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-01 00:23:12](#)**
(no subject)

Never mind. I'm on my way.
Before she hexes me again.