



2010-01-01 11:08:00

*Official News from the Division of
Protectorate Affairs*



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_selwyn](#)

As some of you are aware, Our Lord ordered an immediate investigation of the shocking allegations made by the *Daily Prophet* regarding illness among our muggle and muggleborn labour force. We expected to find no unusual illness, merely a few individuals with a misguided faith in gossip, or perhaps someone trying to stir up trouble.

Imagine our dismay when we discovered that in fact, there are entire camps of muggles far sicker than anyone can explain. The illness has been covered up for several months by a small number of healers, camp administrators, and lower-level employees in the Division of Protectorate Affairs. Their motives in this cover-up remain to be established: it is possible some were merely ignorant, or were acting in good faith to prevent a panic, but concerns have been raised that some individuals might have maintained secrecy in order to maximize later disruption. The Division of Protectorate Affairs salutes Maxine Hamilton, the courageous reporter at the Prophet who acted on her own initiative to bring this situation to our attention.

Just to be clear once again: only muggles and muggleborns are sick. Camp administrators are in frequent close contact with muggles, and yet the investigation has not turned up even a single example of a camp administrator who has become ill. Either rudimentary magical precautions are adequate for protection, or (as we strongly suspect) true magical heritage prevents infection.

Our wizarding population can also rest assured that we do not appear to be in danger of running out of muggles. There may be some minor disruptions as healthy muggles are moved and trained in, but we do not expect to see shortages of food or other critical necessities.

Now that St Mungo's knows what the problem is, they have dedicated resources toward solving the problem. The ingenuity of wizards is limitless, and we expect to shortly have an answer and a cure.

If you own or manage muggles, we would ask you to take a census and provide numbers to St Mungo's within the next ten days of how many you have who are sick, healthy, and formerly sick but now recovered. St Mungo's is calling this disease 'muggle paralysis,' as

paralysis seems to be the most distinctive symptom. Again, wizards are at no risk, but we do encourage you to use scourging spells and so on to reduce the risk of carrying the sickness between groups of muggles. If you have an enclave of entirely healthy muggles, they should stay healthy as long as they are not exposed.

We have no reason to believe at this time that half-bloods are vulnerable to the disease; nonetheless, foster families of half-blood Hogwarts students who are concerned about the safety of their foster children may return them immediately to Hogwarts by floo rather than having them ride the Hogwarts Express back with their classmates.

Happy New Year to all!



 **alt_sirius** at **2010-01-01 20:05:37**

Order Only

Arthur, Bill, how are things at the Ministry? Has the fallout reached you or are you still holding steady?

(Happy New Year, indeed.)

2010-01-01 13:19:00

(no subject)

New year, new leaf in the books.

Yer on the up, mate.

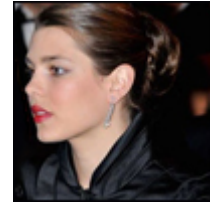


 **alt_wagstaff**

[2010-01-01 20:55:00](#)

XI.

The gala was lovely, truly lovely: Orion and his crew helped with decorating the entries and reception halls and the ballrooms of the Tate, and they made a simply marvellous job of it. I've no idea where Johns and Kirke found so many fairies to light the steps and the walk from the waterside, but the view from our boat as we approached on the river was utterly breathtaking. And the way they massed to flank the Lord Protector when he arrived so that he appeared to be infused with fairy light as he made his entry? That was a stroke of genius.

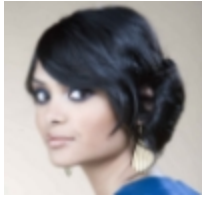



 [alt_lana](#)

The New London Philharmonic were in top form, and I've never heard them have a fuller sound than in the Tate's new hall. I have to agree with Mr Rosier's opinion that Melliflua Pym, the architect for the remodeling, is a true sorceress of the acoustic arts. I enjoyed strolling the galleries and antechambers where they'd situated small ensembles to complement the works on display. My favourites were Los Lobos D'Oro in the Travellers exhibit and the Wilton Consort who were tucked in amongst the sixteenth-century portraits, but then I've had a special fondness for that group ever since Mama hired them for our Midsummer's celebration the year I was thirteen.

I regret that I missed most of Celestina Warbeck's set, but that couldn't be helped. (Honestly, Higgs, if I'd known you would be such an infant about the fact that I was needed to assist Mrs Lestrange throughout the evening, I would never have allowed you to escort me. I've never seen anyone mope so conspicuously. I'd have thought you'd have cleared your cauldron telling me off over lunch today, but what you've written in your journal is unforgivable. Consider this my last word to you on this or any subject.)

I'm very pleased that I could be of use to the Aurors last evening. It was an honour to conduct those with whom the chief interrogator wished to confer. I was deeply impressed at the professionalism of all involved: they maintained order and decorum to such a degree that I believe few people were aware of the departures. The festive spirit of the evening never flagged, and I know Mama has every hope that when the final figures are tallied, they will have raised a substantial sum to further St Mungo's crucial work in Our Lord's realm.



 **alt_padma** at **2010-01-02 05:19:16**
(no subject)


It was utterly marvellous. I'm sorry we had to leave so early. But Parvati wasn't feeling well after her third helping of pudding. And I wasn't feeling too well myself, either, I think I had too much punch.

I could sort of tell you had a lot on your plate last night, I mean the way you seemed rather distracted. I thought Theo Higgs was being sort of, well, understanding about the whole thing. We sort of... well, we talked a bit when you left him flat in front of the punch bowl. And he seemed really nice about it all. But after reading his journal today I can't blame you one little bit for telling him off! He's completely impossible!! I can't believe he called you a prim little shrew! It's ridiculous! And I told him so.

And then Mum saw him giving me punch and she got all upset. It was dead embarrassing. I was fine! Only I should have known he was such a prat, really, from the way he was going on to Mum about being left to 'look after' me. Honestly, I never asked him to look after me and neither did you! *He* was talking to *me*, asking me all sorts of questions about you! I should have guessed he was going to turn round and insult you. It makes me so cross!

But anyway, it was a beautiful party, and it was so amazing. Even if I was ill all day today. Between this and Draco's party, this has been the niftiest holiday ever!




 **alt_lana** at **2010-01-02 16:39:12**
(no subject)

Higgs is ridiculous. A petty, self-obsessed, rotten-tempered boy.

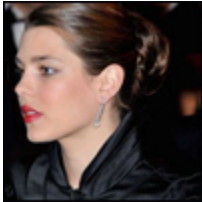
Mama said she was very concerned for you, Patil, having to leave so early and under such a cloud. I hope your mother wasn't terribly cross with you.


Are you feeling better today?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-02 05:32:23](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and you looked beautiful, by the way. Absolutely gorgeous. Definitely the right robes!




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-02 17:25:16](#)
(no subject)

Thank you. I do believe we made the right choice.

I don't know whether your mother will have told you: Mama and I have an appointment with her this afternoon to discuss something very exciting. Papa has decided my coming out party should be set for Easter hols; he's hasn't decided where it should happen, but during the gala the Marquess of Salisbury offered to host the gathering at Hatfield house, and I believe Papa is leaning towards accepting. It's awfully generous of Lord Salisbury, don't you think?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-02 23:55:50](#)
(no subject)


Really? That's wiz-nift!

Did Mum show you the cloak she designed for Miranda Ogleby's portrait a few years ago? It's spectacular. It was bright blue with embroidered suns on, and the suns changed colours and even made her robes look like they had real sunlight shining on them.

Last year Mum did a set of hat and shoes for Maurya Harris. You know, Lady Bathurst?

I'm feeling much better, thanks. The headache's gone. Now I'm just a little worried that I made a cake of myself, but Mum says not to fret. She said something like everyone does something daft at their first grown-up party.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-03 00:19:02](#)
(no subject)

She did show us the Ogleby cloak, and she said she'd designed the cloak Mrs Malfoy wore to the gala, too. Did you see it? It's got all the stars visible in the night sky on whatever night it's worn; she did it in silver thread on silk velvet, and, oh, I don't believe I've ever seen anything quite so lovely. Mama remarked that Mr Malfoy must have really wanted to make a statement this Christmas, but your mother told us that it was her cousin, Mr Black, who commissioned it for her. I think that's a bit shocking, really. It was obviously a very costly gift.

Oh, and did you see what Lady Bathurst wore last evening? She cuts such a striking figure, and the way the neckline of her robes set off her sapphires!

It is one of the exciting things about a party like that, seeing what all the very best dressed people wear.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-03 01:04:01](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I saw them when they arrived in the Lord Protector's barge. That was genius.


Did you notice the cloak clasps on both the Malfoys' robes? I think I read in Mr Malfoy's journal that Draco made them. Mum was really impressed.

Mrs Malfoy looked really beautiful at Draco's party, too. I mean, their holiday party. Mum says red's a tricky colour, but I thought it really made her jewels look twice as sparkly. And her hair! I wish my hair were blonde. Not that I mind black, but, well, hers just looks so radiant.

I thought Mrs Scrimgeour looked pretty good, for someone her age. But I only recognise a lot of people from their pictures in the papers.

Oh! Did you see Professor Lockhart? He looked so dashing!




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-03 03:22:01](#)
(no subject)

Professor Lockhart does wear his robes to fine effect.

I did see the Malfoys' cloak clasps, but I didn't realise their son had made them. That's quite extraordinary, really. Do you mean that he drew the designs and commissioned the clasps or that he did the metalwork himself? Now you mention it, I guess I did know he's something of an artist, but I thought pen and ink was his forte.

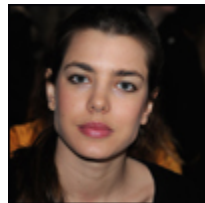
And I agree, Mrs Malfoy manages true elegance to a degree few women ever attain. It is not simply a matter of the quality of her robes and accessories, but of the way she carries herself: she never courts attention, and yet heads turn whenever she enters a room. Beauty is as beauty does, Mama says, and I've always found Mrs Malfoy to be as gracious as she is lovely.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-05 21:59:46](#)
(no subject)

I made the designs and then sent them to a shop in Daigon Alley that does jewellery making. Uncle Rodolphus told me about that one. I don't know a thing about making items out of metal.

Thank you for your compliments about my Mother.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-05 23:48:21](#)
(no subject)

I wish I could say that I've ever succeeded in giving as thoughtful, beautiful, or personal a gift as that to either of my parents.

2010-01-01 21:29:00

Birthday

Happy birthday to me
Happy birthday to me
Happy birthday dear me
Happy birthday to me.



 [alt_luna](#)



 [alt_neville](#) at **2010-01-02 03:31:22**

(no subject)

Today's your birthday? Well then, happy birthday!



 [alt_percy](#) at **2010-01-02 03:32:07**

(no subject)

Many happy returns of the day, Lovegood. And Happy New Year. An auspicious day for a birthday.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2010-01-02 03:55:46**

(no subject)

Happy birthday, dear. I hope you got my owl at breakfast.



 [alt_luna](#) at **2010-01-02 03:56:56**

(no subject)

I did, thank you! It's always lovely to have more Weasley jam.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-01-02 04:57:11**

(no subject)


Hope you enjoyed your day. Did you do anything special to celebrate?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-02 16:16:42](#)
(no subject)


Three helpings of pudding at dinner. And I went outside and counted three shooting stars. I expect that means this will be a particularly lucky year.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-02 04:57:56](#)
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Lovegood.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-02 05:50:05](#)
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Luna.


I don't know if you have noticed, but the blanket you received for Christmas should now show a magical pocket in the center. It wasn't supposed to appear until your birthday. In that pocket you will find your birthday present. I hope you like it.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-02 16:17:12](#)
(no subject)

It worked! Thank you!



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-03 01:26:17](#)
(no subject)

Luna,

I hope you do bring you blanket back with you to school. Its important, and I will tell you why when I see you on the train.

2010-01-02 09:38:00

Order Only

Well, what an eventful Christmas and New Year. I was glad of the break, I must say. I shut up the shop on Christmas Eve, after the last frantic shoppers had finally left, and headed over to Moddey Dhoo for what was a lovely few days.



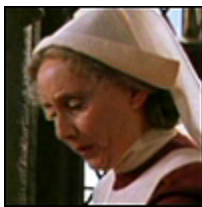
 [alt_lupin](#)


I'm glad to say I was able to take a little of the leftover stock with me - just a few bits and pieces, food, spices, and a few toys for the children. The rest is currently piled high in the shop, ready for our January Sale. Bargains galore!

This mess with the Prophet seems to have everyone on edge, especially the halfbloods. It seems the article has forced the Ministry's hand in at least admitting there's something going on and, perhaps, dealing with it. Unfortunately their idea of dealing with it seems to be arresting people.

Do we know who's been taken in? It sounds like that Sandoval girl helped set a few up for appointments with the Aurors at the St Mungo's gala. Poppy, is your friend from St Mungo's all right?

What a way to start the new year.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2010-01-02 17:47:59**
(no subject)

I wish I knew for certain what's become of Antigone Cantwell. I received a firecall from St Mungo's yesterday, and it was Healer Wentworth, asking if there were anything I needed to start the new year and informing me quite matter-of-factly that he will be my new standard contact going forwards. I did ask why the change, but he would say only that they've undergone a bit of 'restructuring' recently. I didn't feel I could press for anything more.

2010-01-02 19:33:00

Books and stars and sealing wax

Goodness, the time's flown again. Regrettably not much of it spent on the observation tower, as the weather has mostly been hopeless for it. A few days with my family, a few days with my oldest sister (and most of that with my eldest niece, who is now 9 and has started asking every question about Hogwarts she can think of when she gets hold of me.)



 **alt_sinistra**

Very useful presents from the family this year: several unusual astronomy books, and some lovely ink and sealing wax and a fine quill from my parents (perhaps a suggestion to write more, but they said it might be useful since I'm writing more formal owls these days than previously.)


I'm now back in my cozy office, though at the moment, it has star charts spread out all over the floor, which seems to rather confuse the house elves. I could move everything to a classroom, but it's easier to have them all handy. I think I've worked out a possible method for inside displays, but it's going to require some more testing, hence the charts being spread out.

Poppy: If you've time tomorrow, how about a lengthy tea to catch up? Otherwise, name your time: until classes start again, my schedule is quite flexible. I have had a chance to try out the hat, and it's quite lovely and works as advertised.

Oh, and...

D: sent an owl to you with the usual, but it came back unopened. I do hope you're having a nice time somewhere you forgot to tell me about, but do let me know where? There's something in this round you wanted sooner than later.



 **alt_poppy** at **2010-01-03 03:41:31**

(no subject)


That would be lovely, Aurora. Tomorrow it is!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working my way through the book you gave me. I do love old medicinal treatises, and this one is so robustly annotated by those who have

owned it before me that it feels as though I am their apprentice in the craft. I have tried out three of the broths so far. Not all of the fresh ingredients are available this time of year, though Pomona has surprised me twice already by having just what I wanted, growing in a quiet corner of one greenhouse or another. She is as intrigued as I am by the book: you know she's deeply interested in native plants, and the book's wealth of detail on local species and variants met with her approval.

Shall we say half-three tomorrow? Any time will suit me, really, so if you would prefer to make it later, please say



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2010-01-03 13:32:42](#)
(no subject)

Half-three would be excellent, and on my end we can have a nice time of it: I've nothing particular demanding my attention today unless the sky's clear tonight.

I'm glad you're enjoying the book: I always find annotations fascinating myself - they seem to me to tell so much about the people before you, and what they found either useful or curious.

2010-01-02 21:43:00

Narcissa

Have you heard anything either from the solicitor or from St Mungo's? Mother is of the wild opinion that they mean to classify the death as the first pureblood case of this muggle scourge or whatever it is they've determined to call the infernal thing.




 [alt_regulus](#)

I've done my best to reassure her, but as you know, my word has little currency these days. And then there's the likelihood that I may be called at any moment either to Buckingham or elsewhere. I expect to be kept on a very short lead until Our Lord's business has been resolved to His satisfaction. As you know, He is currently far from satisfied.

All of which is likely to leave Mother less than satisfied, and I'm afraid the brunt of that will fall on you and Druella. I wish I could see an alternative.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2010-01-03 05:44:12**
(no subject)

It would be incredible to classify it a disease-related death in a pureblood when the disease does not even affect halfbloods! Has she lost her head completely?


I shall have Caldecott and Fletcher contact her to-morrow. I would remind your mother that such unfounded suspicions are as dangerous as they are spurious. It does not require much in the way of rumour to feed public panic, while it takes at least twice the reassurance that nothing is amiss. She ought to have more sense.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2010-01-03 05:47:10**
(no subject)

I quite agree, husband. If you are so concerned, you might just go and calm Walburga yourself. I'm sure Reg would appreciate the assistance.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-03 05:52:52](#)
(no subject)

My love, I should be happy to assist were it not for my perfect confidence that Regulus is better equipped after a lifetime (or near to it) of experience with his mother's humours and the simple expedience that Caldecott and Fletcher shall be able to provide her with more comprehensive details regarding Cassiopoeia's estate and the circumstances of her demise, respectively.

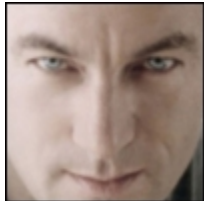
To say nothing of the fact that I do have more pressing engagements than listening to the paranoid ravings of your aunt.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-03 06:08:36](#)
(no subject)

Such as listening to the paranoid ravings of Dolores Umbridge or, shall we say, Mallory Gilmour?

Oh, excuse me, I should say Mallory Whitby, shouldn't I?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-03 06:14:37](#)
(no subject)

Umbridge, sadly, yes. Though one might hope, not for much longer.

~~Mallory~~ Mrs Whitby, no, not at all.

Dearest, when your cousin says Our Lord is less than pleased, he does not exaggerate. We have all set work aside for a day to properly greet the new year, but there remains a great deal of work to be done to repair the damage caused by Sirius Black and his band of reprobates. And as you well know, any incident prompted by Black deserves and demands his brother's full attention to reverse or correct.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-01-03 06:35:15](#)**
(no subject)

any incident prompted by Black deserves and demands his brother's full attention to reverse or correct


Oh, I do wish Bella would finish that man off properly. It's such a bore to have him always cropping up and spoiling everything. And then Reg could rest easy knowing the traitor will never bother him again, either.

Our Lord has been most generous considering that this crisis was so ill-timed. I'm certain you can allay His anxiety on behalf of His people. Kindly remember that Aunt Walburga is one of His people, as well, and that she is still recovering from the sudden blow of losing Lucretia so recently.

Must I contact Chief Healer Acton? At the gala she indicated there has been a small flood of concerned inquiries about the safety of half- and pureblood alike. If Fletcher cannot secure the findings in Aunt Cassie's case, then perhaps Acton will be more persuasive.

(And you were talking an awfully long time for someone not compelled to listen.)



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-03 06:50:21](#)**
(no subject)

When he is caught, and make no mistake he shall be caught sooner or later, Bella shall be the first of many to make her mark on the troublesome miscreant.

I believe our arrests on Thursday are the first of many steps to assuage Our Lord that His people are safe. Walburga certainly would not put her fears above those of Our Lord's.

More to the point, I began by saying I should send over Fletcher precisely so that she might be attended by one who can not only answer her demands but, if necessary, provide her with assistance of a medical nature. While I am sure Healer Acton would be happy to serve our family, I see no need to do

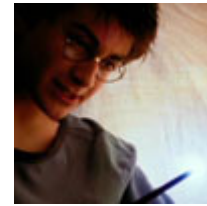
so currently.

(I do not believe it was overlong, my love. You were quite occupied much of the night yourself, that I noticed. How is Tiberius Twycross, by the way? I saw you talking but wasn't able to come say hello.)

2010-01-03 21:11:00

All right then

All right I suppose that I can't sulk for ever. Or ~~Hermione says so anyway~~. I didn't have a half bad Christmas. Thank you every body for what you sent. I know I said it already but thank you. Especially Draco.




 [alt_harry](#)

Also Draco I know you've alot to do with classes again, but so do I. We need to make sure we keep up with our project. I don't want all the work to go to waste. So do you know when we need to pick that thing yet??

Anyway. And Father apologised for making us stay at school. Well he didn't apologise exactly. But I know he meant it. So that is alright I suppose.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-04 15:20:42](#)
(no subject)

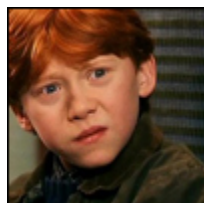
I dunno what everybody's got against sulking.


I mean, if you're good at it, it's like an art form, yeah?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-08 00:25:23](#)
(no subject)

Maybe a team sport, like Quidditch. Course, some people are in a class of their own. There are some mornings when I reckon you or Seamus could sulk for England!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-08 02:10:49](#)
(no subject)

Oi!

Good to know you missed us while you were home, though.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-01-05 21:56:19](#)**
(no subject)

It'll have to be during full moon, I know.

So how did your Father apologise to you?




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-01-05 22:05:57](#)**
(no subject)

Wrote a letter. Well I mean he had the Dictaquill write it. But he was nice about it. Before he just said I ought to Obey My Elders.


When's the next full moon though?



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-01-07 12:43:22](#)**
(no subject)

The next full moon will come the 30th of this month. Surely you didn't miss the brilliant full moon on New Year's eve!



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-01-07 22:37:06](#)**
(no subject)

Um of course I didn't miss it Lana. Who could've missed it? Really.

[2010-01-03 21:21:00](#)

Back at School

This was the best holiday yet, even with the news about so many people getting arrested. (And really, I hope the Minsitry does something if they learn that they all lied about the muggles getting sick.) First there was Draco's party (without Draco, but still) and then we saw Lav a couple times and then the St Mungo's gala most of all. Even if we did leave early.




 **[alt_padma](#)**

It's sort of hard to believe that we're back. Li and Brocklehurst and a few others came back on Friday, so they were already here when we arrived. Of course, Fawcett didn't leave at all. Li and Brocklehurst said that they thought it was rich, Mr Selwyn saying they could come back early, when the monster has been attacking halfbloods here. But I feel a lot better knowing that the Lord Protector doesn't think there's any danger here to those loyal to Him. And I'm sure Professor Lockhart will find out who's petrifying people really soon. He told a whole bunch of witches that he'd catch the culprit, at the gala. So I'm sure we're all perfectly safe. At least, anyone who isn't an enemy of the Heir, that is.

It's also good to be back at school for the food. I mean, it's not the type of food we usually eat, but it's mostly good and there's a lot more options for pudding than at home. Of course, it's silly but I'm really tired from being on the train. Lav and Belinda and I went through the special colour section of the *Prophet* with all the pictures from the St Mungo's gala. I was even in the background in a couple photographs!

So. Are we still on for History Club on Wednesday?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-01-05 22:01:34](#)**
(no subject)

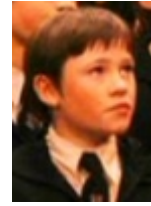
I'll be there.

I can't believe it's already time to do schoolwork again, though.

2010-01-04 22:09:00

back from holidays

So my Christmas was wiz-nift, I felt sorry for Ron and Marvolo and Malfoy stuck at school but mine were good. Padma, Mr Rosier gave me a lot of books, including some good history ones. Here I'll write out the titles:



 [alt_seamus](#)

Hogwarts: A History (Revised Updated Edition)
Fifteenth-Century Fiends
Great Wizarding Explorers and their Discoveries (this one is really good, I started reading it already)
Of the Blood: Italian Wizards of the Renaissance
Wizards of the Ancients (this one talks a lot about Egypt and has a chapter on parselmouths actually)

and then there's a set:
The Calm Before the Storm
Wizard War
The Dark Before the Dawn
Glorious New Morning


Thats all about the Lord Protector and the war back when He came to power -- well I mean the first one is about what they did before the war I think, and then theres one about the war, and then right after, and then the last I think is supposed to be modern history, its the thinnest of the four. Those have lots of photographs in them, Mr Rosier showed me one that had him in and I think Mr Malfoy is in there too. And Mrs Lestrangle.

Anyway if you want to borrow any of them let me know, but I want to finish the wizard explorers one before I loan it to anybody.

Mr Rosier says he wants to find me a tutor for next summer that will work with me on magic instead of just grammar. So ~~thats~~ that's good.

Dean came to visit last week before New Year's and that was nift! I missed the rest of you though you'll have to tell me all about what you did on your holiday!



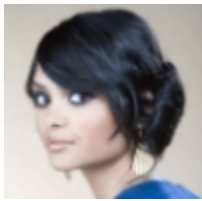
 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-06 17:43:07](#)


(no subject)

Nift!

Why don't you bring the 15th century one and the one with the bit about parselmouths. Parkinson might like to look at the one with photos in, maybe her dad's in one? I dunno, but if Mr Malfoy is, maybe.

See you tonight!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-06 17:45:50](#)

(no subject)

Oh, and the Italian one - I dunno if Mr Rosier told you but there was this big display at the Tate, where the St Mungo's gala was, on the Italian Court Mages, especially in Florence and the court magicians to the Borgia family, and all that. It was wizard. Does that one have lots of illustrations? There was an entire wall of portraits of famous wizards at the museum, all jabbering away in Italian.

2010-01-05 23:13:00

Private and Public business

Cassiopoeia Black's funeral will be to-morrow morning, which ought to put an end to an unpleasant business. Sinclair obtained her remains yesterday (about time!) and Caldecott has reviewed her will and testament. Luckily for the entire family, her affairs were in no wise as muddled as Lucretia's.



 [alt_lucius](#)

I have discussed with Walburga whether she wished to hold a public reception; she declined. Cassiopoeia was always a very private person. Moreover, in the current climate, Walburga agreed that large gatherings do not seem prudent. Per the announcement in the *Prophet*, we had established a small fund at St Mungo's for gifts on Lucretia's behalf; we shall now add Cassiopoeia's name to the endowment.

Meanwhile, the activities at the Ministry and among the administrative body of the camp continue to move along so brusquely that it was a minor miracle Ari and I were able to sit to a quiet, relaxing tea to-day. He has been offered a seat on the St Mungo's Board; tried to convince him to take it up, but not sure whether he will. Also he mentioned that he and Pandora did consent to have Kenwood profiled in the *Londinarium* sometime this spring.

Regarding the Ministry, attended a general meeting of all senior camp administrators to review the findings of the investigation into the sequence of events leading up to the *Prophet* article. Three Healers from St Mungo's were included, as well. Their chief concern has been to stem the spread of the disease, whereas our primary goal that day was to determine where and when the disease began to spread - and most importantly how it jumped from camp to camp. Certainly, the absence of any infection in any camp personnel reassures one that the danger is limited to the loss of labour and productivity and not a question of possible transmission. (It should be noted that precautions are still a wise measure, as is the case whenever coming into contact with anything tainted such as muggles.)

What is particularly vexing is the solidarity among the camp staff in their insistence that they have done all in their power to contain and

to reverse the disease - when obviously if they had taken more responsible action, they should have brought in experts much sooner, and perhaps saved the State countless Galleons in lost mugglepower. Within the Ministry, it is clear that a few key suspects who were made aware of the situation took it upon themselves to obfuscate the truth. One can only conclude that they feared retribution if they revealed the extent of the problem; a self-fulfilling prophecy if ever there were one! We have, I am happy to say, successfully detained those suspects whom we are confident played a part in worsening this menace - and those whom we strongly suspect are agents of the traitor, Sirius Black.


Finally on this subject, expect to discuss the entire matter with the Minister on Thursday, by which time I hope we will have the results of Selwyn's internal inquest. I cannot imagine Dolores herself bears any culpability, although there is something to be said for her ability to maintain a firm grasp of all that passes through her office

Speaking of maintaining order, forgot to mention that last week, I returned from Buckingham to the St James' house to find that Crispin had brought his nephews with him. Some mix-up, apparently, resulting from a prior commitment to take them for the day, which he could not then re-arrange after I required him to be on hand. Vorenus is eight and Gracchus is six, though he took great care to note that he will be seven in a mere three months. The boys reminded me a great deal of Draco and Harry at their ages: Polite, but inquisitive, and prone to curiosity if not well-occupied. Permitted Crispin to use the drawing-room for them, and further to order them up a meal and send the elf for a few of Draco's old toys and games to distract them and keep them from getting underfoot. Unfortunately it was not long before Gracchus became a little too excited playing 'Snitch-Snatcher' and one of his Chasers flew out of the drawing-room and into the foyer. Nothing a swift 'Reparo' could not remedy - but clearly something that ought not to be repeated. And clear indication that charming as both young men are, they were too much a distraction for any productive work to be accomplished whilst we shared their company. It was a further two hours, however, before Crispin could obtain another relative to watch them and get along with his duties. How quickly one forgets, once boys are able to amuse themselves without need of constant supervision.

Luckily, other than ad hoc demands, this is a light week. Court tomorrow, of course, and the matter of an appointment for drinks with

the Razzar and a few others on Friday, but otherwise one may recover from the ... excitement ... of the holidays in relative peace.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-06 22:06:25](#)
Order Only

"It should be noted that precautions are still a wise measure, as is the case whenever coming into contact with anything tainted such as muggles."

Poisonous--

Words fail me.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-06 22:19:27](#)
(no subject)

I assume all went well this morning. I owled Mother to inquire, but she hexed the bird and sent it back with the letter unopened.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-07 00:14:53](#)
(no subject)

All went smoothly, though I have never before been glad of above-ground crypts. But the ground was so frozen that anything else would have been difficult to manage.

She was very cross that you weren't able to attend. Accepted no explanations - convinced you simply didn't wish to rise early and there was some deal of grumbling about the way you've been 'flaunting' your new paramour. Was there a young lady you used to see in your last year of school? Melissa or Miranda ... something? She insisted that you ought to look her up again. I didn't care to point out that it's unlikely the witch in question is still single.

Anyway, don't fret. It's only your mother being ... your mother.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-07 02:57:58](#)
(no subject)

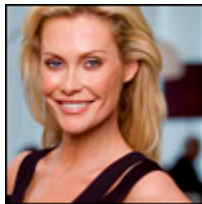
I thought as much. She spent all of Monday evening muttering that she really ought to update her will. I left when it was clear there was nothing else she wished to say to me.


Merlin's hairy earlobes.

That's why she wouldn't go to the gala, you know. Nothing to do with poor, dead Aunt Cassie.

You're thinking of Melusinda Ayres. Mother's forgiven her then? She was the one who took one too many glasses of Father's best port and lost her supper on the Persian carpet. They sent her home to her parents before the elves finished cleaning the mess.

Honestly. It's not as though I haven't dated my share of witches. Do you think it would help if I brought home a collection of lacy knickers from this trip? I could casually forget them in a satchel by the hall table.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-07 03:27:47](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps we could have some delivered with a note: Dear Aunt Walburga, this is just to certify that there's still hope someone will continue the Black legacy.

You could always foster. I'm sure she would approve of that - or at least, she dare not *disapprove!*



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-07 03:50:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, do! You've no idea how that would cheer me.

Who knows what she dares these days? You'd think she might not dare be so ostentatiously sour about my duties for Our Lord, but no, she goes about insinuating to all and sundry that I'm neglecting her in order to

indulge in appalling and lubricious pursuits.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-07 12:37:34](#)
(no subject)

I could send her a testimonial, detailing the names and vital statistics of the witches I invited to dine with us last year. I should think there were eight or nine of them that I introduced to


you.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-07 12:40:35](#)
(no subject)

Are you wanting to help matters?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-07 15:54:33](#)
(no subject)

You don't think she'd be pleased?




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-07 16:27:54](#)
(no subject)

That I'd been introduced to a long list of eligible young witches and not made any of them the next Mrs Black?

Thank you, no.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-07 16:30:05](#)
(no subject)

I suppose I might say I'd helped you pay off three or four of them to avoid paternity suits.




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-01-07 21:13:04](#)**
(no subject)

No, indeed, if anything that might make matters worse! Though if she doesn't stop agonising soon I may just lose my temper and ask her myself which son she prefers - the one who enjoys the company of other men, or the one who delighted in putting up posters of wretched muggle heifers. I do believe she still hasn't managed to pull down the pinup of that horrid Racquel whatever-her-name-was. In a bikini, no less.

Though really I think there may be a few people I know who might interest our Reg more than his current lost lamb. I thought for a while Antonia Masterson would have done for you, Barty dear, but then I saw you need another kind of girl altogether.

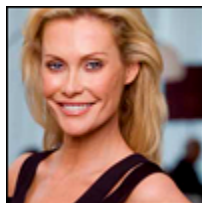



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-07 23:02:07](#)**
(no subject)

Sadly, she did manage to blast the one I preferred--the one of that Farrell Fawcett who had all that wild hair and the totally inadequate swimming costume.

And you're right, of course: imagine what Mother might do if she thought there were unclaimed grandchildren hiding somewhere out there. She'd set a reward for anyone who could produce them.

And as soon as they'd been located, she'd strike me off the tree. Not that there aren't moments when I imagine what a relief that might be.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-01-08 02:25:59](#)**
(no subject)


Careful, Reg - what would Ganymede say if he saw you lusting after a craven image!

Though it may assuage Auntie to know you

can still be tempted by the feminine form.

(And personally I think her threats to disown are all bluff. She can ill afford to be blanked by the rest of the family, if she decides to cut you out!)




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-08 02:39:43](#)
(no subject)

A bit of jealousy in that quarter might serve me well--maintain the mystery and whatnot, you know. After all, mystery is the strongest thing in my favour at the moment, given that we've scarcely any chance to deepen our acquaintance, let alone tire of one another.

I don't know. If I were him, I'd--

Well, no sense being fatalistic about it. Perhaps he'll give me more of a chance than I deserve.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-07 23:08:04](#)
(no subject)

Another kind of girl altogether? Do tell.


Not that I disagree about Antonia; that's completely impossible. For any number of reasons.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-08 02:27:43](#)
(no subject)

No, it's far more fun to simply point them in your direction and let you fend for yourself.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-08 02:46:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, point them all you like. If it amuses you.

2010-01-07 10:49:00

Order Only: Back in the Thick of It



 [alt_poppy](#)

I suppose it was predictable. Ever since the first group of halfbloods returned at the end of last week, I've been kept hopping. I don't believe the holiday helped allay stress at all: I'm seeing far more than the usual number of upset tummies and weak digestive tracts, and every night the Prefects bring me more children stricken with evil dreams, sleepwalking, and bedwetting. Just this morning I've had a student, fully awake, who wet himself because Peeves popped out of a suit of armour just behind him in a dim corridor. The poor thing needed to be sedated.

And then there are the children who are certain, regardless of official assurances, that they are doomed to fall ill of the Scourge because they had some contact, however superficial or distant, with a muggle or muggleborn person over the holidays. And bless them, they could be right. I've interviewed each of them and have assigned three of them beds here at the farthest end of the ward, though I do not believe that any of them is suffering from anything more than a touch of flu and a very heavy burden of anxiety. All three report aches and all are mildly feverish, but from all we've heard, I'd expect much more dramatic symptoms were it really the dreaded mystery ailment--particularly as it seems the disease has become more vehement each time it's crossed into a new segment of the population.

I shall be very grateful if we reach the end of the month and have no cases of the disease here. At that point, we should have passed the danger that someone could be incubating the illness in our midst.


I've still heard nothing about Antigone Cantwell. I do wish they'd release a list of those they've arrested or those they intend to try. It's dreadfully unsettling to have no news of her. Of course, she might well have been released immediately, or she might never have been arrested at all. I suppose I'll have to content myself with the hope that no news is good news. It's difficult to place faith in that old adage in these times, however.

Sadly, it seems my friend Aurora Sinistra is suffering a similar sort of anxiety for a friend of hers. Over tea Sunday, she confided that she'd had an owl returned unanswered from a friend who is a regular correspondent of hers, a young man who is presently working as a research assistant to an astronomer somewhere in the northern

highlands. She says she heard from him after Christmas, but then sent him some information he'd requested only to have the owl return with its message unopened. She's tried by post and through the journals but has heard nary a word, and she maintains that's utterly unlike him. What worries her most is that he's a halfblood, and she knows enough to understand that the Ministry's assurances may, in fact, signal a real reason to fear. (It's a terrible thing to say under the circumstances, but I am pleased to see her question the official line.) I asked her this morning at breakfast, and she confirmed that she's still had no word at all. Poor thing, I believe he might be rather more dear to her than she's willing to admit.

Speaking of people from whom a bit of reassurance would be soothing, I trust that all is well with each of you, but especially with Sirius, Kingsley, and our friends at the Sanctuary. I'm afraid that when very many days go by with no word from you, I do begin to fret.




 **alt_sirius** at [2010-01-08 02:49:42](#)
(no subject)

Sorry - didn't mean to fuss you, Poppy.

Everything's fine here. Except

Well, yeah. Everything's okay. Nothing to report.




 **alt_poppy** at [2010-01-08 03:13:48](#)
(no subject)

Except?

Whatever is the matter, Sirius? You aren't feeling unwell, are you? Anything amiss with the young lad you sent off to Beauxbatons?




 **alt_sirius** at [2010-01-08 03:39:37](#)
(no subject)

No, no ... I'm right as a Re'em. Justin's fine as well, just had a letter from him at Christmastide, in fact.

It's nothing. I mean, it can wait until all this business with the camps settles out. I'm sure it's nothing, anyway.




 **alt_poppy** at [2010-01-08 04:06:17](#)
(no subject)

Sirius Black! 'I'm sure it's nothing' is not a reassuring thing to say. It's never nothing when one uses that phrase. What on earth? Has your stalker made a reappearance? Are you in some sort of difficulty? or outright danger? Has that dodgy spice dealer sent his thugs after you?

The more I think of it, the more alarming it appears!



 **alt_sirius** at [2010-01-08 04:54:40](#)
(no subject)

You're right, sorry. I didn't mean that it's 'nothing' but it's naught to do with Death Eaters or personal injury.

But you're right, Poppy, my 'stalker' did eventually find me. He's no Death Eater at all. His name is Aleksander Rinkov and he had some ... unsettling, I guess you'd say, intelligence about Sabola, the dealer. But I didn't want to say anything because I haven't had time to check his story out, yet. He had some claims -

Well, I haven't been able to corroborate them, anyway.

2010-01-07 11:53:00


(no subject)

I don't see why everyone's getting so excited. It's just a bit of snow. It happens every year up here. We are in Scotland, after all.



 **alt_ernie**



 **alt_ron** at **2010-01-07 17:56:15**

(no subject)

It's brilliant, isn't it?!!

2010-01-07 13:21:00

(no subject)

Excellent day o work, there.

A few more like that, and you could take a proper holiday.



 **alt_wagstaff**

2010-01-07 20:09:00

Order Only

Everyone's keeping their heads down this week at the Ministry while Selwyn's turning over cauldrons, looking for people to blame. Of course, in my Division (Communications), we're not feeling the heat nearly as much as they are over at the Departments of Purity Control or Muggle Domestication. Dad, I trust you're keeping your head down, too. I managed to snatch a quick glimpse of one of the arrest lists. I didn't see the name of the friend from St Mungo's you're worrying about, Poppy, but it could be that she's been detained for questioning or demoted, just not arrested. There's also a list of the ones who've been sacked, but they're mostly administrators at the various camps.




 [alt_bill](#)

Of course, as long as things are getting shaken up, there are always some who are hoping to fly their brooms a little higher. An exceedingly interesting argument broke out in the office of my division head, Placidus Plympton this afternoon. Everyone could clearly hear Marcus Massopust (that's my supervisor) thundering at Plympton through the closed door: 'No way am I going to let that tart work under me, much less over me.'

I caught two staffers exchanging smirks. Fortunately, somebody else asked, so I didn't have to: 'Who's he talking about?' and one of the smirkers (Shelby) whispered back, 'Rowena Robins. You know, Umbridge's assistant? Way I heard it, that's not all she's set her sights on. Lucius Malfoy himself put in a word on her behalf.' Then he made a crack, something about how he wouldn't mind a prime little article like her working under him. With a snigger that made it quite clear exactly what sort of working he had in mind. (You would have landed him a clout on the ear if you'd heard him, Mum.)

Interesting. Shelby's got a filthy mind most of the time, but I wonder if there's something to the rumour.




 [alt_poppy](#) at **2010-01-08 03:24:25**
(no subject)

Oh, Bill. Thank you for checking. I do appreciate it.

I hesitate to mention it, because I'm not sure what good the information would do since I couldn't

possibly pass it on to Aurora, but if you should happen to see any mention of the name Dai Jones in the parchments that cross your desk, I suppose it would set my mind at ease to hear of it. (Or perhaps it would have the opposite effect.) The obvious worry is that he's fallen ill and been carted off to St Mungo's or worse, and it seems you're unlikely to see any documentation on those poor souls, but there are other possible explanations for a halfblood's sudden disappearance, some of which might be chronicled in the logs and lists you see daily.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-08 05:25:30](#)**
(no subject)

Rumour that she's reaching for Massopust's job, Bill, or the rumour that this Robins girl is interested in Malfoy? (I mean, really, *Malfoy*? Ycch.)

Has anyone in your department got the sack? I know your father mentioned several in his last report.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-09 14:23:05](#)**
(no subject)

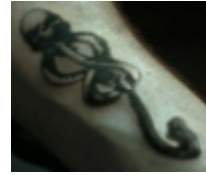
I mean to say that if Massopust knows of movement, someone coming in to take over - well, it stands to reason that someone's leaving, right?

2010-01-07 20:40:00

(no subject)

NEWT Level study group:

Lana Sandoval
Shivani Johns
Serena Laverty
Taiga Bode
Dana Kirke
Moe Darst
Leander Bobolis
Eudoxus Troy
oh, and Psyche Bobolis



 [alt_amycus](#)

There's a parchment on my office door for you to note your schedule. Tuesdays, I think, Tuesday evenings will work out best. But not everything always goes the way we hope it will, hmm? We won't wait for you if it doesn't.

I never wait for anybody.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2010-01-08 03:05:43**

(no subject)

Thank you, Professor Carrow. I know we are all looking forward to the challenging work you will set us.

2010-01-09 16:15:00

Personnel Matters

After many late nights, I have finally reviewed the application materials of all those who expressed interest in various open or soon-to-be-opened positions in the departments I oversee. This whole business has been exhausting; the good news is that many excellent individuals will have new opportunities as they move up into positions of more responsibility.



 [alt_selwyn](#)

Lucius, I do apologise: while I found your assessments invaluable and relied on your recommendations in most instances, there were a few I couldn't accept. In particular, the young lady you endorsed so highly simply did not have the qualifications for the job. I certainly understand why she is eager for a change and I'm sure we'll be able to find her a position somewhere in my division if she's interested in Protectorate Affairs, but not at the Department Director level. I expect there will be quite a few openings in the Division of Education, some with significant responsibility -- do her interests lie in that direction at all?



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2010-01-10 04:00:38**

(no subject)


Department Dominic, the misunderstanding is mine. I had no idea she had applied for that high a post.

I did advise her to sit tight, that there were certain to be changes in a short matter of time, but I'm sure you could tell that she is ambitious. (One can only imagine *how* ambitious!) I shouldn't wonder if she considers Education a slow track.

I shall be back in the Ministry on Monday to sit in on the general meeting. I'm sure I shall have a chance to speak with her then and ... explain to her the limitations of my mentoring. Believe me, I shall also ascertain her particular thoughts on whether she ought not to stay put a while longer (as after all, her current position certainly provides solid training for any future advancement she may wish to pursue), or whether there are other options she considers viable.


I do thank you for your attention to her application, however.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-01-10 04:05:48](#)
(no subject)

Ambition is certainly to be encouraged, of course. If she's not interested in Education I'm sure we can find something for her. Naturally if she wishes to avoid working directly with her former superior that may complicate things. I believe the former supervisor is expected to continue on at the Ministry, just at a somewhat reduced level... her current position with a new superior might be preferred.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-10 04:32:51](#)
(no subject)

You have hexed the mark, I think, for I could not convince her that the changes to leadership in her department would naturally result in a relief from the ... challenges presented on a daily basis.

But perhaps she will see the advantages of providing her excellent skills to a more receptive audience. (And I really cannot say enough that she *is* exceptional in various arenas, but I do agree that she is not strictly ready for so large an upgrade. I do not believe I must tell you that I am not one who keeps useless people about, nor takes their part to elevate them beyond their capacities.)



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-01-10 05:01:01](#)
(no subject)

On occasion one simply wants a change, and there are certainly abundant opportunities at present.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-10 04:13:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh?


Don't tease us, Dominic. Which young lady did my husband recommend to you? I'd like to know who has abused his goodwill to trouble you with frivolous bids for work.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-01-10 04:17:54](#)**
(no subject)

It wasn't frivolous, merely an overlarge step considering her previous experience. I'm afraid I can't be specific about names in so public a forum until the announcements are made.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-10 04:24:52](#)**
(no subject)

'Abuse' is rather an over-statement, my dear.
'Squander' might be better.

And as the young lady in question undoubtedly will wish to pursue her career in peace, I am sure she appreciates Dominic's tact in maintaining her confidentiality.

2010-01-10 13:23:00

(no subject)

Watch yerself, Wags.

It's not a time to get careless.



 **alt_wagstaff**

2010-01-11 11:17:00

New Administration

General Meeting of the Ministry went rather well, I thought. And best, the reporters actually minded the acceptable questions listing they were provided. Both Dolores and Cornelius were able to maintain an orderly transition.



 **alt_lucius**

Naturally, the change in leadership at the Ministry will mean a great deal more activity in the coming weeks - Minister Fudge's orientation will require a number of meetings to fully acquaint him with his staff and the scope of operations within the Ministry proper; I am confident that he will have the full support of his Department and Division Directors. And the Council, of course.

Understand that he has a meeting with his personal staff this afternoon; including re-introducing Dolores in her new post as Senior Undersecretary. Shan't attend, of course, but nonetheless wish him all possible luck and remain grateful to Sr Undersecretary Umbridge's willingness to continue to serve in this capacity, as it will doubtless assist Cornelius in his efforts to improve the Ministry's processes and procedures.

More later; this afternoon there are an alarming number of matters awaiting attention once the question of the changeover was settled.



 **alt_poppy** at **2010-01-11 18:47:20**

Order Only

I don't suppose this changing of the guard will make any difference at all to those of us here in the hinterlands, but I do rather hope that Cornelius Fudge wears on Lucius Malfoy's patience every bit as much as Dolores Umbridge has done.

2010-01-11 13:38:00

(no subject)

Havin a drink to the old lady today.

Know what it's like when they try an drag you down.



 **alt_wagstaff**

[2010-01-11 19:03:00](#)

XII.

The new term is off to a brisk start, and I'm pleased to see that everyone seems to have settled back into their daily routines with a minimum of fuss. Of course, it would be well if some of our number could stiffen their spines and rely a bit less on Madam Pomfrey to console them for every chill or nightmare or pinched finger. I mentioned to the Headmistress yesterday that it would be perfectly fair to charge a small fee to those who use so much more than their share of the Matron's resources.



 [alt_lana](#)

It's difficult to believe that this first month of the new year is nearly halfway through--and there is so much on the schedule for its second half! This Thursday is the next meeting of the Duelling Club (and again on the 28th and alternate Thursdays for the remainder of the year). On Saturday, as everyone must surely be aware, Ravenclaw and Slytherin meet on the pitch for a game that may well determine this year's House Cup, but which will, in any case, be a stoutly fought battle of wills between two fine teams. May the best side win!

The following Saturday will see the first Young Protector's League meeting of the new term. I believe that Professor Sinistra means to announce her plans for that gathering very soon, so I will say no more here. Do keep an eye out for the sign-up list on her office door.

LAVERTY: Did you get the note I asked Perks to give you? I was expecting to see you after lunch today in the usual place, but you didn't show. There's something very important Johns and I need to discuss with you before tomorrow evening. We'll look for you after breakfast, but it's imperative we connect by lunch at the latest. (You've seen the list, of course, so you may have an idea what we'd like to propose. I promise you'll be well-served by it.)

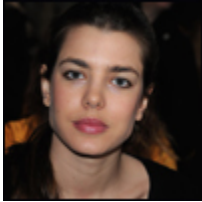



 [alt_lucius](#) at **[2010-01-12 23:42:20](#)**

(no subject)

I mentioned to the Headmistress yesterday that it would be perfectly fair to charge a small fee to those who use so much more than their share of the Matron's resources.

An interesting proposition, Miss Sandoval. By the same logic, would you hold students responsible for their medicinal expenses should they suffer a more grievous injury or illness than their cohorts?



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-01-13 00:29:57](#)**
(no subject)


A fair question, Mr Malfoy. Thank you for taking my proposal seriously enough to pursue it.

I believe that the school does and should provide care for whatever befalls us in our normal pursuits here. Furthermore, it is plainly the case that some of the assignments, opportunities, tasks, and recreations provided us as part of this school's rich and challenging curriculum involve a certain amount of risk to health and body. It is to be expected that if one of the Chasers were to fall from a broom during a Quidditch match, she or he should be treated without incurring additional charge, even if those injuries prove quite dire and expensive to treat.

My suggestion is merely that those who abuse Madam Pomfrey's care and the school's coffers would think twice before asking a Prefect to escort them to the hospital wing in the wee hours of the morning merely because they've wet their sheets for the fifth time in a fortnight.

A fine of sufficient size might amend behaviour. And, of course, it might also offset some of the expense of such unwarranted demands on the Matron's stores.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 02:42:59](#)**
(no subject)


Intriguing. And may one assume that if the student so taxing the school's resources is a halfblood, his foster-family would be held to account?

Madam Pomfrey is a skilled and experienced Healer. One could as easily ask why her ministrations have not proved effective for the unfortunate who, despite intervention, fails to respond - and in such a case, is it truly the shortcoming of the individual, or an indication that the cure is insufficient?

There is something to be said for disciplining one's reactions to

stress; however, when a child develops a chronic condition which no amount of magical healing can undo, perhaps it is a sign that more stringent measures are warranted. In which event, an additional penalty would only worsen the ailment, rather than aid in the cure.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-13 03:37:31](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure every family handles these things differently, but if it seemed a terrible imposition, I would think the family--or foster family, if that's the case--would apply a healthy amount of additional pressure to encourage the child to learn discretion and self-reliance. And in some families, I suppose, the child might be expected to repay whatever sum was assessed. Children need to learn there are consequences for their actions. They need to learn that lesson early and have it re-enforced often. Even in my own family, I'm afraid, we have seen both the necessity and the difficulty of this.

As for Madam Pomfrey's abilities, I'm sure I would never question her skill in Healing, and I doubt that Medi-magic can do much to cure a patient suffering only imaginary ailments.

I agree that a strong line ought to be taken. What measures would you consider sufficiently stringent to produce the desired effect?




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-13 03:41:49](#)
(no subject)

I could not agree more that children need to learn consequences to their actions.


Perhaps you would care to Cruciate each of them, seeing as how the effects of that spell on reinforcing bladder control are well-known. As well as hypochondria.



 **alt_lana** at [2010-01-13 15:54:55](#)
(no subject)

I beg your pardon?



 **alt_lucius** at [2010-01-13 17:06:39](#)
(no subject)

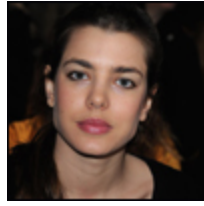
You may, though I am more interested to know your justification for the use of the curse in last night's excitement.


You propose to disincentivise children from indulging in night fears or other irrational behaviour. My point, young lady, is that behaviour which is inherently irrational cannot necessarily be deterred by rational appeal. Even an extreme measure such as the threat of the Cruciatus may not be a guarantee of self-control in the face of an unchecked compulsion. (Indeed, I see that Bellatrix has noted the lengths to which people will go to avoid the ordeal. Hence you will agree that the threat of the curse is a tool to be used carefully and not capriciously.)

On the other hand, the pattern established by a child who persists in difficulty, even after the introduction of consequences, may well be concealing a deeper worryment, of which their conduct is merely an outward sign.

I assure you, you are not the first to express annoyance at the foolishness of your younger charges, nor shall you be the last. I can certainly sympathise, for the shepherding of the inane is one of the less desirable responsibilities falling to the Head Boy and Girl.

What I wonder, however, is whether these incidents betray a more fundamental source for anxiety. Look beyond the surface action to determine whether their repeated trouble is simply a case of having been coddled, or whether it bears further investigation.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-01-13 20:46:07](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure you are right when you suggest that if imposing reasonable consequences fails to correct the behaviour of a child it suggests a deeper issue, but surely that is a reason to establish deterrents appropriate to the troublesome behaviour. Currently there are none with respect to the Matron's services, and my suggestion to the Headmistress was that it might be time to implement some measures to prevent abuse of Madam Pomfrey's time and resources.


I confess that I'm not certain whether we are in agreement or disagreement on that point.

My proposal of a small fine as the disincentive measure was presented as a suggestion, and there may well be a deterrent better suited to this particular problem. It is now in the Headmistress's hands whether she feels the suggestion worthy of further consideration.

As for my use of the Cruciatus curse last night, I acted there in my role as a head student in the presence of witnesses and under the supervision of a teacher. I stand by my use of the curse in the circumstances. I can certainly not be accused of overusing that method for responding to disruptive students, as this was the first time I have attempted the curse. I see that Professor Carrow has already informed you that he found my first effort unsatisfactory and instructed me in its better application on a second attempt.

Certainly Cruciatus is not a disincentive to be used in all situations or to be abused, but it does appear to have a pronounced effect not only on the student who was subject to its disciplinary effects but also on her peers.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-14 04:33:44](#)**
(no subject)


I believe it is for the Matron to decide and track, given her extensive experience, whether the demand for her resources has exceeded years past. I remain dubious, though I could be

convinced, that a fine of any kind will be any more efficacious than any other deterrent, regardless of how reasonable or not. A child who is afraid in the night, whether due to a real or an imagined threat, is unlikely to be assuaged by the thought of incurring a debt, any more than that child is apt to become *less* frightened by more extreme penalties, such as the idea that if she seeks assistance, she is likely to fall under Cruciation for her trouble.

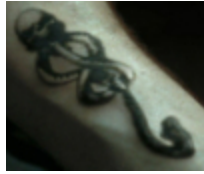
Regarding your use of that valuable weapon, I was not questioning your authority, but the circumstances which you defend so readily. Presumably there was some provocation to the incident that has not yet been disclosed; Professor Carrow's presence and his subsequent use of the incident as a teaching tool are, sadly, not necessarily the most ringing endorsement, though I do not for a moment doubt that he encouraged its further application. As your mentor pointed out, the use of the curse is something that takes a considerable amount of commitment. Whether or not you believe you possess the qualifications necessary to determine that the situation warrants the Cruciatu*s*, applying the curse on a fellow student for any reason less than absolute need may secure you a reputation as a fearsome opponent, but not necessarily as a confidante, to whom one can apply for succor when needed (and in whom one may entrust one's secrets).


Bella counsels you to harden yourself and there is much to be said for that advice, particularly if that is the direction in which your personality leads you. Too many of the demands on an Auror require resolute stoicism in the face of our enemies' rancor. There is also a great deal of merit to remaining approachable, so that you may also draw in those who would otherwise have reason to hide their anxieties. Perhaps you are familiar with the phrase 'Good Auror / Bad Auror'?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-15 22:23:28](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for your counsel, Mr Malfoy. I will give it due consideration along with Mrs Lestrangle's words.




 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-13 19:51:36](#)
(no subject)

She needs to refine her technique a bit, for that to be useful, though.

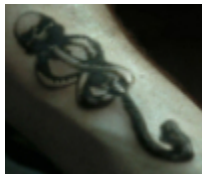
She'll get better with practise, I daresay.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-13 19:58:17](#)
(no subject)

As will her judgement of when it is warranted, one presumes.


Not that I object to her proving to her charges that she is capable - but one must take care that the example set sends the right message, as well.



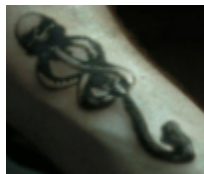
 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-13 19:48:43](#)
(no subject)


It'd be less bleeding waste, for both schools and families, not to bother with half-bloods altogether.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-13 19:51:07](#)
(no subject)


No doubt, Amycus, no doubt. But if all goes well with our programmes, then within a few years there will *be* no half-bloods with whom to bother.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-13 20:10:16](#)
(no subject)

That day can't come quickly enough for me.

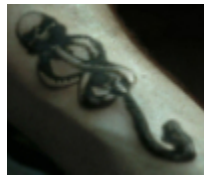



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 20:17:23](#)**
(no subject)

Now, now. Patience, Amycus. After all, it's not the child's fault, but the parents', and we have already seen great success with our methods. I daresay many of the halfbloods currently enrolled have no greater ambition than to serve Our Lord as faithfully as we, His own Council.

Our focus must remain on the job at hand, which is to encourage them in their development as productive, pure-minded citizens, overcoming their taint, rather than remaining forever entrapped by its stain. Our Lord has all the vigilantes He needs, at present.

How is your research coming on?



 **[alt_amycus](#)** at **[2010-01-13 20:57:40](#)**
(no subject)

Well enough. Using the NEWT study group will make the work go faster.

I need more rats.

2010-01-11 22:04:00

Order Only: Changes at the Ministry



 [alt_arthur](#)

For those watching from afar, I think the dust has more or less settled by now. Those of us in the thick of things are starting to cautiously poke our heads back up now that the dragons have stopped trumpeting and throwing fireballs around, i.e., I think we finally have a good picture of what the organisational structure will be. At least, I haven't heard of any more changes in the past half hour. Progress.

Here's the news I have on some of the key positions

Minister - Fudge

Sr. Undersecretary - Umbridge

Div. Protectorate Affairs - Selwyn

Dept. Purity Control - Warrington

Department of Muggle Domestication - Spencer-Wells

Asst. Director MD - Dunstan (I've heard different stories as to whether Griderson's actually been sacked, or merely placed on administrative leave, pending Selwyn's investigation. But it's clear that the replacement is permanent)

Dept. of Education and Public Information - Massopust

Div. of Education - Unnamed as of yet

Div. of Wizarding Communications - Plympton

Asst. Director WC - not heard yet

Well, well. The biggest news that everyone's talking about, of course, is Umbridge being blamed for the whole epidemic fiasco and being demoted, and Fudge stepping up. I overheard someone wonder out loud why Selwyn didn't step in as Minister of Magic himself, rather than letting Fudge promote over him, and I was hard put to stifle my snorting at the very idea. It's clear from the caliber of people they put in that role (Umbridge, Fudge) that the Minister of Magic is a mere patsy, and that's something you'll never consider Selwyn, particularly with that Dark Mark on his arm.

Norma's quietly rejoicing that Griderson's out, but I'm a little less optimistic. I've worked with Dunstan. A social climbing snob, I'd call him. I find it difficult to believe that Muggle welfare will be his first priority. They pulled him in from Purity Control ostensibly because the MD department was filled with negligent bureaucrats (i.e., Griderson) who allowed the epidemic to hot up under their watch rather than

'considering what should have been their first priority, the safety of the realm.' (What codswallop; everyone knows the first concern of everyone at Muggle Domestication is supposed to be filling every possible requisition order for slave labour.) Well, they can't pin that accusation on Norma, fortunately. She kept copies of all the memos she sent to Griderson begging him to get the word out (and all the ones he replied to her, ordering to keep her mouth shut on the subject.) The parchment trail made an excellent excuse to sack Griderson, and they also protected her, at least somewhat.

Bill, it seems that there was something to that conversation you overheard in your department. Massopust has jumped two spots, over Plympton, and moreover, he was apparently adroit enough to keep the ambitious Miss Robins out of his department.

Bill, have you heard who's going to be taking over Massopust's old position?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-01-12 14:52:56](#)

(no subject)

It's a likely young rising chap in the department. You had him over for dinner last Sunday night.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-12 14:54:36](#)

(no subject)

Really? Bill, that's wonderful!




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-12 14:55:35](#)

(no subject)


Bill? You got it? Oh, how proud I am of you, dear! What's your new title now, then?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-12 14:57:26](#)**
(no subject)

I now proudly bear the title of 'Assistant Director of Wizarding Communications' and have the name plate and dumpy little office next to the janitor's closet that goes with it.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-01-12 15:00:40](#)**
(no subject)

That may prove quite useful, really, as you will find it easy to touch base with Nymphadora Tonks when you need to.


Is it also going to increase your security level to the point that the Order will be able to get its hands on new information?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-12 15:07:18](#)**
(no subject)

Not sure yet, Dad. I still won't be able to look at anything with the Unspeakables of course, but I'm hoping I might get a better look at the internal communications over at MLE, which would certainly be a windfall for us. I'd want to be very careful about it, of course. I've no particular ambition to do anything to draw the personal notice of the formidable Mrs Lestrangle.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 00:19:53](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Bill!

It's good to know they continue impressed with your skills - and that you've continued to fool them into thinking you're on their side.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-12 15:24:39](#)
(no subject)


Arthur. Bill.

I've just caught up with a stack of *Prophets* from the weekend, and I'm staring at an obituary for a reporter named Maxine Hamilton. It's very brief--blunt, I'd call it. Says she was found dead beside an overflowing rubbish skip in Knockturn Alley.

This is the reporter who broke the story, isn't it? Or am I mistaken?

No wonder Malfoy was gloating about how submissive the reporters had been during yesterday's meeting!




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-12 15:34:11](#)
(no subject)

But, oh. Bill. I should have said.

marvellous.

Congratulations on your promotion. That's truly



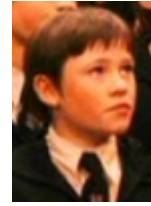
 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-12 17:47:07](#)
(no subject)

Bloody hell.

Bill, see what you can find out.

2010-01-12 18:51:00
SOMETHINGS WRONG

I hear someone screaming, Percy are you near here? I'm going to see whats going on MAYBE ITS THE PERSON WHOSE PETRIFYING PEOPLE



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2010-01-13 01:02:39**

(no subject)

RON where are you? Are you anywhere near the Transfiguration classroom because we could use

I mean where

It's not the heir of Slytherin don't worry.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2010-01-13 01:12:53**

(no subject)

Anyway just so you know it was Perks who was screaming and it wasn't the Heir of Slytherin, just Sandoval, she used cruciatus and I dont know why

Parkinson keeps saying Perks didnt do anything wrong but she must

Im going to walk with them to Slytherin but MacDougal is scared too shes going to get their books from the library and bring them

Oh bother I think Perks is going to be sick again

2010-01-12 20:04:00

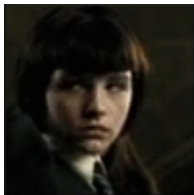
(no subject)

I've got Sally-Anne she's being sick in the hall she got cruciod by Sandoval. she didn't do anything wrong she just went to the transfig classroom to get the notes she left because we were revising and she wanted to look something up honest, she was just getting her notes, that's it, and Morag and me heard her screaming cause we were following after cause we were worried about the Heir thinger and now I'm waiting for her to be done being sick so we can go back to the dorms and she looks really pale and Seamus heard too so he's here which is good because I can't very well fight that Heir thinger off and help Sally-Anne at the same time cause she can't walk very well and oh bugger



 [alt_pansy](#)

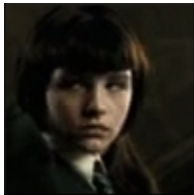
Ron, Morag will be at the library or on her way there or on her way back and she'll be alone too and could you help her out back to her dorm only be careful, or really anyone cause I know she's scared



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-01-13 01:10:21**

(no subject)

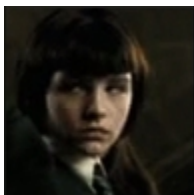
cause she's getting our books, Sally-Anne's and mine



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-01-13 01:10:47**

(no subject)

I mean Morag, Morag's getting our books from the library and bringing them to us at Slytherin




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-01-13 01:12:27**

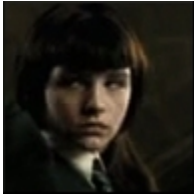
(no subject)


and for the record she didnt' do ANYTHING WRONG she was just getting her notes she left by accident



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:14:38](#)
(no subject)


because she wanted to REVISE.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:15:58](#)
(no subject)

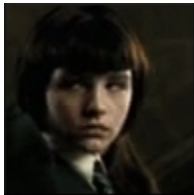
Sally-Anne I mean.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 03:47:33](#)
(no subject)

Lana cast the Cruciatus Curse? Because Perks was fetching her notes?


Well, I'd be surprised if anyone tries to crowd the Head Girl out of one of the couches in the Common Room for awhile.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:18:44](#)
(no subject)


~~LANA SANDOVAL IS VILE AND I HATE HER~~



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-13 01:21:54](#)
(no subject)


Ron if you see this we're about half way to Slytherin and forget about Morag just come here I think your better than I am at getting Parkinson to calm down and I can go find Morag and be sure shes okay.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:28:46](#)
(no subject)


I AM CALM.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:29:38](#)
(no subject)


you just keep your eyes out for the heir and WE'LL
BE FINE.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-13 01:34:16](#)
(no subject)

I am keeping my eyes out for the heir!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 01:36:49](#)
(no subject)

NO YOUR NOT YOUR WRITING IN THIS JUST
WALK AND WATCH FINNEGAN




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-13 01:39:21](#)
(no subject)

Your writing too and anyway Im only checking to
see if Ron got the message!

I dont think he did




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 01:49:24](#)
(no subject)

I got it. I'm with Morag, and we're just coming
down to the dungeons now.

(Except that Sandoval was at the end of this


corridor so we're just stopped here for a minute pretending there's nobody down here.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 01:50:33](#)
(no subject)


Right. We're on the way. We've got all the books and quills and things. I think. She says we got it all, anyway.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 01:52:49](#)
(no subject)


Hang on, though. Why aren't you taking her to the hospital wing? If she was sickening up like that, shouldn't Madam Pomfrey have a look?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 01:54:19](#)
(no subject)

Hang on. Pans? Why aren't you taking her to the hospital wing? If she's as bad as all this says.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 02:00:20](#)
(no subject)

I asked and she didn't want to she wanted to go to the common room. If she isn't feeling better really soon though, I'll make a Prefect take us.

And you just get a sick stomach for the first hour or so, and after that you get cold and achey and just feel off. I'll get one of the house elves to get her ginger tea to settle her stomach after she's done sickening up.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 02:02:42](#)
(no subject)

Do you really think she should make the decision. I mean, if she's sick and


Oh. Right, you kind of know what to expect,

don't you?

So, anywiz. Where are you? Are you already back at Slytherin? Have you gone inside yet? We're almost there. (Except Morag just dropped a load of books.)

Anyway, yeah. Almost there!



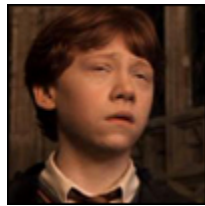
 **alt_seamus** at [2010-01-13 02:04:18](#)
(no subject)


Ooooooh sorry about that Ron.

Parkinson had me watching for the heir and

well the books fell and

Anyway sorry!




 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-13 02:05:56](#)
(no subject)

Ooof.

Yeah, no worries, mate.

Glad we found you. Pans? Can you come out and get the stuff, then?



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-01-13 02:06:20](#)
(no subject)

coming.

thanks.

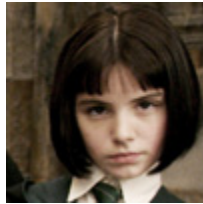
loads.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-13 02:10:05](#)**
(no subject)

We've got time to see MacDougal back to Ravenclaw before curfew.

Anyway Parkinson tell Perks I hope she feels better soon.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 02:13:30](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Finnegan. Really. I know I got a bit screamy back there, but I was really really really worried about Sally-Anne, and I don't know what I would have done if something had happened with the Heir and you hadn't been there to help.


You Gryffindor lot really take that whole bravery thing very seriously.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-13 02:15:25](#)**
(no subject)


Your welcome.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 02:15:28](#)**
(no subject)

I mean it, Ron, thank you thank you thank you for helping with Morag and I know it's late and all so you need to get back to your common room, but we'll see you tomorrow.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 03:21:15](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it was no prob.

I hope you're able to sleep. D'you think you will?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 04:42:26](#)
(no subject)

I'm actually pretty worn out, so yeah.

I'll probably have some pretty nutty dreams, though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 02:21:02](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron

I really don't need the hospital wing. It's ok. I'll be fine.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 03:22:57](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I'm glad you're okay. I hope so, anyway. You're not just saying, are you?

I can't believe that happened. To you, especially. I mean, just. Yeah. That's really not on.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-13 03:43:57](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I was at the library until just before curfew and just saw this now. Sally-Anne, I'm ever so sorry.

Was that what they were doing in that NEWT level study

group, learning how to throw that curse, and you just walked into it?!? Well, I'm sure Professor Carrow was happy to give them all sorts of tips. Ugh.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 04:40:08](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

They weren't talking about curses.

But Carrow gave Sandoval tips on the crucio. She cast it twice because it didn't last long enough the first time.

I think I would really like to kill her but I'd like to use crucio on her first and I really think I could.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-13 02:55:14](#)
(no subject)

Did you see this happen?

What reason did Miss Sandoval give, if your friend did 'nothing wrong'?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 03:11:47](#)
(no subject)


I got there after. I heard her screaming from the hall, though.

I didn't hang around to ask why, because Sally-Anne was sick and it was getting late, and it was pretty obvious that Sandoval wanted to be left alone with her Transfiguration group. Maybe she was angry because Sally-Anne interrupted their meeting by mistake. What I do know is why she was down there in the first place, to fetch her notes, and I can't see why any of that would be punishable by crucio. I really can't.

And she hardly ever gets into trouble, she's always so careful to be good and is much better-behaved than I am, and only got detention

the one time, and would never do anything that would hack off the Head Girl on purpose.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:12:15](#)**
(no subject)

And it could have just as easily been me, because I leave things in classrooms all the time.

And I was really scared because Sally-Anne was hurting and I thought for sure that something bad was going to happen to us, even though it seems a little silly right now, I really was scared. It's a good thing Morag and me were on our way to catch up with her, and that Seamus was there to help, though.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:13:38](#)**
(no subject)

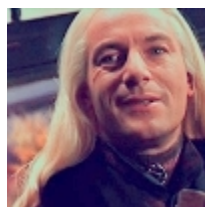
Curious.


And this was prior to the hour when you ought to have been back in the common room?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:14:21](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, it was.



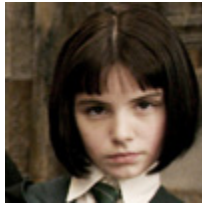
 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:32:13](#)**
(no subject)


Well, it is an unsettling thing to witness a Cruciatus curse, particularly when one has experienced it first-hand. It is understandable that your anxiety took control for a short time.

As for your other fears, it is a consideration when one chooses to associate so closely with halfbloods, but from everything you have told me of Miss Perks she is no enemy to the Protectorate, and indeed has done it dutiful service in the past. Furthermore, I am confident that any possible danger to the students is both wholly explicable without resorting to the 'terror within' the

Chamber, and completely containable by your professors. However, it seems certain someone is directing these disturbances, and it is impossible to predict who or what that person deems a threat.

Nonetheless, unless you have been conspiring with your revision group about more than your assignments, I do not believe there is much at Hogwarts that ought to send you diving behind your bed-curtains in trepidation.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:58:18](#)**
(no subject)

I know I shouldn't have let it frighten me so much. I mean, I can sit here in bed, wrapped in my blanket, and sort it all out in my head after the fact, even though I was pretty scared at the time. I know that I'm no Enemy, and neither is Sally-Anne or Seamus or Morag or Ron. And all those rumours and gossip going round about it is silly, and it's not doing anybody any favours. I'll try to not let it get the best of my common sense next time I end up in a hallway by myself.

Don't worry, Lucius, I won't be buying any protective amulets or other such stuff and nonsense.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-13 04:03:30](#)**
(no subject)

Very reassuring, Little Bit.

No doubt by morning you'll have recovered enough to ask for a fresh supply of hot chocolate to bolster you through the long nights.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 04:20:35](#)**
(no subject)

I might just have the strength, yes.

[2010-01-12 21:50:00](#)

Oh, for Shiva's sake!

Perks, will you tell Morag you're fine? She's been telling everyone since she got back that Lana Sandoval nearly killed you, and that's utter rubbish, I'm sure.




 **[alt_padma](#)**

I mean, I know it's nothing anyone wants to have happen to them, but honestly, it wasn't like it causes any lasting harm, right?

Anyway, it sounds as if you ought to have known better than to go to Professor Carrow's office or his classroom tonight, he made sure everyone knew that he was working with the NEWT study group this evening. He even reminded us today in our lesson! Ravenclaw's I mean. I guess you lot forgot? Sort of funny, Morag forgetting, since she was there. And I mean, she's been revising with you so much lately.

But now Morag's been going on and on about you screaming and retching and everything. If she'd only leave off, it's getting very boring. Just tell her you're feeling better, will you?




 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-13 03:55:58](#)**
(no subject)

It can cause lasting harm, you know, it's applied too long. There have been some animal studies that have proved it. I'm sure there were some articles in the Quibbler about that awhile back.

Of course, I don't approve of animal studies in general, but in this case, it's a good bit of information to have.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-13 04:18:27](#)**
(no subject)

She's sleeping. She'll be fine. Thanks ever so much for your concern. It means so much coming from you. And I wouldn't want to put you out, I know how *frightfully* terrible it is to be bored.

I'm sure she'll talk to Morag herself tomorrow.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-13 04:24:38](#)
(no subject)

I never said I wasn't concerned, Parkinson. Of course it's terrible and as I said, I'm sure it's not pleasant. (Lovegood's the only person I can think of who'd want it put on them!)

I just meant that Morag won't stop up about it, and we've heard it all now at least a dozen times, plus seeing you go all spare about it when it was happening.

I mean, Morag's thinking of going up to the hospital wing herself, now, on account of she thinks she's going to ralph just thinking about what happened. (And after Lana already said that too many people are going to Madam Pomfrey for no reason, even!) So that's why I wanted someone to tell her that Perks is okay - so she'd be able to collect herself. Honestly.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 04:36:17](#)
(no subject)

There. She wrote. Happy?

Tell Morag we'll see her tomorrow. And that it was really good of her to get our books and things.

[2010-01-12 21:59:00](#)

Other uses of the cruciatus curse

other than the obvious, of course.

*It can restore neuraeul (nureal? Neureul?) pathways, if someone's been paralysed. I understand that St Mungo's uses it that way occasionally under very special circumstances.



 [alt_luna](#)

Did you know that the cruciatus curse was invented by a Ravenclaw? That might not have been one of our House's finest hours, though.

*It can be used to stop a dog fight.

*Opening wine bottles without a corkscrew. It's rather unusual, but something about the magical field generated when you do the curse will make a cork pop out every time (or so I've been told).

*There's a rare Peruvian snake, the topaz-spotted ox slider, that likes to have the cruciatus curse put on it. Something about their nervous system recognizes it as pleasure, instead of pain. But it must be admitted they're rather exceptions to the rule.

Most people dislike it rather a lot.

I've never had it put on me. There are a lot of things I haven't gotten around to experiencing yet: drinking champagne. Eating sea urchins. Diving out of a muggle aeroplane with one of those silk sacks they use for floating to the ground, like a dandelion puff. And experiencing the cruciatus curse.

I should add it to my list of the things I intend to get around to trying some day. Not that I think I would especially enjoy it, might you. But perhaps I might learn something.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2010-01-13 04:32:58](#)**

(no subject)

I know you're supposed to be all weird and everything, and it's one thing to natter on about something no-one thinks is important, but if you honestly think this is being helpful in any way, it's not.

It's thick to say that you want something like that in a place everyone can read, especially just after someone else got it and is still hurting from it and most likely wishes she never had gotten it in the first place.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 13:01:10](#)
(no subject)


Oh, I just re-read what I wrote. I didn't mean that I wanted to cast it. I'm sorry if you thought that's what I meant, but I wouldn't ever do that. I meant I might learn something if I had it cast on me, about pain thresholds and so on. Scientific curiosity, sort of. But I'm not saying I'd enjoy it at all, or that its a good thing that it happened to your friend.

I think I understand what you're trying to say to me, though. I mentioned that a Ravenclaw invented the curse. That's maybe a weakness about Ravenclaws: they get curious about things, wondering, *can it be done?* without ever asking *is it a good idea*

I guess I just meant that I have Ravenclaw curiosity, yes. But I don't think it was a good idea that it was invented, and it definitely wouldn't be a good idea (I think) for me to ever do it. If you have to do it to be Head Girl, then I guess I hope I'm never made Head Girl. I just meant that if it ever happened to me, I'd learn from it what I could (and hopefully never experience it again).


If that helps.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 13:02:08](#)
(no subject)


And I can see you're upset about your friend. I hope she'll be all right.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 15:06:52](#)
(no subject)

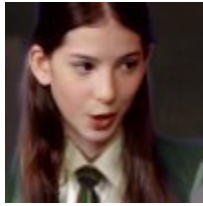
She will be.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 14:59:55](#)
(no subject)

I know you didn't want to cast it, you wanted to get it cast on you. And I'm not sure what is worse.

I just think it was rather awful for you to go on talking about "how interesting" it would be while my friend was sick and in pain because of it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 16:39:06](#)
(no subject)

You're not going to learn anything about pain thresholds. It hurts and there isn't anything you can do to make it stop.


The information about the lizards and wine bottles is interesting though, did you get it from a book in the library? I did know it was invented by a Ravenclaw.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 04:33:15](#)
(no subject)

What do you think you'd learn, Lovegood? If I were you, I'd start with something a bit pleasanter--champagne tastes nasty, but at least it doesn't *hurt*.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-13 04:57:03](#)
(no subject)

You two, leave Luna alone. She just sees things in a different way than most people do. I assure you she wasn't being insensitive. We are all sorry about what happened to Perks, but please, and I hope you don't see this as being rude, worry about your own friends.

Now Luna, I being your very close friend can say this... Is there a hole in your head? Have you completely lost all your marbles? Believe me, you in no way want to put that on your list of things to experience. Some things you should keep in that lovely little head of yours. Find me tomorrow and we will talk.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 05:12:58](#)
(no subject)

I wasn't having a go at her, honestly, Weasley. I really was curious what she thought she'd learn from having such a horrid thing done to her.

And Parkinson, well, she could be a bit nicer about it but I can see she's a bit done in and probably in no mood to be nice...anyhow I'm rambling and what I meant to say is, honestly she's right.

Lovegood ought to be more careful.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-13 05:18:48](#)
(no subject)

I didn't say she shouldn't be more careful. But its not going to help with you two coming at her, especially when you don't even know her. Luna, is a different kind of witch, and not in a bad way. As I said before she see's things differently, and can have bad timing.

Luna and I grew up together, so I know how to handle her best. I would just appreciate it if you leave her alone, and leave her to me.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 05:31:22](#)
(no subject)

I guess I see what you mean...it's always easier to listen to something when it comes from a friend rather than someone you don't know very well.


It's just...I think Lovegood's interesting--good interesting, most of the time--and I wanted you (and her) to know that I wasn't trying to be *mean*. It didn't come out right, though.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-13 05:33:01](#)
(no subject)


Its no big deal. Thanks for understanding though.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 13:03:42](#)
(no subject)

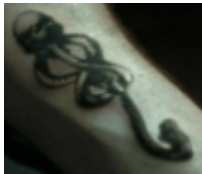
People do keep telling me that.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 13:03:12](#)
(no subject)

I'm afraid I really put my foot in it. I do that sometimes, I know, but it really wasn't intentional.


I'll meet you at breakfast.



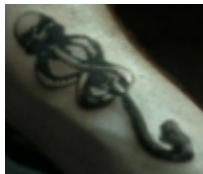
 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-13 13:18:14](#)
(no subject)

I'd be happy to demonstrate it anytime you like.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-13 13:18:35](#)
(no subject)

I'll ... think about it, sir.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-13 13:19:40](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps it would be better if I made it a nice little surprise sometime, hmm.

2010-01-12 22:31:00

Morag

Don't worry.


I slept a bit and I'm mostly better.

Still shaky so it's hard to write but I feel ok.
I'll see you tomorrow.



 **alt_sally_anne**




 **alt_padma** at **2010-01-13 04:33:42**
(no subject)

Cheers, Perks. Sorry that happened to you.

But maybe now Morag will settle and we can all get to sleep.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-01-13 04:51:37**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You are such an insufferable little nit.

I hope you get in Moran's way and find out what it feels like.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-01-13 04:45:07**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And Neville please don't worry.

I'll be fine tomorrow.



 **alt_ginny** at **2010-01-13 05:25:09**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I hope Luna's entry didn't upset you. She is just different.
I promise I will talk to her. Just don't be upset with her. I think Pansy and Susan have said enough.

I do hope you feel better. I do have some of my Mum's special tea and

other things from home, if that will help you. You are most welcome to some when I see you at breakfast. I will bring some in my sack. Let me know if you would like some.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 05:34:48](#)

(no subject)

I'm not upset with Luna.

If she really wants to give the cruciatus a go, it shouldn't be too hard to manage. I wouldn't recommend it though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 05:39:36](#)

(no subject)

And Teddy had his father put it on him years ago, before he even came to Hogwarts. Just to find out what it felt like.

He said he wasn't sure he REALLY knew though, because his father probably didn't really want to hurt him.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-13 05:42:08](#)

(no subject)

It is an odd request. And I don't know a parent who would be really willing to fulfill that one.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 05:44:17](#)

(no subject)

Well how many parents have you met? Other than your own I mean.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-13 05:46:08](#)

(no subject)

I've met a few, especially when I go out with my Mum in to the village. But I do see what you mean.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 05:33:48](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad you're feeling a bit better; it sounded *awful*.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 05:41:17](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

How cross do you think Professor Sprout will be tomorrow if I haven't done my homework? I didn't finish the scroll before


Anyway the shaking's mostly gone and I can't get back to sleep so I suppose I could just go do it now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 05:42:44](#)
(no subject)


But honestly I would rather not.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 06:01:05](#)
(no subject)

I think she'd be willing to give you an extra day or so once you explain. She only ever gets cross if she thinks people are shirking on purpose or not giving their best and your pretty ace in Herbology ordinarily, so I think she'd understand.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-01-13 15:57:00](#)
(no subject)

I wonder how powerful the Head Girl's cruciatus is? She was working with Mummy over the holiday, but I don't know if they worked on those curses together. If you want to borrow Tully for a cuddle later, I can bring him 'round.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 16:01:31](#)
(no subject)

That is a very kind offer Hydra, I would love to borrow Tully for a cuddle. But it'll have to be late afternoon as I have Double Potions and Double Herbology today.

2010-01-12 22:40:00

New Year, New Term

It's funny. We've only been back at school a few days and already the hols seem so far away, like a different life. Starting a new term and a new year always makes me feel a little hopeful--there's another chance for new and different and better things to happen.




 [alt_susan](#)

Of course, worse things could happen too, but I try not to think about that too much ~~except sometimes I can't help it and maybe they already have.~~

Speaking of new beginnings, I didn't really have a lot to say here last term besides being terribly busy with lessons, but Professor Sprout just read all of the first and second year Hufflepuffs a terrific lecture about how we haven't been keeping up on the journals and we were letting the side down (except Ernie of course!). I'm awfully fond of Professor Sprout and she's an absolutely wizard Head of House. I'd hate to think I was disappointing her in any way, so I shall be sure to write more here in the new year. I think I shall even make a resolution of it, to post up by my bed so I won't forget.




 [alt_hannah](#) at [2010-01-13 03:59:06](#)
(no subject)

I felt just awful when I looked back at my own journal and saw all the empty pages. I've barely written anything in mine. No wonder Professor Sprout got cross. Maybe Hufflepuffs just aren't the type.

I'll try to do better, too.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-13 04:05:27](#)
(no subject)

Well, at least we're only second years! We've got plenty of time to get better. And it will help knowing you are trying to write more too. We can remind each other!

The only bad thing is that we have more revising this year than when we were firsties.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-13 16:03:46](#)
(no subject)

Good show, Suse!

2010-01-13 00:36:00

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



Ron or Neville

I forgot my notes. I mean the notes I went to Carrow's classroom to get, I didn't take them with me after Sandoval let me go.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

We have a scroll due on Thursday. Do you think you can get my notes after your own Transfiguration class? I expect you'll have to ask Carrow for them. I think that's why Morag didn't get them for me when Ravenclaw had Transfiguration, even though she'd said she would. I think he'll let you have them to bring to me and even if he doesn't I don't think he'll do anything bad to you for asking.

I don't want to go back there before I have to.

Lana cast it on me twice. The first time it stopped too soon I guess because Carrow gave her tips on how to do it better and she did it again.

The rest of the students from that NEWT study group just stood and watched.

It's the worst thing you can imagine but at least when it's over it's over. I burned my hand once and that wasn't as bad as crucio but it hurt for ages after. Terry told Pansy once you could get used to it but I can't think how. Maybe he means he doesn't get sick afterwards or shake or have a headache.


Sandoval said I was eavesdropping. And I wasn't. I was just there for my notes. But I did overhear a few things while I was looking for my notes and it was dead creepy. I'm sure it's Carrow who's been petrifying people but I wonder if he's teaching his NEWT students how to do it as well.

Anyway I really should go back to bed. I woke up and couldn't get back to sleep, I kept thinking about when Sandoval and Carrow walked in and how I stood there and gaped at them instead of apologising right away and how stupid that was, and then how when I apologised I sounded like I thought I was really doing something wrong even though I wasn't, and how I should have remembered that

his NEWT group met tonight but anyway I needed my notes. Anyway since I couldn't get back to sleep I got up. But it's really late now and I think I might be able to fall asleep again.

If you can try to get my notes from Carrow's classroom tomorrow I'd really appreciate it.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-01-13 14:47:57](#)**
(no subject)

I'll try, Sally-Anne. He might not give them to me, though, just to spite you. Not to mention that he's got it in for me, too. If that happens, I'll let you know, and maybe you might ask Serena Laverty to see if she can get them back. She's one of your House Prefects, and in his study group so he must like her all right, and maybe he'd give them to her?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-13 15:00:34](#)**
(no subject)

It might be better if Ron asked actually because you're right. Not that he likes Ron all that much either.

I'm not asking Serena. I'd rather just write the scroll without my notes. I don't want to ask anyone who was there.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-13 16:02:45](#)**
(no subject)

Course I'll ask him. We've got Transfig next, and I'll ask him right away. That way if he says no, he'll have to put up with me looking crucio at him the whole lesson.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-13 16:04:13](#)**
(no subject)

You are SUCH a Gryffindor.

Thanks.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 16:55:04](#)
(no subject)

Anyway it was sort of Serena's fault.

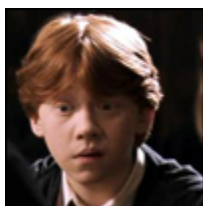
Sandoval had me carry a message to Serena a couple of days ago and I heard Serena talking about it later, Sandoval wanted Serena to be partners with her and Shivani Johns in Carrow's study group so Sandoval and Johns didn't have to be partners with Psyche Bobolis.


I don't know what they have against Bobolis. She seemed as awful as the rest of them yesterday.

Anyway Serena had already told Taiga she'd be partners with her so she told Sandoval no. And Dana Kirke was snogging Leander Bobolis last week so of course they were planning to partner together AND there was no way Carrow would have Psyche work with her brother and anyway I think Sandoval and Johns had to work with Psyche and she blames me even though I took that message to Serena just like she asked and she was mad to try to get Serena to drop Taiga anyway, she's been best friends with Taiga since they were firsties. I don't think Serena even much likes Sandoval though she has to stay on her good side and that was true even before they decided to let Sandoval use Crucio.

You probably didn't follow a bit of that, did you?

Anyway I'm sure Serena knows it was her fault Sandoval was so cross already and she'd feel a little bit guilty if she thought about it too much. So I expect she's just telling herself it was all my fault and I deserved it. And that's why I don't want to talk to her.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 21:05:30](#)
(no subject)

Huh?

Er, so Sandoval was annoyed with Laverty, but. Wait. Why would that mean Laverty would think it was your fault Sandoval cursed you? I'd think that'd mean she'd see your side.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-14 01:29:41](#)
(no subject)

Well people don't like feeling guilty.

It's much more pleasant to feel righteous indignation.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-13 21:10:22](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Listen, have you seen what Mr Malfoy said to Carrow over on Sandoval's journal? That there's some sort of programme they have going that if it works will get rid of all halfbloods?


He says it will just take a few years for there to be none.

That's

I don't know what it is.

You don't reckon



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-14 01:26:23](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh Ron.

You know what they do nowadays if a wizard and a muggle have a baby, don't you?

They ALL go to the camps. Well, the wizard might be able to get out of trouble if he's well connected but the halfblood baby is just considered a ~~mudblood~~ muggleborn.

That's why I don't have any brothers or sisters. My father was able to keep my mum out of the camps because they'd been married just long enough and they'd had a baby, me, before all the laws about blood purity got passed.

I mean if I married, oh, Wayne Hopkins when I grew up and we had a baby the baby would be a halfblood but it wouldn't be in fostering, you know? Unless we did something and got sent to Azkaban but what Mr Malfoy is saying is that of course we'll all be loyal subjects because of how we were raised and

well anyway that's all it is. They're not planning on dropping all of us off a bridge. If they'd meant to do that they'd have just done it years ago.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-14 02:54:22](#)

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

Well, it just sounded really dire the way he said it, y'know?

Sorry. I know that's not something you'd want to think about, but if they were planning something awful there's got to be some way we could try to, I dunno, get you out of the country or something. I mean, we'd definitely try. Not just sit around and wait to see what they're going to do.

And, I dunno. I don't really trust them not to be thinking about doing worse stuff than they've done yet.

So

Yeah.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-14 05:03:07](#)

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

If it were as simple as just running away don't you think my family would've done it years ago?

They still let muggleborns have wands in France.


You'd think they'd have at least let all the blood-traitor families

leave since they hate muggleborns so much. My father thought they were afraid if they let people leave, they'd be left with Death Eaters and pillocks and no one else to run the country.

But thank you, I mean it's good to know people are looking out for me. It really is.

Although I could do with just a little less looking after than Pansy thinks is necessary, she stuck to me like glue all day and I had to hide in a bathroom stall to write anything under the lock without her seeing. So now she's worried my stomach is still off and thinks I ought to go get looked at in the hospital wing.



 [alt_ron at 2010-01-14 13:15:37](#)

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

Heh. Pansy.

Oh, I'm sorry about what Carrow did to your notes. I asked the twins if they knew a counter spell to unscramble his, but he said there are loads and loads of encryption spells and lots of people make up their own personal ones, so it could take 'til Merlin returns before you'd hit on the right decryption spell. And, anyway, it could just have been a rubbish spell that doesn't have any reversal.

So, yeah. I'm really sorry.



 [alt_sally_anne at 2010-01-14 20:49:34](#)

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

Well I could see right away what he did, it wasn't random. Every letter changed to the letter 5 letters later.

I asked Harry if Hermione could help me turn them back into English, I hope that was alright with you Hermione. I thought you'd probably do it if I could ask you directly just to spite Carrow if nothing else. Anyway thank you it went a lot faster with you helping and now I have my notes again.

Professor Carrow looked a little surprised when I handed in my scroll with everyone else this morning. He is such a

miserable evil sot. He kept pointing his wand at me to see if he could make me flinch. When Pansy noticed she started standing between me and Carrow while we worked so Carrow couldn't get to me without going through her. He thought that was pretty funny.

Then he tried pointing his wand at Daphne when she got something wrong and she got upset. So THEN he said that since he knows how I like to feel superior by working with dunces, he'd have me sit with Miss Greengrass and see if I could help her.

And then he stood there and watched us. I think he wanted to see me act frightened. And I mean I AM frightened of him but I didn't want to show it. So I tried really hard not to look at him and I was mostly able to pretend he wasn't there and I explained things to Daphne just like I'd have explained them to Neville and I think she almost had it when class was over and I have never been so glad to get out of a classroom in my life.

I didn't shake, or cry, or throw up, but I had to go back to my dormitory for a fresh shirt because it was soaking wet like I'd spent the whole hour running.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-14 20:51:13](#)

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

And I really hope you had a completely boring and uneventful class today and he didn't take it into his head to go after you or Finnigan.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-14 22:34:40](#)

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

We all kept our heads down, trust me. He seemed grouchy, but wasn't paying too much attention to us, I don't think.

2010-01-13 08:54:00


(no subject)

At Christmas Master Draco received a large hamper of food from Harrods. For our Christmas gifts he let me and he let Hermione pick one thing from that hamper for ourselves. A mudblood doesn't need presents, but since Master Draco said to take something, I took a packet of scones. I used to bring scones out to the wizards at Buckingham, and they smelled good. These scones were also good. I tried to make them last a long time, but this morning I ate the last crumb. It was a little dry and hard, but still good. If Master Draco would like some scones for tea today, I will fetch some.




 **alt_dennis**



 **alt_draco** at **2010-01-13 17:05:42**
(no subject)

I don't want any scones, Dennis.



 **alt_dennis** at **2010-01-13 17:06:06**
(no subject)


Yes, Master Draco.



 **alt_hermione** at **2010-01-14 02:58:56**
(no subject)

That was lovely wasn't it? I had the venison sausage. Only I don't think there are any deer in any English forests any more, they've all been eaten haven't they? So it must have been French. But it was ever so good. Mr Marvolo didn't let me have any of his. He had ever so much more, hampers and hampers, but I think most of it got used back up as food for parties at his Father's, which is how it should be, because it would go bad otherwise, and we don't have enough food to let any of it go bad, do we?



 **alt_dennis** at **[2010-01-14 03:19:25](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't take the venison because I didn't know what it was, but now I know that it was deer.

If we aren't too busy tomorrow, Hermione, could we talk some? If Master Draco says it is alright? ~~Some things happen~~ I would like to ask you a question.



 **alt_hermione** at **[2010-01-14 03:39:52](#)**
(no subject)

Of course, Dennis. I'll ask Mr Marvolo but I'm sure it'll be alright, you'll see.

What is it

2010-01-13 09:18:00

Last Night

So I asked Moe Darst this morning and he said that ~~Lana Sandoval~~ Miss Sandoval the Head Girl punished a firstie for being a sneak in their study group and trying to listen in on things that are too complicated and are dangerous for a firstie to know about, but I don't think that can be right because it wasn't a firstie, was it. It was Sally-Anne Perks, and she's not a firstie, she's in our year.



 [alt_ernie](#)

I think Moe must have just got it wrong, because he probably can't tell that Sally-Anne's a second year not a firstie, even though it's obvious because we're so much bigger than the firsties! But Moe says we all look like tiny little ants to him anyway, so I suppose he just got it wrong.

Still, it seems a bit harsh. I mean, I though the Prefects all voted on it and agreed that the Head Boy and Head Girl could only use it as a really serious punishment for really serious things, not for being in a classroom at the wrong time ~~or for annoying the Head Girl~~. I know ~~she's~~ the older kids are really serious about their work and everything, but ~~that's not fair, it's taking advantage of being Head Girl~~ to it seems a bit unfair.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-01-13 17:20:10**
(no subject)

You can ask me what happened Ernie if you want to know. I mean I even know details like my proper year and why I was there.

I was just there to get my notes that I forgot on Monday. Professor Carrow thought I was eavesdropping though and so did Lana Sandoval. I don't know why I'd eavesdrop on people revising for NEWTs, my homework is already enough to keep me busy, but apparently it is really forbidden to eavesdrop on the NEWTs group so I got punished because it looked like that's what I was doing, at least to the people whose opinion counts.



 **alt_ernie** at [2010-01-13 17:38:47](#)
(no subject)

I know your year too, I didn't mean that I didn't know that, I just meant that it was more likely Moe got your year wrong and was talking about you than that there was ALSO a firstie who got in trouble last night in the exact same way.

I only asked him because he was there in the Common Room this morning and you weren't, obviously, and I thought you might not actually want to talk about it anymore because it's not really very nice to talk about it when something horrid happens, but if you do want to talk about it that's just fine.

It still doesn't sound fair to me. You shouldn't be punished for stuff you didn't even do, especially when there's a teacher there - teachers outrank prefects, so if someone breaks a rule and gets punished, it should be the teacher who decides what the punishment is, not the prefect ~~although when the teacher is Professor Mr Carrow it might not have mattered~~. And also, even if eavesdropping is something to be punished for, it's not something that's serious and bad enough to be punished with the worst punishment possible. You might have got lines or detention, but not that. That's something that the Aurors use on really evil bad people, not something kids ought to be using on other kids just because they got a fright when someone was in a classroom unexpectedly.

I think you ought to tell the Headmistress or Professor Slughorn or someone, because it's just not fair. But I know you probably won't want to ~~and I understand why~~.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2010-01-13 20:00:02](#)
(no subject)

You're such a Hufflepuff Macmillan with your 'that's just not fair.'

I'm sure the Headmistress knows, I don't think there's anyone in the school who DOESN'T know, and I don't expect she's fussed about it. If she were soft she wouldn't be in charge of the school would she?


I'm certainly not going to go whinge to her or Professor Slughorn.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-13 20:03:27](#)
(no subject)


And Mr Professor Carrow used crucio on one of your classmates last year didn't he? For being cheeky.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-13 17:43:41](#)
(no subject)


Lots of things are unfair, Macmillan, and we just have to live with it and carry on like before because no one can really be fussed about it, not really.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-13 17:46:06](#)
(no subject)


That's what teachers are for though, isn't it? They're supposed to be fussed about us. That's their job.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-13 17:48:10](#)
(no subject)

If it's their job then they'll probably only do something about it if they think they're going to get sacked over it.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 18:05:14](#)
(no subject)

I agree. It *was* unfair. And it *should* only be used for serious punishment, for serious things.


And she did it *twice* in a row. Honestly.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-13 18:35:43](#)
(no subject)

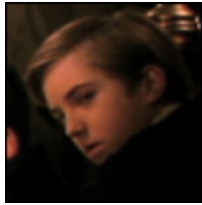
I suppose Malfoy's right though. There's nothing we can do about it, is there.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 18:59:07](#)
(no subject)

I think it may not be something that we can do just us, but I know that I'm writing mum and telling her about it. And I've explained what I know about it to Lucius too. Adults do tend to know the best way to go about really changing things and fixing them if they need changing or fixing, at least Lucius does, that is.

And did you read what Auror Lestrage wrote? It's like she didn't particularly care *why* Sandoval cursed Sally-Anne, but that Sandoval had the guts to do it in the first place. But I think the *why* part is very important, and that if you get in trouble, you should get *reasonable* punishment for it. And I know my mum wouldn't want me crucioed if I'd only done what Sally-Anne did.




 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-13 19:07:11](#)
(no subject)

I don't think my mum and dad could do anything about it, but I will go and see Professor Sprout and see what she says.

~~I don't want to get on the wrong side of Auror Lestrage at all, so~~
It's sort of fair enough, I suppose, that Auror Lestrage is looking at the Head Girl and thinking about her future potential as an Auror, not fussing herself about stuff that happens at school to us kids, because her job is to be an Auror not to be a teacher. She didn't say that it was good that the Head Girl did crucio on Sally-Anne, just that it was good that she could use the curse at all, which I suppose it is if you need it for important Auror work.

I think the why bit is more for the teachers to worry about, and that's what I'll ask Professor Sprout about.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-01-13 19:20:22](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I guess that does make some sense, with what you said about Auror Lestrage. But it does make sense to talk to someone that can do some

||| good if you've got questions about it, and I think talking to Professor Sprout is a great idea.



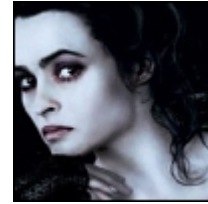
 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:54:52](#)**
(no subject)

It seems the sort of thing that could happen to any one of us, just completely by accident. I mean, I misplace my notes all the time.

2010-01-13 09:49:00

XV

Miss Sandoval,



 [alt_bellatrix](#)

I cannot find a single damn reliable owl at the moment (Hopkirk, please alert the necessary parties that several of these bloody owls are overdue for retirement), so forgive me for passing along a message in so public a manner. Public scrutiny is part and parcel of working for any branch of the Ministry, however, and there is no time like the present to acclimate oneself to the public eye, hmm?

Cruciatu is, of course, a highly useful tool in an Auror's arsenal, and we are expected to perform it with mastery and control. Always remember, though, that the usefulness of the spell isn't found in the pain it causes so much as the fear it inspires. People will often say anything to avoid enduring it, and what they say may not necessarily be true, but simply what they think will spare them the pain.

Another drawback is that cruciatu causes no visible injury, which may prompt the spell-caster to go to far, not realising that the receiver is being damaged beyond repair. I was an avid user of cruciatu early in my career, but for various reasons have since moved on to more creative interrogation methods. A good Auror never relies on one thing too much. Leave that to the local constabularies.

I must congratulate you for showing yourself to have the grit necessary to pursue the path. After our few short weeks together I did wonder if you were suited to it; you had the intellect and composure, yes, but I thought it possible you were soft. You'll notice that very few women have achieved success in this career. Indeed, it is a career that even men may find physically and mentally challenging. An Auror must see everyone as a potential enemy and traitor. They must always be on guard, and they must always be willing and ready to strike. There is no room for hesitation, introspection, or mercy.

To cut oneself off from compassion is a difficult thing, particularly for women. Once you have done it, it will change how people view you forever. In time you may learn to hold a few people close without fear that it will weaken your effectiveness on the job, but even that will require a balancing act that is nearly exhausting. Still, you must make it look effortless. Anything less and you will soften like butter before


their eyes. And because you are a woman, their eyes will always be on you, searching out for any signs of the collapse that is so often seen in those of our sex.

Yes, even other women will be watching out for your weaknesses. Perhaps even more than men.

I see the small ones are already chattering about the incident in a most vocal manner. They are watching you now, to see what you will do next. As am I. As are others. The aftermath of an encounter is often the most crucial, after all. I remain interested in seeing where you go from here.

Yours,
Bellatrix Lestrange

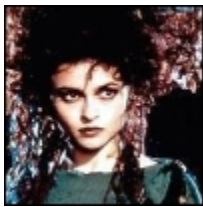


 **alt_lana** at **2010-01-13 20:08:03**
(no subject)

Thank you.

I appreciate the example you have set and your willingness to share your experience. If I succeed in my ambition to be an Auror, it will be due in no small part to your generosity and encouragement during my internship.

I hope in this present situation and in all respects that my behaviour will merit your approval.



 **alt_bellatrix** at **2010-01-14 03:08:05**
(no subject)

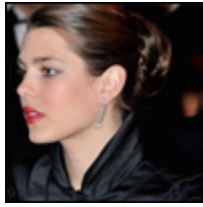
I sincerely hope so as well, Miss Sandoval.




 **alt_rodolphus** at **2010-01-14 03:12:18**
(no subject)

Mind you, in the Missus' day, women were raised with kid gloves, and curses like cruciatus were looked upon as something scandalous. I'm sure

young women of your generation have a very different mindset. More progressive. Less prone to softness.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:56:43](#)**
(no subject)

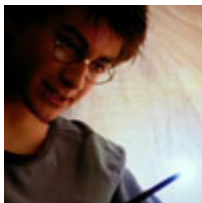
You may be right that things are changing, but I don't think it's entirely different yet. Then again, I may have been raised differently than many of the girls here: my parents are Spanish, and that means that they are traditional to a degree that many British parents no longer are. In any case, my classmates' fathers seem to hold different views than my Papa on how a daughter should conduct herself.


On the other hand, I don't believe that Spanish women tend towards softness, so perhaps I have an advantage in that regard.



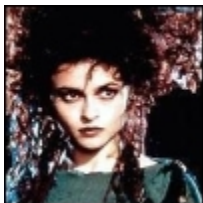
 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:58:11](#)**
(no subject)

What a pity for your classmates and their fathers both, then.



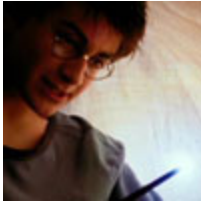
 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-01-14 02:59:50](#)**
(no subject)

I know a lot of women. And most of them are good at that.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:07:19](#)**
(no subject)

Oh dear Harry, you are surrounded by a very special breed of woman, aren't you? I think you must admit, however, that your cousin Hydra isn't very good at tempering her compassion. She will make a very good wife, however - not unlike your Aunt Narcissa.



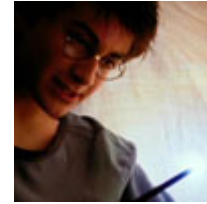
 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-01-14 03:39:08](#)
(no subject)

I dont know. Hydra can be right mean when she wants. I bet she could crucio anyone.

[2010-01-13 21:51:00](#)

Stupid punishments

Punishing people for things like that is bollocks. It's extra bollocks because nobody would punish me like that. I mean I know why. Because Father is so careful of me. And sometimes people bite off their tongues off when they get cruciated. But I don't think that getting cruciated is like being allowed to go to Diagon Alley without an Auror.




 **[alt_harry](#)**

Also it's unfair to Slytherin. Just because we're supposed to be sly. Sally-Anne wouldn't eavesdrop. At least she wouldn't when she would get cruciated if she was caught. And we all know you can be. So.

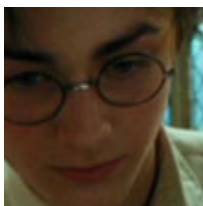
Anyway, she told me that it really hurt. I mean really. But I won't ever know. Not that I want to get hurt. Only I wonder do the prefects cast it on each other? And if Father won't let me does that mean I can't ever be a prefect? Not that I want to be a prefect.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:14:36](#)**
(no subject)

They would too punish you like that. Just not directly.

I didn't know you didn't want to be prefect. Why don't you? I bet they would let you.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:40:45](#)**
(no subject)

But that's what I mean. Not me directly.

Oh come on would you want to be prefect? Always have to follow all the rules? Not me!!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:49:12](#)**
(no subject)

Heh. Yeah, I dunno that I'd care to be a Prefect. I mean, that's for people who really like to tell people what to do all the time.

Like Percy. He loves it.



alt_sally_anne at 2010-01-14 04:44:40

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Do you think he's going to be Head Boy next year?

I mean I hate to say it because you know how much he annoys me but he might be better than some of the alternatives. He apologised to me last year for delaying me, you know how he caught me running in the corridor when I was trying to find a professor (who wasn't Carrow!) while you were off having your chess game with Harry and Draco. Anyway when he found out later what I was after he said he was sorry. Even though I didn't tell him what I was doing because I was afraid he'd go get Carrow, Carrow is a teacher after all.

And he argued against letting the Head Boy and Girl use crucio.

And your mum would do her nut if he ever did. That might keep him from doing it. I don't know.



alt_ron at 2010-01-14 13:34:46

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

Percy seemed really nervous about it the one time he said anything about next year. I mean, I think he really, really wants to be Head Boy because he thinks it would help him get a really good job at the Ministry. And because, y'know, it would make him feel really good about himself to get it over all the other Prefects.

I think it would be really annoying for whoever gets Head Girl to have to work with Percy. I mean, he'd always think he was more important than her and go around making pronouncements for both of them. Heh. Sort of like Sandoval does with Moran, y'know. Except Moran does his own thing, too, so I think it's actually pretty equal.

You're right about Mum. I told you about last summer? When Percy had a right foul row with Dad and we didn't know what'd happened? Right before the camping trip. Well, the twins heard

something Mum said to Dad, and they reckon Percy got caught trying to cast Crucio on the chickens or maybe a gnome or something. You know, all the prefects on the trip were supposed to be able to do it, and maybe Percy was worried they'd check if the prefects could before they'd let them go. I dunno. He'd have been really embarrassed if they'd told him he wasn't good enough and put someone else in his place. He'd never have got over that.

Anywiz, I guess if that's what happened, Dad must've said something really dire to Percy. Y'know, told him no son of his would use a curse like that or something. So I don't know. If Percy makes Head Boy, he might not want to do it, but I don't think anything Mum or Dad said would keep him from learning it. And who knows if he'd ever use it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-14 17:35:06](#)

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

Well I don't think Siobhan would use it, if she were Head Girl, but I do think Moebius would use it if he were Head Boy. But there's no way Moebius will be Head Boy, his marks aren't good

enough.

Moebius was also really cross that Moran put it on a Slytherin. So if he did get to be Head Boy, I think he'd mostly use it on other houses. Which would be good for me but bad for you. If Percy DID use it he'd probably go out of his way to start with a Gryffindor so no one would think he was showing favoritism.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-14 03:59:15](#)

(no subject)

Some of them follow the rules. Some of them seem to get away with breaking them left and right. So I don't know.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:34:26](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think they do cast it on each other. The prefects, I mean. I think we'd have got it out of Percy if they did.

But maybe the Head Boy and Girl do have to practice on each other. I mean obviously they both know how to do it, and I've heard people say it's not the sort of spell you can just cast without ever having tried it before.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:41:30](#)**
(no subject)

Well what if you don't know it before you become Head Boy then?

They must practise.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-14 03:50:10](#)**
(no subject)

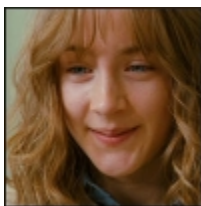
D'you think maybe they practise on elves?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-14 04:37:28](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think Sandoval had ever done it before.

Not on a person anyway.

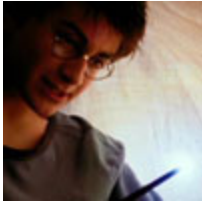



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2010-01-14 04:00:59](#)**
(no subject)

I saw what you said to Mummy, Harry.
Do you really think I'm right mean sometimes?

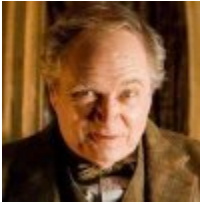
From,


Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-01-14 14:15:58](#)
(no subject)


Of course, Hydra, you're a complete terror. You know that!!!



 [alt_horace](#) at [2010-01-14 20:03:28](#)
(no subject)


Now now, Harry. I know you're upset, but there's no need for language like that, hm?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-01-14 20:10:16](#)
(no subject)

Sorry Professor Slughorn



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-14 22:27:32](#)
(no subject)

No, we Prefects don't cast that particular spell on each other. Remember, only the Head Boy or Head Girl has the authority to cast it (and generally if someone has demonstrated the type of trustworthiness that leads to them being picked as a Prefect in the first place, they'd be unlikely to do anything that would necessitate such a punishment). You may have entirely sensible reasons not to want to be a Prefect (such as wanting more time to revise without having to work around a patrolling schedule), but the fear that you would be required to cast 'Crucio' needn't be one of them.

[2010-01-13 23:44:00](#)

A wondering mind, and not so good memories




 **[alt_dean](#)**

I was reading through the journals today, when I saw some recent entries in response to a student who shall remain name less. I'm not quite sure what to make of it, but it gave me the most uneasy feeling. It reminds me of something I remember happening at a place that shall to remain nameless. If $1+1=2$, then none of this can be good.


Maybe I should just try to put it all away, and think on other things.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-14 17:30:24](#)**
(no subject)


If $1+1=2$ you'll want to steer clear of Sandoval mate!



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-14 17:33:09](#)**
(no subject)


But honestly Perks must've done something worse than what she says or Sandoval would've just taken points and let her go. I mean I believe Parkinson when she says Perks was just down there to get her notes but she was probably cheeky or something when she got caught and doesn't want to admit it.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-01-14 18:15:57](#)**
(no subject)

That's not the part I'm worried about mate.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-14 19:51:57](#)**
(no subject)

I think you must be right, Finnigan. I mean, I know Sandoval and she's always real marvellous to me. Perks can be so snide sometimes, too, it wouldn't surprise me if she did cheese her off somehow.

Did you see the way Mr Malfoy was asking her about it? He seemed to think there must have been something more to it all, too, and she said that Professor Carrow even supported her side in the whole thing.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-14 22:15:31](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know Sandoval at all and I don't know Perks very well. She can be a know it all but I wouldn't think you'd crucio someone for being a know it all.

But they wouldn't make someone Head Girl who would do that sort of thing for no good reason.

No way would I ever go to Professor Carrow's classroom at night just to get a few notes!



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-01-14 22:29:31](#)**
(no subject)

That seems to be an entirely sensible strategy, Dean. The less said, I think, the better.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-14 22:32:38](#)**
(no subject)

Bit late for that now!

Sorry Percy.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-01-14 22:36:23](#)**
(no subject)

No Seamus,

Percy's right, and its never to late. Besides, I haven't really made myself plain, and at the moment I don't intend to.

2010-01-14 17:33:00

January dreariness

I do wish the weather would improve: it seems ages since we've had a truly clear night, though we've had some chances at stars in the parts of the sky currently lacking clouds.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

In other words, yes, there are still star charts spread all over my office.

YPL

We are looking forward to our next meeting on January 23rd, when we will welcome guests from several Quidditch teams to talk about their training, experiences, broom care, and other aspects of the sport.

And finally, recent events have reminded me that teachers have such different approaches to their space, so allow me to clarify my own expectations:

My classroom: I invite students to make use of my classroom for revision or quiet work together whenever it is not in use for classes. Students are also welcome to use the star charts and reference materials in my classroom as long as they return them to their proper place when done and promptly report any damage, no matter how slight or accidental. (Like all teachers, I have my own methods for figuring out the true culprit in such cases.)

Particularly delicate or rare charts are kept in my office: these may be signed out by students working on NEWTs, as we've discussed in class.

The observatory tower: Fourth year students and older are welcome to use the telescopes outside of class. I am glad to extend this option to individual second and third years who demonstrate their ability to set up, adjust, and close up the telescopes properly. Students with permission may invite friends, so long as only those with permission touch any part of the telescope other than the eyepiece. Those interested should see me to schedule a time - since we will not actively be stargazing, this can be done on a cloudy night as easily as a clear one.

Students working on their own should defer telescope use to those studying for NEWTs, then to those studying for OWLS - but again, on

weekend nights and in the earlier evening before classes meet, there is often space for additional viewing. Nights around the new moon tend to be especially in demand, as there are some celestial objects not easily seen at other times.

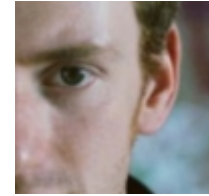
My office: This is the only space (outside of my rooms, of course), I reserve for private conversations. Students should always knock and wait to be invited in before entering. If my door is open (and it often is), please do feel free to stop and chat, either about astronomy or about YPL matters.

[2010-01-14 20:07:00](#)

Er, Lovegood?


Are you . . . quite well?

There's no shame in it, you know, if you find you're not feeling quite the thing, and need to stop at the hospital wing. I'm sure that Madam Pomfrey would have no objection.



 [altermity](#)
 [alt_percy](#)




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-15 02:19:00](#)
(no subject)

Ta, Weasley. Lovegood is fine.

She has her own Prefects to assist her should she need anything.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 02:27:40](#)
(no subject)

people.

All the Prefects of Hogwarts are charged to look out for all students, whatever their House. And I think that given tonight's incident, she might . . . have some cause for hesitation about approaching certain




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-15 02:42:12](#)
(no subject)

Weasley, as you're perfectly well aware, there are six Ravenclaw Prefects. Any of them would be perfectly competent to help Lovegood or any other Ravenclaw as the need arose, and all of us are closer to hand than you are. Did you mean to suggest that Clearwater is somehow inadequate? Or Tamblyn or Chang?

Honestly, if you have something you'd like to say, come out and say it.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 02:46:52](#)
(no subject)

Very well, if you insist, I will come out and say it.

I wondered whether Lovegood would feel comfortable speaking to her House Prefects when the Head Girl that they all look to, from her own House administered that curse herself just this week.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-15 03:05:54](#)
(no subject)

I was under the impression that Lovegood was a family friend, Weasley. You don't seem to know her as well as I would have expected.

What happened tonight was a result of her own, admittedly peculiar, desire to study the effects of the Cruciatus curse first hand. I'm sure you read her comments on the subject. While I gather that she has thought along these lines for some time, it was my use of the curse on Tuesday that crystallised her desire to experience its effects.

Were you not sitting close enough to hear her tell Carrow to go ahead before he cast the spell?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-15 03:16:12](#)
Order Only

She . . . she asked him to cast the spell? No, I don't believe it! That must be a lie!

Oh, my poor Luna. . . that poor, dear girl.

Arthur, I'll have to Floo over to Xeno's tomorrow. When he learns of this, he'll be beside himself. I can only hope I'll be able to manage to keep him from doing anything rash!




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 03:26:09](#)
(no subject)

She is a family friend, Sandoval, and we're all quite fond of her. And so none of us like to see her getting needlessly hurt.


You can't pretend that she did anything to deserve that. And as for 'asking for it,' Merlin, she's an eleven-year old child.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-15 03:26:58](#)
(no subject)

I'm twelve now, actually. I just had my birthday.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 03:28:28](#)
(no subject)

Luna, do me a favour? A great personal favour, actually.

Please refrain from asking people to hurt you.
Especially Professor Carrow.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-15 03:28:51](#)
(no subject)


Why not him, especially?



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-15 03:29:53](#)
(no subject)


Yes, Weasley, why not me? I find myself quite interested in your answer. Most passionately, as a matter of fact.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 03:30:32](#)
(no subject)


It's just that--um, you're very good at it. Sir.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-15 03:31:57](#)
(no subject)


Acceptable.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-15 03:22:22](#)
(no subject)


I don't expect I will. But it's nice to know that the help is there if I need it.



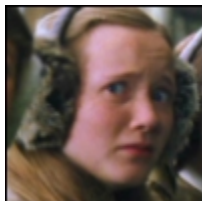
 [alt_hannah](#) at [2010-01-15 02:29:04](#)
(no subject)


Why, what's happened to ~~Looney~~ Luna Lovegood?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-15 02:30:12](#)
(no subject)


It happened at dinner, in the Great Hall. In front of everybody.



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2010-01-15 02:31:45](#)
(no subject)


What? She didn't get petrified or anything, did she?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-15 02:32:55](#)
(no subject)


No.



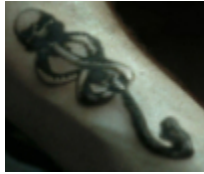
 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 02:33:55](#)
(no subject)


It was ... an incident. It's entirely over now. No need for you to worry.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-15 02:35:23](#)
(no subject)


I'd prefer to call it a 'demonstration.' And a very effective one, if I do say myself.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2010-01-15 02:36:43](#)
(no subject)


And a little worrying wouldn't be amiss. That's the sort of thing that keeps you on your toes, so to speak, a service I am always happy to provide.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 02:36:57](#)
(no subject)

Er--quite.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-15 02:42:02](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Merlin, I was afraid he was going to kill her there right in the middle of the Great Hall in front of everybody! I saw someone do that curse a long time ago to a vagrant muggle before they were all moved to the camps, but I've never seen it done on anybody I

know.

Sally-Anne, I'm even more sorry that you went through that. I bet when Professor Carrow throws it, it must be even worse.

She didn't even scream. Not once.




 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-15 02:46:28**

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

I know. That was the disturbing thing, wasn't it? That she didn't scream at all. I mean, you could tell it was dead dire, just looking at her jerking around on the floor like that. And then, y'know, when she kept twitching afterwards.



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2010-01-15 02:53:19**

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

But then she got up again and just brushed off her robes, and--did you see? She sort of--sort of smiled at him! And she went back to her seat and started eating her dinner like nothing out of the ordinary had happened. Seamus and me couldn't believe it.

That girl is dead uncanny.

Even Professor Carrow looked a little spooked. Like, he wasn't grinning so much afterward when he turned to watch her go.

She better watch her step around him.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-15 03:08:42**

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

Heh. Yeah, that's Luna for you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-15 03:15:56](#)

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

And, yeah, actually. I thought the same about Carrow afterwards. It was like she stole some of, I dunno, the effect he thought he'd conjured.

Did you see how he looked while he cast it? He was totally loving how everyone stopped talking and just stared with their mouths hanging open.

And then she didn't act scared at all. And that left him looking totally a squib, didn't it?

And, yeah, I totally think he'll do something awful soon just to prove he can.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-15 03:20:47](#)

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

I'll bet Professor Carrow doesn't even know what to do when he meets a student who isn't even afraid of him.

Well, I hope the fact that she got sorted into Ravenclaw means she'll have the smarts to outwit him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-15 05:08:32](#)

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

I was watching Carrow's face. He



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-15 05:33:53](#)

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

On Tuesday night after Sandoval let it stop that second time I was on the floor trying to stop shaking enough to get up and I looked up

at the two of them. Carrow looked almost hungry. I mean like someone looks after they've had a taste of some food they really like and they want more.

Sandoval though

You know how Oliver Wood looks when he's just climbed off a broom? Ron you look the same way. Your eyes are all bright and your cheeks are pink and you're breathing a little fast because you like flying so much.

That's how Sandoval looked.

Anyway Carrow's face tonight looked more like he'd had a whole meal instead of just a taste. He liked watching Sandoval cast crucio but he liked casting it on Luna better.

I think Carrow loves hurting people and I think Sandoval loves having power over people.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-15 05:17:08](#)

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

I've been wondering ever since dinner why she didn't shake and throw up after. Pansy didn't throw up when Mrs Black did it to her, but she shook and had a bad headache.

Maybe it's because she didn't scream? I don't know why that would make a difference though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-15 05:14:01](#)

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

I don't know how it could possibly be worse but Hydra talked about whether Sandoval would have a 'strong' cruciatus so probably it does vary.

I can't believe she didn't make a sound.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-15 22:10:16](#)**

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

Maybe she couldn't?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-15 02:49:41](#)**

(no subject)

Where were you? I mean, if you were at dinner you couldn't have missed it.




 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2010-01-15 02:57:36](#)**

(no subject)

I got caught up in revising at the library and lost track of time and hurried in to grab dinner the last five minutes. Luna was gone by then.

Ernie said that Professor Carrow put the Cruciatus spell on her? Why? What did she do? She always does her work in class, and she's never cheeky to the professors. Well, she's odd, of course, but not cheeky!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-15 03:19:20](#)**


(no subject)

He did it because she wrote in her journal that she wanted to know what it feels like. He told there the other night he'd do it for her, and, well, she didn't say no.

When it was all over, it sort of looked like she told him thanks. 'Least she smiled at him in that sort of way you do when you mean Thanks.


And, yeah. Luna's just Luna. No one's like her, that's dead certain.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-15 02:47:59](#)
(no subject)


Percy. . . ?



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 02:49:13](#)
(no subject)

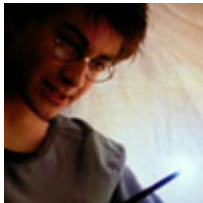
Mum, not here, I don't think. I'll send an owl. Look for it early tomorrow morning.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 02:55:16](#)
(no subject)

Luna, is a very strong witch. She can handle herself well. If she needs something she, will let someone know. I don't think we need to fear for her so much, I don't know what was wrong with her or why she did it, but its clear to me that she wasn't afraid of him. She told him to "go ahead".


That's my beast friend for you... Not always altogether there, but never one to stick her head in the sand or back down.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-01-15 03:54:40](#)
(no subject)


Maybe she should've been a Gryffindor then, that was dead strange.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 04:06:42](#)
(no subject)


I will agree with that. I don't know what crept into her head that would even make her want to do it. But she is very brave. You will be hard pressed to find anything predictable about her.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-17 06:24:06](#)
(no subject)

I can't believe he that's why Pa Is Lovegood really all right? It's good that she has friends like you.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-15 03:11:39](#)
(no subject)

I'm quite all right, Percy. It's very kind of you to ask.

I don't think I need to stop by the Hospital WIng, but of course I will if that changes.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-01-15 04:04:28](#)
(no subject)

Was it everything you thought?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 04:09:20](#)
(no subject)

Hydra,

What kind of question is that? She had no idea what it would be like before it happened.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-01-15 04:14:19](#)
(no subject)

I suppose you're right, otherwise she wouldn't have asked.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 04:19:33](#)
(no subject)

She most certainly wouldn't have.


[2010-01-14 22:07:00](#)

Luna... MUM!!!

Luna,

I do hope you are all right. What were you thinking?... Please don't answer that now. Please do pay attention to your blanket tonight. It should do the same thing again that it did on your birthday. There should be something there to help you feel better. Please do let me know that you have received it. Also do check everything, and see me tomorrow at breakfast.




 **[alt_ginny](#)**

I hope you are all right.

Mum,

I don't know what happened, or I should say why it happened. I won't say much here, I see that Percy will send you an owl. I just don't know what to do, and there is not much I can do to comfort my friend right now. I don't know what to do!




 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-15 03:37:11](#)**
(no subject)

How lovely! Thank you.

Yes, I'll be happy to meet you at breakfast, and we can talk then.




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-15 03:39:15](#)**
(no subject)

Ginny? Please do give the dear girl a hug from me when you see her. I find myself worried a bit about her tonight.


(And then perhaps a firm shake to the shoulders with an exclamation of, 'What were you thinking!')



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-15 03:40:29](#)
(no subject)

I miss you saying that to me, Mrs Weasley! I even miss the shoulder shakes. Daddy just shakes his head mournfully at me, and it's not the same.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 03:40:31](#)
(no subject)

Mum,


Consider it done. All of it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-01-15 03:56:11](#)
(no subject)

Don't think she needs comforting. Weasley your friend is weird.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-01-15 03:59:51](#)
(no subject)

Watch who you are calling weird. She is my friend.

2010-01-14 22:56:00

ORDER ONLY: Amycus Carrow

I think that, perhaps, he has finally gone too far.




Today at dinner he cruciated little Luna Lovegood. It was uncanny, how she dealt with it; I do believe that the death of her mother has left the girl daft. And when queried about it, she merely replied, 'of course, I did want to know.' Such an absurdly Ravenclaw thing to say! But nevertheless - she is pure of blood, and it is impossible to say that she did anything wrong, and she is a child, and therefore it is impossible to say that she should have been taken at her word in the journals, that she wanted to be cruciated - '

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

In any case, I immediately put in a Floo call to the Lord Protector demanding Carrow's step down. He would not budge; I hardly expected him to. Carrow has been his lap-dog for so long. But I swear that I saw him flinch. Those snaky little eyes flickered just a touch when I described her writing. Lovegood is a pureblood after all, and I daresay it got to him when I added, 'but what if it was your Harry - '

Lovegood's father might be a dissident, but the Lord Protector nevertheless abruptly agreed to speak with Carrow about the matter, and sparked out; I count it a victory. Previously he has merely dismissed all my complaints. And yet I hate to rejoice when that little girl was lying on the floor convulsed. What a senseless thing!



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-01-15 04:18:09**
(no subject)

I've been catching up - I did a spot of detective work this week and spent most of it as Padfoot - but I'm reading up now on what's been going on while I've been out of contact.

I can't

He's

I'm almost afraid to post a Grim Truth about this, though my quill's hot enough to sear some of those Death Eaters right through their journals.

Minerva, where do you think Malfoy is going to jump on this? He seemed oddly put out with Miss Sandoval, though I suppose that may have been a test of sorts. He doesn't like Carrow, though. What do you think?


If he could be pressured into taking a public stand against it, then I can come out with a column agreeing with him. Bet that would send him right round the twist.



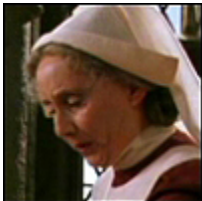
 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-01-15 04:40:10](#)
(no subject)


Malfoy would be a fool not to jump on it. He's got a son just Lovegood's age, you know.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-01-15 09:35:47](#)
(no subject)

Good God...



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-15 15:01:11](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Remus, if you'd been here to see it! I can't begin to tell you how distressing it was to see him pounce on that child's naive curiosity.

The Lovegood child seems to have a wholly independent mind; she is willing to ask questions and pursue lines of thought that others would never conceive. That is such a rare gift.

And to have that intelligence and openness used against her in a school! A school where it should be cultivated and nurtured towards maturity, challenged where it tends to wildness, urged to put down roots in solid study and sound methodology, where it should be protected and encouraged NOT exploited and abused.

Of course, this episode falls far short of the outrages Carrow has repeatedly perpetrated against young Mr Boot, and yet I share Minerva's hope that this attack on a pureblood child will succeed where all his previous crimes have failed in convincing the Lord Protector that Carrow should be removed from contact with children.

[2010-01-15 12:32:00](#)

(no subject)

I'm never writing anything in here ever again. It's not safe.



 [alt_ernie](#)




 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2010-01-15 20:05:41](#)**

(no subject)

Why isn't it safe?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_ernie](#) at **[2010-01-15 20:27:27](#)**

(no subject)

Because if I say something wrong, even if it's just by accident, Professor Carrow someone might just cruciate me too.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2010-01-15 20:39:46](#)**

(no subject)

But I thought Luna Lovegood asked for it?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_ernie](#) at **[2010-01-15 21:12:34](#)**


(no subject)

I think she only said it might be interesting to feel it one day, not that she wanted it done to her right now.

And everyone knows she's a weirdo anyway, you shouldn't just take what she says like it's definitely true, like all those weird animals and made up things she's always going on about. No one just believes her about those.

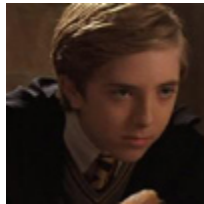
Even if she did say it, just because someone says to do something, it doesn't mean it's right to do it. If I said someone said "push me off a cliff", it doesn't mean it's okay to do it just because they said so, especially if they're a kid, and a loony one at that.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-15 21:22:15](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you're dead right about that. It's not okay to hurt a kid even if she said she was curious how it'd feel.

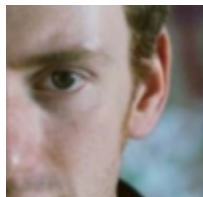
But I think it's okay to write some things here. Just not stuff that'll make the teachers mad or, y'know, give somebody ideas about hurting you.




 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-15 21:24:30](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I bet Lovegood thought that it was okay to write that she was curious about stuff, and look how that turned out.


I'm not risking it. After this, I'm not writing anything in here. I'll chuck this book in the lake if I have to.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-15 21:56:05](#)
(no subject)


No, you will not, Mr Macmillan. All citizens are required to keep their journals. You may choose to write in it less frequently, or even not at all, but you are not allowed to destroy it.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-15 21:59:47](#)
(no subject)

Yes sir.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-01-17 06:12:38](#)
(no subject)

I used to feel the same way but there's no use in *not* writing really. ~~it's not as i~~

Anyhow, Hannah and Megan and I would be sad if you stopped, because you cheer us up and whatnot and tell off Smith when he's being a berk.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-01-16 00:37:33](#)
(no subject)

But adults are supposed to teach kids how to be, and now maybe Luna Lovegood's been taught not to ask for crucio anymore.

Pushing someone off a cliff isn't the same because that would kill someone, unless it was a short cliff. Even if you don't like what happened to her you should still write in your book, or else people might think you have something to hide.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-15 22:44:01](#)
(no subject)

Just don't write anything daft Macmillan and you'll be fine!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-15 23:35:17](#)
(no subject)

What Finnigan said. It's only dangerous if you're going to write daft things like 'Blimey, I think I'd fancy having Cruciatius cast on me!' I mean even ~~sark~~ sarcass to joke about it. (And NO, for the record, that was NOT me really saying that!!)

She may be a Ravenclaw, but she's utterly barmy. Who asks for that? She even looked like she sort of enjoyed it. Well, not enjoyed it,

exactly, but. You know. Like she didn't mind. Even later in the common room she was all fairly dreamy about it. But then, she's sort of on a cloud most of the time, anyway.

The journals are so that everyone from the Lord Protector on down will know that we are good citizens and that we're doing and thinking as we ought. There's nothing wrong with that.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-15 23:48:42](#)**
(no subject)

Blimey I think I'd fancy a package of Chocolate Frogs!

Reckon that'll work?

Also no homework for the next week!




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-15 23:52:37](#)**
(no subject)

You might ask Parkinson. She's always stuffing her face with chocs. Soon she'll be as poriky as Millie.

I don't mind the homework, so long as there's not too much. But then I can always take it to Ravenclaw Corner. (Sandoval was grand earlier this week! She gave me some excellent pointers on that essay we're doing for Miss Professor Carrow, and also on the star charts for Professor Sinistry. Which just goes to show that she's perfectly approachable, and there's no reason to be afraid of her at all.



 **[alt_millicent](#)** at **[2010-01-16 14:36:16](#)**
(no subject)

i saw that you cow

2010-01-15 12:37:00

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



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Pansy and I went to find Luna this afternoon because I wanted to know why she wanted Carrow to cruciate her.

People don't always think about what they're writing in the journals. You can go for months chattering without someone like Bellatrix Lestrange butting in and it's easy to forget, at least for some people. But, I think Luna really DID want him to do it, it wasn't just an idle slip that Carrow pounced on.

Pansy came with me because she's not letting me go anywhere alone right now, and also she wanted to know, too, why Luna would ask him to do it.

I thought maybe it was because Luna wanted to know exactly what she was supposed to be fearing. Some people think the unknown is always scarier. I can't decide if that's true with the cruciatus curse, whether it's more or less frightening when you've experienced it, but some people really think it will be less scary if they give it a go. That's why Teddy had his father do it to him that time.

Anyway what she said, Luna I mean --

First she said she wanted to know if she could face the curse if she had to. Which is kind of like Teddy's reason but not exactly. It's like the Gryffindor version of the reason even though she's not a Gryffindor.

And then she told us about this essay she wrote last year, for your mum, Ron, at the school your mum ran for her and Ginny. The essay was about a story by an American muggle lady. The story made her decide that some things are so unjust it isn't right to look away -- if your nice life is the result of someone else's suffering, you need to know exactly how bad that other person's suffering is. And she decided it was her responsibility to know, REALLY know, from the inside. And she especially didn't want to be protected from knowing by her blood status, because she's a pureblood.

She reads Sirius Black, too, but that's not surprising. I think everyone reads what he writes (except Vince and Greg) even though hardly

anyone admits it. She takes him seriously though. Especially the bits about how we should all think for ourselves. I was glad she seemed to have the sense not to say it straight out. But she said she'd been listening to his warnings and trying to think what the best thing to do was, and when I pretended I didn't know who she was talking about she called him 'the one the grownups say we shouldn't ever read' and smiled, I know she knew I read him too.

Anyway I've been thinking about this a lot, too much probably. My first thought when she said she wanted to know if she could face it if she had to was that it was a reason that would have made sense to me last week but not anymore, because it's not like Sandoval gave me a choice and it's not like Moran gave Antigone Fletcher or Anthony Rickett a choice. You don't really 'face' it so much as wait for it to be over. You endure it because there isn't anything else you CAN do.

But then I started thinking about what Mrs Lestrangle said in her diary, that what makes the cruciatus curse useful -- powerful -- is not really the pain but the fear it inspires.

Before, I was afraid of the cruciatus because I am afraid of pain, but what REALLY frightened me was the idea that actually having it cast on me would be so awful I would be too afraid to ever risk being cruciated again. I was afraid that it would make me SO fearful that I'd be a different person. Gryffindors might not understand this, I mean you lot are brave so you probably don't worry about things like this, but I am NOT brave and I HATE pain.


Anyway it's awful. It's as awful as you can ever imagine and I'm not any less frightened of the cruciatus curse than I was before. But I can think of things I'd still do even I were risking the cruciatus again. I can even think of things I'd still do even if I KNEW for CERTAIN I would get the cruciatus again. I can think of things I wouldn't do, even if doing them would persuade someone not to cast it on me.

I think that might be what Luna meant.

Don't any of you lot go invite Carrow to cast it on you though. Just take my word for it, I mean you DON'T want it cast on you because it HURTS but a day later you'll know there are things you'd do to keep it from being cast on you but there's plenty more you wouldn't do. Although when you're lying on the floor waiting to see if they're going to let you up or if it's going to start again, you probably will feel like you'd do anything at all to make it stop. Or maybe not, I mean I don't

know what it's like to be a Gryffindor, you might lie there thinking 'bring it on, Carrow! I can take it!' but i reckon not.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-15 23:22:20](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I reckon not, too.

I dunno about the rest of what you said. I think I have to think about it.

Do you and Pansy maybe want to meet up sometime? We could do it after dinner or before the Quidditch tomorrow.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-16 01:27:31](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah that would be good. Maybe we can meet after dinner, I'm caught up again on homework finally.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-01-16 14:37:57](#)**
(no subject)

I think Vince and Greg read it too. I see a lot of things they don't want. I know they can read anyway, which nobody else thinks they can.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-16 15:34:58](#)**
(no subject)

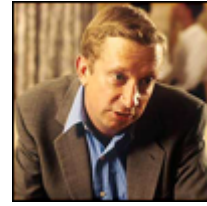
I thought surely they did know how to read but that's interesting they read the journals, especially that bit.

Thank you again for helping me with my notes this week.

2010-01-15 15:41:00

Order Only

Molly, Bill:




 [alt_arthur](#)

There's something in the wind here in the Ministry. Several of the senior department heads have left early, and I overheard one making a Floo call to his wife. 'Stock up everything you can,' he was whispering (I was shamelessly eavesdropping, pretending to search for a file in his office). 'Milk, meat, canned goods. Selwyn might not issue the order, but if he does, it'll happen fast, and who knows how long it's going to have to last.'

Don't know what it's about. But perhaps you might take a look in the larder and see that we're well stocked.

Bill, can you learn anything more? Molly, I know you spent the morning with Xenon. Has he told you any hint about this, whatever it is, from his sources?



 [alt_bill](#) at **2010-01-15 21:51:00**
(no subject)

Closed door meetings everywhere today, Dad, but I don't know whether they're due to the epidemic, Selwyn's investigations, the changes in position or bloody hell, a dragon rampage somewhere in Yorkshire. I'll try to find out what I can.

What about Tonks? Perhaps she heard something last night, or saw something while cleaning? Can you ask her tonight?

2010-01-15 17:06:00

Quidditch

I heard some of the fifth years in the hallway saying something awful happened at the game between Puddlemere United and the Chudley Cannons today. One of the Puddlemere Chasers fell off his broom? Or maybe it was one of their Beaters? Only it was worse than just a fall I guess.




 [alt_seamus](#)

~~Do you know if it's true~~ ~~People are saying~~ There's a rumor he's sick, really sick. The player who fell I mean. Did anyone here anything?

The Cannons STILL LOST if you can believe it.



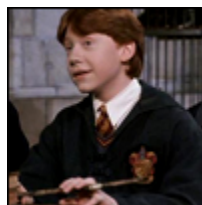
 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-01-15 23:23:02**
(no subject)


Where'd you hear that?



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2010-01-15 23:45:55**
(no subject)

I heard a couple of Hufflepuffs talking and one of them was holding the evening Prophet.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-01-15 23:51:02**
(no subject)

Yeah, I was just talking to Towler and Jordan. They said Morris, too, actually. Said he was paralysed. I dunno if it was because he fell or if he fell because he was paralysed, though, but then Johnson said all the Muggles and Muggleborns who've got sick were all paralysed, too, and that she'd heard that's what Morris has got.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-16 01:13:00](#)
(no subject)

Its not supposed to affect half-bloods.

You don't suppose Morris is actually a mudblood and his mum lied about who his father was really?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 03:25:40](#)
(no subject)

Uh. I dunno. I read a big article about him in Quidditch Insider last spring, and it said his father was Bullnose Morris, y'know, the big star for the Magpies back in the 70s?

I mean, I guess that could've been wrong, but they kind of look a lot alike. There were pictures of them together and all.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-16 03:28:04](#)
(no subject)

bugger

I think your right.

I hope he was just hurt in the fall anyway. The Ministry said




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-16 03:41:06](#)
(no subject)

Wait. You mean he got sick the way the others

You mean he's got the same thing they think is happening in the camps?


But he's a halfblood!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:42:25](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah. Way to keep up with the conversation, Patil.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-16 04:11:04](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, hah. I was talking with Finnigan about important things, like how bad the Cannons are.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:48:44](#)**
(no subject)

Well maybe he DID just get hurt in the fall.

People sometimes get paralysed from falling.

I think.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-16 04:05:00](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, if he hurt his spine, right? But can't they fix that?

I guess it depends on whether he's okay tomorrow.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-15 23:41:59](#)**
(no subject)

The Cannons would lose if Puddlemere had every man out other than their Seeker.

Was it Morris? Tambllyn says he's one of their best players, even if he had a Muggle mother. (Also Bradley says he's the best-looking player they have.)




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-15 23:46:34](#)
(no subject)

Too right about the Cannons!


I think it was Morris actually.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-15 23:48:25](#)
(no subject)


That's a totally ignorant thing to say about the Cannons!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-15 23:55:11](#)
(no subject)

I didn't say it, Tamblyn said it. Lakshmi's veil, Weasley, you act like someone petrified your mudblood.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-16 00:45:52](#)
(no subject)

He'd never have a mudblood.


Anyway, Morris is great. Too bad about what happened.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 00:58:42](#)
(no subject)

Too right.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-16 01:09:23](#)
(no subject)

Ha, no, you're right, he wouldn't. But it's an expression. I heard Laverty say it this week. It means he looks like someone stole his lolly.

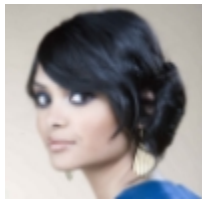
I'm surprised you haven't heard anyone else in Slytherin using it. Laverly says she got it from her sister.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-01-16 01:52:00](#)
(no subject)

No, I've heard people saying it, I just thought it was amusing that you said it to Weasley.

Anyway, I think hearing people say things about petrified mudbloods is making Dennis nervous or something, he's been all skittish every since school started up again. Maybe he figures that the Heir must be back at the castle.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-16 02:49:03](#)
(no subject)


Well, that's why I said it!

You tell your Dennis that he's being a nit. Everyone knows the Heir isn't real, or your father and Marvolo's wouldn't have left you, would they?

Oh, sorry. That's still a sore spot, isn't it?


But I mean, honestly, I don't think there's really an Heir, do you?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-16 02:52:39](#)
(no subject)

So what do you reckon happened to Bobby Stebbins? Not to mention Carrow's mudblood and that cat and Nick. I mean they didn't petrify themselves did they?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-16 03:02:51](#)
(no subject)


No, but you can't find anything about there being an actual Heir in any of your books, and there's nothing in the library, either. So apart from what Binns told the Slytherins earlier,

there's nothing.

And since then, these attacks haven't really had any rhyme or reason, have they? I mean, a cat? A mudblood? Stebbins? (Well, Stebbins, I mean, anyone could understand wanting to hex Stebbins, but still, it's hard to imagine anyone taking him as a threat.)


I think it's just someone using the legend to make us all think it's a terrible monster.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:09:12](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah but whoever it is might go after Dennis next, I mean if they don't mind hacking off Malfoy.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:11:46](#)**
(no subject)

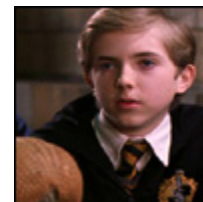
Well, that's just ridiculous. Malfoy's not an enemy of the Protectorate! He's Marvolo's best mate, isn't he?




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:14:11](#)**
(no subject)

Well yeah but was Stebbins an enemy of the Protectorate?

I don't know honestly I barely knew him. Maybe Ernie knows if he hasn't thrown his book into the lake.



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2010-01-16 13:45:08](#)**
(no subject)

Bobby was a bit cheeky to Marvolo that one time, but if that makes him an Enemy of the Protectorate, we're all in big trouble.

Otherwise he's as loyal as anyone else. I never ever heard him say anything bad about the

Protectorate or the Lord Protector or anything.

We went up to visit him in the hospital wing the other day. He's just sort of lying there though, it's like he's dead. It's really horrible. We stayed for a while and told him everything that's been going on since we last visited. Madam Pomfrey says he can't hear us and it's just like being asleep, but you never know.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-16 03:30:49](#)

(no subject)

Anyway I reckon your right that it's just someone going around and probably pretending to be the Heir of Slytherin to get everyone suspicious of the people from Slytherin House.

Its probably actually a Ravenclaw. Don't you think?



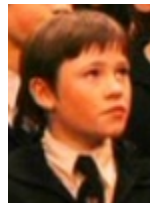
 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-16 03:33:04](#)

(no subject)

What?? Of course it's not a Ravenclaw!

(Well, I suppose it could be Fawcett, only she's too thick to plan something like this.)

How would you like it if I said it's a Gryffindor?




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-01-16 03:47:58](#)

(no subject)

I'd say you must not know very many Gryffindors if you think any of us are subtle enough to keep something like this up for months!

Besides it was the Gryffindor ghost who got petrified and we all LIKE Nearly Headless Nick.



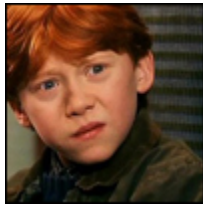
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-01-16 05:14:44](#)**
(no subject)


There's either an Heir or something pretending to be the Heir. I don't really know which. But they better leave Dennis alone. And Granger.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-16 01:14:16](#)**
(no subject)


Oh your probably right Ron. Puddlemere would need there Seeker and there Keeper at least!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-16 02:41:11](#)**
(no subject)

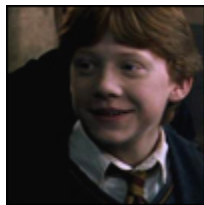
Ha bloody ha.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-16 02:47:09](#)**
(no subject)

Its not as if the Kestrels are having a good year either.

Then again at least they've had good years now and again...just not this year.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-16 03:28:22](#)**
(no subject)

The Cannons have had great seasons. And they will again. It's just that they've been around for so long, you have to take a long view of things.

I mean, everyone knows the Kestrels were shite all through the 15th and 16th centuries, but when they pulled themselves together they were unbeatable for, like, thirty years, right?

Well, the Cannons' time is coming. You'll see.




 **alt_seamus** at [2010-01-16 03:29:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh your probably right Ron.


If your lucky it might even be within your grandchildren's lifetime!



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-16 03:43:55](#)
(no subject)

Heh. Yeah.




 **alt_susan** at [2010-01-17 06:17:51](#)
(no subject)

That's the spirit Weasley! That's really bad about Morris though.

You know, there are diseases where people who can't catch it can still pass it on to other people. I really hope this one isn't like that. Because my dad was at that match.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-17 18:09:44](#)
(no subject)

Whoa! He was at the match? Did he write and tell you about it?

2010-01-15 19:33:00

Inexcusable

Minerva, I've no time at the moment to adequately express how inexcusable this week's events have been. I'm sure you have already heard from Our Lord His opinion regarding your ability to control the students' - and *Professors'* - temptation to administer the Curse. No doubt you also know that Peakes is convening an emergency meeting of the Board (to-morrow before the Quidditch match) in order to discuss what reasonable provisions might be emplaced as guidelines for the Curses' proper and effective use.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Already we have seen the effects these capricious applications of the Curse have had on the journal project, on parental outrage and on faith and trust in the Department of Education. We must not allow this misstep to jeopardise any of the Lord Protector's long-term goals.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-01-16 14:59:10](#)
(no subject)

Unfortunately, there is not a great deal that I can do, if the Head Boy and Head Girl are permitted to use the Curse. I can only step in after the fact, not constrain them before, unless further guidelines are set.

Which is to say: I am quite pleased at the Board's decision to meet. I hope that stringent limits shall be put on the use of the Curse, as much as any and more than some, I should think.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-01-16 15:44:50](#)
(no subject)


I look forward to seeing you later today, Minerva. As a follow-up to my questions yesterday, let me inquire -- all students continue to be well at present? Or at least no unusual illnesses manifested in the night.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-01-16 18:24:41](#)
(no subject)

All remains well at Hogwarts, Selwyn.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-01-16 15:43:01](#)
(no subject)

I think you may perhaps be overreacting, Lucius -- Peakes as well. I saw no evidence that the Head Students' use was capricious. It seems to have had precisely the result one would hope, inspiring a healthy caution among not only the targets of the curse but their peers.

Carrow, well, eh. It builds character to learn from a man who inspires fear. But perhaps we can suggest that in the future, students who wish to know how the cruciatus feels must make their request in writing a week in advance?

[2010-01-16 09:33:00](#)

Terry's birthday, and Dennis Creevey



I solemnly swear that I am up to no good

Well yesterday was Terry Boot's birthday and I wanted to tell you all, only I didn't remember until quite late, and then I had to run to go and see him. It's really easy to forget when people aren't around. Only, how could I ever forget Terry? I don't know. But I almost did. But I talked Harry into giving me one of the hampers that people sent him, his Father sent it along to school because it's full of vegetables under a freeze charm, and growing boys are supposed to eat their veg. And he doesn't like veg very much, so he gave it to me. So I'm keeping it for Terry.

 [alt_hermione](#)

Terry looks like he's under a freeze charm kind of. If you haven't gone to see him, I mean, he looks waxy or maybe icy.

Anyhow I also talked to Dennis, and Dennis said that he was with Malfoy the other day and scones showed up out of no where, and he wanted me to tell him how to make them stop showing up. And so I told him I didn't know, but it sounds like his magic is showing up, like it does for pure blooded kids, only I didn't know it happened to mudbloods, it never really happened to me. I mean, it did, but not like scones showing up out of no where. I made the ground feel soft once when we had to sleep on it, is all.

But I don't think there's anything you can do to stop that, is there? And why would he want to stop it anyway? I know Malfoy doesn't feed him like Harry feeds me, and anyway he wouldn't accept food from Malfoy and I think that's really why, and he really likes scones, and he could just eat them.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 15:36:30](#)
(no subject)

Your birthday is in the autumn isn't it? I remember Terry did something nice for you. I didn't know when your birthday was until I saw your note to him.

Is that why Dennis was so hoping Draco would want scones? I thought he was just hoping Draco would give him more of them to eat.

There isn't anything anyone can do to stop the magic they just have. ~~My mum can~~ I mean sometimes little kids learn when it happens and they take advantage of it. My magic showed itself when I used to steal honey from the bees in the woods near my house, one day I realized the bees never bothered me anymore, they just thought I was a bee. I suppose if that really bothered me I'd have stopped looking for hives but I thought it was great, you know? Anyway with a muggleborn it's maybe not great because they take you away from your parents, but that's happened to Dennis already so he might as well just enjoy his scones.

I wonder where they're coming from? You can't make food out of nothing. He might have summoned them from the kitchens though, I don't reckon the house-elves would mind. Maybe that's something you can tell him, Hermione, would he believe it was just house-elf magic and they were trying to be nice to him because he likes scones so much? Or would he go talk to the elves and tell them not to give him scones anymore?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 15:48:39](#)

(no subject)

How old is Dennis?

And, uh. That's kind of disgusting about how Terry Boot looks. I mean, waxy? Did he look that way when it first happened? Or is he kinda, I dunno, not moulding but, y'know. It's just, you said about the veg and it made me wonder if he's decaying or something, just lying there petrified like that. I mean, I thought Madam Pomfrey said they would all just wake up and be back to normal once the Mandrakes got big enough to make the potion. But maybe not?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 22:46:09](#)

(no subject)

Oh RON. Ugh, I'm sure he's not decaying, how could you even say such a thing?

Hermione I'm sure it's just because he's petrified. I haven't been to see him because I'm afraid I'll cry or be sick. I hate going to the hospital wing anyway.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-16 23:25:33](#)**
(no subject)

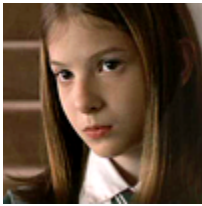
Oh.

Sorry. I maybe shouldn't have said, huh?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-16 23:28:44](#)**
(no subject)

You are exasperating.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-16 22:46:40](#)**
(no subject)

And Dennis is nine I think. Maybe eight or ten but probably nine.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-01-16 23:20:48](#)**
(no subject)

Do you know I'm not sure either? I never asked.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-16 23:28:22](#)**
(no subject)

I think he was eight when he arrived but I'm not sure, and he's probably had a birthday but I don't know when it is.

He's smaller than the firsties though, even the short firsties.


How old were you when your magic showed itself Hermione? I was eight but some people show it younger.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-01-16 23:47:27](#)
(no subject)

I don't know. Mum and Dad didn't like to talk about it much. I think I must have been rather young. But it wasn't bad, I mean, it wasn't like scones being summoned or anything.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-17 00:29:07](#)
(no subject)

What's bad about scones? I think they're nice. Especially the ones with currants in.

Now when I started showing magic it was always to do with the twins and Percy. When they'd tease me, I'd make stuff explode. Like one time, the twins were playing keep away, throwing a stuffed toy over my head. After about six times trying to reach for it, it just blew to bits right in Fred's hand. Or maybe it was George's.

And there was the time they were holding my porridge away, passing it back and forth across the table, and just when they figured I was really, really cheesed off, Fred slid in front of Percy. I know it was Fred that time because he's still got a little scar just at the corner of his eye where Percy threw his spoon at him when my bowl exploded porridge all over him. All over Percy, that is.

Oh, and, yeah. There was the one time I made the bath water fly up and dump all over Mum. I didn't like baths to begin with, but after that time, I guess I'd just yell and yell whenever she said I had to take one.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-01-17 02:39:03](#)
(no subject)

Well, scones aren't bad themselves, I like scones, especially with cream and things, but they'd have been bad for me to summon.

Because for one thing they'd have probably come from the overseer of the camp I was in and he'd have been very angry, to have his scones flying out his window, and

then I'd have been in trouble, or really my parents would've been, and my Dad would have had to explain it, and he would just not have been able to, and anyway it probably would have been very bad.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-17 02:53:54](#)**
(no subject)

Were your parents able to hide that you were a witch, for a while? Or did they let you stay with them longer because they were muggle healers?

You don't have to tell me if you don't want to. I was just wondering.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-01-17 03:15:36](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think they really tried to cover it up so much as it was easy to pretend because of the way things happened. I don't really know. I mean I think that maybe they didn't take any of us to work in people's houses until I was ten? Because I don't know anyone older than me who's a mudblood who works. I mean there are older mudbloods but they're all in the camps. So maybe they didn't take anyone away. I wonder how they deal with the magic in the camps. I don't know, really. We moved around too much for me to make friends with anyone really.

[2010-01-16 14:45:00](#)

GO SNAKES!!!!

Alright writing in my journal to encourage Harry and Draco during the game is probably a bit silly it's not like they're going to nip down and take a peek but oh well.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

GO HARRY! GO DRACO!



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 20:47:10](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Hey. What was all that with the Head Girl when she came in?

You're a lot closer. It looked like she was about to curse somebody again.



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 20:55:23](#)**

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

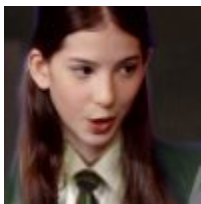
Why are you frowning at me?

Did I do something that's really dumb? I don't think I've got my jumper on backwards or my robes buttoned funny.

Oh. Never mind. I get it.

You're sitting with Pansy.

Just tell me later.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 22:18:50](#)**

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

It was Stretton.

He -- oh I don't even want to tell you, it was too stupid for words. If he was going to appoint himself my protective big brother maybe he should've given me notice first.



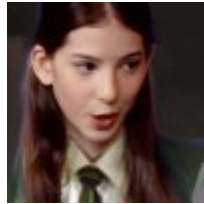
 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 22:24:14](#)

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

What? Was he telling her off for cursing you?

That's actually kinda

She looked really annoyed!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 22:36:27](#)

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

Yes.

He was.

I'm not sure why he thinks that will help ANYTHING but apparently he sat in her favourite spot and when she told him to move, he wouldn't, and said, 'What are you going to do, crucio me? Or do you save that for twelve-year-old girls?'

I mean his concern is touching, or it would be if he ever talked to me at school, but

Really I don't know what he was thinking. I suppose he's the one who has to share a common room with her though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 22:42:51](#)

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

And I'd worry this would make Sandoval hate me more but I don't think she cares much about Stretton's opinion. I think she was a lot more bothered that Lucius Malfoy asked her all those questions.

But she hates being made to look foolish. And she already hated him because he made Ravenclaw look just terrible when he got caught selling illegal potions. She might not have cursed him today and she might not do it tomorrow but sooner or later he'll give her an excuse and he'll get no mercy. Maybe he reckoned she'd be looking for an excuse anyway, I don't know.



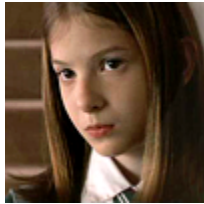
 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 23:21:20](#)

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

I thought it was pretty rich, Mr Malfoy asking her to justify using Crucio. Like he'd ever bother to justify himself for using it. And reading the stuff he writes about in the journals, you just

know he does.

But it was pretty funny watching her squirm when he started in on her. I bet she was wetting herself to think she'd got him hacked off at her. You could just tell she was really shocked he wasn't congratulating her on what she'd done.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 23:30:36](#)

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

It WAS pretty rich, I mean he sent Pansy to Mrs Black last Christmas because he knew Mrs Black would cruciate her.

But yeah it was fun watching her squirm.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 23:22:07](#)

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

Yeah, I guess it's his funeral.

But good on him, anywiz.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-16 22:40:09](#)

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

By the way what happened with Thomas? His cryptic post was confusing and his new cryptic post was even more confusing.

I thought he was talking about Luna and Carrow but I don't know why that would've gotten him into trouble. Was Mr Peakes cross because he mentioned that he used to be in a camp, even though he didn't say it straight out?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-16 23:17:42](#)

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

You know, I'm not really sure. I figured he was talking about his time in the camps, but later it didn't really seem like he wanted to talk about it.

I dunno. I was thinking about whether to ask him, but then I thought maybe Neville would do it better than me.

And what he posted today makes me wonder if he got in some sort of bad trouble while he was with Mr Peakes over Christmas. I mean, you know how he wrote that stuff about Mr Peakes giving him clothes and stuff with notes that talked about rewards for being good and punishments for being bad? I thought maybe Mr Peakes didn't like that he'd written about that. And maybe he got punished.

But again, I didn't figure I should maybe ask him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-17 02:59:12](#)

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

Did you hear about the quarantine? I wonder if it'll keep everyone here over Easter hols.

I suppose it's good news for you if they cancel all the quidditch matches, the Cannons can't finish out the year at the bottom of the league if no one finishes out the year, right?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-17 18:24:48](#)

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

Yeah. Mum's all upset about it, saying she wonders if she'll ever see any of us again. I mean, they get along fine with us being here all year, and we're not meant to go home again until Easter hols, anyway. And didn't what's his name, the Ministry chap, say these rules will just be for a little while until St Mungo's finishes figuring out a cure. That can't take long. I mean, they must've been working on it for months already.

And even if we do have to stay here, it's not so bad. It's

actually pretty wizard to be here when there aren't lessons.

Wait. If none of us can go home, you don't think they'd cancel Easter hols, do you? I mean, they wouldn't just make us go to lessons with no time off, would they?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-17 18:48:38](#)

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

I'd have thought the teachers would want a holiday from teaching but if EVERYONE had to stay at the school they might decide to make us all go to classes just to keep us out of trouble.

Did you get a letter from your mum today?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-17 19:09:50](#)

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

Yeah, she sent an owl with letters for each of us. I guess maybe when she was writing mine, maybe she was just thinking about the fact she hadn't got to see me at Christmas, so I dunno. I guess it makes sense she'd be upset, really.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-17 19:17:15](#)

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

I expect your mum is worried you'll all get sick and of course it makes it worse she didn't see you or Percy at Christmas.

I don't think they will let us leave at Easter, it's been months and months since it started and it's only getting worse.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2010-01-17 18:58:34](#)

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

Actually I'm wondering if she sent you lot a parcel before the restriction went in.

The Strettons sent me jam, if you can believe it. They must have sent it right when they saw Mr Selwyn's announcement so they could pretend they'd sent it earlier. Jeremy got an owl this morning too, I looked over at the Ravenclaw table when I realised I'd got something.

There were a LOT of parcels this morning, I don't think they were the only ones who had that idea. Though at the Slytherin table most of them arrived yesterday.

My jam is a pretty odd assortment, there's strawberry and black currant but then there's also lime-jalapeno. I found out over Christmas hols jalapeno is a sort of pepper but what on EARTH anyone would want pepper jam for I'm not sure. I gave jalapeno-melon jam to Pansy's mum's boyfriend and we got him to think it would hurt my feelings horribly if he didn't pretend he really liked it. Of course that meant I had to eat some too and it was horrible but it was worth it to see the faces he made choking it down.

Anyway if you want to give it a try let me know. It's sort of like a Bertie Botts only you already know it's horrid. I don't know what else I'll do with it unless I can think of a way to convince Lana Sandoval to eat it.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-18 01:12:07](#)

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

Well, you know she'd just sent us all a parcel with honey and gingerbread last week, and that one nearly did Errol in. I reckon she figured that letters was about all he could manage this time.

So you figure that some folks knew about these restrictions before the announcement? That's what you mean about people in your house getting parcels yesterday, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 01:18:15](#)

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

Yeah, I think some people knew beforehand.

Just like Mr Malfoy knew over Christmas hols it wasn't just muggles and muggleborns getting sick. I don't believe for a minute purebloods can't get it, they kept Draco here and he's as pure as they come.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-18 01:27:22](#)

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

Yeah, it really does seem like they knew it then and that's why they made Harry and Hydra and Malfoy stay here over the hols.

D'you reckon Malfoy would've been such a goblin about it if he'd known his parents thought he might get paralysed if he went home?

But what I don't get is why they let everyone else go home then. If they knew, why were they still telling everyone it's just a muggle disease and magical people could never get it, why would they tell all those lies and let all the other kids leave the school? I mean, you or Stretton or loads of other people could probably have brought it back with you, and then Malfoy still might've got it. It's just daft!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 02:41:56](#)

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

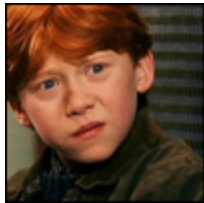
It IS daft but sometimes when you tell a lie it seems easier to keep lying than to admit you lied in the first place. You just try to think up

a better lie.

It was Pansy who thought maybe Harry, Draco, and Hydra stayed because their parents were afraid they'd get sick. I mean I SUPPOSE maybe it was just to prove there's no danger from the heir, but no one ever said they thought

Harry or Draco or Hydra was in danger. Also Mr Malfoy tried to get Pansy's mum to keep her at school too, but Mrs Parkinson wanted her home for a visit.

I think Draco would've still been furious if he'd known.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-17 18:27:09](#)

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

You know, it would be loads funnier if people would prove they can make jokes about the Harpies or the Falcons or something. It doesn't really take a lot of talent to poke kick the team that's down, does it?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-17 18:45:54](#)

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

I'd be happy to make fun of Neville's team sometimes if I knew who he cheered for. Does Nev have a favourite team?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-17 20:02:11](#)

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

There really isn't a regional team for the Lancashire area, so I generally cheer for the Wigtown Wanderers or Puddlemere United. I think if they hadn't been disbanded a couple of hundred years ago, I probably would have cheered for the Banchory Bangers. They were famous for being just awful players, so that would have been the perfect team for me!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 01:19:36](#)

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

Well clearly you should cheer for the Cannons then!

I cheer for the Harpies when I'm paying attention to

||||| quidditch. Which I don't usually but Ron, if you want you can
feel free to point it out when the Harpies lose.

2010-01-16 16:19:00


Mr Peakes

It seems that there was a board meeting today. Mr Peakes was here, and he never really comes unless there is business to conduct. Anyway I was walking through the halls and he saw me and stopped me. I kind of got in trouble for what I said a couple of days ago. I will try to not bring up nameless things again. I guess Its obvious that he understood what I was saying. I guess coded thoughts are not so coded after all. He told me not to mention certain things again or I would be in even more trouble.



 **alt_dean**

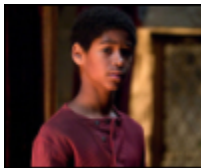



 **alt_ron** at **2010-01-16 23:23:49**
(no subject)

Sorry to hear it, mate.

Did he really think anybody understood what you meant the other day? Cause I don't think he needed to worry much.

But maybe that's not the point.



 **alt_dean** at **2010-01-16 23:27:28**
(no subject)

He understood, and that's all that matters. He figure's that if he figured it out someone else will. And that doesn't look good with him being my guardian.
I guess no matter what may be going through my head, appearances matter.

2010-01-16 20:10:00

Travel Restrictions; Hogwarts Quarantine

Most of you will have heard the news about the sudden illness of Puddlemere United member Samuel Morris. Earlier today, Healers from St Mungo's confirmed that Morris's symptoms appear to be similar to those of muggle paralysis, which until now had circulated only among muggles and mudbloods.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_selwyn](#)

Samuel Morris is a subject in good standing, but is not a pureblood, and while his heritage has not held him back from prowess on the quidditch pitch, it does appear that it has made him more vulnerable to this particular sickness.

Effective immediately, for the protection of halfblood subjects, the following restrictions must be followed.

1. All large public gatherings are cancelled. The quidditch leagues are currently discussing whether to suspend the current season, or to continue but with games broadcast over WWN only; their decision will likely be announced in tomorrow's Prophet.
2. All unnecessary travel between counties is forbidden. Travelling for work and (for children too young to attend Hogwarts) school is still permitted; it is also acceptable to travel to seek the care of a Healer and in the case of a family emergency.
3. Halfbloods are herewith banned from using the floo system for either travel or communication. Portkeys, apparition, and brooms may still be used. An Emergency Portkey Office has been set up and those in need of an official Ministry Portkey may apply for one; forms are available via owl.
4. Hogwarts School is being quarantined. All Hogsmeade weekends are cancelled; no visitors are permitted; and staff members are asked remain on school grounds at all times for their safety and the safety of the students. At present none of the students are ill with the disease, and naturally we wish this to remain true. Owls may still be exchanged but letters only, as we feel there is a small chance parcels might spread the disease. (Parcels that have already been sent will still be allowed through.)

I would like to personally appeal to our wizard citizens not to respond to this situation with excessive fear or anxiety. I will stress that St Mungo's has already made a great deal of progress towards finding a cure and we expect these restrictions to be lifted in a very short time. If we work together, willingly give what is asked of us and willingly obey the rules laid down for us, we shall all remain quite safe.

[2010-01-17 00:04:00](#)

Order Only: heartsick in the dark of the night



 [alt_molly](#)

I've spent the last couple days with Xenophilius, trying to calm him as he ranted and wept over what happened to Luna. It was all that I could do to keep him from Flooding the Ministry, the Hogwarts Board of Governors, every last one of them, the Prophet, even the office of the Lord Protector himself. He was deaf to all my arguments that he'd be doing nothing but cutting his own throat by raising a protest. But what did he care for himself, he said, as long he could have justice for his little girl? Justice! How could he dare hope for such a thing, when there's no semblance of it to be found in any corner of the realm? Finally, in desperation, I slipped a potion into his tea late last night that put him to sleep. I found myself crying as I flooded back home.

And now today's news: the epidemic has grown so enormous that Ministry can't pretend anymore that there's nothing amiss. How many more people will sicken because the powerful lied to cover up the truth? How many will die? Is it truly unstoppable now?

I actually found myself wondering whether I would ever see Ron and Ginny and Percy and the twins again.

Perhaps all this misery and death is nothing more than what we deserve. With all the evil that this government has sown, what can we expect but a bitter harvest of ruin and destruction?

An owl came this morning from that young girl from Slytherin, Sally-Anne Perks, the one the Head Girl cursed with Crucio earlier this week. I gathered from what she said that she'd gone to talk to Luna. Understandable, I think, for her to wonder, after what she'd gone through, why Luna would have willingly invited such pain. I can't quite tell, but it sounds to me as if Luna gave her quite a different reason than all that nonsense she said in the journals about wanting to learn about pain thresholds. I don't quite understand it, Minerva, but perhaps Luna's real reasoning isn't quite as daft as we all thought at first? At any rate, something she said seems to have impressed Sally-Anne, for the girl asked me to send her a story Luna had read last year and written an essay about. I dug through my parchments to

find it again and sent it off to her. As long as I was sending Errol, I sent letters to the boys and Ginny, too.

It's very late. My candle is guttering and the tea has grown cold. Perhaps I'll be able to sleep now. Anyway, I'll put down my quill and try.

Postscript: upon reading this over, I realise how maudlin it all sounds. I'm sorry. It's just that Arthur and Bill have both been so grim and disheartened between the news about the epidemic and the turmoil at the Ministry. Besides, spending the past two days listening to Xeno has been such a strain.

2010-01-17 16:08:00

Grim Truth 93/17/01



Greetings, British Wizarding World.

Things have been moving quickly of late - so much so that I could likely write to you every day. But then if I did, I hate to think what retributions might occur, whether 'in my name' or despite it.

 [alternity](#)
 [alt_sirius](#)

Still, there are some items that bear attention, and demand response. Back at the beginning of last year, and then again in June, we talked about the debate over whether the Head Boy and Girl ought to be allowed to use the Unforgivable curse known as the Cruciatus. At the time, I wondered if teenagers had really become so much more unruly in the present generation that torture was the only way to control them.

However, it seems that the Grim Truth of the matter is even more insidious: Apparently the youth of Hogwarts no longer need to do anything wrong to earn punishment in extremis. Anyone with children at Hogwarts or soon to begin attendance should be righteously afraid for them, if they were not already. Especially now that they have been locked into quarantine by Ministry edict!

There were two incidents this week alone, neither of them provoked or deserved. I have seen some comments to the effect that the second student invited the curse, for academic interest, and therefore the occurrence is of no concern. I could not agree more with those who counter that an underage witch cannot be expected to give informed consent to be tortured. Although the witch in question has my respect and kudos for the way she bore the curse, she should never have been allowed to subject herself to it. I am sure her father wishes she could have gone through her whole life without ever experiencing the torment of an Unforgivable Curse. (As do we all.)

Some of the students have been braver than others at expressing their outrage - and their fear that they may be next. Even the Hogwarts Board of Governors have questioned the wisdom of allowing the Curse when it can be applied to callously and for so little reason as has been exhibited this week. Perhaps the least of these messages is the one that reminds us the journals are not to be trusted, for they are tools the Ministry intends to use against you as they monitor your thoughts and statements, much the way Amycus Carrow held a theoretical

discussion against the student he tortured Thursday night.

This incident, and others like it, demonstrates more clearly than I can say how abhorrent the use of the Unforgivable Curses ought to be, and how there can be no safe haven for Hogwarts' students while those in charge take it upon themselves to punish the people in their care so brutally. What justification can possibly serve? How can anyone of conscience allow such a miscarriage of duty? One can only hope that yesterday's emergent Board meeting will lead to a more sensible attitude toward the Curse. (It is especially intriguing to note Lucius Malfoy's shock over the use of the Curse, considering he had no such scruples when it was applied to his own goddaughter about a year ago - and by none other than my benighted mother!) I admit that I'm heartily curious as to the outcome and the particulars of their discussion!


At the same time, Hogwarts has now become a quarantine state, at the very time that its students are more concerned than ever that they'll be attacked by one type of madman or another. We now see that the Ministry cover-up of the epidemic has led to its spread far beyond the confines of the camps. Supposedly, the Ministry claims that half bloods are 'more vulnerable' to the ravages of disease. However, it should be clear that this affliction, whatever its origin, recognises no barriers of blood. It is working its way through the whole population, not just those with no magic. This fact alone ought to remind everyone that there is no difference between purebloods, halfbloods, Muggle-borns, and Muggles. All are human. I don't know what makes wizardkind able to perform magic. Is it a genetic trait? Is it something more mystical? I'm no biologist. But I do know that our abilities do not give us the right to style ourselves more worthy than those without the talent.

It's that distinction that I suspect may be the downfall of St Mungo's efforts to discover a cure for the Scourge - or paralysis, if you prefer. I shouldn't be surprised if they started, or were ordered to start, from the assumption that the camp epidemics could not touch the magical population. It's clear you're all at risk.

That assumes that the Ministry are (finally) telling you the Grim Truth themselves, and not obstructing your right to travel out of some authoritarian desire. One thing they have not told you is that no matter what, there is still hope. You owe it to yourselves to take precautions, but in addition to demand that the Ministry bring all its resources to bear, to make no assumptions about what may be causing this disease or how to resolve it. And you owe it to yourselves to keep


questioning what you hear, to keep your eyes and ears open and to continue to speak when you can - and when you must.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-18 01:15:08](#)
(no subject)

Mongering paranoia and panic again, brother?
How thoughtful of you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-18 06:40:06](#)
(no subject)


Well, you seemed somewhat unoccupied lately and I thought you might need something to do.
Besides, you know how I like to hear from you.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-18 14:54:27](#)
(no subject)

You mistake my failure to write here if you think it's due to indolence. Whatever comes of this will simply go on the list.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-18 23:49:28](#)
(no subject)

Top of your list, I'm sure. Better get to it; I've a wager with someone how long it'll take before I get the blame for something you're about.


Which is really no different from when we were kids, after all.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-19 02:29:01](#)
(no subject)

I can't decide whether we remember those times differently or just remember different times. I didn't think our part of it was all that awful. Or that all of it was awful, at any rate.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-19 02:46:57](#)
(no subject)

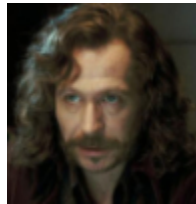
I never said it was all awful. You're the one admitted that you wriggled out of trouble more often, like any 'self-respecting little brother' ought. It's bound to colour your perception.


That and other things.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-19 02:50:21](#)
(no subject)


I was wrong to own up to my responsibility for those times when you took blame for things we both did?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-19 03:21:18](#)
(no subject)


I didn't say that, either.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-19 03:52:21](#)
(no subject)

You're impossible, you know.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-19 04:03:42](#)
(no subject)


Why? Because I'm not going to simplify everything into convenient stereotypes? What do you want me to say? That Father was a tyrant, Mother a self-centered harridan, you were an angel and I was always out of step? Sorry, I'm not going to make it that easy.

All I said was that you'll get your 'assignment' or whatever you choose to call it, it'll get reported as something to do with

my vast array of followers and all the papers will call for my head - again.

I do wonder, though - don't you get tired of not being able to take credit where it's due?



 **alt_regulus** at **2010-01-19 15:56:01**
(no subject)


A goblin, you mean?

I used to wonder how things would have been different if I'd been oldest. Whether you'd have come out differently; whether I would. Whether you'd have seen me differently. Or the reverse.

Does the difference between us really come down to wanting 'credit'? To masses of people speaking your name? To publicity? and your face grinning out from wanted bills on every light post and shop window?

I work to bring credit to our name and receive credit from the only source that matters. The only source that's ever extended it, really.



 **alt_sirius** at **2010-01-19 21:15:22**
(no subject)

A goblin? I don't follow Oh. I see. Heh, I'd forgot about that. Well, not to them, certainly.

In my view, the difference between us is that you've always craved approval and recognition, from one sort of authority figure or another. And you've done whatever you think will buy you that praise. Whereas I learned I don't need a pat on the head to find acceptance or feel like I'm part of something greater than myself. I'd just as soon *not* be the one under the fairylights, to be honest, but I'm not going to stand by silently if no one else has the brass to call foul.

Would it have been easier for us if you'd been older? Does it matter?




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-19 21:33:31](#)
(no subject)

I wonder if we're all as deluded about ourselves as you. I suppose the trick of it is that one never realises.

You know, they say that sometimes a person on his deathbed will fancy himself somewhere else entirely, fully believing himself hale and whole even as he draws his last breath.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 02:36:35](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I was actually thinking the quarantine made me feel a bit safer until I read this.

I think he's right thought that purebloods will get it next. Though I wonder why the camp guards didn't all get sick? I mean this started in the muggle camps. Maybe it's that they're healthier? One of the years I didn't have enough to eat, I got really sick, and I think the muggles in the camps often don't have enough to eat.


Although the Strettons feed their muggles pretty well and their muggles were REALLY sick.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-18 03:40:02](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, and why didn't the Strettons get sick?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 03:53:47](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh because they never believed the Ministry that they weren't in danger.

Mr and Mrs Stretton never left the house the whole of Christmas hols. They hire a bunch of managers anyway, they had the managers out dealing with the muggles and reporting in

by owl or maybe floo but they weren't ever allowed to come in to the house.

I expect before they quarantined themselves they used bubblehead charms and scourgify and the rest.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-18 14:38:22](#)

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

Well, I bet that's how the wizards who run the camps kept from getting sick. I mean, I bet they don't ever really get very close to the muggles.

Even before anybody was really sick, they all talk about them like they're contagious. They talk about the muggles that way, I mean. Look how people treat Hermione and Dennis. Even Malfoy, and Dennis serves him food and stuff, but he still acts like Dennis smells bad. Harry's not really like that about Hermione, exactly. But loads of other people are.

Anywiz, I bet the camp bosses just stay in their offices all the time and hardly ever get close to any but a few of the muggles.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 03:56:47](#)

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

By the way I meant to tell you earlier, your mum sent me something too, I'd asked her if I could borrow the story Luna mentioned so she sent it to me.

Don't tell anyone as I think it was written by a muggle and your mum did say to be careful with it. But if any of you want to read it you can. I'm loaning it to Pansy first though.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-18 04:34:42](#)


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

I'd like to read it, I guess. When I'm done with my Potions essay.

I'll be careful not to let Seamus or Dean see it.

Seamus probably wouldn't even notice, I reckon, but don't know about Dean. Who knows what he might tell his foster father.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-18 14:39:48](#)

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

What's it about, anyway? You could probably just tell me about it.

I mean, I've enough stuff to read just for homework and all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 22:22:54](#)

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

It's only about three pages long, Ron! Just read it yourself if you care enough to be interested.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-18 23:17:34](#)

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

Well, how do I know if I would be interested? All you said is that it's a muggle story.

I mean, it could be a totally naff, girlie muggle story or it could be something really wizard, couldn't it?

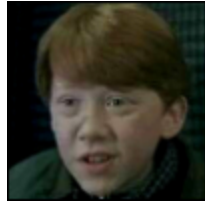


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-19 01:21:48](#)

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

I misspoke. What I meant to say is, you can read it yourself if you're CURIOUS.

It's THREE PAGES LONG. NeverMIND already I'd probably just have to explain it to you after you read it anyway.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-19 02:24:27](#)

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

Well, there's no reason to get shirty about it. I only wanted to know what it's about.

So I guess I am curious, yeah?



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2010-01-19 02:41:05](#)

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

Well alright then, I gave it to Neville because Pansy was done with it so let him know when you want to read it. But not while Finnigan is around, I don't know about Thomas but Finnigan reads a lot, he might want to know what you've got.



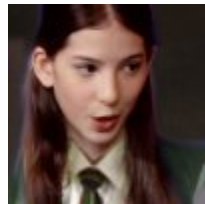
 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-19 02:55:33](#)

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

No probs. He's off somewhere tonight, anyway.

The twins have got a charm that makes a parchment look like homework if anyone looks at it who doesn't know the password. We got them to put it on the story. Now it looks like Astronomy when I hold it and like Herbology when Nev's holding it. It'll probably be Potions for you.

Oh, yeah. The password's the usual one. Y'know. I Solemnly Swear. Just so y'know.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2010-01-19 03:01:33](#)

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

Well that's just wizard except for the bit where PANSY wants to see the story again when you lot are done with it.

It sounds like a nifty spell so long as Fred and George can change the password. Pansy isn't stupid. It's not super likely she'd just randomly try casting it on her diary but she could.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-19 03:17:44](#)

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

Oh. Didn't think of that.

Now it's tunafish.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-19 03:24:13](#)

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

That'll do.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-18 04:30:53](#)

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

It is really strange about the guards not getting sick. I hadn't thought about it before, but you're right. (If they're telling the truth about that but who knows. It looks like there's been a lot of lying going on).

I told you my Gran and Great Aunt and Evelyn used to go serve at the soup kitchen every couple of weeks at Wyre. Evelyn's written to me about it and said Gran was always a fanatic about washing hands and using scourgify and so on every time they went, because Gran always told her it would be easy to pick up any diseases the muggles and muggleborns might have.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-18 04:40:09](#)

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

I think they probably ARE telling the truth about the guards, because if the guards were getting sick they'd have had to hire more, but people wouldn't want to do it because they'd be afraid of getting sick. It just seems like it would be too much to cover up. But I don't know.



 **alt_percy** at [2010-01-18 04:18:21](#)
(no subject)

Luna Lovegood

It would of course, be preferable

~~For you to presume to judge the motivations~~


~~The Ministry~~

~~That the curses used to be called 'Unforgiveable'~~

I'm sure that the Ministry appreciates your concern for its citizens.

Yes, I'm being sarcastic.

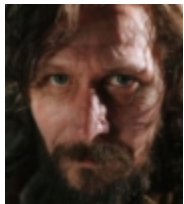



 **alt_arthur** at [2010-01-18 04:42:54](#)
Order Only

I think he agrees with you, Sirius, and is struggling with how to make a show of replying to you without actually coming out and saying so.

He argued against the proposition that the Head Boy and Head Girl be given authority to issue the curse in the first place, remember, and you know, of course, about that whole blow up we had this summer when he experimented with using it himself against a garden gnome.

Molly received a letter from him today. He was deeply upset about what happened to Luna.



 **alt_sirius** at [2010-01-18 06:59:31](#)
Re: Order Only


It's hard to know what he's thinking, Arthur. There are plenty of wizards who balk at the idea of the Unforgivables, but who wouldn't hesitate to throw any number of dark spells if they needed to do.

Still, he does seem to have a good heart, your boy. I've been paying attention to what he has to contribute - and when and how

he says it. It certainly seems as if he mostly wants everyone to get on without any major trouble. But then, there are plenty of good people caught up in this government of yours, who are able somehow to suppress their better judgement in order to do what they do every day, in the interest of 'getting on'.

I dunno. If he truly wants success - I mean position, power, etc. - sooner or later he's going to have to choose what he can and can't ignore. And I know, that's what scares you and Molly.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-18 06:44:49](#)
(no subject)

Indeed they do, Mr Weasley - especially whenever they can twist my concerns into a convenient object of blame for all that is wrong within the country.

And no, the sad thing is I'm not being sarcastic at all. See if you can count up the days until something nasty happens and I get the 'credit' for it.

Remember your question to me last spring?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-01-18 22:28:12](#)
(no subject)

Ignorant, arrogant, inaccurate and defamatory as always, Black.

The deliberations of the Ministry, St Mungo's, the Hogwarts' Board of Governors and any other institution to which you may think you have the right of disclosure are, naturally, no business of a pariah who has cast himself ever in the rôle of martyr and self-appointed saviour. Your disciples may believe your messianic drivel, but to the true citizen of the Protectorate it is clear that you have not a shred of evidence for your claims.

You only wish to cause alarm where there is no call. Just as you only wish to incite discord in the minds of those too weak to see your deceptions for what they are. Moreover, to continually involve students in your melodramatic pronouncements of doom is an act of the worst cowardice. It is they, and not you, who will pay the price if they are so naïve as to give you the slightest credence.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-19 01:23:58](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I am SO glad Pansy didn't reply to him this time.

She wishes she could but she knows she'd only get in trouble for it.

2010-01-18 10:13:00

YPL update

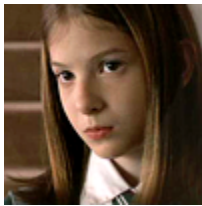
Obviously, due to the new situation, our planned YPL activities this weekend must be adjusted.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Several faculty have graciously offered to give up their Saturday afternoon to talk about different approaches to wand care and maintenance. I'm also looking into arranging some kind of other special event for everyone's enjoyment.

While I hope very much that the restrictions will be lifted by February's planned event, I am also welcoming suggestions for alternate plans in case the travel restrictions are still in place. Do stop by my office and talk to me (or leave a note) if you have an idea that would be of interest. (You are welcome to suggest here, as well, if you prefer.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-01-18 17:40:32**
(no subject)

If we can't have visitors, maybe Professor Brutka could show us some interesting creatures? None of us are old enough to have Care of Magical Creatures yet. And going into the Forbidden Forest to see the unicorn last year was really interesting.

Actually maybe he could take us a little way into the Forbidden Forest? It wouldn't be all that dangerous in the day time with professors and a big group would it?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-01-18 18:01:38**
(no subject)

That's a wizard idea!




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-01-18 21:43:28](#)**
(no subject)

A very thoughtful suggestion, Miss Perks. I will certainly explore it with Professor Brutka, and see whether we can arrange something of interest.


(A short trip into the Forbidden Forest would, of course, depend both on safety considerations and on such mundane issues as the weather, so is a bit more complicated to plan, but I will explore this possibility as well..)



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-19 15:34:33](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Professor, what about a pantomime? I'm sure we could put on 'The Fall of Dumbledore' or 'The Founders' Folly' rather easily. Karoline Moon could even write something new if we wanted, I'm sure she could, she's ever so clever at that sort of thing. People who play instruments could do up the music and I'm sure some of us who are good artists could work the sets. And the best thing is that it would cheer everyone up! It's always nice to go to a panto. We could have one right here!




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-01-19 22:40:31](#)**
(no subject)

Fascinating idea, Miss Patil - however, I think it might be a little ambitious to arrange with only a month or so to prepare, especially during term time.

That said, I think it's an idea well worth keeping in mind when we have longer to plan - perhaps for next year, or perhaps as a summer project. Let me see what might be possible.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-01-20 04:13:41](#)**
(no subject)

That would be fun! Mr Rosier took me to a panto over Christmas hols and it was wizard.

2010-01-19 22:19:00

ORDER ONLY



 [alt_alice](#)


We've been so busy the last few weeks, I've scarcely had the time to sit down and write a thing! Christmas was truly lovely - dear Victor had been saving a jar of preserved plums that we'd gotten months ago, so we did have our genuine plum pudding. He even made a version for the adults that made liberal use of our Christmas brandy. It was wonderful to have Remus over Christmas, and we all had great fun with the crackers all the children made. We also got quite a large box of sundries from Sirius thanks to our smuggling scheme, which worked out quite well. We ended up having more than enough fuel for our trip, and "The Hopeful" was in fine form there and back, without a patrol in sight. (Yes, I've given her a name - it's about time she had one, and I think it works rather well.)

Kingsley, I did get your message, and I agree that it would be an excellent plan all around to have the Players finish out the winter at Moddey Dhoo. We'd love your company, and we can certainly talk at greater length about Davidson's plans for taking advantage of the downed wards then. We've got plenty of room and food to spare. Jacinda in particular asked me to pass along her well-wishes, and her happiness to be able to thank all of you in person for bringing her here. She is coming along well in her recovery, and is full of energy and has regained a good deal of her strength. She still has paralysis in one leg, but she gets around well enough with a cane. She's been spending most of her days with Lucinda in the nursery.

The rest of our winter has been kind to all of us so far. We're still waiting word on all the children's families, but we are able to ascertain through the rings that (with the sad exception of the Saints) their parents are still alive. It's some sort of Christmas miracle, truly, and I only hope that everyone's brothers and sisters in the camps are equally well.

Kevin is plump and happy, and loves playing in the nursery with all his mates. We've all been enjoying the mild weather, and the children's lessons have been progressing well. Minerva, the children all appreciated your insightful comments on the essays they sent to you, and I heard more than one of them resolve to give you an even better effort next year. Your approval means so very much to them, and to me as well. None of us are trained teachers, but we do our best.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-20 03:51:51](#)
(no subject)

Good to hear from you, Allie. I know I owe you all an update, too, but it's been so eventful lately I don't want to trouble.

I did have a chance to read that new magazine, and the article about my brother, finally. It was ... well, I wish I could say it was entertaining. Moony was right; there were definitely some annoying moments.

Anyway. I'm glad my services have been good for something, at any rate. And I do wear the scarf nearly every day. The beanie ... not as often.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-01-20 04:16:11](#)
(no subject)

That's very sweet of you, love. Merlin knows I'm not half the knitter Molly is, but it's good to know that you've gotten some use out of it.

And I'd imagine it's hard to read about someone's take on your own life. I remember the piece they wrote about us in the *Prophet* a few months after Frank and I left the Aurors and had gone into hiding, and I think the only thing they got right was how we spelled our names. People can get away with saying pretty much anything when the other party isn't around to say otherwise.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-20 20:33:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh, it *was* your handiwork, then! I thought perhaps it had been made by one of the younger ones, because of the lumps. (Only joking!)


And yeah, I expected the piece to be unforgiving. It wasn't that so much as.... I guess I spent a lot of time resenting Regulus. I don't think I'd quite considered he felt the same way. It's odd. Not sure what to think of it, really.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-20 20:20:05](#)**
(no subject)


Sirius in a beanie? Who do we have to bribe to see pictures?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-20 20:29:28](#)**
(no subject)


Not bloody likely. It musses the hair.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-01-21 18:10:33](#)**
(no subject)

That's never a problem for me!




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-01-20 20:18:39](#)**
(no subject)

Alice:

We've laid in a good source of supplies, so we won't need to stretch your resources too far. Expect us at the Sanctuary at sunset at the usual spot so you or Frank can pop outside the wards and let us in. We've been camping alone ever since we left the Sherwood band, so I'm quite sure we're past the risk of bringing in any contagion.

I'm glad it will work out. And it will be a relief to be able to spend the cold season away from the road.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-01-20 22:38:19](#)**
(no subject)

We'll be expecting you soon, then!

And I'm sure even Poppy would approve of that level of precaution.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-21 04:02:07](#)**
(no subject)

Quite right.

And I am very glad to think of you all together. I wish we could have invited them here. I have a feeling that our young people will go stir crazy sooner than later under this quarantine.

2010-01-19 22:53:00

(no subject)

Well, this whole Quarantine thing isn't very fun at all. I'm glad I'm not a third year yet, otherwise I'd be horribly disappointed about missing out on Hogsmeade.



 **alt_pansy**

I got a package from mum, she'd sent it off just before the announcement about not being able to send any more. I could tell she'd got it together in a hurry, though, because half the chocolate bars in the box had nuts in them, and she *knows* I don't like that, and it didn't even have a proper note along with it. Ron, you want some chocolates? Sally-Anne and me can meet up tomorrow afternoon if you'd like, and if Longbottom comes along, we can make a regular party of it. And Hydra, you can come along too if you want. I know you like sweets.

It was good to see Lucius and Aunt Narcissa at the match, and to spend some time with them before, too. I'm very sorry that we won't be allowed any more visitors until the Quarantine is over, but does that mean you won't be able to come any more, Lucius? Because it's not like you're just a visitor or a parent or something. I certainly hope that isn't the case, because if it is, I'll have to write a lot more letters to make up for it, and I'm awful at writing letters. Besides which, I'll miss seeing you, of course. I did appreciate the sweets and apples, though, and I'm saving the orange for a special occasion.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-01-20 04:12:02**

(no subject)

Well letters can still come through so maybe she'll send a proper letter later in the week?

Were you listening in History of Magic today Pansy? Because I don't remember him mentioning anything about the centaurs, I thought it was all goblins, and there's a bit about the centaurs in the questions we're supposed to answer for next time.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-20 04:20:58](#)**
(no subject)

I hope so.

I looked, and I drew a centaur in the margin the other day, but I was a bit distracted during that part and don't remember what they did, only that he'd mentioned them. You'd think I would have paid more attention, because centaurs are much more interesting than goblins. Maybe Daphne got it.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-20 15:34:31](#)**
(no subject)

That'd be great!


I'll bring along a packet of honey drops Mum sent for putting in tea. I don't really like this kind because they've got some kind of herb in. I forget which one, but I don't really like the taste. Usually she sends me plain ones, but I guess she forgot. Anywiz, they're yours if you like them.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-01-20 15:59:57](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent! See you then.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-01-21 03:18:44](#)**
(no subject)


It's doubtful we shall be able to continue Board meetings at Hogwarts while the quarantine is in effect. Even meeting by Floo is problematic for a number of reasons. Your letters are always appreciated, however, even if I cannot answer them immediately.

But it was good to see you, too, especially as it gave us a chance to chat about things best said in person. Do give some thought to our conversation, hm? And do not waste too much thought about your mother; thus far, she is content and most importantly, shows no signs of descending again into her illness. No doubt it is due as much to

her attachment to Mr Campbell as to your continued health and good behaviour.

I believe the preservation spell on the fruit will last at least a week or two, but mind you don't save it so long that the spell fails. Meanwhile, giving away your sweets? Are you sure you're the real Pansy Parkinson?



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-01-21 15:33:55](#)
(no subject)

I figured as much about mum.

I'll be sure to write you lots and lots, then. And I always try and think on the advice you give me. I know that you want what's best for me, and it's so good to know that I've got you looking out for me.

And don't you worry, I haven't been put under *Imperious*. I wasn't going to eat the ones with nuts anyways, so I figured why not.

2010-01-20 14:45:00


Order Only: Nymphadora Tonks

Remus, considering the circumstances for the half-bloods under the new restrictions, perhaps you might consider letting Nymphadora kip at the shop for awhile. Minerva? Given the situation, would you be comfortable now with allowing her onto the Order Only lock? I think it would be safer.




 [alt_arthur](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2010-01-21 09:51:16**
(no subject)

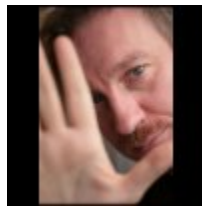
She already has been, Arthur. We thought it best, since otherwise she'd be pretty much trapped in her own home.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-01-22 02:54:48**
(no subject)

Oi, I thought the restrictions weren't within the same county?

Or is there more to it than the Ministry's saying?
(Not that I'd be surprised!)




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2010-01-22 19:59:09**
(no subject)

Well, yes, technically the restrictions aren't quite that restrictive. Yet. I mean, of course, she could nip home, and she has been back there. And she's been in the Ministry too. But they could change the restrictions again at any moment, you never know. Better safe than sorry and all that.

It seemed sensible, at the time, for her to stop here for a few days, things being quite uncertain at the moment. You know.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-22 23:39:38](#)**
(no subject)

Has Miss Tonks had any difficulties whilst travelling to and from her jobs, Remus? St Mungo's has apparently set aside space in the hospital to house halfblood staff temporarily.

My contact mentioned this only in passing, but I gathered that there have been some troubling incidents where people suspected of being halfbloods have been harassed and delayed or even detained on their (perfectly legitimate) journeys between home and work.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-01-23 19:55:00](#)**
(no subject)

A little, yes Poppy, but nothing too bad. Or so she says. She may be underplaying it a little. Even without direct confrontation, the atmosphere out there isn't nice. And even here, in the shop, there have been incidents. It's not everyone, but of the few customers who are still coming by, more than one has requested not to be served by a halfblood or has asked for assurance that none of their purchases has been touched by a halfblood. I'm half tempted to shut up the shop entirely and wait this thing out, but goodness only knows how long that could take.




 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2010-01-21 15:19:34](#)**
(no subject)

I do believe it is time, Arthur.


I am apprehensive, but I do believe the girl will rise to the occasion. I only hope that we are right about her.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-22 03:17:20](#)**
(no subject)

Arthur, for pity's sake, can't you come home now? You're there so late!




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-22 03:19:06](#)
(no subject)

Another hour, Molly, before I finish up this report.
But no more, I promise.

Have you seen today's edition of the *Quibbler*, by the way?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-22 03:22:22](#)
(no subject)

Of course not, dear. You know we've never taken the *Quibbler*. It can certainly be amusing sometimes, but I don't think that's intentional, and I don't have the time to sit over a paper with a cuppa these days.


Oh, dear, why? Did Xeno publish something rash?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-22 03:24:37](#)
(no subject)


I'm afraid so. An editorial on the use of Cruciatus. You can imagine what he said.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-22 03:27:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh, no. I was so sure that I'd managed to head him off. How did he get it past those *Prophet* employees?




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-22 03:28:51](#)
(no subject)

Don't know. But you know Xeno.


I must say, I'm worried. This is a bad time for him to draw further attention to himself. Perhaps you could try talking to him again? I know, it might be a lost cause, but could you at least try?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-22 03:34:58](#)**
(no subject)

I was going to be getting together with Maisie Diggory tomorrow for tea. Maybe I'll make some extra seedcake and suggest that we pop in on Xeno. He likes her, and they get on well, and perhaps he'll listen a little more if we present it as a social call, and the prodding comes from Maisie instead of me.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-01-22 03:35:47](#)**
(no subject)

Worth a try.

2010-01-21 18:51:00

Order Only: Unintended Consequences

I've just returned from the Headmistress's office where I took a firecall from St Mungo's announcing another change of the contact they've assigned me and several changes of protocol. It seems that Healer Wentworth, who replaced my longtime contact at the new year, is a halfblood.

The Ministry's new directive means he cannot be allowed to use the Floo for communication, so they've had to reassign me once again. My new contact is a very young Healer, Vivienne Hayden, who is no more than half a decade out of Hogwarts; I remember her very well as one of my chronic recidivists. I suppose that her broad experience as a patient inspired her to pursue the caring profession.



 [alt_poppy](#)

Things at St Mungo's have been up-ended once again, just as they need to be running more smoothly than ever before. From what I could gather between the lines, they are trading personnel from department to department and shift to shift, housing halfblood staff on-site to address issues caused by the new travel rules, shifting halfbloods out of all jobs with any communications component and out of most patient-contact roles. One wonders what that leaves them to do? Take over for the lunch ladies? Water the pot plants? Tend the morgue?

It seems that all these changes have utterly upset the institutional applecart. Healer Hayden appeared on the verge of tears the entire time we spoke.

And now, of course, we will no longer be able to speak via the fire on the ward nor even the one in my office for fear of transmitting something dire directly from St Mungo's into the school's hospital wing. Draw what conclusions you will from that! I've no idea what will become of us if we have a crisis here that requires immediate consultation with the specialists there. I suppose we could have some sort of communications relay with Minerva as the broker between us.

I'm sure the prospect excites her no end.

[2010-01-22 18:48:00](#)

Luna, dear?

Luna, I don't want you to be alarmed, but I popped in on your dad this afternoon--I had Maisie Diggory with me, and we were bringing him some seedcake for a treat, because we know how much he loves it. We found him a bit under the weather, so we're helping him to St Mungo's.



 [alt_molly](#)

I wanted to let you know, dear, since you're family. but I also wanted to hasten to assure you that it *isn't* that sickness we've all been rather worried about. Pinkie swear, dear.

I'll send you an owl in the morning.




 [alt_molly](#) at **[2010-01-23 00:59:10](#)**

Order Only

Oh, my stars. He was being tortured. With Cruciatius. I'll write more later, but the need to get him to St Mungo's is urgent; he's not making a lot of sense. I'll write a fuller report later.



 [alt_alice](#) at **[2010-01-23 01:37:36](#)**

Re: Order Only

Oh dear.

I'm so sorry, Molly. Let us know more as soon as you can.



 [alt_molly](#) at **[2010-01-23 03:45:20](#)**

Re: Order Only

I'm back now at the Burrow. Xeno is still at St Mungo's, and will be kept overnight at least, we think, for observation. Maisie Diggory is with him for now, helping keep him calm. They've dosed him heavily with potions, and they're evaluating him now for nerve damage. He still hadn't managed to stop shaking before I'd left.

Maisie had come over to the Burrow for tea, as we'd arranged

yesterday. I worked the conversation around to Xeno's latest editorial (Maisie takes the *Quibbler*, so she knew all about it). I remarked that I'd made too much seedcake for the two of us to finish, and then suggested, as if struck by impulse, that we might bring a plateful by for Xeno.

As soon as we activated the Floo, we could hear the crashing and shouting. It was Xeno, sounding wild, something about a--a diamond? I think? Or a diadem? 'It's Ravenclaw's!' he cried. 'The power's Ravenclaw's, I swear, but you'll never have it!' Then more shouting, with 'the Lord Protector' and 'found again' and 'the powers it grants--'

'Crucio!' someone else cried, and then Xeno's words disappeared in screaming. Horrible, shrill, agonised from a throat that was already raw with it.

Maisie turned white and would have closed the Floo connection, but when the screaming started, I pulled my wand out with one hand and dragged her through the Floo flames with the other. Right there in front of the fireplace was a hooded figure standing over Xeno. with his wand trained on him as the poor man writhed on the ground.


Maisie had her wand out and threw a spell, but he just raised his arm to deflect it--only it wasn't a hand at the end, it was a hook! Maisie's spell bounced right off, so perhaps he'd thrown up a *Protego* shield. Everything I'd ever learned at school about dueling just went completely out of my head. I couldn't think what else to do so I--well, I chucked the plate of seedcake right at his head!

That certainly surprised him! He all but dropped his wand, although he managed to hang on to it, worse luck. He dove right between Maisie and me for a overturned box by the hearth and scooped up a handful of powder. (We realised afterward it was the Floo powder box ordinarily kept on the mantelpiece.) He shouted a destination, only I didn't hear it over Xeno's moans, and he was gone.

I'm very much afraid that it was your brother, Sirius.

Xeno didn't give any sign of recognising us. We made an emergency call to St Mungo's through the Floo and they brought a stretcher through and took him away.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-23 05:35:27](#)


Re: Order Only

They suggested they might release him tomorrow? That would be very good news, and much more than I'd have hoped based on the condition you found him in.

But Molly, my goodness! You might both have been killed. What was to stop him--

Did you think he recognised who you were?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-23 15:11:06](#)

Re: Order Only

I have no idea whether he recognised me, but I don't know how he could. I've never met him before. I only realised who he was because of the hook.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-23 15:22:59](#)

Re: Order Only

And as far as Xeno goes, I might have fibbed a little, for Luna's benefit. I don't know if he'll be ready to go home today, but I will stop by today to see.

I'm a bit anxious about leaving him in official hands, at it were, if someone was angry enough at him to send Reg after him. I don't like it that there was something in their argument about the Lord Protector. What if he gets arrested right there in that hospital bed?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-01-23 15:28:07](#)

Re: Order Only


You may be right to be worried, Mum. I've done a few discreet inquiries, since I was wondering why none of the *Prophet* employees who are generally at Xeno's during the day were there.

Someone called them all away at noon, supposedly for an

important meeting at the *Prophet* offices. It turns out there was no meeting, and they kept them busy with make work all afternoon rather than letting them go back to Xeno's house.

I'm afraid that means that someone arranged for Xeno to be alone when Reg came calling.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-23 15:40:47](#)

Re: Order Only

Is it safe for Molly to even visit him, do you think, Bill?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-01-23 15:43:06](#)

Re: Order Only

Should be safe enough, if Mum plays up the angle that she's only the concerned neighbour who innocently interrupted the ruffian housebreaker.

I dunno though, Dad. I'll try to see if I can find out anything more about official reaction to all this. I hate to say it, but I wonder whether it wouldn't be safer for Xeno to go into hiding.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-01-23 11:13:23](#)

Re: Order Only

You did the right thing, Molly. It sounds like you may even have saved his life, although I hate having to suggest that Reg could do such a thing. I fear you're right on that score too, though. How many hook-handed people can there possibly be out there doing the Lord Protectors work? I fear not that many.

Do please keep us updated on Xeno's progress. That poor man, after what happened to his daughter the other day, to find himself faced with such a situation, it must be just awful. Is there anything more we can do for him?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-23 14:49:10](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm sure you're right, Molly. I'm just glad you were able to interrupt him - for everyone's sakes.

That explains the note he scribbled in his journal this morning. Trying to convince himself he's ... upholding the family, or something ludicrous like that.

Well, I'm glad you weren't harmed (Poppy's right, he could have killed you just as easily as fled). Merlin, I hope Lovegood will be all right. It was damned foolish of him, writing something like that, but you may need The Quibbler even more now that the Ministry are cracking down on travel and all.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-23 15:13:10](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm stopping by St Mungo's today and will hopefully bring him home again.

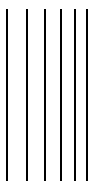
(Really, I'm rather embarrassed. I don't like to think of what my old DADA professor would have said. There I was, with a wand in my hand, and what do I throw? Not a hex but a *seedcake*.)




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-01-23 15:17:04](#)

Re: Order Only


That's exactly what was so brilliant about it though, Molly. I'd bet Galleons to cauldrons that if he did have a *Protego* shield up, it would have protected him from any magical attack. Maybe even made it bounce back right on you. A physical attack, though--he wasn't expecting that. You did exactly the right thing, believe it or not.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-23 15:17:49](#)**
Re: Order Only

My. I hadn't thought of that.




 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-23 15:35:38](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, dear! It was awful to hear the news, but thanks for sending me an owl. It made me feel a little better. I do worry about him, living all alone now.

Are you sure he's not--but of course you're sure. You wouldn't have told me 'pinkie swear' if you weren't.


Is he still at St Mungo's then? Are you going to go see him? If you do, you'll tell him I love him, of course?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-23 15:37:16](#)**
(no subject)


He's at St Mungo's still, yes, and I do plan to go see him today, and of course I'll give him your message, although I'm sure he knows that already. Is there anything else I can do for you, dear?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-23 15:38:49](#)**
(no subject)

Could you perhaps bring him some of your raspberry tea? I'm sure that they have ordinary tea at St Mungo's, but he really liked your raspberry tea the time I brought some home.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-23 15:39:27](#)**
(no subject)

I would be very happy to do that, dear.

2010-01-23 00:07:00

(no subject)

When I was small, there was a story I wanted to hear every night. It told of a boy whose father, having been challenged by an evil adversary, rode out on the morning of his duel, never to return. It fell then to the boy and his mother to hold the family and their estate together. The boy was young but ever so brave, and like his father, he never wavered even in adversity.



 **alt_regulus**

I wanted to be that boy.

I looked for you tonight. It's clear and cold here, with only a sliver of Moon--and that all but set. It's as dark as can be, so you're easy to spot away there in the south. So bright. Scorching. Searingly, blindingly bright.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2010-01-23 20:57:32**

(no subject)

Cousin, are you well?

We expected you last night but had no word that you weren't coming. Barty was quite cross, as he'd chosen that performance particularly for his birthday celebration, and I think he had really wished for you to see it.

I've been asking after you here and there all day. Has something happened between you and your friend?



 **alt_regulus** at **2010-01-25 00:00:39**

(no subject)


I'm sorry, cousin.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-25 02:18:36](#)
(no subject)

You were otherwise *engaged*?




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-25 03:24:53](#)
(no subject)

Not in the way you mean.

Still it was inexcusable, and I'm sorry.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-25 04:22:04](#)
(no subject)

Barty, don't be so churlish. Reg has always tended to run and hide to lick his wounds.


I don't know whether we shall coax him to tell us the truth, at least not here, but I gathered from my very brief conversation with Mr Bobolis that you're not the only one cross with our Reg. And I know you'll object, but perhaps you are not foremost in Reg's thoughts, in that case.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-01-25 17:11:04](#)
(no subject)

You're right: we were much better for his absence. He would only have spoiled a pleasant evening with his moping.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-01-25 04:15:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't think I'm the one who requires apologies, dear, but are you feeling better?

There have been rumours about a pureblood being hospitalised. You've not been ill, I hope.




 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-25 17:13:32](#)**
(no subject)

Let's just say I wasn't feeling myself.


Nothing that required St Mungo's, thankfully.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-01-26 05:15:57](#)**
(no subject)

Do be careful, cousin.




 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-26 12:41:17](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, I will.


A certain amount of risk goes with the job, however. As you know.



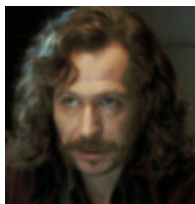
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-24 21:56:42](#)**
(no subject)


'The fault...is not in our stars, but in ourselves.'



 **[alt_regulus](#)** at **[2010-01-25 00:02:38](#)**
(no subject)

No doubt.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-25 05:24:33](#)**
(no subject)

Well? Look up. I'm still there. I can see you, too.

I never had the affinity for that particular tale that you did, but then we can't all be yeomen's sons, I

guess. I do know that sometimes, the most valiant thing one can do is to change one's point of view, even if that seems like dishonour.




 **alt_regulus** at [2010-01-25 16:56:07](#)
(no subject)

You were fonder of stories like *The Prince's Prerogative*, I think, and *Prince Pellinore's First Quest*, books like that.

Those were all right as far as their stories went, but the illustrations weren't as nice.

I don't know. I was really just thinking about how that story ends. Do you remember? And the last picture of the boy, looking up at the gateway after it's been repaired with all the stars twinkling overhead. I always thought that put it all in perspective, somehow, and showed he was right where he belonged--there, where he'd always been--even when everything went mad around them.



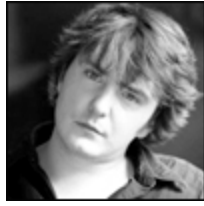
 **alt_sirius** at [2010-01-26 00:46:52](#)
(no subject)

True, but then I didn't care as much about art, I preferred the pictures in my head. Besides, you had that edition Grandfather gave you. My copy of *Tales of Merlin* was pretty handsome, though.

And it had those songs in the back, that played if you touched the words.

But yes, I remember how the tale ends. Not just that the son prevailed, but against whom.

~~I know about your~~ The problem with children's tales is that they're always far too simplistic. It's rare when life presents you with a clear right and wrong path. How you respond to the choice is what determines where you belong.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-26 01:23:02](#)
(no subject)

True. Your *Merlin* is still there. Just by yø the bed on that little set of shelves. I hadn't thought about the music in the back for yonks, though. I remember you used to go around singing that one about Arthur. What was it? 'a jolly fine king' and all his 'brave bully knights'? I think it was called the Festive Knight's Carouse or similar. And then there was a ballad. That sad one. About the ravens and the knight lying dead beneath the tree?

Funny how those things come back.

Of course, children's tales are simple. But they always mean more than the young one can see. It's good to know you've considered things that way; I wasn't sure. You always sound so certain about your view of everything.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 03:48:40](#)
(no subject)

Such hawks, such hounds and such a leman, yeah. Until I looked up what a leman is, anyway. (Kreacher tried to tell me that one was a lullaby, if you can believe it.) I'm surprised you don't remember the one where Merlin fools the Black Knight into thinking he's the king and solves the riddle for Arthur. That one used to lodge in my head at the most inopportune moments, and it'd never go away. I think I could still come up with the words to that one, if pressed. Though it's probably a good thing that my singing days are well past and over.

I can be certain only because I've considered things from all angles - not just reacting based on prejudice and presumption. Even then, no, I'm not always so sure I know the whole of what's going on. But generally I try to ask the meaningful questions, piece the information together and come up with the answer that makes the most sense. If that fails, I go with gut instinct.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-26 04:06:26](#)
(no subject)

Riddles.

Do you ever wonder if Arthur would have made anything of himself at all if hadn't been for Merlin? Pity we don't all have someone like that. Or is that how you imagine yourself?

I suppose it's all clearer from your distance, asking your meaningful questions and piecing things together into sensible answers. But gut instinct? Be careful with that: that can get you in some pretty dire trouble.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 04:31:53](#)
(no subject)

Me? Merlin? Are you taking the mickey out or what?

Distance helps, sometimes. Sometimes it's hard to know how much trouble you're in until you're in the thick of it.




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-26 12:42:27](#)
(no subject)

It's thick as treacle here.


How are things where you are, brother?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 17:27:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, remember the time we 'borrowed' Charon because we'd pooled our pocket money to order Madam Murgatroyd's Magnificent Murtlap Moat?




 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-26 20:40:12](#)
(no subject)

I do remember. Father was not entirely pleased about having to borrow Mother's owl, and Mother wasn't exactly cheery about it, either. It wasn't the worst trouble we were ever in, but it was rather uncomfortable for a while.

I also remember that when the thing finally arrived, it wasn't what we'd anticipated. A first lesson in the fact that things are rarely as rosy as you're led to expect.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-28 03:50:02](#)
(no subject)

That's the one. I remember bracing for Father's lecture, and then when it came it wasn't a thing like I'd expected. I mean, he said everything he ought to have done - how we should have known better at our age, how it was most likely a waste of sickles, so on - but remember that he wasn't near as cross as we'd anticipated? The whole thing was like that: it felt worse at the time than it really was.

And yes, that lesson ought to have prepared me us for many disappointments to come. Particularly when someone promises something that is too good to be true, as it almost certainly is. I'd rather have learnt that lesson with murtlaps than ... well, more sentient creatures, for example.



 [alt_regulus](#) at [2010-01-28 04:36:59](#)
(no subject)

Too right.

[2010-01-23 19:50:00](#)

Ice Skating

Skating was really fun! But cold. Belinda fell down a lot. But then I found a charm that gave the skates an extra blade, so they'd be more stable.



 [alt_padma](#)

Stretton has been impossible lately. Ever since the Quidditch match he's going about insisting that we'd have won if he'd been on the side. And he's refusing to share any of the jams his mother sent just before the quarantine started. He says he doesn't want anyone contaminating them. But really, the purebloods ought to be able to share in them, at least. He won't even share with Davies because he's all sore about getting himself banned from the team.

I think there must be more exciting things to talk about besides wand maintenance, though. I mean, I know Professor Sinistra did her best, considering that we couldn't have the programme she'd planned. But I'm glad we went skating after, because comparing wand polish is about as interesting as watching silk cloth weave itself (and I've seen that at my Mum's shop, and it's not that interesting).

Maybe Professor Lockhart could give readings from his books? Or maybe we could each pick a section of the Code of Purity and talk about it and why it's important?

Well, History Club has kept going. Luckily Finnigan has enough books to last us a while. And there's always the library.

Oh, did anyone see the sign-up that Rhys-Myers put up about a new round of AK? I don't much think anyone wants to play, because they're afraid of being caught hexing in the corridors - and then Moran or Sandoval would Cruciate them! Just kidding - Sandoval wouldn't really. There's a list of the things that are really, really bad and might get a Cruciatius if you're caught doing them, and playing AK isn't on it. Still. I don't think people are very interested in running the risk.




 **alt_seamus** at **2010-01-24 03:08:00**

(no subject)

AK was fun last year when I was a firstie but I'm ~~busyer~~ busier this year.

The skating was nift at least. I think I already take good care of my wand though. Too bad they didn't have any tips on repair Ron could use.



 **alt_ron** at **2010-01-24 03:36:36**

(no subject)

Yeah, that would have made it useful. But, yeah, not so much.

The skating was great, though. Too bad there were too many people for racing. Especially with Jones falling down all the time.

And you'd really have to be daft to think about signing up for AK this term. I mean, Patil's dead right about that. Running up and down the corridors hexing people? They ought to just call it Crucio not AK!

2010-01-24 09:30:00

Order only: Business

A while back I mentioned that I'd learned the identity of my 'stalker' and that he'd made some claims I wanted to corroborate before passing it all on to you lot.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Well, I've confirmed some of what he has to say. I wanted to report this earlier but it just never seemed the time.

The thing is, I'm not sure that it makes any difference. I knew Sabola was involved in some more shady dealings - he's a smuggler, after all - so it's not too surprising to learn how involved and in what other trades besides our relatively simple transactions. Still, I don't think it's right to keep this information to myself, not when the Order ought to know what our ventures are helping to fund.

I knew that Sabola made his name in the heroin and opium gambit. He also has a small interest in arms deals. Repackaging Muggle foodstuffs as if they're wizard-made is, of course, his 'legitimate' business cover. What I didn't know until recently is that he has some business in human traffic. Mostly Russia and China, some third-world too.

I don't know if we can afford, right now, to change anything in our arrangements. If you want me to pursue another source, I think now that I've been trading with him for a while, I may be able to go round some of his suppliers - but it would be dangerous. On the other hand, there may be a way to replicate his operation without any of his people involved - also dangerous, and much more expensive, since I'd have to recruit people here to help run things. I couldn't manage it all on my own. That's what was so attractive about Sabola's operations in the first place: He already has his network and all his packaging, labels, etc., all set up.


But I understand if the Order feels it can't continue to do business with a man who engages in a kind of slave trade so similar to the system we're trying to undo there on your side of the wards. We can pull out altogether. Of course, Moony's shop *would* likely go under in that case, though from the sound of it, maybe he wouldn't mind if it did. I mean, it's not like we're clearing a great deal of dosh for the Order, with all this - mainly it's keeping me busy and it provides some service to British wizards who can afford what I'm able to import to

you. But I can't say we're making great loads of Galleons for our operations. By the time Sabola gets his cut, and we pay off any officials who seem fairly constantly to want bribing (three agents just last week, when the restrictions went up!), well ... there's not much left that isn't earmarked for the next shipment.

So you see it's rather a thorny problem. I've been wrestling with it for a little while now. I even spent some time as Padfoot to try to straighten it all out. (Minerva, I think you'll understand what I mean.) Have to say, hearing all the dire news from inside, the disease and the Ministry and now Xeno and seeing Reg wanting to talk to me - it all doesn't help me be able to focus much. So I spent most of yesterday as Padfoot, just thinking. It's made a few things clear, but not the whole of what to do next. It is certainly clear that, no matter what the current crisis is for you, you've also got the right to be part of this decision.

So. What do you want me to do? (And please don't say 'Whatever you think is best, Sirius' because that's *not* why I'm asking. And it won't be the least bit helpful. I don't have to remind you lot that my track record in deciding what's best isn't exactly full of Snitch-catching, match-saving plays.)




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-01-24 17:11:22](#)
(no subject)

I'd certainly rather the shop go under than that we support a slave trader, even if we were making money from it or if it was providing good cover for other purposes. If we're not getting any benefit apart from providing nice treats for the fortunate few and keeping the two of us occupied, I don't see any reason to continue, especially if it puts you at such risk.

Reg wants to talk to you? Is that what his message was about the other day?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-24 17:58:32](#)
(no subject)

Well, so far it's given us the benefit of providing you with a false identity and something of an income, and now Tonks has another source of funds as well.

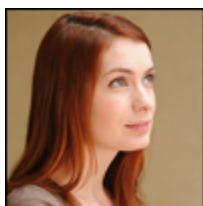
Poppy's right that part of the point was to establish our bonafides so that we could push through other items, and we've been somewhat successful in that. It's a little difficult to pass through lots of contraband, true, but we could probably try a little harder, even if I did cut the cord with Sabola.


There's also the risk to you to consider. If Junior closes up all of a sudden, will that raise eyebrows? Will anyone come looking?

I'd thought of something like Frank's suggestion, that we keep on, but with connections of our own. I'll have to see what can be done about that.

And yeah, I think that's what he meant. Or that he ... misses me, or something. Looking for the dogstar, anyway.

Don't hex me for suggesting it, but it might be a good idea to leave Laszlo's doors open just as a place for people to make contact.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-01-24 20:04:04](#)
(no subject)

That makes sense to me -- keeping the shop open, that is. Although given the recent restrictions on shipping, I don't think it would be too suspicious if Lazlo experienced a sudden (temporary) drop in stock while we get everything sorted out. And there's the shipment we got over Christmas to hold the shop over for a little.

I'm sorry about Regulus, dearest. I know it was something we all suspected, but I'd imagine it was a hard blow for you to hear it directly from Molly. He seems so lost and sad. I know it can't be enough, but I truly believe that whatever he's doing is under duress.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 03:32:10](#)
(no subject)

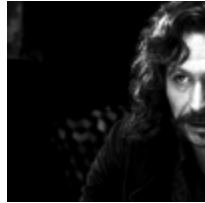
It's so frustrating, Allie. Just when I think he's reaching out, like I can fathom what he's trying to say, he turns it back on me.

I don't think he's happy about what he's doing, but the point is that he's still *doing* it. He's still convinced he has no choice, no

will of his own.

I can't

Oh, **bollocks**.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 15:17:46](#)

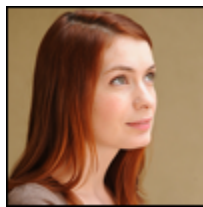
(no subject)


Did you see what he wrote just now?

He's in trouble, Allie. Or he wants me to think he's in trouble because they're hoping I'll lead him to

me.

Circe. I don't know.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-01-26 23:05:36](#)

(no subject)

I don't know either, love. And I honestly don't think he really knows either. Perhaps it's a little bit of both.

It's hard to watch, regardless, and the entire thing just breaks my heart.

I can't imagine how much more difficult it must be for you to keep talking with him, but it looks to me like he wants to hear what you have to say. How closely he's listening, Merlin only knows.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-01-25 22:42:18](#)

(no subject)


Junius isn't dependent on the shop, though. In this difficult economic times, with so many restrictions in place, I don't know that anyone would look twice at a little shop such as ours going under. I know we both appreciate the income, but I'm quite sure we could manage without if necessary.

Thinking about what Poppy said about the contraband issue, I

think we've probably been sensible to keep things low key. We needed to establish ourselves and ensure we weren't going to raise any suspicions before we started to really put ourselves at risk. It's a long game. We have time to build it up.

I don't know about the shop being a place for people to make contact. Would it be safe, for them and for us?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-26 03:52:21](#)**
(no subject)

We shan't have a buildup if we shut down, though.

I'm owling Fatima, as she's the one who found out how to contact him in the first place. If there's a way around his trade, without causing some kind of undue offence, we'll figure it out.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-01-24 17:13:47](#)**
(no subject)

that is a hard thing, mate. all round.

I think you should get out as safely as you can without getting anyone too hacked off. as you said, not like we're making a profit at all, really, and he seems like a much more dangerous sort to associate with than I'd like.

it also depends on what Lupin thinks about what we would do if there was a bit of a dry spell. now we're taking Tonks in all official-like, maybe that would open up some new possibilities for what they could both do until you find a new connection. then again, between the damn half-blood restrictions and the camps being inaccessible, there isn't much the lot of us can do until this whole thing settles down somewhat, so just laying low for a couple of months might be our best bet.

another thought is you could find an artist that could do the labels on the cheap, budget the money you used to pay off Sabola to set up a small-time repackaging thing yourself. should have more than enough, but then again, that would tie you down a bit more than you are right now.

and long-term, we've got a way of getting stuff here without bribing a

soul -- yeah, it's once a year, but if we can plan it right, we can store them and dole them out during the year.

no easy answers here, you're right on that front. but that Sabola doesn't give me a good feeling. I don't want you on his bad side, but I'd rather you're not on any side of his at all.



 **alt_poppy** at [2010-01-24 17:21:01](#)

Order Only

Like you, Sirius, I will need some time to pull my thoughts together, but I have a few questions for you to start off.

When you began this importing business, it was a cover that we hoped would enable us to bring certain forbidden goods in through the wards--items like fluxweed that are crucial for other Order operations--and the thought was that you would occasionally slip illegal items through customs hidden amongst a great lot of other, perfectly legal items. Has this proved true? It seems now that most of the smuggling has happened on those two occasions where you and Frank and Alice took ship and breached the wards, and those operations have little or no dependence on your continued operation as Laszlo.

Or am I wrong? Are you, in fact, sending us things in your regular business shipments that we could ill afford to do without?

And, on the other side. Is there some benefit to the shop's existence that we ought to include in our calculations? Is it true now or do we imagine there's a good possibility that in the future, that shop will put Remus in a position to hear, see, or do things for the Order that do or will make a significant contribution to our work? Even if those things seem minor, if they exist, then we should add them to our assessment (arithmantic or otherwise) of the larger problem.



 **alt_bill** at [2010-01-26 03:52:41](#)

(no subject)

I think we need to think about what our long-range plan is, the purpose of the Order, in other words. Then if our work with Sabola doesn't serve those ends, then by all means cut ties. But I'm not sure we've really looked at the question of, what, exactly, is the Order doing here? Are

we settling in for a long, long war of survival, where we simply try to survive, in the shadow of the Enemy? Are we putting our hope in the next generation to change the government from within (then we'd be putting all our hopes in Moddey Dhoo.) Is it primarily a battle for hearts and minds, and the Grim Truth letters are our primary weapon? Do we merely want to change people's minds about things, or are we really for overthrowing the Ministry--treason, in other words, if we're willing to call the dragon what it is. Do we reason that it's not treason, because the government's in the hands of a a foul usurper, and so we're only trying to make right what's gone so wrong?

Well, whatever we see our long term goal to be, the really key thing, as I see it, is getting wands. Lots of wands, powerful, and untraceable by the Ministry. We need to put them into the hands of the children we're training up and all the disenfranchised wizards who've had theirs taken away. If it comes to that, we'll need wands to fight.

I wonder if there is anyone either within our ranks within the Order, or a muggleborn or half-blood we can rescue or even a child with an inbred talent that we can train to be a really crackerjack wand-maker. If we didn't have to import wands, if we could make them...why, that could change the game entirely.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-01-26 04:01:39**


(no subject)

Fair enough, Bill, but it's not just the wands. It's the plants and other ingredients Stephen needs for polyjuice, it's nutrition you lot need to survive long-term and it's anything else the Death Eaters don't particularly want you to have at your fingertips.

We'd need someone to train them in making the wands, too. I think old Ollivander at least sympathised with Dumbledore, but I got the impression he's no longer around. Isn't it his nephew or son or someone running the shop now? And it sounds as if you can't even get a decent wand from Wyndewood anymore, either - are they even in business still?


For that matter, what does it take to be a licenced wand seller? I wonder if it's worth flying through a few quidditch hoops to license Junius Ponds? Then we could import practically legally.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-26 15:19:05](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry, I don't think that's a particularly good idea. We want our source of wands to be utterly unknown to the Ministry because we don't want them coming in and putting Ministry traces on our products. Not to mention the fact that I suspect that whatever we'd have to do to get properly licensed might involve Remus meeting Ministry higher ups face to face. Maybe it's not wise to test his disguise like that.




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-26 04:05:22](#)**
(no subject)

I want my country back, but I don't want us to lose ourselves along the way. If Sabola has anything to do with slavery, then I say, cut the ties. We've managed before without him, and we'll manage again.

I've talked to Arthur when he comes home from the camps at night, when he describes what he's seen that day, and then goes up to bed and lies in bed, hour after hour, unable to sleep.

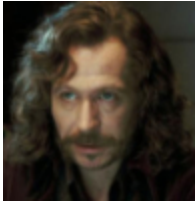
No. Please, let's not become the thing we're fighting against.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-26 12:55:56](#)**
(no subject)

Molly, I agree in principle. I think it's worth asking Sirius, however, what exactly he means by human trafficking. After all, what we do in getting children out of the camps could be described as human trafficking, though we ourselves would never choose such terms for it because we view that phrase as derogatory. We have discussed, too, the possibility of setting up a sort of human smuggling for those people the Sherwood group are managing to liberate from the camps.

Let's be certain we understand exactly what sort of human trade we are dealing with before we allow our worst assumptions to control this debate.



alt_sirius at **2010-01-26 15:13:43**
(no subject)

Thanks, Poppy, and you're right. I see I've explained poorly. You're probably all wondering why I even brought it up for debate.

And you've got the right of it, in a way. Well, first off, I should explain that I'm saying 'Sabola' but really it's not even him, directly. Not his people. It's a different arm, run by someone else, though Sabola provides some of the transport as part of his *other* shipping. So when I say Sabola, I'm simplifying. They're really associates of his, and he makes a portion of the profit from the ventures, based on the space they use in his ships and planes and so on. It's important to understand that this is far from his primary line of business.

Now, most of the people that this organisation moves are trying to get out of situations frighteningly similar to the camps. They live in poverty, famine, even religious oppression. The difference is that these men are no philanthropists to move them and expect nothing in return. They pay a fee to be smuggled, mostly to the United States or Canada. They enter as illegal immigrants. Some of them have family there already who pay their transportation fee, but many don't have that luxury. That's when the organisation makes them work off their debt.

There are a few ways they can do that, and a few more obvious than others, but at that point, it's often a matter of convincing someone else to take the journey, or something similarly desperate.

It's not like the camps. And it's not even as if the money he makes off his spice operation is connected to the human smuggling, since as I said, as far as the Muggle authorities are concerned the spice sales are perfectly legal, so he takes care to keep it mostly separate.

The thing is, we knew Sabola's business was illicit. It's not surprising that he's into arms deals and drugs, and from there, the rest is a relatively small step. But it's not like muggleborn and muggle slavery the way Voldemort has made it for you lot.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-01-26 15:38:22](#)
(no subject)

Sabola's been a good source for you though, right, Sirius? He's not slipping you shoddy product or shorting your shipping manifests or anything?


To be blunt, the Order needs money. What's more, it needs cover so that we can slip the restricted items we need through, hidden within a steady supply of legitimate items that are in demand (by the likes of Narcissa Malfoy and her sort) and hard to obtain. Sabola's our best source for that sort of thing. I'd be reluctant to give him up, for a scruple over something he's not even directly involved in anyway.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-26 15:41:24](#)
(no subject)


But those scruples matter, Kingsley! We can't associate ourselves with people guilty of participating in something like that.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-01-26 15:43:16](#)
(no subject)

Does that mean you're going to make Arthur start sleeping out in the chicken coop, Molly? After all, he's guilty in participating in "something like that," too, isn't he?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-26 15:44:22](#)
(no subject)

What!? Oh, that's not fair, Kingsley!

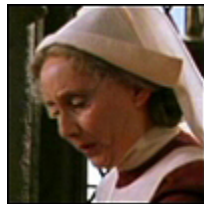



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-01-26 15:53:39](#)**
(no subject)

Of course it's not. It's bloody unfair, Molly, and I'm sorry about that, my friend.

But that's my point. This is a siege, and it may become an all-out war. People have to do ugly things during war, things like dealing with people like Sabola. Arthur does them every day, and then he comes home to you, and you don't turn him away, do you? And why is that? Because you know he doesn't want to do it, and because the only reason he does it is to keep him in the position where he can do work for the Order. And it's important work, Molly. You know that. It's because of Arthur that we've rescued most of the kids here at the sanctuary. It's because of him that we've been able to get help to the Sherwood band, and they're helping, too. Every month, they're rescuing a few more.

None of that would happen if Arthur wasn't willing to go into that office at the Ministry and do things that I know he hates to do.

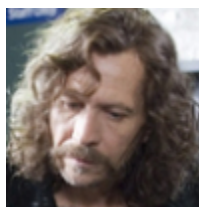



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-26 16:59:17](#)**
(no subject)

I'm afraid I have to take Kingsley's part on this. I know that I've lost all objectivity on this point, Molly, but the fact is that everyday in this school, I have to recommit myself to a demon's pact I made long ago. I tell myself that my best role is to stay the course, do nothing rash, serve the children and staff here as well as I am able, support Minerva to the extent I can, and wait. If I were not persuaded that there is a reason to wait, to save my life now in order to give it more effectively later, I would not suffer Amycus and Alecto Carrow to torment the students and servants here as they have done and continue to do.

I am as deeply compromised as any, and so you must weigh that fact as you consider my advice. It is my opinion that if Sirius tells us this smuggler, Sabola, is the best source for items we need or will one day need, then we should take out our metaphorical quills and add one more codicil to the

Order's pact with our peculiar devils. And we should carry on with it.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-26 15:58:16](#)
(no subject)

Kingsley's making the point I've been trying to make, Molly. Perhaps a little more strongly, but still: we use other people's corruption all the time. Every time I pay off an official or send in bicorn powder, we're crossing a moral line. But we're doing it in the cause of something good.

It's not casting an Unforgivable Curse, though. And I know it's not a justification, but the human traffic side of things will continue whether or not we profit (indirectly) from it. Without men like Sabola it'd be five times as hard to get flour, sugar, chocolate, even coffee into the country. And it'd be much, much harder to get anything more restricted in, as well.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-01-26 22:58:33](#)
(no subject)

well just be bloody careful. and don't get so far in bed with him that you can't crawl your way out again.

2010-01-25 10:40:00

Helpful Tips from the Ministry



 [alt_selwyn](#)

There has been a recent spate of rumours that the disease is now endangering purebloods. To the best of our knowledge, pureblood witches and wizards remain safe. However, there has been at least one case where someone previously registered as a pureblood was determined to have muggle ancestry that had been concealed; this was discovered when he became ill with the disease. It is not believed that this individual had deliberately concealed his impurity (on the contrary, we don't think he knew about it either), and thus we are recommending everyone take certain steps to minimise the risk of infection. Even if you have family records establishing blood purity back many generations, by following these tips you might protect a half-blood neighbour or employee.

1. Wingardium Leviosa (one of the most basic spells taught to young witches and wizards!) is invaluable for avoiding any physical handling of goods in shops.
2. Everyone is urged to use simple cleaning spells to remove contamination after returning home.
3. Minimise physical contact with any outside your immediate family.

In addition, non-essential halfblood employees are to be placed on leave immediately if they would have to travel to get to work. Employers of essential halfblooded employees may request a form from Halfblood Affairs to register their employees as essential workers.

Essential halfblood workers must follow a special set of requirements:

1. Their employers will receive a kit that must be used daily in order to assess whether the halfblood individual remains in good health.
2. If they travel to work, they must apparate or portkey directly from their home to their place of employment.
3. If they share a home with other halfbloods, the quarantine applies to all halfbloods in residence. None may leave the household except to those jobs for which they are essential employees.

4. They must place a notice on their door to warn others away.

Halfbloods placed on leave must remain at home with a limited set of exceptions that will be explained further by owl post. Food and other necessities can be ordered via journal. I am given to understand that several London shops are taken journal-based orders and delivering via post owl. (Each package will include instructions for re-enlarging the order; in only a handful of cases does this not restore the item to full size and functionality.) We have requisitioned a number of additional owls and ask understanding from all if social letters are delayed slightly. Remember, if you send your letter by journal, it arrives as soon as you write it!



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-01-25 21:49:27](#)**


Order Only

Remember, if you send your letter by journal, it arrives as soon as you write it!

Yeah, and it's also public, you death-eating martinet.

Remus, it sounds like you invited Tonks to visit just in time.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-01-25 23:28:50](#)**

Re: Order Only

Indeed. It seems to have worked out quite well. I just hope the others who are trapped in their flats are all right.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:24:04](#)**

Order Only

Well, there's your answer, Mum, on how they can claim a pureblood like Xeno's fallen sick while still insisting that purebloods can't get the disease.

They insinuate that he isn't a pureblood. I hope Xeno won't be upset to learn it's being bruited about that someone in his family was apparently born on the wrong side of the cauldron.



 **[alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-25 22:26:35](#)**


Re: Order Only

That--! They--!

Oh, my stars. Oh of course that's what they'd do!

Well, it may make no difference to Xeno, but if he's named, I'm terribly afraid that things might get uncomfortable for poor Luna. Some of the students can be quite snobbish about that sort of thing.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-25 22:27:49](#)**

Re: Order Only

Frankly, scurrilous rumours about his ancestry are probably the least of Xeno's problems right now.

Bill, see if you can find out any more about whether he's still at St Mungo's or if he's been transferred somewhere else.



 **[alt_bill](#) at [2010-01-25 22:29:03](#)**

Re: Order Only

Will do, Dad.

[2010-01-25 15:03:00](#)

Order Only: Xeno



 [alt_molly](#)

St Mungo's won't let me in to see him.

I went back both Saturday and Sunday. The bureaucrats gave me an extraordinary amount of trouble, first telling me that visiting hours were over, then that there were no visitors allowed at all.

When I demanded to see him, or at least to get a report of how he was doing, I was subjected in turn to a very snippy interrogation about my relationship with him. 'No one other than family allowed,' the matron finally said. Even my plea that I was one of the neighbours who brought him in fell on deaf ears.

This morning, the odious matron wasn't on duty, so armed with a pot of flowers, I sailed up to the reception desk, gave the young woman sitting there my best simpering smile, and told her I was there to visit my brother, Xenophilus Lovegood.


She was perfectly pleasant in return until she found Xeno's name on the roster in front of her, and she stammered that I couldn't see him. When I asked her why, she said that he had come down with 'this dreadful disease' and was in protective isolation. I told her that there must be a mistake, that he had come to St Mungo's because he had been assaulted by a housebreaker. She shook her head firmly and repeated that I couldn't see him.

I beat a hasty retreat before she could start asking awkward questions or worse, call security.

I don't think that Xeno will be getting out of St Mungo's anytime soon. I felt sure that girl was lying, about his being ill, I mean. It's a mighty convenient excuse to keep him under the Ministry's thumb, and more importantly, away from his printing press. I'm very much afraid of what they might do to him, under the guise of this 'protective isolation.' I don't know what on earth I can say to Luna. She will be so worried if she gets wind of this!

Still, Xeno's a pureblood. How can they lie and claim he's fallen ill and yet insist that there's no threat to pureblooded wizards?




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:19:55](#)**
(no subject)

Molly, I hate even to suggest it, but you don't suppose he's the wizard who has been reclassified as a 'halfblood' after falling sick? Selwyn mentions it in his most recent set of restrictions to keep us safe.

Honestly, before they're done, they'll have everyone locked in their houses!




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:30:51](#)**
(no subject)

I'm very much afraid that's exactly what they've done.

Has there been any official communication sent to the school to inform Luna that her father's fallen ill? It would go through you or Minerva if they sent something, wouldn't they?




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:32:56](#)**
(no subject)

Mum...there's a worse possibility you haven't even mentioned.


What if he's really fallen ill? After all, we've been saying all along that it's probably a lie that purebloods can't get sick. If it's actually true, that means you and Mrs Diggory have been exposed, too. I know you didn't get a very good look at him before he was transferred to St Mungo's, but, well...



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:33:57](#)**
(no subject)

I...I won't believe it. Why, I know perfectly well what Cruciatus tremors look like! He was assaulted, Bill, not sick!




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-25 22:54:02](#)**
(no subject)

It would almost serve that Death Eater right if in exchange for torturing Lovegood he'd wound up being exposed to this disease. Not that I wish this on your neighbour, Molly, but if he were ill, it would certainly serve the 'Protector' right if his own inner circle fell prey to it.

That's too much to hope, I suppose.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-01-26 03:55:11](#)**
(no subject)

Merlin! How many official records do you think they've fiddled with to get that taken care of? The Lovegoods are just about as pure as they come.

Do you think this will have an impact on Luna -- will she be classified differently now too? I wouldn't think so, but still.

I hope he isn't really ill. I hope they're only trying to keep him isolated so he can't print any more stories. But if they've got him with the other sick witches and wizards, he might end up getting it himself. I don't believe for a whit that pureblooded witches and wizards are immune.

2010-01-27 10:45:00

Does anyone have an owl they can lend me?

All the school owls are gone because the Ministry is using them, and I don't have one of my own.

I really want to send an owl to my father.



 [alt_luna](#)



 [alt_percy](#) at **2010-01-27 16:47:49**

(no subject)

I'd be happy to lend you Hermes, Luna.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2010-01-27 19:40:18**

(no subject)

Kind as it is, Weasley, your offer is unwise.

Sending an owl from Hogwarts to a halfblood patient quarantined at St Mungo's could expose us all to the disease. The Ministry have not taken such considerable measures to protect us from exposure only to have you throw it all away on such a gallant, but rash gesture as this.




 [alt_percy](#) at **2010-01-27 20:56:27**

(no subject)

Your concern is noted, and I will certainly take it under advisement. I do not regret the gesture, but anyway it is moot. Hermes returned this afternoon with the letter undelivered. Apparently Mr Lovegood is not receiving any mail. Most unusual, but perhaps the Ministry's protections caused this to occur.

(I do hope you and the rest of the Ravenclaw prefects will speak kindly to Luna, as she is in your House. She seemed quite distressed at breakfast, and I take a particular friendly interest in her, as our families are quite close.)




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-27 21:00:22](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps we should discuss policies concerning personal owls and communications to and fro between students and their families at the Prefects meeting tonight. Will you add it to the agenda, please?

Also, perhaps we might ask for students who are willing to volunteer the services of their personal owls to the use of the Ministry during this time? What do you think?




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-27 21:01:27](#)
(no subject)

Weasley.

Your owl has made a round trip to St Mungo's today?




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-27 21:07:10](#)
(no subject)

Well, a round trip was attempted, but apparently not accomplished. As I said, the letter was returned undelivered. Very unusual. Hermes is ordinarily quite reliable.

Would you like me to ask Madam Pomfrey to see if St Mungo's is routinely screening and refusing all owl posts? I don't recall that being one of Mr Selwyn's announcements, however.



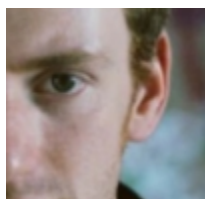
 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-27 21:18:03](#)
(no subject)


Someone at the hospital presumably dealt with the owl, Weasley. That means it was potentially exposed.

I believe the situation is in flux at the moment, and the Ministry is responding with new restrictions as necessary. What is most clear is their desire to protect this school from any exposure to

the disease. We don't want them deciding it's necessary to ban all owl traffic in and out of here, though this stunt may have exactly that effect.


Yes, do please follow up with Madam Pomfrey. We will want that information when we discuss the issue. In fact, you might ask whether she would be able to attend a portion of our meeting; her input would be helpful. We can rearrange the docket as needed to accommodate her schedule.



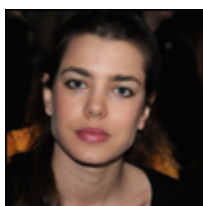
 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-01-27 21:26:30](#)**
(no subject)


I would be happy to speak to Madam Pomfrey before dinner, and hopefully she will be able to check with St Mungo's and provide that information for us at tonight's meeting.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-28 14:38:29](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for lending me Hermes anyway Percy. It was very nice of you and I'm sorry if it caused any trouble.




 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-01-27 20:10:11](#)**
(no subject)

Lovegood. I understand your concern for your father. You must see, however, that if you were to find anyone who would lend their personal owl for this purpose, you would be compromising the health of every person in this school should that owl return with the infection.

In fact, I shouldn't be surprised if the owl were forbidden to return, and that would be a heavy price for the person who lent you the bird.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-01-27 20:49:17](#)**
(no subject)

Well, of course I don't want to endanger anyone, but what halfblood patient are you talking about? I said I want to send the owl to my father. There's no danger

he has the disease. And Mrs Weasley said he didn't. The Ministry says purebloods can't catch it anyway, doesn't it?



 **alt_molly** at [2010-01-27 21:02:16](#)

Order Only

Oh, dear. I don't particularly want to get mixed up in the middle of this. But I'm sure she's wondering why I haven't gotten back to her about visiting her father. I don't know what on earth to say to her.



 **alt_molly** at [2010-01-27 21:19:43](#)

Re: Order Only

Poppy . . . do advise me. Do you think we should tell her what we suspect? That Xeno's not sick, but possibly being held because of his editorial? I certainly can't tell her that through the journals, but perhaps you (or Minerva) could find some way to convey the news to her? I think either prospect (that he's sick with this disease OR possibly under arrest, or at least detained for the editorial) would distress her, but Luna has always seemed to me to prefer knowing the truth. She bore up quite bravely when Xeno got in all that hot water last year, when the *Quibbler* was reorganised, and he did make a point of keeping her entirely informed about what was going on at the time, as if she were quite a bit older.



 **alt_poppy** at [2010-01-27 21:29:03](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm not in a position to speak with her unless I have Minerva's authorisation, and then I could not tell her anything I'm not officially in a position to know. I suppose I could tell her that things at St Mungo's are a bit topsy-turvy and that they are forced to take precautions that in other circumstances would seem unnecessary. I could suggest to her that they have, perhaps, over-reacted and quarantined him just to be extra, extra certain that no one leaves St Mungo's with the disease and blames the Healing staff there with insufficient caution. I don't wish to lie to her, but I really can't share my suspicions with her, either.

Perhaps Minerva will have a better suggestion.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-27 22:24:28](#)

Re: Order Only

There's also the issue here that the Ministry is apparently trying to smear Xeno as a half-blood-- a rumour that now the Head Girl is apparently working to spread further, I'm not pleased to see. Not that I consider half-blood status a smear, of course, but it may make things quite difficult for Luna with her housemates. How can such an errant lie be countered?




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-01-28 15:46:49](#)

Re: Order Only

I do believe that that will suffice. I cannot imagine telling the child more.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-27 21:08:26](#)

(no subject)

Has no one notified you?

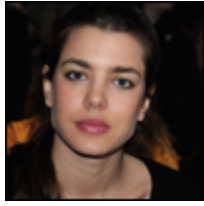
I'm on my way to the Common Room now, Lovegood. Meet me there, please.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-01-27 21:16:02](#)

(no subject)

Now? But Transfiguration class isn't even over yet. I don't think that Professor Carrow would like it if I left in the middle of class. Can you come meet me there to tell him, if I have permission to leave?




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-27 21:33:55](#)
(no subject)

If you are in lessons still, you oughtn't be reading your journal.

Meet me in the Common Room after Transfiguration, obviously.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 02:28:37](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I think they're lying about Luna's father.

I think this disease is just as dangerous to purebloods as it is to halfbloods but until someone like Mr Malfoy or Mr Selwyn gets it they're just going to say 'oh, what a shame! he must have been a halfblood after all!' every time someone takes ill. Who wasn't registered as a halfblood already I mean.

Good on your brother for letting her use his owl. I hope her father is alright.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-28 03:37:38](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You're dead right. The thing is, everyone thinks Mr Lovegood's cracked, so they'll believe any mad thing the Ministry want to say about him. And nothing he or Luna or anybody else says on his side will make any difference at all.

But, y'know, I think there's something really odd going on. Did you see what my Mum wrote to Luna the other day? She told her it **wasn't** the muggle disease, and she swore to her it wasn't. She wouldn't have done that if she'd thought there was any chance he did have it. And, okay. I know my Mum isn't a Healer, but she knows a lot about stuff like that. I mean, she has to with all of us. Otherwise, she'd have been taking someone to hospital every other day.

Besides. She'd never lie to Luna. She just wouldn't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 03:45:51](#)

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

Well why do you think he had to go to St Mungo's then?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 03:47:57](#)

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

I mean I think you're right your mum wouldn't swear it wasn't the disease if it wasn't. But he might have gotten sick after they got there, and anyway why else would she have taken him?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-28 04:01:31](#)

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

I just went back and looked at that journal entry again.

She didn't actually say he was sick. It said he was 'under the weather.'

Could that mean that he wasn't sick, but somehow hurt instead? Like an accident, I mean? And maybe he got hurt in some way that she didn't want to say in the journals? I wondered, because she said she'd send Luna an owl. Like why couldn't she say it right there, if it was okay for everybody to see?

Not sure what that means, though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 04:31:54](#)

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

Huh.

Maybe he got hurt making something the Ministry wouldn't approve of. ~~Like that car~~ Or doing something kind of illegal.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-28 03:48:16](#)

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

She wouldn't lie? You're sure, if she thought it would make Luna less afraid?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-01-28 03:54:22](#)

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

Mum said 'pinkie swear.' She would never EVER lie with a pinkie swear.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-28 03:46:49](#)

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

Lying that he's a half-blood, you mean? Or lying about him having the muggle paralysis?

I don't have any idea whether he's could have been a half-blood without even knowing it. I suppose that's the sort of thing that could take anyone by surprise...I mean, who ever really knows all the secrets there might be in a family? As to whether he's really sick with the paralysis--well, Mrs Weasley said to Luna that it wasn't it, when she sent him to St Mungo's. I dunno, d'ye think she could have been fibbing a little, just to keep Lovegood from getting too scared? I don't really know her well enough to say.

(Did you hear Lavender Brown going on and on about Lovegood at dinner, Ron? About how she always should have suspected Luna was that sort, with the odd way she acts all the time. I thought for a moment there that Ginny was going to hit her.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 03:55:53](#)


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

Lying that he's a half-blood. I don't know why they'd lie about him having the muggle paralysis. I mean he's a pureblood and EVERYONE knows he's a pureblood and surely we're not the only ones reading Mr Selwyn's announcements and thinking they're lying and this means really purebloods can get it. If he didn't even have

it then why would they say he did?

Did Finnigan say anything to Brown? I mean he's a halfblood too even if Patil fancies him.



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2010-01-28 04:03:29**

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

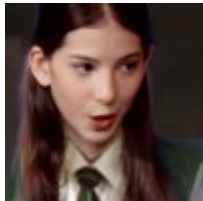
He wasn't sitting nearby. Luckily. That would have started a brawl at the Gryffindor table for sure, and not even Professor Lockhart could have ignored that.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-28 04:26:50**

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

Lavender's the one who acts like an eejit all the time if you ask me. I mean, okay, yeah. Luna's daft. But I'd take her any day over Lavyloo if I had to choose one of them to share a train compartment with or something.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2010-01-28 04:30:03**

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

I am trying to think of anyone I would LESS want to share a train compartment with than Lavender Brown.

Oh I thought of one: Lana Sandoval. But in our year, I think Lav is the bottom of the barrel. I mean Patil is horrid but at least she's clever enough to have interesting things to say.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-28 19:44:24**

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

I don't really see that Patil's being clever makes her better. It just makes her more foul.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 20:26:25](#)

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

It doesn't make her better but it makes her more interesting company if I were going to be stuck with her in a train compartment.

Brown is just as foul AND she's dull.

2010-01-27 22:01:00

Parvati and Lavender...

Be sure you're very, very careful what you touch in the Gryffindor common room. In fact, you might want to use the 'leviosa' spell like Mr Selwyn recommended, so you can avoid touching anything.




 [alt_padma](#)

I can't believe Weasley let Loony send an owl to the halfblood's ward at St Mungo's!

(And if you hadn't heard yet, well, remember what happened with Bones last year? Well, it seems like someone else has been trying to pass as a pureblood! Only it's not certain she even knew she wasn't!! Can you imagine? I'm ever so glad we can prove we're purebloods going back generations. It must be devastating to find out that your parents lied to you and now everyone knows the truth!)


Anyway, Belinda and I just finished scourging the whole of our dormitory room, and the bathroom nearest our room, to be on the safe side. You should do the same - and stay away from that owl and the rest of the Weasleys!



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-01-28 03:24:06**
(no subject)

You're a menace, Patil.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2010-01-28 03:25:42**
(no subject)

And you're a dirty halfblood lover, Weasley. What? Is Loony your girlfriend? Your brother's a menace. To think a Prefect would do something so reckless!




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-01-28 04:11:43](#)
(no subject)

Reckless? You call that reckless?

Perce has a long way to go before he reaches our personal standard for recklessness. Such a disappointment to the rest of the family.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-28 04:34:30](#)
(no subject)

A ringing endorsement, I'm certain. Honestly.


I'm surprised your whole family hasn't been locked away for a bunch of blood traitors, Weasley.

And Weasley.

How is it possible that the whole lot of you have turned out to be so woefully deranged? Does insanity run in your family or something?

Your father works for the Ministry, though, doesn't he? It's curious how he can have a job like that if all his children are dirty great mudblood-lovers.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-28 15:00:12](#)
(no subject)

Dirty great mudblood-lovers?

You started out being all terrified about halfbloods, but I guess you decided you didn't really want to insult Seamus? Try keeping on topic, yeah? Or is that too tough for you?


No idea how you got in Ravenclaw.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-28 16:59:21](#)**
(no subject)


Seamus is the right sort. It's hard even to remember that he's not a pureblood. Whereas it's hard to even remember that you are one, the way you go on.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-28 19:34:46](#)**
(no subject)

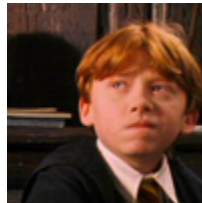
Go on about what, Patil?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-28 20:32:06](#)**
(no subject)

Don't play innocent, Weasley. Apart from swearing up and down to everyone that you were trying to protect Marvolo at the start of the year, you're always hanging about with Longbottom, and everyone knows he's a muggle-lover. And with Perks and Parkinson. D'you really think anyone is fooled by those little messages about tuna fish? You're having secret meetings. I wonder what you talk about, hm? If it were proper, you wouldn't have to make them secret, now would you?


Don't try to mess about with me. I'm in Ravenclaw for a reason.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-28 20:43:59](#)**
(no subject)

What reason would that be, Patil? So you can sell illegal potions all over the school and Crucio people who forget their notes in the Transfiguration classroom? Is there something else you Ravenclaws are good at? Oh, yeah. Acting snooty to everyone all the time. You're top of the year at that.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-28 20:49:08](#)
(no subject)

Oh, for Lakshmi's sake, I take it back: your other brothers are bloody geniuses compared to you.


Maybe it's just as well your wand broke. You ought to just finish the job and snap it properly, as you'll never amount to a real wizard.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-28 20:54:08](#)
(no subject)

Snappy comeback, that.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-28 21:16:13](#)
(no subject)

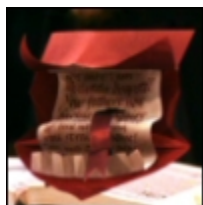
Do go on slandering us, Weasley.


If my marks were as scandalously low as yours, I wouldn't go around reminding people of the rankings. Of course, if it should turn out that your family tree has a hidden graft here and there, it would come as little surprise given your utter mediocrity in all areas of your magical training.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-28 23:48:17](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Nice.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-29 03:42:17](#)
Order Only

OH! How I want to HEX this girl! What utter cheek!

Minerva, how ever do you endure her?!?

No wonder Percy hates her so!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-29 03:53:31](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Everyone knows that I'm a muggle-lover?!?
That's interesting, considering I don't even know any muggles. What in Merlin's name is she on about?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-29 04:37:57](#)

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

You're the sort of person who **WOULD** be nice to muggles because you're nice to everyone.

Which is utterly contemptible as far as Sandoval is concerned! I'm sure you're sobbing into your pillow at night because of what she thinks of you.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-28 16:45:31](#)

(no subject)


Don't be absurd, Patil. It's ridiculous to throw around an accusation like 'blood traitor' merely because, out of simple human kindness, I lent my owl to a first year student who was concerned about the welfare of her father. Looking out for the welfare of first years is what Prefects do. Whatever their blood status.

Besides the fact that Hermes didn't even deliver the letter, Madam Pomfrey told the Prefects last night that St Mungo's is taking all possible precautions to avoid transmission. They've set up an owl depot offsite to prevent any possibility of contamination.

And I suggest you leave off with the family insults. My father works tirelessly at the Ministry in a difficult and demanding job, there has never been the slightest whisper of concern about his

loyalties, and you are only succeeding in making yourself look small.



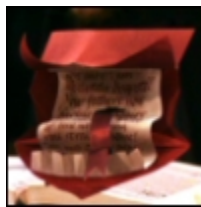
 **alt_padma** at [2010-01-28 17:13:36](#)
(no subject)


First off, it's nothing to do with your responsibility as a prefect or any sort of sympathy, Weasley. It's to do with you nosing in, which is what you do, isn't it? You just want to be at the centre of everything.

Secondly, even if the owl doesn't go direct to St Mungo's, someone has to take the letters from where they do go and bring the answers back, so there's still some way for diseases to be transmitted. So it's not a baseless concern, is it? And anyway, like I said to Marvolo, Director Selwyn himself said we ought to scourgify and all, and so we've done that now.

Besides, didn't Director Selwyn say that people who come down with this thing are getting paralysed? What if there's a connection between that and the petrifications that have happened to the mudbloods here, and to Stebbins? If the halfbloods got the disease because they aren't protected enough by their magic, then maybe Stebbins got petrified because his magic wasn't strong enough? Maybe they all aren't really petrified, but it's the same thing that's happening in the camps and all?

And finally, I never said your father was a blood-traitor. I'm sure he works very hard. It must be so sad for him, though, that all his sons have turned out so disappointing. Well, not all. Your older brothers seem to be all right. I wonder what went wrong with you lot?



 **alt_molly** at [2010-01-29 04:27:01](#)
Order Only

OOOO!! I JUST WANT TO SHAKE HER AND SAY I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT MY HUSBAND IS PLENTY PROUD OF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HIS SONS! AND HIS DAUGHTER!

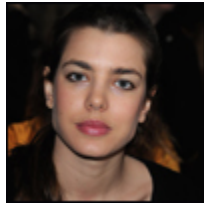


 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-29 04:30:54](#)**

Re: Order Only

Molly, really. She's a very young girl who doesn't know any better than the foolishness that she's been taught.

This isn't doing you or the boys any good at all. You'll only give yourself a headache.



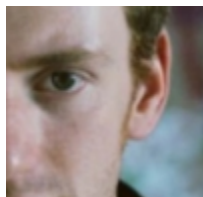
 **[alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-28 17:51:20](#)**

(no subject)

It's all well and good that St Mungo's has adopted measures to reduce the risk of transmitting this disease. However, as we agreed last night, we need to be pro-active here, too, and that includes not making rash decisions out of misguided empathy, Weasley. The fact remains that you did not consult Madam Pomfrey in advance to discover whether St Mungo's was taking any steps to prevent post owls from carrying contamination out of the hospital. The fact remains that you allowed your owl to be sent to St Mungo's without knowing whether that would be safe. And Patil makes a perfectly reasonable point that we do not yet know whether this owl depot will be a sufficient buffer to keep hospital contaminants from being transmitted to the public.

Here at Hogwarts we need to take our own steps to protect against this disease. The young people here represent the future of wizardom, after all, so we cannot afford to take risks here.

Honestly, I don't know whether you have the judgement necessary to continue as a Prefect, Weasley.



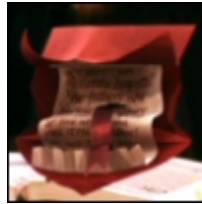
 **[alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-29 03:37:09](#)**


(no subject)

No one knows what has caused this epidemic or what spreads it, including St Mungo's. We are all operating in the dark here, which is no doubt why fears are getting the better of some

of us and tempers are running high. But believe me, I take the welfare of the students of this school as seriously as you do. I will remind you that I have four siblings here, and I have no wish to endanger any of them.

If you have further issues with my judgement or fitness as a Prefect, than I respectfully suggest that you discuss them with the Headmistress.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-29 03:46:07](#)

Order Only

Arthur! Are you seeing this? And all because he had the common decency to lend his owl to poor Luna!

Minerva, you won't remove him from his Prefect position because of these insufferable accusations, will you?

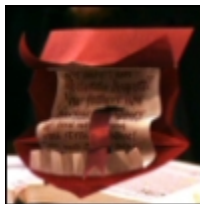


 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-01-29 03:49:54](#)

Re: Order Only

Calm yourself, Molly. Percy's managing to keep his temper at least.

I do hope Ron will manage the same.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-01-29 03:47:01](#)

Order Only

And here's another one I'd dearly love to hex!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 03:42:35](#)

(no subject)


Well since YOU know for absolute sure you're a pureblood then obviously you have nothing to worry about even if the owl did bring something back. It's really nice of you to be taking such good care of Sarah and Mandy and the other halfbloods in Ravenclaw, though.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-28 03:52:02](#)**
(no subject)

Better safe than sorry, Perks. It's only what the Ministry says is the proper thing to do.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-01-28 03:52:56](#)**
(no subject)

After all, as purebloods it's our responsibility to make sure that we look after those who can't necessarily protect themselves.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-01-28 03:59:57](#)**
(no subject)

Well of course!


I expect if Brown and your sister take your suggestions that Bundy and Finnigan will appreciate it too!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-01-28 04:08:10](#)**
(no subject)

Actually, Hermes is ever so much cleaner than you, Patil.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-01-28 04:15:13](#)**
(no subject)

You two are SO not helping.



 **[alt_millicent](#)** at **[2010-01-28 15:47:59](#)**
(no subject)

sod off




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-01-29 02:58:07](#)
(no subject)

I've been thinking, every time we turn round someone else turns out to be a halfblood and we didn't know it. I think it'd be very helpful to know for absolute certain what students are halfbloods and which ones

aren't.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-29 04:25:56](#)
(no subject)

That's a nift idea, Smith. It's utterly distressing to find out that someone's hiding the truth. (I mean, who can blame them, really, but if you think about it someone like Finnigan has never tried to lie about it, and he's loads more proper than a lot of purebloods I could mention.)

Anyway, I asked Sandoval about it and she said maybe, so we'll see.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-29 04:41:18](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It's a dead awful idea.

I heard one of the prefects said that they might start making all the halfbloods sit at a different part of the table at meals in the Great Hall. The end, nearest the door. Another one said that maybe the Professors will start making the halfbloods sit apart in all of the classrooms.

I can't believe that people are acting this way.

2010-01-28 10:48:00

Half bloods


I don't know what to think about half bloods. What do people think really? Is it just pre cautious and stupid? I mean I don't think Perks is going to make me ill. Perks is cleaner than me for one thing.



 [alt_harry](#)

~~Nobody's told me that I'm maybe~~



 [alt_millicent](#) at [2010-01-28 15:54:38](#)
(no subject)

youre stupid.

perks sneezd on me two days ago.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 16:15:18](#)
(no subject)

And yet here you still are.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 16:19:06](#)
(no subject)

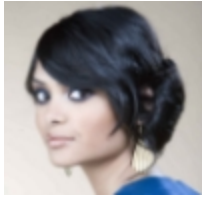
The illness would have to get into the school first to make anyone sick. I don't think it's going to come in with an owl, and no visitors are allowed.


Since they've said over and over that it doesn't affect purebloods and ONLY halfbloods are in any danger anyway I don't know why so many people are acting scared of the halfbloods. It's us who ought to be worried!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-28 16:19:57](#)
(no subject)

And I'm NOT. Worried I mean. Just in case that wasn't clear.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-01-28 16:43:49](#)
(no subject)

Well, Director Selwyn said that scourging is a sensible measure. I wouldn't have been worried if Lovegood hadn't gone and sent that owl to St Mungo's, since that's where the sick halfbloods are. But now we've scourgified everything it should be okay.

Perks hasn't been anywhere near Weasley's owl, so I don't think there's anything to worry about in the Slytherin dormitories.




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-01-28 17:28:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, I think most of our halfbloods in Hufflepuff are alright. They know their place, anyway, so we don't have any problems. MacMillan likes to look after them, sort of like they're his little brothers and sisters. And that's okay, I mean, as far as it goes.


I think most halfbloods want to do the right thing, you know, and serve the Protectorate as best they can.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-28 19:39:19](#)
(no subject)

You don't have to worry about Sally Anne, at all.
I don't see what all the fuss is about.

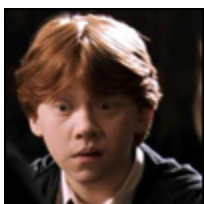


 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-01-28 20:45:20](#)
(no subject)

I reckon Padma's probably right. Us Purebloods should be just as careful about all this as the halfbloods, maybe more, because if someone in the school did get sick and we didn't take precautions like staying away from them, we might get the sickness too. But we wouldn't get sick, obviously, so there'd be no signs like having a temperature or whatever, so we wouldn't even know we were carrying the germs! And then we might pass it on to all the halfbloods, and then they'd get sick and they might even die, and

that would be really awful.

So I think we need to be careful and do what the Ministry say to keep everything clean and safe and that, and then we won't be responsible for spreading the disease around and making things worse.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-28 21:01:51**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Does that even make sense, what he just said?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2010-01-29 00:44:00**

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

Yes he's trying to say purebloods could pass the germs around and not realise it because they wouldn't be getting sick themselves. It really can happen that way, he's not having you on.

You know the real reason everyone's so touchy about it is they don't REALLY believe the Ministry. They think the halfbloods are going to get sick and make the purebloods sick and they don't want to be the pureblood who proves it can get passed around to more than just halfbloods.

I think Macmillan might really be sincere but there's no way Patil cleaned her own common room because she was worried Fawcett was going to get sick!



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-01-29 01:19:46**

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

Oh.

Well, obviously nobody'd want to get sick with that.

Too right about Patil: she'd never lift a wand to do anything for Fawcett unless it was to hex her. And I'm surprised she even knows a cleaning spell. She doesn't seem the type to do anything practical like that for herself. I suppose they've got elves at home, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-29 04:36:58](#)

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

I don't think they do actually. She's never mentioned one, has she? She wants to impress everyone with her pureblood lineage so she'd be sure to let everyone know about it if they had

one.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-01-29 02:55:10](#)

(no subject)

That's quite sensible, MacMillan.

Perhaps it would be useful to really know for sure how many of us are halfbloods, too. I mean to say, it'd be helpful because then we'd know for sure if, for example, something's been touched by a halfblood. Then we'd be doubly sure to clean it or to levitate it rather than touching it. Don't you think?

2010-01-28 18:10:00

Order Only: Fluxweed

Pomona and I have been watching her little crop of Fluxweed as it's matured, and we've been fussing over the fact that while the plants seem hardy enough, the seed yielded by the original plants did not do more than replace their original numbers.

We'd hoped to cultivate a much larger crop in relatively short order, and that hasn't yet occurred. Nonetheless, we decided that before she invests any more time in coaxing this crop along, we ought to test whether this strain will even be suitable for Polyjuice; some types of fluxweed aren't, you know, and we aren't entirely certain which variety we've got.




 [alt_poppy](#)

After Sirius's questions regarding the usefulness of his Laszlo operation, this seems a propitious moment for this experiment, so, barring any medical emergencies, Pomona and I will be taking sample cuttings by the light of Saturday's full moon and completing a test batch of Polyjuice. We should have results to report soon after.


Wish us luck.



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2010-01-29 04:32:33**
(no subject)

Good luck to you, indeed. I'll be glad if we can enlarge our supply.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2010-01-29 12:17:36**
(no subject)


We are hopeful, Arthur.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-01-29 04:33:36](#)**
(no subject)

If you're successful, we'll be mighty glad to take some of that Polyjuice off your hands!



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-01-29 12:25:29](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Kingsley. We hope to have a plentiful crop of fluxweed here one day. Of course, the boomslang skin and bicorn horn will still be difficult to come by, but we have a bit of both tucked away, and we'll do what we must to acquire more if this experiment goes well.

[2010-01-28 22:02:00](#)

Order Only: Birthday at the sanctuary




 [alt_kingsley](#)

Benjy let slip to the assembled masses here that yesterday was my birthday (I'll get him for that), and there was quite a fuss made. Apple crumble at dinner, and then Danny set up the projector, and loaded up one of those, what-d'ye call 'em, *movees* that's apparently one of the children's favourites and we all watched it, as a special occasion. It's a highly ridiculous thing called 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks.' None of us Players had ever seen it before, and we were just about doubled up with laughter through the whole thing at the Muggles' ideas throughout the story of what magical folk are like.

Victor's showed me a book he found a couple of years ago when scavaging in one of the local houses, and he and Benjy and Caradoc and Danny and Frank and me have all been poring over it together. It's called *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*, and it has everything you could ever possibly want to know about shipbuilding and navigation. Wood's fairly scarce on the island, which is a problem, but of course, we can do a good deal with Transfiguration, using the book as a guide. So we're laying plans.

The children are a delight, but they've been wearing us out a bit. We've plenty of experience putting on plays for children in the camps before of course, but kids there are rather different. They're more beaten down with all the work they have to do, not nearly so bold or curious. Benjy not entirely joking when he swears that Colin's and Alec's questions will be the death of him.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-29 12:16:48](#)

(no subject)

Many happy returns, Kingsley!

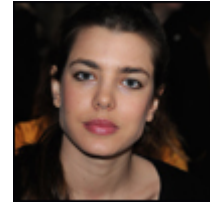
I hadn't realised your birthday was approaching: you seem to have kept your secret well over the years. It is, however, now noted down in my little black book of important dates. You've been warned!

And I see that our Alice has a birthday just ahead on the 31st. I should think that day would be quite a festival at the Sanctuary! I'm so glad you are there to celebrate it with her this year.

[2010-01-29 10:34:00](#)

XIII.

During our regular meeting on Wednesday evening, the Prefects discussed a number of matters related to the Muggle Paralysis and the Ministry's efforts to protect us all from infection.



 [alt_lana](#)

As we all know, Director Selwyn has published a set of very simple, very wise recommendations for steps we may take to protect ourselves against disease:

- (1) We should all remember to use **Wingardium Leviosa** whenever practical rather than handling items as if we were common muggles not wizards.
- (2) We should **scourgify** any items we share with others or which must, of necessity, be placed on surfaces in common areas. Items that might need scourging include textbooks, quills, eating utensils, tabletops and benches, parchments, etc. And, of course, wear clean robes daily, cleanse the sleeves of your robes when they touch unclean surfaces, wash!, and wash again after touching anything that might carry a taint of infection.
- (3) We all ought to use **common sense** when interacting with others, particularly with those of suspect cleanliness and personal decorum. Do not touch others unnecessarily. Observe a safe, polite personal distance from others. Do not share personal items with others unless you must.

In addition to these simple, daily precautions, of course, the Ministry have taken other wise measures for our protection. They have, as you know, forbidden any travel to or from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and they have forbidden any parcels to be sent to anyone here at the school.

Naturally, there have been many questions directed to the Prefects, and I would like to highlight three:

- (1) Does the No Parcels rule mean that students and staff may not order goods by mail?** Indeed. No parcels means **NO** parcels.
- (2) Does the ban on leaving and entering the school mean that Mudbloods may no longer be sent to Hogsmeade for sweets.** Indeed, no Mudblood servant who leaves school grounds will be permitted to return.
- (3) Is there any restriction on letters to and from home?** There are currently no restrictions on parchment letters;

however, as many of you will be aware, the school owls have been loaned to the Ministry for its use during this time of crisis. Students may, therefore, find it difficult to send letters unless they have an owl of their own or are able to borrow an owl from a friend.

If students would like to volunteer the services of their personal owls for the Ministry's use, they are encouraged to do so. My fellow Prefect, Percy Weasley, suggested this loyal course of action and has offered to set an example with his own owl. Orion and I have agreed that we should lend our Lechuza to the Ministry, as well. Sunday lunchtime is the deadline for interested students to see Weasley, who is liaising with the Ministry to ensure our owls find their way to the correct department.

A final note about owls. I have spoken with Professor Brutka, who assures me that he personally inspected and sanitised the owl involved in Wednesday's ill-judged delivery to St Mungo's. He also tells me the House Elves have taken the absence of the school owls as an opportunity to scour the owlery top to bottom with the result that it has never been cleaner. I'm sure we are all grateful for his attention to these matters.

Also at our meeting, the Prefects discussed with the Headmistress several ideas for innovative new clubs and activities we hope to add to this term's calendar. You should expect to hear more very soon about the formation of a **Debate Team** under the leadership of Professor Acton and a **Model Wizengamot**. The latter will be led by my brother, Orion Sandoval, and a number of other top 6th year students; the programme is intended for students in second through fourth year, whose end of year exam responsibilities are not as heavy as those of us facing OWLs and NEWTs.

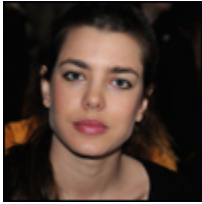
We also agreed to hold an organisational meeting for those wishing to participate in a school play. The meeting will be next Thursday evening, 4 February, at 7pm in the Arithmancy classroom on the 5th floor. While the play itself, should it come off, would be next Autumn at the earliest, planning would need to begin this spring.


Finally. The next Duelling Club meeting will be in two weeks on Thursday, 11 February. Last evening's session was lively and creative. Well done to all who attended!



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-01-30 00:03:15](#)
(no subject)

It was lively, all right! I don't think Weasley knows when to stay down. I guess that's a Gryffindor for you.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-30 04:22:16](#)
(no subject)

I think you're quite right: Gryffindors tend to think with their adrenal glands. Certainly the youngest Weasleys seem to.


Bravo, Smith, on your spell-work last night.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-01-30 03:39:09](#)
(no subject)


I'm extremely pleased that my suggestion was helpful and I hope that others will follow my example. I believe we have at least twenty owls volunteered by their Gryffindor owners.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-01-30 04:18:42](#)
(no subject)

That's excellent, Weasley. Good on you for organising it.




 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-02-01 04:36:51](#)
(no subject)

Excellent clarifications, Miss Sandoval, and the Ministry greatly appreciates the extra owls loaned by the students of Hogwarts; their patriotism is a credit to the school.

The efforts of students and staff are doubtless why the disease has yet to strike even a single student at Hogwarts, and we at the Ministry are confident you will all remain safe and healthy.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-02-01 20:55:41](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, thank you, sir. We know that our owls are a small contribution to the Ministry's great effort, but we felt they would be of much better use there than here.

We are redoubling our efforts to keep the school free from taint. And, of course, we Prefects are attempting to keep our fellow students well informed in order to prevent their worrying needlessly or making risky mistakes out of ignorance.

2010-01-29 21:40:00

Duelling Club last night

Well, at least my nose is back to its normal shape now. I'm not sure if that's what Bulstrode quite intended, but I'll give her points for taking me totally by surprise.



 [alt_neville](#)

I don't always get the sorts of wand directions Professor Lockhart shows us, so maybe that's why I'm not doing so well. But I have to say, they never look quite the same way twice to me, any time he's demonstrating. And it's sort of hard to tell what's the wand motion he means to show us, and what's the, er, *flourishing* and what not. But I did do a little better toward the end, right before the meeting broke up. That's because Professor Brutka was looking over my shoulder when I was paired up against Jenkins, and the Professor offered a little suggestion or two. Nothing too major, just about the way I was gripping the wand, but it made a big difference. I actually hit Jenkins spot on with the jelly-legs jinx--except I suppose I shouldn't get much credit because actually dropped my wand then because I was so surprised. That wouldn't do me much good if I was in a for real duelling situation.

(Ron, it's too bad that your wand acted like that, but at least you didn't give up. And that tickling jinx on Smith worked real well, too.

Maybe someone has some fresh Spello-tape, and that might help?)




 [alt_neville](#) at **2010-01-30 04:03:58**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron, have you heard anything from your brothers about what happened in Fourth Year Transfiguration today? I caught some whispering about it between Angelina Johnson and Andrew Kirk in the Great Hall over supper, but then they saw that Professor Alecto Carrow was coming toward them, and they shut right up and wouldn't say anything more.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-30 04:14:39](#)

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

I'm not really sure what happened. Something about experiments with rats back in Carrow's office, and they figured it's whatever the Advanced Transfiguration group--y'know the one the Head Girl was meeting with when she cursed Sally Anne--whatever they're working on with Carrow. Anywiz, I got back to the Common Room just as they were in the middle of telling about it, and they were imitating the squealing and the way the rats were flopping about. I just didn't really get what'd caused it.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-01-30 04:17:12](#)

(no subject)

Well, yeah. I guess it's not surprising I pretty much got the worst of it with Smith. I don't mind the bruises so much, but I'd be pretty happy if the spots were gone by tomorrow. I look like I've got spattergroit, don't I? One day is enough for going on with that.

[2010-01-29 22:34:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_gredforge](#)

In class this morning there was a slight disturbance (and for once we didn't cause it). Some rats from the advanced Transfiguration project group were being kept in a cage in the back of the classroom, and in the middle of class they started squealing. Lee, who managed to get a quick look at them said that a couple of them that were turned into kernels of corn partially transfigured back and started jumping around. One of the girls screamed, and we all started trying to see what was going on, but Carrow just put a silencing spell around the area and pulled the curtain closed. He didn't care about the rats at all, and he was muttering something about how popcorn was sounding pretty good right about now.


~~Sometimes we wish that~~



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 04:42:27](#)
(no subject)

The rats were transfigured into corn?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-30 04:46:03](#)
(no subject)


Ick.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-01-30 04:46:10](#)
(no subject)

Yes. Corn.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-30 04:48:51](#)
(no subject)

What, then they were going to feed the corn to the other rats or something?

Double ick.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 05:00:11](#)
(no subject)

I heard him say

They transfigured back from corn though?

Had the other rats



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-30 05:00:09](#)
(no subject)

What d'you reckon they're doing turning rats into corn?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 05:05:52](#)
(no subject)

I thought they were transfiguring them into sand actually. I mean when I overheard them while I was getting my notes even though I was not TRYING to eavesdrop and I just wanted my notes. But now I think about it he may have been using sand as an example of something with a nice uniform size.

If they were in with the other rats as corn he must be feeding them

I don't know.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-30 05:09:17](#)
(no subject)

It sounds like a mad thing to be doing. I mean, what, do they want to see if the corn has any, whatdoyoucallum, animal karacteristics? But why? Do they want the corn to burrow into the ground, plant itself or something?


Or it's something gone wrong. I mean, he put the silencing spell up, so maybe it was something he didn't expect.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 05:18:16](#)
(no subject)


All I know is, Carrow was really REALLY angry when he thought I might have overheard what the advanced group was doing.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 06:29:12](#)
(no subject)

Whatever you do don't EVER tell Carrow I told you I heard anything. I ~~think he might k~~ Not that you have cozy fireside chats with him but if he ever asks you say I didn't hear anything.

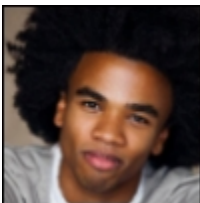



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-30 15:13:44](#)
(no subject)

I'd never tell. You don't have to worry about that.

I don't think Carrow has cozy fireside chats with anyone but his sister, do you? I don't think even


Professor Acton likes him at all.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-01-30 04:49:15](#)
(no subject)

I bet he would eat them, too, with butter and salt. That Carrow is one sick bloke.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-30 04:51:09](#)
(no subject)

What's worse is, he'd probably make Terry Boot eat them.

I'm glad Terry's with Professor McGonagall now.
Um, or he will be when he gets unpetrified.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-01-30 05:01:52](#)
(no subject)

That's just
eurgh




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 05:06:23](#)
(no subject)

He was making the rats eat the transfigured rats.

I mean a rat can't tell that the corn used to be a rat
so

UGH.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-01-30 05:11:16](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, really.


Note to self: if Professor Carrow ever offers me
anything to eat, I mean, EVER, I'll tell him nope,
I'm full, thanks.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-01-30 05:16:24](#)
(no subject)

Good plan.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-01-30 05:00:46](#)**
(no subject)

They were turning back on their own? The rats?

2010-01-31 13:18:00

Fudge's First Weeks

It is dizzying to reflect that Minister Fudge has been in office for a full three weeks already.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Not all of the transitional activities are concluded, but thus far it seems he has made some progress, particularly in the direction of the investigation into the security breaches that enabled Black and his spies to exacerbate the medical crisis.

(Dominic, you may have heard by now but I'm pleased to tell you that you were spot-on regarding Miss Robins; Cornelius has re-arranged his personal staff somewhat and recognised her ambitions with a promotion much more suited to her at this time. I believe the young lady will go far - but this ought to appease her as an interim step!)

The travel restrictions have made several meetings difficult. At Nimbus and Presto, there have been no need for changes to the procedure but Muggleborn Labour and Magical Commerce each have a member or two who happen to be halfbloods. Consequently the boards have made allowance for their absence by means of providing the agendas early so that they may register their opinions and recommendations via owl. Tedious, but it gives them their fair say without requiring them to violate the terms of the edict. The *Daily Prophet* has simply replaced those Board members who cannot attend in order to ensure quorum. The Hogwarts Governors, of course, cannot meet at the school owing to the quarantine, but have communicated directly to Peakes who shall extend the decisions to the Headmistress.


Despite the increased limitations and precautions, we have continued to enjoy a pleasant winter between home and London. Last week-end, of course, we went to the theatre with Barty; mid-week there was a reception at the Dulwich to unveil the newest exhibit on early Reformation portraiture; last night we attended Lady Percy's annual winter ball. To-day we shall be celebrating young Rigel's six-month anniversary with Bella and Rodolphus and the rest of the family.

Narcissa had a commitment arise that prevents her from her St Mungo's volunteer activities. Not sure when she will return to the

Auxiliary, though it seems at least not for the next several weeks. Some sort of course she agreed to lead for the Witches' Institute, I believe, conflicting with her ordinary St Mungo's time - and of course it is impossible for her to switch with someone else indefinitely. So for the time being, we continue our support for the dedicated Healers of that fine institution through our regular donations and other means.

Rookwood insisted I stop into the DoM to-morrow. Suspect I know what it regards. Although as this is the third time in as many months he has been 'convinced' he has achieved breakthrough, I remain skeptical.




 **alt_selwyn** at [2010-02-01 04:33:24](#)
(no subject)

Excellent news about Miss Robbins, Lucius.

It's rather shocking how disruptive it is to have the halfbloods quarantined. I was rather taken aback at how many of them there are about, especially on Ministry committees and so on.




 **alt_lucius** at [2010-02-01 05:26:04](#)
(no subject)

There are, of course, certain committees in which it is desirable to hear the position of halfbloods, though I agree, on the whole it has made virtually all manner of business inconvenient in the extreme.

It has been instructive to learn the heritage of some witches and wizards of whom I had not before been certain. I had suspected that Chadwick was at most quarter-blood, but he contacted MacMillan regarding last week's Commerce meeting to confirm he could not travel.

Do you anticipate having to make any permanent staff changes should this drag on?




 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-02-01 05:40:49](#)
(no subject)

Quite possibly. There are a surprising number of staff members in the division who are currently confined at home. In addition to the halfbloods there are at least a few others who have taken leave because they are married to a halfblood and are observing quarantine to protect their spouse -- which is noble of them, naturally, but highly inconvenient considering how short staffed we are already!

There's a man named Monroe who works under Plympton who sent word he'd come in if 'required' -- I'm not sure where he got the idea work was optional. Still, I'm leaving it to Plympton to handle for now. So long as the department is still getting its work done I try to stay out of personnel matters that far down the chain.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2010-02-01 05:44:13](#)
(no subject)

And that's a bit startling about Chadwick. Though I think we 'strongly advised' those with one muggle grandparent to stay home, I should check the paperwork. They might have received the same quarantine instructions as those with two.

It's been surprising enough to hear how many are married to halfbloods. Some of the ones who aren't quarantining themselves are bunking at the office; I've run into several when I've worked late. At least they're showing a bit of a work ethic in the face of the crisis.

2010-01-31 15:40:00

Order Only: Happy Birthday, Allie


Hope it was a good one, love.



Remus, give us a sentence or two when you're back on your feet, mate.


 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-01-31 22:02:07](#)
(no subject)


A bit tired out, but still alive. Is that enough?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-01-31 22:03:31](#)
(no subject)


Quite enough. Have some tea and go back to bed.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-01-31 23:30:01](#)
(no subject)


I'm popping in to add my wishes to those Sirius has expressed, Alice. Many happy returns!



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-02-02 02:32:47](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Poppy!




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-02-01 14:56:14](#)
(no subject)

If I thought the kids made my birthday rather nice, Alice's is treated more like a national holiday at


Moddey Dhoo. Don't worry, she had a splendid day. Everyone made sure of it.



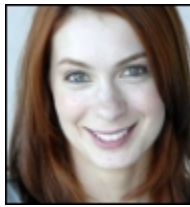
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:27:54](#)**
(no subject)


It was quite lovely. I can't believe Victor made me an actual cake! And everyone's presents were so sweet.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:28:28](#)**
(no subject)


especially mine.



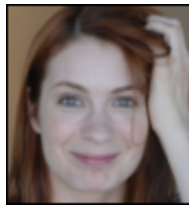
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:29:44](#)**
(no subject)


Naturally, love.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:30:20](#)**
(no subject)


especially the last little bit.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:30:52](#)**
(no subject)


Oooh, hush now.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-02-02 02:33:10](#)
(no subject)


Oh, get a room.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-02-02 02:46:26](#)
(no subject)

we have one, thanks.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-02-02 02:54:46](#)
(no subject)

And you're writing in your journal?


I never thought I'd have to give *you* lessons, mate.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-02-02 02:56:01](#)
(no subject)


got to come up for air some time, you know.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-02-02 02:57:51](#)
(no subject)


Both of you, *hush!*



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-02-02 02:32:37](#)
(no subject)

All right, all right. Rub it in.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-02-02 02:26:42](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, it was! Thank you so much, my darling.

2010-01-31 21:35:00

If any of you are sneaking around at night



I solemnly swear I am up to no good

If any of you are sneaking around at night, I can't say WHY I was sneaking around at night, but you should know that the prefects only patrol until midnight, and after that it's just if you can get the portraits to not tattle on you I suppose. And that some of the professors stay up and are really strange places when you don't expect them to be.

 [alt_hermione](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-02-01 03:41:29**
(no subject)

You didn't run into Carrow did you? Either of them?

I'm not currently planning to sneak around at night but just in case I need to sometime, it's good to know the prefects go to bed at midnight. Do you know which portraits tattle?



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2010-02-01 04:21:41**
(no subject)

No. I wouldn't be here if I had run into the Carrows!!!

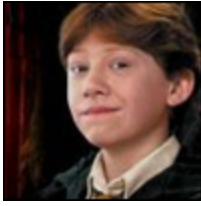
I know for sure that the one with the girls dancing around the maypole on the first floor does, because they're all so snooty about it. When I'm out after hours (and not sneaking I mean, since I'm allowed if Harry needs me to get him something) they always give me a hard time. So I bet they would tattle.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-02-01 04:30:20**
(no subject)

I thought you surely hadn't but I wanted to be sure!

I'll be careful to avoid the maypole picture if I'm ever out when I shouldn't be.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-02-01 15:58:21](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, so this wasn't one of those times when you weren't sneaking, huh?

Guess that means Harry was with you, then. Otherwise you wouldn't have had to hide from the Prefects and all, yeah?




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-02-01 16:03:31](#)**
(no subject)

Ron, I promised I wouldn't tell!!!

Yes, he was with me.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-02-01 16:13:42](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, but you know you want to!

So what could you have been doing? If he'd wanted food from the kitchens, he'd just have sent you. Or if he'd left his notes somewhere.

You must have been spying on someone. Were you looking for Carrow? Or trying to find out what's in his classroom? I know that what happened in there on Friday's pretty much gone round the whole school by now. That's it, isn't it?

So did you figure out what he's doing with those rats?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-02-01 16:19:03](#)**
(no subject)

If Harry were going to spy on Carrow I would hope he'd have the sense not to take Hermione with him. He's safe from Carrow but Hermione isn't.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-02-01 16:21:00](#)
(no subject)

Oh don't worry!! I would've told him I wouldn't go!! And he wouldn't have made me -- he isn't horrible like that, not when someone points something out to him, and it really makes sense

I mean.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-02-01 16:26:36](#)
(no subject)

I'm not going to tell you, Ronald Weasley, except to say that I wasn't going to do anything with Carrow, do you think I'm daft??

It was something else, it's an extracurricular project, and I'll tell you when it's over.

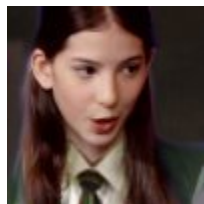


 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-02-01 16:54:14](#)
(no subject)

I don't think you're daft, but I know Harry thinks Carrow's behind all this stuff about the Chamber. We all do. And I think if he were going to snoop around and find out a way to prove it's Carrow, so his father could force Carrow to put Terry Boot right so he doesn't have to lie there in the Hospital Wing until spring, yeah, I think you'd be right there doing everything you could to help him find out.

So it's not about Carrow?

Huh.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-02-01 16:59:56](#)
(no subject)

She already said she can't tell you.

Keep pestering her like this and she might decide not to tell us useful things about sneaking around after curfew ever again!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-02-01 17:26:23](#)**
(no subject)

She said she couldn't tell us what it is. She hasn't said she can't say anything at all about it. For instance, she could tell us more things they weren't doing and then maybe we could

figure it out.

I mean, we totally should be doing something more to find out what Carrow's up to with those rats. And the Head Girl and all those NEWT students and whatever they're doing for him.

I know you don't want to do anything that would cause more trouble for you, and that's dead right, you shouldn't. But that doesn't mean the rest of us shouldn't, and if Harry's already got a plan, then we shouldn't do the same thing all over again, y'know? That's all. And maybe we could help, yeah?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-02-01 17:42:54](#)**
(no subject)

Well I'm sitting back here near the rat cages today.

They're squeaking like crazy but I'm not going to pull back the curtain for a good look at what's going on. Carrow's been pretending for most of class that I don't exist, but I think he'd quit pretending if I hopped up to take a close look at his project.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-02-01 17:44:30](#)**
(no subject)

And don't do anything stupid, Ron, just because you're a pureblood doesn't mean Carrow wouldn't cruciate you or worse if he thought he had a good excuse.



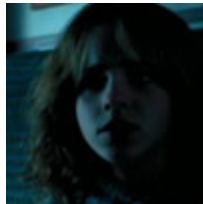
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-02-01 17:48:58](#)
(no subject)

She's right!! You don't want to hear what he talks about when he doesn't think students are listening, it's utterly foul.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-02-01 17:51:22](#)
(no subject)


What does he talk about when he thinks students aren't listening?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-02-01 17:53:53](#)
(no subject)

Creepy things. A lot like what he posts in his journal really, only he says them in that voice. And sometimes you just know he's talking about someone in specific, even when he's talking about something that sounds really different, like pigeons or something.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-02-01 15:56:26](#)
(no subject)

Well that's all very mysterious.

But thanks, I guess.