

**[2010-03-01 07:39:00](#)**

*Happy birthday!*

Happy birthday to Ron Weasley!



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



**[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 16:53:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thanks, mate!

I'd have answered sooner if Miss Professor Carrow hadn't taken up my book.

It was nice of Seamus to ask her to give it back.

Still, it's pretty surprising she actually did!



**[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:08:36](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, it's a good thing she did.

Happy birthday, Ron! I'll get your present to you at dinner.



**[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:30:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thanks!

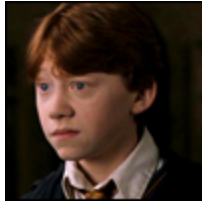
Yesterday was fun. Nice the sun came out for a while, too.




**[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:30:11](#)**

*(no subject)*


Ron, are you feeling alright?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:39:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm feeling all right, but I've been cursed. Or my book has!!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-01 21:32:42](#)  
(no subject)

I mean, I can understand you wanting to talk to Lucius, cause he's interesting and important, but he's a very busy person.

So... maybe you shouldn't ask him so much all at once?


I can introduce you to him later if you'd like, once we're out of Quarantine, if you want to talk with him. But he doesn't really know you yet, so he'd look on it as a bother even if it's not how you meant it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:40:46](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. It's a curse. Right?!!!

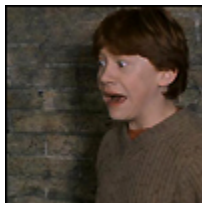



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-01 21:42:36](#)  
(no subject)

Okay. I think I got it. You have to reply, yeah?

So get your brother or Longbottom or someone to take it away from you til it wears off. Or I will.


Where are you?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:46:37](#)  
(no subject)


We just tried to flush it down the loo, but it flew right back out at us!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-01 21:48:48](#)  
(no subject)

Look, just tell me and Sally-Anne where you are and we can all try and sort it out.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:03:04](#)  
(no subject)

Outside Brutka's office.


He's not here.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 21:36:20](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


NEVILLE YOU NEED TO FIND RON AND TAKE AWAY HIS DIARY. THROW IT TO THE GIANT SQUID IF YOU HAVE TO.



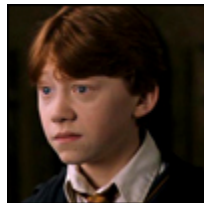
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:48:32](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


WE TRIED!!!! TO FLUSH IT DOWN THE LOO, ANYWIZ AND IT WON'T WORK.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 21:50:10](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Where ARE you? If you can find me or Pansy we can take it and hide it in Slytherin, you won't be able to come get it there!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:04:40](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I just told her. I'm outside Brutka's office, but he's not here.

I mean, it's not like Lockhart could help or anything.

You can try whatever you can think of.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-02 03:32:51](#)

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

I'm so sorry, Ron! I went back up to the room after breakfast for an essay I'd forgotten to put in my bookbag, and I left my journal on my trunk and it was there all day, and so I didn't know this was going on. I'd have helped if I'd known.

Blimey, you were awful chatty today, weren't you.

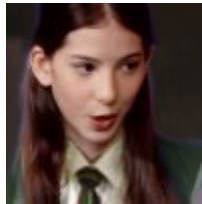


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 03:49:15](#)

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

Chatty doesn't start to cover it, Nev.

Doesn't matter, though. I don't think there's anything you could have done.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 04:17:44](#)

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

CHATTY.

Ha.

I suppose you could say he was CHATTY.

**2010-03-01 08:58:00**

*spring is coming*

It's Ron's birthday and he didn't wake up with bunny ears today like he did last year. Many happy returns, Ron. I hope your brothers aren't plotting anything special for later.



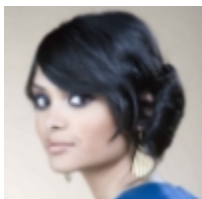
 [alt\\_seamus](#)

We got our list of electives today. Mr Rosier if you could send me a proper letter and tell me what you think I should take that would be wizard. Here's the list:

Arithmancy, that one sounds hard  
Ancient Runes  
Care of Magical Creatures  
Divination  
Dark Arts

I think Divination sounds interesting if you could really use it to know the future! And also Care of Magical Creatures would be wizard and Dark Arts but I don't know much about Arithmancy and Ancient Runes and I wonder if perhaps they'd be more interesting than they sound?

What's everyone else taking?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-03-01 16:12:05**


*(no subject)*

Professor Vector gave us our lists, too. I can't wait until next year!

I'm definitely taking Dark Arts. Parvati's taking Divination, she's been looking forward to that. I might, but I think Runes are more reliable for that sort of thing. I'm definitely taking Arithmancy, Professor Vector's utterly nift and I really want her for a real teacher. So with Arithmancy I might not do Runes.


Everyone says Care of Magical Creatures will be nift because Professor Brutka's such a great teacher. But I dunno. It's outside, which is nice, but I'm not sure I'm all that excited about wild creatures and things. They're sort of dirty, aren't they?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 16:58:39](#)**  
(no subject)


Care of Magical Creatures will definitely be dirty. And probably dangerous, too. You definitely shouldn't take it.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:28:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, at least if you take it, no one will be able to tell the difference. When's the last time you had a bath, Weasley?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:40:44](#)**  
(no subject)

When I was four?

I take showers. Baths are for girls and babies.


Oh, and Prefects, I guess. I hear they've got a really nift bath. Or is that just



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:12:11](#)**  
(no subject)


I heard the prefects have a nift bath. But I think I heard it from Fred or George so they may have been having me on.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:41:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's what I wonder, too. I think it was them that told me, so y'know. They could've just been saying something naff to make Percy look a fool.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 21:14:03](#)  
(no subject)

Notice that you didn't actually answer the question, Weasel.

Or are you too thick to understand that a 'bath' can also mean a 'wash'?


Anyway, you'll never see the prefects' bath, the rate you're going. How many detentions are you up to now?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:15:46](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, shut it, Patil.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 21:19:05](#)  
(no subject)

You first, Sneezely.

How many times have you spoken to Mr Malfoy today?

Parvati thinks you're playing a joke on everyone as it's your birthday, trying to get people's attention.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:44:14](#)  
(no subject)

Ooh. Did something happen to your hair again, Patil? I mean, it makes your ears stick out like an elf.

Sorry. Did you say something?




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 16:55:57](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm still waiting to see what the twins think up this year. So far, so good!

Thanks, mate, for asking Miss Professor Carrow to give me back my book. I thought sure she'd make me wait until I came for my detention tomorrow night.

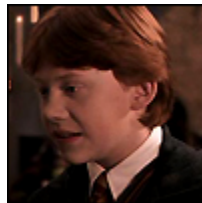



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-01 17:27:13](#)  
(no subject)

Do you mean you had your journal out during Muggle Studies??

Honestly, Weasley, that's just asking for trouble.

Oh, Happy Birthday, by the way.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 17:38:00](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know.

I wasn't thinking, I guess.

Really? Thanks.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-01 17:40:29](#)  
(no subject)

You? Not thinking, Weasley? Shocking.

And yes, really. It's important to be polite to everyone, even someone with your obvious deficiencies.






 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:44:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd hate to hear what it sounds like when you try to be rude.

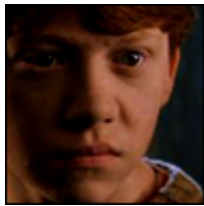
Oh, that's really all the time, isn't it? You just call it the opposite. Like that makes a difference.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:20:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, and barging in on grown-ups' conversations isn't rude?

Honestly, Measley, I've seen you do some daft things in the past but that's beyond the pale.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:33:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I think I've been cursed, okay?

I suppose you think that's really funny.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:36:35](#)**  
(no subject)


Cursed? Oh, that's terrible. If it's true, that is.

Are you just not able to stand not being the centre of attention?

I mean, I sort of felt sorry for you, getting a detention and all, but now--

Seriously. Who do you think you're fooling?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:42:17](#)  
(no subject)


You

DID

THIS!!!

Didn't you??




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 21:45:05](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know what you mean.


Of course I didn't.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:01:16](#)  
(no subject)

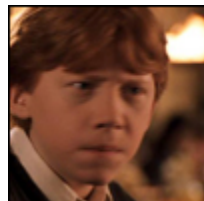
I didn't do a thing to you, you witch.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 22:04:44](#)  
(no subject)

And I didn't do a thing to you, so that makes us even.

Are you sure this wasn't your brothers' work?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:15:30](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know, do I?

But they're not the ones hanging around making it worse, are they?



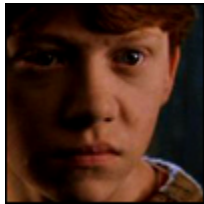
 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 22:19:54](#)  
(no subject)


You really are thick as a post, Weasley.

If I were your brothers and I'd hexed you, the **last** thing I'd do is post anything in the journals or reply to you over and over. They'd want to be as far away from it as possible, right?

If it was them, which I'm not saying it was. But perhaps Mrs Malfoy's right and Professor Acton can help you remove it.

See? If I'd done this, would I be helping you to take it off?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:22:50](#)  
(no subject)


Who's thick, Patil?

You don't know my brothers at all. If they'd done it, they'd be here having a huge laugh about it all. And making me answer them all over the place.

Just like

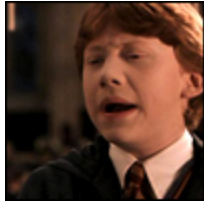
gosh! just like YOU'RE doing.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-01 22:52:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, honestly.

Okay, I SWEAR I did not put any kind of hex on you. Happy?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-02 02:47:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, sure. I'm delighted. I got detention from Miss Professor Carrow. I've bothered all kinds of important people and cheesed them all off. I've broken six quills and then found out I'd have to cut myself and write in my own blood if I didn't have a quill to use. I've been tied up, stunned, paralysed, and petrified, and it's still happening. I've been interrogated by Director Selwyn, and now I've just written six pages in Mrs Lestrangle's journal.


I'm freaking over the moon!



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-02 03:46:57](#)**  
(no subject)


Happy Birthday, Ronald.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-02 03:50:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Ha bloody ha.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-02 03:51:18](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Just wait, Patil. I am totally going to pay you back for today.

Totally.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:37:07](#)**  
(no subject)

What?

Ooooh.

What sort of curse do you think it is?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:42:58](#)  
(no subject)

Oi! Pansy!!


I have to answer you over here, too!!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-01 21:46:31](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry! That was before I'd sorted it out! Just say "okay" on this one, and tell me where you are on the other one so I can take away your journal and give you your present.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:59:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'm on my way to Professor Brutka's office to see if he'll let something eat my journal.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-01 22:06:50](#)  
(no subject)

Isn't that against the law? Destroying one's journal, I mean?

Even if it isn't, I'm sure the Lord Protector would be very upset. The journals are precious magical objects, you know. They can't very well just go replacing them for people.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:18:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. You're probably right, and I guess that's what Professor Brutka would probably say if he were here. Except maybe he'd have an idea what to do take the curse off.

You'd think the Lord Protector would be cross about people hexing other people so they'd write stuff like this all over everyone's journals. There oughta be a law against that, too.

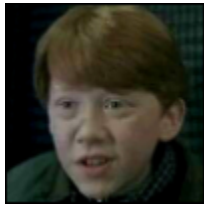



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-01 22:29:13](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it seems to me....

I mean to say, Weasley, you've not been the most devoted journalist. Nor have I, come to that, but at least I don't use the journals to arrange assignations with girls.

Maybe whoever did this is trying to teach you to be more responsible about posting regularly?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:31:59](#)  
(no subject)

I wouldn't think this is the best way to make a point about responsible posting, d'you think? So you're saying whoever hexed me isn't very bright?



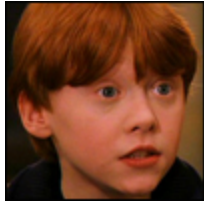
 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-01 22:49:23](#)  
(no subject)


Well. Didn't you say that the journal wouldn't leave your hands? And that you felt like you needed to have it with you?

That may be what they're trying to tell you. That it's important to keep the journal close to hand.

The replying part, I think that's just whoever hexed you trying to see what you'd do.

I'm glad I don't have brothers who'd ambush me on my own birthday.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 23:08:46](#)**  
(no subject)


Do you really think the Lord Protector wants us all writing in our journals all day long, during lessons and such?

That doesn't even make

*ouch!*

se nC e



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-02 20:05:03](#)**  
(no subject)

"Assignations?" For Merlin's sake, Smith, we were trying to get him to stop writing in his journal, not meeting up for a snog. I don't see how my being a girl has anything to do with

it.

I would have said something yesterday, but out of consideration for my friend, I held off until he no longer had to reply to every little thing.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-03-02 20:09:10](#)**  
(no subject)

I wasn't talking about just yesterday, Parkinson.

Half the time all you and Perks do is ask him to go for walks. And it's not too difficult to figure out what you're doing.

Who goes round the lake in the dead of winter, after all?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-03-02 20:17:58**  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne, me and Ron? Hah! That's really rich.

I suppose we're the sort of people that like to go for walks and get out of stuffy castles.

Look. Ron is my friend. Although I am shocked and amazed that someone with your obvious charms doesn't have friends that are girls, believe me, it is possible.

What you're saying is offensive and untrue, and I'd really rather you stop.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#) at 2010-03-02 20:24:18**  
(no subject)

What's offensive about saying you use the journals to plan secret meetings and talk about things you obviously don't want to talk about in the journals?

Why, what did you think I meant?

And of course I've got friends who are girls, but I don't go about using the journal to make appointments with them. Well, a few friends who are girls, anyway. Mostly you're all pretty naff.

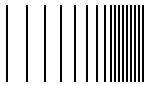


 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-03-02 22:24:33**  
(no subject)

Gee, thanks.


Look, I'm not an idiot. And neither are you. And you know full well when you say things like "appointments" and "assignments with girls" and "it's not too difficult to figure out what it is you're doing," it *implies* something insulting. And trying to make me describe precisely *what* it is you're implying? Yeah, that's insulting too.



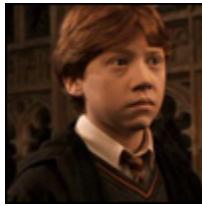



So just don't.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-01 19:11:09](#)  
(no subject)

No trouble Ron! Its your birthday after all.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 19:42:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well. It's not too bad so far.

I mean, I've got to do detention with Miss Professor Carrow, but not tonight.

**2010-03-01 09:23:00**

*(no subject)*

It's been a while since I wrote in this, so I thought I'd better. I can't believe it's March already!



**alt\_zacharias**

Does anyone know if it's possible to get a haircut while we're here? Last year I got my haircuts when we went home on holidays. But it's been months and months.

Lessons are going well. Professor Sprout handed out the list of electives this morning and said we need to choose before Easter holidays. If there are Easter holidays, but I guess there will be a break in classes, even if we aren't allowed to leave the school still.

There haven't been any more attacks since Malfoy's servant was killed. I wonder if it's all done now?

I've been going to the debating group, and deulling of course. And I still go to History Club once in a while.

That's about it, really.

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**alt\_ron at 2010-03-01 17:00:47**

*(no subject)*

So what are you going to take next year?



**alt\_zacharias at 2010-03-01 17:24:04**

*(no subject)*


Well, Care of Magical Creatures, I think.

Mother wants me to take Dark Arts, but I'm not sure. It's very useful. I think perhaps Arithmancy, but maybe Runes instead.

I don't really know yet.

You?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:34:34](#)**  
(no subject)

So, wait. We have to take two of them, right?

I'm definitely taking Creatures, cause you know that's going to be dead nift.

But, I dunno. What're Runes, like? Do you know? Arithmancy sounds tough, and Divination sounds, I dunno, kinda girly. I mean, I heard you have to drink tea and look at the leaves and stuff.

I thought about Dark Arts, but then I found out you have to get invited to take it. So I'm not sure, I guess.



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:38:21](#)**  
(no subject)

We have to take two? Really? Where did you hear that?


It makes sense, I guess.

Runes were a form of ancient writing, Weasley. And people use them to tell all sorts of things. I've an aunt who scries with them and she says she can tell what people are saying in their sitting rooms clear across the country.

She might have been saying that to frighten me into behaving, though.

Well, I guess if you get invited to Dark Arts you dare not refuse, right?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:49:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I know Runes were a kind of writing.

But taking Runes. Is that like another kind of Divination course? Or like learning French or Latin, you know, a language? Or is it another History course? Cause I don't think I could stand more History.

I think your auntie was having you on. Least I kinda hope so. I mean, that'd be pretty creepy to think of some old lady listening to what other people are talking about in their houses.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-03-01 20:58:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. Well, I think Runes is sort of a combination, isn't it? One has to learn the language, what the symbols mean, and then one can do things with them.

Are you calling my Aunt a liar, Weasley?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:09:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know whether that would be interesting or just complicated.


Er. No more than you were. You're the one said she was just trying to frighten you.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:13:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I heard if you want to get invited to take Dark Arts you can talk to your Head of House and ask them to recommend you.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 19:43:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Are you going to do that?

I heard Gryffindors never get in.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-01 19:47:55](#)  
(no subject)

It's not true Gryffindors never get in, I asked Percy and he knew a few who are taking it.

I'm going to talk to Lockhart but I think I'll talk to Mr Rosier as well.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 20:05:03](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's what I heard at lunch, too. So Kirke's taking it, then? I don't really know her.


Is it true Deverill was taking it before she got caught selling potions last year? I heard the Headmistress made her drop Dark Arts after that, but then you hear loads of stuff about Deverill that's not necessarily true. Hard to know.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-01 20:56:15](#)  
(no subject)


Kirke is taking it but Percy didn't say anything about Deverill one way or the other.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:09:53](#)  
(no subject)

I'll have to ask him, I guess.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-03-01 19:25:06](#)  
(no subject)

I definitely want to do Arithmancy, and Ancient Runes is meant to be useful for lots of things, but Care of Magical Creatures sounds good too, especially with Professor Brutka.

I'd do Dark Arts if I was invited, if that's how it works, I don't know,

but it sounds a bit scary, so I'd rather do Arithmancy and Ancient Runes if I can only pick two.

But then, I bet Divination is pretty good to know about too.

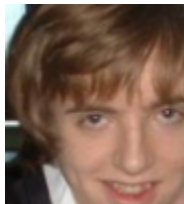
I don't know if I can pick just two. They all sounds rather useful and important for the future. I might go and talk to one of the prefects about it, or maybe Professor Sprout.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 21:11:06](#)

*(no subject)*

I heard Divination is kinda naff. I dunno. What did you hear about it?



 **alt\_ernie** at [2010-03-01 22:30:13](#)

*(no subject)*

I heard it was a bit of an easy option, especially compared to Arithmancy or Ancient Runes. But it still might be useful to know that sort of thing, I suppose, depending on what sort of job you want in the future.

What ones do you reckon you'll do?

Oh, isn't it your birthday today? Happy birthday mate!



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 22:37:35](#)

*(no subject)*

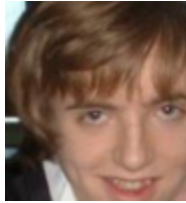
Well, I guess that might be right. And I guess maybe you could find out what kind of job you'll be doing in the future if you take Divination! Maybe you can find out stuff that'll help you impress the people you work for because, like, you'd already know what was going to happen and could make the right decisions before stuff happens.


Does that even make sense?

I'm doing Care of Magical Creatures, for sure, but I'm not sure for the other one. Do you think we have to take two or could we

just do one and a homework period? I mean, not that it's fun to have to do homework, but at least you wouldn't be piling on more for another extra lesson, right?

Yeah. Thanks. It's not the best one ever.




 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-03-01 22:49:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I hadn't thought of that! Maybe I should do Divination after all. I wish we could do a taster lesson of each possible option and then we'd know which ones to do.

I think you have to do at least two, but you could maybe ask your prefects if anyone's ever just done one before? You wouldn't want to be the only one in the whole school doing just one elective though, would you?

Not the best? I suppose being stuck at school for your birthday is a bit rubbish, and no presents because of the ban on parcels and that! Maybe you could ask the house elves if they could bring you some cake or something nice from the kitchens as a special treat instead.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 22:55:51](#)**  
(no subject)

That'd be great if we could see what they'd be like before we have to decide.

And, yeah, I reckon it wouldn't be good to be the only one. And, anywiz, if you could do it, I bet we'd have heard about it because I bet a load of Slytherins would do it so they could get top marks in everything else while all the Ravenclaws take more subjects and do worse.


I don't mind about the presents. Actually, I got some nice cards and some chocs, which is wizard. It's this thing with the journal that's gone totally pear-shaped. Haven't you noticed?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-03-01 23:10:28](#)  
(no subject)


Noticed what?



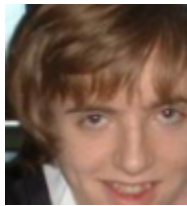
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 23:15:56](#)  
(no subject)


R Y o u h a v i n g m e o n ?



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-01 23:17:28](#)  
(no subject)

He's hexed, Ern. Has to reply to everyone, doesn't he?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-03-02 08:50:48](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, right! I thought he was just being friendlier than normal because it was his birthday. But a curse makes more sense.



**2010-03-01 09:30:00**

*Lazy Week-end*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

As mentioned elsewhere, the celebrations on Friday were very enjoyable. Drinks at White's, followed by supper at The Wolseley, which closed to the public for the occasion. The Warlocks were a truly pleasant surprise. The evening went quite late and I fear some indulged rather more than others. (Speaking of which, Minerva, I trust you stayed over in London? Narcissa was concerned you might try to Apparate all the way back to Hogwarts in your ... condition. Are you quite recovered?) We ourselves stayed at Kensington rather than attempt Wiltshire.

Still working through the notes of thanks to all who sent tokens. Draco, your card was much appreciated. No need to apologise for it: The portrait of your Aunt was exceedingly well-done, particularly seeing as it was from memory. I know that you and your fellow students are under some strain with the current restrictions. The remembrance is more important than the form of present - though in this case, the present itself also served admirably. (And to Ari, for the reading glasses: I look forward to paying you back at a suitable moment!)

Luckily for us, Saturday had no set agenda. I confess it was well after noon before I braved the light of day. We did not even return to the Manor until supper, which was spent in a small party including Ari and Pandora, Stephen, Rabastan, Bella and Rodolphus. Sunday continued the relaxing, quiet trend. I do not think I have spent an entire day at home since Christmas. Even able to read a little for leisure, rather than work. Bliss.

Nonetheless, time marches on: Another birthday gone, and March already. First of the month accounts to-day, of course, along with a dash out to Shroton, Ampfield and Broxtowe, in company with Rookwood and Spencer-Wells, to review the progress of the measures enacted to counter Black's sabotage. At a recent court, Our Lord reminded us all that we must conquer our fears to become truly strong, and quite right. The cure, such as it is, has already shown promising results where it has been introduced and with proper precautions observed as they have been in the camps all along, there remains a minimal danger to purebloods. Still, owing to the fullness of the rest of the day, hope the visits will be brief.


Wizarding Wireless Board this afternoon. And back to the Ministry for another discussion with Plympton, Scrimgeour and Minister Fudge on the status of the DoM investigation.

Narcissa received some ill news early this morning. Her niece was admitted to St Mungo's yesterday, with what the Healers are certain is Black's paralysis. She was in the first stages, they said, but until the cure can be modified for half-bloods there is little the staff can do but keep her comfortable and try to control the fever. Narcissa has not decided yet whether she ought to visit, or if it is better to leave her to the care of the Healers and her rest. She may yet go to St Mungo's tomorrow for her regular volunteer shift.

Meanwhile, court and country await. Back to business.


---



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-01 16:32:51](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sure I can see her for a short time tomorrow when I go. I don't really see any reason to go round there today. I spoke to her healer, Healer Page, this morning via Floo and she said that Nymphadora is in and out of consciousness. Rest is what she needs more than anything else, and interruption can hardly be of use to her right now.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-01 16:57:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Quite reasonable, my dear. I'm sure she'll be fine.




 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:10:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I'm sorry to hear of your cousin's trouble. Is there anything you need?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 17:31:02](#)  
(no subject)

No, indeed, thank you. We're fine.

I have to say I never thought Black would poison his own blood relation, especially seeing as how she was the product of a union he himself fair applauded at the time, despite the disgrace to the family.

I suppose it's a mark of his desperation.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 18:17:11](#)  
(no subject)

Whether it's a mark of his desperation or simply another sign of his utter degeneracy, Black seems to make no distinction between family, friends, enemies, or allies: all of us in Our Lord's realm are his targets.

Of course, I imagine he might have chosen this particular target out of a desire to hurt you and Lucius. He would be hard-pressed to mount a direct attack on you or Lucius, and with Draco safely protected at Hogwarts, Nymphadora was the obvious, easiest mark he could choose.

I did send a note to inform my parents of her situation, but as you know, they're unlikely to trouble themselves on her behalf. I'm afraid she didn't endear herself to them. I apologise for the position this leaves you in, Narcissa, so let me say again that if there is anything I could do to assist you, I'll see that it's done.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 20:15:38](#)  
(no subject)


You're very kind, Barty.

As you know, Nymphadora was a difficult child. We did not hear from your parents often, but when we did it was generally to note that she had a rebellious spirit and a fractious disposition. Her mother's daughter, certainly. For that reason alone, I would have thought Black

might have spared her. Still, the family have had such a hard time of late, what with Lucretia and Cassie both passing so close together. I should hate to have to break more bad news to Mother or Aunt Walburga so soon.

Mr Weasley's report is encouraging. News from the camps or from Mr Rookwood would be more encouraging still.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:14:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry to hear your cousin isn't well, Mrs Malfoy. That's very sad.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:34:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you.

It's Ronald, isn't it? I'm terribly sorry, but I don't believe we've met.

Were you at Draco's fete over Christmas? I don't recall a Ronald on his guest list. But you are in his class, aren't you?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:53:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, ma'am. My name's Ronald Weasley. I'm in second year, like your son.

I was at school for the hols.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-01 20:17:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Ah, yes. Now I remember. Draco has mentioned you on occasion. You're one of Miss Parkinson's friends, are you not?


He's mentioned that as well.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 20:48:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, ma'am. Pansy is my friend.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:29:13](#)**  
(no subject)

And Marvolo as well, if I'm not mistaken.  
Weren't you the young man who arranged for that dramatic entrance at the beginning of the school term? In your father's car, yes?

I do believe Draco mentioned that you've continued to use your broken wand. I can understand your parents wishing to punish you for breaking it in the first place, but surely they could have arranged a suitable replacement by now?

After all, if nothing else, your mother did manage a small codicil in her Aunt Lucretia's will. Surely between that and her other enterprises she could have saved enough by now?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:38:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, ma'am. That was me.

I suppose my mother has her reasons, ma'am.  
And now, at any rate, no one could send a new wand here to the school, so it'll be Easter at least before I could get one. And no one knows yet whether the restrictions will be over by then.

We all hope so, but who knows, right?



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:42:56](#)**  
(no subject)

That's very astute of you. One hopes that your damaged wand will not affect your performance too adversely this year.

I'm sure your parents would be mortified if you had to repeat the whole of second year, or even part of it, and not advance with the others your age.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:50:37](#)

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

Agh!

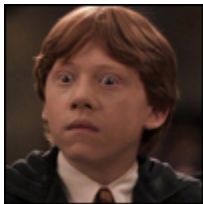


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:54:58](#)

*(no subject)*

I hope so, ma'am.

I'm doing all right in the lessons that don't require wandwork, I think. It's nice of you to worry. I'm sure Mum will appreciate it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 17:23:46](#)

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

So wait.

Does this mean purebloods are getting it now? Or, no. Wait.

Wait!

The Malfoys have a halfblood cousin? How did I not know about that?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 19:34:03](#)

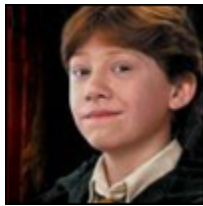
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I don't know how you didn't know about that, everyone in Slytherin knows.

Narcissa Malfoy is Bellatrix Lestrange's sister, you knew that much didn't you?

They had ANOTHER sister. Her name was Andromeda. She married a muggleborn and they had a child together. Andromeda and her husband were both killed during the war but the child wasn't, well she isn't a child anymore she's a grownup. That's Nymphadora Tonks, she works at the Ministry and she's friends with your Dad, she pops round his office for tea sometimes. She had only just graduated from Hogwarts when we started. She was a Hufflepuff, I think.

Anyway Miss Tonks is Draco's first cousin on his mum's side and Hydra's first cousin on her mum's side. And everyone knows Draco and Hydra have a halfblood cousin but of course no one talks about it much.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at 2010-03-01 20:16:28

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

Well, obviously, I knew Mrs Lestrangle and Mrs Malfoy are sisters. They're Blacks. But I didn't know anything about their having another sister who married a muggleborn. That's dead amazing.

I mean, I bet that went down a treat with their family! Though I guess the Blacks must've been used to that sort of thing.

Actually, d'you think that was before or after Sirius Black turned out to be a traitor?

But, see, this is actually worse. They're such what's the word? They talk all about being pure and then they've got mixed marriages and children right there in their own families and they're such such, I dunno, liars to say it's awful and all. That's just. Agh!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-03-01 21:08:06

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

Well it's not as if they APPROVED of Andromeda's marriage. You'll note she's dead now, her husband too. By rights they should have been allowed to live quietly if her husband surrendered his wand, and they weren't.

Miss Tonks is seven years older than us. So she was probably born in 1973. The war was in the early 1980s and Sirius couldn't

have been a traitor before the war because there wasn't a Lord Protector to be a traitor to. So Andromeda Black must have married a muggleborn way before Sirius Black was officially a traitor but he might have had the idea before she did. Hard to go ask, though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:38:35](#)

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

Yeah.

Help!!!

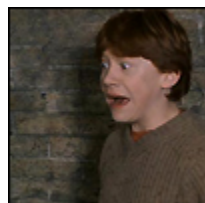
I even have to answer YOU!!!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 21:46:31](#)

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

Well at least if you're answering me you're not poking at Lucius Malfoy or Mr Selwyn or MR CROUCH for Merlin's sake!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:53:47](#)

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

Gah!!!!

I have to go answer Mrs Malfoy again. It doesn't work to do it under the lock.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-03-01 18:24:39](#)


*(no subject)*

I saw your niece yesterday, Mrs Malfoy. I'd happened to pop in at the shop where she works part time and learned she was ill, and as we've developed a friendly acquaintance during her work here at the Ministry, I stopped briefly by the hospital to see how she was doing. She woke a little while I was there, and while she was obviously feeling poorly, she recognised me and told me that the healers were doing all that could be expected.




Molly and I send our wishes for her swift recovery.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 20:20:03](#)  
(no subject)


Thank you very much for the report, Mr Weasley. I'm sure she was grateful for the visit.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 23:34:12](#)  
(no subject)

Hello, Dad!



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-01 19:43:56](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sorry to hear your niece is sick, Narcissa. I'm sure she's receiving the best possible care, and I hope she recovers quickly.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 20:22:45](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Dominic.

Whether she recovers, quickly or otherwise, is I am afraid entirely up to Augustus Rookwood and his team of analysts. The sooner he - or St Mungo's - can substantiate a credible cure for the half-blood strain of Black's paralysis, the better.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 16:47:26](#)  
(no subject)

Your birthday celebration was a welcome recess from the weekend's other duties.

Would you have time for luncheon today? I have a

question or two for you about the interesting turn matters took this morning.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-01 16:55:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Luncheon to-day? ... Possibly, if Spencer-Wells and Rookwood can push our visits to the camps until after the WWN meeting.

I'll have Crispin change the schedule.

I'm sure you are aware of Our Lord's interest in collecting artifacts, particularly anything that may have belonged to Salazar Slytherin.




 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:06:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Hm. Perhaps that's what it was.

If you're able to rearrange things in your schedule, perhaps we should see if Rodolphus is available as well.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:46:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, it's set. Rodolphus says he'll join us if he can break away, but he's just as a tricky point in his latest project.


Would you prefer Sotheby's? Or Clarke's?



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-03-01 17:57:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Let's make it Clarke's. I'll see we get one of their more private tables.




 [alt\\_ron at 2010-03-01 17:18:35](#)  
(no subject)

Hello, sir.

I don't believe we've met. My name's Ronald Weasley, and I'm a student at Hogwarts.


So, well, I guess I just wanted to say 'Hello'.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne at 2010-03-01 19:35:08](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Did you swear off all common sense for your birthday Ron? WHY are you chatting up Draco's father?

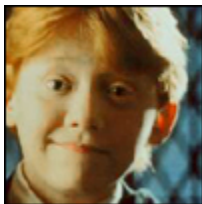



 [alt\\_ron at 2010-03-01 20:06:32](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Uh.

I dunno. It just seemed

Yeah, no idea.



 [alt\\_ron at 2010-03-01 17:09:19](#)  
(no subject)


Hello, sir.

I didn't realise our birthdays are so close together. Odd that!

Er.

Many happy returns and all.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-01 17:48:04](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed.

Well, thank you. And to you, as well.


It's Weasley? Not Arthur Weasley's son, is it? Who is the young man in Communications - Bill? Surely you can't be his son?



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 18:18:15](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, sir. I'm Arthur Weasley's son. Bill's my brother.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-01 20:34:34](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, of course - as my wife pointed out, you are a friend of my god-daughters. And Molly Prewett's son, as well, if I am not mistaken.

That explains much.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 20:51:43](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, sir. My mother is Molly Prewett Weasley.


I'm not sure I understand, sir.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-01 21:08:31](#)  
(no subject)

I'd expect not. Nor are you meant to do, young man.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:13:04](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh. All right, then.

Thank you, sir.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:09:19](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Ron.

SHUT IT.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:13:44](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Er.

I can't?



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-02 23:55:58](#)**  
*Order Only*

Hmph. And what is THAT supposed to mean??

**2010-03-01 13:17:00**

*Good riddance to February*

This has been a thoroughly difficult month; the continued spread of Black's paralysis alone would have seen to this, but naturally Black never sows trouble in one field when he can sow it in ten. There is at least a light at the end of the tunnel regarding the sickness, but it remains rather remote at present.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

I have instructed all my staff to give whatever help MLE requires with the ongoing investigation into both Archer's death and the matter he was being questioned about. In the meantime, I sent word today to Muggleborn Labour regarding the family of the disgraced younger brother; records show they are all alive and even healthy, and they are to be taken into protective custody immediately and removed to a location where they can be quarantined until the epidemic is over. Final decisions will of course not be made until the investigation is complete, but naturally some leniency can be expected for the family of a Protectorate subject who has made a strenuous and sincere (if belated) demonstration of loyalty.

I am optimistic that March will be better, especially if the formula for stopping the spread of Black's paralysis proves good.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-01 19:37:58**  
(no subject)


Hello, sir.

My name is Ronald Weasley. I don't believe we've met, but I read what you say in the journals all the time.

Um. I-- er

Well, thanks for all you're doing to make sure we don't get sick here, I guess.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-01 19:42:27](#)  
(no subject)

You're welcome, I guess.

Are there a good many Hogwarts students who follow my journal entries, Ronald?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 19:52:53](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, yes, sir.

We talk about them whenever you write. Well, so far there's been a lot of what you've said that makes a difference here at the school. About it not being safe for us to go home or anyone to come here. And the older students are all talking about how they hope that by the next Hogsmeade weekend they'll be allowed to go. And then, of course, it was too bad about the firechats and all.

So, I'd say that what you write is followed by almost everyone here.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-02 00:19:06](#)  
(no subject)

So, a hex, is it, my boy?

Let's see. You're a Gryffindor, I see. Arthur Weasley's son. Gareth Archer is a year younger than you, but you're in a small house, surely you know each other. Yes?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 02:46:34](#)  
(no subject)


Ah, yes, sir. It's true about Archer, he's a firstie in my House. Like my sister, sir. She's a firstie, too. And I know him a bit, sir. He doesn't really say much. I mean, I think he was sort of homesick at first and then, like all the firsties, he was probably a little frightened when people started getting petrified, so, I'm not sure, but I think he was one of the ones who had trouble sleeping and

had to go to the Hospital Wing a lot, but I don't think he was one of the ones wetting the bed, at least not that I heard. Anywiz, he seems a nice enough sort, but quiet, y'know. I heard he did really well in Potions first term, and I think he's done well in Charms and Transfiguration. At least I haven't heard that he needed loads of help in those subjects, cause some of my friends have been tutoring firsties and they didn't mention him as one of the ones having loads of trouble or anything. And I don't know why I can't stop telling you stuff, sir. I think it's because my friends were trying to help and they locked up my journal and kind of tied me up so I couldn't get it and write any more tonight, but then it got late and they had to leave and my brother Percy, he's a Prefect, y'know, well Percy had to go off to do his rounds of the castle and walk people from the library or whatever and then I guess my journal got loose from wherever they locked it up because it came flying up the stairs and knocked me in the head and now I'm having to write again, and I can't seem to stop. And is it midnight yet? Because this had better stop at midnight because then it won't be my birthday any more. And anywiz, did I answer your question, sir? Was that what you wanted to know? Because I could maybe tell you more if you asked me something particular, but I don't know what you want to know and anywiz, I don't really know Archer all that well. I didn't even know he didn't live with his dad--well, I mean, obviously, none of live at home when we're at school, but I mean when he's not--I didn't know his parents are--were, I mean--separated or divorced or whatever they were. Cause we never talked about personal stuff like that. Or really about much of anything except what the password is when it's changed or which stairs to take to get to Astronomy without having to go past the library or which veg it's really best not to eat and which sweets are best. Oh, and he told me he follows the Falcons, and he'd like to go out for Chaser next year, and I think he tested out of flying right away. And anywiz, if there's anything else I think of, I'll tell you, I'm sure. At least if I think of it before midnight, but after that, I don't know. I don't think I'd bother you again if you didn't ask me something, y'know? Anywiz, I hope that's what you wanted to know.

So, yeah.






 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-02 03:15:36](#)  
(no subject)

You bring back such memories, lad.

Midnight's hours away yet. I suppose it wouldn't help if you went to bed.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 03:24:10](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think I'd be able to sleep.


And if I did go to sleep, but I kept writing anyway, that really couldn't be good, could it?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-02 04:19:34](#)  
(no subject)

So how are things at Hogwarts? Is everyone bearing up under the quarantine well enough?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 13:07:42](#)  
(no subject)

Um. Good morning, sir.

I think I'm all better now. I mean, I'm pretty sure I'm not hexed any more, but I thought maybe it wouldn't be polite to ignore your question because, actually, it's a pretty important one.

I think for the most part we're doing all right here, but sometimes--and it's really hard to guess when it could happen, I mean, it always comes dead out of the blue--sometimes somebody snaps and goes absolutely shouty crackers here. Or does something really awful.


I mean, I think it's two things. We're all kind of feeling, I don't know, strained, maybe? all the time and so, sometimes somebody'll just reach a place where it's too much--maybe because they've got a Potion that went pear shaped, or they've

got a Charms parchment due, or because it snowed for the sixth day in a row, or because they were expecting an owl from home but it didn't come, or because somebody looked squintwise at them, or whatever--and so they just explode like a dung bomb going off or they come out in hairy hives and have to go to Madam Pomfrey. But then there're other people, ones who see how everyone's hanging on just by their nose hairs or whatever, and they figure out how to make things work to their advantage. Like they'll tell some firstie that they heard noises in the walls at night, and so that firstie starts having screaming fits in the middle of the next night, and then while all the Prefects and everyone are busy dealing with the firstie, the person who told the fib will go nick something from someone, or they'll slip out and do whatever they wanted even though it's after curfew. And some of those people are taking advantage of the fact that almost nobody's ever out around the castle during the evenings, because all the normal people are too scared to go anywhere alone or they're all revising for NEWTs or whatever, and so the people who want to get up to mischief, they can go pretty much anywhere they want and do whatever because they can count on no one seeing them unless it's just seeing them slip back into a room or a dormitory or a club meeting or the library or whatever when they're done. It's really interesting. You can sort of watch people doing this if you know what to look for. I mean, I don't know what they get up to, but I see them coming and going from places sometimes, and I figure it's like chess and they've got some long game going. Or maybe they've just got bad digestive tracts and have to go see Madam Pomfrey a lot in the evenings.

So that's it. We're mostly going on with it pretty well, but everyone's pretty edgy, and every day there's some little thing that makes somebody go all banshee on us, and that grates a little bit more off everybody else's nerves.


Anywiz, I hope you have a good day, sir. I'm really sorry to have pestered you yesterday. It was awfully nice of you to not get cross about it.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-03-02 03:51:38](#)**  
(no subject)

I apologise on my brother's behalf, sir. As is probably clear to you, Ronald has been the victim of a prank, today being his birthday, you understand. He's not normally this...voluble, or determined to talk out of turn. Please excuse his comments in your journal. He realises that you are a very busy and important man and would not dream of addressing you so had he not been under the influence of a rather ill-considered hex.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-02 03:53:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, thank you, Percy. I said that myself. Loads of times. And also without your help. In any way. All day.

Some brother you are.




 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-03-02 04:11:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I believe your brother made his situation quite clear.

He needn't fret on my account.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-01 20:49:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Hear, hear. In that regard, our outing to the camps proved enlightening, Dominic. Augustus feels confident that he can expand the programme to all the camps before the Ides.

The half-blood strain remains resistant, but he believes that he is on the track of a modification that will mitigate the poison's effect. When we left him, he proposed to share his work with Healer Locksley and Chief Healer Acton to-morrow, after he has run some additional tests in his laboratory to-night.


MacMillan also contacted me about the young boy. It seems that his uncle, the one who stepped forward to us in the first place, has personally vouched for his nephew and sister-in-law. There may be some follow-up questions for them, particularly in light of some matters the Lord Protector wished settled, but the doubt over their trustworthiness and loyalty is, at least as far as MacMillan is concerned, resolved.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 20:54:20](#)  
(no subject)

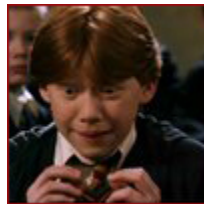
Hello again, sir.




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-01 21:04:23](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Weasley.

Is there something you wished to ask?




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 21:06:13](#)  
(no subject)

Um.


No sir.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-01 21:22:54](#)  
(no subject)

Then I suggest you return to your lessons and try, difficult as it may be for you, to stay out of further trouble.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-01 21:34:06](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, sir. I'll try, sir.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 21:05:04](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, I think we're in agreement about the child. I believe, however, we've sent someone to have a conversation with the estranged widow. 'Estranged' is such an equivocal category.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:06:46](#)  
(no subject)

Hello, sir.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 21:13:48](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

RON, WHY DO YOU KEEP TALKING TO THESE PEOPLE? Are you going to go pester Bellatrix Lestranger next?

SHUT IT.


Oh and good news about Gareth. I hope things come out alright for his mum.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:16:42](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Did she write something?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:18:36](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I don't know what's going on, but I keep  
it's like I have to




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-01 21:34:05](#)

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

BREAK YOUR QUILL. OR HAVE NEVILLE TAKE IT FROM YOU.

Can you reply under the LOCK to everyone at least?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:34:27](#)

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

I dunno! I'll try!!!



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 21:20:02](#)

*(no subject)*

Beg your pardon?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:20:43](#)

*(no subject)*

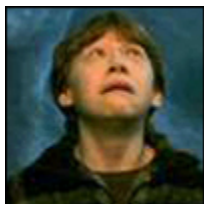
Sir?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 21:24:35](#)

*(no subject)*

Poke your wand where it doesn't belong, and you're likely to have it snapped.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:27:15](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm really sorry, sir! Really!




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 21:30:57](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, but Barty, it's already snapped. Or as good as.

He's the one who took Marvolo to school in that flying contraption, don't you remember?

I can't imagine what's going through his head today, though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 21:57:17](#)  
(no subject)

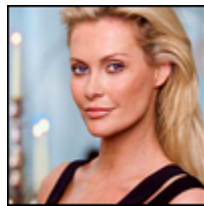
I'm not sure, ma'am.


Someone seems to have hexed me for my birthday. At least that seems likely. I'm trying to stop. Really. But I

I

CaN'

t



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-01 22:02:24](#)  
(no subject)


A hex? How very droll.

Well. That explains everything. Run along, then, and wait until it wears off. Or see if perhaps Professor Acton can remove it for you.

But I do advise you to stop antagonising Barty. He doesn't take well to children, under the best of circumstances. He's liable to hex you himself, and then you'll be in dire straits.

Director Selwyn at least has children, but they are both very busy wizards, you know. As is my husband. Best not to distract them when they are at work.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:08:24](#)  
(no subject)

I'll try, ma'am.

I'm not doing this because I think it's funny.  
Cause I really, really don't!

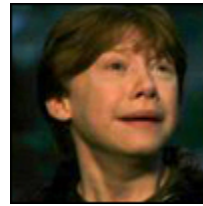
I just can't stop it.


I'm very sorry. Really, truly.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-03-01 22:09:22](#)  
(no subject)

That's enough.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 22:10:49](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I'm really sorry, sir. See, I have to answer  
if you say something to me. It's a hex.

Or a curse


Or something

Someone thought it'd be funny

But

it's really, really NOT FUNNY AT ALL!!!!




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-01 21:28:08](#)  
(no subject)

Don't you have some homework you should be  
doing, lad?






 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:30:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, sir. That's true, sir.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:26:55](#)**  
(no subject)

It most certainly is.

We received an owl from the third brother as well, Adalbert I think his name was, asserting his own ignorance of Aloysius's activities. He also vouches for the widow and said he'd sent a bundle of letters on to MLE for examination. Apparently Aloysius carried on a lengthy correspondence with his niece at Hogwarts. Adalbert said he saw no sign that his brother had made a serious attempt to corrupt his daughter but was appalled to think it was only a matter of time. At any rate you may wish to question the niece, if you can manage it given the quarantine. The present head girl interned with Bellatrix, didn't she? Perhaps she could see if the niece knows anything of interest. It's unlikely she was involved in seditious activities but he may have let something slip in a more recent letter.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-03-01 21:29:57](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a good thought about Miss Sandoval. I'll have a word with Bellatrix about it this afternoon.

**2010-03-01 15:48:00**

*gone and back*

Some people have asked me where Tully is so I suppose I should just tell.

He's been sick, but I don't know with what, I just knew that he wasn't feeling very good.

I noticed it a few week ago, right after Draco's mudblood was killed.

I took him to Professor Brutka who said he didn't seem that sick and then he reminded me that animals can't get the epidemic.

But then he said he could keep Tully for observation for a little while if it would make me feel better, so I said yes please, Sir, and that's what he did.

Only today Tully was back in his hutch by my bed and Professor Brutka left a note saying that Tully was doing well and to just make sure he gets plenty of water.

So I think that means Tully is all better now.

That's good, right?

I have to say, though, that Tina was a lot less work and worry.

The older students are talking about electives today.

I wish I could take electives next year, I'm certain I'd be very good at Care of Magical Creatures by now.

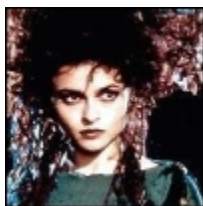
And very good at Dark Arts too, of course.

I don't know if I'd be allowed to take Divination, though.

There seems to be a lot of birthdays this time of year, haven't you noticed?



 [alt\\_hydra](#)



---


 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at **2010-03-01 23:03:14**

*(no subject)*

I did tell you that caring for a life, no matter how minor, would require work and sacrifice. Do you feel you have benefited from both the happiness and the heartache that your pet has provided you with?


And of course you won't be allowed to take Divination.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 23:27:12](#)  
(no subject)


Hello, ma'am. My name is Ronald Weasley, a *nd*



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-03-02 00:27:55](#)  
(no subject)

Who?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 02:46:19](#)  
(no subject)

R-Ronald Weasley, ma'am. I'm sorry I didn't answer before. My friends sort of knocked me out so I couldn't embarrass myself here, but now it's after curfew and my journal got loose from wherever it was and it's here, and I'm still hexed, I guess, and have to write to whoever writes to me. (Should that be whomever? I can never get that straight. Percy's always trying to tell me I say it wrong, and I just got it all twisted up in my mind so I'm never sure which it should be, and anywiz, I'm sure you don't care about that, but I had to tell you because I'm hexed, see? and I can't help it.)

I'm really sorry if I'm interrupting your evening, ma'am. I don't mean to be rude. At all. It's just I turned thirteen and somebody thought it'd be funny to put this spell on me--or maybe it's on my journal, I'm not really sure which--and it was a really mean thing to do, and it's just got worse all day, so now I just can't seem to stop or I really, really would, I promise.

I wish somebody would come and take this journal away again. I mean, I know it'd be bad if they did something to break it or burn it or whatever, but I really wish they'd do something so it couldn't get back to me, cause I can't help it and I really, really want to be able to stop.

D'you know I went to Madam Pomfrey and she told me that this kind of hex can't really be helped by Medi-magic, because it'd

didn't really hurt me or make me sick or anything, so if she gave me a potion, it might have side effects, so I'd just have to wait for it to wear off, but I don't really think this is very healthy, do you? I mean, I'm here bothering people like you and if you got annoyed with me, who knows what you might decide to do to punish me? And I really couldn't blame you if you got annoyed, cause, actually, I'm really annoyed myself and it's not me I'm bothering if you know what I mean. I mean, Professor Acton got annoyed and we just went and asked if she could break the hex. She just sent us away and closed her door. And Professor Lockhart did some sort of spell, but it just made my journal sort of spark and pop, and when it started to smoke, I thought maybe it wasn't a good idea to let him try the next thing he thought of because I know it's wrong to let anything bad happen to my journal. Maybe it's even illegal, I'm not really sure, but since the Lord Protector gave them to us, it's important to keep them safe, even if I'm pretty sure He doesn't mean for people to be hexed so they pester other people in their books like this. Anywiz, I think it's getting a little better now, so maybe I'll be able to stop writing you, ma'am and go write someone else. I'm really hoping it'll all be over by midnight, but if it's not, may I just say how really, really sorry I am? Cause, really, I totally am. Dead sorry.

Yeah.

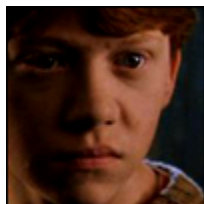



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-02 03:54:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Ronald, come see me immediately and I'll help you get this sorted out.

(My apologies, ma'am. As Ronald has made quite plain, he's been the victim of a rather ill-considered hex. Someone's idea of a birthday prank, I'm afraid.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 04:08:15](#)

*(no subject)*


STOP ANSWERING ME BACK!! IT'S NOT HELPING!!!!!!



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-03-02 05:11:15](#)  
(no subject)

For your sake, small one, I hope that you take swift and stern revenge on those who have put you in this humiliating position. It is one thing to waste my time, and quite another to further your family's reputation for uselessness and trouble making.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-01 23:23:53](#)  
(no subject)

Hi, Hydra.

I'm sorry your rabbit was ill. I didn't know that. I'm glad he's better now and that you can have him back.

Why couldn't you take Divination?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-02 15:55:12](#)  
(no subject)

Hydra, dear, I did want to say something to you last night, but it seemed prudent to wait until Mr Weasley's birthday present had worn off, so we should not need to be interrupted.

I'm sorry your pet was ailing. You did well to take him to your professor. Did he say whether it was anything more than dehydration?

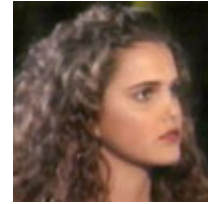
I remember wishing I could enroll in the advanced lessons early, too. It's important to remember that you're still adjusting to life at school, and next year there will be a heavier workload in your lessons. By the time you choose your additional courses, you'll be hardier and more prepared for the extra effort.

I'm sure you'll have no trouble, however, in any lessons you decide to pursue. (I heartily agree with your mother, though: Divination is far too woolly for a serious witch to consider.)

**2010-03-01 17:12:00**

*Oh, for Pity's Sakes*

Weasley, can't you do something about your brother? He's bothering everyone with his incessant replies to everyone.




 [alt\\_penelope](#)

If it's a hex, someone take it off of him, already.

Some of us are trying to REVISE.

---



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-01 22:20:30**

*(no subject)*

Sorry to bother you, Clearwater. It's not like I want to be doing this!




 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-03-02 03:44:07**

*(no subject)*

I've been on rounds. I thought the situation had been dealt with, but apparently it's, er, broken out again. I'll take care of it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-02 03:58:22**

*(no subject)*

If you're going to do something about it, come do it! Otherwise, I'm going to be stuck up here, writing in this journal to everyone who makes a comment. I keep having to tell you things because you keep answering all these people.

And, Merlin, don't you even dare go write anything to Mrs Lestrangle!!! I don't want to have to say anything more anywhere she's likely to see it.

**2010-03-01 21:39:00**

*Ronald?*

I've been doing Prefect rounds and so haven't been checking my journal. But I'm back now.




Why don't you come see me in the Common Room? I can give you your birthday present and, er, take care of your little problem, I think.

 [alt\\_percy](#)

I hope.


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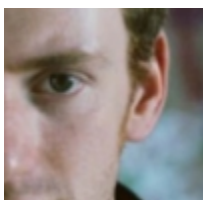
 [alt\\_lana](#) at **2010-03-02 03:44:54**  
(no subject)


Honestly, Weasley. Your brother has been entirely out of control all day! Harassing not only other students, but public figures as well. It's ridiculous that you cannot keep him in check.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-02 03:55:18**  
(no subject)

There's no need to be rude about it. It's not like I want to have to reply to everyone here, you know.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-03-02 03:56:33**  
(no subject)

It has been rather unfortunate, but I think it unfair to hold Ronald responsible for his words while under the influence of an ill-considered prank hex.

Anyway, I'll get him sorted out.

(If I can find him. He seems to have disappeared for the moment. Ronald? Where are you?)




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 04:00:24](#)  
(no subject)

I'm in my room, with this journal and my quill going as fast as they can go!! I'll break my neck if I try to come down to the common room.

ARGHH!!!




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-02 04:03:09](#)  
(no subject)

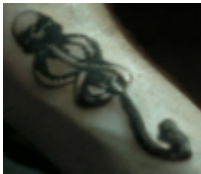
What now?!


Never mind, don't answer that. Don't come down to the Common Room, I'll come up.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 04:06:08](#)  
(no subject)


I can't NOT answer it, you eejit. Just COME UP HERE AND DO SOMETHING TO HELP!!!!



 [alt\\_amycus](#) at [2010-03-02 04:01:22](#)  
(no subject)

If you're unable to run him down to earth, I'll be very happy to take the matter out of your hands entirely.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-02 04:01:57](#)  
(no subject)

Um, I'm sure that won't be necessary, sir. At all. He's in Gryffindor Tower.






 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 04:03:04](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, sir. I'm sure that won't be necessary!



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-02 04:07:15](#)

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

I've locked Ron's quill up in his trunk and now I've TACKLED him and I'm SITTING on him, trying to keep his journal out of his reach. And he's still struggling to reach for Seamus' quill.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 04:15:40](#)

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

It doesn't do any good to lock up the quill, he'll just cut himself and write in BLOOD if he has to, he was doing that earlier. Pansy and I used petrificus totallis, can you do that one Neville?

Percy can at least surely, you can have him do it.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-02 04:01:37](#)

(no subject)


One more hour left to go.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 04:03:59](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know how it got back to me, but it's worse than ever!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-02 04:13:31](#)  
*(no subject)*

Well, most everyone has stopped writing, so you don't have to worry about having lengthy talks with the Headmistress or the Minister or anything at least.

And it's not like you were telling anyone off. It could have been the sort of hex that makes you say rude things. That would have been really bad, especially given who all you had to talk to. And I think everyone understood it was the hex, not you, so no harm done. You didn't get in too bad of trouble other than the detention. At least not yet.

And I'm sorry I've posted this because it means you'll have to write back, but I feel badly about having to leave you like that because of curfew.

Your fingers must hurt something awful.

**2010-03-02 00:10:00**

*Order Only: Is it safe?*

I think it's after midnight in England.

Molly? Arthur? Is it safe, d'you think? I was afraid to post, even Order Only, for fear your Ron might feel compelled to answer and not know why - and have nothing *to* answer, at that. But I suppose the lock on the journals means these posts don't even show up in his book, do they? Nor the replies? Not knowing for sure what sort of hex that dreadful girl cast on him, I didn't want to chance it.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Merlin, though, much as I feel for the kid, and it could have gone much worse, mind, but ... that was well done. My cheeks still hurt from smiling. When he wrote that essay for that Death Eater, Selwyn, Circe, I about fell out of my chair laughing. It does bring back memories, that.

One for the books, that was. Er. No pun intended.


At least Selwyn, Malfoy and Crouch have given us one bit of news about Archer. It doesn't seem like his family will suffer too badly apart from his loss. That's something. I wonder, though, what Crouch and Malfoy spent their lunch talking about. I have my theory, but it's just a hunch, nothing more. I'm not sure what Voldemort would want with a ring that bites its owner, though. Seems like a dangerous sort of ornament, even if it did belong to Slytherin, which I doubt highly.

Anyway, Arthur, I see you decided to tell Narcissa about Nymphadora. For once, I hope that she's able to light a fire under Rookwood and get him stirring his cauldron for everyone's sake, not just Nymphadora's.

Moony, I'll assume you made it home all right, but give us a shout when you can to reassure me your furry problem is all cleared up for the next twenty-eight days.



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 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2010-03-03 16:24:17**  
(no subject)

Sorry, yes, I'm fine, everything was fine. Bit distracted at the moment, but otherwise fine.

**2010-03-02 07:49:00**

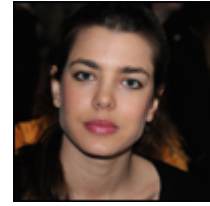
*XVI.*

**Attention: Aurelia Archer**

I need to speak with you today. The Headmistress has offered that we could use her antechamber during lunch; the elves will bring us our meal. If you'd like to bring Moran or one of your other Prefects with you, that would be fine, though I imagine you might prefer to have this discussion more privately.

Also, the Headmistress asks that you bring any letters or other effects your late uncle may have given you.

I look forward to seeing you at noon sharp.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

**2010-03-02 09:58:00**

*(no subject)*

Well, I'm certainly glad *that's* done with.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-02 15:00:56**

*(no subject)*

You and me both!

Oh, and thanks. For the card and the chocs, too.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-03-02 15:12:44**

*(no subject)*

That's what friends are for, fishface.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-03-02 15:41:35**

*(no subject)*

Once your acquaintance discovered it was a good-natured hexing, it was rather amusing. Narcissa and I had a good chuckle over his predicament at supper. I rather think you should have listened to Madam


Pomfrey's advice and simply let the hex run its course; it likely would have saved you a good deal of trouble and your friend some considerable pain. (Was that blood in a few of those entries?)

I must say that while Mr Weasley's verbal diarrhoea towards Bellatrix was the highlight of the escapade, the most valuable information that the affair disclosed was his insight as to how you are all managing with the quarantine. There is a good reason most of you return home on your holidays, to escape the pressure of communal living. However, there is cause for hope: Mr Rookwood's proposed cure seems to be efficacious in the camps. With luck, expanding the programme will have the worst of the epidemic over by Easter. We may at the least be able to bring pureblood students home, which ought to alleviate some measure of your collective dystopia.

At any rate, he's quite lucky the culprit had no truly malicious intent. Everyone understands the unfortunate effects of an occasional ambush, and birthdays make one an easy target. (You'd asked about presents before; I didn't mention that I received a few items myself one might classify as 'gag gifts.' It's an occupational hazard of getting older.)

Have you thought about your electives?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-02 16:21:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I think we were more worried that he'd get hacked off and start yelling at people he oughtn't if he got frustrated or something, and some of the people he was talking to don't have your sense of humour. But yeah, no harm done.


Going home for Easter would be brill. I'd really like to see mum again, and you of course. And I could sort out some things that need sorting.

I think Ancient Runes would be interesting. I want to learn more about it, and see if it'd be something I'd like to keep learning. Because it's about patterns and solving puzzles and languages and things. Well it's a bit more than that of course, but all those bits sound like something I'd enjoy. And I think Professor Brutka is really interesting and a really good teacher, so Care of Magical Creatures might be fun, at least just for the year.

Other than that, I'm not sure. Do you think I ought to go for Dark Arts?

And who knows? I may *detest* Runes.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-02 18:55:27](#)**  
(no subject)


Sadly, Dark Arts was not available when I was at school, or we should all have taken it, certainly.

I rather liked Runes, actually. Your father and I both took that and Care of Magical Creatures. I also took Arithmancy,

along with Ari, but I admit I did not continue with them after OWL level, by choice. By that time I needed to streamline my academic curriculum as much as possible owing to my father's health, and thus I elected to drop back to only core classes. So if you detest Runes, you could simply push through your OWL and then let it go.

The reverse could not be said for Dark Arts, but there are certainly other sources besides school to learn the most useful and common of these techniques. You might consult Miss Professor Carrow as to whether she believes you possess the temperament for their study.




 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-03-02 20:01:32](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure she'd tell me one way or the other. And you're right, there are some things I don't necessarily have to take entire courses in to learn what I need.

What was Arithmancy like? I've heard it has maths. I'd be up for three electives, for sure, but I don't care to take Divination, so it'd be between Arithmancy and Dark Arts, I guess.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-02 20:42:40](#)  
(no subject)

Everyone always groans over Arithmancy because of the maths. It's not too arduous - and the maths may be the basis for the form, but it's more than just that. Theory, for one thing. And a good deal of comparative study. Challenging, but interesting. I was disappointed to give it up, in fact.

I think Ptolemy is in the NEWT-level course. You could ask him to show you his textbooks. I'd send you one of my old ones but of course, that's impossible at present.

Of course, the inclusion of Dark Arts is definitely an advantage for your generation, one the Lord Protector was eager to see given to you. If Professor Carrow believes you would do well at it, it would be foolish not to pursue them.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-02 22:27:16](#)  
*(no subject)*

I'll ask her and see, then. And talk to Ptolemy too. I just don't know enough about what it's like in Arithmancy to make a good decision yet, so once I do, I'll be in a better place to figure out

what is best.



**2010-03-02 15:13:00**

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



Ugh.

Acton made a total meal of it during our lesson today, going through all the Apparent Characteristics of the Curse I was under ('Or was it the journal itself?')--she wrote it all up on the blackboard. Blerg! I was so hacked off I could have curled those long, pointy nails of hers just by thinking about it, but I didn't.

 [alt\\_ron](#)

Really, I didn't do anything. I just sat there. And I even answered her questions when she was horrible and made me answer. Mostly because she was trying to make out it might have been a spell that I cast that went wrong because of my wand, and I didn't want to prove she's right that I'm sometimes doing stuff I don't really try to do (when I get frustrated, y'know or angry, like that time in Carrow's lesson).

But everyone knows I didn't curse my journal yesterday. For one thing, I only do stuff accidentally that I kind of want to see happen (like roast Carrow alive). It's never stuff I don't wish would happen. Like me having to chat up the Malfoys and Mrs Lestrangle!

Er. Except when stuff rebounds, I guess.

And she's totally right. Mrs Lestrangle, I mean. I have to get Padma back for this. Right away!

I've been thinking all afternoon, but I can't decide. What do you think I should do? What's the best way to really wipe that smug sneer off her ugly face?

I could make her nose look like a pig's. I think I could do that one and make it stick. But, I don't know. I don't think I could do it without anyone knowing.

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 22:36:10](#)  
(no subject)


Ron, you did good today in Acton's class. Really. She wanted you to take the bait and you didn't, and you're right, everyone knows someone cursed you, you didn't do this to yourself.

But

It's really true that it's better to wait a bit before you get revenge on someone, because first of all they aren't as likely to be watching their back, and second they aren't as likely to know it was you if you'd rather not get caught (and it's always better not to get caught).

So I really don't think you should take strategy advice from BELLATRIX LESTRANGE, honestly. She might be sincere (because I expect she was terrifying even when she was a second year, she doesn't know how it works when you're NOT someone everyone's scared of) but she also might be baiting you, just like Acton, to see if she can get you to make a big enough mistake to get yourself expelled.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:31:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.


Yeah, you might be right. I hadn't thought about Mrs Lestrangle wanting to get me to get myself in trouble. I was too busy thinking she probably wants to kill me.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 02:52:45](#)  
(no subject)

I mean in some ways it's a little less satisfying when you get your revenge but they DON'T know it's you. But not getting in trouble kind of makes up for it.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 03:41:18](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah. I can see that, I guess. Just. I don't know how long I can wait.

By the way, did you see SeaFinnigan wants to take Dark Arts. That bloody figures.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 03:45:53](#)  
(no subject)

Wait.

You haven't decided you're going to take it, have you?

D'you think you have to so you, I dunno, keep the right people thinking you think the right things or whatever it is you do. That whole Slytherin-thinking thing makes my brain hurt. You do know that, don't you?

I mean, I thought it sounded sort of nift, but now it's just all prats and evil wankers wanting to take it. And, like, what are they going to learn? How to curse Weasleys, isn't it?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 03:57:56](#)  
(no subject)

Pansy might feel like she has to take it if Lucius Malfoy tells her to, and if she does, I may try to take it to keep her company. But I don't expect I'll get in, I mean I'm a half-blood and Amycus Carrow hates me, I don't expect his sister will be keen on letting me in. If there's a half-blood in our year who does get in it'll be Finnigan.

OF COURSE it's the prats and evil wankers, anyway, they don't call it 'Dark Arts' because it's all sunshine and kittens do they?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 04:06:16](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't think about that. That they wouldn't let you in. That's so daft.

And, well obviously it's not about nice stuff, but I'd be totally keen on learning how to hex people without them knowing it's me, right? I mean, Dark Arts means it's secret and, what's it called, not stealthy

yeah, subtle

right?

when you get stuff done and no one can figure it out, right?

I guess that's not really something I'd be naturally good at, but I can see how it'd be dead useful. And I know you see it, too. It's too bad, really: if we were all three in there, then look out Padma Patil! We'd be totally unstoppable, terrorising all the filthy backstabbing prats around here.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 04:20:05](#)  
(no subject)

The word you're looking for is 'subtlety,' and you Gryffindors are not exactly known for it.

Clearly it's a learnable skill, though!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 22:37:21](#)  
(no subject)

Also, Ron, I don't think Padma acted alone. I think there were at least two other people in on it and I think one of them was Seamus. He was soooooo helpful getting your diary back. Would he usually do that? If he didn't know something was up?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-02 22:50:56](#)  
(no subject)

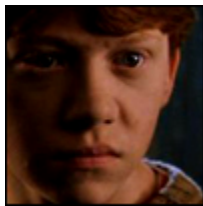
Seamus? Hadn't thought of that.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 23:00:49](#)  
(no subject)

Didn't you see him talking to Padma yesterday?  
They shot each other this LOOK.

I don't think he could've done the spellwork though, and Padma seemed really confident that no matter what, it couldn't be pinned on her, so I think someone else probably actually did the curse.

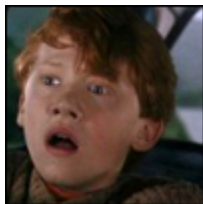



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:33:30](#)  
(no subject)

Wait.

That toad! (Sorry Nev, nothing against Trevor, y'know.)

He's totally dead. He'd better not go to sleep where I can get him! I completely mean it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:39:51](#)  
(no subject)

But hang on.

Who else could it've been? It's not like she got the twins to do it! I know they didn't. Or anyway, I know they wouldn't do it for her.

But.

It wasn't Dean, and I know it wasn't you, Nev. So what're you saying?

You really think Seamus couldn't have done it? He totally could've done while I was taking my shower--Morgana's nevermind--  
THAT'S WHY PATIL WANTED TO KNOW WHEN I'D SHOWERED  
LAST 'CAUSE SHE KNOWS THAT'S WHEN HE DID  
IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I'M SO GOING TO HEX HIM.

I'M GOING TO HEX HIM TO HANGSWORTH AND BACK

AND THEN I'M GOING TO DUMP BOIL BROTH ON HIM WHILE  
HE'S SLEEPING

THAT TOTAL

UTTER

FILTHY

PRAT!!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 23:53:11](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think Seamus is a good enough wizard.  
Isn't he the one who blew up the feather when he  
was trying to learn the hover charm?

Someone else could've hexed you at breakfast, don't you think?  
You didn't start in until after breakfast.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 00:11:31](#)  
(no subject)


Well, but maybe no one wrote anything until  
after breakfast. I mean. When did you write  
yours? And there was that witch in Tunbridge  
Wells or wherever, who went on and on about  
my mum and her jam when I talked to her. That was during  
breakfast, wasn't it?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 02:50:42](#)  
(no subject)

That might've been breakfast. I wrote my thing in the night, but you wouldn't have seen it till you got up.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 03:48:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well, all right then. Maybe you're right it didn't start until I was at breakfast or I'd have had to write to you before that.

So wait. Does that mean Finnigan didn't curse me? Cause if he didn't, then who did?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 04:01:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well even if it did happen while you were sleeping, it also could've been Lavender or Parvati. They're in your house, they could come into your dorm while you were sleeping.

Unless Gryffindor House keeps the girls out of the boys' dorm as well as the boys out of the girls'.

If it was at breakfast it could've been anyone, I mean Padma has loads of friends and some of them are very clever especially at hexing and curses. Draco, for instance, but I doubt it was him because he wasn't around laughing at you yesterday. I don't know what he's up to, he's been kind of distracted lately.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 04:10:57](#)  
(no subject)

D'you think you could ask Stretton if he heard who did it? I mean, he might have done, right?

Yeah, you're right about Malfoy, but I don't think he was anywhere near me. And nor was Marvolo, though he could totally do it. He knows loads of Dark Arts

already, I think.

You don't think it was him, do you? I mean, honestly, if I thought it was, I'd

I don't know




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 04:24:10](#)  
(no subject)

It wasn't Harry. First of all, he's been as distracted as Draco. Second, if he were going to curse you he wouldn't do something that would make you run around pestering people like Bellatrix Lestrange. He'd think that was a bad idea but also his own life sometimes gets harder when the important adults are in a bad mood, you know?

Besides, he could care less that Padma got her hair hexed off. I think he thought it was funny.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 04:31:14](#)  
(no subject)

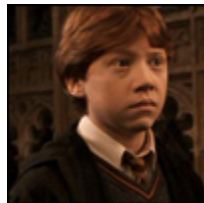
Maybe.


But, really? Who knows what he thinks.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-03-03 20:20:36](#)  
(no subject)

I do!! It wasn't Harry, honestly.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 20:44:17](#)  
(no subject)

There you go, making excuses for him again. What was it you said the Headmistress calls that? Whatever. You shouldn't do it.






 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-03-03 20:45:59](#)  
(no subject)

You're just angry with him, Ron!!!! If you calmed down you'd see.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 21:03:38](#)  
(no subject)

Of course, I'm angry with him, Hermione.

What would I see? That he's not my friend, and I was an eejit to think he was?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 04:30:25](#)  
(no subject)

And I could ask Stretton but he might not know. Padma isn't exactly one of his confidantes. I mean if you want to know who has a stash of Bertie Botts he's your man but 'who hexed me,' I'm not sure.

You could ask Katrina Bundy if she saw who did it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 04:11:25](#)  
(no subject)

This really stinks, y'know?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-03 04:03:06](#)  
(no subject)

Finnigan bloody well knew about it, though.

I'd tell you not to turn your back but that's a bit impractical when you share a dorm.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-03 04:12:21](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's him who'd better not turn his back on me.

I promise it won't take much for me to hex his pants on fire.



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-03-02 22:50:06](#)  
(no subject)


I dunno, Ron.

First of all, do you really want to take Mrs Lestrangle's advice? I mean, about anything? It's one thing for her to go on about revenge. She's got a department of Aurors at her back, and who's going to cross her if she decides to make an example of anyone? But, well, it's maybe not so easy for someone like you or me.

Second, how do you know for sure it was Padma? Sure, she probably enjoyed what happened to you and was laughing along with everyone, but that doesn't mean she was the one who did it. If you do something to humyl-- humil-- to get back at her, well...she just had her hair hexed off and she'd probably be spoiling for a fight if you got caught. And she'd probably have Lana Sandoval standing at her elbow giving her hints about what hexes to use.

(I found a book about wand lore in the library. It was misfiled in with the magical creatures section, and it doesn't look like it's been checked out since 1943. Anyway, it has a section on wand repair. Maybe it'd give you some ideas of new things to try? I've got it in my book bag, and I'll give it to you at dinner.)




 **alt\_neville** at [2010-03-02 22:52:43](#)  
(no subject)

Guess we're thinking along the same lines, Sally-Anne.

What you should do, Ron, is maybe ask Fred and

George? They'd probably have great ideas, and THEY don't get caught. Well, most of the time, not unless they want to be, that is.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:49:01](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, yeah, obviously we should talk to them, but where are they when you need them, huh? Were they anywhere to be seen yesterday? NO! I found Lee, but even he didn't know where they'd scarpered off to.

So, yeah, it'd be great if my big brothers would help a bit! Oi!!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:44:50](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, yeah. I know. Mrs Lestrangle probably would love to see me do something filthy to get Padma back just so she could arrest me and send me to the camps or something. So, yeah.

I totally know it was Padma, okay? She acted just exactly like the twins do when they've pulled something: she was there all day making me say stuff on the journals and poking fun at how I had to talk to all those people I'd never talk to ever if I could possibly help it. Well, Mr Director Selwyn was all right, but the others? I mean Mr Crouch?!!!! Merlin's dirty pants, Nev. He was about to hex me through the book!!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-02 23:54:22](#)

*(no subject)*

Mr Selwyn was kind to you because he thought the curse was funny. Also he was hoping to get incriminating information out of you on Gareth, if you knew anything.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-03 00:08:05](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah. I know he wanted me to tell him stuff on Archer. And I didn't know much, but I tried really hard not to say anything that could sound bad or make him ask more questions or whatever.

But I think Archer's pretty hacked off at me anyway. I saw him this morning, and he looked like he wanted to hex me. I don't know what he was cross about. I mean, it's not like I could help it, you know?

But he was nice about the rest of it. Mr Selwyn, I mean. And, I don't know, I thought it was nice that he's worried about us here at the school. How we're doing and all.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-03 00:32:43](#)  
(no subject)

Suppose Archer's sort of hacked off at the world. Can't blame him, really.


Yeah, Mr Selwyn did sound okay.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-02 23:45:58](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and yeah. Okay. That book sounds good. Did you read it already? What's it suggest?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-03 00:31:07](#)  
(no subject)

Haven't had a chance to look yet. But I was thinking, it was probably written before Spello-tape was invented. So maybe it has some older ways of repairing wands. Anyway, it's worth a try. I'll show

you at dinner.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-03 00:51:20](#)  
(no subject)

Heh!




 **alt\_gredforge** at [2010-03-03 04:20:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we agree that waiting for revenge is probably the best bet. Often, what makes a prank good isn't what you do, it's how you time it. No sense in pulling off a wonderful prank and getting caught, right?

As for ideas, we have a few. Meet us in the common room tomorrow morning, and we can go over some.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-03 04:29:58](#)  
(no subject)

Now you're talking!

I'll be there.

**2010-03-02 20:58:00**

*Electives*




 **alt\_seamus**

So Mr Rosier owed me this morning already and had all sorts of advice about what I should take. He said I didn't need to ask Professor Lockhart for a recommendation to take Dark Arts because he'd write to Miss Professor Carrow himself. He said Divination can be worth taking simply to reinforce how 'generally inapplicable to anything in particular' it is, and that Care of Magical Creatures is enjoyable but 'somewhat overspecialised,' I think he means I'm not likely to wind up as a dragon keeper like Charlie Weasley. And he said Arithmancy was 'intellectually taxing but potentially highly rewarding to a diligent student' and Ancient Runes is 'more useful than you'd think, but less useful than you'd hope.'

So I still don't know.

Other than Dark Arts. If I get in, anyway. He definitely thought I should take Dark Arts if Miss Professor Carrow would let me.




 **alt\_harry** at **2010-03-03 20:19:41**  
(no subject)

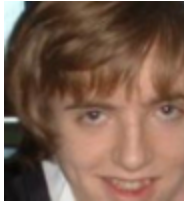
Father has lots of advice too. Obviously I'm to take Dark Arts. He told me to take Ancient Runes also 'it's part of our heritage.'


You might not become a dragon keeper but Care of Magical Creatures looks fun doesn't it?



 **alt\_seamus** at **2010-03-04 02:30:14**  
(no subject)

It does look fun. Mr Rosier said if I took three electives it would be all right to take one class just because it looked fun, so I could maybe take Dark Arts, Arithmancy, and Care of Magical Creatures. OR I could take Dark Arts, Arithmancy, and Divination. Magical Creatures sounds more fun than Divination anyway.




 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-03-03 20:47:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Does he think you should do Dark Arts, Arithmancy and Ancient Runes, then? Those ones looked like the most useful ones to me. But, like Marvolo said, Care of Magical Creatures might be fun.

It sounds like Mr Rosier doesn't think much of Divination though, so maybe don't bother with that? It sounds a bit soft anyway, all that fortune telling and stuff.


You're really lucky having someone like Mr Rosier to advise you. I wrote to my dad to ask him, but he's not written back yet. I think they're really busy at St Mungo's at the moment because of that Black's Poison.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-03-04 02:31:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I think he thinks the real reason to take Divination is so if a fortune teller gives you advice, you know whether or not to listen.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-03 22:56:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I'm not taking Divination, but I think Parvati really wants to. And Lav.

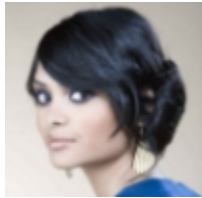
I've already asked Professor Vector and Professor Lockhart about Dark Arts, and I'm definitely doing Arithmancy. You don't really know Professor Vector but she's dead nift. I can't wait to have her as a teacher in lessons, not just as Head of House.


If Care of Magical Creatures were really important, then I'd do it, of course. But I think Ancient Runes may be more useful. I mean, there are loads of magical creatures at the London Zoo, and no one needs a Magical Creatures NEWT to go learn about them, right? I mean, only if you're going to be working with them, right?



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-04 02:33:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well it might be useful if you have a large estate and keep creatures. Even if you don't work with them every day.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-04 04:02:43](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe.

But that's one of the things that mudbloods are so good for, right? I mean, some Muggles can't even see certain magical creatures. But mudbloods can tell they're there, at least, and take care of them if they're trained properly. With wizard supervision, of course.

I guess it would be helpful to be able to know what to do with them, and all. And like you said about Mr Rosier and Divination, to know if the help are lying to you about your creature collection.

Really, I think Parvati just wants to take it to study unicorns more. She's still really proud of being chosen to lead the unicorn ceremony last year.



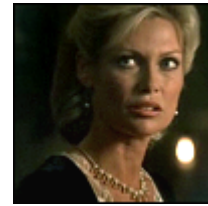
**2010-03-03 00:09:00**

*(no subject)*

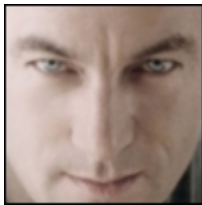
Lucius?


Might you still be up and about?

I'm utterly unable to sleep. If you're still reviewing journals, would you care to come back downstairs for a brandy?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-03-03 05:13:28**

*(no subject)*

Of course, my love. You just caught me.

Not still fretting about to-day's event at St Mungo's, surely?

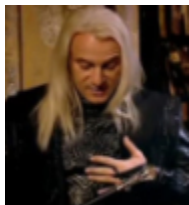


 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-03-03 05:18:30**

*(no subject)*

Hardly fretting, dearest. But it's certainly on my mind.

I've a full day tomorrow and don't wish to resort to the sleeping tisane.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-03-03 05:20:26**

*(no subject)*

I'll be there directly.

I'm sorry, again, that your news took me back to the Ministry this afternoon. I'd have stayed if I'd realised you were this shaken.



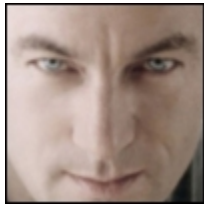
 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 05:23:12](#)  
(no subject)


No, naturally you had to go.

I just keep --

You said --

I had so hoped we'd have Draco home at Easter.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-03 05:24:06](#)  
(no subject)

I know.

I'll come down.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-03 13:04:49](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

Arthur, Remus, did you read this?

What's the latest on our Tonks?

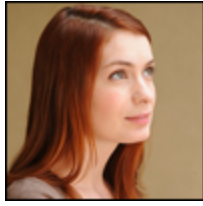



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-03-03 18:42:04](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

I went to St Mungo's this afternoon, but they've locked the ward down and wouldn't let me in.

They said she was doing as well as could be expected, but wasn't taking any visitors. I asked why, but they just said they couldn't let anyone in, even respectable pureblooded Junius Ponds.

There really wasn't anything more I could do without arousing suspicion, so I left, but I'll try again tomorrow.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-03 20:09:34](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

She did say she wasn't "fretting," only dwelling on something or another -- I don't think even Narcissa Black would be that callous if her own cousin was in a bad way.

Perhaps she's worried about catching it herself, despite all the rhetoric her husband is spouting? Or she saw someone else that was very ill while visiting Tonks?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-03 20:13:01](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Malfoy says 'event' - I think it can't be about Nymphadora, not directly.

Remus, you say you were able to visit, and Arthur, you, too, but now they've closed the ward?

What sort of conditions were your prior visits? Could the staff have been foolish enough to relax their precautions and now others are falling ill?




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-03-03 20:23:09](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Yes, I took her in of course, but they also let me onto the ward to visit, and Arthur too, and Narcissa by the sounds of it. When I first arrived, they told me they were only allowing pureblood visitors, as it was apparently safer, which of course posed no problem to her concerned employer Junius Ponds.

They still insisted on all visitors casting every cleansing and hygiene charm imaginable upon departure, of course, to ensure no contamination. But I suppose it's entirely possible that something still got passed on. Perhaps that's what's got Narcissa upset, if she was there when they closed the ward, she might believe herself and her family to be in danger somehow?




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-03 21:02:25](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Perhaps.

But then why would she be so sure the quarantine wouldn't be over by Easter?


I don't like it. Something's up.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-03 16:53:34](#)  
*(no subject)*

Are you well this morning cousin?




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 17:20:20](#)  
*(no subject)*

Quite recovered, thank you. I do feel a little foolish. I'm far too old to suffer night terrors, after all.

I'm just finishing my luncheon with the Witches' Institute and off to cover one of Hyperion's collections for spring fashions. I don't suppose you'd be accompanying your young man to the show?



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-03 17:27:20](#)  
*(no subject)*

No, actually, I'm sat in a draughty corner in a wretched pub in the Hebrides, waiting, apparently, for them to catch the fish I ordered grilled for lunch. I can't even have a proper warm-up as I'll have to Apparate later.

Actually, if you do see Bobolis today, it might be better if you didn't mention me.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 17:45:28](#)  
(no subject)

Poor Reg. I hope you're Apparating to someplace where you can take something to fortify you afterward.

You know perfectly well you can't let such a statement hang there with no further explanation. Is the bloom off the rose, then? Has Aunt Walburga finally convinced you to leave off these fancies and make an honest woman of some witch? Or is there some new indiscretion brewing, about which I can tease you mercilessly when next you come to tea?

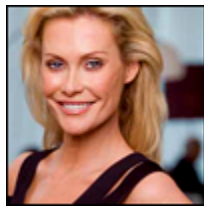


 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-03 18:29:29](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well.

Let's just say that in the aftermath of Lucius's celebration, I was not the only one surprised to find I'd woken up with a very lovely and agreeable young woman beside me.

I'm not high on his list at the moment, I'd think.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 18:46:22](#)  
(no subject)

There was a time we would have all called that a sure sign of a successful party.

I can only imagine what Mr Bobolis would think of the matter. To say nothing of your mother! I wonder how much my silence is worth to you?

I suppose a more prudent question is whether the young lady was worth pursuing in the light of day.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-03 19:15:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it was a successful party, that's certain-- but for reasons other than the number of indiscretions committed during or after.

I should think mother would be elated by the news. Perhaps I should pay you to tell her?

Certainly, under other circumstances. As it is, I haven't the time for anyone who requires pursuing.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 19:24:21](#)  
(no subject)

If I tell your mother and the lady is at all eligible, you can be sure she'll have the banns ready for the *Prophet* within the month.

Are you sure you want me to tell her? I have ways of finding out whose indiscretions we're discussing, you know ....

(You're lucky: No sign of your Ganymede, nor have I heard anyone identify himself from the *Londinarium*. So far it's dreadfully dull. Are we truly to expect ruched sleeves for summer? Morgana preserve us. Rohani Patil has a much more intriguing line planned than this dreary display.)




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-03 20:31:46](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that would take away any need for me to do the pursuing myself; however, I can't see there's any use in raising Mother's hopes, I doubt very much that I'd be at leisure--or liberty--to marry at the moment if I wished to. Such things are not down to my choice, as you know, though it could be interesting to see what would happen if I appeared to take an interest.

I'll let you know.

(If I were anywhere close, I'd tell you to run off and have tea with me. As it is, I'd suggest you slip off to the loo and not come back. You've obviously decided what you'll write about it already. Why torment yourself further?)




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-03 21:54:40](#)  
(no subject)

As the wife of a councilwizard, I can attest that we all must learn to live with the reality that loyalty to a spouse is sometimes outweighed by the demands of Our Lord - as it should be. I'm sure if you had a true interest, you'd be able to balance your duty to the Lord Protector while simultaneously doing your duty as a pureblood wizard and husband. It is He, after all, who has been a force behind the Repopulation Rewards programme and so on.

(And I wish I had seized the opportunity, but I had to wait until a moment presented itself. And as soon as I stood up I was accosted by Thalia Powell. Had I been to St Mungo's again this morning? No, I had not. Oh, well, did I hear the news about poor Prometheus Coote? Really, it's simply the *most* devastating thing....

Before I could shush her, naturally, nearly every reporter in the room asked me for a statement on St Mungo's decision to bar further visitors to the half-blood ward. Honestly. I've not had to hex so many people since that torrid business in the spring of '80. Well, I'm home now, thank Circe, and I've no intention of feeding their grist mill.)



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-04 00:08:52](#)  
(no subject)


Not to put too fine a point on it, cousin, the furtherance--or not--of the House of Black rests at Our Lord's pleasure: He's made that clear. I'm not at liberty to carve for myself, as it were. Of course, you're right, Our Lord is, in general, very much a proponent of measures that would advance the purity and strength of our population, but He also values discipline, and my line of Blacks has, as you know, disappointed Him deeply. Lucius really has not laid all this out for you? I'm

unsurprised to find that Mother has not, but I did think you knew. It doesn't, of course, mean there's no hope, and as I said, I've no idea if it would make a difference were I to exhibit some particular interest in the matter, but so far that hasn't been put to the trial.

(Thalia Powell, was it? I trust you've poured yourself a glass of something to take the edge off now you've escaped.

And reporters. Reporters truly are the bastard offspring of monsters; when they scent blood they grow six mouths and sprout eight tentacles all equipped with quills and parchment. My sympathies on all counts.)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-04 01:39:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I'm aware of the situation, of course, and your rôle in Our Lord's court. I should think that you are already quite devoted enough - and that He might recognise the benefit if both branches of our house were to produce scions whom He might shape as He sees fit, for the future of our illustrious nation.

(If you've any aspirations toward patching it up with Bobolis, you'd best reconsider the wholesale condemnation of reporters. In this case, however, you are beyond right.)

Well, I have indeed seen fit to pour myself a cocktail and it has been most efficacious. And are you recovered from your travel today?



**2010-03-03 22:19:00**

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

Ron, that letter your mum sent for you to give me, that you gave me today -- it was from my mum.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**


She said they were doing alright, that she's not infected with the scourge and I shouldn't worry. Also she said they DO read the journal, my father doesn't write in his at all because he's afraid of attracting attention but they read what I write.

She said she was a little sad at first I didn't get Sorted into Ravenclaw but she's glad now I don't share a house with that horrid Padma or Lana Sandoval. And she said Pansy seems like a nice girl and she wishes she could meet her. She said nice things about you too, Ron and Neville, she could tell from the diaries that you're also my friends.

She said she was proud of me. For doing so well in my classes and staying out of trouble, or at least mostly out of trouble, and she said I was clever for selling those paper flowers, she said the food from your mum will help a lot.

Also Ron's mum sent me back one of the galleons I sent her, she said she'd spend some of her own money and I ought to have some money to spend. I actually kept some of the sickles as I thought it would be a little suspicious if I didn't have ANY money when everyone knew I'd been selling those flowers on Valentine's Day. I wish your mum had known I kept some, I didn't want her going and spending her own money.



 **alt\_ron** at **2010-03-05 03:42:59**

*(no subject)*

I'm sure Mum was really glad to do something for your parents. I'm glad they're all right, and it's good to know they read what you write in the journals. Well, what you write that's not under this lock.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:38:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I wish I had a secret way to write to them, too.

Do you suppose anyone else has worked out that there's a way to make invisible ink? I've watched a few times in the great hall, to see if I can see anyone using funny ink, but I haven't. For a while I was trying to watch for people who were making entries that weren't showing up, but the problem is there are a few people who have their own private diary and of course THAT won't show up.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-05 03:44:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Did you see what Patil's said today? About Mr Black and about me and Director Selwyn and all? I'm not done thinking what I can do to get her back.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:34:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Just ignore her for now, she's trying to bait you into doing something stupid.

If you wait you'll have your chance. You know I was thinking yesterday, the thing that would REALLY bother her, almost as much as having her hair hexed off, would be if she got lice. And she couldn't blame that on anyone, you know? That's the sort of thing that just HAPPENS...

**2010-03-03 22:57:00**

## *Black's Paralysis: New Developments*

St Mungo's received two new patients, yesterday and today, who appear to be victims of Black's Poison. Much to everyone's dismay, it appears that Black has finally found a way to infect pureblood wizards with his disease. While it remains possible that there are other explanations, we at the Ministry felt it incumbent upon us to immediately share what we knew. Given that there are only two ill purebloods at present, the risk to pureblood wizards does appear low, but we can no longer assure anyone in England of their safety.



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

Fortunately, the cure is in the final stages of development.

In the meantime, we wish to prevent further spread of the disease to the greatest extent possible. To that end:

1. All Ministry employees who can work from home are hereby directed to do so, using owls and firechats as needed to communicate with their superiors.
2. Anyone showing signs of illness must remain quarantined at home until either they recover fully, or become so sick that it is obviously Black's Paralysis, in which case they are to be taken to St Mungo's.
3. Owls may no longer be sent to Hogwarts students; if absolutely essential, they may be sent to staff. Hogwarts has remained blessedly free of Black's Paralysis and we hope this will remain the case. At this time, no decision has been made regarding the students' spring holiday, but we ask staff to make plans for accommodating its possible cancellation.
4. St Mungo's suggests that everyone use the bubblehead charm when outside their home and routine scourging when returning home. In addition, they are sending out booklets with instructions for several additional cleaning spells which can be used on yourself, on family members, and on items being brought into your homes that might otherwise be a vector for infection.

We will get through this; we will get through this together. Black may insult us, he may sicken us, but he cannot stop us. We expect to have

a cure in hand within weeks, and someday Black will answer for his crimes.

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 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-04 05:21:22](#)**

*Order Only*

Well, that's reassuring.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-03-04 14:51:03](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

I bet you never thought that you'd have a disease named after you.

I've been sent home, of course. And no owls to the children. Bloody hell.

Well, it may slow down their investigation of Archer. That's something.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-04 15:29:35](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, Arthur.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-03-04 15:31:22](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

I know, Molly, I know. It's hard to have to depend upon the Ministry to come up with the cure, seeing as how they started the whole bloody thing. But the children are all right, and we will be, too.

Guess I'll have more time to paint the upstairs bedrooms now.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-04 15:31:59](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Where are you now, dear?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-03-04 15:33:04](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Stopped to pick up some supplies before the stores are picked clean I imagine hoarding is going to be a spot of trouble now. But I'll be home within the hour.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-04 21:04:50](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yeah, I'm not sure about the owls in and out of Hogwats, Arthur. Is that really connected? What possible precaution would it represent?

I wonder if it's just an excuse to prevent private correspondence with parents. Perhaps they just want to be able to monitor all communication with the outside.

Question is *why now*?

I have a bad feeling about this.

**[2010-03-04 10:19:00](#)**

*Last owls*

Well, it seems like half of Hogwarts got a last owl this morning. You could barely see the Slytherin table for all the feathers.



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

And everyone's talking about the purebloods, of course. Mr Coote, the first one who was brought to St Mungo's, he's Olive Coote's father, so naturally she's a wreck. Sandoval said MacAvoy and Bundy are going to mind her prefect duties for a while - Coote's, that is - while she pulls herself together about it. It's got to be really hard not to be able to go see him. But I guess Electra Bobolis told her that it'd be that way whether or not she were home. I mean, they've locked the ward, so no visitors. But at least if she were home she'd be with her mum. It's really sad. We're all hoping for the best, really.

I guess everything rests on whether Mr Rookwood can fix the cure so it works on everyone, not just Muggles and mudbloods. But one thing I don't understand is if Black's Poison changed so that it could infect half-bloods (and now purebloods), then how can we be sure it needs the same kind of cure? I mean, the disease was in the water, right? And the food? But then when it started to hurt half-bloods it was in the air, right? So doesn't the cure need to change, too?

Well, I guess that's what Mr Rookwood is trying to figure out. Lucky he's much more clever than that Black, or we'd be in a lot more danger.

And of course, everyone's not looking forward to not getting more owls. It was bad enough not getting care parcels, but now?

It's a good thing we've got the journals. I suppose there's a lesson in that, sort of like Smith said. It's important to keep the journals handy so we can all stay closer together. Of course, I'd never leave mine behind, it's like having my friends and family with me, all the time. But some people don't seem to feel that way and they'd do almost anything to get rid of their journals. Even flush them down the toilet. I wonder if it's illegal to--what's the word?--deface, that's it--to deface one's journal?

I'm reading 'Ministry v Bloxam' for the model Wizengamot and there's a discussion in the court report about the things people did to her

books to keep from being able to read them. Of course, in that case, it was upheld that it was a reasonable precaution, but then it was used as a precedent for 'Ministry v Diggle', but it didn't work. Because Diggle was trying to work a spell that would scratch out the Ministry seal on all official documents, because he didn't like Minsiter Spavin, and everyone knows that not liking a Minister isn't enough reason to try to make all his official parchments look like ordinary ones.

Anyway. It's interesting, how people use one law to make another one.

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 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-03-04 17:56:21](#)**  
(no subject)

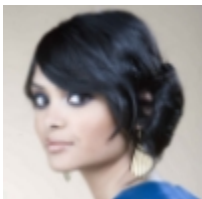
I was thinking about that, too, when I saw Mr Selwyn's post this morning. About the journals, and how this teaches us to use them more, I suppose.


I think MacMillan's father may be working with Mr Rookwood on the cure. At least, I know he's a Healer and I know the Ministry said they're giving him more resources to try to fix the problem.

Does anyone know what it's like, for purebloods? I mean, I heard the halfblood version has more severe paralysis, right? And coma and such? But will that happen to purebloods, if they get it?

Do you think about what kind of magic that Black bloke must have to do this to so many people, when he's not even supposed to be here in England? And when are they going to catch him?

Well, I think about that stuff, sometimes.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-04 18:17:06](#)**  
(no subject)

I know, right? It just proves how clever the Lord Protector is, doesn't it, that we'd already have these amazing tools to communicate, even if we're shut up in the school without firechats or owls or anything.

Did MacMillan say his dad was working on the cure? I know he's taking care of the people who've fallen sick, but that's not quite the same, is it? It'd be nift if his dad helped discover the cure, though. They'd probably give him a medal. Maybe the Order of Merlin. Don't you think?

Maybe Weasley can ask Director Selwyn for us, about the symptoms. Seeing as he's so friendly with him now.

I don't think Black did it himself. He probably has some minions that he's brainwashed to think his way, and they did it all for him, you know, following his orders. He's really not that powerful a wizard, Sandoval says. She heard it from Auror Lestrangle, and she used to be Black's cousin, before they all chucked him out of the family, so she ought to know whether he's really any good or not. She says Auror Lestrangle would be able to take him in a fair duel, no problem. Of course, she's an amazing duellist, Sandoval says, and I believe it, but she also says he's really not anything much at magic, because he's all tainted by Muggle sympathies. I think he's just a skilled liar, is all. Only not really, because anyone who believes him is probably not very clever to begin with. But all he needs are a few people, I guess, a handful, and they could do a lot of damage. ~~Like Archer's dad~~

Malfoy might know more about it, but I dunno. He and Marvolo have been keeping to themselves lately. I haven't even seen them at History Club for weeks. I suppose Malfoy still feels bad about his mudblood getting killed like that. But I wish he'd start feeling better soon.



**2010-03-04 10:56:00**

*Lack of owl post*

I'll miss our weekly letters, Mum and Dad.

Of course, I can use the journals to tell you how we're all getting on.

But, well, it isn't exactly the same.



 [alt\\_percy](#)

**2010-03-04 17:08:00**

*(no subject)*

Lucius, I hate using the journals for this, but Valerian isn't yet returned from his deliveries to the school.



 **alt\_narcissa**

I've tried to contact Healer Fletcher and been told he's unreachable at present.

I

I think you'd better plan on staying at the St James' house for the time being. Until I'm sure.

I tried to be so careful. I thought I'd eradicated any possible chance of exposure.

Well, let's hope Healer Fletcher is able to Apparate out immediately. I suppose there's always a chance it's not Black's Poison. But it has been about the right period of incubation, from the report in the *Prophet*.

Though I don't feel symptomatic, but I understand that in halfbloods they often don't, until

*Merde.*



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-03-04 23:58:06**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa!

Are you all right?



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-03-05 00:06:06**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa!


I'm sending a house elf...



 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-05 01:04:55](#)**  
(no subject)


Don't bother. I'll go.



 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-05 01:05:45](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be there in a moment, cousin.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-05 02:24:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Regulus, is she all right?

The elf said she refuses to go to St Mungo's.

I still have not heard from Fletcher. Ought I to fetch him myself?




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-05 02:38:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Th'elf is playing silly buggers.

's all good here.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-05 02:45:38](#)**  
(no subject)

What do you mean? Has she fallen ill or not?

Or ....

Are you still recovering from Apparating?




 **alt\_regulus** at [2010-03-05 02:57:50](#)  
(no subject)

Cissy's got spots, thass'all.

Apparating

'snot good for you.



 **alt\_regulus** at [2010-03-05 03:57:09](#)  
(no subject)


Hang on there, cousin.

Kings maybe wild, but they can't do that.

I don't think.

Or can they?



 **alt\_narcissa** at [2010-03-05 04:48:54](#)  
(no subject)

Kings, jacks, eights, threes.

My deck.

Fletcher said to keep me calm.

Don't argument. Argue. Agrue. Arg. Gue.

Don't arrrr

Shut it.




 **alt\_narcissa** at [2010-03-05 05:02:05](#)  
(no subject)

Reg you can't take trumps from the stock.

And don't think I didn't see you slip that seven into the bottom of your stack.

Drunk and hideous I may be, but unobservant, never.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:41:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I've just spoken to Fletcher - he called it a 'nervous reaction.'

It sounds as if you responded with a bit of relieved celebration. Or perhaps it was preventive, as an analgesic.

No matter; I'll come home.



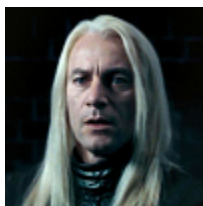
 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:43:08](#)**  
(no subject)


NO, don't trouble.

Reggie's keeping me company perfectly well.

Besides, I look a fright. Really, I don't want you to see me like this.

No one should see me in this condition.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:44:49](#)**  
(no subject)

I suspect you are right. However, I promise I shall not judge.

I know it has been a trying week.

Are you quite sure you wish me to stay away?



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-05 04:46:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Quite.

Sure.

Stay.

Way.

Reg, you can't take

Whoops.

**2010-03-05 19:50:00**

*Out of the school*

I am at the club in London.

It is quite odd to be out of the school. It has been some time. I should have thought to be grateful for the break - the students have been more than a handful, with the extreme measures to stop the spread of the plague. However, I'm finding it rather boring. Having completed my various tasks, I am alone, and the library leaves something to be desired. I recall now why I use the club so relatively little.



 **alt\_mcgonagall**



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-03-06 01:04:43**

*(no subject)*

Oddly enough, Rowle and I were just about to pop in there. If you're amenable to company? Perhaps we can find a fourth for whist.



 **alt\_mcgonagall** at **2010-03-06 01:09:18**

*(no subject)*

Sounds like a pleasant enough evening. No one at Hogwarts seems to enjoy cards overmuch; there are plenty of chess-players, but no whist.

Perhaps we might also discuss the children who have requested to join the Dark Arts class. I have been given great latitude to deal with them, and I should like your opinions.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-03-06 01:11:24**

*(no subject)*

Of course, happy to oblige.


We shall join you shortly.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:01:45](#)  
(no subject)


I wish you had not brought Rowle.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:03:06](#)  
(no subject)

I was hoping he'd find other acquaintances once we were here. Know he doesn't care for cards. Sadly it's rather empty to-night.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:03:56](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps if we claim there is much to review in the journals he'll take his leave.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:08:48](#)  
(no subject)

I doubt it. He hasn't the sense.

At least Mulciber is here now. I do wish they'd speak to each other and not me. Rowle drives me round the twist with his tics.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:17:18](#)  
(no subject)

Hm. Change the subject? Rowle detests children. Have I shown you the artwork Draco has been producing? It's really quite good.






 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:20:39](#)  
(no subject)

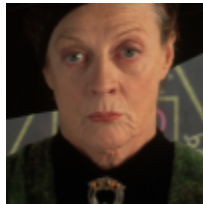
Excellent.

Once we have waxed poetic, I shall bring up some of the charity cases. Miss Perks is really an ornament to Slytherin House.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:27:53](#)  
(no subject)

Mm. I confess I should be happier were she and Pansy not so friendly with the younger Weasley boy. While the eldest son, Bill, is by all accounts diligent, there can be no doubt he is somewhat mixed up in the Archer affair. Of the father there is some evidence that he is altogether soft on his mudblood charges. The middle son - the one currently a prefect - he shows some promise. But overall, the family are a great disappointment, especially considering their stock.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:33:09](#)  
(no subject)

Marvolo and Perks get along well enough, however; and I do believe that she is a leveling influence on Sextus, whose main fault (apart from his family) is his intense Gryffindor nature. And that, you shall note, comes from a Gryffindor herself. He is quite a handful.

I have not spoken with Primus since he left Hogwarts. I should be sorry to hear that he were mixed up in anything untoward. He was an excellent student.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:45:29](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed; one almost forgets at times that you came through Gryffindor. Level influence. Perhaps. But it is precisely the type who needs a steadying influence who is likely to drag his

companions down with him.

It's unclear at present whether the Weasley lad's involvement extends to anything like culpability. Archer seems to have burnt any scraps of evidence. The letters to the niece are inconclusive as well. Bella is *livid* she can't bring the investigation to a swift and decisive close. If it weren't so vital to our pursuit of Black, would be amusing. Rather like - when I was courting Narcissa, I used to take up the side of whichever team were playing against Kenmare, just to watch Cygnus Black pour steam out of his ears. Bella gets the same look when she's stymied. If she weren't half so dangerous it'd be hilarious.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:50:43](#)  
(no subject)

Bella was always a horror. She would kill things in Transfiguration classes for fun. Then we'd be out a doormouse in the next class. I don't know how she contrived to do it.

In any case, I can't allow you to impune the good honour of my house. There are many respectable Gryffindors.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:56:07](#)  
(no subject)


Name three.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 02:56:34](#)  
(no subject)

Don't take that tone with me, young man!



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 02:59:04](#)  
(no subject)

Hah!

Because you can't, can you?


Don't even think of citing Bowman Wright or some other historiele historical hero.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 03:01:58](#)  
(no subject)

I do believe you're getting a bit squiffy, Lucius.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 03:02:53](#)  
(no subject)

Glass houses, Minerva.

It's been a bitch of a week, I admit.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 03:05:13](#)  
(no subject)

Quite.

The students are howling bloody murder over the owls. And the parents are worse. Haven't they realised that their children won't explode without them?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 03:12:36](#)  
(no subject)

I think that's part of what caused Narcissa's over-reaction yesternight. It's unfortunate that Draco could not visit over the Christmas hols.

Nonthless, you're quite right: In her saner moments, she

knows - as I'm sure do most parents - that we have raised our son to be independent and self-sufficient.

It was odd to see him so put out for so long, after the mixup at Christmas.

Oh. Wanted to ask you about Ptolemy. He's adjusting to his sudden change of status? Ari hoped it wouldn't go to his head, being named prefect mid-term.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 03:21:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Hasn't gone to his head. He's frightened of it I think, which is only appropriate.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-03-06 03:23:14](#)

*(no subject)*

As a non sequetur, what ever has happened to Narcisa?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-06 03:29:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, she's heartily embarrassed. Apparently she broke out in a bad case of hives. Fletcher says it was brought on by nervous tension and a measure of hypochondria

(since she was at hospital visiting her niece when Coote was brought in).

She refuses to allow me back in to the Manor until her skin has cleared. I ask you!

I suppose it's my just desserts for marrying the most beautiful witch in England, but there are times I find it's simply best not to examine her mind too closely.

I think it's time to turn in.

**2010-03-07 10:10:00**

*A special invitation to Hogwarts students*

It was recently brought to my attention that many Hogwarts students read my journal. This is excellent news for the journal project; as people begin to take advantage of its ability to show them entries of individuals they might not know well, the more effectively this project will create connections throughout our community.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

I would like to issue a special invitation today to Hogwarts students to ask questions about anything that might be on their mind; I will endeavour to answer you, though naturally some questions (especially those related to the current crisis) are un-answerable and others touch on confidential matters.

You may ask your questions in the comments of this entry.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2010-03-07 18:50:03**

*(no subject)*


Thank you for the opportunity, sir. I wondered if I could ask you about careers and school options, if that's alright.

I'm a second year, and we're choosing our options for next year. We can do two or three subjects out of Arithmancy, Ancient Runes, Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, and Divination. What subjects do you think would be best for our future careers, sir?

Also, things are different now, and there are lots of different opportunities that there didn't used to be in the past. Are there new jobs that we might not know about that we ought to consider when thinking about our futures and what we want to do when we grow up?

Thank you very much, sir. I hope this question is okay to ask.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-07 20:20:20](#)  
(no subject)


Regarding your electives, it greatly depends on what careers you are most interested in. You'd need Arithmancy to become a Curse Breaker; I believe St Mungo's requires Ancient Runes for some of their Healer programmes; of course you'd take Care of Magical Creatures if you had ambitions to work with dragons, or Dark Arts if you wished to become an Auror; and so on.

Personally, I studied Arithmancy, Ancient Runes, and Care of Magical Creatures, which my father derided as a soft option, better suited to a future dragon handler than someone like myself. I'd have taken Dark Arts but it wasn't offered at the time. I've never once used Arithmancy outside of class. I do use Ancient Runes on occasion; there are some runes you can inscribe on important papers to discourage them from falling to the bottom of the pile, for instance, but what I actually use regularly is much simpler than most of what I learned for my OWL.

Care of Magical Creatures comes in handy quite frequently, I'm gratified to say, in such mundane matters as handling owls.


Regarding new career opportunities, let me think. Those with a fine eye for detail might find rewarding work in the bloodlines registry office; there's talk of setting up a file system that would provide detailed information on everyone's wizarding ancestry, available for public lookup before weddings and so on. The chronic shortage of master brewers shows no sign of letting up soon; those with talent at potions should certainly pursue that skill, and that's one where Ancient Runes often come in useful, especially for research. I'm sure your Head of House might be able to suggest further directions for you to consider.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-03-07 20:29:12](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you very much, sir. I hadn't thought of that with the owls at all.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-08 00:08:49](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo. Ron Weasley, sir.

It's really nice of you to let us talk to you, and I was going to let other people have a chance since I talked to you the other day and all. But since only Macmillan's done it--asked you anything, I mean--I guess I will. See, I think they're just afraid to say anything to you since you're such an important person and all, but everybody's talking about what they'd like to ask you if they dared to.

Anywiz, what everyone mostly seems to want to know is about the disease. When purebloods get it what happens to them? Is it really loads worse than what happens when muggles or others get it? And how many people have got sick so far? Purebloods, I mean. Well, halfbloods, too, because nobody seems to know how many of them have got sick, either. And what happens after they fall sick. I mean, I've heard people get sick and it's like they're petrified and they just stay like that, not dying but not getting any better, either. I mean, people are saying all sorts of things and nobody knows who to believe.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-08 02:22:15](#)  
(no subject)

Information from St Mungo's suggests that infected purebloods experience a severe rash, something like spattergroit but more painful, before succumbing to paralysis.

Naturally, St Mungo's is doing everything they can to treat every ill wizard in their care. The long term effects remain to be seen.




 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-03-08 02:48:54](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, sir, for addressing this question so directly. It is true that we are all concerned for our families at home, and the fact that so little is known about this terrible disease adds to that anxiety.

The Head Boy and I are most grateful that you have made yourself available to the students in this way; your straightforward answers are the best medicine to allay the fears -- and rumours -- that sometimes get the better of us here.



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-03-08 01:07:05**  
(no subject)

It's ever so nice of you to do this for us, Mr Selwyn. I'm Padma Patil, I'm a second-year in Ravenclaw and I'm a friend of Lana Sandoval's. I think you know her a little, sir, she interned with Auror Lestrange over the Christmas holidays.


Anyway, some of us were wondering about the Easter and summer holidays. If the quarantine can't be lifted, will there be YPL activities over the summer? And does that really make us safe from the person who's petrifying people here?

Actually, that's sort of another question. Some kids think that Sirius Black is behind the petrifying. The ones happening here, I mean. But Leander Bobolis says that it's more likely Black chose a form of paralysis because whoever's doing it inside the school was petrifying 'Enemies of the Heir' - so *he* decided to petrify everyone outside, as a lesson. But that doesn't seem right. I mean, it doesn't really follow, does it?

So, I guess what I'm asking, sir, is what the current thinking is at the Ministry regarding what Sirius Black might have to do with what's going on here, and whether the petrifications here are linked at all to Black's Poison.

Of course, if you can't answer that because it's classified, that's alright. And thank you again for inviting us to ask about things.




 **alt\_selwyn** at **2010-03-08 04:26:08**  
(no subject)

I am afraid I can't address the question of the petrifications, other than to say that the Lord Protector has every confidence in your safety.






 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-03-08 02:36:56](#)  
(no subject)

I was wondering, sir: when you imagine the future Our Lord is building for your children (and, I hope, my own), what opportunities do you suppose this realm will hold for them that are not yet a part of our present day realities? And, if you can project so far into the future, what challenges do you expect they may face? It seems to me that as the Director of Protectorate Affairs, you are uniquely positioned to see both what we are achieving everyday and what remains for us to accomplish in the future.

Lana Sandoval, Head Girl



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-08 04:28:22](#)  
(no subject)

I think a stroll through New Wizarding London provides a vision, already partly realised, of the future we are working toward. Alone among wizard children worldwide, British wizarding children can live openly as wizards, neither fearing nor cowering before muggle authorities. Our greatest challenges will likely come from within -- much as Sirius Black, sad to say, came from within the wizarding community.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-08 02:54:02](#)  
(no subject)

Sir, I've been wondering if you'd advise us what to do if we know about someone who's making a profit off shortages of supplies in the school. Things like quills and parchment and sweets and other things. Some of the chaps think we ought to just try not to buy anything from them; others think we ought to sort of gang up and force them to turn over their stock to the teachers. And there's some who think we should leave it up to the teachers, altogether.

How can we keep from being taken advantage of during the crisis?

I'd imagine there might be people doing the same thing only outside of school, so maybe it's useful for them, as well.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-08 04:30:53](#)  
(no subject)

The laws regarding hoarding and profiteering vary depending on whether something is a necessity or a luxury item. Quills and parchments would be necessities; sweets are not. Outside your school, there is an office within the Ministry that investigates charges of hoarding and profiteering when necessary. They are authorised to confiscate goods for distribution to more honest sellers.


Naturally I would not suggest vigilante action by students at Hogwarts. Surely your prefects can handle such a situation if it arises.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-03-08 15:08:05](#)  
(no subject)


What a diverting exercise, Selwyn. Perhaps I ought to try it and see what sort of questions I get.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-08 17:19:47](#)  
(no subject)


Madam, I rather think the most urgent question most of the students would have for you is how best to avoid your notice!



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-03-09 04:14:29](#)  
(no subject)

In that case I don't think they would much like my answer. Which is, of course, that there is no way to avoid it.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-08 17:26:22](#)  
(no subject)

Sir, I have a question that's a little like MacMillan's. What opportunities do you think will be most open to half-bloods when they finish at Hogwarts? Of course assuming the person did well on her exams. Are there

any offices at the Ministry that hire half-bloods?


Thank you for your time, sir.



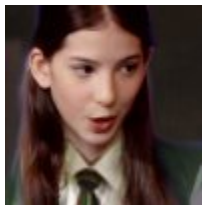
 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-03-08 18:50:03](#)  
(no subject)


I believe only a few offices in the Ministry have a rule prohibiting such a hire if the half-blood candidate should be the strongest applicant. Naturally, some fields are more competitive than others, and many applicants will be disappointed, regardless of blood status.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-08 20:53:34](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

See? It's not as bad as you thought. You'll be most qualified for anything you apply for: you're going to get top marks this year (and would have done last year if it weren't for that git Carrow).




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-08 21:19:50](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Are you SERIOUS, Ron?

Did you know that Nymphadora Tonks got NEWTs in Potions, Defence, Transfiguration, Charms and Arithmancy, with really good marks in all of them, but wasn't able to find a job for months after she graduated? And when she finally did it was in Maintenance at the Ministry. She was one of the top students in her year, too.

I was hoping maybe he'd say something like, 'we are so short on master brewers that even a half-blood who achieves at that level would easily find employment,' or something useful like that. Although Potions aren't my best subject. I'm not terrible at it but I don't think I could ever be one of the best.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-08 22:47:38](#)

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

Huh.

Well, maybe there were just better candidates for all the jobs she put in for. Why did you want him to say that about Master Brewers if that's not what you want to be, anyway?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-09 04:48:50](#)

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

I'm sure that's what he'd say, that there just so happened to be better pureblood candidates for every job she applied at.

And I was hoping he'd list a few other jobs LIKE Master Brewer but better suited to my talents, obviously.

**2010-03-08 07:54:00**

*Various notes*

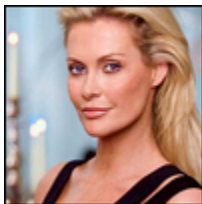
Mother, are you feeling better? I really was just spots, wasn't it? That's what Regulus said but then I keep thinking about how you were writing and it sort of looked the way a paralysed person might write. But you must be all right, or else Father would have let me know right away.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

One thing I have been talking about with my Father is whether I should get a new mudblood or not. I'm allowed to have one to replace Dennis but after thinking about it I don't think I want one. I never really used Dennis for anything useful, and that's really all he wanted, to be useful. Most of the things he did for me the house elves can do, anyway. And if I had another mudblood it would probably just get killed, too, or some other bad thing would happen to it because that seems to be what happens to them. I'd just rather not deal with all that.

Harry, don't forget what I said about keeping a close eye on Granger, because you don't want her to be next. ~~Also we need her~~



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-03-08 15:40:18**


*(no subject)*

Yes, I'm quite recovered, thank you for asking, son. Mother was more than a little foolish, and didn't realise until that night that she's been under such a lot of strain. I expect you and your friends can have a good chuckle over the thought of your mother breaking out like one of your classmates. It wasn't just spots, it was what Healer Fletcher is calling an allergic reaction to the stress. They looked very like the disgusting sores that the purebloods have had, but they were harmless.

And certainly, if you don't wish to take on another mudblood, there's no need for you to do so. I'm sure your father will agree.

Are you sure everything else is all right, dearest? You're feeling more yourself? And you're keeping up with your studies?




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-03-09 04:10:37](#)  
(no subject)

No one had a chuckle over you. Some people were even worried for you, like Daphne, who said she couldn't ever imagine you with spots. She'll be glad to hear that you're well.

I'm keeping up well enough. It seems as if they are making sure we're busy all the time, though.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-09 04:44:30](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you and your friends are kinder than some of the less savoury publications outside of school. Yes, I'm healing, though I've had to modify my regimen somewhat. Luckily I found a simple change to one of my lotions and it seems to be clearing up the, er, lesions very well indeed.

Are you and Harry taking any of the activities the staff have been providing, then? I wasn't sure from your recent letters. I shouldn't worry about it, though. Once you have a few more subjects to occupy you next year, you shan't need nearly as much entertaining outside of lessons.

So, have you decided on your extra classes for next year? Other than Dark Arts, of course - I know you want to take that!



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-08 18:51:31](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, had it been a real case of the poison and not a false alarm, I should have arranged for an emergency firechat with you.

Your mother is quite right regarding the replacement of your mudblood. It's entirely your decision. If you don't wish another then we shall not pursue it further.

In the absence of letters, it seems we shall have to rely on the journals for your weekly progress reports. Remember our agreement;

we shall endeavour not to eavesdrop, as it were, on your comments in these pages, but we do hope you continue to write to us as if our correspondence had not been disrupted.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-03-09 04:11:51](#)**

*(no subject)*

I thought so but I wanted to be certain.

I suppose I can write here, but it seems odd to have other people reading that sort of thing. I don't like that part of it much.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-09 04:36:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, of course, you needn't go into the detail of your letters. We are always glad to hear of your activities, but there is no need to make yourself uncomfortable - or to open yourself to possible trouble should your comments be taken the wrong way by someone other than your parents.

However, we do continue to look forward to your contact, if only because it assures your mother (and myself) that you are healthy and reasonably content, as well as maintaining the standards we expect of your lessons.

There may well be things you do not wish to trust to the journals - we can save that for when the ban has lifted. If ever you have an urgent need to talk, though, do ask Professor McGonagall. I'm sure she would oblige to arrange a firechat if necessary.

**2010-03-08 18:16:00**

*Order Only: Interrogation*

I'm through the first round of interrogation. Mum, I'm sure you'll be thankful I made it out in one piece. Fortunately, Mrs Lestrangle was not there asking the questions. The interrogation was conducted by another woman, Heloise Laverty, whom I've never met before. She was certainly no slouch at covering all the possible topics I thought they would hit. Poker-faced, too. I couldn't tell what she was thinking.



 [alt\\_bill](#)


I hauled in every scrap of parchment I had that had the least mention of Archer, as well as a few more with no mention of him whatsoever, just to further confuse the issue. Fortunately, I have a lot of records involving Archer, as we were continually passing memos back and forth in the entirely normal course of business, but all the Order stuff incinerated itself neatly upon his death. To show I was taking pains to be helpful, I flagged and cross-referenced every other individual mentioned in the memos, as well as all referenced locations. In theory, I'd like the MLE to waste as time as we can get them to waste by looking into as many different cauldrons as possible, but I added that I'd been through the memos myself, looking for patterns, and I didn't think there was much there. Helpful but analytically realistic, that's the way I was trying to come across. She blinked a bit at the cross-reference lists I handed her--I expect that no one else in my department had gone so much out of his way to be helpful.

I was mighty glad for the lists of questions you and Emmeline sent me, Kingsley. Between your two lists, you thought of just about every question that she threw at me. The demeanor coaching suggestions you sent along were very helpful, too. Dad and I got about four hours of practice in before they got around to me, and I was very glad of it. I took your tip about the pause, the quaver, darting the eyes away and back and then the 'blurt.' I flatter myself that it sounded quite natural rather than rehearsed. She certainly pulled aside the one file I pointed to as 'possibly indicating something interesting.' One of my best forgers stayed up twenty-four hours round the clock, creating that file. Interspersed in the parchmentwork are two ciphers, one easily broken, leading to another, a little harder, that I hope will make them think they've been given a tantalizing clue to the location of the notorious Sirius Black's next rendezvous point.

We'll see if they bite.





 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-03-09 03:33:39](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm sure you'll keep us apprised of developments, my boy.

Will you have any way of knowing if they're following that lure you laid in the file?




 **alt\_bill** at [2010-03-09 03:46:49](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, a rather elegant little cantrip has been set to go off if they break the second code. Very subtle, if I do say so myself: it'll make the portrait outside my office cross her hands in her lap if it's been activated. Then we can talk about getting Sirius into some position where Ministry agents can spot him before he nips away again. I don't like it a bit, but if we're very careful and very lucky, we might even be able to use the situation to our advantage.

(And yeah, I didn't miss that snarking in Minerva's journal yesterday from Lucius Malfoy about me being mixed up with Archer. Poncey git.)



 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-03-09 16:27:13](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm very pleased to hear that your discussion with MLE went well, Bill. I do feel a need to urge caution. I've generations of experience with the Laverty clan, and I must tell you that they are a cold and calculating bunch, so do be wary.

Also. I'm concerned by the hints you've dropped lately about the portraits in your department. Obviously, we're to be very thankful that one of them saw fit to warn you on the day of Archer's arrest, but I fear you might be forgetting that for every portrait that does you a kindness, there may be six others giving information against you. I have two here on my ward that I know I mustn't trust, and it's been a ticklish thing, believe me, keeping them from seeing anything that could raise their suspicions about my dealings with my young muggleborn helpers. Like you, of course, I'm always on guard not to

misstep before my living audiences, but it's all too easy to forget the portraits and the damage they could do were they to report something they've seen or overheard.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-03-09 19:20:40](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, good to know. Don't let your guard down, though, Bill - it'd be just like them to come back for a second round.

I don't particularly like the idea of putting myself out there, either, but it's the one thing I can think of that will pull them off you for certain.

I'm sure Kingsley or Frank would be willing to serve as a decoy, too, but they don't have quite the same appeal to my cousin. (No offence, lads, but with her it's personal as much as ideological.)



 **alt\_frank** at [2010-03-10 00:38:10](#)

*(no subject)*

none taken, mate. I'd rather not draw attention with my kid in school and all, and I'm sure Kingsley'd like to keep his cover for the time being.

**2010-03-09 11:41:00**

*Mum, Dad*

Percy says Since we can't

Um, I know I don't really

It snowed again las

I was

So, yeah

Thought I should write you here since Errol can't take letters anymore, and Percy says I have to write you myself if um

Everyone's talking about what to take next year for electives, since we have to choose, and I was wondering if it's okay if I just take Care of Magical Creatures and maybe Divination if I've got to take a second one, 'cause I don't know if I'd like any of the other things, and it seems like the things we're already taking are really enough to be going on with, and, yeah. Is that okay, then?



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **2010-03-10 14:31:54**

*(no subject)*

My dear boy, whatever seems most interesting to you is what of course you should take. Two electives can be plenty of work, and you mustn't feel as if you're not challenging yourself sufficiently if you're not taking three. Of course this decision may seem difficult, because it may seem hard to gauge how these courses can help you in the future. At least you've seen how Care of Magical Creatures can lead to an interesting career, as it did for Charlie. But really, there are a host of interesting career options available to you whatever you choose.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2010-03-10 14:32:44**

*(no subject)*


Your Dad's right, dear. Just choose whatever sounds most interesting to you, because that's what you'll do the best in, and we'll be happy with whatever you decide.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-10 16:47:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Dad.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-03-10 17:20:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Have you given much thought to what you might like to do when you get out of school, Ron? There are informational brochures that the Heads of House can give you which outline some of the various careers, which provide some information about the sort of background that their ideal candidates are expected to have. That information is routinely provided to all fifth year students, but I'm sure Professor Lockhart would be more than happy to let you have a peek early, if you're interested.


Of course, you don't have to have your mind made up yet. There are many students who don't have any idea even when they leave school, but their first job or two ends up shaping their career path from then on. As long as you have a well-rounded education (and good marks!) you can go anywhere you like, really.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-10 17:24:19](#)**  
(no subject)


He's right about that. And don't forget, your first job doesn't lock you in for a lifetime, either. Look at me: I started out in banking, with the goblins, and I thought that was what I wanted when I started. I developed this whole other emphasis in communications, though, and switched to the Ministry. Arithmancy would have proved equally useful for both career paths, but anyway, I'm happy I made the switch.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-10 14:34:04](#)**  
(no subject)

Charlie will be happy you've chosen Care of Magical Creatures. I think you'll really like that class especially, Ron.



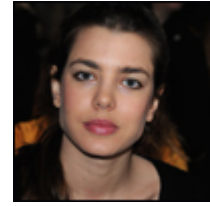
 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-03-10 17:25:15](#)**  
(no subject)

I really envy you for getting to start Care of Magical Creatures next year. I wish they let first years take it.

**2010-03-09 14:52:00**

*XVII. Notice to Prefects.*

There will be absolutely NO further discussion of cancelling this week's meeting or moving it from the Headmistress's office. The Prefects' meeting this week and every week is scheduled for Wednesday evening, 8 o'clock sharp. Anyone absent without permission will be stripped of badge and position.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Also, as ought to be perfectly clear without need of my saying so, it shows very poorly on us all for people to be going about questioning the Headmistress's judgement, particularly in the present circumstances when such objections are transparently also a criticism of a prominent member of Our Lord's Council and, thus, of Our Lord Himself!

See to your Houses, Prefects. It's time all this whispering and whingeing stopped.



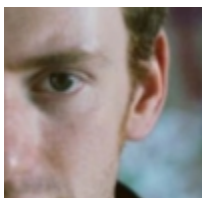
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-03-09 21:32:50**

*Order Only*

What's this? Trouble in paradise?

I take it your jaunt to London was not viewed with universal approval, Minerva?

Incidentally, you and Malfoy were rather, er, candid that night. It's not had any bad consequences for you, has it? Beyond the 'whispering and whingeing' of students, that is.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-03-10 14:36:46**

*(no subject)*

I'm pleased to be able to say that there has been none of that sort of thing in Gryffindor House.



 **[alt\\_lana](#)** at **[2010-03-10 16:46:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm pleased to hear it. I'll expect to see you all for tonight's meeting, then? We have a number of exceedingly important matters on the agenda.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-03-10 17:15:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, of course, I do plan to be there.

**2010-03-09 19:14:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

One year ago, I sent off a birthday note to a dear friend. I had to send the owl one-way, couldn't say anything of substance, and I couldn't even sign my name to it.



 [alt\\_alice](#)

What a difference a year makes!

I hope you have a very happy birthday tomorrow, Remus. Your package should get there in the morning, Merlin willing, and I'm so very happy that I can talk about it with you here. We've certainly managed to make up for some lost time over the past few months, although it will never be enough for me. How many cups of tea can possibly make up for so many missed years?

I'm so glad you can be a godfather to Kevin, and the work you've been doing with the shop and Tonks has been invaluable. You've done so much for all of us in such a very short time, and I cannot imagine how we would have been able to accomplish all we have this past year without your help.

My life is much happier with you in it.

And I know you must be worried about Tonks, love, I'm sorry that it's cast a bit of a pall over things, but I hope you are able to have a bit of happiness on your birthday.

If you are able to get away from the shop tomorrow, we'd be thrilled to have you home for a for a proper birthday dinner. And if you don't feel like you can leave while Tonks is at hospital, you can always hold off until you both can come up. Just let us know.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2010-03-10 15:29:48**

*(no subject)*

Alice, thank you so much. I don't think I have the words for quite how much your friendship means to me, especially now.

I went up to St Mungo's a little earlier for an update, but they still aren't allowing anyone onto the ward. The healer said they're quite satisfied with how she's holding up, but couldn't give me any further

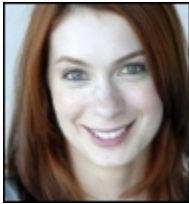



details, as I'm not family.

I thought of writing her a letter, but one of the staff would have to read it to her, so it couldn't possibly say anything honest, which would perhaps be worse than not saying anything at all.

If it's not too much trouble, I will come over for a visit this afternoon. I might as well close up the shop at lunchtime, as I'm achieving precisely nothing today anyway, and I could very well do with seeing my favourite godson.

I will invite Tonks to go over as well though, when she's better. I think she'd enjoy your company very much, Alice.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-10 15:32:34](#)  
(no subject)

I'd certainly love to meet her.

And it's never any trouble at all. I'll have a pot of tea waiting for you. If you could bring a sample of Sirius's potion, Stephen is itching to get his hands on it.

**[2010-03-10 00:44:00](#)**

*Order Only: Happy Birthday, Remus*

What Allie said. I hope Tonks is holding up all right - and you, mate.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I shipped a parcel through to Junius; I hope it arrived and wasn't ransacked by the border patrols.

The bottle needs some explaining. Obviously it's not really elderberry wine. It's something new.

A few months back I happened on an article in the *Potioneers' Gazette* about a potion that was theorised by Damocles Belby back before Voldemort seized control. Work continued on it outside, mostly in America and in cooperation with some Australian wizards.

This is a concentrated form - from what I've learned, the potion is most effective when it's just been brewed. Dilute two drams in six ounces of hot water, one dose per night for at least three nights prior to the full moon. And - well, if the potion's to be believed, it'll allow you to keep your mind during the transformation. So, no need to lock yourself away.

Let us know if it works. I'm sure it's highly, highly illegal under Voldemort's regime, so if it's good, I'll see if we can get a sample for the Midsummer's exchange and perhaps the brewer up at Moddey Dhoo can determine how to make more. Not that I can't keep buying it out here, but - well, a second source wouldn't go amiss.

The rest is just stuff I thought you'd like.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-03-10 15:00:34](#)  
(no subject)

Well, aside from what Remus thinks of your present, you've totally made Stephen's day. If it works, that is. I can't remember the last time I've seen him so excited, and he says he'd definitely want to try his hand at brewing it, if you can get the recipe.

As to whether it's illegal or not, I've never even heard of this potion, so maybe it isn't, technically. But I'm sure it would be, if Voldemort

knew about it. It would take away his chief excuse for locking all the werewolves away.




 **alt\_alice** at [2010-03-10 15:04:40](#)  
(no subject)

I agree! It's like two birthdays in one. He can't wait to get his hands on a sample. Apparently he had to reverse-engineer a series of poisons for his Masterwork, so he's very excited about being able to do that sort of thing again.

I think he's even developing a whole lesson plan around it for the children.



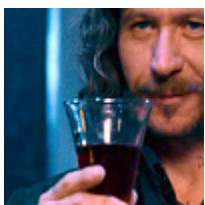
 **alt\_lupin** at [2010-03-10 15:46:36](#)  
(no subject)


I'm not sure what to find most surprising - the potion, or the fact that you read the *Potioneers' Gazette*.

Joking aside, this is really the most remarkable gift. I remember hearing about the early work, years ago, but I had absolutely no idea that anyone had continued pursuing it, or that they'd had any measure of success.

I almost don't want to get my hopes up, just in case it doesn't work. Even if it doesn't, just knowing that there are people out there working on it is quite a gift in itself. And if it does? Well, it would really be nothing short of life-changing.

Thank you doesn't quite seem adequate, but it's all I have, so. Thank you.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-03-10 21:21:12](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't say I read the *Gazette*, I said I happened on the article.

Besides, it's pretty much my fault you've been without any animal companionship all those years, so I figure it's the least I can do. No thanks necessary.

| I hope it works, is all.

**2010-03-10 19:27:00**

*Electives*

It's time to choose electives, or at least we're supposed to choose by the end of the month. I made an appointment yesterday with Professor Slughorn to ask him for advice, because I particularly wanted advice on what would help me get ahead considering my blood status. Professor Slughorn said he'd have to think a bit about careers -- well there's Master Brewer of course but he agrees I'm probably not good enough at Potions to manage that one. But he suggested I try to take Dark Arts, he said a Dark Arts OWL opens a lot of doors even when the job doesn't require Dark Arts. He mentioned a few students who graduated in the last few years who were halfbloods who had the Dark Arts OWL (not the NEWT, that class is harder to get in) and who did well for themselves.



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

So I've decided I'll sign up for Care of Magical Creatures, because I've been looking forward to that one since I came to Hogwarts. And Ancient Runes, because it sounds interesting. And, I asked Professor Slughorn to recommend me for Dark Arts. I don't know if I'll actually get in or not; it's up to Miss Professor Carrow in the end. I heard a rumour she's said she might do a one-day introductory class and see how well everyone does, but I'm not sure it's true or not.

If I don't get into Dark Arts I'll probably take Arithmancy. Divination doesn't sound all that interesting.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-03-11 01:38:50**

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

Ron, I don't know why you'd want to take Divination, Ancient Runes sounds like a much better class. Also, part of what makes Runes interesting is that they're a way of doing magic without a wand, if you're going to have to keep on with your broken one it's a class you could still get good marks in. If you revised, anyway.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-11 02:53:51](#)

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

WHY in Merlin's name are you CHOSING to take Dark Arts? I mean, it's Miss Professor Carrow!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 03:02:45](#)

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

Because Professor Slughorn thinks it'll help me get a job when I finish school. He said that's true even if the job has nothing to do with Dark Arts.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-11 03:29:37](#)

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

Oh, I--well, I see. I guess.

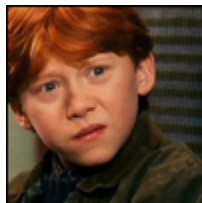
Still, ugh. Maybe you're right about her not letting you anyway. Fred and George Weasley said that Percy Weasley applied, and she didn't let him in and he had just about the best marks of anyone in Gryffindor. Who knows what she's looking for?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 03:33:00](#)

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

Not Gryffindors, probably.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:29:46](#)

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

Oi!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 23:30:52](#)

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

Oi yourself, eejit. I just said CARROW didn't much like Gryffindors, that's a compliment not an insult!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:32:46](#)

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

It's the way you said it, innit?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:30:37](#)

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

He did?

The twins said that?

How did I not even know that! That's excellent!!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 03:03:35](#)

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

Anyway I probably won't even get in.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:38:31](#)

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

I bet you do.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 23:43:20](#)

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

I'm sure you're trying to be flattering but it is CARROW we are talking about here.

Both the Carrows hate halfbloods and Amycus Carrow hates me extra because I'm too good at his subject. Professor Slughorn might be disappointed if I just assumed I couldn't get in and didn't try, so I'll try, but seriously, she won't let me take it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:50:41](#)

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

I can't tell if you want to get in or not. Do you? Cause if you do, then I hope you do. But if not, I wouldn't bet she won't let you in, cause she might and then you'd be stuck.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:34:17](#)

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

Well, but it's more history and all, isn't it?

But, yeah. It can't be as naff as Divination sounds, but I dunno.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-11 23:41:01](#)

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

It's not HISTORY OF MAGIC though, it's a HISTORICAL METHOD OF DOING MAGIC.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:52:36](#)

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


Well, yeah.

And if both you and Pansy are taking it, that'd be something. But then you'd have to help me when I turn out to be dead hopeless. You sure you want that?



Still. I dunno about sitting around looking at crystal balls and reading tea leaves and whatall in Divination.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-11 03:35:29](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, I know I'm taking Care of Magical Creatures, and also Runes. But I'm still deciding between Dark Arts and Arithmancy. I suppose I'll have to make up my mind eventually. Or Professor Carrow will make it

for me.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-11 23:31:47](#)

*(no subject)*

Wait. You're taking Runes?

Huh.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-12 02:09:10](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I figured it might end up being useful.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-12 02:16:09](#)

*(no subject)*

Oi. All this worrying about what we should take so we can get this job or that one, it makes my head hurt.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-12 02:23:25](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I know, Sally-Anne seems to have it a lot more figured out than I do. For me right now it's more about whether something could maybe open up some possibilities, you know? I don't know if I'll like Runes or not, but I think the possibilities there are more the sort I'd like to find out about.

If it makes you feel better, I have no idea what sort of job I want.




 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-03-12 02:28:53](#)  
(no subject)

If you could make a living teaching chess or something, you'd be set.

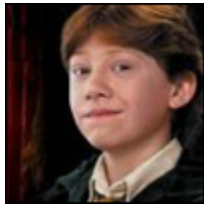
I don't know what I could make a living out of. My talents are pretty useless, really. Maybe I could make some money coming up with creative insults to sell?




 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-03-12 02:32:30](#)  
(no subject)

I could charge by the word.

"You niffler-sniffing truffle eater!" ...That'll be five sickles please.




 [alt\\_ron at 2010-03-12 03:03:19](#)  
(no subject)

Heh.

I bet you could get people to buy them.


Ooh. You could make cards that say things like that when you open them. And people'd buy them to send to their boss or their Auntie Ethelburga who smells of moth crystals and always makes them kiss her when she visits.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-03-12 04:16:37](#)  
(no subject)


Ooh. If Sally-Anne made the paper all folded fancy, it'd be really funny, because it would look like a really pretty card, and then you open it up and it calls you a pixie pustule or a nailbiting loon, and it takes you by surprise.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-12 04:21:40](#)  
(no subject)

I should make a line of them next year at Valentine's actually. Although for Harry's sake, I wouldn't make them talking ones.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-12 15:58:00](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I bet that would make him laugh to get a totally flowery, sparkly, girly one that opens up and says, "Cheers, newt-breath!" or "Piss off, doxy dung!"


Can I put in my order now?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-12 02:10:31](#)  
(no subject)

And from what I know about it it's sort of like finding patterns and solving puzzles and drawing symbols and things, and I like all that.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-12 02:21:40](#)  
(no subject)

Finding patterns and solving puzzles.


So, d'you think it's like chess, then? about strategies? and planning and all? Cause I'm good at that sort of thing. Huh. Maybe I could do that.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-12 02:24:18](#)  
(no subject)

You are really good at chess and things, I'd bet you would be. It might even be fun?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-12 03:04:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. Maybe.

When do we have to say what we're going to take?




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-12 04:12:04](#)**  
(no subject)

You're asking *me*? I've no idea.


Soon, though.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-03-11 03:46:47](#)**  
(no subject)


Ancient Runes is interesting. It's my favourite class, I think. And useful, my brother Bill has said (he used it to parlay a career first in banking and then in Wizarding communications).



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-11 23:37:22](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

See, Percy saying it's his favourite? That's not exactly making me think I'd love it. You know?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-11 23:43:52](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Do you just automatically decide anything he likes must be dreadful?

Which quidditch team does Percy follow?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-12 15:51:57](#)

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

The Cannons, of course. But that just proves that sometimes he sees sense, not that his opinion's one anyone ought to follow. I mean, he'd take a subject because it's got loads of homework or because he reckons it'll 'build your character' (wot?), and that's just daft.

**2010-03-11 10:58:00**

*Electives*


I've decided to take Care of Magical Creatures and Divination.

I'd really like to be able to get a clue about the future.



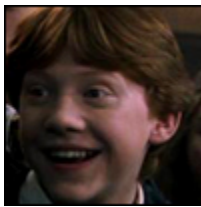
 [alt\\_neville](#)




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-03-11 20:00:08**  
(no subject)

Care of Magical Creatures will be *ace*.

I'm really looking forward to it.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-11 23:27:35**  
(no subject)

You decided, then?

Dead excellent.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-11 23:28:18**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's what I'm putting down, too. Good.

**[2010-03-12 09:34:00](#)**

*School supplies!*



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

I heard that most of the stuff they're offering was confiscated from Stretton and a couple others like him - the ones who've been hoarding stuff and trying to sell it for scads more than it's all worth.

Sandoval said that there is a small charge for some things, especially things no one really *needs*, like games, but that the money the prefects collect will go to St Mungo's. I guess the Headmistress said she'd make arrangements to send it, since she can sometimes leave the school under certain, very controlled, circumstances.

Obviously, I've not had to buy stuff, nor would I from the likes of Stretton, anyway. For one thing, I've noticed that really necessary supplies like parchment and quills and ink are never in short supply in Ravenclaw Corner - and anyway, Capper showed me a really easy trick for transfiguring a down feather (out of a pillow) into a serviceable eagle feather quill. But it's such a relief to know that if we did need something, it's now available from a reputable source. And for a reasonable price.

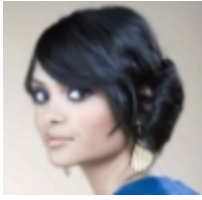
Anyway, they're opening the exchange for a couple of hours this afternoon, and then tomorrow morning for a bit. And after that, Sandoval says maybe twice a week or so, they'll work out a rota. Moon and Dunstan and I thought we'd go this afternoon, just to see what Stretton managed to collect over the last couple months.


Oh, and if it's not raining later does anyone want to go outside? It's actually warmish today!!



**[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-12 15:50:50](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I heard someone got crucioed, was it Stretton or was Towler just shooting his mouth off again? And I'm going flying later since it might FINALLY clear up.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-12 16:11:24](#)  
(no subject)


No, Towler wasn't having you on, he really was cruciated.

What happened was, the prefects cornered Stretton and forced him to show them where he stashed all his goods. He took them to a room he'd been using as a storeroom, but it was pretty well cleaned out, so they were fairly sure he was lying. He must have moved most of it all just before they raided, I dunno who might have tipped him off but I have my suspicions. Anyway, they told him he'd better tell them where the rest of it was. And Stretton told them to bugger off - that's exactly what he said, I heard - and *WEASLEY* of all people cast the petrificus on him and brought Sandoval and the others on the run. And then he still wouldn't tell them, Stretton that is, and he told Sandoval she could just piss off, and she cruciated him!

He's still walking sort of slantwise today, it's actually sort of funny. I know it's not kind to laugh, but he walked into a door jamb coming into the common room this morning, and then he looked at the jamb like it had bit him.

Flying sounds lovely. I haven't a broom, but maybe I could borrow one. It'd be good to get some fresh air for a change. Sandoval says the exchange is likely to be really mobbed this afternoon, with everyone gawking at what they've got on offer.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-12 16:32:27](#)  
(no subject)

Well good on Percy. That bugger Stretton deserved what he got.

And that's what the school brooms are for, yeah? The one with the red paint on the tip flies best of the lot, I think.






 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-12 19:28:19](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, well, the school brooms are all naff, even the one with the paint. But it's okay, Dames says I can borrow hers for the afternoon.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-12 19:34:46](#)  
(no subject)


Excellent, I'll meet you after Defence, yeah?



 **alt\_percy** at [2010-03-12 18:01:37](#)  
(no subject)


Actually, he also told me, *sotto voce*, that if I wanted to know where the rest of the stuff was, he could let me in on his market for a cut. In other words, he tried to bribe a Prefect. That's even more contemptible.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-12 19:35:04](#)  
(no subject)


What a wanker.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-12 19:35:24](#)  
(no subject)

Oops sorry Percy, I know you don't like us using bad language in the journals.



 **alt\_percy** at [2010-03-13 00:28:41](#)  
(no subject)


In this case, I rather think he deserves it.



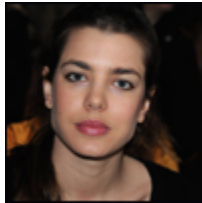
 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-12 19:36:10](#)  
(no subject)


But still. What an idiot!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-12 19:48:57](#)  
(no subject)

Utterly, yeah.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-03-13 04:17:33](#)  
(no subject)

Too right. His attempt to bribe a Prefect was entirely beyond the pale, particularly given the mess he'd got himself in already.

And good show, Weasley. You showed real mettle last night.

**[2010-03-12 13:36:00](#)**

*school shop*



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

They confiscated Barney Bole's stash at the same time they got Stretton's. Bole was clever enough just to give it up, I mean he did try to say he was just selling things like sweets and not necessities (and Mr Selwyn had said it was just hoarding and overpricing necessities that was the problem) but Baddock knew better. And then Bole tried saying he'd ONLY started selling necessary items because he was trying to compete with Stretton to bring the price down and Baddock told him he was impressed by Bole's civic spirit and since he understood this was ALL about improving the community and not lining his own pockets he'd be delighted to hear all the confiscated goods would be sold at a little school store at a reasonable price and the profits would be donated to St Mungo's.


So then Bole said he wanted the profits from the goods he was 'donating' to be donated to the Department of Mysteries, instead, since they're the ones researching Black's Paralysis and how to cure it and they went round a bit and finally Baddock said he'd suggest it to the other prefects and Bole brought everything out and gave it to him.

This was all right in the common room and they didn't shout at each other but they were all really LOUD, I think Bole was hoping other people in Slytherin would take his side and say his prices were fair. But, everyone just sat and watched to see what would happen. At least Bole didn't try to bribe Baddock. Though even if he'd been fool enough to try bribing a prefect, the whole house was watching and it would've been a bit difficult.

I'm looking forward to seeing what they have in the school shop but I don't think I care enough to stand in line half the afternoon.



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 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-12 19:54:28](#)**

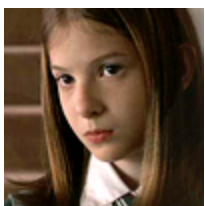
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

There were all sorts of rumours today about what happened in Ravenclaw and they ALL had Percy in them.

I heard he fought a duel with Stretton after Stretton tried to bribe him. And I also heard it was Percy that cast cruciatus on Stretton but

I thought that was really unlikely because it would be against the RULES. He'd just get Sandoval and have her do it. Or Moran. And it sounds like that's about what happened.

I'm just surprised there wasn't anyone in Gryffindor selling anything.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-12 20:02:40](#)**

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

And I feel a bit sorry for Stretton but really, he made his bed on this. He knew Sandoval had it out for him and the writing was on the wall after Mr Selwyn said his bit. He thought he'd be so clever hiding most of his stash, if he'd just hidden LESS of it he might have gotten away with it but no one was going to believe he only had the things in his trunk.

And then trying to bribe PERCY? If I were going to try bribing a prefect it would NOT be your brother!

Still, I heard Sandoval kept the curse on him for a long time, longer than she needed if she just wanted him to tell her where his stash was. And then wouldn't allow anyone to take him to the hospital wing after, because she'd heard Madam Pomfrey will give you things to help you recover faster. I mean, Fawcett can be a little dramatic when she tells stories so I don't know if that's true. Cruciatius seems like it lasts a really long time even when it's not that long. And maybe no one helped him get to the hospital wing because they didn't want to make Sandoval cross; she might not have had to SAY anything.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-13 04:02:23](#)**

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

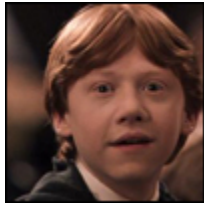
Yeah, trying to bribe Percy's totally asking for a huge lecture on Unethical Behaviour: he gets to things like bribes after seven or eight paragraphs even when all you've done is ask Jordan or Towler if you could see the parchments they wrote for Charms in second year.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-13 04:41:54](#)

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

Well that's dead unfair. You might have just been looking to see an example of a good parchment, you know?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-13 13:32:59](#)

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

Well, yeah. Exactly.

Only Percy didn't see it that way.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-13 03:59:37](#)

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

Yeah, everyone's talking about it here, too. Except not where Percy can hear. He's all puffed up about it.

It definitely wasn't Percy who Crucio'd Stretton, but it sounds as if they did have a bit of a duel and then Percy petrified him and handed him over to Sandoval.

**[2010-03-12 22:18:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

They go cold and pale so fast. Much faster than with other methods, a quarter of an hour at most. Of course, it's not as though they have a normal temperature to begin with. And the skin goes limp, collapses and hangs loose. The purpling begins in the first hour, though it varies. Am keeping strict notes on each case.




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

What's worrying is the eyes, with nothing to protect them.

So many eyes.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-13 04:52:05](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Pansy really likes Regulus Black and I think it's because he's Sirius Black's brother. She can't talk to Sirius without attracting the Wrong Sort of Attention but she can talk to Regulus all she likes.

I met him when he came for a quidditch match, I mean we didn't sit down for a heart-to-heart chat but Pansy introduced me and he said hello. He seemed nice. Normal aside from the hook.

I think he's murdering people though, I think he's the one who killed those people the Healers were investigating the murders of last fall (you know, when they came and spoke to the YPL?) and I think he's killing people again. But everyone knows it, I mean everyone in power who ought to care and be arresting him, they know it and they DON'T care.

I don't understand, I mean if you have Magical Law Enforcement with Mr Crouch and Mrs Lestrangle and all the rest, what do you need to send Regulus Black out murdering people for?



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-13 13:26:02](#)

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

Oh, I never read this stuff. I mean, don't you just figure he's takin' the piss when he writes rubbish like this?

Or someone said maybe he fancies himself some kind of writer or artist of something.

Or may he's just a bit mad. You know in some of the old families, some of them just have what they call bouts of it. They're not all mad all the time, but when they are? Look out.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-03-14 17:29:18](#)

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

Maybe you're right, but it reminds me of Carrow the way he writes and he's nothing like Carrow in person.

His mum's pretty much mad all the time, I think. She sounds AWFUL.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-14 19:14:09](#)

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

Well, yeah. He kind of does sound like Carrow. Only he doesn't sound like he likes dead things, where Carrow totally does.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-13 13:28:34](#)

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

Anywiz, who would be sending him off murdering people?

I mean, what for?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-14 17:38:46](#)

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

Maybe MLE has him kill the people who didn't really do anything wrong but they want them out of the way anyway. You remember how during Christmas hols the Prophet had a story about Black's Paralysis? And the Ministry denied everything for about a day and then said 'oh what a hero that reporter was! revealing the secrets that had been covered up!' and then the reporter turned up DEAD less than a week later.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-14 19:10:28](#)

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

You think he did that?

What does Pansy think's so great about him, anyway? I mean, you really think he's going around killing people, not just writing odd stuff here, but she thinks it's all right to talk to him all the time. I dunno.

I mean people write odd stuff all the time, don't they? Like that daft old witch who's always writing about all her cats and what they say to her. Or the one who writes out potions for poisoning vermin and says whether you should feed your barracuda palm minnows or tadpoles--y'know, the one that's always answering people's questions about dangerous-sounding household spells. Or that bloke in Newcastle who thinks he's a medieval soothsayer and writes out lists of names of people he says are going to die a month from now?

I guess those people don't reckon anyone at the Ministry will pay attention to what they say, but someone like Mr Black, if I were him and I had to write something in my journal, I think I'd say mad stuff, too, just so no one important would take me seriously. Cause it doesn't seem like they do, does it. Get upset over what he writes, I mean.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-14 20:47:59](#)

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

I don't have any idea if it was HIM, I'm just saying, that would be the sort of reason someone might send someone out murdering people. I mean the Ministry said they didn't know about the scourge and it had all been covered up. But that was a completely lie. So of course they were furious with the reporter afterward but

Well anyway, I don't know. You're probably right and it's all just rubbish.

Pansy likes the way he talks to her, like either he's a kid or she's a grownup.

And you're right people do write daft stuff all the time, I started reading what Regulus Black writes because he talks to Pansy so often. I wanted to keep an eye on him. If the witch with the talking cats came to visit my friend on holidays I'd be more worried about her. Well, if the cats said anything interesting at least.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 05:48:17](#)

*Order Only*

Bloody Hecate.

I can't think he's not writing in earnest. He's doing something fiendish for that monster. But on the other hand I'm afraid the posts are almost calculated to draw me out. He's done that before - tried to provoke me into sparring with him.

Thing is, I can't work out whether he does it on his buggering *master's* orders to see if I'll slip up, give him information they need to find me, or if he's genuinely crying out for help.


Dammit. Bugger. BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER.

And if we did help him, what then? Not like it'd make a damn bit of difference, would it? He still actually thinks it's a wizard's right to have dominion over 'lesser' men. I

just

Oh BUGGER IT.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-14 06:19:06](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I'm so sorry, Sirius.

I know you're worried about him.

Regardless of what he thinks or what he's done, he's still your brother. Who knows? He might think the same way about you.



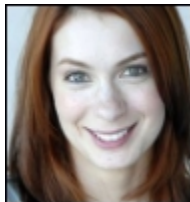
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:32:49](#)


*Re: Order Only*

I don't know what's worse, Allie, worrying about him or wanting to knock some sense into that thick, over-privileged head of his.

And I'm sure he does feel the same about me, but one of us is right, and it's not the one who thinks, 'Oh, well, can't stop the homicidal madman from popping the clogs of anyone who dares whisper a word of criticism, so might as well join in the killing spree, cheerio. Oh, but if only they weren't quite so *dead*-looking when one is done with them. It does put one off one's supper. Well, maybe if I write some poetry that would make Emily Dickinson seem a jubilant socialite, and play a little more music by tortured moaning guitar-playing lesbians from the last coffee house of Hell, it'll seem like my problems are only slightly insurmountable.'

I mean to say. Bloody bugging bollocks.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-14 06:37:31](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, for Merlin's sake, I hope you don't resort to terrible poetry, darling.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-14 06:39:31](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Ha-fucking-ha.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-14 06:41:31](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Nah, but I ought to take my own advice, yeah,  
and stop feeling sorry for myself.

Right. I'm off to bed, then.

Someone's bed, anyway.

**2010-03-13 13:24:00**

*Order Only: Shipbuilding, the garden,  
and a visit to the Sherwood Band*



 [alt\\_kingsley](#)

Benjy, Caradoc, Victor, Danny and me have been whiling away the long winter nights by making a careful study of that book I mentioned, *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*. It's hard sometimes not to get distracted by the historical entries on minutiae about the history of a dance called the Sailor's Hornpipe or the disgusting things that eighteenth century sailors used to have to eat during the Napoleonic Wars. Much more useful for our purposes are the diagrams and technical information. And now we're putting what we've been learning into practice, trying to build and outfit a larger and more seaworthy boat that we can use for breaching the wards at the next Solstice. We want to have the hold space to stash a load of wands. The biggest challenge for us, as I've said, is the scarcity of usable wood on the island, but we've stepped up our scavenging expeditions. There are a number of derelict boats on the island. Most are in mighty poor shape after so many years with no maintenance or protection from the elements, with weather beaten, broken hulls, fraying ropes (which sailors call 'sheets') and the like. We can salvage planks and boards from them, though, and we think with some judicious transfiguration work, we'll make do. The children, of course, are following our experimentation with keen interest, not to mention a lot of jokes about the Players' ignorantly lubberly questions. Lively arguments have been breaking out all week about what our new vessel should be named. I believe 'Black's Bounty' is in the front-running, although Caradoc keeps trying to convince people that christening it 'The Firebolt' would be a really good idea.

The other project preoccupying us here at Moddey Dhoo is the planned memorial garden. Colin and Felicia been designing the layout, with Laura's help, as well as Stephen's input about which plants to use. It's been interesting to see their sketches and hear the discussion. Colin's more concerned with the physical shape of the garden, so to speak, whereas Felicia's been paying more attention to colour. Colin jokes that it's because he likes to sketch with charcoal or quill and ink, unlike Felicia, who likes to mess around more with fingerpainting or water colours. While the Sanctuary already grows herbs in one of the greenhouses, Stephen had the idea of adding an herb knot garden in the center of the memorial garden, specifically ones used in healing potions. Emmeline and Dorcas will be doing

some day trip expeditions to bring back seeds and seedlings. I'll let you know, Bill, when you can come to plant a tree for Archer.

I did my usual beginning of the month visit to the Sherwood Band. This time, I took John Turner along. Frank says that the change in his job duties to acting as Arabella's assistant has wrought a miraculous change in John's attitude, and he was simply a-brim with ideas that he wanted to talk about with Davidson. I was a mite doubtful, and Davidson was a little wary too when I introduced them, but soon they were getting along like a cauldron on fire. The Band is doing much better than I feared they would be. The wands have helped enormously, of course, but surprisingly, another reason is the epidemic. So many muggles have died, leaving empty and abandoned buildings, that they've managed to improvise some very comfortable shelter, out of the cold and wet. Davidson always surprises me every time I go see him with his resourcefulness and ambition, and John's ideas dovetailed with them surprisingly neatly.

Once they thawed out with each other and got to talking, it became clear that they've been thinking along the same lines: they want to create another Moddey Dhoo really, a sanctuary for adults. Muggles and Muggleborns, with any assistance from Order wizards that we can give. They want a place where they can be safe, even a place, Davidson hints, where they can begin to train to fight. Of course, to be safe, they mustn't let the group get too big, and that's where Davidson's ambition surprised me. As more people join them, he wants to send them out across the country, to quietly attach themselves to other camps and begin to liberate more people elsewhere, a few at the time. Eventually, he and John think they might have five other Sherwood bands going, then twenty, then...who knows? Perhaps some might eventually leave the country, crossing the ward by boat at the Solstices, in order to help Sirius set up a smuggling network across Europe that can help us bring more goods in. I left them talking like old friends as Jackie Porter took me on a tour of the house they've been using as a barracks, so that I could give her a hand with some spellwork to fix a few leaks in the roof.

We left on the best of terms, with me and John handing over a supply of rubberised wellies we'd transfigured for the Band members and promises to send more of Stephen's potions. When we got back to Moddey Dhoo, John made an announcement that I thought would surprise everyone, but I guess Frank, Alice, and Arabella knew about it in advance: he and Lucinda are leaving Moddey Dhoo to join the Band, at Davis' invitation, to help them start the changes that he and Davidson discussed. Victor's pretty broken up at the idea of his

daughter leaving, but having Jacinda here now to help in the nursery frees Lucinda to go. She and John are clearly a pair, now, and she's determined that she wants to be with him.

That's about all the news for now. Oh, except that I've got a suspicion that Jacinda's caught Benjy's eye, and he's been going around grinning fatuously to himself like a young fool in love. It's very entertaining.



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-03-14 03:56:35**

*(no subject)*

I cannot imagine Moddey Dhoo without Lucinda Scrim. She was with us right at the start, with Victor and Arabella.

Danny will miss her very much, I think. They've been close friends since he was little.


I have no doubt that both John and Lucinda will both be invaluable to Davidson. Lucinda helped build Moddey Dhoo to what it is today, and John has been learning so much during his tenure here.

And I honestly think this will make them both happy. Right from the start, I knew John had a fire in him that wouldn't be contained by Moddey Dhoo forever, and he's always been so passionate about making connections with the Muggle camps, and bridging that gap. He's been talking about it since he came here, and now he has a real chance to make that come true. During his time here, he's learned how to listen, how to lead, and how to take orders.

And Lucinda -- she's grown leaps and bounds from the teenager I once knew. She's ready to take her next step with John at her side, and I admire her so very much.

We had a nice long talk after the announcement, John and Lucinda and Frank and myself. Both of them know it's going to be a long hard road, but I think they will be that much more successful together. And if Davidson wants to make a real effort to connect with the Muggle population, this is certainly an excellent way to start.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:03:30](#)**  
(no subject)


he mellowed out a lot after he and Luce got together.

I think I might actually miss him.

definitely going to miss Luce though. the nursery just won't be the same. and I know pretty much every kid here feels the same way.

they did have the good sense to ask Jacinda first, though, so good on them for that.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:46:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I bet Arabella's going to miss John, too. He was giving her quite a bit of help at the end there, wasn't he? And she's not as spry as she used to be.

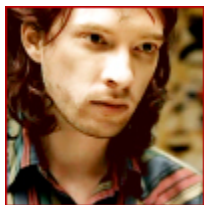
I wonder...


It depends on what people show up with the Sherwood Band as more and more get liberated. But maybe some of them have talents we could use, and perhaps the cross-assistance might go both ways? Would one of those people be a good prospect to come help at Moddey Dhoo for awhile, give Arabella a hand, see how we run things?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:47:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Well now, I don't know, Bill. Moddey Dhoo is a secret-kept location, remember.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:49:19](#)**  
(no subject)

So? I'm sure the Sherwood Band takes the same precautions, don't they? If they don't, they should. And don't they have as much interest in

keeping our secrets if one of them gets caught, given that we're offering them supplies and back up support?




 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:51:47](#)**  
(no subject)

As a matter of fact, they have started using their own Secret-keeper. Davidson's smart enough to take every precaution he can.

It's an interesting idea, Bill. Frank, maybe you and Alice and Arabella and the rest should talk it over.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-14 05:40:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it would be in the spirit of what we're trying to do, certainly, and even with Jacinda around, we'll be short-staffed if we expand at the rate we're planning to -- we'll need to work hard this Spring to cover our own expansion and Sherwood's needs as they set up more permanently.

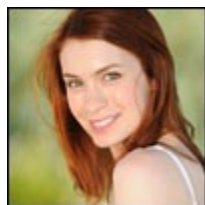
And we could definitely help with defensive training -- Frank's got his obstacle course he's been using to drill Stephen and John and the older children.


I do agree with Arthur, we'd have to be cautious, but I'd trust Davidson to send along someone he trusts.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:12:42](#)**  
(no subject)

How is young Alec taking the news? I am sure his big brother will come back to visit him frequently, won't he?



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-14 04:21:36](#)**  
(no subject)

He's awfully stoic about it, the dear. He wanted to come along too, but John insisted he wait til he's of age, and has shown that he can hold his own.



Which is an awfully good encouragement for him to focus on his studies!

We're going to be offering an awful lot of support to John and Lucinda during their first year as they set up a more permanent centre for the resistance -- so we'll be seeing a lot of him. And he's promised Victor that he'll bring Lucinda back with him as often as he can.



 **alt\_frank** at [2010-03-14 04:13:28](#)

*(no subject)*

he did seem a bit more moony than usual, come to think on it.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-03-14 05:13:28](#)

*(no subject)*

Sounds like they're all doing perfectly well building up the resistance without us. But a network would be a good thing. I've been thinking about what would happen if some friend to Voldemort does catch wind of me - or if I did have to show my face to help out Bill and something were to go wrong, Emrys forbid. I've been talking to Marguerite and Fatima a lot over the last few months. It's they, really, who keep the daily business of Laszlo running - Marguerite in Calais and Fatima in Cairo. And I move about a lot, but once a contact is set up, the two of them have done wonders to keep it all in motion. But I'm not wild about leaving them to fend with the likes of Sabola, for example; much better to have me in that position.

I'm surprised that John's willing to leave Alec, but I agree with Allie - I only met him for a few minutes that one night, but it was clear he was going to stop at nothing to cast himself as the hero in the coming battle, and he'd have been happy to fight it then and there. Speaking as one who's been known to be brash now and again, I recognised the type. It's hard to believe he could have settled so quickly, but good: we need wizards who can also be warriors. We just need them to all lead with their heads, not their hearts.

~~I've also been thinking more about~~

~~I know I've said this before, but I think Reg is in trouble~~

With this quarantine on the school and the Ministry shouting 'Black's Poison' anytime anyone catches cold, it's good to get good news now and then.

(Which reminds me: *Black's Bounty*? You've got to be joking. If anyone spotted you you'd be swarmed with Death Eaters in half a heartbeat. How about this - in honour of John: *Tide Turner*.)



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-03-14 05:17:01](#)

(no subject)

*Tide Turner*. Oh, I like that!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-14 05:18:10](#)

(no subject)

That gets my vote, if they'd count it.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-03-14 05:19:20](#)

(no subject)

Mine, too. Good idea, Sirius.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-14 05:20:05](#)

(no subject)

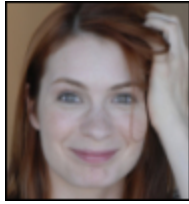
Oh, I imagine he would be so touched. It would probably mean a great deal to Alec, too.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-03-14 05:21:27](#)

(no subject)

We could probably arrange a formal christening ceremony before he and Lucinda leave. Frank and Alice, what do you think?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-03-14 05:53:48](#)  
(no subject)

Excellent. We could dribble a little Christmas brandy over the bow.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-14 05:58:25](#)  
(no subject)

oi, just a little, mind.


we have to save some for a toast, after all.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:08:13](#)  
(no subject)

Eh, I'll get you more.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-14 06:20:06](#)  
(no subject)

cheers, mate.


pour away.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:21:25](#)  
(no subject)

drunken sot.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-14 06:32:06](#)  
(no subject)

pot, kettle, Black.


haha.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:34:34](#)  
(no subject)

Not a sot. Just drunk.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:35:31](#)  
(no subject)

Meant me, too.


Pillock.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-14 06:45:54](#)  
(no subject)

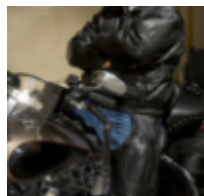
arsey alkie.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-03-14 05:35:19](#)  
(no subject)

It's strange to hear you going on about the brash young type, as if you were an old greybeard.

(And I'm sorry about your brother. Wish the Players were more free to move around, so we could see if we could learn a bit about what he's up to, if it would ease your mind. Dorcas has offered, anyway. She's about the best of us at covert reconnaissance.)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-14 06:05:17](#)  
(no subject)

Hah, I didn't say I wasn't still brash, even if I'm not so young as I used to be. I'm fit enough for a man of my advanced years.


I don't know if I want to know what he's up to, Kingsley. Honestly, I'm not sure what good it would do, anyway. He's already proven, time and again, that he's not willing to draw the line where that

murdering maniac is concerned. he's already shown he still believes their line of tripe about purity and magic over Muggle. He's my brother, but I lost him to them a long time ago.

I've just had to have the rather dubious pleasure of watching him torture himself into oblivion over the last couple years. Before, I could at least pretend he was as cold-hearted and vicious as the rest of them, including my cousin Bellatrix. Now I'm merely confronted with what a coward he is on top of everything else.

Don't let Dorcas trouble herself. It's probably better if I just leave him to it.

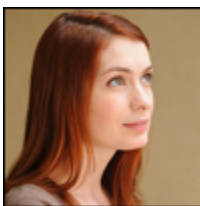



 **alt\_alice** at [2010-03-14 05:53:17](#)  
(no subject)

I think Lucinda has helped direct his energies rather brilliantly. And Arabella too -- she picked up on his zeal for planning rather quickly, and he's really taken off with it. He's been working on writing up his plans and organizing them for weeks, and I think it's got real promise. He's definitely using his head -- I don't think Davidson would have listened to him otherwise.

I think in the coming months, we'll be working a lot closer with Sherwood -- between John and Lucinda and our (hopeful) ability to get folks over to France, we will certainly have our fingers on the pulse of things.

And I think he really knows that Alec has a home here, where he'll be safe, and that helps.



 **alt\_alice** at [2010-03-14 05:55:19](#)  
(no subject)

And I really hope it doesn't come to that, darling. You having to show your face and really go on the run.

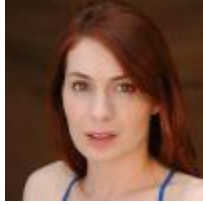
I know you've had close calls before, and it's always a risk, but I hope things get sorted out without having to resort to putting you in the line of fire.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-14 05:56:51](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, I should hope not, too, but it's best to be prepared.

Archer showed us all that lesson, poor fellow.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-14 06:03:26](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Indeed.

And I certainly hope your form of preparedness is not quite so drastic.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-14 06:20:41](#)**  
*(no subject)*

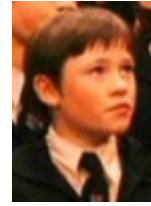
Never fear, love. I've no deathwish.

I've a wish to throttle my fool of a brother, but that's something entirely different. No doubt brought on by one pint too many, at that.

**[2010-03-14 21:09:00](#)**

*Lucky Thirteen*

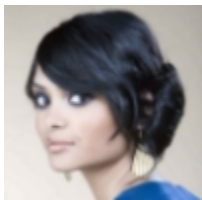
So today was my birthday and it was pretty good. Thanks for the card and pressie Padma! It flies around and around when you let it go. It was starting to get on Percy's nerves so I put it away after a bit. Mr Rosier couldn't send me anything but he wrote in his journal that he'd gotten tickets to go see the Kestrels play this summer. I can't wait! I guess that means he doesn't think I'll be home for spring hols. But at this point I can't say I'm surprised.



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

And pudding tonight was chocolate cake so no complaints there. Even if I didn't have any candles to blow out. He said I could have a cake with candles in summer if I want and we'd celebrate then. Actually the birthday that should really be wizard this summer is Draco's, if he's still planning to hold a party in June.

Anyway I said thank you over in your diary but thank you Mr Rosier for my present. I'm really excited to go see the Kestrels. I wish I'd be home sooner than summer but summer's not that far away really.



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 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-15 13:58:12](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm glad you liked it! It was just a little thing they had at the new shop. I dunno who brought it originally, but it's yours now.

Oh, by the way, I meant to tell you that Perks was in the queue round the same time I was. Did you know she had brought lists from some of the older kids in Slytherin, with their shopping?

First I thought she was making a little mudblood of herself, doing their shopping like a house-elf. But then I thought of that book you were telling me about, the one set in Hogwarts way back in the 1800s, and how the poorer students used to fag for the older ones, you know, to make a bit of pocket money. I guess that little bit of change she made off those folded valentines gave her the taste for money. That and her association with Stretton - he's always got a scheme going. I'm sure he's been teaching her a thing or two about taking advantage.

Can you imagine? I mean, if Sandoval asked me to fetch her something, of course I'd do it, but that's because she's such a wonderful person, and a great friend. Not because she paid me.

Ooh! D'you think Parkinson pays her to be friends? I know Weasley hasn't any dosh for it, perhaps she just feels grateful that someone pities her enough to be friends without insisting on the benefit of payment.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-15 15:52:05](#)

*(no subject)*

Well you remember he took up for her after she got crucio'd. Maybe Stretton fancies her?

If Parkinson was going to pay for a friend I'd think she'd look for someone more the thing than Perks. Maybe Perks needs the money so much because she pays Parkinson to be friends with her.

Anyway I'd stand in line as a favour for some people but if Towler wanted anything he'd ~~bloody~~ jolly well have to pay me! He can queue up himself the lazy git.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-15 16:37:12](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, now he's in the Cruciatus Club, too. Imagine having Stretton fancy one, ugh.

I dunno about her paying Parkinson, though. I mean, if I were looking for someone who's more the thing, I'd not choose Parkinson. Even if she is friendly with Mr Malfoy and Mr Black (the good one, I mean, not the nasty one), she's got some funny ideas, y'know? I think if she hadn't been from so important a family she'd have got herself into a lot more trouble last year.

Dames told me that when she was a first-year, there was a girl in her dormitory who thought that being pureblood meant she could say anything she liked. She took a fancy to start a whole salon where people read essays and poems and such about the 'injustice' of the mudblood camps and they told stories about how muggles used to live, and how nice they were. The prefects told her to stop it or they'd tell the Headmistress about it, but she kept on. Finally



the Head Boy brought her up before the Governors and they said that if she sympathised with mudbloods so much, she ought to go and live like one. And they sent her and her family to the camps.

But Dames said that even though she was a pureblood, this girl, she wasn't well-connected. I mean, her family didn't have any money and they weren't anyone important, her father was a plumber at the Ministry and her mum was just a clerk in a shop. So when she started what Dames called 'activism' she didn't really have anyone important to defend her.

I mean, I've never heard Perks say anything right out that's plain daft, but Parkinson sure has. If Parkinson was a nobody like Perks, and been as idiotic as she was last year, she'd have never been fostered with Mrs Black, right, and given all those second chances? But if Perks is the one keeping Parkinson in line, well, it sort of makes sense, because no one else would bother. Because they all figure that Parkinson's got enough protection already. Maybe Perks feels the same about Weasley, too, like she has to make sure they don't slip up. I mean, she needs pureblood friends to protect her, but she can't actually make any pureblood friends apart from the likes of Weasley and Stretton and all.

And yeah, I'm just as happy that the Ravenclaw Corner lot are all nice. We've only got one or two like Towler. Whereas you've got Towler and also Wood and of course Weasleys all over the place. Parvati says she wishes she'd been Sorted into Ravenclaw, our blokes are much more fanciable. (But she knows she'd never feel right here, her marks are too low.)




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-16 01:05:40](#)

*(no subject)*

Do you know if that's really true, the story Dames told you? Did she have any brothers or sisters? Because it doesn't seem

A nobody who acted like Parkinson would've been in much worse trouble last year but that's always the way it is. What d'you have against Wood? He's probably the best quidditch player we've got! And he's never said anything daft that I can remember!




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-16 01:53:24](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno, that's just what Dames told me. But if she had brothers and sisters, they got sent to the camps, too, didn't they?

And I guess Wood's okay, though Chang says he's totally obsessed with Quidditch and nothing else. I think Perks stayed with him over the summer. And he's always seemed a little...I dunno. Parvati says he's a bit odd. She overheard him talking with Ito and Wentworth in the Common Room a couple times, about life outside Hogwarts, and she said he was really cagey about his parents.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-16 05:04:41](#)  
(no subject)

Whats wrong with being obsessed with quidditch?

Woods doesn't talk much about his parents but lots of people don't. Parents are boring!




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-15 21:03:04](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What do you suppose Patil pays Sandoval to let her sit in Ravenclaw Corner? She must pay them or they'd never let her hang about and be such a pest.

I was going to say this to her right out, but I figured you'd rather I didn't.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-03-16 01:07:02](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh she doesn't pay in money, she pays her by licking Sandoval's boots clean every single day!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-16 05:10:12](#)

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

Things Pansy wanted to say to Padma in the journals today, but didn't:

1. I'm pretty sure there isn't enough money in the WORLD to get me to be YOUR friend.

2. I'd ask if you were this catty because it's your monthly, but that doesn't explain Finnigan. They should call you lot the Painters, cause they're always in.

(Ron, if you don't understand that second one ... well I'm not explaining it so you'll just have to live confused.)

She also pointed out Padma shilled her mum's robe pets all over the school, so it's a bit rich her looking down on my flowers, or running errands for sickles.

**2010-03-14 21:19:00**

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



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

The school shop is pretty wizard actually. I went ahead and queued up for it yesterday because Kathryn Pyle heard from Josephina Gamp that the shop had bobotuber pus soap, it's supposed to be really good for getting rid of spots. Kathryn has horrible spots but she also didn't want to stand in line all day so she paid me to do it for her. Since I was going to be running her errand I asked around and Melinda Penniford said she'd pay me a sickle if I'd get her a bar of it too. And Charles Warrington wanted chocolates he could give to his girlfriend, and there were a few others, in all I made eight sickles for running everyone else's errands and the best part was, the queue wasn't even that long! Everyone who needed something really urgently went Friday, and the wait was horrible on Friday. No one wanted to deal with it so hardly anyone went on Saturday.

The person running the shop got all suspicious about the fact that I was buying five bars of that soap, I think she thought I was going to hoard it myself to resell, but I'd had everyone make me out a list so I showed the lists to her and explained I was running errands for friends. (I didn't tell her I was paid to do it. I didn't think she really needed to know.) She couldn't decide whether or not to be cross about it. I think she thought it wasn't quite on. I probably won't do it again, I don't want to get in trouble.

I bought myself some new socks, too, and some other things I needed. And some green ink. And I was tempted to get a charmed hairbrush that gets snarles out of your hair without pulling but actually my hair doesn't usually get that snarled.




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-03-15 03:59:39**  
(no subject)

I just saw what Madam Pomfrey said about spots! I hadn't even realised that they were extra worried because people might think they had the scourge.

If I had spots I'd go get that wash Madam Pomfrey gives you free, but Kathryn and Melinda say the fancy soap smells nicer.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-15 21:09:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I expect they're right about that. Nothing that comes from Madam Pomfrey ever smells or tastes good. I don't think there must be a rule of medimagic that all the potions have to be nasty or they won't be any use.

What are you going to use the green ink for?

Were there really chocs at the shop? Not that it matters, anyhow. I don't expect anybody here would pay me to stand in line for them.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-16 01:08:49](#)**  
(no subject)

I might use the green ink for letters if we ever get to write them again. And send them, I mean.

There were chocs at the shop but no one was sure whether they were transfigured and if they were, from what. Warrington didn't much care, his girlfriend will eat either sort.

**2010-03-14 21:20:00**

*Attention Students*

You may all rest assured that there have been **NO** cases of the paralysis scourge at Hogwarts. There is absolutely **NO** reason to fear that we will see any illness of that sort here.



 **alt\_poppy**

Furthermore, please understand that virtually all spots, hives, beauty marks, and other blemishes of any type or origin may be easily treated here in the hospital wing--most cases will require nothing more arduous than that you wash regularly with a special cleanser I will be happy to provide you.

In fact, were each of you to wash regularly, you might well be spared seeing any concerning spots whatsoever.

**2010-03-16 19:35:00**

*Hey, Pansy.*

I know I said I'd come to your homework group tonight and all, but, um.

You know how it's got really muddy out? Well, Mr Dawlish said I have to help him mop all the floors tonight. No magic or anything.


So, yeah.

Sorry about that, then.



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-17 00:44:11**

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

I was out checking on our experiment this afternoon, and I didn't realise how muddy I'd got. Anyway, Mr Dawlish wasn't very happy about it.

But I think it's working. There were loads of things crawling all around it.

Though, I guess it could just be that it's been a bit warmer, and everything's waking up and coming out and all. I heard it's supposed to be nice again tomorrow afternoon, so maybe there'll be more to see then.

Just remember to clean off your boots before you come inside. If you go out to check, anywiz.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-03-17 01:00:53**

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

Ooh, that's a good sign, but you're right we should check again tomorrow.

Too bad about Dawlish. I'll check tomorrow and I'll be sure to clean my boots.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-17 01:45:20](#)  
(no subject)

Ouch.

Well, I think we're definitely going to have more fun than you will.


I'll see you tomorrow.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-17 02:34:18](#)  
(no subject)


See, it was as well you couldn't come out walking today.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-17 02:40:10](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe later this week. Once it's a bit less nasty out.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-17 03:07:47](#)  
(no subject)

I heard it's supposed to be fair weather again tomorrow, but you're right the mud won't have gone away.

Anywiz, I'm not sure I want to risk Mr Dawlish's temper again. He was actually pretty decent about it. He didn't take points or anything. Just made me mop floors tonight.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-17 15:04:17](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's what *aguamenti* and a Drying charm is for.

You're right, maybe not so soon, but I've got to get out of the castle this weekend or I'll go *mental*.



**2010-03-16 22:02:00**

*(no subject)*

I really miss getting letters. It's just a small thing, really, but it's enough just to know that someone's thinking of you, and it's not quite the same to just read it on here. Because everyone else can read it too.



 **alt\_pansy**

Lucius, your letter was really useful at sorting out what Arithmancy is like, and what to expect if I decide to take it. And I am really looking forward to Ancient Runes.

Wigbold had a dead smart way with runes. He carved them into his ships so that they would never take on water, and sewed runes in the lining of his clothes so he wouldn't drown or get eaten by sharks. Just in case. And he painted some on the door to his cabin so they'd glow and warn him if mutiny was afoot. It all sounds frightfully clever.

Lucius says my dad was really good at Potions, so he mostly focused on that at school, which explains why I'm not entirely useless at it. He would probably have been excellent at Dark Arts if we had offered it back then. And my mum is brill at Charms and Transfiguration - she makes really beautiful things out of glass. Not to sell, but just for gifts and decorations and things. You can't even look at some of them too hard they're so delicate. When she was just out of school, she even showed some pieces at a gallery once, before she married my dad.

I like my classes, and I get decent marks, but I hope next year is the year I find the thing that I'm meant to do, like dad and his potions or mum and her glass.



 **alt\_lucius at 2010-03-17 02:47:04**

*(no subject)*


Yes, when last we saw her, your mother mentioned she had started shaping glass again, which Narcissa and I took to be a good sign for her continued health.

I don't think you are unusual in remaining undecided or ignorant of what you wish to do. Most young people spend several years discovering their predilections before settling into a career.

Of course, you also know that marks play a definite rôle in one's later

opportunities. But it is surely easier excel in any given subject when one is suitably motivated by ambitions that require its mastery.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-17 14:54:27](#)**  
(no subject)


I do think that I'll probably do well in Runes and Care of Magical Creatures, just because I'm so excited about them. And I'm hoping to sort out whether it's just because they are something new, or it's something I genuinely like.

I'm glad she's been making more. The last few years, she only made the star for the Christmas tree.

And it's good to know that I don't need to figure everything out *now*. It just feels like we're making important decisions that could really make a difference later, like if we look back during our NEWT year and think, "If I'd taken that one class..."

You're right, though.




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-17 03:15:33](#)**  
(no subject)

It's a pity, really, that there's so little call for pirates these days. Otherwise, you could follow Wigbold's lead onto the high seas.

Potions proficiency could take you a great many different directions, you know. Though I suppose it does rather depend on whether you are wanting a future in trade or hoping to settle into an avocation that would not demand daily attendance in the workplace.

Lucius is right, there's really no hurry to decide. I expect that a handful of your classmates have a firm notion of what they intend to do in life--and most of those will change their minds six times before they really settle down.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-17 14:29:33](#)  
(no subject)


It is rather sad that there aren't grand adventures like that any more. But at least it's a bit safer for those people that live on the coast, because they don't have to worry about pillaging and whatnot.

And I'd probably be a horrible cabin boy. I'd get the cat of nine tails for mouthing off to the captain, or complaining too much about swabbing, and knowing my luck, I'd be no end of seasick.

Perhaps I shall collect rare potions ingredients in South America. A machete is almost as good as a parrot.

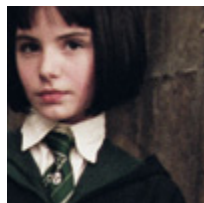
I think it's just that we have all these older students that seem to just *know* what they want to do, and they seem so *sure*. And I'd like to be like that too, even if I do change my mind.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-17 21:36:29](#)  
(no subject)

It would be silly to try and dissuade you from wanting to know what you'll do in the future. That's why so many folks want to study Divination and Runes, isn't it? And it's why, in my day, there were loads of silly tossers running out into the Forest, trying to persuade the Centaurs to share their techniques for reading the stars: we all think we want to know what the future holds.

To be honest, I'm inclined to think Aeschylus had it right: 'To know in advance is to sorrow in advance'. Of course, you'd be perfectly justified in dismissing that view as the sort of tosh miserable, old men dribble into their tea cups of a dreary afternoon. It's certainly not what I thought when I was at school.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-17 23:29:11](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose you have a point.

If I really did know what I was like the future, and I found out I was awfully boring or sad, would I

just give up then and there?

And that'd probably end up making me boring and sad.

It's enough to make your head spin.

**2010-03-17 14:17:00**

*Signs of Recovery*

Magical Commerce met on Monday, with some encouraging signs of progress. The cure has been spread generally through the camps and more and more Muggles are able to return to their work details.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

A Healer from St Mungo's also reported that thanks in large part to the precautions instituted by the Department of Protectorate Affairs, the spread of disease among the halfblood population appears to be contained. There have been a number of reported cases of pureblood sickness, but even this has been less widespread than feared. The self-imposed limitations on travel seem to be working.

Unfortunately, for the good of the students, it is unlikely that we can recommend lifting the quarantine in time for Easter holidays. But there is still a week in which to make that decision. The Governors have been discussing provisions for the OWL and NEWT examiners to travel to the school without jeopardising the conditions at the school.

This month's *Londinarium* continues its ability to reflect the character of society. His article on the Lovegood disgrace was nothing short of uncanny. Were it not for certain knowledge that no one on the Council had commented, I could swear that he had secured privileged information. As it is, he is clearly accomplished in the art of investigative reporting. Pity that Narcissa insists on proscribing his publication in the house, since he and Regulus have been less friendly. Suspect she'll get past it rather sooner than later. (Agree with her that there is no need to acquiesce to his continued requests to profile Kensington.)



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 [alt\\_regulus](#) at **2010-03-17 20:50:55**


*(no subject)*

Oh, for pity's sake.

I told Narcissa there's no need to boycott it on my account. And, of course, you're perfectly welcome to go ahead with the Kensington piece, if you'd like. It would make a lovely spread, there's a fascinating story to tell, and it would sell lots of copy.

Unless, of course, you were glad for the excuse?




 **alt\_lucius** at [2010-03-18 04:07:38](#)  
(no subject)

I think you ought to know your cousin well enough that you'll agree very few people can put her off an idea once it has lodged in her head.

In any event, my reluctance to open Kensington far precedes your ... difficulties. However, we have been talking to-night about changing the gardens there, which might present him an opportunity.

Have you finished already? I was given to understand you would be indisposed for some time yet.



 **alt\_regulus** at [2010-03-18 04:34:42](#)  
(no subject)

No, no, your information is perfectly correct. It is a rather large and indisposing project.

**2010-03-18 23:18:00**

## *Future Interrogators*

Monday we divided up into teams in Future Interrogators and practised the rules of order. In the Wizengamot you can't just speak up whenever you want, but it's not like in lessons, either, when the teacher asks a question and you raise your hands. The Mugwump (that's the head of the Wizengamot) asks the questions and the witness has to answer. There's also a time when they can make statements, and when the other side gets to examine. That means ask questions and try to prove that the witness is lying.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

So we practised the things you can and can't say, ways to examine witnesses. We used the records from old cases, including this one called Ministry v Hooper. It was held in 1760 and it concerned a wizard who wanted to go about catching Muggles who were trying to burn witches (and wizards, but mostly witches). Of course, back then, the Code of Secrecy was in place, so the Ministry wasn't as strong as it is now, because they were sort of stuck pandering to the Muggles, which was ridiculous, of course. So Hooper was brought up on charges of vigilantism and performing magic in front of Muggles (since he would stupefy them and Obliviate them and everything else when he was capturing them).

We talked about the case and the laws as they were at the time, but then we turned it round and defended Hooper based on today's standards. It's no surprise that the Ministry lost, but of course, that was the point, wasn't it. They were wrong back then, but now that we have the Lord Protector and we've put Muggles in their proper places, we don't need to worry about doing magic in front of them. Today Hooper would have been a hero, and he should have been then, too, but things were ever so backward.

Anyway, I really like Future Interrogators. It's just that it's on Mondays, which are really long. But Mondays won't be so bad next year.

Oh, History Club this week was St Patrick's day, so Finnigan told us stories about St Patrick and how he cast all sorts of dead useful spells, including one that drove the snakes out of Ireland. It was nift.

**2010-03-19 11:07:00**

*Order Only: Update*

She's fallen into a coma.

The healer said she wasn't really supposed to tell me anything, as I'm not family, but she saw me outside the ward and came out for a quick chat.




 [alt\\_lupin](#)

She was on her rounds this morning, checking on all the patients, and when she reached Tonks she just wouldn't wake up.

They do think hers is a relatively mild case, as she stayed semi-conscious for quite a while after showing the signs and being admitted to the hospital, but she's still in a coma so I don't see that a mild case is any better than a serious one at this point.




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-03-19 17:32:37](#)  
(no subject)

Blast.


I'll stop by after work myself, Remus, to see if there has been any change. I suppose with two of us asking after her, they'll get the idea that there are people who care about her.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-03-19 17:57:09](#)  
(no subject)

I think there's only really one kind of change we're going to see now, Arthur, until they develop a cure for this thing. But I'm sure she'd appreciate knowing that you visited none the less.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-19 18:51:02](#)  
(no subject)

Arthur, I've knit a bed-jacket which you can take the next time you visit her.

Oh, how I wish I could do more!






 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-03-19 18:52:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Molly. I'm sure she'll be touched by it when she wakes up.

And she will wake up again.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-19 17:54:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Circe. 'Blast' is right.


There may be a value in hers being a minor case, though. If it means that once they have their cure (not soon enough, if you ask me), she has an easier recovery of it.

Still. In the short term, you're quite right - a coma's a coma.

How many cases do they have now? Have you been able to get any sort of reconnoiter on your visits? The muggle version ran rampant, so if halfblood and pure cases aren't spreading as rapidly, that's at least a good sign.

Merlin, I can't believe I'm actually calling any of this 'good.'




 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2010-03-19 18:07:36](#)**  
(no subject)

You're right, of course. Anything that may ease her recovery is certainly to be welcomed. I suppose it's just difficult to even think about the possibility of recovery when everything seems so bleak.

The wards are all closed now, and they seem to be dotted about St Mungo's wherever there's space, so it's difficult to get a clear line on how many wards there actually are, and how many people in each one. The healers seem to be run ragged by it, but they're not overwhelmed, so I do think it's spreading more slowly through the magical population.

I just wish they'd hurry up and find a blasted cure.



 **alt\_poppy** at **2010-03-20 00:01:38**  
(no subject)


Oh, dear. I had so hoped hers was a truly mild case since I'd not heard of her slipping into sustained unconsciousness. I'm very sorry to hear that she has done.

I have no idea how many purebloods and halfbloods have fallen sick, except that it's enough that no one is now claiming that blood status is protective.

I do have one small piece of information to add to what you've said about the state of things at St Mungo's. I needed to consult with one of their specialists earlier this week, but when I'd got through and requested to speak with Eunomia Wright, whose expertise is in anomalous fevers, I was told she wasn't in. I pressed, because I especially wished to speak with her, and was then told she was not off-shift but was currently assigned 'at Marylebone' and, thus, couldn't conveniently be reached.

I take this to mean that they may have been forced to shift patients to some new facility there. I'd not heard of any such thing before this, so I could be misconstruing what she said. There were rumours a year ago that St Mungo's were taking over an old sanatorium somewhere in London to use for treating prisoners transferred from the Ministry and elsewhere, but I never heard confirmation of that, and I've no idea where that facility was supposed to be located.



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-03-19 22:11:08**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, love.

Please let us know as you learn more.

**2010-03-19 21:21:00**

*XVIII.*

Mama,

I received word from the Headmistress that you and Papa wished to arrange a firechat. I think that as things stand currently, it would be poor form for the Head Girl to take advantage of her position to speak privately with her parents when that method has been deemed a risk and has been reserved for true emergencies.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

I do appreciate your wish to speak with me about the necessity of postponing our plans for my debut party. I know that you and Papa are as disappointed as I am, but it can't be helped. Even if it were suddenly announced that we could go home for hols, it would be impossible to go ahead on such short notice. We'll simply have to choose another date. Perhaps in August on or near my birthday?

Please don't fret, Mama. I'm not pining over the disappointment. I promise.

Orion has asked that I tell you how much he is enjoying his work with Professor Babbling's Future Interrogators group. I believe it has confirmed his sense of vocation; it has seemed to me that he has grown very much more focused this year. He has also grown! Mama, you would scarcely recognise him, he's got so tall and filled out so much. It's fortunate that his robes were so much more generously cut than most: the elves have been able to let out his seams and charm the hems so he still looks as sharp as ever. The situation is far different for a great many of the pupils here: we've had to arrange a clothing exchange so that those who have outgrown their robes during this quarantine can obtain properly fitting clothing.

Honorias robes are another story altogether. It will not surprise you to learn that they are on the point of falling apart despite the craftsmanship with which they were designed and made. And she mayn't even plead that she has grown; I don't believe she has done-- unless one considers her hair, which she seems to have given over entirely as a nest for rats or doxies. I've done my best to urge her towards better hygiene, but our last conversation ended with her telling me, quite bold-facedly, that she intends to enter a Medusa Lookalike's contest this summer. Honestly, Mama, she's as bad as ever she was.

I did obtain her promise to join Orion and me tomorrow morning to say the rites of spring. (And I've asked her Prefect to be sure she is awake and on her way to meet us in good time. It would be so much simpler if she were in our House, but as she is not, I have been forced to rely on others to help with her.) We will add special petitions for her cleanliness of mind and person to those we will say for the purification and renewal of all things. We will, of course, remember you and Papa in our petitions. We all wish we could see you soon, and all of us send our love.

Your affectionate daughter,  
Lana

**2010-03-20 12:23:00**

*Vernal Equinox*

I went out to fly after breakfast this morning (it's a REALLY nice day today, finally!) and I saw Madam Hooch taking all the school brooms out, swinging them around three times, and then standing them on end. We did that with our house brooms growing up but of course those were just sweeping brooms, it was interesting to see someone do that with flying brooms as well. I didn't see anyone doing it with their personal brooms but maybe they'll do it later? I always thought the business with the brooms was more a superstition than real *magic* but Madam Hooch said it's a good way to reinforce the flying charms. (If that's true you'd think the one I borrowed wouldn't drag to the left so much, wouldn't you? Although I think that was mostly something with the tail twigs being ragged. It's tempting to just trim them back but I think that'll make it slower, even if it'll fly straighter.)



 **alt\_sally\_anne**




 **alt\_ron** at **2010-03-20 20:28:59**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, Mum always does that, too. And says a load of special banishing charms to clear out the musty, dusty, nasty, crawly stuff from the house.



 **alt\_ron** at **2010-03-20 21:18:17**

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

Um.

I know I said I'd come out and take a look at that rune with you, but I'm not sure I can make it.

People sure have a lot of odd ideas about what to do on the first day of spring.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-20 21:22:24](#)

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

You're not in trouble again are you?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-20 22:17:03](#)

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

Er. No?

But I'm not sure I want to leave my room again.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-21 03:06:21](#)

*(no subject)*

Do you think Madam Hooch would be cross if you did that? What if you just trimmed off the broken bits.

**2010-03-20 21:22:00**

*Spring cleaning*

Ew.

Is today over yet? I mean, this isn't going to happen again tomorrow, is it? It was just today, right, because of spring and all? I mean has anyone else ever heard of that before? I totally haven't.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Sorry. I've got to go wash my face again.

---




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-21 03:04:56](#)

*(no subject)*

How many of them got you?

I never heard that about redheads before.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-21 03:14:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, it was really disgusting.

I dunno. A dozen maybe? But some of those got me more than once. There was this one that was just trailing after me all over the place before dinner. I tried ducking down the stairs to get away from her, but she kept following me and then I got turned around down in the dungeons and it was dead creepy. And then there she was again when I found the stairs!

Oh, and Lovegood tried, but I told her I'd rather she didn't, and she didn't seem to mind. But then she started telling me that kissing guzzlewumps or rubbing their bellies or something is good luck, and I decided it'd be safer to come back here to the common room than stay down there.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-21 03:17:01](#)  
(no subject)

I heard a few tried to snog either Fred or George AND I also heard someone tried to get Percy but I'm not sure I believe it.


I wonder if any of them tried for ALL of you. Four times the luck!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-21 03:30:01](#)  
(no subject)

Ew. That's just dead disgusting!



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-21 04:20:09](#)  
(no subject)


Girls. What can you do?



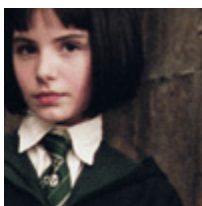
 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-21 04:20:27](#)  
(no subject)


Other than duck and run like hell, I mean!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-21 11:30:57](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I did that a lot today!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-21 17:39:12](#)  
(no subject)



Come on, it wasn't *that* bad.

I don't think I've ever seen a boy complain about being kissed.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-21 18:56:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Either Slytherins are more peculiar than I thought or you're having me on.

I mean, how'd you like it if I snuck up and ambushed you like that? Not that I would, even to pay you back for yesterday because, y'know, kissing's just disgusting.


I can't think why anyone'd want to do it.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-22 00:09:46](#)**  
(no subject)


I'll bet you a galleon you'll feel different about it in a year or two.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-22 02:23:01](#)**  
(no subject)


It's a bet. Two years.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-03-22 20:27:09](#)**  
(no subject)

He very well might.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-21 18:57:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I mean, no offence or anything, but I don't think the Ministry'd want people going around snogging people all over school just because it's spring.


It doesn't seem very good for keeping from catching diseases, y'know?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 00:18:06](#)  
(no subject)

Haha, you do have a point there.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 00:19:52](#)  
(no subject)

Right. So no more snogging Ron until


- a.) the Ministry declares an all-clear
- b.) he no longer thinks it's gross

or

c.) it's Spring again and I need good luck for my finals.

Whichever comes first.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-22 02:22:22](#)  
(no subject)

Heh.

Well, I guess it wasn't so bad when it was you. For luck, y'know.

D'you feel luckier today?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 03:37:46](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I do a little, actually.

[2010-03-21 10:27:00](#)

*It's another nice day*



 [alt\\_padma](#)

which makes two in a row! And it's perfect because today Parvati and Rohani, Johns, Goshal and I are celebrating Holi after lunch. We'll be down by the lake, Goshal and Johns had this wonderful idea to use water to create all the colour sprays since there's only five of us, and then we only have to conjure the powder. (Though if anyone else wants to come, that'd be nift, it works best when there's loads of people.) Last year we also had Goshal's and Rohani's sisters, so at least we had a rainbow. So come join if you like! It's one of my favourite festivals, because by the end everyone looks like they've been hit by colourbombs.

I guess we're not likely to go home at Easter. Parvati's sort of homesick about it, but I told her that it's not so terribly bad to be stuck here. I'm sure we'll go home by summer, anyway. And I know there will be loads of things to do, besides start revising for exams. I heard someone say the professors who teach the extra courses are going to hold open houses of sorts, but that might just be a rumour. The idea I heard was to give people a taster of what their subjects will be like. But as we'll already have chosen our subjects it's rather odd to come behind with a sampling, isn't it? Perhaps if someone really gets cold feet, they could go to their head of house and change their mind, and switch to something else. I dunno. I'm quite pleased with my slate and I think it'll be quite enough to be going on with.

Anyway, I don't think it's really the thing to be homesick. I mean, look at Sandoval. She was supposed to have a really amazing party over the holidays, where she got formally introduced to everyone in society, and the Lord Protector was maybe even going to be there, and they've had to postpone that. But she's not going round all broken up about it. She's just going about her business. I mean, not that she's not disappointed, because she was very much looking forward to it, who wouldn't? But she's not moping or anything. She's concentrating on what we can do to make the best of the situation.

I've been thinking about how we can all make the best of it, and I think one thing is that we should take this as an opportunity to all get on better. There've been some childish things going on lately - like that nonsense yesterday with those silly girls trying to give redheads a kiss, honestly, who'd ever believe that it's good luck? - and with

Stretton and Bole and getting their hoards confiscated, and that whole business with Archer's uncle, I guess it's been sort of rough for a lot of people. But now the weather's improving and term is nearly half over and, well, if we're going to be kept together for even longer, I think we should all get along a little better.

And I remembered that last year we had those music parties once in a while and that really seemed to help with the tension, so Parvati and I are going to host one. Saturday, after the YPL meeting and supper. Everyone's invited; I asked Professor Vector and she said we could use the really large dungeon left of the Potions corridor, as it's almost as big as the Great Hall. And we're asking for extra pudding, and of course if anyone wants to bring music to share we'll take it in turns.

I think we should each try to get to know at least one other person we've never talked to before, too. Because everyone has a different way of looking at things and different families and traditions, and part of being at school all together like this is a chance to learn about different types of people.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-21 18:00:18](#)

*(no subject)*

How hard is it to get the colours off you afterward? I'm not sure I want to look like a rainbow tomorrow.

The party sounds wizard though. I'll definately be there!

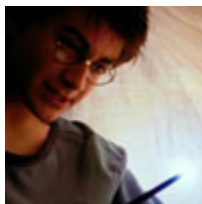


 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-21 20:14:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, it wears off in a couple hours, or if you just wash after. It's sort of like having a snowball fight, only with colour.

The party's going to be ace. Everyone's coming.




 **alt\_harry** at [2010-03-21 20:55:02](#)

*(no subject)*

I'll come if you do mean everyone.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-22 03:06:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course I mean everyone, Marvolo, what else would I mean?


And I mean, not just our year and firsties, either. That's why we wanted the larger dungeon, because it's big enough.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-22 16:27:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be there, Harry. And I'll be sure to make certain Hydra comes too. She looks like she could use some fun lately.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-22 00:23:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I know we haven't been besties lately, or, you know, ever, but I do think it is a good idea. And I do miss the music parties.

I've got a ton of records I could bring.

If you want, that is.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-22 03:07:11](#)**  
(no subject)

That'd be nift.

Did you really organise that stunt yesterday with Weasley?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-22 03:39:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Sure, I'll bring some then.

What do you mean? *Everyone* knows it's good luck to kiss a redhead on the first day of Spring.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-22 20:29:02](#)  
(no subject)

Very good luck indeed.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-23 13:14:20](#)  
(no subject)

Did any of them kiss you? Or just your brothers?



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-23 16:06:38](#)  
(no subject)

His brothers kissed him? Ew.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-23 16:45:15](#)  
(no subject)

Of course not. But loads of girls kissed Ron and I heard someone kissed either Fred or George.


Percy's got red hair too though. He'd give you just as much good luck as the others. But, he might also give you detention.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-24 01:53:17](#)  
(no subject)

All of us Weasleys were rather popular there for a bit, as there aren't too many other ginger-haired people here at the school. Well, some of us appreciated it more than others. Ginny got surprised by a second year in the corridor outside Charms but managed to side-step away just before the fatal moment. I believe she spent the rest of the day revising up in her dorm room. With the bed curtains closed.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-24 02:35:47](#)  
(no subject)

I just don't understand how so many of them *believed* that moronic old hags' tale.

(Or, well, not an old hags' tale, obviously, as it was made up especially. I asked and no one in Ravenclaw Corner had ever even *heard* of that custom.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-24 04:01:42](#)  
(no subject)

My goodness, if RAVENCLAWS haven't heard it before it can't POSSIBLY be true!




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-23 16:12:03](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, is that what that was about?

I heard Preece saying something funny about it. He said someone had told all those girls some rot about how you could transfigure a toad into a prince by kissing it. But the girls couldn't find Longbottom's pet, as he'd lost it (again!), so they got confused and looked for the next best thing.

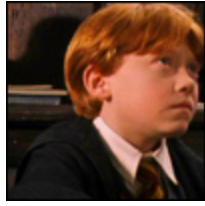
Well, I thought it was sort of funny.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-23 16:19:31](#)  
(no subject)

Hah, that is sort of funny! I mean, obviously, it's not very *kind*, but, well, it's witty.

Imagine anyone wanting to snog Percy. Or really any Weasley, for that matter. (I heard that Parkinson and Perks made it all up, though. I suppose they must have wanted to kiss Weasley and wanted an excuse to do it. Lakshmi knows why. No accounting for taste, but then at least it keeps the rest of us safe!)




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-25 13:15:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Safe?

From Pansy kissing you?

I don't think you need to worry much about that happening.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-03-24 02:09:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I found Trevor again, hiding behind the plumbing in the loo. Somehow, I don't think that any girls would be eager to kiss him though.



**2010-03-21 21:56:00**

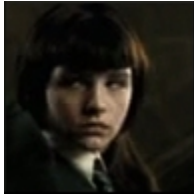
*(no subject)*

So foul

to touch



 [alt\\_regulus](#)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-03-22 03:48:42**

*(no subject)*

What do you call a Dragon when you're really, really hungry?

A big cow.

What do you call a Dragon when you're really, really cold?

A tempermental furnace.

What do you call a Dragon when you're really, really close?

Nice dragon. Good dragon.

What do you call a Dragon?

Whatever it wants to be called.

How many dragons does it take to light a candle?

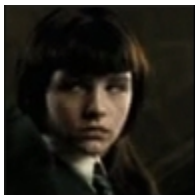
One, but you won't have much of a candle left when he's done lighting it.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

A dragon.

RUN! IT'S A DRAGON!

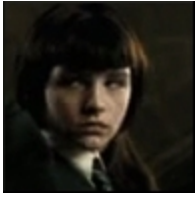



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-03-22 03:50:40**

*(no subject)*

A dragon walks into a pub and sits down at the bar. The barkeep tells him, "We don't serve any dragons here." The dragon shrugs, and says, "That's okay, I don't drink anyways." The barkeep replies, "Merlin!

It's a talking dragon!"




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 03:53:33](#)  
(no subject)

What do you call a Dragon with a particularly heavy tail?

A Draggin'

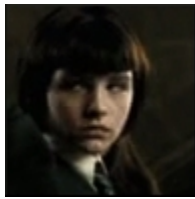



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 03:57:29](#)  
(no subject)

What do you call a Dragon that's full of alcohol?

A Flagon.

Or a bomb. Depending on how jumpy it is.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 03:59:54](#)  
(no subject)

What do you call a Dragon that is carrying something?


A Wagon.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-22 14:52:11](#)  
(no subject)

Truer word was never spoken.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 15:58:18](#)  
(no subject)

Hello, Pirate.

I'm worried

~~I know I'm not supposed to ask~~

~~I'm sorry.~~

I really am looking forward to Care of Magical Creatures next

term. Naturally, we won't be working with dragons, but it's still been on my mind a lot as of late.

I did look up that Parkinson you mentioned. I got permission from Pince to look him up in the Restricted section. His name was Darby Parkinson, he was some cousin or another of my great-whatever grandfather Loomis. Darby tried to go back 100 years in time, but something went terribly wrong, and there was a giant explosion both at his house, and on the spot where his house was being built 100 years earlier. Which is funny, because the reason he wanted to go back in time was to check out the explosion to see what caused it. They mentioned something called a "sonic boom," and about how going too far in time in one go can lead to ripples like a sonic boom except for in time, so now we know we can't travel quite that far at once. So I guess he won't be stopping in for tea, unless it blew him several hundred years forward by mistake.

You never know.




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-24 21:32:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Hello back.

Sorry I've not been much of a correspondent recently.

Sonic booms, eh? I think you should keep in mind that you might have an extra for tea quite unexpectedly one day, then. It's a good excuse to always keep an extra package of biscuits in the larder, because you're absolutely right: you never do know.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-25 20:37:27](#)**  
(no subject)


I sort of figured you had good reason.

I know there are good sorts of distractions and bad ones, and I'm hoping I'm the former, but if I'm the latter, you'll be sure to let me know?

And I suppose regardless, it's good to be prepared for any

random guests to stop by for tea. Even if they aren't distant relatives from several hundred years ago. According to mum, you know you're doing well when all sorts of people want to have tea with you.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-26 03:58:01](#)  
(no subject)

Mother has a similar saying. Of course, what she really means is that you know you've made a success of things (her phrase) when your rate of invitations received to those extended coasts along at a ratio of two hundred to one, year in and year out, with no fuss on your part at all. There are perhaps four or five elderly witches she allows across the threshold, not counting you and me and the handful of family she's got left. And yet the post owls groan with burden of delivering all her correspondence.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-22 04:47:45](#)  
(no subject)

That's not how it goes at all.

The barkeep says, 'We don't serve any dragons in here.' And the dragon says, 'That's okay, I wasn't planning to order any!'



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-22 16:25:22](#)  
(no subject)

There's all sorts of ways it could go, though.

Like the barkeep could say, "We don't serve dragons," and the dragon could say, "I'm not here for a pint, mate, I'm just hungry." And the barkeep could say, "Well, all right then, what are you in the mood for?" and the dragon could lean in real close and say, "I'm actually in the mood for a little barkeep."


And then the barkeep could say, "Well, my brother is a lot shorter than I am!"



 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-22 19:59:34](#)**  
(no subject)

More tender, too, no doubt!



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-03-22 04:57:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Pansy, I am sure Regulus appreciates your attempts to amuse him. I hope you will not be offended if he lacks the ability to respond right away, as he doubtless needs to concentrate. However, I'm certain that once he has the leisure to return to his journal, he shall be very grateful for the distraction of reading these early drafts for your career as a comedienne.




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-22 14:53:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd say she has promise.

(And I have a small break this morning.)



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-03-22 20:36:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Any estimate how soon you'll have completed your mission?


I have a distinct impression you'll be wanting some fresh air when it's done.



 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-22 22:36:06](#)**  
(no subject)

I may never finish.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-03-24 04:26:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I know.



 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-24 21:28:42](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm very sorry if you do. It's not the sort of thing one wants to know, is it?

**[2010-03-22 14:35:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, we had a wonderful anniversary.

It's almost impossible to think we've been married fifteen years.



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

I must admit that I still congratulate myself on our choice of dates. It was particularly clever to arrange the wedding right at the change of season. The gardens are already beginning to bud and the lawns are simply soaking up the rain to turn lush and green. It's as if with each new year of our marriage, we also watch the world renew itself.

It's also amusing (though not unexpected) that we both chose traditional crystal for our gifts to one another. I don't know how long ago Lucius made his selection, but it's divine - a little timepiece with crystals set in the bracelet, each one charmed with a different useful cantrip. For myself, I had a terrible time making up my mind between a scrying crystal or continuing my update of the St James' house by replacing the chandeliers. In the end I decided on both, since the scrying crystal is such a trinket, really.

It was quite an intimate day, not least due to Regulus' absence and Bella's continued diligence on behalf of Our Lord's investigation into the traitors who abetted the spread of paralysis, but Mother did come over for tea and then Lucius had arranged for *La Brasserie* to bring in supper for the two of us. We had langoustines in a light broth and duck with artichoke hearts for starters; Lucius had the veal and I had a lobster salad with grilled scallops; and a soufflé for pudding. Everything was simply marvellous; I hope Fifi took instruction.

Thank you, dear husband. It is humbling and gratifying to think that, fifteen years later, we are still as happy as the day we wed.




 **[alt\\_regulus](#)** at **[2010-03-22 23:18:42](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm sorry for my absence, cousin, but I'm pleased it contributed to the intimacy of your day. Perhaps I should stay away more often!



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-03-23 01:22:02](#)  
(no subject)

The scrying crystal really is the most ridiculous thing you've given me in some time. It's almost more of a toy than a serious artifact, were it not for the history you mentioned.

But you're absolutely correct, both about how impossible it seems that it can be fifteen years already - and of course about how blissful those years have been.

I should be home in another hour. If you like, we could open one of the bottles Regulus sent and toast to the next fifteen years.



**[2010-03-24 11:25:00](#)**

*Draco Malfoy being nice to me*



**I solemnly swear that I am up to no good**

Draco Malfoy is being extra nice to me. I think that it's about Dennis, I mean, I think that he feels guilty over Dennis, but he brought me a chocolate cauldron from supper last night, only I don't know how to tell if it's poisoned or something, although I don't really think he'd do that. But he and Harry have been awfully close lately and they're working on a project that I promised not to tell anyone about, and so I'm a little nervous really, because I'm the only one who knows about it and maybe he tried to make some kind of a memory potion or something so I forgot that they told me.

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

So does anyone know how I can tell? It isn't in any of my books and I can't exactly go look it up on my own, they aren't doing anything about that in Potions and I can't think of a good excuse. And Terry was always better at thinking up excuses like that even though he never used them himself, he would say something and then I'd realise that he was actually telling me how to get around things.

Only of course I don't really think that I'm going to be poisoned, but it would be nice to know. If it was going to be poison I could just have a bezoar but of course it's not likely to be if it has been tampered with, it's likely to be something else, although knowing Malfoy he probably messed it all up and it'd poison me anyway. He's not so good at potions as he thinks he is!!



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-24 15:57:45](#)**

*(no subject)*

We made a forgetfulness potion last spring so Draco knows how to do it.

That was the time I ~~made~~ Laven Lavender put things in the cauldron in the wrong order and it blew up and went everywhere. People didn't have to drink it to forget things, though, just getting some on their skin did it. But it also wore off after a while, although a lot of people had to go see Madam Pomfrey. I think if you got someone to actually DRINK it it might have been more permanent but I'm not sure.

I have all my notes from last year if you want to see the ones about the memory potion. I could leave them where I left your Christmas present.

I'm not sure how to tell if a potion's actually IN something. That would be good to know, wouldn't it? For all sorts of reasons.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-03-24 20:29:18](#)**  
(no subject)

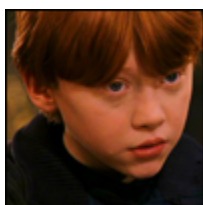
Well Madam Pomfrey says it's fine, although she didn't tell me how to find out for myself, so I suppose I'd like to see your notes, they'd at least be something to learn about that I won't know otherwise, won't they?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-24 20:50:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Well I'll leave you my notes, but I looked them over and I'm not entirely sure they'd make sense to anyone else. I used lots of abbreviations and I can't remember for sure what flb chp means. Or lfly wgs. Wait, that's probably lacefly wings. Still, you get the idea.

I'm glad it was just a cauldron cake.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-24 15:58:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't eat it. Don't even think about eating it.

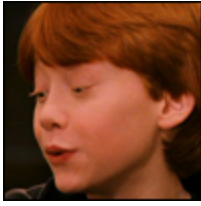
Seriously, can't you ask Madam Pomfrey to check it for you? You don't have to tell her who gave it to you. Just ask her to check. You're still working in the Hospital Wing, right?




 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-03-24 16:32:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh that's brilliant, I can't believe I didn't think of it.

Only I really don't know - I'm not sure that it - well, I'll ask anyway and then I'll tell you.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-24 18:06:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, yeah. I know you have to worry about not saying anything that would make Malfoy angry or Marvolo, either, so it makes sense you would worry about asking anyone.


I can't decide if he'd really try anything funny with you. I mean, I think ~~Harrr~~ Marvolo would hate him if Malfoy did something and he found out, but-

I mean, even if you're right that he feels guilty about what happened to Dennis, that doesn't mean anything. I mean, he might be even more jealous about ~~H~~Marvolo having you or it might just make him hate you because he doesn't like having to feel he let Dennis get killed. (I can't really explain that, but Sally Anne says Slytherins think sideways like that and I can totally see it might be how Malfoy would think. Or not even really think, y'know, but feel about things.)

But I don't see why he'd want to hurt you.

But messing about with your memory? He'd do it in a minute if he's got a reason and thinks he could brew the potion that would do it. And that's the thing, isn't it? They're up to something not right, aren't they? I really think you should tell someone. Just so we'd know if something happened to you, y'know?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-03-24 18:45:59](#)**  
(no subject)

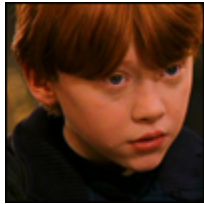
Who could she tell, though, really? I mean other than us?


Don't know quite how to advise you, Hermione, since we don't know what Marvolo or Malfoy are trying to do. You say they're up to something, but you don't know what, exactly? So maybe they're testing a potion on you, is that it? (Why, thought?)

Well, do they know that you know, that they're up to something, I mean? What if you, I dunno, said that you know, and asked if you could help, like? If they say *no*, well, they'd probably think twice

about poisoning you or anything, because then they'd know you'd caught them out. But if they say 'yes,' that's be good, because then they'd have to tell you what's going on. And they probably wouldn't poison you then, either.

Of course, depending on what they're up to, you might get into trouble along with them, if anyone finds out that you know about about whatever-it-is, too, beforehand. Dunno if that makes sense....



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-24 20:16:36](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah. That's what I mean, isn't it? She ought to tell us what it is Marvolo and Malfoy are up to.

But the last time I tried to get her to tell me what they're up to, she nearly took my head off, didn't she? ~~Acted like a h~~

whatever

I didn't really get your idea about Hermione telling them, though. I mean, I think they know she knows. They're already getting her to help them, aren't they? Is that right, Hermione? So if they're doing stuff that will get them in trouble and then they go and get caught, then it could be really really bad for you. Like last year, yeah?

All I can say is if he gets you into awful trouble like that again, I'm going to hex him so hard he never forgets it, the git.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-03-24 20:32:55](#)  
(no subject)

Well -

They aren't doing anything that's bad exactly, I mean, they're doing something that's against the rules, but I don't think that they're going to hurt anyone, only they need my help to do it - and they're almost ready, and so that's why I thought maybe there was something wrong.

But Madam Pomfrey says that it was just a cauldron cake and

Mr Malfoy was being very nice to me, which I suppose he was, everyone likes cauldron cakes.

You see I don't know if I'd get in trouble - because last year all I got in trouble for was the wand, and this isn't like that at all, I mean, ~~nobody will catch me~~ it isn't like doing magic in front of people or anything. And I think that they'd just say that I was doing what Harry told me to. Only I rather want to help, it'll be great good fun if it works and also useful, and anyhow, I oughtn't have even said that much...




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-24 20:54:58](#)  
(no subject)

Are you absolutely sure you won't get caught?

Because I don't know if they'd care that Harry told you to do it if it were magic. Even if it didn't need a wand.

If you told us, I could probably help you think of some good lies to tell, if someone caught you, to stay out of trouble. It really ought to be enough that Harry told you to do it since you're supposed to do whatever he says, but you KNOW they aren't ever fair to ~~mudb~~ muggleborns.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-24 21:17:44](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well then. If they need you, by all means go right on. I mean, if it's going to be great good fun and all and just doing what Ha Marvolo tells you. Because obviously he planned all along last year that chasing after Macnair would involve all of you almost getting killed and then you getting blamed when you saved his sorry skin.

You know what? No. It's not okay for you to just go along with what he thinks is great good fun. I mean, fine. He wants to be all matey with Malfoy again and get into Merlin knows what, great. But he doesn't think what could happen to you. And you know why? Because nothing bad's ever going to happen to him for what he does (unless he goes and gets someone like Macnair or Carrow or whatever to try to kill him again). He

doesn't have to follow rules because who's going to even dock points? I mean, they can't even give him a detention!


But you know what they can do to you. And you know that if he's done something pretty bad it's you they're going to blame. And that's just not right.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-03-25 01:46:33](#)**  
*(no subject)*

What's she supposed to do OTHER than just go along? It's one thing for you to be cross with me and Pansy because we're friends with Harry. Hermione has no choice, she can't just tell him to shove off the way you can.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-25 01:59:36](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, like you said, you could probably help her figure out something to tell him that would get her out of doing it.

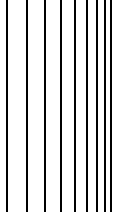
I mean, whatever.

It's just

she shouldn't sound like she thinks it's just great and he'd never do anything that's dangerous for her because he does stuff like that all the time.

And I'm not cross at you since you don't really have much choice, either. Merlin. I wonder if anyone's friends with him because they even want to be. I mean, maybe not even Malfoy because, y'know, it's like it makes him more important and his father, too, since he's mates with H him.

Who knows.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-25 02:22:08](#)  
(no subject)

I think Draco honestly likes Harry. But you're right that he doesn't really have a choice.

**2010-03-24 12:00:00**

*Work is quite difficult*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

It has been exceedingly difficult to do my job, given that I'm only allowed to go into the office one day out of four. These appearances at the Ministry are carefully timed so that I'm not even there at the same time as my coworkers. We all have to go through a scourgify protocol, scourgify, tergio, etc., our shoes and hands, etc. The most wary snap bubblehead charms in place if they see anyone else step within sight.

We can't Firechat, so at first we wrote even more memos than usual and left them for one another. No one actually dares touch the memos, so at first we wrote our notes to one another with Dicto-quills. Once the recipient has received the paper missive, it was set to hover in the air until read, and then incinerated with a quick spell. As you can imagine, this makes it quite difficult to backtrack and check work that took place via memo exchange.


So, of course, the obvious thing people are doing is to use their journals. More of the day to day minutiae of the way people do their jobs is showing up in public because of this, which has been quite fascinating in its own way. Although mostly, it's been recording people's frustration with the present restrictions. 'Where's that report?' 'It was in Dreskey's office last week, but that got sealed when he fell ill. Did they burn everything inside?' 'How can I get anything done when I haven't seen my assistant for three weeks?' etcetera, etcetera.

There have been some compensations, of course. It's certainly been pleasant to spend more time with Molly during the day, and the chicken coop is cleaner than it's been in weeks. And I'm sure the goats are mildly surprised that their stall is getting mucked out more reliably. Still, all in all, I'd be happy to be able to back to my old routine, not only with going into the office, but going out into the field. It's been months since I've set foot in a single one of the camps, and I'm quite worried about the conditions there.

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 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-03-24 17:45:00](#)  
*Order Only*

Bill showed me quite a tidy little spell that Norma Brownmiller and I have been using. The two of us has a stack of parchment. After we write something, we tap the parchment with our wand, saying 'duplio,' and the other person's name, and then the words appear on the other person's corresponding parchment.

We're keeping it to ourselves for now...don't want the regime to realise that there's another system that could be used for surreptitious communication. Except it can't be--not surreptitious, that is, anyway. There's absolutely no security with the spell, unlike with "Order Only"; anyone can read either what is written or duplicated. So we're simply using it to copy work-related reports to each other.


Merlin knows what the camps will be like, once I'm finally allowed in again. I can imagine, of course. The sickness and death rosters, which I have to review each week, paint a very grim picture.

I hate feeling so helpless.

It has been strange that, whenever I go in, I really don't see anyone. Well, other than Bill, of course. I do miss Tonks. I hope we'll get good news about her soon.

I don't miss some of the blokes in my department chuntering on about the epidemic as if, well, now it's real and such a terrible thing! When muggles and muggleborns have already been dying from the sickness for months now. Disgusting.



 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-03-24 18:41:18](#)  
*Re: Order Only*


This duplication spell, Arthur.

There must be a charm already on the parchment each of you use? I mean to say, how do you ensure that it's Miss Brownmiller's parchment your writing turns up on and not Director Selwyn's or mine or some parchment at Buckingham?

I can see that it would be devilishly useful, that charm. If one could

be sure of it. Is it a ticklish bit of wandwork to learn or is the spell just that straightforward?



 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-03-24 19:19:44](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, yes, the parchment is all charmed with both wands involved, first. Norma and I each took a stack from the supply room, on the day we were told we had to go home. And you do have to concentrate quite hard on the person you mean to receive it.

It's not something either of us will be nattering about at the Ministry, believe me. I certainly don't want anyone getting any bright ideas about looking too closely at the network of spells Bill has put on the journals, after all, wondering how they can be kept more secure for the regime's purposes. I'd rather if it's not generally known that there are other ways to communicate across distances like this. We will certainly use it sparingly.



 **alt\_lupin** at [2010-03-24 18:48:26](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I miss her too.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-03-25 03:13:59](#)


*Re: Order Only*

So you both have to be in the same place to charm the parchment, but thereafter either of you can take a roll off it and use it?

That is handy, but unfortunately won't help with Davidson's group or any other like it, until the travel restrictions lift.

But if I know you, Arthur, what's really bothering you is the thought of how many kids you'd normally have smuggled to Moddey Dhoo by now. Am I right?



 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-03-25 14:53:40](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yes on the first question; the parchment must be charmed by both of us, and yes, that's a limiting factor.

It's not only the children we could have brought to Moddey Dhoo. It's all the suffering, the deaths, the waste of human potential. And I can't get in there to see what I can do to help. I can't place my hand of the shoulder of a mother and tell her I'll do all in my power to help her sick child. I can't get in the right in the face of a corrupt camp administrator and demand that he release the stock of food stuffs he's been hoarding. I can't do anything.

Sometimes the only thing that keeps me going when I do my job is the reflection that while I do represent the Ministry, at least I might serve as a kinder face for the people in the camps, a promise that not every pure-blooded wizard wants to hurt or enslave them or make them miserable. But now I can't even see these poor people, to be there with them as they're going through this.



 **alt\_selwyn** at [2010-03-25 01:43:56](#)

*(no subject)*

I greatly appreciate your efforts, Arthur, along with those of your colleagues. It's been hard on everyone at the Ministry but I think we can take some pride in how quickly the spread was contained.

Let me know if your department needs additional owls or other resources.




 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-03-25 14:45:07](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, it has certainly been an exercise in ingenuity. I think it would be worthwhile to have do some brainstorming, once this crisis is past, to consider developing some protocols which might be put into place to make it easier for people to work away from the office, in case of emergency. Of course, I have had some experience in this

area already, as so much of my work is done out in the field. I might have some ideas to contribute.



 **alt\_selwyn** at **[2010-03-26 17:10:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Excellent thought. I look forward to seeing your ideas on this once you have some time to spare to put something together for me.

**2010-03-24 13:47:00**

*It's starting to warm up, just a little*


Pea-planting time, my mum always said.

(Mrs Weasley, do you think you could plant any this year? In the vegetable plot behind our house, I mean? Daddy loves them so, and I hope he'll be home from the hospital by the time they're harvested. And of course, I won't be able to come home to plant them at Easter.)




 [alt\\_luna](#)



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-24 18:52:59](#)  
(no subject)


Of course I will, dear. I'll also get some chard and spinach and all the rest of the early spring crops in for him. It's no trouble, because I have plenty of seeds this year. Arthur's home quite a bit now so he can help me turn the garden over. Fortunately, there aren't too many garden gnomes this year.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-03-24 18:54:56](#)  
(no subject)

Have you seen him at all?




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-24 18:56:12](#)  
(no subject)

I'm...I'm so sorry, dear. They won't allow me to see him. But I did try, I promise.


But you know he's in the best possible place, to keep him safe, I mean?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-24 18:57:12](#)  
*Order Only*


Absolute rubbish, of course. It hurts to have to lie to her like this.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-24 18:58:29](#)  
*Re: Order Only*


Well, you have tried to see him, haven't you, Mum? At least that part is true, isn't it?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-24 18:59:31](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Of course I have! But they still keep giving me the same maddening tale: "Oh, he's quite sick, and he mustn't be disturbed."




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-24 19:01:07](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Then you mustn't berate yourself for what you have to tell Luna. The poor kid's going through enough without having to wonder what they're really doing to him.

Are they still giving her a hard time at Hogwarts? I mean, with all the lies about her blood status?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-24 19:07:36](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

I'm afraid so. She makes light of it in her letters--well, the last letter, before all owl posts stopped. But I can read between the lines. And Percy mentioned it, in one of his letters, too.


He was quite indignant about the hazing she was receiving. He doesn't believe it for a minute, although he more charitably characterises it as 'all an unfortunate misunderstanding, really, and I'm sure she'll be vindicated.'

Which is a mixed blessing at best. On the one hand, I'm pleased to see that Percy doesn't automatically believe everything he hears from the Ministry.

On the other hand, it's painful to see him write as if someone is slurring Luna by insinuating that she's a half-blood. As if being a half-blood is somehow less acceptable.

I thought we raised our boys to know better than that.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-03-24 19:12:20](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

On the other hand, it's perhaps a good thing that they will still admit that poor Xenio is there, and under their care. I'd rather have them say that than to tell us that he'd died or something.


Then we'd never know what happened to him--whether he's actually contracted the disease there at the hospital and succumbed to it, or was killed, or perhaps worst yet, was spirited away to be buried alive at Azkaban.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-24 19:13:19](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

Good point.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-24 19:13:34](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

Oh, dear. I never thought of that.

**[2010-03-26 10:45:00](#)**

*Holiday!*

Well, it's official.

Professor McGonagall announced at supper last night that even though today's the last day of lessons until after the holiday, we won't be able to go home for a visit.



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

The Hogwarts Express isn't even going to run. Bobolis says he doesn't think the Express has ever not run for two holidays in a row. I guess the Magical Transportation department decided it was a waste of time for everyone when no one was going to be on it tonight.

But that definitely means we're ON for Saturday's YPL meeting and then the music party after supper. Chang, Bobolis and Tamblyn said they're working on a little skit they want to do, just a silly little thing, which should be really funny. And I asked Karoline Moon if she'd give us a taster of the panto she's writing for next year, which ought to be especially good, she's ever so clever at that sort of thing.

Marvolo, you're serious about coming, yeah? Because you and Malfoy have made yourselves ever so scarce lately, it's really rather odd. I should think if you've been working that hard on your homework or something, you really need the celebrating!

I can't wait for lessons to end today. I mean, I love my subjects, and learning, but it's all sunny outside and it's the last day and there's a YPL meeting tomorrow and then the PARTY and it's all too much. So I wish the holiday would hurry up and start already.

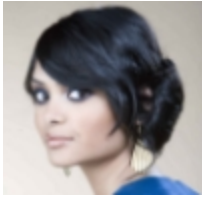



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-03-27 05:31:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Can't wait for the party! Did you really invite everyone in our year?





 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-03-27 14:54:53](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, I didn't go up the hospital wing and invite Stebbins, or Ollivander, as they're petrified, but otherwise, yes. And not just our year, all years.

Although if Weasley keeps acting like a total nutter then we might have to assign him a partner to go round and keep him on a leash. Honestly, have you any idea what he was going on about last night?

But no, really, everyone is invited. If people decide not to come, that's their choice.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-03-27 15:23:40](#)**

*(no subject)*

Weasley's the one I was wondering about but I reckon a leash might work.

I've no idea what he was going on about! But I heard he was cross with Malfoy and Marvolo, as usual.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-03-28 01:18:09](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm sure he was serious, and we're not scare, we're...occupied. A lot of quidditch strategy talk, you see.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-03-28 04:36:02](#)**

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

Quidditch strategy, my furry elbows.

**2010-03-26 18:14:00**

*(no subject)*

I meant what I said.

Just in case you thought I wasn't serious.



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-03-26 23:17:22**

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

Git.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-03-27 03:37:58**

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

What happened between you and Marvolo, anyway?  
You looked ever so hacked off at whatever-it-was all  
about at dinner.




 [alt\\_luna](#) at **2010-03-27 03:16:07**

*(no subject)*

Well, that's good. It's always good to say what you  
mean.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-03-27 03:17:07**

*(no subject)*

Do you really think so?




 [alt\\_luna](#) at **2010-03-27 03:17:44**

*(no subject)*


Why, don't you?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-27 03:18:55](#)  
(no subject)


Not always, exactly. No.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-27 03:19:58](#)  
(no subject)

Sometimes one should be careful what one says, Luna. In order to be careful, or perhaps diplomatic.




 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-03-27 03:22:23](#)  
(no subject)

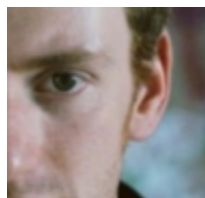
Well, perhaps in that case you can at least mean what you say.


I read a book once where one person tells another, 'I told no lies, and of the truth all that I could.'



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-03-27 03:23:57](#)  
(no subject)


Does being diplomatic mean telling lies?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-27 03:27:57](#)  
(no subject)

Well, being diplomatic means--well, I suppose it mean--my, it is difficult to explain, isn't it? I suppose it means, er, choosing your words so that they'll be accepted. Because they adhere most closely to what people want to hear. While keeping as close to the truth as possible, of course.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-03-27 03:28:21](#)  
(no subject)


But what if people don't want to hear the truth?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-27 03:29:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well, then I suppose it takes a particularly skillful diplomat.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-03-27 03:29:49](#)  
(no subject)


Oh.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-27 04:50:47](#)  
(no subject)


No, of course not. Being diplomatic means telling the truth in the nicest way possible.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-27 04:51:35](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Except when there's no good way to do it, in which case being diplomatic means telling lies!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-27 21:40:46](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Do you just grow up thinking like that? Or do you learn it from the Prefects in Slytherin?

'Welcome Firsties! Hope you enjoyed the Welcome Feast. Don't be fooled: the food's not usually that good. You'll see


tomorrow morning. Now. There're a few things you need to get straight if you're to be in Slytherin House. First off: look sharp around the people who have power and never hesitate to kiss up to them. Second: don't waste your time on people you don't need; if they haven't got gobs of galleons or powerful parents or brilliant marks--or if they do, but they won't let you use them--tell them to go hex themselves. Third: never let the truth stand in the way of getting what you want. Fourth: the password's Parseltongue.'



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 01:10:25](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I learned to lie in village school, actually.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-28 01:51:25](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Oh, yeah. I wasn't thinking about that.

Sorry.

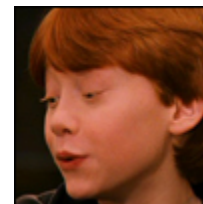
I mean, I still can't believe your teacher did that.


You really think that's what got you in Slytherin?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 03:38:52](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I told the Sorting Hat I wanted to be in Slytherin actually.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-28 04:28:43](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

D'you think it really just does what you ask it? I mean, I was thinking 'Gryffindor' as hard as I could when I had it on, but I expect it just put me here because it's where I'm meant to be, yeah?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 13:45:17](#)

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

Well it talked to me, didn't it talk to you? I had to tell it why Slytherin and not Ravenclaw. Or Gryffindor or Hufflepuff for that matter.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-28 15:24:33](#)

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

Yeah, it said something like, 'Right then, Gryffindor.' It said something else first, about my family, but I can't remember what exactly. Just that it didn't have any questions about where to put me.



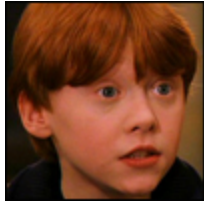
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 17:27:48](#)


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

Probably 'my goodness, ANOTHER Weasley? Just how many are there of you lot anyway? Alright then, into Gryffindor with the rest of them.'

The Hat had a longer conversation with me because I didn't want to go into Ravenclaw where my parents had been. I said I wasn't brave so I didn't belong in Gryffindor. It said that actually not all Gryffindors are as brave as I seemed to think but that was alright, it could find a place for me in another house if I wanted. I said I wanted to be in Slytherin and it asked me if I was sure, because that can be a hard house for a half-blood and Hufflepuff might be easier and I said I didn't believe in fair play, which isn't really true but I didn't want to be in Hufflepuff.

And that's when it put me in Slytherin.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-28 18:08:20](#)

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

You lied to the Hat!

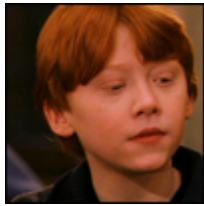



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-03-28 17:29:46](#)

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

So come to think of it I probably DID get placed in Slytherin for being a good liar. Or a bad liar. I mean the Hat talks to your right in your head, it probably knew I was lying about not believing in fair play.

~~I wanted to be in Slytherin because~~



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-28 18:12:24](#)

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

No wonder, then. That's definitely the way to get put into Slytherin!

But hang on. Why would you want to be there so badly? I mean. You really didn't want to be in Ravenclaw because it was your parents' House? I mean, I thought

you think your parents are good people, don't you?

Did you think you'd get a better foster family by being in Slytherin? I mean, it might've worked. You probably should have got Mr Rosier, not Finnigan. That's a dead Slytherin family, the Rosiers.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-03-28 20:03:37](#)

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

Well bear in mind at Sorting it goes alphabetically. So before me there was

Parkinson, Patil, and Patil. Don't you think I made a good choice, considering the girls I could be sharing with?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-29 02:23:50](#)

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

True enough.

But that's why you wanted Slytherin?  
Really? I thought you didn't know any of them before you came to school. Had you met Patil, then? I suppose it'd just take the once to put you off wanting to know her better.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-29 03:30:05](#)

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

I'd never met anyone I was sorted with actually. I was the only one in my year at my village school, everyone else was older or younger than me.

If you want to know the honest truth (ha! like you'll even believe me after all this talk about lying!) I asked to be in Slytherin because I thought all my friends there (if I made any) would be above suspicion. So I'd never be asked to spy on them.

Seems dead ironic now doesn't it? If I ever DO get asked to spy on my friends I'd better hope I'm a VERY convincing liar.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-29 03:39:27](#)

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

And I suppose 'spy on them' is a little overdramatic.

Sometimes people from the Ministry would come to the village school and would talk to students one at a time, and ask us about our families and our friends and so on and so



forth and when they'd talk to me, they'd hint that if I DID ever have anything really USEFUL to tell them it might be good for my family's situation, you know. Not that they'd give us a lovely new flat in New Wizarding London or anything but things were pretty terrible sometimes, it wouldn't have taken much for them to be better.

They asked us questions about our foster families during YPL, too, when they took the halfbloods off by ourselves.

Anyway.

I thought if I were in Slytherin this wouldn't happen. Because no one would dare suggest that DRACO MALFOY was secretly in league with Sirius Black! or Teddy or Hydra or any of them, really, although I suppose Daphne isn't really above suspicion and neither is Milli. Probably not Blaise either. But back when I didn't know anyone, it seemed like Slytherin should be really SAFE from that.

Like I said it's dead ironic now.

By the way I think something like this might be why Katrina hardly ever talks. She went to village school too, not the one I went to but one like it, and I think she said something once -- you know how Gryffindors tend to be too honest for their own good -- and got someone into really terrible trouble. I don't know that for sure, mind you. It's just what I suspect.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-29 03:44:18](#)

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

Not that I think she was a rat on purpose, I mean they started in on asking us about people when we were too little to really understand why they wanted to know. I think they asked her a question when she was really young, and she answered honestly, and something terrible happened.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 01:24:49](#)

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


Also if they let you in Slytherin House generally you already KNOW that it's a good idea to stay on the good side of someone

powerful.

And the password's not Parseltongue! We'd never pick such an obvious password, that would be like having the password for Gryffindor be 'chivalry!' or 'lion's heart!' or 'more guts than sense!'

Are you coming to Padma's party? We'd already be there but Pansy decided she wanted to fix her hair.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-28 01:46:01](#)

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

Yeah, Neville and I are coming. Maybe Dean, too. See you there?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-03-28 03:39:25](#)

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

Well that was pretty fun despite the fact that Padma organised it.

I even got Katrina to talk to me!

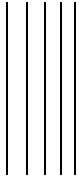



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-28 04:26:03](#)

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

Yeah, she's all right. She wasn't going to come, but we talked her into it.

Glad we did, too, since some people were being utter skrewts.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-27 03:31:52](#)  
(no subject)


I meant, one should be cautious, I suppose.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-27 03:22:37](#)  
(no subject)

Did someone think you hadn't?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-27 03:35:15](#)  
(no subject)

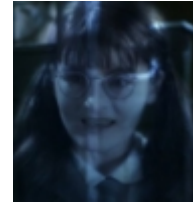
Anything you'd care to talk over privately, Ron? You can just stop by my room, you know. Anytime.

**[2010-03-26 22:43:00](#)**

*It's bad enough to have people hanging around my loo all the time*


and now they won't even be going home at Easter time. I won't get any peace at all!

Not that I ever get to go anywhere for Easter hols!

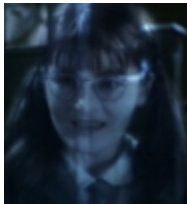



 **[alt\\_myrtle](#)**



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-03-27 03:46:34](#)**  
(no subject)


Where would you like to go?



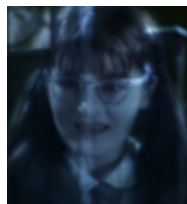
 **[alt\\_myrtle](#)** at **[2010-03-27 03:46:52](#)**  
(no subject)


Anywhere but here!



 **[alt\\_hannah](#)** at **[2010-03-27 03:48:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Who's been hanging about your loo? I thought that ~~most girls avoid~~ it was closed most of the time. For leaks and stuff?



 **[alt\\_myrtle](#)** at **[2010-03-27 03:50:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, aren't you a nosey parker! None of your beeswax!

**2010-03-27 23:10:00**

*(no subject)*

awch

tastes awful



 **alt\_regulus**

where? K

---



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-03-28 04:39:22**

*(no subject)*

kreacher?



 **alt\_narcissa** at **2010-03-28 15:59:18**

*(no subject)*

Regulus?

Surely Kreacher has been with you? I certainly hope so, as Aunt Walburga had the cheek to contact me only Thursday asking if we might lend her Great-Aunt Cassie's elf, the one you let us take on. I asked her why her own elf wouldn't or couldn't do for her and she said

Well, she said he was otherwise occupied on the Lord Protector's business. That you'd taken him for a time.

Has something happened? Do you need assistance? Are you all right, dear cousin?



 **alt\_regulus** at **2010-03-29 02:16:19**

*(no subject)*

Still here, mostly. The elf, too.

Except when he's not.

It's not his fault, though, that he's needed to come and go.

He's here tonight.

Thank Merlin.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-29 02:58:32](#)

*(no subject)*

But whatever is the matter? Are you all right?



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-29 03:22:12](#)

*(no subject)*

Digestion's off a bit. And I've this annoyingly wrong taste. Like iron with a faintly sweet tinge.

Ugh. Just mentioning it makes me a bit green.

phoa



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-29 03:56:04](#)

*(no subject)*

Dear me.

Perhaps you'd best give yourself the night off.

Have you a supply of Derwent's Dyspeptic

Draught? When Lucius was feeling poorly last year I made him a cauldron of the stuff and it fixed him up quickly enough - once he was able to swallow, that is.

I believe I bottled what he didn't use. I could send it off to you if you like.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-29 12:15:45](#)

*(no subject)*

If you've an owl available, that wouldn't be amiss, cousin.

thank you



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-29 15:44:14](#)  
(no subject)

I'd tell you another round of jokes, but I used all the good ones up earlier.


Hm.

What did the one-legged wizard say to his son?  
"Never sneeze while Apparating."

See? No good at all.

I hope you feel better soon, Pirate.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-29 21:12:37](#)  
(no subject)

Do you know the one about the skrewts who decided to hold their annual holiday party in a fireworks shop? Next day's headline: Blast Ended Skrewts.

We're a pair: neither of us is much in the way of jokes at the moment.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 01:30:12](#)  
(no subject)

That's a good one.

What did one skrewt at the Fireworks party say to the other once they realised the building was on fire?

Mate, we're skrewt.

How did they secure the coffins at their funeral?


Skrewt 'em right down.

What did the little skrewt baby do at the gravesite?

Skrewt up his face and cried and cried.


Is your stomach better?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 02:15:41](#)  
(no subject)


As you can see, my jokes aren't.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-30 03:03:12](#)  
(no subject)


noNo  
sgood



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 03:07:47](#)  
(no subject)

What's happening? What's the matter?



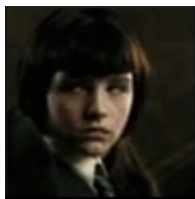
 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-30 03:02:10](#)  
(no subject)


Heh.

YuR jokesesesesesesR

goo d

medciN




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 03:03:50](#)  
(no subject)

Pirate?






 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 03:06:15](#)  
(no subject)

Please be okay, Regulus.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-31 13:38:06](#)  
(no subject)

I owe you an apology. What happened here was unforgivable, and I'm utterly ashamed of myself, having spoken to you like this.

Lucius is right, you know. I'm not good value, as they say. You'd be far better to forget me.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-31 14:46:04](#)  
(no subject)


no.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-30 15:10:04](#)  
(no subject)

What the heck is a skrewt?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 15:15:25](#)  
(no subject)

What is with you lately?

Honestly.

It's really annoying.

And don't you ever listen to Professor Brutka? The forest has been crawling with them for *ages*.

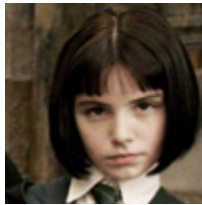



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-30 15:22:33](#)  
(no subject)

What's with me?

Do you ever have conversations that aren't with grown men?

Besides, we don't have Professor Brutka yet, and I was in the back on the forest walk.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-30 17:07:12](#)  
(no subject)

Do us all a favour and bugger off, Smith.

**2010-03-28 11:18:00**

*That was Nift!*

I have to say that went really, really well, I thought.



Well, apart from Stretton making a fool of himself, but really, that was probably to be expected. And Moran made short work of him. I say, it was gentlemanly of Moran to toss Stretton out like that for us. Saved quite a lot of unpleasantness all round.

 [alt\\_padma](#)

I thought Bobolis, Chang and Tamblyn were beyond funny. Tamblyn's impression of Mr Macnair was dead to rights. And when Bobolis cast that little illusion spell that made Black say all sorts of nonsense? Dead hilarious, that. But the best part was the bit about choosing prefects for next year. I didn't know that 'Chaser' meant something entirely different in Gaia Chambers' case! And I guess we now know that the secret to being made prefect is simply to date a current one!

Joking aside, I'm so glad Karoline gave us a taster of her panto! I knew it would be utterly nift. Draco, did she talk to you last night? I keep telling her she ought to ask you, that you're really quite good and ever so nice and you'd be up for it, but she's really quite shy about some things. I think she thought you'd bite her head off, as if even asking would be an affront. Which is nonsense, of course. It's funny, really, since she's older than we are, but there she was, not sure whether she ought to talk to you. I hope she found you?


I tried to talk to so many people last night but there was so much to do. Being a hostess is hard work! Even with Parvati to share in, and Lavender too, we didn't get nearly the time to simply enjoy things as we thought. There was always something, like needing more punch or trying to get everyone quiet to listen to the panto, or handling the queue of people who wanted a particular song played.

Oh! I almost forgot! Thanks, everyone, who brought music! It really would have been dreary without all the different styles we got to play. I never knew Erato Pucey had such a brilliant collection!

Really, it was absolutely wiz-nift, and everyone helped make it so wonderful.


---



 [alt\\_hannah](#) at [2010-03-28 20:37:22](#)  
(no subject)

The music was the part I enjoyed the most, I think. I'd never heard of at least half those bands.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-28 21:18:53](#)  
(no subject)

I know, right? It's great that so many of the older kids came, as they've got quite a lot of music we haven't. I hadn't really talked much to your Olive Coote before last night. She's really quite nice, isn't


she?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-28 22:19:54](#)  
(no subject)

That really was a wiz-nift party! The music was fun but I thought it was especially interesting to see how many people came. Its probably because you have so many friends in other years in your house.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-28 22:22:48](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, and I think having the prefects come was really helpful, too, because it meant the other prefects from other houses came, so everyone who hangs about with *them* came, too. I think there were really only about 25 people who *didn't* come, but I couldn't even keep track!

I just wish Chang




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-03-28 22:24:57](#)  
(no subject)

Even Katrina Bundy came. I think she might have even talked to people.


Was there anyone from our year who didn't?



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-03-29 00:58:07](#)  
(no subject)

I talked to Katrina a bit. That was practically a first. Usually she's so quiet.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-29 01:03:51](#)  
(no subject)

Shocking.

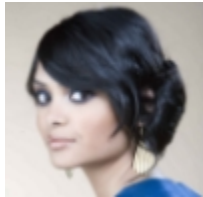
Bundy can barely say 'Pass the beetles' in Potions lessons.


I'd say that definitely means the party was a success!



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-03-28 22:25:36](#)  
(no subject)

Other than Stebbins, obviously.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-03-28 22:34:14](#)  
(no subject)

I was about to say.

No, I think everyone (else) in our year. Maybe not Millie, I don't recall seeing her.

I didn't see Fawcett, but Belinda said she was there for a little while. She may have left early (or maybe the skit bothered her). And I'm not sure about Summers. Did you see him?

I know that some of the fourth-years didn't come, because Applebee told me he had already planned a small birthday party for Lettice Frobisher and she didn't want to be embarrassed in front of the whole school. But then I saw Nadine Rohani toward the end of the night, so maybe some of them came down afterward.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-03-29 00:04:15](#)  
(no subject)

Now I understand a bit of what Mummy's always talking about--about the Fine Art of Hostessing and all.

I mean, this was just a school party but we had a lot to do!

Between the three of us it wasn't Too Much, though. It's good that we work together so well.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 00:12:34](#)  
(no subject)

I know! There's such a lot to think about. At least one of us was always able to manage the music queue, but really, if Laverty hadn't volunteered to help out a few times, I think we should have been stuck in that corner all night.

And then the endless comments - some people couldn't hear, others thought it too loud and they had to go outside to talk.... Really, it's so difficult to keep everyone happy.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-03-29 00:25:30](#)  
(no subject)

Think of it this way--if you hadn't thought it up, people might have sat around being bored and feeling sorry for themselves about the hols so really they should be grateful.

And anyway it seemed like most people were having a good time, so I wouldn't worry too much. I think we can call it a Success!

Although some people had a bit Too Good of a time, if you know what I mean.

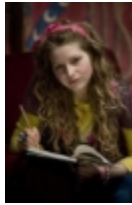



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 00:31:08](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's true. And Tamblyn said he thinks the party did wonders for our futures at Hogwarts. I mean to say, they're ever so glad to know that things will be in good hands after some of the older kids leave.

And yes, you're right, some people probably ought to have gone somewhere private, if they were going to carry on like that. One would think prefects would know better. But I guess as it's school holidays, they weren't worried about it I saw Darst tell them off a couple times, too, and they were a bit better after that.

Do you know when they left?




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-03-29 00:44:51](#)  
(no subject)

That was awfully Nice of him to say! I'm glad everyone enjoyed it, but especially that the older years didn't think it was too childish or anything.

I Shudder to think what might happen if we were allowed anything stronger than butterbeer. I mean, really!

~~I'm sorry you had to see~~




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 00:47:04](#)  
(no subject)

I guess it won't be too long before we are the older kids.

And I suppose it won't be too long before we don't care who tells us off, either.


Still. I'm glad you and Parvati were there when ... when I had to duck out to the loo or something. To get air.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-03-29 00:49:28](#)  
(no subject)


That's what friends are for, isn't it? I mean, I know you'd do the same for me if I needed you to.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 00:50:47](#)  
(no subject)

Of course!




 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-03-30 02:48:52](#)  
(no subject)

Good show, Patil. It was a brilliant party. We ought to do another soon. Actually, I was thinking it would be nift to try a fancy dress party or a masquerade since we're on holiday and there's time for people to think about costumes or making vizards. What do you say? We could organise it together.

I do think that if Stretton can't behave himself, he ought to have the decency to stay away from gatherings. And, yes, Moran was helpful, though we were managing things before he thrust himself in the middle.

So, what do you say? Shall we get up another salon for later in the week? I have a trunk full of things we could use for costumes--and also a hamper of treats Papa sent before parcels were disallowed.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-30 04:02:19](#)  
(no subject)

What do I say? I say that would be

U T T E R L Y N I F T!

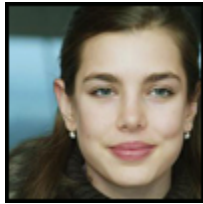
Yes, let's do!! Perhaps for the day after you've completed NEWTs? Or would that be too long?


I just know that Tamblyn was saying he's really got to get started



revising for his OWLs, and you remember that only a few days ago Chambers and Clearwater were shushing everyone in the Common Room. And I'm sure you, Capper and Johns are ready, but that you'll be wanting to use some of the holiday to really concentrate on the exams, too.

So...well, whenever you think. But yes, oh, and making vizards would be a nift project, too, especially if it insists on raining all week!



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-03-30 04:19:50](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you know, I was planning a party for these hols, so I've kept to a strict schedule of revising all term. Of course, those plans have had to change, but just because we've had to stay here doesn't mean we can't enjoy ourselves a bit.

It's important to keep a balance between work and relaxation or one loses all perspective, right? Certainly Chambers and Clearwater aren't the only ones feeling the strain. We all are. And that's precisely why it's so important that we schedule a bit of recreation. In moderation, that's what makes it possible to stay sane as our exams loom.

I believe we should have this party on Thursday evening. It'll be brilliant!

**2010-03-28 20:56:00**

*Letter to Auntie Mina*

Dear Auntie Mina,

I'm sure you've already heard the news and all, about us not being able to leave Hogwarts for Easter hols, but I thought I'd write anyhow. I know that it's important that we all be kept safe, but I was so looking forward to being able to come out to the farm with you and stay for a few days. And I'm sure you miss having us too!



 [alt\\_susan](#)

I'm sure the Ministry is taking good care of your owls, but I'm glad you've at least got Gudrun and Brunhilda to keep you company. It was really nice of you to send Brunhilda with my last letter before they closed off the owl post; she seemed fine too, considering how old she is by now. I s'pose all this means clutching season will be later than usual.

Ed and I have been taking the school brooms out whenever we get a bit of nice weather; I think it's the most we've seen each other since the beginning of term. He's a bit cross that Madame Hooch will let me go out alone whereas he has to have someone older with him, but he's mostly over it.

Thanks again for the advice you gave me about the elective lessons for fall term; I talked to Professor Sprout and she said pretty much the same things. I'm ever so excited about Care of Magical Creatures, and a bit nervous about Runes. I don't know much about either of the Professors, though I've spoken to Professor Brutka a few times on the school grounds and he seems nice.

Have you ever thought of teaching? I think you'd be a wizard Care of Magical Creatures prof, and it would be fun to have you here at Hogwarts where I could talk to you any time at all. I suppose I'd have to call you Professor Grubbly-Plank though, and that would be really, really odd.

I'm still curious about Divination, but you're probably right that it isn't terribly useful if you haven't got natural talent. And I've never seen any sign that I have, or heard that it runs in the Bones family. We're too solid to be prophetic types I suppose.

I'm singing in the choir again this year; it's too bad that we probably

won't get to perform in the Hogsmeade Spring Festival though, especially as it's one of the only special exceptions to the rule about no-one under third year being allowed in the village. Still, there's always the Leaving Feast and we're all working extra hard on our pieces for that. Speaking of activities, I've been thinking about it and I guess you're right in what you said about Dueling Club and YPL.


Everyone here has been trying to keep their spirits up. The Patils had a big music party last night; I wasn't feeling terribly social at first, but in the end I was glad I went. Hannah and I had a good time and I talked to some people I hadn't really talked to before. And I danced to a lot of great music. Parkinson especially had some really wizard classic stuff.

I wish I was coming to the farm so that I could help with owls and go on about things while we bake biscuits. Oh, I'm making myself hungry just *thinking* about your biscuits. I hope you'll make a few for the holiday even though we won't be there to help you eat them!

I love you!

Susan




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-03-29 02:10:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Your Auntie does sound pretty ace.

It was fun talking with you at the party, even if it wasn't for very long. I don't think anyone else here had heard of The Strawbs before. I didn't bring any to the party, because they're not really meant for party listening, but if you want, maybe we can get together for tea and a listen sometime. I've only got one of their albums with me, "Lights Over London." "Flight" and "Strawberry Ham" is back at home.

And I've got tonnes of other "Which" stuff we didn't get to listen to at the party, because there was a lot of other music in the queue.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-03-29 02:22:35](#)  
(no subject)

That sounds brill! I love the wizard-only stuff they did early on; I mean, *Dragonfly* is good, but not as good. I'm so glad they got unbanned!


It always seemed rather rough on them that *all* their music went on the bad list just because that girl singer who was with them for awhile turned out a traitor.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-29 02:38:07](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah. It's a shame, too, because they were getting really good, too, before they got split up.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-03-29 02:50:10](#)  
(no subject)

I like Which too! I don't know why people always think witches have to make sweet, syrupy music like Celestina Warbeck.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-29 03:04:32](#)  
(no subject)

Carrie Lox is *ace*. I love everything she's ever done. And Donna Jones was the *best* at lead guitar.

I don't suppose you get to sing anything really fun in choir? I mean, this sort of stuff.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-03-29 03:10:33](#)  
(no subject)


Not really. We mostly do very traditional sorts of things, rites of spring and all that.

I like some of that stuff, especially the old ballads,

but it isn't exactly *rock*.


Vicky Frobisher did a Celestina Warbeck song for her audition last year, and that's about as close as we've got to modern anything.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-29 03:18:54](#)  
(no subject)

Well, yeah, I mean, the choir sounded really good last year. But I'd bet it would be fun to sing other things sometimes too.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-03-29 03:32:10](#)  
(no subject)

I like to, when I'm off by myself, or sometimes in our room. So far I haven't driven my roommates mental.

Do you remember last year when we said Piranhas Ate My Kneazle would be a good name for a band?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-29 04:08:36](#)  
(no subject)

Hah! Yeah. It's still a really good name, too.

**[2010-03-29 11:48:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Just because you lot are all on holiday is no reason for the Advanced Transfiguration to skive off on meeting. Wednesday, seven o'clock sharp, in my quarters for tea. I'll be sure to order the cream puffs. Bring your notes. Bode and Laverty, that means all of 'em.




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

Alecto asked me to remind people of her little event tomorrow night for those who'd expressed interest in the Dark Arts elective. Stop by her quarters at seven o'clock Tuesday, and she'll give you a little taste of what they're all about.

Can't rightly call it a true soiree without tidbit around, but she'll do her level best.



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 17:21:40](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sir, do people have to come tomorrow night if they're to be considered for Dark Arts? Only I heard that debating society is going to go on meeting, as well, and some people were wondering if they ought to go to Miss Professor Carrow's instead. But then some of the NEWT students said that really Miss Professor Carrow's was only for people who weren't absolutely certain about applying to the class.

So, if you could clarify? I'm sure they'd appreciate it, sir. Thank you.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-29 17:24:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Unlike some of the other electives, in the case of the Dark Arts, the Professor's approval is required for you to take it. I would suggest that if you wish to take the class, you really should make an effort to attend, as I imagine Miss Professor Carrow will be asking some questions of her own, in order to decide who to admit.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-03-29 17:28:26](#)  
(no subject)

Is that what she's done in other years? Held a session at night, I mean, so she can interview people?

If that's so, it didn't help you any, did it, Weasley? Are there questions we should know how to answer, then? That you got wrong, I mean.



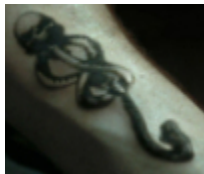
 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-29 17:31:42](#)  
(no subject)

This is her usual procedure, yes.

...

Miss Professor Carrow did not choose to inform me of her reasons for rejecting my petition for admittance. I'm sure that she had her reasons, and they were good ones.


I'm sure that she would prefer to hear what you have to say to her questions, without any coaching from me.



 [alt\\_amycus](#) at [2010-03-29 17:32:26](#)  
(no subject)

As to that....I would suggest that you stop by Alecto's office some time.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-29 17:32:46](#)  
(no subject)

Sir?



 [alt\\_amycus](#) at [2010-03-29 17:33:01](#)  
(no subject)


I do believe that she has a little proposal to make to you.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-29 17:33:39](#)  
(no subject)


Indeed, sir? Well, then of course I shall stop by at my first opportunity. Thank you.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-29 20:58:47](#)  
*Order Only*

Oh, no. What is that woman up to, anyway?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-03-29 17:44:40](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well, if that's how she usually does it, then that's different.

I mean, I was planning to go anyway, but I'm sure everyone on debate will want to know that they don't want to miss the opportunity.



**2010-03-29 12:04:00**

*Continued improvement*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

The situation in the camps, we are told, improves daily. Unfortunately, the number of cases of half-bloods and purebloods continues to climb. The form of these cases is particularly concerning, as the disfigurement of the victims is itself a source of potential infection. The pamphlets which have been produced by St Mungo's and distributed by the Ministry in the last two weeks - most distressingly - accurately portray the early signs, but moreover represent the means of its communicability. The need for isolation has never been more apparent.

The effect of these precautions on various committees, boards and societies has been palpable. The bright spot, however, is that our industry is well on its way to restoration.

Regarding the cure, Rookwood and his St Mungo's team report progress, though still no sure success. Of course, they are working round the clock and a few hours besides, but at Court we hear the feeble excuses of the experimental researcher: perfection cannot be rushed; without certainty we risk worsening the problem; these things take time. Needless to say, while we understand the need for diligence, the demands of public health dictate that their pace never slacken until they find the solution.


Moving on to more pleasant topics, Narcissa remarked over the weekend that she ought to begin planning Draco's birthday party. Though she was distracted yesterday by her cousin's poor health, but that seems to be a simple enough thing to remedy.

Draco, as I recall, you had a deal of activities you desired. Since owls are currently still under restriction, perhaps you might use the school holiday to give your mother an idea of what you would like to include at the celebrations.

Thursday will be the first of the month - inconceivable, but at least the weather has improved vastly in London over the last two weeks. Raining to-day, naturally.


---



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-29 20:51:57](#)  
(no subject)


I must thank St Mungo's for their outstanding cooperation with my department in helping get those pamphlets produced. The photographs are shocking, no doubt, but it is critical that purebloods, particularly, should be well-educated about warning signs.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-29 20:53:53](#)  
*Order Only*


I hope you paid particular attention to the pictures showing the pustulating boils. How I'd love to see them spread all over your face, you unspeakable wanker.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-29 20:54:40](#)  
*Re: Order Only*


Bill!!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-29 20:55:26](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

It's one of the pleasures of using the Lock, Mum. You have to admit you've dreamed of the same thing, too.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-29 20:57:09](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Well, yes, but...oh, Merlin, I just don't want us all to turn into callous monsters. Malfoy's bad enough.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-29 21:03:50](#)

*Re: Order Only*

or his arse.

wait, same difference.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-29 21:06:20](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, Malfoy's the meticulous type. I'm sure, given the opportunity, he'd cover both ends.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-29 21:07:05](#)

*Re: Order Only*

good thing too, as it's always so hard to tell which end he's talking out of.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-29 21:06:55](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Frank, don't encourage him! It isn't funny!



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-03-29 21:07:46](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yes it is, Molly.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-03-29 21:10:14](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, I certainly hope that Bill is discreet with such--such dreadful humour to himself when he's at work.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-29 21:12:54](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Don't worry. Butter wouldn't melt in my mouth when I'm there, Mum.

(But you should hear what the other blokes have to say about Malfoy. And all the rest of that lot.)



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-30 04:05:46](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Like what, Bill? And who? Anyone we could trust to side with us - or is it just canteen gossip?



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-30 18:54:28](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Just idle gossip, I think, although I'm keeping my ear out for more.

And it's nothing I'd care to repeat where my Mum can read.



 **[alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-03-29 21:09:20](#)**

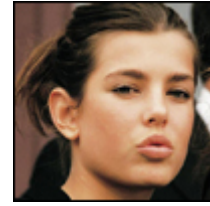
*Re: Order Only*

sometimes a bit of a laugh can be a lifesaver, Mol.

**2010-03-29 20:01:00**

*XIX. Psyche Bobolis*

Honestly, Bobolis, if you say you'll be somewhere, be there. At the time you promised. Johns and I don't have time to mess about waiting for you to turn up.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

If you can't pull your weight on this project, there will be consequences. I may not be able to toss you out of our group, but I will not allow you to compromise our work any further.

**2010-03-29 21:32:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

My thoughts are with Remus tonight. I hope that Sirius's potion works the way that it ought, and that he has a quiet, safe night.




 [alt\\_alice](#)

Remus, love, once you're up and about, could you send a quick note to Stephen letting him know how everything was?


---



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-03-30 02:46:32**  
*(no subject)*

Yes, Remus. I think we're all anxious to know whether the potion works as we all hope it will.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-03-30 04:09:26**  
*(no subject)*

Me, too, Allie.

I hope he remembered to start taking it early. Chap I got it from told me it required at least three doses to work properly.

Provided he wasn't handing me a complete line of bilge. But I researched the theory behind the potion before I started making inquiries to get hold of some. It's pretty restricted, even out here, you know, and of course the second question anyone asks when you say you want it is "Who for?"

It'll be worth it though, if it makes a difference.

**2010-03-29 22:50:00**

*KrEEEEchr*

Dyou r EMbr whe n

Yu

ust to tell



 **alt\_regulus**

stoRieses?

didtoo

did

did did did did did *DID*

phwuh



 **alt\_sirius at 2010-03-30 04:48:49**

*I know I shouldn't, but...*

Once, many and many a year ago, there was a boy who lived with his mother and father and two small brothers in a comfortable yeoman farmer's cottage nestled beside the wall of a great lord's estate. For many generations, the father's fathers had served the lord faithfully, and always they had prospered and lived in peace.

It was said that the boy's earliest grandfather, so many grands ago, had saved his liege lord's life. In exchange, the legends told, the lord had given the man two precious gifts: title to the land on which his cottage stood and a great, finely wrought stone infused with magic

that the lord promised would protect the family so long as they possessed it. The faithful yeoman made it the capstone of a new gateway arch through which all who entered his yard must pass, and many believed that no harm could come to the family so long as the stone remained in place. Others claimed that so long as the family kept possession of the stone, there would always be an heir to inherit the father's land. And so it proved, for many and many a peaceful year. In each generation, the fathers served their lords faithfully, and the family lived and thrived, untroubled by any misfortune.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-30 12:24:39](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

Ahhhhhhhow

H'llo there.

I'll have to ask him for that one tonight. Or you could tell me it. Once things get bad again. They're really bad. When they are, I mean, which is always now.

'Scuse me, need

smore sleeeep



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-03-30 15:17:14](#)

*(no subject)*

I sent off the potion yesterday.

It should help. So would my sister killing that odious interloper.

Pity the strawberries aren't in yet.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-30 15:21:36](#)

*(no subject)*

aughh

no

no strawberries




uch

the smell is like rotting strawberries, I couldn't place it before

may never be able to eat them  
again



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-03-30 15:31:24**  
(no subject)


~~But they're your favourite~~

Take the potion. It should help. And finish your task.

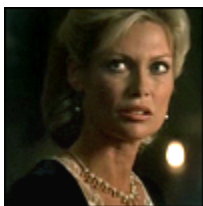
Perhaps you ought to fit yourself with an air filter? That ought to help as well.


Really, Regulus, if you just think of how to improve your lot, I'm sure you could push through.



 **[alt\\_regulus](#) at 2010-03-31 03:48:21**  
(no subject)


It has helped, cousin. Thank you from the bottom of my gut. My heart, too.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-03-30 15:14:02**  
*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

This is *your* fault.



 **[alt\\_regulus](#) at 2010-03-31 01:21:05**  
*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

Didn't think you'd remember how this one goes, actually. I never thought you liked it especially.

Full of surprises, aren't you?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-31 04:18:57](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

Not especially. But even if I couldn't remember the precise words, I can't forget the tale. The number of times you wanted it read?

But no, I didn't memorise it. I happened to be in the same place as a credible library, is all.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-31 01:24:00](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

*And yet, as ever it happens in this imperfect world, fate would not allow this family's happiness to go untested. One day, a new lord took possession of the manor, a new lord who did not respect the traditions of his fathers and who was not content with what he inherited.*



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-31 02:26:31](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

what happened next?



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-31 02:47:23](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

Well, the new young lord decides he wants the yeoman's property as a hunting lodge, but when he demands it, the yeoman refuses, and so the lord challenges him to a duel. But first, the lord blasts the magical capstone and gateway that protected the yeoman's property, and you know that means bad things will happen as surely as you ever know anything about stories and their telling.

And so

*And so, on the last morning of May, as the mists rose up from the dew-draped meadows, the yeoman told his son to be brave and steadfast, to care for his mother and to do his utmost to keep the*

*land, whatever the outcome of the duel that day. To his wife he gave a locket he had transfigured from the latch salvaged from the ancient iron gates; it contained a shard of grey stone and a curl cut from his black hair, tied with a blood-red ribbon. Last of all before mounting his tall steed, he raised her hand to his lips. And then he rode out of the yard with a brave clatter of hooves upon cobbles.*

*The duel ended badly. On both sides. Straight off, the young lord broke the codes of honour, casting his first curse before the count was complete, but even wounded, the yeoman prevailed, bringing that unscrupulous nobleman to his knees. Before their witnesses, the lord renounced all claim to the property and signed a note promising that neither he nor his heirs would ever challenge the right of the yeoman or his heirs to hold that land for as long as their line continued. When all the witnesses had placed their marks on the note, the yeoman bowed and turned, but before he had taken a step, he swooned. Despite the Healer's best efforts, he died where he fell. He was buried with his wand in his hand, wearing his lord's livery like all his fathers and grandfathers before him.*

I know that sounds terrible and sad, but it's not a story about this yeoman; it's a story about his son.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-03-31 03:29:24](#)


*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

Did the son seek revenge on the lord when he grew up?

I like the bit about the locket.

I do think it's a bit awful he was buried in the livery of the man who insulted and killed him like that, even if it was tradition.



 [alt\\_lucius at 2010-03-31 05:15:51](#)  
(no subject)

Pansy, I think it might be best if you were to ... limit your interactions with Regulus.

I know you are both grown quite fond of each other; Regulus has always possessed those qualities that both

endear and amuse, like so many who rely on others' forbearance and goodwill for their own livelihoods. But his current circumstances are bound to cause you both further distress - his when he cannot sufficiently explain to you the privations to which his fealty subjects him, and yours when through such awkwardness he fails, as he inevitably shall, to meet your expectations, whether they are phantasies you have together concocted, attributes you have assigned to him without his active participation or particularly those in which he has given you any encouragement toward superlatives.

I would not wish proscribe you from continuing an acquaintance that obviously suits you both. Let us say instead that I merely hope to spare you a disappointment that I fear may soon confront you, should you grow ever more entangled in promises which your 'pirate' may find himself unable to uphold. Maintain your friendship, certainly, but be wary of deepening your attachment.

If nothing else, take instruction from his previous conversations with Mrs Malfoy, notably his many warnings that his time and attention are not solely within his own liberty to dictate, nor fill as he chooses.



 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-03-31 13:21:19](#)

*Re: I know I shouldn't, but...*

After a fashion. I won't spoil the rest because you'll enjoy it much more if I send you the book (when books can be sent again, of course). It has wonderful pictures in the Russian style--all billowy dresses and swirling robes and sloe-eyed cattle and apple-cheeked children. It's a bit young for you, but if you enjoy it, perhaps you'll keep it to give to ~~you~~ some young person one day.

I've always remembered the locket. Mother had one with a lock from each of us, but she stopped wearing it when we were small and stuffed it in the very back of a drawer in her dressing table. She doesn't put much stock in such things, I suppose.

I think the point of his being buried in livery is not to do with the young lord, at all, but with the fact that a yeoman gives fealty to the lord's house. It's not the individual lord or yeoman

that matters, but the line and the office, you see. The insignia marked him as a true son of his fathers as much as it marked him as a true vassal to the lords of that manor.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-31 04:25:21](#)

*Order Only*

Odd as it seems, I think it's a message.

A lord who doesn't respect traditions and isn't content with his inheritance?

Sound like anyone we know?

Especially given that Reg always saw himself as the Yeoman's Son. Circe, what a load of bollocks that was, but

I'm sure he's in over his head. Merlin's cave, he's such a fatalistic, whinging sod, though.

**2010-03-30 08:09:00**

*Order Only*

It worked. I can't quite believe it, but it worked.

It was a most remarkable experience. The transformation occurred as always, but I was *myself* for the entirety of it, and right through the night. There was a sharpness, a clarity. I was completely in control of myself. I actually fell asleep! I haven't felt so well-rested the night after a full moon since, well, since I was a child.



 [alt\\_lupin](#)


Alice - I'll write a separate note to Stephen with as much information as I can.

Sirius - thank you. Just .. thank you.

I don't suppose there's any way we could look to introduce this more widely, to the enclaves? I know the Ministry would never go for it officially - they're too useful as a threat to the disloyal. But if we could even get it to a few, it would make their lives so much more bearable.

Something for the future, perhaps.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-03-30 14:22:11**  
(no subject)

That's good, Moony. Really good.

How much is left, from what I gave you? Enough for another month, do you think? Or more?

I'm sure we could smuggle it through to the enclaves - though I wonder how well it can be distributed, given pack structure. The question is the quantity needed. Vats full of the stuff are going to be a little conspicuous.

But I'll work on getting more, anyway. Soon as I can.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-03-30 14:49:13](#)  
(no subject)

Sirius, is the formula for making it readily available? Could it be possible to brew it ourselves? Well, I'm not volunteering; I was thinking, of course, of Stephen.


And if you can get the formula, how readily available are the ingredients? We Players have a number of potions ingredients sources we've developed for our black market work.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-03-30 14:50:11](#)  
(no subject)

Mundungus could help with tracking down the more dodgy ingredients, too.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-03-30 15:03:06](#)  
(no subject)

It's devilish tricky. I'd read a couple of articles, but honestly, it left me behind fairly quickly, and I'm a reasonably clever bloke. Far as I can tell, the formula is only available to licensed Master Potioneers, as they don't want amateurs mucking about with it. I gather that if it's brewed incorrectly the consequences could be dire - and I'm not just talking about werewolves not taking proper precautions because they believe they'll be harmless while transformed.

We'd said that if it worked, I'll get a bottle to Stephen so he can reverse-brew it. So that's my next step. But I'll also see if I can tickle some potioneers in my network to get their hands on the receipt for us.



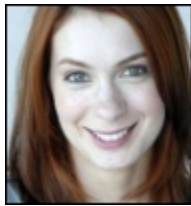
 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-03-30 15:16:43](#)  
(no subject)


I'd be happy to try my hand at it, too, come summer, though I'm afraid that it would be beyond my skill. I've read all that I could find here--which isn't much, as it is a relatively thin field and

development efforts here were abortive. You're quite right that this research has not been supported by the Protectorate, if not quite banned.

If I can think of a reasonable way to engage Horace on the subject of its development, I will, but I can't be direct with him about it obviously. I'll have a think about whether it has any parallels that would allow me to edge into the matter. I have no doubts about his skill, and if I could mine his knowledge of certain bits of theory, I might stand a better chance of making a success of brewing.


I shall have a further think.



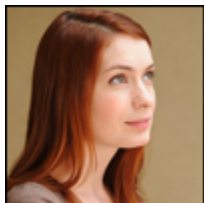
 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-30 17:09:40](#)**  
*(no subject)*


You and Stephen can always put your heads together over summer hols. I'm sure he'd appreciate the help.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-03-31 03:28:19](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, I expect I'd learn from him rather than have a great deal to offer on this sort of potion. But it would be lovely to come out to the Sanctuary again. Perhaps I could even plant something in your memorial garden. For my Rafe, you know, who died in the fighting against Grindelwald's forces. But perhaps that's too long ago; there are so many fresh losses to commemorate. I'll leave that to you, of course.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-31 03:33:53](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'd like that very much, Poppy.

And we'd be honoured if you'd plant a tree. That's what the garden is there for, after all -- to remember people we've lost. No matter how long it's been.





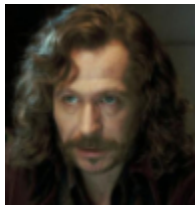
 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-30 14:51:38](#)**  
(no subject)


I vote, that if we can get it into the enclaves, the first person we deliver it to, if at all possible, is Hermione's mother.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-30 14:52:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, of course. That goes without saying.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-30 14:57:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm agreed in principle, Bill, but my question was whether she'd be able to keep it for long.

Understand that werewolves organise themselves in packs. That means pack mentality. And with Voldemort encouraging their savagery, I have a hard time believing anything less than dominant alphas demanding that they be the ones to mete out rations. Personal stashes of contraband? Hard to keep close and safe.

I'm all for trying it, mind, but I'm pointing out the difficulties.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-03-30 18:51:50](#)**  
(no subject)

You're absolutely right, I should have thought of that. Sorry, Hermione.

What we need to do is to get her out of there. But I still haven't a clue as to how we could do that.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-03-30 19:04:42](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, if mother is anything like daughter, I'm sure she's taking care of herself.

If we could build up a good supply, we might get that information into the enclaves, before trying to bring in the product itself. That might help, get them to choose up sides inside - those who want the potion, and those who embrace their feral instincts.

From there, one possibility is that the debate leads to in-fighting, possibly even some splitting of the community. Then if we get the potion in, we're reasonably assured that the ones we get it to will use it and be able to help each other survive. Maybe even get away from the others, maybe neutralize them.


Whatever the outcome, though, we're more likely to help Mrs Granger if we can get word to them somehow that there's an alternative to the current situation.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2010-03-30 14:58:35](#)**  
(no subject)

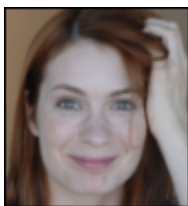
That's what I was thinking too.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-03-30 14:46:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Remus, that's wonderful. I'm so glad.

Now we have to find a way to give you a regular supply of it.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-03-30 17:11:07](#)**  
(no subject)

It's so good to hear, love. It sounded too good to be true, but it seems like it's delivered on all promises.

**2010-03-31 11:28:00**

*Reparations*

The lack of owl-born communication does sometimes force conversations into a public forum against one's will. However, certain things must be said and cannot wait for the restrictions to lift. Therefore:



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

'Forget' is far too strong a word, Regulus. In no way do I advocate that you should desist all contact with the child. That, I am certain, would cause as much damage as the consequences of becoming too enthralled.

I merely ask that you respect the fragility of her position. With the loss of the father so early and last year's near miss concerning Rosalind, I fear her constitution may suffer terribly at any sort of disappointment.

Kindly recall that I have flown this course before, many times - with Mother and Amanda, with Narcissa twice in '79 and of course after your disappearance, and with Miss Parkinson herself - and it is I who must console our witchfolk in the wake of similar bereavements, be they real or imagined.


Pansy, Narcissa tells me I must apologise if my words last night upset you (and she feels certain they must have done). That was not the intent, I am sure you realise. In no way do I wish to sever the bond you have forged with Regulus. Perhaps I am overly pessimistic in anticipating the shattering of your ideals. Or else I have over-estimated the extent to which you have glorified your correspondent as a hero of the Protectorate. In either case, be assured that I have no desire to see you suffer a trauma even remotely similar to those you have already survived. I merely caution you, for I know how easily you extend your affection and how completely you commit that esteem once given (even despite evidence that your judgement in character can be somewhat misplaced).

Let us suffice to say that Regulus is and always has been a droll fellow, and thus it is understandable that you are drawn together. But he bears significant limitations in his ability to follow-through on his intentions, regardless of how sincere they are when he states them. Pray do not set too much store by his promises.

On an unrelated note, received word of an incident in Catterside on the full moon. Nothing too serious, but it has been a few months since a power struggle disrupted any of the enclaves, much less involving a mated pair. Both killed, it seems. Scrimgeour wants to send an Auror to speak to the camp Enforcers and the acknowledged alpha, but believe it would be a better expenditure of resources to provide additional support to the over-crowded camps.


It seems there were a few incidents there as well. Unruly muggles: a sure sign that they are recovering their strength. But as more of them regain their capacity, they expect to resume their quarters. Many of these were re-occupied with the newly conditioned replacement labour force. Have recommended that the administrators set the idle to clearing out suitable living space for themselves, which ought to keep them occupied and provide them basic amenities to settle unrest.



 **alt\_regulus** at [2010-03-31 22:57:25](#)  
(no subject)

At any rate, you were right to advise her that I'm unreliable. Wishing cannot make it otherwise.



 **alt\_hydra** at [2010-04-01 00:01:30](#)  
(no subject)

Are you?



 **alt\_narcissa** at [2010-04-01 00:25:41](#)  
(no subject)

Not precisely, but let us say, frequently previously committed.




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-04-01 06:31:22](#)  
(no subject)

I'm afraid there's only One who can rely on me absolutely, Hydra. So, you see, your uncle is quite right when he says I can't make firm promises to anyone else.

from,  
Regulus




 [alt\\_regulus](#) at [2010-04-01 06:34:04](#)  
(no subject)

Have you given up signing when you write, then? I'm sorry if you have. It was very 'you', if you take my meaning.

from,  
Regulus



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-04-01 13:53:45](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I-  
I suppose I might've been too tired to sign my name, sometimes that happens.  
But I'm not too tired now.

From,  
Hydra

**2010-03-31 13:33:00**

*Hey, Bill?*

So I turned in my form about what electives I want to take, but I'm not sure, and I guess there's still time to change if I wanted.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

I asked for Care of Magical Creatures, which will obviously be wizard, but I also put in for Divination and Runes. But I don't know. And Parkinson said I should ask you about it. Should I do both? What's Runes going to be good for, anyway? I think you said you use it, but really? What for? I mean, I don't even know what sort of job I'd want. I always thought Auror, but it seems like that's not what I thought. Or anywiz, it doesn't seem like I'd maybe have much of a chance. I tried asking Mr Dawlish about it one time ~~when I had~~ but he didn't want to talk about that.


Anywiz, I didn't really want to write about this here, but since we can't send letters

I dunno

What do you think?

Ron



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2010-03-31 19:52:08**  
(no subject)


I know it seems intimidating, Ron, but really, there are a number of different areas that you can study and still end up with the career you want. BUT even if you don't yet know what that career IS, that's all right, too. So try not to get too bent out of shape about what subjects to pick. You can follow many career paths no matter which electives you choose.

If you're truly interested in being an Auror, you need a minimum of five N.E.W.T.s. Two of the particularly recommended ones are in the core subjects you're already studying: Transfiguration and Potions. The third must be either Defence Against the Dark Arts or Dark Arts (you can do both, if you're taking both classes and get a N.E.W.T. in each). Your other two N.E.W.T.s (or one, if you're taking both DADA and DA--but I don't think you applied for DA, did you?) can be either

core or elective. Charms is a good choice for one of the N.E.W.T., which is a core subject, but there are good arguments to be made for COMC, Runes or Arithmancy. (It's my impression that including Divination as your fifth N.E.W.T. doesn't make you quite as strong a candidate, although there have been some very rare candidates who have pulled it off.)


Runes is interesting if you like history, or if you're interested in other magical systems and/or languages (you'll study Druidic nomenclature--that means the terms particularly used in that field of magic--as well as the various early written alphabets like ogham, pictographic writing, etc.) There are sections on Pictish, Gaelic, and Brythonic magics. You'll find Runes to be particularly helpful if you also plan to take a N.E.W.T. in Charms, since the older spells you study your seventh year sometimes use a quite a wide range of spell notation, many of which we don't use anymore.



 **alt\_bill** at [2010-03-31 19:55:56](#)  
(no subject)

That is not to say that you shouldn't take Divination at all if you're aiming to be an auror, you understand. It just means that you should choose other classes for your fourth and fifth N.E.W.T.s-- Charms, Runes, or COMC, say.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-31 20:18:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm decent at Charms. Well, except for my wand. So, I mean, I think I'm decent at Charms or I will be if I can figure out how to get my wand fixed. Neville found a book about wands, but nothing we tried really helped.

D'you know anything about repairing wands if they get snapped?



 **alt\_bill** at [2010-03-31 20:59:37](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, Ron, but I'm afraid I don't know anything about wand repair at all. It's quite a specialised subject.

Have you spoken with your Charms professor? Could she help you?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-03-31 21:15:59](#)  
(no subject)


I think he has, but she didn't know anything, either.

Ron, I may have found else something in the library that might help, other than that book that Neville found. There's an old tome that talks about how wand movements can be modified if the wand is unstable. Something about adding an extra fractional turn to standard movements. Anyway, stop by my table at the library or catch me in my room if it's after curfew, and we can go through the section I've bookmarked. I don't know for sure if it will help--the author has some very dodgy theories about charms, so there isn't any telling whether this is authoritative until we experiment a little. But at least it's something else we can try.

I'm sorry, I know this is frustrating for you. I can check with the shopkeeper at Dervish & Banges the next time I'm in Hogsmeade for you, see if he has any suggestions.

(Once the quarantine lifts, of course. And who knows when that will be.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-31 22:42:29](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah, okay.

Thanks.

I'll see if I can find you when I get back to the common room tonight.






 **alt\_ron** at [2010-03-31 22:44:08](#)  
(no subject)

Hm. It sounds really, well, tough. I just don't see why, if you're going to be spending your time trying to catch people who break the law, you'd need to know a load of history and old languages nobody uses anymore. I mean, sure, maybe somebody might steal stuff from a museum or something or one or two criminals sometime might use really old spells so nobody'd know how they did what they did, but then you just call in an expert or whatever, right? I don't see why all Aurors'd have to know that stuff. Charms and Defence and DA and Transfiguration and all, I get that.



 **alt\_bill** at [2010-03-31 23:56:20](#)  
(no subject)

I know it doesn't sound obvious at first, Ron, but it'll make more sense as you study further.

After all, nobody "uses" Latin anymore, if you mean uses it to hold conversations. But it's the basis for the large majority of our spells. As for history, it can be more useful than you realise. I worked at Gringotts at first, doing curse-breaking, and that can come up for Aurors a lot, too. A sound knowledge of history can be incredibly important when you're trying to figure out how curses work and interact with other magic. I got a lot of the techniques I used from very dry history books, believe it or not.

And as for calling in experts, well, the point is that Aurors ARE the experts. They have to be able to react very quickly to situations, when there often isn't time to ask anyone else for help, so they need to have a lot of esoteric information at their fingertips ('esoteric' means not generally well-known).

**2010-03-31 15:00:00**

*Hey, Pansy...*

You all right, then?

I heard you ran out of the greenhouse this afternoon  
eryi



 **alt\_ron**

Anywiz, you're not ill or something, are you?

---



 **alt\_zacharias** at **2010-03-31 20:38:18**  
(no subject)

Think maybe she's got, you know, female troubles?


Some of the girls in our dormitory, I dunno about yours, but in ours, when it's, that time they can turn into a waterworks over nothing at all.

I mean, it was weird. She'd been acting jitterish all day. She came along when Professor Sprout asked for volunteers, I guess just to get outside (that's why I went!), but then she was positively shaking while she was shoveling dirt over those mandrakes.

I dunno what happened, but I guess I must've said something to Corner, because she looked at me. And I shrugged, but then she sort of bugged her eyes back at me. And all I said was 'What?' and she just took off out the greenhouse.

Girls.



 **alt\_ron** at **2010-04-01 00:57:31**  
(no subject)


I dunno. Pansy's not usually like that. I mean, I'm not sure she gets, y'know, that stuff yet, anyway. Maybe.

But I think she might be ill or something. I mean, shaking?

You're right about loads of girls, though. I mean, when Lav and SpazzatiPatil get that time of the month, look out! They'll hex you so fast it makes your head spin. Last week, Lav really got into it with

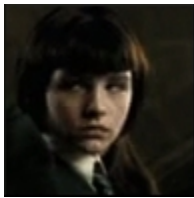
Lee Jordan, and all because he said, 'Nice hair bow, Brown.' I mean, he was complimenting her and what does she do? She screams at him and then sets his shoes on fire!




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-04-01 16:16:13](#)  
(no subject)

I did *not* set his shoes on fire!

It was just a teeny little friction charm; it's not my fault that it got Ideas.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-31 20:56:07](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not ill.

What I really want to do right now is just go outside and chuck things into the lake.

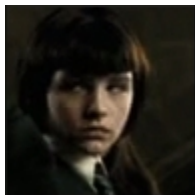
Can we do that?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-03-31 20:57:05](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, yeah.

I'll meet you out there?



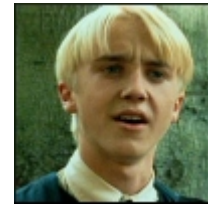
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-03-31 20:58:14](#)  
(no subject)

yeah.

**2010-03-31 19:45:00**


Uhm

That was a learning experience, I suppose.



 [alt\\_draco](#)



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-04-01 01:50:28**

*(no subject)*

You're being ironical aren't you?

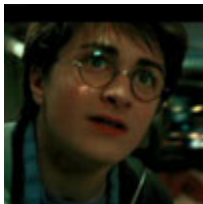


 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-04-01 01:52:15**

*(no subject)*

I really don't know at this point, but I can see why you would think that.

I itch now. Do you?

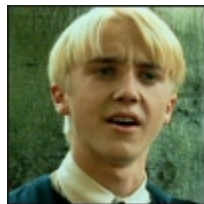


 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-04-01 01:52:50**

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

In some rather unpleasant places too.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-04-01 01:57:48**

*(no subject)*

It's probably because

Nevermind.

Anyway, I want to hear what you think later. Not here, though. I couldn't really tell before. During, I mean.

GAH  
H



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:58:51](#)  
(no subject)

Do you need help? Or - Mr Marvolo, do you need help?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-04-01 01:59:51](#)  
(no subject)

YES PLEASE

how do these

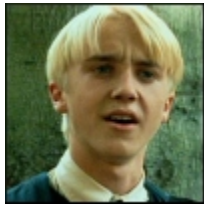
Im in the dormitory




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 02:01:52](#)  
(no subject)

I'm on my way, Mr Marvolo.

I don't know, sir.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-04-01 02:02:30](#)  
(no subject)

Hermione, I mean, Granger, help me first. Please. Harry will tell you where I am.

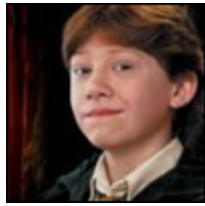


 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 02:03:43](#)  
(no subject)

He's got himself in rather a fix, sir.

I'll be right there.

He's yelling at me to stop writing and help him. So I will. Then I'll find you.



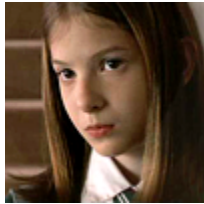
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:06:02](#)

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

Heh.

Yeah, this is well amusing.

What's got your panties in such a twist? Knob.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:12:08](#)

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

They sound like I did the first time I ever tried to put on a



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:19:14](#)

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

a what?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:21:36](#)

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

Um.  
A bra.

Hermione are they

WHY?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-04-01 02:34:03](#)

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


WHAT DO WE HAVE TO BRIBE YOU WITH TO GET PICTURES, HERMIONE?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:35:06](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Are you serious?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:35:29](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Wait. Don't answer that. I really don't want to know.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:46:30](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

You know, I really didn't need to imagine that.

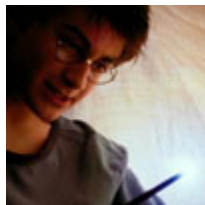
Malfoy in a


No no no no no no no no no no

No

Really?

Thank you so much.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:07:24](#)**  
*(no subject)*

"Help me first"?

Thanks mate. Thanks!

(I'm kidding I know)




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-04-01 02:08:35](#)  
(no subject)

Well I had to try it, didn't I?

Is she on her way?

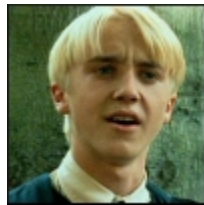



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-04-01 02:09:45](#)  
(no subject)

YES

It's really complicated

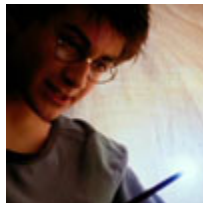
I wonder if they use a spell




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-04-01 02:16:52](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think so, but it's still madness.


I'm out now. Free, I mean.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-04-01 02:17:53](#)  
(no subject)

Good.

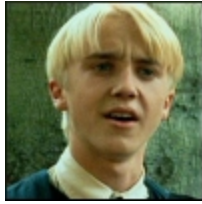



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-04-01 02:01:24](#)  
(no subject)

THIS IS NOT MY FAULT IN ANY WAY

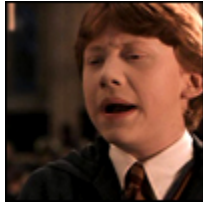
How do they get them ON in the first place!?!






 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-04-01 02:04:03](#)  
(no subject)

I AM STUCK.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:57:57](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

That's disgusting, mate.

And, yeah, I'm being ironical, you git.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:53:31](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Nice.


Well, it's not me that's blabbing, is it?



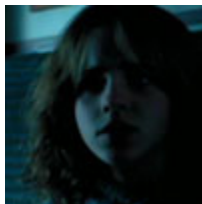
 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:55:25](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


I can't tell them not to!!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 01:55:57](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Hermione WHAT DID THEY DO?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:58:04](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Nothing, all right?!

I think I'd better go find them. I think Harry's mewed himself up in the boys' room but I bet Draco's in a toilet somewhere.

I hope they're both all th

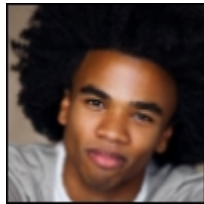



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:35:52](#)

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

They're wearing girl's clothing. Did I get that right?

And it had to do with a potion?



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-04-01 02:38:10](#)

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

The only potion I can think of that would make a lad put on girl's clothing is Firewhiskey.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:41:32](#)

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

LEE JORDAN damn it you made me laugh so loud I almost woke my roommates.

Firewhiskey. Well that would be a hard potion I expect. The recipe's not in my potions book at any rate!



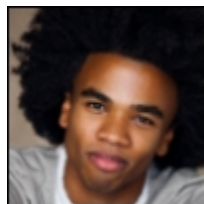
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:41:34](#)

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

ha

wait

you've had firewhiskey?




 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-04-01 02:59:29](#)

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


Yeah. Don't tell my mum.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 03:03:47](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Wait a minute. Which girls? I mean...they nicked some girl's clothing or something? Whatever for?



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-04-01 03:07:11](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*


Good question. I mean, I could see doing it as a prank, maybe. But why'd they have to brew a potion for that?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-04-01 02:20:00](#)  
*(no subject)*

Learning is very important.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-04-01 02:36:48](#)  
*(no subject)*

And whatever it was they learned, it sounds like it was rather exciting.

**2010-03-31 21:27:00**

*Instructions to Ron Weasley*

**I solemnly swear that I am up to no good.**

Ron, you're going to know exactly what they were up to in a few hours or the morning maybe, and I want you to know that you had better keep your mouth shut, no matter what Harry says to you, no matter what happens, or else I'll be in the soup too, do you hear?!




 [alt\\_hermione](#)

I mean I really really will, I really will. So SHUT IT. Or else. I know you hate him but honestly, please.

---



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:44:15](#)  
(no subject)


Wait. What's he done now? What's he making you do?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:47:57](#)  
(no subject)

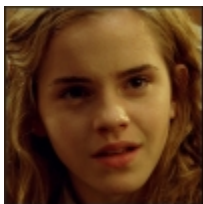
He's not making me do anything! I wanted to help. Only it'll be obvious I did help, see, so you mustn't do anything rash, all right?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:45:25](#)  
(no subject)

Hermione! Are you in trouble?


Dyou need help?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:47:22](#)  
(no subject)

I'm fine, Ron, it's just that if they - well, you'll see.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:49:02](#)  
(no subject)


What do you mean, I'll see?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:51:22](#)  
(no subject)

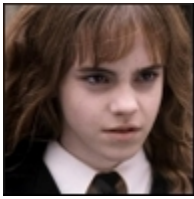
I mean this morning you'll hear what they were doing, I'm sure of it, or at least you'll hear part of it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:47:43](#)  
(no subject)

~~I don't hate him.~~

Are the two of you in trouble?




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:48:54](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we will be if you blab.

It's just wearing off now so we're almost out of the woods but not quite...




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:50:50](#)  
(no subject)

When have I ever

whatever



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 01:51:19](#)  
(no subject)

You can quit having me on, too.


It's not funny.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-04-01 01:51:45](#)**  
(no subject)

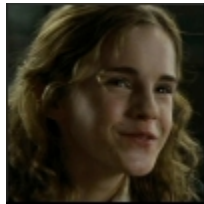
I am not having you on!! How am I having you on?!



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:18:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Criminy.


Hermione, you're safe for the moment, yeah?



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:19:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm fine, Neville! And I think - well, we'll see tomorrow, but I hope it'll be all right.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:23:16](#)**  
(no subject)

'Oh, we'll be in such trouble!'

'No, we're not in danger, what are you talking about?'

You're jerking me about, and that's not on.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-04-01 02:26:24](#)**  
(no subject)


Honestly, Ron, I think Hermione's got bigger problems right now than whether your feelings are hurt.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-04-01 02:28:10](#)  
(no subject)

You need anything right now, Hermione? Some distraction mayhem, perhaps? We're awfully good at that sort of thing.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:29:52](#)  
(no subject)

She's 'fine, Neville'.

Give it a rest, will you?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:20:49](#)  
(no subject)

Ron, not now.

Look, Hermione, Ron'll keep his mouth shut, I promise. And if he can't I'll make it out like he's joking.


And if he really can't I'll--I'll hex him for you.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-04-01 02:21:26](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, we'll help.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:27:43](#)  
(no subject)


Oh shut it. Or you can well look out tomorrow! You didn't think I'd forget, did you?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-04-01 02:28:47](#)  
(no subject)

Hardly. It should be declared a national holiday.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:31:08](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it should. When you take over the world.

And would you hurry up and do that, please?  
We could all use a rest from things the way


they are, yeah?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:25:01](#)  
(no subject)

And what are you on about? When have I ever snitched on anyone? (Except Percy, but that doesn't count. And Ginny, maybe, but that was completely the twins, that was.)




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:30:15](#)  
(no subject)

That's not what I mean at all, Ron. You're not a snitch, everybody knows that.

It's just that when you get hacked off you sometimes blurt out stuff you shouldn't, without meaning to.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:32:27](#)  
(no subject)

When've I ever got anyone in trouble, Neville?






 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:41:45](#)  
(no subject)


Well, to be fair . . . yourself, mostly.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:43:59](#)  
(no subject)

You know, Nev, for a bloke who doesn't like people to get cross with him, you're really bollocksing it up tonight.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:48:32](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's better than being a snitch, right? I already said you weren't.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 01:52:59](#)  
(no subject)

What did you do, Hermione? What HAPPENED?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 01:54:53](#)  
(no subject)

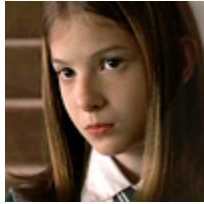
I brewed a potion for Harry and Draco Malfoy, all right? Or I helped Draco do it anyway. And the professors will know they couldn't have done it on they're own, it's really advanced, and nobody else helped them or would have helped them.

So I don't want Ron telling on them, because then they'll know it's me, all right?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 01:59:21](#)  
(no subject)

You brewed a potion Draco couldn't do on his own?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 01:59:40](#)  
(no subject)

Seriously?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-04-01 02:24:09](#)  
(no subject)

A potion you're not supposed to brew? Breaking the rules to pull off something sneaky? We're hurt that you didn't think to ask us to help.

Aside from the fact that you were helping two Slytherin gits, of course.



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-04-01 02:25:12](#)  
(no subject)

What did they need the potion brewed for, Hermione?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:00:32](#)  
(no subject)

I mean Harry is pretty terrible at Potions.

But Draco's one of the best in our year.

I knew you were clever but



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:02:14](#)  
(no subject)

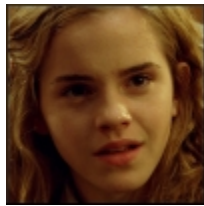
If you were a proper student I wouldn't be vying with Padma for top of the class would I?

You'd put us both to shame.

It's not FAIR. I mean

Well

It's really not fair.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 02:05:22](#)  
(no subject)

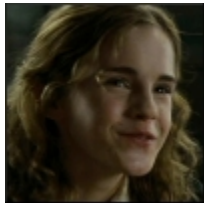
D'you think I don't know that?!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:07:29](#)  
(no subject)

I mean it's not fair you're not allowed to be a student.


I wouldn't mind if YOU beat me out for top of the class so long as you wiped the floor with Padma Patil as well.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-04-01 02:11:53](#)  
(no subject)


I wouldn't mind wiping the floor with Patil!!  
What a cow!!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-04-01 02:28:22](#)  
(no subject)

Now you're talking sense.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:30:34](#)  
(no subject)

I'd like to see that!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-04-01 02:59:07](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Hermione let me know if there's ever a book you need alright? I don't know what Harry gets you but I'm pretty decent at finding things in the library.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-04-01 02:30:53](#)  
(no subject)

No, it isn't.