

2010-07-01 13:38:00

Order only: Life in London

You lot weren't kidding, it's different.

I've been posing as a lovable stray, which seems to be working well enough. Collecting old papers for news and there are a few households 'round here with a soft spot for a big black mutt, so the food hasn't even been too bad. There's always Smithfield Market if I'm in a really tight spot.



 [alt_sirius](#)

But it's dead eerie, all the empty streets. And hardly any noise. There are certainly plenty of empty houses, though, so I'm able to transform back and catch up on the journals fairly regularly. Just have to be careful not to pick a house with a cat flap. Not that I dislike cats, quite the opposite, but the first place I found when I got here smelled so powerfully of cat I had to abandon it.

There's a pack of dogs that congregate round about Willesden Cemetery - had a bit of conversation with them when I first got here. We've straightened it out now; they know not to mess with me nor I with them. But the cars! They must have spent years just clearing the streets. And every morning I see troops of Muggles scavenging the homes south of the Thames, wizard overseers watching their every move. It's madness.


Moony, I thought about checking on you at full moon, but ... well, all the reasons I didn't go to Moddey Dhoo still apply to Laszlo and Junius, don't they? Hope you're doing all right. And Dora, hope you're continuing to recover.

At any rate, I've mainly been trying to find the best places to watch over Buckingham, without being too noticeable. There are a few places along Constitution Hill where it's simple to get over the walls - no, I haven't tried it, there are too many guards and people all about. I think I caught a glimpse of Harry and Draco, flying in the gardens yesterday. But I haven't got too close. Especially if Rabastan Lestrangle is with him all the time, I don't want to be seen.

Frank, Alice, I've seen a few crews sticking up new Wanted posters for you. Taking mine down, that's a good sign, but I don't like the look of this new crop. Looks like they've increased the rewards for you both as well.

That's about it, really. No sign of Snape or Macnair so far.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-01 20:24:28](#)
(no subject)

I haven't been back since Frank and I left. I'd imagine it'd be quite the shock.

It really is quite a bother with the posters. I suppose Frank will be a bit chuffed that we're worth more now, though. He used to collect the old ones, you know.

And I got your owl, love. I've sent back one with coordinates for the drop point that we've set up.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-02 02:17:12](#)
(no subject)

The last poster offered 5000Γ, wasn't it? It's more now, definitely. In fact combined, you're worth more than I was, which I could have told them a long time ago, if anyone had asked.


I'll look out for the return owl.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-07-02 11:21:26](#)
(no subject)

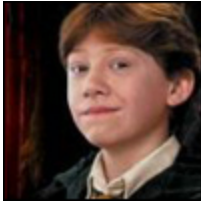
You're always welcome, full moon or no.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-02 18:00:51](#)
(no subject)

Cheers. But it seems like you'd have a ~~third wheel~~ hard time explaining the sudden acquisition of a shop dog, besides which, like I said, it's the same reason I can't go to Moddey Dhoo. Too dangerous for


all of us.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-01 19:34:52](#)**
(no subject)

So I guess Nott can quit worrying you're going to want to marry him, then?!




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-01 19:57:13](#)**
(no subject)

Wait. Isn't Tenebridge the one with all the hair and the flames tattooed up his neck?

You like that?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-01 21:16:04](#)**
(no subject)

You're thinking of Heathcote Barbary

Who is ENORMOUS.

Tenebridge is their producer, he wears really wild sunglasses and he is BRILLIANT, and he knew ALL the best bands back in the 70's, and he had loads and loads of stories about all of them, and he's just LEGENDARY. I mean, meeting him alone would be THE MOST, but meeting him AND the Weird Sisters!


!!!

And Myron let me try some notes on his bass guitar! I actually got a bass guitar lesson from Myron Wagtail!

And Owain Pritchard let me try his bagpipes!

And Kirly Duke! Is! So! Talented! I'd never heard him live and he is UNBELIEVABLE. AND SO VERY FIT.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-01 21:17:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Tenebridge. Right. Him. Course. Knew that. Sure.

So now you're going to take up guitar, eh? I guess it'd be something to do while you're in Scotland. And if Mr Campbell complains, you could say, 'At least it's not the bagpipes!'

So they were recording new stuff, then? When's it coming out?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 21:18:48](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I don't know if mum'd go for that, and she's already got me a tutor for French. Maybe next summer. I've never really tried to play anything before, so I might just be complete pants at it.

But it was still loads of fun.

I think they are releasing it for Halloween. They hadn't written all the songs yet.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-01 21:35:52](#)
(no subject)

YOU GOT TO MEET THE WEIRD SISTERS? That is possibly the most wizard nift snitch fabulous brilliant thing EVER.

And Nolan Tenebridge! AND A BASS LESSON FROM MYRON WAGTAIL. You are the luckiest person EVER I think.



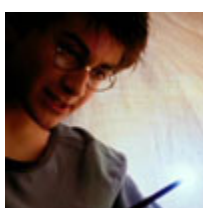
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 21:48:09](#)
(no subject)


I think it's more that the world has finally started making up to me for the year I've had!

Well, Lucius has, that is.

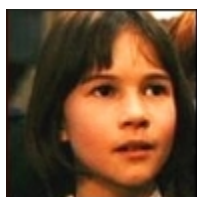
And going to the Ministry was fun too! I got to talk to Mr Rookwood and Mr Croaker from the Department of Mysteries, because they know all about time travel, and they had all these really cool case studies about paradoxes that were just weird and gross and everything -- I'll owl you some of them, they'd make good scary stories for Gemma, and Ms Robins showed me around and helped me find Mr Weasley and Bill Weasley's offices, so I could say hello. She was really nice -- her little sister Demelza's a year below us in Gryffindor.


But yeah -- THE WEIRD SISTERS. I KNOW, RIGHT?



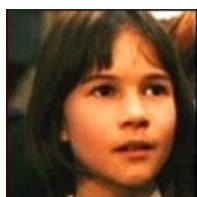
 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-01 19:08:36](#)
(no subject)


What?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 19:23:27](#)
(no subject)

!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 19:24:27](#)
(no subject)

THE WEIRD SISTERS ARE SO BRILL IN PERSON

AND I KNOW YOU'VE PROBABLY MET THEM
BEFORE BUT IT IS JUST THE MOST. BEST.

EVER!!!!!!!!!!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 20:58:53](#)
(no subject)


I honestly think I'm going to just burst with
happiness. Seriously.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-01 21:20:59](#)
(no subject)

I'm happy you enjoyed yourself so much.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 21:24:25](#)
(no subject)

I did! I really did! It was a lovely surprise.

I hope I wasn't playing my records too loudly this afternoon, but when I got back to St James, I just HAD to re-listen to *Magic Works*!




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-01 21:29:36](#)
(no subject)

I suppose it's merely a preview of what having teenagers will mean for the next few years.

If I'd had any idea this would send you into paroxysms of joy I should not have had Weasley book the table at Grosvenor House.

Perhaps we ought to cancel and dine in.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-01 21:31:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh! I'll be fine. I just need a minute to change. I don't want to keep you waiting!

I'm smiling so hard my *face* hurts!




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-01 21:36:57](#)
(no subject)

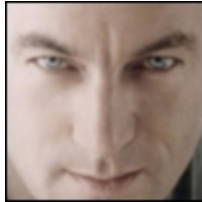
I am accustomed to waiting.


As for the smiling, that is very good to see.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-01 22:43:11](#)**
(no subject)

And what does *that* mean, husband?




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-01 22:44:49](#)**
(no subject)

... It means one cannot rush perfection, my dearest.

Our week has thus far been, as you may guess, an unqualified success. Have you enjoyed your solitude?



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-01 22:46:42](#)**
(no subject)

Nicely done, love.

And yes, it has been most refreshing. I'm happy to report that Revati's designs show great promise. Though I do look forward to seeing my men again, and Miss Parkinson as well. I'll have quite a lot saved up to tell you tomorrow.

2010-07-01 18:59:00

(no subject)

Revati, the more I think about it, the fonder I am of the pintucks. I think we ought to consider more along the same line. I do love the bell sleeve but they can hinder, especially if one is stirring a cauldron or reaching over one's crucible. Perhaps if the bell could be tied back?

I'm reminded of the Japanese style of holding kimono sleeves, perhaps something like that. It's something to consider, at any rate. The shoes are a marvel - again. I can't wait to see them in prototype.



 **alt_narcissa**

My week has been nothing but relaxing, though I must say I am looking forward to having my menfolk back at home again. And to Athena's performance tomorrow; I'm sure she'll be perfection, as always. She's hinted a great deal about this particular production. I expect we shall not be disappointed.

At least the Daughters of the Protectorate event is nearly over and done. I am especially pleased that Miss VanSomeren passed muster this time; it was so disappointing last year to have to decline her application last-minute. Diana, I wonder if you would care to meet me at *Witch Weekly* tomorrow morning; we could double-check the count for the event, now that the VanSomeren's are coming as well. I believe it's now up to 12 at the head table and 30 tables, which ought to be fine but may require additional centerpieces. It's ridiculous, isn't it?

I'd suggest lunch itself, but if I'm to be presentable for the Montagu and *Tosca* in the evening, I simply can't take a long lunch in the afternoon.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2010-07-02 02:53:31**

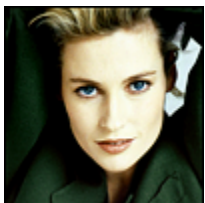
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I learned this afternoon there's another lead being followed on the possibility of an heir. Perhaps by the time your schedule clears enough for a proper briefing, we'll know something more certain. For someone who seems not to have had a proper snog before he left school, he certainly seems to have learned a hawk from a handsaw afterwards! Holcomb says he's interviewed dozens of women claiming to have had relations of one sort or

another with him--and fully half of them have presented credible information.

It's Belby singing *Tosca*, then? Good. There was so much talk about that coloratura who sang the Queen of Night in *Die Zauberflöte* last year--what was her name?--but I found her completely unbearable. I've agreed to escort Mother tomorrow, and she's promised to attend the DoP event at my urging. She agrees she ought to make more of an effort to be out and about.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-02 03:13:26](#)
(no subject)

You've mentioned before his penchant to make up for lost time with vulgarity. It's not surprising we might be years tracking down every possible lead.

Do you mean Hewett? Yes, I thought her strident as well, often not quite on pitch. Still, she's young - she may yet mellow a bit. But I think you'll be pleased: Athena has hinted that they've completely re-envisioned the period. And I'm glad to know your mother will be there both tomorrow and at the DoP. It'll give me a chance to ask about the WI. You know, I never did hear back from her about whether she'd entertain nomination again or no.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-02 13:41:52](#)
(no subject)

I know it's frustrating not to have access to the house. I can assure you, at least, that Carpenter and Holcomb understand that their own investigation depends on a thorough examination of all the traitor's connections. I've read transcripts of the interviews, and I'm satisfied they are proceeding with due diligence.

I'll have a word with Mother about the Witches Institute. I think you'll find her amenable.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-02 14:44:29](#)
(no subject)

Barty, given the statistical probabilities, it's understandable to focus on the elder scion, but has there been any thought to an investigation into his brother's past? After all, there are eleven years unaccounted. His most recent ... relationship ... excepted, it's not outside the realm of possibility.

Perhaps Mafalda might consider sending someone to ... wherever he crawled off to for all those years. Wasn't it Belfast? (Dear me. Enforced exile to Ireland would be one thing, but self-imposed? I still don't fathom the business. But then, he always did have a tendency toward melodrama.)

At any rate, I cannot imagine he would have been as indiscriminate as his brother, so if you do decide to rule it out, it ought not to occupy your team nearly as long as tracking down all the possible leads the other has left behind.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-02 16:48:04](#)
(no subject)

I tried pinning Regulus down on those matters myself more than once, and you're quite right that his history was more with witches than otherwise.

I will speak with Mafalda about the matter, but you understand it's the traitor's network that is of on-going concern to the department. Frankly, I've a feeling she'll suggest a private investigation into the questions regarding Regulus's past. As you know, the official investigation into his whereabouts during those years was quashed early on, and while it's my understanding that there has been no actual instruction from Buckingham to direct efforts away from that aspect of the current case, there has also not been any encouragement.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-02 17:32:12](#)
(no subject)

It's true that his imbroglio with Ganymede was more the aberration than the rule, but I cannot think he would have been either so careless or so insensitive as to entangle a witch in such a situation and then return with no word, no sign that he had left a family behind. There's the possibility he didn't know, of course, but that too sounds much more like his brother than Regulus himself.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-02 17:42:59](#)
(no subject)

I agree.

I do also take Lucius's point, however: if the investigation is to be thorough--and credible--it's necessary to follow all leads and consider all plausible explanations.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-02 17:53:06](#)
(no subject)

Naturally, from the perspective of the Protectorate's security, I would expect no less. Though it must be said that it is unclear now whether Regulus' whereabouts during that period indicate any additional tendency toward treason, or contact with his brother, in which case an inquiry *would* be highly germane to the current case.

In terms of the mystery of Grimmauld Place, however, it may be that we are directing efforts toward finding a by-blow of the wrong branch. For example, has Mafalda considered that had he been under his brother's influence or even his spell, then members of Black's organisation may well have been controlling his associations and movements? It's conceivable, if remote, that the hypothetical child might have a surviving parent who may tell us any number of things about the elder Black, or his minions, if that were the case. Moreover, if the two had been in closer proximity than any of us suspected, then a

further investigation into Regulus would therefore reveal vital information as to Black's own whereabouts - or possibly that of the Longbottoms, as well. Indeed, now that I think on it, who is to say that the announcement your agents recovered was not in itself a ruse, or an encoded method to inform Black of the birth of his *own* son (or nephew)? There are any number of ways in which the two investigations may be related.

Regarding Buckingham's position on looking into his past, as a matter of course, I cannot be certain, but to my knowledge, it was not intended to obscure his whereabouts or activities, but merely to provide him the opportunity to return of his own volition and supply an explanation for his absence. Undoubtedly, Our Lord's will on the matter would need to be clarified before proceeding, regardless of the jurisdiction. It is a question I could undertake to answer if we determine it necessary.


If a private investigation were to be enjoined, and yield the negative, I trust MLE would appreciate confirmation that your efforts to locate any other progeny are the only remaining avenue. Nonetheless, I think MLE would be wise not to abdicate its duty and ability to sift through the evidence with greater speed and acumen than a private investigation could effect.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-02 19:18:16](#)
(no subject)

I don't disagree. Of course, I'm not in the position of determining what resources will be dedicated to various cases--or deciding when an MLE investigation will require (or qualify for) attention from our side of the service.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-02 20:09:28](#)
(no subject)

Of course. And much as my wife may wish it otherwise, I should think the whole question a lower priority while there are still two fugitives on the loose.

2010-07-02 08:58:00

Drawing to a close

It's been a good week, on the whole. I suspect the highlight was yesterday, judging by the reaction (and the bouncing, practically off the ceiling), though personally I preferred the History Museum - I must admit I do not visit as often as I would like. The excuse to escort Pansy was welcome.

Overall perhaps not the ideal week to add a junior clerk, as it has been anything but typical, but perhaps that is to the good, as well.



 **alt_lucius**

Hard to believe it's already July. First of the month accounts to-day rather than yesterday, owing to the trip to Presto with Pansy. Court this afternoon, then back here with Draco, early dinner at the Montagu and the opera. Suspect *Tosca* may be the only thing likely to dislodge her from endless repetitions of *Magic Works*. To-morrow, regrettably, we must return Pansy to her northern demesne, where I am sure she has been much missed. Perhaps none too soon, in one sense: I am sure we have *all* memorised the lyrics to 'Mad Bludger' by this time.

Weasley, before I forget, as soon as Warrington's office send round the usage reports for the month, kindly bring them up. And see what you can do about getting me into Selwyn's calendar on Monday. He ought to know what it regards but if he insists, it's to finalise my travel permit for the 9th. Also, I've the list for Clarriker when you are ready to fetch it. Oh, and I'll have the Gosport file if you please, as soon as you can unearth it. In future, file them by district, not county; it will make misplacing them less likely.




 **alt_percy** at **2010-07-02 15:02:21**

(no subject)

Yes, sir. Right away, sir.

The file has been located and it is now on your desk.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-02 17:06:20](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well. That's a different line than he takes at home, innit?

Blech.

[2010-07-02 12:29:00](#)

Neville, Dean


We're sending an owl, but I wanted to let you know that Mum said I could ask you to come visit this weekend. Mum says that if we catch enough fish, she'll fry it for dinner!



 [alt_ron](#)


We were thinking Saturday, but if Sunday's better for you lot, it could be then. What do you think?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-02 19:21:24](#)
(no subject)

I'd love to come, thanks! Either day would work for me. Just let me know!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-03 02:36:32](#)
(no subject)


Cheers, Nev. That's wizard.

Since Dean hasn't said one way or the other, Mum says tomorrow would be best for her. Hopefully Errol made it there? I think he went to Mr Peakes' first because your gran's is further, but you know Errol: he can be sort of slow.

Anywiz, Mum says she'll open the Floo at half nine, and she'd be happy to come through to collect you, if that'd make your gran feel better about sending you through. I told her that isn't necessary. I mean, it's not like we're babies or anything, but she said it's polite to offer and it wouldn't be surprising if your gran wanted to be sure you'd be safe. So, yeah.


It's really snitch you can come.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-03 13:39:10](#)
(no subject)

That's fine! I'll be there.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-03 02:46:18](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

And, um, also. Just so you know. Mum's letting us get up a Quidditch day in a week or two--the twins and me, and Ginny, too, maybe. And I didn't really think you'd be all that excited about playing Quidditch, so I thought maybe we should just get together like this. But if you wanted to come for that, too, it'd be okay. And, anywiz, you'll have seen I said something to Sally Anne about it the other day, about her and Stretton maybe coming along for Quidditch. I think Mum wants to talk to Perks about her parents, and it seemed like that's maybe a way for her to be able to come visit. Parkinson, too, probably. But the thing is, it'll be mostly about flying and playing Quidditch all day, and that's not really your best thing.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-03 13:42:06](#)**

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I'm Up To No Good

You know I'm hopeless at Quidditch. Well, I like cheering for it, but I'm pants on a broom. So yeah, it's fine to just come today.

[2010-07-02 15:44:00](#)

Pomona

I've had a lovely three days here at Berwick. I still think you'd have enjoyed it, but to each her own.




I plan to leave directly after the Parting Feast this evening. My reservation is at the Stoat's Head in Dover, and I'll be there until mid-morning if you need to reach me by fire to change our arrangements for later in the day. I'm having elevenses with Melchior and should be able to meet you at the caravan park at Hampstead by half-three.

 **[alt_poppy](#)**

I received an owl yesterday from the Order of Apothecaries, confirming our berths in the guest wing of the old pensioners' barracks in Chelsea, Tuesday-Friday next. I worry it may not be as charmingly quaint as the brochure makes it seem, but we shall see. At the very least, it's inexpensive and very close to the Physic Garden, so it will make up in convenience whatever it lacks in comfort.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-02 22:38:06](#)**

Order Only

I've talked Pomona round to joining me for at least a portion of my travels, though she'll need to pop back now and then because she can't entirely abandon her crops during the growing season.

I delayed setting out until after the full moon so we could harvest the fluxweed. I must say that this batch of polyjuice is as potent as I've ever experienced--we tested it, and the transformation held nearly three hours. We agree it must be due to the near convergence of the full moon with the solstice: our last batch from the same plants was in no way inadequate, but this batch is extraordinary.

We'd intended, of course, to pass what we brewed along to the Players, but recent events have convinced us there may be a greater need in other quarters. I hope you agree with this decision, Kingsley.

In any case. Should someone wish to find us and relieve us of a quantity of polyjuice in shatter-proofed phials stowed conveniently in a moke-skin pouch, he would find us at the north edge of the caravan park on Hampstead Heath tomorrow night through Tuesday morning. After that, we'll be lodging at the old Royal Hospital whilst doing a

course for the Order of Apothecaries at the Physic Garden down the road. I imagine that the arrangements there might prove more difficult, but perhaps not insurmountable if someone put his mind to finding us. We promise not to meddle in any way with his person nor to interfere with his itinerary, though we would happily buy him a firewhiskey if he deigned to make his presence known.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-03 00:31:06](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm sure that there could be a Player or two who could be persuaded to relieve you of your burden and then pass it off to other interested parties. If that would help any interested parties who couldn't make an appearance themselves.

Wouldn't say 'No' to the Firewhiskey myself, either.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-03 02:26:12](#)

Re: Order Only


You would, of course, be most welcome to join us.

I'm rather hoping, of course, that a certain someone will agree to collect his own supplies, but I know we all share a desire to accommodate his needs in whatever way will best suit him without encroaching on his desire to remain aloof, secret, independent, unobtrusive, and unable to do any of the rest of us any conceivable harm or vice versa, etc., etc., *ad nauseum*.

Do come, though, Kingsley. We'd love to see you. And tell that cousin of mine, I'd like to catch up with him if he could spare the time.

In fact, if London proves less than convenient this week, I'm sure we can work out another rendezvous later in the summer. I intend to be on the road, hither and yon for the best part of the next two months. Pomona will come and go as she must, but company at any point would be most welcome.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-03 00:35:42](#)**
(no subject)

boot checked this morning for Madam Pomfrey, and all of stasis charms she set over the Hospital Wing stores are still glowing gold. So everything is fine in inventory.

boot hopes that Madam Pomfrey and Professor Sprout are having a very pleasant journey.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-03 02:16:05](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Boot. It's a comfort to know that the charms have held. Do, please, continue to check them as we discussed.

I have had a very relaxing week here in North Berwick, thank you. And I trust that Professor Sprout will enjoy her time away, though I must say that she was difficult to persuade. She has, no doubt, provided you with her rather complicated itinerary. It's a pity she feels the need to be more often there than away. Perhaps in another year, she will feel she has trained you sufficiently to take up at least the most basic and daily of her summer horticultural tasks.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-03 05:03:46](#)**
(no subject)

boot would be very happy to serve Professor Sprout, too.

please tell Professor Sprout that boot turned the compost pile again this morning. its heating up so well that many of the Vertiginous Ferns on the next pallet over are leaning closer to feel the heat. one even managed to tip its own pot over. boot moved them all back and cleaned up the broken pot.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-07-03 16:18:19](#)**
(no subject)

I am glad you're having a good time, though the castle is woefully empty and lacking in conversation, as Pomona's been busy getting the greenhouses ready for her to leave.

On the other hand, I'm up to the shoulders in the last minute YPL plans - much worse this year, of course, because we had to wait so long to get the initial schedules in place. I'm confident everything will run smoothly, though we may end up moving the second half of the camping week to another location.

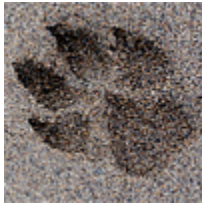



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-03 17:58:41](#)**
(no subject)

There's nothing quite like a bowls tourney to help one set aside all the cares and concerns of workaday life. I had such a grand time this week.

I admire the work you continue to put in with the YPL; I trust the Ministry appreciate it.

Will you have a bit of time for yourself before the London events?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-04 16:42:12](#)**
(no subject)

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[2010-07-03 15:31:00](#)

Luna, Dean



 **[alt_ginny](#)**

Luna,

Do you think you could ask Mrs Brown if you could come over this week? Maybe she will let you come over Tuesday, and stay til Friday? I will ask Mum if there is a problem with this. Then maybe we can start working on some new patterns and designs for our knitting. And we can discuss other things as well.

Mum, is it ok for Luna to visit for a few days this week? I miss her terribly.

Dean,


I miss our conversations. Ron told me he sent an invite for you to come over this weekend, but i guess you were too busy. I wish you could have come. Maybe I will hear from you soon. You are welcome to come and have a chat with Luna and I this week.

When you are not so busy please let me know. Its a dull summer not having Luna here and not having you to talk to.

My brothers are, well... my brothers. I just try to keep out of their way.


I hope to hear from you and Luna soon.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-03 21:50:17](#)**
(no subject)


Of course Luna can come over any time it can be arranged, dear. She should just consider it a standing invitation.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-07-03 21:51:31](#)**
(no subject)

I asked Mrs Brown, and she said that would be perfectly all right. Thank you!



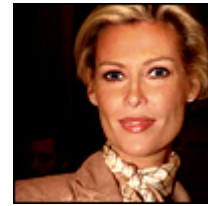
 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-07-05 01:15:27](#)
(no subject)

That's great Luna. Can't wait for you to get here.

2010-07-03 19:43:00

(no subject)

Athena was nothing short of brilliant last night. What a marvellous evening. And she was right about the production, as well: The choice to move the setting up and portray Scarpia as McNee was inspired.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Barty, I don't know what you or Norah said to Athena, but apparently she's intrigued by how quickly you disappeared. I've had an owl from her already saying she wished you'd come out with them all. Shall I explain that you're not much for parties, particularly with such *large* personalities as Mr Murphy and Miss Gordon? Don't fret: I'm sure I can excuse you without quashing any hope of a more exclusive opportunity to call. I hope it did your mother good to get out; she looked like the thoroughly enjoyed herself. I saw Aleta Featherstone talking to her at the second interval; I can only imagine we'll hear of her acceptance to the WI ways and means committee any day.

Lucius arrived home a few hours ago, after restoring his god-daughter to her mother's care. I can certainly attest that her week in Town seems to have improved her outlook considerably; were it so easy all the time to heal our hurts and disappointments through memorable experience and discovery. We had a lovely conversation at dinner, though, and I think the performance enthralled her just as much as anything else Lucius arranged all week (except perhaps meeting Kirley Duke).

Draco enjoyed his week with Harry as well, of course. There was little doubt of that, but it was good to know that the recent increase in Harry's protections did not deter them from any of their usual pursuits. I rather think Draco found the Razzler a most entertaining addition to their party - which makes me wonder whether I shall have to undo any damage to his character instilled by his uncle's influence!

Unfortunately I think I shall hardly see them until Lucius returns from Amanda's wedding. (I do wish I could go as well, but it's nowhere near as important, I know.) Between the Daughters of the Protectorate and several young ladies' social introductions, the WI and my normal slate of appointments, it hardly seems there is a day on my calendar this week without some commitment or more than one. So it goes.

Bella, I hope you'll consider bringing Hydra and Rigel round next

week-end. It would be wonderful to see them and I think they'd both do well from some time in the gardens.

2010-07-03 20:20:00


Quiet

it is so very quiet in the castle now.



 [alt_terry](#)



 [alt_terry](#) at **2010-07-04 01:22:11**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Master is gone gone GONE!

It feels so much safer.

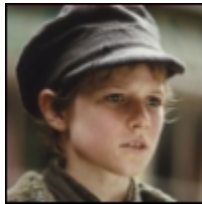



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-07-05 15:55:09**

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

How long is he going to be gone, d'you know?

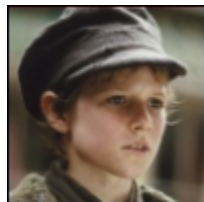
Anywiz, it's good he's not there now. Does the headmistress let you go wherever you like? I mean, can you go out to the lake or walk out to the pitch? Or go into Hogsmeade sometimes?




 [alt_terry](#) at **2010-07-05 23:47:13**

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

Yes, the Headmistress gives me lots of hours each day to myself. I've been using them to study as much as possible. And she's given me free run of her library, too.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2010-07-05 23:50:56**

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

And he said he'll be gone until the last week of August.

2010-07-04 21:27:00

(no subject)



 **alt_dean**

This summer seems to be moving along swiftly. It hardly seems like we have time to do every thing we need to get done. Mr Peakes thinks we need some fresh air, so tomorrow morning we are going to his house in the country for the week. We may extend our time there if business does not require that he need be back in town.

Weasley,

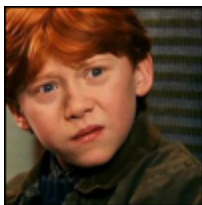
Please feel free to alert me before hand if you have another invite for me. Mr Peakes Doesn't take too kindly to unfamiliar birds, nor does our owl here. The owl here is very aggressive towards unfamiliar birds. However, I am sorry I could not attend you little gathering. We had more important things to attend to and had no time to send replies to frivolous invitations, as Mr Peakes always has demands on his time.


Ginny,

While I cannot express to you my thanks for your invitation this week, I cannot attend. Maybe at some other point in the summer I can send you an invite here. Otherwise our conversations will have to wait until next term.

Seamus,

We sent you and Mr Rosier an owl last evening. Did you all receive it? Please feel free to send us word through the journals. Will you both be able to join us later in the week? Mr Peaks and I look forward to seeing you at the country house. Do drop us a line.




 **alt_ron at 2010-07-05 03:04:11**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

'Weasley' is it?

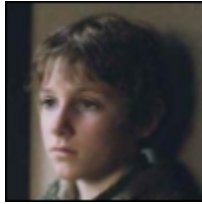
The heck?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-05 03:29:54](#)

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

Just what I was wondering. What's gotten into him?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 03:31:59](#)

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

I don't know.

It doesn't sound like him at all.

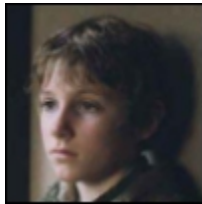
Maybe he has to put on a kind of a show for that Mr Peakes?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-05 03:34:19](#)

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

Why, did you talk with him much? I mean, after he came to Hogwarts? I know you knew him before they found out he was really a half-blood, right?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 03:37:30](#)

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

We exchanged a few notes, privately.

If he tries writing me again when he gets back to school, I'll think real hard before I answer. Maybe not answer at all. I thought he was okay. But maybe that Mr Peakes has changed his mind.

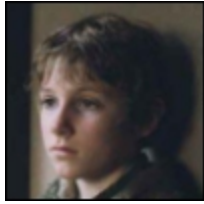



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-05 15:40:44](#)

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

Like Finnigan.

You know you can't trust him, right?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 23:45:28](#)

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

I know.

It's hard, because, well, I really liked him. And from what he wrote to me, I thought he still wanted to be friends.

It's all I can do, sometimes, not to be bloody jealous of him. He was a ~~mudbl~~ muggleborn, just like me. He knows what it's like! And now he gets to take classes, and he'll be treated like a proper wizard and everything when he leaves school.

It helps, I guess, to remember that I have a wand of my own.

But still.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-06 03:03:29](#)

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

I meant Finnigan, actually. But Thomas, too, I guess. It's just

I dunno.

I didn't think he was like that, either. But now

yeah.

I dunno.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-06 02:06:55](#)

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

You're 'Weasley' but your sister's still 'Ginny.'

I think Thomas fancies her, though.

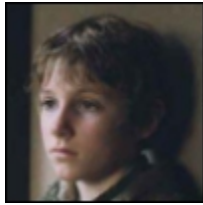



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-06 03:04:27](#)**

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

Ewww.

Well, he can just keep his hands off her.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-06 15:14:49](#)**

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

You're not saying that because he's a halfblood, are you?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-06 15:20:46](#)**

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

I'm saying it because he's turned out to be such a stuck up git.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-06 18:12:28](#)**

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

Well, and also because it's Ginny, and she's too young for anyone to be fancying her, and anyway that's just disgusting because, well, fancying Ginny? That's just

ugggh




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-05 03:29:07](#)**

(no subject)

Your loss, honest. Ron and me had a really good day together.




 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-05 03:37:54](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks Longbottom,

Its good to know that you two enjoyed you activity. But I must ask for fair warning next time. That old owl just wont do. Please alert me through the journals. My days this summer are scheduled weeks in advanced.


I'm sure you all understand. Plenty of important rounds to make, and juvenile activities, not approved before my schedule is set just wont make the cut.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-05 03:52:51](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Whew. Uh, I guess we've been put on notice, then.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-05 03:53:12](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Longbottom?!




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-05 15:43:28](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah. Hope he's having fun with all those 'rounds' and meet ups at the country house with Finnigan. Looks like he doesn't have to book weeks ahead.

Nice.

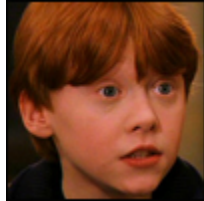


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-06 02:10:31](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It really is odd.

What's he like usually? Maybe he was SO rude

because he wanted you to be able to work out that his guardian was making him say no? I don't know what he expects you to do, though. I've never heard of an owl who attacks owls he doesn't know already.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-06 14:27:15](#)

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

That doesn't even make sense, does it? His guardian told him to be rude, so he was extra rude so we'd know it wasn't him? I mean, don't you think if he wanted us to think he cared or really didn't want to say no, he'd sort of apologise or anywiz he'd say something to show he wished he could've come? Instead, it's like he's cheesed off at us.

No, actually. It's like he's been spending time with Finnigan and Patil and Malfoy, which, y'know, he did do.

He doesn't care. He's just another one that thinks you're nothing if you're not in tight with Patil. And I guess he thinks he can maybe get Ginny to go along, but I expect he'll get a surprise if he thinks she'll want to be matey with Lavender Brown and the Patils after the way they've been treating Luna.



 **alt_terry** at [2010-07-06 15:32:53](#)

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

All right. I spent the morning looking over the notes we exchanged and thinking it over some more.

I think...I think he's putting on an act. I won't be able to tell until I get near him, because my magic can usually tell whether a person's trustworthy or not. But it was only four short weeks ago that he sent me a note that made it perfectly clear he'd take a risk to look out for me and do something for me that he's not supposed to do. He gave me a book to help me study magic over the summer. He could have had a world of trouble for doing that, if anyone had found out.


See, you have to understand what it's like for people like me, and like Dean used to be. You know how I have to be stupid crawling boot wherever people can see, right? The same probably goes for Dean. We have to lie all the time. He spent years as an Infirmary Rat. They had a whole elaborate system of coded communication all worked out, hand signals and notes and

such, and it was all based on maintaining a what-d'ye-call it facade of being one way when you really were something else. They needed to do that to get around the administrators, because they sometimes had to steal food and supplies to treat the sick among the muggles and muggleborn. And they did it to escape punishment and it just made things easier. Probably for him, it's just second nature now. Like it is for me. But that doesn't mean it's the way he really is necessarily.

So I say, give him the benefit of the doubt until you see him again. He may be curt over the journals, because that's what he figures his guardian wants. And it may even help him if you're curt right back at him where other people can read. And then, when you get together again, you'll maybe find out that he can be a more honest friend, when you're alone together, if the people looking over his shoulder think you're not friends with him.


Don't know if that makes sense, but it's the best that I can explain it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-05 15:51:31](#)
(no subject)


No worries, Thomas. Sorry to bother you with unimportant stuff when you're so busy.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2010-07-05 16:25:25](#)
(no subject)

Its no bother really. Just give invites out further in advance, and give me warning through the journals. Then if you want to send a formal invite you may, but I will have to send the owl here to you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-05 16:28:46](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. It won't happen again.



 **alt_seamus** at [2010-07-06 02:01:07](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Dean! We look forward to seeing you, and it'll be wizzard having you show me around Mr Peakes' country house.



 **alt_dean** at [2010-07-06 02:14:59](#)
(no subject)

That's great. We got here this afternoon, and this house is massive. I look forward to meeting your guardian formally. And we have some great things planned for the day. We will see you in a few days then.

2010-07-04 22:38:00

Thanks, Ron



 [alt_neville](#)

And thanks to all the Weasleys. I flooded over in the morning and spent the whole day there. The weather was perfect for a lazy day of fishing. Mr Weasley showed us some bait charms. Ron's better at sort of thing than me, so I wasn't surprised that he caught lots more fish. The River Otter is a quiet, sleepy sort of waterway, and we spent all afternoon wading through the pools and casting lines. Eventually we stuck our poles in the ground and talked and ate from the picnic basket Mrs Weasley sent along with us. I got a little sunburned, but I didn't mind. My nose will be peeling next week, though.

Ron tried a charm that the twins told him causes a sort of concussion under water. It's supposed to stun the fish and make them float up to the surface and then you can just scoop them up in a net. Maybe he did it wrong (or, more likely, the twins told him the wrong spell, just for fun) because it didn't make the fish float up. Instead, it just made about every frog that must have lived in the river jump out at him, aiming right for his face.


That was exciting for a few minutes there.

I think we talked about everything under the sun. About comics and Quidditch, of course. But also about school, and what it'll be like next year, now that we'll be taking electives. And about the YPL stuff we'll be doing in London this summer. Even a bit about what we might want to do when we get out of school.

Even if my bait charm didn't impress the fish much, we still caught enough for Mrs Weasley to fry them up for supper. Fish sure tastes amazing when it's been swimming around only a couple of hours before.

Mrs Weasley, I told my Gran all about how you fixed the fish. She's always trying to get Evelyn to eat fish because she says it's healthy, but Evelyn doesn't like it. That cornmeal breading made it taste awfully good, though, and so maybe Evelyn will go for that, if Gran tries fixing it that way.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 04:14:20](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

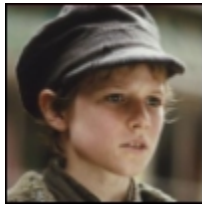
Did Mrs Weasley make you clean the fish?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-05 04:15:42](#)

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

Yeah. Ron says that that's a rule with Mrs Weasley: you catch it, you clean it. But of course we could use a charm for that.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 04:18:34](#)

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

Well, after last summer, when I spent weeks working down at the fish docks, spending all day sorting and gutting and cleaning fish the muggle way, it was three months before I could bear to even look at fish again, much less eat it.

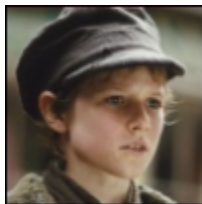
Guess I'm on Evelyn's side.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-05 15:27:50](#)

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

Yeah. It's fun to go fishing sometimes, but I sure wouldn't want to make my living at it. Especially not if it was just cleaning fish and not fishing them, y'know? How do Muggles clean fish anywiz?

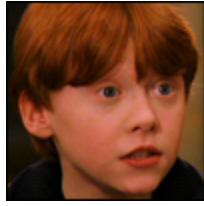



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-05 15:37:45](#)

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

You use a knife, slitting them along the belly and then pull the guts out and throw them to the seagulls to eat.

Those knives are real sharp. There was a kid who cut his hand real badly, down to the bone, at the table next to mine.




 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-07-05 15:59:29**

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

That's cleaning them? It sounds like making a nasty mess.

And dangerous, too, I guess. You pull out the guts with your hands? Really?



 **[alt_terry](#) at 2010-07-05 23:39:33**

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

Also, if they're being sold to someone locally, we had to scale them, too. That means scraping the scales off. We used a metal tool for that, and the scales would fly all over. They'd get in your clothes, in your hair, and even fly in your mouth and nose and eyes. Ugh.

Yeah, we pulled the guts out with our hands. It was really gross.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2010-07-06 02:05:10**


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

My mum skins animals with a knife.

She never let me do it. She said she was afraid I'd cut myself.

I can't imagine the smell with fish. Ugh.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2010-07-05 15:35:40**


(no subject)

Hey, Nev!

We totally got the twins back with that bubble charm, though. After we all went to bed I sneaked down outside their room and said 'Finite', and you should have heard them when all those wet frogs dropped down onto their beds. I was sure they'd have looked up before they put the lights out, but they never saw it until I broke the charm on them.

I don't think I've ever pulled such a good jinx on them before.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-05 23:52:32](#)
(no subject)

That's brilliant!

You better put a locking charm on the door to your room for the next month or so!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-06 03:01:02](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Totally.

I tried asking Percy, 'cause y'know he thought it was pretty wizard I got the twins back like that. (I mean, not that he laughed or said well done or anything, but you could tell he thought they had it coming.) But you'd have thought I'd asked him to take OWLs for me or summat. Or asked him to tell me what it's like when he snogs Clearwater. I think he thought I was trying to find out what spell he uses to lock up his room.


Which, y'know, really makes me wonder what he's hiding in there!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-07 01:22:51](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

A signed portrait of Lucius Malfoy, maybe.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-07 01:58:43](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Yeah. But I bet it's really signed by Mr Crispin. Percy talks about him all the time now. I guess he's Percy's idea of somebody who's done everything right. 'His future's sure.' Or something like that.

The twins asked Percy yesterday if he'd asked Crispin what kind of pants he wears and where to go to get some just like them. Percy's ears went beet-coloured, and he stomped out saying he

was going to tell Mum. But he didn't. Too embarrassed to, I think. Which is a really good strategy. I'll remember that.

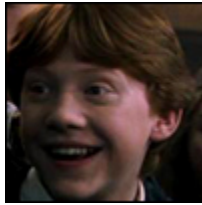



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-07 00:19:55](#)
(no subject)

That does sound pretty brilliant!

I hope no frogs were hurt, though, otherwise Trevor might hold a grudge.

Did you get my owl with the book? You've got to be sure to send it back after two weeks, otherwise there'll be a fine on it. But it was the best one I could find.




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-07 02:09:01](#)
(no subject)

I did get the book. It's awesome. Thanks. All sorts of great stuff about topping up the magic on brooms. Spells for boosting speed and getting more elevation out of Shooting Stars, which is what we've mostly got, so that's dead useful. And stabiliser charms and a whole section on spells so you can get a broom to have a burst of acceleration--that's a tricky thing because you always have to sacrifice something else to get a really intense spurt of speed that comes right when you want it.

Anywiz, the whole back section is on refreshing old brooms or converting and customising so they fly like other models or like something you designed for yourself.


It's a pity it's only two weeks, though. Cause it was a couple of days from when you checked it out that it got here by owl, and I guess I'll have to give Errol three days to get it back.



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-07 02:13:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, I can ask the library to renew if you think you'll need it longer. I'm glad it's what you were looking for!




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-07 16:31:24](#)
(no subject)

Oooh. Could you?

That'd be snitch.



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-07 00:21:38](#)
(no subject)

I can't say I'd really enjoy fishing a great deal, but it does sound like you had fun. Ron's mum makes the *best* food, doesn't she?

2010-07-05 12:26:00

Moving House

Hello. I hope everyone's alright and having a good summer.



 [alt_ernie](#)

We had an owl from the Ministry last week. It said that because there'll be five of us kids in the family once the babies are born, we qualify for a new, bigger house under this Ministry programme. I think it's because we need more space, and there's loads of empty houses everywhere now, since the muggles don't need them anymore.

The owl had a list in it of houses that are available. They're all over the country, so Mum and Dad talked a bit about moving somewhere else, like up to the north or out to the west, but we all agreed that we'd rather stay here in Kent because that's where we've always been for years and years.


We don't get to move in until the babies are born, of course, in case anything goes wrong. Dad says it'll all be fine, because the healers have magic and know exactly what they're doing, but I know how it is really with that sort of thing. Sometimes the healers do their best and things still go wrong. So the Ministry can't sign the house over to us until they know for sure that the babies are okay and healthy. But we're starting to get things ready - Mum's writing lists of what stuff needs to be moved and when it can be put into boxes, and Dad keeps asking us what kind of garden we want and how big we want our bedrooms to be.

We're going to have a look at some of the houses this week, and then we have to send an owl back to the Ministry to let them know which ones we like. Then they'll decide which one we can have, and they'll reserve it for us until we can have it. The babies are due in early September, so if they're on time I'll already be back at school and won't get to help with the move! And neither will Pip! But they might come early, because there's two of them, so if we move in August we can help.

So that's good.

Wayne, Bobby - I'll see you on Wednesday, yeah?




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-06 02:55:41](#)
(no subject)

Huh. I can't imagine moving house. I mean, I can't imagine us living anyplace different than here. It's not like it's a really grand house or like we couldn't use some room--though it's not so tight as it was when we were all here together, but

I don't know. I can't imagine Mum in a different place. This one just suits her. All of us, really.

So you might go to school in September and come home to a whole new house? That'd be dead strange, I think.




 **alt_sally_anne** at [2010-07-06 03:51:27](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It just occurred to me, your mum has five children. Five pureblood children.

You lot could have a big house in London, you know. You could have had it years ago. Did your parents refuse because they didn't like getting special privileges for being purebloods? Or what?

The Strettons have a London house on account of their five only they never use it. They have all those estates they need to keep an eye on and Mrs Stretton says it would be far too much trouble to floo back and forth constantly (and she won't let Jeremy go live there by himself as she wants to keep an eye on him).



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-06 20:26:08](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

She has seven children, actually, but I guess by the time they were giving out houses to big families, Bill and Charlie were off to school. Percy, too, maybe. I don't really know when they started giving houses to people.

Anywiz, I asked Mum about it last night at dinner. I kind of thought we had been offered one, but I wasn't sure about that, so I

just asked, y'know. And Mum went over all queer about it. The first thing she did was look at Percy and then she gave Dad a look, and then after all that she started talking like she wasn't going to say what she really thought so she had to make something up. You know how you do when you get caught and have to think fast and you know you're saying something quite daft but you can't go back and start over? Well it was just like that. She said it was silly to think about moving from a perfectly good house that we've always lived in and that we've made ours in every way and have all our family memories in for some big house other people lived in before us.

I dunno. It wasn't so much what she said as the way she looked, I guess, but it seemed like she thinks it would be really, really wrong to live someplace Muggles used to live.

She didn't want to talk about it after that and got really cross when I said other people didn't seem fussed about living in places Muggles built as long as the Ministry said it's okay. She went off on whether I'd just do anything so long as other people think it's all right. Would I charm my head bald if other people said it was fun to do? Would I cheat on my NEWTs if other people said it was okay? 'I suppose you'd just jump right off a cliff if other people said you should. Is that what sort of wizard we raised you to be?'

I mean, sheesh! It's not like I'd said we should've moved or anything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-06 20:46:57](#)

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

I can't believe I forgot Bill and Charlie! Yeah, your family is HUGE.

I think your mum would feel like she were stealing, to take a house that belonged to muggles. But she can't say that in front of Percy.

There was an abandoned muggle village where I grew up. We scavenged things from the houses, you know, because we sort of had to. It was really tiny, and unfortunately there was a storm that damaged the roofs of lots of them when I was little and after that it was hard to find useful things that hadn't been ruined.

I expect your mum would move into a muggle house if she HAD to but as long as she's got the Burrow, well, it's true it's been in your family forever, right? And you all grew up there, even if you don't properly fit into it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-07 02:55:36](#)

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

Yeah, well. I think there are times when Mum wishes she could forget one or two of us!

Actually, there are times when she does forget: I mean, when one of us gets into trouble, she usually has to call all of our names before she gets the right one. It's especially funny when it's Ginny that's in trouble. And George is always saying she's called him Fred again!

But, yeah. I think you're right about Mum and the reason they didn't take the house the Ministry wanted to give them. That and I think they like that we live out here with no really close neighbours, so y'know no one can just look over the hedge and see what we're getting up to. Not that we do stuff that'd get us in trouble, but I think Mum would be a wreck if she thought there were neighbours who'd see what the twins do to the gnomes sometimes or see what Dad keeps in his shed or hear what Mum says sometimes when she gets really hacked off at one of us.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-06 12:14:16](#)

(no subject)

I can't imagine you moving house, either. I've never seen a house that feels more like it belongs to the family that lives there, you know?

I really like your house.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2010-07-06 14:38:42](#)

(no subject)

It would be dead strange, yeah, but at least I'll get to visit some of the possible places before, and I'll


know which one it is that we're getting. I don't know if it'll properly feel like home though.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-06 03:53:18](#)**
(no subject)


Congratulations on the new house, Macmillan. Are they going to keep your old house too? The Strettons got a nice house in London after they had five children but they don't live in it because they need to keep an eye on their factories and farms and the muggles and so on.



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2010-07-06 14:42:05](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks Perks. I don't think we're keeping the old house. It's too small really, and the new house won't be all that far away, so we won't need another one just down the road. Dad already has a flat in London for if he needs to stay up there for work stuff, but he hardly ever uses it.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-06 17:47:46](#)**
(no subject)

That's brilliant, about the new house. Mum and Dad used to talk about that, but I don't think we'd have qualified, really, because Haruman's too old to count as a kid. And now of course there's no way. But it's okay, our house is fairly big to begin with, considering.


I can't wait for the YPL week, though, can you? It'll be wiz. I mean, visiting St Mungo's won't be all that amazing or anything, because Haruman works there so it's not like we don't know what it's like (I guess you feel the same, with your dad working there too). But the Ministry and the rest - that ought to be really interesting, don't you think? And I heard that there's to be a concert, did you hear? And we're going to the Kew Gardens and Hyde Park and it ought to be brill.

2010-07-05 22:21:00

(no subject)

Ron has been in a bad mood today. So have stayed away all day. I just heard one word out of him yesterday as he slammed his door after reading his journal. But I can hardly understand whats going on. Why is he up set with Thomas? They have been good friends all year. Dean, What happened? Why did you address him that way? You know how tetchy Ron can get. Hopefully I will hear from you. If not I will see you in school.



 [alt_ginny](#)

Boys! I will never understand them.

Luna I can't wait for you to get here tomorrow. At least I will have someone I actually understand around for a few days. Its being the only girl in a family with practically all boys.

[2010-07-06 21:17:00](#)

Order Only

We were so relieved to see you, Padfoot.

Well, Pomona was distraught at how thin you are, and of course she's right. You are obviously not getting enough to eat regularly enough.




 **[alt_poppy](#)**

For my part, however, I was pleased to see you in one piece. I'm not a creatures specialist, but I took encouragement from the fact that your coat has a healthy sheen, your breath is no dodgier than I expected, your teeth and gums and ears seem healthy, and your reflexes are good. I trust your human form is as fit.

I hope that my charm will help a bit with the itching. I'm sorry I hadn't thought to prepare a flea potion for you; it just never crossed my mind. I'd be happy to brew one this week: we'll have access to all the necessary ingredients while we're here with the Apothecaries in Chelsea. Say the word, and we'll meet you wherever you'd like.

At any rate, it was lovely to see you. To throw the ball for an hour. And share a meal. We're very glad to know you have the polyjuice. Please do let us know if there's anything else we could provide you.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-07 02:52:16](#)**

(no subject)

That's good to hear, Poppy. I'm glad you had a good visit.

We'll be sure to add some extra nonperishables to the next package we send up to the drop point.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-07 03:12:11](#)**

(no subject)


Oh, it was such a relief to see him trot up to our little rented caravan. But he was so hungry! He ate literally everything we had to put down for him.

He makes an endearing dog. Have you seen him as Padfoot before? Neither of us ever had, but it was no surprise that he's a terrible

tease. He begged us to throw a ball for him, but then would he bring it right back? Not at all. He'd bring it and drop it just out of reach and then whine for one of us to come pick it up and throw it, but as soon as we'd step towards him, he'd pick it up and dance just out of range and drop it again. Of course, he couldn't keep it up because he really did want us to throw it so he could chase and fetch it. He had us in absolute stitches.

But he left far too soon. He seemed to think so, too--his tail was tucked between his legs and his ears flattened so he looked absolutely forlorn--but he wouldn't stay no matter how we tried to convince him.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-07 03:56:18](#)**
(no subject)


Oi, I wasn't as pitiful as all that, was I?

Fine

Thanks for the potion - and everything else, really. My food situation isn't that bad, though, honestly. Padfoot's not very particular about what he'll eat. Moony could tell you about the time James challenged me to eat one of McLaggan's shinguards. I don't think he figured I'd change to Padfoot to do it. Still, I haven't had to resort to old leather yet! And Pomona's pickled beets are far tastier than a lot of the fare round Leicester.

And the fleas are already better. It's much harder to find a hot shower in these tenements than one would think. I've been leery of bathing in the ponds at the gardens; I'd rather have fleas than leeches.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-07 14:57:38](#)**
(no subject)

Well. Pomona tells me I made you out to have been a bit more hang-dog than you were at leaving. She reminds me that at the last, you turned around wagged your tail and gave us a

strong bark.

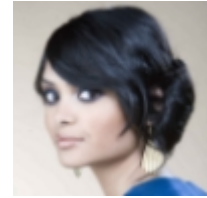
As for bathing. We've just been invited along with some of our newfound friends here to a picnic this evening at the Serpentine

Lido in Hyde Park. Apparently it's a lovely bathing area that's part of the great Serpentine lake in the park, and I assure you that there's no chance this lot would consider swimming anywhere they might be threatened by leeches. I feel sure you could trust the waters there after hours--and it's not far afield for you.

I wouldn't encourage you to take any undo risks, of course, but if you happened to be in Hyde Park this evening, we'll be there from half-six, and I for one would happily share the contents of my hamper with a friendly stray.

2010-07-07 13:35:00

Parkinson, the Library in Leeds



 [alt_padma](#)

has a tonne of stuff on time travel.

Haruman took me yesterday as he had a day off from St Mungo's. Anyway, I found the section on time travel and it's got loads of books about why it's a bad idea. They mentioned your great-uncle Darby (or however many times great he was) a lot. There's something called the 1st Parkinsonian Principle of Time Travel. It's all about the limitation on how far back you can go. There's also a 2nd Parkinsonian Principle, about how you can't go back in ways that create paradoxical situations, like how he went back before he was born.


I guess before he made his trip people were still trying to see how far back one could go, and his first tries weren't even the furthest. (Some people in went back decades and got stuck there and had to send messages to their families and put ads in the *Prophet* to be placed twenty years in their own futures. Like, 'Stuck in 1949, love to the kids, come see me at Sunset Acres' and things like that.) But then he tried to go back a whole century like that, and BOOM. The explosion made the Ministry reconsider time as a restricted subject and put it firmly under the Department of Mysteries. And that's when all the regulations started. They eventually outlawed nearly anything to do with time research.

There's this one case, Ministry v Cooper, where Cooper was accused of selling unauthorised devices to send people back in time. Only he hadn't made them right and people didn't go back as far as they thought. So they were planning to go back, say, three hours and instead they went back two and a half, and appeared in the middle of their own baths or something. So they wanted Cooper held responsible. And there's another, Ministry v Whitby. In that one, Whitby was found guilty of sending people back when they caught him stealing, or whatever. And he had a turner concealed on him somehow, and the guards left him alone and he turned himself to a point when his cell wasn't locked and tried to escape! But they caught him on his way out because someone realised he was supposed to be in a meeting. Isn't that snitch?

Oh, and there's a book called *Sands through the Hourglass* which first I thought was sort of instructions on making time-travelling devices, but it's not. (I guess the DoM went about collecting all the information

on time-travelling devices that it could get, so people can't make them whenever they please.) Anyway, this book it's really an historical novel about the very first time-turner. It's by Evangelista Nettle. I'm in the third chapter now and already I'm pretty certain Clive will get together with Marlena (I mean, it's rather obvious she's in love with him, anyway). There's not too much about the theory, but I'll bring it to the YPL, shall I, and you can read if it you like?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-09 01:22:38](#)**
(no subject)

Oooh! That's all really snitch. I've been looking for the case notes for *ages* in Prospero's library, only I bet he didn't even have it, because it went so far back.

I do think it is sort of nift that there's a Parkinson Principle (or two!), even if it was because he blew himself up. It's a bit of a shame that there's so many restrictions though, I mean, I know there's all sorts of ways things could go wrong -- I should let you read some of the stuff I've found, it's really horrific -- but still.

Let's do a book exchange at the YPL. I'm really looking forward to seeing what you've tracked down!

And Haruman was brilliant for taking you like that.

2010-07-07 17:03:00

Court and holidays



 [alt_lucius](#)

Harry, it was very good to see you this afternoon. I do take your point about remaining in Buckingham instead of going on more enjoyable holidays but you must understand that at the present, particularly with the fugitives still evading capture, it would be ill-advised to remove you from the additional protections your Father's home affords - without making careful provision, that is.


You'll be glad to know that we have already begun preparations for the Young Protectors' League trip so that you will be able to join the group as is your right. I'm sure you realise that my time is very limited at present, through my return from France on Saturday, but I assure you that I shall discuss the matter further with Our Lord and Mrs Malfoy. We may yet be able to arrange some sort of holiday, with Rabastan along of course, so that you can spend at least some of the remainder of summer outside the city. It will have to be prepared carefully, so that your whereabouts are as protected as your person, but if it can be properly organised, I assure you it would be our pleasure to have you accompany us.

In any event, I am glad you and the Rizzer are getting on so well. I think you'll agree it would be much more tortuous to spend time in the constant company of one who is not so genial as he is.

Our first walk-through of the old artillery barracks is to-morrow. Weasley, I hope you're prepared to manage on your own for a few hours? If you've the revisions to the reply to Hawkins, bring them in, if you please.

Narcissa, I've an owl inviting us to the Harris garden party on the 23rd. The date is familiar for some reason, but Crispin has no note in the calendar. Have we a conflict that I've forgot?




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-07 21:39:16](#)**
(no subject)

I'd already sent our regrets to the Harrises, husband. Theirs is at six, but the Sandoval party is that evening beginning at seven.

I thought you'd be home by now. You're not still at the St James' house?

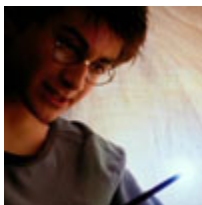
(And of course, we ought to discuss a holiday. It's been ages since we've taken a proper one. I should have suggested it sooner, but it's been so hectic this year.)




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-07 21:42:37](#)**
(no subject)

Of course, the Sandovals. That's why it was so familiar: Inigo mentioned it himself at the opera on Friday last. I wonder they don't simply reschedule (Harris, I mean).

I hadn't seen the time. Indeed, I shall finish up and return presently. The memo can wait until morning.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-08 21:51:07](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose. It just doesn't seem fair. I mean Father has all these state visits and things, and I sit. I suppose it's better than when he made me go with him to everything. That was really boring.

I would LOVE to go on holiday with you and Mrs Malfoy and Draco. And I am excited for the YPL trip!!

Razzer won't let me call him Razzer.



 **alt_lucius** at **2010-07-09 02:27:36**
(no subject)

My dear boy, I can certainly understand how one as active as you are accustomed to being may chafe under the tedium of days spent in constant supervision. Were it not for your own protection, of course, we would have you at the Manor as often as you like. We may still be able to arrange the necessary measures to allow you and Draco more time there.

Mrs Malfoy and I have discussed a holiday somewhat. We shall have to revisit the matter after my return. As you may imagine, I have a great deal that must be arranged before I can leave, and my departure is looming ever closer.

Regarding ~~the Rizzer~~, I am not at all surprised! If he wishes to cut an imposing figure, he could hardly do otherwise. You must remember that he is there for a purpose and you serve neither him nor yourself by becoming too friendly - though as I said, it is always preferable to enjoy the company of one's bodyguards. It is the only way to endure such measures with pleasantry.

2010-07-07 21:42:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Hey, Sally Anne. Mum's sort of worrying that the Strettons might get worried about letting you and Jeremy come through the Floo alone tomorrow. She thinks maybe she didn't say enough in the owl she sent about how she'll be right here by the fire to make sure you both get through right away and don't end up somewhere in Cornwall instead. I guess she just remembered that last year you came with Wood and had to go to the central Floo place and everything. And I guess now that she's met Mrs Stretton, she's worried she might make a fuss.



 [alt_ron](#)

I'm actually more worried Stretton will do something daft and his mother won't let you come. But I didn't tell Mum that.

So. Is it all good with the Strettons tonight?

Oh. And also. You're both bringing brooms, I guess, but if Stretton's got an extra and wouldn't mind bringing it (or his Mum wouldn't mind) that'd be snitch, cause I'm not sure whether everyone coming will have one or not. And our spares are pretty dire. Well, you saw last year. And they're not any better now.

Oh, and Pansy said she can come. So it's going to be totally wizard tomorrow!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-08 04:06:02**
(no subject)

Jeremy's been sweet as treacle tart all week so the Strettons said he could come, thank goodness! I'm not sure if they'd have let me come if they weren't letting him. I think I'm already using Jeremy's spare broom but I'll see if they've got any others.

I can't wait for tomorrow!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-08 04:21:07](#)
(no subject)

Well.

I ran into Jeremy just now and asked about brooms. He has a Cleansweep Seven, that's what his parents got him for Quidditch before he was kicked off the team, and before that he had a Cleansweep Six, which is what he lets me use.

They also have a Nimbus 1000 in the shed. It's REALLY old, I mean, I think it must have been Mr Stretton's Quidditch broom when he was at Hogwarts, maybe? But Jeremy says it's still a decent broom, I may go get it and take a look before bed, not that I can really get out and ride it this late. Also they have a few that aren't really racing brooms, just brooms for getting around, you know, but we'll bring those as well, I expect they're better than nothing.

2010-07-07 22:08:00

Hey, Lee

Bring any extra brooms you have when you come over tomorrow, all right? Katie and Oliver and Kenneth Towler will bring their own, of course, but Luna or Ginny could use one if you have any to spare. We hope to have enough people to fill out two full teams.




 **alt_gredforge**

We promise not to reduce it to splinters this time.

Mum's whipping up tonnes of potato salad and deviled eggs. Be ready for plenty of fun.



 **alt_luna** at **2010-07-08 03:15:21**
(no subject)


Are you really sure you want me to play? I'm really not very good at Quidditch.



 **alt_gredforge** at **2010-07-08 03:16:01**
(no subject)

Doesn't matter if you're good or not. Just matters if you have fun!



 **alt_luna** at **2010-07-08 03:16:34**
(no subject)

Oh, I can definitely do that!

2010-07-08 09:43:00

XXX.

I've had butterflies all morning, though I don't know why I should have, exactly. It's not as though there's anything frightening or difficult about today's luncheon. I suppose it's just that it's important.



 [alt_lana](#)

Mama called me into her sitting room after breakfast and gave me a long jeweler's box. Inside was a bracelet with twelve gold links, each one set with a sapphire: twelve because this is now the twelfth year of Our Lord's Protectorate and the twelfth year we've lived in England. She said that she and Papa are very proud of me and that they couldn't be more pleased with the way I am taking up my duties and fulfilling my role as a leader of my generation. When she'd fastened the bracelet around my wrist, Mama took my hand in hers and said that I've grown up just as she would have me do and that she will be very proud today when I join her as a Daughter of the Protectorate.

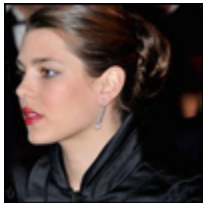
I can't think of anything I want more than to make my parents proud and serve Our Lord in all I do.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2010-07-08 15:37:22**

(no subject)

Quite an admirable sentiment, Miss Sandoval! I'm sure you've nothing to concern you on that score. I can't imagine any of our inductees this year could do better than follow your example.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2010-07-08 15:53:10**

(no subject)

Thank you, Mrs Malfoy.

It means a lot to me for you to say so.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-08 19:06:40](#)
(no subject)

Well, there, you see: You had nothing to worry about. For my part, the only difficulty was remaining fully focused during Madam Millingham-Kennilworthy's remarks. She does go on.

I thought it was exceedingly thoughtful of you to present your new sisters with bracelets as well. I take it they're from Revati's new line? She does have a way of improving on the latest trends.

We so look forward to your reception next week.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-08 22:02:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes, indeed, the bracelets were from Mrs Patil's new collection. They're beautiful and so clever!

And, oh. The luncheon was lovely, though I confess I can't remember now what was said from the podium. I'm afraid I was so nervous that part didn't sink in.

I'm so glad you'll be able to come next week. It doesn't seem possible it's so soon!




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-08 16:04:39](#)
(no subject)

You are to be congratulated, Miss Sandoval. I know my mother is looking forward to making your acquaintance today.

Our Protectorate's future rests on young people like you.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-08 18:38:40](#)
(no subject)

Oh! Thank you for saying so.

Your mother was very kind to introduce herself today. I hadn't realised that she and my mother


served together on the Witches Institute scholarship committee some years ago.



 **alt_luna** at [2010-07-08 19:19:26](#)
(no subject)


How does one become a Daughter of the Protectorate? Do you just have to be a girl? I mean, all girls are daughters, aren't they, and we all live in the Protectorate? Or is it by special invitation?



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-08 20:24:52](#)
(no subject)


I'm not surprised you've never heard of it, Lovegood. I'm sure it's not something you'll ever have to worry about. Not unless you make a far greater effort, anyway.



 **alt_luna** at [2010-07-08 20:51:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, of course I've heard of it, everybody has. I just didn't know how someone like Lana becomes a member. How is one supposed to learn something like that without asking?




 **alt_lana** at [2010-07-08 21:43:50](#)
(no subject)

Ah, Lovegood. I thought you were off quidditching with my sister at the Weasleys' farm today.

The Daughters of the Protectorate are very much a members-only organisation. I believe that the women who make up its membership nominate girls of good background, who have shown themselves worthy of the honour, and a select group are invited each year. The earliest that one may be invited is the summer one has left school, but sometimes one must wait and prove oneself before the invitation is forthcoming. This year, for instance, there were two inductees who are a year ahead of me in age: Melusine VanSomeren and Leto Edgecombe. I'm not sure what kept them from last year's class. Nothing scandalous, of course.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-08 22:22:12](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I have been spending the day with Honoria at the Weasleys. Your sister is quite nice, and we've had a lovely day.

Anyway, congratulations. The bracelet sounds quite lovely, and I'm sure you will be happy to be joining an organisation with other women quite like you.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-08 20:29:28](#)
(no subject)

How did everything go? Was everyone in beautiful robes? Were there photos? Which magazines, besides *Witch Weekly* and the *Prophet*, I mean.

Who were you sitting with? What did they serve? Tell us everything!




 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-08 21:45:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh, it was amazing. You'll love it when it's your turn.

I promise I'll tell you all about it in a bit, but I've got to run now.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-11 03:59:15](#)
(no subject)

Sorry. I haven't had a chance to sit down and write about it all. It seems there's loads to say.

I guess you saw the pictures in *The Prophet*. You're right: most everyone was wearing really beautiful robes. I saw several women in things that could only have been your mother's work. It's so distinctive.

There will be more photos in *Witch Weekly* and *Londinarium*, though it'll be next month before that's out again. *Whirl* were there and *Cut Above*. Oh, and *Posh* sent photographers. There may have been more, I don't know. I saw stars all afternoon from all the

flashes.

They seated all nine of us at the top table along with the President of the DoP and the two witches who presented us.

The food was excellent. The main was monkfish in a very light tamarind sauce served with tender new peas and jasmine rice. I couldn't eat much, but it was delicious.

I'm glad it's done, though. There's so much else going on. I'm not sure how we're squeezing it all in.


Last night Orion, Martha, Leander and I went to hear the Lords of Misrule play at Have It Large. It was really great, but we had to queue from half-three because they were giving hats to the first hundred through the door and Orion had to have one. But then they didn't play until eleven. Luckily, the warm-up bands were good--and really great to dance to, so it was fine--wizard, actually. But we didn't get home until four this morning, so I feel like I was mauled by a manticore, I'm so tired now. But we're going again next Friday to hear Peeling Velvet.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-09 16:29:37](#)
(no subject)

Good show, Miss Sandoval.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-11 02:36:51](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.

[2010-07-08 13:40:00](#)

Oh my goodness

NO ONE in this world eats like hungry teenage boys.



 [alt_molly](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-08 18:41:44](#)

(no subject)

How's the party going then, Mum?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-08 18:44:25](#)

(no subject)

Well, the jockeying going on over team positions have been exceedingly interesting to watch. There have been a few minor squabbles over the best brooms and such.

On the plus side, only two windows broken so far.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-08 18:45:05](#)

(no subject)

Good thing that *Reparo* was one of the first charms you ever taught us.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-08 18:45:41](#)

(no subject)


If I had a knut for every time I've used that charm, I would be an exceedingly rich woman.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-08 18:46:22](#)**
(no subject)


And you say they're eating a lot? Surely that's not a surprise to you.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-08 18:49:03](#)**
(no subject)


Honestly! I'd just finished serving everyone a cold luncheon, and it's not as if it went begging! They ate up every scrap and then when I went out to weed the garden for an hour, George and Fred found a lovely bit of leftover roast beef I'd set aside for our supper, and they carved it up and used up the whole thing, making more sandwiches! It seemed they needed a bit more to fill in the corners, like.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-08 18:51:20](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, dear. I'd rather been looking forward to that beef tonight.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-08 18:52:01](#)**
(no subject)

They're all getting along well, though, are they? I did feel quite guilty coming into the office this morning and leaving you to your fate.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-08 18:57:00](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, for the most part. The twins, you know, have the knack of getting along with everybody, and they're quick to notice and smooth things over if needed. They also persuaded Luna to play, which I thought would be quite impossible. They have her playing Beater, which is simply

ridiculous, and she actually managed to bean one of the garden gnomes with the Bludger, knocking it clear across the lettuce patch.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-08 19:04:58](#)

Order Only

I think Jeremy Stretton is getting under Ronald's skin a bit. I can see that Sally-Anne Perks' smile is looking rather strained.

The real surprise is Honoria Sandoval. Really, I thought that with that older sister the girl would be absolutely insufferable, but she's not at all. Instead, she's just as sweet as can be. Kind, too, judging from a few things Luna's said about her. I can see why Ginny likes her so.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-08 18:58:52](#)

Order Only

Reconsidering the wisdom of allowing an invasion?

You could always send them into the woods with bows and arrows.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-08 19:06:03](#)

Re: Order Only

They could teach Davidson a thing or two about stripping a larder for resources, I'm sure.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-08 22:21:49](#)

(no subject)

Thank you very much for having us, Mrs Weasley.


And I'm sorry again about the window.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-08 22:26:39](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, pshaw, it wouldn't be a Quidditch day at the Burrow without a broken window or two! It was lovely to see you again, dear. And thank you so much for helping to clear away after lunch. Do thank Mrs Stretton for the lovely basket she sent along with you and Jeremy, won't you? I'm sure the jams will be most appreciated.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-09 01:28:42](#)**
(no subject)

I ate my fair share, Mrs Weasley! Seriously, you make the best deviled eggs *ever*.

And thanks ever so much for having all of us over!



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-09 03:05:49](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, dear! The boys will tell you that I'm never happier than when I'm cooking a meal for a crowd.

It was great fun, and I'm so pleased you all enjoyed yourself so much.

2010-07-08 13:41:00

(no subject)

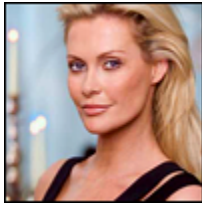
Athena.

Pennifold tells me you owed this morning after I'd left the office. I apologise for answering here, but I haven't an owl with me. I'm afraid I can't accept your offer for tonight as I've promised to spar with Travers. I suspect that an Auror's training regimen is much like a singer's voice work: miss even an hour here and there, and one falls quickly out of peak form. In any case, I can't afford to skive off tonight even for so pleasant an invitation.



 **alt_crouch_jr**

Were you serious when you said you love Quidditch? I admit that took me by surprise, but if you were in earnest, I wonder if you might like to come along Tuesday evening to see Puddlemere play Appleby. Travers, Forney and I are going and we've got an extra seat in the box. Do say yes!



 **alt_narcissa** at **2010-07-08 20:03:49**


(no subject)

I'm so glad you convinced your mother to come today, Barty. It was good to see her, though I must say she looks as if she could use some country air. I offered to arrange a day at Madam Ardenia's. It's essential for a witch every so often to pamper herself.

I see that my introduction was a sound choice! I do hope it works out for you both; it's ever so much easier to balance the table at supper parties or for whist, when inviting in groups of two.

Speaking of couples, did your mother tell you that Leto Pucey is expecting? It's been ages since I saw her - already 20 weeks along. It's a pity I couldn't lunch with her tomorrow to catch up, but as Lucius will be leaving I'd planned to see him at the St James' house before he leaves. Well, perhaps sometime after Draco goes to London for the YPL programme, I can carve out a niche to hear all about it.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-08 21:23:23](#)
Narcissa.

Is Draco finding things to keep him busy at home? I'm sure he's looking forward to the trip to New London, if for no other reason than that it will give him time with his friends. I remember summers as being lonely and boring, though there were some memorable visits with Regulus now and then to keep the time from grinding to a complete halt.

Have I told you we used to meet up at the bathing pond on Hampstead Heath--late evenings after all the Muggles had cleared out? As far as I know, his parents never caught on. Mine certainly didn't. (Until now, of course. Hello, Mother.)

Speaking of Mother, I haven't had a chance to speak with her yet, but I'm not surprised to hear she turned down your offer for the spa; she'll scarcely agree to keep necessary appointments with her Healer, you know. And I'm sure she'll say that it's no real measure of Madam Ardenia's skill that you looked so lovely today since you require no sorcery or improvement. Mother's rather stubbornly opposed to indulging herself, which might be a virtue if she didn't take it to such perverse extremes.

In any case, I'm glad the luncheon went off smoothly. You must have turned directly from that to the details of Lucius's departure. It's a shame his trip has to be so brief: it sounds as if he'll scarcely have time to kiss his sister on the cheek and congratulate the groom before returning home.

Travers will have my skin if I'm late for sparring, so I won't drop Lucius a separate note. Do give him my best wishes for his travels.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-08 22:24:23](#)
Re: Narcissa.

Oh, a little more than that. The important part, of course, is that he'll be able to see her down the aisle. But he'll be there to deliver the toast as well and I'm sure he'll be able to dance with the bride at least once before he returns. But you're quite right. He'll be gone scarcely 22 hours, all told.

Draco is as disappointed as I that we're not able to accompany him. I believe my son has grown quite close to his aunt, for all that our visit last year was their first meeting. But he has more than enough to occupy his time, including his newfound interest in guitar. And his art and language lessons continue, of course. Although, I'm sure if you ever find yourself in need of a fourth in your Quidditch box, at summers at least, Draco would be more than happy to fill the seat for you.

As for your late-night forays, I'm surprised you *ever* found the place empty of Muggles, be they vagrants or trysting lovers. That's one of the blessings of our Protectorate: The streets and parks are cleaner in more ways than one. But then, I'm sure you had your own way of addressing any filth that might have been littering the place when you arrived. (We are lucky that there is a perfectly adequate - and private - spot near the Manor grounds. Though for my part I prefer the gardens' shade.) I may as well confess that Andromeda went through a period when she cared to drag me along with her to the clubs round Berwick Street - you know them, I'm sure: The Copper Knut, the Zodiac and of course, Redcap and Gnome. (And now it's Bella's turn to wag her wand at me!)

But I see I shall have to be more persuasive to your mother when it comes to the benefits of a qualified aesthetist. I cannot credit Ardenia and my monthly spa day enough for ensuring that I'm a fit sight. Anyone who ever said beauty is effortless has never tried very hard! Though in your mother's case, I hope she doesn't neglect her Healers entirely. She'll need her strength, particularly if Aleta Featherstone has, as I suspect, convinced her to resume a committee appointment. (I did see them with their heads together for more than a few minutes this afternoon.)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-08 22:37:20](#)
(no subject)

I'll keep Draco in mind next time we need someone to make up our number in the box. Perhaps he and Lucius would like to have my ticket and the spare some evening. I'll have Pennifold speak with Crispin about it.

Berwick Street was it? Am I meant to find that shocking? I think you must have had more cause than I to clear filth from your path in that neighbourhood. I can imagine what Bellatrix has to say on

the subject, however.

Well, perhaps you'll persuade Mother in the end. You can be persuasive when you try.

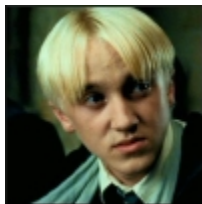



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-09 01:59:53](#)
(no subject)

Only when I try? I must be slipping.

But the tickets are a good suggestion and a very kind offer. It does seem odd that Lucius never bothered to obtain season tickets - but then, he never really supported any particular team, either. (He used to delight in taking the part of whichever team Father did *not* favour, just to raise poor Father's blood.)


I'm quite sure it would take more than the mention of Berwick Street to shock you, Barty. You're quite right, though: It was a terribly seedy part of town back then. Part of the fun was the 'slumming' aspect, I admit, though perhaps looking back, Andi had her own reasons for wanting to go.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-09 14:35:08](#)
(no subject)


You're really going to keep me in mind for quidditch? Why?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-10 13:26:30](#)
(no subject)

Of course. Unless you're not as keen as your mother says.



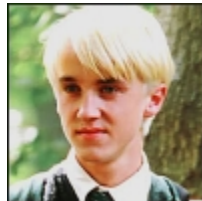
 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-10 14:11:33](#)
(no subject)


I'm well keen.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-10 14:45:43](#)
(no subject)

All right, then. We'll look into dates as soon as your father returns from France.

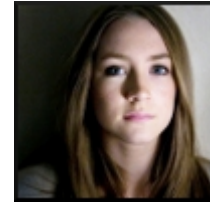


 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-10 14:52:52](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, I look forward to it.

[2010-07-09 08:35:00](#)

Twelve



 [alt_hydra](#)

Tomorrow we're to have a birthday luncheon here at Saint James Palace and family and friends of family are invited.

Which I think means that the only people close to my own age will be Harry, Draco, and maybe Pansy, but that's fine because I know them best.

And then after the birthday luncheon I'm to have tea at Buckingham Palace with the Lord Protector.

He wrote me an owl personally, and it didn't say very much but his handwriting was very nice.

~~It reminded~~

I really don't know why he would want to sit down to tea with me, maybe it's something he does with some children when they turn twelve?

But because of my appointment with the Lord Protector Mummy's taking me to the shops today for a whole new wardrobe and to have my hair done!

I haven't been to the shops since last year before school started, and that was just for regular school robes and cauldrons and things.

I hope that I can find some shoes with bows on them, I think they'd look ever so fetching, especially if I could find robes with the same kinds of bows.

And I hope we have time to go to Flourish and Blotts or another book shop, because Daddy gave me money to buy the last two *Melinda March* books.

They came out while we were at school but I didn't have the money for them back then, and we weren't getting packages for a long time anyway.

Melinda March is the heroine and everyone (including herself) thinks she is a half-blood with disgraced parents but really she's a pure-blood, and no one knows because the midwife was vengeful and she changed the records to alter the names of her birth parents.

In the last book, Melinda was being fostered by her actual BIRTH parents, and only the midwife knows the truth and her foster parents don't treat her very kindly, unfortunately.

I can't wait to see if Melinda figured out that she's a pure-blood witch, and what her family will say when they realise she's the daughter they always wanted, even though they've been treating her like she's a speck of dust for all the time she's been with them.

They are really very good books.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-09 15:58:19](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what you're up to in the gardens, but we're leaving in a half-hour, sharp. We'll take care of the shopping first and then have a late lunch in Knightsbridge.

While we eat we should have time to discuss, again, what are (and are **not**) suitable topics of conversation to carry on with the Lord Protector, as well as going over the finer points of manners and etiquette. It would be unseemly for a girl to drip tea on the Lord's tablecloth, or eat too many of those cakes she likes so much.

And Hydra, there won't be any bows.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-09 16:03:43](#)
(no subject)


I remember what you said about topics of conversation, Mummy.

I shouldn't bore the Lord Protector with chatter about dolls and toys, quidditch, story-books, sweets, animals, games, fashion, or music.

I should talk about grown-up things like the Protectorate, my schoolwork, the Young Protectors League, dueling, spell-books, family, and friends (especially Harry).

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-09 16:04:12](#)
(no subject)

I see that you do.

Perhaps we'll find time to drop into a book shop, after all.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-09 16:09:04](#)
(no subject)

Really, Mummy?
Thank you!

From,


Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-09 16:08:38](#)
(no subject)

See there, Duckie? You'll do just fine. And in my experience the Lord Protector doesn't mind a bit of a chat about animals, especially if it's about snakes. He's got that giant snake familiar, you know, and if you ask he might show it to you. It's usually curled up somewhere nearby in the same room as the Lord himself.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-09 16:10:07](#)
(no subject)

NO

Yes, I remember his snake.
I wish you were coming to the shops with us too,

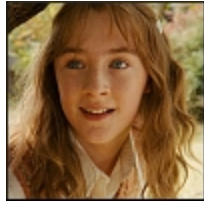
Daddy.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-09 16:12:14](#)
(no subject)

I'd be more hindrance than help, Ducks. What do I know about bows on shoes with robes to match? Or ladies hairstyles?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-09 16:14:17](#)
(no subject)

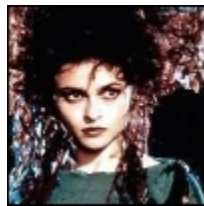
I don't know I think you might know more than you let on about ladies hairstyles, because your own hair is so long and curled and fancy! It could very much use a bow or two.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-09 16:15:12](#)
(no subject)

She's gone silly.



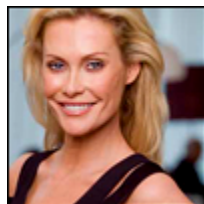
 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-09 16:16:17](#)
(no subject)

Too many sweets, no doubt.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-09 16:21:50](#)
(no subject)

Better she eat too many today, and make herself sick of them by tea-time tomorrow.



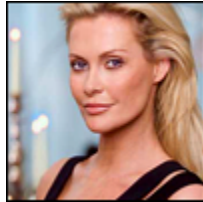
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-09 18:37:17](#)
(no subject)


Oh, I don't know, Rodolphus. You could always use a lengthening charm and then style it in a bouffant. I think it would be quite fetching.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-07-09 19:10:00](#)**
(no subject)

Will I get a photo spread in your column?



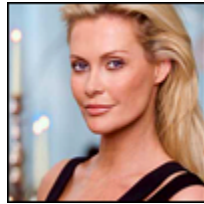
 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-09 19:13:24](#)**
(no subject)


We could do. The Well-Groomed Warlock. It has promise!



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-07-10 01:57:11](#)**
(no subject)

A rangy sort of bachelor might go over better. You should check with Rabastan.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-10 02:07:20](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, no doubt, but he's rather occupied these days. Besides, I rather like the idea of a piece about keeping the spark alive in a couple - as Lucius and I have done now for fifteen glorious years and you and Bella for - what is it now? Twenty?



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:09:35](#)**
(no subject)

Twenty come September. Good memory, Mrs Malfoy.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-10 01:12:06](#)
(no subject)

We could call Bobolis. I'm sure he could use you on a cover.

You might almost be his type.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-10 02:11:44](#)
(no subject)


No, Rodolphus *is* too rugged for Ganymede - and certainly for his readers!



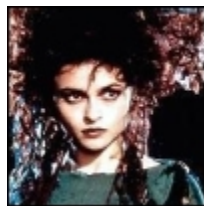
 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-10 03:11:15](#)
(no subject)


Isn't rugged just the thing with some of those *Londinarium* readers? Not that I'd ever agree to be on the cover, or anywhere else therein.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-09 18:43:38](#)
(no subject)

Bella, where are you taking her? It may not be too late for me to arrange a trunk show at Hyperion's. I know I said I didn't care for his spring line but he's got a rather sweet little collection for young ladies going into the autumn season.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-09 19:08:34](#)
(no subject)

We were just at Belle Noir - as you know, they've been doing my own robes for years, and though the styles are rather mature, Kosette was able to put together a selection of robes that work well on Hydra's petite frame. I do occasionally wonder how it is that I and Rodolphus have such a waif for a daughter. I presume that it can only be that Jugson blood at work.

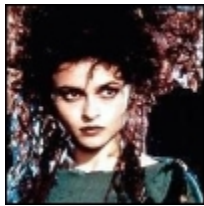
Thank you for thinking of us, Cissy, but I'm not sure that "sweet" is quite the thing to aim for, here.




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-09 19:21:04](#)**
(no subject)

Dear sister, you know I've nothing but respect for Kosette, but really I am not sure that her clothes will not overshadow the subject in Hydra's case. She's got a delicate frame, it's true, and that's precisely why Kosette's designs are too ... *heavy* for her. Oh, I wish you'd let me take a hand in, it's not as if I don't know how to dress a lithe little figure. After all, you do want Our Lord to see *her*, yes, and not only what she's wearing?

At least promise me you've done nothing to her hair, except perhaps a few rollers just for bounce. And don't for Merlin's sake give her kohl yet!



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-07-10 02:03:11](#)**
(no subject)

I want the Lord to see potential and promise, and nothing less.

Though, since it's been plaguing me all day, I will admit that Kosette's robes don't quite create the image that I had imagined. Not on Hydra. Something isn't...fitting quite right.


If you've a different ensemble in mind, bring it tomorrow morning. We'll come up with something yet.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-10 02:09:57](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, never fear, Bella. I'm sure we can create the impression you want without sacrificing Hydra's best features.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-09 16:21:00](#)**
(no subject)

I've never heard of the Lord having children over for tea on their birthday. I've taken tea with him before a few times, of course, but there were always other people there, like my parents, or your parents, and Harry was always there, too.

You're really having tea with him all by yourself, then? Maybe it's a special present he's thought up for you on account of your mother hunting down Sirius Black. You're awfully lucky though I-guess, because who else can say they've had a private tea with the Lord Protector, aside from Harry?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2010-07-09 16:23:36](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know if it's a present for Mummy's sake but it might be, I suppose.
Mummy and Daddy say I'm lucky, too.


From,
Hydra



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-09 16:49:01](#)**
(no subject)

That's very exciting, Hydra. And the book series sounds really good, I think I may have borrowed the second in that series from someone but I haven't read the others.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2010-07-09 16:57:14](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, it is, isn't it.
If I get the newer books today then you can borrow them from me when we're back at school, if you'd like.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2010-07-09 17:56:05**
(no subject)

Thank you! That would be lovely.

And happy birthday! I sent you something, I hope you like it.




 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2010-07-09 18:09:01**
(no subject)

Oh did you really?

Thank you that was very kind, I'm sure to love it.
And I'm glad you've not had your journal taken away again since that time before, in June.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_bill](#) at 2010-07-09 17:49:59**
Order Only

So Voldemort's sitting down to tea with a twelve-year old girl?!

That is extraordinarily interesting. I'll wager his interest has been piqued in the girl due to the events in the Chamber of Secrets last month.


Poor kid.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at 2010-07-09 17:51:03**
Re: Order Only

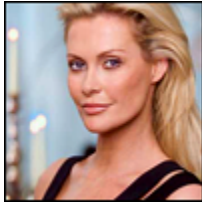
I think you might suggest to your analysts that they would do well to begin keeping a file on her.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-09 17:51:13](#)

Re: Order Only

Good point, Dad.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-09 18:03:34](#)

(no subject)

I'm sure you'll look lovely, Hydra, and yes, you're very lucky to be asked to tea by yourself.

(There may be some bows in your future, despite your mother's prediction, and not just the ones on your birthday parcels.)

I'm glad you like the *Melinda March* books. Mrs Baddock was asking about them since she is looking for things for her eldest daughter Lucy to read. Now I shall have a recommendation for her when next we speak.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow, dear.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-09 18:16:40](#)

(no subject)

I only hope that it all goes well and that I can remember proper etiquette and make good conversation.

I also like *The Bramblewick Orphans* series, which is about twin sisters and their little brother, and it takes place in an England where muggles are in control and they take magic children away from their parents so that they can raise them to do magic that only helps muggle folk.

Maybe you could tell Mrs Baddock about those books, too.

I'm looking forward to seeing you as well, and everyone else too, of course!

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-09 18:42:02](#)**
(no subject)

I'll remember the recommendation.

You'll be fine. I'm sure Our Lord will expect a few nervous moments when you meet Him; after all, He is most impressive, even in the least formal of settings like a simple tea.

I hope you enjoy your outing with your mother. I wish she'd tell me when she's planning clothes-shopping! Buying clothes for Draco is all very well, but it's nowhere near as fun as shopping for young witches!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 06:17:17](#)**
(no subject)

I hope you like my present!

And that's really quite an honour, to sit down to tea with Our Lord like that. It's funny, I mean, I know he's Harry's dad, and he's a person and all, but I never really thought about the Lord Protector doing something like taking tea before. But I suppose he does all those normal everyday sort of things just like the rest of us.

And if you don't find shoes with bows, we can always make some bows and stick them on once we're back at school. Don't worry, it's a nift charm so you can remove stuff really easily if you wanted, without ruining your shoes. I learnt that charm this last year so I could stick feathers and things to my headbands. I do think bows can look awfully sharp, especially when they're in contrasting colours.

2010-07-09 09:15:00

Order Only: Alice?

Could you tell Arabella that I'll be at the apparition point at noon, so that she can let me into the sanctuary. I have the polyjuice for you for next week's camping trip.



 [alt_kingsley](#)

Also, could you pass on a message to Victor and Danny for me? Tell them: *The game's afoot!*



 [alt_molly](#) at **2010-07-09 14:19:28**

(no subject)

Aha!



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2010-07-09 14:19:53**

(no subject)

Indeed.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2010-07-09 14:20:55**

(no subject)

smirks




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-07-09 14:34:20**

(no subject)


I did manage to find something in response to your owl, Kingsley. Sent it off in the wee hours this morning.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-07-09 15:35:59](#)**
(no subject)


Yes, I received it, my friend. Thanks.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 01:18:21](#)**
(no subject)

Hopefully ours arrived.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-10 02:53:56](#)**
(no subject)

I am so very excited about camping with Neville and Evelyn, I can hardly stand it. I've written Algie with all the details, and he should be ready to meet you, and goodness, it's only a few days away!

I've told Danny and Victor, and they both seem very pleased with one another. I hope you lot aren't bringing in loads of chocolates, otherwise we'll never get the children to bed!

2010-07-09 15:16:00

Settling into the routine

I've been here enough days to draw a deep breath and take stock of what's happened so far. I feel extraordinarily lucky to have had this opportunity and I've already learned so much.




 [alt_percy](#)

Mr Malfoy's St James' offices are indeed a very pleasant place to work, and Mr Crispin, Mr Malfoy's personal secretary, has been entirely kind and helpful. I share an office with him, overlooking the quiet tree-lined square outside. I am most impressed with Mr Crispin's breadth of knowledge and the myriad ways that he makes himself useful to a man of Mr Malfoy's standing. Being a personal secretary does not mean merely scribing letters and reports. No, indeed! There are so many people vying--quite rightly--for Mr Malfoy's precious time and attention, and so much information that flows through his office. An effective personal secretary needs to help sort out which people must be seen immediately and which turned away, and he needs to triage the reports, memoranda, articles, media, correspondence, etcetera, somehow distilling the information down so that it is available at Mr Malfoy's fingertips at a moment's notice. Sometimes the pace seems quite brisk--I never saw a place that received so many owls or floo calls--but somehow Mr Crispin manages to keep track of everything. He assures me that it all becomes easier with practice.

I have had the opportunity to meet so many exceedingly interesting people. Directors of various corporate boards, officers at the Ministry, members of the Court at Buckingham, and, of course, always the press. This week has had additional activity, what with the family wedding this weekend. Mrs Malfoy stopped earlier today, to have lunch with Mr Malfoy. I had never met her before, but she could not have been more gracious. I can certainly see why she is considered one of the most important hostesses of society.


It is always a rather curious feeling to leave each Friday. After the week spent here, at the heart of the Protectorate, the Burrow always seems strangely...remote.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:54:06](#)**
(no subject)


I was glad to have the opportunity to have lunch with you Wednesday. Shall we make it a weekly thing?



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:56:27](#)**
(no subject)


I enjoyed it, too. It makes me think of what it might be like when I'm out of school and we're both working in London. Of course I'd like to do it again. Well, as long as you can be flexible. Sometimes, if things get busy, lunch must get be pushed back a bit.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:57:07](#)**
(no subject)


Flexibility is my middle name.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:57:18](#)**
(no subject)


Funny, I thought it was 'Arthur.'



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:58:32](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, very humorous.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-09 20:59:17](#)**
Order Only

Oh, to be a fly on that wall, reading Crispin's correspondence over his shoulder...



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-09 20:59:52](#)

Re: Order Only

Try not to drool all over Percy's desk when you drop by to visit.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-09 21:00:51](#)

Re: Order Only

Blimey, it just about kills me, Dad. What the Order wouldn't give to have a man right in Lucius Malfoy's outer office! But it doesn't do us a bloody bit of good because it's...Percy.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-09 21:02:29](#)

Re: Order Only

I know, son, I know. Still, he may yet come around.

I'm sure you'll be very careful during those lunch conversations. But anything you can glean about his state of mind, your mother and I would be glad to hear. He might be more open about talking about certain opinions with a brother than with his parents.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-09 21:03:27](#)

Re: Order Only

I don't like it, the feeling that I'm almost spying upon him. I wish we could trust him.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-09 21:03:58](#)

Re: Order Only


Believe me, your mum and I don't like it, either.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-09 21:05:33](#)**
(no subject)


Your mum and I are equally pleased that things are working out so well for you, son. And we're very glad that your talent is being recognised, so that you can have an opportunity like this.



 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2010-07-09 21:25:53](#)**
(no subject)

If the Burrow seems remote then I suppose you'll have no interest in spending any time at mine anytime soon.




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:34:22](#)**
(no subject)

What's got

Now what in Merlin's name could have given you an idea like that? Of course I'm looking forward to seeing you tomorrow.




 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:37:49](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, of *course* you are. And I suppose I'll have to make an effort to be more *gracious*?


Some of us can't go out and get silk ties just because we feel like it.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:51:48](#)**
(no subject)

I certainly hope that the ice cream at Fortescue's will cheer you up. I don't know what might have made you vexed with me, but you sound as though you could use some cheering.




 [alt_penelope](#) at [2010-07-10 04:08:26](#)
(no subject)

I suppose you're right. My father *has* been driving me right round the twist lately.

But your last owl made it sound as if I just don't want to be an embarrassment, I guess.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-10 04:23:03](#)
(no subject)

An embarrassment!?


You DO need ice cream. At least I hope that copious amounts of Paracelsus praline chocolate will work to dispel totally daft ideas like that.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2010-07-10 01:07:16](#)
(no subject)

Good on you, Weasley, for landing such a plum appointment.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-10 03:36:15](#)
(no subject)

I'm feeling my luck every day, I assure you.


I must say heartfelt congratulations to you in turn upon your induction in the Daughters of the Protectorate. That's certainly quite a special honour.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-07-10 03:20:21](#)
(no subject)

Wot? Don't you go home every night, not just on Fridays?



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:32:18](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, I go home every night, yes, of course. I only meant that the weekends seem so quiet in comparison. Away from all that humming activity in the center of things, you understand.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:34:50](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. Okay. Now I get it. I just thought...you made it sound so busy that I thought maybe they made you stay overnight or something. (That'd be sort of cool, though. I heard Aurors sometimes sleep at the Ministry, and Healers sometimes stay at St Mungo's, too, don't they? When they're very very busy?)




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 03:50:11](#)**
(no subject)

I believe there have been occasions when Mr Crispin has had to work late hours, when there are breaking news stories that affect the upper levels of government, or during certain ceremonial Court occasions. There are three floors above the public area, with a suite for Mr Malfoy, if he chooses to stay the night, and guest rooms, as well as chambers that were originally for servants above that. So if need be, there are places where staff can kip for a few hours, out of the way. But that's certainly unusual. Mr Crispin says that a mark of an excellent civil servant is knowing how to use the allotted work day sensibly, without either rushing or idling away the hours.

Although I must say that he can get a remarkable amount of work done in one day.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-10 14:43:49](#)
(no subject)


Mr Crispin says this,

Mr Crispin says that,

Mr Crispin says you're a silly git


With a silly, gitty hat.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-10 15:06:07](#)
Order Only


Oh, that was rather unwise.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-10 15:06:23](#)
Re: Order Only

I'm dealing with it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 06:00:46](#)
(no subject)

I'm so glad you're getting on well. Crispin is awfully helpful, isn't he? I hope I wasn't too much of a bother banging around St James and all while you two were trying your level best to actually get *work* done. I *do* miss it there, though. I mean, Scotland is well enough I guess, but London is *London*, you know?

2010-07-09 21:37:00

Quidditch at the Burrow

...was brilliant. I got to play every position except Seeker at some point or another although they didn't make me keep playing Beater after I broke one of the windows.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

It was nice to see Wood again, and Jeremy behaved himself (mostly).

Jeremy asked his parents and they said it's alright, so: the rest of you are invited here next week to play quidditch, if you'd like to come. On Monday, I think that's when Mrs Stretton thought it would be best. Owl me or tell me here if you can or can't make it, and if anyone else wants to come play you'd be welcome.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-10 02:48:58**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And Neville if you want to come and NOT play Quidditch that would be perfectly all right, no one will make you get on a broom if you don't want. I missed seeing you at the Burrow, but I suppose it was a broom-mad sort of day.

I think Wood misses me. He told Jeremy he was lucky to have someone who's good on a broom who lives at his house, I don't think Jeremy had thought of it that way before. Jeremy's really jealous because everyone knows Wood will probably sign with a professional team when he finishes at Hogwarts. He'd give ANYTHING for that, I think but with being off the team, I don't think it's likely.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2010-07-10 04:02:56**

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

Thanks for the invitation, and ordinarily I'd be very pleased to come, but I won't be able to accept. I'm going camping next week! My Great Uncle Algie is taking my sister and me out for a week of it. I'm sure the experience we got last summer will be help loads. At least I can teach Evelyn how to lay out a camp fire now.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-10 04:11:05](#)

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

Isn't he the one who threw you off a dock? They still let him around you and Evelyn unsupervised?

Well, have fun!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-10 04:37:03](#)

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

Well, together, Evelyn and I probably outweigh him now! Maybe we can get back at HIM by chucking him in the river when he takes us fishing.

Although if we did, he'd probably stick us with all of the camp chores for the rest of the week.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-10 04:48:20](#)

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

That's an easy problem to solve. Just chuck him in the last day.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-10 05:06:05](#)

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

See, that's why you're a Slytherin and I'm a Gryffindor. I would have never thought of that.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-10 13:21:28](#)


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

Shame about Stretton. He was actually pretty good.

And, y'know, he's the one who had the best suggestion about getting the Silver Arrow going again. It really worked! So I guess Stretton's a bit of all right, even though he can be dead annoying some times, can't he?

And, yeah, I'm definitely coming. That'll be wizard! I'll find out about the twins and Ginny.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-10 04:04:45](#)
(no subject)

I'm not sure if the invitation includes me? I know I wasn't much help as a Beater.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-10 04:10:15](#)
(no subject)

I almost said 'and Luna if you're wondering YES you are invited' when I first wrote this but decided that sounded rude.

Yes, you're invited, and so is Ginny.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-10 04:38:46](#)
(no subject)


Thank you. That's very kind of Mrs Stretton. Although I'll have to ask Mrs Brown for permission.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-10 04:47:16](#)
(no subject)

Of course. Just let me know. (Or Jeremy, for that matter, but he forgets to read the journals at least three-quarters of the time so you'd want to use an owl.)




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 06:04:01](#)
(no subject)

Fingers crossed mum says yes. I'm going to ask her at breakfast, because she's always in a better temper after her morning tea and newspaper, and with luck, she'll forget I'm supposed to have French for an hour in the afternoon on Monday.


I can always reschedule with Mlle Hauptert later.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 06:05:09](#)
(no subject)


Longbottom's coming too, right? I need someone to keep me company safe on the ground, after all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-10 06:09:25](#)
(no subject)

Well he wasn't at the Weasley's so I suppose I should make it clear he's invited (and no one will make him get on a broom)!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 06:22:26](#)
(no subject)


I made an absolutely miserable Keeper. I mean, I believe the tree next to the pitch was better at catching Quaffles than I was, and it was just standing there.

But I do make a *fantastic* spectator. I'll come up with cheers and everything. They may even rhyme.

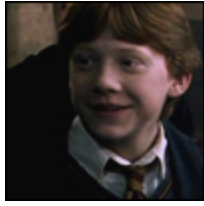
Go Sally-Anne! Fast as you can! Take that Quaffle and chuck it in the can!


There she swoops! Flying loop-de-loops! Throw that ball right through those hoops!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 06:31:25](#)
(no subject)

...those sound a lot less silly when you say them out loud than when you read it.




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-10 13:12:20](#)
(no subject)

I thought you were great.

When you were on the other side!

But seriously, how are you going to get better if you don't play?
You have to fly. It's just for fun, anywiz.




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-10 15:40:47](#)
(no subject)

Hah hah.

Well, this next time, I'll just play on your side to
make it fair!




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-10 13:22:48](#)
(no subject)

That's really nice of Mrs Stretton. I'll definitely come.

And tell Jeremy I'll bring the Silver Arrow, too. His
idea worked a treat, and I've almost got her going.




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-11 03:17:10](#)
(no subject)

You can still come, right?

You are getting awfully good at saying sorry. I hold
Sally-Anne and me entirely responsible for that.

And Crispin isn't all that bad. He had to come get me once when
mum got really sick and I had to stay at St James, and he was really
decent about it, and sat up with me half the night when I couldn't
sleep because I was so worried. And he didn't have to, but he did
anyways.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-11 18:56:48](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you're right. I felt dead Slytherin writing that, but ~~like I told Sally Anne~~, it would have been totally ridiculous to miss out on Quidditch at the Strettons over not saying sorry. I mean, Percy's a silly git with no sense of humour, but I'm not going to stay in trouble for a whole week and do extra chores and not get to go anywhere, when all I've got to do to get out is say sorry.

And, yeah. I'm pretty sure I can still come. Mum hasn't said no. Nor Dad. Course I haven't seen him yet today, 'cause Mum let me sleep in and he was already out in his workshop when I got up. They don't usually let us sleep in, but I think probably they thought it was a good idea if Percy and I didn't eat breakfast together. He's a total grump in the morning.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-11 19:57:29](#)
(no subject)


Well, see, that does seem a lot easier than sulking about it and being bull-headed and having to miss out on all those things. So good on you for catching a little common sense.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-11 20:00:48](#)
(no subject)


Slytherin House: where we value ambition, heritage, Parselmouths, subtlety, and common sense!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-11 20:10:09](#)
(no subject)


And don't forget -- we all have *excellent* taste.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-11 22:40:09](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, ha ha.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-11 22:43:39](#)**
(no subject)

Next you'll tell me Crabbe and Goyle are opening a fashion robe shop.

And they've hired Bullstrode as a consultant.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-11 23:11:42](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, ha ha back.

most of us have excellent taste. How about that?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-10 15:46:39](#)**
(no subject)

Mum says yes!

Well, she said yes after I wrote Mlle Haupert so she can give me a double lesson on Wednesday, so there's

that.


Or, as the French would say, Cest la vie!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-10 16:00:57](#)**
(no subject)

Hurray! Or as the French would say...what do the French say? Do they say Hurray, too?



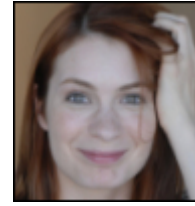
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-10 17:03:26](#)
(no subject)

Oh, they probably say the same thing, only they spell it with tonnes of extra letters that are all silent.

2010-07-10 12:28:00

ORDER ONLY

I shall try very hard to write this without bursting into tears again, because it's all so very wonderful, but I just had no idea whatever what you all were planning, and it's just so sweet of all of you and I hardly know what to say! Kingsley brought us out here after breakfast in blindfolds to surprise us, and oh my goodness, it is just the prettiest little cottage that Danny and Victor have been fixing up, and when the Players got here yesterday, they slipped away after lunch, and it was because they were sneaking off to finish everything up. It's got the most beautiful view of the ocean, and there's a fire pit out back, and darling little curtains in the windows, and there are flowers everywhere (courtesy of Stephen and Laura), and just think! We get to spend two whole days here, just me and my Frank, without any laundry or chickens or gardening or nappies, and it's just absolute heaven. Kingsley said everyone thought we could use a bit of a break, and it's wonderful enough we get to see Neville and Evelyn on Monday, but I never in a million years would have expected this as well!




 [alt_alice](#)

We get our own private bath for two whole days! Imagine! I've told Frank to draw up a nice hot bath while I write and I can smell those wonderful bath-salts, and it's all quite going to my head.

It's almost too much to take in all at once. I can't even begin to thank all of you, and how wonderful to get your notes and cards, I think if I start reading them again, I'll just start crying all over again, you've all written such lovely things. And the gifts! Strawberries, Molly and Arthur! Champagne, Bill? That enormous hamper, Tonks and Remus, how incredibly generous, and that sweet little music box too! And those bath salts and candles, Poppy and Pomona, they're just so lovely. As is the tartan coverlet on the bed, Minerva. And Sirius! Wherever did you find a Van Morrison album? As soon as Frank saw it was *Moondance*, he put it on and popped the bubbly, and I haven't seen him looking this happy in an age and a half. And he's being rather insistent that I put down the quill but thank you thank you thank you and Frank would say thank you too if he wasn't nibbling on my ear right now and ooh that tickles hang on just a second

...right, I really must sign off!




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-10 18:24:35](#)
(no subject)

Do enjoy yourselves! We're so pleased to think you're having a bit of pleasant time to yourselves.

Pomona says that Frank's right: no more writing here until you are back in the workaday world and have only this as a diversion.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-07-10 21:10:40](#)
(no subject)

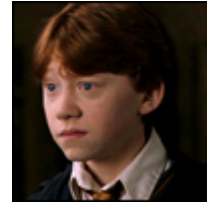
You're very welcome. Have a wonderful weekend, both of you. You deserve it.

[2010-07-10 21:17:00](#)

Saying Sorry.

Yeah, Percy?

Okay, so I'm sorry I embarrassed you in your book where everyone could see it. I mean, Dad's right. I didn't like it when Mum did that to me in her book a couple of weeks ago. So. Yeah. I'm sorry.



 [alt_ron](#)

And Mr Crispin?

If you're reading this, I'm sorry I talked about you in Percy's book when I was making fun of him. It wasn't very nice of me. Especially since we haven't ever been introduced.

And, Percy? Don't get mad at me for writing this here. Mum and Dad said I could only have my book back if I apologised to you here in public. They said a private sorry wasn't good enough.

So, yeah.

Sorry.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2010-07-11 15:56:30](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Maybe you should taunt Percy in invisible ink for a while. That way the rest of us can admire your cleverness but you won't get in trouble with your mum and dad.



 [alt_ron](#) at **[2010-07-11 18:42:40](#)**

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

Yeah. I should've done.

I'd just had it up to there with him that day, but yeah.

Dad said I couldn't go anywhere for a week if I didn't apologise, and I couldn't have my journal. What I don't get is why they thought I had to say sorry in public. I mean, I was in trouble because I teased

him in his journal where anyone could see, so now they want me to write in my journal so everyone sees it: 'Hey, Perce. Sorry I said you're a silly git who never shuts up about his boss.' I'm sure Percy wanted everybody in the world to remember me saying that.

Whatevs.

It's good you and Pansy showed me how to say sorry. 'Cause you're totally right. It would be dead silly to miss out coming to yours for Quidditch just 'cause Percy's an annoying git with no sense of humour.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-11 18:46:56](#)

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

You know, that's the ODDEST of all the odd things about Percy. Everyone ELSE in your family has a fine sense of humour, so what ever happened to his? Did the twins steal it and hide it and then forget where they'd put it, maybe, and he never got it back?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-11 22:38:21](#)

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

Pixies took it.

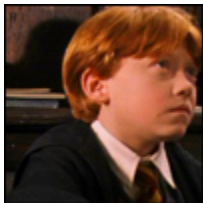



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-12 04:01:27](#)

(no subject)

...

Apology accepted, Ronald.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-12 13:58:52](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

...

That's big of you, Percival. Ta. Very much.

2010-07-11 06:24:00

Back from the Wedding

Hydra, I hope your birthday celebrations were pleasant, as was your tête-a-tête with the Lord Protector. I'm sorry I could not join you, but your Aunt tells me you liked your presents very much.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Well. She went through with it after all. Right up until the exchange of vows I was half-sure she might cry it off as a whim or a joke, but no. She is Mme Amanda Froissart now. Étienne promises to make her happy; for his sake, I hope he succeeds.

Aside from departing nearly twenty minutes late, owing to the myriad 'last-minute' issues demanding attention (most of which could have easily waited or *should* have been addressed long before Friday), was further delayed at the border by a lackey who clearly had no idea to whom he was speaking. Quickly reached Dideron, who straightened the matter - and assured me the patrolwizard would be re-assigned for his impudence. Missed the rehearsal; arrived just as the dinner was about to commence. (Amanda was most upset and had the notion that I had 'arranged' to be detained so as to avoid the walk-through. Assured her of my mutual annoyance at my tardiness - but did allow that there was a bright side to the timing. Summarised my rôle for her to demonstrate that no rehearsal was truly necessary: 'Everyone else goes first, yes? The music starts, yes? Then we walk. Fairly simple.')

Mother handled the rehearsal supper masterfully. Étienne has rather a large family (not atypical for French wizards of his class) and it was a jolly if one-sided affair. His brothers, I think, would fit well with some of our friends - Rabastan, Mordant and Cadmus in particular come to mind. After supper the witchfolk whisked Amanda out for ... some ritual we mere men are not allowed to witness (and I suspect I had rather *not* contemplate). After producing an excellent bottle of whiskey, Étienne's brother Georges led a smaller group out into Paris to provide the groom his last carouse. Nothing that might put the wedding in jeopardy - though I am sworn to secrecy on the details. Loyalty to my sister aside, a bachelor party is a bachelor party. Also I confess, I am not certain where they continued on after I left them to it somewhere around the 16th arrondissement.

Managed to rise and dress in plenty of time for a private breakfast with Amanda and Mother (though Amanda could barely eat). Then they were off to the salon to arrange their hair and such and I spent a

blissfully quiet hour with the papers, paid a few diplomatic fire calls and worked on the wedding toast a little. Then it was time to go.


I know this will disappoint, but I cannot even begin to describe my sister's appearance in her robes. Exquisite does not do justice. Had my wife been there I'm sure she could find the words. Suffice to say I was dumbstruck, and again felt that no wizard, even one as suitable as Froissart, deserved her or could hope to do so.

So - they are wed. The reception was held at the Hôtel du Barbarac, which, Amanda was fond of telling me, is where the French Ministers nearly all have chosen to hold their inaugural balls. Truly it was unparalleled in Paris, though I wager our own halls are just as grand and our own elves no less attentive. Certainly the orchestra were as excellent as the food - and that's saying something.

But my time grew short, so as soon as the bride and groom departed for their honeymoon (Moscow, I understand, and a tour along the Silk Road), I too made my farewells and returned via Calais and Dover. Needless to say I fair fell into bed and have only just begun to consider refocusing my attention on whether anything monumental occurred in my brief absence.


Surely not.



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-11 16:46:19](#)
(no subject)

It sounds like it was a beautiful wedding. Many happy returns to your sister and her new husband. I wish I could meet her. She sounds just lovely!




 **alt_lucius** at [2010-07-11 17:37:41](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Little Bit. I trust you've had no further ... discussions with your mother regarding the settlement of your inheritance? If you do need intervention, I hope you will not hesitate to ask.

As for Amanda, I often wish you could meet her as well. Who knows whether it may be possible someday, depending on where our relationships with France take us over the coming years. But you do remind of her frequently; I think you would go on well.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-11 20:01:00](#)
(no subject)

She's been typical mum, meaning she doesn't talk about it at all. I gave her back the key for her to hold until December which seemed to help matters, and I think Prospero got cross at her because she didn't have you stay for tea when you dropped me off, so she's been much better lately.

And I think we'd get on well too.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-11 17:41:11](#)
(no subject)

You are hopeless. Luckily I had already corresponded with your sister more than enough to at least visualise the details of her gown, hair, jewels, etc. Otherwise I should possibly be driven to distraction by the lack of real information in this 'report.'

At any rate, as I told you before you left, you'll get used to the idea, eventually, that your sister is fully capable of making her own choices and has every right to someone who will share her life. Even if you don't like to *admit* it, she *is* and has been grown for some time.

2010-07-11 17:45:00

(no subject)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Single Attack Defence Totals (Defended, Allowed, Null)

Avery: 76, 21, 3
Braithewaite: 81, 15, 4
Crouch: 97, 2, 1
Forney: 96, 2, 2
Pandya: 92, 5, 3
Travers: 95, 2, 3
Yaxley: 89, 7, 4

Blind Defence (D, A, N)

Avery: 58, 41, 1
Braithewaite: 74, 26, 0
Crouch: 97, 3, 0
Forney: 99, 1, 0
Pandya: 82, 17, 1
Travers: 89, 9, 2
Yaxley: 93, 6, 1

Low Visibility w/ Obstacles (D, A, N)

Avery: 85, 8, 7
Braithewaite: 79, 9, 12
Crouch: 87, 5, 7
Forney: 81, 7, 12
Pandya: 89, 2, 9
Travers: 84, 7, 9
Yaxley: 80, 7, 13

Broomback (D, A, N)

Avery: 77, 15, 7
Braithewaite: 82, 9, 9
Crouch: 92, 2, 6
Forney: 95, 0, 5
Pandya: 92, 5, 3
Travers: 91, 2, 7
Yaxley: 87, 8, 5

App & Attack--Fixed Target (Hits, Misses)

Avery: 15, 0
Braithewaite: 12, 3
Crouch: 15, 0
Forney: 14, 1
Pandya: 15, 0
Travers: 13, 2
Yaxley: 14, 1

App & Attack--Roaming Target (Hits, Misses)

Avery: 15, 0
Braithewaite: 13, 2
Crouch: 13, 2
Forney: 11, 4
Pandya: 14, 1
Travers: 15, 0
Yaxley: 10, 5

App & Attack--Underfire (Hits, Misses, Taken, Defended, Null)

Avery: 14, 1, 1, 0, 4
Braithewaite: 9, 6, 5, 0, 0
Crouch: 14, 1, 2, 3, 0
Forney: 15, 0, 2, 0, 3
Pandya: 12, 3, 3, 2, 0
Travers: 4, 11, 4, 0, 1
Yaxley: 13, 2, 3, 1, 1

Shame about the ankle, Travers. What did the Healer say? Are you cleared for normal duty?

Who's in for sparring tomorrow morning? Practice Cell 4 at half-six.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-13 01:22:22](#)**

(no subject)

Hello, sir.

If you don't mind my asking, I wonder if you could settle something for me and some of my mates. We were talking about your post, you see, and Goshal says that he reckons you can't have done all that practice in a single day, or you'd not have got anything else done. But Moon said that he thought it must be all in a day, because Aurors wouldn't spend so much time in training that they'd not have the chance to go after criminals like Professor Macnair and that Snape fellow. But a couple of the other blokes (er, I don't really want to say who), said that was the proof that you train all the time - because you've not caught them yet. And Moon said he figured it only takes about half a second for a really good duellist to try to block a spell, so even a hundred of them wouldn't take so very long.

So, we wondered, do you see. Only my mum says you might think it rude to ask about something like that, and we ought to wait until we tour the Ministry with the YPL next week. So if this is rude and you don't want to answer, that's okay, I don't want to take you away from

anything important. Only as you put all these standings in your journal I thought maybe you wouldn't mind setting things straight.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-13 03:08:33](#)

(no subject)

Smith is it?

The results I listed are yesterday's, a day when the seven of us were not on duty. Although training is an expected part of our employment, we work our routine training and testing into hours when our presence is not demanded in the office or the field.

Monthly examinations catch any slippage in our skills or conditioning. I use the results to refine my daily training regimen. We all do--although, to be candid, one reason for listing the results here was to motivate certain individuals.

Take Avery, for instance.

You'll note that Avery's quite successful landing his curses in the Apparate and Attack trials, even under strenuous conditions and despite distractions, but his defence results were nothing short of dire. He needs more time in the sparring ring.

Aurors must keep in top form. Without rigorous training we'd stand no chance of quelling the traitorous elements of this realm.

As for Macnair and Snape, the fact is that tracking dangerous predators takes time. If it were a simple task, anyone could accomplish it and do it in no time. If it were mere child's play, Alecko Carrow might set her advanced Dark Arts students to chase down criminals as a term practicum. If it required no time, no sustained experience, no investigative prowess, and no specialist training, the Ministry would not need Aurors as a special unit within MLE--they'd merely send the local constable out to find these fugitives.

We're all eager to see them brought to justice, and they will be, but it will take a significant investment of time, skill, and commitment before it's done. It may even cost some of us our lives or limbs. That's a price we are each willing to pay in order to bring peace to Our Lord's realm.

It's also an incentive to keep our skills in top form.



 **alt_zacharias** at [2010-07-13 16:19:57](#)
(no subject)

Er... Okay.

Thanks for all that, I guess.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at [2010-07-13 18:41:10](#)
(no subject)

Was that more than you bargained for, Smith?



 **alt_zacharias** at [2010-07-14 02:16:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, sort of, I think so, yeah. But it was interesting.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at [2010-07-14 02:20:03](#)
(no subject)

What year are you, Smith? Are you studying the Dark Arts?




 **alt_zacharias** at [2010-07-14 02:24:12](#)
(no subject)

Rising third, Mr Crouch. Only we haven't heard yet which students Miss Professor Carrow selected for lessons.

Or. I guess if other people have heard, then I didn't get in. But I hope it's that we haven't heard.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-14 02:33:47](#)
(no subject)

You put in for it, then?

Well done.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-14 02:20:57](#)
(no subject)

I'd say the greater shame is the number of times Travers missed in your last exercise. Or was that after he got hurt?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-14 02:30:36](#)
(no subject)

Got hit as he Apparated on the first attempt. It looked as if he'd splinched-- but seriously, who splinches himself in a trial?--at any rate, he fell hard and barely held it together for the rest of the round.

Travers is tough, though. He was in for sparring the next morning and none the worse for the experience.

2010-07-12 22:45:00

ORDER ONLY

just to let you lot know, the changeoff happened without a hitch. we managed to switch them with Kingsley and emmaline in the washrooms of the restaurant where Algie'd taken the kids for breakfast. we'll be in yorkshire dales for the next week.



 [alt_frank](#)

I have the most fantastic and gorgeous and brilliant children ever.

Nev's been pretty quiet so far, and evelyn's been full of questions, half of which we can't answer. both of them got on with tiny right off, though. Nev's watching him now while al and evelyn make hot cocoa before bed. we spent today setting up camp, and talking about the news story and getting to know each other a bit. evie brought these memory scrap books she'd made of the two of them, and we got to go through them together, and al and me told them all about how we met and what they were like as babies and some stories from when we were at school. tomorrow, nev and me are going to take the rowboat out and see if we can't catch ourselves something in the lake. maybe he'll be a bit more up for talking then. he's lots taller than he was when we saw him get his wand, and evie looks so much like her mum. sings like her too.

Al will write more later. for now, it's enough that all of us are under one roof, which is pretty bloody fantastic. Al's always been more of an optimist when it comes to this sort of thing, and when we had to leave them behind, I figured the odds were pretty slim we'd ever be able to see them again.


so thanks, Kingsley, man.

thanks for letting me see my kids.

and thanks for this weekend, too.


al keeps looking over at me and smiling. and I keep smiling back, because we're both so damn happy.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-13 15:44:20](#)**
(no subject)

I'm so happy that you're all having such a good time. As I'm sure you know, boys bond by doing things. Arthur's often mentioned that he can get the boys to open up with him the most when they're working on something else together, whether it's re-shingling the chicken coop or de-gnoming the gardne. The fishing sounds like an excellent idea.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-14 03:20:27](#)**
(no subject)

I know it doesn't begin to compensate for the mess you and Allie are in, with the Ministry re-opening the hunt for you, but I'm glad I could contribute something, anyway, even if it was just scrounged records from an abandoned Muggle shop.

And I hope you and Allie have a great week with the sprogs, too.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-14 11:34:12](#)**
(no subject)

We have been. Today, we're building an enormous kite, and Frank has been teaching Neville to swim. It's been gorgeous weather out here!

How have you been keeping, love?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-14 11:32:47](#)**
(no subject)

We do, don't we!



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-14 12:52:53](#)**

(no subject)

Cheers, Frank. Some of my best memories come from times that my dad and me went fishing.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-07-15 01:44:01](#)**

(no subject)

Cheers, my friend. Emmeline and me are having a pleasant time with Algie, actually. He's being a remarkably good sport about everything, I must say, although I imagine sleeping on the ground doesn't suit him very well. Makes his bones ache, a bit. I have a small suspicion he rather enjoys bossing us around, as if we really WERE Neville and Evelyn. He has an impressive array of very funny stories about you, Frank, truth to tell. Lots of good blackmail material here!



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-07-15 02:46:46](#)**

(no subject)

glad to hear it.

and Algie's a better liar than I am, which is saying something, so I wouldn't believe half of what he

says.

2010-07-13 08:44:00

Yesterday

Errol's bringing thank you notes from all of us to the Strettons--including from Mum, who says she wants Mrs Stretton to know that she knows what it is to have so many of us all at once.



 [alt_ron](#)

Anywiz, yesterday was dead snitch. For real. I mean, how often does a match end with the snitch flying up the Seeker's robes and knocking him off his broom? Haha! Lee, that was the funniest thing ever!!! And a good thing it was so low when you saw it!!

See, Nev? You're not the only one that sort of thing happens to! It was really great, though. You'd have loved all the food. The Strettons just let us tell their servants what we wanted, and then Jeremy had them bring it all out so we could have a picnic outside under the trees. They have a bunch of servants to do everything for them. Well, I guess they've got loads of work to do there, running their farms and factories and all.

Anywiz, we played two matches in the morning--'cause the first one ended really fast when Lee caught the snitch by pretty much dropping out of the air right on top of it and then falling off his broom when it got caught in his robes and started pounding him. And after lunch we switched the sides around and made it a rule that you could only have one beater, 'cause Stretton's side in the morning decided to have two beaters and two chasers (y'know, instead of one and three), but that made it a bit too much like a real match and it didn't seem really fair with people playing who aren't used to flying all the time.

Oh, and the twins and Lee and Stretton all had ideas for other spells we could try on the old brooms, since the ones we put on my Silver Arrow last time are working a treat. And we got Fred's broom so it can go way high, and Stretton's Nimbus 1000 was really shooting about after we got done with it. Wood got kind of cheesed off at us for spending time charming the brooms at the start, 'cause he wanted to just play. (So it's pretty rich he's the one who held things up after lunch when he was off talking to Stretton so long. Didn't you think, Sally Anne?) But it was wizard he was there. Wood, I mean. Ginny was really chuffed when he said she's a natural Seeker. That was pretty nice of him.

So, yeah. It was really great.


Oh, and when we got home, Mum had got an owl from Professor Sinistra with all the stuff about what to pack for the YPL trip, and forms she has to fill out giving permission for stuff. So today I'm having to decide what I want to take so she can wash everything and mend stuff, and she's fussing about the fact that I've grown a couple inches since school ended and now the sleeves are short on my school robes, and I guess we have to have a set of school robes for the trip for something. Mum said at least they didn't say we have to have dress robes with us.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-07-13 18:31:05**
(no subject)

It was utterly brilliant having all of you over. Although I don't know why it's Ginny who's clearly meant to be a Seeker; she had to actually catch it instead of having it fly up her robe. Don't you think it shows a really unique talent to be able to attract it to your person the way Lee did?




 **alt_ron** at **2010-07-13 18:37:19**
(no subject)

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!

No.



 **alt_ron** at **2010-07-13 18:39:17**
(no subject)

And yeah, I don't see that Ginny's got any special thing for Quidditch.

At all.

But it was nice of Wood to say that to her. I think.

I mean, I wish she'd shut up about it now, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-14 00:11:06](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And I think Pansy believed it when you said Nev owed you about his camping trip but BE CAREFUL next time, yeah?

I don't know why Nev didn't talk about it anywhere but the lock. A camping trip with his great uncle doesn't seem like a state secret.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-14 02:15:08](#)

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

I know, right? Sometimes it's really tough to remember who said what where. Like under the lock or not--know what I mean? I mean, it's hard enough to be sure no one who shouldn't see ever sees the ink we use--like Finnigan and Thomas--and you had some close calls with Pansy.

But that was kind of close yesterday about Nev.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-14 03:50:36](#)

(no subject)

Please please *please* tell me you're going with the group next week, and not the week after? Because it would be just *awful* if they split us up.

And I really want to show you Hyde Park, too!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-15 03:11:37](#)

(no subject)

Oh. Yeah. I'm in with you next week. I dunno who's in the other group. Do you?


And that'd be wizard if you can show us some of the stuff in London that you like to do.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-15 04:03:36](#)
(no subject)


Ace! We'll have lots of fun. And yeah, I don't know who's in the second group either.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-14 12:59:28](#)
(no subject)


Maybe Lee Jordan could give the Ravenclaw seeker tips. If he can do that sort of thing on purpose.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-15 03:13:55](#)
(no subject)


Um. I dunno why he'd give the Ravenclaw seeker any tips. I mean, if he's got any tips to give, he'd give them to Coote, I'd think. Actually, Coote could really use a few pointers. He didn't do as well last year as the year before--and that wasn't anything to owl home about.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-15 03:16:08](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Although, actually. I wondered if Stretton was giving Wood some tips about Ravenclaw when they were off talking so long after lunch. But if he was, I wonder what he thought he was going to get in return. Cause Stretton doesn't seem like the kind of bloke who just does a load of favours for people without having something he wants from them, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-15 04:35:39](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Huh.

Well, I know what Jeremy wants. He wants to play professional quidditch, or failing that, he wants to work for a quidditch team -- ANYthing but coming home to work for his parents after he takes his NEWTs. He'd give anything and

he'd certainly sell out his own House's team -- they kicked him off, after all.

Rumour has it some of the pro teams are interested in Wood, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-15 16:38:58](#)

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

Yeah. We asked him about that, and he said he'd heard from a few clubs wanting him to come for a tryout. He didn't really want to talk about it, I don't think, but he did say the Cannons and

Puddlemere and the Falcons.

Maybe Stretton should go work for Nimbus or Cleansweep or one of the other broom companies. He could totally do it.

2010-07-13 22:34:00

(no subject)



 [alt_pansy](#)

Well, I suppose it's been awhile since I've written in this old thing, so here goes. I thought this summer was going to be dead boring, but it's turned out rather marvellously so far. I've been able to see lots of my friends, which has been absolutely brill, and I hope I'll see the rest of them at the YPL trip coming up soon. Quidditch has been an education - I'm still awful at it, but it is fun to see up close and all, and I've certainly gotten lots better at dodging things. And it's been fun getting to know Jordan and Fred and George Weasley and Wood, because I really haven't spent much time with them before, and they're all very funny and tell really fantastic jokes. And Ginny is just the sweetest. She really is a good Seeker. Better than I am, at least, but that's not really saying much! Jeremy can be a bit much, but Gemma was a very good hostess, and Sally-Anne, could you tell her I enjoyed meeting her?

I'm very much looking forward to seeing what Padma has dug up when we go back to London next week (hurrah for London!). Oh, Padma - I've tracked down a few more books, and Mr Croaker from the Ministry sent me some things that are just brilliant, they're copies of actual cases the Department of Mysteries worked back when lots of people were experimenting with time travel. There's some really good stuff there, and I bet your book you found has summaries of some of them, but it's great to have access to the real sources. He was ever so nice when we talked at the Ministry, he said I had a real head for this sort of thing, and when I wrote him a letter thanking him for our talk, he sent back this enormous packet for me to look through.

And Sally-Anne has yet to come here, which will be so much fun. Sally-Anne, I've got a tonne of things planned already -- we're going to ride horses and go for lovely long walks and I'll show you all the places I've been scouting out for us to go have picnics and things, and there's even a place we can go bathing, and it'll just be so much more fun with you around.

I think I've got the hang of Gloss House now, and it's really not bad, even though I do miss the house in London. I think mum is planning on staying here most of the time when she's married, because she'll be taking charge of the household and things, and that takes a lot of time to sort out. But I'll be sure to drag her to London for shopping and culture when I'm out for hols, because there really isn't any of

that around here. Ms Macalister isn't terribly nice to me, but she isn't nice to anybody, so that's all right, I suppose. And Mr Pitt is always busy doing something or another for Prospero. I tried to get him to help me look up the Darby Parkinson case files in Prospero's library, but he got quite cross about it, and said he didn't have time for school projects, so I'm glad Padma found it for me instead. He'd remind me of Crispin, because he has a similar sort of job, but he isn't nearly so nice. Mina and Fowles are all right, though. It's a little strange having a cook instead of a house-elf, but Mina makes really good scones, nearly as good as Hitty's, and she's nice to talk to. Fowles doesn't talk much at all, but he's been helping me learn to ride, and he's fairly patient about it. And so is the horse. I'm learning on Onions. It's a funny name for a horse, but Fowles says it's because she's a liver chestnut, so it's a bit of a joke.

And Mlle Hauptert is teaching me French twice a week, and I've got exercises to practice on inbetween. She says my accent's pretty decent, but verbs are the worst, and I just can't get my brain around how they spell things. She tells some really interesting stories about what it was like growing up in France, though. And I still think it's a really beautiful language, so I hope I get better at it.


That's all for now, I think!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-14 02:48:01](#)
(no subject)


I can't wait to visit. Can I meet your horse when I come?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-14 03:37:24](#)
(no subject)

You can! You'll be riding on Patches when you come. She's a really sweet mare, and she's white with these patches of grey all over, and one right down her nose.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-14 03:48:43](#)
(no subject)

Well, they have other longer fancier names, of course, but that's what Fowles and me call them, because they're easier to remember.

2010-07-14 07:45:00

Things I have learned today

Mice are actually quite clever creatures.
The bars on an old bird cage are not quite close enough together to keep mice secured inside.
Mrs Brown can scream astonishingly loudly.



 [alt_luna](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-14 15:51:51**

(no subject)

Mice (and rats) can generally squeeze through any opening that's big enough for their head to go through. Don't be fooled by their fat little bodies.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-14 15:55:36**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I still haven't told the Strettons about my rat. I'm going to pretend I got him during the YPL week, I think, because that way no one will think he was one of Carrow's rats.

But Sebastian is a magic rat so he's very good about hiding when I tell him to hide, and not creeping around and scaring Mrs Stretton. So far, anyway.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-07-15 03:09:45**


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

That's a good idea. Or maybe you should wait and pretend Pansy gave him to you? The Strettons probably wouldn't want to make Mrs Parkinson angry by making you give back a 'gift' from Pansy.

D'you think?

I guess you'll have to bring Sebastian with you on the trip, then?



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-17 19:11:53](#)**
(no subject)

Honestly, I don't understand why you insisted on bringing them in the house!

Horrid. I like most animals but mice are just small and wiggly and

[2010-07-15 11:36:00](#)

tea and thanks



 [alt_hydra](#)

My birthday was very lovely, and thank you to everyone who sent me well-wishes or gifts. I've never gotten so many as I did this year, and some were from people I've not even met, so I think that they must know Mummy or have heard of her, anyway.

We were going to have luncheon in the garden but ended up moving it inside because Mummy thought it looked like rain and didn't want my hair to get mussed.

It was in curls, and it doesn't hold curls very well to begin with but especially not when it's damp out.

The meal was very good, but I couldn't eat because I was so nervous for tea with our Lord.

We let Rigel have a slice of cake, and he tossed it all over the curtains, which made everyone laugh, and then Pascoal sang a song in his native language and made a face when we tried to sing along and got the words all wrong.

Aunt Narcissa gave me beautiful robes that are dark blue with pink trim, and she and Mummy decided that I should wear them to tea instead of what Kosette sent over.

I didn't put them on until after lunch because I didn't want them to get dirty.

And then Mummy floored with me to Buckingham Palace and she led me to a room I'd never been to before and I thought she would come in with me but she didn't.

So I knocked and He said to come in.

I thought we would take tea in a dining room or drawing room, but Buckingham is big enough to have a room just for private tea with our Lord, and there was a little cool fire in the grate and a glossy table with elegant chairs, and the Lord was sat in one of them and He said the other one was for me.

It was a chair that was smaller than His, and I wondered if it was the one Harry sat in, and when I asked Him that He said yes, and that I was clever to figure that out.

I thought that the Lord would ask me about Mummy, or Daddy, maybe, but He mostly wanted to chat about school and Hogwarts.

There was a cup of lovely smelling tea in front of me the whole time but I couldn't even think to drink it until He reminded me that it was getting cold, and when I did have a sip it was the nicest tea I ever had, it warmed me all over but not too much, and it was very sweet just the way I like, and I felt much more calm after that.

He wanted to know more about me, then, and I didn't know what to tell Him, so He said I should tell Him whatever came to mind and that I didn't need to try and impress Him but that I should just be myself. So I told Him that I like to read, and described the plot of my favourite books, and it must have been a very boring thing for Him to listen to but He didn't act as if it was, and He said that maybe the next time we have tea, we can talk more about books.

He wants me to come to tea again this Saturday, so I guess I must not have done too many things wrong?

Daddy gave me a new baby bunny for a pet, but I haven't named him yet.

I suppose it ought to be a name that begins with T, though.

[2010-07-15 17:26:00](#)

Camping's been brill!

Evelyn and my Great Uncle Uncle Algie and me have settled in and have the campsite all set up the way we like it, and we're having a wizard time.



 **[alt_neville](#)**

There's a lake here, and Uncle Algie's been teaching me how to swim. The water's not too cold, thank Merlin. I reckon he's always felt bad about the time he dropped me off Blackpool Pier, to try to get my magic to show up (because it was sort of late). I've never held it against him, but I did almost drown. He's a really patient teacher, even though I did a lot of floundering and choking at first (although he always fished me out). When he finally got me relaxed enough to float, I started to pick it up. I'd really rather be on a boat, I think, but at least now I don't have to worry that I'd drown right away if I fall in again for some reason.

We haven't hiked very much. Instead, we've spent a lot of time fishing (I caught three small ones yesterday afternoon, and Evelyn caught a really big one). We've watched the ducks paddling around the shore line, and the sunsets, and then we lie down and look at the stars after twilight falls. I saw a whole bunch of shooting stars last night! And we tell stories. I never heard knew my Great Uncle knew so many. Lots about when he was a boy, and other stories about when he first went to Hogwarts and all. He can tell that Evelyn's pretty nervous about going, and she's fretting an awful lot about which House she'll be in.

It's hard to believe there are other people in the world when we're out here. We saw some people the first day, but now we're at a pretty remote campsite, and it's nice that it's just us.



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-15 21:29:15](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

We've been talking a lot. We're sort of tiptoeing around the subject of Sirius Black, and what happened last month when that birth announcement was found. I think he's afraid of saying too much, but it's clear that he agrees with my Gran about things. Me and Evelyn are really nervous about going to Hogwarts this year because people know about our parents now. Evelyn is especially, and I think it's going to be extra hard for her. She's be just starting to know people

and find her own way, and what she's supposed to do if people start calling her a blood traitor or something the very first day?

Anyway, we sort of worried about it out loud for awhile, and Uncle Algie said he thought we would be okay. He said he wanted more than anything for us to learn to think for ourselves and make up our own mind about things, but that we should remember that the people in charge right now are afraid of thinking. Thinking can be as much as a weapon as fighting is.

It's almost time for supper so I'd better sign off. I'm not opening my journal much while we're out here, but I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the London trip coming up.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-15 21:46:55](#)

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

I'm looking forward to seeing you, too. Are you with me and Pansy, or the other group? Apparently they split everyone up.

I thought you said you'd learned how to swim since your great-uncle tossed you in? Did you just say that so we wouldn't worry he'd try it again???



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-15 21:48:06](#)

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

Oh and if anyone asks, you sent an owl to Ron and to me and that's how we knew you were camping when Pansy didn't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-15 21:47:29](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad you're having a good time.

Which week are you going to London? I heard there are two groups going.

2010-07-16 20:03:00

Order Only: Some good news concerning the barter network




 **alt_molly**

I've managed to secure a large supply of mason jars that could be used for canning at harvest time. Alice, do you think Victor could use as many as three hundred jars, quart sized and five hundred, pint-sized? I know it sounds like a lot, but I could come to help putting up the late harvest (once the children go back to school) and once the harvest is done, we could send some back into the barter network for credit, or even use it to help supply John Turner and the rest of the Sherwood people.

Tell Stephen I also have a line on a small potion supply company that is interested in the list of potion he forwarded to me that he said that he can brew. I realise you need to have him available both to teach and to brew potions for you there, but it might develop into quite a lucrative side venture.

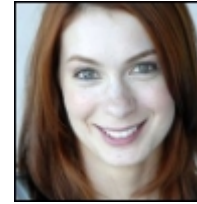


 **alt_alice** at **2010-07-18 00:27:27**
(no subject)

That does sound like a fantastic idea, all round. We could most definitely use the mason jars, and that is excellent news for the potions -- there are so many things we can't make for ourselves here that a few extra galleons a month would be put to very good use. I'll tell him once we get back to Moddey Dhoo tomorrow.

2010-07-17 20:11:00

ORDER ONLY



 [alt_alice](#)

First thing tomorrow morning, we're packing up camp and taking Neville and Evelyn back to their Uncle Algie. It's been quite a busy week, and we had an awful lot of lost time to make up for. It's funny, despite the letters and photos from Augusta and Neville both, the strongest memories I'd had of both my children were from when they were babies, but now I feel like I've gotten a chance to know them as they are right now, interesting people in their own right with likes and dislikes and thoughts and interests that I never could have imagined when they were little.

Neville can be so solemn sometimes. He was so careful about not asking us any questions that were off-limits that in the first few days, he didn't ask us a thing. But he opened up during the week, especially with Kevin, and I had the pleasure of seeing his smile come out on a regular basis. He didn't say a word about the rumours about Kevin, but I could tell it weighed on his mind from time to time, and just yesterday he made a point of saying that he loved Kevin "no matter what," and was glad to have a little brother. He's taken quite a liking to Herbology, and although he's a bit of a late bloomer when it comes to his other subjects, he's got a good head on his shoulders. I have no doubt will come into his own, especially once he grows into his hands and feet. My father was over 180 cm, and Uncle Algie is quite tall too, so I'd bet he'll shoot up like a weed in the next few years. Frank took him out for some duelling practice, and they both had quite a time blowing up a haystack. He also learnt how to swim (Evelyn too!) and seemed to very much enjoy spending time with Frank.

And our Evelyn! What a darling little girl. Every morning we get up and fix breakfast together, and then I sit her down and braid flowers into her hair, and it's just been lovely. She was a bit out of sorts for a few days, as she was still adjusting to the idea of having parents, which is perfectly understandable. At one point on Wednesday evening, it came out that she was angry that we'd left her behind, but "kept Kevin," and that we'd written Neville before her. Poor dear, I think she was feeling a bit left out. So I sat her down and told her all about how dangerous it was when we first left, and how it was just far too dangerous to take her with, even though it broke my heart. And I told her about how I cried every night for months after we left her, and how it was the hardest thing I'd ever done, and then we both just cried buckets, and went through her memory books again with Kevin

sleeping in her lap, and were much better for it the next day.

It just did my heart so much good to see all three of my children together. And after seeing how good Neville is to his sister, I'm so glad he will be there for her during her first year at Hogwarts, because she will certainly need his support. After Neville's stories, she has been quite worried about Professor Carrow (and for good reason, I fear), so we spent time talking about what she could expect at Hogwarts next year. Minerva, it would give me great peace of mind to know you were keeping a special eye on his conduct towards Neville and Evelyn at the start of the school year. I hope that she will be able to find some friendly faces at school her own age, and that our Neville is able to keep the friends he has made so far -- although by all accounts, they are sticking rather firmly by him to a person and he holds a good deal of stock in them and trusts them all, which is quite heartening (and, I admit, a bit surprising -- I'd thought his connection with those two Slytherin girls wouldn't have weathered such a storm).

All in all, we've had a full week. We've made a rather impressive bonfire and roasted apples and fish in the embers. We've also built several enormous kites, and have gone berrying. Neville and Evelyn even attempted to construct a raft, although it collapsed if you looked at it too hard. And most importantly, we talked and talked. I cannot wait for the day when I can be completely open with both of them about what we've been working towards all these years (and Merlin knows what will happen once Kevin starts talking), but there were so many other things to catch up on that we managed quite well.

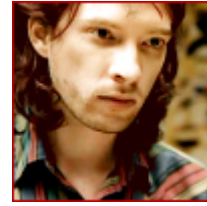
Kingsley, I can never thank you and Emmeline enough for helping us out. I have just had what was easily the best week of my life, and it's all thanks to you. Although it will be very hard to say good-bye to our lovely children, it helps to know that it won't be good-bye forever. And we'll have all sorts of chances to send letters besides.

And now, it's time for cocoa, and our evening story. I believe Frank will be re-telling the story of Neville being born, by popular demand! He does the *best* impression of Moody looking gobsmacked, and it gives me a fit of giggles every time he tells it.

2010-07-18 22:20:00

Order Only: No news

As best as my network can tell, the trail on Snape and Macnair has gone cold. At least none of my sources have heard any hint that the search is localised anywhere. And believe me, the MLE is turning over every rock they can find.




 **alt_bill**

On the plus side, no one seems to have the slightest suspicion that Sirius is alive. (Don't worry, I haven't let on to any of my sources either.)

My lunches with Percy have been interesting, to say the least. There's a part of me that hates pumping him for information, but I'll take the chance while we've got it. He's eager to talk, although he is mindful about being discreet about Malfoy's specific business. At least I can get an idea of the people who come regularly and get Percy's impressions of them.


Dad, I have a few names for you, possible sources of information in Manchester and Oxford I think you should check out. I think they might be quite useful for us. Let's talk over lunch tomorrow.



 **alt_arthur** at **2010-07-19 12:52:59**
(no subject)


Right. See you at the Leaky Cauldron at 12:30.



 **alt_molly** at **2010-07-19 12:54:02**
(no subject)

Why don't you come over for dinner, Bill? Tonight? Or tomorrow, if that would be better.



 **alt_bill** at **2010-07-19 12:54:40**
(no subject)

Thanks, Mum. Tomorrow night would work better.

2010-07-19 09:29:00

Dad...

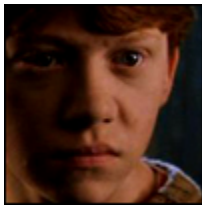
Can you pick up some new Chudley Cannons posters, maybe over lunch today? Ron needs to ... redecorate a little, and the old ones aren't much good any more. We'll pay you back.




 [alt_gredforge](#)

Ron, if the smell of new paint is too strong, you can kip on our floor tonight.

And we have no idea how the chickens got in there. Honest.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-19 16:58:21](#)


(no subject)

Wot?

What did you do to my Cannons posters? My room?

You two are so dead.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-19 16:58:53](#)

(no subject)

As soon as I get home.

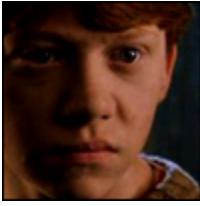



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-19 16:59:43](#)

(no subject)

I can't believe I said I'd go with Mum today.

And she won't leave!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-19 17:01:14](#)**
(no subject)

But when we get home you'd better not let me catch you.


Got it?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-19 22:24:14](#)**
(no subject)

What did they do to your room, Ron?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-20 03:09:44](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I don't know entirely. Transfigured a load of marbles into chickens, I think. Only they won't say, will they? But I can't find my marbles now, so I think maybe that's it. And, anywiz, it turns out forty hundred chickens can really tear up a room if you lock them in. And that's not counting what they, um, leave on the floor. Mum had them try out every scouring charm she knows on the rug--and then some they said they'd heard of, which wasn't going too well, and then they tried something that made it catch on fire, which got rid of the chicken poo 'cause it got rid of the rug, too.

Wankers.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-20 03:19:58](#)**
(no subject)

You had four thousand marbles?

What did you DO with that many marbles?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-20 14:19:11](#)
(no subject)

Well, no. Not exactly.

I just meant there were a load of chickens. I mean, there was totally nothing left of my poster of Gudgeon snatching the Snitch out from under Birch's nose. Just a piece with the snitch's wings beating.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-20 12:30:54](#)
(no subject)


Never a dull moment at the Burrow, I see.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-20 12:31:55](#)
(no subject)

We consider it part of our duty to keep things lively. Someone has to counterbalance Percy the Perfect.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-20 12:33:36](#)
(no subject)


You might spare a thought for Mum, you know. If you're not careful, she might be tempted to send us all back to school on August 1, just to be rid of us.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-20 12:34:48](#)
(no subject)


Nah, we want her to feel useful and important. Giving her reasons to go spare every once in a while keeps her on her toes. Gets the blood flowing, you know.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-20 12:35:38](#)
(no subject)

I'd really rather sit down with a nice cuppa and stick to my knitting.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-20 14:25:07](#)
(no subject)

I'll show you blood flowing if you do anything like that again.

In my room.

Although.


Don't you reckon all those parchments Percy's got rolled up under his bed would transfigure into nift lizards? I still need some practice with my new wand.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-20 14:31:32](#)
(no subject)


Excellent idea, ickle Ronnikins. There's hope for you yet.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-20 14:31:52](#)
(no subject)

Don't. You. Dare.

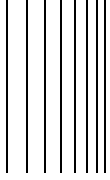


 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-20 14:56:01](#)
(no subject)

Why? What's in all those parchments?

Naughty pictures?

Or are they letters from your girlfriend?



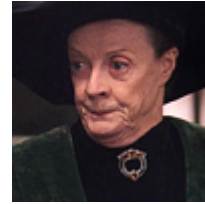
 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2010-07-21 00:33:28](#)**
(no subject)

Do you mind?

2010-07-19 11:16:00

ORDER ONLY: Business in London


It has been remarkably quiet at Hogwarts; the end-of-year business has all been nearly completed, the necessary repairs to the castle have been scheduled; and, thank God, Professor Acton is away on holiday - a walking tour of Britain. I have grown utterly sick of that woman in staff meetings; she grates.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

I have been informed that I will be required in London for a significant chunk of the summer - I shall leave Hogwarts in a week, and I shan't return until mid-August. I hadn't thought that my presence would be so necessary, but the Lord Protector seems to wish to discuss his various educational initiatives with me, and I have been requested and required to spend some time selecting a proper home in Wizarding London, outfitting it to reflect my status, and so forth. I must admit that I had no intention of ever enjoying the spoils of the Protectorate, but it seems that it is politically necessary for me to do so.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2010-07-19 17:32:51**
(no subject)

have a cold one at the Leaky for me, min.

I've been meaning to talk to you about our Hermione -
- al got pretty worked up over her being stuck in
buckingham and all when things were going to hell, and seeing as
how she'll be there a few months out of the year, we were thinking of
what we could do just in case she needs to get out of there quickly.
any road, we were wondering if you thought an emergency portkey
would do the trick. do you know, would she be able to use a portkey
in buckingham?

I was thinking of coming up with something small we could clip to
her bracelet like, but if it wouldn't work in buckingham, we'll try and
work out something else.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2010-07-23 15:58:23](#)**
(no subject)

I've been trying to discover this very thing. No, I don't believe a Portkey would work. There may be some other, subtler magic we could employ, however.

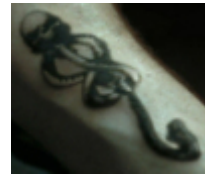
I suspect that I will be invited to Buckingham many times over the course of this summer, and I intend to seek out any artifacts that we might use for this purpose.

[2010-07-20 17:49:00](#)

(no subject)

Filth. Muck-eating scum.

Light will filter through the mire, the smoke, the offal, the refuse. They stare, they stare, but I will not stop. Hesitation is for the weak, but never the pure.




 **[alt_amycus](#)**

The smell offends me. Sinks into the pores, a reek lingering in my nostrils. Every night my clothes are burned, torched in sacrifice.

tidbit, never you fear. Your master will close in on the secrets and then you'll be back where you belong. No one will be able to deny me then. Least of all the bloody squeaking bat.



 **[alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-20 13:00:48](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Doesn't sound like his research is going very well.

Bloody hell, he's like a nightmare that keeps creeping back. I wish he would just go away for good.



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-20 13:03:44](#)**

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

Do you have any idea what he's trying to do?

(I'm afraid to ask, really.)



 **[alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-20 13:08:01](#)**

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

You should be afraid. Don't think anyone who's sane should look at it very closely.

I dunno, really. He's off at the camps, moving from place to place. If it's like last summer, he's spending most of his time with the muggleborn, and they, uh, aren't in very good shape when he's done with them. I know some of them were dead last year, before he was through with them.

Bloody hell. And then he comes back to Hogwarts and teaches. Like anyone should listen to a single thing he says.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-21 00:42:47](#)**

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

Do you suppose there's any way to -- I don't know, poison his tea or something? He probably keeps a bezoar on hand just in case anyone tries.

2010-07-20 20:42:00

(no subject)

I've been remiss in my attempts to journal of the last week or so, mainly I think because by the time I am able to contemplate an entry I am far too fatigued to compose one. It has been a busy week, after all.



 **alt_narcissa**

My second meeting with Revati went, if possible, better than the first. She took most of my suggestions and showed me a draft of her proposal for the collection's cloaks. (If you think it is easy to revitalise a garment as ubiquitous as a cloak, you are mistaken!)

We have also been occupied getting Draco ready for his YPL week in London and also in making arrangements for a seaside holiday toward the end of summer. Naturally the location this round must be defensible from all fronts and ideally one that will accommodate any protection or guardians who might accompany young Marvolo to ensure his safety. Rabastan and I have put our heads together at least once in the last week at Buckingham; I am not sure what plans he has made to inspect potential sites personally. It may be useful to bring along an Auror for an expert opinion on our selections when we go to view them. Perhaps Bella can appoint a suitable assistant for the task.

I've lunch tomorrow with Diana and Mariah. Cressida, poor thing, has been laid low with a rather nasty headcold. So we shall number only 3 for luncheon, though I'm sure we shall have a jolly time all the same. It's Mariah's turn to pick the restaurant, however, and she's chosen The Lanes - again. So predictable. Delicious, of course! But predictable.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2010-07-21 02:16:34**

(no subject)

I know you have access to excellent advice, but I've something at hand from the YPL trip planning that might save you some time.

When we started looking at locations last summer, the group of Aurors consulting on security considerations drafted a checklist for me to use when selecting sites. In part, I'm sure, to save themselves time, as I could review the sites myself and make notes, and then present the most suitable to them for approval.

That said, I did find it very helpful for check all the aspects of a site, and having a consistent format made things go much more quickly and smoothly. They also found it very useful - apparently, junior members are always forgetting one aspect or another until they gain more experience, so they've apparently incorporated a more general version into the training process.

If you'd like, I'd be glad to send a copy wherever might be suitable. (I am, of course, in New London this week.) I'm sure you have access to excellent advice of all sorts, but I'm sure you'd rather spend your time in something other than meetings if it can be avoided.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-21 04:00:41](#)
(no subject)

A very useful document, indeed.

I take it you've assembled your first group without mishap. I saw Gupta for a moment at the end of his shift, and he said they'd all made it to the Floo point and tucked into a hearty opening meal at the Horseguards. I trust that everything's quiet tonight.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2010-07-21 04:39:36](#)
(no subject)

Quiet so far, yes, thank you. It's an interesting mix, what with those familiar with the area, and those who've spent very little time here.

I do appreciate everything the Ministry's done in making this run smoothly, and most especially the work of all the Aurors who are keeping an eye on safety - and all the trouble inquisitive students can sometimes find on their own.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-21 12:32:51](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure I should find it most helpful, thank you.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-21 03:46:34](#)
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I spoke with Bella, and unless something dire happens, I'd be happy to consult on the matter of suitable holiday sites. I've a meeting at Buckingham tomorrow morning anyway, so I'll try to catch Rabastan to hear his thoughts on the subject. I've a thought or 3 myself.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-21 12:54:03](#)
(no subject)

Excellent, Barty, thank you.

I shall have Mariposa contact Ned to book something in. I should like to see this handy list of Professor Sinistra's if you'd be so kind as to bring it along.

2010-07-21 08:54:00

I've been to New London



 [alt_padma](#)

loads of times but every time we come into the city, I mean really properly, it seems so strange that so many people used to live here. Dad used to tell us stories about how dangerous it was to even cross a street, with Muggle cars and all. But the only thing we have to worry about is whether the Azkaban prisoners will try to kill Harry, and really, that's not very likely as there are Aurors and chaperones all over the place.

It's been a bit of a game, though. Not that it's funny, or anything, I mean, it'd be snitch if they caught the fugitives and we could all stop looking over our shoulders, but last night we all sat up in our room here at the Horseguards (and it's really grand, by the way, and so very posh!) and talked about what to do if we spotted either of them. Or both? The papers said they might be travelling together, but I think that's rather a daft thing to do. Two fugitives are much easier to spot than only one, don't you think?

Sandoval says that Auror Lestrage figures the one, Snape, won't be able to resist making a grab for Marvolo while he's here and not in Buckingham. So we practised how to call for help and what kinds of spells to cast. Belinda asked if he would have a wand and we pointed out that he might do if he took it from someone else. So the first thing is, protect your wand. And the second thing is to make a great racket so everyone will know you need help. The third thing is to try to stun him or even use *petrificus totalis* because then he'd not be able to duel properly. And the fourth thing is to send up sparks so the Aurors can find you.


But imagine if it did turn a proper duel. I think that would be really scary, but sort of nift, in a way.

Anyway, we've all be having a little fun with it today, you know, sneaking up behind each other and then saying, 'It's Snape!' or 'Look! Mr Macnair!' and watching each other jump. Morag surprised me with it just coming out of the loo last night before we left the museum, and I got Daphne Greengrass right as we sat down to breakfast this morning. She went bright red after clutching her wand to her chest - I mean, it looked like she wanted to hug it like a doll baby.

But it's not all japes, either. Today we'll be touring the *Prophet* offices


and the WWN, which will be brill as I've only ever been to work with my dad a couple times before (nor has Parvati, of course). Then I guess there's to be some type of talk about how important it is to ensure that the people receive accurate and approved information from our communications centres, which is completely true, of course, but maybe not quite as exciting as being able to say 'Hullo' on the wireless.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-07-21 17:33:43](#)**
(no subject)

I almost hope they try while we're in London. Not that I want Marvolo to be hurt of course, but they'd have NO CHANCE with so many Aurors around. And then they'd be caught!



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-22 01:38:16](#)**
(no subject)

I know, right? It would be terribly exciting.


Did you hear Smith? He shrieked like a little girl when that ghost popped through the wall. Moon had just told him that Macnair was hiding in the alcove.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-22 21:46:24](#)**
(no subject)

I did not. She startled me, that's all.




 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-21 22:08:25](#)**
(no subject)

Daphne got *me* right as I was coming out of the girls' toilet!

And then she wouldn't stop giggling about it all day.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-22 01:40:12](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, but it was worth it to make Smith scream like that. He sounded about eight years old. And a girl at that.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-22 21:47:22](#)**
(no subject)

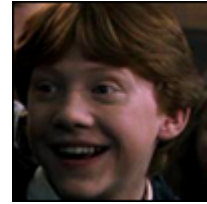
Oi. I'd like to see you get surprised by a ghost with her head tucked under her arm and not give a shout.

2010-07-22 09:15:00

Brilliant

Mum,

New London is brilliant. We saw The Prophet offices and the WWN headquarters yesterday--they're just off Diagon Alley, so we had lunch there. And then we went on a walking tour past all the really enormous houses they've cleaned up for wizards to live in and up to Buckingham. We didn't go in. I guess some of us'll get to do that later in the week if we don't want to go swimming or flying in Hyde Park instead.



 [alt_ron](#)

Anywiz, the REALLY TOTALLY COMPLETELY DEAD BRILLIANT thing we got to do was last night when we got on this big boat and went up and down the Thames and had dinner and Owain Pritchard and Kirley Duke were there eating with us and we all got their autographs and they sort of jammed some and told jokes and were really, really awesome.

AND THEN. The boat took us to the Tower. We went in at Traitor's gate, not that we're traitors, of course, the captain said. She was really funny. AND THEN WE GOT TO GO ON A GHOST TOUR OF THE TOWER. Our guide was some old knight who got locked up there and died of enwee. That's what he said, anywiz. Something like that, anyway. But we got to meet Queen Anne. And Queen Jane, who got killed after she was only queen for nine days and some Muggle queen took her place. And loads of other ghosts were there. And some of them were jolly but others were really dead scary. And at midnight, they all came out onto the green and we could talk to them. They said they got really tired of having to live with Muggles around all the time for so long. The Muggles used to come by the thousands and walk all over the Tower and line up to see the jewels and the armour, but they couldn't see the really cool stuff, which we got to go in and look at.

Teddy Nott asked Queen Anne if she belonged to the Headless Hunt, and it was really a laugh the look she gave him. Sir Nicholas would've loved it: apparently, she thinks that's totally beneath her dignity or something.

Anywiz, I've got to go now because we're off to tour the Ministry and see some of our Aurors duel--the ones who're doing security for the trip, y'know, keeping Harry safe and all. I guess Aurors duel all the


time to keep fit. I expect that'll be dead snitch. And then we've got lunch at the palace of Westminster. But you know all that 'cause it's on the list Professor Sinistra sent.

So, yeah. Gotta go.

Tell the twins that if they touch my stuff, they're totally dead.


That goes double for Ginny. Tell her that no matter what Wood said, she can't fly my Silver Arrow.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-07-22 15:44:32](#)
(no subject)


We will see about that. You are not the boss of me, plus I am a better flyer than you any way.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 16:12:04](#)
(no subject)


Maybe not, but Mrs Merriwynch gave that broom to me, and I'm the one's been fixing it up. So keep your bloody paws off it, you!



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-07-22 16:58:23](#)
(no subject)


Last I checked I didnt have paws. I am not an animal. And I will do what I please, as long as its back where you left if and its not broken you have nothing to fear.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 21:34:16](#)
(no subject)

MUM!!!




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-22 16:12:53](#)**
(no subject)

And you're no way a better flyer than me.


No way!



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2010-07-22 16:59:32](#)**
(no subject)

Am too.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-22 21:40:28](#)**
(no subject)

You're just jealous you're not in London doing all this snitch stuff.


And you're not a better flyer, you're a silly newt.



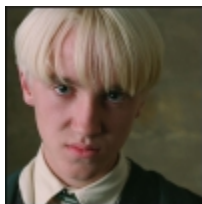
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-22 16:56:06](#)**
(no subject)


That's ennui, not enwee. It's French.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-22 17:02:58](#)**
(no subject)

That is pretty much how it sounds, though!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-22 17:05:31](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, which is how I was able to guess what he meant.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-22 18:01:15](#)
(no subject)

You're so clever at languages, Draco. I wish I knew French, at least a little.

What's your favourite thing so far? I think mine was the tour of the WWN but watching the duelling was utterly brilliant too.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 21:42:33](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, blef!

oh, Draco! you're so clever!


I may sick up.



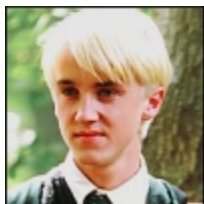
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-22 23:49:08](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Oh piss off. Don't you have a sister to threaten or something?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 03:11:37](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ha.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-22 23:32:29](#)
(no subject)

Not really, I've just studied it for a while is all.

Duelling, definitely.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-22 17:58:25](#)
(no subject)

That's how you pronounce ennui?

I've seen it in books but I always thought it was pronounced en-you-eye. Good thing I never tried to say it out loud. It's not a word that comes up much in conversation though.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-22 18:06:32](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's a bit like the word "oui," because you pronounce that sort of like "uwee" except it's a bit harder to write out exactly how it sounds, but it's not like "ohooee" like it looks.


Which is why French spelling is my *nemesis*.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-22 18:10:02](#)
(no subject)


I don't know how the French know how to spell (or pronounce) ANYTHING. It seems like it would be a much more sensible language if they'd either fix the spellings of their words, or the pronunciations.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-22 18:37:55](#)
(no subject)

It's almost like they need their own alphabet or special symbols or something.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 21:43:04](#)
(no subject)

Hahahahahaha!

Yeah.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 21:37:05](#)
(no subject)

It sounds nasty, actually.

However you spell it.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-22 21:50:09](#)
(no subject)

It means boredom.

But the duelling was really snitch, wasn't it? I mean, I never thought anyone could cast spells that quickly, and so many of them without even incanting or anything! I don't know how anyone thinks those traitors from Azkaban have a chance.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-22 22:24:10](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I knew that.


It really, really was, wasn't it! And when they put on blindfolds and could still protect against spells being cast from all sides. That was dead amazing!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-22 23:50:06](#)
(no subject)

The silent spellcasting was amazing. Do they teach the upper year students to do that? Or do you have to be in Auror training?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 00:15:44](#)
(no subject)

Well, Sandoval can do it a little bit, just simple things, you know, but I don't think it's just because she's going into Auror training. It's dead useful, though, isn't it, if you're going to be duelling a lot.

||| They certainly are very fit, though. Especially ~~Mr Braithewaite~~



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-23 14:31:58](#)**
(no subject)

Ronald, your lack of imagination is so disappointing. We can do all sorts of interesting things to your stuff without touching it.

2010-07-22 16:49:00

XXXI.

Nimue!

The robes for my coming out party are just ridiculously beautiful. They're so lovely, I almost can't bear to think about wearing them for fear I'll step on a hem or spill something on them.



 [alt_lana](#)

Not that it's likely: Mrs Patil has put all sorts of charms on them so things shouldn't be able spill or splash onto them, and so the hem will always avoid trailing on the ground, even if I stoop or courtesy, and they have whisper charms that give off an indescribably nice sound as you move in them. And then there's a movement charm that makes them sway and swish just so as you walk.

And then there's the cut and the fabric that's just the most beautiful shade of midnight blue I've ever seen, and the beading that makes it seem that you're seeing the night sky reflected on Windermere, which is just perfect and just what I asked her to design.

Oh!

I can't believe it's almost here!

Mama's been all day at Somerset House making sure everything is just right. There will be music in six rooms and in the courtyard where they've charmed the fountain to splash in time with the string ensemble.


And the coach arrived this afternoon and the footmen practiced how they'll roll out the carpet and how they'll announce me and usher me up to the entrance. They'll be wearing Sandoval livery from the fifteenth century--in blue and green with the coat of arms emblazoned on the breast.

Papa's been practicing what he's going to say. I know he has, because he was locked up in his office for hours last night. And Mama's been making sure that all the loose ends are tied up with the caterers and the dancers and the Philharmonic and the decorators and the lighting designers and the acoustic sorcerers. The only glitch so far--that I know about--was when the favours arrived and were all the wrong colour. But that was a week ago and she got them sorted straight

away.

I'm not sure I'll be able to sleep tonight. It's just all too wonderful!




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-23 01:07:14](#)**
(no subject)

It's a little sad that you had to miss the Aurors because of going home, but not really when you think about how grand it's all going to be. And besides I know you've seen them training before. It's exciting to think you'll be able to duel like that soon!

I wish I were going to your party, though. I know it's going to be ever so amazing. Mum's really proud of the robes, especially the beading. Did you know that they'll actually rotate along the skirt as the evening passes? Oops - that might have been supposed to be a surprise for you. Well, don't tell her I said!

I think you'll look so gorgeous you'll have about ten proposals before the end of the night! It'll be like you're a princess or something.




 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-07-23 03:14:10](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, but you wouldn't want to miss what they have planned for you tomorrow night. Really. There will be some surprises there, too!

I was sorry to have to leave early today, too, but I'll be there tomorrow morning.

You're having fun, aren't you?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-23 03:41:46](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes! Very much.

2010-07-23 08:00:00

(no subject)




 [alt_zacharias](#)

Yesterday was pretty snitch. I wasn't sure I'd like the panto-thing, but it was really funny. There was this witch in it, right, and she had a mudblood servant who looked a lot like her. Well, they said so, though I don't think they looked that much alike. Anyway, they decided to switch places - I dunno why, I guess she wanted to go and be a nobody for a little while, and her mudblood obviously wanted to be a witch instead and have servants and eat fine food and meet warlocks and all. Only it didn't work out very well for either of them. Until the end, that is, when her father figured out what had happened and set things straight. And the mudblood went back to the camps where she had to scrub out toilets forever, and the witch realised how silly she'd been to want the life of a dirty mudblood. And the warlock who'd sort of liked her as a mudblood and felt guilty about it was free to marry her now that everyone knew she was a witch and had just been playing a stupid game. I didn't care so much about that part, but the warlock had a cool sort of wand holster thingy and he looked just like some of the Aurors when they were duelling yesterday. So that was good.

Today they're taking us to more museums. We're going to the Museum of Curiosities, which Moon says used to be the muggle parliament building (parliament's kind of like the Council is now, only it was much bigger and they never agreed on anything because they're muggles), but now it's got all sorts of weird objects muggles used to have to use to get by. I guess there are some important artifacts from the fall of their government, too, which should be ~~boring~~ interesting.


But later we can go in swimming round Hyde Park, I guess, and there's to be a picnic. So that'll be fun. Moon, I know you said last night that you've brought your Gobstones, so bring them. Ernie and I think it'll be okay. There's a smooth court near the fountain with loads of shade and the stones will roll better than on grass.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 15:51:13](#)**
(no subject)


Well, yeah, they didn't look so much alike because the young witch was played by a bloke in a curly wig and the mudblood was an actress, but that's how panto works, right? Boys play girls and girls boys and fuggly old blokes play the panto dame. I mean old widow Snitchy, the young witch's nasty old aunty was dead hilarious.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:05:33](#)**
(no subject)


Well not always. Sometimes the pantos Father has didn't. At Christmas I mean, there were pantos. Because we're wizards he said we didn't need to make fun of how bad actors look when they try to dress up. But, he didn't really mean it. I mean, it isn't anti wizardly to see a panto like the one we all saw.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:40:38](#)**
(no subject)


Well, then it's just a play, isn't it? If it doesn't have a Dame and a boy who's played by a girl and people dressed up like cows or horses--or chickens, I guess, though I never saw that happen before yesterday!



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:44:47](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose. Only it was a special Christmas play that was a lot like a panto. I dont know, maybe it's a planto. A panay?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:46:58](#)**
(no subject)

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Did it have an aspidistra as the lead role, then?

Planto! Get it?

hahaha!



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-07-23 16:11:48](#)

(no subject)

Well, yeah. Obviously, I knew the witch was really a bloke. But I think they could've made them look more alike, if that was the point of it. I mean, they could use some transfiguration to make them look more like one another. Not too much, though, or it'd have been hard to tell them apart.

But the Aunt was really funny, yeah.

Do you know Moon very well? Only he's been hanging about with us more this trip - more than last year's, I mean - and Gobstones works better with a fourth. Or a fifth, even, if Finnigan wants to join too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 16:41:01](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, sure. Are you playing at the park, then?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2010-07-23 16:44:13](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, over by the big fountain with the statue of the unicorn at the centre of it.

But be warned: Marvolo says Moon cheats.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 16:47:26](#)

(no subject)

Nice.


We'll see about that!



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:48:14](#)**
(no subject)

Too right.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:37:44](#)**
(no subject)

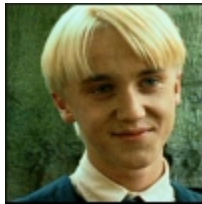
Honestly, I think most pantos are a bit naff, but the bit at the end where the witch and the warlock got married was rather sweet.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:44:54](#)**
(no subject)

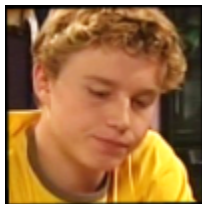
Why is it that girls always go gooey whenever anyone gets married at the end?

I thought the broom-back duel was the best.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:24:07](#)**
(no subject)

Because girls think that getting married is a beginning, not an end.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:28:26](#)**
(no subject)

Ha! Well done, right.

They're always thinking about snogging, aren't they? I mean, even yesterday when we were watching all the duelling, and on the boat with Owain Pritchard and Kirley Duke, you could tell, couldn't you, they were all just about drooling over them all. Crickey.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:34:38](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose that's all that some of them think about. Which is a waste, because it isn't as if Owain Pritchard is going to be bothering about with some spotty thirteen year old, is he?




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:41:22](#)**
(no subject)

Too right.


Mind you, there were one or two lady Aurors who were rather fit. But I heard Mr Gupta say that Mrs Pandya's married already. And Miss Wright was, well, sort of driven. Which is a good thing, for an Auror, I suppose. But yeah, I think girls take that sort of thing too far.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:45:37](#)**
(no subject)


What is it that they take too far, then? Ambition, or admiring Pritchard and Duke?



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:47:39](#)**
(no subject)

The fancying, definitely.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:49:22](#)**
(no subject)

Some of them might ought to be more mysterious about it, anyway.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 17:51:31](#)
(no subject)

Isn't it? I mean, why would marrying be an *end*?


Unless someone got horribly ill and died on their wedding night or something. That would be Tragic, but still Romantic.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-23 17:58:24](#)
(no subject)

It's the end of being unattached, yeah? It's a different sort of event for men...or I think it must be that way for some of them, at least. Like my Uncle. He could have married loads of different girls but he hasn't, because he doesn't want to stop being a bachelor. Of course, he probably should stop being one by now.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 17:52:17](#)
(no subject)

Handsome men, pretty dresses, and True Love--that's why!

But of course, you're more interested in silly brooms,
Zach.

2010-07-23 08:56:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




This week has mostly been really fun but I didn't like that panto we saw last night at ALL. As IF a muggleborn witch would sing a funny song about her place in the world when they sent her back to the camps. Well maybe Dennis would have. But, she sure didn't act like Dennis for most of the play. Ugh. I guess pantos aren't supposed to be realistic, though, that's what Pansy said. I'd never seen one.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

And Neville, I wish you'd been along this week! You are coming next week, aren't you? Not just skipping the whole thing? I'm glad Ron is here this week but I wish you were, too.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2010-07-23 15:48:00**
(no subject)

Well, you've got to admit the village constables were funny.

And it was dead hilarious when the young witch was pretending she's a mudblood servant so she didn't have her wand. And, of course, she doesn't want to get found out, but she was supposed to make treacle tart for pudding when the old aunty was having that dinner party. And when it turned out she didn't know how to cook at all, so she got everything sticky all over and then the flour went flying when she got so frustrated and her magic went wild and then the feathers came off the chicken and stuck in the treacle and in the end everyone who came into the kitchen got all over feathers except the guy in the chicken suit, who was just a naked chicken and started running mad all over the stage until he ran straight into the villain's sword and his head got chopped off, but that only made him run all the more until he tipped over the big rain barrel right at the audience. I laughed so hard when all that came out were streamers, but those little kids down front jumped out of the skin when they thought they were going to get all wet.

Hilarious!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 16:15:47](#)
(no subject)


Honestly, I don't think there's anything funny about somebody being told to do something they don't know how to do.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 16:16:13](#)
(no subject)

Or about someone getting their head chopped off.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 17:47:44](#)
(no subject)

It wasn't a person, silly. It was a chicken.


That's what happens to chickens before you eat them. And then they run around blind cause they don't have heads anymore or eyes but they don't die right off.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 15:55:33](#)
(no subject)

Dennis would have for certain.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 17:08:03](#)
(no subject)

I'll be there next week. I don't think my Gran likes the YPL stuff much, but she says I have to go. Especially, well, now, with everything that's happened.

I'm sorry I'll be missing you and Ron, though.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-23 17:48:53](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, it's a shame you're not here with this group. I guess maybe 'cause you were going camping your gran didn't want you coming this week? Or did they just tell you you'd be in the second set?



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-23 17:53:28](#)

(no subject)

Hey, Perks.

Where've you lot gone off to? Did you go swimming in the Lido?

I'm over with Smith and Harry, playing gobstones with Moon.

And he does cheat, like Oi!

He tried to get us to all turn around by telling us he saw that Snape bloke, but no one fell for it, so then I think he did something with his wand to make Harry sneeze. And when we looked back his stone was rolling right up to the jack stone.

We're all watching him now.

2010-07-23 12:06:00

YPL



 [alt_harry](#)

The YPL trip has been good. Father wants me to tell him about it through the journals. So, Father, if You are reading, here is what all has happened:

- We got to meet Owain Pritchard and all. Ron Weasley talked about that in his journal.
- We got to go on a tour of the Tower with all the ghosts. Ron talked about that too.
- We saw a panto. Zacharias Smith talked about that.

I thought the panto was okay. It was pretty funny. I had Sally-Anne on one side and she hadn't ever seen something like it before. I don't think she knew what to think. But I think she'd like it more next time. They made us mix up from our usual friends, because we're supposed to be making friends across Houses. So I had Morag MacDougal on my other side. I hadn't ever talked to her before except to say 'excuse me' or something. But if You let me have some friends over this summer I would like to have her. She was very nice and told me things I didn't know about pantos. And she told me about some of the jokes. She said it was word play. Anyway, she's a Ravenclaw and she's ever so smart like Her.

I got to room with Draco even though we're supposed to be making new friends. So now we are out having a picnic, and I said I had to write to You. Only now I think I had better go. I told Moon that I'd play Gobstones with him even though he cheats.

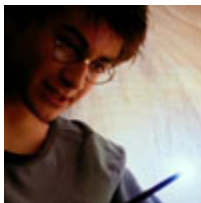


 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2010-07-23 16:32:46**

(no subject)

He does?

Bloody hell.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2010-07-23 16:34:53**

(no subject)

Well, I don't think he reads my journal all the time. But just for now. I mean because I don't have my owl with.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:37:14](#)**
(no subject)

Wot?

Oh. That's not surprising; everyone knows Our Lord reads your journal, Marvolo.


But no, I meant Moon. He really cheats?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:44:08](#)**
(no subject)

Well, he sure wins a lot. I think his Gobstones are weighted or something. But I dont mind so much.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:40:53](#)**
(no subject)

I've known Morag for ages; she's a sweet girl.


She's very sensitive, though, so be nice if she does come to visit!



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 16:45:11](#)**
(no subject)

Sensitive?




 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:29:17](#)**
(no subject)

She simply hates it when people are cross with her!

Not that you'd get cross with her, but you know, sometimes boys just don't realise that they have to be careful with girls' feelings.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 17:08:31](#)
(no subject)


She also doesn't know when to keep her mouth shut about personal matters.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-23 17:10:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, she seemed nice to me.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 17:12:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh, she's nice enough. And she's really smart, too.


She just doesn't keep a secret well, is all.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 17:46:26](#)
(no subject)

Oh, honestly. It was just a misunderstanding.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 17:50:58](#)
(no subject)

You're right! It was a *complete* misunderstanding on my part. I certainly should have known better.


Look, I know she's your friend and all. That's fine. She's just not mine, and I've got good reason for it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 17:13:13](#)
(no subject)


...Which is why she's in Ravenclaw, I guess, yeah?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-23 17:41:36](#)
(no subject)


Oh, some of us in Ravenclaw know how to keep secrets.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 17:44:14](#)
(no subject)


Some of you have no one to tell secrets to.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 17:43:10](#)
(no subject)

You're not still cross about all that, are you?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 17:46:19](#)
(no subject)

I'm not cross at *you*.

Because we worked things out.

I have yet to get a proper apology from her. And even if I do, I'm not going to trust her with anything important any more.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:52:27](#)**
(no subject)

It's not my fault she pulled a Jones.

Or a reverse-Jones, I guess.

Either way.

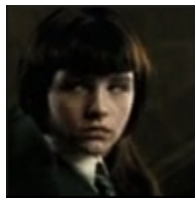



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:56:05](#)**
(no subject)

Well, exactly! But I don't think you ought to hold it against her. It's not anyone's fault, really. She didn't realise it *was* a secret.

I mean, aren't we learning this week that it's better to be honest about things like blood, because then there's no possibility someone might make a mistake and ask more of someone than they can give?

Sandoval says everyone in the Protectorate has a contribution to make, according to her own skills and disposition. I think you ought to consider starting over with Morag. Lav's right, she's really very nice.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:49:24](#)**
(no subject)

She made her choices. And she knows what to do if she's going to start showing her worth to me again.


I don't think highly of people that tell personal secrets when they shouldn't. I certainly wouldn't do something like that.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-23 17:41:09](#)**
(no subject)

The panto was sort of ~~depressing~~ odd, I thought, for a panto. It rather reminded me of Dennis.



 **alt_ron** at **2010-07-23 18:30:20**

Hey. You okay, then?

Are you already back at Horseguards? Only I don't see you anywhere here.

Did the Aurors get you somewhere safe, then?

Nothing bad happened did it?



 **alt_seamus** at **2010-07-23 19:00:36**

(no subject)

You think THAT'S why Moon always wins? Bloody hell

2010-07-23 12:51:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




 [alt_sally_anne](#)

RON, WE NEED A DISTRACTION. RIGHT NOW. SOMETHING THAT WILL GET EVERYONE TO LEAVE THE PARK, IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT. OR AT LEAST

There's a woman here in the loo. She needs help but

Don't get yourself into trouble.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 17:57:50](#)
(no subject)

Wot?

Oh!

Um.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 17:58:20](#)
(no subject)

Okay, hang on.


Had to get away from Moon and Smith.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:04:58](#)
(no subject)

What's everyone doing outside? Is everyone If someone needed to get out of here without being seen, could they?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:06:54](#)
(no subject)

Um.


Which loo are you in?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:08:14](#)
(no subject)

The one that was just west of the statue of the Lord Protector.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:10:51](#)
(no subject)

Er.

Oh, yeah. Okay.

Yeah everything's gone mad out here. People are running around shrieking.

You have to sneak someone out of the loo?

Girl trouble?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:11:23](#)
(no subject)

Girl trouble! Ha ha ha yeah, we're sneaking someone out. Or at least making sure

I have to go



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:18:37](#)
(no subject)

Wait. What?

Who're you sneaking where?

I can't see you.

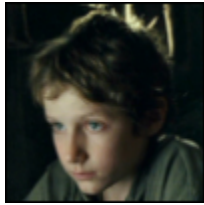
Did you get out?


Where are you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:11:02](#)
(no subject)


I hear shouting, is everyone running? I'll tell her it's either now, or she can wait until everyone's gone --



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-23 18:15:30](#)
(no subject)

Blimey, is everyone all right?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:18:59](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. That's what I want to know!

[2010-07-23 12:58:00](#)

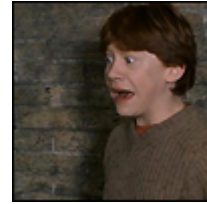
Oi! Lav!!!

LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!!!!

Um.

There.

In the bushes.



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 18:00:40](#)


(no subject)

What is it!

Is it a man? Looking like he's looking for something?

Quick! Where are you?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:02:07](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know.

It could be. He's in the bushes.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 18:02:57](#)

(no subject)

because this might be rather important



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:04:18](#)

(no subject)

Right.

What?


I can't see it now cause a bunch of people got in the way.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 18:06:03](#)
(no subject)

well if there is someone suspicious like get mr lestrange or one of Harry's security to check it out or something because I don't like the sound of that at all.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:14:00](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, um.

Everyone's running all over. Like that chicken in the panto last night.


I think you can come out and no one'll notice. If you've got girl issues or whatever. Just. Don't tell me, okay?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 18:26:16](#)
(no subject)

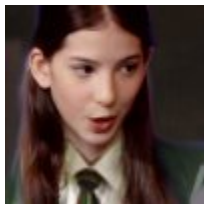
what?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-23 18:27:00](#)
(no subject)

I mean.

...okay?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:30:34](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

RON YOU BERK

She actually said she had girl issues but

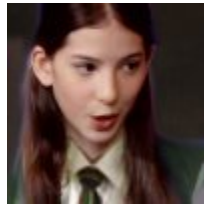
UGH



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:31:32](#)

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

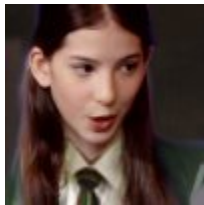
Wot?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:32:42](#)

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

SHE DIDN'T KNOW I'D ASKED FOR A DISTRACTION YOU EEJIT. YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW WE WANTED TO HELP SOMEONE SNEAK OUT OF THE LOO, HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:31:49](#)

(no subject)

HONESTLY Ron, like we'd even be worrying about that with some criminal running around the park!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 18:01:06](#)

(no subject)

Oh, ha-ha.

We've all been doing that joke all week, Weasley. No one's falling for it. It's not as if we're playing

Gobstones.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:02:33](#)

(no subject)


No, I'm serious, Patil.



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-23 18:08:37](#)
(no subject)


I SEE HIM! LAV AND I CAN SEE HIM



 **alt_lavender** at [2010-07-23 18:09:33](#)
(no subject)

LET'S RUN!




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-23 18:12:26](#)
(no subject)

Wait! Not that way!!!

Ooops.


Bet that hurt.



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-23 18:14:09](#)
(no subject)

You're not helping, Weasley.




 **alt_lavender** at [2010-07-23 18:15:18](#)
(no subject)

Ow! Ow!

Do you think he recognised us?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:16:47](#)
(no subject)

Who?

Could you tell who it is?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 18:19:27](#)
(no subject)

It wasn't Macnair. It must have been Snape! He was all in black.

And he had really mean-looking eyes.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:21:25](#)
(no subject)

you must've been pretty close

to see his eyes and all, I mean



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 18:25:32](#)
(no subject)

He was *watching* us!! All this time!

Ugh, I've got the shudders all over.

I don't think I'll be able to shut my eyes tonight at all. He was really scary-looking.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 18:22:50](#)
(no subject)

He gave me a *hideous glare* when I turned around!

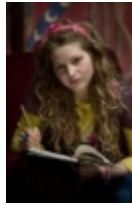
And he was really thin--skeleton thin, just like a person who's been in prison for ages and ages


would be.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 18:24:10](#)
(no subject)

And he was covered in hair, wasn't he, Lav?
We saw it! It was like the hair was ALL OVER
his face and everything.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 18:25:42](#)
(no subject)

It was Horrid!

What if MacNair is somewhere nearby, too?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-23 18:26:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, the Aurors are here now and Mr
Lestrangle so I don't think anything will
happen to us. Provided they get us back to the
Horseguards right away.

How awful! And to think we've been joking about it all week.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 18:30:24](#)
(no subject)

I know!

It gives me the creeping horrors just *thinking*
about it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:33:32](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

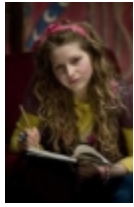
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!


They didn't see a thing! But they're going on
and on. And now it's like some hairy animal
man thinger. Next he's going to have great slimey fangs!

I mean, we're totally safe.



Just waiting for them to send us back.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:08:53](#)**
(no subject)

What are you talking about, Weasley?

I don't see anyth


OH!



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:12:41](#)**
(no subject)

Where'd you get to, Weasley? The counselors are here and they're telling us to all go into the greenhouse and they'll be portkeying us back to the Horseguards.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:15:33](#)**
(no subject)

Huh? Oh. I went to the loo only I saw something and then

yeah

all this happened

greenhouses?




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:18:30](#)**
(no subject)

Was that the girls' loo, then?

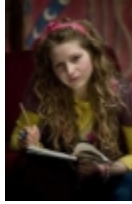
The hothouse, Weasley. Over in the open part. Between the picnic area and the gate, yeah?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:22:36](#)
(no subject)

Not the girl's loo, you berk.


Yeah, there's an Auror coming this way, telling people where they've got to go.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-23 18:26:13](#)
(no subject)

Oh, thank Merlin! I feel so much safer now!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:28:16](#)
(no subject)

Harry's with you, then. Right?

Nothing happened to him, did it?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-23 18:19:08](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Ron. Honestly.

We obviously need to go over Effective Methods of Distraction with you. Too bad we weren't there.

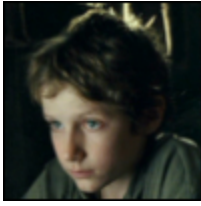
(Did it work?)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:21:03](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I think she got out of the loo but I don't know if she'll get out of the park.

I don't know what she's going to do. If I'm right, I mean.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-23 18:23:52](#)

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

But who was she?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:24:02](#)

(deleted comment)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:28:47](#)


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

I don't know her name. Pansy might have asked, when I was in the stall writing in my journal she was giving the woman her handkerchief and telling her it would all be alright.

She made it sound like she was just some witch, a few years out of Hogwarts, who'd gotten on the wrong side of someone really powerful.

I think she was an escaped muggleborn, only she'd been in service to someone who gets her wardrobe from Padma's mum and she raided the wardrobes before she took off. She had a scar that looked -- well. Who knows, maybe she was actually Macnair with polyjuice, I suppose I shouldn't rule ANYTHING out, but she was so frightened.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:23:21](#)

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

Of course it worked!

Lavender Brown is the biggest screamer in our year.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 18:28:12](#)

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

No kidding.

But, blimey, Ron. You say you spied one of those escaped prisoners, and you could get more of a distraction than you planned on.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:29:22](#)

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

It sounds like people really saw someone. Maybe Snape really WAS at the park.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 18:29:40](#)

(no subject)

Ron! Ron?! What on earth is going on?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 18:30:26](#)

Order Only

Arthur, are you reading this?!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-23 18:31:03](#)

Re: Order Only

Steady on, Molly. I trust the clock isn't pointed to anything alarming?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 18:31:39](#)

Re: Order Only

No...no, it's not.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:33:01](#)**
(no subject)

I have *no* idea, Mrs Weasley.

Only it looks like no-one is hurt at all, or anything.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:35:45](#)**
(no subject)

It's no problem, Mum. Just. People thought they saw something. That's all.

Not really worth all the fuss.

2010-07-23 13:11:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Hermione this message is for you. If you have ANY WAY of getting back in touch with the people who gave you the wands --

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

In the loo to the west of the statue of the Lord Protector Pansy and I ran into a woman, she was crying and clearly in all sorts of trouble, Pansy assumed she was just some witch having trouble with a man but I am 99% sure she is a muggleborn, it's just, she was SO SCARED and desperate enough to ask her to help her. And she's a grownup, it just doesn't make sense otherwise.

She told us that she was pregnant and on the run from the father because he's a powerful wizard who's angry at her and she was terrified of being found, that's why I asked for a distraction.

Only now MLE's coming, if there's ANY way they (I mean the people who gave you wands) can help her, well, they wouldn't be able to without knowing she was there and I can't think of any way to let them know unless you have a way. You don't have to tell me if you do or don't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 18:23:27](#)

(no subject)

And Pansy had the right idea, just tell everyone the loo's horrid!

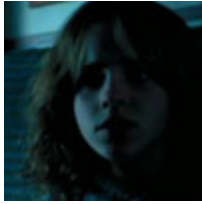
I wouldn't have even talked to her. The woman, I mean, I'd have just left her to herself, but Pansy asked her if she was alright and then the woman asked us to help her.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 19:11:55](#)

(no subject)

I will!!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 19:38:30](#)
(no subject)

I'm in ever so much trouble now. They want to know how I knew. What do I tell them??



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 19:45:17](#)
(no subject)

What is it they want to know?

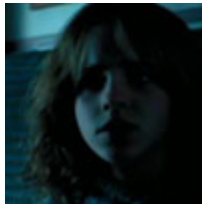
Don't tell them our names, Hermione, you don't have to tell them that do you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 19:45:58](#)
(no subject)

Not that I'm in much of a position to complain WHAT you tell them about me.

I've really made a perfect mess of things today, haven't I.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 21:16:06](#)
(no subject)

No, it's all right.

I just want to tell them that we've found a way round the journals, but not how it is. Because they wanted to know how I knew and how I could get messages from people. I won't tell anyone your names, of course I wouldn't!!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:40:04](#)
(no subject)


Hermione I don't think anyone else is reading this far back.

I think you'd best ask again, and also people want to know what you think about telling Pansy.

I'm alright with you telling your other friends whatever you want but names, but I don't feel I'm the one who has the right to decide here anyway.

I wish I'd never gone to the bloody loo.



 **alt_terry** at **2010-07-23 22:09:23**
(no subject)

If they're the people who got us our wands, we already know we can trust them. I reckon they have more secrets to keep than we do.


I suppose...none of THEM are kids, are they? Because you could tell them you have a way, but it only works for kids, maybe. So maybe then they won't pressure you to reveal how the lock works.

If they believe you, that is. You know them better than we do.

Perks is right, better if you don't give them anyone's names.

I'm sorry, Hermione. I guess I was so glad to get my wand, I didn't even think about how hard it must be for you, if you're keeping secrets for them, too. Blimey, it must have driven you mad trying to keep everything straight!



 **alt_ron** at **2010-07-24 00:01:41**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Um.

I don't think Hermione should tell them it's a journal spell. Because then they'll start thinking who could have designed it... and she seems to know... and I think that narrows down to the twins and just a really small number of other students pretty fast, don't you?

And then if they get arrested, then they know our secrets. And who some of us are.

And if they're doing stuff like smuggling wands and giving them to Muggleborn people, then...

then don't you think they're doing stuff that risks getting arrested all the time, and even if they're careful...

No.

I don't like the idea of Hermione telling them about us. I mean you haven't told us about them, really. Just that some people got you wands.

I mean. Who are they to want to know about us?

No.

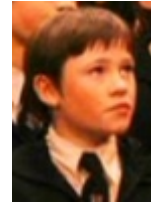
I don't like it at all.

And look, I can't write any more 'cause we're at the closing feast now and I've just gone to the loo cause Sally Anne said I should look at what you've all been saying here, so can we just wait and talk more about it tomorrow, please?

Don't tell them anything yet, Hermione. I mean it.

2010-07-23 13:31:00

Well THAT was a more exciting picnic than I'd expected



Did everyone make it back safe and sound?

Lav and Padma, did you REALLY see Snape?

 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2010-07-23 18:37:26**

(no subject)

Or was it all just Weasley having a laugh (and Lav being Lav)?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2010-07-23 18:47:06**

(no subject)

Of course we really saw someone! He was all in black, and he had huge brown eyes. He was crouching down but you could tell he was enormous.

It certainly wasn't Macnair. It has to have been Snape. Sandoval was right and he couldn't resist making a grab for Marvolo!

But the Aurors will find him. And anyway, Harry's safe.




 [alt_lana](#) at **2010-07-23 18:49:30**

(no subject)

You're all safe, then?

And all back at the Horseguards?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2010-07-23 19:01:15**

(no subject)

Yes, we're all back at the Horseguards now.

I hope this doesn't mean people who were going to go to your party now have to go looking for the

fugitives.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 20:02:36](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And I STILL say you eat your bogies.

The trouble with this lock is that speaking your mind out loud is better than anything in the world. It's better than chocolate.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 20:01:01](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You are a vicious, nasty, small-minded brown-noser who only got to be head girl because of your family connections.

That has nothing to do with anything but if the Twins DO oblivate me, I wanted a chance to say it one more time before I forget I can.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 18:47:08](#)

(no subject)

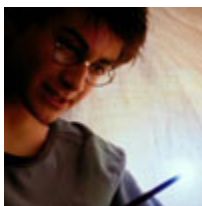
Oi!

No. I think they really did see something. Really.

Did you get to go swimming?

I don't see why we couldn't have stayed. I mean. They could have got us all together and sorted out whether there's anyone really in the park, and then let us go swimming or flying or whatever.

I mean, what're we going to do around the Horseguards all afternoon?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-23 19:14:16](#)

(no subject)

I'm fine. I didn't get to see anything. As soon as there was trouble someone came and hustled me off before anyone. I hate that.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-23 19:18:18](#)
(no subject)

But it's better than something bad happening to you, isn't it?

From,


Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-23 19:30:57](#)
(no subject)

I dont know. Usually I dont mind it when something dangerous happens to me.

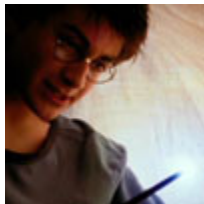



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-23 19:36:56](#)
(no subject)

Well other people might mind if something dangerous happens to you!

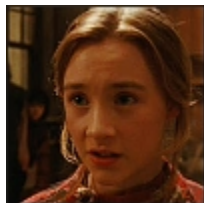
From,


Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-23 19:37:40](#)
(no subject)

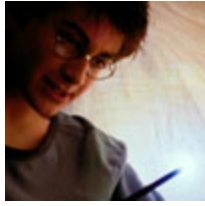
Dont tell me you would Hydra!!




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2010-07-23 19:40:08](#)
(no subject)

Your Father and Draco would definitely mind.


From,
Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:40:34](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I suppose.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:53:43](#)**
(no subject)

So would I.

From,
Hydra

[2010-07-23 13:58:00](#)

(no subject)


This loo is SO gross. I mean honestly. If I didn't really need to change...



 [alt_pansy](#)

...eww. *Honestly.*



 [alt_padma](#) at **[2010-07-23 18:00:15](#)**

(no subject)

Why are you changing in the loo? Were you swimming?

There are lovely changing tents over by the picnic area, why didn't you come there?




 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2010-07-23 18:01:34](#)**

(no subject)

Well I didn't just have to *change*. *You* know.



 [alt_padma](#) at **[2010-07-23 18:03:23](#)**

(no subject)

Oh.

Did you need ... you know...um, stuff? Because I've got some in my bag.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2010-07-23 18:04:11](#)**


(no subject)

No!

No.

we're fine.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:06:28](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, is Perks with you? All right then.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:03:21](#)**
(no subject)

It really is nasty in here. I think it might've last been cleaned sometime before we all started at Hogwarts.

2010-07-23 13:58:00

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

I heard a rumou



 **alt_sally_anne**

2010-07-23 14:12:00

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



I've ruined everything.

Pansy knows about the lock. Or -- not the lock, but she knows that I have a way to talk to Ron that she doesn't know about, and she's pretty sure it has something to do with the journals, and she's pretty sure that Neville is in on it too and she's furious and hurt because we've been keeping it a secret from her. And it's a HUGE secret.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

She doesn't know who else is involved, and she doesn't know how it works. But she caught me writing today something that didn't appear in her journal, and she burst in on me like that because she was TRYING to catch me, because she suspected, and she suspected because of today, because of the distraction that I asked for and Ron made.

And it didn't even matter, or if it DID matter it made things worse, I was starting to say that I heard a rumour the MLE didn't find Snape or Macnair but they did find a muggleborn servant who'd run off. If we hadn't tried to help her maybe she'd have made it out alright, but --

But I thought a distraction would help, and that meant Pansy guessed, and it turns out she's suspected for MONTHS, I feel so stupid that I thought I was getting away with it.

She wanted me to tell her what was going on and I told her that I couldn't. Or at least I said that I couldn't tell her now, but I would tell her later. So that I could talk to you, and tell you what happened.

Either you have to let me tell Pansy, or Fred and George have to obliviate her. Because right now she knows I'm keeping a secret but she doesn't REALLY know how much trouble I'd be in if she told, even though I tried to give her some idea of that much. And if you obliviate Pansy I think you should obliviate me, too, because I'm the one who got her into this by not being more careful. Got all of us into this.


I hate that I'm putting all of you in this position.

Pansy would never tell. She wouldn't.

At least, she would never tell if she knew what was at stake. If we leave her hanging, if she doesn't KNOW what's going on ~~or how many people or how much trouble~~ -- I don't know what she'll do if she knows half of it but not all of it. What I know is that she would never betray ME, not to Lucius, not to anybody. She knows that I've exchanged messages with my mum, and she kept that secret, and she knows the truth about what I think about things and she's kept that secret too.

Please let me tell her. Please.




 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:53:33](#)**
(no subject)

Suffering Merlin. Are you mental? Do you realise what they'll do to us all? You could be on your way to a camp tonight! Never mind Terry and Hermione, they could be killed!


Bugger all.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:54:25](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, no.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:55:02](#)**
(no subject)

Gred and Forge could you, I dunno...obliviate her?



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:57:03](#)**
(no subject)


I don't see how, even if they knew how. She's in London, in the middle of a bunch of other students. And with Aurors swarming all around, I'll bet. What are Fred and George supposed to do, just pop in and say, 'right, would you hold still for a moment here, there's a spell we want to try out?'



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-23 20:58:59](#)
(no subject)

That would be tough to pull off, we admit.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 20:59:18](#)
(no subject)

Can you do the spell?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-23 21:01:18](#)
(no subject)

We've practised it a time or two, on Percy. It works if you're right there and perform it right away. Not if you're trying to erase a memory that goes back months. And if she's been suspicious for months, that wouldn't do any good. Might make things worse, in fact.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 20:56:36](#)
(no subject)

That's why I say she would NEVER tell on us.

She can't tell on Hermione and Terry without telling on me and Ron.

And she would NEVER do that.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 20:58:31](#)
(no subject)

Not that I think she'd tell on Hermione or Terry either.


But I KNOW she wouldn't tell on me.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-23 21:03:22](#)
(no subject)

No. She wouldn't tell on you.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 21:04:42](#)
(no subject)


How do you know that? How can you be sure?
Bloody hell, Terry, we can't be wrong on this.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-23 21:05:30](#)
(no subject)

No kidding.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-23 21:13:01](#)
(no subject)

It's--

I--

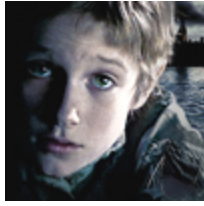
I don't know. I just know it. My magic tells me that. At least about Sally-Anne. She won't do anything that would hurt her. And I think Ron's all right from her, too.


But about Hermione and me, I--

Oh, bloody hell.

Is there anything she can give you? A secret to tell us, to keep her safe on the lock, too?

I can't believe I'm even thinking this.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:15:03](#)**
(no subject)

And she said, she told me once--


It was after she arranged with Sally-Anne to get word to Hermione, about what Master was planning, to get Hermione in trouble. She grabbed my arm after class, when no one else was around and she said to me, real low, *I'd do it again, you know.*



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:15:27](#)**
(no subject)


Do what again?



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:16:03](#)**
(no subject)

I took her to mean, she's stick out her neck again. To keep someone like Hermione safe.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:16:49](#)**
(no subject)

Well, that's something, at least.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:19:53](#)**
(no subject)


All right, let's break this down. Don't think we can obliviate her.

Bugger all. That means you would have to tell her.

You don't think she'll be satisfied if you just say, *yeah, I've got a way to send private messages.* Without explaining how?

We need to hear from Hermione on this.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 21:24:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh, no. Did you see Lucius Malfoy's entry?


She's gone crying to Lucius Malfoy.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-23 21:25:02](#)
(no subject)

She won't tell him the whole story, though.

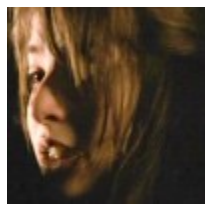


 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 21:26:19](#)
(no subject)

Well, you'd better be right about that.

Hermione...can you slip away, if you have to?
Blimey, I don't know how you could escape from Buckingham, if you had to do a bunk in a hurry. But maybe the people the people who helped with the wands could help.

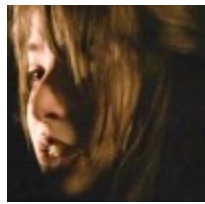
And what about Terry?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:30:10](#)
(no subject)

She can't.

She wouldn't.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:32:30](#)
(no subject)

Pansy doesn't know anything about Terry or Hermione right now. The ONLY person she can tell Lucius about is me. And maybe Ron but she doesn't know for sure about him, just me.

If MLE comes for me --

Maybe I should make an unbreakable vow. Not to tell anything about the lock. Or not to tell them some OTHER thing so that I can tell them that and then I'll die, right there, and I can't tell them anything else.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:38:32](#)**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne! You can't!




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:42:08](#)**
(no subject)

Well, she could. But we think, we hope she doesn't need to.

Look, even if we tell and she goes and tells Lucius Malfoy, Malfoy can't read it. Nobody in the MLE can read it. They're all too old. Even if she reads it all aloud to somebody, there's no proof, and there would be all of us saying she's gone mental.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:45:44](#)**
(no subject)


No. Of course, she doesn't need to make an unbreakable vow and then break it. Don't be daft.

And Pansy can't even read it, either, so nobody's going to read the MLE what we've written. And anywiz, she wouldn't ever. Pansy wouldn't.

She just totally wouldn't do that to us.

And she's not mental. Nor Sally Anne, neither. So you can just stop with that bit.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:57:11](#)**
(no subject)

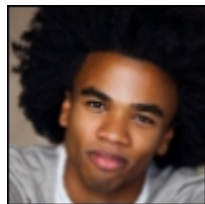
So Perks could tell Parkinson she's made the Unbreakable Vow, only not do it. But tell her she has.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:58:11](#)**
(no subject)

Right, brilliant. Which means if we let Parkinson in on the lock, she'll read all this anyway and know we're trying to pull one on her.

(Hi, Parkinson. If you're reading this someday.)



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:58:43](#)**
(no subject)

You are SO not helping.

So what do YOU think we should do?

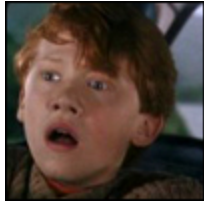



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-23 22:02:18](#)**
(no subject)

Neville's right, we need to hear from Hermione. It's her and the Professor's necks on the line more than anybody else's. Other than that, well, guess Perks knows her best, and the Professor thinks it'll be all right. Hope you're right about that, Professor.

We do think the protections on the lock would help to keep her from passing on whatever she might learn here.

Don't like it a bit, though. It would help a lot if she could give us a secret of her own.

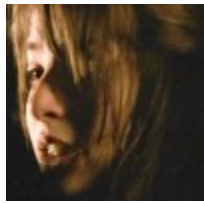


 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 21:43:02](#)
(no subject)

Woah! Hang on!

What's all this now? Crikey, I go off and play chess for a bit and now you're getting arrested and making unbreakable vows?

And Pansy's found out and gone off to Malfoy? That's not good.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:45:32](#)
(no subject)

I think she just told him we had a row.

I hope that's all she told him.

No MLE yet. And I don't think he'd waste any time, if she told him.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 21:46:32](#)
(no subject)

Where are you?


Right now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:54:23](#)
(no subject)

I'm in the parlour with the piano. The one everyone thought smelled a little funny.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-23 21:58:45](#)
(no subject)

Okay. Stay there. I'm going to come talk to you.

Actually, maybe we should go walk out in


the gardens or out past them by the river. D'you think they'll let us out there yet? I know we're supposedly having supper out there and music and all.

Or do you think Pansy will look for you where you are? We could stay there.

Anywiz. Stay there for now.

Till I get there.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 21:52:00](#)
(no subject)

We still need to hear from Hermione on this.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:56:06](#)
(no subject)

Well, she's fretting over on the entry where I asked her to tell her friends about the runaway muggleborn.

Because HER friends want to know about us, too, now.

Although at least there I don't think we have to worry AT ALL about them going to MLE.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-23 21:27:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh, there's no way.

She's gotten in SO MUCH TROUBLE, you know, over things she's said in the journals.

And we can never talk freely during holidays or even in Slytherin House, when the weather's terrible and we can slip out. She would give anything to be able to have private conversations, like we do. She's not going to just leave it, if I tell her we can do it and don't tell her how.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-23 21:31:07](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, well, what do you suppose she's chatting with Lucius Malfoy about?

I guess it's a good thing that you haven't been arrested yet.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 03:18:43](#)
(no subject)

I've been trying to think it through.

I think we have to let her in on it. I don't like it. But I think we might have to.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 00:26:07](#)
(no subject)

Well the dinner's still going but I said I felt a little ill and they let me come back to my room. Pansy's still down at the feast and I think she's going to the music party after.

Pansy's barely talking to me but I'm pretty certain all she told Mr Malfoy is that we had an argument. MLE hasn't arrested me and I think Mr Malfoy went off to Sandoval's party with Mrs Malfoy.

Ron, I think even if Hermione tells them it's the journals and it's something that only kids (who know the spell) can see, they might suspect it's the twins but they won't KNOW. They're clever but they're not the only clever students at Hogwarts.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 03:23:52](#)
(no subject)


I -

Sally-Anne, you can tell Pansy but I have to be able to tell them a little more, all right, I can tell my friends that it's the age lock and that they can't see it, I can't say anything more about them, but I can tell them that and they won't

ever get under there, they might suspect but they won't know. All right?? Only please please don't ask me more about them. PLEASE. I think I'm saying too much already, and I can't - I mean, I'm not allowed to say.

You can tell Pansy. I mean I think you have to. And if worse came to worst maybe I could find a way to fix it, but that shouldn't ever happen, because - it would just be horrid.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-24 03:55:21](#)

(no subject)

You could find a way to fix it?

Blimey, I hadn't thought of it, but...I bet the people you're talking about know all about how to do memory charms. Don't they? I mean, if worst comes to worst, with Parkinson. They'd have to, I'll bet.

Hope it doesn't come to that, but it would be good to keep that as a possibility. In our back pocket, like.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-24 03:58:47](#)

(no subject)

Not that we'd want to ask you to ask them for help, believe me! Because I imagine if we had to ask them to step in to do it, it would make a bit of a mess for both of our groups. And the less we know about each other, the better, I reckon.

But, maybe it means things are a little less drastic if Terry and Sally-Anne turn out to be wrong about trusting Parkinson.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 03:58:48](#)

(no subject)

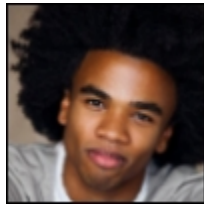
Neville, are you alright with me telling Pansy since Hermione is alright with it?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-24 04:04:23](#)
(no subject)

Blimey. It makes me sweaty just thinking about it. But I replied below, and--yeah. If you take it in stages, like I suggested.

Tell us how it goes. Oh, hell, what am I saying? None of us will even be able to sleep, I'll bet, until we hear back from you on how the conversation goes.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-24 04:10:19](#)
(no subject)

I won't I'm sure. Get back to us as soon as you can to let us know what she says.

Yeah I guess that means I'm for telling her too. I mean I don't like it. At all. But I don't see any way around it.

And I'll be watching her like a Seeker and I'll hex her into the ground if she buggers things up for us. Especially for Terry or Hermione.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 03:58:14](#)
(no subject)


I think it's alright, what you want to tell them, and I definitely won't ask you any more about them. The less we know the better, really.

So. I went back and looked. Hermione says I can tell Pansy. Terry says I can tell Pansy. Fred and George think it's really the only option. Ron thinks it's fine. And Neville said -- well, I think he was saying it was up to Hermione.

I think that means I can tell her?

I hope that means I can tell her.



 **alt_neville** at **2010-07-24 04:14:33**
(no subject)

Better make absolutely sure you're both ALONE when you sit down to talk this through.

And once you tell her that there IS a lock, you'd better make it clear to her that there are several people's lives hanging in the balance if you tell her any more. And see what she says to that before you tell her the rest.

Also, I've been thinking...Ron, you and me better put our heads together about how to keep our roommates from figuring out about the lock. Maybe it wouldn't be dangerous to let Dean know about it. But if Seamus figures it out, the way Parkinson did, that could really be a disaster.

2010-07-23 14:34:00

Order Only

Er.

I think the criminal they saw was, well, me.

Well. Padfoot.

I got out as quickly as I could when I saw that they were all mustering.

But I hadn't seen any sign of Snape or Macnair, and I'd been watching from the trees and such all afternoon.

Sorry to give you (and them) a fright.



 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_molly](#) at **2010-07-23 18:37:59**

(no subject)

Oh, Merlin.

They've got themselves all sorted out, though?

Do take care, Sirius.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-07-23 18:41:52**


(no subject)

I think so, yeah.

Certainly they're not going to find a hairy monster man hanging about Hyde Park.

Guess it was a bit stupid to go looking in, anyway. Should've stayed away.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:44:46](#)**
(no subject)

Sirius Black!

You're lucky you weren't caught!

Well. I'm glad you weren't.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:05:00](#)**
(no subject)

Well, they were looking for that greasy-haired slimeball, anyway, not me. Certainly not a dog.

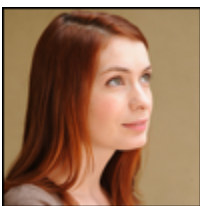
But yeah, I didn't half expect the alarm to go up so quickly. I'd forgot how excitable teenage girls can be.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:55:27](#)**
(no subject)

Can't they just! There's nothing about teenage girls you could say that would surprise me. Certainly not that they shriek first and think later.


The boys, however, are worse. And don't you try to persuade me otherwise.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-23 18:55:53](#)**
(no subject)


Well, now that you know they've been jumping at Boggarts the past week, maybe you should keep your distance.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:02:57](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, General.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:13:02](#)**
(no subject)

While you're following orders, I think you really ought to meet up with Remus. Even if it's just for a quick visit. He misses you terribly, love.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-24 17:09:53](#)**
(no subject)

You'd be very welcome at the shop, Sirius, any time you wanted for as long as you like. He won't say anything, but I know he'd appreciate a visit, especially now. Full moon tomorrow and all that.

Up to you, of course. We know you've got a lot of other stuff going on, so it's okay if you can't. But .. pop by some time, yeah? If you can. Please.

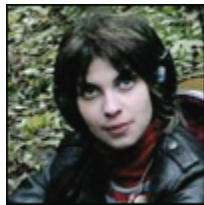


 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-24 17:12:46](#)**
(no subject)

Full moon.

Yeah.

Could do, yeah.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-24 17:24:08](#)**
(no subject)

Well, you know where we are. The door's always open.

I mean, it's not actually. Obviously it's closed sometimes, when the shop's shut.

Oh hell. You know what I mean.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:14:43](#)**
(no subject)

Love, did you see Hermione?

Are you still around?

Do you have Polyjuice?



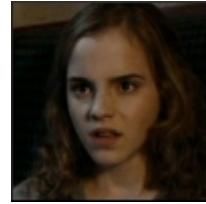
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:17:09](#)**
(no subject)

Only for the love of Merlin don't give her any. The girl, I mean. It wouldn't be good at all for the baby.

2010-07-23 15:12:00

Order Only: HELP

ONE OF MY FRIENDS JUST TOLD ME
SOMETHING IMPORTANT




 **alt_hermione**

In New London in a loo on the west of a
statue there's a woman who's in trouble and
they think she's a muggleborn who's run
away, and she's pregnant

she needs help. But I think it might be too late. Please help

the statue is of the Lord Protector.



 **alt_alice** at **2010-07-23 19:15:16**
(no subject)

Oh dear.

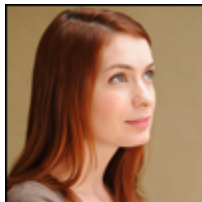
I've just told Sirius.




 **alt_hermione** at **2010-07-23 19:16:21**
(no subject)

Thank you thank you


Everything was such a rush, I didn't see it for
awhile, I'm afraid we're too late, I think we've got to
be, but it's going to - I mean, what could I do?!



 **alt_alice** at **2010-07-23 19:18:32**
(no subject)


Not much, sweetheart. Not without putting yourself
at risk.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-23 20:41:06](#)
(no subject)

you did the right thing, kid.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:17:16](#)
(no subject)

Was this happening while I was in the park?

It's crawling with Aurors, Hermione.

I'll see what I can do.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:18:55](#)
(no subject)

Hang on, how did you know she was there in the girls'
--

It's your friends, isn't it?

Well, I'm on my way.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-23 19:21:54](#)
(no subject)

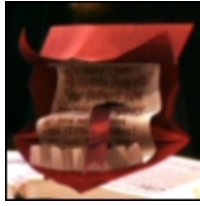
No, Sirius, keep your head down, for Merlin's sake.
Kingsley or one of the other players can go.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:24:32](#)
(no subject)

It's all right, Bill, I was just there. I can
reconnoitre as Padfoot and if there's an
opportunity I've got potion.

I think I understand *why* I was suddenly 'spotted,' though. Isn't
that right, Hermione? Was I the diversion to get everyone away?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 19:30:16](#)
(no subject)


Are you MAD, Sirius?! Even with Polyjuice, you CAN'T. What if you're taken in for questioning and they make you SIT there until your potion runs out!?!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 19:32:34](#)
(no subject)

I don't know Sirius!!




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:34:50](#)
(no subject)

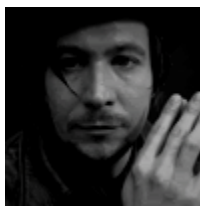
It's all right if that's what it was, Hermione.


We can talk about it later.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-23 19:25:03](#)
(no subject)

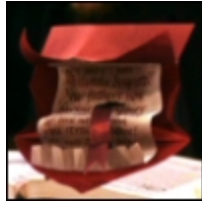
Benjy and Caradoc are on their way. Stay put, Sirius. Or at the very least, stay in Padfoot's form.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:29:40](#)
(no subject)

I will - that may be helpful anyway. Have Caradoc tell them his dog got off his lead.


If it looks like it will work, one of the three of us can pose as the girl's husband long enough to get her away from the scene and find out where she needs to go.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 19:32:05](#)
(no subject)

Better Caradoc than you! Better ANYBODY than you!!!




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:33:19](#)
(no subject)

Merlin's moustache, Molly.

All right, all right.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-23 19:33:29](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure that's obvious to Sirius, Molly.

Do be careful, all of you.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-23 19:18:18](#)
(no subject)

Wait a minute.

How did you hear of this? Do you mean someone at Buckingham told you?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-23 19:19:16](#)
(no subject)


I'd like to know that, too.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 19:31:55](#)
(no subject)

I got a message from someone. One of my friends.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:35:02](#)**
(no subject)


How? You couldn't have used the journals or an owl. Do you dare trust one of the house elves? At Buckingham?!



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:36:56](#)**
(no subject)


It wasn't a house-elf or an owl or anything. I promised I wouldn't tell. I promise I'd tell you if I could!



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:38:53](#)**
(no subject)

Bloody hell. If you've got another secure way of passing messages, I really want to know about it.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:40:53](#)**
(no subject)

Steady on, Bill.

It's the same group who helped her and Terry hide their wands.


Isn't that it, Hermione?



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-07-23 19:41:13](#)**
(no subject)


Yes.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-23 19:43:33](#)
(no subject)


Well, if she's promised to keep our secrets, how can we complain if she's also keeping her promises to her friends?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-23 19:47:32](#)
(no subject)

We can if the secrets she's keeping for anyone one else get us into trouble.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 19:45:07](#)
(no subject)

Hermione,

I met up with Caradoc and Benjy.


Or rather they met up with me and gave me the code word.

But we couldn't get anywhere near the park. Aurors and MLE officers everywhere.

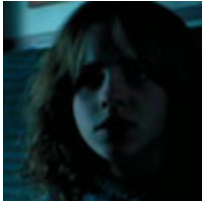
Benjy's going to hang about for a while but it's not looking likely we can help.

I'm so sorry.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-23 20:40:24](#)
(no subject)


damn.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:16:33](#)**
(no subject)

I knew it wouldn't work. I'm sorry too that I made you do all that for nothing.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:19:36](#)**
(no subject)

No, it was the right instinct. Just the wrong timing, kiddo.

That poor girl, though. Sounds like she's in for a rough time and no mistake.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-07-23 20:52:20](#)**
(no subject)

Are you all right, Hermione?



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:15:20](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'm all right.

2010-07-23 16:56:00

An Eventful Afternoon

We were in the midst of Court when the hue-and-cry arrived regarding the sighting at Hyde Park.



 [alt_lucius](#)

By the time I and other members of Council arrived, the Aurors had the scene well in hand; the students (principally Harry Marvolo) had been evacuated back to the Horseguards and the only suspicious person in the whole of the Park was a young mudblood masquerading as a witch.

There were a deal of onlookers, of course - it seems the students' posts brought citizens out of their homes in hope of glimpsing the fugitive's capture. I'm sure the MLE will have something to say about the wisdom of mulling about a crime scene when there are people to apprehend. It does add to the work of vetting the harmless from the dangerous and interferes with their investigations, particularly when time is precious.

At any rate, the Aurors on the scene quickly determined that the girl belonged to a nearby couple. When summoned, both husband and wife arrived instantly and proceeded to discuss suitable punishment with the MLE. Her attempted escape, the theft of robes and her admitted intention to join with Black's underground were enough, but there were further revelations - facts which, I am certain, precipitated her decision to run. For it turned out that the mudblood had undertaken over the past several months to seduce and tempt her master - successfully, more's the pity. Clearly she wished to abscond with the unborn child. The wife, it can be imagined, was not half incensed at this affront. She begged Auror Travers' permission to deal with her servant on her own. As for the husband, he shall face house arrest and a fine, at the very least. Further reprisals, I should think, will depend on his wife's decision whether or not to press charges or to acknowledge the child once it has come to term.


However, the situation was at least under control, so I left the unfortunate wife under Travers' supervision, informed the Lord Protector of His son's safety and returned to the St James' house. Had a few final matters to wrap up before the Sandoval party.

The surprises were not to be over for the afternoon, however: Interrupted presently by Weasley, about to inform me of a visitor. She

was unwilling to wait in the drawing-room, it seemed, for she came in hard on Weasley's heels, and somewhat inconsolable at first.

As it has taken me over a quarter-hour to stop the flood and convince Miss Parkinson to tell me the matter, Narcissa, I fear I may be later than anticipated coming home to change for the Sandovals'. Confident we shall not miss the guest of honour's presentation to society; only perhaps some of the entertainments designed to heighten our anticipation of that moment.




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:02:23](#)**
(no subject)

Not too late, I hope?

Whatever is the matter with her, husband? She wasn't accosted by the mudblood, was she?



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:05:02](#)**
(no subject)

No, I am sure this will be a delay of perhaps an hour, no more.

From what I have gathered, it's some type of row with her friend Perks. I'm sure you recall how young ladies experience these periodic fallings-out. A cup of tea and some perspective will set her to rights, I am sure.

Professor Sinistra, if you are reading, your truant is perfectly safe.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:17:40](#)**
(no subject)


My God, what a circus.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-07-23 21:18:00](#)
ORDER ONLY

I am so sorry, Miss Granger.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 21:23:24](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Yeah. The poor girl. I'd like to hex Malfoy for good measure, but especially that husband for putting her in this situation in the first place. Seduced him! Not bloody likely.


I wish I'd known before I fled the area in the first place, though. I feel sure I could have done something useful.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 21:18:35](#)
I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

I'm sorry, everybody. I tried and they tried. Only it was just too late.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-23 21:27:45](#)
Order Only

Hermione,

This Miss Parkinson. Was she involved in this woman's attempted escape? Does she know about your friends or your wand?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-23 21:29:39](#)
Re: Order Only

No.

I mean I think she knew about the woman. But she doesn't know about my friends or about my wand.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:32:22](#)**

Re: Order Only

Well, if she doesn't, but she knows about the muggleborn girl, then we've got to consider that she may be telling him about anyone who seemed sympathetic to her situation.

Are you at Buckingham? Or the Horseguards? Benjy, Caradoc and I can be either place in a tick.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:34:41](#)**

Re: Order Only

Yes, yes, we'll do whatever we have to do to keep you safe, Hermione, but honestly, Sirius! Leave it to Caradoc and Benjy, please!




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:41:15](#)**

Re: Order Only

Oh, do leave off, Molly. I can help as Padfoot.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-23 21:36:42](#)**

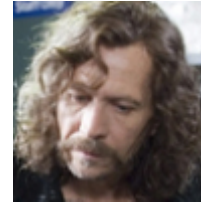
Re: Order Only

The sooner we get that Portkey charm on her bracelet the better. Even if it is a rather small chance, that's two alarms we've had this summer alone. Merlin, this is all turning my hair grey.

2010-07-23 19:31:00

Order Only: Hermione

Okay, Benjy and Caradoc and I have had a chat. Benjy's gone to the Horseguards to keep an eye out in case Malfoy marches over there to start arresting teenagers.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Meanwhile, Hermione, I think we need to talk about what your friends know and don't know, and what you ought to be able to tell them and what you *can't* tell them, and what *we* need to know about them.

So, first off: I don't care who they are as individuals. If they want us to know, that's fine, but it doesn't matter one bit to me and it's probably better if we don't know their names.

Second, if they've already helped you and Terry hide your wands and if their first move was to ask you to pass a message to us, then I think it's fair to say they know we're at least loosely organised and that we're sympathetic to the Muggleborn. I'm guessing they feel the same way or they wouldn't have bothered befriending you or Terry in the first place. The fact that they're already keeping those secrets means I think they're fairly trustworthy.

The sticky part, though, is that you're all just kids. None of you should have information that would put you in the direct path of danger if you should get caught. I know we can't avoid that in your case and I regret that, kiddo, but for your friends, they can't be told who we are or what our plans are for any specific mission we discuss. But you already know that.

I guess what I'm saying is that I think you're in with a rather clever lot, particularly if they've figured out a way to communicate that circumvents the journals. I know Caradoc and Benjy really want some details about that - how they've got round the charm, whether it's a lock like Bill's Order Only lock, or whether you're communicating outside the journals altogether - but I think it's really none of our business. And just like your friends are safer not knowing about us and how we talk, I think we're safer not knowing about them and how they've done it. I'll admit I'm curious, but I can live with the disappointment.


I do agree with Benjy and Caradoc, on the other hand, when they

point out that we should have some assurances about *how* you lot have each other's pledge to keep the secrets you share. It's not just nosing in: Depending on what you're using, we might be able to suggest some better methods, more foolproof protections that you haven't thought to cast.

Here's what I propose: You tell us how it is you're sure about their loyalty to you, and in return we'll let you tell them that you're part of a larger group, which they've guessed already, but that you are bound by oaths so you can't tell them who any of us are. You can talk with them about us in a very general sense, but not about anything we've got planned - and that's also to make sure they don't get tempted to share the action themselves - and you can't tell us who they are or them who we are, as individuals.

Will that work for you? For the rest of us?




 **alt_arthur** at [2010-07-24 00:03:42](#)
(no subject)

The only thing that I'd add as a caution is that first of all, we need to re-do the Unbreakable Vow on Hermione before she says ANYTHING whatsoever to her group. You're saying that we're giving her our permission to let her group know a little bit about us, but the Vow she has on her now does NOT know that, and consequently may not permit that. It will enforce the original agreement that Hermione made. I'm sure none of us would want her to drop dead because the original Vow binds her, even if we've gone and given her permission to say more than that.


The Vow may have to be magically released and then re-sworn with the new parameters as we've outlined them.



 **alt_sirius** at [2010-07-24 00:04:43](#)
(no subject)

Obviously, I wasn't there when you bound her with the Vow. Getting her alone to recast it may be impossible. But there may be a way around it if she can confirm things they guess (or have already guessed) without being the one to reveal it herself.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-24 00:25:02](#)
(no subject)

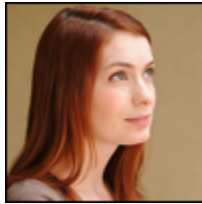
Hermione swore her Vow to Minerva, and I was the bonder. Either of us could release it, then. Of course Minerva would be much more likely to be able to seize a private moment with her to do so, at


Buckingham.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-07-24 03:19:20](#)
(no subject)

I am certain that I will have the opportunity to do so.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-24 04:04:40](#)
(no subject)

Could we send along Hermione's portkey charm to you in London, then, Minerva? You can give it to her then.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-07-24 13:12:21](#)
(no subject)

Yes, you certainly could.

I've looked into it further. Portkeys work in certain parts of Buckingham. So the Portkey charm will indeed be successful - as long as Hermione knows which part of Buckingham to reach before she activates it. I shall make sure she knows.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-24 15:12:09](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Minerva. We've sent it by owl, our fastest.

It's a small sphere, and to activate it, you turn the bottom half so that the bottom picture lines up with the top one. Frank's been working on it ever since we had our scare


earlier this summer, and he's made sure it doesn't spin round by itself or by mistake, and that it works every time once you've spun it. We've included a note for her that explains everything.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:10:56](#)**
(no subject)

I'm rather eaten up with curiosity about your communication methods, myself, and I'm not sure I can live with the disappointment of not knowing. Must admit I'm rather proud of having come up with the Order lock, but if there's another way for slipping something unseen into the journals, maybe I need to know it, because I'm responsible for the security for our own lock, d'ye see? Is there another work around that hasn't even occurred to me? Is it something that the MLE could figure out, too?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:12:10](#)**
(no subject)

Bill, no offence meant, mate, but if we can figure out a way to lock out a segment of the population, then someone else probably can as well.

Still it's a fair point.

But we could solve that question just by asking Hermione whether she can tell us whether it involves the journals at all. Does it, Hermione?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:25:33](#)**
(no subject)

if we narrow down how the messages work, that's a short jump to who might've done it, and although I can see the point in learning about any risks about our own methods, I think it'd be okay for her to not answer that.


seems like they really don't want us to know who they are and I'd rather err on the side of caution and respect that. it's a good sign they've got some decent thinkers among them any road.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 03:20:01](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it does. But I'm not saying more yet.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-24 04:02:56](#)
(no subject)

Merlin.

You're supposed to say 'No, it's nothing to do with the journals' and then poor Bill could've stopped salivating and we'd be done.

Really, we're going to have to work on those obfuscation skills.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-24 04:20:11](#)
(no subject)

Bloody hell. Bloody hell. I built the 'Order Only' lock into the very structure of the journals themselves when I set them up. But if there's another way...

What did I miss? What did I miss?!

It's going to drive me mad now, I know it is.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-24 00:39:15](#)
(no subject)


About that one point you made, that since they're kids, they shouldn't have information that should take them into the path of danger. Well, kids grow up to be adults. I did, after all. And sometimes those kids pick up a fair amount from the adults that the adults don't realise they have along the way.

That being said, Mum and Dad didn't give me any dangerous information deliberately until I came of age.

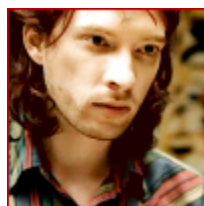
But they had a pretty good idea of my opinions and loyalties when they did.


Whoever these kids are, I hope you'll keep an eye on them for us, Hermione. Because they may eventually be the Order's new recruits.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:41:39](#)**
(no subject)

We tried to be careful.

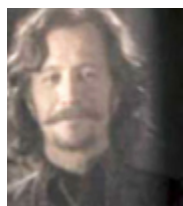



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:45:09](#)**
(no subject)

Of course you did.

I'm usually nosy, however.

I bet the twins would be even more than I was. Not much gets past them. I hope you and Dad are watching your step around them.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:53:19](#)**
(no subject)

I'm glad you said it, Bill. I don't think it's my place to say, but if there's anyone capable of finding a way round the journals without any help, it's your twin brothers, I'd bet.


And I've never even met them.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-07-24 00:56:19](#)**
(no subject)

precisely the sort of thing our hermione has been asking us not to do, black.



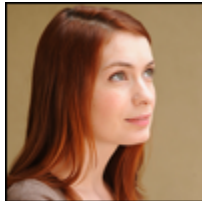
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-24 01:02:01](#)**
(no subject)


I wasn't asking her to confirm it - just speculating.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-07-24 01:11:13](#)**
(no subject)


well just do us a favour and keep names out of it, right?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-24 01:43:27](#)**
(no subject)


I think we're on the same page now dear heart.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-24 01:06:38](#)**
(no subject)

Huh. That's a thought. I'm not asking to know who either, Hermione. But for what it's worth, the twins have never asked me a single thing about my work on the journals.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-24 01:14:19](#)**
(no subject)

Well, anyway - we're getting sidetracked, I think.

The point is that Frank's right and unless there's a compelling reason to tell us how their system works, because it represents a breach of our security, it's none of our business.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-24 01:30:45](#)
(no subject)

Right, love.

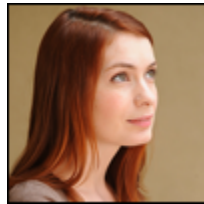
I think asking to talk about how they assure security is important, though.


I also think that it might be a good thing they thought to turn to us for help, even if they knew so little about us.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-24 01:33:23](#)
(no subject)


Which was my original point, thanks, Allie.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-24 01:38:36](#)
(no subject)

I wonder if they're having the same conversation we're having right now.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-24 14:19:34](#)
(no subject)


Security, indeed.

It seems to me that we're thoroughly compromised already if there are schoolchildren who know to ask Miss Granger to ask her friends for help smuggling Muggleborns.

I don't like this a bit.

Not one bit.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-24 14:25:06](#)
(no subject)

Come, now, Poppy. James and Remus and I weren't much older, really, when we came into the Order the first time.

As Bill says, I think we're looking at our next recruits, like it or not.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-24 14:32:44](#)
(no subject)

That's entirely different, Sirius. And I'll tell you how. When you came into the Order, you became one of us. You took the same vow the rest of us have taken. You knew our secrets because they were and are your own secrets.

These children are not in the Order. And yet, somehow they have learned about us, and they know too much. If they are our next recruits, we should get on with that. Like it or not, indeed.

And what I really want to know is how our vow has failed us. How do these children know what they do?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-24 15:18:38](#)
(no subject)

well, if they knew our Hermione had a wand...


it sort of follows doesn't it? that there'd be a group of people that liked Muggleborns enough and was well connected enough to send her a wand?

she shouldn't have shown them.

that's a fairly significant blunder on her part, no mistake.

but she did, and now we've got to go forward from there.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-24 15:29:37](#)
(no subject)

It wasn't Hermione though, I think. It was Terry, wasn't it?

He needed a way to keep his wand safe. And he hadn't made any promises to us, and he didn't know us at all. So he turned to people that he could trust for help.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-24 15:32:05](#)
(no subject)

we don't know what all happened, or who told what. it could very well have been Terry and not Hermione.


but they all know now, any road.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-24 15:33:19](#)
(no subject)


It does point up something important: if we provide wands for people, once other people see those wands, it's going to inevitably raise questions about us. If we pass along a wand to anyone, we had better make it clear what, if anything, can be said about it. Or we will need to also provide a way that the wand can stay hidden. Hermione and Terry's bracelets would be excellent for that.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-24 15:34:03](#)
(no subject)

good point, molly. very good.




 **alt_lupin** at [2010-07-24 15:54:34](#)
(no subject)

I agree with Molly. The wider the reach of our activities, the greater the risk of the Order being uncovered. People are bound to put two and two together, as the children appear to have done, and realise that these things aren't happening without coordination. I wonder if Alice and Frank's reappearance contributed too. That can't have gone unnoticed.

There's always going to be some degree of risk, as long as we're active. I know we all accept that. All we can do is mitigate it as far as possible.

That said, as much as Hermione and Terry deserve to have their own wands, I do wonder whether the benefits are outweighed by the risk - to ourselves and to them.



 **alt_sirius** at [2010-07-24 16:03:31](#)
(no subject)

True, Moony, but we had to start somewhere. And the reasons for giving them their wands still apply. They need them for self-protection in case we're not able to get them away if the need arose.

Nearly everyone else we've given wands has nowhere near the contact with wizards as these two. So I'm not sure it's as large a concern outside of their circle.


I think it's clear that her friends have pieced the information together, not anything she or Terry have told them deliberately.

Still. Perhaps it's time for the Order to make it a little clearer, when we do supply wands and other materials, exactly where it comes from. Something like a calling card? Davidson's group has done something similar, haven't they, Kingsley?

I mean to say, if they're going to guess at or conclude the

existence of an organised resistance, we may as well give them a rallying cry to go with it.




 **alt_lupin** at [2010-07-24 16:16:17](#)
(no subject)

I wish we could supply some kind of reassurance through confirmation that we are out there, working to help as much as we can, but honestly, I can't imagine anything more likely to draw the Ministry's attention.

We can't afford another close call with the Aurors. I doubt we'd be so fortunate a second time.




 **alt_arthur** at [2010-07-24 18:49:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, I must say, whoever made those bracelets for Hermione and Terry, they were dead clever. I'm almost ashamed to say it, but even though they're the children and we're the adults, they did a spot more thinking about the consequences of handing out unregistered wands than we did ourselves.

I'd say that Hermione has chosen her friends well.



 **alt_arthur** at [2010-07-24 18:52:00](#)
(no subject)

And you can tell them that we said that, my dear. Once your Unbreakable Vow is adjusted, I mean. Let them know we're pleased with how they're protecting you, and that we respect their cleverness.

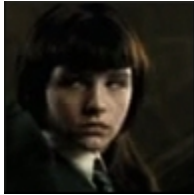
2010-07-24 01:54:00


I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Did I do it right?

 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-07-24 06:58:51**
(no subject)

I needed to test it first. To make sure before I wrote anything.

I will not tell.

I'm sad and scared and very angry and I don't know what I think about anything any more. But I will not tell.

I thought it was important that you all know.

Because you lot thought I would. Tell. But I won't.

I've had an interesting evening. "Guess what, Pansy. Today, you will find out that your two best friends have been lying to you for a year, and you will find out a secret that could get people killed and ruin your friends lives forever if you say anything about it."

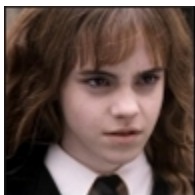
So I'll keep my mouth shut. Because I really don't have much of a choice, do I?

I know that I don't sound very happy about it. Because I'm not. But I've made a promise that I plan on keeping.

And I know you probably still don't trust me. But it's not like you have much of a choice either. Sally-Anne says that you wrote secrets down for other people on this thing to see. Sort of like insurance. I don't know what good it will do, but here you go.

I wrote Sirius Black two letters after Regulus died. And he wrote back to me in one of his Grim Truths, his last one before he died, using code. Song lyrics from Muggle bands that both of us knew. Because during Christmas first year I nicked his albums from his room when I was staying with his mum. And lots of them were Muggle. I still have them. And when I wrote him I had some bits from songs written in, and he wrote bits from the same songs.

Is that enough? Knowing about this and not telling will would get me in loads more trouble than a handful of albums and a few letters ever would. But right now I'm really, really tired. So I'm going to try and get some sleep.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 12:46:54](#)
(no subject)

You had better not ever tell, Pansy Parkinson.

I am going to write Sirius Black and ask him whether those things are true. And if they're not I'm going to chase you down and make you pay for it, because if they're not then I'm in the worst trouble of my life anyway, and probably I'd die. And you know I can do it, now, too. You're right we didn't have any choice, and you're right I don't trust you really, at least not yet.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2010-07-24 13:14:33](#)
(no subject)

WHAT?

WHAT!?


WHAT?!!!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 13:18:16](#)
(no subject)

I meant if he were alive I would.




 [alt_tery](#) at [2010-07-24 13:23:18](#)
(no subject)

YOU SAID IT. YOU MEANT IT.

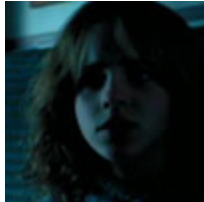
YOU KNOW.

**BUT YOU FORGOT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW WITH US.
DIDN'T YOU??**



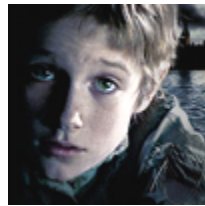
 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 13:24:16](#)
(no subject)


**Don't lie to me, Hermione. Not about this.
Not to me**



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 13:27:03](#)
(no subject)

I don't want to talk about it!!!! Even if I did I shouldn't say anything else. But - I mean, it's not as though it's hard to find out for yourself. Anyone could try sending him an owl and seeing if it works.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 13:39:20](#)
(no subject)

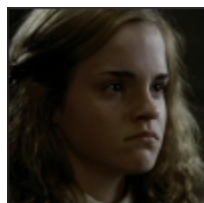
I guess we have a really good example right here of what Parkinson's Pansy's talking about. It hurts a lot when you find out a friend has been keeping something so important from you.

I hate it. I hate it a lot that you couldn't trust me with this. You know how I felt about him and that I would have died rather than betray him! But I understand why you did. You have to keep the other group's secrets, don't you?

But oh, Hermione, to find out that he's alive! He's well? He isn't injured?

I suppose you can't tell us much.

Will he let other people know he's alive? Will he start writing Grim Truths again?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-24 13:46:30](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry. I'm really sorry Terry. I didn't know for sure if I could tell you without something really bad happening - not by you, by magic, to me. And I do have to keep secrets. I mean - for


you and me it's worst but for the other kids on the lock, they wouldn't be killed or anything for this, but my friends would be, you know they would, they're grown-ups. And - well, can you write to him? I think Professor McGonagall might let you, mightn't she? If you claim you're writing to me??



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:53:51](#)**
(no subject)

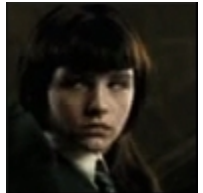
By magic? What are you talking about, Hermione?




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:59:51](#)**
(no subject)

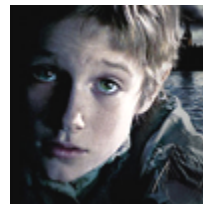
I think the Headmistress would let me write to you. She knows we're friends. I can show her the letter with an envelope on the outside addressed to you, and then just switch the envelope to him when I go down to the owlry.


I don't want you to get hurt! Not for anything. And I don't want to endanger this group. That'd be a poor way to repay them, after they got me, um, what I've got on my bracelet.



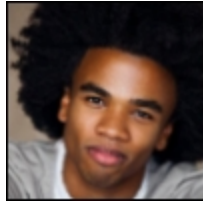
 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:11:39](#)**
(no subject)


I know about that too.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:14:52](#)**
(no subject)


All right then.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:18:43](#)**
(no subject)

I want to think up something to call these people. Because it's weird to keep saying 'this other group.' Guess you can't tell us what they call themselves.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:22:52](#)**
(no subject)

They're like the Brotherhood of Secrets, innit? In the books, I mean.


We could call them that!



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:37:30](#)**
(no subject)

I like that.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:31:45](#)**
(no subject)

The wand smugglers?

Although that may not be all they do.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:52:00](#)**
(no subject)

Wicked.


We're gaining a whole new respect for you, Hermione. You're obviously the one with all the snitch secrets.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:25:16](#)**
(no subject)

What?




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:26:23](#)**
(no subject)

She's saying that Sirius Black is alive. And she knows it.

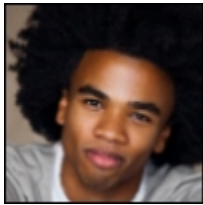
How does she know it?




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:27:17](#)**
(no subject)

No way!

Uh, really?




 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:56:00](#)**
(no subject)

How does she know it yeah.

I'd like to know that too. Did you find out at Buckingham? Because I can see how that would be top-secret information that the Ministry wouldn't want people to know.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:07:47](#)**
(no subject)

Wait a minute, I just thought of something.

I think you do need to tell us who else knows this, Hermione. That Sirius Black is alive? Because if you found out at Buckingham, then some people in the government know, and that's one thing.

But if it's ONLY people in this secret group that you know, that must mean he wants everyone to think that he's dead. And that means that none of us

can breathe a word about this to anyone else, ever! We have to keep the secret, too. Close as...well, close as our own wands. Right?




 **alt_gredforge** at [2010-07-24 14:11:02](#)
(no subject)

And it you didn't find out from somebody at Buckingham, we'd really like to know how you found out. Using owls seems pretty dangerous, especially if they're being delivered there.

You probably can't tell us. But you can't blame us for being curious.



 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-24 14:29:37](#)
(no subject)

It looks like I've really underestimated you.

And I was beginning to wonder. It'd certainly be like him, wouldn't it? To just not die like that. Typical.

Do you know

Is Regulus also pretending?

If you want to write Sirius, that's fine by me. I think I'll hold off myself, because I'm pretty sure you shouldn't have told. But it's still good to know.

And the reason I didn't tell is because I'm no murderer. And when I stopped Carrow, it was for the same reason. Because not doing anything back then would have been just as good as killing you. And no matter who my family is, I couldn't do that. Ever.

...This is sort of bizarre.

Um. What should I call you? Hermione? or Granger? I mean... um. which would you... prefer?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:21:04](#)
(no subject)

Call me Hermione. Everyone else does.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 14:33:15](#)
(no subject)

Sirius Black is alive?

I opened my diary to see how angry Pansy was this morning. I wasn't expecting --

The muggles I heard that day thought he was alive, but in a 'he will come again! you'll see!' sort of way, not a 'I'm going to write him and ask!' sort of way.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 15:14:10](#)
(no subject)

It seems sort of


I dunno

It seems sort of wrong that you could just write and ask him if he's still alive.

You know?

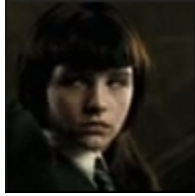
If he answers back, it could just be like sending owl post to Father Christmas and getting a parchment back from his 'elves' or with his 'signature' that's really just your dad writing 'father Christmas' and taking it to work to send back. And then your mum says, 'Oh, look! It's a Lapland snow owl! I bet Father Christmas keeps a whole load of them to send post to little boys like you!' But it's not true.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:56:47](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sorry, you know.

And Sally Anne hated not being able to tell. You can read back all the times she worried about it.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:14:37](#)**
(no subject)

She said I could go back and look.

I'm going to read everything.


To see what I've gotten myself into.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-24 15:15:02](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. You should do.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 15:06:35](#)**
(no subject)

I think we need to talk today.

You and me.

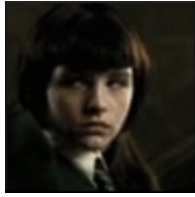



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-24 15:17:07](#)**
(no subject)

Okay. Maybe at lunch? Before we leave, anywiz.
Yeah.

Hey, have you seen the Manticore yet? You went off with Malfoy and I haven't seen you.

The zoo's pretty nift, though, innit?




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-24 15:23:47](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't be writing in this thing if I were.


I'm by myself. In the rock garden.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-24 13:57:58](#)
(no subject)

We really are sorry. But, look. It's like with Harry. He can't know about this, and Hermione has to keep it dead secret, and sometimes I think that's really hard for her, but he can't know. Even if he'd agree with the things we think. And actually, I don't know he totally would, so that'd be a reason, too. But if he knew, he probably couldn't ever keep it secret from his Father, y'know. And he wouldn't want to keep it secret from Malfoy, and if Malfoy ever found out, it'd be over in a minute. But see, this makes you have to choose between us and them, too. ~~And we didn't know if you could.~~ And I think that's going to make you sad, Pansy. It's hard to do.




 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-24 14:02:19](#)
(no subject)

You wrote to Black, though?

Really?

That's really nift that he answered you. Especially if he's still alive. I'd love to see the look on Mrs Lestrangle's face when she finds that out! Or that Mr Crouch.



 **alt_neville** at [2010-07-24 13:20:20](#)
(no subject)

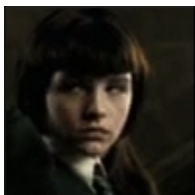
Well, I hope it's enough.


You wrote to Sirius Black? You mean personally? Blimey, never occurred to me to do something like

that.

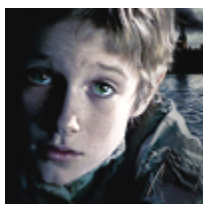
It isn't easy to keep secrets from your friends. And it doesn't mean


that they're not real friends. But sometimes it's because the secrets are so important or so dangerous that they have to come first.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:16:51](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for that, Longbottom.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 13:29:04](#)**
(no subject)

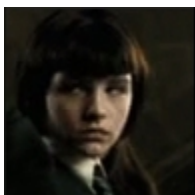
You spoke to me once.


You said you'd never tell.

I'm going to take you at your word.

You do know what would happen, especially to me and Hermione if you did.

You have to know that behind this lock, Hermione and me are just the same as everyone else.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:38:44](#)**
(no subject)

You can write properly.


After all this I guess I won't be surprised by anything any more.

I meant what I said back then. And what I said up there too. I'm not a murderer.

As for the rest, I've got a lot to think on. That's fairly obvious. But I'll play by the rules. This is your place. Not mine.

I asked Hermione Granger what she wants to be called, so I'll ask you too. But I'm pretty sure you're sick of being called Boot.

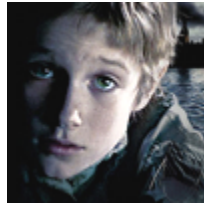



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 14:46:49](#)
(no subject)

Call me Terry here, but only if you'll sure you would never ever slip and use that name aloud if you see me in person if anyone else is there to overhear. Especially if it's Master.

Nobody knew that I had a brain at all until I got this lock. Except for Hermione. I suppose it's a shock to find out, but it's also a little reassuring that I managed to fool you so well. Guess that means that I'm convincing enough as stupid crawling boot.


You should also know, I've been Sorted. I'm in Ravenclaw House. Hermione's in Gryffindor.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 14:48:08](#)
(no subject)

And it's your place, too, now. It's important that you know that. We didn't want to add you, I'll admit. We were afraid to. But it's done now. You're just the same as the rest of us. And so you'll protect our secrets as we'll protect yours.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-24 14:56:44](#)
(no subject)

Terry it is, then.

I...

This is all a bit much to process at the moment. I thought it would be better this morning, but it's all inside out and upside down and

anyways.

what's done is done.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-24 13:33:59](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you did.


Welcome to the lock, Parkinson.

You do realise that we discussed trying to obliviate you. And the two of us are pretty handy with charms, but we can't say we're expert yet, so we might have swiss-cheesed your brain, despite our best efforts.

But you weren't within arm's reach, so it was moot. Putting you on the lock was the next best choice. We won't forget for awhile that we went with the second-best, so you'd better not make us regret it. When we get back to school, we will still have scope for retaliation if you screw up. Especially if you hurt our Professor.

That's blunt, we know. But that's how it is here on the lock.



 **alt_ron** at [2010-07-24 13:47:00](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, all right. You said what you needed to.

Now give her a break, will you?

It's not like she knew what it was when she tried to find out. Okay. She doesn't want to hurt Hermione or Terry or anyone. And it's not her fault Mr Malfoy's her godfather, but that's a really big reason why she couldn't know about this before.

But it's not her fault. Any more than it's your fault about our parents, y'know? Or Terry's that he's Muggleborn. Or Sally Anne's that she's halfblood and has to live with foster parents and not let anyone know she sometimes sends letters to her own parents cause she still loves them.

Why don't you get that and let Pansy be?




 **alt_gredforge** at [2010-07-24 14:01:16](#)
(no subject)

We're giving her a break. In case you haven't noticed.

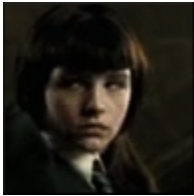
But we'll be watching.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:05:15](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

I know.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:48:04](#)**
(no subject)

I appreciate your honesty.

I do not, however, appreciate being threatened.

I didn't have much of a choice, but I did have one. And I made it. And I made my choice because of what would have happened to you lot if I would have told, not because of what would have happened to me. And by not telling, I've put my own neck out there right next to yours. So you'd better remember that.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:53:46](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, it's not a threat, exactly. More like a promise.

But if you play straight with us and keep the secrets and always remember that Hermione and Terry are just as good as you, then as far as we're concerned you're one of us, and we'll treat you fair. That's a promise, too.

Besides, Ron likes you and he vouches for you, and that certainly counts for something. We may wonder about his taste at some things, but he's not suicidal, usually, when picking friends. We've got friends in Slytherin, too.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-24 14:35:39](#)**
(no subject)

Pansy, I'm so glad you know now.

I feel guilty for keeping such a huge secret from you for so long AND I feel guilty for burdening you with it now (even though I didn't have a choice, I really didn't) but in spite of

everything I keep thinking about how now I can talk to you about ANYTHING in the journals, I won't have to wait for owls anymore or worry about how the owl might get intercepted.

2010-07-24 11:09:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Barty, did you get your parents home all right last night? Your father looked rather unsteady on his feet. Not that I'd blame him if he did, er, overindulge: The Sandovals certainly did splash out on their spread! Then again, with the whole of Harrods' larder at their fingertips, it's to be expected. Still, Isobel outdid herself this time.

I'm rather glad there is little on our own agenda today, though Lucius elected to go back to London this morning to address some matters he had to leave unfinished, given all the interruptions yesterday. I wasn't sure he'd keep his promise to arrive before Miss Sandoval! And I heard there were quite the entertainments that we missed; I must have been told by no less than five people within minutes of our arrival that we'd missed fire dancers and an aerial display of trained birds forming constellation patterns. I'm sorry we didn't get to see it.


Lucius' decision to work this morning has one advantage: He can fetch Draco home from the YPL programme this afternoon. Fifi has a reunion supper all planned, including some of Draco's favourites. I admit that I have missed him - it seems we had barely got him home and into a routine before he was off again with his yearmates.

But having him home at least means that he can get back to his lessons, especially his art lessons. I know he remains fond of guitar, but I doubt very much whether his natural talent for it surpasses the work it will take for him to achieve the results I'm sure he wants. I expect he will give it up before too long. But his sketching and painting remains a natural strength, taking after his cousin Reg in that respect. I should be very disappointed were he to set that aside.

More importantly, we may proceed with our holiday planning in earnest, now that we have him to offer an opinion.

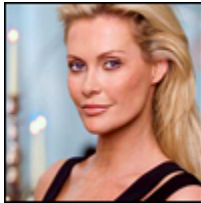
Bella, Rodolphus, why don't you bring Hydra and Rigel along to dine with us? Barty, if you've no plans, you'd be welcome as well. (Although if you are otherwise engaged, I'll wager I can guess with whom. Was that young Miss Roberta Spinx I saw you leading to the floor more than once? She's quite fetching.) Rabastan, I don't expect you can tear yourself away, not with young Marvolo's return to his Father's side, but perhaps, if you can, you'll join us?




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-24 16:24:17](#)
(no subject)

Rodolphus is having a lie-in this morning, speaking of overindulgence. I've got the little one to myself for the first time in as many weeks, and while listening to him babble I am thinking about what would be an appropriate celebration for his first birthday. I can't believe I'm only just now getting to the planning, but it can't be helped.

Thank you for the invitation, Cissy. I'd like to talk with you further about the current state of Hydra's wardrobe, if time allows.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-24 17:02:11](#)
(no subject)

Yes, of course! I'm sure we can devise solutions to all your dilemmas, sister.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-24 17:27:24](#)
(no subject)

Narcissa. Thank you for the invitation. I should be able to make it--assuming there are no further false sightings of the escapees.

It was quite an event last night. Mother could not stop saying how beautifully dressed all the women were. She was especially taken with your robes and how well they suited you. I think she might say yes to a shopping expedition if you were still willing to take her in hand. I gather she's realised her wardrobe could use a bit of attention.

I will bring along the Puddlemere schedule to see which of the matches Lucius and Draco might wish to attend. As the cards have fallen out, there are 2 that I'm quite certain I'll be unable to attend because of other commitments, but I'm sure we can arrange another time if those dates aren't possible for Lucius.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-24 17:39:06](#)
(no subject)

We shall add the match schedule to our many topics for the evening, then. You're quite sure Miss Spinx can spare you? After all, 2 is company; we shall be quite the crowd this evening.

I'd be happy to provide your mother with appointments with Cliodna or Hyperion. I'm sure they can cater to her needs perfectly well. It takes discipline to choose robes for each occasion - not simply to outdo the others. Though it would have been difficult indeed to outshine Miss Sandoval (and frightfully gauche, as it was her night).



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-24 17:50:12](#)
(no subject)

Ah, Miss Spinx.

No.

That was Mother, from start to finish, though I'll grant she's attractive.

Miss Spinx's only topic of conversation was how exceedingly wounded she feels at having been jilted by Carrig Dromgoole. She told me in rather sordid detail the names and situations of a rather long list of other young ladies with whom she believes he had relations whilst away with the Kestrels. I suggested she could do better, which may have been a mistake on my part. Offering the opinion, I mean.

2010-07-24 11:23:00

This YPL trip has been snitch



 [alt_seamus](#)

Well this week has just been snitch from beginning to end. I'm trying to remember everything we did:


1. We visited the Prophet and the WWN and we saw studios and got copies of the Prophet that had JUST been printed and someone talked to us all about the dangers of misinformation and stuff like that.
2. We had a boat ride on the Thames and met Owain Pritchard and Kirley Duke and that was BRILLIANT and we had a tour from the ghost at the Tower of London.
3. We visited the Ministry and had a tour of MLE and got to see aurors DUELLING for practise.
4. We went to a panto, which made me laugh so hard it hurt.
5. We visited a museum of curiosities which was like a bunch of old muggle things, some of which you could touch and try out. Like they had a tellephone, and you could mess about with the dial, and they even had part of a car so you could sit in it and hold the steering wheel and work the pedals though obviously it wasn't going to go anywhere and then, this was less of a laugh, they had a big display of guns muggles used to use and a whole section about witch-burnings and how the Statute of Secrecy was imposed to try to keep wizards safe from muggles. There was a portrait (not the talking sort) of Nearly Headless Nick and the story of what happened to him, it's a lot more serious than he usually lets on, he got murdered by muggles because they caught him without his wand.
6. And then we had lunch in a park and thought we saw Snape! But we must not have done because MLE didn't catch him. It was exciting, though.
7. There was a brilliant music party and then today we went to the zoo.

I've got to know Blaise Zabini, Linus Moon, and Zacharias Smith a lot better and that's been brilliant, too, and Moon said perhaps I could come for a visit later in the summer? And I said I'm sure Mr Rosier

would let me have them visit.

And now we're having lunch in a bit and then we'll all go home and it will be back to tutoring and that sort of thing. This has been BRILLIANT though, even better than the camping trip. I can't wait until next summer!




 **alt_padma** at **2010-07-24 19:19:52**
(no subject)

It was a wicked nice week, wasn't it? Everything was so stupe, especially the museums and definitely the panto and the Ministry.

(Oh, and my Dad's not normally like that, either. I think he was just under stress because of all of us being there. Really, ordinarily he's quite jolly.)

If you do get Mr Rosier to let you have people over I hope we're invited! Moon says he's glad to have got to know Smith and MacMillan, too. I told him if he'd come to History Club he'd have got to know you much sooner.




 **alt_seamus** at **2010-07-24 19:42:42**
(no subject)

I'm glad to your Dad is normally in a better mood! Not that he was awful or anything, just a bit stern, I thought.

And of course you'd also be invited!! I should arrange something soon, maybe this week sometime now that we're all home.



 **alt_neville** at **2010-07-24 19:22:01**
(no subject)

It sounds like it really was a lot of fun. I'm sorry I didn't get to go with the rest of you. I wonder if our group will do the same sorts of things?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-07-24 19:44:40](#)
(no subject)

It's really too bad you weren't with us. But I imagine you'll do the same sorts of things.

[2010-07-24 11:32:00](#)

Order Only: Frank, Alice

Frank, Alice?

I've been thinking, and I'd very much like to know a bit more about what you've told your children. About yourselves. I know Alice said you didn't intend to tell them about the work you do with us.

But-- Well, I wonder what your Neville knows and what he might piece together from what you've told him. He's a quiet boy, but he does a lot of thinking, I believe, about how things are. He's thoughtful in both senses. And if there are children capable of taking a bit of information and putting it together with other bits, like Sirius's Grim Truths--

Your Neville wrote back to him once or twice, didn't he? Sirius? Have I misremembered?

I'm only thinking that your son is one child with a special bit of information about two members of our group, and if children his age are capable of figuring out what's what, he may be as well. You--and we--should be prepared for him to have questions. Or suppositions, even. And sooner than later.

We ought to have a plan for what you could tell him and when.

This whole episode with Miss Granger's friends suggests to me that we've been a bit too laissez faire about the things your children and the Weasley children--now there's a caution!--might glean from things they hear and observe.



 [alt_poppy](#)




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2010-07-24 16:42:26](#)

(no subject)

Neville was brought to the shop once to meet with Alice. He can't have failed to have put something together from that. I know he wouldn't give us away by choice, but I imagine he would be able to identify us if questioned.




 **alt_poppy** at [2010-07-24 17:00:46](#)
(no subject)

I'd forgotten that meeting, but you're quite right. It adds a significant piece to the information young Mr Longbottom possesses about us. Was that before or after you took on Miss Tonks?

You do realise that I'm not meaning to imply that the boy is untrustworthy? But we are, in effect, trusting a number of children already without any control over what they know or how they know what to do with the things they may be piecing together about us.

I suppose I'm thinking that we ought to discuss bringing certain children into the Order rather earlier than we would if we'd the luxury to wait. And I'm definitely thinking that we need to discuss what certain children already know, so thank you for reminding us of this, Remus.



 **alt_lupin** at [2010-07-24 18:57:24](#)
(no subject)

I believe it was before, but even if it wasn't, it certainly was before she knew of the Order, so she and Neville did not cross paths. However, if he can identify the shop, we're both in the frame

regardless.

I quite agree with you, Poppy, that this is a very serious matter, and that we need to give due consideration to our next move. If we've been uncovered by a group of schoolchildren, are we really as safe from the Ministry as we might think?

No slight is intended against Neville, I know. He's a good boy, and I'm quite sure he'd do his parents proud, but I also know Bellatrix. If she wanted to get information from someone, even if that person were a child, she wouldn't hesitate to use every means at her disposal. Quite apart from exposing any child to such an awful experience, the risk to the Order is, I'm sure, obvious.

So yes, Poppy. I quite agree with you. But I'm unsure what we ought to do about it all. I've always been in favour of getting Hermione away from that place, as you know, and Terry too I suppose. But I know it's not possible yet, and we certainly can't

steal away however many children make up this group of friends she's found.

Perhaps it just comes down to trusting Hermione's discretion in how much she shares with her friends, and how much she keeps to herself. We have precious little other choice that I can see.




 **alt_molly** at [2010-07-24 19:27:22](#)
(no subject)

I'm seriously beginning to wonder whether we shouldn't consider giving Neville and Evelyn port keys, as we're giving them to Hermione. To be used in case of desperate emergency only--as in they've been taken into custody by Bellatrix.

Of course, they must understand that if they use them, there's no going back: once triggered, they'll never be able to go back to their old life or see their friends or attend Hogwarts ever again. But especially after what happened to Sirius, I think we would never forgive ourselves if we lost them to Bellatrix's clutches when we had the chance to save them with a little foresight.

Frank and Alice, what do you think?




 **alt_bill** at [2010-07-24 19:30:13](#)
(no subject)

That's not a bad idea, actually, Mum.

What about your children, though?




 **alt_molly** at [2010-07-24 19:32:55](#)
(no subject)

It almost kills me to say it, but I think not.

Neville and Evelyn know that their parents are part of a secret, illegal group. The twins and Ron and Percy and Ginny don't. That innocence is their best protection.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-24 19:34:35](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, but what if one of us is arrested? You or Dad or me?

What if we're forced to go on the run, and the Ministry decides to force us to give ourselves up by taking them into custody? Or hurting them, even?




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-24 19:38:09](#)**
(no subject)

Merlin, Bill. I--I hadn't thought of that.

Oh, god.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-24 19:39:29](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I have. I've had nightmares about it. Dad and I have talked about it. A lot.

We're a big family. Unless we all make a clean getaway together, they'll use some of us to force the rest of us to give ourselves up.


I'm sorry, but that's what they'll do.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-07-24 19:44:16](#)**
(no subject)

I hate to say it, but Bill's right. That is what they'd do. Damn them.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-24 22:22:01](#)**
(no subject)

I hadn't want to say anything, but I do think Bill's right.

Molly...I think that we should have emergency


port keys made. We won't give them to the children to hold, not now, but we'll stash them in several places where any of us can get to them quickly. Hide some in the Burrow, some in my office, some in Bill's office. Minerva, we'll count on you to get the children out via portkey if they're at Hogwarts at the time.

If all three of us are arrested at once, Merlin forbid, or even Charlie, too, then we'd have to pin our hopes on getting a quick patronus off to the children to instruct them how to find the port keys and use them.

Come to think of it...Frank, I'll send you a list of the locations where we're hiding them. If we're taken into custody so quickly that we lose our wands before we can get a message out, we'll depend on you to send the patronuses to the children. I'll give you the wording of the message with the locations, so you'll know what to say that will convince the children to obey the summons.


I want to cover absolutely all eventualities.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2010-07-25 05:46:51](#)**
(no subject)

right, mate, you can count on me.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-25 05:17:08](#)**
(no subject)

I do very much like that idea, Molly. Frank does too.

Whereas before, Augusta could claim absolute ignorance, she certainly can't now, and she and the children are very much at risk if our security were to be seriously compromised.



 **alt_alice** at [2010-07-25 05:36:34](#)
(no subject)

Sorry to get back so late, Poppy, we've had a full day with the kids at the beach. just got settled down for the night only now.

Neville has been good about not peppering us with questions -- Augusta has taught him how to be discreet when needed. I can't say the same for Evelyn at this point, but she's still young. During our letters and during their visit we have deliberately avoided saying anything specific about what we're up to right now. We don't reveal any names, we don't talk about places we've been, and we don't talk about what we've been doing. Neville specifically asked about Sirius while we were camping, but we told him he was my friend when we were at Hogwarts together and left it at that.

You have a point that it is very important to go through what they both know about me and Frank and our associations. The connection with the shop and Junius Ponds is one, and the fact that we have access to polyjuice is another. I came to the shop disguised as Lucinda, so Neville would know what her face looked like. They'd also know that we're in contact with their gran and Uncle. Kingsley, I do not believe they saw either you or Emmaline, so there's that.

Neville has taken it on himself to start basic training in Occlumency (at Frank's suggestion). He's been practicing some basic exercises this past term. I'm hoping that will help in the long run. I like Molly's idea of a portkey as well for both Neville and Evelyn, just as a precaution.

We have been very deliberate about limiting what information we tell them both, as best as we are able, and we'll continue to do so. After all, whatever they know is dangerous to them as well as all of us, so we've tried to be careful.

And to address another concern you brought up, I wasn't thinking that far ahead to telling my children about the Order. Honestly, I thought we'd have to wait until they came of age, at the very least. But regardless, Frank and I will continue to limit what we say to Neville and Evelyn until we all sort out when it would be best to tell them more.

2010-07-24 14:45:00

The YPL Trip

I agree with Seamus. The trip was great, but I am glad I am home. There was so much to do and some attitudes in which to escape. I have to say my favourite part of the trip was seeing the Aurors demonstrate their skills. It really makes you proud to know that the protectorate has some great witches and wizards defending its people. It also makes one hopeful in the ways he or she might be able to do their duty and serve the LP and the protectorate one day.




 [alt_dean](#)

As always, when there is a group of us together drama can never be avoided. Although it may have been a little exciting, it seemed a waste of time with all the commotion about the supposed Snape/ not Snape appearance. I dare say certain people wanted to see him and any action it would have involved, no matter how silly and dangerous it would have been. I guess some people feed off of such silly attention.

Lucky for me, at the end of the trip, I didn't have very far to go. Mr Peakes made it back to New London, and we are staying at the house in town for the next couple of days. Then we will go back to the country estate. Seamus, I am sorry I didn't get the chance to say before, but Mr Peakes said you are welcome back anytime. As you know there is plenty of room and loads of things to do at the country estate. Do ask Mr Rosier if you may come again before the start of the next term.

Thank you Prof. Sinistra for planning such a great trip again for us. I had such a great time.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2010-07-24 19:14:28**
(no subject)

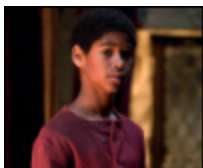
For your information, Thomas, we weren't feeding off anyone's attention.


We did see something. And Weasley saw it first.

Only we talked with the Aurors later last night and now it looks like we saw someone's dog. Or something.

Anyway, just because it wasn't that Snape bloke doesn't mean it

couldn't have been. And no one did it to get attention. I'm sure I didn't want to ruin everyone's afternoon and nor did Lavender!




 **alt_dean** at [2010-07-24 19:19:31](#)
(no subject)

I apologise Padma if you thought I meant you and Lav in any way. I am glad for your safety, but it wasn't you I was referring to. I choose not to call out any names because some attitudes will flair up if I do.

Again, my apologies.

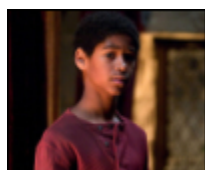



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-24 19:28:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, good.

Wait. Do you mean who I think you mean? Did he tell you that he warned Lav on purpose or something? Was it all a prank?

Oh, that little.... If he was trying to get us in trouble I'll....



 **alt_dean** at [2010-07-24 19:34:57](#)
(no subject)

Oh calm down will you.

He told me no such thing. In fact he isn't speaking to me now. Who knows what his intentions were. I do doubt he was trying to get you in trouble. But he does have a way of getting attention.

I suspect he needs to see a mediwitch or someone that can check his vision. It is a big mistake to confuse a dog with a person. And a waste of precious time for the MLE, all because of what someone thought they saw.

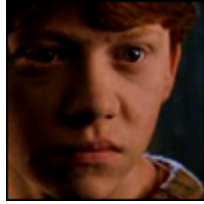


 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 19:47:41](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Nice.

You are such a nasty piece of work, Thomas. Really. Just go cruciate yourself.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 19:50:46](#)

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

I'm almost narked enough to tell you what I think of you straight out.

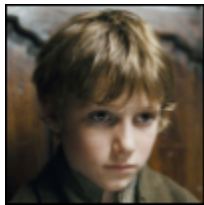
But, actually, this feels better right now.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 19:54:51](#)

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

Don't answer, Ron, the last thing you want is to have to answer any more questions about what you thought you saw.



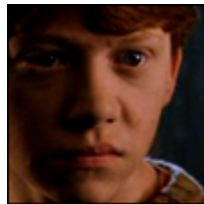
 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 20:12:57](#)

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

I still say there's no point in getting hacked off at him until you've talked with him privately. He's pretending to be this way, I'm almost sure of it.

Don't hold it against him until he's said again it to your face, without any witnesses.

Believe me, I know all about pretending.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 20:20:58](#)

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

Oh, grow a brain, Terry. He could have just not said any of it.



 [alt_ron at 2010-07-24 20:21:31](#)

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

Sorry.

I didn't mean to shout at you.

Him, I'd love to shout at.

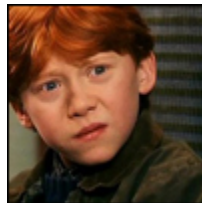


 [alt_sally_anne at 2010-07-24 20:23:03](#)

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

It's possible -- easy, even! -- to kiss the right arses without stabbing the other vulnerable people in the back.

Even a Gryffindor ought to be able to work that out.



 [alt_ron at 2010-07-24 20:25:12](#)

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

Oi!




 [alt_sally_anne at 2010-07-24 20:24:27](#)

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

(Sorry, Ron. It's just that I mean that sort of thing is second nature when you're in Slytherin, not so much for the other Houses.)



 [alt_ron at 2010-07-24 20:25:37](#)

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

Yeah.

Sure you did.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:28:25](#)

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

I did! It's not my fault Thomas is in your House!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 20:32:44](#)

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

Well, that much is true.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 20:33:29](#)

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

I'd like to have a little talk with the Sorting Hat, actually. I can't figure why he's not in your House.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:41:14](#)

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

There are very few halfbloods in Slytherin.

Anyway, a Slytherin wouldn't critique MLE's response to Mr Crouch himself, and if they DID they certainly wouldn't talk about 'making a circus out of the situation,' for Merlin's sake! The best response to people like Mr Crouch is 'oh yes sir, thank you sir, I don't want to take up any more of your valuable time, sir,' and then to shut up.

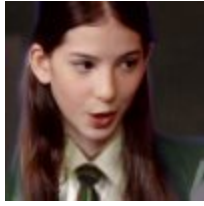


 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-24 20:51:12](#)

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

Least it's not you he's talking to this time!

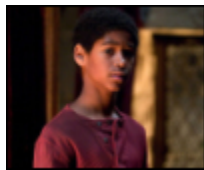
Mr Crouch, I mean.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 19:54:05](#)
(no subject)

Oh for Merlin's sake, Thomas. Far better that Ron and Lavender should raise what turned out to be a false alarm than they should keep their mouths shut about something odd when we KNOW Snape and Macnair are on the loose and we KNOW they're after Harry and we'd been TOLD that they might make a try for him while he was out of Buckingham.


Honestly. I'm glad you don't run MLE. 'Are you SURE you saw something? Perhaps we'll respond if anyone throws a curse at Mr Marvolo. After all, we wouldn't want to get excited over nothing.'



 [alt_dean](#) at [2010-07-24 19:58:15](#)
(no subject)

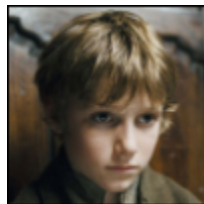
That false alarm slowed down the MLE from looking for the escapees elsewhere. Please don't make excuses for your boyfriend.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:03:31](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

EXCUSES for my BOYFRIEND? Why you nasty little

UGH.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-24 20:14:30](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

See what I said to Ron. It probably goes for you, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:20:05](#)

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

He can be a good little subject without saying that Ron called MLE down on Hyde Park for a laugh, which is what he's saying.

Even if he doesn't mean it he could get Ron into enormous trouble.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:43:14](#)

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

Although now it looks like he's working on getting himself into trouble. If you're right and he doesn't mean any of it and is just trying hard to get on the right side of the powerful people -- well, he's not very good at it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:55:06](#)

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

Are the rest of you ABSOLUTELY SURE that Thomas hasn't worked out the lock? By listening in the dormitory?

Because he sounds a little like he's reading what I'm saying.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-24 20:55:54](#)

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

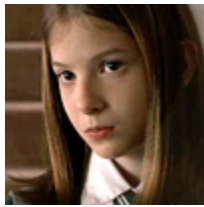
Although Mr Peakes was a Slytherin, I think. Maybe Mr Peakes had the same thought I did.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:59:47](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

No, don't see how he could. If he had worked out the lock, he would have used it to talk to me, because I'm on the lock, and he was using an entirely different method to pass messages to me secretly.

And I'm sorry he's being a prat to everybody. Believe me, he'll hear about it from me. If I ever answer one of his notes again.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:11:51](#)**
(no subject)

Thomas, I really hope if YOU spot someone who might be trying to harm Harry, you speak up first, and worry later about whether people will make fun of you for making a mistake.

Unless you think protecting Harry is one of those side duties that the MLE can just let slide when they're busy.




 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:17:20](#)**
(no subject)

Oh make me seem twisted why don't you. It's not that one is not worried about Harry's safety. But dogs don't run on their hind legs only. Do you ever think that more harm than good can come from a false alarm. The false alarm could have ended in many of us sustaining injuries.

Just think it through why don't you, and stop pestering me about my comments.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:18:56](#)**
(no subject)

Thomas, is it?

Thank you for your concern with the speed of our investigations, Thomas. Though if I were you, I

wouldn't tell others to keep silent about suspicious activity when they see it. All reports are important whether or not the information turns out to be correct.

If you have information to offer about your classmates' behaviour--particularly information based on actual knowledge or direct observation--MLE would be very happy to hear from you.

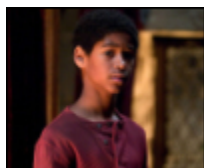



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:30:01](#)**

(no subject)

Not to be rude Sir, but I believe I am misunderstood. I'm not saying that they should be quiet about suspicious activities. But I do believe, although it is not my place to tell you what I believe, that there was a better way to handle it.

Please forgive me if I speak too plain. Harry had protection with him on this trip. And it wasn't as if we were all spread out far from each other during our meal or Ron wouldn't have been able to see the dog's shadow at all. There was no need to make a circus out of the situation especially by spelling it out in the journals when the security on hand had things well under control. Sir. I didn't mean any harm in expressing my views. And I am glad all is well especially when it involves the LP's son.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-24 20:48:07](#)**

(no subject)

Sorry Sir. After re-reading my response, I think I need to correct it. Especially the part about the Circus. That was in no way meant to be a comment about the MLE's performance. I meant it as what we students turned it into.

I hope sir, I haven't wasted your valuable time by having you speak directly to me in this way.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-07-24 22:01:05](#)
(no subject)

Too right about getting his eyes checked!

I didn't see anything, but I wasn't looking in the right direction anyway.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-24 22:07:22](#)
(no subject)

Well, it wouldn't have been a very big mistake if it was a Spectral Chameleon Hound. They can make themselves look a lot like people, you know, if they stand next to a person long enough. It's easy then to confuse one of them for a person at a distance.

2010-07-24 17:04:00

XXXII.

Mama and I have talked it over and decided that the proper thing to do these days is to thank people privately by owl, which I've spent the afternoon doing, but also to offer public thanks through the journals. It seems to be the done thing now, and rightly so, as our Lord has given us these books to bind His realm together in an open and caring society.



 [alt_lana](#)

I must begin my list of thanks by mentioning Our Lord, who sent a Proclamation, honouring my family--my grandparents, first, and my parents and their offspring--for coming to this country and joining his efforts here to raise the greatest wizarding Protectorate on earth. I can think of nowhere I'd rather live and no Lord I could be more proud to serve.

And, of course, I want to thank my grandparents, Alberto and Luisa Sandoval, for providing and caring for me my whole life and for always, always being kind; and my parents, Inigo and Isobel Sandoval, for nurturing and disciplining and molding me, for expecting much and supporting more, for allowing me to find my strengths and consoling me when I've found my weaknesses, for loving and correcting and pushing me as I've needed; and my siblings--Orion, who is the best brother a girl could have, even when he's provoking, and Honoria, who will find herself one day, I know it.

And my friends. Sarah and Shivani, I could really not have made it to last night if you hadn't helped me keep my wits about me. If you hadn't been there to the very last to see me into that carriage, I might have done for myself trying to get ready! And to see you'd Apparated to Somerset House so you could be the first people I'd see when the footmen helped me from the carriage! You are the best friends ever. Ever. And, of course, I'd never have made the right choices about music or the fireworks! (that was your most brilliant idea ever, Vani!) or thinking to ask the Cymru players to serve supper and perform their interludes for us (that was Sarah). The cleverest friends without exception. And the best.

Next, I wish to thank all of the wonderful people who came last evening to Somerset House to celebrate my coming of age. All of you who received me with an extended hand, a smile across the room, a kind word in my ear throughout the evening: you made me feel all

evening as if I were dancing on air, cushioned by a great cloud of good will. I will never forget how welcome you made me. Truly.

And, of course, I must thank so many people who helped make the evening what it was!

The Cymru Players, I've already mentioned, were brilliant.

As were our fyre-dancing friends, the Phoenix Collaborative.

And the Wilton Consort: you're still my favourite chamber players. I could listen to you forever!

Clan Darragh: I was so surprised! I really truly had no idea. Oh, Orion, you are the cleverest, sneakiest, most generous brother ever! How utterly snitch for the evening to go from galliards to jigs! And, Mr McCulloch: thank you ever so much for playing my favourite reel and for playing it with such a fine touch!

Inveigled were perfect for dancing to in the young people's salon. All my friends said they've never had so much fun. Thank you so much for scheduling your tour around last evening in New London. I was genuinely touched when I heard that you'd agreed to come all the way down from Iona for us.

And to Maestro Gilhooly and the New London Philharmonic: thank you so very, very much for agreeing to share you time and talents with us. I have never felt so privileged as when I danced with my father, alone on the floor to the strains of the Phantom Suite. Oh, it was a perfect!

To Mrs Revati Patil, Designer Extraordinaire: Thank you, thank you for my robes. They are the most utterly beautiful garments I've ever seen, and to think they were mine to wear! I felt like a faerie princess!

To Mr Nubbins-Cumberhatch, Events Manager for Somerset House: many thanks for your willingness to work to Mama's exacting standards. I suspect we have taken more of your time in managing details and long-range planning than many, but I trust you agree that the event itself was testament that it was worth every minute you spent and every ounce of concern and attention you bestowed on us. We are truly very pleased and grateful for your professionalism.

To Fiona Fairchild: the floral installations were spectacular and our friends who recommended you were absolutely right when they raved about your deft eye for architecture and your ability to ensure that not a single person present would suffer a sneeze from pollen. Amazing!

To Patrice Frippoire: the favours were truly works of art, we're all agreed. Mama and I appreciate the fine work you did on so tight a schedule in order to make right your colleague's blunder with our order. Papa was most impressed; in fact, I heard him say that if Ainsworthy Kelpington knows what's good for him, he'll pay you a fine bonus for your role in saving a major account. I do believe Papa would hire you away if he could. He was that impressed with the whimsy and fine detail of your pieces. They were perfect!

To Francois Duchamp and his battalion of chefs from Harrods' Hall of Culinary Sorcery: Bravo! The foie gras, the truffle fettucine, the lobster, and oh! the tiny, precious haricots verts wrapped with newt tongues! Every course was utterly, mouth-wateringly, palate-teasingly spectacular. Oh, and the meringue. Exquisite!

To Mrs Lorig Iskanderian: the avian ballet was unlike anything I've ever seen before, and it was breath-taking. I'm certain you've seen and heard what people have been saying: we were all in awe at the artistry you coax from your birds. Few things deserve to be called magical, but in this instance there is no hyperbole involved.


To Elpis Pritchard: I appreciated your sensitive approach to documenting the event, and I look forward to meeting with you next week to assemble an album. Do, please, remember that we expect to authorise any agreement you might make with the papers or periodicals to reprint your images.

To Donar Pritchard, Carriage and Livery Services, who helped Papa find exactly the right carriage, and to the footmen in his employ, who served us so very well for this event, especially to Mr Peter Pastepot, for being so extremely courteous throughout and supremely resourceful when crisis threatened.

And, I'm afraid I cannot thank Papa's source for the champagne, as he has asked not to be named publicly, but I want you to know that I am very thankful for your generosity.


If I've neglected to mention anyone, please know that it is not because I intended a slight. I'm terribly afraid I might have overlooked someone, and I suppose that if I have done, I will simply have to write again. But please, please do know that I'm very thankful to each and every one of you who made last evening a night I will never, never forget.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-07-25 03:11:38](#)**
(no subject)


Warmest congratulations, Miss Sandoval. You are a tribute to your family, and a shining example of the best the Protectorate has to offer.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-07-25 03:24:38](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, thank you, sir. I'm so happy you and Mrs Selwyn were able to attend.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-25 04:41:57](#)**
(no subject)


Congratulations, Sandoval. It sounds as though it was quite a brilliant affair. Every account I've heard of the evening was exceedingly complimentary, but no wonder, considering the momentous occasion.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2010-07-25 11:22:54](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Weasley. It was truly a wonderful evening.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-25 12:38:10](#)**
(no subject)

Mum said it was the most magical evening she'd ever seen. I heard Dad say that he wondered if maybe the Lord Protector would have avian ballet for Marvolo's birthday or maybe for next Freedom Day because it


was so nift.

(You made Mum blush when she read this, too!)

I can't wait til I'm old enough to go to parties like that. I wish I could have been there! Do you think, once your album is assembled, we could maybe get together with the rest of the Ravenclaw Corner folks who want to see, and you could show us all the pictures?

Next year's going to be so strange, not having you right there. I know Electra and Orion and Xi will keep the Corner going, but it won't be the same.




 **alt_lana** at [2010-07-25 12:49:56](#)
(no subject)

That's an excellent idea. I'll ask Mama if I couldn't have you all here for an evening at Leighton House.

Did you enjoy the Closing Feast for your London week? I heard they were planning to invite some musicians along to play for you, and that witch who does the musical faerie light shows--I've forgotten her name. Did she turn up? And there was talk of Linetta Strangeweal, who does the charmed face painting they profiled in that Whirl article about the Midsummer festival in Brighton. Was she there? I think she might have been a schoolmate of Professor Sinistra's, though I could have that wrong. I admit, I was only half paying attention all week, which is terrible, but I hadn't realised quite how overwhelming all the lead up to Friday's party would really be.



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-25 13:09:34](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, please!

Yes, there were musicians. Nothing like all the music you had, but Solstice Night was here and they were very good.

Madam Strangeweal was here, too. Parvati got a butterfly mask painted on and it kept flapping its wings when she wanted to dance! I dunno if she's the same age as Professor Sinistra - I mean, she looked rather old, but not as old as Madam Pince or


anything.

I was distracted, too, though, because I kept thinking about your party. We could hear the fireworks though! All the way at the Horseguards. We had some of our own, too, in the courtyard, but I doubt they were as snitch as yours.

Mum says a witch's presentation ceremony is the second-happiest day of her life (meaning her wedding is the happiest). I can't even imagine anything that would be happier, though, than the stories they told us about Friday.

Of course, she's also sort of after Haruman to introduce us to his girlfriend. I think she really wants another project, now that your robes are done. Even though she's really busy with Mrs Malfoy's line, I think she'd make time for a wedding dress if Haruman would let her!




 **alt_lana** at **2010-07-25 13:21:18**
(no subject)

Ha! She looked younger in the picture Whirl printed, but I guess if you're a professional face-painter, then you'd best be deft with your own makeup!

Who is Haruman seeing? He'd be a fine catch for the right girl. He looked very fit in his robes. I hope he enjoyed himself.



 **alt_padma** at **2010-07-25 13:52:00**
(no subject)

Well, that's just the problem - we don't know! He won't tell Mum - or even Dad. I think it's because she's not Hindu, maybe even not Indian, and Haruman thinks Mum and Dad would disapprove.

I think it's probably someone at St Mungo's. I mean, where else would he meet someone? But he won't say.

Right after we got home from school, he even mentioned maybe getting his own place soon and you should have seen the row! I've never heard him talk about moving out before. Mum said he wouldn't talk that way unless he was serious about this girl, and

what did that say, if he was too ashamed to bring her round? And Dad just got very grim, you know, and said that they'd be very happy if he wanted to get married, but they'd need to meet her first, and just to move out would bring shame and anyway, they needed him home and his wife could move in too.

And then Haruman said that if he had his own place, Parvati and me could come there sometimes to give Mum and Dad a break. Well, we got upset by that. I mean, really! We're not any kind of trouble! And this was before the YPL trip, so they were going to have nearly a whole week without us around, if they wanted some time 'alone' or whatever. But Mum started talking about how Haruman should just bring his girlfriend round and they'd worry about whether or not she's Hindu later, the important things would be that she's a proper witch and of a good family. Dad didn't like that at all. He started going on about how mixed marriages never work, how unhappy Vanyi Mukherjee was when he married outside the caste, and all. So Haruman said to forget it, he wasn't ashamed but she wasn't ready to be introduced, not like that, and they weren't sure about getting married yet, either. And Mum said that no proper girl would wait to meet her bloke's parents. She said that meant there was only one kind of girl who wouldn't want to get married. Then she said she and Dad should have gone ahead and got Haruman engaged to Prathika Goshal when they had the chance, but Dad said Prathika wouldn't have made a good wife (and he said something else but I won't say that), and Mum said if Dad didn't care about Haruman's future, maybe he could start thinking about us (I mean, me and Parvati). But we said that we didn't want to get engaged yet, either, thanks, and that there aren't many boys we'd consider anyway. But that didn't really help.

Well. Anyway, Dad got up and went to his studio. And Mum decided to clean up from supper. Haruman told me and Parvati to go on upstairs and we heard him tell Mum he was going back to St Mungo's to run some analysis he'd left for morning. But I'm pretty sure he was lying just to get out of the house for a while. It was horrid.

But since then he hasn't mentioned his girlfriend and whenever Mum's asked he's just looked at her and said 'Let's not start,' and Mum's looked sort of wounded but she's left it.

Only I think mainly it was just because she didn't want anything

to interfere with your party. And I think maybe now that it's over she'll bring it up again.



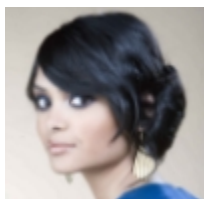
 **alt_lana** at [2010-07-25 15:06:34](#)

(no subject)

Oh, dear.

That sounds difficult.

I shouldn't think you'd want to get engaged yet. I mean, before finishing school? Is that, well, usual in Hindu families?




 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-25 15:37:33](#)

(no subject)

Well, it used to be more common, and it's more common for girls than boys, I think. And it's not really really engaged, the way you'd think of it. It's more like ... well, your parents get together with the parents of a boy who's about your age, and they decide that when you grow up, then you'll get engaged. So they have a ceremony so that everyone knows you're promised to one another. But no one expects you to actually start acting like a couple. I mean, you wouldn't actually date, or anything. It's not the kind of engagement like May Ito and Mendicus Doyle announced this morning (did you see it? In the *Prophet?*).

And it's not as easy now, because obviously there are far fewer really suitable boys in the Protectorate. I mean, I think the only boy even remotely close to our age would be Vikram Goshal and he's younger by a whole year! Or they'd have to promise us to someone really old, like more than ten years older. Or Dad's just going to have to get used to the idea that we might not marry anyone who's Indian at all. (But I don't think he's really ready for that!)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2010-07-26 13:28:02](#)
(no subject)

Miss Sandoval - I just wanted to add my own congratulations now that I've had a moment to catch up with other urgent business. From your description - and from the other comments I've been hearing from everyone who attended as we get ready for the next round of visitors - it was a stunning success.

I'm also deeply grateful for the time you - and your family - were able to spare me this past week, even with all your other commitments. Your service to the goals of the Lord Protector is most notable - many others would have begged off entirely in such a week.

(And in answer to your question about Linetta Strangeweal: she was a 7th year at Hogwarts when I was a 2nd year, but she's been friends with my oldest sister for a long time. I've barely an artistic bone in my body, other than tidy star charts, so her artistic skills always delighted me even back then.)

2010-07-25 07:53:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well. That was odd.

Maybe I'm really still asleep? I mean, Dad's odd all the time, but he doesn't usually sound quite so mental.



 [alt_ron](#)

So I came down earlier than usual. Um, yeah. Loads earlier. Cause I woke up thinking about all this stuff about the lock and, y'know, everybody being hacked off at everybody else. And Pansy, y'know. And Hermione and these other people she talks to. And it's just all not on.

But anywiz, I couldn't sleep, so I got up to see what there is to eat, and Dad's in the kitchen by himself, and when he sees me he gets this funny look on his face and he takes me outside behind the chicken house, and I thought maybe I'd left it unlatched and fox'd got in and I was in trouble.

But he just wants to tell me something. He says, 'I'm going to tell you something that I know perfectly well will sound rather mad, but it's important. Extremely important. I want you to pay attention and absolutely obey me on this. Will you do that?'

And, y'know, I still figured I was in trouble, so I guess it took me a while to answer him.

He says, 'Ron, I need you to tell me you'll do what I'm asking. Will you?' So I said sure. I mean, what am I going to say? 'No, I don't think I do want to hear whatever mad thing you're thinking of telling me. Thanks, but no thanks!'

So then he says, 'The day may come when you may get instructions from either a weasel, a squirrel, a hawk, a cat or a Newfoundland dog. I want you to promise me that you'll do whatever the message says if it comes from one of these. Promise me.'

So, yeah, I promised. But, I mean, really. He's fallen off his broom, hasn't he? And he made me tell him the animals--weasel, squirrel, hawk, cat, or a Newfoundland dog--a bunch of times.

And then he just turns around and goes back in the kitchen to eat his porridge. And when Mum and Percy came in, he didn't say anything

about what he'd said to me.

Mad, innit?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-07-25 13:39:03**
(no subject)


A squirrel?

A Newfoundland dog?

That sounds utterly mad and your dad's never seemed mad.

I'm surprised he didn't tell you not to tell a soul. You'd better not tell anyone who isn't us. And if the dog says 'it's time to go tell Bellatrix LeStrange everything you know!' um, I wouldn't listen.



 **alt_ron** at **2010-07-25 15:02:34**
(no subject)

Yeah, I guess he figured not telling anyone about it kinda goes without saying.

I mean, he doesn't know about you lot, but I sure wouldn't go telling anyone else.

I just saw him asking the twins outside to help him degnome the orchard side of the hedge. Which is odd, 'cause we never worry about the orchard side unless we're expecting company. So he's probably telling them the same thing.

But I don't think he said anything to Percy before he left.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2010-07-25 16:34:18**
(no subject)

Maybe these are animagus forms.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-25 16:36:04](#)
(no subject)

Except, can you talk when you're a transformed animagus?

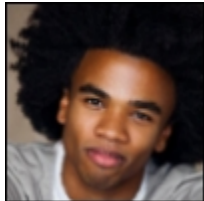
I think there's a spell that you can use to make an animal talk, but you can put it on whatever animal you want. It's not JUST a weasel or a cat or a PARTICULAR breed of dog. Do you know anyone with a Newfoundland dog? Those are the really big ones, right?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-25 16:45:40](#)
(no subject)

Maybe it's just a code. Like you'd get the instruction in a note and then someone signs it by drawing a little hawk so you know you're supposed to pay attention to it. But you don't know who sent it.


So he's saying, if you ever get this note from someone you don't know, you're supposed to trust it anyway, and do what it asks.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-25 16:48:35](#)
(no subject)


I hope they're good at drawing then. If I tried drawing a Newfoundland dog nobody would be able to tell it from a German shepherd.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-25 19:27:03](#)
(no subject)

HAHAHAHAHAHA!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-25 19:28:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know. I've never met an animagus, I don't think. But it'd seem odd if they could talk. I thought it made you really totally into an animal.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-25 16:43:33](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Dad had that little chat with us, as you thought, Ron. He didn't say not to tell anyone else, exactly, but he just nodded when he was done and said, 'We'll say no more about it, then.'

Guess we owe you an apology, Perks. We thought you were nutters when you suggested our mum might be in this secret group.

But now we're thinking maybe Dad's in on it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-25 20:11:44](#)
(no subject)

Is it the sort of thing your Dad would do without your Mum knowing, do you think?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-25 20:12:50](#)
(no subject)

Good point. They're sort of a team, we think.

So, yeah. Both of them. Probably.

Wicked.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-25 21:20:09](#)
(no subject)

I don't know. I've been thinking all day about how sometimes people act dead strange when they're under the Imperius curse. Only I can't think why anyone would imperius your father into telling you

||| to obey instructions from a cat or weasel or squirrel instead of --
||| well, anyway, it's just really odd.

2010-07-25 12:34:00

(no subject)



 [alt_lavender](#)

I've been thinking about timing, and the way things happen.

I think it's funny how, if you go on holiday, say, and something unpleasant happens at the beginning of your holiday, it's easy to forget about it and enjoy the rest of the time. But if you have a wonderful holiday, and something unpleasant happens at the end of it, it's hard to remember all the other good things that happened before.

I know, because I keep trying to focus on all the really snitch things we did earlier in the week, but all I can think about is Friday and Saturday. We were all ever so shaken on Friday afternoon, and I was so relieved when the Aurors came and gathered us up and got us all safely back to our hotel. I thought it was all over but that was a bit silly of me, I realise now, because of course they would have to question anyone who reported seeing a dangerous criminal. But I really didn't expect that Padma and I would get called back to MLE by ourselves for more questioning.

I've heard people saying all sorts of things about that and most of them are utterly ridiculous. For Merlin's sake, of course they didn't use Veritaserum on us! They save that for criminals, not for kids. And they didn't arrest us or anything either.

It was still a bit scary--I mean, I understand that Aurors have to be very serious and stern because their job is keeping us safe--but Mr Gupta from our demonstration was there and he wasn't smiling or friendly or nice anymore.

He was furious at us, because I guess he thought we were just being silly kids and wasting his time and distracting him from really catching people like Snape and MacNair. He didn't raise his voice at all, it was just so, so icy, and and he said he was disappointed in us--he thought we were better daughters of the Protectorate. I almost started crying (and I squeezed Padma's hand really hard--sorry Padma!) but I was a little angry too, because we really did see *something* and we didn't do it on purpose just to mess things up for him.

And then a witch came in that we saw at the demonstration but didn't

really talk to (I think her name was Forney) and she was really sweet and nice to us, and then said "You know, I was a schoolgirl once myself, and I understand that girls sometimes like to be a little bit helpless so that boys they fancy will notice them. You can tell me if it was anything like that, and I promise I won't tell Mr Gupta or be cross."


And well, if it *had* been anything like I would have told her all about it, but Padma spoke up right away and said "Of course not, we don't fancy anyone in our year anyway, especially not Weasley." And then she talked to us some more, and I guess was satisfied that we really weren't doing it on purpose for a joke or something. Mr Gupta warned us to be more careful and more observant next time, and they let us go.

I still think we saw something--and it was a person, not a dog--but Ms Forney explained that because we'd been talking about Snape and MacNair all week, our minds were very, suggestible was the word she used I think.

So maybe all we saw was a tall, thin man, and he was only in the bushes going after his dog, but our minds jumped right away to thinking it was Snape. And now I realise how foolish we were to make jokes about Snape and MacNair and try to frighten each other with them, because maybe if we hadn't we wouldn't have been so quick to think we had seen them and made all that extra work for the Aurors.

I'll certainly think twice before I panic that way ever again.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-25 17:19:58](#)**
(no subject)

Macnair was tall but not thin at all, he was massive with muscles, remember? Though I suppose he might be thin after a year in Azkaban. But I guess that Snape was always thin, and a bit tall, too. And if he's going to be seen anywhere, it'll probably be where he can get at Harry, so I think you did the right thing to speak up.

Anyway, don't feel bad about Mr Gupta being stern, it's something Aurors do all the time, they play Good Auror/Bad Auror. One comes in and acts fearsome, and then the other comes in and acts apologetic and kind. It's meant to make you trust the kind Auror so that you'll be more likely to tell them everything they want to know.




 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-25 17:25:21](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Draco! I feel a bit better now, and not quite so foolish.

And that's good to know, about Aurors I mean. I don't quite see why they used it on us though, since we didn't do anything wrong.


I suppose they just wanted to make really, really sure that we hadn't been playing a joke.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-25 17:42:49](#)**
(no subject)

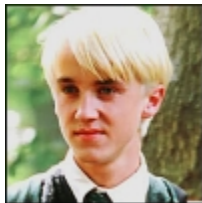
It's just one of the ways to get information, and whether someone does something wrong or not, information about people like Snape will always be useful. But yes, they have to make sure that the information is real, first.




 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2010-07-25 17:46:26](#)**
(no subject)

Now that I think about it, I suppose they've probably had simply loads of people owling to say they'd seen Snape or MacNair.

Because if people are naturally suggestible like Ms Forney said, it probably works on adults too and not just kids.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-25 17:49:34](#)**
(no subject)

People were always seeing Sirius Black when he was alive, too.

And it'd probably be dead nift to be able to say you were the one who helped the MLE to catch Macnair or Snape, wouldn't it?




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-25 17:54:44](#)
(no subject)

Absolutely it would be!

But I'm not going to open my mouth again unless I'm dead certain I saw something dodgy.


Do you think they might try to come around Hogwarts? I should think MacNair would want to stay far away, since there are loads of people who would recognize him. Unless he had Polyjuice or something...



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-25 17:30:09](#)
(no subject)


Yes, that's what I realised he was doing, only not until he'd been at it for a while. It was very effective at first! Though I don't know if that was more because we'd seen him being so nice earlier, on our tour and during the YPL activities at school. I mean, if it had been someone else, whom we hadn't already met, you know, someone really fierce like...well, like Mr Travers or your aunt, or Mr Crouch, then I think it would have stayed scary even if we'd known it was more of an act.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-25 17:50:54](#)
(no subject)

If you'd really done something wrong they probably would have brought in someone like Mr Travers or Mr Crouch and it wouldn't have been much of an act at all; or, instead of questioning you they would have done legilimency.

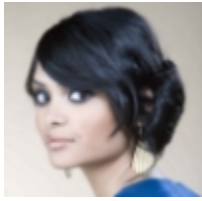



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-25 17:54:38](#)
(no subject)

No, I don't suppose it would be an act in that case. And I don't want to ever find out!

But I meant that even if they were doing it just to get a rise out, I reckon it would be much more frightening than

||| even Mr Gupta. And for someone who's been rather nice on his previous times with the YPL, he was plenty frightening!



 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-25 17:25:08](#)
(no subject)


Well, I was a little frightened at first too, but then I remembered in one of the Interrogator's Guides that sometimes Aurors put on a show of being much more cross than they are, really. So I thought perhaps Mr Gupta was just trying that sort of thing.

And there's what Mr Crouch told Thomas, about how it's better to report and be wrong than not report and find out later that you'd have been right. But I guess I can understand how they might have grown more upset after a full night's looking round and not finding anything, how he might have been more annoyed with us then. So I don't blame him - but I thought Mrs Forney was daft to suggest we'd have made up a story to impress *Weasley*, of all people!

Anyway, I'm just glad that they talked to us together, usually they don't, if you're suspected of anything dire, and once I figured out that they just wanted to make sure we weren't hiding anything or forgetting anything that might have been important, I wasn't nearly so worried.

I just wanted to make sure they knew that we'd never betray the Protectorate! I really wanted my wand, when he said that!




 **alt_lavender** at [2010-07-25 17:29:43](#)
(no subject)

I was so glad that you were with me--sometimes I think you should be the Gryffindor, you were so brave!

Do they go over these kinds of things in Future Interrogators?

I have to admit I always thought it sounds a little boring before, but now I think I might want to join.




 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-25 17:34:42](#)
(no subject)

Well, not precisely, but I read a few books when I was getting ready for our Model Wizengamot, and one of them talked about Interrogative Technique and like Draco says, Good Auror/Bad Auror is one thing they discussed in the books.

But you should come to Future Interrogators next year, Lav! It's really much more fun than it sounds. And you can practise talking to authorities - not that we'd ever willingly get in trouble! But we'd know next time just what to tell them when we see someone coming after Harry or whatever. And not a dog, either!




 **alt_lavender** at [2010-07-25 17:40:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, I hope we *won't* see anyone else coming after Marvolo, but with the way people seem to target him you're right that we might!

And it would be useful to know the kind of things that interrogators and Aurors use to tell if someone is really dodgy. So maybe I will come!




 **alt_padma** at [2010-07-25 17:52:41](#)
(no subject)

Well, and honestly, I think it would help you keep an eye on you-know-who who's living in your house.


(Did you see what she wrote to Mr Crouch? Honestly, I think I'd die. Luckily I think he knows you've nothing to do with her. What a lunatic.)



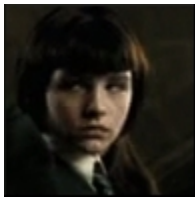
 [alt_lavender](#) at [2010-07-25 17:57:03](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, she's a bit of a nutter, but she's harmless really.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-26 02:35:08](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron, I'm so sorry I got you into trouble. Do you think MLE is going to come ask you questions? You could say you were trying to impress Lav, if you think they won't believe you really did see something and were just mistaken when you thought it was something dangerous.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-26 06:14:16](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

If I were him, I'd stick with the story of seeing something dangerous. I think it's safer all round, it looks far better, and now we know what they'll say to that version of things, so he'll be prepared to answer their questions.

2010-07-25 13:33:00

(no subject)

Stand up and off you go. Back to it, man.



 **alt_wagstaff**

2010-07-26 08:34:00

(no subject)

Narcissa.


I've been summoned into East Anglia this morning. I know you were hoping to go over Rabastan's suggestions re. your holiday planning. I'm afraid it's likely that I'll be away over night at least. If you think it can wait for Wednesday, Pennifold is holding the afternoon open for now. He knows that if he hears either from you or Mariposa, he should schedule you.



 **alt_crouch_jr**

My apologies.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2010-07-26 13:00:01**
(no subject)

Yes, of course, I understand. Please don't trouble about it. Wednesday ought to be soon enough; I'll have Mariposa arrange an hour through Ned.

Do be careful.

2010-07-26 11:02:00

Unexpected visitors


A couple of visitors came to the Burrow this morning to ask Ron a few questions concerning last week's events in London. I believe they're from the MLE. He's speaking with them now.



 [alt_molly](#)


They said that they liked my coffee, but they refused the pie.



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2010-07-26 16:07:48**
(no subject)


Not unexpected, I should think. The other children concerned were questioned as well.



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2010-07-26 16:08:44**
Order Only


What does the clock say?



 [alt_molly](#) at **2010-07-26 16:09:30**
Re: Order Only


Nothing alarming. 'Home' rather than 'Mortal Peril.'
Believe me, I'm keeping an eye upon it.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2010-07-26 16:08:19**
Order Only

Deep breaths, Mum.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-26 16:10:03](#)

Re: Order Only

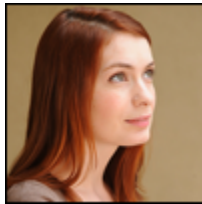
I'm making shortbread. It helps keep my nerves a bit calmer.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-26 16:47:33](#)

Re: Order Only

They've left now. Ron's a bit white-faced and subdued, but seems all right. They didn't say anything further to me about it before they left.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-26 23:10:12](#)

Re: Order Only

Glad to hear, Molly.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-26 17:08:50](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh MERLIN, Ron. ARE YOU OKAY?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-26 17:23:12](#)

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

He's fine. They stayed and talked to him for about twenty minutes, but they've left now, without hauling him away in chains or anything. He's holed up in his room now, and doesn't seem inclined to come out for awhile. Mum told us to leave him be for now.

Mum looks like she's got a few more grey hairs, but she's trying to act like everything's normal.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-26 17:43:52](#)

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

Thanks for telling me. I'm glad they're gone.

2010-07-27 17:01:00

Order Only: Leaving London?

Moony, you weren't kidding about the Wolfsbane Potion. I don't think I've ever seen you spend a better full moon. Still, it was good to pass it together again. Been too long. Thanks again for the hospitality.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Didn't mean to rush off like that, so soon, either, but - well, Dora Tonks wanted to open up and it seemed like a good time to take my leave. I don't think your customers would worry about a stray hanging about the shop, but it's probably best not to test it, eh?


Anyway. I guess there's no telling where I'll be next full moon, but perhaps if it works out we might get you out of that cellar for a bit. With the potion, I mean, of course.

I'll be back to the usual routine, then, between gathering up old papers (not too smudged with chip oil) and keeping an eye on Buckingham. Though I did have a chat with Benjy and Caradoc, while they were here at the weekend. They have a notion I should leave the city and come with the Players to the next meeting with Davidson. Something about proving to them that I'm still alive, giving their morale a boost. Benjy particularly wanted me to surprise Turner, though I think that may have had more to do with Benjy's predictions about the look on Turner's face when he sees me alive and kicking than anything else. I dunno - it has some merit, of course, but my biggest advantage right now is anonymity. Besides, yesterday's *Night Owl* seemed fairly certain Snape is in the area, despite the false sighting at Hyde Park. I don't want to leave Harry and Hermione if he really is somewhere in London proper.

Well. Speaking of Harry, it's about the time he usually comes out for flying. I'll be heading off to watch.

Molly, Arthur: No further fallout from the Ministry? Everything okay?




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-07-27 21:49:50](#)**
(no subject)

We both meant it when we said you're always welcome.

It was good to see you.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-29 02:16:33](#)**
(no subject)

You as well - especially looking fit. Regular meals look well on you, mate.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-27 22:10:11](#)**
Order Only

Thanks for our chat about, well, you know. It meant a lot to hear all that.

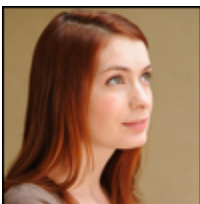
I didn't mean to chase you off! You could've stayed out the back or something, no one goes back there except us. I know you've got other stuff to do though. We'll see you again soon, yeah?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-29 02:20:09](#)**
Re: Order Only

Sorry I didn't have more stories for you. I was still living at home when they were married - and I only saw you a handful of times myself, before everything went to pieces.

You didn't chase me away. Just best not to risk any sort of sighting. Plus, I had my own errands to perform.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-29 02:14:12](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, love, I'm sorry I didn't say anything earlier, but I think it would be a good thing for you to stop by the Sherwood group.

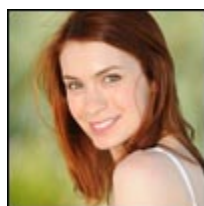
It's entirely up to you, of course, but I think it would be worthwhile. A very good show of faith towards Davidson, at the least. And if you only show yourself to a few key people, if news does spread, it would be as a rumour -- and a potent, uplifting one at that.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-29 02:22:38](#)
(no subject)

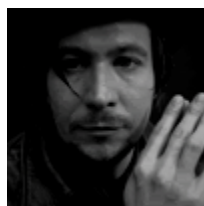
Hm. Well, I can't say Benjy's ideas are always the most practical. I'd like to hear Arthur and Kingsley on the matter. They seem to have a rapport with that particular arm of the resistance.


In any case, I can't leave before Sunday, that's for sure.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 02:24:18](#)
(no subject)

What's happening on Sunday?

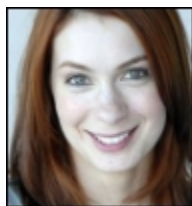



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-29 02:28:25](#)
(no subject)

Not Sunday, love. Saturday's Harry's birthday. I feel certain they'll have something planned, though there's no guarantee. But I certainly wouldn't go when there's a chance of something ...

I don't know.

It's probably just foolish.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 02:32:50](#)
(no subject)

Not foolish at all.

I think he'd appreciate it if he knew how much you wanted to keep him safe. And you want to see your godson on his birthday. I think it's sweet.


Our Neville turns thirteen on Friday. Goodness.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-29 02:37:32](#)
(no subject)

Circe, that's right! I'd forgot they were born so close together. Have to admit we were preoccupied with Lily. She wasn't half driving James round the twist at the end there. Which put me on 24-hour call, you know.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 02:45:41](#)
(no subject)

I can imagine!

It's so odd -- it seems like only yesterday, and here we are, with two teenagers.

It makes me feel so *old*.

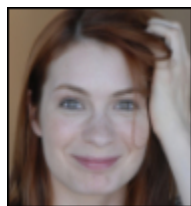



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-29 02:49:44](#)
(no subject)

It makes ~~me~~ want a ~~toke~~

Nah. You're just getting started, Allie.

As for me, I've said before I never expected to live this long, anyway.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 02:51:27](#)
(no subject)

To tell you the truth, neither did I, love.

And yet, here we both are.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 02:51:58](#)
(no subject)

Pure stubbornness on your part, I'm sure.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-29 02:54:37](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I'll be buggered if I'd have left Mother to be the last of us, I'll give you that.

Merlin. I need a spliff drink.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2010-07-29 03:07:46](#)**
(no subject)

Didn't you think to pack any?

Poor dear. I'm sure you'll manage somehow.

It's been ages since I've indulged. But goodness, I do miss it sometimes.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-29 03:14:38](#)**
(no subject)

Oddly, no, it wasn't top of mind when I was stumbling round in the dark in my house gathering up the essentials. (Consequently it's been 'ages' since I indulged, too - though I know, nowhere near as long as you.)

Well. Firewhiskey will suffice. Or a good claret. Even a pint of bitter if it comes to it.

2010-07-27 17:43:00

Buckingham Palace

It is ever so lovely.

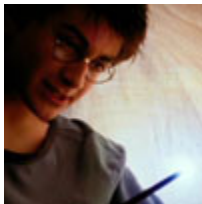
I really appreciate it and I appreciate being Mr Marvolo's servant here.




 [alt_hermione](#)

This year it is very nice that we have the new suite of rooms. I can serve better that way.

I know that the Lord Protector was reading Mr Marvolo's journal. I know that he probably doesn't read a Muddblood's journal. But if he is reading, thank you, Sire.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-27 21:46:13](#)
(no subject)

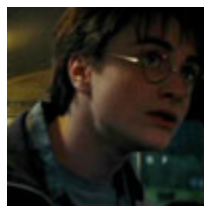
Glad to have me back are you?


You don't have to call Father Sire you know.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:47:38](#)
(no subject)

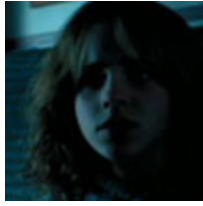
Sir, I'm sorry, but I think I should, because I call you sir, and I should call your Father Sire, because that's more respectful, and I should be as respectful as ever I can be to him. I mean if I ever were to speak to him which I won't, I mean, I don't, except maybe if he reads my journal.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-27 21:48:37](#)
(no subject)

Why are you


Oh come off it Granger.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:50:14](#)
(no subject)

Yes, sir.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-27 21:50:39](#)
(no subject)

I said, come off it!!!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:51:14](#)
(no subject)

Sir, I am going to come find you. I would like to serve you the best way I can.

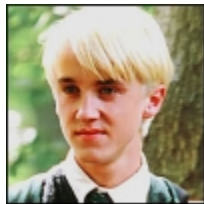



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:51:59](#)
ORDER ONLY

He can be such an idiot!!!!!!

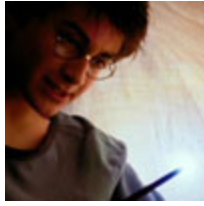
I talk to him like normal all the time, but of course I can't talk like that in the journals!!!


And now I have to go talk some sense into him.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-28 01:04:05](#)
(no subject)

I think it's good that she's calling Him Sire. But if she's misbehaving otherwise you should see about it in person.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2010-07-28 01:17:53](#)
(no subject)

She explained herself.


I mean I suppose maybe you're right about Sire. Only it seems weird. But she isn't really misbehaving. She's just being smart.



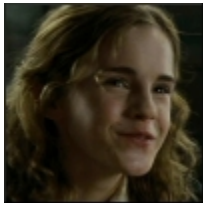
 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-28 01:21:23](#)
(no subject)

~~Of course she's being.~~ Ah, really? Good to know, then.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-27 21:48:22](#)
Order Only


All right, Hermione?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:49:55](#)
Re: Order Only

Yes, only I overheard someone asking Harry whether his Mudblood could read and write at all, because I never write when it's not to you all. I suppose they must watch my journal as well as his. That's very Slytherin, isn't it? But anyhow, I didn't want them to think that I couldn't read or write, I know that's silly, but anyway.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-27 21:54:12](#)
Re: Order Only

I get it.

Listen, if you can get Harry outside, I'll be under the bushes on the southwest corner of the west lawns in about five minutes. Don't mistake me for Snape, right?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-27 21:55:41](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm sure I can. He won't want to talk in his chambers anyway because we all know that someone's probably watching.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-27 23:39:02](#)

Re: Order Only

You be careful, love.

Dog or no.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-28 00:26:19](#)

Re: Order Only

Sometimes I think I'm much more careful as Padfoot than not.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-28 01:20:29](#)

Re: Order Only

well don't get caught.

hate to have to kick your arse twice.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-28 01:25:22](#)

Re: Order Only

Ta. Once will be more than enough.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-28 01:33:22](#)

Re: Order Only

well, yeah, figured as much.

they don't usually come back for seconds.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-27 23:42:15](#)
ORDER ONLY

Hermione, has Minerva been by yet with your portkey?

If not, please let us know once you've got it, and if you have any questions as to how it works.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-28 01:02:00](#)
(no subject)

I almost forgot you had a journal, Granger, you write in it so little. I suppose you're keeping busy all the time, though, and that's why.

The Lord Protector probably doesn't read your journal, but you never know for sure.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-28 01:16:08](#)
(no subject)

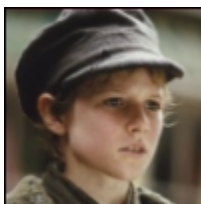
That's true, sir. Mr Marvolo keeps me very busy.


Nobody does, do they?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-28 01:24:07](#)
(no subject)

That's right, but it's fairly likely that he reads Harry's, and since you belong to Harry...well, it's possible, isn't it?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-28 02:42:15](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Hermione, I'm coming to London!! The Headmistress told me tonight that she's leaving for the city tomorrow, and she's bringing me with her! She said that she's been told she should claim one of the great houses in London, because of her position as Headmistress. I don't think she likes the idea, exactly. She's going to tour the houses they were offering her so she can pick the one she wants, and she wants

me to come along (she told me 'you will at least tell me if any of them seem to be monstrosities.' In that sort of peppery way she has, with her mouth turned down at the corner, you know?)

I was so surprised when she told me that I blurted out that I hoped I might have a chance to see you. I was afraid she'd be angry with me, but she acted like it wasn't a strange question at all, and she told me she thought it quite likely. So perhaps we'll have a chance to snatch a few minutes with each other.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2010-07-29 00:44:41](#)

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

I know exactly the kind of way she has. I can't wait!
I'm sure she'll do her best for us, really.

2010-07-27 21:00:00

We're here!

Well, I was going to say we're here in New London, but of course, I live here anyway. When I'm not at school, I mean. But I mean we're here for our turn at the YPL week. It's wonderful to see my roommates again.



 **alt_hannah**

They're not having us room together, though. Just like last year's camping trip, they're shuffling people around so we're not going to be sharing rooms with our roommates from our own House. I've been put with Katrina Bundy and Mandy Brocklehurst. Our suite at the Horseguards in Whitehall is ever so posh! After we had put our things away, we went to see the inspection of the guard, which is held every day at 4:00. They explained that the muggle queen Victoria once came to the gate but none of the guards were there as they were supposed to be because they were all drunk! (Which just goes to show you how undependable Muggles are, I suppose). So she ordered that the guard hold an inspection at 4:00 every day for the next 100 years. Well, the hundred years has come and gone, and of course we don't have kings or queens anymore, but the guard still holds their inspection at 4:00 every day, except that now it's to honour the Lord Protector instead. And of course, since the Lord Protector is charged with protecting the Realm, and all His citizens, it's symbolic to continue the tradition, do you see? It was ever so impressive to see the ceremony and to think that it has been done exactly that way for years and years! Su Li said that it must be very difficult for the guards to wear those uniforms in the summer heat, but they stood straight and still as anything, and you couldn't tell at all that they felt the least bit uncomfortable.

We had a lovely welcoming Feast, quite as nice as the Welcome Feast at Hogwarts, and we were supposed to have a walk along the Thames to see the fairylights, but unfortunately, it's raining rather hard, a perfect downpour. So we're staying inside instead, which is a bit of a disappointment, but Professor Sinistra is telling us about all the treats we have in store this week. And of course, we've read everything that the last group had to say in their journals. We're all so excited!

They're telling us lights out now because we have a big day tomorrow, so I'll close for now.




 **alt_michael** at [2010-07-28 13:49:26](#)
(no subject)

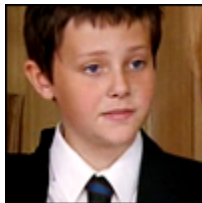
Abbott, tell me something: Stebbins. Was he this quiet even before he got petrified for nearly a year? He's dead boring for a roommate, tell you that.


Anyway, the *Prophet* offices were nift, weren't they?



 **alt_hannah** at [2010-07-28 15:21:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh, well, Bobby's nice, but he's just rather quiet until he gets to know you quite well. I've had some very interesting talks with him in our Common Room late at night, but that was after I'd known him for several months. He's quite fascinated with history, so I know he's really been looking forward to our week in London. He'll probably have a lot to say once we visit the museum.



 **alt_michael** at [2010-07-28 16:11:44](#)
(no subject)

History?

Oh.

That must be why he perked up when they said we're going to the Tower later.

Still. I understand why they want us to get to know people we ordinarily don't, but it's a little weird. I mean, Capper's here, but he's roomed with Goyle and Crabbe - and I can tell you he's not planning to spend much time in the room with them!


Anyway, how are you getting on with Brocklehurst? She's usually quiet, too, but not as quiet as Fawcett.



 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2010-07-29 03:02:41](#)**
(no subject)


Fine. We've been talking about music a little.



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2010-07-28 14:02:54](#)**
(no subject)

Our trip was wizard!! I hope you guys have a great week too!




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2010-07-28 17:55:21](#)**
(no subject)

I can tell you I won't be spending much time in my room either!


I'm sure you can guess why.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-28 19:30:00](#)**
(no subject)

Why, who are you rooming with?




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2010-07-28 20:13:38](#)**
(no subject)

Someone who doesn't get on with me terribly well (nor I with her)!

Though of course we're going to behave ourselves, during YPL--at least, I will.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-28 20:24:02](#)
(no subject)

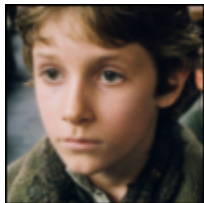
Well, it's got to be either Bulstrode or Fawcett, hasn't it? And I wouldn't trouble yourself if it's Bulstrode - no one gets on with her well, not even Greengrass or Perks. And you know Perks does her best to get on with everyone!


(And if it's Fawcett, don't worry about that either. She's a waterworks but she's harmless. Just don't let her borrow anything!)



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-07-28 20:45:49](#)
(no subject)

Fawcett and I get on most of the time--I don't mind people who get emotional easily, 'cos I don't think it's really their fault that they're that way.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-29 03:19:18](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

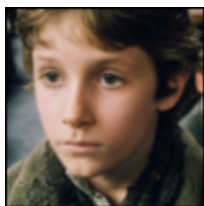
Honestly, does anyone get along at all with Padma Patil? She always seems to be the center of a big group of people, but do people actually like her?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-29 03:20:54](#)

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

Lana Sandoval does particularly, I think.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-29 03:25:31](#)

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

Oh, and doesn't that say it all.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-29 03:26:25](#)**

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

Yeah.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 03:40:57](#)**

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

Hah!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-29 04:50:46](#)**

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

The short answer to that is no.

I don't think even Sandoval likes her -- it's more that she thinks she shows promise and would be useful to cultivate.

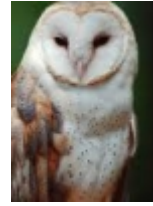
Morag and Belinda like being the girls everyone tries to impress, because of Padma. They're also scared of crossing her.

[2010-07-28 15:58:00](#)

Exciting Times!

The coming month is full of exciting events. Today we went shopping to pick out a couple of special occasion robes. I didn't really know why we were going at first. I know my birthday is coming up, but I didn't know what the need for more than one was.

Then Mr Peakes pulled out something that came early this morning. It was a very special invitation. It is such an honour to be invited to an event like this, on this weekend because I know that not many other children will get this chance.




 [alt_dean](#)

I am told that I will have to act very smart, and be on my very best behaviour. Eyes are always on me to see if I display any signs of unruly muggle behaviour. There is no way I will let the fact that I had the misfortune to have muggle relations colour my character in such an unfortunate way.

Mr Peakes also had another surprise for me. While we were out, he said that since we will not be leaving the country estate again before my birthday, with the exception of the event on Saturday, he said that I could choose an animal to take back to Hogwarts next term. I picked an Owl since they are dead useful creatures.

I must request some help where she is concerned. I've never had a pet before, and I don't know what to name her. I need something smart, yet meaningful, An owl like her deserves it. A little help anyone?




 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-07-28 20:15:55](#)
(no subject)

You can't go wrong with mythology of some sort, Thomas.


Are there any classical stories that you 'specially like?



 [alt_dean](#) at [2010-07-28 20:28:34](#)
(no subject)

Hmm... I hadn't thought about that. I guess I will have to think about my favorites.




 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-28 20:37:03](#)**
(no subject)

Well I have spent part of the summer learning about Greek and Egyptian mythology, so maybe I will name her along one of those lines.

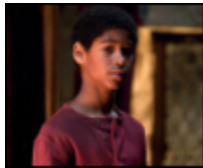
Thanks for the idea.




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2010-07-28 20:43:43](#)**
(no subject)

Sure!

That's sort of how I named my Valkyrie, so I figured it might work for other people too.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2010-07-28 21:44:28](#)**
(no subject)

I think I will name her Bast. Its short for and after the Egyptian Goddess Bastet.

Bastet was usually seen as a gentle protective goddess. However, she sometimes appeared with the head of a lioness to protect the king in battle.


The cat was a symbol of Bastet. The ancient Egyptians made many statues of cats like this one to honour Bastet.

Bastet was one of the daughters of the sun god, Ra. A great temple was built in her honour at Bubastis in the Delta.

Now I know I probably shouldn't name a bird after a Goddess that took on the partial form of a cat, but its a really wiz name.


So her name will be Bast.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-28 22:12:54](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations on your owl, Thomas. Mr Peakes must be pleased with you if he let you get one.




 [alt_dean](#) at [2010-07-28 23:58:35](#)
(no subject)

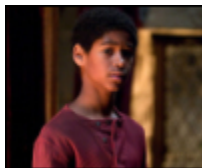
Hmm... Maybe you are right. I though it was just because of my birthday, but come to think of it he did say that near the end of the summer I would get a special treat if i behaved well. And I haven't caused any trouble really since we've been home.


Hey, we were even together a whole week and didn't have any major disagreements. But I think I've learned to get along with you rather well after being stuck in a castle for 6 months.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 00:51:58](#)
(no subject)


Well, it goes to show that you've figured out a few things - and I have to say that you've been much more mindful lately of what's important and what's not.



 [alt_dean](#) at [2010-07-29 01:45:48](#)
(no subject)


Well, I guess I will say thank you. I will not turn down a compliment in any form.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 01:48:03](#)
(no subject)

Good show, Thomas. I mean, just a year ago you'd probably have got all prickly over my saying that. But now - well, you understand, so that's excellent. Well done!



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-29 04:25:03](#)**
(no subject)

Owls are useful. I mean, I like Trevor, but it would be cool to have an owl, too. That's real nice of Mr Peakes.

2010-07-28 21:27:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



I've read everything. I still don't know what to make of it all, but I've read it, which is a start.

 [alt_pansy](#)

It took me a while. I went all the way back to the first time you lot used the lock. Fred and George, I think you two are utterly mad. And brilliant. But mostly mad.

Ron and Sally-Anne, I don't know what I was expecting, but it was good to read that even though you were saying things in private, where I couldn't see them, you were still sticking up for me. And that matters a lot.

Ron, are you all right? What did you say?

Sally-Anne, I still want you to come and visit. If you think there will be a problem with the Strettons, let me know.

And Gr Hermione, I don't know if you can say or not. But I really would like to know the answer to the question I asked you before. Very much.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-29 02:48:56**

(no subject)

I'm glad.

The Strettons have been a little difficult this week but I think they'll let me come.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-07-29 02:54:01**

(no subject)

Well, good. If they make like they won't, let me know, and I'll send a letter that's meant to go to Lucius to you instead or something.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 03:02:46](#)
(no subject)

Mrs Stretton went a bit mad after I got the invite to Harry's party today. I think they'll let me come to your house.

I still haven't told them about Sebastian. I wonder if I can convince them I got him as a party favour from Harry?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 03:10:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's not as if they follow anything anyone else writes on these things.

Perhaps you could "find" him in Diagon? It'd be more believable to find a magical rat there than at their farms.

And you can tell them they're saving money by not having to buy it for you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 03:58:19](#)
(no subject)

Oh, that's perfect, actually. If they don't let me keep him I could let him go, and someone else will likely find him. Someone who isn't Carrow, I mean.


I'd hate to lose him BUT at least this way he'll be safe from Carrow (unless he's really, really unlucky).



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-29 03:15:16](#)
(no subject)

Madness can definitely have its uses. We pride ourselves on being inventive.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 03:26:11](#)
(no subject)

To say the least.


I mean, I've been a bit mad from time to time, so I can identify, but you do it with *flair*.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-29 04:22:35](#)
(no subject)

And a lot of the very maddest things they do never even see the light of day. They're also real good at covering their tracks.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 04:40:12](#)
(no subject)

All right, I get it already.


You don't have to tell *me* twice.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-29 04:53:46](#)
(no subject)

What are you talking about?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 04:55:22](#)
(no subject)

I already know what they'll do to me if I rat on anybody.

No need to rub it in.




 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-29 04:56:33](#)
(no subject)

Oh.


Look I didn't mean it like that! Honest. I just meant if you've got secret stuff you need to do they're real good at helping with that sort of stuff.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-29 04:57:08](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, they really are.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:02:06](#)
(no subject)

Well.


Good to know, then.



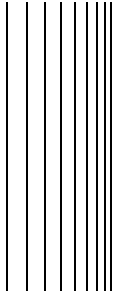
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-29 05:03:03](#)
(no subject)

In fact, we'd be happy to extend our prankish endeavors to Slytherin House, if you'd ever care to assist.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:04:06](#)
(no subject)

Even better to know.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 05:13:22](#)
(no subject)

I think Ptolemy Baddock deserves something.

A swift kick in the arse, really, but failing that... I don't know. But something...

2010-07-28 21:48:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Hermione, I don't know if they told you but if not it seems like something you should know -- there's to be a surprise party for Harry on Saturday. I got the invitation this morning by owl. I thought I'd better let you know.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

They're having people come at 3 p.m. but I think the party doesn't start properly right away, maybe they're going to have everyone go off to some part of the palace and lead Harry in? Anyway I was a bit surprised to get the invitation, since it wasn't Harry sending them out, but probably they invited everyone in Slytherin House.

It's up to you whether to tell Harry. You could tell him you overheard someone talking, if you think he ought to know.

(And Pansy you should have SEEN how Mrs Stretton went on. She's been all cross about how I was gone for a week -- apparently not only do I keep Gemma busy, I keep Jeremy from sulking, and having me gone is just a TERRIBLE BURDEN even though they didn't want me at all last summer. But then the invitation came from Buckingham and she went into a tizzy about what I should wear. She's never cared before what I wear so long as I'm clothed, but anytime Harry pays attention to me she starts worrying that someone important might think she doesn't treat me well. We're going to Diagon Alley to shop for a proper present for Harry -- apparently she doesn't think jam will do in this particular situation -- and she might buy me some clothes as well. Although my dress robes are still perfect, she actually noticed my stockings are full of holes and all my shirts are too short in the sleeves now.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2010-07-29 03:13:55**

(no subject)

Honestly. It's only her *job*.

Well, at least you know how to get her to do it.

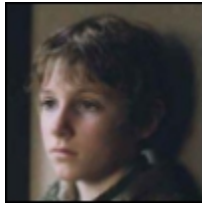



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 04:09:03](#)
(no subject)

Well, she wants me to try a mending charm on my stockings tonight. As if I hadn't mended them until there's nothing left to mend, honestly.

You've been to Diagon Alley more often than I have. Is there a shop somewhere that sells stockings and also knickers and -- um, you know, other things like that? I'm thinking if I can get her into the right shop I'll be able to get her to buy the other things I need.

I don't know what to get for Harry. I'd already made him something but if Mrs Stretton wants to let me buy him a present I'm not going to say no. She'll want it to be dignified and boring, though -- like a fancy quill or something else that Harry gets by the cartload.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-29 04:30:10](#)
(no subject)

I really like having stockings, now. I always went barefoot when I lives with Master (except when I wrapped rags around them on the coldest days), and my feet were just covered with calluses.

The Headmistress always makes sure that I have shoes and socks now. It's amazing what a difference a small thing like that can make in your life. And it's real nice that someone as important and busy as her pays attention to it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 04:40:54](#)
(no subject)

My shoes were full of holes last fall term and my feet got wet every time I went out, and then they got cold. Harry gave me a new pair for Christmas and yes. It makes a HUGE difference. I'm glad the

Headmistress is making sure you have shoes and socks.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:06:35](#)
(no subject)


I wish my feet weren't smaller than yours.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 05:16:06](#)
(no subject)


The shoes Harry gave me are wizard. They even change colour, though mostly I leave them black because red or green would only draw attention to the holes in my stockings!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:30:25](#)
(no subject)

Well, once you get your new stockings, you can show them off properly!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 04:35:55](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'd give him what she wants you to give him, and slip in what you made for him when you wrap it.


As far as that stuff, I usually go to Harrods... but I've seen displays of stockings at Miss Wincher's Compleat Clothery so they'd probably have what you'd need.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 04:42:27](#)
(no subject)

Mrs Stretton will probably want to go to Harrods but maybe I'll suggest I've heard Miss Wincher's is a bit cheaper. The thing is I want a small shop, so the stockings and knickers are right near each other. It makes it harder to say no when I point out the other things I need, especially if the shopkeeper's paying attention.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:05:49](#)
(no subject)

Right. That works. And I'd bet they are a bit cheaper. Mum doesn't like to go there, and she tends to be a bit picky when it comes to clothes.


But you'd be able to get what you need without her pulling too many faces, and it's better than things with holes in them. And stockings are stockings. I think it's mental how much mum spends on things nobody is going to really even *see*.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 05:18:46](#)
(no subject)

Daphne's told me how much she spends on stockings but hers don't last any longer than the cheap kind. They all wore out during those months we couldn't get any packages, I had to show her the mending charm.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 05:28:55](#)
(no subject)

She can spend all she wants on stockings, it won't change her *face*.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 05:32:04](#)
(no subject)

Too right. It's a shame there's no mending charm for that.

2010-07-28 22:27:00

Order Only

Dad?


I saw something today that...well, I'm not sure what I saw. But if I saw what I thought I did, you'll want to know about it, I think.



 [alt_bill](#)

Can you meet at the Leaky Cauldron for lunch?



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2010-07-29 03:32:07**

(no subject)

My schedule's a bit jammed tomorrow and Friday. Can I put you off until next week?



 [alt_molly](#) at **2010-07-29 03:32:42**

(no subject)

Perhaps you could come over for dinner tomorrow night, Bill?



 [alt_bill](#) at **2010-07-29 03:33:26**

(no subject)

Um, no, Mum. Don't want to talk about this in front of the others.




 [alt_arthur](#) at **2010-07-29 03:34:27**

(no subject)

Oh, sorry, I missed at first that you were posting 'Order Only.' So Order business, is it? It's urgent?




 **alt_bill** at [2010-07-29 03:36:07](#)
(no subject)

Well, not urgent, exactly. But I think you'd rather learn about it sooner than later.

And it's not Order business. It's to do with Percy. Went to his office to join him for lunch and, well...I think we'd better talk.



 **alt_arthur** at [2010-07-29 03:36:55](#)
(no subject)

Oh dear.

All right. I'll make time then. Let's make it 12:30 pm.

[2010-07-28 22:47:00](#)

London and all

I've got to get new shoes. My feet have been growing a bit, and we've been walking what seems like miles and miles today, and my toes are so cramped in these shoes they're getting blisters. Professor Sinistra helped me out with a stretching and cushioning charm, and that helped.




 **[alt_neville](#)**

But today's been brill. I really liked the river boat tour, and the ghost tour was just as nift as everyone said.

Oops, lights out. More later!



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-29 04:10:54](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Some of the kids were really disappointed that we didn't have the music concert on the boat that the other group had. I suppose it might have been a bit much to expect Owain Pritchard to be available both nights. So anyway, we just had the boat pilot telling us about the sights along the river, which I thought was dead interesting, anyway.

I'm rooming with Vincent Crabbe, and neither of us are real happy about it. Ron, I know you always say I snore, but I don't know how Malfoy or Marvolo or the rest of that lot in Slytherin EVER get any sleep with the racket he makes. Goyle pitched a fit about being away from him--well, about being put in with half-bloods. But I guess Crabbe doesn't think I'm any prize, either, even if I'm a pureblood. Ugh.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 04:45:48](#)**

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

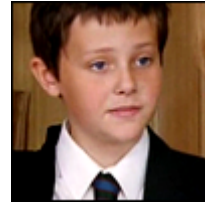
Ugh, you have to share with Vince? I think Draco puts a silencing charm on his bed every night.

It's too bad about Owain Pritchard. At least you got to see the sights.

2010-07-29 08:47:00

Aurors!


I'm the most excited about today because we're going to the Ministry! Last week everyone - Zabini and Moon and Weasley and everyone - were all talking about watching their training. I can't wait to see all that!



 [alt_michael](#)

And I guess it'll be nift to see the rest of the Minsitry, too. But Auror Training! That'll be the best part of the week, I bet.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2010-07-29 16:41:56**

(no subject)

I'm really looking forward to it.




 [alt_michael](#) at **2010-07-29 17:28:57**

(no subject)

Why's that? Do you want to be an Auror when you grow up? I guess I thought you were interested in plants and things.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2010-07-29 17:51:46**

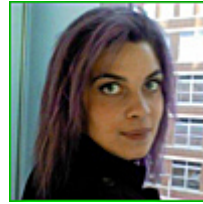
(no subject)

It's just that I've heard a lot about them. It's dead interesting work they do, isn't it?

2010-07-29 09:56:00

Order Only: What do you think?

Okay, right. I've been mulling this over for a few days. I think it's a good idea, but it might put everyone at risk so I thought I should get a few opinions before I do anything.



 **alt_nymphadora**


I think I should go back to working at the Ministry.

Mopping floors doesn't give much chance for gathering top secret intel, I know, but there just might be times when a cleaner can get in to rooms that other people can't access. It got a bit hairy before, but now I know what I'm doing, and who I can trust, I reckon it could be worth it.

I sent an owl to one of the girls I worked with there before, and she says they have a few openings. I know I didn't exactly go out in a blaze of glory last time, but I know the work and I've proved I can do it. I think I have a fair chance of getting hired again.

The thing is, I feel really safe here in the shop, even though I know there's always a chance we'll be uncovered. But I feel like I should be doing more. If this could help, I want to do it.



 **alt_alice** at **2010-07-29 17:01:54**
(no subject)


I'm sure Arthur and Minerva will weigh in with their two knuts, but I think you certainly have a good point about your potential ability to access files. And if you're willing to take on more responsibilities, I'm certainly happy to hear it!



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2010-07-29 22:38:01**
(no subject)

Thanks, Alice. I certainly want to do whatever I can to be useful. You're all doing so much - this seems like the least I can do to contribute.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-29 17:16:55](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I don't think you'll be surprised to hear me tell you to go for it. The potential for Ministry employees to talk without noticing a 'lowly cleaner' is too good to pass up - as is the possibility, as you and Allie say, of happening on any quantity of information lying about on people's desks and conference tables.


We all of us have places to retreat and feel safe, kiddo, but we're not going to win this sitting on our heels, either. Well done, I say.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-29 22:38:54](#)**
(no subject)

I had a feeling you'd be in favour, but it's good to hear it anyway. Thanks.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 00:52:49](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers.


(I almost asked you what Remus thought, but I figured I probably didn't need to guess. He's a born worrier, though. Don't let it trouble you.)



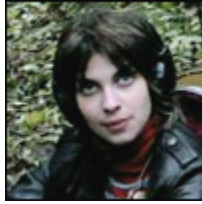
 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-29 21:16:51](#)**
(no subject)

I do think it's a good idea, although we should be extremely cautious about using you at the Ministry to try to aggressively gather intel, at first. Let some time pass, let people get used to the sight of you around. But it would be excessively useful to have you already in place and well-established if we ever get to the point that we very much need you there.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-29 21:18:04](#)**
(no subject)

I agree with Dad on this. The more Order eyes here at the Ministry, the better, although we'll be exceedingly cautious not to tip our hand as to your role. We do very much owe you that.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-29 22:46:47](#)**
(no subject)

Right. I think it'll be a long-term sort of project, starting small and seeing what information I can get, finding out what rooms I can access, that sort of thing. Then, when it's needed, it's there. I think


it's worth a go.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-29 22:33:44](#)**
(no subject)


Thanks, Arthur. I am glad you agree. I'll pop in tomorrow and find out when they're seeing people. I suppose we shouldn't be seen together in public, so a cup of tea is out of the question for now, but if I do get hired perhaps I'll be able to pop by your desk to say a quiet hello.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-30 00:27:54](#)**
(no subject)

I certainly will appreciate seeing you about the place, more. You do intend to keep working at the shop, though, don't you? Be sure that you squeeze at least some hours into your schedule for sleep!



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-07-29 22:27:38](#)**
(no subject)


Well, you already know what I think about all this, and I know you're going to do it anyway, so that's that.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-07-29 22:48:54](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, I know. You're not going to kick me out, are you?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2010-07-29 23:00:29](#)**
(no subject)

And do all the stock-taking myself? Good lord, no.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 23:22:08](#)**
(no subject)

I think this is an excellent idea. I should have been against it if anyone were putting you up to it, but as it is your own idea and a risk you are willing and proposing to take, then I absolutely support you in it.

Of course, I trust that Arthur and Bill will thoroughly discuss with you what measures you should take if you find yourself in difficulties, but I entirely trust you to take the necessary precautions.

Thank you, my dear, for showing such initiative.

2010-07-29 13:06:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Ron, are you alright? I haven't seen you say a word since MLE went to your house. They didn't take your journal, did they?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 03:07:41](#)

(no subject)

Right. That's it. I'm sending him an owl in the morning.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 03:09:51](#)

(no subject)

I'm fine.

It's just

I don't really want to say



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 03:31:21](#)


(no subject)

Well, then, I won't send an owl.

I'm sorry, Ron. Whatever it is, I'm sorry.

Is there anything I can do to help?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 03:12:07](#)

(no subject)

Yeah.

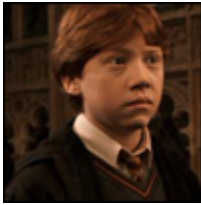
All right.


I've got my journal, but I haven't felt much like writing anything



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 03:46:38](#)
(no subject)

Ron, did MLE -- did they do anything to you?
Magically I mean? Are you afraid that if you talk to
us, something bad will happen?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 15:16:51](#)
(no subject)

No.

Not really. I just don't really have anything to say
about it is all.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 15:25:41](#)
(no subject)

Well that's not like you.

It's making me even more worried.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 15:40:00](#)
(no subject)

When he's sorted everything out, he'll let us
know.

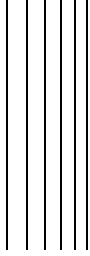
I think when something awful happens to you or
me, the way we tend to work is we want to tell it right away so
that we can work through it together, like having someone else
help to take off a plaster really fast.

But that may be a girl thing. Or a Pansy and Sally-Anne thing.
And I don't think it's a Ron thing.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-31 00:38:52](#)
(no subject)

...unless you have two older brothers that will
tear the plaster off *for* you, I guess.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 00:43:50](#)
(no subject)

I always used to wish for a brother or sister but these days I can definitely see some advantages to being an only child.

2010-07-29 15:04:00

Serves you rite

Neville you blood trator.

Im glad.



 [alt_millicent](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2010-07-29 19:09:36**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Neville what's going on? Are you okay?



 [alt_hannah](#) at **2010-07-29 19:12:17**

(no subject)

What happened?! Longbottom had blood all over his clothes.

Where did they take him?



 [alt_michael](#) at **2010-07-29 19:21:46**

(no subject)

Maybe St Mungo's, if he was hurt. Did you see what happened, though?

One minute we were talking about how it'd be cool to see how Aurors prepare and then he was nowhere about.

And he wasn't in the Wizengamot courtroom, either.




 [alt_hannah](#) at **2010-07-29 19:28:09**

(no subject)


Well, I'm sure Professor Sinistra knows what happened. I saw one of the Slytherin prefects talking to her. She looked a little upset, Professor Sinistra, I mean.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-29 19:12:59](#)
(no subject)


What'd he do now?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 19:22:34](#)
(no subject)

Knowing Milli, he was *breathing* or something.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-29 19:24:07](#)
(no subject)

I don't know about that, she hardly ever bothers to write in her journal about anything, so it must be something big. I know he's one of you and Sally Anne's pets or something, but I want to hear what

he did.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 19:24:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, me too.


And the blood part doesn't sound very pleasant.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-29 19:27:42](#)
(no subject)


Don't worry, I'm sure he's not dead.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:29:09](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, thanks ever so much for the comforting thoughts, Draco.



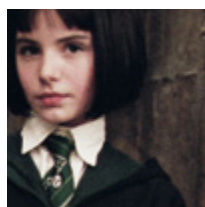
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:30:50](#)**
(no subject)


That's right, he probably tripped over his toad or something.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:33:19](#)**
(no subject)


Good one, Draco!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:37:10](#)**
(no subject)


Who's being sweet on who now?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:38:50](#)**
(no subject)

I can't help that I'm hilarious.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:44:55](#)**
(no subject)

Of course not! You're just full of natural charm.


Why, just hearing you talk about Longbottom tripping over his toad makes me feel light-headed.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-29 19:54:40](#)
(no subject)

Say what you will, but it's definitely something he would do.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 19:57:53](#)
(no subject)

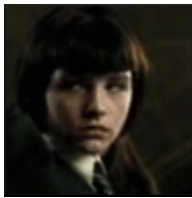
You'll hear no arguments from me there.


I've seen him on a broom.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 19:41:27](#)
(no subject)

Oh, for Lakshmi's sake. It was funny.

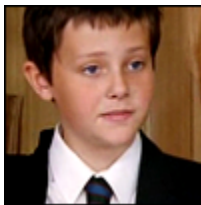



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 19:17:24](#)
(no subject)

Milli, stop being thick.

He can't be a blood traitor.

He's *twelve*.




 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 19:18:58](#)
(no subject)

Is that why he wasn't at the demonstration?

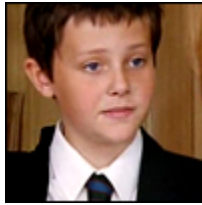
Not that there was much of a demonstration. But he'd been saying he wanted to see it.


He knows about Aurors because he's a traitor?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:27:21](#)**
(no subject)

...That pushes the boundaries of logic, Corner. I tried to think it through, but it was so stupid that it hurt my brain a little.

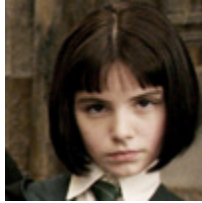



 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:29:34](#)**
(no subject)

It's not that stupid, Parkinson. It stands to reason that if his family's been in trouble with Aurors, he's seen them in action. He was saying he'd heard loads about them. Maybe it's because he heard about them chasing his parents.

So he wanted to see how they work, but they didn't let him in.

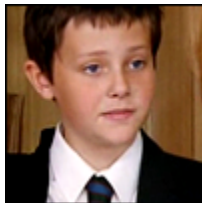
It doesn't explain the blood, though. Maybe he resisted and someone hexed him.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:35:34](#)**
(no subject)

Just because his parents are traitors, that doesn't make him one.

You ought to know that much.




 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:38:56](#)**
(no subject)

What's that supposed to mean?

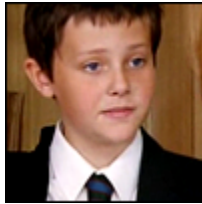
No one in my family is a traitor, Parkinson! How dare you?




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:42:21](#)**
(no subject)

Let me rephrase. Just because his parents did something wrong doesn't mean we should judge him for it.

Better?




 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:47:27](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I never said he did anything wrong. I just said that he might have been interested in the Aurors because of his parents.

I mean, I hadn't thought of it until they didn't let him come in. But maybe.

And if that's what it was then I'm not the one judging him, the Aurors are.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:59:20](#)**
(no subject)

Fine.

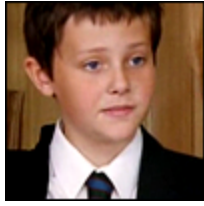
Just remember that making an accusation like that is no joke.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:37:20](#)**
(no subject)

That's an interesting theory. Do you reckon he thought the Aurors had information on his parents, or that he could demand answers from them or something?


No, Longbottom's not the demanding type. Maybe he was trying to sneak around or something, though. Only Gryffindors don't really know how to sneak.



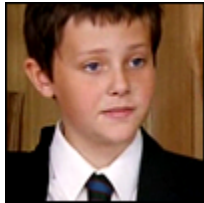
 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 19:39:21](#)
(no subject)


Maybe he wanted to get an idea of how best to run away.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-29 19:40:54](#)
(no subject)

This still all sounds too crafty, though. I still say he tripped on his toad.




 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 19:43:01](#)
(no subject)

I don't think he brought his toad.

Oh.


Oh, I see. Right. Yeah, probably.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 19:20:00](#)
(no subject)


What happened, Bulstrode?



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2010-07-29 19:29:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, maybe it isn't anything. Maybe he just had a nosebleed and went off to get cleaned up.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 19:34:41](#)
(no subject)

Right. I'm sure it was *nothing* that kept him separated from the group and made a prefect have to explain why he wasn't with you lot. Nothing at

all.

What's wrong, Abbott? Sweet on Longbottom?




 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:42:01](#)**
(no subject)

What, because I said he might have had a nosebleed?

Don't be daft.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:44:22](#)**
(no subject)

Because you're covering up for him.

What happened? Did Crabbe hit him, then?



 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:48:53](#)**
(no subject)


Me?! Covering up for Longbottom? For Merlin's sake, whatever for? What do I care about Longbottom?



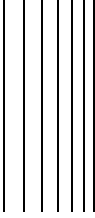
 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:50:04](#)**
(no subject)


Now Ptolemy Baddock is saying that Crabbe and Longbottom got into a fight. They've both been sent back to the Horseguards.



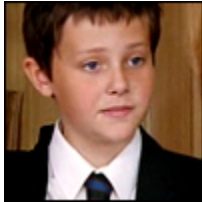
 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-29 19:52:38](#)**
(no subject)

See, now, *that* is something I can believe.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-07-29 20:01:31](#)
(no subject)


Oh. Well, that's not really all that terribly interesting, then, is it?



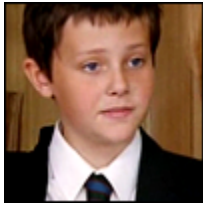
 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 19:35:49](#)
(no subject)


Hang on, where's Crabbe?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-07-29 19:38:58](#)
(no subject)

Come off it, Bultstrode. I saw Crabbe do *something*.




 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 19:40:24](#)
(no subject)

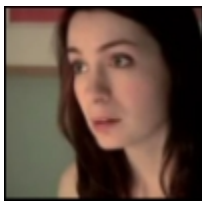
If you saw something, you're supposed to say something.


Isn't that what Mr Gupta told us when he came to talk last year?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2010-07-29 19:54:32](#)
(no subject)

I tried but Baddock wasn't paying me any attention!



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 19:40:56](#)
ORDER ONLY

Has anyone else seen this?

Minerva, Arthur, Bill...

Would you know if something happened? Something bad? Oh, Merlin, did they have a Legilimens waiting for him?

What's happened?

Can you check without being too suspicious?



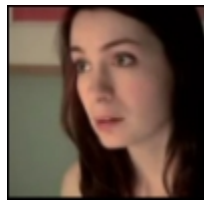
 **[alt_molly](#) at 2010-07-29 19:46:22**


Re: ORDER ONLY

Oh, my.

...

I'm sure it will be all right, Alice. The simplest explanation is probably the best. A nosebleed as that one girl said, or something similar. Still, I'm sure Bill or Arthur will try to find out for you as soon as may be.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2010-07-29 19:51:16**

Re: ORDER ONLY

He was at the MLE headquarters, Molly.

And they haven't heard from him since.

I just

We shouldn't have let him go.

He's fairly safe at Hogwarts. He's not safe walking right into the place where Bellatrix LeStrange and Barty Crouch work.

Merlin.



 **[alt_molly](#) at 2010-07-29 20:00:02**


Re: ORDER ONLY

There now, do you see that comment that one of the girls made? The Prefect said he was sent back to the Horseguards. They certainly wouldn't have

done that if he was in trouble with the MLE or badly injured.
Looks like it was nothing so dire as what you've been imagining.

Well, he may be in some hot water if he mixed it up with one of
other students. But he'll be all right, Alice, I'm sure of it.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 20:17:27](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Thank you, Molly.

I very much hope you're right.

It's easy to forget that children will come up with very wild
explanations for things. But goodness.

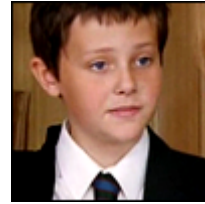
And the day before his birthday,too.

2010-07-29 16:07:00

(no subject)

Well, that was not really the outing I thought it would be.

I didn't think that someone not seeing the Aurors would be more exciting than what we all did see, for one thing.



 **alt_michael**

Longbottom, I didn't mean anything by it when I thought maybe they didn't let you in. It should have been obvious, anyway, that there wouldn't have been any kind of...security risk, I guess. Anyway. No hard feelings, yeah?

I hope the actors actually show up for the panto tonight.

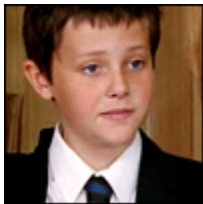


 **alt_susan** at **2010-07-29 20:16:54**

(no subject)

Well, Aurors can't be doing wiz-nift, exciting things all the time, can they?

I mean, this is more realistic in a way.



 **alt_michael** at **2010-07-29 20:18:48**

(no subject)

Oh, it's not that they weren't, Bones. It's ... well, they'd clearly just finished, hadn't they?

You'd think we could have got there ten minutes earlier and we'd have seen the same thing as last week's group.



 **alt_susan** at **2010-07-29 20:45:30**

(no subject)

Well, you might have a point there.


Look on the bright side--at least nobody's thought they've seen Snape or MacNair this week.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 20:48:37](#)
(no subject)


Week's not over yet!



 [alt_hannah](#) at [2010-07-29 21:30:35](#)
(no subject)

Oh, don't even joke about it! That sort of excitement we don't need!



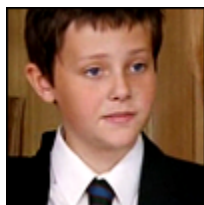
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-29 23:49:27](#)
(no subject)


Corner, is it? And Bones?

As you were told this morning, Magical Law Enforcement is not in the business of entertaining children. Particularly disruptive, disrespectful children.

And you, Corner. You think it would be funny to cry 'Snape!' this week? I believe you'll find it less entertaining in practice.

And your next visit to our department is certain to exceed your wildest expectations.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-30 00:28:51](#)
(no subject)

I didn't mean it like that, sir. Any of it.

Only we weren't disruptive - most of us, anyways. We were respectful, too, sir. And them as weren't got sent away.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-30 00:57:51](#)
(no subject)

You save me from making the very same point, Barty, in less patient language.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 03:14:43](#)
(no subject)

I can't see what they're teaching them at Hogwarts.

Certainly not sense.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-30 03:24:52](#)
(no subject)

Even thinking about it puts me on the verge of rage.

Wait until you have children of your own attending.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 03:30:37](#)
(no subject)

Imagine acting as one of the few voices of reason among the Governors.

It is maddening indeed to meet with mealy-mouthed excuses - from other parents, even! - regarding how the pupils are to be cossetted along.

Peakes has at least got the right idea with his young charge. Too many of them believe their duty as Governors is to ensure their own progeny are never brought to account.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2010-07-30 03:36:54](#)
(no subject)

You know, Lucius, I've never paid much attention to how, exactly, one becomes a Governor.

Perhaps this weekend we should find a moment to chat about the process.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 12:25:52](#)
(no subject)

Nor should I have expected you to do, Bella - after all, only half of the Governors have children enrolled in the school.

But of course, I should be happy to discuss the current slate, their terms of office and what may be done to ensure competent service going into next term.



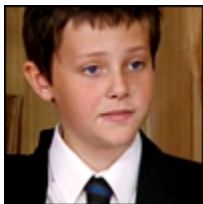
 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-29 20:23:30](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. Sure. Whatever.

I'm all right, everyone.

~~Sorry if that disappoints some of you.~~

At least you got to see something, Corner.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 20:29:42](#)
(no subject)


What we got to see was about half a dozen Aurors who'd just finished an exercise and they were standing round on the floor, talking and breathing hard. And toweling off a bit.

So you really didn't miss anything.

Baddock says you threw the first punch, though. Blimey,

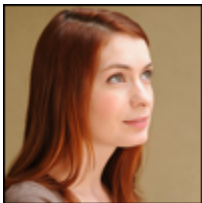
Longbottom, that takes stones. Crabbe and Goyle can thump just about anyone in our year. What'd you want to go and do that for, anyway?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-30 12:49:55](#)

(no subject)

I didn't do it.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 20:34:50](#)

ORDER ONLY

And thank goodness for that.

But punching? My sweet boy?

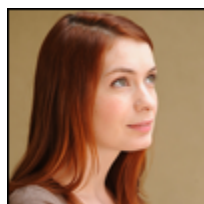



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-29 20:51:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Taking after his da, Alice?

I remember one Quidditch match in particular...
I'm surprised he didn't get grounded from the game for the duration.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-29 20:56:00](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

Well. There is that, I suppose.

Still.

He must have been terribly provoked to even try anything that foolhardy. Because that doesn't sound like the Neville I know.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-29 21:42:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

those bastards deserved every inch of it.

and I'm pretty sure these little pieces of shit had it coming to them too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 20:56:57](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Did you throw the first hex, Nev? I'm sure Greg deserved it if you did. Or Vince. Whichever it was.

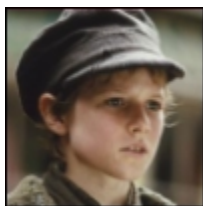



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-29 21:08:47](#)

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

I didn't hit anybody! Or hex anybody. But that's not what that lying Ptolemy Baddock said.

Crabbe and Goyle cornered me in the last turn of the corridor, just before we were all about to go in. They said they didn't see why I should get to go in when my parents--well, never mind what they said. I'm sure you can imagine the general idea. And that led to one thing and then another, and then it was just a mess until Baddock peeled them off of me. My nose was bleeding all over everything. And then Baddock smirked as he said, 'Well, what did you expect, Longbottom?' He lied through his teeth to back up Crabbe when Crabbe told Professor Sinistra I threw the first punch.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2010-07-29 21:25:38](#)

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

No way would I have believed you'd be nutters enough to go around throwing punches at Crabbe or Goyle.

They're not going to make you keep rooming together, are they?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-29 21:29:44](#)

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

I reckon not, no. Don't know who they'll put Crabbe with, but they found a single room to stick me in by myself for now. Or they may have one of the prefects who are here as chaperones switch with Crabbe.

It better not be that Ptolemy Baddock, though.

Professor Sinistra wanted me to apologise to Crabbe. And I wouldn't do it. I said I was sorry there was a scene, but I wouldn't say sorry for something I didn't do. And that's why I got sent back to the Horseguards. I don't think they'll send me home early. But I don't get to do any of the rest of the events today.

Sorry to be whinging. But it was the Auror training I wanted to see most of all.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 21:33:06](#)

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

It's not whinging at all.

Crabbe and Goyle are idiots.

I expected better of Ptolemy, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-29 21:49:32](#)

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

I would have, too. He's always been fair to me, but I guess he doesn't care about anyone outside Slytherin House.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-29 22:11:31](#)


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

Maybe he still thinks he's got a thing or two to prove, so he decided to throw his weight around.

After all, he became Prefect under less than ideal circumstances.

But still, how transparent is that?



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-30 03:11:13](#)**

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

I have to do a bunch of lines, too. 'I will not shame my pureblood heritage.'

I had to miss the theater tonight, but Professor Sinistra says if I turn in all my lines tomorrow morning, I'll be able to go with the group tomorrow.

I'll be keeping away from Crabbe and Goyle, though.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-29 20:25:31](#)**

(no subject)

Too bad about the Aurors, but I meant to ask...was Owain Pritchard or anyone else interesting on your boat tour?



 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2010-07-29 20:31:31](#)**

(no subject)

Uh. No.

Well, I think Celestina Warbeck was supposed to come but she cancelled last-minute.

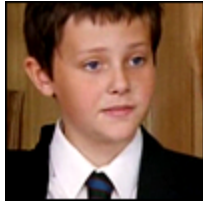
That's why I'm not half prepared for them to tell us the panto's off too.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-29 20:34:06](#)**

(no subject)

And you got rained on, too. I can't help but feel glad I was in the first group.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2010-07-29 20:48:14](#)
(no subject)

That's why she cancelled, I think. Because it was raining.

I mean, it's still been fun. But I guess they couldn't make it as nift twice in a row.

Maybe next year we'll get to do something all in one big group again.

2010-07-29 16:47:00

A reminder

It is important to remember that the work and attention of many people has gone into providing the privilege of attending wonderful YPL summer (and school year) opportunities.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Today's difference of opinion was especially inappropriate given its location: a place where those who protect our realm must focus and concentrate on their duties. The students involved will have the opportunity to reflect - in detail - on their behavior, and will miss events until they have done so to my satisfaction and the satisfaction of the Aurors assigned to assist the YPL activities this week.

That said, these activities are a time for all students to learn and reflect on how they might offer their service to the Protectorate. We anticipated - correctly, it seems - that there might be some difficulties along the way, given the complex history of our world before our Lord Protector's glorious reign began. Our YPL activities are intended to allow all students a chance to step beyond the history of their families, and to determine how they wish to take their place in our current world. A single incident is therefore a learning experience for all of us, but repeated infractions (regardless of cause) will lead to removal from YPL activities, and thus also have a significant impact on your prospects after school.

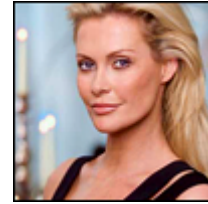
All students are therefore reminded that when you are attending YPL activities, you are representing what should be the best of the Lord Protector's leadership in our world. You are expected to behave with moderation, dignity, and civility even in the most challenging circumstance. If that is not possible, you are responsible for finding the nearest senior student or supervising adult and asking for assistance.

Mister Longbottom and Mister Crabbe: I will, of course, also be sending a detailed note to your families, and they may, of course, consider taking further steps regarding your behaviour if they choose. As already expressed to both of you, you will also be expected to stay clear of each other for the remainder of the trip, and will be assigned to separate small groups for any individual activities, as well as adjusting the sleeping arrangements.

Any further questions may be addressed to me directly or by owl, as convenient.

2010-07-29 19:40:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

My collaboration with Revati continues to please us both. Today we reviewed the mock-ups of the shoes, wand-cases and other accoutrements. We were about to look over fabrics when I received an owl from the estates-agent: She had an opening to inspect one of the properties we've been considering this very afternoon. Barty, Rabastan - I know we had planned to look at them together, but as it was a last-moment opportunity (and I knew Lucius would be occupied this afternoon at the *Prophet*) I consented, wrapped up with Revati and met her in East Lincolnshire.

Well, I'm rather glad I did not trouble either of you! 'Rustic charm' may all be well but it looked to me as if the place had not seen a tenant for at least five years! One cannot spare even the time it would take our elves to scrape the place clean of cobwebs. And I seriously doubt the state of the roof over the dowager cottage, in addition. So we can negate Hilltop Farm from our deliberations. Really, the only reason I regret you two were not along was the look on the estates-agent's face when she realised the disrepair of the place. She went a peculiar shade of red! Over and over she insisted that the caretakers told her her photographs were recent. I suggested she discuss the definition with her - former - castellan and recommended that, going forward, she probably ought to trouble to look the places over *herself*, personally, before taking up any of our valuable time.

Perhaps the only bright side to the errand was that I finished early enough to stop in to the bookseller's. Last week, Diana could not stop raving about the book she'd just read - *Serpents' Fork* - so I have obtained a copy and also the latest volume of *The Wand Society* for Draco, as he was asking for it. I did look for one or two titles Lucius has been wanting but the shop was, sadly, lacking in some of its sections. Luckily he has more than enough to keep him busy - but I am fairly certain the rain will continue all weekend long, keeping us all indoors.

Rodolphus, I wonder if you'd be a dear and take a look at an item Mother found buried in one of Aunt Cassie's jewel-cases. I don't think it's cursed, per se, but she says it stung her fingers when she touched it. The settings and stones look as though they may have some value, however, so if we can determine whether there is a pernicious hex or


if it can be dispelled, I think she'd like to set it aside for Hydra. There are topazes that would go well with her colouring, I think. I've got the item here at the Manor, whenever you have the time.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-30 01:00:35](#)
(no subject)

What kind of sting was it? Burning? Topazes are a good medium for fire-based curses. I suppose I'd do well to ask her in person, though.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 01:12:31](#)
(no subject)

You'd have to ask her - I admit I was not in the mood to shock myself in the name of arcana.

But I can always invite her and Pascoal to visit whenever you next think you'll be able to come.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-07-30 01:16:35](#)
(no subject)

This weekend's out, for obvious reasons. Speaking of, Druella's decided it will definitely be a tea-time affair, after he's come off his afternoon nap. He always wakes up hungry, so the timing should be

right.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 01:27:44](#)
(no subject)

I think Mother may finally be exhibiting signs of senility, forgetting that we'd all be over on Sunday. (Or perhaps I am!)


The thing is wrapped in a silk handkerchief (and does not bite when thus handled). I shall bring it straight back and you may examine it at your leisure.



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

She had not bothered to view the place already?
Darling, surely there are other candidates who will not waste your efforts.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 01:14:16](#)
(no subject)

She came highly recommended. I think we shall not see a similar misstep again. Rest assured, my love, if we do, I shall not be half so charitable.

Are you still at the *Prophet*? I'm sorry I couldn't find the Lorcan for you.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 01:23:42](#)
(no subject)

We've finished about an hour ago but Hieronymous wished to celebrate a bit, as his daughter (help me, dear, the one who just married in May) has learned she is expecting. I should be home within the quarter-hour.

And don't trouble about the Lorcan; it's not something I'd expect to find alongside novels and periodicals. I'll likely have to see if Charles can obtain it through his connexions or if Tomes and Texts can mount an antiquarian search.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-07-30 01:14:33](#)
(no subject)

Anything called "**Farm**" is bound to be bad. If she next tries to show you one called "Grand, Luxurious Farm," I think you ought to be very, very suspicious.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 01:30:50](#)
(no subject)

I think more to the point is the deception of calling it a farm when it overlooks the beach! But nonetheless, you may recall from the remaining list that no other property advertises itself as an agrarian resort.

And is all in readiness for your busy weekend, dear?



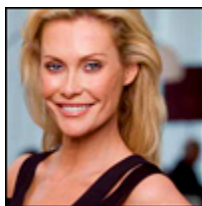
 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-07-30 01:43:48](#)
(no subject)


It's entirely possible...though not **certain**...that I may--I may have misplaced my list. Only because I trust your judgment so completely, you see.

Oh--no, there it is! Look at that, it's in the back of my book. That's what I mostly use my book for. I stash things in it. Terribly useful.

Hmm...I like the sound of "Windamere Bluff." Hopefully there's a house on that bluff.

And if I have my way the weekend won't be busy at all! But yes, readiness is of the essence.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 01:49:16](#)
(no subject)

My dear Rizzer, you *yourself*, who have so often reminded me of the importance of keeping privileged documents where prying eyes and grasping hands cannot reach them, thought you misplaced your list? For shame.

I also seem to recall a favourite host's adage that the best events are so well-managed that one may run them remotely from the bar. Raise your glass to that, and let us hope it is so.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-07-30 02:01:45](#)
(no subject)

I didn't misplace it, love! It was hiding from me, like socks do. And this book is indeed always on my person, so what safer place, really?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 03:08:21](#)
(no subject)

I've spent the afternoon following up your questions about certain individuals. I'll have my notes in order tomorrow morning. Care to discuss the information over a friendly round or two in


Buckingham's ring?

You could roust up the youngster so we can see what he's learned from you.

He had reasonable skill the last time I was brought over to put him through his paces, but that was a year ago. I'm certain he gained nothing from that popinjay Lockhart, but you've had, what, seven or eight weeks with him? I'd be interested to see what a year of growth and several fortnights of your influence might have done for the boy.

Or is he a late sleeper?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-07-30 03:20:08](#)
(no subject)

Sounds invigorating. Harry won't want to miss it.


Oh, and he sleeps late given the choice, but there's an easy way to remedy that. I stand outside his door and whistle one of those heinously chipper Celestina Warbeck tunes. Works every time.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 19:10:25](#)
(no subject)

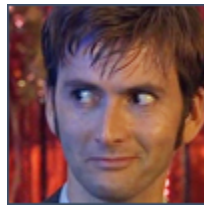
I've often thought Celestina Warbeck might prove useful during interrogations.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 20:03:32](#)
(no subject)

Not even then, Barty - to be useful it must perturb one's subject more than oneself.

Even with earplugs I am not sure one could withstand the woman




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 20:20:15](#)
(no subject)

Yes, well.

That's more or less what Truncheon said to the suggestion. And he's not a bloke one argues with about technique.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 22:30:46](#)
(no subject)

Certainly, he would know.

How did you find Harry? And I trust we shall see you to-morrow, rain or no rain?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 23:13:11](#)
(no subject)

The boy's making progress. Above average for his age, but that's to be expected. I think he had other things on his mind this morning, and he wasn't as attentive as he ought to have been. We caught him two or three jinxes that landed him red-faced and flat on the mats, but he placed a few choice hexes himself, so it was a reasonably good showing.

Absolutely. I wouldn't miss it.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2010-07-30 23:50:03**
(no subject)

There must be some who stand her well enough, or else she wouldn't be such a smashing success. Though I've heard tales of an incident in Winchester where the constabulary were called in on a report of a man gone mad. He was repeatedly and violently hexing his neighbour, all because she wouldn't stop singing "Your Cauldron Will Always Stir My Love."



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2010-07-30 03:05:32**
(no subject)

Yes, it was as well you weren't counting on me to go along. I've been rather heavily scheduled this week, and will be through the weekend at least.

I trust the estates-agent regrets having inconvenienced you. If I'd been there, you may be sure she would.

Pity about the books. Though a weekend with nothing to do but read sounds pleasant. And the rain does have other benefits: we can hope there will be no repeat of last week's excitement in Hyde Park. Who could have imagined that two groups of school children could make such nuisances of themselves in New London?



 **alt_narcissa** at **2010-07-30 03:17:01**
(no subject)

Oh, I've sorted her out well enough. Has your business in East Anglia proven to be more trouble than you'd anticipated?

And strictly speaking, there shan't be nothing to do, but the shipping forecast does not bode well for any particular agenda, no.

I did note your reply to the unfortunate Mr Corner. On the one hand, I can sympathise: The sight of you and your colleagues in the

height of training truly is an impressive one and it's understandable he was disappointed to miss it. It's a pity his enthusiasm expressed itself poorly, however, and sounded rather more petulant than I am certain he intended.

How considerate of you, Barty dear, to make clear to him that his tone was ill-advised. But somehow I suspect that your temper stems from quite another source. I do hope you're well after your exertions in the field?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 19:11:46](#)
(no subject)

Perfectly well.

Thank you.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-30 22:14:27](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear it.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-30 23:03:55](#)
(no subject)


And yourself? You haven't fallen afoul of the testy topazes?

I have two more thoughts about holiday sites you might consider. One is St Mawes Castle in Cornwall, just on the coast near Falmouth, which, by the way, has the great stone works where the Protector's victory arch was crafted before it was moved to Green Park, but perhaps that would not appeal so much to children as the headland trails and beaches or the castle itself would. Cornwall should be at its best in August.

Or. Rabastan and I were talking this morning about whether you would consider Maebh Drumgoole's nature preserve in Snowdonia. I hear she runs either hunts or hikes depending on her guests' preferences. There's always the chance one of her siblings might turn up and do a bit of an impromptu flying clinic. I'd think the Rizzer might be able to pull the right strings to

make that sort of thing happen. Or I could speak with Maebh about it, if you prefer; we're on a bit more than speaking terms, she and I.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-07-31 13:29:46](#)
(no subject)

St Mawes sounds idyllic. It would have that lovely view, which is a distinct advantage to it. There is nothing quite like a sunset over the Irish Sea of a Sunday evening. Was there a reason it was not on our list from the first?

But perhaps we have had the wrong idea all along and an inland retreat would be preferable - particularly, given the boys' interests, if any or all of the Drumgoole clan could be persuaded to log some broom-hours with them. By all means, if you are planning to do more than speak to Ms Drumgoole anytime soon, do raise the topic with her. That would put our number of sites at 9, if I have them totted up correctly.

As for the return to our other evaluations, clearly the weekend is rather too occupied. I've some time on Tuesday if you can disentangle yourself.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2010-07-31 13:36:11](#)
(no subject)

I don't recall the impediment. Still. Surely we can find one out of 9 that would suit all needs and preferences without sacrificing on security.

And yes, I'll get Pennifold to see if I can't allot some of Tuesday to this project. We may need to shift a few things, but this has priority unless there's a crisis that trumps all.

2010-07-30 08:29:00

Internship and Innovations

Looking more and more forward to the opportunity to take that holiday, as the summer agenda has been decidedly full.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Sites one through six have been identified and plans underway to utilise them in more appropriate ways. Crispin surprised me, taking a lead in the last two walk-throughs; Gibson asked at luncheon earlier this week whether I thought Crispin did not have particular talent in the field. Replied that I should not have allowed his continued absence from his regular duties were it not so. However, had no desire for Gibson to fly away with the notion Crispin's services are not essential to the smooth administration of my offices.


Particularly considering that his absence has been felt more keenly at some times than others. Confess that on the whole, our young acolyte's performance has been acceptable. Suspect that his early successes led him to presume too much - but such is the nature of learning. At any rate it's sorted now. Still, perhaps it is as well we agreed he would have the week for the YPL trip with the rising second-years. Expect that his final two weeks, on his return, shall exhibit to a greater degree not only his eagerness to perform his tasks with efficiency, but also better sensitivity to the nuances of the position and, dare I say, influence wielded from behind the gates of this house.

For the moment, plans have proceeded in good faith and with apparent good progress toward our latest review of the loyalty programmes. Met with Cornelius yesterday and then luncheon with Plympton and Massopust for progress report on their audits. Certain Our Lord will be pleased with their results when they are presented at Court to-day.

Despite the continued rain, there have been no plans to curtail any of our activities at the week-end. Cannot say the same for the hapless YPL group! Suspect Barty will indeed get his wish and there shall be no incidents in Hyde Park, if only because the group will likely be compelled to spend its afternoon at the Horseguards. Must admit their antics - viewed from a distance - have proven diverting. If there is one thing this summer has shown, it is that the gap between this week's participants and last week's is not solely temporal.

Speaking of time - Pansy, I did happen on one of the volumes I had promised to look out for you: Priscillianus' *Vincis, Tractus et Tempus Itineri*. Don't worry - the edition I particularly wanted for you is a concordance, so the English is on the opposing page. I had quite forgot that Millingham's text is not always definitive, however. I shall be happy to provide it to you soon but allow me to see whether I can obtain a copy of Jonson's translation as well. The language may be a touch more poetical, but I believe comparison between the two will prove edifying.




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-07-30 15:13:50](#)
(no subject)

Oooh! That definitely sounds familiar. I think one or two of the books I've looked through so far have mentioned it as a good primary source. That really would be brilliant.

Does it have anything on charms theory? I mean, I'm not going to go off and do anything stupid, but a lot of the things I've been reading are so *vague*. And having the original Latin right there seems promising.

Oh, and I did sort things out, so you know. And everything is fine. Mostly.




 **alt_lucius** at [2010-07-30 15:31:42](#)
(no subject)

Feeling better, then? Good. I think you will find that none of your references can account for the property of time when applied to pain. There is no healer in the world who can do more. If you can quantify its benefits in such situations, or moreover find a way to accelerate its effects, then I assure you, you shall never again want for anything - and I am sure Mr Rookwood would happily admit you to the ranks of Unspeakables in the bargain!

As for charms theory, I do not recall that Priscillianus devotes much attention to it; his is decidedly a more philosophical tract. No, for charms I think we will need to turn to Clementine du Troyes and Hopkirk. And Waffling, of course.

Has your mother any plan to return with you to London before the end of the summer holiday? To get your school things, perhaps? I may be able to assemble another small stack for you.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:46:00](#)**
(no subject)

We do very much need to go shopping, and I think mum would like to have a bit of time in London. She does miss it. I can tell. And she has a long list of people she's been writing to that need to be met

in person, too.


I'll let you know when just as soon as I've convinced her, and there is going to be at least one solid afternoon where there'll be nothing but wedding, and that means there'll be plenty of time for me to go to the library and visit with you.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:13:57](#)**
(no subject)


So they did divide the YPL groups up that way on purpose? We were all wondering.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:19:39](#)**
(no subject)


My son, you know I cannot with any certainty pretend to know your professors' thought processes, but it does seem patently obvious that striation is ... inevitable.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:23:14](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, and it's a good reminder, too. For those who might need to work and try harder. And also for those who need to keep up what they're doing right.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 15:44:38](#)
(no subject)

Indeed. Very good, son. But your Professor Sinistra's point is well-taken, Draco: Our Lord's beneficence extends to all who would rise above and beyond their circumstances as their inclinations allow.


Nor should we presume that 'loyalty' is the sole criterion - after all, you will note that your housemates Crabbe and Goyle are in this week's group and no-one could accuse them or their parents of any smirch against Our Lord or purity of blood. I think you will agree that their contributions are no less valuable, even if their company may be less than stimulating.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-07-30 15:55:27](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I remember what Professor Sinistra said...it reminds me of what you used to say about chess pieces. How a pawn can be as useful as a queen. But I think this is why I'm not very good at chess yet. I don't see how all the pieces can be equally valuable, but some more desirable than others. It seems like a paradox.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 16:28:02](#)
(no subject)

Different talents and predilections mean that people are suited to different tasks.

Consider the differences among the following: the clerk at Quality Quidditch Supplies; your side-member Mr Pucey; a professional such as Carrig Drumgoole of the Kestrels.

Imagine you are assembling a Quidditch match at the Manor and could choose only one of them to be your fellow. Who would you pick?




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:31:02](#)**
(no subject)

Carrig Drumgoole, of course (Ha, sorry for that if you're reading, Puce).

I see what you mean. I'd definitely chat with the clerk about the latest broomstick models, but if he tried to correct my form I wouldn't pay him much mind. Unless it was Carrig Drumgoole clerking, but why would he be doing that?



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:36:51](#)**
(no subject)

Exactly so. One would not disparage the clerk for being a clerk - he performs a service and supplies you with provisions you need to play.

But one would not invite him to supper in recompense, nor would you be likely to notice if he were to be replaced by another, equally valuable but no more important underling. Presumably he has some affinity for the sport, but perhaps his talent was limited or his ability sadly lacking, and he has risen as high as he is likely to go. Nonetheless, he still contributes to the best of his capacity, though he could not be considered a real player.


Now, Mr Pucey is a teammate, one who performs his duties as you do and with whom you co-operate to achieve common success. If he errs, or you, it would not be surprising for either of you to task the other, but this does not mean his value to the team is diminished, nor yours. We shall leave aside for the time being the question of whether his contributions fail on a regular basis; let us assume that you are evenly matched and neither of you an embarrassment to your side. You would not scruple to eschew his company in the locker rooms or the common room when celebrating, nor would you have any reason to decline his overtures, or he yours, of friendship. Yours is a relationship of equals, each of you striving at more or less the same level of effectiveness. But neither of you is at the level of Mr Drumgoole yet.

As for him, his services are sought throughout the nation by any number of qualified judges and his contributions are indisputably essential to the success of his side. If he were to

deign to invite you to supper, you would surely accept - but you would naturally understand were he to decline your invitation in favour of more pressing engagements. If he were to offer critique of your skills, or Mr Pucey's, you would be well-served to heed his advice, coming as it does from a position of greater experience and daily use.


Similarly, if you need a tutor in art, you would not solicit assistance from Mr Goyle. If you need to walk down a darkened street, on the other hand, he might be a suitable companion.



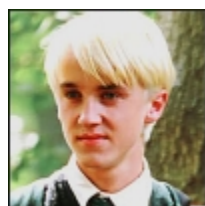
 **alt_draco** at [2010-07-30 17:03:07](#)
(no subject)


I'd take Goyle and Crabbe down the darkened street. All the better to have a big wall to keep myself behind while they walked on ahead.



 **alt_lucius** at [2010-07-30 17:07:27](#)
(no subject)

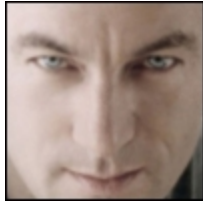
Now you see? That's exactly what I and your professor mean: Keep them for the tasks for which they are suited, value them for that range of duties they can perform; but do not ask them to partner in Arithmancy essays.




 **alt_draco** at [2010-07-30 17:09:59](#)
(no subject)

Thinking about it that way just seems really practical, and not unkind at all. Because Goyle's feelings might be hurt (though probably not really) if I didn't want to work on an essay with him, but really he should know that he's not very good at Arithmancy. Or writing, for that matter.

I still don't know if I'll ever be good at chess, though.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:13:01](#)**
(no subject)

There are many forms of chess, son.


Have you a lesson this afternoon? You were asleep when I left this morning and I meant to ask if you wanted to come to Presto prior to Court. I could bring you back here if you did not wish to come to Buckingham.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:23:37](#)**
(no subject)

I finished my lesson with Herr Gotsch about an hour ago, and nothing is planned for the afternoon. But next time I'm sleeping and you want to ask me about a trip to Presto, you should just go ahead and wake me up. Could I still come with you?




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:49:20](#)**
(no subject)

I should wake you? Hm. Do you not have an elf to assure that you come down to breakfast like a civilised person?

But yes. You may come through the Floo, provided your mother consents. We must leave in ten minutes.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:50:53](#)**
(no subject)

I only meant that I'd much rather go to Presto than have a lie-in!


Okay, I'll go ask her straight away.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:27:39](#)**
(no subject)

You received the reports I sent over, I hope?




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:36:34](#)**
(no subject)

Yes - all appears in order. I think He will be pleased. It is good of you to have seen to everything so conscientiously, Dominic. And to keep it all far from the ears of the idle gossip-mongers at the Ministry!

That, I think, is the true accomplishment.

By the way, I don't know if you noted yesterday but Bella may be interested to nominate herself - or at least to review the requirements - for membership on the Board of Governors. I think Burroughs' term is nearly up; do you recall when he is scheduled to stand aside?




 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:40:28](#)**
(no subject)

October? Unless it's March. I'd have to check. Mrs Lestrangle would be a shining addition to the Board of Governors, but I have to say I'll be surprised if she can find the time.

I'll have the requirements sent over to her so she can look them over. Perhaps I'll include the minutes from the last few meetings, so she can decide right now which governors most need hexing.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:47:48](#)**
(no subject)

I think you'll agree that Bella, of anyone, is capable of making the time if a thing is vital enough to her.

Though truth be told, now I think of it, Burroughs does occupy one of the positions, like yourself, without currently enrolled


children. I believe the by-laws may have no flexibility on that matter. In which case, perhaps she will have an idea who else of our acquaintance would be suitable.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:51:13](#)**
(no subject)


Hmm. It seems a shame to waste Bella's talents if she's willing to make them available to the Board. There might be someone who's willing to stand aside.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:41:34](#)**
(no subject)


What is your opinion, then, of Annetta Rickett? I have not found her as short-sighted as some of our colleagues, but I find she acquiesces to Jenkins and Sedgwick rather more than I should think strictly necessary.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-07-30 19:47:01](#)**
(no subject)

She acquiesces to whomever glares at her most ferociously, I'd say. If I could replace anyone I expect you know who I'd pick, but alas, he's unlikely to resign. If I never had to hear that nasal voice again -- well, at any rate, Rickett would likely stand aside if asked and would be no great loss.




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:10:47](#)**
Order Only

Bellatrix Lestrange on the Hogwarts Board of Governors?

Merlin forbid! Oh, Minerva, I suppose it's too much to hope that you can head this off?




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:46:33](#)**
Order Only

Bugger all. That luncheon with Plympton and Massopust must have been while I was out having lunch with Dad. I have no idea they were meeting, much less what they talked about.

And what's this about the results getting presented at Court?


Bugger, bugger, bugger.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:09:22](#)**
(no subject)

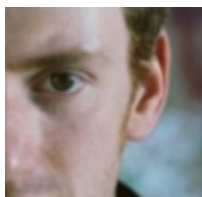
I'm gratified that my effort for the most part merits your approval, sir. As for the things that, as you say, have been sorted, I hope you do know that I have taken the lessons I've learned this summer very much to heart. I will always be exceedingly grateful for the opportunity this internship has given me to be of service to you.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:17:31](#)**
(no subject)

It has been a ... promising start, Weasley, with that notable exception. You are lucky that Crispin interceded, however, to correct the oversight. Lucky too that he was on-hand to remind me that not all lessons may be learnt without a small amount of failure.


I expect we shall have an opportunity to speak prior to your departure this afternoon, but do enjoy your trip with Hydra's class and we look forward to welcoming you back on the 9th to complete your tenure.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:28:31](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, sir.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2010-07-30 21:41:58](#)

Oh, and -

Congratulations, Mr Weasley! I've just seen the Headmistress and she informs me that the confirmation owls were issued overnight, so I am at liberty to tell you that you have been named

Head Boy.

I am sure you know it is not a duty to be undertaken lightly, particularly in this age with, it would seem, a greater challenge than ever to overcome the limitations of blood and familial ties to an older, less enlightened regime. It will be your solemn task to provide, both by example and advice, a map to your charges on espousing the ideals of the Protectorate and surpassing any obstacles on their paths to success.

Our fraternity is select and bears with it particular privileges - and responsibilities - that will reflect on you well beyond the day you depart Hogwarts as her student. For your life, you will remain her steward as well.

When you return, book yourself in with me for an hour or so and remind me to reveal to you in that time certain information which only the Head Boys and Head Girls have held in trust since the Founders' time. No doubt Moran will have left the traditional letter as well, but if you will indulge me to impart them, I am sure there are ... maxims ... which may have become distorted down the generations. (Though one trusts, as Moran received his letter of succession from Ned, whom I also counselled, not as corrupted as in years past.)

In any event: Welcome. We must arrange a celebratory drink before your time with us draws to its close.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 03:46:46](#)

Order Only

Oh, that wretched man. I had the letter from Hogwarts sitting on the table all day, waiting for Percy to open when he got home, and I so wanted to see his face when he read it.

But instead, he gets the news from Lucius Malfoy, of all people,

and gets his congratulations before he hears it from his own parents!

I'm being childish, I know.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:48:13](#)**

Re: Order Only

Childish? Well, perhaps a very little, Molly, dear. But perfectly understandable.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:49:52](#)**

Re: Order Only

And I am happy for him, Arthur, I am!

Well, even though I still want to wring his neck.

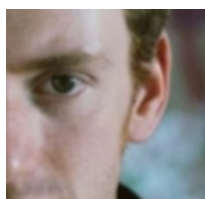



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:51:44](#)**

Re: Order Only

Well, he can't perform his duties at Hogwarts if you do, so it's best to leave him unthrottled.

Just keep telling him you're proud of him. Bill and I have hopes that he'll come around.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:54:28](#)**

Re: Oh, and -

Thank you, sir. I'm--I'm quite overwhelmed, but very pleased, as you can well imagine.

I will do my very best to do my blood proud. And to make you proud of me, too. If I may be so bold, sir.

[2010-07-30 10:17:00](#)

Neville

So, yeah.

Many happy returns, mate.


I hope today's better than yesterday. And, I dunno, I guess this year was pretty good, but I hope next year's better.

I sent you an owl to your Gran's cause Mum thought it was better to do it that way. Anywiz. I hope they let you do something snitch today, even if it keeps chucking it down outside.




 **[alt_ron](#)**



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-30 16:35:59](#)**
(no subject)

I got all my lines done last night, so they let me join the group again today. I did the St Mungo's tour. Corner and Hopkins thought I was balmy for deciding to do that instead of the museum, but I wanted to see the greenhouses at St Mungo's. They're supposed to be legendary, and they were. Saw all sorts of plants they use in potions I'd never seen before, really rare ones, too.



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 18:57:18](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

The twins say they think that the two groups got treated differently on purpose. Not just on account of all the rain. They were talking at lunch about what Mr Malfoy wrote.

What do you think?

Anywiz, I'm glad you got to see what you wanted at St Mungo's. Too bad about the Ministry, though. And having to do lines.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 19:41:45](#)

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

Huh.

Maybe, but then why did they send you with us, Ron, instead of with Neville? It's not as if you're usually high on their list of people they'd like to give extra privileges to.

And for that matter why did they send Vince and Greg -- well, actually, that makes some sense. They probably thought they were too stupid to know the difference.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 22:12:03](#)

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

Yeah, well. I bet that next year I'm in the dud group.

Now that MLE have it in their files that I'm not on the Approved List.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 22:20:02](#)

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

Did you see what Mr Malfoy just said? Percy's going to be Head Boy next year.

That's just --

Well, not THAT surprising, I suppose. But what do you suppose he's going to be like?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 23:15:19](#)

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

Well, that doesn't take a Slytherin to guess.

What do you suppose he's going to be like?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 00:55:41](#)

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

He's not an evil git like Sandoval. I don't think he'd cast the cruciatus curse for the fun of it.

But he really likes being the one in charge. REALLY likes it. And he'd lie as fast as Ptolemy Baddock if he thought someone in power wanted him to -- well, actually, that's probably not fair. I don't know if he'd outright lie. But he wouldn't go out of his way to establish the truth, if he thought the lie was better.

I wonder if Siobhan will be Head Girl, or Electra Bobolis? Probably Siobhan. She's not so bad. I mean, as Prefects go.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 00:56:02](#)

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

Oh, also, Percy cares a lot about blood purity. More than Siobhan, in some ways, which is funny. But first year, when he caught me hexing Padma and wanted a Slytherin prefect he made a big deal out of the fact that I was a HALFBLOOD who'd hexed a PUREBLOOD.

You know, I really think he'd have turned out better in Slytherin. He would feel like he had less to prove to the rest of the world, and more to prove to your parents. That might have been good for him.

Ravenclaw would've been worse, though. Imagine Percy as part of Ravenclaw Corner, ugh.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-31 00:57:02](#)

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

You're not really making me feel better about the idea of Percy as Head Prat, y'know?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 01:04:32](#)

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

Well I don't imagine you'd prefer Baddock. Not that he'd have got it anyway, he's only been Prefect a few months.

Imagine if it were Ollivander. Does that make you feel any better?

Here's the thing Ron. As hard as it is for you and Fred and George, if you TELL HIM you're so glad he's going to be Head Boy because he's fair and trustworthy and will never side with someone JUST because they're a pureblood, he's more likely to act fair and trustworthy and the rest. This is one of the easiest ways to get someone to act the way you want them to, usually they don't even realise you're doing it to manipulate them. It's how Miss Winchers got Mrs Stretton to buy me the things I needed, she told her that of COURSE she was going to do it because she was a good foster mum! And then Mrs Stretton felt like she had to.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-31 04:40:40](#)

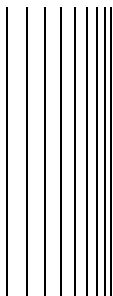
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah, we told him we're happy for him.

Doesn't mean we won't tease him silly about it, though. Like the twins said at supper, 'When you act daft, it's our job to point that out so you know. If you can't trust your brothers to tell you the truth, who can you trust?'

But, yeah. Okay. I'll try to say something about how I'm sure he'll be fair and that I know he'll be better than Moran was about sticking up for people and not just pushing them around.

I mean, that's pretty much what Mum said--what you did, I mean--only you both said it better, and I think he'll believe it more from her than from me, 'cause, y'know, I don't usually say stuff like that. Especially to Percy.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 04:47:05](#)

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

Well that's a good point. He'd probably die of shock if you and the twins quit taking the mickey all the time.

[2010-07-30 10:29:00](#)

Neville?



 **[alt_dean](#)**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-30 14:50:55](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Well.

Congratulations. I guess?

D'you think almost getting chucked out of YPL made him think you're better value than before? Gotta say I really, really don't get him.

Guess that just leaves me on his Not To Be Associated With list.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:31:31](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks, Dean. It's shaping up to be a nicer one than I was afraid it would be yesterday.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-07-31 01:58:42](#)**

(no subject)

Happy birthday from me too mate! I'm glad today went better than yesterday. I wish you'd been in New London with my group.

[2010-07-30 10:32:00](#)

Luna?



 **[alt_ginny](#)**


How are things going for you? I hope life at the Brown's is a bit more pleasant than it is around here at the moment.

I wish we were old enough that we could just get away for a day on our own. The tension around here is driving me mad. I don't want to say too much as I don't want to anger any one, but something is going on between Dad and Percy. I am not sure what it is, and I won't snoop, but it has us all at wits end. Plus we have to be with Percy all next week during our YPL trip, and I have a favour to ask of him myself, I want to stay on his good side.

And this is Percy we are talking about. *What could he have done that would have been so wrong?*

Luna, I just want my Best Friend. I just want to get away.




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:46:31](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure I don't know what you're referring to. I haven't done anything wrong. Everything is fine. Just fine.


I'm quite looking forward to the YPL trip next week, too. And yes, it will be rather nice to get away.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2010-07-30 15:47:27](#)**
(no subject)


What favour are you talking about? We can talk about it at dinner.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2010-07-30 16:37:04](#)
(no subject)


Sure thats fine, Its just something that I want you to do for me as a birthday present. And it wont cost a thing, and its rather private.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-30 15:48:20](#)
Order Only


Oh, Percy.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-30 15:49:13](#)
Re: Order Only

Did Dad talk to him last night? How did it go?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-30 15:51:53](#)
Re: Order Only

Not very well, I'm afraid. Arthur couldn't come right out and ask. I think Percy is halfway between being puzzled at what Arthur was getting at, and defiant, all the while insisting that everything is fine. His job is going swimmingly, and Lucius Malfoy is just splendid and Mr Crispin couldn't be nicer.

Oh, I knew that internship was a mistake!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2010-07-30 19:16:38](#)
Re: Order Only

Well...even if I'm right and Crispin's doing it, that doesn't necessarily mean Percy will do it too, Mum.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-30 19:19:18](#)

Re: Order Only

It's just little steps, Bill. One tiny step after another, with Lucius Malfoy right there at his elbow praising him for his cleverness all the way! And he won't even see the danger he's in until

it's too late!

I thought we had sorted this all out last summer when he made that promise to your Dad.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 00:34:46](#)

(no subject)

I just saw what Mr Malfoy wrote in his journal, Weasley. Congratulations!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-31 00:36:32](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

And if the rest of you want to call him a prat, do it somewhere else, alright? If you want him to be a decent Head Boy and not an awful one, start by pretending you expect he'll be really good at it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 15:56:54](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Do you know what she's talking about, Ron? It's probably none of my business but I'm curious anyway.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 16:18:48](#)

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

Well.

Mum and Dad seem upset about something. I don't know if Percy said something or if it's just what it's been all summer. I mean, he's completely full of himself about working for

Mr Malfoy, and he's always letting on that he thinks we're not as good as the Malfoys. He doesn't think Dad's job is very important, and he doesn't think Dad's really tried to make anything of himself, and he's always hinting that he's going to do better and be more important. And he doesn't even try to hide that he's embarrassed by Mum and Dad. He'll have lunch with Bill, sure, but I think he pretends not to see Dad if they're both in the Ministry at the same time.

I'm not sure about that, but I heard Dad say something, and I think I dunno.

Percy's getting everyone's back up right now. ~~And he was a totally prick about~~

So, yeah.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 16:25:06](#)

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

It doesn't sound like Mr Malfoy thought much of Percy. The nicest thing he said was that he was 'acceptable' and he was glad to be rid of him during the camping trip.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 16:28:38](#)

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

Yeah, well.

I'm sure Percy will think that was really a compliment in disguise.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 16:31:21](#)

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

You should start telling Percy how acceptable he is. After all, if it's a compliment, it's a compliment, right?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-30 21:07:32](#)

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

'Acceptable' means being a right berk in Lucius Malfoy-speak.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-30 17:33:59](#)

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

Well, he's not the only one making everyone walk around like they're waiting for something to blow up (usually that's our department).

All right there, Ron? We heard you, er, chuntering away to yourself in the chicken coop this morning when you were gathering the eggs.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-30 17:44:57](#)

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

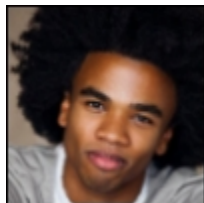
About that MLE visit. Yeah?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 18:45:56](#)

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

...




 [alt_lee](#) at [2010-07-30 19:05:32](#)

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

You know we're all dying to know here.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-30 19:12:44](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, from what we overheard Ron airing to himself, they asked him all about why it is Harry Marvolo always seems to be around when Ron gets into trouble. And why he likes shabby nobodies like Perks or blood traitor riffraff like Longbottom or weirdos like Parkinson--sorry, everyone. And why he can't get along with shining paragons of the realm like Patil, Finnegin, Malfoy and Thomas.

Charlie used to do that, too, you know, Ron. Talk it all out to himself aloud when he's real upset about something. Well, they may have asked a bunch of uncomfortable questions, but it doesn't sound like you did too badly. And given what they asked, we can see why you didn't want to talk about it.

So we very helpfully talked about it for you. Consider it a public service. You can thank us at dinner. Or by mucking out the goatshed for us.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 19:39:52](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I expect Ron would also like to know why it is that he and Harry, when placed within six paces of each other, attract trouble like moths to a lit wand. I mean, I know I would. It's uncanny. But if they're worried, why'd they send him off with our group instead of putting him with Neville's group?

Did MLE really call Pansy a weirdo? And I should think it would be obvious why Ron likes hanging about with shabby nobodies (and Neville's his housemate!)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 19:58:29](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So you're calling me a shabby nobody now, too?

Nice.

But, yeah.

They wanted to know why bad stuff happens to Harry when I'm around like it's my fault. And they wanted to know if I'm so matey with Harry--that's what that Gupta bloke said: 'so matey'-- then how come I'm not on the list of people Buckingham lets him get owls and packages from, and how come I'm not on the list of people he's asked to his party.

So, yeah.

I don't guess there's anything really you can say to that. Except the obvious.

I guess we're not as good mates as I thought. Sir.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 20:30:20](#)

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

Well, better to say that you're not as good mates you thought than, 'well, his father apparently doesn't like me much...'

You know it's a surprise party, right? Harry didn't get to decide who to invite.

I have no idea why anyone at Buckingham invited a shabby nobody like me, though...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 20:36:52](#)

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

Like she said.

And he probably doesn't come up with the approved list or whatever anyways.

And even though it might have hurt to say, you're right, it was what they needed to hear. I've had to do that before. And it

doesn't feel good at all.

So I'm sorry.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 22:14:03](#)

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

I didn't say it because I thought it was smart.

I said it because it's true.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 22:23:19](#)

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

I'm sorry, Ron.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-30 21:14:33](#)

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

We Weasleys wear our shabby nobodiness with pride, you know. We recommend that you should, too.

Well, obviously when everyone jumps out and yells 'Surprise!' at Marvolo, he'll look around and say, 'Where's my mate Ronald Weasley? Well, if he's not here THE PARTY'S OVER. EVERYONE GO HOME.'

Oh, except you, Perks. You'll get to stay and open all the presents. And Marvolo will send you home with about half of them, just to make Mrs Stretton figure out she needs to treat you right.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 21:20:35](#)

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

That would be brilliant! At least if I got to take cake home, too. And I want him to let Pansy stay, too, it won't be any fun without her.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 20:01:15](#)

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

Well, I *am* weird.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 20:06:46](#)

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

You are, but not like they meant it.

You're a better sort of weird than they were talking about.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 20:24:19](#)

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

Well.

Thanks for that.

Just think! When I grow up, I can switch from weird to *eccentric*.

They do sound like they were awful, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 20:31:31](#)

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

You'll make an excellent eccentric adult.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-07-30 20:36:04](#)

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

Oh, I'm planning on it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-30 22:20:34](#)

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

If you were just skulking around behind the chicken coop, you could have come in and helped out, y'know, rather than just snooping.

What were you doing out there, anyway?

And they didn't say 'shabby nobodies' or 'riffraff' or 'weirdos'.

Exactly.

But it's pretty much what they meant, yeah.

I dunno.

It wasn't nice. Okay.

So, yeah.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2010-07-30 16:08:12](#)

(no subject)

I asked Mrs Brown if I could invite you over here, but she said 'No.' I'm ever so sorry. But we'll still see each other on the camping trip. It's coming up very fast.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 16:23:39](#)

(no subject)

Luna, before you go back to school, if you can persuade Mrs Brown to stop at Miss Winchers' Compleat Clothery in Diagon Alley to buy any clothes you need, Miss Winchers is really good at making sure ~~she~~ you don't forget any of the things you might need. And her clothing is less expensive than a lot of shops. She doesn't sell school robes but she sells all the things that aren't necessarily on the list from the Ministry but you still need, like socks and gloves, you know?


(Mrs Stretton and I went shopping yesterday, that's why I'm thinking about it.)



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2010-07-30 17:18:39](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you. That's very kind of you to think of me.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2010-07-30 16:41:23](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I know. Don't worry. I don't think Mum would let me go over there even if she said yes. Its not like I really want to be around them anyway.

2010-07-30 11:01:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

So, Mrs Stretton took me shopping yesterday and everything worked out perfectly though by the end she had this look on her face like she knew I'd planned things out a certain way and she wasn't sure she liked it. But then I told her if she gave me the money I'd take Gemma shopping for clothes and shoes before I went back to school and that made her happy enough to distract her (Gemma wants her shoes to be pretty but they can't pinch AT ALL and also she doesn't like the feel of most cushioning charms and her definition of 'pretty' changes hourly. So shoe shopping with her is a bit of a trial.)

Anyway, we went to Miss Winchers, Pansy you were right she liked the idea of a place a bit cheaper than Harrod's. Their stockings were perfectly nice and while she was looking at the different colours and materials I snatched up the other things I needed and put them in the pile and said 'oh, I just remembered, I really need these, too.' And Mrs Stretton wasn't happy about it but Miss Winchers was perfect, she realised right away what I was about AND she said 'oh, I expect you also need pyjamas! and a dressing gown and slippers!' and started bustling around fetching things and Mrs Stretton felt like she couldn't say no without looking stingy. She hates looking stingy.

She did try pointing out to Miss Winchers that I wasn't her DAUGHTER, I was her foster child. And Miss Winchers looked surprised and said, 'but she still needs knickers, doesn't she?' And hinted that if Mrs Stretton sent me off to school in rags, my house mates would think the Strettons weren't taking good care of me.


I even have proper gloves now!

And then while we were eating lunch I pretended to find Sebastian. Mrs Stretton made me try to return him to the Magical Menagerie since she thought surely that's where he escaped from, but they said they weren't missing any rats. And then I thought she was going to try to make me give him away to one of the other customers but in the end she said I could keep him as long as he stays in my room.

And then we went looking for a birthday present and she made me get him a quill, just like I thought. As if Harry needs another quill. I talked

her into also getting a deck of exploding snap cards that make funny noises with each explosion instead of just blowing up. So he can have something fun as well as something respectable. Anyway, off it went with an owl today. I didn't have the chance to put in the thing I was making, but that's okay, at least it included the exploding snap cards.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-30 21:05:59](#)
(no subject)

I'll bet anything Miss Winchers was a Slytherin, too.

I got the origami toad you sent to me, Sally-Anne. Thanks! It was dead clever everybody: it sang 'Happy Birthday' and everything. I'm bringing it home to show to Evelyn. She's going to love it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-07-30 21:12:48](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday! You aren't cross, are you, that your present didn't come from a shop, like Harry's did? Mrs Stretton paid for the present for Harry and I didn't want to push my luck after everything else.

You might be right about Miss Winchers. She looked about a hundred and twelve years old though so it's odd to think of her as going to Hogwarts.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-31 03:42:10](#)
(no subject)

My Gran always said that she likes homemade gifts the best, because they're more personal, and they show that the person was thinking of you long enough to go through the trouble of making it. Of course, I think she told Evelyn and me that because she didn't want us to feel bad about the crooked mittens Evelyn knit or the clumsy clay pot I made for her African violets. I can't believe she kept that on the mantelpiece for years, but she did, even if it was so ugly!

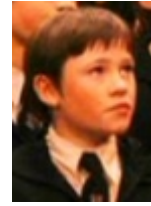
No, I love the origami toad, honest. It made me laugh like anything, and Merlin knows I really needed a laugh after

|| yesterday.

[2010-07-30 20:56:00](#)

Oi, Percy!

I heard you got picked for Head Boy! Good show!



 **[alt_seamus](#)**



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:07:53](#)**

(no subject)

I saw that. Do you reckon his brothers will even congratulate him? I can just see Weasley's little poem.

Head Boys say this,

Head Boys say that,

Head Boys are silly gits

with silly, gitty hats.

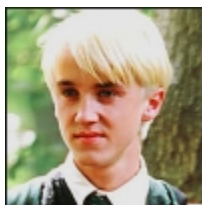


 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:12:37](#)**

(no subject)

Well I think it's wizard we have a Head Boy from our House, whether the rest of the Weasleys appreciate it or not.

Maybe his older brothers will, at least, they're not ridiculous like the rest. Did you come to YPL when it was Charlie Weasley telling us about working with dragons? Because that was brilliant.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-31 03:18:27](#)**

(no subject)

It was completely snitch, the dragons. And I think the oldest brother was Head Boy in his day, so he'll probably congratulate him, at least.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-31 04:27:54](#)
(no subject)

Don't be stupid, Finnigan.

Of course, we congratulated him. It's great he's head boy.


Doesn't mean he won't get a big head about it. That's what Percy does. It's our job to tell him off when he's a git. That's what brothers are for.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-07-31 04:39:46](#)
(no subject)


And if his head gets particularly big, why it's a lucky thing that he has five brothers to do the job. Easy to spread the work around.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2010-07-31 04:43:22](#)
(no subject)


Oh, and you lot make having brothers look like so much fun.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2010-07-31 05:02:37](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, they do!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-31 07:26:07](#)
(no subject)

Well. Sometimes it's more fun than at others, but tonight was really sort of awesome, actually.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-31 04:24:15](#)**
(no subject)

I guess since you don't have brothers you wouldn't get it.

Of course, we congratulated him. Had a toast, too.


And laughed at each other, too, some.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2010-07-31 06:36:09](#)**
(no subject)

No serenade? How civilised.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2010-07-31 07:27:11](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. We only sing when we're takin the mickey.

2010-07-30 22:59:00

Another Head Boy in the family!

Well, I see other people are talking about it, but yes, we got the news in a letter from Hogwarts today. Percy's next year's Head Boy!



 [alt_molly](#)

Arthur and I are so proud of him, and so pleased that he'll represent Gryffindor in such a position of responsibility.


I decided to get a nice pot roast from the butcher to celebrate. Such a treat, and it turned out beautifully. For once even my most ravenous teenagers didn't complain that they needed more to fill up the corners! Bill came over for dinner, too, and we sat around talking for a couple of hours around the table after we ate; he had all of us in gales of laughter with all sorts of stories about his year as Head Boy. We even had a Floo call with Charlie.

Eventually, Ginny went up to bed and the boys drifted away to their own pursuits. I did the dishes and then stepped out in the garden for a breath of air. The moon is sailing over the garden, waning but still bright enough to make the moonflowers glow. I looked up at the windows of the Burrow and I felt such a fierce love for everyone inside. My children are remarkable. Yes, remarkable, every one of them. I know every mother says it, but in my case, it's true! Bill's growing into such a fine young man, and now Percy's finding his own path. I'm so proud of his determination, his wish to live up to his responsibilities, whatever they turn out to be. The twins are full of vim and vinegar, and no one can say it's ever boring when they're around! Ron is funny and warm, and so quick to defend those he cares about, and he has such a gift for friendship. Ginny is so creative and helpful, and such good company.

And Arthur, bless him, is everything I could wish for.

I truly am a lucky woman.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-07-31 04:17:57](#)
(no subject)

Um.

Thanks, Mum.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2010-07-31 04:18:12](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, Mrs Weasley.

I saw other people were talking about it, but I thought it would be polite to wait until Percy's family had said something.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2010-07-31 04:27:54](#)
(no subject)

Care to meet up at Florian's for a sundae tomorrow, say about 1:00?

We can, er, talk about some of the things for the Prefect agenda this year.




 [alt_penelope](#) at [2010-07-31 04:31:09](#)
(no subject)

I was just thinking that the occasion called for ice cream!

But then, there's hardly ever a time when ice cream isn't called for.

Congratulations, Weasley.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-31 04:29:19](#)
ORDER ONLY

You are lucky, my dear.

I know Percy has been a trial to you and Arthur, but it

is an honour for him and for you, and I'm so glad you're all able to celebrate together.



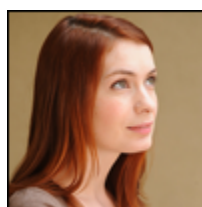
 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 04:34:31](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

I was thinking of you and Frank when I wrote it.

It's as I told Arthur, I am proud of him. I am, truly.

It's just



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-31 04:39:50](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Is everything all right, Molly?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 04:58:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Oh, Alice. I remember when you told me what your boggart was.

It's just that...well, the Head Boy and Head Girl are cleared to do the Cruciatus Curse. And you remember that horrible scene we had last summer when Arthur caught Percy trying to do it on a garden gnome. And they had that terrible row, and Percy ran away, and they ended up talking all night about it, and Percy finally promised Arthur he wouldn't try to do it again.

Anyway...Bill went to meet him for lunch. And while he was waiting, someone else came in, trying to get an appointment with that wretched Lucius Malfoy. And Bill saw Crispin flick his wand behind his back and mouth something, and then the man fell all over himself saying he didn't need an appointment after all. After the man left, Crispin turned and said to Percy, 'You see? That's how you do the trick.'

And Bill rather thinks--he's almost sure--that the word he saw Crispin mouthing was 'Imperio.'



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-31 04:59:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

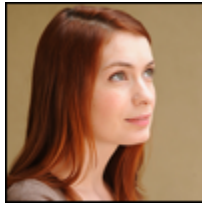
Ah. And so you're afraid Crispin's been giving him little tips, is that it?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 05:00:27](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Little tips indeed! So very useful for someone working for the likes of Lucius Malfoy!



 [alt_alice](#) at [2010-07-31 05:15:59](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Oh, dear. That is troublesome.

I...

It is just so mind-boggling to me how casual it's become. Something that used to guarantee a trip to Azkaban... It makes me ill to think of.

I can see why my boggart came to mind.

I'm so sorry, Molly.

Perhaps it is more difficult to specifically see the harm in Imperius when compared to the other two, unless you're faced with the implications of it head on -- especially if it's done in small doses like that. The way we used to be taught in school, there was just never a question.

We gave Neville our old Auror training manual this past Christmas. It has a rather extensive section on the Unforgivables, and why they're so awful, and we told him to read that part closely. But there's only so much we can do from a distance.

Sirius and Arthur are right, though, my dear. You keep showing him the path, and you never give up on him.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2010-07-31 05:25:09](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

It's quite a parenting challenge, I will admit, trying to shepherd him past temptations that turn my stomach, without setting his back up or wounding that prickly pride of his so much that he won't listen.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 05:14:59](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

Hm.

Well, it's cold comfort, Molly, but seeing someone else use an Unforgivable is entirely different to casting it. And one Unforgivable does not - necessarily - lead to another. That doesn't help much, I know.

It's a bad sign, though, if that's the kind of 'trick' he's picking up. Merlin.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 05:20:12](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

What makes my blood run cold was remembering how just last Monday he was saying so smugly that Crispin's been teaching him everything.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 05:29:25](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Which makes me sorry for this Crispin chap. Malfoy has a lot to answer for.

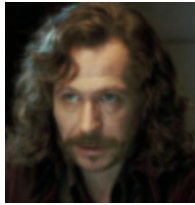


 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 05:22:59](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

it's a rather dangerous foot in the door, mate.

I don't blame her for being worried.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 05:27:20](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I don't deny that - and of all the Curses it's the easiest to justify, which is what makes it so insidious.

It says more than a little about Malfoy that he's not only willing to corrupt himself but conscript others in service to the Curses. I mean to say, this Crispin fellow is only passing along what he's learned. It's sobering that it only takes a few years for the salient arguments against them to Disapparate.

Allie's right - it's chilling.



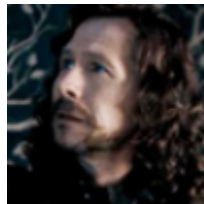
 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 05:31:15](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

it all trickles down, doesn't it?

and if the source is poison, that's what you end up getting.

they've made a mockery of justice, and for all their talk of tradition, they sure are hell bent on twisting the world into something I don't know anymore.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 05:33:47](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I know that world - all too well.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 05:43:45](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

sometimes I forget how utterly screwy your family was.

no offence.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 05:49:01](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Ta, Frank, thanks!

But you're right. They were nutters, my parents. I'm still not sure why my grandparents ever allowed the match.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 06:03:12](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

cheers.

I try.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 04:46:35](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Arthur's got the right of it, Molly. I think he'll come round. Don't give up on him, is all.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2010-07-31 05:05:17](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Oh, I won't. Believe me, I won't.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2010-07-31 05:12:04](#)**

Re: ORDER ONLY

Ron may have the right of it. It may come down to my knocking some brotherly sense into him, if parental guidance doesn't sink in.

Anyway, I'm willing to try if you just say the word.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-31 04:54:35](#)**

(no subject)

Congratulations, Mrs Weasley. It's very impressive that two of your sons have been Head Boys.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2010-07-31 05:10:05](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you, dear. I do hope you're having a good summer?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2010-07-31 14:53:28](#)**

(no subject)

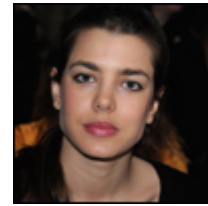
Yes ma'am, my summer is going very well.

2010-07-30 23:45:00

(no subject)


Congratulations, Calderwood. You, too, Weasley.

Good show, both of you!



 [alt_lana](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2010-07-31 05:08:18**

(no subject)

Oh, is it Calderwood? I'd wondered. I thought maybe it might have been Bobolis.



 [alt_percy](#) at **2010-07-31 21:53:10**

(no subject)

Thank you very much, Sandoval.

[2010-07-31 06:27:00](#)

Pomona

It's really such a shame you had to go back after London. The ramble from Gravesend to Igham Mote was lovely. Just what I needed after a week in the city. I've had a simply gorgeous time here. Well, apart from the rain, but as I was in the brewing house on all the rainy days, that was no bother. The brewing staff here are ingenious. I see why St Mungo's relies on them so heavily. In any case, I've learned a great deal from Mr Postlethwaite--he remembers you so fondly, Pomona--and his partner, Mr Smythe. We made side trips to the orchards at Brogdale (where the plums and the porphyry fruit are just coming in) and to the gardens at Sissinghurst and Knole (where some of the plantings descend through 500 years of documented cultivation). I told you there would be plenty for you on this trip!



 **[alt_poppy](#)**


Next year, perhaps.

In any case, I intend to make Leeds by half-three. Shall we meet at York Gate's reception at half-four? If that suits, you needn't bother to contact me. Otherwise, send an owl along to reception so I'll know when to expect you.

There's a lovely little pub nearby--or there was, last I was there.

Oh, and Horace! I ought to have said: one of the folks with me on the course here was Formsby Urquhart. He asked to be remembered to you. Said he's become a great grandfather since he saw you last, and he hopes you're holding a spot for his latest grand-sprog in Slytherin House--says he's never seen one come out of the womb with a clearer disposition. 'Won't take the Hat a moment's thought, that one!' So there's something to anticipate. I gather there's a year or two yet before you need worry about receiving the child.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-31 14:31:10](#)**
Order Only

When we went along to Knole, we spent a long, rainy evening in a pub down in Sevenoaks village, where the local talk was quite interesting. They say they've all taken to using the Floo after dark, even to walk

house to house, because there's been a strange, scraggly haired chap sighted several nights this month. They're convinced he's alone, and they can't decide among themselves whether he looks more like the pictures of Snape or Macnair. They say he's gaunt to the point of looking skeletal. The rest of the details are less credible because they conflict from teller to teller or because they run so hard towards the Gothic. (He's snarl-toothed and moves like he's possessed or an Inferius--that sort of wild thing.)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 15:12:22](#)

Re: Order Only

sounds like something worth checking out.

kingsley, can you get away for the weekend?

I'm up for hunting if you are.

it'll be just like the old days, yeah?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 15:33:15](#)

Re: Order Only

I'd be able to leave tonight, once it's dark. Sounds ominous enough.

Let me know and I'll even Apparate up to join you.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 15:57:28](#)

Re: Order Only

right. I'll bring the three bed tent if you bring the stella.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-07-31 16:07:08](#)

Re: Order Only

Stella may be the most difficult part of that.

If I don't manage to scrounge a sixer, then would we be stuck in the two-bed tent?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 16:13:36](#)

Re: Order Only

you wish.

it's only been a bloody year since I had me a good lager, but don't take any unnecessary risks or Al will wring your neck. and mine.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-07-31 17:04:56](#)

Re: Order Only

Frank Longbottom. If you're going all the way to Sevenoaks, you can jolly well march your own self into the pub and buy a pint without sending Sirius. It's the Six Bells--just where Knole Lane meets the London Road.

And if you are intending to follow up on this report, I would suggest starting in the pub. It's been five days since we were there, so you'll want to know what the locals have seen or not since then.

Do be careful. And don't allow our own snaggle-toothed, scruffy bloke to get himself spotted.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2010-07-31 17:36:19](#)

Re: Order Only

good one, there, Poppy.

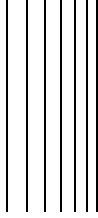
will do.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-31 21:56:10](#)

Re: Order Only

You should have received my patronus, Frank. On my way.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2010-07-31 21:56:51](#)

Re: Order Only

We may even be able to squeeze in a side trip to Sherwood, for anyone who's willing.

2010-07-31 21:29:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I am at Harry's birthday party. He acted surprised when he came in.

The food is good. There are miniature chocolate orange cakes with designs on them that change colour.

Buckingham is interesting.

The adults are kind of scary -- it's not like Draco's Christmas Party where there was a special area for the kids, it's just everyone mixed together and there's nothing to do except wander around and talk to people. Some grownup lady I didn't know caught me while I was by myself and said 'oh, are you the little halfblood girl who got into Slytherin?' and laughed the way Padma does when she's trying to be insulting but in such a way that she can pretend later that she wasn't trying to start a fight.


I smiled at her and tried to pretend just for a minute that I was Bellatrix Lestrange, you know, someone ~~purebl~~ who doesn't have to be afraid of anyone because everyone's afraid of her, and I said, 'I am very proud to be in Slytherin House.' And then just stood there to see what she'd say next.

She spilled her drink on herself and then rushed off. I think she decided she must have gotten it wrong, even though I didn't say I WASN'T the little halfblood girl, I just said I was in Slytherin House. I kind of hope now she wasn't anyone important because she'll probably hate me for acting above my station and giving her a fright (because imagine how horrified you'd be if you said that to someone and it turned out you were talking to Hydra Lestrange? She'd probably just look horrified and say 'no!' though.)

Harry had a spat with someone too, I didn't see if it was the same stupid lady or someone else but he rushed out for a bit.

I think if I wanted to try firewhiskey I could find myself an unattended glass...the grownups are ~~getting drunk~~ not really paying much attention.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-08-01 03:56:30](#)
(no subject)

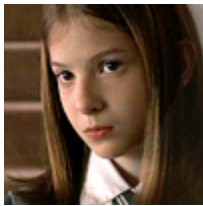
Well, that sounds

I dunno, but not very much fun

What do you mean Marvolo had a spat and rushed out? ~~Maybe he's not havi~~

Isn't Pansy there? How come

I wish you knew who that woman was. Was she old?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-08-01 04:10:09](#)
(no subject)

(I'm home now.)

Pansy was there and we spent the first part of the party together but then one of the grownups I didn't know wanted to talk to her and it was clear she wanted to talk JUST to Pansy so I let her take her off. And then I couldn't find her again for a while. She came in a little while after I wrote that. I don't think she brought her journal to the party, or else she never had a chance to open it. There were bunches of people who wanted to here about her mum's wedding plans.

The woman was middle aged, I think, about the age of Mrs Stretton, with dark hair. If I were going to guess her House I'd say Hufflepuff. She didn't seem particularly quick-witted or clever or brave. There are some dullards in Slytherin but even the dullards are better at faces than she seemed to be (if she were a Slytherin she wouldn't have been at all ruffled by the way I answered.)




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 18:24:42](#)
(no subject)

I would have been scared to death to use this thing at *Buckingham*, so I didn't bring it at all. And there were lots of people there that wanted to talk to me, and I sort of had to.

And I didn't think Ron would like


But yeah, I can't *believe* someone with that little tact was on the invite list.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-08-01 19:25:11](#)
(no subject)

So that's it. You get left off the list if you don't have enough tact?

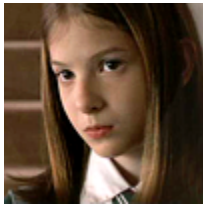


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:55:19](#)
(no subject)

Oh, come on, Ron.

I didn't mean it that way at all.

Besides, Padma Patil has far less tact than you do.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-08-01 04:11:32](#)
(no subject)

him.

And I didn't really see what happened with Harry, but I heard he got really cross with someone and went out. And Mr Lestrangle, not Hydra's father but the one everyone calls the Razzer, went out to talk to

I barely got to see Harry. He didn't seem to be having a good time, though.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2010-08-01 04:31:13](#)
(no subject)

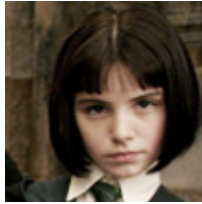
See? We told you he would pitch a wobbly when he found out you didn't come, Ron. We were right!


We wanted you to impress Mrs Stretton by being invited to the party, Perks, but we have to think that coming home reeking of Firewhiskey would undercut that strategy. A bit.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-08-01 04:33:28](#)
(no subject)

I DIDN'T find myself an unattended glass. I just said, if I'd wanted to, I COULD have.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 18:36:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'm glad you didn't.

Firewhiskey is *foul*.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-08-01 13:19:09](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I doubt that's why he was cheesed off. He wouldn't have even known I wasn't there.


It doesn't matter, y'know, so just leave it. Okay?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 18:38:42](#)
(no subject)

Did you get my owl?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2010-08-01 19:15:43](#)
(no subject)

Your owls, you mean? Heh.

Yeah, I did. Thanks.

The cake's really great, and it was only a little bit squashed. Ha.


You know the owls weren't too happy about carrying all those rocks. I had to give them a whole load of the owl treats Mum makes. Only I don't think they liked them much. You must have better ones. I think, actually, Mum's got some recipe she read in a book about keeping your birds healthy when they get all

ancient like Errol.

Anywiz.

I'm taking the rocks out to throw them into the mill pond over the meadow. I'll let you know how the skipping stones do!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:50:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'm glad you'll get use out of them!

And I hope you didn't get too badly nipped. Everest is a bit ill-tempered, but he is awful

strong.


And I can't imagine *anyone* not liking your mum's recipes. Even owls. So they must've been just hacked off at me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2010-08-01 21:52:40](#)
(no subject)

You sent Ron rocks? Why rocks?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 23:31:00](#)
(no subject)

For chucking into the pond by his house, of course! It's not quite as satisfying as the lake at Hogwarts, I'd imagine, but I figured it would cheer him up.

It always works for me.

2010-07-31 22:19:00

Order Only: South

Frank, I got your patronus as well.

I'll be there shortly.

I think I--

Well, nevermind. I'm clear to head south.

Kingsley, Sherwood might be just the thing after, depending on what we learn down in Sevenoaks.



 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2010-08-01 03:58:29](#)

(no subject)

You think you what?

Sirius Black! You haven't gone and got yourself spotted, have you?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2010-08-01 04:02:50](#)

(no subject)

....

Yes and no?

Not really, no.

2010-07-31 23:54:00

Happy Birthday, Harry!



 **alt_padma**

I guess we surprised you after all.

It was really hard not to say anything about it beforehand. I hope you enjoyed your party. It's still a little odd to go to a grown-up party like that, isn't it?

I didn't see where you'd gone but it was time to go home. I just want to say cheers while it's still your birthday - and thanks to Mr Broome for inviting me and Parvati. It was utterly amazing.

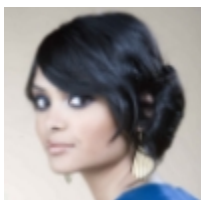
I feel very lucky and privileged to have been included. I hope everyone else appreciated it too.




 **alt_draco** at **2010-08-01 04:25:53**

(no subject)

So who'd you talk to at the party? I spent quite a while chatting with my Uncle Stephen, who seemed impressed with how fluent I've become in French, and then had me translating French out loud, which then brought over some adults that I didn't know as well who wanted to know all about what it was like in France.



 **alt_padma** at **2010-08-01 13:54:42**

(no subject)

Well, there were such a lot of people.... We talked with Finnigan quite a bit, and Hydra and her cousin Jeremy. And Thomas - that was rather a surprise, seeing him, and Perks as well. Did you know she was coming? I guess it shouldn't be too surprising, it looked like everyone in Slytherin in our year was there - even Bulstrode. Anyway, we did a lot of people-watching, that was interesting.

For a while, Parkinson and I talked with Mr Rookwood about the project we're doing for History Club. He was quite nice and seemed really interested. And there were some ladies who wanted to know what Mum's working on, especially with your mum, but we had to say that we don't really know much about it. I think that

disappointed them. But they're keeping it really secret. And mum hasn't had us in to the workshop as often this summer. Oh, and a few people still wanted to tell us how sorry they were about Sanji, which was okay, but maybe would have been better if they hadn't done.


Did you go out in the courtyard? There were some grown-ups out there. I thought at first they were lawn bowling but it turned out they had a whole load of gnomes and they were rolling them out and then hexing them, for target practice, I guess.

Oh, and there was Mrs Avery and Mrs Mulciber and Mrs Rowle - they were quite nice. Your mother said hello, too, of course, and we met Mr Lestrangle (Hydra's father, I mean. Well, I guess the other one too, the one looking after Harry. I think he talked to everyone there at least once. He must like Harry a lot to want to guard him all the time!)

Speaking of Harry, do you know what upset him so much? I saw him talking to an older witch and wizard, and he looked like he wanted to get away from them, so Parvati and I were just coming over to see if we could help, when he stormed off and out of the party altogether. We followed but there was a glowing line across the corridor, so he must have gone into part of the palace where guests weren't allowed. When we got back inside the couple had gone and I looked for your uncle - the other Mr Lestrangle - to tell him that Harry looked upset. But I found Mr Avery first and he said he knew where they all were and he'd go and tell the Rizzer. I mean, he said the Rizzer, I didn't call him that.

That's about when I found Parkinson and she introduced me to Mr Rookwood.



 **alt_draco** at **2010-08-01 18:10:20**
(no subject)

Some of Mother's friends asked me what your Mother and my Mother are working on, too, as if I would really know much of the details!

Blaise and I watched the hexing that went on in the courtyard for a while, yeah, but we left when they wouldn't let us join in. But then everyone came in just after that anyway because our Lord Protector had shown up to give the speech. He looks every so

strange commanding these days, doesn't he?

The party was the sort of party we'll be expected to attend when we're grownups, so I think it was good to have that type of party. We're all teenagers now, after all.

Harry's fine, someone just said something thoughtless in front of him, that's all. I think my Uncle smoothed it over.



 **alt_padma** at [2010-08-01 18:57:59](#)

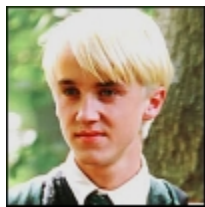
(no subject)

Well, I've only seen the Lord Protector up close a few times, but...yeah. He looked a little more, er, well, I guess I'd call it intimidating. I don't remember His eyes looking so red before, I mean back in first year when He came for the unicorn hunt. And it looked like He'd made His nose less pointy. I'm not sure why but I guess if He likes it that way, it's good, right?

And I agree with you that grownup parties seem to be a lot more about standing about and talking than doing fun things like playing party games or going on broom rides. But it felt ever so nice to be included in something like that, and to hear what grownups talk about. It's like we're being given a jump on acting like adults, too.

It seems like your uncle is pretty good at keeping people happy. He was laughing every time I saw him. But most people seemed pretty happy last night.

Hydra said you're all going to celebrate her brother's birthday today, too. So I hope you all have fun and no one's feeling under the weather today.



 **alt_draco** at [2010-08-01 19:15:26](#)

(no subject)


Yeah, it was nice to be included but I'm not sure I'm ready for every party to be like that. Not just yet, anyway.

If you mean my Uncle Rabastan, yeah, he's got loads of mates. He met a lot of them when he was a quidditch player, I think, but

I don't know where he met the rest. Maybe at parties like last night's.

Nanella's serving one of her giant teas, so I didn't eat any lunch, because if everyone doesn't tuck in she'll be hurt. I don't know what else will happen, though. Does a one-year-old even know what's going on at his birthday party?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2010-08-01 19:27:15](#)**
(no subject)

When they're that young it's more about the rest of the family, I think.

When Sanji was one we had everyone over and they all gave him presents that made noise or lit up or were supposed to help him learn magic more quickly. And we had cake and he smeared it all over his face. Haruman says we smeared the icing all over our faces too when we were little - and one year we picked all the iced flower petals off our cake and tried to put them in each other's hair.

If nothing else, it's probably a lovely excuse to have cake.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2010-08-01 18:29:36](#)**
(no subject)

Mr Rookwood was awful nice, wasn't he?

And I don't think he was just humouring us either. He seemed chuffed that we were so keen on the project, and he actually looked a bit impressed with what we've been reading. Your law stuff is coming along so nicely.

I'm sorry Harry didn't have a better time of it though. At least we got to see him on his birthday this year. Last year, I didn't even get to say hello, I just saw him from a distance, and there were adults *everywhere*.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-08-01 19:06:45](#)
(no subject)

Mr Rookwood was very nice. His son knows Haruman, they both work at St Mungo's. Only Mr Rookwood's son isn't a Healer. He helps with the accounting and stuff. But talking to Mr Rookwood was like talking to my grandfather, sort of. He made one feel very comfortable. And you're right, he really did seem interested.

It didn't look like Harry was having a great time even before he got all cross, but then I guess he's been to that sort of party a lot more than we have. I kept thinking about how when we were little, Mum and Dad would have all the family over and we had to watch from the stairs, but here we were and no one was making us go to bed at all, so that made it much more interesting. And watching. And listening.

Like Draco says, I think it's a sign we're growing up that we've been allowed to come to a grownup party.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:22:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, I think it's a matter of what you like, too, not just what you're used to. I've been a part of mum's salons and gone to adult parties and things since I was very little. I guess it's because she didn't know what to do with me otherwise, because I didn't have a sister I could play with or anything.

And I really actually kind of like those sorts of parties, because sometimes you can learn the most fascinating things about people. Sometimes I had to recite poetry or something, which could be embarrassing, but it's fun just to see who is talking with who, and why, and over what.

And now that we're all older, we'll have lots more interesting things to bring to the conversation, won't we!




 **alt_padma** at [2010-08-01 19:33:03](#)
(no subject)

Isn't that a little unusual, though? I mean didn't you have an elf or someone to look after you? Most people wouldn't care to have children hanging about at grownup teas and such.

I suppose, though, if you've been going to them since you were small, then it makes sense the way you talk to grownups like you are one.




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-08-01 19:40:03](#)
(no subject)

Well, of course I had Hitty, and mum would send me home if it was an evening party and it got too past my bed-time and things.

I guess it's not unusual for me, because that's what I'm used to.




 **alt_pansy** at [2010-08-01 18:35:36](#)
(no subject)

I'm *hoping* my French is decent enough by next summer. It'll take me that long to convince mum to take me, and I'd just *love* to go. I know it's a hassle and all, and there are loads of forms to fill out, but it's *Paris*. Besides, the shopping there is fabulous, so I'm sure she couldn't turn that down.


Maybe you could help me out a little once school starts? I mean, I've got lessons to work through on my own, and I'll be writing Mlle Hauptert letters of course, but it isn't the same as talking out loud, and you're quite good. If you wouldn't mind my messing up all the time, I think it could be fun.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-08-01 18:57:09](#)
(no subject)


The best way to learn fast, as far as talking goes, is to just have everyday conversations in French. We could start doing that once we're at school together.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 18:58:48](#)
(no subject)


That would be really nice of you, Draco. I'd like that!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-08-01 19:08:42](#)
(no subject)

You could always try conversational French with Daphne, too, but I really don't think she's quite so good as she thinks she is. You can tell by her accent that she's never been to France.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:12:45](#)
(no subject)

I tend to run out of things to talk about with Daphne pretty quickly when we're talking in English.


Besides, I have a feeling knowing how to say "those hair ribbons are good for your colouring" in French will only take one so far.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-08-01 19:20:19](#)
(no subject)

I thought you were oh-so excited for Parisian shopping, though? Because that would be right up Daphne's pitch, to talk about shopping... in French, no less.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:28:09](#)
(no subject)

Well, shopping is part of it. But anyone can shop. You just point, and work out the money, and get other people that know better to tell you where the best things are. I mean, mum speaks barely enough to get by in a shop, and that's pretty much why she'd go.

And yeah, it'd be nice to see what all they have in the shops and all, but there are so many other things one could talk about besides fabrics and colours and prices.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2010-08-01 20:34:04](#)
(no subject)

If you can speak French in a Parisian shop you'll get much better service, though, and they'll bring out their best goods, too.

And yeah, if we do conversational French we'll just talk about the things we'd normally discuss, only not in English.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 20:40:20](#)
(no subject)

Good to know!

At the very least, Daphne will be useful for *something*.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-08-01 20:50:31](#)
(no subject)

My mum used to go to Paris for fabrics, I mean before we were born. Maybe it's changed, but she said that unless you can speak French really well, like a native, they sometimes prefer you not try.

But then, it's been about fifteen years since she was there, so I dunno.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2010-08-01 19:04:27](#)
(no subject)

Do you really think you could go to France? I guess it's possible. I heard some of the adults last night - just snatches of conversation, you know - but they were saying that Mr Malfoy's made 'great strides' with the French and that they're more than ever eager to show that they can make things easier for purebloods.

So maybe by next summer you *would* be able to go.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2010-08-01 19:35:11](#)
(no subject)

I certainly think so.

I think we're working to get it the way it used to be, where you could just fly over the Channel, or take the London-Paris floo. Wouldn't that be fantastic?

They've got a long way to go, for sure, but I think it'd be nice.

And you can go, it's not impossible, you know, it just takes a long time and lots of paperwork and ~~galleons~~ connections and things. Only I'm not sure mum would think it would be worth all the hassle. I do, though!