


**2010-11-01 01:13:00**

*Percy Weasley!*

We really need to talk. I think this nonsense has gone on for far too long. Please let me know when you have a break in your schedule, other than lunch. Sometime when the common room is quiet.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-11-01 14:42:12**

*(no subject)*

It may be a day or two. As you can imagine, last night's events have thrown my schedule awry, and there is an emergency Prefect meeting tonight. I will keep an eye out for you, though, and I hope we will be able to take the opportunity to sit together in a quiet corner of the Common Room to discuss whatever is on your mind.



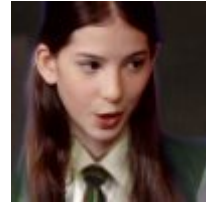
 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2010-11-02 01:09:25**

*(no subject)*

That would be great.

**2010-11-01 09:10:00**

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



Gosh it's sure lucky they kept Marvolo at Hogwarts yesterday so he'd be SAFE instead of letting him go to Hogsmeade with the rest of us.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Goodness knows there's nowhere in the WHOLE WORLD as safe at HOGWARTS.

Do you suppose we're going to get another visit from the LP over this? UGH. And I swear I could hear Finnigan snoring from all the way over on the other side of the Great Hall.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-11-01 14:43:49](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think the LP is coming. They haven't told Harry about it anyway.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-11-01 14:47:23](#)  
(no subject)


Anyway, what's creepiest is that just while you were all at Hogsmeade Professor Lestrangle showed Harry this picture, of him and all his school chums, and told him about how his mate Evan was really bold and brave and how Evan got killed and even though he was smart and quick and strong it couldn't save him, and then this happened.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-11-01 14:49:07](#)  
(no subject)


I mean, it's not that I think Professor Lestrangle's mates were probably nice or anything, only it's strange to see a picture of lots of kids just Hogwarts age and then realize that half of them are dead. I mean you expect that with Muggles or Muggle borns but purebloods being dead is different somehow, they all seem so protected.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-01 15:38:50](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well, it certainly wasn't always that way.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-01 15:06:51](#)  
(no subject)

Huh. D'you suppose that was Eustace Evan's uncle?

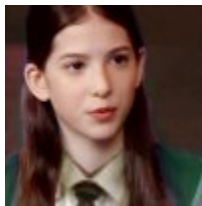
It's always odd to hear about what people your parents' age got up to when they were here in school. Especially if they died young like that.

And, yeah. It'd've been bad if Macnair or Snape had got hold of a student. I mean, look what Macnair tried to do first year. And I bet this time, he wouldn't fail at it if he got the chance.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-11-01 15:42:25](#)  
(no subject)

Can't have been, Evan was his first name, his surname was Rosier. I suppose they might have been distantly related though, aren't all you purebloods somehow?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-01 15:51:17](#)  
(no subject)

Rosier is Finnigan's foster father's name, so Evan Rosier was probably his nephew. Or his son, did he used to have a son?

Draco's related to the Rosiers through his mum, I think. And Hydra, through her mum. But then they're also related to Ron and Neville! I don't know who the Evans are related to but they're purebloods so surely they tie in somewhere. Maybe through the Calderwoods, it seems like everyone in Slytherin has a Calderwood in their family tree somewhere. Or a Montgomery.

**2010-11-01 09:59:00**

*I'm sure my hair looks a fright!*

I couldn't get near the mirrors in the loo by the Great Hall, because all the older girls were using them.

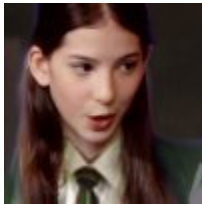


 [alt\\_lavender](#)

But we're all safe from those Horrid men and that's what really matters!

I was certainly glad not to be up in Gryffindor Tower, especially since Prof MacNair knows it inside and out.

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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-01 14:18:00**

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

I'm surprised she doesn't have a mirror with her at ALL TIMES for precisely this sort of situation.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-01 14:58:25**

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

Hahahahahaha!

Yeah, totally.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-01 14:57:30**

*(no subject)*

Huh.

I don't see you look any different today than ever, Lav.

Not any more frightening than usual.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2010-11-01 17:54:35**

*(no subject)*


It's terribly helpful of you to offer your input, Weasley, seeing as how you're so very well-acquainted with what "frightening" looks like.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-11-01 19:05:46](#)  
(no subject)

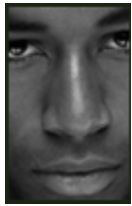
Really!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-01 22:04:29](#)  
(no subject)

Well. There are some of you who really do look a fright a lot of the time. I mean, I wouldn't have pointed it out if you and Brown hadn't already.


Personally, I'm surprised your mirror hasn't run off so it wouldn't have to look at you any more. Although, honestly, if you share with Bulstrode, it's a wonder it hasn't shattered. Or maybe you've got really good at *Reparo*?



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-11-01 22:48:48](#)  
(no subject)

I've seen your mum, Weasley. I guess it's no surprise you wouldn't know a good-looking witch when you see one.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-02 00:50:38](#)  
(no subject)

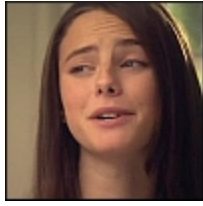
Does Greengrass need you jumping in to take up for her?

And you can leave my mum right out of it.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-02 02:00:52](#)  
(no subject)


You defend your friends, he defends his. If you don't like it, then you might want to consider keeping your bloody big-gobbed quill to yourself when your own housemate makes a completely innocent comment about her hair.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-02 00:01:23](#)  
(no subject)

And who are this "you" that you refer to? Girls? I had no idea that you were so put off by the majority of the opposite sex, Weasley. How fascinating. You know what they say: he who points out the flaws in others is only trying to detract everyone from seeing his own.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-02 01:44:44](#)  
(no subject)

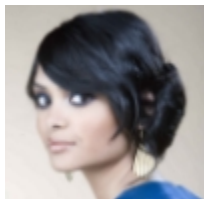
Who said anything about the majority? It's really just 3 or 4 like you.


And you know what they say: she who talks like she's got her nose in the air will end up snorting owl poo.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-02 01:50:46](#)  
(no subject)


And what have I got my nose in the air about, exactly? There's nothing wrong with taking an interest in ones appearance. I don't see how it's hurting you, anyway.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-02 12:46:09](#)  
(no subject)


He could do with a look in the mirror once in a while, as well.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-01 14:59:49](#)  
(no subject)

Anywiz, it's not like Macnair knows the passwords now. So I don't really see why we couldn't've slept up in the tower. But, whatev. I guess this way they could count us all and make sure nobody was missing.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-11-01 19:10:24](#)  
(no subject)

He was our Head of House--do *you* want to bet your Knuts that he doesn't know any secret ways into the tower?


I certainly wouldn't!



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-01 17:59:23](#)  
(no subject)

I heard some talk in the corridors, and I don't think Macnair was with Snape when he broke in, so you should be safe enough. Snape made it all the way down to our dungeons, though, and I think he left a truly unpleasant stench behind as a parting gift. Ugh! It smells like something **wet** and possibly dead or dying.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-11-01 19:09:20](#)  
(no subject)

That sounds positively horrid!

You know that nift perfuming charm, right? This sounds like it would be a good time to practise.

GHave any of the teachers said anything official in your lessons? Ours have been fairly tight-lipped.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-02 00:04:14](#)  
(no subject)

They didn't have much to say beyond what the prefects already told us. I suppose they'll be leaving that to the headmistress, though.

I would try out the charm, but it seems that the Snape-smell is gone and now there's just ordinary dungeon-smell (the perfume charm doesn't work on that - lots of the older girls have tried!)



[2010-11-01 11:34:00](#)

*Private message to Seamus Finnigan*

Hey, I had originally planned to track you down and tell you this in person, but with everything that happened last night it's been pretty impossible. I'm writing this on the way to lunch, so it might be a little messy, sorry.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Yesterday when you lot were all at Hogsmeade, Harry and I went and had a visit with Professor Lestrage in his quarters. We had tea and talked about quidditch and things - that bit isn't really important, though. What's important is that eventually, he got around to talking about his own school days and was showing us pictures of all his mates when he was at Hogwarts, who almost all came together later and started fighting for the Lord Protector's cause. That Snape was in some of the pictures, and the Raz said that he was sort of an outcast at first, because he ~~wasn't pur~~ was sort of peculiar and an embarrassment, but then he really shocked everyone later by turning out a genius at Potions and the Dark Arts. And then the other bloke who was in loads of pictures was Evan Rosier. Mr Rosier's son. He and the Raz were best mates, did you know? I think talking about what happened to Evan made him sad and distracted, and he ended up telling us more than he probably would have normally done.

So get this: Aurors killed Evan, back when both the MLE and the Aurors were all corrupt. And not just any Aurors, but *Longbottoms parents*. Them and some other one, named Moody.

I just wish there was a way to let everyone know the truth. Then maybe the next time people run across that plodding idiot, they'll think about what his parents have done, and think about how everyone dismissed Snape before it was too late, too.

Lots of people lost friends and family to the MLE during the War. I wonder if any of them know that it might've been Longbottom's parents who did it?

I'm telling you because Mr Rosier's your guardian now, and I know you respect him and I think that you deserve to know. You probably shouldn't tell too many people, though - only the people you trust the very most.

---





 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-11-01 18:02:52](#)  
(no subject)


Longbottom's parents killed Mr Rosier's son?

Wow

I just


Mr Rosier hardly ever talks about Evan. I knew his name, and I've seen his picture, but he almost never -- it almost destroyed him, I think, losing his son.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-11-01 18:03:31](#)  
(no subject)

And thank you for telling me.



 **alt\_draco** at [2010-11-01 18:09:00](#)  
(no subject)

I know.

I guess Evan resisted them to the very end, too.  
Actually, when Professor Lestrangle was talking I kept thinking that Evan sort of sounded like a Gryffindor, even though he wasn't, he was a Slytherin.

I never knew any of this, either. I mean, Mr Rosier is family, but probably all the adults knew that he would prefer them not to talk about Evan, so they never brought him up around me.

Anyway, you're welcome.

**2010-11-01 19:00:00**

*Order Only: Bugger*

I can't believe he got in under all our noses!

At least I've made a friend, of a sort. But *Circe*, **HOW** did he get in? And how did I miss it?




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Bugger all.


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 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-02 01:59:43](#)  
(no subject)

Well. If we knew that, I'm sure we wouldn't have allowed it.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-02 02:53:52](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, obviously, Poppy, but I mean literally, HOW did I miss it? I've been checking all the points of entry to the castle for signs they've been used recently and nothing.

And no one would have let him in through the gates, even with all the students coming and going.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-02 03:05:46](#)  
(no subject)

You're right. And if he used polyjuice to get in, it failed him--or he was here longer than he planned or than we've imagined. He was spotted by one of the dungeon portraits and identified.

Unless. You don't suppose that portraits see past the polyjuiced surface, do you? I confess I've no idea exactly how portraits see or think or know what they do know.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-02 03:31:25](#)  
(no subject)

What exactly happened, Sirius?

There's so much confusion over the journals, it's hard to tell one way or the other -- was it both MacNair and Snape? Was one of them in Gryffindor Tower?

Bother. As if this week needed to get any worse.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-02 03:32:22](#)  
(no subject)

And what's this about a friend? Did you make a connection in Hogsmeade?




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-02 13:03:02](#)  
(no subject)

Hm?


Oh - I think so. He's a bit hard to understand sometimes, but he seems to have a good head on his shoulders.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-02 13:43:26](#)  
(no subject)


Oh? He wouldn't happen to be of the canine variety, now, would he?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-02 15:04:59](#)  
(no subject)

What gives you that idea?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-02 15:14:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I don't know!

I'd say people don't typically have heart to hearts with dogs, but I've seen Frank with Winston, and he tells that dog more than he tells me sometimes.

And aren't you being coy.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-02 13:00:57](#)  
(no subject)

I've been hoping someone up the castle will give us a full report, but I expect Minerva's busy fending off His Dictatorship. I went round the Three Broomsticks myself last night to get the village gossip. I did a little sad puppy eye act at Rosmerta and got her to let me lie down by the fire; watched everyone coming and going and if a scruffy old dog gets interested in table scraps, well, it's not too surprising, is it? But at least I could choose conversations to listen in on, that way. Got lucky: that spinster, Professor Acton, teaches charms? She had come down the pub to drown her trouble and got plenty talkative.

Somehow, and bugger me if I know how, Snape made his way into the castle Sunday night, while everyone was at the Halloween feast. I don't think Macnair was with him - at least, they're taking precautions in case he's nearby, but from what I've heard it was a one-man job.


Professor Acton told Madam Rosmerta that he tried to get into the Slytherin dormitories. One of the portraits on the Potions corridor - from the description, I'd guess it was Mad Madam Madinia Mibleton - she spotted him and tried to raise the alarm. He slashed at her canvas so she ran and hid, but not before alerting other portraits on her way. They finally found her hiding in a portrait of the old greenhouses.

Anyway, he must not have been able to get the Slytherin common room to give up its password, or else he figured Mibleton's portrait was sure to catch him out, so he fled.

I gather from the chatter on the journals that everyone spent the night in the Great Hall while the castle was searched. Acton said the professors were up all night looking for him - but however he got in, he must've slipped out the same way, the slimy lethifold.

And I was HERE, Allie! I was right here in the village and he *still* got inside!



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-02 13:46:01](#)

(no subject)

You and Remus probably know that castle better than anyone, I'd warrant.

Does he know of any of the ways you and Remus used to use to get about, you think? Or did he discover one of his own?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-02 14:15:29](#)

(no subject)

Well, he knows the Whomping Willow has a tunnel. But he doesn't necessarily know what's at the end of it. Besides, no one else has been inside the other entrance but me.

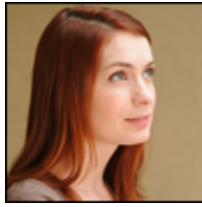
I've checked the other passageways I know about and two of them are blocked off - cave ins. Honeyduke's - well, I can't imagine he'd have been able to get in that way, not from the shop. Though I suppose it's possible. There's also the tunnel behind Gregory the Smarmy's statue, leads to the station. But MLE are all over the station, aren't they?


There are a couple others - again, though, I've checked the entrances I can get to, and if I can't get to them surely he can't, either?

I dunno. I can't think he's got an inside man, no matter what the scuttlebutt is hereabouts. Who in the castle would work with him?

(By the way, speaking of Remus, I've not heard from him or Dora since before the full moon last. Have you? I hope nothing went


wrong and he's not seriously hurt.)



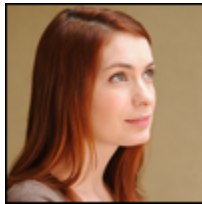
 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-11-02 14:59:08](#)**  
*(no subject)*


I've heard from Tonks, yes. I'm sure he'll get in touch with you soon. They've just got a lot going on right now, and I'd imagine they've got a lot to keep busy with.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-02 15:03:06](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh? The cafe idea working out, then, is it? Good on them.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-11-02 15:10:42](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I do think you ought to check in with Remus, all the same. I know he always loves to hear from you, and he might need a hand once you can tear yourself away from Hogsmeade.

**2010-11-02 11:24:00**

*Private Message to Shivani Johns*



 [alt\\_lana](#)

I hope you had a good time Sunday night. Sorry I couldn't go with, but I really couldn't pass up the opportunity to serve protection for Our Lord's festivities. And that turned out to be rather an event: I spent the rest of the night assisting Mr Truncheon and Mr Crouch in the interrogation dungeons. Catchlove got to come along as well, but it was only the two of us they asked.

I can't say much about it, of course, but do you remember last year when there was that awful fire in South London on Halloween? Well. Some of the same group were caught trying something again. It involved really ancient arcane magic, and that's one of Mr Crouch's specialties. I rather think I'd like to specialise in that direction, myself. I don't have to decide what my concentrations will be until summer, of course, but I've always loved Runes, and obviously there's so much more to the field of ancient magics than we were allowed to study at Hogwarts.

At any rate, it was a perfectly fascinating night! And thank goodness we had yesterday for a holiday from lessons.

So, anyway. Did you really do the ghost tour? I heard the Tower ghosts weren't participating this year, so where did they take you? And what pub did it end up in this time? (I'm sure you only had the one pint.)

I have tomorrow evening off if you wanted to do something. The festival's on in Green Park through next weekend, and I hear there are some surprise acts turning up. Singh says the Dead Ringers turned up to do a set while she was there last night. She also says the food stalls are surprisingly good: there was even a Freshers' Feast set up, though she says you have to know where to look for it--and get there before they run out of everything.

Oh. I have to run. Our afternoon lecture is about to begin. Let me know about tomorrow.



**[2010-11-02 11:48:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Perhaps yesterday was not the most auspicious day for Lucius' interim clerk to make a start. I hope today's task list doesn't overwhelm the poor man. My husband's calendar is always challenging but yesterday's confusion was a trial by fire, from the sound of it. Lucius had to cancel all our plans to spend the afternoon in Exeter.



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

At least we did manage to have supper together - not, as planned, at *Portico*, but here at home, which may have been all the better for its solitude. The latest news from Hogwarts has had a profound effect on us all. Between updates arriving on the search for their intruder and the litany of errors by which Lucius' new clerk made a bad day somewhat worse, it was not the most *romantic* of meals one might have hoped to have. I suppose by now I ought to be used to the inconvenience of a stateswizard's life: Trouble will invariably come round about this time of year.

But there is always some point of progress to keep us standing firm. Recently we had news from the French *Guardiens* which ought to lay to rest these bothersome rumours that the traitor Sirius Black is not only alive, but has secreted himself within our borders once more. As undignified as it may be, I was asked to assist by providing some materials to them that may well turn out to be the key to confirming his ultimate end. It is well worth the cost if it will expose the impostors who have been using his name as ridiculous frauds.

In all the excitement surrounding Our Lord's birthday celebrations, I'm sure I have been neglecting my own regimen. Perhaps after lunch I shall visit the club.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-02 17:20:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm sorry I was a bore last night. To-day has been ... better. Though still nothing like satisfactory.

It may be a while before I can atone for cancelling our plans.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-02 18:13:51](#)  
(no subject)

Things do have a way of piling on between Halloween and Bonfire Night, don't they? I'm sorry to hear that it put paid to your plans for Exeter, however.

I expect we'll hear soon from the French, and I quite agree that your contribution ought to provide them the key they require to unlock the secrets of the evidence they're holding. In fact, I'd rather thought that we might hear yesterday, as it was the first of the month, but the French have always been more leisurely in their pace than we English.

This afternoon there are other things to be anticipated. Reports from Hogwarts among them. I, however, shall be away from the desk. This festival in Green Park bears watching, and that's rather conveniently on my doorstep, so I've volunteered to be on call for that.

**2010-11-02 14:03:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to R J Lupin*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Moony,

Allie says you're up to the neck, as usual. I thought I might pop down and see what I can do to help you both along with the cafe, if that sounds good to you. Let me know?

Oh, and - don't wait so long after the full moon, will you, to tell me you've come out of it okay? ~~I worry.~~

Right. Forget I said that, sound like a barmy old hag next.

Anyway. Maybe next week? Only I want to keep looking round Hogsmeade for a while. I'm not convinced Snape's trail will go completely cold. Of course, if you need me to come at once, I will, mate. You've only to say.

Still trying to think how he might have got in. None of the tunnels have been accessed recently, I'm sure of it. Wish I had the map. Or did you nick it back out of Filch's old filing cabinet while you were caretaker for the old place?


Hey, before I forget: the passage that comes out behind the mirror on the 4th floor, that's caved in, but what about the one that starts next to the prefects' bath? I think that's the other one that's caved in but I can't remember. Is that the same one that runs round the back of the post office?

Well. Best be getting on. There are some places I want to check in case Snape's been using them as a hideout. Don't judge: Remember what Nick told Prongs about his first date with Lily!

-Padfoot




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 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2010-11-02 20:52:21**  
(no subject)

Sorry, yes, it's been a bit

Do come, when you can. There's something I need to talk to you about.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-03 22:51:56](#)  
(no subject)

You realise those are some of the most frightening words in the English language, right? 'We need to talk'?

Whatever it was I'm sure I didn't do it.

**[2010-11-02 19:57:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Malfoy told me yesterday that on Sunday, when he and Harry were at Hogwarts with Professor Lestrangle, he was showing them pictures and talking a bit about the old days.



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

Professor Lestrangle was best friends with Evan Rosier -- Mr Rosier's son. I've seen pictures of Mr Rosier and come to think of it Professor Lestrangle was even in some of them, but here's what I really didn't know --

It was Longbottom's parents who killed Evan Rosier.

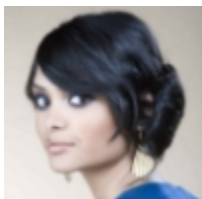
I just --

I haven't quite been able to look him in the eye since. I was already feeling angry, because he clearly prefers Weasley's company to mine. But this -- I mean, he does say that they're not his parents, his grandmother raised him. And I know you can't choose your parents, I certainly wouldn't have chosen a muggle father.

Longbottom actually came to Mr Rosier's house last summer after the news broke about his parents. Mr Rosier was as kind as anything. If I knew then what I know now...

I guess I don't know what to think.

Hold on, I guess I should add that it wasn't JUST Longbottom's parents. There was some bloke named Moody involved as well. But at least I'm not sharing a dorm room with someone named Moody.



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-03 23:00:16](#)**

*(no subject)*

Are you feeling any better? Since we talked, I mean?

Like I said, it's rough. Sometimes I just want to slap Parkinson on account of Regulus Black. But it's not her fault he was completely mad. Only her fault she was so terribly attracted to him.

But I can see it might be different if we dormed together, though. You

know? Because you have to see Longbottom every day. But much as I think he's a no-good skint-for-brains and will probably end up joining right alongside his filthy traitor parents, he certainly had nothing to do with Mr Rosier's son. But I can well understand why you'd have even more reason to loathe the sight of him.

Then again, Malfoy thinks Longbottom's been cagey all this time, and is only hiding the fact that he's a traitor and knows very well what his parents have done and maybe even where they are, and has just been acting like a dunce to put people off their scent. I mean, it's a well Slytherin way to think, isn't it, though? But honestly, how could anyone think Longbunbler is a criminal mastermind? It's just laughable.

**[2010-11-03 16:50:00](#)**

*Private Message to Zacharias Smith*

Hey!

Are you lot doing anything for Ernie's birthday?

Hannah and I were thinking of surprising him--not with anything soppy, don't worry! We picked up some fun things at Zonko's and Honeydukes, and we thought we might have a little something in the common room.



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



---

 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-11-03 22:53:19](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, yeah. When's his birthday again?

I guess we could ask the elves to lay in tea. I mean, they do it for everyone else, it seems.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-11-05 14:08:51](#)**

*(no subject)*

That's a good idea about the tea, thanks!

I think we'll try to have it in the common room after lessons today.



**2010-11-04 10:52:00**

*Private Message to Ephraim Green*

Consider carefully before you answer: Just how difficult is it to inform the Minister's office that I have been delayed?



 **alt\_lucius**

You are exceedingly lucky that Miss Robins remembered that I had mentioned last week I might have to go first to Folkestone this morning.

Push back the Floo call to Dideron (note the correct spelling, if you please) to three o'clock and inform MLE that I shall apprise them afterwards. And I expect the packet for Muggle-born Labour to be annotated and on my desk by the time I return.

I noted last night that first of the month accountings are still not complete. See to that as soon as you can.

Oh - and Broome gave me to-morrow's court docket yesterday. Have it here. Check names: Robinson, Ward, Chapman, Collins - no, not Collins, no need. Robinson, Ward, Chapman, then. Ward's had a previous petition, I know. Think Chapman's is a new issue but need to remind myself of his previous request. Robinson - there's a file growing somewhat thick with parchment. Check for connexion to Communications' monitors on private messages.

Do try to remember that you may only be an interim clerk, but my business cannot afford your incompetence much longer.

**2010-11-04 22:44:00**

*Private message to Lucius Malfoy and Barty Crouch Jr.*



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

Lucius, regarding a certain Miss Robinson's petition tomorrow -- as I understand it, MLE will be there tomorrow. The messages we think are code are all regarding weather, but frequently failed to match the actual weather, so if it's pleasant tomorrow, when you arrest her you might say that it looks like rain. Her reaction might be instructive, it rather depends on her nerve, I suppose. I believe she was a Hufflepuff in her school days -- a Gryffindor might try to go down in a blaze of glory and a Slytherin might try to brazen it out. Hard to know what a Hufflepuff will do.


She definitely shouldn't be allowed near Our Lord under any circumstances, but it might be useful to go through the usual formalities, frisking her and taking her wand, because she won't be on her guard. However, we're thinking the security checkpoint should be moved a good distance back from the audience chambers, just for the day. Has she been at court before? Because everything will be easiest if she's not on her guard.

Do you have any thoughts on what she's up to? What did her petition say she wants?

(Barty, I'm including you here but you should have received all the critical information in the note I sent earlier. Lucius as well for that matter but with his clerk gone ... well.)



---

 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2010-11-05 04:11:21**  
(no subject)

Good. I've been waiting for this confirmation in order to instruct Broome as to the arrangements.


She has been to court, once before, but it was over three years ago and on a matter of a commendation; the changes to protocol are easily explained owing to the recent activity in Preston - and Hogwarts, of course.

I must say, your analysts took their time coming to conclusions, Dominic. The petition has been on the docket for over a month.

Nothing quite like waiting until the last moment, is there?

Barty - there is another matter that has suddenly made its way to the agenda that may be of interest to you as well. I believe you signed the orders regarding a Mr Collins?




 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-11-05 04:17:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, we try our best to bring MLE needles, not additional haystacks. Her messages, while suspicious, were not blatantly so -- a few too many repetitions of otherwise innocent phrases, all of them about the weather ('looks like rain,' 'at least the skies are clear' and so on. If we reported every individual who bleated repetitiously about tedious topics, MLE would be swimming in a sea of innocent bores.

Her arrival on the docket raised the urgency considerably, and we were able to confirm that her observations and the weather did not match with any regularity. We haven't actually worked out the code, though; hopefully MLE will be able to discover through interrogation what we were unable to determine with analysis.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-05 04:40:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Doubtless MLE thanks you for your pains, despite the resulting lack of sleep they'll get to-night. Though - did you say you had sent it earlier? And Green missed it?


Well, at least I have used the time to catch up on other matters that had been lacking attention. Still, he'll answer for that in the morning!

As to the code - I'm sure the cipher can be easily obtained once she is their guest.

But for the moment I must to Buckingham. If Green really has cost us hours of preparation .... Curse the man; it's clear to see why he continues, at his age, to work for an agency.

Yes, well - that will be for morning to sort. Meanwhile, do pass along my congratulations to your team.




 **alt\_selwyn** at **2010-11-05 04:45:26**  
(no subject)

Ah, is Green your interim clerk? Yes, I sent a note to your office sometime in early afternoon, but was a bit concerned it had been misplaced when I didn't hear back from you, hence the journal entry.

My clerk at this point can efficiently sort out the critical from the mundane and bring important items to my attention, but this ability certainly didn't flower overnight.

Good luck tomorrow.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-11-05 13:21:35**  
(no subject)

Interim. Not for much longer, either, at this rate.

I've made an offer to fill the post permanently, but the applicant was unable to start right away.

Though I am not sure I can countenance another week's time in Green's hands. Currently I am contemplating whether engaging him was Crispin's idea of a parting practical joke!

Went myself to the St James' house after your message last night, then to Buckingham. The additional information in Massopust's packet was very useful, thank him, will you? It made what was already going to be a long night a bit easier on us all. Even managed a few hours' kip, though not at home.

Oh - and the petition itself was in no way suspicious. None of her previous contacts with the Council have been - but there are rather a lot of them for someone of her stature. So I asked MLE to dig deeper and one of Scrimgeour's found a growing record of ... convenient co-incidences and inconsistencies surrounding her reclamation project in Reading. Combined with the fact that this date was requested (Bonfire Night), her profile quickly grew much more interesting.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 14:47:54](#)  
(no subject)

Lucius.

Bring me up to date on the matter re. Collins?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-05 16:02:55](#)  
(no subject)

Apparently his ... family? staff? Impossible to tell from Green's notes - *someone* at any rate has taken exception to his disappearance.

Was there any notification done? Not that I disapprove or even disagree with the action, mind. But you might be better suited to give the petitioner(s?) an explanation that will send them packing.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 16:21:51](#)  
(no subject)

Do you mean to say we don't know the names of the petitioners? Nor even how many of them there are?

Nevermind. Pennifold's pulling the file. We'll have all of the relations and associates accounted for by court.

I'll be there to see it properly disposed of.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-05 16:45:57](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, Broome knows who they are. My copy of the docket has been rendered utterly illegible due to Green's attempt to transcribe notes onto it. Don't ask. If I recount the nature of the transgression I shall be overwhelmed by the need to call him back in and Cruciate him again - and he has already enough of a tremolo in his handwriting. Besides to Cruciate him another time would mean looking at the worm again.

Have already ordered him to contact his agency and request a

replacement at once.

Fortunately *one* of us still has a capable clerk.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 15:03:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Selwyn. Yes. Received the communication. Have also read Starling's report. And Travers's assessment.

Honestly. A weather code?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-05 15:06:32](#)

*(no subject)*

Apparently they thought comments on the weather would pass without notice.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 15:58:03](#)

*(no subject)*

Apparently.

Perhaps she imagines she'll call down Jove's thunderbolts on Our Lord's audience chamber this afternoon? Or do you suppose she merely intends to rain invective on our ears? Surely she doesn't imagine she'll be allowed a wand within bounds.

I know, I know. Travers thinks she means no harm at all today, merely intending her petition as a false show of good citizenship. But where's the sport in that?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-05 16:06:43](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, after all, it is always acceptable to discuss the weather.

You've heard all about Dolores' prognostications for this evening, I assume? If anything, her constant croaking has perhaps made

Fudge a little too sanguine about the date. Everything at Green Park going well enough?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 16:58:34](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. I gathered Umbridge has been taking credit again where it's not due: if he had the leisure to arrange it, I think Scrimgeour would burn her in effigy tonight.


We're covering all fronts on the festival, and so far, it's serving its purposes admirably. Attraction and distraction.

Three significant fish have swum into our nets, including the one last night. For the rest, petty incidents in the region are down compared to recent years. Umbridge will find it difficult to take credit for that.

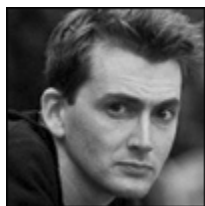
As for the festival itself, there's been nothing beyond the usual foolishness.

Of course, it remains to be seen what will happen tonight. Malvasius and I are personally overseeing the perimeters at Buckingham. Hopkirk and Scrimgeour are coordinating efforts to ensure coverage, whatever transpires.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-05 16:29:52](#)  
(no subject)

I can't imagine she'd take the risk of extra scrutiny unless she has plans that go beyond invective.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-05 17:11:00](#)  
(no subject)

Agreed.

It's fortunate the Collins matter is on the docket, so I've an excuse to be there. Miss Robinson's arrest will provide an interesting break from my afternoon on the candy floss carnival detail.



**2010-11-05 08:48:00**

*Happy birthday!*

Happy birthday, Ernie! All your housemates wish you very happy returns of the day.



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



 [\*\*alt\\_zacharias\*\*](#) at **2010-11-05 14:09:24**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, cheers. Good on ya, mate!



 [\*\*alt\\_susan\*\*](#) at **2010-11-05 14:10:23**

*(no subject)*

Cheers Ernie!

And come to the common room after lessons--I'm going to ask the elves for tea, and we can try out some surprises from Zonkos!



 [\*\*alt\\_ron\*\*](#) at **2010-11-05 14:15:03**

*(no subject)*

Many happy returns, mate!



 [\*\*alt\\_neville\*\*](#) at **2010-11-05 15:00:44**

*(no subject)*

Happy birthday!

**2010-11-05 10:01:00**

*Order Only: Meeting with Davidson*

The Players just had our monthly meeting with Will Davidson.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#)

He seemed well overall, although I think a bit tired. And perhaps harassed. Some of this is a direct result of his own success. The Sherwood band's mission to quietly slip people out of the camps and then send them off to places where they can live outside the purview of the Ministry, with the help of our smuggled wands, means that now close to 200 people look to him for leadership, both outside the camps and inside as well. He admits that he waited probably longer than he should have to delegate some of his tasks and leadership, but now he has a crew of hand-picked lieutenants and that has lessened the burden on him some. Frank and Alice, he spoke highly of how John Turner's come along. Seems the boy is daydreaming less about being a hero and thinking more about actually solving day-to-day problems and moulding his group into an effective team.

The coming of winter brings new worries, of course. There's a constant need for warm clothing and waterproof footwear. They have only one Healer, too, a muggle doctor who specialised in skin conditions, rather than a generalist. For Davidson, this is a worry that is particularly personal: he confided in me that he and Jackie Porter are now sharing their blankets, and she's due to deliver their first child in March.

Some of the younger members have been giving him headaches, too. I get the impression that a few of them were agitating to raise some sort of ruckus tonight for Bonfire Night, which is just about the last thing that Davidson wants.

Davidson also asked we pass along his thanks to the Moddey Dhoo crew for the footstuffs they've sent along. The Manx cheeses were particularly appreciated.

We've had a bit of a break from performing, but we're going to be doing a two week stint in several camps up in Yorkshire next week. Arthur, I'll send you anything I glean from the gossip there.

---



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-05 21:29:41](#)**

*(no subject)*


good to hear about turner. sounds like lucy's been good for him.

once we get the next wand shipment through, we'll send him a bit of support on that end.

damn shame we couldn't open up Moddey to the muggle kids they've got up there, but the last security risk was a bit too much for arabella. me too, truth be told.

we'll make sure and send steve along next time we make a delivery to check on the impending sprog, though -- he had to beef up on all his pregnancy potions with al, so he'll have some things they can use.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-11-05 21:32:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

And you ought to come up and visit, Kingsley. Especially if you get some time off and need to warm up a bit. I know how hard it is on all of you to be travelling all the time, and Jacinda's been pining for

our Benjy.

**2010-11-05 10:44:00**

*I can't believe I forgot*



 **alt\_padma**

to get fireworks on Sunday! Haruman had reminded me that we'd be able to get some in Hogsmeade, but then I didn't write it on my list. And Parvati didn't think about it, either. I guess everyone's going to our Aunt and Uncle's, so Mum and Dad don't have to worry about hosting everyone at home, or Haruman could have had extra to send us when we forgot. It's Diwali, you see, and that means lighting oil lamps and new clothes and sweets and fireworks.

Luckily Rohani got quite a number of them, and candles besides, and the six of us or so are going down by the lake at dusk to set them off. She got permission from Professor McGonagall and Mr Dawlish, as long as he's there in case they go off-course.

Anyone who wants to join us for the candlelighting is welcome!

Oh, and Mum sent a whole tin of sweets, and Parvati says we ought to share them round as they won't last and we really oughtn't eat the whole lot. There's a little tiny box of Turkish Delights, too, but those are mine!!

Oh, and Rohani said that Desai and Gupta want to read out the story of Rama and Ravana, which if you've never heard it before it's snitch. So you could come for that if you wanted.

It's so nift that Diwali starts on a Friday this year. Last year it was nearly impossible to do anything because it was Monday straight through, and everyone had lessons and homework all week.



 **alt\_lavender** at **2010-11-05 18:11:18**

*(no subject)*

That was thoughtful of Rohani, to share out her fireworks! I'll definitely come down with Parvati to light a candle and hear the story.

It really is snitch--I can remember your dad reading it to us when we were only little. He has the best reading voice.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-05 19:09:16](#)**

*Private Message to Lavender Brown*

Did you see Parkinson's passing around surveys now? Honestly, I think she's trying to get a job at the WWN or Presto or somewhere.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-11-06 00:01:29](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Lavender Brown*

She does seem awfully keen! It rather takes the fun out of it, I think.



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2010-11-06 02:27:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

The lights and candles were very pretty. I came down to watch, and I did a watercolour sketch before the light was all gone. I think it turned out rather well.

You are welcome to have it if you like.

I don't know the proper thing to say, so I hope it's all right to wish you a blessed Diwali.

**[2010-11-05 11:55:00](#)**

*Order Only: Something's brewing*

Massopust's determination to shut me out of the loop would be funny if it weren't so aggravating.




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

I find it rather mordantly ironic that he's apparently anxious to cold-shoulder me out from knowing anything because he fears that I'm after his job, rather than because I'm with a group working to overthrow the government.

He came from a floo-call meeting this morning (with Selwyn, I believe? Or someone right under him) looking rather like the kneazle who swallowed the canary. Or at least got a really good chomp from its tailfeathers.


I think an arrest of someone is imminent. It's worrying, and I'm sorry, but I have no idea who it is.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-05 22:43:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Any sense of what it's about, Bill? Any change?



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-06 02:48:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, what he has been keeping shielded from me is anything having to do with the private messaging system. I know the Ministry is lying through their teeth and reading those messages. A pity; I'd love to be able to monitor it myself.


On the other hand, since he's keeping me locked out, he must think I don't have any way to carry on any sort of clandestine communication he doesn't know about, since he has no idea about the Order lock. Which is all to the good, I suppose. Still, it's quite frustrating.



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-11-06 02:50:02](#)**  
(no subject)


So what you mean is, you think they've picked up someone who's been using the Private Message system to discuss, shall we say, forbidden topics.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-06 02:51:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. Which is a pretty good clue it isn't one of our people, since we have the Order lock.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-06 02:52:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I knew that part of it. I meant whether there's been any gossip through the department or any other indication who it was they've copped.

But that was before I saw Crouch's invitation to his ducklings. Charming way to spend an evening, innit, helping to torture and interrogate some poor sod.

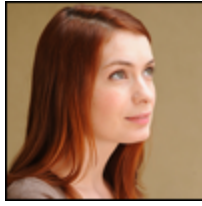



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-06 02:58:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Hang on. Reading the daily Court security report briefing right now.

There was an alert, an order to keep a certain person out of the presence of the LP at all costs. A woman, last name of Robinson. No explanation for why. Don't know if that's it, but it could be.

Will send the name along the chain and see what my people know.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-06 03:09:21](#)  
(no subject)

Doesn't sound familiar to me.

If she's petitioning the court, she's not Muggle-born, so she's not with Davidson's network either.

Do you think they're just being touchy because of Guy Fawkes Day?



**2010-11-05 13:49:00**

*(no subject)*


I'm throwing a music party on Saturday, starting at seven thirty. Third-years only! We'll be in the classroom at the bottom of the Astronomy tower, and if anyone has a record they want to bring, they're welcome to it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Also, I'm going to be passing out surveys where you can write about your favourite bands, and what type of music you like. I'm going to use the surveys to give some more information to the WWN about the kinds of things you like to listen to. It should be fun, and who knows? You might end up hearing more of the stuff you like on the radio because of it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-05 22:39:03**

*(no subject)*

That's dead wizard!

About the party, too.

But about the WWN, I mean. That'll they pay attention to what we say we like.

Hah. We should all say we want to hear 'Hey, Hey, Merlin!'



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-11-06 03:27:36**

*(no subject)*

Hah!

They'd think I wrote it in or something.

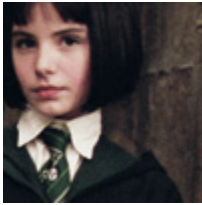
I do think it's well snitch that they're interested to begin with, though.




 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2010-11-06 00:33:44**

*Private message to Pansy*

I'll come to the party and try to be civil, but fair warning, I really cannot stand the sight of Longbottom right now.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-11-06 02:53:22**

*Re: Private message to Pansy*

That's good of you, Draco. And I wanted you and Harry to have a bit of fun, seeing as how you couldn't make it out to Hogsmeade and all, so it'd be a shame if you stayed away.



 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2010-11-06 02:56:39**

*Re: Private message to Pansy*

Yeah, Harry could probably definitely use a bit of that.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-11-06 03:25:36**

*Re: Private message to Pansy*

You too!




 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2010-11-06 00:36:49**

*(no subject)*

Are you going to send the surveys in by Owl? Because someone at the WWN might say that it's okay to post the survey answers in a journal, to make things easier and have the results all in one place. (Maybe the journal of the person who works there. yeah?)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-06 03:32:30](#)  
(no subject)


Well, there's lots of ways to do it, yeah.

I figured people would be more likely to fill them out right then and there rather than depending on them taking the questionnaires back to the dorms and doing it on their own.

But more people from other years might want a say too, yeah? So maybe writing to Magnus would be best.


What do you think? Maybe I can pass out the questions at the party, and tell people to pass it along to their housemates if they want to write in their answers too?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-06 14:38:05](#)  
(no subject)

We do carry around a lot of parchment, don't we? A questionnaire could easily get lost or forgotten about. I think you should do the questionnaire at the party and write to Magnus about the results, and then maybe at the same time suggest that there are probably other ways to get in touch with young WWN listeners.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-06 17:09:35](#)  
(no subject)

That sounds excellent.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-06 14:22:05](#)  
(no subject)

It's going to be so much fun, I can't wait!

**2010-11-05 19:31:00**

*McLaggen, Montague, Willett.*

Second chance for you to practise your technique if you can report in before the hour.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

If you can't stand to break away from the concert in Green Park, reply here and Catchlove, Evan or Singh will get a another go at it. Choice is yours, obviously.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at **2010-11-06 01:53:38**

*Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

It sounds as though things went well today -- has the 'technique practice' garnered any additional information?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-11-06 15:16:27**

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*


Maddeningly little. Not to diminish the intelligence that allowed Yaxley to prevent the group's plan re. Our Lord's arch. Apart from that, however, there's been nothing of significance about the cell.

At least it's given the trainees good practice in the full range of techniques. And we haven't given it over yet. With Robinson, at least. The others are entirely worthless.

One thing we have gleaned from the interrogations is that one of their number is a consummate master of Obliviation. Myddleton and Llewellyn agree we're seeing memory manipulation of the very finest calibre. Needless to say, they've each given over lists of those they've trained over the years.

The plan itself was no masterwork: how Robinson and the rest fell in with so accomplished a professional is a puzzle. Clearly they were foot soldiers only.



 **alt\_selwyn** at [2010-11-06 16:25:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Obliviation, eh?

*Fascinating.*

It strikes me that St Mungo's might have some ideas -- they've been known to treat cases of obliviation-gone wrong and might have records regarding previous culprits. You know, the sort who got up to mischief years back that wouldn't have reached MLE's attention.



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at [2010-11-06 17:00:17](#)


*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Quite right.

Will pass the thought along to Hopkirk and Scrimgeour. Or you could. Might be more direct.

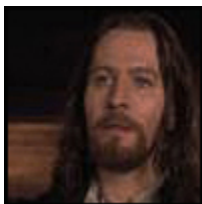
I've got Buckingham at the moment and can't say for certain how assignments on the Robinson case have been made this morning.



 **alt\_selwyn** at [2010-11-06 17:46:45](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

I'll pop over to talk to Hopkirk or Scrimgeour -- I had another thought, also related to St Mungo's.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-11-06 02:13:23](#)


*Order Only*

Sounds like Bill was right - they've got someone.

Not one of ours, though, right? Or we'd have heard by now?

Still. Everyone in the clear?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-06 02:38:11](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Everyone from my network has checked in. None of them. I'm still trying to find out who it is.

Blast Massopust, anyway.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-06 02:40:02](#)

*Re: Order Only*

None of my contacts, either, at least as far as I know. There's been no word in my department about any upheaval.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-11-06 02:42:16](#)

*Re: Order Only*

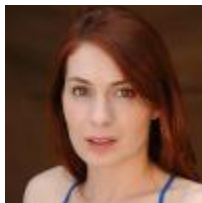
All quiet where we are. I've sent a patronus to Davidson and will check back if he passes along anything that any of his people have heard.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-06 03:02:58](#)

*Re: Order Only*

We haven't been out and about in weeks, so it's not on our end.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-06 03:06:03](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Please do. If he needs support in a hurry, we'll be ready for it.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-11-06 02:43:22](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Remus? I would think it a very slim chance indeed, but...do check in, my friend, and ease our minds.

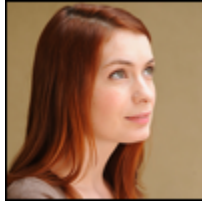


 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-06 02:46:57](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Don't even think it, Kingsley.

Remus, Dora - come on, tell us you're safe as houses.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-06 03:05:24](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I'm sure they're fine, love.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-06 03:18:25](#)


*Re: Order Only*

Bill found a report about someone named Robinson.

If that's what it was then ... yeah. I mean, it's bad for her, whoever she is and whatever they say she's done. But --

Merlin, I wish I had some skrill about now.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-06 03:40:12](#)

*Private Message to Sirius Black*

Between you and me, I could do as well.

Frank's been so tightly strung the last few days, and I know it's because he got a letter from our Neville, only he won't tell me what it was all about, which is driving me to my wit's end.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-06 03:44:54](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sirius Black*

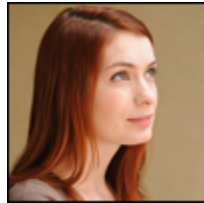
Sturm und Drang all round, then. I took your advice. Moony says he wants to talk to me - and I know we're writing here, but it had a definite smell of trouble. Now this and he and Dora




haven't replied. I mean to say. At first I figured I must have done something, though I can't think what. But now ....

I dunno. Maybe it's just being too close to those Dementors, they've moved closer since Sunday, and no wonder.

Maybe it'll do me good to get back to London for a bit.



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-11-06 04:06:54**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius Black*

Oh, love, I'm sure it's nothing you've done.

And yes, I do think it'd be good for you to get out of Hogsmeade. I worry about you when you're up there, and it's easier for you to get lost in the crowd in London.

Have you given more thought as to what you're going to do with Grimmauld?

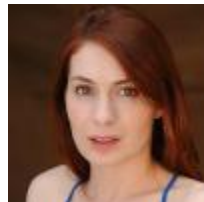



 **alt\_sirius** at **2010-11-06 04:25:25**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius Black*

~~Burn it to the~~ No, I haven't.

Want me to write to Frank? Perhaps whatever's going on with your Neville is something he doesn't want his mum to know. I could at least tell you if it's nothing to worry about.



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-11-06 04:35:10**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius Black*

Yes.

I don't like that this is the way I have to find out what is going on with my own family, but I don't like worrying about Neville more.





 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-06 02:27:49](#)

*Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Good work to-day. The captures as well. It's a good job Yaxley saw her tail forming and was quick on the draw to force her reversion. Does put one in want of a thorough examination of the registry.

The look on Collins' sister's face was priceless. More than enough to compensate for the week it has been.

I take it you reached the second target in time to apprehend her accomplices. Any progress?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-06 14:47:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Lucius.


I wasn't able to get back to you last night.

Yes, Yaxley reached the Arch before the planned detonation. Caught the anarchists red-fisted.

Disappointed re. intelligence: all four had obliterated themselves in advance. Of every memory except the intended conflagration. Their plan ended with death for each of them.

Certain we'll oblige. Eventually.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-06 16:22:29](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

I dislike the implication that they organised enough to obliterate themselves so skillfully, but you are quite right that if suicide is their best protest, they are welcome to release.

Meanwhile, regarding their identities, that is easily remedied. The *Prophet* can run their photographs and I trust we can set a reward for information about them. And penalties for not coming forward.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-06 16:30:28](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

My understanding is that Scrimgeour's put a hold on further interrogation of the four. Fudge's order. Presumably seeking Our Lord's input.

You may hear the upshot before I do: I'm on perimeter at Buckingham again for now. And there's been no disruption here. At all.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-06 16:40:32](#)

*Re: Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Should say, too. Robinson's been more forthcoming. More there to mine.

I hear she sent one of the trainees to St Mungo's last night. McLaggen. Attempted the transformation again, rather more successfully than the first time. Suspect that's it for McLaggen. Imagine being caught out by a known Animagus? He deserved a good clawing. At the least. I'm certain the disciplinary review will be instructive for the others.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-11-06 15:43:55](#)

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Sir?

Would it be possible, when you have a moment to spare, to make an appointment with you?

Not today, of course, but when you have time.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-06 16:30:59](#)


*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Sandoval.

Your commitment is admirable. To a point. It's one thing to be keen and another to swoon should any opportunity be offered to others.

Stand down.



 **alt\_lana** at **2010-11-06 17:59:24**  
*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Yes, sir.

S

**2010-11-05 22:56:00**

*Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

I heard an unconfirmed report that this Robinson woman turned out to be an unregistered animagus, and attempted to transform as she was arrested. Is this true? What was she transforming into -- a large carnivore that could EAT Our Lord or was the purpose of the exercise purely distraction in the hopes of keeping MLE busy while her colleagues were occupied at the park?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

Fine work on the part of MLE, all told. Did you get everything sorted with your clerk?

**2010-11-06 18:47:00**

A R I S T A

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

123456789

I LIK PI

I LIK SWETS

I LIK MI POFSKEN

I LIK BONES




 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

HULLO

ARISTA VIOLET SELWYN

---




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:14:32](#)

*(no subject)*

I think you should give this book back to your daddy, sweeting. Can you do that?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 00:16:59](#)

*(no subject)*

HELLO!!!!!!  
!!!!

I LIK U



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 00:17:55](#)

*(no subject)*

AR U MI DADDYZ  
FRND?




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:19:32](#)

*(no subject)*


Yes, I am. Is he with you now?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 00:20:20](#)  
(no subject)


NO



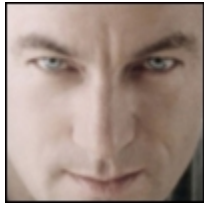
 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:22:38](#)  
(no subject)


Go and get him, will you?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 00:24:42](#)  
(no subject)


MUMMY SED  
DADDY IS BUSY DONT BODDER HIM



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:49:20](#)  
(no subject)


In that case, tell your mummy that one of  
daddy's friends wants him to read his book,  
please.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 02:05:21](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for your attempts to remedy the  
situation.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 02:39:10](#)  
(no subject)

Not at all.

But do keep them away from your journal. If  
she's terribly fascinated by writing to a book  
that writes back, perhaps Chloe will oblige her.




 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-11-07 02:52:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Now there's a good thought. Though Chloe does a great deal of shopping by journal these days; she might be concerned that Arista might accidentally order us a crate of imported pineapples and we'd find ourselves stuck with the bill.


It's a shame they don't get them until they start at Hogwarts -  
- naturally that seems eons away when you're six.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 03:26:28](#)**  
(no subject)


Indeed. To say nothing of the injustice of not having one's own journal when one's father is in charge of the departments that issue and monitor them.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-11-07 03:29:46](#)**  
(no subject)


'I can hardly bend the rules when I'm the one who's supposed to enforce them properly' is a singularly unconvincing argument to a six-year-old. Alas.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-07 00:47:55](#)**  
(no subject)


You have beautiful printing, Arista!



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 00:51:02](#)**  
(no subject)


Don't encourage her.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 01:10:21](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, I have the feeling she doesn't need any.  
Encouragement, I mean.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 01:54:15](#)  
(no subject)


Oh for heaven's sake.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 01:58:25](#)  
(no subject)

Ah, you've recovered your borrowed property, then?




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 02:02:34](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed.

How utterly embarrassing.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 02:28:56](#)  
(no subject)


Could have been worse.

There's been an incident at the Quidditch match this afternoon. I've informed the other Governors and Our Lord but you were apparently otherwise occupied. The Dementors encroached upon the pitch and had to be subdued.

Marx is on his way - he wasn't on shift to-day - but the creatures are being immediately removed to Crieff for the time being.






 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 02:44:15](#)  
(no subject)

I was meeting with Hopkirk. Rather appalling to hear about the Dementors, who is it who's there managing them? And who or what will be protecting the school if they're being removed? Not that they've done a particularly effective job, considering what happened on Halloween.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 03:11:45](#)  
*Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*

Marx is the team leader, but the enforcer on-call to-day was named Fraser.

Marx's theory is that the creatures were grown too hungry. He's sending them to Crieff to fatten them up. With Fraser as a taster. Believe me, Raz, Minerva and I were all *livid*.

He'll switch out the rest of the team to other assignments and remind the replacements that the Dementors are to be monitored at all times. He's also moving them back from Hogsmeade when they return: It's unlikely Snape is still in the area, but if he is, he's likely in the surrounding countryside, which they are to *scour* for signs. Well past time, if you ask me.

I don't mind saying we're lucky the boy didn't die. Even with twenty wands - mine and Narcissa's included - trying to catch him and get him safely to ground, the strong winds made for a bad landing.

Razzer is beside himself. And no wonder. At least there's no question of Harry's returning to Quidditch. His broom was quite destroyed by the Whomping Willow. Something of a blessing in disguise, I think. I've already taken care of making sure Cumulus does not immediately volunteer to replace it.

Remains to be seen whether Draco will be allowed to continue if Harry does not.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 03:20:55](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*

I imagine he'll be dismayed about the quidditch. Most boys his age would be. But it's no joke, protecting a boy on a broom sixty feet up. And I don't like to imagine the fallout if anything of a permanent nature happened to young Marvolo.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 03:37:20](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*

Yes, he'll be sullen, no doubt. When he wakes up, that is. It's the sort of thing that's important to a teenager.

I remember Tony, Ari and I certainly never expected to play professionally, but it was still a wrench when I had to resign from the side my final year. But there was no way round it, in the end. Something had to give, after my father's death - and it wasn't going to be resigning as Head Boy or suspending any of the family's interests.

Harry may resent this decision now, but he'll survive. And that, of course, is the point.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-11-07 02:07:46](#)


*(no subject)*

And bones. I can make sense of the one where she's talking about her puffskein but bones? What on earth did she --

BUNNIES

Merlin.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 02:36:51](#)**  
(no subject)

It was patently obvious she was simply scribbling. Keep her away from your walls, and if Draco's example is anything typical, any first-edition grimoires heavy on illumination.

She's six now, isn't that so?



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-11-07 02:47:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, she's six. Keeping her away from the walls will be quite a trick. Fortunately our nanny is very good with the 'scourgify' spell. Your point about illuminated grimoires is well-taken, I'll have the housekeeper find some high shelves for those tomorrow.

**2010-11-06 18:53:00**

*Order Only: Harry*

Poppy? Is he all right?



 [alt\\_sirius](#)



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-11-06 23:39:46**

*(no subject)*

He will be, thank Merlin. And no thanks to the Malfoys, who will--

Bother!



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-11-07 01:09:05**

*(no subject)*

Sorry for the interruption. And I've only a moment now.

I saw you there, Sirius. I hope to goodness no one else did--or that they thought little enough of it. But at least you saw the mayhem. Malfoy and Lestrangle have dealt with the Dementors--Minerva, too, I suppose--and Malfoy was positively burning with rage when he arrived here.

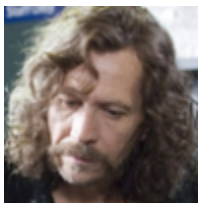
But I don't know what they expected. Of course, those creatures were drawn by the crowd. How could they possibly resist?


The boy will be fine. He's broken a leg, which is easily repaired, but he's also suffered a severe shock. I do want to be certain there's no damage to his spine because that sort of injury is not always immediately apparent in traumatic accidents like this one. I've got him immobilised, and you may believe he is none too happy about that. But honestly, after the fall he took, it's a wonder he's breathing.

I may tell you, my heart was in my mouth until I reached him on that field. Between the rain and the darkness falling--not to mention all the spells flying every which way, it was impossible to see what had become of him until I was beside him.

But rest easy: he's safe, he's healing, and if I can get rid of his entourage, he'll rest.

He'll be fine.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:18:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank Merlin for that.

Any chance you'll get Malfoy out of your hair before too much longer? I don't suppose you'd -

No. Never mind. Bad idea. Forget it.

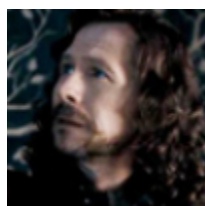



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:22:06](#)**  
(no subject)

That would be a disastrous idea, you are quite right.

Don't you do anything idiotic, Sirius.

Promise me.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:35:18](#)**  
(no subject)


Spoil sport.

I said it'd be a bad idea, didn't I?

It's just - Frank and I have just been chatting about how hard it is to be parents in this type of position. Well, I say parents. You know what I mean. He may not acknowledge it, I may never be able to provide for him like I want to do, but that doesn't change my responsibility.

At least I know he's in the best possible hands.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-07 03:38:49](#)  
*(no subject)*

Flattery will not make me change my advice.

But thank you for saying so, anyway.

**2010-11-06 19:05:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Frank Longbottom*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I was going to do this earlier but I went to watch the Quidditch and then -

Well, I'm sure he's okay. It was bucketing rain, so the ground was really soft.

I saw your Neville, in the stands. That's the real reason I'm writing, actually. Alice said he sent you a letter recently and since then you've been wound like a Swiss clock. He looked well enough. I think that was Evelyn sitting with him, too. She's got Allie's hair, yeah? Only curlier?

The point is, that Allie said you haven't told her what he wrote about, except that it's got you even crankier than usual. And that's got her in a knot, mate.

So. Why am I interfering in the affairs of a married couple? I told Allie I'd ask you if perhaps Neville had written you about the usual kind of things boys don't want their mothers to know. But I doubt you'd be twisting your big plaid knickers if it were the normal sort of thing.

Whatever it is, you ought to tell her. And if I can do anything from here, let me know. I've got a pretty reliable way to get messages to him, I think.

Either way, you're driving Allie right round the twist, and that can't be allowed. So here's me, putting my head in the lion's mouth: Give over, mate, before your head explodes. All right?

And I mean it: If there's anything I can do to help, name it. I told Moony I'd pop down London way but I'll surely be back soon enough - probably before the end of term. I'm not going anywhere before Monday, not with Harry in the hospital wing, anyway.

---




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-06 23:51:43](#)  
(no subject)

yeah. she does look like her mum. she look okay to you?

short answer to your question is there's nothing you can do, there's nothing she can do either, and it's the sort of thing I'd rather she not be burdened with. and neville thinks so too.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:06:25](#)  
(no subject)


She looked cold, but then everyone looked cold. She and Neville were sharing an umbrella. I was pretty far away, mind, but she wasn't ill or anything.

Why? Is -

Has Neville's letter got to do with Evelyn, then?

And what do you mean you're not going to burden her with it? Since when does Alice need protecting?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-07 00:20:29](#)  
(no subject)

she doesn't.

I know that.


I just don't want to hurt her.

and she's gonna go spare, man.

I know I did.






 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-07 00:02:58](#)  
(no subject)

and what happened with harry any road?




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:11:32](#)  
(no subject)

Fell off his broom at about sixty feet. As if the wind and rain weren't bad enough, the Dementors crashed the party. Harry must have blacked out again, like he did on the train. Of course, with so many people watching, there were at least twenty wands all pointed at him to try to slow his fall, but he was blowing around in the gale so much that it was only party successful.

To make matters worse his broom hit the Whomping Willow. It, er, doesn't like to be hit. You may remember.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-07 00:23:01](#)  
(no subject)

I remember. got planted summer before my seventh year. gave a second-year a set of broken ribs when it was still a sapling.

least poppy seems to think he'll be okay.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-07 00:28:57](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, only she can't give me a full report, sounds like, because Lucius bloody Malfoy is likely going spare himself over the thought of Harry getting hurt - not for Harry's sake, either, but because it'll mean his precious tintage of a son will lose privileges. But *he's* in that hospital wing, flapping his arms at Poppy, and not me, and if I didn't already hate him for all the blood he's got on his hands, I'd want to kill him just for claiming that right while I'm 200 yards away waiting to hear something.

We've all got headaches, Frank. And we're all helpless when it comes to wanting to be with our kids. Right? So whatever's bothering Neville, there's probably some solution if you look at it with a calm eye.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 00:39:21](#)**  
(no subject)

the best thing I can tell them both is to take what they're given and keep their heads down. you're a gryffindor, man. you know how hard that's gonna be.

and for merlin's sake, if it's getting this bad for them this early in the term


you know what they did to my baby girl?

they killed her cat, Sirius.

they murdered her familiar, cut off it's paw, and wrote a message to her in blood. and my boy had to write me and ask me what he ought to do, and all I can tell him is to keep his damn head down and try not to let it get to him, and damn it to hell, it's just not on. just not on at all.


and it's only going to get worse from here.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 00:39:36](#)**  
(no subject)


do you see why I didn't want to tell her?



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 00:41:04](#)**  
(no subject)

and now I'm going to have to tell her, because she needs to hear it from me and not you, but I sure as hell don't want to.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-11-07 00:54:27](#)  
(no subject)


Merlin, Frank.

Has it occurred to you that Allie might be able to say something to Evelyn that will help her cope?

And that Allie deserves the chance to be their mum, just as much as you deserve to be their dad?

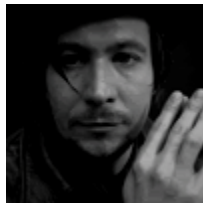
Go and talk to her. Do you both a world of good, even if there's no easy solution.




 **alt\_frank** at [2010-11-07 01:07:20](#)  
(no subject)

what I really want to do is take those sick fucks that are putting my kids through this and show them a taste of their own goddamn medicine.

as it is, I'm fucking useless.




 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-11-07 01:38:29](#)  
(no subject)

Nah, you're not useless. You're just following your own advice, keeping your head down.

It takes a special kind of wanker to go after an animal like that. It won't be too hard to shave his wand a bit.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-11-07 01:00:46](#)  
(no subject)

No, it's not on.


I did hear about a cat getting mutilated, actually, though I'd not seen anything mentioned. Of course, who would admit such a thing? And at least your son had the wherewithal to keep Evelyn mentioning it on her

journal.

But as to there being nothing you can do ... you're wrong. You and Allie send them your love and we'll get it to them. And as to nothing I can do ... we'll see about that. As I said, I've a way to send messages into the castle. I might be able to send a different kind of message if the culprits can be found. And I might be able to find them, too.

Merlin knows it won't bring back her cat - and it won't be nearly enough recompense. But it'll make us all feel better.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:14:13](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll tell her.

we'll write them a letter.

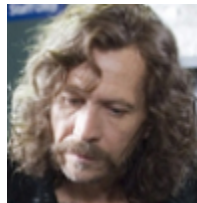
merlin.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:15:01](#)**  
(no subject)

min knows, by the way.

rather it not get spread around too much, though.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:22:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, no, I can't imagine it would be too wise for the whole Order to come marching into the castle to put the fear of Medusa into every last bullying one of them.

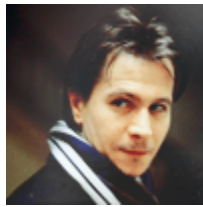
But - well, let's put it this way. Padfoot's bark is definitely not worse than his bite.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:33:26](#)**  
(no subject)

you do anything too attention-drawing, and al  
will hex you properly.

but thanks any road.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-07 01:39:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Trust me.

**2010-11-06 20:56:00**

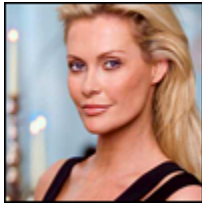
*Please excuse the previous post*


I left my journal unattended and it was temporarily 'borrowed' by my daughter Arista.



She doesn't appear to have read anything but her own replies, merely used it to practise her handwriting.


 [alt\\_selwyn](#)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-11-07 17:35:43**  
(no subject)

If nothing else, Dominic, it gave us a laugh when we particularly needed one.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at **2010-11-08 04:09:49**  
(no subject)

I am pleased she was able to be of service, in that case. Provided she keeps her hands off my journal from now on!

**2010-11-06 21:18:00**

*I don't wish to sound like I'm questioning the decisions of people who certainly know better than I*




 **alt\_sally\_anne**

~~but we were told that we would be SAFE from the dementors as long as we followed the rules and didn't go where we weren't supposed to go, SAFE, and that they were NOT supposed to be coming in to Hogwarts grounds and certainly not to the QUIDDITCH MATCH and now Harry's hurt and Pansy's and there isn't enough chocolate and they DIDN'T EVEN KEEP SNAPE OUT he broke in last weekend EVEN WITH THE DEMENTORS GUARDING US and WHY? WHY? If they aren't even working right isn't there SOME OTHER WAY to keep Harry and everyone else safe from the fugitives?~~

~~Harry could have DIED because of these things that are supposed to be protecting him I DON'T UNDERSTAND.~~

I'm sorry for my outburst. I was very upset because I was so worried about Harry and because of the Dementors. Once I'd eaten enough chocolate I knew that I could trust that the Headmistress, the School Governors, and MLE certainly know best how to keep Harry (and everyone else) safe and I am grateful for all their work to keep us safe.



 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-11-07 02:26:12**  
(no subject)

I think you need more chocolate, Sally-Anne.

Harry's going to be okay.

I'm going to be okay.

So are you.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 02:27:32](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think I can eat any more chocolate that I've already eaten.

My stomach hurts.

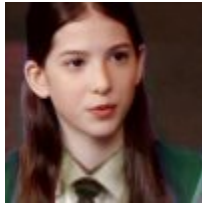


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 02:31:09](#)  
(no subject)

Do you want to go to Madame Pomphrey?

Or we could listen to music in our room for a little.

It's really too bad the party had to be called off, but we can invite Hydra up and braid each other's hair and keep our minds off things.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 02:32:50](#)  
(no subject)

I don't want to go to Madame Pomfrey.

Listening to music would be okay. Or if Hydra wants to come up.

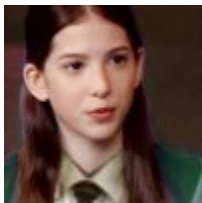


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 02:34:34](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

Let's do both.

And maybe get some tea to settle our stomachs.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 02:37:55](#)  
(no subject)

Tea!

That's what I want. Tea.



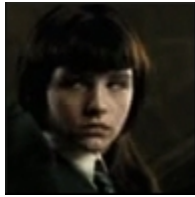



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 03:23:50](#)  
(no subject)

I really thought Harry was going to die.

When he fell, I mean.

I thought maybe he'd already died.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 03:30:06](#)  
(no subject)

Me too.

It was really, really scary.

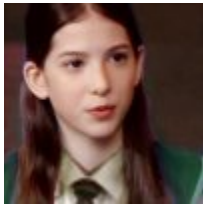



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-07 03:41:39](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Whoa.

If you're writing like this out in the open, you're definitely not playing about.

You all right there?

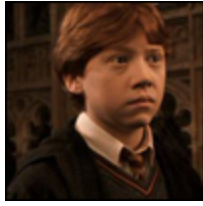


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 03:45:21](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I wasn't really.

I'm a bit better now. Pansy talked me into more chocolate after the tea.

I shouldn't have said those things. I hope I'm not in horrible trouble. Maybe I should do another entry and say I'm sorry and the dementors upset me a lot this time (which is true) and of course I know the School Governors will make the right decision every time and all that rot.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-07 03:47:58](#)


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

Uh.

I think it'd be better to just stay quiet and see if anyone calls you out for it. Otherwise, you'd be reminding them what you said.

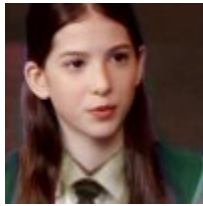
I mean, if Mr Crouch or Mr Peakes or Mr Malfoy or Mrs Lestrangle or somebody gets cross, then you can apologise. Don't you think?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-07 03:48:30](#)

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

I can't believe I'm giving you advice about how to keep your head down.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 03:50:25](#)

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

Me either.

I'm not sure, though. If it does make anyone cross it looks better if I apologised without being scolded.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 04:03:45](#)

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

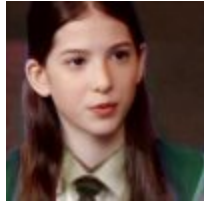
That should be fine. And it's better than making a brand-new entry.

Honestly, though, it's not like anything you said was untrue.

They should know better.

And they are doing a terrible job of it.

I know Lucius was *furious*. And while it might not be good for *you* to call them on it, you'd better believe *he* will.

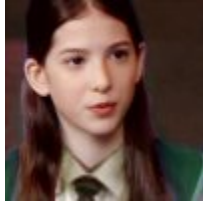


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 04:14:21](#)

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

I know it's all true but that doesn't make it a good idea to say out loud.

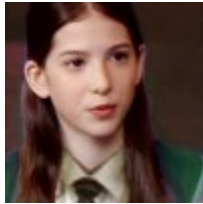
I am glad Mr Malfoy was furious. He should be!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 03:50:52](#)

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

I think I'll cross it all out and add a postscript.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 03:55:08](#)

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

That was all the apology I had space for. I'm glad Mrs Lestrage wasn't reading journals this evening. She's about the last person in the world I want to have to talk to even when I'm in a GOOD

mood.

Poor Hydra.

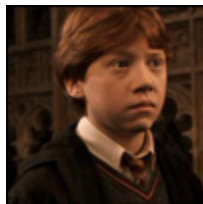


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 04:05:12](#)

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

Goes to show what a good influence we're having on you.

You get enough chocs tonight, Ron?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-07 12:34:14](#)

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


Oh.

Yeah. I went on to bed after I wrote that to Sally Anne. Percy was being a real you know what last night and made everyone clear out of the common room. It's not like there's much to talk about once we're all up in our

dormitory together, y'know? And Neville wasn't feeling very well, anyway.

You want to do something today? Play something or listen to music? Looks like the weather's not going to get any better--it already feels like it's been raining forever, doesn't it? November kinda sucks eggs, doesn't it?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 17:22:52](#)


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

Maybe tonight? After dinner? It always seems to get more depressing when it gets dark out.

Maybe we could play that switch game again?

I'll bring my happiest records, and some of those fizzing whizbees and those sweets that make you sound like different animals.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-07 22:04:25](#)

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

That'd be nift.

I'll try to get Neville to come. If that's okay. It's just he's been so low recently. I dunno. He may not want to come at all, but I'll ask him.

Nev, mate, if you're reading this, you should really think about coming along. You need to

I don't know

wish I did, but I don't



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-07 23:11:35](#)

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

Yeah, Nev. I hope you can come.

**2010-11-06 22:43:00**

*Private Message to Draco*

Sally-Anne is sort of not feeling well right now, so I'm keeping her company.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

But it made me think that maybe you're not feeling so well either. And in all the fuss about Harry, well, you were up there too, with all the Dementors and everything, and seeing him fall, that must have been just awful.

I'm so sorry, Draco.

Are you okay? Do you need anything?

If you'd like to spend some time together tomorrow, just, you know, hanging out, I'd like that. Maybe you could give me another guitar lesson?

If you don't feel up for it, that's okay. But I'd like to.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-11-07 14:55:41**

*(no subject)*

It was awful. The worst part is that I didn't even

The Dementors were there, right? And I felt terrible. Worse than I did when they came on the train. Maybe because there was more of them, I'm not sure. The thing is, I didn't even see Harry fall at first because I was feeling too ill myself, and then by the time I did see he was nearly on the ground and I couldn't even do anything to help.


They've let me see him and he's going to be okay, but his broom got smashed. Honestly I think he's more upset about that than anything else. Of course I'll give him mine - it wouldn't be right for him to have a school broom while I have a Nimbus just like his old one.

I don't think I've ever see the Raz so angry before. Now I know why he'd be a scary person to duel.

I really wish they'd take the Dementors away, because its hard to see what good they're doing, but I'm sure that Harry's Father will want to keep them here.

Sorry your party had to be cancelled.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 17:17:30](#)  
(no subject)

That's no big deal. I'll just have it next week.

But that really blows about Harry's broom. I know how important that is to him. And you. Do you think

They wouldn't keep him from playing, would they?

Because that would be awful.

And then you

well, it wouldn't be nice for you either, would it?


I really hate the Dementors. I swear, I'll put on a stone, I've been eating so much chocolate this term. Every time they're around, it's like

Well, it's the sort of feeling that's bad enough to feel once, let alone over and over again. And I'm *trying* to be *normal* again, after what happened last term, but it's like I *can't* with those... things reminding me about it almost every day. Ugh.

Double ugh.

What're you up to today? Does a guitar lesson sound like it'd be fun? Because I need to have a bit of fun, honestly. And if you don't want any, well, at the very least, it'd be some company, yeah?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-07 17:52:00](#)  
(no subject)


I don't even like chocolate anymore. That's reason enough alone to hate the Dementors - they've fully put me off sweets.

What do you mean, normal? You are normal, Pansy. Someone who didn't feel sick around the Dementors, now that wouldn't be normal, would it? But I'm sorry that they make you feel so poorly.

Sometimes I wonder why they affect Harry so badly. I mean, you wouldn't think they would, since he's the Lord Protector's son, but ~~I think I kn~~ then again, he's probably had more scary things happen to him than anyone else in the school, so I reckon it sort of fits.

I tried to check in on Harry just a bit ago, but that woman kept tutting me out. Might as well get out the guitar, if you want to meet me later.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-07 20:52:24](#)  
(no subject)

Sure. That'd be nice.

And thanks for saying so.

**2010-11-07 00:05:00**

*(no subject)*

That was perhaps the least pleasant match I've ever attended. And I am not referring solely to the weather.



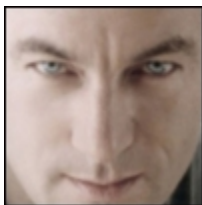
 **alt\_narcissa**

What a shock for us all! We've only just arrived home after assurances from the school matron that young Mr Marvolo will make a full recovery. Lucius, Rabastan and at least a dozen others were quick on the draw and managed to control the fall but goodness, we've never had such a fright! Luckily, Madam Pomfrey was at his side in mere moments. But it was quite a long wait, while she checked him over, then in the hospital wing, where she saw to mending his injuries. And poor Razzer and Lucius, between their outrage at the Azkaban guards and feeling frantic for Harry's safety, it's a wonder either of them knew what to do first. It's over now, thank Merlin, and he's resting comfortably, or so we're told.

I'm looking at our agenda for tomorrow. Oh, dear.

Lucius will likely go back up to Hogwarts tomorrow. He'll want to make sure the security detail has been properly sorted, as well as check in on Harry and the rest of our young charges there - Hydra and Pansy were both quite as unsettled as could be - and I'm sorry, June, I'm sure I shan't half have the strength to face the annual veterans' honours luncheon alone. Please accept my regrets and find someone else to present the wreath.

It's too late even to concentrate on a simple game of cards, and yet I'm still much too rattled to sleep.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-11-07 04:46:55**

*(no subject)*

I'll come across. I'm sure Fifi could heat some chocolate if you liked.






 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-07 04:50:43](#)  
(no subject)

No, you've had a difficult week and you need to rest if you're going north again tomorrow.


I've already had far too much chocolate; I'm sure to come out in spots by Monday. But I've a pot of chamomile tisane to drive out the remnants of the cold and the wet.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 04:52:09](#)  
(no subject)

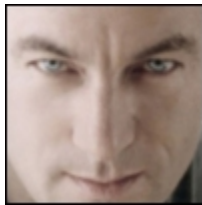
It's no trouble. And a hot drink sounds just the thing. Unless you don't want company?




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-07 04:56:43](#)  
(no subject)

When we first came in, I thought not. I've spent most of the day in the curious position of being surrounded by people - and then waiting outside the hospital wing with Draco, Pansy, Hydra and all the others. By rights I should have had enough company for three days. But no, I find that it's the last thing I want.


I rather think I'll be worse companionship for you than you for me, my love.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-07 04:57:42](#)  
(no subject)

I know. And I said, it's no trouble. I'll be over directly.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-07 12:59:16](#)  
(no subject)

How miserable.


It sounds as though you had entirely too much

excitement yesterday. And was the game later than usual or did it run long? Someone said something about its having fallen dark by the time Marvolo fell? If it really took all morning and afternoon, *The Prophet* will have to change what they're always saying about his preternatural quickness at finding the snitch.

Not that we want them trumpeting his resilience in the face of injury and near death, instead, which--blast it--I see is precisely the angle they are running this morning.

I'm just in from closing down the park festivities. Clearing away the malingerers and checking for any sign of malicious traps left behind. (All's clear.) At any rate, I hope you have had good rest over night and that you are feeling very much better when you rise this morning.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-07 14:01:54](#)  
(no subject)

It was a later start than we were expecting. The Slytherin team lobbied to delay by an hour or so to see if the rain would lessen. Though I do suspect that Mr Marvolo found it more difficult than usual to spot his target owing to the torrents. Luckily his captain noticed and called a time-out to have an impervious charm cast on Marvolo's eyeglasses. After that, it was just contending with the lightning flashes, but at least his vision was not distorted by the rain!

And I am much recovered, thank you. Though at Lucius' urging I am still staying close to home with a liberal dose of Pepper-Up to accompany my morning tea. I came all over chills last night and since we'd been out of the ominous presence of those spectres for some time, I fear it might be something more like flu than a simple case of taking a fright.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-07 14:38:24](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps it was in the cards that you should lie low today. I'm certain Mrs Calderwood and the veterans will understand. The outdoors portion of that ceremony is likely to be drenching, and it would

| | surely be foolhardy for you to go after spending so much of  
| | yesterday out in the storm.

**2010-11-07 07:19:00**

*Private Message to Ned Pennifold*

I won't be in today, but we do need to straighten the diary for next week.

Tomorrow first off: I'm meeting Travers, Travers, Yaxley, and Truncheon in the ring.

8am-9am: Court

After that Scrimgeour's wanting a meeting. Must include Hopkirk, Llewellyn, and Myddleton. Lestrage may want to make up the number. Check with her today. Also Travers (Mordant).

Also tomorrow as you're able to schedule (Tuesday, if necessary): Scrimgeour, Hopkirk, Forney and Desai. Topics: McLaggen. Training Programme Assignments. St Mungo's/Obliviation. Animagus Registry Audit.

Also. I need you to slot in the woman from Leeds who requested a meeting last week. I could go there if need be.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

**2010-11-07 12:22:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Short update*

It has been quite a week.

I return from London and the Lord Protector, explaining to him that of course we have done everything possible to increase security at Hogwarts, that the arcane magics that defend the castle are quite beyond my ken, that there was no way to know - only to discover that the very creatures which are supposed to be providing security to young Marvolo are actually endangering him in the most incredible way.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)

All is well, but I must return to London today.

Young Marvolo's only request to me was that Quidditch not be canceled. I shall never understand the minds of the young.

**2010-11-07 13:35:00**


*ORDER ONLY Private message to  
Frank Longbottom*



I am attempting to address the matter of  
the cat - I have not forgotten.

 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)



 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2010-11-07 20:54:18**

*(no subject)*

good.

**2010-11-08 14:24:00**

### *Too Much Rain*

Spent most of the day, following Court, on inspection tour at Preston and Leeds. Sheeting down rain the whole time - except, of course, when the Head Enforcer for the region conducted us inside for luncheon. Had to reinforce warming and water-repelling charms twice before returning to New London.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Leeds remains an altogether well-organised operation. There were some minor issues and of course, one or two open questions regarding security. The mud (both varieties) makes for an excellent brickworks, sorely needed for repairs throughout the realm and the muggle population appears well-kept and adequately deferential as befits their station. Interestingly, the administrator there has chosen to separate families, as a matter of course. Claims it elicits better compliance.

However, this is not borne out when compared to Preston, which also until recently kept the genders segregated and rewarded good behaviour with the privilege of conjugal visitation. Preston's disciplinary logs over the last two weeks have shown a marked increase and there are signs that its administrator (Rosalia Craig) may be losing her control over her charges.

At least her muggleborn denizens are tightly mastered, yet even these have undergone recent periods of unruliness, particularly leading up to and on Bonfire Night. When our party arrived, however, the camp had been turned out in good form and we were treated to a public reprisal for the mischief of Friday night. While their comrades staged a diversion, three mudblood youngsters had broken in to the dispensary and stolen strength potions. These, we were told, they distributed among several of their younger companions and together attempted to overpower the guards and make their way to an abandoned section of town, where they intended to hide.

The three instigators were apprehended and four of their accomplices as well. Craig also located their muggle parents and forced the children to watch while the adults were Cruciated in front of them. A fine lesson in theory but Craig seems to have under-estimated the degree to which separating mudbloods from their biological parents also divorces them from any feeling of kinship, nor from any

responsibility to one another as a family. Thus it is hard to conceive what possible submission the method will secure when neither parent nor child has any contact with one another to re-inforce the necessity of docility. Moreover her redress, from what our party could discern, had quite the opposite of its desired effect - though not, as I say, out of familial loyalty. Instead of reminding those under her supervision of her power to give pain or succor, she merely added to their disquiet. Suspect she missed the point of the prisoner's dilemma. Return scheduled in two weeks to determine whether our recommendations have made any difference to her bottom line. (Oh, and Mr Kendall: note the date if you please and clear the calendar as necessary when you hear from Spencer-Wells' office to schedule the visit.)

In any event, back at the St James' house now and unable to accomplish nearly as much as I should like owing to the constant interruption of questions from my front office. (Which also reminds me, Mr Kendall: If you are so wholly incapable of brewing a decent cup of tea, leave it in future to the elf.) Should like to read the intelligence report from the Bonfire Night arrests in Green Park - if one could find them!



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-08 21:22:10](#)

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Son,

You will be happy to know that I approached Our Lord on the topic of Harry's fall at the week-end. He agrees that it is now patently too dangerous for him to return to playing while the Dementors are required near the school - but we discussed the revision to the plan and are removing the guards to beyond the village, where they will be kept supplied and ought to prevent a repeat of their appearance at future matches.

However - Our Lord made no ruling on whether you are to be grounded as well as Harry. This was clearly not a case of either of you straying into mischief or inviting mayhem and the man responsible for allowing the Dementors to leave their appointed holding area has been duly punished. I believe that you may continue playing if you wish to do - and do not feel that you must withdraw only because Harry has no broom. While there is any chance that he might suffer further fainting spells, it is altogether safer for him to remain without one.



My recommendation is that you remain on the side if you want to do. There is no reason you ought to deprive yourself of this luxury. Perhaps speak to your captain about shuffling players. There are reserve chasers but no reserve Seeker; perhaps you could hold Harry's place for him as Seeker until we have captured Snape and Macnair and then you can both take up your customary positions again. I'm sure once the situation is settled we can easily arrange for a new broom for Harry, perhaps a Firebolt. I know Cumulus was keen to have him try it.

Meanwhile, know that you have your mother's love and also that of your devoted,

Father



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-09 01:12:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Father,

Thank you for the note. I have to say I'm a little surprised that it's been decided that I can fly while Harry can't. I mean, I'm pleased to hear it, but I suppose I just assumed that whatever was decided would apply to me, too.

I don't know what he'll think. He'll probably say that I ought to fly, for the good of the team at least, but privately he may not be especially happy about it. I'll try to talk to him about it when he's, ah, less sensitive.

-Draco



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-09 01:29:16](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Well, there are several factors involved in the decision. As I said, it was clear from the outset that neither of you took any action or inaction that invited the situation. Second, I believe that as you both grow, Our Lord sees that it will become less and less effective to use you against one another without driving you further apart.

Third, I suspect that Our Lord has decided that your activities are too visible through the journals to blatantly link your well-being to

Harry's.

Fourth, and I trust you to guard this information closely, Our Lord has grown progressively ... disinterested ... in aspects of Harry's development, particularly when it comes to questions of ensuring his affection, so long as He has Harry's continued obedience.

Most compellingly, however, is the simplest reason: Whether or not you play Quidditch is singularly unimportant to Our Lord. He has far more pressing matters of state to occupy His time.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-09 14:21:28](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Oh. Well, no, of course my playing Quidditch wouldn't really matter to him.

But isn't Harry awfully important to our Lord? He hasn't gone on and decided that he's *not* important at all, has he? But that can't be, or else he wouldn't have all the security around the castle...



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-09 14:46:32](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Of course he is, as important as ever. It is simply that you are both reaching an age where the same threats of punishment no longer carry the same weight as when you were younger.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-09 02:03:29](#)

*Private Message to Pontus Kendall*

Warrington and Spencer-Wells will need seven copies of to-day's inspection reports in time for Muggle-born Labour to-morrow. Also, contact Bletchley and Rigg first thing in the morning regarding Wednesday's

Executive Session. Topic is the Rees case.

Left a note on the desk for Folkestone - Floo that order over to Clarriker as well, if you please.

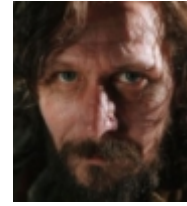
Yes, Campbell may come and see me - later this week or early next is fine. While on the subject best make arrangements for me to see Rosa Parkinson sometime after meeting with Campbell.

On the other hand, if Higgs comes hat-in-hand again, the answer is No.

Finally it should not require mention, but you are engaged to run the office, not avail yourself of the larder. If you find it useful to stock a sweets dish, kindly supply it from your own stores.

**2010-11-08 21:06:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*



 **alt\_sirius**

I assume you've had time to talk by now? Hope so, anyway.

My friend was happy to help out with that matter. I've given him another little errand to take care of first, but he hopes he'll have something to tell me by the time I get back from visiting Moony.


Allie, I still think you know what's going on with him and you're just not telling me, but I can't think what, if I'm not in trouble. And it's not like he can be dying or anything; werewolves don't fall ill that way.

Guess I'll find out.

Oh, and I think I'll go round to Grimmauld Place, but not to get inside, I don't think. Just to see whether it's under any sort of surveillance or if the wards seem to react to my being in the area or anything. If nothing else, if the Ministry have it triggered so that anyone coming by it alerts them, we'll learn that much.

Right, well, moon's up so I'm heading out.




 **alt\_alice at 2010-11-09 14:31:17**  
(no subject)

Be careful, love.

You're right, of course, there is something I've been keeping from you, but it's only because it's something you should hear from him direct.

And thank you. For everything.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-09 14:37:07](#)  
(no subject)

Ought to hear it from him direct?

Oh, well that's certainly reassuring, thanks.

**[2010-11-09 08:46:00](#)**

**LAV! PARVATI!!**

It came!!!

Mum sent an advance copy by owl this morning!!!  
Come and look.



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

Oh, it's absolutely gorgeous. I mean, we saw some of the robes in the workroom, but in the photographs they're simply stunning. And when the models move in them it's just perfect!

You've just got to come over to the Ravenclaw table and have a look.

They'll be perfect for everyone's Christmas and holiday parties, I just know it. And Draco, your mum is so beautiful. I mean, we've all met her, we know she's perfect, but in these robes Mum designed, she's just...wow.

(No, really, it's true. Samuels was sitting next to us when I opened the magazine and he was positively drooling over the models in the pictures, but especially Mrs Malfoy! Boys are so crass, ugh.)




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-09 14:18:22](#)**

(no subject)

Samuels was doing *what*? He'd just better watch himself and his drool.

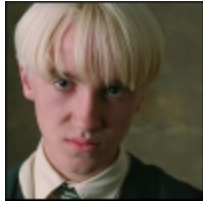



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-09 14:36:19](#)**

(no subject)

I've told him it's disgusting and if he wants to look at girls like that he ought to get his own copy.


But I'm not telling him to watch himself, thanks. He weighs 13 stone, easy.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-09 14:51:24](#)**  
(no subject)

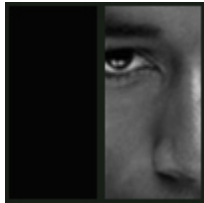
I didn't say that you should tell him, did I? He can read, presumably, and if he can't then I guess I'll just have to give him the message in person.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-09 15:11:58](#)**  
(no subject)

No, you didn't but I don't think he really reads our journals, I mean we're two years behind him, aren't we?

And if you do decide to tell him, be careful. He's our Beater, besides being older and bigger. I don't want him sending you to the hospital wing, but I don't want us to lose one of our Beaters, either! How can we win the cup if you curse him out of existence?




 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2010-11-10 00:43:21](#)**  
(no subject)

And there we see why you're not in Slytherin House. Not that you're showing much sign of what got you in the door to Ravenclaw.

I didn't realise you were so put off by boys, Patil.

Good to know, I guess.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-10 03:08:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Are you this much of a git naturally, Zabini, or do you practise at it especially?

**2010-11-09 12:07:00**

*Private Message to Pontus Kendall*

When I asked for a meeting with Rigg and Bletchley regarding Wednesday's Wizengamot session, what on earth made you think the meeting could occur on Thursday?



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Reschedule it *correctly* if you please. Early morning is fine - six or seven o'clock if necessary. Or late to-day.

And no, there is no reason to grant anyone from the *Prophet* an interview on Friday's arrest. Who asked - Doyle? He ought to know better. If he pesters again, contact Bole and let him know to pull in the leash.

Also - ran into Crouch this morning. He mentioned a cross-check of obliviation victims with St Mungo's as well as a registry audit and I quite agree. Work with Rookwood in Acton's office over there to obtain any clearance needed for Hopkirk's trainees to access their records; have him send the forms directly to Ned.

Also, before Friday I shall need the packet for Magical Commerce. Ordinarily MacMillan has it sent by now but I've not seen it. Possible Green misplaced it somewhere in your office.

Speaking of that, Hooper is willing to come in at the week-end to transition. Contact Crispin and have him co-ordinate with Hooper so they can set things to rights before he begins on Monday.

Oh, and I was handed figures at to-day's Labour meeting that should be included in the inspection reports. They are on the desk. Revise the graph, if you please, and return it to Warrington so he may forward it on.

I'm expecting Mr Mulciber for luncheon - when he arrives, kindly pass his lunch request to the elf (include your own if you like) and show him upstairs.



**2010-11-10 10:18:00**

*Almost too busy to breathe*



 **alt\_percy**

I've been remiss on getting the requisite hours I need for sleep, but I'm beginning to think it's inevitable during one's N.E.W.T. year. Up late last night finishing my Ancient Runes project with Atticus Ito; our oral presentation is later today. Up early to add several ingredients to a brew that Clementine Summerby and I have been working on for the past three days for Potions. Breakfast meeting with Calderwood regarding Head duties; private tutoring session with Professor Alecto Carrow later today. Our discussions have become rather technical, but quite fascinating.

Thank goodness I've never gone out for Quidditch. As much as I love the game, I would simply never have a moment to myself were I on the team.

Prefects meeting tonight. Do take the moment to speak with me or any one of your House Prefects should you have a concern you'd like raised at tonight's meeting. Your Prefects are here to help!



 **alt\_molly** at **2010-11-10 16:35:50**

*(no subject)*

I missed your usual letter this week, but I can hardly be surprised if that's the sort of schedule you're keeping!

Do try not to skip out on the sleep entirely, dear. You'll do a much worse job of retaining the stuff your studying if you do.




 **alt\_percy** at **2010-11-10 16:36:45**

*(no subject)*

Sorry, Mum, but thanks for being understanding. I'll make it longer next week to make up for it, I promise. I have several long essays I'm finishing up this week and then I should have a bit of a breather.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-10 16:44:56](#)  
(no subject)

You could save loads of time if you'd stop stomping about and shouting at people in the common room.

it. I'll be sure to tell you to go on to bed next time you do

Anything to help, y'know.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-10 17:41:59](#)  
(no subject)

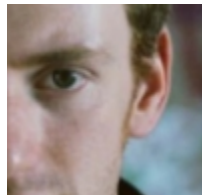
Ha, ha.


Did you finish that Potions essay on time?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-10 17:47:22](#)  
(no subject)


Of course I did. The ink was totally dry when I turned it in.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-10 18:19:50](#)  
(no subject)

Truly a new benchmark for you. Congratulations.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-10 17:36:03](#)  
*Private message to Percy Weasley*

I wasn't aware that you were studying privately with Alecto Carrow. What subjects are you covering, then?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-10 17:41:15](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Oh, it's turned out to be sort of an informal one-on-one version of what she covers with her Dark Arts N.E.W.T.s students, I think. I applied but was initially rejected, but...well, to tell the truth, I suspect she changed her mind when I was named Head Boy. It's part of the reason I'm so swamped with work. With this independent study I've really ended up doing one more N.E.W.T. level subject than I originally bargained for.

This week's essay is on the history of hexes rooted in transfiguration, specifically bodily reconfiguration. The entrail-expelling curse, that sort of thing.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-10 17:43:24](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

How very...far-sighted of her.

I hope it--

Never mind.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-10 17:43:40](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

What? Hope it what?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-10 17:44:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

I understand there is a place for learning theory in certain subjects. Still, in this one subject, Dark Arts, there are...temptations.

I hope it...remains entirely theoretical, shall we say.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at 2010-11-10 17:45:26**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Oh, really, Bill. I hope you know me well enough to realise I won't lose my head.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2010-11-10 17:46:16**


*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Don't underestimate the risk, Percy. Alecko Carrow is very very good at what she does.

That should give you pause.

I know it worries Mum and Dad.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at 2010-11-10 17:46:36**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Oh, stuff. They're worrying about nothing. Trust me.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2010-11-10 17:46:55**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

I hope I can.

**2010-11-10 12:37:00**

*Private Message to Pontus Kendall*

Crouch *Junior*, Kendall. Not Senior. And it's the Animagus Registry, not Werewolf.



McCormick is not from the *Prophet* - all the more reason to decline his request.

 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Croaker - no, not until next quarter. Rookwood - no, but if he wishes I will visit the lab later this month. He may make whatever case he wishes then.

Have you made any progress on providing Mr Baddock with the list of names he requested? Ogden's assistant ought to have them, if the file gives you no direction.

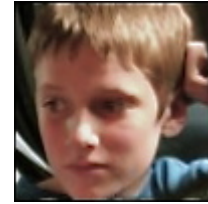
No more Floo calls regarding the *Witch Weekly* feature, if you please. Mrs Malfoy's assistant can address all inquiries about it. Not even sure when the subscribers receive their copy, let alone general sale.

Also, where is that file on Chapman? The reply granting the petition is drafted but there are a few details to fill in.

Finally, the next time Dideron calls, kindly make a greater effort to reach me rather than take a message. The Ministry have runners, after all, it cannot be so impossible to send word.

**[2010-11-10 15:22:00](#)**

## *I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Animagus transformation again*



 [alt\\_terry](#)

Fred and George, thanks for those books you slipped me from the Restricted Section, but I'm afraid they didn't do me any good. I don't think there is anything in them about the Animagus transformation that wasn't already in the books I saw in the Headmistress's private library.

It's so weird. Most of the Transfiguration textbooks I've seen are real practical: use this wand movement (and they'll give you a diagram). Use these specific words with this accent on these specific syllables. But the Animagus transformation is a different sort of thing altogether, and you don't use a wand to do it. All the books that try to describe it are so vague, it makes me want to tear my hair out. I wonder if any of the blokes who wrote these books could even do the transformation themselves. It's all so mystical, with long boring chapters about how you're supposed to meditate to try to channel your inner spirit animal. And a whole lot of stuff about something called chakras that I don't understand. How can a book explain to you how the inside of your mind works, especially if you're changing into something you're not?

I haven't quite worked up enough nerve to ask the Headmistress anything about it. I don't want her to suspect I'm working on this.

I've only found one thing that gives me any kind of real clue. There's this one book the Headmistress had, real slim, more like a pamphlet, called *The Beast Within*, and it suggests the beginning of the transformation starts in the fingernails and the hair. And the first step in mastering it is figuring out how to make your fingernails grow, like really fast. Or your hair. It's part of your body, and a part that's always changing, but sort of a dead part, see. I guess that means that if you cut your hair or your fingernails you can't feel it. Which I guess sort of makes sense: if you're trying to use your magic to mess with your body, it's better to start with something that won't hurt if you get it wrong. Anyway, near as I can tell, what it's suggesting is that if you can figure out how to make your fingernails or hair grow really, really fast, so fast you can even see them changing, then you've got a shot at mastering the transformation. And then, after you learn how to make them grow, the next step...and the harder one...is to make them shrink.

So anyway, I've been spending the last week staring at my fingernails, trying to figure out how to tell them to grow.

Nothing's happening so far. Except that staring at my fingernails so much makes me

realise I probably should keep them cleaner. And it makes me feel sort of like an idiot.


---



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-10 21:46:19](#)  
(no subject)


Sorry the books didn't do you much good. We'll continue to keep our eye out for anything that might help and maybe check the shelves again in a month or two, in case any stuff has come back in that was checked out.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-10 21:51:14](#)  
(no subject)


Thanks.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-10 21:47:22](#)  
(no subject)

That's interesting stuff about the theory, though. But I bet I wouldn't be able to make any more sense of the books than you can. Transfiguration textbooks baffle me, even the ones for beginning students.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-10 21:49:28](#)  
(no subject)

Well, maybe that's just because you've only ever had Master as an instructor. The Headmistress would do a much better job of teaching anybody, except she can't because she's in charge of the school.

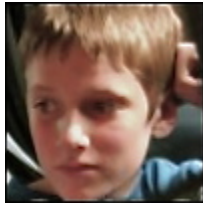
You always do better whenever Sally-Anne Perks goes over stuff with you, right?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-10 21:50:37](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I do. When I get into the Transfiguration classroom, all the stuff just seems to fly out of my


head whenever Professor Carrow calls on me. Somehow when he looks at you it's just hard to think, you know?



 **alt\_terry** at [2010-11-10 21:50:55](#)  
(no subject)

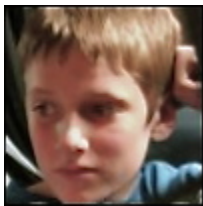
I know just what you mean.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-11-11 00:03:54](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think the stuff in books helps very much. I mean, for me, I do stuff best if I can see someone else do it and then try it. And I think it's loads better to have someone tell you about while they're showing you than to read some old book while you're sat in the common room. Or, y'know, for me when I am.

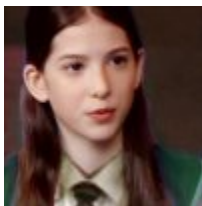
Anywiz, have you ever seen someone change? Shame none of us is an animagus or we could show you and tell you about it.



 **alt\_terry** at [2010-11-11 01:28:53](#)  
(no subject)

The Headmistress is one, actually. She can turn into a cat. But she doesn't do it very often, and really never when I'm watching her.

And like I said, I don't see how I could dare ask her about it.

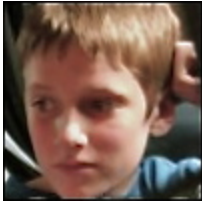



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-11-11 01:26:05](#)  
(no subject)

Hair and fingernails, really?

I used to think I would LOVE to learn to do an animagus transformation but as I've learned more about Transfiguration, changing things about my own body has started to scare me a little. I worry I wouldn't be able to change back. I'm not sure if animagus ever get stuck, you know?





 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2010-11-11 01:36:34](#)  
(no subject)

That's the one thing the books ARE really clear about: it's a very dangerous thing to try to do. People have gotten killed doing it. Not so much because they don't know how to change back, but because they get stuck between the two forms. Like how would you breathe if you got stuck between the lungs of a human and the gills of something that swam underwater? Or they die when they make a mistake by changing wildly into a form that doesn't really exist. Or they WANT to be one kind of animal, like, say, a lion and try to change into that, but their real animagus form is something more like a mole or a mouse.

One of the worst books had pictures of what was left when some of those people died. But that book was mostly about Dark Arts stuff (REALLY creepy stuff-like how to use the parts from the bodies of people who died from failed Animagus transformations in POTIONS. Ugh.).

**2010-11-10 15:53:00**

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



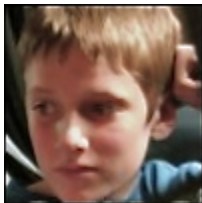
 **alt\_neville**


This is the first morning since last Saturday that I felt like I really got enough sleep. I've been having nightmares, I guess. I don't remember them, but Ron says I've been mumbling in my sleep, and thrashing around a bit. Seamus gave me a funny look when we were getting dressed this morning. Makes me wonder what on earth I said.

I guess it gives him something else to complain about me to other people besides my snoring.

Of course, when I was through with Transfiguration class today, I was wishing I'd just stayed in bed with the covers over my face. Blimey, that's the third detention Professor Carrow's given me this month. And he gave me a 'T' on my last essay, too.


Hope there's pudding for dinner. I could use something to cheer me up a little.



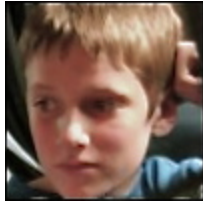
 **alt\_terry** at **2010-11-10 22:03:03**  
(no subject)


Dementors will do that to some people. Give them nightmares a few days afterwards. You could go see Madam Pomfrey maybe if it stays bad.



 **alt\_neville** at **2010-11-10 22:04:21**  
(no subject)

Hadn't thought of that. Don't want to be a bother, though.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-10 22:06:40](#)  
(no subject)

Don't be silly. It's her job, you know?


And besides, if the Dementors are getting to be too much for the students, she needs to know about it. That's information the Headmistress can use if she wants to try to argue with the Board of Governors that they should be kept farther away from all of us.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-10 22:08:09](#)  
(no subject)

Hadn't thought of that, either.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-10 22:11:07](#)  
(no subject)

It's nothing to be ashamed of, you know. They just affect some people more than others.

You didn't think any less of Sally-Anne Perks or anything did you?

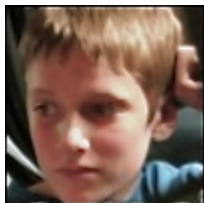



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-10 22:12:05](#)  
(no subject)

Of course not.

Well, like I said, I slept okay last night. I'll go see Madam Pomfrey if I have trouble tonight.


Promise.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-10 22:13:13](#)  
(no subject)

They affect Master pretty badly, too. Although he does all he can to hide it.



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-11-10 22:15:53](#)  
(no subject)


Blimey. I don't like to think I'm like him in any way.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-11-11 01:27:43](#)  
(no subject)

Madame Pomfrey might also have better chocolate than your prefects. Ours gave everyone chocolate after the quidditch match but it wasn't until I ate some of Pansy's chocs that I really started feeling better. I think the chocs the prefects have might be part-transfigured, they don't work as well.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-11-11 00:06:43](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. We'll all be glad if you sleep better.

No, really. I'm glad you're better today. ~~You've been so~~

Shame about Carrow giving you detention again. What's he making you do?



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-11-11 00:45:50](#)  
(no subject)

He busted two containers of blood on the Transfiguration storage closet floor and he's making me clean it up. With a toothbrush. No magic, of course. He pretended it got dropped by another student, but I'm pretty sure that's a lie.

Dunno where he got the blood. Am pretty sure I don't want to know.

And I guess the message is pretty clear.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-11 01:20:25](#)  
(no subject)

That's just sick, Nev.

Sounds like it's time to break out some Weasley ingenuity. He needs some payback.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-11 01:21:22](#)  
(no subject)

Are you crazy?

Look, don't do me any favours like that. Pranking him is like prodding a Hungarian Horntail.

No thanks.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-11 01:39:09](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, you probably don't want to know.

I'm sorry, Nev.

**2010-11-10 19:40:00**

*Visit to Taunton Deane*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

Had a most pleasant visit with the head man at Taunton Deane, a Mr Charles Chicory. He's only been in the position for a year or two, but his work has been quite impressive. I am thinking of bringing a few in the Department by in the next month so that he can conduct similar tours for them, because I think cross-fertilisation of some of Chicory's ideas in the other camps would be splendid. It really should be a model, an inspiring example of how Our Lord's intentions concerning the proper role and situation of Muggles have been brought to full fruition. A harmonious balance, for the betterment of all, especially, of course, true citizens of the realm.

The population is quite low, which helps of course: less burden for district in terms of keeping the animals fed enough to work properly, etcetera. This is due both to the fact that the ratio of Sleepers to working Muggles is a trifle higher than it is in neighbouring districts, as well as the reality that this was an area hit hard by Black's paralysis. The bunkhouses are actually uncrowded, which means less disease now, of course.

Discipline is admirable. The Muggles show up and work when and where they are told, with no complaints. Chicory says that he made a few terrifying examples of some who attempted to skive off, the first month he assumed his duty (I forbore from questioning him concerning the details), and there have been few problems since. Since things have been running so smoothly the past six months--not a peep anywhere in the entire camp, for example, during the latest Bonfire night--Chicory has actually resorted to occasional, carefully spaced rewards. Extra rations of sugar, that sort of thing. This, he explains, serves to drive home the point to the Muggles that they truly benefit when they cooperate with Our Lord's intentions for them (and of course, the lesson must be continuously repeated, as Muggle brains will not otherwise retain the lesson very well).


I was truly impressed during the tour: Chicory knew the names of many of the Muggle supervisors we met, and it was clear he was alert for any deviation or oddity. At one warehouse, he questioned the workers quite knowledgeably about supplies and inventory, showing a comprehensive grasp of the output of the factory there--and he still was paying enough attention to detail to quietly direct someone to

pick up the litter in one of the back doorways. They did so immediately, too: this was clearly a man that the Muggles instantly obey. At another worksite, we toured an area where the Muggles have been put to work pulling down old houses and churches to clear ground for new wizarding settlement. The work has been accomplished ahead of schedule, under budget, with little addition to the sick or injured list.

I was liberal in my praise, of course. It was rather interesting: Chicory did not preen or gloat in any way. But he did express one curious sentiment: 'I sometimes wonder if they're a little too good.'


I had to break off our conversation at that point, as I had to return to the office for a department-wide meeting. It was a curious remark, however, and perhaps I will question him about it further when I see him again next month.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-11 02:23:39](#)**  
*Order Only*

Sounds positively stomach-turning.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-11-11 02:35:51](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

Indeed. He is very good at his job, worse luck. He isn't cruel for the sake of cruelty, I don't think. Aside from the example he made when he started, and he deliberately made that bad enough that he wouldn't have to repeat it too often.

But it is very troubling. He obviously takes quiet pride in his work, and I had trouble continuing to smile affably as the details piled up: such happy slaves! Would that the entire realm follow his example!


I could also barely keep the tears from my eyes as I watched them pull down and destroy the steeple of a neighborhood church. The foundation had been laid in 1588.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-11 02:31:08](#)  
(no subject)


Will you be home anytime soon, dear? The ham is getting rather dried out because I keep reapplying the heating charm.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-11 02:32:11](#)  
(no subject)


I'm about to step in the Floo right now, Molly. Ham for dinner, even a late one, sounds simply marvelous, dried out or not.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-11 03:01:27](#)  
(no subject)


It heartens me to hear your report of a day that has gone as well as this one apparently did. It sounds as though it was a very inspiring visit.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-11 03:08:37](#)  
*Order Only*


And that's even more stomach-turning.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-11 03:09:49](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

He knows that official eyes watch this journal as they do any other. I've certainly emphasised that to him. Of course he couldn't say anything else.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-11 03:10:46](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

The thing is, with Percy, I think he believes it.






 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-11 03:11:31](#)

*Re: Order Only*

That is, unfortunately, one of your mother's and my greatest fears.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-11 03:17:13](#)

*(no subject)*

It was certainly a change from the type of camp visit I ordinarily experience, I'll admit.

Saw your post today with your report about your schedule, my boy. It made me weary just to read it. Do take care that you don't hit the books too hard. N.E.W.T.s are important, certainly, but don't forget this is your last year to spend at Hogwarts with your friends. Do take the time to give those ties some attention, won't you? They may serve you well later in life.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-11 03:18:46](#)

*(no subject)*

Father, as I am acting Head Boy, I assure you that you don't need to impress upon me the importance of school relationships.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-11 03:25:52](#)

*Order Only*

Merlin. What a prat he can be at times.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-11 04:25:01](#)

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

I suppose it's reassuring to see that Percy is as much of a stuck-up prig to his parents as he is to everyone else.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-12 12:54:59](#)

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

Ha.

Yeah.

**2010-11-10 22:09:00**

*Private message to Professor Brutka*

Thank you so much for your comments on my sketchbook. I will admit that I'm not very good at drawing proportions yet, but at least I have a good eye for colour, I think. At least Professor Sprout says so whenever I do sketches in Herbology. Since you liked the sketch of the Hebrides Squifflepud so much, would you like to keep it?



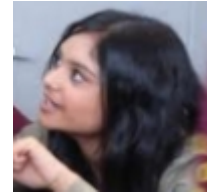
 [alt\\_luna](#)

Yes, I would love to help with the animal chores. I love taking care of magical creatures. I will plan to come down before breakfast on Mondays and Wednesday as we discussed.

I very much wish that second years could take Care of Magical Creatures classes. You are very kind to let me spend time with the creatures anyway.

**[2010-11-11 10:14:00](#)**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*



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

Well, that's over with, at least.

We're never letting Moon present at History Club again, agreed? Centaurs are one of those topics that ought to be amazing but in Moon's hands it's just.... I thought we came up with History Club to get away from Binns' lectures, not go to more of them outside of lessons!

Anyway, next week we'll do Founders' Night, yeah? That ought to get everyone back even if they left last night thinking they were done.

Do you want to spend some time on Sunday planning out what we're going to say? I could ask Parkinson and MacMillan to meet us in the library if we think it'd be helpful. I can't on Saturday anyway because we're practising for the first Model Wizengamot debate. You should really come, it's pretty interesting.

Can you believe Zabini? He's such a troll. I can't think what Daphs sees in him.

Oh, and I heard Longbum got another detention from Carrow! It's really astonishing that he can even function, isn't it? But I guess if Carrow didn't have Longbum to pick on, he might look elsewhere. He doesn't slag you at all, does he? I mean, aside from if you make a mistake. Does he care that you're the right sort or is he just all about halfbloods all being no good?



 **[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-11-11 17:11:37](#)**

*(no subject)*


No arguments here about Moon. It wouldn't have been so bad that he wanted to read the whole thing off a sheet of paper without ever looking up, if he'd at least written something more interesting.

That's a good idea about planning on Sunday. We should let Macmillan know how much time he'll have, too.

So far as I can tell, Zabini dislikes everyone who's not in Slytherin, plus more than a few who are.

And I've lost track of Longbottom's detentions. Carrow's a bit like Zabini, he doesn't like much of anyone. So long as he's busy hating Longbottom he mostly leaves the rest of us alone. He doesn't care what sort of half-blood I am, though, impure is impure as far as Carrow is concerned.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-11-12 03:52:38](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I figured we'd have MacMillan go last, that way he can't run on and on. (Besides, he's covering Helga Hufflepuff and she can't be all *that* interesting, she's a Hufflepuff!)

Incidentally, did you see that Professor Lestrangle sat over with Professor Sinistra and Madam Pomfrey tonight? And Professor Acton was looking hexes at them all through supper! I'm sure they fancy each other - Professor Lestrangle and Professor Sinistra, I mean. I think it's terribly sweet, don't you? I mean, it's a little weird to think about Professors that way, I mean they're so old, but it's not like they're as old as the Headmistress or anything. And neither of them have ever got married. I bet anything they get engaged before the year is over! Wouldn't that just scorch Acton's cauldron for her!


Do you reckon Acton will have a go at Professor Brutka next?



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-11-12 18:29:31](#)  
(no subject)

Hmm. Do you reckon he's her type? Or do you think 'her type' would be anyone male, of age, single, who's breathing and has a pulse?



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-11-12 18:39:23](#)  
(no subject)

Definitely anyone who's even remotely eligible! I'm half surprised we don't have to trip over a hundred cats on the way in and out of the Charms classrooms as is!




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-11-12 18:31:02](#)  
(no subject)

Are the teachers allowed to get married and still be teachers? I'd be sad if we lost BOTH Professor Sinistra AND Professor Lestrangle, wouldn't you? They're some of my favourite teachers here.

Acton wouldn't be so bad. To lose, I mean. She's not terrible but she's not great.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-12 18:46:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if the teachers are going to get up to the same sorts of mischief that the older kids do, up the Astronomy Tower (and as it's Professor Sinistra, I mean, how couldn't she know that half the couples in school use that alcove just before you go out the trapdoor?), then I reckon everyone would rather they actually are married and not just messing about.

Otherwise why would the Ministry make such a meal out of those pamphlets that tell us all how important it is to be able to prove the legitimacy of babies and all that?

I think it would be terribly romantic, actually, to think about two professors who met and fell in love like they are. I suppose someone will turn it into one of those romance novels like Lav's mum is always reading, *Bewitching Romances*. They're utterly sappy but it's just the sort of story they tell.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-11-12 18:57:38](#)  
(no subject)

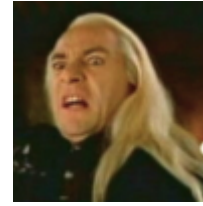
Maybe he'll send her a Valentine on Valentine's Day.

I'm sure Professor Sinistra knows about that alcove, she seems pretty clever. It's a big tower, though.

**2010-11-12 09:42:00**

*Private Message to Pontus Kendall*

Did you, or did you not, speak to your brother in the last two days? And might you, in that conversation, have mentioned that I did not know when Mrs Malfoy's issue of *Witch Weekly* came out?



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

If you did not, then why am I hearing that *Whirl* has reported that I 'have no idea' when my wife's 'triumphant return to modelling' is scheduled to appear before the nation?

There is a mountain of work awaiting me that is important and necessary to the continued operation of the realm. However, as a result of your idiotic remark, **this** ridiculous story in your brother's rag will doubtless consume far too much of the day.

Get him here. **NOW.** The three of us are going to have a discussion about what 'off the record' means.

**2010-11-12 18:25:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Well.

All right, I'll admit that Moony's news wasn't as bad as Frank's. But I still say that 'We need to talk' are the four worst words in the English language. Never anything good after saying that.


And you! I shall have to have a long think about whether to forgive you not giving me better warning.

Do me a favour, though: If she doesn't come 'round to it on her own in a day or so, help us convince Dora she ought to go see Poppy? I don't like her having to lie to the Healers down here.

Merlin. I'm not prepared for this. What if I were to just march up to Crouch and duel him in broad daylight? That'd be easier, I think. And possibly more fun.

Okay, no, I don't mean that. Much.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2010-11-13 03:43:28**  
(no subject)

Oh, love, I'm sorry for not giving you more. I know how you can get when you have a bit of a clue -- you worry away at it until you sort it out, and it just wasn't my news to tell. And, well, for a bit there, I wasn't sure which way they'd decide to take things, so it wouldn't have been right to just up and tell everyone before they'd decided one way or the other.

I will owl Tonks about Poppy.

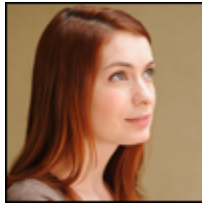





 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-13 04:06:53](#)  
(no subject)

Don't push her yet. She's got no shortage of Black stubbornness. If we all push she might refuse just to prove she can do it on her own.


I'll let you know if we need reinforcements, General.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-13 04:16:38](#)  
(no subject)


Please do. I can't imagine all the things she's having to sort through, but I know that when I was carrying Kevin, I was terrified that something would go wrong -- even after Stephen joined up with us and with Poppy on standby.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-14 18:21:27](#)  
(no subject)

No worries, Allie. She came to her senses this morning and we put her on the train to Hogsmeade. Well, I say we. Remus saw her to the station; I stayed to mind the shop for a while.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-13 03:45:34](#)  
(no subject)

And it's not bad news at all, you goose.

You're going to be an uncle! Well, in everything that matters, that is. I'd say that's grounds for celebration!




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-13 04:12:47](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that part's fairly good news. It's just - complicated. I mean to say, I know I should be happy for them both. But ... well, I suppose it must be how a bloke feels when his best mate and his sister start snogging. Like I ought to be telling him off, only I can't. And I ought to be slapping his shoulder, only I can't.

Did - have they told you they're planning to marry as soon as possible?

It's not the best reason to decide to marry, is all. And I don't mind saying I'd welcome the chance to corner Moony alone for a while. Find out what he's really thinking behind that wall of his.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-11-13 04:25:30](#)**  
(no subject)

That was one of the options Tonks and I talked about, yes.

And it's not the best reason, you're right. But it's not like we're working through the aftermath of a one-night stand - they've been together for months, almost a year, and even though they might not have been planning marriage quite this soon, it's still not completely inappropriate. And who knows? Her family might even see it as a step up, whereas if she were to go it on her own or without marrying him, well, she'd face a good deal of scrutiny, and I know it's something that would weigh rather heavily on her.



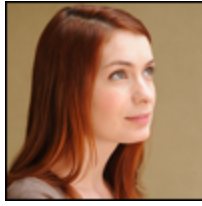
 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-13 04:47:33](#)**  
(no subject)


....

I don't know. I mean to say, they wouldn't be the first couple to be surprised. But there's something .... If you'd seen them I don't think you'd necessarily be so quick to treat it as a happy, if unforeseen, event.

As for the family, you know Dora doesn't give a quill feather nor a shrivelfig for them. But even if she did - well, I can hardly imagine them thinking that a shopman is a step up, even if he is a pureblood - which we both know he's not. And that might bring its own brand of scrutiny. Minerva can change the book, at least.

I dunno. I still think it might be better for her to come to you lot at Moddey Dhoo and have the baby there. Can't say anything just yet, though.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-11-13 05:07:57](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, they certainly have a good deal to sort through. And I suppose I'm letting my own unexpected happiness colour things a bit.

And Moddey Dhoo is open to them if they need it, of course.

**2010-11-13 10:01:00**

*ready to listen*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Today's YPL speaker sounds rather nift. He's a historian, but I think it will probably be different than what we hear in our history lessons. I know because I heard Professor Lestrangle say that the speaker was a lively historian, not a deadly one.

I think my Uncle might be friends with the historian speaker, but then he knows a lot of people so who can say for sure?

I hope the YPL meetings will keep being interesting, especially since Quidditch won't be so much fun anymore.

I don't even much like the idea of going to the matches, because what if the Dementors come again?

And I know it might be rude to the other Quidditch players to say so, but the matches won't be nearly so interesting to watch without Harry playing.

I heard he's not going to be allowed now, you see.

So it won't be nearly so exciting.

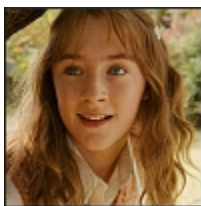


 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2010-11-13 17:19:34**

*(no subject)*

I'm sure I said that he was alive, not *lively*. And while it's quite true that Professor Binns is dead, I'm sure that no-one would ever describe him as deadly.

Certainly not I! So girl, have we got to sit you down and give your ears a good scrubbing again? A few amplified hearing charms? Or maybe you'd like it if someone hexed you up with some rabbit ears, hmm?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2010-11-13 18:24:51**

*(no subject)*

No scrubbing, my hearing is very good! But can you do that can you hex someone to have rabbit ears?


From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-13 18:25:21](#)  
(no subject)


Funny thing, Ducks, but I don't think it can really be called a "hex" when the person actually wants rabbit ears.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-13 18:00:57](#)  
(no subject)

So Harry really won't be allowed to play? That's dreadful news. You're right, of course - quidditch will be so dull without him to watch! And I suppose that means Draco won't be allowed to play, either. They might as well go and cancel the whole season.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-13 18:02:06](#)  
(no subject)


I am allowed to play, actually. If I want to.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-13 18:03:06](#)  
(no subject)


Oh? And of course you want to, don't you?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-13 18:04:13](#)  
(no subject)

It depends a lot on what the team wants. I might be the only person who can fill in for seeker while Harry's out.




 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2010-11-13 19:51:28](#)**  
(no subject)

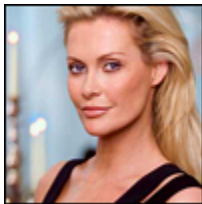
Of course they want you to fly. And surely there's not anyone better for Seeker while Harry's grounded.


I mean, I suppose the whole team could ground themselves while he's out, on principle, but what would that serve? And no one expects the whole lot of you to sit out during scouting season; it'd be daft to put careers on the line when we've got people who are definitely pro material. Which is just another reason they'll want you at Seeker: it'll show the side in the best light.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-13 20:44:15](#)**  
(no subject)

The team has a meeting tomorrow, so I'll be sure to bring your points up. I'm sure we'll be able to work out something that works for everyone and puts Slytherin at the best advantage.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-13 18:20:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I think your Uncle Raz would claim that Quidditch is always exciting. But perhaps it will not be quite so nerve-wracking while Harry remains on the sidelines. Though speaking for myself I am always concerned when your cousin Draco is playing.

And I very much doubt either of your Uncles would allow the Dementors to come back to another match, dearest. None of us were pleased with that.

Have you had any more nightmares since Saturday, since they came, I mean?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-11-13 18:24:09](#)  
(no subject)


When Harry plays the matches end in such an interesting way, though!

I don't know if I'm having nightmares, I don't remember my dreams very well, it seems.

I suppose that might mean they're not so bad ,~~except~~

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-13 18:41:56](#)  
*Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle*


Yes? Except what, dear?

I see your Mummy has written to you as well.

Somehow I doubt it was to teach you the hex that makes bunny years, hm?

It's only a few weeks until Christmas holidays, but if you need anything - anything you don't want to ask your Uncle about - you may always write to your Auntie Narcissa, all right?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-11-13 20:37:55](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle*

No it's fine, she's just giving me some advice on something.

I know that I can write you, Aunt Narcissa, thank you!

Oh, and I was going to say that I think I sleepwalk sometimes, is all, like I used to do when I was younger.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-13 18:20:46](#)

*Private message to Hydra Lestrangle*

I feel it prudent to let you know that I am aware of the last message you wrote to our Lord. Yesterday, He saw fit to share with me that you had finally desisted in your child-like infatuation, and had returned to a more appropriate position of distant but ever-vigilant servitude.

This was the first I had heard of your... *infatuation*. I had suspected, of course, but to have it confirmed - and by HIM, no less. You cannot imagine the shame you have brought upon me. That you should **dare** to think yourself more worthy of His affection than all the other subjects in the Protectorate is appalling.

Let me remind you of the lesson I have been attempting to teach you since birth: *you are nothing until you have proven yourself otherwise*. That you are from the Black line may be a gift, but it is also a curse. What you do with your name is what matters; that you were lucky enough to be born with it *means nothing*. Do you think that people honour me because I am a Black? A Lestrangle? They do not. They honour me because they know what I have done, and what I can and will do.

What have you done? What will you do?

Answer the question with actions, not words.



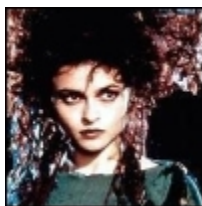
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-11-13 18:26:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle*

Mummy... I'm sorry.  
I will ~~try to~~ do what you want.

From,

Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-13 18:27:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle*

Words. Always. What is it you are planning to do, small one?



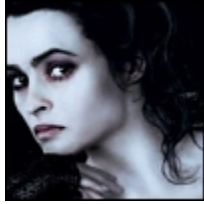


 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-11-13 18:28:39](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage*

I'm going to do what you want.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-13 18:29:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage*

Be more specific.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-11-13 18:30:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage*

But I thought I wasn't supposed to answer the question with words.

From,  
Hydra

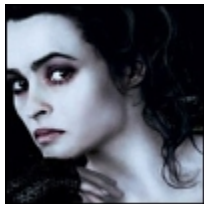


 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-13 18:31:08](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage*

Don't you try to get clever with me, girl.

Tell me what you are going to do. Now.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-13 20:35:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage*


I'm waiting.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-13 19:40:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Hey, Hydra! Are you coming to the party tonight?  
Please do!




 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-11-13 20:38:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Well probably, I don't know what else I would do  
otherwise.

From,

Hydra



 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-11-13 21:34:06](#)**  
*Private message to Hydra Lestrangle*

You're not going.

**[2010-11-13 14:10:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

The music party is tonight at seven! We could all use a bit of fun, so you don't have to be a third-year to come. Bring your favourite records, old and new.



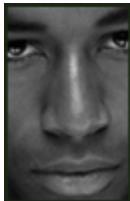
 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2010-11-13 19:38:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

Cooliest.

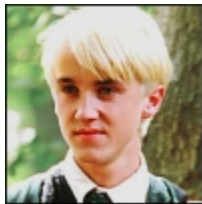


 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **[2010-11-13 20:13:11](#)**

*(no subject)*

...

You're always right here, hanging onto Parkinson's cloaktails, aren't you, Weasley?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **[2010-11-13 20:46:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

He and Longbun have got to take advantage of every open invitation that arises, or else they'd only have each other to bash about with.




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **[2010-11-13 21:31:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

Too true, that.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-13 21:32:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Stuff it, Zabini.


It's not like I'm going to spit in your pumpkin juice.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-11-13 21:14:43](#)**  
(no subject)

I can't wait!




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-11-15 15:40:57](#)**  
(no subject)

It was nift! We did need a bit of fun, after all.

Will the people at the WWN tell you anything later? I mean, about what they think of the surveys and all.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-15 16:10:40](#)**  
(no subject)

I agree!

And I certainly hope so. I mean, it's not all for us, but they have lots of opportunities for new programming, and it'll be really nift to see what they come up with - and even more nift if some of it is music we'd like to listen to!

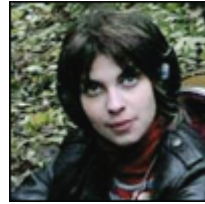


 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-11-15 23:55:47](#)**  
(no subject)

If you ever want any help with organising them, let me know!

**2010-11-14 06:07:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey*



Madam P

Could I come up and see you? There's something I need to talk to you about. If that's okay.

 [alt\\_nymphadora](#)


I'm going to come up to Hogsmeade on the train. I should be there tonight.

I know you have duties at school, of course, and can't be missed for long. But. It's quite important. If it's not too much trouble.

Thank you.

Tonks



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-11-14 20:42:55**  
(no subject)

Goodness, yes. Of course.

Are you coming on your own?

Do you have plans already for where you'll stay? If you'd like, Pomona says she could speak with her sister-in-law, who has a farm out beyond the station. It's not far from the village, but would be a bit more private than taking a room with Rosmerta.

In any case, I'll be most happy to meet you, dear.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2010-11-14 21:00:23**  
(no subject)


Thank you so much. Yes, it's just me. I hadn't really thought about where to stay, I was just going to see what turned up. But you're right, somewhere a little further out and more quiet would be right good, if

it's no trouble.

The train's due to arrive in a little while - it's the slow one, not the Express. We've been stopping and starting all the way up from London! Really made me appreciate the old school train.

Will you be able to get away this evening? Perhaps we could have a chat and I can explain everything, although I suppose you might've guessed, what with me taking the train up instead of apparating and all that.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-16 03:34:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

It was good to see you, and I'm pleased you are able to stay for a day or two more. It will give me time to double check everything for you. And, of course, it adds credibility to the story we've told

Tilda about your wanting to get out of London for a bit of country air.

Tilda's a good sort, but we've not given her any cause to think your visit a secret, and one never knows what she might say by the by to a friend or a neighbour. I know she thought it rather dear your wanting to catch up with your old matron.

Oh, and do rest assured that as far as Pomona knows, you are merely here on Order business. Bless her, she knows better than to press when information's not offered.

I trust things at the farm are comfortable and to your liking. Sleep well, and I'll be in touch one way or another tomorrow.

**2010-11-15 08:49:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*




Er...Draco...is Hydra okay? I mean, she's not possessed again or anything, is she?

Only, I don't think anyone thinks she's a failure as a subject, really, do they?

 [alt\\_padma](#)




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-11-15 18:31:22**  
(no subject)

I don't think so. She never did anything like that when she was possessed, remember?

If I had to guess I'd say she's probably gotten herself into trouble with her Mother, though who can say why, really.

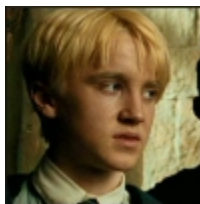



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-11-15 18:39:16**  
(no subject)

Well, I meant by something or someone else, this time. Not the same thing as last year.

But if you think it's her mum, I guess that sort of makes sense. Though only up to a point. Hydra wouldn't dream of doing anything to disgrace the Protectorate, so I don't really know why she'd have to say that she's such a disappointment.

Maybe if she took a more active part in something, it would help prove that she's really a good subject? Ooh, what if she had a part in the play? Or started doing Future Interrogators? I'll talk to Karoline Moon, maybe there's something she can write especially for Hydra.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-11-16 02:04:55**  
(no subject)

Aunt Bellatrix has a pretty strict idea of what it means to be a good subject, so her expectations are higher than most people's. Because of that Hydra gets punished for things that other people probably wouldn't be punished for. I don't much know what Hydra might've


done to get in trouble this time, though.

Hydra will do pretty much anything she's asked to do. I'm not sure it really means that she *wants* to do it, but she'll do it anyway. One time when we were younger we all went flying together and she looked over at me and said "I think heights are just so scary!" I could only gawp at her and say "so why do you fly, you silly nit?" You know what she said? "But you asked me to come with you."

Strange, isn't it? I'm pretty sure she genuinely likes to fly, now, but she definitely didn't start out that way.

I could talk to her and see if there's anything going on in the castle that she wants to be a part of, though.

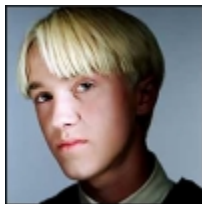



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:25:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I know that your aunt was pretty hard on Sandoval a while ago, but that was to push her to be better, so I guess it's sort of the same with Hydra, must be.

But I don't want her to think she's got to hide herself away with - you know, with people who are perhaps not really the kind of people your aunt would want her to hang about with, you know? Of course, I wouldn't want to press her to do something she doesn't really want to do. But if she just does whatever she's asked to do, then how can you tell if it's what she wants or not?

So yeah, perhaps you'd better talk to her first and see if you can find out. Only let me know and we can make sure it happens.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:39:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it's definitely kind of like what happened with Sandoval.

It can be hard to tell if Hydra really likes something or truly wants to do something, but it's just something you sense after a while. She seems to light up more about certain things, which is why I figured I'd mention different activities to her and see what she seems to respond to the most.



||| And yeah, I'll let you know what comes of it.

**2010-11-15 09:05:00**

*Private Message to Hydra*

Hey, Hydra.

Are you okay?



 **alt\_pansy**

I'm sorry you couldn't make it to the party. And I just wanted to make sure I didn't get you in trouble with your parents, because I didn't mean to. I didn't even think about asking you where everybody could see like that, or assuming you could come, so if I got you in trouble, I'm really, really sorry.

When I was bad during my first year, I had to stand in front of Mrs Black and say awful things about myself sometimes, so I could recognise them and fix them, but she never had me do it in front of everyone. So I'm sorry for that too.

If you want to revise later tonight, Sally-Anne and me will be working on essays and listening to records in our room, and you're more than welcome to join us. And the records are just for background, yeah? So it's not like a music party at all. Just revising with some friends. And revising is always good. But if you can't, or don't feel up for it, I understand.



 **alt\_hydra** at **2010-11-16 01:30:01**

*(no subject)*

Yes, everything is good, and don't worry you didn't get me into trouble.

It felt very good to unburden myself this morning, and I hope that everyone knows that I very much meant

what I said.

I really do need to revise, I need to improve my marks and take action that shows what I'm made of.

From,  
Hydra

**2010-11-15 14:08:00**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

It was another busy week-end for us. This week I really must get round to the list for our holiday presents - the ones outside the family, at least. I do dislike the impersonal nature of wines or fruit baskets but the season has been so non-stop I fear it will simply be impossible to give anything else this year, except in very special cases.

Still, that's why one has a clearing house, I suppose! It was ever so much easier with Folkestone to help put them together last year. There are still the arrangements to make for our party - only about a month away, which is frankly terrifying. And then there's the shopping for the family members and those few others and that does require some brainstorming. It's a challenge every year to think of just the right thing for everyone. (And no, Celia, I am not giving Lucius a subscription to the magazine, thank you, and nor should anyone. I think he would be perfectly happy if only his new clerk settles in quickly and with a minimum of fuss.)


There are a growing number of family members currently at Hogwarts who surely have ideas of their own about what they might like to receive. I await owls or private messages for hints from that quarter. (Raz - for the record, you are not going to get your traditional request this year, either. It's no use asking.)

I've been remiss as well in not getting back to Eudora regarding the plans for the Sisters in Witchcraft for the remainder of the year, nor to Mr Cooper on my decisions for the installations at Kensington. I admit that the final proofing of the *Witch Weekly* issue and several other matters have distracted me, but it is past time to attend to my obligations.

Oh, and Ursula, I've not forgot your question, either. Really it's no trouble. Just tell me when you've arranged it and I'll be happy to go with you for moral support. I'm sure it will be fine, at any rate.

---



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 01:44:39](#)**  
(no subject)

No divorcing Lucius and running away with me to Ibiza? Pity then, I'll have to settle for whiskey once more!




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 01:52:00](#)**  
(no subject)

This time of year, Ibiza would be lovely. But divorcing Lucius? What on earth for?

No, never. And as for your other traditional request, sadly I find myself fresh out of dancing girls, once more. At any rate, you find enough of them on your own, you certainly don't need our help!



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:07:10](#)**  
(no subject)


Because you'd been confunded by some nefarious party, no doubt. And you know, I have this feeling that this year I'll finally get those dancing girls. Yeah, this year's the year, I'm sure of it!



 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:08:29](#)**  
(no subject)

You've said that every year since 1975, with a brief break from 1980 to 1983. But it's been going strong ever since.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:08:53](#)**  
(no subject)

You keep track? You're sick.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:12:20](#)**  
(no subject)

He's not the only one, dear.


In fact if I'm not mistaken, 1980 was the first year you proposed. I recall pointing out the shockingly bad timing of suggesting that the mother of a six-month-old abscond with you to Spain.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:21:02](#)**  
(no subject)


You had that motherly glow about you. Plus it was so cold that winter and Spain really sounded good.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:08:45](#)**  
(no subject)

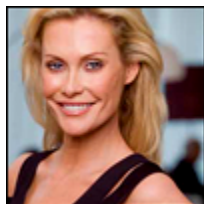
Oh? Are they planning a Christmas dance at the school then?



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:09:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Not that I know of.


But, now that you mention it...



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:15:24](#)**  
(no subject)

And you call your brother sick!?




 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:50:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Me?

Madam, I only meant that should we have a dance, some of our esteemed former, *older* students, like Miss Letitia Calderwood, might think to grace us with their presence.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 02:57:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course. (Yes, assuredly it's because you're not blond, dear.)

Coal for Raz, then, easy enough.




 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 03:02:28](#)**  
(no subject)

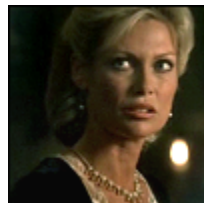
You know, all of this reminds me that I could use your womanly advice on something.


I think I had better put it in a Private Message. Lucius, you're welcome to read over her shoulder, if you don't trust me just because I'm not blond.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-16 03:03:26](#)**  
*Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

One Profesor Gwen Acton - how in bloody Erebus do I get rid of her?




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-16 03:15:34](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Perhaps if you showed her your poor spelling? Draco says she's a stickler for that sort of thing.

No? Well. In all seriousness, dearest - you do know how to say 'No.' I've heard you at least once.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 03:20:45](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

My quill is clearly defective.

And I *am* saying No. Only it would probably be more effective if I hadn't accidentally said Yes that one...or three times.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 03:29:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Oh, Rizzer.

Perhaps you need to back up your words with actions. Something that can't be mistaken for continued interest.

Really. You are an idiot sometimes, love.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 03:37:57](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

I can't slip away in the night like a charming incubus, as is standard protocol. It's a small castle, you know. And she's really not a woman who knows the meaning of subtle. Or casual. I've dropped hints the size of bludgers, too.

I suppose you're right, and I'll have to be direct for once.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 03:45:03](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

And serves you right.

Honestly, I don't see why you don't simply threaten to hex the woman if she attempts anything further. Or Confund her when she comes too close. I suppose that's because it's a small castle, too.

You might have thought ahead, you know. But then, you are a male.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 03:54:29](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Too male for my own good.

Well, I'll think of something. Or else she's likely to pass me off as her fiancé in her

Christmas cards.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 03:57:24](#)

*(no subject)*

That would liven up the holiday at Buckingham for the boy. I suppose he's still too young to help you with the unwrapping, though. Better to wait a year or three.

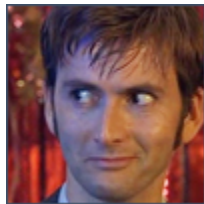
And if whiskey's been ruled out, I could put you down for a bottle of Pipstra's best pumpkin juice. Or I see Narcissa's deciding on coal. A solid choice.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 04:03:37](#)

*(no subject)*

And more than he deserves at that. I'm afraid our Raz has been *very* naughty this year.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 04:23:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Actually, I was thinking of getting him a holiday pass to that new reducing spa on Regent Street. I've heard rumours he's going soft up there in that school.





 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 04:33:21](#)  
(no subject)

Oh ho, not in the way you think, mate.


And who said that? Corby? Cos he's put on half a stone since this summer, easy.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 04:53:07](#)  
(no subject)

Does that make him an unreliable source?



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 04:57:17](#)  
(no subject)

No, it makes him a fat one.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 04:34:34](#)  
(no subject)

Soft? Not necessarily. Unless you mean in the head.

Besides I don't like the sound of those spas in the slightest. Even for someone as incorrigible as Razzer.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 04:56:26](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'll take your word for it.

And you may be right on this score, as well.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 05:13:36](#)  
(no subject)

I'm quite sure I am, in fact.


I'll not name names here but I have it on good authority that the places are disreputable at best and dangerous at the worst. Quick, easy results, perhaps, but at what price? Some things are best accomplished through real effort.

Why, I know at least two witches in the WI who had reductions last month and have already had to return - and not because their diets are any more indulgent or less healthy than most. Transfigurative magic simply can't hold a physical transformation like that and anyone who thinks differently must not have passed NEWTs.

At any rate, I'm sure you don't need to hear me banging on about diets! And I've St Mungo's in the morning in the bargain.

Pray do not be disappointed if Raz gets coal and you do not!




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 04:04:38](#)  
(no subject)

*Three?* That's...well, about right, considering. If he's lucky.

Ahem, you'd best brace yourself for coal, too.  
Last I saw, you weren't any more blond than I.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 04:09:36](#)  
*Private Message to Rabastan*

Ah, but Athena Belby would never presume to create joint Christmas cards with Barty!


Careful, dearest.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 04:23:33](#)  
(no subject)

If you know of anything Barty's done that half compares to your transgressions, Baz, I count on you to tell me. That is if you're bidding for his stocking to be filled with coal as well.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 04:28:53](#)  
(no subject)


I don't bid any such thing. I only know that if I have coal, everyone will want coal. It's the way of the world, surely?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 04:26:27](#)  
(no subject)

Very true.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 04:41:11](#)  
(no subject)

*Unwrapped*. Honestly. I didn't know whether to laugh or be spooked. It was a bit like.. yeah, best not say.

Don't mind me--as Narcissa can attest, I am most definitely out of my head tonight and in general.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-16 04:50:15](#)  
(no subject)

Easy there.

Just suggesting that some things might be more appropriate for other Christmases than

this one.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 04:51:57](#)  
(no subject)


Oh.

Now that you mention it - yes.

Well. Considering that he practically lived at Marlborough - *did* live there, much of the last few years - Yes.


And here our Barty claims not to have any talent for such drollery.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-16 05:02:01](#)  
(no subject)


As Barty says, easy, love.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 05:03:57](#)  
(no subject)

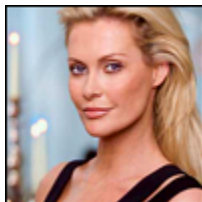
Oh, I'm fine, honestly, Lucius.




 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-16 02:18:15](#)  
(no subject)

You had your chance.

Or perhaps that should be rather, you never had one.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 02:19:22](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, stuff.




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 02:24:10](#)  
(no subject)

*Touché!*

It's because I'm not a blond, isn't it?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 02:32:47](#)  
(no subject)


Ah, there, you've guessed it.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 02:59:32](#)  
(no subject)

You're in a merry enough mood, too. First day went all right?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-16 03:03:54](#)  
(no subject)

No catastrophes thus far. I would not yet say that it went well - but he shows promise, at least.

**2010-11-15 19:02:00**

*Private Message to Pansy Parkinson*

Is everything all right in the dungeons? So many people in Slytherin seem a little...on edge and not themselves lately.




 [alt\\_susan](#)

I guess we'd all be on edge too if someone in our House was in danger.

---




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-11-16 02:25:41**  
(no subject)

Hey, Sue.

I think the dementors have everyone on more edge than lately. And it is sort of scary that there are people out there that want to kill Harry. But he's got Professor Rabastan, doesn't he? I'm glad for it too. I mean, if there's anyone who can protect Harry, it'd be him.

I think we might have to have another music party soon, though. Seriously.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2010-11-17 02:44:22**  
(no subject)

I know! I never thought I could get tired of chocolate, but I'm starting to! It's a good thing we all bought quite a bit on the Hogsmeade trip.

I feel a bit bad saying it, because Marvolo seems like a pretty good sort, but I'm kind of glad he's not in my House.

Some people are always on about Hufflepuff not getting enough attention but I'd as soon not have that kind. Although of course if he *was* in our House, I'm sure we'd be as protective as you lot are.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-17 03:38:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Hah! I just think that means you really are in the House where you fit best, is all. And there's nothing bad about that at all.

Hey, are you coming to the revision session on Thursday? Now that Patil and Finnegan took their favourite firsties to start a special study group of their own, we can really use the extra help, you know!



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-11-17 03:48:20](#)**  
(no subject)

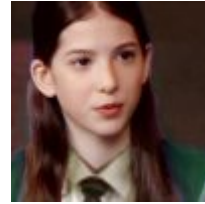
I'm going to assume you meant that nicely, and not the way someone like Patil would've!

Sure, I can come--it'll distract me from that Runes parchment I've only half-finished.

**2010-11-16 09:25:00**

*Private message to Mrs Malfoy*

Please excuse the intrusion, Mrs Malfoy, but I'm concerned about Hydra. At breakfast yesterday she stood up and announced to the whole school that she was a failure as a subject and as a daughter. Everyone is assuming that her ~~mum~~ Mum Mrs Auror Lestrangle told her to do this and if that's the case then I certainly don't want to interfere at ALL or criticise or anything like that because I'm sure Auror Lestrangle knows best.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

But, I'm a little bit worried that maybe something else is going on. Hydra keeps to herself a bit and so it would be easy -- well, if someone used a curse on her as some sort of horrible joke -- the bottom line is I'm worried. And I know you care a lot about your niece so you could ask Auror Lestrangle if it was her, because surely if it was NOT her she'll want the school to get to the bottom of it.

Last year Hydra wound up in quite a lot of danger, and so did Harry, and I think no one realised in time to protect them because Hydra was the one acting odd and so no one wanted to ask questions. I just want Hydra to stay safe and of course if it IS Auror Lestrangle who had her do it then it's for the best and I'm not for one minute questioning her judgement! But if it wasn't I want people to know as quickly as possible before things get any worse.

I feel much better just having written you; I'm sure that if it WAS Auror Lestrangle I don't need to worry for another minute of course, and if it WASN'T her, you'll know and someone will take care of it.



 **alt\_narcissa** at **2010-11-16 17:11:34**  
(no subject)

Thank you for your concerns, Miss Perks. I'm sure you are quite correct and that it is absolutely nothing that need continue to trouble you.

We are of course quite pleased to see that Hydra has such caring acquaintances at school.

I hope you have brought Slytherin House honour in other ways as well, this year, through your dedication to studies and of course your



participation in the YPL and the Sisters in Witchcraft.

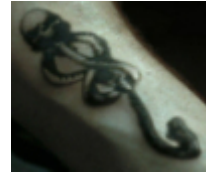
Regards,

Mrs Narcissa B. Malfoy

**2010-11-16 11:21:00**

*(no subject)*

Pigeons haven't been the only troublesome scum lately.



 [alt\\_amycus](#)

If there's any doubt, be it known that whether it's Saturday night, Wednesday at noon or Monday bright and early:

if I hear any more caterwauling, **it will get cut off**. I've dealt with it before, and I'll deal with it again. Count on it. Sworn by my blood's purity.

Besides, Justine needs her beauty sleep.



---

 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2010-11-17 00:01:57**

*ORDER ONLY*

he can't be saying what I think he's saying.

minerva, do you see this?

dealt with?

cut off?

cat, for merlin's sake?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2010-11-17 00:05:20**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*


the motherfucker did this to my babies

and he's a goddamn professor

that sadistic fuckhole killed my baby girl's cat


and she's got to sit in his classroom every day and he can go anywhere in the goddamn school and if he can get into the common room I don't know if my children are safe in their OWN FUCKING BEDS BECAUSE A GODDAMN PROFESSOR IS THE ONE THAT IS TERRORISING THEM



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 00:06:11](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*


I WANT HIS FUCKING HEAD ON A PIKE



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 00:06:33](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*


OR ILL DO IT MYSELF I SWEAR



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 00:08:30](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

if he so much as looks at them sideways thats it  
thats fucking it i dont give a flying fuck at the  
moon what itll cost me ill take it out of him in  
blood




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 00:11:09](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

FUCK

I CANT EVEN TALK TO HIM OVER THESE  
FUCKING THINGS


I HAVE TO STAY BEHIND THIS GODDAMN LOCK AND WATCH  
WHILE HE TAUNTS MY CHILDREN INSTEAD OF MARCHING  
RIGHT UP THERE LIKE A REFUCKINGS PONSIBLE PARENT  
SHOULD DO TO GIVE HIM THE BUSINESS END OF MY  
WAND



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 00:11:38](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

WELL IM FUCKING SICK OF IT IS WHAT I AM




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-17 02:41:29](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

If you need me to take a day off and come to crack a bottle of Firewhiskey with you, I can take the time. I can show up at Hogwarts as your proxy and find an excuse to knock some Carrow heads together if you like: I have children at the school too, after all, and Merlin knows they've directed bludgers at my own before.

Just say the word.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 02:56:43](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

thanks man


your a good dad you know that?

im just fucking useless

fuck

sorry henmonir




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-17 03:19:04](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

No, you're not useless, Frank. And anyone who runs Moddey Dhoo the way you do is a bloody fine parent himself.

Put the cork in the bottle for now, Frank. Wait to open it again until you have someone there to share it with.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-17 02:33:52](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Frank--


He--

Oh, my.

Percy mentioned something about the cat in his last letter. But you don't think...could he have done so, really, do you think? He doesn't have the password to Gryffindor Tower, does he?

Perhaps he's simply talking about the noise from the last music party?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 02:38:55](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

I'm sorry, Molly.

He doesn't mean

At this point, it's all supposing. But, well, I really wouldn't put it past him, after the things he's done to our Terry, and what he tried to do to our Hermione last year.



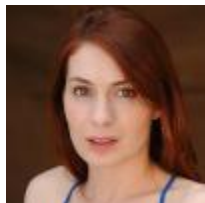
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-17 03:02:12](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Hey, I've just seen this. Moony and I have been - well, occupied - most of the day, and only just now sitting down to catch up on the journals.

Yeah, I believe it could've been Carrow. I'll know more for sure when I get back to Hogwarts, though.

When he's sober, tell Frank ... tell him that he'll get his chance at Carrow, if he's really behind it.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 03:11:52](#)

*Private Message to Sirius Black*

That might be a while.

But yes, I'll tell him, for what it's worth.

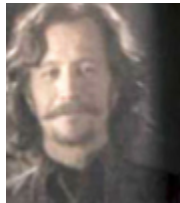


 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-17 04:11:44](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

I don't suppose you or Alice or Remus or Tonks are going to tell the rest of us what is going on, are you?

I saw Tonks on her night shift briefly one night the week before last, but she didn't seem to be in the mood to chat. She was looking downright peaky. I'm a bit worried about her, I'll admit.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-17 13:58:31](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

She's fine. Moony just keeps shedding all over the Laszlo shelves and I think it's driven her a bit round the twist. We gave her a couple of days off, that's all, so she could unwind herself.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 00:13:46](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Frank?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 00:14:24](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Frank? What's happened? Where are you?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 00:16:47](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

You answer me, Frank Longbottom.

Answer me here, or answer my patronus, but answer me.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-11-17 00:17:05](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

fine I'm coming to find you.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-11-17 01:58:27](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

dun worry

havnt gone way

jus pissed

back tom

back in n the morning promis

sorry

sorry

sorry hrmie too

**[2010-11-16 12:32:00](#)**

*Private Message to Rabastan Lestrange*



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Well, that was an interesting message.

While you were busy tucking up your robes, Raz, did you happen to notice our niece's announcement of yestermorning?

I've not seen anything openly in the journals, but that's because it's Bella, I'm sure. However, it did not go unremarked by all, it seems. Luckily there is some thought that she might have been the victim of a tasteless prank.

Did Bellatrix happen to tell you anything about why Hydra might require disciplinary action? I can't think what she might have done this time.

But really, if it were Bella's wish, couldn't she have asked you to see to it privately? Instead of forcing the child to abase herself in front of halfbloods and all manner of riff-raff?

And why didn't you say anything last night?



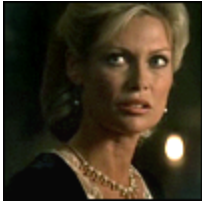
 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **[2010-11-16 23:02:16](#)**

*(no subject)*

I wasn't there for it, but I heard people talking. Finally got the full rundown from Sluggy this morning (which is why I didn't bring it up last night). We discussed if either he, as her Head of House, ought to approach her, or if I, as her Uncle, should do so. In the end we decided that we'd both let her know that we were available for her to talk to, so that she can decide for herself who she's most comfortable with. She hasn't come to see either of us privately yet, so far as I know. But she knows she can.

Don't know what else can be done, honestly. I'm ninety-nine percent certain it wasn't a prank, though, so if you're volunteering to take it up with Bella... by all means, Madam.






 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-16 23:28:03](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I'll take it up, all right.

And the problem is that *of course*, Hydra knows she can come to you. She knows she can come to me. She clearly doesn't think it would help in the slightest.


Does Rodolphus know about all this? I can't think he'd be best pleased to hear his little duckling has been humiliating herself in front of the whole school.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-16 23:39:00](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure he doesn't know, or he would have checked in with her straight away. I was just thinking of how to tell him, actually: Private Message or Owl.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-17 03:10:47](#)  
(no subject)

Owl him if you like. I think I shall visit tomorrow if I can. I would have done tonight but we had a reception that we couldn't miss.

Lucius thinks I ought to let be, that Bella knows best for her own children. But I can't think it's good for the girl - or at all seemly for these methods of my sister's to take their shape out where impressionable minds can misunderstand them.

**2010-11-16 12:35:00**

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

Hey, Perks. What are you writing Mrs Malfoy about? Are you having another meeting of that club thinger she started?



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Or

You're not in some kind of trouble are you? I mean, everything's all right, isn't it?

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-16 18:47:36**  
(no subject)


I'm not in trouble, don't worry.

I wrote to her about Hydra. I know everyone thinks her mum made her do it but Mrs Malfoy will know for sure.

Also, even if her mum did make her do it I thought Mrs Malfoy should know. Because she's nicer to Hydra than her mum is. (I didn't say that in my message of course, I just said that I was worried something strange was going on.)

I suppose Professor Lestrangle might have told her anyway but was he even AT breakfast that day? I couldn't remember when I thought about it later. Sometimes he has a lie-in. Do you suppose people are right about him and Professor Sinistra?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-16 19:03:55**  
(no subject)

Oh.

Now that was queer, her getting up and saying that stuff. And then sitting back down like everyone wasn't looking at her like she'd grown another head.

But I can't believe you put your oar in like that. Really? D'you go to sleep and wake up Gryffindor?

What'd she say? Mrs Malfoy, I mean. She wasn't cross, was she?

Um, I dunno about Professor Sinistra. I mean, she doesn't really seem the sort. Towler thinks it's Professor Acton that's after him, but Kirke did say he saw Professor Lestrangle going up the Astronomy tower one night while he was doing late rounds.

Wait.

Uh, you don't mean

I mean, Professor Sinistra's never at breakfast

or

ewwww



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-16 19:20:06](#)  
(no subject)

Oh don't be silly Ron. If I were a Gryffindor I'd have written to her MUM instead of her aunt!

I'm Hydra's housemate, it's perfectly appropriate for me to express concern about her to her family as long as I'm properly deferential, which I was. I think. Mrs Malfoy didn't seem cross. She knows I'm Pansy's friend and I'm in Sisters in Witchcraft so that also gives me a connection to her.

Considering Hydra's family she's precisely the sort of influential person I should be trying to do favours for anyway. Well, except that she's Hydra, her mum treats her like dirt, and I don't know if it would ever occur to her to use the influence she's GOT to accomplish anything anyway. But whatever. No one who matters will think less of me for trying to keep Hydra safe. Even Bellatrix Lestrangle can't really complain considering I said about five times I just wanted to be SURE it WAS HER and not some awful person playing a mean joke.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-16 19:21:19](#)  
(no subject)

Oh and Professor Acton is absolutely after Professor Lestrangle but I don't think he likes her


much, he keeps trying to put other people between them at meals and such. Although Cassandra is CONVINCED that he snogged her, I'm not sure why.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-16 22:25:59](#)  
(no subject)

Wow. I sure must miss a lot, cause it never occurs to me to pay attention to stuff like that.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 01:29:37](#)  
(no subject)

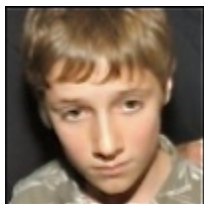
Well, and really, who wants to think about that sort of stuff.


I mean, it's just disgusting, innit?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-17 02:45:14](#)  
(no subject)

Ha, whenever I say something like that to my Gran, she just looks down her nose at me all beedle-eyed and says, 'You'll understand the point someday, Neville.'




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-17 02:51:47](#)  
(no subject)

By the way, Nev, did you see that last post Master wrote?

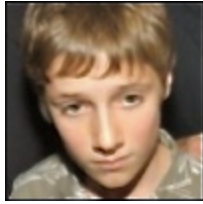
I was, uh, wondering if you made anything of it.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-17 02:53:15](#)  
(no subject)

I try to sort of avoid anything he writes. It keeps us both happier, I think.

Wait a minute. What's that word he uses? 'Caterwauling'? What's that mean?




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-17 03:01:25](#)  
(no subject)

It means, well.

It means making a really loud noise. Like a cat, you know, when they yowl when they're in heat or

something.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-17 03:02:34](#)  
(no subject)

Like a--

No.

He--

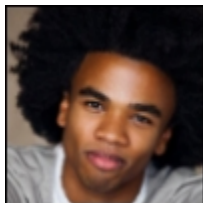
No.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-17 03:06:41](#)  
(no subject)

Bloody hell.


Do you really think so, Professor?



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-11-17 03:07:11](#)  
(no subject)

It does sound like him if you ask me.



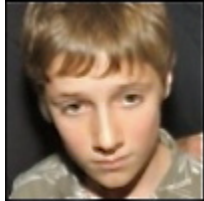
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-17 03:09:03](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah, but can he get into Gryffindor Tower though?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-17 03:10:30](#)  
(no subject)

Dunno, but bet he can. WE can get into HIS office, after all.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-17 03:14:07](#)  
(no subject)

And you'd stay out of it, too, if you weren't so mental.

Nev, I don't know for sure, but--maybe he could have arranged for a Gryffindor to bring him the cat? And then take it back? I realise it may sound mad, but...that's Master. He IS mad.

Anyway, I thought you should know. He has tortured and killed animals before. So I guess it's possible. I'm really sorry. But you might think twice about telling my guess to Evelyn; it's up to you.

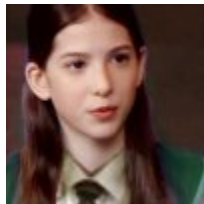


 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-17 03:15:51](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, urgh.

Yeah. Yeah, I guess it's best that you did say something. Dunno whether I'll tell Evelyn, though.


But I'll be keeping a close eye on her.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 05:13:04](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure he has no trouble casting the Imperius curse. If he needed a Gryffindor to bring him the cat, he wouldn't have needed to recruit a volunteer.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 14:39:07](#)  
(no subject)

You don't think he cast it on

Nev, d'you think Carrow might've done it on Evelyn? Made her bring him her cat?

Would she remember it if he did?


I mean

I guess he could've obliterated her after, too.

And that would be just--


well, it'd be worse.



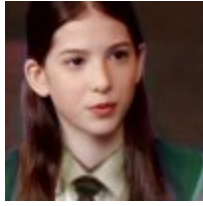
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-16 22:23:33](#)  
(no subject)

I felt ever so sorry for her, after she said that. Been thinking about it all morning. I know people sneer at me because of who my parents were, but blimey, I don't envy her a bit, having Madam Lestrangle as her mum.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-11-16 22:25:05](#)  
(no subject)

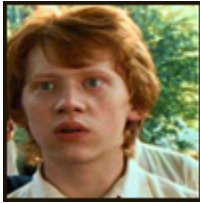
Still, it was nice of you, to speak up to Mrs Malfoy for her. Hope it helps. People are scared of her, because of who her mum is, but she's not a bad kid. I've never heard her be so much as cross at anybody.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 02:06:29](#)  
(no subject)

No. She's, well, she comes out with some really strange things like when she asked Hermione if it was her mum or her dad who was a swine, because on top of everything else her mum's lied to her for her entire life about all sorts of things.

But she'd never do something cruel on purpose.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 01:32:36](#)  
(no subject)

Really.

Having Mrs Lestrangle for your mum would be the worst.


I mean, it's no wonder she keeps to herself so much. If her mum's going to get hacked off about every little thing she gets up to at school.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 02:04:30](#)  
(no subject)

About the only person I can think of that MIGHT be worse to have as a mum than Mrs Lestrangle is Miss Professor Carrow.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 02:07:46](#)  
(no subject)

Wait.

SHE has kids?!!!






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 02:16:36](#)  
(no subject)

Not so far as I know! I'm just thinking if she DID she might be even worse to have as a mum than Bellatrix Lestrange!



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-11-17 02:47:51](#)  
(no subject)

No, she doesn't. Don't think she could if she wanted to. At least, she's never talked like she ever wanted any.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-17 02:48:34](#)  
(no subject)

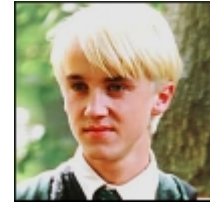
Snakes now, we could see, maybe, or lizards. Or those disgusting sorts of grubs you find when you turn over hollow logs.

But not kids. Merlin forbid.

**2010-11-16 16:12:00**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

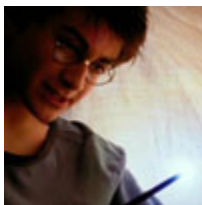
So I know I've already asked you, but are you sure you're not hacked about Sunday's meeting? Because everyone would much rather have you as seeker, you know. No question about it. And I know you've told me it's fine but... well, you don't have your broom and you don't have your spot on the team and I know it's not fine, don't I? I know it's not. But look, things won't stay this way forever. They can't. Snape and MacNair can't hide out that much longer, I'm sure of it. And once they've caught them everything will go back to the way it was before.




 [alt\\_draco](#)

I think we should work on that spell together, see if either of us can get any closer to casting it. I know the Raz is helping you during your lessons, but I'd like to learn to cast it too, just in case. I just really want to know what my patronus will look like too. That giant leopard is just so brilliant! I hope mine's a dragon or something equally wicked. It's just so hard to concentrate and think of something happy at the same time. The Raz sure is good at it, though, and he said it's like second nature by now so there's no reason why it can't be that way for us eventually, too. What do you reckon his happy thought is? I bet he thinks about all the girls he's snogged, past, present and future. Speaking of - are people still asking you about what's going on between him and Professor Sinistra? Daphs made some kind of probing comment about it when we were walking back from Creatures. I bet she fancies him like all the other girls do.

Now everyone's asking me about Hydra. What do they expect us to say? When it comes to what goes on between Hydra and Auntie Bella, it's just better to stay out of it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-11-17 00:24:26**  
(no subject)

Alright, I am hacked off.


Things aren't ever going back to the way it was. Father won't let them. The rest of my whole life is going to be following around after Father, and doing boring things, and not getting to be a real person because I have to be with him. And be LIKE him. I love Father of course but honestly I want to play QUIDDITCH. I want to be a Quidditch star. I dont want to be the Lord

Protector someday or even just a politician. I'm crap at politics you know that. I'm the worst Slytherin ever. So - now I can't even do the one thing I'm good at.

Its stupid to dwell though. I mean I know that. Raz says that. And he's right. Also we should practise the spell. Only I don't think that you ever get to have a dragon, it's always things like deer and wolfs and boars unless you're like Raz and utterly wizard. If you aren't lucky you'll get a fluffy bunny!!!

Don't know what they expect us to say about Hydra. Even Hermione asked me and I said, well, Hydra has her own problems. I mean we could deal with them when we were firsties and she can deal with them now. But I wouldn't wish Auntie Bella on anyone. Especially not me or you. But if she does try to ever really hurt Hydra, I'm going to tell Father.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-17 00:47:00](#)  
(no subject)

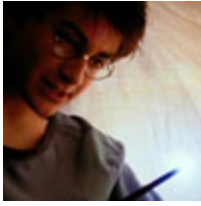
Sometimes I feel that way too. Like I'd rather do quidditch or play music or do art instead of *just* doing something important for the Protectorate. But then I thought, why not do both? Raz was playing quidditch at the same time that he was fighting on your Father's side, right? Plus quidditch players have to retire eventually, so we could do important things after we quit. I'm definitely going to try to do a bit of everything, anyway.


Someone as good as quidditch as you, though - it's like it would be a massive WASTE if you didn't play.

Your Father is going to live a really long time, I bet. Powerful wizards usually do. He'll probably be the one in charge forever.

Yeah, Raz said dwelling makes it hard to cast the spell. A wolf would be pretty wizard, though. Not as wizard as a dragon, but still cool.

Auntie Bella's punishments don't really hurt, I don't think. They can be pretty weird, though. More embarrassing than painful.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-11-17 01:13:05](#)  
(no subject)

Well if it were art or something that would be easy. You can do that for the glory of the Protectorate. I guess that maybe Quidditch can be that way too, but only if you make it to the World Cup.

I hope I get a big unicorn or something for mine. Is that too wussy?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-17 01:25:55](#)  
(no subject)

Kids and even adults love to go watch quidditch stars and even listen to them talk, though. A quidditch star who spoke about the Protectorate and showed up at big events could have a whole lot of influence. Especially if he was the Lord Protector's son.

Maybe if you started saying little hints to your father about how quidditch is really important to the Protectorate, he'd start thinking about it differently. I should probably think of some hints for you to say first, though - you might not be the best at thinking them up yourself, yeah?

If the unicorn's black or green or really huge, then I don't think so. But if it's all dainty and white? Not sure about that, mate.

**2010-11-16 21:23:00**

## *Differences between ignomy and infamy*

These two words look rather alike, and they are both states that one doesn't want to be in, I think. But there are subtle differences.



 [alt\\_luna](#)

Ignomy means great dishonour and humiliation. Not only does everyone rather hate you, but they avoid and dislike you because you've done something dreadful, perhaps even something ridiculous, so that you can't raise your eyes up to meet any other person's without blushing terribly. There's really nothing good about ignomy, I don't think.

Infamy, according to my dictionary, is all about evil fame and reputation. It brings an extremely bad reputation, public reproach, or strong condemnation as the result of a shameful, criminal, or outrageous acts.

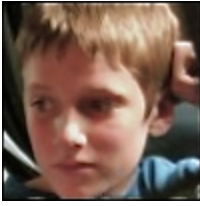
But who decides whether those acts are shameful or criminal or outrageous? That's what I wonder. If you have an enemy, and he does infamous things, you would hate him, but I suppose the people who were friends with that enemy, YOUR enemies, in other words, would rather like those things.


~~The way that Siri~~

I think that the difference between ignomy and infamy is that with ignomy, no one thinks the ignomious (is that a word?) thing is admirable or special. But with infamous things, your enemies might rather like them.

Except, of course, if the Lord Protector decides something is infamous. Then of course nobody may like it. Because He is the stand in and cipher for every one of us, all true citizens, I mean, isn't he? And no one can BE his enemy and expect to live, or at least to have any right-thinking person be their friend. That's quite convenient, because it helps people keep their ethical guidelines quite straight, doesn't it?

---



 **alt\_terry** at [2010-11-17 04:00:59](#)

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

I like her.

She's one that I think could have survived Master.




 **alt\_lee** at [2010-11-17 04:01:36](#)

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

What do you mean?



 **alt\_terry** at [2010-11-17 04:03:04](#)

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

If things had been different and she were assigned to him when she was small, I mean, like I was. Not that I'd wish him on anybody, but she isn't one he would have killed off right away. Because he never could be able to tell what she was

thinking.

It's nice to be able to actually like somebody that's in my House. Unlike those swots that hang around in the Ravenclaw corner of the library and look down their nose at everyone. Luna's not like that.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-11-17 04:30:30](#)

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

She's a bit too dangerous for me.

Like she's always right on the edge of getting into really, really big trouble. The sort you don't come back from. And what's more, I don't think it'd matter much to her one way or the other, which is kind of scary.

But you're right about the Corner. They think they are far, far more clever and important than they really are. Most likely going to end up a bunch of pencil pushers at the Ministry any ways.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 05:14:52](#)

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

Ha. Too right.

About Ravenclaw Corner, I mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-17 05:16:27](#)

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

I think you're right about Luna, too.

I think I COULD like her. But I'm a bit afraid of getting attached.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 14:58:02](#)

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

Yeah. You're not wrong about that.

I don't know what she's thinking when she says stuff like this out loud. Or, y'know, writes it down. Because the thing is, it's all about thinking. But stuff you ought to just keep in your own head if you're going to think it.

And she doesn't seem to care about that. Anyone knowing what she thinks, I mean.

Guess that's what got her father in trouble all the time, too.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-17 16:02:50](#)

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

exactly.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-17 15:01:27](#)

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

You know what's kind of surprising about what she's saying here, though?

The stuff about the protector she says at the end.

I mean, for Luna, that's kind of--I don't know. It's not what she usually does. Covering herself that way.

Don't know why she bothered writing it all out to begin with, though. But that's just Luna. She's just daft like that.



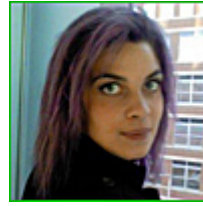
**2010-11-17 07:31:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to  
Remus Lupin*

Heading home today. Madam P says  
everything's fine.

Hope you boys are behaving, tidying up  
after the wild nights of debauchery, being  
decent to the dancing girls and so on!

See you later, yeah.



 **alt\_nymphadora**

**2010-11-17 09:54:00**

*XL.*

Goodness, it's been ages since I've used this book to record the things I'm doing. Of course, that's partly because many of those things must be obscured from public knowledge in the interests of our collective security, but it's also because I am devoting myself so fully to the Auror programme that I simply haven't time to write. And, oh, it is every bit as intense and consuming and fascinating and inspiring as I dreamed it would be! I've never felt so invested or so invigorated, ever!



 [alt\\_lana](#)

And, of course, we've all recommitted ourselves to work even harder since McLaggen was given the boot. We all agree that the cohort is stronger now we're free of him. His poor attitude did drag at everyone. But onwards and upwards, as Forney put it.

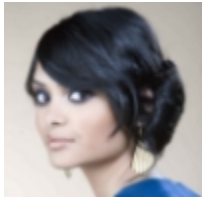
An Announcement of No Small Note:


Today I've got another topic altogether. I've something very exciting to announce so my friends at Hogwarts can share in the anticipation: this week certain Hogwarts sixth and seventh years will be receiving invitations to join St Mungo's Junior Auxiliary at its second annual Christmas luncheon, which will be held on Monday, 20 December. The seventh years know who they are, but the sixth years may anticipate the pleasure of being selected for this special honour. St Mungo's is a crucial institution in Our Lord's realm, and it is our duty as Our Lord's most loyal and capable subjects to support its mission with our contributions of time, creativity, and resources.

So, sixth years: watch this week's owl post for your invitation! My brother, Orion, and his co-chair, Flora Dames, will be arranging an informational meeting before the end of term to introduce new members to the organisation's goals and to begin planning this year's projects.

I look forward to welcoming those who've been selected at the luncheon.

Oh, and Orion: thank you for your notes on the prospects. I think you'll be pleased with our list when you see the selections. (You'll know what I mean.)



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-17 17:16:28](#)

*Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

McLaggen really did quit, then? Tamblyn and Page, they're sort of matey with McLaggen's brother and they said that Cormac said his brother wasn't being turned out just yet.

But I guess whatever you said to your brother must have done some good, and I'm glad! Though that explains why he and Dames have been off on their own a few times in the last couple weeks, very secretive. Moon thought Dames was just trying to keep him snogging anyone else - I mean, they were always in the library or the common room, so everyone could tell they weren't up to anything, but still it was so odd to see him sort of making nice to Dames after he'd been such a...well, sorry, Sandoval, but such an arse to everyone last month.

I guess he's feeling better though, and so is everyone else. Well, except I guess Chambers. She had to go back to Madam Pomfrey over and over.

Anyway. I can't wait to find out who got in to the Auxiliary. Wish I were going. I know it's only a few more years but it seems like ages away.

Oh! Did you see that Mum's *Witch Weekly* comes out in a week? You've got to get a copy - or better yet, just tell Mum you want a set of robes now, since I expect she'll barely be able to keep up with the orders once everyone sees the photographs. And this time you can even get colours, can't you? Since you've been presented or whatever?

Well, I'm sure you've got loads to do with your programme. Have you done anything really exciting recently? That you can talk about, I mean? What's been your favourite lesson and who's your favourite teacher so far?



 **alt\_lana** at [2010-11-17 23:29:16](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

McLaggen didn't quit the programme. Oh, no. He was hauled before a disciplinary review and sent down. Stands to reason his family's trying to hush it up, though. Imagine the shame!

I rather think Orion was not in best form when he returned to school, but that's all behind us. He has a lot to be going on with, too, this year; he's taking as many NEWTs as I did. Papa's always said that trading in magical merchandise of the quality and refinement he deals in requires a comprehensive knowledge of all the advanced disciplines. Of course, he can hire specialists to head departments like exotic creatures, foodstuffs, and the herbarium, but Orion needs to keep as full a slate as he's allowed in order to prepare himself to step into the business. Still, he's taking time to do his duty by St Mungo's, and that stands to his credit.

I'm pleased you want to be part of the Auxiliary when it's your turn. You'd be an asset to the organisation, I'm sure.

I've actually been assigned to do some work in the records room at St M's, but I can't say more than that about it. That's the trouble, of course, most of what we're doing is of a sensitive nature and can't be shared with the public. But I'll try to do better at writing the parts I can tell.

After Christmas we start in on surveillance techniques, and I'm looking forward to that especially because we'll get to assist some of the Aurors who do a lot of that careful work. It's very methodical, you know, and takes a great deal of patience, control, and mental sharpness to play the cat on the hunt for naughty mice.

And then in February, I think, it's on to curse detection, weaving, and breaking. I'm hoping I might be able to do a project with Mr Lestrangle; he does especially interesting work for the department, and I think they always give him the thorniest cases with the most ticklish traps.

And, oh. *Witch Weekly*. That's all anyone's talking about, you know. Yaxley was at some opening and ran into the photographer who did the spread: I guess they caught a spy from one of the gossip mags, trying to filch some of Mrs Malfoy's shots so they could scoop WW!

Imagine needing special security to protect a magazine issue!

Anyway, ta. I have to run off now. I'm meeting some friends for supper.

**[2010-11-17 10:34:00](#)**

*Private message to Molly Weasley*

In reference to our little disagreement over dinner last night, I happened to catch a glimpse of a headline on the latest issue of *Witch Weekly* when I stopped by the newstand to pick up my evening edition of the *Daily Prophet*. Apparently, the mavens of fashion have spoken, and a manly stubble on the chin is considered *de rigeur* this season for capturing the fascinated attention of witches. I hope you can appreciate the sacrifice I'm willing to make for the sake of fashion.




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

On the other hand, no, I'm not getting rid of the earring.


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 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-11-17 16:44:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, Bill! All teasing aside, if only you'd let me cut your hair! I'm surprised that Massopust hasn't said something.



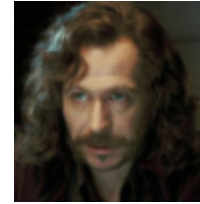
 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-17 16:45:30](#)**  
(no subject)

He's had plenty to say, believe me, but not a thing about the length of my ginger locks. I hope that reassures you.

**2010-11-17 14:14:00**

*Order Only: Laszlo's back ('black?') market*

Arthur asked what's been going on down at Laszlo's of London, with Remus and Dora and all, so I thought I'd give everyone a bit of an update.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

There's quite a lot happening, but not much to really tell, if you understand what I'm saying.

Dora has been trying to work on the back courtyard to get it usable before the winter really sets in. Just the past few days that I've been here, we've perfected the charms that will keep the noise down, so as not to alarm the neighbours, and we've also scrounged up the last few items we need for the counters. Remus had already done quite a lot of work on the kitchen in the abandoned house across the back garden, so our staff can use it to store the bakery goods and most importantly the liquid refreshments.

Those have been coming in via Folkestone and other Dover agents, largely courtesy of Laszlo's of Europe - Aleks is doing a bang-up job, by the way, there's never been a break in the shipments that Remus can speak of - so we've been dividing up the stock between sale bottles and a certain number to uncork and serve in the back. Dora's also talked to a few of her friends in the old neighbourhood about keeping the place supplied with fresh-baked goods. Right now, many of them have some transfigured ingredients, but I figure once it gets going, perhaps her cadre of witches would like to accept barter payment in real sugar, enriched flour, etc., to make the fare a bit more high-end. (Remus could sell some of them in the shop proper, then, too, and keep things all the more legitimate in appearance.)

We've - I should say, Remus has - hired two half-blood clerks to help run the operation, front and back. They're good blokes who've got the right attitude: A customer is a customer, doesn't matter if they're servants or masters. I think we'll have to consider some area warming charms if we're to keep the place running through the winter, or else flow everyone into that abandoned row house out the back. Either way, it's just about ready to go, I think. Pity we can't have a grand opening.

Like I told Arthur, we sent Dora on a sabbatical for a few days - nothing to worry about, just time for her to take a deserved holiday and get some rest. Moony and I have been using the time to catch up

and talk a bit more about Grimmauld.

We went round there a couple nights ago, to get a look at it. Old place is just as gloomy as I remember it. I could feel something *pull* from across the square, like the house wanted me to turn the handle of its doors and open it up. I wish I could be sure that if I do, the rest of those vultures won't realise it at once. Maybe over the holidays we can prepare some protective spells and if we work quickly enough, I can unlock it and we can immediately shut it back up again to anyone outside. Maybe not. I still don't know what to do about that, sorry.

Anyway. Dora's on her way back, so I'll clear out for the reunion and make my way north again. Maybe check on Terrie, see how she's getting along, and if she's got any news for us worth the having.

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 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2010-11-17 20:44:37**

*Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

How's Frank's head this morning?



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-11-17 23:41:11**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

If it weren't for Stephen, I'd imagine it'd be properly hurting, like it ought. As it is, the only thing that's sore is his pride.

He's been a man of action for so long, I just think it just about kills him when he has to stand by and watch. And it's been worse as of late. Sometimes I

Well, I don't like seeing him like that.

But yes, he's back, and mostly back to himself.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2010-11-18 01:42:14**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

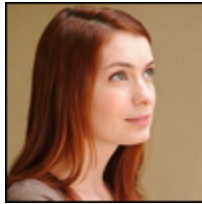
I know how he feels. I mean to say, I know I was living rather pretty on the continent, but it was difficult beyond belief, not knowing what was happening on this side except by the briefest notes and smuggled




messages. And then to be connected by journal but cut off from everyone by the wards - well, that was harder in a way. And now .... Every day I pick up my journal and start to write a new Grim Truth. And every day I stop myself, remind myself that I'm supposed to be dead. In a way I really *would* rather be back in the open, even if it meant the whole lot of them came after me all at once.

We need a good uprising at the camps, or maybe we could indulge Turner for once and let him mount an assault somewhere that Frank and I could join. My wand's getting rusty, anyway. Bit of practice would do me good. Work out the frustration of it all.

Especially after



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-11-18 03:10:25**

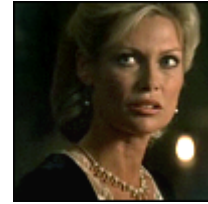
*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

He did enjoy tromping around the countryside with you. I think it made him feel more... useful. Merlin knows he puts in the work of two men at Moddey Dhoo, but I know he misses what he used to do. And seeing that awful Barty Crouch and Bellatrix Lestrangle, not to mention Sandoval going on and on, well, that doesn't help matters either.

Another baby's bound to come along sooner or later, and he'll be able to feel like his old self again at least for a little, so that's something. And if you ever want to go tromping again, I think he really would appreciate it.

**2010-11-17 20:52:00**

*Private Message to Bellatrix and Rodolphus Lestrage*



Bella,

In all honesty this message is really to you, but I wanted your husband to be able to weigh in if he so cared.

 **alt\_narcissa**

I went out there this afternoon and convinced him to bundle up Rigel and come back to the Manor for supper, in fact. That's after he told me you were spending the night in some field or other.

Which is why I've decided to send this, even if it's not the most secure method to talk.

Bella. I'm not entirely sure what you were about, telling Hydra to announce to all of Hogwarts that she had failed you *and* the Protectorate, but I think you ought to know it caused quite a stir. As that was undoubtedly your goal, let me assure you that it was not received as you surely wished.

I can't think what she might have done to upset you, dear, though clearly she's managed it. Only next time, you might ask Rabastan to devise something for her - or at least set her a punishment that doesn't parade our family's affairs before several hundred witnesses. She's not one of the rabble, after all.

You've built your reputation on your fearsomeness, dear, but you gain nothing and perhaps even raise eyebrows of disapproval by demonstrating to all that your fierce nature extends to terrorising your own child.

Please, next time, just - keep it private.



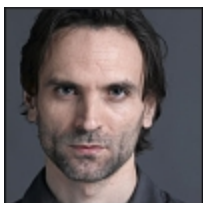
 **alt\_bellatrix** at **2010-11-18 02:31:58**  
(no subject)

Oh, so is that what she declared to all of Hogwarts, then? And you assume it was account of my orders. Before you think you have the complete picture, then, I'll have you know that in my last discussion with

Hydra, I strongly advised her to demonstrate what she is made of, and what she stands for. The girl is all too content to lurk in the shadows. The sooner she understands that I will not stand for that, the better.

She knows, as does Rodolphus, that nothing will ever be handed to her. Not while I have a say. I don't really care of the rest of the world knows the same.

Now, I have a surveillance mission to return to.



 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-11-18 02:34:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Love, surely no one thinks her spoiled or over-indulged. She's one of the most humble children one could ever hope to meet. You're to be congratulated for that, to be sure, but have some faith. She'll take her place in due time.



 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-11-18 02:47:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I cannot afford faith when she has, her whole life, shown troubling signs of introspective self-indulgence and cowardliness. She's always been too content to just be. The only answer is to prod her, to motivate her into action.

Look to Rigel and think of how she was at that age - barely bold enough to set a toe out of her cot. And Rigel...not even two years old and he's already brashly explored most of the house, expanding his little domain day by day. Who knows what accounts for the difference - perhaps he was simply born under a better sign.

One thing I do have faith in: Hydra can overcome her predilection for passivity if she is given proper motivation to do so.

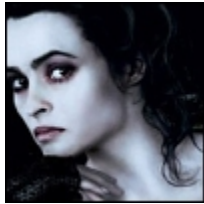



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:08:23](#)  
(no subject)

But the *form* of that motivation, sister, that's what's not working.

When you interrogate a suspect, if one method does not induce him to talk, do you simply go on using the same tactic? No, you change your approach and so work through his defences to get to what you need to know.

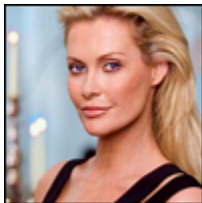
Well, you have been brow-beating Hydra for twelve years and not produced the results you desire. Perhaps it's time to change your technique.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:11:27](#)  
(no subject)

Cissy, you are not not altogether aware of the different techniques I have tried.

If you're suggesting that I indulge her, then let me point out to you that she has you and Rodolphus and Rabastan and Mother and who knows who else for all that.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:15:35](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Bella.

We don't matter.

It's you she wants to please the most.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:16:50](#)  
(no subject)

I've made it fairly clear what she must do to please me.

You suggest that I lie? Pretend that I'm pleased when I am not?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:17:48](#)  
(no subject)

Do you expect her to lie as well? By pretending to be something she is not?




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:21:12](#)  
(no subject)

I expect her to become what she was meant to be.

Answer me this. You've given Draco a guitar, some music lessons, and a little dream of being a star on the wireless. What if, on the day he leaves Hogwarts, he tells you that he plans to go off and join the Dark of the Morg, or whatever it is.

Do you allow him to do it? Do you not at least regret a little that you let him nurse such dreams in the first place?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:33:42](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I don't think it will come to that, precisely, but I do take your point.

My answer is that as long as he upholds the family and sees to his duties, if he can do that, then whatever hobby he wants to pursue is his own.

No, I don't regret letting him try.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:38:41](#)  
(no subject)

You don't regret it now. But time will tell.



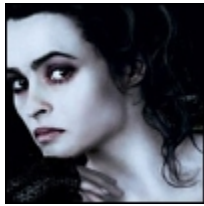
 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-11-18 03:13:24](#)  
(no subject)

More carrot less stick, yeah? I've said it myself before.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:28:06](#)  
(no subject)

Not precisely, though I do agree she could do with a little more indulgence and still be far from spoiled.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:33:51](#)  
(no subject)

If you two enjoying swapping parenting advice so much, then why don't I just leave Rodolphus so that you and he can raise the girl together.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-11-18 03:35:10](#)  
(no subject)

That's not quite in the spirit of our beloved Protectorate, my dear.

But we're not conspiring against you, I promise you that.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:37:15](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, dear, why don't you? After all, you do have a surveillance to conduct.

Rodolphus, I suppose that means we have permission. Your poor brother will have to console himself somehow when it's you and I sunning ourselves on the shores of the Mediterranean.



 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-11-18 03:45:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Bollocks. I have a feeling that's the last we'll hear from her tonight.

Maybe she'll sleep on it.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-18 03:53:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Perhaps.

Oh, I don't know. Perhaps I was wrong to meddle. I just - dislike to see the girl so thoroughly subdued. I feel sure a little encouragement would do her wonders.

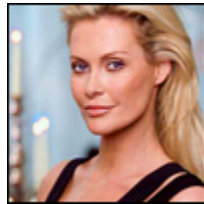
Aunt Walburga used to say that Reg was only what remained of a bad bargain. I've always wondered if she'd been able to show more affection if things would have been different for him.




 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-11-18 03:58:01](#)**  
(no subject)

You meant well, Narcissa. I know she knows that. Deep, deep down.

She may be less forgiving with me, however.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-11-18 04:11:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you can always bunk down at the Manor if she turns you out.

If nothing else, it will guarantee I'll see my nephew more often!




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 02:48:40](#)  
(no subject)

I assume that she would not have felt the need to make any such pronouncement had you not required some type of grand gesture to demonstrate her regard for you.

If Hydra lurks in the shadows it is only because you try to make her into something she is not. As Rodolphus says, she will have a place and she will come to know how best she can serve, as do we all. I hardly think she'll have the room to find that niche if you intimidate her into thinking she is anything other than a loyal and faithful subject to Our Lord.

There is a difference between not caring if the world knows she is not spoiled, Bella dear, and ensuring that they do know that her mother has her completely cowed.




 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:05:56](#)  
(no subject)

She has lurked in the shadows since she was very small, Cissy. Observe what I said above to my husband. And I was not trying to "intimidate" her then - I was scarcely even around. There was far too much to be done in those days.

I lived in quite desperate fear of failing Father and it only did me good.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-18 03:14:52](#)  
(no subject)

But Bella, dear, Hydra is not *you*. You're quite right: she has *always* been retiring. A delicate nature requires a delicate touch.

I don't think you tried to intimidate her - you simply did do. I fail to understand how you can be so proud of your effect on grown wizards and yet be so blind to how it impacts on your own daughter.



And do you think I ever wanted Father disappointed in me? Of course not! But I don't recall him ever shaming us publicly as a mechanism to control us, either.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-11-18 03:27:08](#)

*(no subject)*

I've been more delicate with her than you realise, Cissy. Just because you don't see it, does not mean that it never happens.

**2010-11-18 10:16:00**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I got five owls at breakfast, and yes, four of them were from my parents with birthday presents.



**alt\_michael**

And Bitsy sent a card. She says she made my mum send me that Sing-Ami thing. That was the crup that sings. And I'm sorry it went off in lessons. I didn't have time to put it up in Ravenclaw Tower so I stuffed it in my bag. (Mum said that Bitsy's got three of them already and I can't think why she thinks they're so nift.)

Anyway. So I'm fourteen now. My parents sent a load of stuff - a box of sweets and a new pair of trousers and a really snitch telescope. And Mum said they really, really want me to come home for Christmas instead of staying here.

I dunno. If Bitsy's got three of these Sing-Ami thingummys (hey that rhymes!) then maybe it's an even better idea to spend Christmas here than it was in September! Only joking, Bits.

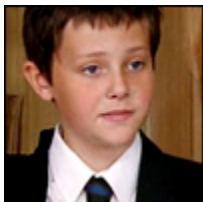
But I'm not sure I want to go home, still. I guess I haven't really thought about it since deciding, until now. Does anyone know when we have to tell Professor Vector if we're really staying?



**alt\_padma** at **2010-11-18 15:30:58**

*(no subject)*

Did she really give you detention? Miss Professor Carrow, I mean?




**alt\_michael** at **2010-11-18 15:31:40**

*(no subject)*

Yeah. It's okay. I'll do it tomorrow night.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-18 16:01:07](#)**  
(no subject)


Many happy returns, mate.

Honorita Sandoval's got some of those singer thingums, and all the girls are always dragging them down to the common room and lining them up on the tables or the mantelpiece and getting them to sing harmony and all. I heard they took them along to choir and got them to learn the stuff they're singing there.

I dunno what all the fuss is about. I mean, what's the big deal about stuffed animals even if they do sing?

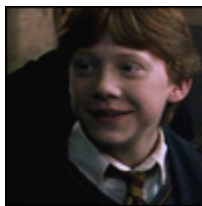
Anywiz. Hope you're having a fun day. Shame about getting detention, though.




 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2010-11-18 16:23:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you'd know all about getting a detention on your birthday, wouldn't you, Weasley?

But it's okay. I mean, it's not like I expected any different. I guess mum should have sent me a better luck charm instead of a telescope.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-18 16:26:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Heh. Too right about that.

I don't know. I think a telescope's pretty nift. What can yours do?



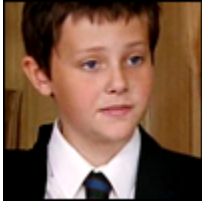
 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-11-18 21:24:09](#)**  
(no subject)


Many happy returns, Corner.

It's 'Sing-Ami?' I heard some of the firsties talking about them but I thought they were 'Singummies,' like

a pun on Thingummys actually.

If you find someone else who's got one they're supposed to sing in harmony. If you put two in the same place and start them off.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-11-18 23:46:15](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Finnigan.

And yeah, Bitsy called it a Sing-at-me but it says Sing-Ami right on the tag.

There are some firsties who have them and yeah, they sing all together in harmony. I figured from Weasley's comment that they can learn new song too. Must be why Chang is trying to teach this one 'The Ballad of Bemis the Barmy.'

**2010-11-18 13:19:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to R J Lupin*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Feeling any better? I still can't believe you were worried about infant lycanthropy. I thought you'd read everything there is about werewolves - I know James and I did. Unless I've missed something new in the last decade, it's just not possible.

Anyway. I don't want you to think I'm not glad Poppy gave Dora the all's well. I mean, I may not have appeared quite as pleased as I should have been. But - well, any new sprog is a good thing, right? And honestly, you'll be a great dad. I know you will. And Dora will be a good mum, too, though it's weird to think of her with her own kid, when I'm not quite over thinking of her as a kid herself. (And I'll just thank you to remember that you *are* most certainly a cradle-robber, you great hairy snout. And don't forget it - she's still my niece. Cousin. Whatever.)

It's just. I never expected any of us to get married because we *had* to do. What a fix.

Merlin, remember the arguments James and Lily used to have - home birth, St Gerard's, Muggle hospital ... and then the way he'd go on and on about that sister of Lily's, how she'd said Lily got pregnant right after she did just to steal her thunder and how he wanted to fly out to Little Whinging and give her a piece of his mind. And then, I don't know if I ever told you this, but there was a night when James showed up at my door. Said he and Lil had had this massive fight about - of all things - the kid's name. He'd gone and said something berkish - well, that's not new, is it? - about how 'Harry' wasn't nearly distinguished enough and Lil took offence since it was her grandad's name and somehow it tipped into wizards vs Muggles, just like all the other arguments about her birthing care. And well, you know how they were. Never met an argument they didn't want to win. The upshot was that she gave him the boot. James was certain she'd go back to her parents and never even let him see his own child.

I guess my point is, people who are about to become parents worry about some daft things. And I guess you and Dora have problems that are way bigger than what to call the little tot, so I'll not be surprised if you need your head charmed back on for you more than once before this is all over. And when you do, I'll have my wand to hand, mate. All part of the service, isn't it?

But. Think about what we talked about, yeah? Because if you're not 100% sure, that's a hell of a thing to consign yourselves like that. And I'd hate you to regret it later and be twice as stuck. Are you going to talk to her about Moddey Dhoo? She could go there for her confinement and no one would be the wiser back in London. It's an option, that's all I'm saying.

I know you just want to do the right thing, mate. I'm just not even sure what that ought to be at this point - not just to protect Dora, but for all of you. Sprog included.

Yeah. I know. 'Shut it, Sirius.' Well, all I'm saying is don't go all Victorian just because you think you have to make her an honest woman or some rot.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-11-18 22:41:42](#)

*(no subject)*

They say that, but what if they're wrong? What if .. Well, I don't suppose it matters now. If Poppy says everything's fine, that will have to be enough for the time being.

I'll suggest Moddey Dhoo, but I can't see her going for it. She's not really one for the quiet life of safety. She might consider it for actually having the child, but I don't think she'd want to stay there afterwards, which would rather defeat the object.

I've been round and round it all in my head. We both have, I think. We've certainly talked it over enough times. I can't see any other realistic option, though. Perhaps we've got here a little earlier than expected, but I suppose we would've ended up here eventually anyway. And it's the best way to keep her safe. So that's it.

Thank you for listening to all my troubles, though. I know it got a bit maudlin for a while there, and not much fun. You're a good friend.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-19 03:54:27](#)  
(no subject)

I guess I was thinking that it'd be safer for the tadpole at Moddey Dhoo, not just Dora. I mean to say, I can see why neither of you would want to leave Frank and Alice with the raising - of course it's a terrible choice - but if you wanted to keep the whole prospect of another generation of 'Ponds' off the table, then that would be the answer.

It's almost the opposite to their problem, isn't it - Frank and Allie's, I mean. They've had to leave theirs in the open (apart from Kevin), while you might find it safer to leave yours in hiding.

Sorry. I just read that over again and I can see it looks despicably cold. I don't intend it that way at all.

I'm not sure I'm as good a friend as you think, Moony. But don't mind me. After all, it's not my decision, is it? I'm sure you've gone over it from every angle and you'll do what's best for all of you.

**2010-11-18 22:42:00**

*A new project*



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

First: those students who made it out to see the Leonid meteor showers the last two mornings had a wonderful view. I know how hard it is to get out of a cozy bed to go stand in the cold, but this year's showers were some of the best I've seen this decade, and the clouds weren't too bad.

If you'd still like to earn extra credit for your viewing, tomorrow morning is your last opportunity: I'll have the telescopes set up ninety minutes before dawn. (And I will have some tea ready for when we come back in.)

Second, as a reminder for all students now the weather's getting colder: I do have a box of hats, gloves, and other warm gear available. If you need help with your warming charms, I'm also glad to assist, and I'm sure your house prefects would be as well.

Finally, I'm delighted to announce that we'll be cooperating in a major new research project.

The Ministry is coordinating measurements of particular star movements from various points around the Protectorate, in order to create even more accurate charts and materials that do not rely on non-Protectorate materials. We will be focusing on the four "Royal Stars", which as most of you know are Aldebaran, Antares, Fomalhaut, and Regulus. Our initial work will be with Aldebaran, currently present in the southern sky in the hours before midnight. Our measurements will be compared with those from other locations, to better triangulate movements in space, so it's especially important they be as precise as possible.

Students are not required to help (other than those working on their NEWTs: we'll discuss the schedule in class). However, if you are interested in doing so, please see me for times: I'll appreciate help setting up the telescopes and needed devices, as well as making the actual measurements, and it is an excellent opportunity to gain skill with the tools and methods of astronomy.


This does mean that I will be less available for visits in my office for those with questions. You can expect that I will be up on the



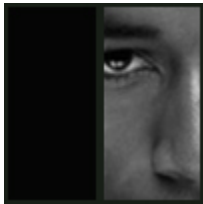
Astronomy tower regularly each evening between sunset and the end of the evening's classes. I'll be available for student questions between lectures during the day, or by arrangement. (Or you are welcome to come up to the tower and talk to me: there is plenty of time between the scheduled measurements we need for most questions.)


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 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-11-19 13:35:44](#)  
(no subject)

I'd like to help, Professor. I'll show you the new telescope my parents sent for my birthday. It might be good for the project because it can tell you all sorts of things, like how far away the thing is that you're looking at. And er, I think it may be able to see through walls, so you don't have to go outside to look, even. (At least, we were looking at it last night and we could see Mr Dawlish down on the 4th floor when we were in Ravenclaw Tower.)



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-11-19 15:03:45](#)  
(no subject)

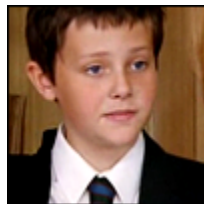
Really?


You think Professor Sinistra is interested in seeing some Peeping Pipe your parents sent for your birthday?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-19 16:51:29](#)  
(no subject)

Really! I don't like the idea of some gormless boy going round with a telescope that lets him peer through walls. Mr Dawlish ought to confiscate it!




 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-11-19 17:19:06](#)  
(no subject)

It's not for looking through the walls, though. It's so you can look at the sky without going outside. If you don't believe me you can try it yourself. It looks far, far away, so if you tried to just look in the next room or something it would just be all out of focus.


Plus I think it somehow knows not to look in bathrooms or anything like that. Because Rhys-M one of the blokes thought it'd be funny to look in the Prefects' bathroom but it just only showed him corridors and classrooms and the lake and such.



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2010-11-19 18:30:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Exactly what I said to Dawlish this morning.




 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2010-11-19 18:51:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks a lot, Zabini.

He wants to see it now. It was brand new!



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-11-20 02:35:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Mr Corner -

In general, as you noted, the charms are designed to avoid private areas of the home (and as you may know, various areas of Hogwarts have additional protections as part of the initial design of the castle.)

These telescopes do have some uses - and they are definitely quite enjoyable to work with. However, they do often have some distortion at distance - partly because more of the cost goes into the charm work than into the lens shaping, and partly because of some reactions between competing charms. Which is why for precision measuring, astronomers still end up out in the cold and dark, and using telescopes with only limited and well-tested charms.

On the other hand, as I'm sure you'll discover, there are a great many things that can be done more comfortably with one of the models such as you've gotten.

I have heard good things about the latest models, and the

catalogues on my desk are promising that they've solved some of the issues with distortion. Once Mr Dawlish has approved your use, I'd be interested in seeing it in more detail if you're willing.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-11-20 03:47:37](#)

*Private Message to Professor Sinistra*

Thanks, Professor.

He gave it back! Just like you said.

And thanks for saying it where Zabini would see it.

I was a little worried that - well that Mr Dawlish would decide the telescope's too nice for a halfblood to keep it.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2010-11-19 16:44:05](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm delighted you're interested, Mr. Corner. The new telescope models really are exciting, aren't they? However, in this case, part of the process is to use models that are standardised with the rest of the

project, so we will be using the school telescopes.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-11-19 15:01:52](#)

*(no subject)*

That project sounds fascinating, Professor. How long will it continue? A year? Several? Will you be writing a paper on the results, do you think? Only I was thinking that if it's a long-range project, it would be an opportunity for some of us who are going to be here several more years to be involved in something very important.

Will the names of those who contribute be listed by the Ministry when the project has been completed?




 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-11-19 16:48:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad you're also interested.

It is, yes, a project expected to last several years, though my participation (and that of students) will necessarily vary somewhat. For example, I can scarcely be making measurements here when handling YPL trips in New London, or Cornwall. At those times, there will be someone else making measurements from Hogsmeade, so you can imagine there's quite a lot of coordination involved.


Those who participate will certainly get credit in the final results. As to whether I write a paper on it: I certainly expect to contribute to portions of the project documentation, but whether I create an independent paper will depend on our findings. Though there certainly may be one in the practicalities of ensuring that students over multiple years take consistent measurements. And, of course, there's always the chance that we'll discover some new excitement in the heavens.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-19 19:44:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd like to help, Professor Sinistra. I know you've got loads of older students that could do more advanced things, but I'm good at taking notes, and I can help with setting up and things, too.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-11-20 02:37:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Miss Parkinson -

I'd be delighted by your help. I was most pleased with your recent chart, by the way: I just finished marking it, and your notes were indeed quite clear and thoughtfully placed to avoid obscuring smaller details.

**2010-11-19 10:01:00**

*Mother.*

I've no idea what you were thinking when you chose to make small talk with Mafalda Hopkirk--and in the presence of forty of your most inquisitive and least circumspect acquaintances over tea at the Wiltonian?--nor what exactly you said to give Hopkirk the impression that I should require a fortnight's leave after Christmas, but I assure you there is no honeymoon excursion in my plans.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

I trust this closes the matter.

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 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-11-19 16:54:01**

*(no subject)*

Oh, dear. Is it possible Athena may have given your mother the wrong impression somehow? When was the last time they spoke?

I assure you that Norah made no particular comment that I heard at WI this week. And I've not heard from Athena myself in...well, in some time, come to think of it. Hm. Perhaps I ought to offer to take tea or drinks with her sometime soon.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-11-19 18:50:12**

*(no subject)*

I doubt it was Athena's doing: Mother needs almost no prompting for her imagination, and Athena has always kept her cards close. Honestly, her circumspection is one of the things I've admired most.

I can't speak to whether she would have time for drinks or tea in the week ahead. I do know that she has more than one performance on the horizon and that her holiday season is very tightly scheduled. But you'll sympathise with that, no doubt.

Speaking of a tight schedule: I'm meeting Malvasius on the sparring floor, and I don't intend to hand him a free shot by coming late.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-19 19:25:11](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, yes, I know all about tight schedules. And the importance of ensuring one's robes are only tight where one wants them to be, as well.

For myself, I've just finished my dancing lesson and I am more than ready for my tea! Sadly I shall have to wait until 3:00 for that refreshment, as I've another errand to run first.

Were you invited to the Magpies' benefit match next Saturday? Can't decide whether it will be too cold to attend the match itself but the party afterward is always quite diverting.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-19 19:57:21](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, in fact. And I intend to be there, though you're right about the weather. This time of year you never know. But I agreed to let Mother hold a luncheon at Marlborough next Saturday--some fundraiser to stop squibbism or something--and I've no intention of being within thirty miles of that.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-19 20:10:35](#)  
(no subject)

Squib prevention? Isn't that - well. A touch ambitious?

No doubt Aleta Featherstone and Madam Millingham-Kennilworthy put her up to it, despite the work that is going into ensuring that we shall never have to confront such a sad prospect again.

Oh. I've just been told there's a visitor. Excuse me.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-19 18:55:57](#)

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

I take it you have lost your interest in Miss Belby, then?

If not, I suggest you arrange some token to assure her otherwise, after that pronouncement.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-19 19:18:01](#)


*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Thank you for the suggestion, but it's not needed.

Yes, Athena and I have agreed to move on.

She found aspects of my work and my other commitments unsettling. I think it's for the best, considering.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-19 19:34:34](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Ah.

Yes, it can be a challenge to find someone with the appropriate perspective toward the less pleasant aspects of our work - and Our Lord's demands for the betterment of the realm.

It was one reason, among many, why I chose to keep Narcissa as far removed from our early efforts as possible. Not that she could not have withstood the tests of the fight, far from it, but that I have never desired her burdened by the stresses that confront those of us on the front lines.

Pity, though. Athena seemed well-suited in many respects, not least the attractive prospect that she has quite an active life of her own.



**2010-11-19 12:20:00**

*One Week In ....*

At least this week has been relatively straight-forward but nonetheless a pleasant change in that there have been no catastrophes which might have been avoided easily enough.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Understand that the Council have taken up my challenge to run the Ministry course against the current crop of trainees. Excellent. It will, I believe, afford all concerned an opportunity to test one another's mettle and acquaint us with the aspiring Aurors in the bargain. Not to mention a reason to maintain oneself at a time of year when most are over-indulging. Suspect Rowle and a few others will discover they have spent far too long behind their desks and not enough time keeping up with current duelling theory.

Speaking of - Mafalda, Rufus, came across a curious little volume through Obscurus that might interest you both. Chap name of Payne has written a rather innovative work on the use of unexpected spells in duels - particularly on the topic of what he terms 'spells of opportunity.' Charles sent it over to me last week to ask my opinion before accepting the manuscript. Think you ought to read it as well. Have you heard of him before? He writes as if he's had some experience and not within the confines of the law. His biography states that he's spent a good deal of time in Ireland addressing the troubles there. Yet I don't recognise the name straight off.

My wife has enjoyed an unprecedented amount of attention of late, not surprisingly. She mentioned last night that *Witch Weekly* have asked if she would care for a protection detail since at every turn, it seems, she has been approached by someone for an autograph, a photo or some other token. Most unwelcome are the types who seem to feel entitled to information she would not otherwise provide. Thus far, she has managed to keep them at bay on her own - but if it continues, have advised her that a companion or two to help clear the way would not go amiss. Particularly if she also accedes to *WW*'s request to grant an interview on the *WWN* or any other public address.

Still, she has her obligations and will not be put off them. Chiefly that has seemed to be laying in all the shopping for the holidays, apart



from those items that we cannot store indefinitely. Our sheer volume of our social calendar continues to be as demanding as ever. It is of course gratifying to see the Protectorate thriving and to know that all we have done thus far is helping to ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for our race.

Am not sure we will continue to prosper quite so healthily, however, if this trend continues within New London and I assume elsewhere of all the shops cropping up, specialising in 'affordable' foodstuffs. Hooper in particular seems to favour a bun shop some blocks away - four times this week he has taken himself there for a pasty or some other concoction. The fare appears to me to be nothing but grease and processed, transfigured paste - but he takes to it like a babe to the breast. At this rate he'll gain a stone before Christmas, I expect. Ought to remind him to at least walk there and back rather than Apparate, were it not that it would surely take him out of the office for an hour's stretch were he to do so.

Draco: Received your last letter with the news about your team's decision. Well done.

Mr Marvolo: Do not be disappointed. It will not be long, I am sure. Keep to your lessons for now - both in and out of class. Quidditch will still be there when it is safe for you to return to it.

Pansy: Have not heard from you in a few weeks. Do you have everything you need before returning? Your prospective step-father came to see me this week; believe the tenor of the visit would amuse you. Oh - and for you and Draco both: Mr Tenebridge will see you on the 29th at 11:00. I've had Hooper put it on my calendar but you might want to note it so that you do not forget.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-19 19:26:01](#)

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*

Do you mean that Narcissa has refused the offer of protection? I understand that she might downplay these affronts as mere annoyances, but what is your view of it? I can see that she's covered, likely without her even realising, if you think that's the way to proceed.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#) at 2010-11-19 19:43:29**

*Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*

Am trying to convince her to allow at least a shadow detail if she is otherwise unaccompanied. I think she objects most to the idea of taking along hired warlocks not of her personal acquaintance.

I have debated asking her assistant to provide a copy of her schedule to Scrimgeour. Don't particularly want to be on the receiving end of her hex should she discover my hand in it, however.

On the other side of the coin, though, imagine what might happen to your blokes if she suspects she is being followed and does not know that they are Ministry personnel. The patient who arrives at St Mungo's may well be the enforcer and not the stalker!

I'll talk to her again at the week-end. If she complains of unwanted mobs encroaching on her I shall insist that she engage *someone* qualified to squire her about (and not to tote her packages, either).



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-11-19 20:01:44**

*(no subject)*

Nonsense. It's not nearly as oppressive as you and Celia paint it. Besides, I've a wand of my own and I'm perfectly capable of using it should anyone get out of hand.

Not that anyone would dare, I'm sure.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#) at 2010-11-19 20:59:22**

*Private Message to Narcissa*

Hm. And I suppose the fact that thus far they are all adoring, if insistent, does not factor into your tolerance at all?

My dear, you have only to recollect that your erstwhile admirer William Collins also began his infatuation in all innocence to recognise that these things may grow dangerous in unanticipated ways. Or do you expect that you can call upon Barty to sweep the

next unwanted suitor off to Carisbrooke, as well? Have a care you do not make him regret stepping in where your cousin left a void, my love. You may make him tire of catering to your whim.

Besides, that's my job, isn't it?



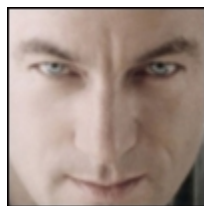
 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-20 05:14:15](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

I had no part in Barty's decision where to take Mr Collins nor what to do with him. I merely lodged a complaint as you and he both encouraged me to do.

Likewise I have no control over how long he will decide to remain so solicitous, or whether it is because he feels an obligation to keep me company because Regulus no longer can. But you're quite right: He is welcome to withdraw his attention whenever he chooses - whereas you, my dear husband, are indeed quite stuck with me. And yes, it is assuredly your sworn duty to indulge my every caprice and fancy.

In any case, it's understandable he should want company a while longer, given what he told me this afternoon about his decision to let Athena go. That news - and whatever you said to him this afternoon - had him practically knocking down the door, all to convince me to accept protection. I still think you're both fussing over nothing but I promise I shall consider it carefully.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-20 05:28:32](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

In Collins' case it was high time he was neutralised; a pattern, on the other hand, could become problematic even for an Auror in Our Lord's good graces.

You ought to know by now that I shall never complain of the terms we settled - I know exactly what I deserve for marrying the most beautiful witch in Britain. And it's a price I pay gladly, love.

Nor should you think I am for a minute fooled by your peevishness, Rio, when I know what's really vexed you. I warned you not to cross Bella.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-20 14:56:36](#)


*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Really, Scip. 'I told you so?' How banal.

I knew Bella would not react well, of course. That doesn't make it any less necessary a task, from time to time, to point out her mistakes to her. And if anyone's going to approach her, it certainly ought to be someone whom she will not summarily dismiss.

Are you coming to the Dewhurst naming or begging off? I'm nearly ready to go.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-11-20 14:58:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Yes of course, I'll come with you. I'm just down in the library, but ready when you are.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-19 21:55:45](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, I can't say I'm terribly surprised that you're getting so much notice, but I'm sorry if it's been a bother for you.

The fashion spread was absolutely lovely, by the way.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-20 02:36:40](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Pansy. Yes, the few advance copies have generated such a reaction that we've already decided to increase the print run.

One would think there are no topics of import left to discuss, but of course it's simply a novelty. I expect by year's end everyone will have moved on to the next curiosity.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-11-19 22:05:10](#)

*Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

I hope you don't think Sally-Anne was being too forward or overstepping herself, writing you about Hydra like she did. She really does feel very fondly towards Hydra, and seeing her like that the other day was a bit distressing. So it came from that, because she cares about Hydra and was worried about her.

And I also wanted to let you know that Draco has been very sweet to Hydra, and makes sure she's happy, and is always looking out for her. As he should.



 [alt\\_narcissa at 2010-11-20 02:46:50](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

I've no doubt that Draco has done everything he can for his cousin, but thank you for your confirmation.

As far as your Miss Perks' message, pray do not trouble over it. I do appreciate her concern, but as I told her it is nothing that need distress her. Hydra is quite well.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2010-11-20 03:33:34](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Oh, of course she is!

And I'm glad you understand about Sally-Anne. She really does try very hard to do the right thing.




 [alt\\_narcissa at 2010-11-20 14:37:01](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Yes, Pansy. It's patently clear that Miss Perks tries very hard indeed.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-19 21:57:58](#)**  
(no subject)


It's been ages! I'm sorry. I'll write a letter.

And what was the meeting all about? I hope it was for a good reason, I know you are frightfully busy right

now.

And I've put the meeting in my planner and circled it three times! It really is very exciting. I've been too busy to write anything more -- do you think he'll be fine with just the one song, or should I make an effort to put up another?




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-19 23:05:11](#)**  
(no subject)

A good reason? Not particularly. But it was not a total waste of time, either.

I'm sure Nolan will not expect you to have had time, amongst your studies, for any inspiration other than the one song. Luckily for you, it is that specific song he wishes to hear.

Now I wonder whether I ought to have waited to tell you, if the anticipation is likely to send you into fits already.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-19 23:57:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you see, now I have time to get used to the idea, which is much better than springing it on me at the last moment. Because I'd be so much more *nervous*, and I'd probably scream a little, and you wouldn't care for that at *all*.

So this is better all round, I'd say.

And I'm glad your meeting was useful. Was it about the wedding, or signing the forms? It's all coming up so very quickly.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-20 03:49:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't forget and scream anyway, all right? In addition to working on the song we should probably come up with something to say to him, you think? It can probably wait until later, though.

We should get the song down perfect first.




 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-20 04:39:41](#)**  
(no subject)

After all these years, Nolan is quite accustomed to the occasional squeal of excitement. But you are correct that I will appreciate your ability to remain calm in his presence.


As for the purpose of Campbell's visit, it was to invite me to his bachelor party. It's clear he expects his affiliation with your mother to ingratiate himself further. Quite amusing, in point of fact. Naturally the goodwill he hopes to secure depends largely on your mother's behaviour.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-11-20 03:46:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it worked out all right. I reminded them several times that I'm not as good at seeker as Harry though. I've been working on my dives and such whenever we have practise, so hopefully it'll help.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-11-20 04:43:15](#)**  
(no subject)

You may wish to speak with your uncle about reflex training as well. You shall have to take care not to over-indulge during the holidays as well, but maintain a trim weight to make up for your gain in height from the summer.

Had I expected the change in position I should not have advised you to practise feints nearly as much!



**2010-11-19 19:52:00**

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

Whoa! I just missed having my head taken off by Vaisey up the Charms corridor!




 [alt\\_ron](#)

Anyone know why he and Capper are getting into it with McLaggen? Capper's got cauliflower ears and McLaggen's nose is bleeding like anything. I don't want to get anyone in trouble, but it looked pretty serious.


---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-20 02:46:57**  
(no subject)

Does anyone NEED a reason to get into it with McLaggen? It's like getting into it with Blaise, he's always done SOMETHING.

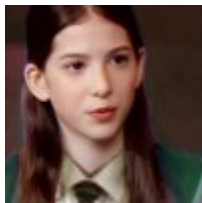



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-20 02:52:43**  
(no subject)

Did you see how Zabini lit into Corner this morning about his telescope?

Well, I suppose he opened himself up to it when he said it looks through walls--which is really wizard if it's true, I mean, I wish I'd ever had a telescope. It would've been dead useful against the twins. And pretty funny for getting under Ginny's skin!

Er. Anywiz. I feel sort of bad for Corner, but I don't think he wants me to. I mean, I think he fancies he's better than me, and yeah. Whatever.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-20 03:06:29**  
(no subject)


I did. It's a bit creepy thinking of Corner looking through the walls into the girls' loo or something but Blaise only cared enough to make a fuss because Corner's a half-blood.

And I can't decide whether Corner thinks he's better than everyone, or better than the people who aren't Ravenclaws, or



better than people in fostering or from dubious families, or ... what. I mean he's a snob but he's not a CONSISTENT snob. Blaise is very consistent. He think he's better than everyone except Harry, Draco, and Teddy, and I think secretly he thinks he's better than Harry. And it's not as if he thinks Draco or Teddy are better than he is, it's more that he considers them equals.



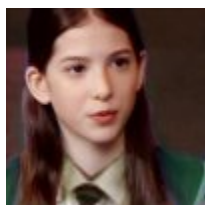
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:16:08](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, the best you can say about Zabini is you always know where you stand with him. I mean with Malfoy, you know exactly what he thinks, but then he'll turn up and act all polite just when you don't expect it, and then he pretends you started it when you fall out with him.

When I do, I mean. Not you.

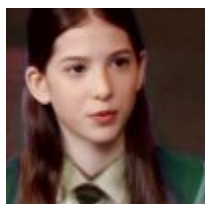
And Marvolo. Yeah. Whatever. I don't even know.

But I think Corner could be all right if he'd just get over himself. And settle down about this whole thing with his parents.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:25:21](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah, I don't know about Corner. He might be one of those people who likes to always have someone to look down at.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:38:04](#)  
(no subject)

Though to be fair he's been better lately. I mean, since he found out about his parents. Though sometimes I think he acts like he thinks a half-blood is SUPPOSED to act and that's just as annoying (in a different way).




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-20 03:48:32](#)**  
(no subject)

What's that meant to be like?

Honestly. I wish people would just let people be people and leave off.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-11-20 03:22:01](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, he's not, honestly. Patil is rubbing off on him, I'd bet.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-11-20 02:49:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Though come to think of it I heard people talking today about McLaggen's brother, how he got kicked out of the Auror programme. Maybe that's what it's about? Apparently his family tried to put it about he quit on his own but Sandoval said he got the boot in her diary. Not that I think she's exactly reliable.



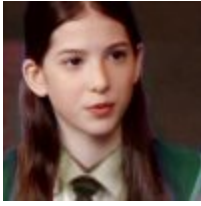
 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-20 02:59:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Whoa. Really?

I mean McLaggen's been going on all term about how his brother's top of the standings and was the first one chosen and is so dead amazing. And then, yeah. Last week he says his brother's decided to quit the programme to take a totally wizard job doing some sort of enforcement stuff for that bloke who puts on all those parties and festivals and public stuff in New London.

But if he got thrown out--

I bet he hasn't even got a job like that!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:11:26](#)  
(no subject)

Well I went and checked and in Sandoval's entry (which I don't blame you for not reading, she's worse than Blaise) she said he was 'given the boot' which certainly doesn't SOUND like he quit on his own for some excellent job.

I heard from Belinda that Padma's acting like she knows what McLaggen did and it was something horrible. The theory I heard (from Morag, I'm not sure if she heard it from Padma or from someone else or if she just made it up) was that McLaggen was overheard having an argument about Sirius Black where it sounded like he thought maybe Black was actually alive.



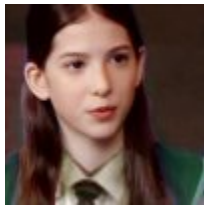
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-20 03:24:04](#)  
(no subject)

They wouldn't have kicked him off for that, would they?

I mean, I guess if he was indiscreet...

Do you think

Well, I mean it's not like they've found anything.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:29:21](#)  
(no subject)

Do you remember how cross Mrs Lestrangle was with Luna? All she said was she'd heard a rumour that Sirius Black was alive. If they thought McLaggen had said something that gave those rumours credit, they'd have kicked him out for that.

I also heard a rumour about him snogging the wrong girl, though, maybe that was it?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-20 03:36:20](#)  
(no subject)

It's more likely it'd be about Black than snogging.

Maybe Auror Lestrage got angry, because it reflects badly on her.

And making her angry? Well, he deserves what he got.

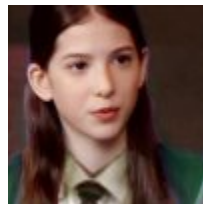


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:40:18](#)  
(no subject)

I agree.

That's like spitting into the wind. If he doesn't know enough to keep upwind of her, I don't think he'd make a very good Auror.

Daft.

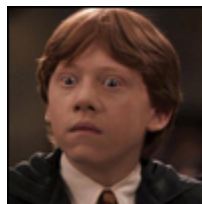



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:43:24](#)  
(no subject)

True enough.

The way she treats her own daughter, I don't know why anyone in their right mind wants to work with her. You can go work at the Ministry and have all sorts of power and it doesn't HAVE to be in MLE.

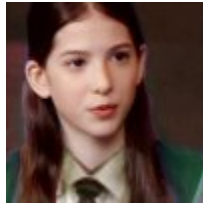
I wouldn't want to work for Barty Crouch either. He's just as bad.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:46:21](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, talk about the stuff people write in their books! Did you see what he wrote to his Mum today?


I wouldn't be able to sit for a week if I ever tried to talk to my Mum that way.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:59:27](#)  
(no subject)

Well, he is a grownup. Your mum can't hex Bill and Charlie if they cross her, can they? Not that they'd ever talk to her like that.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 22:41:12](#)  
(no subject)

Well, no, they wouldn't. Now the twins...


But the twins just take the piss sometimes, and she acts like she's cross, but really she thinks it's as funny as the rest of us do. At least after she's done shouting.

But it's not like they'd ever call her out in public for something she'd said or done. And then call her friends out, too.

I mean.

Well.

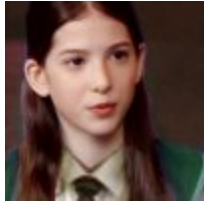


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:29:51](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I doubt it was that. They'd have arrested him if he'd said something like that about Black.

I heard they keep arresting people who say they've seen him. Maybe they were just questioning them, I dunno, but when we were in the Broomsticks before you and Pansy turned up, Nev and I heard some blokes talking about it.

I mean, Black's supposed to be dead or anywiz MLE want everybody to think they think he is, but if they really thought that would they get in such a twist every time someone so much as mentions him? Makes you wonder, really.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:32:59](#)  
(no subject)

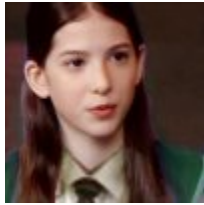
That's a good point but the rumour I heard wasn't so much that he was saying 'Black's alive!' but more that he was treating the possibility as ... well, I don't know.

I agree it makes you wonder.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-20 03:37:05](#)  
(no subject)


as well what?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:41:01](#)  
(no subject)


More that he was taking it too seriously. Like treating someone else's statements about Black as a point that two people might argue about. Rather than either too absurd for words, or evidence of disloyalty.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-20 04:00:27](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think he's really dead?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-20 04:00:42](#)  
(no subject)

Because I sure don't.

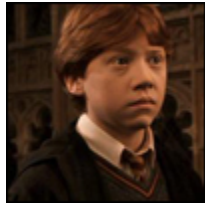



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 04:03:36](#)  
(no subject)

No.

I don't either.

But sometimes I wonder if it's just wishful thinking. I mean he hasn't SAID anything. But maybe he just lost his journal.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 22:44:03](#)  
(no subject)

What good is it, hoping he's alive?

I mean, it's not like he's DONE anything. Let alone written.

And what COULD he do? Even if he is alive. Bloody nothing, that's what.

I dunno.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:12:57](#)  
(no subject)

In that same entry Sandoval mostly went on and on and ON about how some! lucky! people! would be invited to join the St Mungo's Junior Auxiliary for

LUNCHEON.

Did they invite Percy? I think usually they do invite the Head Boy and Head Girl so if they didn't it would have been quite a snub.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:18:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. That's probably what he got yesterday morning, then.

He looked all smug about something, but y'know with Percy it could be anything.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-20 03:21:17](#)  
(no subject)

Percy looked smug?

How on EARTH could you tell the difference between that and his normal expression?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-20 03:35:27](#)  
(no subject)

Heh.



**2010-11-22 16:15:00**

*Private Message to Professor Lestrangle*

Sorry, Professor.

It won't happen again. I was just--something happened just before class started and it's--


Well, it's sort of exciting. And er, distracting.

But I really was listening. The bit about doxy venom was really interesting.



 [alt\\_padma](#)




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2010-11-23 00:45:31**  
(no subject)

Yes, being asked out is always a big event. Just don't let it happen again, Miss Patil, especially as being asked out is bound to become a regular event in the future.

The pieces of the note are in my desk drawer, should you want them back, otherwise they'll go out into the rubbish at the end of the week. Finding a spell to bind all those bits of parchment back together should be quite a challenge, though.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-11-23 04:09:02**  
(no subject)

Oh, that's all right, I don't need it back or anything.


Do you think so, sir? About being asked out regularly, I mean. Only I think the way it works is once you're asked out very often, you get used to it, don't you, so it's not quite so surprising. But then, I suppose you'd know. I mean, because you're older.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-23 05:36:16](#)  
(no subject)

During school most people tend to get asked out a lot or hardly at all. Very little common ground with these things, I'm sorry to say. Now, should Mr Page be too forward or do anything else that you find...confusing, be sure to speak with your head of house, hm?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-23 14:16:01](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. Yes, I will. Thanks, Professor!

**2010-11-22 16:19:00**

*Private Message to Parvati and Lavender*

Lav, may I borrow your gold hairband for Wednesday? The one that sprinkles gold-dust all down the back?



 [alt\\_padma](#)

You'll never guess what happened just before Defence today. We were coming in and the 4th years were leaving. And Page asked if I'd step aside with him for a minute.

He asked me to work with him on his Future Interrogators' project for next term, and he wanted to know if I'd meet him one night this week to go over the case study choices and pick one. He thought maybe tomorrow because he's got Astronomy late anyway, but I asked if it'd be okay to meet on Wednesday between History and our Astronomy lesson - because then I'd have time to get the ribbon from you if that's okay.

Grant Page! Asked me! To spend time with him! And not in Ravenclaw Corner or at the library - I mean, the library will basically be closed by the time History Club is done. And if we stay up all the way until Astronomy that's almost like a real date. Almost. I wonder if he'll walk me there?

I mean, I'm sure he doesn't think it's a date. It can't be a proper date, really, can it? But still. *He asked me.*

The only thing that's bad is that talking to him made me a tiny bit late for Defence. I wrote Su Li a note to tell her why I was late and then Belinda wanted to see it too. And when she wrote back to ask me something about Page, Professor Lestrangle saw and burst the note into confetti. I think he was mostly just disappointed that we weren't completely riveted to his lecture, but honestly, he could've been talking about defeating Dumbledore and we would have been just as distracted. At least he didn't read it out loud, or give us a detention, though, so that's okay. (That's why I wrote to him, in case you're wondering.)

Anyway, if it's okay to borrow, could you bring the ribbon tomorrow and I'll get it from you? I promise I'll give it right back.

---




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-11-23 19:06:26](#)  
(no subject)

Of course! The gold really brings out your skin tone--you'll look lovely.

Has he shown any, you know, other *signs*, like offering to carry your books and parchments?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-23 19:31:00](#)  
(no subject)


Ooh, no, he didn't say anything else last night.

But I'm going to History of Magic next and he'll be leaving there when we get there, so maybe he'll do something.

I don't think it's really a date, not really. I mean unless he says something else. Still, it's exciting. And Stevens told Themis Peakes that her little sister heard Perks is spitting hexes because Page asked me and no one's even noticed her yet. So even if it's not really, really a date, it's almost worth it to see her so put off by it.

(Oh, and tell Parvati what Mum and Dad don't know won't hurt us. Besides, it's not really a date, anyway. And it's still way too early to get married to anyone, even if he is a Quidditcher!)




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-11-23 20:16:18](#)  
(no subject)

You should do the *Teen Witch Weekly* quiz after your not-a-date! You know the one I mean.

And I don't think you've got to worry about Parvati--she's reading this right over my shoulder and says she'll do his star chart for you if you'd like.

And of course we both want to hear *all* about it afterward!




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-11-23 20:22:16](#)  
(no subject)

How amazing is it that we actually have a use for those quizzes now?

Oh - and I didn't even tell you the *best* part! Professor Lestrangle said he thought I should get used to the idea of getting asked out. He thinks I'm fanciable!

I tried not to be too chuffed when I answered him but - wow.



 **alt\_lavender** at [2010-11-23 20:54:34](#)  
(no subject)


I know!

Did you see that 'Word Has It' named Professor Lestrangle this year's Most Eligible Bachelor? Vicky Frobisher couldn't stop giggling about it at lunch.

And he said *you* should get used to beind fancied! I'm impressed that you kept your cool--I'd probably have swooned right there!

Orion Sandoval was in 'Word Has It' too--in the Boys Gone Bad section. I'll bet Lana Sandoval's well cross!



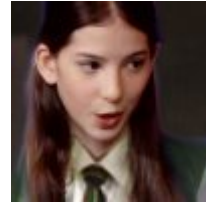
 **alt\_padma** at [2010-11-23 21:11:42](#)  
(no subject)

I know, right?

Luckily it was in the journals. If he'd said so to my face I'm sure I would have gone weak in the knees.

**2010-11-22 18:55:00**

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




Pansy, did you hear from Daphne that Padma got asked on an actual date?

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

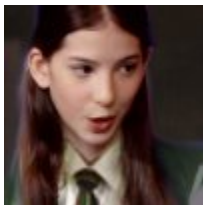
As if she wasn't insufferable enough already.

---



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 01:01:21](#)  
(no subject)

She wot?!!!!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-23 02:23:38](#)  
(no subject)

She has a DATE.


With Grant Page. I think he's one of the Ravenclaw Corner people. He's a swot, anyway, and in Ravenclaw and a year older than she is.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 02:28:57](#)  
(no subject)

Is he the specky one or the one with spots?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 03:51:21](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, wait.

Page?

You mean Ravenclaw's Keeper? That Page?


What's he want with her?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-23 04:33:16](#)  
(no subject)


Her company, apparently.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 04:37:25](#)  
(no subject)

Daft.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-11-23 03:24:38](#)  
(no subject)

Double ugh.

No kidding.

Although it'll be interesting, given she's all Miss Propriety when it comes to talking with boys. Not that Grant Page is a stranger, but still, I wonder what her folks are going to say.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-23 04:33:34](#)  
(no subject)

I wondered the exact same thing!

**2010-11-23 07:29:00**

*Private Message to Ned Pennifold*

When you've done chortling over this morning's tabloids, I've some post ready. The one to Ramora Rathbone is time-sensitive. Mind your fingers. There's also an order for Mackrell's and a reply to Imogen Kent: no particular urgency on either, but Latro could take all three.

So long as Rathbone's gets priority.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



**[2010-11-23 08:55:00](#)**

*Well! That was unexpected*

I had a floo call from Maisie Diggory this morning, about her weekly pickup for the barter network. I think that was just an excuse, though, because she asked me oh-so-casually whether I'd seen this morning's issue of *Word Has It*. Well, I've always thought why should I bother with a subscription when Maisie is always happy to share the latest tidbits of gossip with me for free? But I might have to pick up a copy this morning.




 [alt\\_molly](#)

Have you seen it, Bill?

---



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:01:57](#)

*(no subject)*

What?

No, I've never picked up that rag. Why?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:04:37](#)

*(no subject)*

There are a couple of lists in it this morning. Of the Protectorate's most elibible bachelors. Two of them, broken out by age.

Well, I always knew you were a promising catch! It looks like I'm not the only one who thinks so.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:05:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh my god.


You're joking. You must be.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:06:26](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed I'm not.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:08:00](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin, so that's why Jenny Simmons broke out into giggles when she saw me this morning. And blushed beet-red. I wondered what that was all about.


Who WROTE this?! Was there a byline on the article?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:08:57](#)  
(no subject)

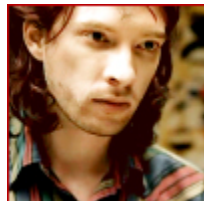
I don't know. As I said, I haven't seen the article.




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-23 15:13:14](#)  
(no subject)

Doris Feather showed it to me this morning. It was written by someone by the name of 'Ramora Rathbone.'

Well, my goodness, Bill. I had no idea your mum and I had raised someone who would turn out to be a celebrity.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:14:52](#)  
(no subject)


Ramora? Ramora Rathbone?

Bloody hell, she was...

Argh.

Don't you start, Dad.




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-23 15:15:53](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I don't need to, my boy. I'm sure your younger brothers and sister will do the honours for me.

She was what--do you know her?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:16:58](#)  
(no subject)

She was in school with me. Well, a few years older.

She said--oh, hell.

She told me once she had a weakness for gingers.


Blimey, I'm never going to live this down.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-23 15:17:19](#)  
(no subject)


Not if we can help it.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:18:26](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, Merlin, Bill. It's funny, of course, but it needn't be embarrassing.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:18:55](#)  
(no subject)


You wouldn't say that if you knew my coworkers.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:19:58](#)  
(no subject)


Well, I don't mind so much the point of the article, I suppose. When are you going to bring home a young lady for your father and me to meet?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:22:36](#)  
(no subject)


...



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-11-23 16:19:29](#)  
(no subject)

Bill just make sure she's not a silly twit. They are the worst kind.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 16:56:58](#)  
(no subject)


Well, if I were to bring someone home to the Burrow, I'd have to be pretty sure she wasn't. You lot would eat that sort alive.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-23 18:34:35](#)  
(no subject)

Is there someone then?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:34:55](#)  
(no subject)


No. Not even close.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-23 18:36:35](#)  
(no subject)

Are you sure? Someone who flutters her  
eyelashes hopefully whenever you walk by?  
Some sweet, sweet girl whose heartfelt  
devotion you haven't even noticed, you heartless beast?  
Whose pitiful tears wet her lonely pillow every night?




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:38:11](#)  
(no subject)

Keep it up and I'll see if I can arrange it for  
you to visit Charlie over the Christmas hols.  
You can bring the dragons their favourite  
Christmas dessert: baked Weasley.

Personally.

Served with a flaming rum sauce.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-23 18:43:16](#)  
(no subject)

I saw the list. Leonora Jenkins had a copy.

Take heart: at least you didn't make one of  
the other lists they published, the 'Recently


Ruined.'



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:45:25](#)  
(no subject)

The 'Recently Ruined'? What, is that the list  
of chaps who spilled champagne over their  
dates at the last St. Mungo's fundraiser or  
something?




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-23 18:51:51](#)  
(no subject)

Hardly. They all seem to be blokes who seem at first glance to be the right sort, but wise families might be wary of allying themselves with them unless they turn things around. Theodolphus Higgs is one of them. Mobeius Ollivander. Both the Frobisher twins, which I think is a pity, because it always seemed to me that Wesley had anything to do with those dodgy goings on, unlike Wil.


Anyway, you would hardly want to be lumped in with that lot!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:53:59](#)  
*Order Only*


One wonders what Percy would say if I ever made the paper because I'm doing seditious stuff with the Order against the Protectorate.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-11-23 18:54:29](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Don't even joke about it, son.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:55:20](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Well, Merlin knows I need to joke about something today.


I just had a memo airplane deliver me a Valentine. It's NOVEMBER.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-11-23 15:24:26](#)  
(no subject)

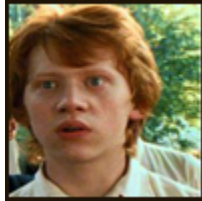
Well, I think it's a good thing. It obviously means that you're seen as someone up-and-coming, don't you think?




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:26:54](#)  
(no subject)

Bloody hell, as if I really want to swanning about in the pages of *Word Has It*.

Don't be mad.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 15:58:13](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

...

And it means you'll be seen as someone who's got an up-and-coming brother that some bird who writes in a magazine wants to snog?


Ew.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-23 15:09:30](#)  
(no subject)

Bill, you dog.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:09:56](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, very funny.






 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-23 15:10:54](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we think it is.


What number is he on the list, Mum?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 15:11:02](#)  
(no subject)


Number 24.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 15:11:24](#)  
(no subject)

Bloody hell!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 15:52:36](#)  
(no subject)

Out of what?


20?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-11-23 18:56:29](#)  
(no subject)

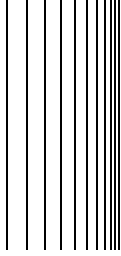
Well, I'm sure he'd jump at least five slots up the queue if he'd only cut his hair!




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-23 18:57:00](#)  
(no subject)

Using that reasoning, you've convinced me to grow it even longer, Mum.





 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-23 20:25:21](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Ha!

She's always on about the hair.

**2010-11-23 11:44:00**

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



Ohhhhhhhh Ron....(and Fred and George)....


Did you HEAR about 'Word Has It'? It's a gossip magazine, some of the older girls have it. Everyone was giggling about how Professor Lestrage was The Most Eligible Bachelor (or maybe the second most eligible? I didn't actually get to SEE it yet except over someone else's shoulder) but the hilarious thing is that your brother BILL was on that list too.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Oh wait, I see you're already teasing him in your mum's journal. Well. Carry on.

Also Jeremy Stretton was in the 'boys gone bad' section, along with Orion Sandoval and Moebius Ollivander -- that was part of why I didn't get a good look, Moebius was really cross and cast incendio on it. Cassandra was furious, it was her magazine, she said she's going to tell her sister and she'll fix him.

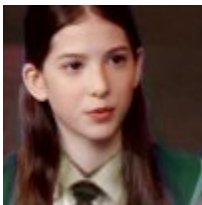


 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-23 20:35:27**  
(no subject)

Stretton's in, too?

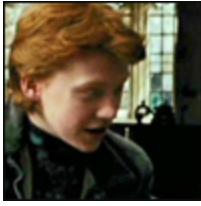
Wow. I guess people just aren't going to let go of what he did.


I mean, he hasn't got himself in any kind of trouble this year, right? Or last year, either, really. I mean, that's just--



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-24 01:14:22**  
(no subject)

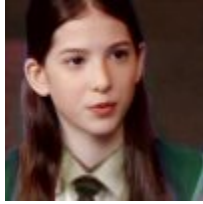
I know! It was just that one thing, you'd think people would have forgotten about it by now. I think they would have if it hadn't been for Frobisher, since he was a Prefect.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-24 03:14:40](#)  
(no subject)

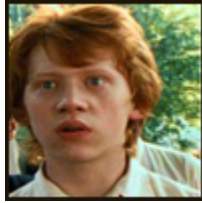
Have you seen him today? I mean, is he really hacked off they wrote about him?


Or dead embarrassed?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-24 03:25:14](#)  
(no subject)

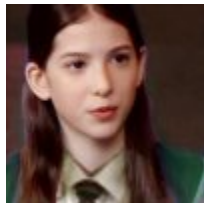
I ran into him after dinner. He said his parents are furious but for all the wrong reasons -- I mean he'd never have been on the 'most eligible' list, you know? Normally, I think they included him because of the others from that scandal, or maybe because they needed to fill up the column. But of course Mrs Stretton says that he WOULD have been on the other list if only he hadn't mucked everything up. She wrote to him by journal today, I don't know if you saw.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-24 03:32:31](#)  
(no subject)

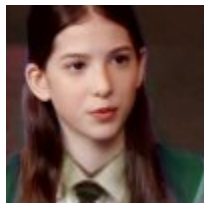
Well. At least his mum doesn't send Howlers.

He must feel pretty rotten, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-24 03:33:47](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, she'd NEVER send a Howler. She knows that just attracts more of the wrong sort of attention.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-24 03:34:46](#)  
(no subject)

They REALLY don't get on, Stretton and his parents. He says his worst fear is having to work for them after he leaves school. That's what really bothered him about this, I think, he was hoping it would all blow over and people would forget and he

could go find a job somewhere, maybe not in quidditch but SOMEWHERE.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-24 03:41:37](#)  
(no subject)

That reeks.

About his parents, too, but yeah, I think he's going to have a really dire time trying to find a

job.

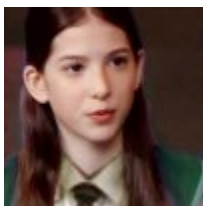


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 20:36:17](#)  
(no subject)

Now what I really wonder is why they even let Ollivander stay in school after what he did.

He's just bloody dangerous, I think. And now he's turning up in magazines as an evil git?

Right. Is that supposed to make him think, 'Hm. Maybe I shouldn't hex people all the time. Really, I think starting tomorrow I'll be a nicer git.'




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-24 01:16:01](#)  
(no subject)

Everyone in Slytherin still treats him like he has some sort of infectious disease. Which is why he's so cross all the time.

I just try to be sure I'm not ever alone with him.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-24 03:29:57](#)  
(no subject)

Bill's really embarrassed, and no lie!

Says he had girls giggling at him today!! I mean, I can't even--

Yeah. I'd want to crawl in a hole and not come out 'til Easter if it was me.

**2010-11-23 11:52:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*

Kindly confirm the inspection tours at Stevenage and Dacorum; make sure they are before the 3rd but not this week if you please.



 **alt\_lucius**

Mrs Malfoy has requested some additional time before the Patil show, as well, so clear Friday's calendar and see if Gibbon will cover Court. Tell him I'll switch with him so he can clear the 21st January if he likes. (He generally takes a holiday in early February as well, if that's better for him - but do yourself a favour and don't ask why or you shall find yourself on the receiving end of a lengthy treatise on Imbolc, fire rituals and some waffle over the stars' positions for determining the 'shape of spring' - as I said, don't ask. Just offer the choice if he wishes a trade.) Presto is also Friday. See if they are willing to postpone to next week.

Shan't have time to go to Twilfit's prior to to-morrow's release party, either. Have him bring what he needs here. After luncheon should do or to-morrow morning.

Second Mondays will not work for me to see Crispin; you've failed to notice that the Nimbus Board meeting is every other month. Surprised he forgot. Try third Mondays.

What is this item regarding the Philharmonic? Begging for sponsorship, no doubt. Suspect Green's hand in this. Find out what it is and if it's not urgent, cancel. Better contact them straightaway as it appears to be at 2:00 to-day.

Also, before you go to lunch, bring up the files on the village school programmes in Cheshire, Devon and Kent.

And when you return - I need Dideron via Floo the first moment he has to spare.

**[2010-11-23 14:35:00](#)**

*(no subject)*


Anyone have a clue why Professor Acton said she's not going to help at Duelling Club anymore?



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

I mean. It's not like anyone's going to stop going just because she's not there, right? But I thought we needed two professors watching out for us, yeah? So. Is someone going to replace her?



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-23 19:52:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, I think if you think about it you might get an idea.

And you might want to apologise to Professor Acton. She was really good at Duelling Club and we're going to miss her quite a lot.

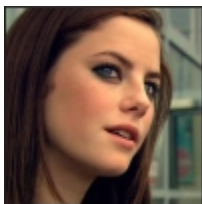


 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-23 20:54:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

They won't cancel it will they? I mean, that wouldn't be fair at all. Just because she up and quit it.

I thought Professor Lestrangle looked sort of red when she stood up and said all that. Did you see him?




 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-24 02:35:15](#)**

*(no subject)*


I heard that she quit the club because Professor Lestrangle showed up on the top of the *Word Has It* Eligible Bachelors list, even though she and he had been secretly engaged for months.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-11-24 02:40:04](#)  
(no subject)


Come on, Daphs, you don't really believe that rubbishy rumour, do you?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-24 02:41:17](#)  
(no subject)

Of course not, but it is one of the more amusing ones floating around.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-24 04:22:59](#)  
(no subject)

They can't possibly be engaged! He's ever so sweet on Professor Sinistra, everyone knows that!




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-24 04:37:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well I don't know about Professor Sinistra being sweet on him in return, as she's pleasant with him the same way she's pleasant with everyone.

Oh, and I'm fairly sure this isn't rumour, but a fact verified by the Head Girl herself: he once dated Siobhan Calderwood's older sister. You know, the model!

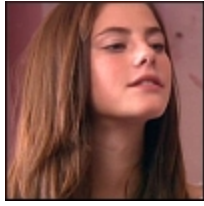


 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-24 04:39:49](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, you mean Letitia? Yes, mum was all set to hire her for the modelling job with Mrs Malfoy and then she didn't.

But Sandoval says that Professor Raz has dated more-or-less everyone.






 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-24 04:49:19](#)  
(no subject)

Including her, you think?




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-11-24 05:00:51](#)  
(no subject)

Who, Sandoval? No, I don't think so, I know she really loves her Auror training and I don't think she'd ever allow anything to distract her from that. At least not right now. Though I do think they'd make a well handsome couple, don't you?

But anyway, Sandoval's family are fairly traditional about that sort of thing. I don't think she even really knew the Professor before he came here, I mean, not to speak to or anything much.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-11-24 02:40:15](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm sure our professors won't just let Duelling Club lapse, since it's such a popular group.

I wonder who'd do it, though? Maybe Professor Brutka-he'd be wiz-nift!



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-11-24 14:59:10](#)  
(no subject)

He would!

**2010-11-24 09:39:00**

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr  
and Rabastan Lestrangle*



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Well, are you both able to walk on the ground this morning, or have your heads grown so swollen that you're floating above us all?

Raz, it's a shame you can't come to the release party tonight. Any *Witch Weekly* red carpet affair is simply packed with eligible ladies, some of whom might be able to tame even you. Yes, I suppose you're forgiven. Somewhat. When this happens again (and I daresay it will), you might ask your friend here for recommendations on the matter. I hear he is quite an expert at breaking things off with a lady. Rather like our dear Bella with a knife in her hand.

And in case you haven't inferred from that, Barty, yes, I had tea with Athena yesterday, at *Katyenka*, in fact. She had rather a lot to say, so I let her run down the litany of slights until we got to the heart of the matter. I believe I was able to offer her some perspective; she's taking your notoriety rather hard, poor thing, but I'm sure she'll reflect and eventually forgive you completely as well. Give her a week or 2. She was really rather sweet, the way she fished about to try to get me to tell her whether you were coming to *Die Fledermaus* or the Christmas concert series - and whether you've already found someone to accompany you. (If not, my dear, I am certain we can rectify that problem between tonight and Friday's festivities. You'll have to tell me tomorrow how things go for you tonight.)

Ah, my two heart-breakers. Top of the list with targets given a fresh coat of paint. Mother is so *proud* of her boys.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2010-11-24 15:15:03**

*(no subject)*

No need to be proud, only doing what comes naturally, yeah?

But in all seriousness, this is worse than when I won "best smile" (sorry Barty, you'll never be eligible for that!), and worse yet to have it happen in a school. Owls have been dropping packages on my head since breakfast, bearing cards and flowers and quite a

few pairs of knickers. One of them was charmed to do some kind of *dance*. Luckily, I managed to keep the lid on the box through breakfast, but there was a suggestive rumba beat wafting from it.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-24 15:44:27](#)  
(no subject)

Better in a school than have all these birds swooping around the Ministry. It's madness.


All the packages. And flowers. Knickers, even. None of them dancing, though. Unless Pennifold confiscated them for himself. In which case, he's welcome to them.

It's the letters and cards, though. Screeching. Bleating. Croaking.

And the pictures. Ugk.

This couldn't have happened last winter when most private owls were tied up serving the Ministry? None of this chaos then.




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-24 16:15:51](#)  
(no subject)

*Croaking?* Are you quite sure?

And yet I see below that Scrimgeour's forbidden further deliveries. No such luck here.

Shame you didn't qualify for the bad boys list. Obviously not for the reasons that they were, McLaggen and that lot, but a bad boy category all your own. Sent Ms Rathbone a message yet?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-24 16:25:40](#)  
(no subject)


Dear heart, it's the same list. You are at the top of it, after all.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-11-24 16:29:36](#)  
(no subject)

Since when did taking time before rushing into marriage make a boy bad?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-24 17:26:15](#)  
(no subject)

Your smile may indeed be charming, Rizzer - enough to win again, possibly - but at this moment you are sadly not.

Just because I've forgiven you does not mean it's *carte blanche* to go coy.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-24 18:16:25](#)  
(no subject)

Croaking.

Did she not write you as well?

Lucky me.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-24 16:04:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, well.


I hadn't realised Athena felt so aggrieved. It can't be helped, though. And it is for the best, since she was unprepared to countenance the realities of my position. Positions.

And, yes, of course I intend to be at *Fledermaus* and the concerts. I feel sure I'll find someone willing to go along. Perhaps you're right that I'll stumble upon someone suitable tonight or Friday. Thank you for the invitations, by the way. Most persuasively presented.

It will amuse you to know that the department's narrowly escaped being buried under an avalanche of parcels, missives, and flowers: Scrimgeour has forbidden any further deliveries.

He's perfectly right: it breaches all security protocols. I think they're redirecting all of it to Hatfield, where they can separate out any legitimate departmental post and incinerate the rubbish. No loss at all. The only greetings worth receiving came yesterday.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-11-24 16:23:38](#)  
(no subject)

Well, dear, I think you'll find that most women would prefer to make their former lovers believe they are in perfect spirits following a separation, particularly if both parties agree that it's best. And she knows that it would not have worked, really. That doesn't mean she found no advantage to continuing on, just for the sake of the company. And I'm sure she has her own deluge of fan mail that your presence helped to curtail.

It's very possible that seeing your name and face splashed so prominently set off a whole new layer of resentment and hurt. Timing is everything, after all. Don't trouble over it too much, though it wouldn't harm things to let her know that you had no intent to cause her pain and that you certainly have no control over Rathbone's editorial board or your place in the standings.

But I'm surprised at you. You don't want to wade through endless variations on 'I've never written a letter like this before, but...' and troves of secret fantasy? Shocking.

What if something were a carefully disguised attempt at sabotage? You'd incinerate evidence of treasonous activity! I think you ought to tell Scrimgeour you'll personally evaluate them ALL. It's your solemn duty, isn't it?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-11-24 18:15:32](#)  
(no subject)

You are evil. Thankfully if you write Scrimgeour with that suggestion today, your letter will reroute to Hatfield.

And, in fact, someone *is* going through the lot piece by piece on the very chance you suggest: it seems a perfect opportunity for an anarchist to attempt some act of sabbotage. Fortunately, the task

is not mine. (I shouldn't ask after Travers' day, however, if you see him this evening.)

You do understand that one likes to take the initiative romantically. Being pursued is not nearly so appealing as pursuit. I don't mean that as commentary on Athena, of course. I'm honestly disappointed about the outcome.




 **alt\_narcissa** at **[2010-11-24 18:20:50](#)**  
(no subject)

You have diverted Travers to sift through your post and yet *I* am the evil one? I think we must disagree.

We must also disagree about the pleasures of courting. But I think your point of view simply demonstrates that men and women are perfectly made for each other: You wish constantly to be on the prowl for new conquests; we, on the other hand, find nothing so satisfying as to be the object of desire.



 **alt\_narcissa** at **[2010-11-24 18:27:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Unless it's Raz doing the desiring, of course.

And perhaps I'll just write to Travers at Hatfield and remind him to save anything for you that really looks promising.

Or provoking.

**2010-11-24 10:07:00**

*Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Thanks, by the way. For the advice. I mean, don't tell Perks or Parkinson, but I don't think it's really a proper date so I doubt I'll need to know all about snogging, but it's good to know the important things, like tilting your head the right way. And all that stuff about not being the first one to hold hands or anything. I think you're right and it's really important to be mysterious and not too eager.


Professor Raz said something about Page maybe being too forward or doing something confusing.

Well, I know what too forward would be. But I'm not sure about what would be confusing. I guess I'll find out if he does it. Whatever that is.

Still. It's really exciting, I have to say. I've already got butterflies in my stomach and it's not even lunchtime! I mean, I know I'm not the first in our year to go out, but with an older boy - well, it's all rather surreal, isn't it?

(Though...I'm still really...I mean, I know he's sort of decent to you, but Blaise? Really? I shouldn't think he could stop sneering long enough to kiss anyone - unless it's his mirror!)



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2010-11-24 16:28:32**  
(no subject)

You're so very welcome, Padma. I know you didn't ask for advice, but I thought you could use it just the same. Ms Zabini once pulled me aside and gave me advice, sort of, and she said the very same type of things. And as for Blaise, I know that he has exceedingly high expectations, but I believe it only speaks for the quality of his character and the degree of his ambition. Maybe they're qualities only a Slytherin can truly appreciate, though?


Also, he has impeccable taste. The things he did for my birthday were the sort of gestures you see in fairy romance books. Doves and everything!

I guess that means I have a bit of a soft spot for him, but that doesn't



mean that I don't have the right to fancy other boys, too! Draco's getting handsomer this year, now that he's got a bit taller and stopped doing that odd business with his hair, and Harry, well, I can see him being handsome one day, maybe. But they still act awfully young, especially Harry. You've the right idea catching the eye of an older man. Not everyone is as mature for their age as Blaise is.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-11-24 16:57:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, like I said, I know he's well decent to you - Blaise, I mean. He can be really beastly to anyone outside of Slytherin, though, and I'm not really sure why. It's fine to be ambitious and have high standards but sometimes it seems like Blaise thinks other people are not only beneath him but more like flobberworms he can just squish underfoot.

Draco's good-looking enough but he's too pale. For me, I mean. And Harry...well, I mean, anyone would like to be fancied by the Lord Protector's son, wouldn't they? But I know he's supposed to marry Hydra, and anyway, honestly? Harry's a well nice enough bloke but you're right. He's not very handsome yet. Or tall. But maybe he will be in a couple of years. Still.

Page is well fit, isn't he? I mean, not as fit as, oh, Chang or Davies or Tamblyn. Or any of the Bobolis boys. But for the first boy to ask anyone in our year, I think he's not half bad.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2010-11-24 17:14:05](#)**  
(no subject)

That is about the way he views some people, yes.

Page is nice enough to look at, I'd say, though I did just now remember something else I once heard Ms Zabini said! She was speaking with a friend, not me, but I was close enough to listen. It was on the subject of one of her admirers, and she told her friend that one had to be careful with older men and assess them carefully. "Is there any particular reason why a woman their own age would find them lacking, that has caused them to seek out someone younger?" I believe it was something like that. It might apply more to adults than to us, but still, something to keep in mind. Also remember that it's not just



|| you who's lucky to have his attentions, but that *he* is lucky to have yours!

**2010-11-24 23:40:00**

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



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Since that article came out about eligible bachelors I've been counting owls at breakfast, or trying to. I can't keep track with the owls to Professor Lestrangle, there are just too many. Moebius Ollivander had two dozen owls this morning. Some were scolding him but some were from girls (well, young ladies I suppose, they were all old enough to NOT be at school anymore and sending owls. Some of them might not have been all that young, I'm not sure) who FANCIED him.

Jeremy Stretton's been getting them too. I saw him today and he said he'd gotten:

1. Pictures, but mostly from ladies who were WAY too old for him.
2. Some boxes of sweets but he took them to Professor Vector because he didn't trust them and it turned out one of them was filled with a potion that would give him horrible boils.
3. A really long letter from someone who thought he was just misunderstood and in need of help. I'm not sure he'd have minded that one except she also sent him pictures of all her pet puffskeins, apparently she has forty-two. Also I think she might be almost as old as his mum which made parts of the letter really creepy.
4. Someone sent him her handkerchief which he thought was disgusting. It probably hadn't been used, honestly (she'd sprayed it with perfume) but he opened at the table and said he went and washed his hands because he wasn't sure if it was dirty. And it COULD have been dirty.

**2010-11-25 09:19:00**

*Private Message to Mordant Travers  
and Rodolphus Lestrangle*



Travers. Got your owl.

Agree. Full stop.

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

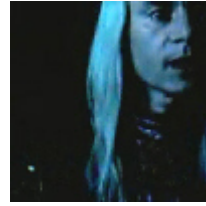
Lestrangle: are you available for a  
consultation? This morning, if possible. At Hatfield. Don't think it's  
wise to bring the items to yours.

**2010-11-26 10:47:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*

Change of plans.

Our Lord has expressed His wish that I attend Him at Court, not Gibbon. There are matters which will undoubtedly prevent my arrival at the Patil show this evening.



 **alt\_lucius**

Arrange flowers for Mrs Malfoy - they must reach *Witch Weekly's* offices before noon. And something from Asprey's - rubies, I think; she mentioned her robes are claret-coloured. Also contact Hopkirk and ask her to provide additional protection for the event. Crouch will likely offer; advise Mafalda to request Desai specifically so she may accompany her throughout the evening. As you know, this event will be attended by more of the public than the last and Wednesday's evening had quite enough excitement as was.

Have MLE sent the latest reports on the Peterborough disturbance? Will need that for Court.

**2010-11-26 17:45:00**

*Private Message to Sophia Novello*

As I feared, I've been held up and will have to meet you at the Abbey. I should be there in moments, so whenever you and the others come along will be fine. I'll wait at the Deanery until you arrive: I wouldn't want to miss you in the crowds.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

I was at the Abbey earlier for the security check, and I promise you will not be disappointed in our seats. Far better than you'd have had in the Media pen on the south side. I hope your colleagues will not be too bitterly jealous.

**2010-11-28 06:05:00**

*Order Only*

A quiet Sunday morning is a wonderful thing. The frost on the windows softens the light on the ward and lends everything a peaceful hue.



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

I don't have any early risers, just row upon row of tousled heads poking out from mounds of blankets. I like it crisp of a morning, but that always makes my sleepers burrow more deeply for their last hour of dreaming.

I haven't much to report. Bumps, bruises, coughs, the lot.

I'm treating far too many cases of exposure this term: I seem to spend all my time reminding children that they must think to refresh the warming and impervious charms on their cloaks and gloves if they must be out of doors for a sustained period. But they forget. One can scarcely expect them to remember in the midst of a Quidditch practice, during an exciting session at the Creatures' pen, or in the midst of an Astronomy observation, and, of course, their teachers are no better once they are wrapped up in the meat of a lesson.

We've had an awful lot of extremely nasty weather this term, and I'm convinced it's made worse by the presence of those miserable Azkaban guards, lurking out beyond our bounds. Or we're made more vulnerable. I realise that not everyone believes they've any effect on the weather itself. Nonetheless, I've been forced to re-order chocolate twice, and I fear that's put a large dent in my budget. As you know, medicinal grade chocolate must be imported, and it's correspondingly dear. But I'll save that lecture for the governors, shall I?

The Dementors are taking a toll in many ways. Homesickness is up this term, and for the sufferers, it's grown worse and worse rather than abating as they've settled in and made friends with whom to enjoy this castle's many recreations. In fact, I'd venture to say that it's been harder for the children to make and sustain friendships this year. They seem much more apt to be dreadful than kind to one another. If the teachers are to be believed, they've had more than the usual troubles with discipline. And then there's Professor Brutka, who has warned us all that the creatures are suffering as much as the rest of us. Certainly, he's sent me no fewer cases than usual, five or six of them quite severe.

As an aside, I can report that he and Mr Dawlish last week had a tense parlay with the centaurs, who warned of trouble within the forest. I learned this much from Dawlish when I treated him for a very nasty Bowtruckle lash suffered on his way out to that meeting. Missed his eye by a hair's breadth. And left him a bit more talkative than usual, though only a bit.

And, of course, it is not only the students and creatures inflicting their moodiness upon us: their elders are as testy and unpredictable as if they were revisiting adolescence. That, however, may owe less to the Dementors than to the presence of a certain new member of staff. Not that he himself is ever anything less than genial, but he has an unfortunate effect on others. Including some I'd have thought too level-headed to be affected in that way.

All in all, then, I'm glad for a quiet morning when one presents itself.

Or a nice tea with a friend. Dora, I did so enjoy your visit. Tilda says she'll always have room for you should you want to return. Seems you were the 'easiest' guest she's 'ever lodged'--her words--'such a merry one, bless her cotton socks; send me more like that!' To be fair, I think Tilda's had to put up with more than one of our school governors on occasion, and they are not the kindest souls.

I trust you are all well, whatever you are about.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-11-28 16:21:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, thank you Madam P. I enjoyed seeing you too. I think it did me a world of good, getting away for a few days for some fresh air and all that. I'm feeling much better now.

I'm so sorry I've not been in touch. I meant to drop you a note to thank you so much for your help and let you know I'd got home safely. It's just, well, we've been a little preoccupied with .. other things. I'm sure you understand. Cheers though, for everything.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-11-28 20:58:20](#)**  
*(no subject)*

No need for apologies.

I suppose that you're stocking up on holiday-themed items in the shop now that we're on December's doorstep.

And trying to open a second business as well? I'd say you have good cause to be preoccupied, ellipsis points aside!



**[2010-11-28 13:51:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Merlin's nose!

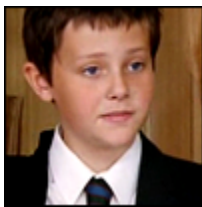
What's in the Prophet today that's got everyone fighting over it?



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Obviously not the Quidditch results. That page was left in a heap under a table. Not that there were any surprises there, mind.

---



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-11-29 00:35:04](#)

*(no subject)*

You must not have seen it before all the girls got their hands on it, then. The Lifestyle section? It was all over pictures of Padma's mum's big show on Friday night. Well, her mum's and Malfoy's, as well.

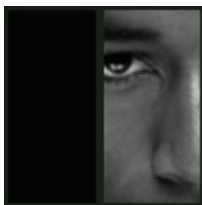


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-29 00:53:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, well, that would make sense, then. The girls have been acting squirrely all day, whispering and giggling. Even the older ones.

Silly buggers.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-11-29 14:37:05](#)


*(no subject)*

Did you write this yesterday and we're only noticing today? Tells you something, doesn't it. Sorry. We were reading the papers and talking over the news.

It was only the biggest fashion presentation of the year, Weasley, and the first major society event of the holiday season. Figures you wouldn't know. What would your mum do with well-designed robes? Use them for potato sacks?

No, that's right. She wears potato sacks, and she's probably never been within a mile of proper robes.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-29 15:56:35](#)  
(no subject)

Look, you. You can bloody well leave my mum alone!

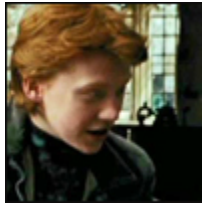
I heard there's a photo of your mum in, and it caught her sneering and making a really hideous face. But there's a surprise, innit?




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-11-29 18:03:50](#)  
(no subject)

You are such an ignorant tw\_t, Weasley. Of course, my mother is in yesterday's paper: they always take her picture because people will buy it just to see what she's wearing. And she looks dead amazing.

Pity you can't ever say the same.

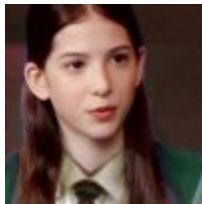



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-29 18:11:36](#)  
(no subject)

She looks dead, maybe.

I saw the picture. She looks like she's made of plaster. All painted up.

And she's totally sneering. Like she's just stepped in something nasty.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-30 01:25:09](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What do you think, Pansy? Sneering or not?

She does look thoroughly painted. Is that bloke next to her the one she went with?

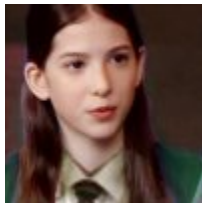


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-30 03:13:25](#)

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

I only saw it for about a minute at lunch when Robins and Frobisher were looking it over and my roll went down the table and landed right up under the paper so I had to go ask them if I could have it back. And, anywiz, they were talking about Mrs Zabini and how she's meant to be the most beautiful witch, but the photographer or the person who picks out what pictures get in the paper, one of them must've been cheesed off at her 'cause they picked a shot of her where she's looking really unpleasant. So I asked if I could have a look, cause I've never seen Zabini's mum, and I couldn't see what all the fuss is about. I mean, she looks fit and her robes were, I dunno. I mean, whatever. She's fine, but, yeah, she looked like she was cross about something or, y'know, annoyed, and it's a really funny sort of look.

I didn't notice who was in the picture with her, though. What's he look like, the bloke she was with? As snooty as she looks?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-30 03:37:26](#)

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

Okay, I nicked Daphne's copy for a few minutes and looked again. You're right, it's not a flattering picture. I don't know if I'd say she's sneering, though, it looks a bit more like she's trying really hard not to pass gas in such a way as anyone would notice.

The bloke's near her but I can't tell if he's with her or not. It's not a good picture of him, either, he looks like maybe someone just hit him with a Confundus jinx, either that or like he got started on the celebratory toasts before he floo'd over.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-30 03:38:33](#)

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

She's not the only one with that look, anyway. Maybe the 'I have to fart but know I mustn't' expression is the Smile to Have This Season,

who knows?

I'd better put this back on Daphne's desk before she gets back from the loo.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-30 04:19:27](#)

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

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-11-30 04:23:31](#)

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

Or, y'know, maybe they're all just really bored to be there.

I mean, how much fun can a fashion show be? And to have to smile and pretend you think Mrs Malfoy's brilliant? I'd rather go to Transfiguration.

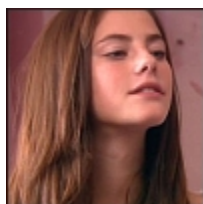


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-11-30 04:43:45](#)

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

You're not serious.

I mean, I can understand you not wanting to go to a fashion show. You're a BOY. But you'd rather spend an hour with Carrow?




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-11-30 01:30:11](#)

*(no subject)*

Ms Zabini would *never* do something so low as to sneer. Not unless she were in the company of someone who deserved it. You don't think that anyone who attended the show at Westminster Abby deserved such a snub, do you? Every person in attendance was someone of import, after all.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-11-30 02:35:52](#)**  
(no subject)

What would you call it, then? The way she's looking in that picture?

I mean, you're sort of an expert about sneering and snubbing and all.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2010-11-30 02:49:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Since you asked, I would describe it as a mysterious, knowing smile.

Do you really think so? One has to actually notice something to snub it, you know.

**2010-11-29 09:08:00**

*Order Only: Observations*

Hullo, all.

Just wanted to say that I can confirm Poppy's observations about the general mood in the countryside. I've had to skirt the Dementors' feeding grounds a couple times already and I've only been back in the neighbourhood for a few days.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

The handlers keep moving them about. I think that may be why the effects keep reinforcing themselves. Proximity keeps changing.

Luckily one side effect is that people are more apt to toss out the papers. I know the entire wizarding world is focused on Narcissa's show of Friday, but I read three rather more interesting items in yesterday's paper:

1. Malfoy wasn't at his wife's big night - not until after it started. Mr Patil was also hardly mentioned, did you notice? He was there, at least, but it seems like he's been told to keep his opinions to himself. After all, part of Narcissa's strategy, I'm sure, was to arrange the collaboration to distract everyone from my brother's involvement in the Patils' son's death. I wonder if Mr Patil has forgiven her quite as readily as his wife has done?

But as for Malfoy, what do you suppose could have kept him away? 'State business' was all the article said. France, perhaps? or something else?


2. I don't know if any of you noticed but there was a small piece about the village schools in Devon undergoing some 're-training'. Meaning what? It says it's part of a new programme starting there and will be rolled out to all the village schools. Don't like the sound of that. Any thoughts?

3. Best for last: The Telford Camp Administrator resigned. Arthur, did you know about this before it happened? The article makes it sound like he was considered too soft on his charges, and a possible 'Black sympathiser' - but there's also a passing mention of this Dog Star Company being involved. Well, we're meant to think that the Company are so addled that they couldn't keep their association with his bloke secret. But that's daft. They had to know that if they came out in

support of the fellow, he'd be removed. So I'm thinking. What are the chances that they discredited him deliberately? What's the advantage - unless perhaps they know his replacement? Of course I'm sure the Death Eaters have thought of that, as well.

Anyway. I'm off to meet my contact. Frank, I'll let you know how that goes.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-11-29 15:53:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you really suppose the French are going to overturn Muggle rule and follow our path politically? I should have thought them opposed on principle to anything English in origin. Even if some of them could see self-advantage to be seized in the process.


You would know better than any of us what has been taking place there. Would there be sufficient support for such an endeavour?

I did see the piece about re-training primary teachers. I wonder why Devon, though. I shouldn't have thought them any more heterodox or in need of intervention from the Ministry, but I feel sure that's exactly the project. That's Molly and Arthur's bailiwick; perhaps they'll have a better idea.

As for your third item, I don't see how this Dog Star Company could have had any hand in determining who would replace that sacked administrator, but I suppose it's at least useful to have their activities make the papers. Dangerous to them, but useful insofar as it reminds us all that not everyone is willingly following the Ministry's line.

Finally. I dislike your secrecy about this contact of yours, Sirius. Or are you merely checking to see if we're actually reading your reports?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-29 16:16:47](#)**  
(no subject)

I've not heard from Justin Finch-Fletchley in some time. He didn't know my real name, of course, but he would presumably have heard the news when my cover as Nigel was blown - and of course, the French have reported my death there as well. (I'll bet his mum's thanking



her stars she didn't succeed in hooking me, too!) But as I say, I've only had intermittent reports from Aleks and nothing from Justin, so it's hard to tell where the French position is lately.


I can say fairly reliably that they've increased their blood-purity standards rather a lot in the last few years. I do think that it's possible they'll make things more difficult. What form that would take I'm not certain. I doubt they'll imitate Voldemort's hostile coup, though - that much I think I'm safe to predict.

As far as the schools - I had rather the opposite thought. It could be that Devon is the place to start because it's already further along than some other areas, instead of in more need of remediation. Does that make sense? I mean to say, one could push the students faster if they're already predisposed because their teachers are particularly zealous. Or maybe I'm being pessimistic. Perhaps it's something innocuous, like Devon is where one of the education administrators lives, or something.

From what I've seen of the Dog Star Company thus far, they're not exactly the most cautious bunch. Still, I suppose you're quite right and they can't possibly have a hand in the replacement. Which makes them doubly reckless, doesn't it, if they let their connection to that administrator leak. Daft.


Of course I'm checking to make sure you're reading. But don't worry. Even if I were at liberty to tell you, which I'm not, it wouldn't matter. I'm not sure you'd be quite able to understand him if he did make himself known to you.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-11-29 22:16:58](#)**  
(no subject)

let me know what you find out.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-11-30 19:46:29](#)**  
*Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

It was Carrow, no question.

My spy in the castle tells me (at least I think I have this right) that Carrow must have cast the Imperius



curse on a Gryffindor student (one who has a tendency to eat a lot of onions, I gather) in order to get the cat out of the Gryffindor dormitories. Well, he said that the onion-eater set out a fresh mouse in the common room just the night before Evelyn's cat went missing. And that the next day the onion-eater had a note from Carrow excusing him from some assignment he'd failed. So it was either blackmail or a bribe to stay quiet, but one way or another he arranged an accomplice.

I could probably have him tell Minerva, if you like. Dunno what she'd be able to do about it. Honestly I think the best solution is to sneak in there at night and slit the bastard's throat - but that would cause her no end of trouble and we can't afford that.


There's also my contact, who tells me that Carrow's getting even more dangerous than usual. He practically attacked me when I suggested I could get access to Carrow's office myself. Said that Carrow spends more and more time tracking the Dementors, always comes back with that musty smell like he's been digging in a mothballed wardrobe. Says even Alecto has been treating him with kid gloves. Promised he'd overturn every suit of armour in the castle to put the house-elves on my trail if I tried to put my wand in directly.

At least he did agree to tell the ghosts and see if they'd be willing to ensure Carrow doesn't get a decent night's sleep for the next month.

I know it's not much, but until and unless we can pull him away from the castle, it's dangerous to exact revenge since it'll put Minerva in an awkward position.

Merlin, makes me want to strike at something, though. Frank, fancy a week or two with Turner? I'm sure he'll have some target we can help hit.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-02 03:39:36](#)

*Re: Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

bloody hell.

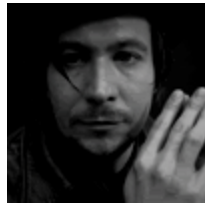
it's what I expected, but still.

damn.

if he's out wandering the grounds, I don't suppose he could have a bit of an accident, could he? all sorts of rocks out there he could trip over.

or we could just blast some trees to bits. that works too.

and min should know. for certain, I mean. give her an idea what she's up against.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-02 03:44:12](#)

*Re: Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

You do have a point. The grounds *are* dangerous, especially at night. And the forest, for certain. Anything could happen.

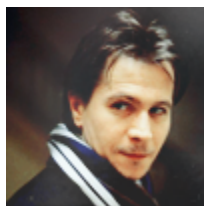
I'll pass on the report to Minerva, anyway. Maybe she can conduct inquiries among the students and find out which one eats too many onions.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-02 03:48:54](#)

*Re: Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

you going to tell us who this contact of yours is?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-02 17:46:09](#)

*Private Message to Frank*

Tell you what. If you get up here on that unscheduled detour, I'll introduce you.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-30 19:26:24](#)

*(no subject)*

All right, you. I've waited twenty-four hours and still no word from you.


'I'm off to meet my contact, whose name I won't tell

you and about whom I'll only say that you wouldn't understand him if you met him.' And then you leave us hanging, wondering whether you've gone and got yourself killed by persons unknown.


Well, I for one am not having it.

If you are not dead in a ditch somewhere, you can jolly well write and tell me so. Even if it's just a paw print.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-30 19:34:17](#)  
(no subject)




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-30 19:40:56](#)  
(no subject)

You are a scoundrel, Sirius Black.

But I'm very glad to know you've still got at least one paw to your mangy frame.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-11-30 20:01:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not mangy!

You said a pawprint.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-11-30 20:15:14](#)  
(no subject)

Eye of the beholder.

I did, indeed.




 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-12-01 20:35:22](#)  
(no subject)

Forgive my delay in getting back to you on your questions, Sirius, but that isn't a camp I've worked with much, so I don't know the staff well, and I've been having difficulty extracting any useful information on the subject. No, I didn't hear a whiff of any kind of rumour beforehand.

Bill, do you know anything more?



 **alt\_bill** at [2010-12-01 20:35:44](#)  
(no subject)

No, I'm afraid not.

**[2010-11-29 12:20:00](#)**

*Hey, Bill!*

Many happy returns and all that. Hope you're not too old to go do something fun to celebrate!



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-30 04:49:43](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks, mate. As a matter of fact, I did go out with some of my mates for drinks tonight. I had to escape my flat for awhile.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-30 04:51:09](#)

*(no subject)*

Escape your flat? Why? We haven't sent you anything that's particularly explosive. Last we checked, that is.

And happy birthday.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-11-30 04:52:46](#)

*(no subject)*

I was getting dive-bombed by owls, bringing all sorts of, er, *soppy* birthday cards. From strangers. I mean, I'm sure the ladies are quite nice and all, but how in Merlin's name did they learn what my

birthday was?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-11-30 04:53:19](#)

*(no subject)*

Your fan club has found you! We knew it was only a matter of time.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-30 04:53:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, very funny.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-11-30 04:55:36](#)**  
(no subject)

It is odd, now that you point it out. That article didn't print the birthdays of anyone on the list, did it? So how did they find out?

(And happy birthday, Bill.)



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-11-30 04:56:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Your birthday?

Oh...

Oh, dear. I may have--

Oh, never mind.


(I hope you got that shortbread I sent off with Errol, love?)



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-11-30 04:57:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, been spilling secrets, Mum? You might as well confess, if the whole rest of the world knows anyway....




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-11-30 05:00:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. Bill, I am sorry, truly. But there was a floo call from a nice young man from the *Daily Summoner*, and he said he was doing a few follow up questions, and then we just got to

chatting, you know, and you know how mums can get when they're boasting about their children, and well...but I had no idea he would have printed that!

I am sorry.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-30 05:01:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh, Mum.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-11-30 05:01:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, dear.

Was it really awful, dear?

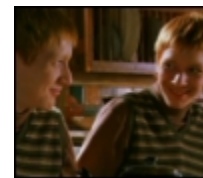


 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-11-30 05:03:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, not exactly. I mean, I can tell that they're trying to be nice and all, but--

Um.

Maybe think it over a bit before answering more questions from reporters. All right?



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-11-30 05:04:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Send him another tin or two of shortbread, Mum, and he'll get over it.

**2010-11-29 18:17:00**

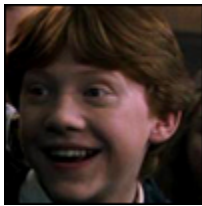
*Very official announcement #3*


Thank you to all students who have asked me about the state of the Duelling Club, particularly those of you who have made it clear that you wish for the Club to continue through the remainder of the year, regardless of recent changes. I'm pleased to report that Professor Hooch has volunteered to replace Professor Acton in co-sponsoring duties, and that the Duelling Club will continue as planned, still meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of every month (that means tomorrow!)



 [alt\\_rabastan](#)


Also, should any student have accidentally misplaced a personal belonging or two in the vicinity of my office, I've gone ahead and passed them along to Mr Dawlish. You may retrieve them from him at your convenience.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-30 02:32:15**  
*(no subject)*

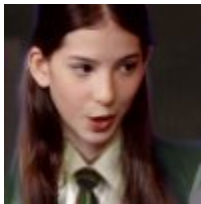
That's brilliant!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-11-30 02:33:18**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

What d'you think he means about people misplacing things by his office? I think he means girls've tried to give him stuff since that article came out.

We've got some in Gryffindor who've gone totally gooey for him.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-11-30 03:33:43**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He's almost old enough to be someone's father. Someone our age, I mean.






 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-11-30 03:44:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Hello Professor, if you're not too busy may I stop by your office during tea tomorrow?

From,

Hydra



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-11-30 03:44:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course, Ducks. I'll have the elves put out a spread.