

2010-12-01 22:19:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom



alt_sirius

Morgana and Maeve, Allie.

She's done it again.

That Parkinson girl. She wrote a (really dreadful) poem for my brother. And sent it ... to me.

He's dead, isn't he? Really dead. Forever. And if you're dead then nobody will be left to care about him but me. So I really hope that you aren't. Dead, I mean. Because if you both are, then I don't know what I'd do.

Get used to disappointment? Bloody Baron's bones!

More than anything I want to tell her that she's in for massive disappointment if she keeps on building Reg up like a hero. Like he was trying to steer her one way or another. My brother was a lot of things, Allie, but he never met a conviction he couldn't gainsay.

Merlin. Between this and Moony and Terrie it's a miracle I'm still willing to keep myself in hiding.



alt_alice at **2010-12-02 03:43:59**
(no subject)

All teenage girls write awful poetry, love.

It's a rite of passage.

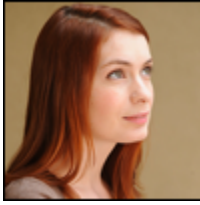
At the very least, she doesn't seem to think that he's with you any more. Still, I'm sorry.




alt_sirius at **2010-12-02 03:47:45**
(no subject)

Do they all have to send it to other people, though?


Oh, all right. I'm testy, too, I admit it. Everything you read about the Dementors making people feel off-colour is true.



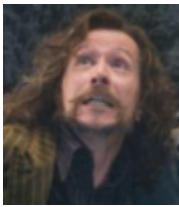
 **[alt_alice](#) at 2010-12-02 03:52:02**
(no subject)


Well, and that explains why she's in a bit of a state, too. Or a bit more than usual, that is.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2010-12-02 03:44:48**
(no subject)

And what's been happening with Terrie? Anything you want to talk about?



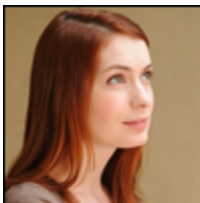
 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2010-12-02 03:53:57**
(no subject)


What's happening with Terrie

Well, I bolted. Coward's way out, I know, but there it is. I suppose with the quarantines last year nearly everyone she knows is having kids. Expecting. Whatever. It's made her really want another of her own. I was surprised - I mean, losing Alicia so young, I figured she probably wanted to bury all that behind her, you know?

But no. It was babies this and kids that and well. On top of Moony and Dora - I just couldn't. Not and not get snappish with her when it's not her fault they're stuck. So. I told her I had to go, urgent business, that sort of thing.

And yes, I feel a perfect cad. I just know if I'd stayed round any longer we'd have had a row.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2010-12-02 04:05:14**
(no subject)

You're not a cad, love. I think it might've been such a long while since she had someone around she could really talk to. Was it just talk? Because if not, I'd say that she was asking quite a lot of you.



 **alt_sirius** at [2010-12-02 04:10:34](#)
(no subject)

I dunno. Don't women just sort of - well, I mean to say. Don't they all sort of talk about that eventually?

How can you tell if it's just talk, anyway? It's not like I've ever been with someone long enough to worry about that sort of thing. Planning ahead, I mean.

Though I guess we know that doesn't always work, either.

2010-12-01 22:54:00

*Private Message to Catherine
Wickersham*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

I trust you made it home this evening. I apologise for my abrupt departure. That's a hazard of my position, though as I told you ahead of time, I did my best to cover all contingencies. Sometimes, however, it's simply one's duty to go.

The evening, though brief, was pleasant. I confess I had no idea how prolific you'd been in your work for the runway; I'd never considered all the ways in which music supports the overall effect.

2010-12-01 22:58:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Thank you.

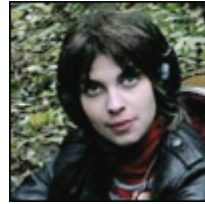


 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2010-12-02 06:44:00

Laszlo's Open For Business!!

We've had a good few inches of snow here over night, and it's still falling, but never fear!




 **alt_nymphadora**

Laszlo's of London remains Open for Business!

No promises we'll still have milk or bread or anything by the time you get here, but we can certainly provide a nice cup of tea and a fire to warm your hands. All welcome!



 **alt_narcissa** at **2010-12-02 17:40:49**

(no subject)

Nymphadora, has your employer managed to secure any of the excellent crystallised ginger he had last year? If so, would you kindly set aside ten tins? I can send Fifi round for them but don't wish to trouble if you've not got the stock.

Also I recall some passable bottles of *Mille Etoiles* - the '78, I think, you had last year. If you've any more, we'll take six.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2010-12-02 18:37:38**

(no subject)

I've had a check and we can do five tins of ginger and four bottles right now. The rest I'll try to get for you, but it might take a little while to get more stock in, especially with the weather being like this.

If that's all right, send your elf around whenever suits you. I've set what we have aside, and we can send an owl to let you know when the rest arrives, if you'd like?

I hope you're all well, Aunt.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-02 19:09:27](#)
(no subject)

The wine, yes, thank you. I think I shall have Clarriker see what he can do about the ginger. After all I'd rather not have five old tins and five new. And don't bother with the other two bottles; I'm sure I can find something else suitable.

Not nearly the treasure-trove of last year, is it? Still, I suppose it's understandable given the busy trade this time of year.

We're all quite well, Nymphadora. And you? You've recovered fully by now, surely?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-02 19:12:59](#)
(no subject)

We have been busier this year, I suppose because more people know we're here. The ginger has been quite popular. We had quite a bit in a few weeks ago, but people have started their Christmas shopping now and well, it's just gone.

Anyway, the wine's ready for collection when your elf arrives.

Glad to hear you're well. I'm fine now. Everything's fine here. We're looking forward to Christmas.

2010-12-02 13:24:00

Order Only: Private Message to Minerva McGonagall

I got the go-ahead from Frank, so here's an update for you about Evelyn Longbottom's furry companion:



 [alt_sirius](#)

Carrow either forced or enticed a Gryffindor student to lure the cat out of Gryffindor Tower and then murdered the poor thing. My new friend said that it's a boy, definitely, and that he smelt strongly of onions - so perhaps that's a way to find out what really happened.

My little friend wasn't sure he could trust you, though I've assured him that the next time he sees you he can make himself known. Said the Dark Mark makes you smell 'funny'. Told him it was probably not so much the Mark as the Protestant austerity, but he didn't get it. Anyway I think I convinced him that you're all right, despite the Mark. Look for him next time you're catting about.

He also told me that Carrow's growing less and less stable, so watch yourself. Carrow's been obsessing over the Dementors, apparently. I'm sure that's not good for anyone, but in his case it's especially worrisome.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2010-12-03 02:55:40**
(no subject)

Oh, and by the way - it's really quite astonishingly cold even under the fur.

If anyone wanted to take a trip through the tunnel to leave some blankets I'd be very grateful.

[2010-12-02 14:17:00](#)

(no subject)

The first real skate of the season is always a delight. The amount of snow blanketing the grounds, however, presents rather a challenge for the walk to and from the pond. And to one's errands.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)**

I do see what everyone likes about ordering by journal - very convenient - although there is still something to be said for a physical inspection of one's purchases. It's too bad that Laszlo's seems under-supplied currently; shall have to rely on other sources for a few essentials still not laid by.

I certainly hope that the weather ceases its battering by tomorrow - it's ever so pleasant and peaceful to watch the snow fall from within one's cosy parlour, but quite another prospect to know one must venture out-of-doors. Some days, I declare, I could happily hibernate right through to spring.

Sadly, that is not to be the case. We've Witch and Wizard of the Year nominations to read through and the longest, most dreary meeting one could imagine debating them all. The only thing that makes the horizon look even remotely inviting is the tree-lighting at Buckingham and the Pritchard party afterward on Friday. And the Bobolis party on Saturday.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-12-02 20:39:16](#)**

Order Only

I'll give you under-supplied, you stuck up cow! You can shove those bottles right up your arse!!



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2010-12-03 03:25:48](#)**

(no subject)


I haven't skated since I was small. And I'm afraid I didn't care much for it then. Father had notions about its being important for a boy to master as part of his essential training. Which is all well and good, of course, but I'd rather have done it with other boys than with him. I do remember going once with Reg, but we were older then and it

was a lark.

I spent a good portion of today out of doors, and I must say the snow has its advantages for tracking quarry. It helps, of course, to be better at warming charms than those you're pursuing.

I understand the watchers have predicted no more than picturesque quantities of snow for tomorrow evening's lighting ceremonies. They do say to expect continued cold, so we'll all be glad for Pritchard's infamous hot toddies afterwards. I'll have double reason: Mother's persuaded me we should make a party of four for the lighting. Fortunately, Mother's known Beatrice for years, so she's unlikely to take the wrong notion this time. Better still, Beatrice has no illusions. About anything, which makes her a near-perfect companion.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-03 03:42:31](#)
(no subject)

Ah, well, there you see, you'll have to try it again sometime. I'm sure Reg was more interested in racing, and likely in laughing when you slipped, than in the finer points of form. I've always thought Draco could have been quite the skater had he put his mind to it, though. It does wonders for balance, poise, flexibility and muscle tone. And there's nothing quite like having to cling to one's escort or slide off into the banks! If, that is, one is with the appropriate companion.

It does get cold, however, since one cannot place the warming charms too close to the ice!

But yes, we're all looking forward to tomorrow. I for one am exceedingly interested in Our Lord's address.

Beatrice? Not Catherine? Goodness, I seem to have missed a chapter!

[2010-12-02 16:27:00](#)

Private message to Raz

I saw that Duckie wrote, asking to come by your office for tea. Did she come by? What happened?




 **[alt_rodolphus](#)**

The Missus was asking my opinion on Christmas gifts for her during our firechat this morning, so I think the freeze might soon be coming to an end. It's still plenty chilly, though, and Hydra's letters scarcely have enough lines to read between.

Those two are more alike that they realise - both are secretive as the grave.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-12-02 23:41:34](#)**
(no subject)

She came round. Twice now, actually. She's just now scurried out of here to work on her Charms.

You're right, it's hard to get much out of the girl. Much of anything that gets to the heart of the matter. She said everything is *so lovely* and chattered a little about Tevis and when I asked her if there was anything she wanted to talk about, she said she wanted to talk about me. How did I learn to duel? Was I allowed to have creatures when I was little? What's my favourite sweet? I took that as a hint to get out some tarts and cakes but she turned them down, said she ought not ruin her supper.

So what do you think? Did Bella really make her stand up and present herself as a failure to the whole school?



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2010-12-02 23:46:13](#)**
(no subject)

She refrains from eating sweets when she feels she's disappointed her Mother, so that's not much of a surprise. You should have tucked a few into her pockets anyway. That's what I always do.

Of course Bella was behind all that. Not that she's admitted to it

(though it's been fun trying to trick her into doing just that). Narcissa was proper mortified, as you know. Can't say I was too surprised, myself.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-02 23:51:52](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, maybe that was it. Or maybe she just wasn't hungry.

Narcissa was right to be mortified. I know Bella's never been shy about making it clear that Hydra isn't pampered the way Draco is, and that's all very well and good, but humiliation seems a bit fucking much. Especially if she wants Hydra to come into her own. Now the girl's just keeping her head down more than ever.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-02 23:56:23](#)
(no subject)

She's a shy one, our Duckie. We both know that she'll never be the fierce warrior the Missus is. Let her keep her head down, just so long as she knows you're there to look out for her, to see that she's protected.

I'll head to the shops in the morning and get her a few special things. That should do wonders.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 00:00:10](#)
(no subject)

Actually, I don't know that she won't be a fierce warrior. They come in all sizes and varieties, far as I know.

Maybe what she needs is a reason to want to put her head up, yeah?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 00:02:12](#)
(no subject)

~~~~~`

Sorry, it's difficult to manage a quill when you're laughing.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 00:02:29](#)  
(no subject)


And what are you laughing about, you sod?



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 00:04:27](#)  
(no subject)

The *Serious Mr Professor Sir Who Knows What's Best for Children* aura that you've managed to perfect. Droll, Raz. Very.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 00:05:29](#)  
(no subject)

Get bent, wanker. I like children, and I remember what it was like being one better than you, old man.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 00:06:09](#)  
(no subject)

And yet you don't have any. That we know of.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 00:06:47](#)  
(no subject)

And you don't have any bollocks and yet you have two.




 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 01:40:34](#)  
(no subject)

I don't have any bollocks or I have two - which is it?

I'm sure that *Word Has It* nonsense has given you more than a few options to choose from as far as women go. More options than usual, even. I'm sure any of them would be happen to give you a few children of your own whom you can inspire to hold their heads high and whatnot.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 01:42:36](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, what stunningly new and different advice!


Bugger off, Roddy. I've got a lesson plan to get back to.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 01:44:14](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe Gwen can help you with that.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-03 01:45:21](#)  
(no subject)

Fine, I'll bugger off first, leaving you to enjoy your oh-so coveted last word.

'Night!



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2010-12-03 01:45:49](#)  
(no subject)

And so I will.

Goodnight.

**2010-12-03 08:46:00**

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr and Horatio Hooper*



 **alt\_lucius**

Assume all is in readiness for this evening's festivity. Barty, Hooper can give you or Ned the final determinations from Our Lord on the viewing hours and Runge (HH: the younger, of course) has the details on security at the announcement.

Scrimgeour believed ten enforcers sufficient; given the activity levels of certain factions and the rash of crimes inside camp communities, convinced him to double it and extend the perimeter by 200 yards. He also wanted to reduce the detail after the 15th, which is of course unacceptable. The fanatics are just as likely to attempt a disturbance on the last day as the first.

Fudge plans to arrive at Buckingham by 4:00, immediately after Court; Hooper, I should be there by half-two at the latest. Too rushed last time. Kindly remember to leave at least fifteen minutes between items, particularly when I have travel between. Even with Apparation, there are invariably matters that keep me a few minutes later than one would like and puts the next meeting to a late start if there is no cushion. Going forward, make sure there are no further solicitations on the agenda - you can put off Chadwick indefinitely as far as I am concerned.

Barty, should you need anything passed along to Desai, Yaxley or the others, Hooper has the file and my calendar. I shall be in Dover part of the morning but back in New London for a late lunch meeting with Nott.

[2010-12-03 10:04:00](#)

*XLI.*

There's nothing quite like wintertime in New London. And with this early snow, it's simply beautiful. I feel as though I live inside one of those crystals with the wintry scenes: everytime I go outside, great lavish flakes begin to fall and flurry.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

There's such a lot going on, too! Parties and openings, shows and festivities.

Patil, I'm sending you some pictures a friend of mine took of the crowds the night of your mother's runway show. It was such an event, and even though the Abbey's a huge space, they'd limited invitations so there was quite fierce competition to be on the list. And it was spectacular. I wish you and your sister could have been there; you'd have loved it.

I was invited along with my family, of course, but we went separately. I went with some friends who'd also got invitations. You'll have seen the picture of Sarah Yaxley and her new spark! I do think they're very well-suited for one another.

Tuesday night Whitacre threw a party at the Rookery, which was gorgeous--all decked in pine garland and wreaths, with fires roaring on the hearth in each of the rooms. Pennifold asked me as his plus-one, and it was quite the spread. Apparently Whitacre's done well for himself! We took a sleigh from the Ministry, all along the Strand and up through Westminster and the parks. So beautiful with all the lamps lit. We were lucky, of course, that the snow wasn't so heavy while we were out in it as it was over night and most of yesterday.

Wednesday I was on duty late with Singh and Montague, but we caught the last set at the Hedgepig afterwards, which was all right. Last night I could have gone for cocktails at Gladwell's studio, or I could have gone along with Mama to hear Mr Sanditon talk about the Opera he's been writing, but I stayed in because I really wanted to get some reading done for our next unit before the holidays snowball and all the time disappears in the whirl. (Don't even say it, Catchlove. You can pretend you aren't fussed about starting in on surveillance, but I know you're already reading the assignments like all the rest of us.)

So that was last night--Mama said the weather was terrible going and




coming, by the way, and she'd had to be out in it, since the lecture was in the Philharmonic Hall where they won't allow Apparition lest it muck about with the acoustical charms woven into the fabric of the building. Surely they'd have had it in the Opera House, which is ancient and doesn't have such mad rules against Apparition, if it weren't for the fact that *Die Fledermaus* is in rehearsals.

Tonight's the tree lighting with Our Lord's speech. And I hear there's something exciting and very much top secret being planned for it. Security is going to be top notch, of course, but that's true whenever Our Lord appears.

Vani, have you got out for a sleigh ride yet? It will be even better now there's so much more snow. Will you be at Buckingham tonight? Or do you have to mind the children again so the Rowles can come out for it? It was a shame about Friday; you'd have had a laugh at some of those who came to gawk at us as we made our way inside. Actually, some of the most appalling ones were people we know. I hadn't seen Dunstan since the DoP luncheon last June, but she's gone and blown up like a whale. I heard she's working in a chocolate shop in Regent Street. Sampling a bit too much of the merchandise, I'd say!

Anywiz, if you're able to make it for the lighting tonight, look us out. We think we'll do dinner after. A whole crowd of us, probably. So do say you'll come!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-03 19:14:48](#)  
(no subject)

Brill, I can't wait to see it! Mum says the whole thing was so successful she's simply bombarded with orders, now. I knew she would be, so I hope you put yours in ahead like I said! She's even taking reservations for fittings through the journals, did you see? Had to hire someone just to manage them all and figure out when to schedule people in. And even more witches want the shoes and bags - and of course, that's a little easier, isn't it, since the bags don't need to be sized. I like the teal one with the wand slit, it's nift.

Dad said he was very proud of the whole thing, especially the music. Did you meet the composer? She's a musician at the WWN normally and Dad got her in touch with Mum and it all worked out beautifully.

We've been rather lucky about the snow, so far, but it's been really

amazingly cold. And darker than you would believe! Sometimes it feels like Astronomy is a waste of time, because it seems like all the stars have gone right out.


Oh, and you'll never guess! Things have been rather exciting lately because - well, I probably shouldn't say right out, it'll sound like bragging. But it's brill, really. Snitch, even.

It sounds like your goings-on are just as glamorous and interesting as ever, even with all the work you're putting into the programme. Surveillance sounds as if it will be ever so dashing. I'm sure you'll be tops at that just like everything else.

Oh! I did see the picture of Yaxley with Mr Gladwell. They do look absolutely perfect together, don't they? I think it's always a good sign when a girl fits right into the crook of a bloke's shoulder like that. And they're both artistic, which is a good sign too.

Well, I should let you go on, especially if you're covering the tree lighting. Everyone in Ravenclaw Corner says to tell you that we're all proud and watching!




 **[alt\\_lana](#)** at **[2010-12-03 23:08:21](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I haven't met Ms Wickersham--that's the composer, right? The music was good, certainly, though it was hardly the focus. That was firmly on the robes and accessories.

And, yes, I've been booked in with your mother for ages. I'm to go for my fitting during lunch on Monday. My only worry is that everyone in New London will be wearing her things this year; I'm almost sorry she's got so successful, if you see what I mean.

Whatever do you mean about the stars? You're not just being hyperbolic, are you?




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-03 23:09:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm sure she'll do something very different for you, knowing you're a particular friend of mine. I'm sure she'd hate to simply send you out in the same robes as everyone else! Maybe she'll customise the collars or the trim, or even more than that, to make sure you look ever so elegant and distinctive.

Oh, and no of course, the stars aren't really going out. It's just that it's ever so overcast and dark that it's hard to tell they're even there, do you see. On account of the Dementors. It's nearly always foggy outside, even when it's not snowing.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-03 19:52:04](#)  
*Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

I'm the first in our year to go on a real date! I wasn't sure when he asked me if he meant it to be a date, really, but it was! Only I don't want Dad to see it because he'll cause a massive row about it and probably send a Howler or something equally embarrassing. You know Parvati and I aren't supposed to be dating yet.

But anyway, it was a real date, and with a boy in 4th year and a Quidditcher and all!


Oh, and speaking of people eating too much choc, you should see Parkinson lately. Her face has more spots than the craters of the moon. I haven't wanted to take the mickey too badly, though, because everyone knows it's down to the Dementors here, and they really are very nasty, but Mr Dawlish and Professor Lestrangle have assured us that the team handling them have been keeping them well back from the castle, so we're all doing our best to carry on and not let it bother us. Only Parkinson's not doing so well, I don't think. Or maybe she's just jealous because she never got round to snogging Mr Black before he went and killed himself.

Not that Page and I have snogged. Yet. But we might do.

Anyway, not even Marvolo's been that bad because of them - and I mean, he faints when they get too close and he nearly *died* when he fell off his broom - but when they're not right round he's just fine.

Well, as fine as anyone else, I reckon. I mean, everyone's a wound a little tightly, really, but really no worse than last year when we were all expecting the Monster to come and kill us all, and that turned out to be something simple enough that Marvolo could save us, so really not much to worry about. I know the Dementors are really frightening, but honestly, we're none of us that awful Snape person, so I don't see why there's any need to whinge about it. You would never whinge about it, so I certainly don't intend to do!



 **[alt\\_lana](#) at 2010-12-03 20:57:46**

*Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

A real date? Truly?

Do take care that you don't give Page any tales to tell of you if you ever quarrel.

I don't mean to side with your father, you know, only you want to look out for yourself. And while it may be exciting to be first in your year, that can turn around on you ever so easily and leave you with a reputation for being fast.

It's up to you, of course, what sort of path you choose to take, but I chose to be very careful because I didn't want anything to damage my chances of entering this programme. And it so easily could have done because when people are jealous of you, they look for every little thing that could chip away at your reputation and they use it against you. So much rests on how people judge your character, you know.



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2010-12-03 22:37:24**

*Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

Don't worry, I don't want to get in any kind of trouble! Certainly not like Chambers or anything. And Page has been a gentleman, really. It's ever so innocent. We haven't even kissed yet! I've told him that I don't want a reputation or anything and he says he's happy to let me set the pace. I mean, I don't think Dad would consider him as a suitor anyway because he's not Indian, you know, so it's not like I'd ever get serious about him, either. It's just a lark.

Would they really have barred you just for dating? Not shagging or anything, I mean - just going out with a boy? I don't think I want to

be an Auror but I do want to try for the Interrogators, I don't know if they have the same standards for probity, though, but if they do I'll go extra careful.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at 2010-12-04 22:51:02

*Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

Sorry about not writing back last night. I didn't get home until late. There was the tree-lighting, but then after Our Lord spoke and broke the big news, a whole group of us went out to celebrate, and I'm afraid we stayed out very, very late. But it was amazing: last night New London was one big, continuous party, and every place we went, the restaurants were putting out free spreads and people were buying everyone champagne or cocktails. I didn't pay for anything all night long! And there was dancing. And bands--really big name ones, even--just came out into the squares and the roads and started playing. And people threw open their windows and sat on the sills and watched, or they came down and joined in.

But I did want to answer your question about my parents, because it's important, and because I think your family may be a bit like mine. My parents' rule was that I couldn't date a boy before my coming out, but what they really meant was that I couldn't commit myself to doing things with just one boy. And that's not all. I was supposed to always be sure there were other people around if I was with a boy I liked.

It was partly a matter of my parents (and my grandparents, too) being very traditional and absolutely Spanish in the way they think about young people and social behaviour, but it was also because my father and my grandfather are very practical people with very clear ambitions.

So, you see, when I was getting ready to go to school for the first time, my grandfather asked me to come visit him in his office at the store. When I arrived for our appointment, my father was there, too, and they were both very formal. They told me that I should be very careful about how I presented myself to other people, and that I should always remember that there are many people who do not have the privileges and the wealth that we have because some of those people would resent what I have. And some of those people would try to make me lose face or


attempt to damage my reputation.

Now this wasn't only advice about boys, you understand. It was about how I should conduct myself in all situations and with everyone I would meet at school. They told me I must always be especially careful about doing things privately with just one other person, because if that person became angry or spiteful and wanted to hurt me, they could make up stories about me that would be very difficult to disprove. They told me it was always best to do things above board and with enough other people that if anyone wished to damage my reputation, they'd have to try to conspire with others. Because conspiracies rarely hold. You can almost always prove that people's stories don't quite match up if they're not telling the truth.

That's why Ravenclaw Corner was so important to me. I could show that I was a leader, and I could work with others on the things we cared most about, but I was always in a place where other people could see what I had been doing. And it's why even now, I prefer to go places in groups or to go on dates if it's with someone special to places that are public (a show or a restaurant or a public event). It's just better that way, and less likely some boy will get the idea that he could get back at me by saying I'd done something I never would.

That's why I think you should be very careful about starting so young, even if you take care not to be alone much. It's just that if you get a reputation for being the sort of witch who dates a lot of boys, then it will be easier for people to believe it someone decides to be spiteful and lie about you someday.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-03 19:54:31](#)

*(no subject)*

I've heard that the annual tree lighting ceremony is quite splendid. And something top secret planned for it? Some sort of announcement, perhaps? I'll keep an eye on the paper tomorrow. I do quite envy you the opportunity to be there. That's one thing I'm quite looking forward to about leaving school: I hope to live and work in London next year and quite look forward to seeing the city all decked out for the holiday season.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2010-12-03 20:33:05](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Weasley. I'm sure you'll find a position here if that's what you've set your sights on.

I remember the tree lighting from when we were children. Mama and Papa would take us, and they always let Orion pay the carriage driver, which made him feel very grown up. It was a chance to dress up and wear our new winter cloaks, and Mama always gave us an early Christmas present of hats, stoles and a muff or gloves. When I was eight, mine were the softest grey rabbit fur. So lovely. Afterwards, Papa would take us all to Brewsters for cocoa to warm up, and then we'd go on to the Berkeley for supper. That's still Papa's favourite place to eat in New London--he's a bit settled in his ways.

**2010-12-03 12:20:00**

*Private message to Mrs Brown*



 [alt\\_luna](#)

Professor Vector has sent around the sign up parchment for the students who will be staying at Hogwarts for the holidays. I would like to know whether it would be all right with you and Mr Brown if I were to do that this year. I've been helping Professor Brutka take care of the animals for Care of Magical Creatures (feeding and mucking out the cages and so forth) and I expect it also be a good time to get ahead on my reading for the spring term. Some of the other students who have stayed over the holidays have told me that they've had a lovely time and gotten a lot of revising done too so you needn't give a thought to me. ~~Lavender~~ probably pref

Please let me know, either through the journals or by owl so I can let Professor Vector know. Thank you.

And I also wanted to say thank you for the article you sent to me about fashion tips. My roommates Celia and Portia read it too and said that you really have a remarkable fashion sense and I should be proud that you are willing to take me in hand.



**[2010-12-03 19:09:00](#)**

*Our Lord's Speech*

Applebee let us all gather round his wireless to listen to the Lord Protector this afternoon.



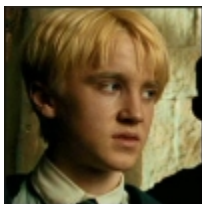
Did anyone else listen? It's brilliant, isn't it? The best part is that we'll all still be able to go see because they're not closing the public viewing until the 6th of January. A whole month!

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

Well, Fleet immediately made plans to go with some of his mates, and I reckon we could do the same. Who's up for it?

Imagine actually being able to see what's left of Black up close. I wonder if it's all decayed and gross or just turning green from the rot? D'you figure people will sick up at the sight? Or maybe it's been cleaned up and preserved with anti-decaying spells. How much do you think was left by the time they found the body? I mean, Bobolis says he doesn't think it's all that recognisable or it wouldn't have taken so long for those French blokes to make sure it was really him.

But anyway - Huzzah for the Lord Protector! And Huzzah for the end of Black! I can't wait to go have a look.



 **[alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-04 00:21:59](#)**

*(no subject)*

I was wondering why they were showing it out in public at first, the body, I mean, but then when He was talking about all of Black's crimes, it sort of all came together and made sense, didn't it?




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-04 00:24:56](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh yeah, definitely.

Wait - you mean because they want to prove it to all those wallies out there who want to insist that your Aunt didn't kill him, right?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-04 00:31:59](#)  
(no subject)

Who's insisting she didn't kill him? Besides a few mad blood traitors, I mean?

And no, what I meant was that he was such a massive muggle lover, so it only seems right that they put his corpse on display in public like the muggles themselves did.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-04 00:35:14](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well. I mean - no offence, Malfoy, but there's at least one story a week on either the wireless or in the *Prophet* about those mad blood traitors.

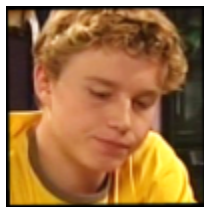
And you've got to admit that it was bad luck no one could find him right away, then there'd have been no room for doubt. But now they'll have to give over, won't they?

I hadn't really thought about muggles doing that sort of thing, but you're right. It's more than he deserves.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-04 01:17:59](#)  
(no subject)

They'll probably still insist that he's alive, since they're so delusional about it.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-04 04:23:02](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, probably.

Berks.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-04 00:27:43](#)  
(no subject)


Well, I'm really, really glad they've finally got the proof that Auror Lestrage finished him. But I don't think I want to go look at what's left. Especially since it was

outdoors for months.

Besides, it sounds as if even after we're home we'd have to wait on queue for hours and hours just to see what's left of a traitor's dead body?

Ugh. No, thanks. I believed he was dead from the first. I don't need to gawp at the remains.




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-12-04 02:03:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

Really!

I don't know why boys are so excited by blood and gore; I'm more than happy to take Our Lord's word from a distance.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-04 02:14:45](#)**

*Private Message to Lavender*

Thing is, I've a feeling Mum and Dad will want us to go. Because with the other one still missing, it's the closest they can get to looking at Sanji's killer.

But I think I've had enough of dead things *forever*. I can't believe I ever wanted to be a Potioneer, all they do is slice up dead things.

I mean, I still like Potions just fine. But I want to send criminals to prison and make traitors pay, not go peering at them all after they're dead.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-12-04 02:23:45](#)**

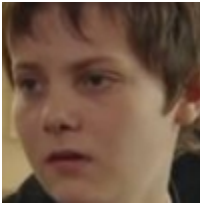
*Re: Private Message to Lavender*


Oh, Padma. I hadn't even thought about that, but you're right, I could see your mum and dad taking it that way.

Maybe if they do, you could say you're ill?

Or, I don't know, I imagine they make you look at all sorts of

horrid things in Auror training, just like they do for Healers, so maybe you could pretend it's a training exercise.




 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2010-12-04 00:36:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it'd be cool to see what they look like.

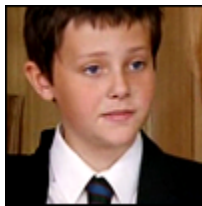
I bet if I told them I'd come home if we can go, my parents would say yes.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-04 00:38:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, just go home, Corner. Stop whinging about it. The only one missing out if you stay is you.

Honestly.




 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2010-12-04 00:40:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, you're not the one who has to adjust, are you?

And anyway I'm not whinging. I'm just undecided.

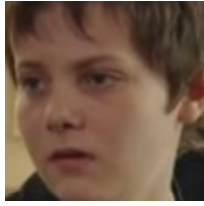



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-04 00:42:35](#)**  
(no subject)

You're whinging. Do you think you're the only one who's not particularly happy about going home? But you've got one, still, they didn't decide you have to go into fostering or anything. And they could have done.

Plus you said your parents sent you all sorts of expensive presents for your birthday. Obviously they're trying to make it up to you. They'll probably fall over themselves with ways to please you if you tell them you'll come home.

Anyone can tell you really want to go, you're just being cross with them now out of habit.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2010-12-04 00:45:44](#)  
*(no subject)*

I'm not cross with them out of habit, Patil! I'm cross because - because what they did was wrong. And it's going to affect me my whole life, so excuse me if I'm not sure I'm ready to forgive

them yet.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-04 00:49:18](#)  
*(no subject)*

Do you lot mind not arguing all over my journal?

Corner, Patil's right. Just go home and you'll stop worrying about the whole thing. Look at Summers and Stebbins, they don't bother about it any. And Summers even has a foster home.

No one really cares anyway.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-04 04:18:51](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Nice.

Of course none of that lot cares a bit for Corner. But do they have to bloody tell him that?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-04 00:53:35](#)  
*Order Only*

They announced they've got my body?

Getting ahead of themselves just a bit. Wonder how they managed it? Probably don't want to know.

Merlin's beard, Parkinson's not going to take this well. I hope she doesn't try yet another owl - just on the off chance they're lying. Then again, if she does think they're lying ... that's a good sign she's using her head, I suppose.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-05 03:51:53](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Not only that they've got your body, but they're putting it on display. In a specially built glass sarcophagus, the better to show off your rather pitiful corpse to everyone.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-05 03:54:07](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, but do they believe that's truly what they have, Bill? Have you determined that?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-05 03:55:26](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Haven't heard a hint that anyone thinks otherwise.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-05 03:59:43](#)

*Re: Order Only*

That's quite a neat trick, whoever arranged it.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-05 04:05:06](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I heard a rumour there were some eager chaps who suggested that your body should be put in the sarcophagus--except for your head, which would be displayed on a pike in front of Buckingham Palace.

Fortunately, rather cooler heads prevailed. So to speak.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-05 04:06:18](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Ugh, how barbaric!




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-05 04:07:22](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Right, and that was rather the point. Sirius Black deserved nothing better.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-05 04:07:56](#)

*Re: Order Only*

What they settled on was barbaric enough.



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

*Re: Order Only*

No disagreement from me.

**2010-12-03 21:29:00**

*Private Message to Martin and Ellen  
Bones*



 [alt\\_susan](#)

Dear Mum and Dad,

I can't wait to be home for winter hols! I hope you and the younger ones are holding up well enough with all the snow in London. Do you think lessons are going to be cancelled at the infant school?

I'm sure you could do with a day off, Mum, even though I know you'd spend it marking parchments and minding Peter and Carrie, which wouldn't exactly be a vacation!

Speaking of the little sibs, what do they want for Christmas? Ed and I need to start figuring out how far our pocket money will stretch!

Are we all right, I mean for money and everything? I only ask because your entries have been sounding a little stressed. I know you don't want us children to worry, but I think I'm at least old enough (and *maybe* Ed too) to know if there's anything going on.

See you soon!

Love,

Susan



**[2010-12-03 22:19:00](#)**

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

Uh.

Parks?

Are you all right?




 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-04 06:04:05](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think it's really his body?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-04 22:21:53](#)  
(no subject)

I've been thinking about this all day.

I don't know.

I mean, surely the Protector or somebody at MLE could make any body look like Sirius Black, right? I mean, somebody could do it, right? And, anywiz, who's really seen him recently enough to say whether it's really him or not? I mean, maybe his family could tell even after all the time he's been gone, but if it's not him, is Mrs Lestrangle going to say? Or who else is in his family? The Malfoys, right? Are they going to say, 'No, y'know what, now we've looked, we think the Protector's got it wrong.'

I don't think so.

So who'd really know?

But, then, if nobody'd know whether it looks like him or not, leastways nobody who'd say if it didn't, then why'd they wait so long to go find some body to stick in a box and call it Black?


You see what I'm saying? If it's not him, and they're just lying about it, why didn't they do that months ago?

So.

Maybe it is him, really.

?




 **[alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-05 02:41:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Hermione let slip that he's alive.

The Lord Protector says he's dead.


Between the two of them, I'll rather believe Hermione. At least I know she doesn't lie to me like he does.



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-05 02:42:49](#)**  
(no subject)

He could have died since Hermione told us that.




 **[alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-05 02:52:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe. But I don't think so.

From the little Hermione told me about the stuff that went on at Buckingham this summer, it sounds like the Ministry really did think he was dead. I get that impression from some the Floo calls the Headmistress has had, too. But I think that if there's a secret group that can smuggle wands into the country, that probably means they've got somebody helping them outside the borders, right? And France seems pretty likely, because most of the little trade there is from outside the country comes through there.

So if they've got someone in France who can help smuggle wands, I bet whoever it is could figure out how to magick up a fake dead body, to convince the Ministry he's really gone.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-05 02:56:56](#)  
(no subject)

Huh.


You know, if you're right and he is alive, I bet it's sort of strange for him. Listen to everyone gloating over his supposedly dead body.



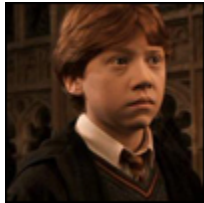
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-05 03:04:09](#)  
(no subject)


But what a great prank if he shows up at whatever display they're making of it just to stick out his tongue and go 'nyah, nyah, nyah.'



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

Yeah, but I don't think he's stupid enough to do that. If he gave Bellatrix Lestrange the slip once, I bet he's not going to go looking for her again.



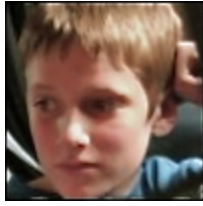
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-06 16:10:58](#)  
(no subject)


Okay, yeah.

I think you're right, Nev. I think maybe he didn't really die when they said he did, but once they'd said it, they couldn't go back on that. So they've been hunting him secretly ever since. And they got him. So now they can say the French found the body and have returned it.

So, yeah. I'm sorry, but I think it really must be him they've got. That's the only reason I can think that they'd have waited so long and 'find' it now.


See what I mean?



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2010-12-05 02:54:14](#)**  
(no subject)

And whether he's alive or dead, I just think that's really, really sick. Showing off a dead body like it's some kind of trophy.



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2010-12-05 02:55:03](#)**  
(no subject)

You said it.

**2010-12-04 11:16:00**

*(no subject)*

What a glorious night it was! I can't recall having quite such a cause to celebrate. I admit that it was well worth the wait for Our Lord's announcement to see its impact.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Of course, I read this morning that the camps were almost universally unruly last night - though that's to be expected and indeed I believe most of the camps had been warned that there might be some reaction. Of course anyone who knew him would have known he never had a chance against the might of the Protectorate. It's yet another measure of proof that muggles have no realistic concept of their chances against us, putting their faith in such a creature.

But I can think of no better hosts than the Pritchards to provide an outlet for the inevitable giddiness that followed Our Lord's triumphant address. I'm sure we rather overdid it! Luckily Kensington was only a short sleigh ride away, for I'm certain neither Lucius nor I were in any shape to Apparate all the way to the Manor last night. I've enjoyed quite a long lie-in myself, though Lucius had to gather himself earlier than I to help supervise the body's arrival and installation in time for Monday's unveiling.

I'm afraid I've rather missed the naming ceremony I was meant to attend this afternoon. But it may be a blessing in disguise, since I'm here in London and there's no sense leaving before the Bobolis party tonight. I might get in some last-minute Christmas shopping. To say nothing of taking in tea in the cosy little room at *Le Chien*.

Oh, and I've had a number of inquiries, so: Yes, our party is a Sunday this year, not a Saturday. It seemed too much of a crunch with the children returning from school that same day. But never fear - we have plenty of rooms should anyone over-indulge and find themselves unable to leave Wiltshire. Several of you have already arranged to stay and that's marvellous. I am determined that at least once, no one shall be found passed out in the window-seat of the library at the end of the evening!

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 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-04 20:16:02](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure Our Lord was gratified by the crowd's roar of approval last night. Certainly it was well deserved.

And the best is yet to come: I look forward to seeing who pays Our Lord the compliment of journeying in person to see the traitor's remains--and who does not. Monday will be a most interesting day.

Pritchard rose to the occasion, didn't he? I wonder whose good will he was purchasing.

Speaking of Kensington, I suppose Cooper's progress will be held up while this snow lasts. Or are you allowing him to remove it from the grounds in order to go ahead with his installation?

Thank you, by the way, for introducing me to Vivian Morley last night; I honestly didn't recognise her after all this time. She's agreed to go with me to the Bobolis's tonight. One more social engagement down, several dozen to go.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-05 14:12:59](#)  
(no subject)

Goodness, when I said the Pritchard affair was the best place to celebrate, I quite underestimated the Bobolis's ability to throw an all-out bash! I expect old Archimedes will make it all back in the cases of spirits he'll no doubt sell. Did I see Vinehouse deep in conversation with Agamemnon over the 15-year-old Doublewood? Lucius was particularly impressed with the 18, but I'm sure the trade in Nottingham can't support too dear a casking.

I heard raves about the winter porter, too. I expect we'll see it appearing on many a menu in the months to come.

Beatrice wasn't too disappointed then, given how much time you spent catching up with Vivian? I'm not surprised you couldn't place her. She's undergone quite the transformation - and necessary, I think you'll agree. The glasses were bad enough but I think she's much prettier with her teeth straightened. And of course she's

made giant strides on her weight programme. Exactly the sort of image improvement she needed for her business, I say.

As for the gardens, I'm afraid Cooper hadn't quite got round to installing anything yet. The foundations are there for the larger structures but the cold snap took him by surprise, it seems. I suppose artistry can not be expected to run to schedule. He's had a few changes in direction as well - I think the end result will be worth the wait. But it does mean we'll be seeing a little more of Mr Cooper in the coming weeks. He was there last night as well. Did you say hello? You really might consider letting him loose on Marlborough. And Vivian as well, come to that. Those disused wings will go to ruin if you don't give them attention once in a while.

I hope you've built some recovery time into your busy schedule. I doubt either of us shall be of any use today at all. Luckily our agenda consists solely of a hair of the dog and a - very - quiet afternoon of rest.

**2010-12-04 21:10:00**

*So busy!*



 **alt\_hannah**

I swear that my assignment notebook has a hex on it or something. Every time I look in it, the assignments seem to have doubled. I have so much to do before the holidays! Part of the problem is that I got so stuck in my last two or three projects in Arithmancy. I'm sure Professor Vector must have thought I was such a dunce and wondered what I was doing in her class! But after I did so badly on the last quiz, I went to see her to go over where I got my answers wrong. I think I understand polynumeral equations a little better. Thank goodness. I finally finished my potion essay, too. I made the mistake of changing my mind about which topic to write about. At first I was going to do it on alkaline fixatives, but all the books I wanted to use as resources were checked out of the library, and so I ended up tearing up my parchment in frustration and scribbling something in a hurry about the properties of foxglove. I hope Professor Slughorn can read my handwriting.

It's hard to concentrate because everyone's getting rather excited about Christmas. Aren't the decorations beautiful this year? Every time I see the spruce and holly boughs go up on the staircases and the Christmas trees start to go up in the Great Hall, I start to get a little homesick.

The YPL meeting was quite interesting today, wasn't it? And a little creepy, frankly. I learned more about dementors than I expected. Ugh, I know the Ministry of Magic finds them useful, but I hope to never get near one of them again.


I've been working on my Christmas presents, but I've finally decided I just don't have time to make them all this year. I have a bit more pocket money than usual, so I hope to do some shopping in Hogsmeade next weekend.

(Susan, have you mastered those housekeeping charms Professor Acton assigned us to learn? I can't get the dusting charm right. It starts out all right, but no matter what I do, the feather duster keeps flicking all the dust right up my nostrils. I almost sneezed my head off after dinner.)

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 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-05 03:47:45](#)  
(no subject)

Hogsmeade's next weekend? It had gone right out of my head!

I'm glad they're letting us go, though. I simply *have* to get out of this castle for a bit, and Christmas-shopping by owl-order isn't really much fun, is it?

Sometimes I wish I were as handy as you and making gifts was even an option (well, I could write or draw something, but kids like, I dunno, physical things too, that they can play with and all).

For the dusting charm, have you tried adjusting your swishing speed? It sounds like you might be going a bit fast.




 [alt\\_hannah](#) at [2010-12-05 04:18:11](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I agree with you about owl-ordering. Mummy does that all the time, but I'm not used to it. I'd rather pick up and look at something before deciding whether to buy it.

Usually I like making my gifts, but ugh, no time this year! What will it be like when we're doing O.W.L.s or N.E.W.T.s? I can hardly believe the Prefects when they say that we get more work every year, but I suppose it must be true. It seems like the seventh years practically live at the library.

You're probably right about my swishing speed. That's the one thing I usually get wrong on my charms. I wonder how long it'll take me before I really get the knack?



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-05 04:32:32](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, Ed & I had talked about going in together to get our sibs something rather nice, but now he's being a bit of a berk about about how he has to give me all his pocket money to take to Hogsmeade and he doesn't even get any fun out of it.

Which, well, is sort of true, but he's still a berk. (And I don't care if you're reading this, Ed, it's true!)

I'm sort of hoping that we'll pick up tricks and things along the way, so that by the time we get to O.W.L. year we're used to it, more or less.

Every once in a while I wish *I* had an older sister who could tell me all the really snitch tips and things; mostly I ask Great-Auntie Mina and she's lovely, but things have changed a lot since her day.

I think you'll get the swishing thing eventually; I mean, everybody's got something's that's a bit of a sticking point but we all get through more or less.

And one good thing about living in the sett--somebody's always around to give a hand, as long as you're not a total ass about asking.

Which you never, ever would be.

**2010-12-05 16:50:00**

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



Sorry I didn't write back sooner, Ron.

I honestly just didn't want to open up this horrid thing and read what everyone else was writing about it. Because it's awful to think about him like that where everybody can see. And I hate that we don't know if it really is him. It's almost worse than knowing for sure he's really dead.


 [alt\\_pansy](#)

I'm tired of chocolate. I'm tired of being sad and cold, and walking outside makes me sadder and colder. I'm tired of being here, and I don't want to be in cruddy old Scotland for my mum's wedding either.

Ugh.

Ugh ugh ugh.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-12-06 02:47:48**  
(no subject)


It seems strange to say a person could ever get tired of chocolate, but I know just what you mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-12-06 02:59:55**  
(no subject)


I never want to see chocolate again. Ugh.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-12-06 03:11:36**  
(no subject)

Well. I know what you mean, but I bet I'd get over it if I weren't here, y'know. With those things lurking around out there somewhere, being awful.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-06 03:22:23](#)  
(no subject)

Still, I could be worse, I suppose. Like if what they have to give you to help to recover from them was something foul, like, I dunno, cod-liver oil.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-06 03:24:51](#)  
(no subject)

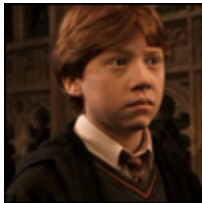
Very true!


That would be a LOT worse.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-06 06:25:54](#)  
(no subject)

You've got a point.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-06 03:16:42](#)  
(no subject)


Yeah, I sort of thought that might be what was up.

I bet we'll all feel better once we're away from here. I mean, last year I stayed over Christmas--well, the year before, too, but that was different--and it was because I wanted to stay and things were messed up at home. Or anywiz, things weren't right between me and my family. And it wasn't so bad. Staying here for the holidays. And Percy stayed, and he was actually not as much of a berk as usual. Yeah, I mean, it was sort of nice being here with no lessons, and most everyone gone, and loads of snow.

But this year? If you told me I had to stay, I think I'd go mad.

So, yeah. I get not wanting to go home to the stuff that's going on there--the wedding and all--but I really think it's all going to be loads better the minute we get away from those horrible Dementors.



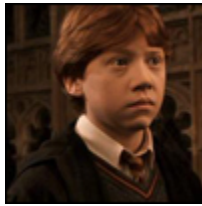
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-06 03:23:23](#)  
(no subject)


I heard not so many people have signed up to stay for the holidays this year, for that very reason.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-06 03:26:45](#)  
(no subject)

Staying would be HORRID this year. I can't believe Michael Corner's actually considering it, no matter how cross he still is with his parents.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-06 04:03:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I mean, I know you don't have much fun going to the Strettons for the holidays, but I bet you don't want to stay. I mean, going there is better than staying here, don't you think?

And maybe they'll have caught Snape and Macnair by the time we get back, and they can make the Dementors go back to Azkaban where they belong.

I hope.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-06 06:23:37](#)  
(no subject)

That would be a fantastic Christmas present, yeah.

**2010-12-06 10:41:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa*

Dearest,

I know you mentioned wanting a bit of a break between the unveiling and your afternoon but I've just learned that Dideron himself is accompanying the remains. I had been under the impression it was simply a detail of *Guardiens*; the Dover border just cleared them and confirmed that he is with the Honour Guard. We expect them any moment. Broome has set additional places at the luncheon after and I need you to stay. There are sure to be photographs and Our Lord will surely want to present Marcel with the most charming dining companion we can provide.

When you arrive MLE will let you through to the VIP area. Thank you - otherwise we should have to seat him next to Bella.



 **alt\_lucius**

**2010-12-06 16:19:00**

*(no subject)*

Pennifold. I've gone on to Ipswich this afternoon. Need and opportunity aligned after this morning's necessary business. I trust you've soldiered on through those parchments. I want the numbers on my desk first thing--so have them done before you call it a day.



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

Maebh. I haven't had time to reply to your owl. Have you decided when you'll be in town next? The answer, of course, is yes. Advance warning would be helpful, however.

Miss Wickersham. I have found your glove, though quite how you came to lose it in my cloak pocket, I've no idea. I've asked my assistant to return it to you.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-12-07 01:52:23**

*(no subject)*

Now I appreciate how your Auror training provides you the fortitude to tromp halfway across the country even after days of self-abuse! For myself, between the excitement of the weekend celebrations and the unexpected pleasure of such an august dignitary as the head of the French Magical Law Enforcement agency, I was much too overcome by the emotion of the day to manage anything else at all. I may even forego my engagements tomorrow as well!

But then, that is the luxury of one in my position, so on the whole I do not think I would trade places.

By the way, which of the concerts do you plan to attend? Or would you rather not say right out? I may have a suitable partner for you if Maebh's trip does not coincide - or perhaps for the Fudge's if you've not decided on that yet, either.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-12-07 03:37:32](#)**  
(no subject)


Narcissa.

I'm just home. I admit it was a long day that did not go entirely to plan. To be honest, though, I wouldn't have traded my duties for yours.

At least the first part went off without a hitch. We may all indulge in the satisfaction.

I doubt Maebh will be much interested in a concert, and, no, I've not got so far as to ask a companion for that evening. I'm planning on the Wednesday for that, by the way, though as today's events prove, everything in my schedule is contingent.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-12-07 04:14:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I think we were all surprised - though certainly honoured - by M Dideron's decision to accompany Our Lord's newest trophy in person. But it was not too arduous to serve as both his escort and, when necessary, translator. I believe I have nearly convinced him to bring a delegation for a proper visit, next time. I can't think what you were doing that had such comparative appeal.

Well, your schedule permitting, do join me for tea on Friday and I shall be happy to introduce you to Camilla Owens. We're meeting at the St Paul's tea room. I'm sure she won't mind if we are briefly three.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2010-12-07 13:21:39](#)**  
(no subject)

I needed to cross-check Pennifold's diary for Friday.

I should be able to join you.

Barring the unexpected.



**2010-12-06 20:52:00**

*Order Only: Message from Minerva*

Minerva left me a note among the blankets (and thanks again, by the way, Minerva). She apologised for doing it this way but I gather she's up to the elbows with end-of-term arrangements and Governors and something about that cursed usurper's decisions regarding my godson. But the real reason she left the note was to not-too-subtly tell me that I can do more good elsewhere at the moment. There were three muggleborn children this week in various camps whose names have appeared in her book:



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Sally Hoffman, Ashford, Kent  
William Christiansen, Scarborough, Yorkshire  
Chloe Russell, Haverill, Suffolk

Frank, Kingsley, Arthur: We'll all need to move if we're going to get to all of them in a timely window.

Frank, fancy meeting me in Yorkshire? Arthur, I'm not sure whether Suffolk or Kent is better for you - I suppose it depends on where the Players are and which one is easier for you, Kingsley.



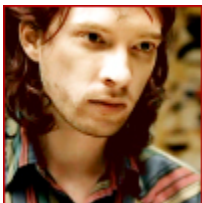
 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-07 15:16:46](#)


*(no subject)*

Three in one week! That's grand news.

Haverill in Suffolk will work for us. Arthur, why don't you plan on taking Kent.

Bill, can I trouble you to whip up the necessary bonafides for Emmeline and me? We have enough polyjuice.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-07 15:18:11](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, I have a set ready; I just need to add in the dates. I've put them for you at the drop site.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-07 15:31:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. That will work. I can make an excuse to get out there this afternoon.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-12-07 15:32:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Three babies! Oh, my.

Alice and Frank, do you have everything you need for so many added at once to the nursery?



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-07 21:54:38](#)**  
(no subject)


might have to do some additional scrounging, yeah, but we've had a few old enough to graduate to dormitories so we'll just shuffle em around a bit to free up some room

no worries

babies don't really take up that much room really any road

cindy might need a few extra hands around for the next few months though



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-07 16:08:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Do all of you have enough polyjuice?

Frank, I know Stephen brewed a good supply during the growing season, and I assume it will hold you for a while.

Pomona says that her forced crop in the greenhouses will be in reasonable flush when the full moon comes this month, and I've got enough of the other ingredients squirreled away that we could begin a fresh batch now in preparation for the 21st. With castle emptying

out for the holidays, it should be no difficulty to bottle the stuff and store it away or arrange delivery as needed.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-07 16:36:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Poppy. I've been rationing mine, since I've got other options. But Scarborough's a fairly large camp from what I understand, so it may take us a while to find the right Christiansens.

We may well need to resupply after this. In fact, Frank may want to come up and collect it himself.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-07 21:55:46](#)

*(no subject)*

just might, yeah long as we're out and about

unless you think the security will be too tight poppy

dementors aren't an issue, but wouldn't want to run into aurors, polyjuiced or no.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-07 21:53:00](#)

*(no subject)*

brill. yorkshire is cold as tits this time of year, but I'm up for stretching the legs a bit.

see you soon.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-07 21:56:38](#)

*(no subject)*

expect there'll be quite a crop what with the quarantine last year

not much else to do, yeah?


**2010-12-06 21:36:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

Percy,

When you've got a minute to spare from your prefect duties, please sit down with me and attend to some of your brotherly duties.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)



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 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-12-07 15:34:22**

*(no subject)*

Shall we have lunch together? I'll look for you in the Great Hall.



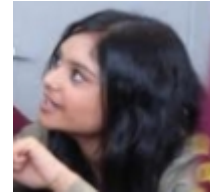
 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2010-12-07 19:30:33**

*(no subject)*

Thanks Percy for talking to me. Getting all of that out in the open was very beneficial. I'm not sure where I stand on certain topics yet, but hopefully it won't be long before I do.

**2010-12-06 21:37:00**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan and Lavender Brown*



 **alt\_padma**

I've been thinking some more about what Sandoval told me, you know, and I'm going to tell Page that if he wants to go on we'll have to have other mates along - at least for a little while. I want to be sure that no one thinks we've been snogging non-stop for the last two weeks when we haven't even tried it once!

Anyway, I think if it's going to work like Sandoval says it should then I have to have other mates to ask along. I mean, Page is welcome in Ravenclaw Corner, but I don't exactly want to be with him only with Ravenclaw Corner folks about! And I think it would work better with not just a single chaperone, either. I mean, if Seamus and Page and I were together, then it could turn into someone saying that I was snogging both of you. And if Lavender were along but no one else, then people could think we're both snogging Page!

But then I had a brilliant idea, which is that if we pretended to double-date it would take care of everything. No one would think it untoward and no one would be able to make up stories, I wouldn't be embarrassed in front of Ravenclaw Corner and Page wouldn't feel like I'm putting him off. And you two aren't about to start snogging each other, so no one would think that you're just coming along so we can all mess about. And Finnigan, you could ask Hooper if you wanted and then you could revise as well.

You don't mind, do you? I mean, not all the time, because there's Parvati and Corner and others to come along, too, but once in a while?




 **alt\_seamus at 2010-12-07 17:58:24**

*Private message to Padma*

Wait, are you talking about dating or revising? If it's supposed to be a double date then how does Hooper fit in, is he pretending to be Lavender's date or am I?

I mean I don't mind but I'm not sure what Lavender thinks.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-07 18:03:12](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Well, if Hooper wanted to come along, then the three of you could revise, you see, and it wouldn't make any difference to me or to Page. Or Parvati could come along as well. And no one would think you and Lav are dating if you didn't want them to do.




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-07 18:06:05](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

I don't mind pretending it's a date but what about Lavender?

Can you find out if it's okay with Lavender and let me know? Because I don't mind if she doesn't but it would be really embarrassing if I asked her and she said no. I mean it's bad enough to be rejected when you're asking a girl out on a real date (or I'd assume, anyway) but it would be even worse for her to turn you down for a PRETEND date. But if she's up for it I don't mind.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-07 19:06:17](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Well, that's why I asked you both, silly! But if you want to know whether she fancies you I can find out if you like.




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-07 19:30:04](#)**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

I don't need to know if she fancies me! I just If we're going to pretend its a date but everyone else is supposed to THINK it's a date I want to be sure SHE won't mind if people think she's dating me.

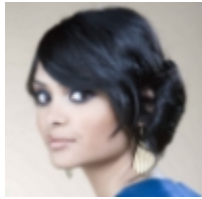



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-07 19:33:41](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Well, that's what I thought you meant! But then you made such a big deal out of asking girls out that I thought maybe you were worried because you fancy her.

You don't, though, right? I mean, you've never said you do and you never ask about her or anything, so I guessed you don't care really. I mean, other than as mates. Which is fine. I mean, really the whole point is to make it look like we're doing what we're doing with other people about, so no one can accuse any of us of doing anything we oughtn't.



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-07 19:23:48](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Lav says that she likes you well enough to be mates, but only if you promise not to act like a Weasley and pull rotten pranks on her like putting chocolate frogs in her hair or fireworks in her bag or anything like that.

But that means you could bring Hooper and just get in extra revising time if you liked.

I mean, you wouldn't mind, though, if people started to think you and Lav actually were going out? Because we could make it clear to everyone that we're all just mates--and really, that would probably be better for--for home. In case anyone else talked about it and my parents read it.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-12-07 19:30:29](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

I would NEVER act like a Weasley! How could she think I would act like one of them? UGH.





 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:37:48](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

She didn't say Weasley. I did. But you have to admit it's exactly the sort of thing they'd do and then you'd laugh yourself silly at the poor girl trying to brush the spider out of her hair or something like that. Or trying to fish a real fish out of her bag.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-07 19:39:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Well.

I might laugh if someone else did it.

But I'd NEVER put chocolate frogs in Lavender's hair. Especially if we were pretending to be on a date, that would be just rude.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-07 19:31:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Anyway I don't mind if people start to think me and Lav are actually going out but I'm worried Lavender might mind.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:36:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

No, I don't think that's going to be a problem.

Why don't we all go into Hogsmeade together this Saturday - you and Lav and me and Page and we'll ask Parvati and Hooper too if you like. And then if you and Lav decide not to go with us again, well, then I'll figure something else out.






 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-07 19:38:22](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Okay, that'll be wiz. I'll let Hooper know, I'm sure he won't mind.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:46:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Nift!

After breakfast, we'll all meet in the Entrance Hall, then.

Ugh. Fifteen more minutes in History of Magic. It's all so BORING when Binns talks about it!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:13:03](#)

*Private Message to Lavender*

Lav,

Finnigan's in if you are, but first he wants to know if you're at all interested for real. I mean, I think he's worried that people will start to really think you're dating, too, and he doesn't want you cross if they do and you don't want to be known to be dating him. You know?

You don't actually fancy him, do you? Because if you do then this might be a good way to nudge things along. But if you don't then I think we ought to make it clear that it's just pretend, for the sake of me and Page, yeah? Or, I dunno, I don't think Parvati fancies Finnigan either, but maybe if she comes along something will happen. Or one of you will get on well with Hooper. I don't know him at all. Is he nice?



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-07 19:18:52](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

No, I don't fancy Seamus!


I mean, I don't mind him, and he can be nice sometimes,

but really he still seems like the sort of boy who's more interested in buying exploding things at Zonko's than in girls.

If this is going to work, he'll have to absolutely promise to not put Chocolate Frogs in my hair or something equally silly!

I haven't really talked to Hooper much; he seems rather quiet.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:26:32](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

I know, that's why I was pretty sure it was a good idea, because you don't fancy him and honestly it's not as if anyone's going to be off snogging anyway.

I've told Seamus he can bring Hooper along, you see, and if Parvati comes as well, then you and she can chat and Seamus can revise with Hooper and we'll all have things to do and not waste time.

Hey, maybe we could go to Hogsmeade together!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 19:44:06](#)


*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

He says he'd never do that, especially if you're pretending to be together. I mean, put anything nasty in your hair or down your blouse or anything.

And I believe him. Because you're right he laughs at some disgusting things, sometimes, but all boys do, sort of, don't they, and anyway what you're talking about sounds more like a Weasley than someone who's well-behaved like Seamus.

He said he'd ask Hooper to come along, so I'll let you know and you and Parvati can meet us in the Entrance Hall on Saturday after breakfast and we'll all go down the village together, and then at some point Page and I will slip off, I think. If we can. And if not that's okay, too, he can take all of us round the shops.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-07 20:23:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

I'm in then. But if anything prank-like happens, I am never speaking to him Again.

You don't think he'll want to snog me, do you? Since we're only pretending and all.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-07 21:21:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

Do you want him to do?




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-08 02:09:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

I don't know! I don't *think* so...

I mean, I think I'd like my first snog to be a bit more romantic somehow.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-08 03:05:28](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

Yes. Greengrass says it should really be someone you're quite sure you fancy.

I'm not quite sure I fancy Page that much but I'm pretty sure you don't fancy Seamus like that!

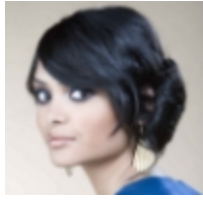



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-08 03:23:36](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

So, she and Zabini *are* snogging?

I wondered if they were really or if she was all talk.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-08 03:35:15](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Lavender*

Well, I don't think they're actively snogging now. But she told me that over the summer they tried it out. Just to see what it's like and get a bit of practice in, you know. So they'd be ready. And of course everything with Daffs is so she'll be able to act the right part.

Still. I can't imagine snogging Zabini, can you? He's such a prat.

Oh - and this idea of mine has come not a moment too soon. Malfoy's already taking the mickey I'm snogging Page. We're going to have to go very careful to avoid any talk, I can tell!

**[2010-12-07 12:28:00](#)**

*thinking ahead*

Mr Rosier wrote today to let me know we'd be going to view the traitor's remains when I come home for hols. He's going to wait until then; he said he's in no rush. He sent me some pocket money for the Hogsmeade trip this weekend, too, so I can buy some Christmas gifts while I'm there though also he said we'll do some shopping in London while we're in town for the viewing.




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

Anyway I'm starting to look forward to Christmas hols, it'll be nice to see Mr Rosier again and expect there will be some excellent parties.


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 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-08 00:24:27](#)**  
(no subject)


You'll be coming to my family's party, won't you? It should be really something else this year, because everyone's going to be celebrating the traitor viewing.



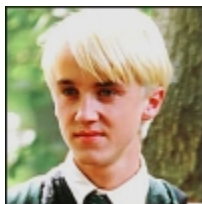
 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-08 01:16:31](#)**  
(no subject)


Yes, that's one of the excellent parties I was thinking of. Isn't that the day after we get home for the hols? Mr Rosier mentioned it specifically.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-08 01:30:58](#)**  
(no subject)

It is, yeah. Should be brilliant.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-08 01:34:29](#)**  
*Private message to Seamus*

See if you can get Uncle Stephen to stay late. We should be able to get in and drink some whiskey or brandy with the other men when they break out the

cigars, so long as it's just a few of us. You and me and Blaise, maybe.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-08 01:41:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

Right. I'll try my best.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 01:43:33](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

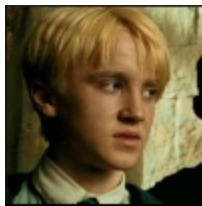
Oh, by the way - have you been chumming round with Hooper lately? I'm pretty sure his brother is my Father's new assistant. What's he like, anyway? He seems decent enough for a Gry.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-08 01:49:38](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

Geoffrey has been helping me revise for Arithmancy, and yes, he's the brother of your father's clerk. Geoffrey's clever in his classes but the best part of revising with him is that he's a true and loyal subject of the Protectorate. In Slytherin I imagine you take that for granted but in Gryffindor, well, yeah.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 01:56:40](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

That's got to be tough, yeah. But if you and Hooper can stand together with the rest of the people who are loyal, like Lavender and Parvati and the rest of them, then I think that the impression people have about Gryffindor could really start to change.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-08 02:02:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

That's what I'm hoping!

I really think a majority of us are loyal but people like Weasley are loud enough they're the ones people remember.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 02:08:51](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

To be honest, the first person I think of when I think of Gryffindors is Weasley, which is sort of sickening. And not fair to the rest of you lot, either.

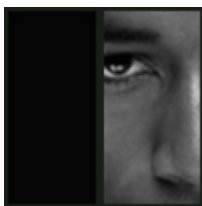
In a way, it makes me glad I'm an only child. I know the Protectorate wants everyone to have loads of babies, but part of the reason Weasley's such a sod is because he's always had this huge family that will accept him no matter what.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-08 02:13:05](#)

*Re: Private message to Seamus*

Either that, or he's such a git because he's always had a huge family and acting like a git was the only thing that ever got him attention.




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-08 03:34:09](#)

*(no subject)*

The holidays are going to be dead awesome this year. Mother wrote to say that everywhere you go in New London, people are celebrating the traitor's fall: the whole place has come to life.

And this year, she says I can accompany her to most of the parties she's attending, which means there'll be loads to do and no time to be bored at all.



 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-12-08 20:37:31](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm actually looking forward to Winter Hols too. It would be great to leave Gryffindor tower and get some fresh air for a while, if you know what I mean. I received an owl today from Mr. Peakes. It looks like we will be spending the whole of Christmas in New London, at least thats the plan for now. He said I could have a few friends over during the break. Would you like to come over? Maybe around Boxing Day or the day after. We could invite a few other people, and have a good time in the city.

Mr. Peakes said that we could do some after Christmas exploring in the shops and he would make reservations for me and a small group of friends at one of the nicer restaurants. What do you think?



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-09 01:50:59](#)**

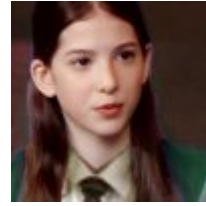
*(no subject)*

That would be wiz. I'll owl Mr Rosier but I'm sure he'll say yes.



**2010-12-07 12:34:00**

*Private message to Mr and Mrs  
Stretton*



I received your note saying that I might go home with Pansy on 18 December so as to attend her mother's wedding, thank you very much for giving your permission.

 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Pansy's invited me to stay through Christmas Day, if you don't mind. Let me know if that will be a problem -- if not I'll floo to your house first thing on Boxing Day.

**2010-12-07 13:31:00**

*Private message to Geoffrey Hooper*

You know how Padma Patil is dating that Quidditch player from her house? She's worried there will be talk if they keep going off by themselves so she wants us to come, and Lavender and Parvati, and for me to pretend I'm on a date with Lavender and you to pretend you're on a date with Parvati.




 **alt\_seamus**

It sounds as if she's thinking we'd all meet publicly and go off together and then we'd all quietly split up, she'll go off with Page, Lavender and Parvati will go off to gossip, and we can tell them we're going off to revise.

I think this is a rather brilliant idea actually, are you up for it? Also do you have any good suggestions for places we could all go off to?

I'm not sure what Lavender thinks of this, we might just all go off and be mates together but that wouldn't be so bad either, at least for CERTAIN Lavender wouldn't expect me to snog her. She's very pretty to look at but she smells funny.



 **alt\_seamus** at **2010-12-07 19:40:34**  
*(no subject)*

Oh and now she thinks we could all go to Hogsmeade together this weekend.

I told her we're in.

[2010-12-07 17:51:00](#)

*Various notes*



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Having my own owl has made Christmas shopping loads easier this year. I've already sent Freyja out with several orders to deliver to Harrod's, Dervish and Banges, and some other New London shops, and by the time I'm back home all of the gifts should be taken care of. Except for yours, Mother - since it's the best, it'll take a little longer.

A few notes, just because sometimes it's easier to get them down here than to chase everyone down in person...

Pansy: I think the song sounds really smashing, but I've been playing around with a new tune that I'd like to get your opinion on. I just keep thinking about how Mr Tenebridge might ask if we have any other songs besides "Hey Merlin." It's not very likely, I realise, but what if he does?

Patil: If you're not busy with Page one of these days, I've something to follow up with you on.


Baddock: I've found that magazine you've been asking about. It's yours to keep, if you still want it. I was getting bored of it, anyway.

Dinner's just ended and I can't believe how hungry I still am. When the quidditch season started I was trying to eat as much as I could so that I could make up for how much taller I've got. Weedy doesn't work so well when you're playing chaser, but it's better to be light when you're seeker, so now I'm trying to eat less. Seems like all it's done is make me think about food, constantly - even the transfigured kind. I don't know how girls get by on one poached egg and a half-slice of toast. It's probably less food than my owl eats.

Oh, and before I forget, when we get back from hols I'll try to speak with Professor Slughorn about organising more potions workshops in the dungeon classrooms, since everyone liked the one we did last month so much. Teddy, Blaise, let me know if you want to be in on it. You too, Harry.

---




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-08 02:44:03](#)  
(no subject)

Mine is the best, is it? I'm burning with curiosity, son.  
(If you're short of ideas for Father I can likely send you some suggestions prior to your Hogsmeade trip.)

If you're that hungry, dear, it's probably because you're growing again. I suppose we'll have to make sure your robes all still fit. And as long as you are careful in your choices, eating more shouldn't hurt you, especially if you *are* putting on height.

We can't wait to have you home, dear. Though there you really will have to take care not to overeat, particularly sweets.



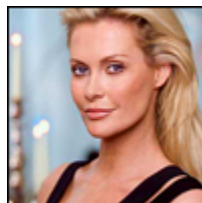
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 02:55:27](#)  
(no subject)

Not a single hint, Mother. Sorry!

Suggestions might be good, yeah. I have a few ideas but I've no idea if they're things he has already or

not.

It would be easier to make better choices if there weren't ten kinds of pudding each night. I've been trying to sit next to Vince and Greg because I know they'll snatch it all up before I even get a chance.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-08 03:28:16](#)  
(no subject)

Well, all you need do is remember that the puddings are nothing but transfigured fats and more than likely do not even have real sugar to recommend them!

It is exceedingly difficult to think of things your Father does not already have in abundance, but occasionally his possessions do need replacing. I'll send you an owl tomorrow.

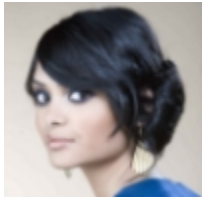
You'll be pleased to know that we have taken your requests into consideration as well. But not a single hint to you, either!




 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2010-12-08 03:36:26**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that definitely turns the stomach a bit. Even Professor Raz still stuffs them down like they're the real thing, though.

Thanks, the list will be a help. I suppose actually surprising him is an impossible task, though.




 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2010-12-08 02:47:05**  
*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

I'm not sure whether my parents read your journal, Malfoy, but in case they do, ease off on talking about Page, will you? I don't want them getting the wrong idea or telling me I can't see him.

Anyway - what do you want to talk about?




 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2010-12-08 03:01:49**  
*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Right. Don't want to have them notice before you've had your chance to snog him, yeah?

It's about Hydra. I told you I'd talk to her about school activities and getting more involved, and it took ages before I was able to pin her down for a chat. Turns out she's been all burning up with jealousy because *Lovegood* gets to feed Professor Brutka's animals. As if mucking out niffler shite is a good use of one's time! Anyway, I told her she should leave Lovegood to that and start coming to Future Interrogators. She said she would. And it seems that Professor Raz asked her to help him with demonstrations during Duelling club, too, and she actually seemed excited about that. So that's something.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-08 03:16:27](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Draco Malfoy, that is the most horrid thing you have ever said to me! I do not just want to snog Page. For Lakshmi's sake. It's just that my parents will think I'm going about getting a reputation. And that just proves it. Thank goodness Sandoval had some good advice how to avoid that kind of gossip!

But about Hydra - yes, I'd forgot all about that, I'm glad you didn't. Well, there's been rather a lot going on lately, of course. But I'm really glad she's decided to try out Future Interrogators. I'll make sure that she feels at home. And it's good about Professor Raz, too.

All the firsties in Ravenclaw are talking about those Sing-Ami things, are they talking about them in Slytherin too? The reason I ask is because I wonder if the shops in Hogsmeade have them in. And Hydra might like a rabbit one, if they've got one. She does still like rabbits, right? Or do you reckon she would think that's too childish a thing to get?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 03:30:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

I'm taking the mickey, Padma. Everyone knows you're too proper to do anything that would put your or your family's name in doubt.

Hydra would probably love one of those things, and yes, she's still mad for rabbits. They are a little childish, but if it's for Hydra that shouldn't matter. Sing-amis are definitely going to be the hot thing for the holidays. I was thinking of buying a few to keep on hand myself, actually. If the shops run out then I bet people would be desperate to get their hands on one.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-08 03:44:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Well, I should hope so. Page may be well fit but I'm not about to ruin myself for the first boy to ask me out, even if he is a Keeper. But it's convinced me that Sandoval's quite right about

being alone with him too often.

And yes, I can tell those singing things will be well popular. I'd've got one or two for Sanji if-- Well. Anyway.

But I suppose Hydra doesn't need a dozen rabbit Sing-Amis, either. Only since you've invited us to your parents' party (and thanks, by the way), we really should bring some presents for certain people.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 04:25:21](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Is Page what's considered well fit to the girls these days? I hadn't heard him described as such before, but it's not as if I'd really notice, either.

You could get a sing-ami for him anyway. Why not?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-08 17:35:49](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

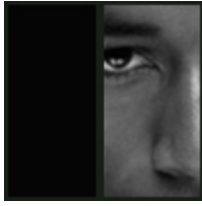
Well, he's not really quite as fit as Davies or Diggory, but he's not bad.


I guess we *could* get Sanji one and put it in his shrine at home. Maybe a dog. He'd probably like that.

Only I think it'll make Mum sad and we're not supposed to be sad, you know? Because he's with our ancestors and that's a good thing.

Oh - by the way, are your parents going to take you to see Black's body? Because I'm sure mine want to go but I sort of don't. And if you don't have to go I could tell them that and it might make a difference.

I mean, I'm glad they've got the proof that your Aunt really did kill him. I just don't particularly want to go have a look, you know?




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-08 03:18:40](#)  
(no subject)

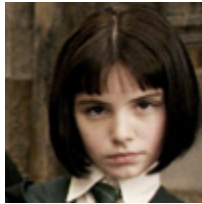
I'm in.


And Teddy says he's thinking about it. Which means he'll do it, of course.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 03:33:37](#)  
(no subject)


Well snitch. I'll get back to you after I speak with Professor Slughorn.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-08 04:40:47](#)  
(no subject)

Count me in too.

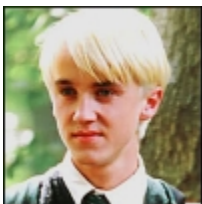



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-08 04:40:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I've been thinking of the same thing.

Maybe we could get together tomorrow night and you could play it for me, and I'll see what I can work out?

I don't want to do it halfway, though. So unless it's a really good second one, we should just keep to the one song.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 04:54:05](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, alright. We can tell him we're working on more songs, but we don't want to play them until they're perfect.

Tomorrow night works. After history club?





 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-08 04:57:50](#)  
(no subject)


Of course! Brill.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-08 05:39:03](#)  
(no subject)

Draco, if you'd like some advice on what foods to eat and what foods to avoid, I can help you out. I know the most important thing to remember is that Beige Foods Are Bad, because that usually means they're fried or drowning in gravy. Bread is also worse than you'd think, considering how airy it is, and cheese is definitely to be avoided. Which is a pity since it's my favourite.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 05:40:12](#)  
(no subject)

I don't care too much about cheese, though a bit's nice now and then. What about roast beef?




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-08 05:41:56](#)  
(no subject)

Like your Mother said, you can have a bit of cheese since you're growing and also flying a lot. Though I wouldn't eat it here at school, it's usually sort of musty-tasting.

If you trim the fat off the roast beef and don't put any gravy on it, it should be fine.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-08 05:42:36](#)  
(no subject)

Cool. Cheers, Daffs.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-09 03:57:26](#)

*Private Message to Draco*

Draco --

Just so you're aware, we've sorted out our Christmas plans, and Sally-Anne will be coming back with me until the day after the wedding. I wasn't sure if you'd finalised the holiday party invites yet, but I wanted to be sure you knew she'd be staying over at my house.

I really like what you've been working on, too, by the way. The melody line is still going through my head! I'll be able to sit down and work on it properly tomorrow or Friday for certain, so we can get together over the weekend and polish it up a bit.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-09 05:03:15](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

school.

Just go ahead and let Sally Anne know that she's welcome to come along. Actually, I'll just give her an invite myself. I had thought about it, but I didn't know if she was going to the Strettons or staying at

Cheers, I'm really glad you like it. I still feel like the solo needs something. It doesn't seem very sophisticated or impressive.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-09 05:24:57](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

That'd be brill. Thanks.

Maybe once we get some words to it, it'll help with the structure a bit. And really, it doesn't need to be super complicated to be catchy or interesting -- besides which, you're by yourself, so it's bound to sound simpler. Adding drums and a bass or even a second guitar would make it more layered sounding, which is what we're used to hearing in professional songs.

**2010-12-07 19:56:00**

*Order Only: New faces at Moddey Dhoo*



 [alt\\_kingsley](#)

Emmeline and I got here at about sunset, with young Chloe tucked up in a sling around Emmeline's waist. We had a few problems along the way, to the point that I seriously considered giving Emmeline the high sign and abandoning the mission altogether. It took us a few hours of searching (and a few more *Oblivates* than I'm comfortable administering) before we found the mother and child. And there was a tense wait for Mr Russell to get off his work shift to consult with us about Chloe's future. And once we explained, he reacted badly to the notion that Chloe was a witch. I think the only thing that let me get my wand up in time was the fact that he was torn between wanting to punch me or--to be frank--hurting the baby. I finally had to *Petrificus Totalis* him, which didn't help our case at all.

Then there was a fair amount of shouting (until I cast the *Muffliato*, that is) until Emmeline got them calmed down. I wished I had Arthur there, could have used his diplomatic skills. It seemed like we were getting nowhere until we hit on the idea of talking to them separately.

Emmeline and I found it dreadfully sad, really. Mr Russell insisted that if we were right, that Chloe was a witch, then he and his wife would want nothing further to do with her. I didn't even show him the children's letters, because I was afraid he would have torn them into bits. I half believed that if we had left the baby there, her father might well have put her in a sack and thrown her in the river, like he would an unwanted kitten. Mrs Russell obviously didn't feel the same, but when Emmeline told her the girl would be raised with other children and given a proper education, she seemed relieved and agreed readily that we should take her. There were still some tears, of course. I suspect Mrs Russell's more than a little afraid of her husband's temper, though, and perhaps feared for the child's safety were we to leave her there. We explained the business with the sketch and the rings, and it looked at first as if Mr Russell would have refused both. But Emmeline quietly suggested that it would comfort Mrs Russell, and in the end, she took the sketch, and they both accepted the rings.


Stephen's looking Chloe over now, but she seems healthy enough. A good weight, mostly bald, but with big grey eyes, like her mother.

Let's hope she doesn't have her father's temper.

Arthur's just sent in a patronus. He's arrived at the apparition point outside with Sally, so Arabella and Stephen have gone out to meet them. They should be here in the nursery shortly. I don't think Alice has heard from Frank or Sirius yet.


---



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-08 02:36:52](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Good work negotiating your way through a tough situation. I'm sure it was a lot for the man to accept. Hope the day will come when he'll realise it was the best decision for all concerned.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-12-08 02:39:31](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, how sad, Kingsley. Well, it's clear, given her father's attitude, that she really will be better off at Moddey Dhoo.

Thanks for the word on Arthur. I've been a bit on edge, waiting for word all day.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-08 02:43:06](#)**  
*(no subject)*

My mission went off without a hitch, Molly, nowhere as eventful as Kingsley's, from what Emmeline tells me.

Well, aside from the fact that young Sally leaked an entire nappy's worth down the front of my robes.



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2010-12-08 02:43:39](#)**  
*(no subject)*

That's what cleaning charms are for, my friend!




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-08 02:48:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh no!

Well, it's not as if you've never had that happen to you before.

Will you be staying at the sanctuary for a bit, dear? When should I expect you home?




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-08 02:53:15](#)  
(no subject)

I'll probably be talking with folks here until quite late, Molly dear. Best not wait up for me.

(You would love to see Sally. She's the spitting image of Ginny at her age.)




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-08 03:38:41](#)  
(no subject)

Emphasis on the spitting, perhaps?

But seriously, Arthur, I'm terribly glad to know you've made it to Moddey Dhoo.

What about Frank and Sirius? Are they there with you?



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-08 03:50:38](#)  
(no subject)

Not yet.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-08 04:00:46](#)  
(no subject)

You can all stop fussing.

Frank and I made Scarborough too late to gain entry to the camp tonight. We've got a room at the Falconer's Rest and we'll try for William in the morning.

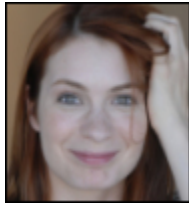



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-08 04:44:54](#)  
(no subject)

everything's fine

except the part where I've got to be a girl the whole bloody time

you did it on purpose, you bastard.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-08 04:48:24](#)  
(no subject)

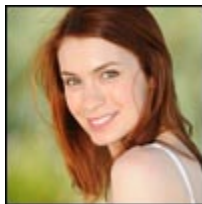
Oh dear!


What a hardship, love.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-08 04:53:10](#)  
(no subject)

you have no idea



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-08 04:53:55](#)  
(no subject)


I'm fairly sure I know what it's like to be a girl, my darling.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-08 04:55:28](#)  
(no subject)

ha bloody ha



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-08 04:56:40](#)  
(no subject)

Stay safe, love. Both of you.

**[2010-12-07 23:58:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Hey, Patil.

So my mum has been really impressed with your mum's newest line, because it's really snitch. I mean, I saw the magazine issue, and everything really was very beautiful. I think Aunt Narcissa just looked fantastic, didn't she?




 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Anyways, she's been after me to ask you if your mum could make her a custom outfit for her honeymoon trip after the wedding, for December 21st. She wants me to ask because we're school mates and all.

Here's the thing. I've got to ask you, because she'll know if I haven't, but I know full well that it's a big favour, and that your mum is probably really busy, and I certainly don't blame her if she can't. But mum's really hung up on it, so I'm asking. If there's any chance you think your mum would be up for it, my mum will pay top galleon of course.

But if she can't, well, just let me know.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **[2010-12-08 18:10:57](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, wow. I really wish you'd said something sooner. I mean, Mum was already getting booked up even before the article came out and the fashion show, but now....

Let's just say it's a lucky thing we don't bother about Christmas, because she'll probably work straight through Boxing Day and all!

Well. I suppose I could beg her to let your mum jump the queue, if you wanted me to do. I'd have to tell her that you're a really good friend, though, and even then I'm just not sure she'll believe be able to do anything in that short a time.

But you know who might get her to bump someone else's appointment? Mrs Malfoy. You've got just as much of a right to ask her to ask, haven't you? Do you think she'd be willing to help your mum?



I guess the other thing is that it wouldn't be custom, but Mum has made a lot of off-the-rack versions of the robes. They're not as snitch, but if you think your mum would be okay with that, I could talk to mine about doing something to make the robes she picks out more distinctive - like putting her new monogram in the trim or some minor alteration that would mean it's not quite the ready-to-wear robe. And that would take a lot less time than something made-to-order.

Think about it and let me know, okay?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-08 20:41:30](#)

*(no subject)*

I'll talk to her today about it.

And thanks.

**2010-12-08 11:20:00**

*Order Only: Poppy - Heading your Way*

Well, Francine and I are now in possession of one William Christiansen, age one week.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

But there's a problem. His parents were only too happy to give him to me and the missus, er, Frank, but that's largely because he's got some health concerns. Specifically there's a problem in his heart and lungs - worrisome enough that we didn't want to take him to Stephen without a fully qualified Healer's opinion. His breathing is quite raspy and his heartbeat is a little irregular, sounds like. His mother said that he takes milk quite readily, though - but that he coughs rather a lot after feeding. (We've not had to experience that yet, but Frank's getting a bottle ready as we speak.)

We're heading back now and should be at the Shrieking Shack by nightfall. Can you break away to examine the boy?

---



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-12-08 18:36:26**  
(no subject)

Absolutely.

I will be in touch before I leave here to confirm that you've made it and that the way is clear on your end.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-12-09 03:47:43**  
(no subject)

Are you there, Sirius?

How's the child?

Is all quiet on your end if I were to come through?




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-09 03:51:24](#)**  
(no subject)

we're here, poppy, come on over.

he's sleeping in fits and starts and has been crying quite a bit, and he didn't keep down more than half what he ate.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-09 04:02:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I shall be there as quickly as my feet will carry me. I'm bringing more blankets. And my healer's case, of course.

And chocolate.

Are you feeling the Dementors yet? The Hogsmeade council have been complaining bitterly that their seasonal business is suffering.

Right. Got it all.

Now if I can just get away without attracting notice.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-09 04:12:15](#)**  
(no subject)

it is a good sight colder than I'm used to, but we've been taking turns with our patronuses, for the baby and all.

we'll be waiting.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-12-09 04:14:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't see why you're complaining; you've had me on cleanup duty.

When Poppy gets here, there's someone I want you (both) to meet.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-09 04:48:24](#)

*Pomona*

I'm here safely.

It is quite serious, I'm afraid.

Which is to say that you were right after all, so if you feel you can pull it off, do go ahead. The worst you're likely to see is a bed-wetter and a sniffly nose or two. At any rate, there's no point in your hanging around, watching the willow for me.

**2010-12-08 15:41:00**

*Private Message to Rosa Parkinson*

Mum --

I've asked Padma what she thought about her mum getting you something special for your honeymoon outfit, and she said that her mum was well booked, because of all the great reviews from her line coming out and all, and she really isn't doing much in terms of individual orders right now at all.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

She did think that she could ask her mum about adding some special touches to one of the off the rack things -- a monogram, or a different coloured lining, or something else that could make it look unique.

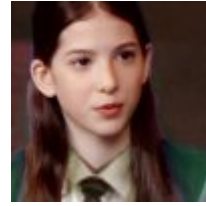
If you want, I can tell her right away so she can ask her mum and it can be done in plenty of time for you to get it fitted properly, because that will make it look even more fantastic and custom, and you could get the proper accessories too.

And I also wanted to remind you about my pocket money. I know you said not to bother you, but this weekend is Hogsmeade weekend, and I wanted to get some holiday shopping done before I go home for hols because the wedding will keep us all so busy I doubt we'll have time for much else. I also want to get you and Prospero a really good wedding gift!

**2010-12-08 20:22:00**

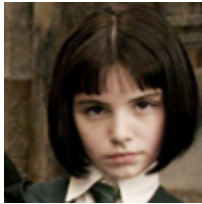
*Private message to Pansy*


The Strettons owled and said I have to come back to their house after the wedding. They're at least letting me stay over until the next morning, but then they want me back first thing -- I guess they want me to help with the last of the holiday shipping.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

They said I can come BACK to your house on Christmas Day, though. I can even spend the night Christmas Eve but I won't be allowed to floo over until pretty late. And then they want me back by first thing on Boxing Day.



 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-12-09 03:25:52**  
(no subject)

Well, at least you can spend Christmas day with me properly. That's something. It'd be just miserable otherwise. I suppose they're going to run you ragged over hols with shipping things. Ugh.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-12-09 04:21:48**  
(no subject)

No doubt. At least I'll get to spend Christmas Day with you, it could be worse! AND all the days leading up to the wedding.

**2010-12-09 09:16:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*



 **alt\_lucius**

Heard that the queue for Black's remains has been over two hours long since Monday. Expect that it will slacken after the week-end but increase again once the students return from Hogsmeade.

However, meanwhile, increase lead time by fifteen minutes for any trip to Buckingham - some show of beneficence must be made whenever passing through the entrance hall. It does put one off schedule.

Shall need the reports on birth rates in the camps prior to meeting with Fudge this morning - in general, going forward, I shall need any materials pertinent to meetings at least one hour before if you can manage it. Obviously on days when there are back-to-back meetings I shall need everything in advance as well. There is nothing so tedious as to be asked to meetings where no-one has prepared! The time is wasted merely summarising the background material.

Also, contact Dewhurst in Ludgate Hill and tell him either the blue or the green. Or both - doesn't matter. To be delivered by 24th, of course. He has the address.

Oh, and the next time you have the chance, kindly go through the coming year's calendar and clear some time - a three hour block twice a week if you can find it - for writing. These manuscripts are piling up maddeningly. I've only been able to give Charles three forewords this quarter. You may need to move something around; perhaps Muggle-born Labour or Commerce might change its time, or try one of the boards. Reese's term is coming up on Labour - that might give you the opportunity to suggest the change.

When is Mrs Parkinson booked in? I thought I told you to schedule her in the week or so following Campbell's visitation. I don't see her in the diary.

Finally, on the matter of Mrs Austin's request, the answer is No. We are flattered by their decision to name the child Lucius but send regrets for the ceremony.

**2010-12-09 13:07:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Sirius. Frank.*

I *more* than understand your tender attentions to Professor Carrow, but I would have appreciated fair warning.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)

Am I to take it that you used Polyjuice Potion? Or was it only Sirius, and was he actually hallucinating?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-12-09 18:16:07**

*(no subject)*

Polyjuice potion? Carrow?

Dunno what you mean, Professor.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at **2010-12-09 18:21:02**

*(no subject)*

Do not toy with me, Sirius; I have been teaching students all morning and my temper is not what it used to be!

You are not dead, Sirius; and Amycus Carrow claims that he got into a fight with you last night; and you were in the area. It is circumstantial evidence, but it is evidence nonetheless, and I don't believe for one moment that you had nothing to do with it!



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-12-09 18:22:46**

*(no subject)*

Ah. But I *am* dead. Officially. Just ask anyone. Ask Malfoy.

And anyway, Frank and Poppy and I had the sprog to look after and all.

If you ask me, Carrow's finally gone round the twist. Attacked by us? By Dementors, more like.






 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-12-09 18:26:15](#)  
(no subject)


Truth and public opinion are quite different things, as you well know, as you certainly aren't a *ghost*. And I certainly don't put it past you to leave the "sprog," as you put it, all swaddled up and hanging on a tree branch while you went and got revenge for Evelyn's cat! I know you too well, Sirius Black.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 18:27:29](#)  
(no subject)

We would never!



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 18:31:40](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, all right, then.

We snuck out while Poppy was asleep.

Mostly I hung back while Frank exercised his rights as a father wearing my face.

And Crooks helped a little; he told us where to find the bastard. He was only too happy to play the role of Evelyn's cat's ghost, as well. Carrow was too drunk to know the difference.

You might as well know I've sicced the ghosts on him, too. Oh, and he shan't be able to touch his usual libations for a while. That was one of the last things we did. Little curse on his tongue. Alcohol's going to taste and feel like acid for a few ... days. Maybe a little longer, not sure. Frank was powerful angry when he cast it.

Anyway, Frank's asleep now and so's the infant. I expect your scream of fury will wake him all the way from the Headmistress' office, though, if you want to take it up with him.




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-12-09 18:51:11](#)  
(no subject)

Well, thank you for admitting to it, at least. It isn't at all appealing when a grown man behaves like a little boy.

My life is, I'm certain, going to be not at all pleasant over the next few weeks. Nevertheless, I am glad that he got his comeuppance - and I shall have to feed Crookshanks a fish or so next time I see him for his part in it.

As for Frank, I shall certainly have words with him. It was extremely irresponsible, however appropriate the punishment.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-09 19:17:00](#)  
(no subject)

I cannot begin to convey how little amused I am to have been used in this manner.

And my ill temper is not made better by the fact that I now have two Carrows in my ward, one of them in need of considerable repair.

You may be certain that my feelings about having to touch that piece of filth to heal him do not approach the pleasure you no doubt took in laying hands on him last night to injure him. And, yes, it's quite clear you lowered yourself to that extent. Could you not have stuck to a good hex or two?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 21:27:28](#)  
(no subject)


I didn't touch him!

It was Frank.

mostly

You don't have to do much, if you don't want to do. Though I guess that would keep him in the hospital wing even longer.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-09 23:13:30](#)  
(no subject)

Believe me, I've done as little as my conscience and my oath would allow. And he'll be here through tomorrow, I should think.


So far, he can't sit up without the room gyrating madly. He's given up attempting it.

I suspect, too, that we'd find him unable to walk properly yet, either. Fortunately, his head's in no condition to allow him to explore what his legs might do.

Alecto was most distressed when I delayed relieving the swelling around his eyes and mouth, so that's taken care of. But I've not healed any of the rest of the bruising; he deserves every purple, yellow, green, and black lump he's taken.

Which is not to say that I approve of your part of it, mind you.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-09 21:01:41](#)  
(no subject)

What?


You did WHAT?

Sirius Orion Black, you get up my husband right now so that I can yell at him.

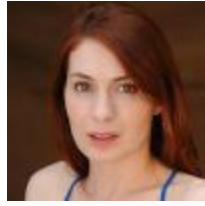
That is not on.


At all.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 21:31:53](#)  
(no subject)


Well, I would do. But you saw what Poppy said. Frank needs to stay here a few days until young Will is ready to travel.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-09 22:06:51](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, I'll yell at him over this if I have to!



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-09 23:19:10](#)**  
(no subject)

he deserved it the rat-bastard




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-09 23:26:15](#)**  
(no subject)

That's not the point and you know it, Frank!

You had an infant, Sirius Black, and yourself holed up on Hogwarts grounds, which is currently teaming with Dementors and MLE, and decide to go outside polyjuiced into perhaps the most DANGEROUS PERSON YOU COULD BE POLYJUICED INTO SAVE YOURSELF AND ALBUS DUMBLEDORE SO THAT YOU COULD PICK A FIGHT.

Yes. He deserved it. But yes, it was also bloody idiotic for you to be out there. Which you no doubt know. I just can't believe you'd take that risk.



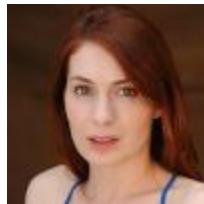
 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-09 23:41:52](#)**  
(no subject)


right.

it was sort of... spontaneous like

he was out of his mind drunk already, not like he'd be able to tell a clear story about what happened. and he was alone. and well

it just seemed like a good opportunity to give him what for not smart, though, yeah, I'll give you that. and a lot could have happened. but it didn't.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-09 23:43:30](#)**  
*(no subject)*


Not smart is right.

Merlin, Frank.

Just get back here in one piece.

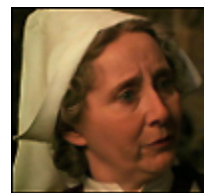
And no more risks.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-10 02:36:17](#)**  
*(no subject)*

We also don't have an endless supply of Polyjuice potion to waste for personal vendettas like this.

Although after hearing some of the stories from Ron and the rest, I can certainly understand the urge.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-10 03:37:33](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you, Arthur. Yes. That's one of the things I'm most cross about. Pomona and I are not nursing those little fluxweed plants along for this sort of shenanigans. Not to mention filching the other ingredients from Horace and others.

And all you could manage was to send him to me black and blue and covered in lumps. Honestly, you didn't even break a rib!




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 04:04:18](#)  
(no subject)

It wasn't that much polyjuice, really. Just one dose.

As for the damage ... well, we figured that as tempting as it was for him to disappear, that would have been entirely *too* much attention for everyone.

Are you sure about the ribs? I mean, of course you are, but - well. I thought I heard one crack.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 12:59:39](#)  
(no subject)

No, curse him, the ribs were all intact. Bruised, yes, but not a one of them broken.

'Frank' seems to have hit hardest just below them: his internal injuries were extensive. Consistent with having been kicked, I'd warrant. (Naturally that is not anything like what I've assured Alecto.)




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 13:52:38](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'd say there was some kicking. Once he was down, certainly. (It's not as easy as you might think to punch someone who's already on the ground.)

Well. I'd say that really the worst of what we did to him is yet to come. Er, has he ... that is, I assume you've not let him drink since he's been in your - tender - keeping?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 15:44:51](#)  
(no subject)

You're quite right. I've not allowed him a drink.


What exactly did you do to him? Perhaps I

could arrange to dose him with an alcohol-based elixir. I've told him he should expect to be here another two nights at the least.

I was forced, by the way, to ban Alecto from the ward this morning: she hexed one of my youngest patients for taking up my time and attention.


So if there's good reason why I might wish to offer Carrow a dram, the event should go unreported.



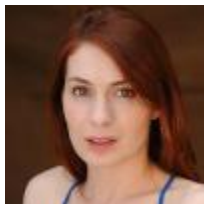
 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-10 02:31:54](#)  
(no subject)


If you were still under me in the Auror department you know I'd bust your arse back to trainee level for a stunt like that. Although I'd probably be tempted to take you out for a drink afterwards.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-09 21:13:37](#)  
(no subject)

Good grief! I understand the temptation, but really. What if you'd been caught? Evelyn needs her father much more than she needed her cat.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-09 21:16:30](#)  
(no subject)

Ooooooh. I honestly.

I could just *smack* them both for taking that big of a risk.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 21:35:21](#)  
(no subject)

Hey, I wanted to have a quiet night in toasting the memory of Lennon.

Though you have to admit that there's a poetry to it. Who's going to actually believe him? Not just one Sirius

Black but two? And a spectral cat?


They'll figure he was drunk (which he was) and fell down in the forest.



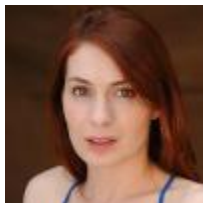
 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-12-09 22:06:29](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, I don't think anybody believes he fell down. It's quite clear that somebody hit him. The general consensus, however, seems to be that he likely deserved it, and that he was likely hallucinating from some ghastly experimental potion he brewed and ingested.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-10 02:39:31](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. I can only hope the fact that he's generally hated by everyone means no one will enquire too closely into the circumstances.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-09 23:34:21](#)  
*Private Message to Sirius*

Speaking of toasting...

Were you two drinking last night? Did that fuel this rather spectacularly unwise plan of yours?

I honestly don't know what would be worse -- if you got liquored up first, or decided it would be a good idea while sober.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-09 23:42:57](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Sirius*

Well, if you can't decide which is worse, then it doesn't really matter which one it was, does it?


Look, something had to be done about the man. And we couldn't very well let Frank have a go at him as himself - or



anyone else Carrow might recognise. Unless that someone else is someone he can't possibly have seen.

Maybe we should have kept our heads down a little more - but Allie, between you and me Frank's been in remarkably good spiri form since we went out there. Almost chipper. In fact, it's starting to scare me a little. I've never seen him smile so much when he's not with you.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-12-09 23:50:07**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius*

Well, between you and me, that man got every inch of what he deserved, but I'm still angry about what immense trouble you both could have been in if you'd been seen.

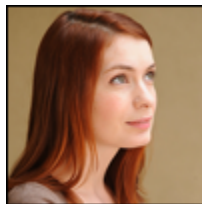
And also between you and me, in the future, when I'm not around, I'd appreciate it if you'd keep your wits about you enough to cut him off before he's had one too many.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2010-12-10 03:00:57**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius*

Is that ... a frequent problem?




 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-12-10 03:59:35**

*Re: Private Message to Sirius*

Let's just say I don't want it to become one.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2010-12-09 21:22:02**

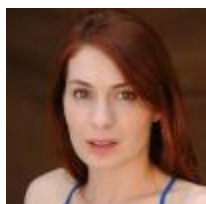
*(no subject)*


Afraid to face us, are you? What terribly big men you both are.

And don't you for one instant think of slinking away from Hogsmeade before I clear you to go. Any of you.

That child needs further attention, and Frank is not under any circumstances to take it, still contagious, into Moddey Dhoo.


As for the two of you, I've a mind to administer a dose of much-required correction.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-09 21:26:58](#)**  
(no subject)


Please do, seeing as I can't be there to give it myself.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-09 22:12:44](#)**  
(no subject)

My pleasure.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-10 02:42:14](#)**  
*Private message to Sirius Black and Frank Longbottom*


Ahem.

I'm sure I'm supposed to make chiding noises along with all the rest, but....

Well, as long as you didn't get caught, good on you, mates. From the stories I've heard, I'd agree that the bleeding scum deserved it.

Just don't tell Minerva I said so.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-12-10 04:05:39](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Sirius Black and Frank Longbottom*

I'm not too worried about it. If you listen to what they're really saying, it's not that we did it at all. It's that Minerva wanted a warning and Poppy doesn't want to have to deal with the cleanup.

Well. We figured we were giving Minerva plausible deniability should anyone ask questions. And as for Poppy ... yeah. It's unfortunate she has to look after that tosser. But they'll get over it.

I'm not sure Frank could've come this close to Carrow and not put his hands on the bastard. And if it gives Neville and Evelyn some respite, well - it's worth any amount of clucking hens.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 13:21:12](#)

(no subject)

Do you know that I've had to submit to questioning from Professor Lestrangle?

It is one thing to have him here in the castle--in certain respects it's a relief to know that he is protecting Mr Marvolo--but it was quite another thing to have him focus his sharp powers of observation on me. We've had Death Eaters on staff for years, but the dangers posed by Lestrangle are quite different from those posed by either of the Carrows. Or by Minerva herself, bless her.

And, of course, we're accustomed to taking care not to do anything that might draw suspicion and allegations from any of the other 'loyal' subjects of this castle.

So you may imagine how unfortunate it is that I've now become a subject for interrogation by a man with some skill in the sport.


He wanted to know--based on specific, documentable aspects of the injuries--how many attackers I thought there might have been, how tall or short they must each have been, what weapons (fists, cudgels, boots, stones, teeth) I deemed to have been used on him, what level of skill his attackers possessed ('Did you note any signs these might have been trained fighters, Matron?').

And then he wondered if I had developed a theory, based on the nature and intensity of the *Muggle-style* blows Carrow suffered, to explain why the wizards involved had largely abandoned their wands for this attack.

For your information, I told him that I believe the injuries indicate the attack was motivated by quite personal animus. Rage, even.

He seems to believe it might have been done by students. And I wish he were right.



 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-10 14:30:56](#)  
(no subject)


got the rage part right

and the personal part

and it was more than just the cat, you know. I wanted to give him a good taste of what he did to our terry that'll stay with him for a long while.

but I'm sorry to put you on the spot like that, poppy. that isn't fair to you. at the very least, he can't suspect you're involved, so that's something.

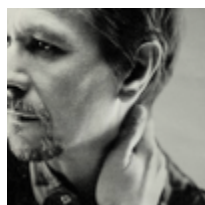



 **alt\_poppy** at [2010-12-10 15:33:26](#)  
(no subject)

No, he doesn't suspect my involvement. Yet.

But his snooping around with Dawlish was responsible for my failure to make it last night to check on the child. I will come tonight even if it means Pomona has to stage a diversion to draw the bloodhounds off.

How is the lad this morning?



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-12-10 15:56:47](#)  
(no subject)

Guess you didn't see my entry, Poppy. Sorry. Understandable, I guess.

He's doing a bit better. Still spitting up and coughing a lot, but the lungs sound clearer.

**2010-12-09 17:23:00**

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



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

Why couldn't Professor Carrow have wound up in the hospital wing earlier in the week? He'll surely be back in the classroom by Monday, which is the next time I have Transfiguration.

Do you know if it's true that he and Alecto got in a fight and she hit him with a fireplace poker? Because that's what I overheard at lunch. I'd have figured she'd curse him, though. Someone said he was all over bruises. I hope they hurt HORRIBLY.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-10 02:20:36](#)  
(no subject)


Well, it's true that he got in a fight. But I don't think it was with Alecto.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-10 02:26:46](#)  
(no subject)

With who? Whoever it is, I want him on our side!




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-10 02:45:31](#)  
(no subject)

But who would ever dare get into a fight with him? I would think whoever-it-was wouldn't dare sleep for the next year!

Did he get into a fight with some stranger down in Hogsmeade, at the three Broomsticks or something?




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 02:50:30](#)  
(no subject)

He hardly ever goes down to the Three Broomsticks, though. He just prefers to drink in his quarters.

Now I'm really curious.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 04:05:51](#)  
(no subject)


What if it was that Snape person, though? Or Macnair?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 04:55:20](#)  
(no subject)

That's an interesting thought. But if it was, why didn't MLE send Aurors running as fast as they could? I haven't even heard it suggested that we won't be allowed to go to Hogmseade this weekend.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-10 18:41:06](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, now don't go giving any of them that idea! If we don't get to go to Hogsmeade, I think there might be a riot, don't you?



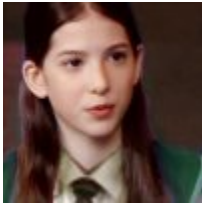
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 19:01:50](#)  
(no subject)

You'll note I said that UNDER THE LOCK. Goodness knows I don't want to have to miss a trip to Hogsmeade.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-10 19:38:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, but why would Snape or Macnair want to beat up Professor Carrow anyway? After all, Snape's never met the man, as far as we know. And it'd be a long time for Macnair to hold a grudge for something Professor Carrow might have said to him in a staff meeting or something.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-10 04:55:39](#)**  
(no subject)


Who do you think it was with, Hermione?



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-12-10 14:10:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I couldn't really say...



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-10 18:53:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, you couldn't?

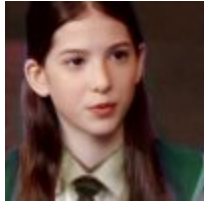
They're saying he's talking about getting attacked by Sirius Black.

And yeah, he's nutters, and yeah, he says it was two of them.

But was it really him? Is he here? Because you would know, wouldn't you?

And if it was really him, what does he have against Carrow anyways? Other than, you know, him being generally creepy and awful.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 19:06:25](#)  
(no subject)

He was in France when they killed caught him, even if he is alive why would he not only come HERE but to HOGWARTS? Surely it wasn't. And how would he have come in past the wards? They work in both directions.

If it was, though, somehow, maybe he hates Carrow because Carrow is a miserable evil git. You'd think he'd have done a more thorough job of it though and finished him off. I still think it was someone at the school and they didn't kill him because they didn't want MLE sniffing around too much.

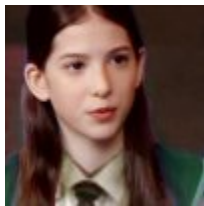


 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 19:19:21](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe this is one of the things we aren't supposed to ask her about, because it's something to do with that secret group?

So maybe we better not ask anymore.

Even though the curiosity is killing me.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 19:25:00](#)  
(no subject)

Doesn't mean we can't speculate. Hermione just shouldn't say 'you're getting warmer' or 'you're getting colder' to tell us whether we're on the right track.

If it had something to do with the secret group, it probably wasn't students. But she might know something because of Harry and he made her promise not to say. I don't think so though, because Draco didn't have one of those 'I know something and you don't!' looks, he honestly looked as puzzled as everyone else. And if Harry knows SURELY he would have told Draco.






 **alt\_lee** at [2010-12-10 19:33:08](#)  
(no subject)


I'll bet Professor Lestrage is asking a lot of questions. After all he's in charge of keeping an eye on Harry Marvolo isn't he? He can't like having someone or several someones mysteriously lurking around beating people up if he's in charge of the Lord Protector's son's security.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-12-10 19:34:30](#)  
(no subject)

And he wrote Auror Lestrage, did you see?




 **alt\_terry** at [2010-12-10 19:48:53](#)  
(no subject)

Blimey, I hope that doesn't mean that she's going to be coming here poking her nose around.


She's dead scary.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2010-12-10 19:30:49](#)  
(no subject)

But he's Sirius Black. I mean... if there was anybody that could do all that, it'd be him.




 **alt\_neville** at [2010-12-10 19:43:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, but I doubt even Sirius Black can split himself into two different people.


Unless...don't sometimes people who've been drinking a lot think they're seeing two things when really there is just one?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 19:44:41](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, their eyes get all wonky.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 19:47:52](#)  
(no subject)

I don't remember that ever happening to Master before, though.


Although he might not have told me if it did. Or it might have just recently started happening. I guess it's the sort of thing that happens if you've been drinking a lot, for a long time. And Merlin knows that's true of Master.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-10 19:20:15](#)  
(no subject)

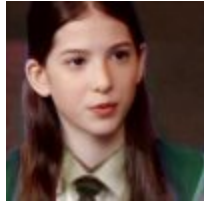
Sirius Black?! Where'd you here THAT? I hadn't heard that one.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 19:24:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, whoever it was, I sure wish I could thank him.


But yeah, I don't think it's at all likely it was Sirius Black. You're right, why would he come here? Master must've gotten confunded by someone, or hexed or given a bad potion or something. Or, like I said, maybe he's been drinking more than usual lately and gotten confused. I wonder if the effects of alcohol are worse if he gets too near to dementors?



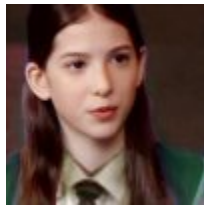
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 19:29:05](#)  
(no subject)

Josephina Gamp was in the hospital wing last night with a stomach ache and I think she overheard Carrow raving and told her sister this morning at breakfast and then Winnifred told everyone in the fourth year. And then Aurelia Archer told me when we were going in for lunch, but I don't know where Pansy heard. I think she heard before I did.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 19:30:22](#)  
(no subject)


There was this enormous group of fourth-years in the hall before our first class and I heard it then.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 19:30:42](#)  
(no subject)

And I probably don't need to tell you that EVERYONE in Slytherin thinks it's just that Carrow is seeing things that aren't there, or maybe someone got themselves up in disguise. NOT that it might actually be Sirius Black. Especially since he saw TWO of them.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 19:32:19](#)  
(no subject)

Not *everyone*, obviously.

But most everyone, yeah.

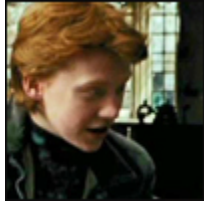



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 02:44:54](#)  
(no subject)

Well, and it's not as if either of us is saying 'say, what if it IS Sirius Black? After all maybe Hydra's terrifying mum only THOUGHT she'd killed him! who knows, maybe he's OUTSIDE

RIGHT NOW!

Anyone in Slytherin knows better than to say that's what they think, even if they do.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-10 19:38:47](#)  
(no subject)

Towler says Carrow's saying he got attacked by two blokes who looked dead like Sirius Black.

Then he says, Towler does, 'Well, I guess they would've looked dead like if they looked like Black!'

HAHAHAHAHA!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 19:48:31](#)  
(no subject)

Hah! That's awful.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-10 19:53:02](#)  
(no subject)

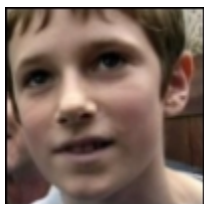
No. I COULDN'T.


I don't know how you think I would know. I'm just a Mudblood. I don't know anything.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 19:58:00](#)  
(no subject)

It's a bit late for you to start acting dumb, Granger.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 20:01:31](#)  
(no subject)

No offence, Parkinson, but just leave her alone, all right?




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-10 20:06:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Fine.

It's just that I


If it really is him, I could see how she wouldn't want to say one way or the other.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2010-12-10 20:00:45](#)**  
(no subject)

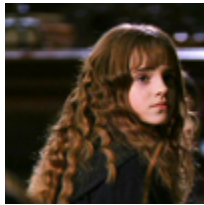
Please don't call yourself that. Not under the lock, remember?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-10 20:02:45](#)**  
(no subject)

You don't have to pretend. Not with us. You do know something, but we won't pester you any more about it.

All right?




 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2010-12-10 20:09:17](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't say that I didn't know anything. I said that I couldn't say.

If Parkinson really cared about Sirius or the rest of the lock, she wouldn't press me so hard. I'm glad you understand, Neville.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-10 20:11:39](#)**  
(no subject)

I said I'd stop, right?

And don't you dare assume anything about what I do and do not care about.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-10 02:25:53](#)  
(no subject)

No. No, she wouldn't do that. At least I've never known either one of them to do something like that to the other.

Blimey, how did it happen? I overheard Madam Pomfrey at dinner saying to Professor Sprout that she expects he'll be in there through the end of the day tomorrow, but she didn't say what happened. I expect she'll understand if I don't go to the Hospital Wing like usual in the morning, since he's there, except...Merlin, I almost want to sneak in just to get a peek, to see what he looks like if he's as banged up as they say.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-10 03:01:09](#)  
(no subject)


Also? That was the best Transfiguration class ever. Even though you could tell she was just doing it on the fly. Seriously, why couldn't she be our teacher all the time?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-10 03:02:11](#)  
(no subject)

Because if she was, they might put someone in like our dear Professor Amycus Carrow as Headmaster.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-10 03:02:51](#)  
(no subject)

Ugh, no.

Never mind.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-10 03:29:42](#)  
(no subject)

I'd think if it was Alecto he was fighting with, it'd have been a whole lot worse, don't you? I mean, there's a reason she teaches Dark Arts, right? And if she was hacked off enough to hit with a poker, I'd think she'd have hit him with the nasty end of her wand first.

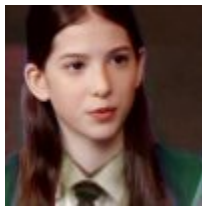
What I don't get? If somebody attacked him and got him that bad, why'd they stop? I mean. Why'd he make it back to Madam Pomfrey?

Sorry. I know someone's going to jump on me for thinking that, but yeah.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-10 04:05:17](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know. I can't imagine they'd want to leave him able to finger who did it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 04:53:40](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe it was intended as a warning. He was left alive so he could tell people what happened.

Pity. I really wouldn't miss him at ALL if he drowned in the lake or got eaten by something nasty in the Forest.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-10 04:51:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's part of why I thought maybe it was Alecto, because she might be cross enough to hurt him but not kill him.

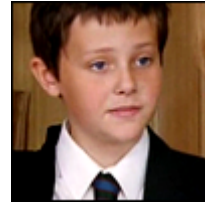
Maybe whoever it was is afraid that if someone from the Lord Protector's inner circle actually got murdered, MLE would come round asking questions. Which would point away from Snape and Macnair and toward someone at the school.



**2010-12-09 18:22:00**

*(no subject)*

We heard a rumour that Professor Carrow got killed. But then someone said he'd just been Kissed because he got too close to the Dementors.



 **alt\_michael**

But when Professor McGonagall taught our Transfiguration lesson today she said he'd just had a nasty fall and that he'd be back in a few days.

Well, anyway, I took your advice, Hopkins, and talked to Mr Dawlish. You're right, he's not nearly as gruff as he wants everyone to think he is. He had some good things to say about hols - and getting far away from the Dementors if we could. So I told Professor Vector that I'll be going home after all.

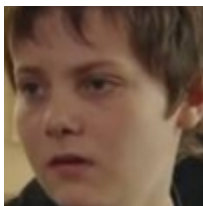
Mum, tell Bitsy her Sing-Ami is really sort of nice, once you get used to it. Capper and Tamblyn taught it to sing 'Mrs O'Reilly's Crup' with all the rude lyrics! It's dead hilarious.



 **alt\_luna** at **2010-12-10 02:59:38**

*(no subject)*

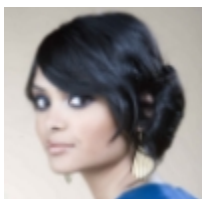
I hope you have a good time going home at Christmas then, although I'll miss your company at the feast on Christmas day. It sounds as though Ravenclaw Tower will be even emptier than usual this year.



 **alt\_michael** at **2010-12-10 03:33:34**

*(no subject)*

Er, yeah.



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-12-10 14:12:49**

*(no subject)*

I'm glad to see you've finally come to your senses, Corner! I mean, it's obvious your family want you home.



I hope someone's selling those Sing-Ami things in Hogsmeade.  
Rubens got one from her mum, did you see? Earlier this week.

**[2010-12-09 22:37:00](#)**

*Private Message to Minerva McGonagall and Rabastan Lestrangle*



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


Alecto Carrow has just interrupted my evening.

It seems she is not at all satisfied with treatment her brother received at the hands of your matron, Minerva, after he was apparently attacked?

By someone who appeared in the guise of Sirius Black, no less.

I trust you have an explanation.




 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-12-10 04:13:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Explanation for what? Sirius Black or Alecto or Matron Pomfrey?

I've been circling the grounds with Dawlish whenever I've had a free moment today. Talking to the handlers and wranglers, too. No one saw anything unusual, certainly nothing along the lines of Sirius Black. For the time being we're up to our ears trying to prevent the kids from getting any wind of this. Last thing we need is all of them fearing that Black's ghost is on the prowl.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-12-10 04:37:02](#)**  
(no subject)

At the moment, I would settle for an answer to any of it. But in particular for why Alecto thinks she can whinge at *me* when it seems clear her brother has finally soaked his brain to the point where he cannot recognise his attackers - if they existed. Though I suppose even Pomfrey is capable of telling the difference between a beating and a tumble.


It's too much to hope that the idiot simply fell afoul of centaurs?

My advice to you both is to keep Alecto satisfied as to the seriousness of Amycus' charges - you know that she will not hesitate to escalate to Our Lord should she believe that you are not

responding to the situation with adequate attention.

And I certainly do not wish to receive another Floo call from that hag.




 **alt\_rabastan** at **2010-12-10 04:47:22**  
(no subject)

I haven't the slightest inkling as to why she's whinging at you, and if I'd known she was going to do it, I would have stopped her, or at least given you fair warning. Bloody Erebus, hope she doesn't fancy you or something.

At this point it's presumed that he wasn't just drinking alcohol, but hallucinogenic potions. And seeking out the company of the Dementors, too. It's possible that Alecto thinks he wasn't ingesting potions of his own choice, but was fed them somehow. I'll let her know that her brother's far too wily and imposing to be tampered with in a such a way, and that I'm questioning every single person until I get to the bottom of this, etc.

He was definitely thrashed about by someone. A couple of someones, I'd say. But I wouldn't be surprised if it were some of the older students. Dressed up as Black, maybe? Hard to imagine anyone taking such a stupid risk, but one never knows. Some of the students are partial to him, but the majority are not.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2010-12-10 05:02:07**  
(no subject)

Don't even jest. But fortunately I believe we are both safe, seeing as we are neither of us suited to the, ah, *particulars* of the Carrows' tastes.

As to why she chose me, I should think it obvious. The words 'Governor' and 'Buckingham' were used at least half a dozen times in the brief amount of time I allowed her to speak. In all honesty I am surprised that she exhibited even the small amount of guile necessary to conceive of the appeal.

The necessary guile to conceive of disguising oneself as Black, however, is an interesting prospect. Foolhardy as well, considering the consequences had someone else seen the

perpetrator. Given that combination, a NEWT-level student could well be the culprit.

In any event, yes - kindly apply your charms to keeping her at bay. Let me know what you discover, or if you and Dawlish require additional resources.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-12-10 18:32:59](#)  
(no subject)

If it was one of the students, they're keeping quite mum. Not even a peep. That leads me to believe it wasn't - such a thing would surely get around quickly, and Carrow *does* have his supporters.

I shall be honest: I suspect it was the centaurs - they don't like him any more than most of the students do, and they're more than large enough to overpower him. As for Black, I can't see how it could be anything but hallucinations. I am tempted to let Poppy doctor his wounds, throw up my hands, and point out that people do get what they deserve.

**2010-12-10 08:52:00**

*Order Only: Will's Status*

I think he's doing much better this morning, Poppy.

I fed him about twenty minutes ago and got a healthy burp but no vom. So far, so good.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

His breathing's much clearer as well. I'm guessing you can't get away again until you've cleaned the filth out of your ward. Sorry about that part, anyway. We figured he'd lick his wounds in his office and rely on Alecto. Never thought he'd allow anyone to help him, honestly.

Well, anyway - I figure you'll not be able to examine Will here until later, so I thought you might like an update.

Oh, dear. Okay - not exactly spit-up free. Off to see to him.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 16:09:07](#)  
(no subject)

My apologies. I've been distracted, and you're quite right, I didn't see you'd written this.

That's good news about his breathing. I do want to be certain that he's free of contagion before I allow you to take him into the sanctuary. Do reassure Frank, though, that we are not talking about the sort of lengthy quarantine that was necessary last winter with that epidemic threatening us.

Sirius. I must say that I am glad to have you here with us this year. I know you are in every bit as much peril now as then--and Merlin knows you are as much of a worry as ever--but it does feel better having you to hand.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 16:59:38](#)  
(no subject)

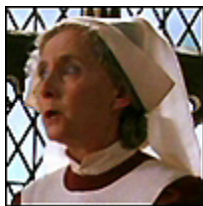
Cheers, Poppy.


We've had a nappy change and he's back to sleep now. There are still some - what do you call them? -

ralls? rahls? well, his breathing is still a bit raspy, but doesn't have that ... liquid sound about it.

I don't reckon the heart flutter will go away, will it? Poor kid. Does something like that affect his ability to do magic? I mean, I was told that - well. Is there any truth to all that superstition about physical and magical health?

I think Frank's just as happy to stay put for the moment, anyway. Now that we've extra blankets and such. It's still cold, but until the interest in Carrow's attack passes, we'll be all right here.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 18:33:16](#)  
(no subject)

I would feel easier about it if you would stay for several more days at least. The key in treating contagious ailments is to keep the dosing steady until the infection is entirely eradicated. To cut off treatment prematurely or to interrupt it can lead to a reinvigoration of the disease that would put the child in a much worse state.

As for the heart, I'm not certain. If secrecy were not necessary, I'd consult with a specialist, but as it is, we shall have to allow time to tell. In the meantime, there are any number of strengthening, heartening medicines I can supply and others I can recommend to Stephen, which could be tried as the boy grows.


You're right that superstition is unreliable. Studies have documented some verifiable links between failure to thrive in small children and weak magic or late manifestation. However, there is also an opposite condition where, in some (very rare) cases, a child with exceptionally strong, prematurely manifesting magic will suddenly die in her cot of a night (an 'attack of night terrors,' they call it) or drop dead of an instant in the midst of a temper ('fatal flaring' is the term).

No one wishes to think that magic can kill, but that seems to be precisely the cause in these peculiar instances.

And, of course, for every actual case of sickly children with weak magic, there are as many substantiated cases of consumptive

children who demonstrate quite strong--often wild--magic, probably as a means of compensating for being kept bedfast.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 17:17:58](#)  
(no subject)

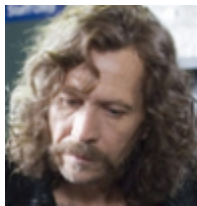
Oh, and to answer your question about your undesirable patient -


I wouldn't advise giving him *anything* alcohol-based unless you want him in more pain.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 18:13:48](#)  
(no subject)


Leaving the ethical dilemma to me? Thank you, I'm sure.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 18:23:02](#)  
(no subject)


No. I'm actually offering an earnest warning. Frank hexed him a good one. You've heard of the *Acidophilum* curse, I presume?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-10 18:36:46](#)  
(no subject)

Well. I appreciate knowing. It's only down to my disinclination to treat him at all robustly that I've not already given him something with at least a bit of alcohol in.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-10 18:00:31](#)  
(no subject)

you're almost as good at changing nappies as I am mate

sirius black cleaning spit-up -- bet that's a sight a few people'd pay to see

course, seeing as I'm a blood traitors and terrorist with a reward on my head, I'd imagine dandling a baby isn't expected of me either

will's got two villains tending to him I hope he appreciates it when he's older



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-10 18:05:20](#)  
(no subject)


Oi, I changed plenty of Harry's nappies and cleaned his sick more than once. I'm not a useless berk when it comes to kids.

And I didn't drop Harry on his head, either, no matter what James may have said.

Anyway. Will's probably going to grow up to be a right revolutionary like Turner. Only with more sense than either of his nannies, I hope.

So I take it that this means you're ready to come on shift? Think I might change and reconnoitre, see if I can find a newspaper.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-10 18:21:37](#)  
(no subject)

works for me, yeah

see you soon



**2010-12-10 09:02:00**

*Private message to Bellatrix Lestranger*

I know you're probably in the field, but word about this will get back to you sooner or later, and I'd rather it be sooner.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#)

Carrow was attacked while wandering outside, drunk on booze and potions. It was night before last, somewhere between the edges of the school grounds and the road to Hogsmeade. I've seen him myself and have spoken at length with the Matron. His injuries are quite extensive, but curiously, few of them were done by magic. It doesn't look like the work of highly trained fighters, but certainly fairly strong ones. Right now I'm considering the possibility that some unhappy seventh year students cornered him when he was pissed and kicked the ever-loving arse out of him.

The real problem here is that he's claiming it was Sirius Black who attacked him - two of them, to be specific. I've seen the man when he's been imbibing and I've no doubt that he's prone to hallucinations, and I wouldn't put it past a foolhardy student to dress up as the traitor to add insult to the man's injuries...but I don't want to dismiss anything out of hand. The fact that it was *two* Blacks, well, I can't help but think of how one Snape plus one Macnair equals two. Macnair, of course, wouldn't need a wand to physically demolish anyone, but he's better trained than what these injuries would suggest. Unless, of course, he was trying to make it look like the work of a student. Then there's the possibility of the Dementor handlers being behind this. Carrow was showing some rather intense interest in the creatures, it's possible that he was becoming a bother.

To top it all, Alecto is being a persistent claw in everyone's side, even going so far as to contact Lucius to complain about how no one on staff is taking the attack seriously. If you came in for even just an hour or two to question Carrow about what he saw, I think it'd go a long way in easing his sister's mind. Plus, it'd help me to have someone knowledgeable around that I can discuss the case with. Tried doing that with Dawlish and he was a bit of a help, but there is a reason the MLE dropped him, I reckon.

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 **[alt\\_bellatrix](#)** at **[2010-12-10 17:08:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm in New London, in fact, meeting with Rufus and Hopkirk at noon to go over the reports. It will take a few hours, but I should be able to reach the castle by no later than supper.

You can assure both Amycus and Alecto that I am on my way.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-12-10 17:09:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Fantastic. Thank you.

**2010-12-10 15:20:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*



 **alt\_frank**

first off I'm sorry for making you worried. and you're right, it put a lot more people besides just me in danger's way and that's not on.


second, it's hogsmeade weekend on saturday. and long as we don't have lots of mle sniffing around, well, I've got nev and evie's christmas things so sirius could pass them along and I thought

he'll be out and about, I'd be careful as anything

if I polyjuice into that lady and pass him a note or something, get him to meet me alone in the wood by the shack, I could apparate him there. I'd tell sirius ahead of time, make sure he keeps will out of the way

I wish it was evie too more than anything but I can't pass this up and I know you'd want to hear about it before rather than after but you know that I'd take every precaution when it comes to them, right?



 **alt\_alice** at **2010-12-10 20:55:41**  
(no subject)

Do you remember what Moody used to say?

He'd say that sooner or later, if they'd gone on for a while and hadn't been caught, criminals would get cocky. They'd think they were invulnerable, that they'd never get caught, because, well, they hadn't yet, had they?

And then they'd make a stupid mistake.

And that'd be it.

Just because we've been on the run for so long doesn't mean that the people looking for us or the things we're accused of have gone away. And thanks to that announcement, they certainly haven't forgotten.

And it's easy to forget because we're in a secure place, a place we've

made into a home, but we are on the run, my love. And the people that are after us won't hesitate if they see you in their sights.

I'm just worried that we're losing sight of that, and becoming complacent and not as careful as we should be. Before we started writing Neville, do you remember how cautious we were? We hardly even wrote Augusta for fear that it'd be traced back to us, and we certainly didn't breathe a word to either of our children.


And I'm so very glad that we are talking to them, and it would break my heart not to, but it scares me so much sometimes that we've put them in that sort of position, where they must keep that big of a secret, and worry about being found out. I worry that it's too much for them, and that it's not worth our being in their lives again. But we can't take it back now.

The risks that we take just keep getting bigger and bigger, and then the next big one seems normal, because that's the way we've been functioning. Take this plan of yours. This is something you wouldn't even thought to do five years ago. There wouldn't have been a question. You would have put the safety of your son, your mission, and yourself before all that.

I just think we need to focus our priorities, which at this point is to keep everyone safe. We've managed to hold onto most everyone for years now, and I don't want that slipping away.

I know you've planned this out carefully, love, and that you don't want to put Neville in danger, but at least recognise that's what you'd be doing -- no matter how careful you'd be, he'd be more in danger with you Apparating him away and back again than he would if you just left well enough alone.



 **alt\_frank** at **2010-12-10 22:05:50**  
(no subject)

you're right

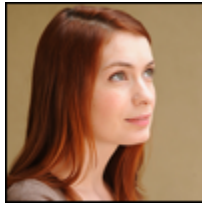
I would be putting him at greater risk than if I did nothing


but he needs us right now and that's a fact, even if we're the reason why his term has gone to hell. he needs his dad. he needs to know that I care about him, and this whole thing with carrow was one of

the ways I could actually do something, you know? can't call him out in public, or write one of sirius's grim truths or even write that arse licker lucius malfoy and the board of governors, but this? this is something I can do. and it's something I do damn well.

and seeing him whenever I can, as safely as I can is another thing I can do.

and if you were here, you'd be taking that risk too.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-10 22:07:55](#)  
(no subject)

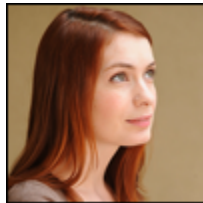
I would. Yes.


I just think we need to take a step back once you come home with Will and come up with rules. Like the rules we made when we were on the run. And stick to them, even if they're hard.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-10 22:08:21](#)  
(no subject)

but for now?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-10 22:09:41](#)  
(no subject)

You'd better be more careful than you've ever been before, Frank Longbottom.


And if you see the merest hint of anyone -- and I do mean anyone at the Apparation site, you pull out immediately. Don't let anyone see you going, and for Merlin's sake, don't let anyone see you coming back.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-10 22:10:32](#)**  
(no subject)

aye aye general



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-12 05:08:24](#)**  
(no subject)

it went well

too short by half but he couldn't be away for too long

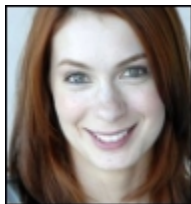
he's worried about evie of course but he's doing fine


when I told him about carrow he got real quiet and turned away for a little, and I thought he was angry, and then he says to me, you did that for me? for us?

and I said I did, and that no-one messes with my family.

and it was worth every bit of it to see him stand up a little straighter, al.

he gave me your present, because he'd just bought it, and will send mine and tiny's by owl, and gives you both his love. he'll give evie an extra hug for me tonight, too. we're coming back soon as poppy clears will.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-12 05:11:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Good. I'm glad.

And no-one saw you come and go?

He didn't catch sight of Sirius or Will at all?



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-12 05:14:45](#)**  
(no subject)


no to both.

he was so careful

he took a bit to get to the woods and I was worried he wasn't going to come at all -- that someone was following him or he was spooked -- but he was just making sure


and sirius and will stayed upstairs and kept quiet.



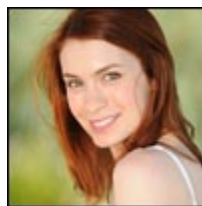
 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-10 21:16:41](#)**  
(no subject)


That being said, I do appreciate your letting me have some input in your plans this time around. Before it happens.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-10 22:01:26](#)**  
(no subject)

I figured unless I wanted to sleep in remus's shed for the next month and change I'd better



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-10 22:06:55](#)**  
(no subject)

You know I wouldn't make you do that, my darling.

Never.

**2010-12-10 20:44:00**

*Order Only*

Well, and here's the other boot dropping. I thought it might do eventually.



 **alt\_poppy**

Belletrix Lestrange is here on the ward, questioning Carrow. And she's forced me to allow Alecto back in, blast it.

Fortunately--and you will understand the black irony I intend here--something at supper has sorely disagreed with a great many digestive tracts. Explosively so. Bi-directionally.

Paracelsus knows I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy, but I'm unconscionably relieved to be unable to speak to her for more than a moment and in passing.

More later as this deluge permits.



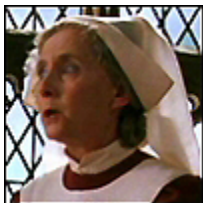
 **alt\_sirius** at **2010-12-11 06:46:33**

*(no subject)*

She showed up at the school?

I wondered why Razzer was writing to her. Circe.

Well, glad we both decided to stay bundled up cosy with little Will tonight. You'll have no more trouble from us. I'm pretty sure Frank's got it out of his system now.



 **alt\_poppy** at **2010-12-11 15:14:36**

*(no subject)*


She did.

Indeed.

I should hope there will be no more foolishness from either of you.





 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-11 19:34:37](#)**  
(no subject)


don't know if it could be called foolishness or not  
al would, so you would too

but she said it'd be okay to say hello to my boy.

quick hello, while he's out and about, nothing more

and you know how discreet he can be, poppy



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-11 22:38:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Wait. What?

You what?

Merlin's nose, Frank Longbottom. What on earth were you thinking? There must have been Aurors behind every lamppost in that town!


Mercy.

Tell me you didn't do it. Tell me you're back safely and no one saw you!

Frank?

Sirius?



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2010-12-11 23:51:22](#)**  
(no subject)

it took twenty minutes all told and no-one was the wiser, poppy.

we apparated in and out of a thick bit of forest by the shack, and all went as planned.

**2010-12-10 21:13:00**

*Aurors*



 [alt\\_daphne](#)

Did anyone else see Mrs Lestrage arrive at supper? She's so impressively tall, isn't she? I love her style of robes, too. I wonder who designs them? They're very crisp and severe, but nonetheless eye-catching. I think I would like to try a look like that in a few years. I imagine she was here to look into the attack on Professor Carrow, since it looked as if she was heading straight in the direction of the hospital wing. I've heard people saying that a few of the older students might have been behind the attack, but it's hard to imagine that someone as important as Mrs Lestrage would be brought in if it were just students. At any rate I am relieved that the incident seemed to happen far away from the castle, on the edges of the Forbidden Forest. I always knew that there had to be a good reason that the Forest was Forbidden.


Mother wrote to both me and Astoria and says she has some tremendous news to pass along once we've come home. I'm quite literally on the edge of my seat (really! Come see me if you don't believe...) wondering what it would be. But then that might be because I'm simply excited to return to Belgravia for the holidays. Mother has all sorts of New London excitements lined up for us girls, including a trip to the new beauty salon in Mayfair. My hair's in sore need of some pruning, so I particularly can't wait for that. Millie, Mother said you could come along, if your parents will allow it! I know you don't believe me, but I still think you would look especially nice with a bit of a fringe.

Who all is attending the Malfoy Christmas party? I know that Draco had planned on inviting everyone in our year last time, but from what I heard that doesn't seem to be the case this year. Blaise, I know you're going... who else? Astoria's thrilled because she'll finally be allowed to attend this year (as Mother and Father's guest, of course, since she doesn't really know Draco), and she's already pestering me about what robes to choose and what all. Queenie's probably beside herself because she'll have to stay home alone with Miss Jessup while we're all out celebrating. I can't say I envy her that. Miss Jessup is a nice woman, but she has a Christmas fixation on gingerbread people (not houses, just people!) that's downright unhealthy. I remember one Christmas, many years ago, Mother and Father were out at an event and Miss Jessup had us decorating gingerbread people until nearly

sun-up, and she was weeping into the lace sleeve of her robe because her gingerbread replication of the Lord Protector wasn't quite as symmetrical as it ought to have been. I never told her that Father ate her lopsided Gingerbread Lord at breakfast the next morning. Dunked it into his tea, no less! Poor, dear Miss Jessup.

I love times like this in the common room, when we're all meant to be revising but are really just listening to music and chattering about instead. I think I'll make some tea and get comfortable. My eyes are too bleary to read anymore!




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 04:46:47](#)  
(no subject)

You're going, of course, as well as a few other people. Don't worry about the short list of invites, it should be brilliant.

I think I've heard Mother say that Aunt Bellatrix gets her robes designed by someone at Bella Noir. I've never been there, though. They only do women's robes.




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 04:48:35](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not worried at all.


Oh, I've seen that shop, I've just never been inside it. It wouldn't be Mother's style at all, that's why. You should ask Professor Lestrangle where he gets his robes, though. I think that look would suit you very well.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 04:55:41](#)  
(no subject)


If he's going for the leaner look, he'd probably need a different sort of cut, wouldn't he? Because Professor Lestrangle is much more broad about the shoulders.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 05:15:07](#)  
(no subject)


A good robe designer or tailor should be able to accommodate someone with less broad shoulders, I should think, though you're right that Professor Lestrangle's style is more suited to someone older, same as Auror Lestrangle's. So perhaps Draco should wait a few years to try that out, just as I'll wait a few years before shopping at Belle Noir.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 05:16:37](#)  
*Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Draco was actually starting to look nice and broad until he had to start reducing to play seeker, though, don't you think?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:49:32](#)  
*Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Hmmm.

Well, he certainly wasn't thick-necked like Gregory, but yes, he was. I think his current look suits him very well, though.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 05:52:42](#)  
*Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Ew, Gregory looks like he swallowed a pumpkin and it got lodged in his throat! I don't fancy that look at all.

Draco looks fit no matter what. How couldn't he, with such a gorgeous Mother? Would you rather look like Mrs Malfoy or Mrs Lestrangle? I can't make up my mind, myself.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:58:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Well, they both are very elegant, of course. I simply love the way Aunt Narcissa styles herself, but my colouring is closer to Auror Lestrange.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 06:05:14](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Mine is as well. Mrs Malfoy's colouring is quite rare, really. I feel like Hydra has her Aunt's colouring more than her own Mother's, though. It's too bad she doesn't seem very interested in

fashion.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 05:37:05](#)

*(no subject)*

What's wrong with my shoulders?

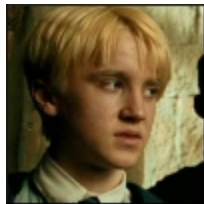


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:40:44](#)

*(no subject)*

Nothing at all, of course!

They're *different* silly, not *wrong*.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 05:44:27](#)

*(no subject)*


Well of course they're not broad. Yet. Maybe I should do some push-ups.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:52:58](#)  
(no subject)


I'm sure they will be just as broad as they are supposed to be when you're fully grown. And I'd bet if we looked at Professor Lestrangle's school pictures from his third year, he wouldn't look like he does now.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 05:56:42](#)  
(no subject)


No, he had hair so long it almost reached his collar. Wild, yeah? He was pretty weedy, too.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:59:38](#)  
(no subject)


Oooh, I can't even imagine! I'm going to look it up tomorrow just to see.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 06:02:15](#)  
(no subject)


You should ask to see the photographs in his office sometime. They're all really interesting.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 06:07:12](#)  
(no subject)

Good idea!



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-11 05:12:18](#)  
(no subject)

The "hero of the protectorate" look? Hear it's a sharp one for Spring with just about everyone. But maybe I will, yeah? My Mother will probably take


me shopping over the hols, since she usually does. That won't be until after the party, though.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 05:33:14](#)  
(no subject)


I'm sure your Mother will guide you right! She has positively impeccable taste.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 05:39:02](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, no doubt about that!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 04:53:36](#)  
(no subject)

Milli would look better sweet with a fringe, she should get one!

And maybe it was centaurs? That did that to Mr Professor Carrow, I mean. Professor Brutka would know.




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-11 05:28:17](#)  
(no subject)

That's what I keep telling her, but she won't listen!

I would think even Madam Pomfrey would be able to tell that, wouldn't she? Being hit by a hoof wouldn't look like a fist. Though centaurs have fists too so I don't know...



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-11 06:05:07](#)  
(no subject)

We're going! Parvati and me and I think Lav may be coming with her parents, but we're not sure. We hope so, though!



Davies was saying at supper that Professor Carrow told Miss Professor Carrow that he saw who attacked him - but he must have been confused in the dark, because he said there were two men and they *both* looked like Sirius Black! And I heard from Chang and Dames that the whisper among the Prefects is that Professor Carrow was taking a potion that made him hallucinate. I asked Dames why on earth and he said probably it was because the potion aided the Professor in his research into Dementors.

I just hope whomever did it gets caught quickly. It's Hogsmeade tomorrow and I certainly don't want to spend the day constantly looking over my shoulder at every shadow! Luckily we'll be travelling in a group so it's unlikely anyone would try to abduct or assault any of us.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:11:07](#)**  
(no subject)

I wonder why Professor Carrow was researching the Dementors? I didn't think there was much that wasn't known about them, just that they enjoy swooping around and making people depressed.

Vince was talking about that earlier, the bit about two Sirius Blacks, and at the time I thought he was just being thick. Oh, but the potion must have been strong if it made Professor Carrow see that!

What are you doing at Hogsmeade tomorrow? Spending time with anyone in particular?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:17:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, Dames says that Professor Carrow has been interested in them since they arrived at the school. The Dementors, I mean. Dames said that the Professor's told his OWL students that one has to conquer any threat to one's own superiority, or something like that anyway. So he's been going where they keep the Dementors, Dames says. Following them, to try to improve his, er, tolerance, I guess. And see if he can figure out ways to get the better of them.

But I guess that potion was pretty unreliable, yeah.



No, no one in particular, Daffs. There's a small group of us who've decided to all go together - me, Parvati and Lav, of course, and Finnigan and his friend Hooper and Page said he'd come along too for a lark. We'll probably just go round the shops. Page still has family to get presents for, and I think Finnigan wants to find something snitch for Mr Rosier. And Lav needs to do all her shopping yet. And maybe we'll get some butterbeer.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:22:22](#)**

*(no subject)*

That's rather..brave of him, I suppose. And I'm sure with Matron's help he'll make a full recovery soon enough.

Sounds like I'll see you around, then. We're more or less doing the same thing, going around to the shops, only I have to do Astoria's shopping along with my own so I suppose I'll be all loaded down with packages on the walk back. I'll have to make good use of Greg, in that case.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:29:42](#)**

*(no subject)*

Hm. Maybe we ought to see if Summers or Stebbins wants to earn a little pocket money being our porter, too.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:18:36](#)**

*(no subject)*

If you please, Miss Patil. It does no good to repeat unsubstantiated rumours, particularly about the staff.

As for Dames, I shall have a word with him about sharing privileged information from the Prefects' meetings with the students. It simply won't do at all.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:30:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't you have some other students to go and tell off, Weasley? Honestly. It's not like I'm the only one who's heard the stories. It's all over school, it's no use only coming after me.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:34:47](#)**  
(no subject)

For your information, I happen to be reminding rather a lot of people tonight that it's impolite to spread gossip. And I'll thank you to address me with a bit more respect, Miss Patil: I am Head Boy,

after all.



 **[alt\\_penelope](#)** at **[2010-12-11 06:36:58](#)**  
(no subject)

That's right, Patil. I should think you'd want to reflect well on Ravenclaw and do her proud.

Five points, I think.

**2010-12-11 09:52:00**

*Private Message to Isobel Sandoval*

Mama,

I do hope that I'll be home for tonight's supper. I know how important these holiday gatherings are to you. Only I wanted to remind you that I'm assigned to a very important work detail today, and I may be cutting it close, especially if anything unexpected occurs.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Of course, if all goes well, then we should be returning to New London not long after dark, which falls even earlier where we'll be. And the debriefing oughtn't to take too long: Mr Crouch will probably run it, and he's not one for wasting time.

So really, Mama, while I can't promise absolutely, I do truly hope that my schedule won't overturn your plans for the evening.

**[2010-12-11 12:00:00](#)**

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

I went up to the Hospital Wing yesterday to do my early morning shift, but Madam Pomfrey must've known I didn't want to be around Master. She told me I could work by re-doing the inventory in the supply shelves.



 [alt\\_terry](#)

I did sneak a peek at him, around the privacy curtain, when she was in her office. Merlin, he's a right mess. All black and blue. He was moaning, too.

I saw Master's sister this morning. Usually she mostly ignores me but whoa, she scared me when she caught me on the stair. Grabbed me by the elbow, demanding that I tell her if I knew anything about it. Well, I guess the fact that I'm so scrawny is a good thing...no one would ever dream that it was me. I just shook my head and stammered that I didn't know anything. And her face worked like she was eating poison and she hissed at me, *just remember, I'm watching you. You and that other mudblood brat.*

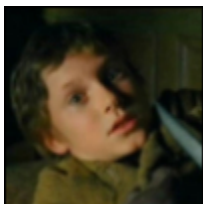
Hermione, you and me both better stay out of her way.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-11 18:28:14](#)  
(no subject)

Hmm. Now that won't do at all.

Tell you what, why don't you come see us, Professor. We have an idea or two that might help.



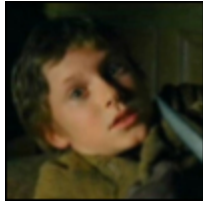
 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-11 18:30:22](#)  
(no subject)


Where?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-11 18:31:23](#)  
(no subject)


That little staircase off the Great Hall. We'll look for you on our way out to Hogsmeade.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-11 18:31:47](#)  
(no subject)

Right. I can do that. See you there.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-12 03:58:56](#)  
(no subject)

Wow, thanks ever so much. This'll really help.

(It's so cool. I've just been watching it like I'm hypnotised for about the last hour.

But are you sure you don't need it anymore?)




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-12 04:00:30](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, we've learned just about everything we can from it, and we figure you need it more than we do.


Don't forget to wipe it when you're not using it.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-12 04:01:11](#)  
(no subject)

I won't forget. Thanks again!



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-12 04:03:36](#)  
(no subject)


What'd they give you?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-12 04:04:28](#)  
(no subject)

Let's just say it's a little something to help him avoid trouble.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-12 04:04:59](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's useful then.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-12 04:05:20](#)  
(no subject)

We certainly found it so.

**2010-12-11 12:58:00**

*(no subject)*



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

My dear Ms Owens, let me assure you once again that such disturbances as we experienced yesterday at tea are not at all typical. Miss Wickersham's outburst was diverting but highly overwrought. And I suspect not a little contrived, for all that she claimed to have been 'surprised' by seeing Barty there with us. In all the years I have known him, I have never seen Barty behave as anything other than a gentlewizard toward a witch - either entering or disengaging from an attachment. It's Miss Wickersham's own fault that she could not accept his answers, which I'm sure were perfectly polite and clear.

In any case, it is entirely your decision, of course, but should he express an interest, I would advise you to give him a chance to prove that he is no thug. Certainly had he not been so shocked by Miss Wickersham's sudden and vehement accusations, I'm sure he would have had the grace to be even more embarrassed than he obviously was.

And rest assured I shall be speaking to Mrs Patil on the subject of her husband's colleague as well.

Meanwhile, the calendar will not wait for any of us, despite the need to keep peace throughout the realm. I hope that the festive air of New London continues through next week and our holiday party - though not, perhaps, the reports one hears of outbreaks of tension among the muggles. It is most unfortunate that while our loyal subjects have spent the week sharing in Our Lord's triumph, a few traitors have chosen to observe the occasion with protest and displays of petulance. We heard this morning of an incident in Stroud. The camp administrator was forced to hang three dissidents who abducted a witch of the camp and held her hostage for several days. The indignities that poor woman must have suffered do not bear imagining. But they were apprehended and put to justice. Lucius says that these instances of muggles within the camps lashing out have been on the rise. It all reinforces our knowledge that we need to keep them safely controlled or they will run rampant. Any witch who cannot keep her wand - and her wits - about her had best take care not to go within arm's length of the camp communities if this is to be the trend. I thought cold weather generally diminished the criminal impulse!



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-11 19:16:27](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa.

I'm sorry to have been the occasion for that scene. I can't blame Ms Owens for thinking the worst, and I wouldn't blame you if you avoided me in public from here out.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-11 19:36:37](#)  
(no subject)

Think nothing of it, dear boy. It certainly wasn't your fault!

I trust you've had no further cause for concern today?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-11 19:47:09](#)  
(no subject)

Concerns of another sort, if you will. But these are the sort I'm trained to manage, and I'll happily deal with these over yesterday's drama.

Do you mean that Lucius was called to Stroud? The news from there is disappointing but surely not unexpected as a response to Our Lord's triumph over the traitor. I trust sharp scrutiny will be turned on the administrator who was taken so flatfooted. It's our business to prevent such things.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-11 19:51:57](#)  
(no subject)

The administrator asked him to come over to review his plans to restore and maintain order. The dear man is very cognisant of our party next week and has asked Lucius' opinion, to ensure that nothing untoward shall perturb our guests.

I hope he shan't be long but if he becomes embroiled as so often is the case, I may find myself without an escort to to the Burroughs' party this evening.






 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-11 20:32:35](#)  
(no subject)

Things will wrap up here very soon, and I expect no difficulties on the New London end that would prevent my leaving the office on time.

If Lucius is unable to accompany you, I'd be happy to stop on my way. Maebh has had to cancel, so I'm on my own for the evening, too. I suppose she may have heard of yesterday's unpleasantness and thought better of being seen with me.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-11 20:36:23](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, stop playing the martyr, it doesn't suit you.

I doubt he'll be detained much longer. But do stop in - if nothing else, you can accompany the two of us. And if you are really so concerned about your reputation being in disrepair, then your arrival with Lucius and myself ought to allay that difficulty in no time!



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-11 20:40:44](#)  
(no subject)

I concede the hand.

You hold all the trump.

**2010-12-11 14:29:00**

*I thought that went rather well despite the weather*



**alt\_sally\_anne**

That was a very nice trip to Hogsmeade. Though when Pansy and I met up in the Three Broomsticks there wasn't much of anywhere to sit, probably because everyone else had the same idea (1. split up so your friends don't see you do your Christmas shopping, and 2. meet up after where it's warm and they have butterbeer.)

We came back a little early since apparently they've started patrolling with Dementors after dark, and we weren't sure whether they meant 'as soon as the sun goes down' or 'when it's really dark.' Anyway, we'd finished our shopping and drunk our butterbeer and it was COLD out today.



**alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-12-11 20:37:20**

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

I saw Padma with a whole gaggle of people, didn't any of them have any shopping to do? She's snogging Page, isn't she? What did she drag Lav and Parvati and Finnigan and that other Gryffindor boy around all day for?

I saw Jeremy Stretton out doing his shopping too, he was at a store that sells JEWELRY. Not the super expensive sort but STILL, I didn't even know he had a girlfriend! Maybe that 'recently ruined!' article did him some good after all.



**alt\_pansy** at **2010-12-11 20:44:42**

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

Because of her mum and dad, of course. They'd have kittens if they knew she was seeing a boy. An older one. And not Indian either!

And who'd want to go with Stretton? He's so... slimy.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 20:53:27](#)

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

I have no idea!

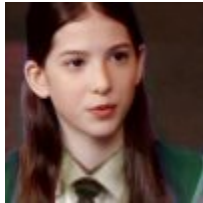
And you're probably right about Patil.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 20:45:39](#)

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

And I can't BELIEVE my mum didn't send me anything. Ugh. Ugh ugh ugh. I'll have to do all my shopping by owl now, and after I asked Patil about the dress and everything.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 20:57:23](#)

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

I know, it's not fair in the LEAST.

The Strettons actually sent me some pocket money this year, not a lot but enough to buy some presents. (Because they want me to be able to ask for favours later. Or at least that's what I pointed out in my letter when I asked for pocket money and I guess it worked.)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 21:00:22](#)

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

I suspect my mum and the Strettons are discussing strategies with one another about how to make present-getting the most difficult thing possible.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 21:02:25](#)

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

In a few weeks it won't matter any more for me, of course, because I'll give *myself* my own pocket money but Christmas happens *before* all that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 21:27:59](#)

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

You could draw everyone a picture of what you're GOING to buy them, and wrap that up...



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 21:45:13](#)

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

Hah! I'm a terrible artist. You wouldn't be able to tell unless I wrote a label under it!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:41:18](#)

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

Well, so? You have very nice handwriting, your labels would look fantastic I'm sure.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 22:10:59](#)

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

Guess Stretton probably wasn't buying jewelry for his mum. How would he even know what to look at in a jewelry shop? Ugh.

And double ugh about Patil and her snog-along club. I mean, really. They all split up later, didn't they? I can't figure what Hooper wants hanging about with a bunch of third-years, anywiz, but it keeps Finnigan from being such a berk all the time. Or at least it means he's off being a berk somewhere else than in our room all the time, so that's all right.

Nev and I made a game of trying to count all the MLE people. Most of 'em were dead obvious, but it was fun guessing whether the little old hag with all the packages might be an Auror or the little girl in the red cloak.

Anywiz, that was okay, and then we split up like you did. And I ran into Corner in Zonko's. Well, you saw us, I guess. So that was all right.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:30:13](#)

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

Maybe when you turn fourteen you get a handbook on What to Buy for Girls? You'll have to let us know. If he were a Slytherin he might have been buying jewelry for his mum because she's still really cross with him, and if he gave her something nice maybe she'd be less cross. I think he'd rather give her nothing and let her stay cross, though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 22:31:47](#)

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

Yeah, that's sort of what I figured.

And I don't think anybody gets a handbook. You can ask the twins, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:38:59](#)

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

If they got a handbook they probably didn't read it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 22:41:01](#)

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

Ha. Yeah, they've pretty much got everything figured out with having to read about it.

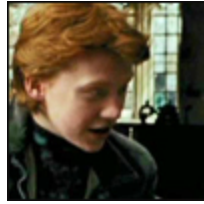


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:43:54](#)

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

They should WRITE a handbook. And then hide it in the library where people would find it and think it had always been there. Full of really DREADFUL but funny advice.

THINK of the potential. 'Always drop a dungbomb to end a first date, to be sure she remembers you.'



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 23:13:19](#)

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

Hah.

There'd be a section on what to do for Valentine's day. They've always got brilliant ideas. And April Fools.

Heh.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-12 00:42:15](#)

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

How do you know we haven't already done so?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-12 00:52:22](#)

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

Well, if you have, I want to read it.

It wouldn't be right to hide your brilliance from the world!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-11 23:47:35](#)

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

Well, you've got us, so you don't need any old handbook anyways. After all, we both have fantastic tastes.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 22:34:03](#)

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

Oh, hey.

Did you see Sandoval today? She was in the Broomsticks when we went in. With some bloke, trying to look like they were just out for a day shopping. Like we don't all know she's in the training programme.



I don't think she liked the bloke she was with very much.  
Wouldn't laugh at any of his jokes.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:40:42](#)

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

I DID see Sandoval. I pretended I didn't, though, I mean why ruin a nice afternoon out?

If she was supposed to look like she was having a good time on her 'date' she wasn't doing a very good job of it.

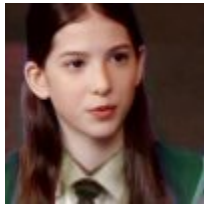


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 22:42:17](#)

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

Serves her right.

Shame for him, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-11 22:44:23](#)

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

Don't you think he was probably a trainee auror too? He's probably just as horrid as she is.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-11 23:12:06](#)

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

Yeah, I dunno. Could've been.

He looked a little older. Charlie's age, maybe? I didn't know him.

**2010-12-11 18:52:00**

*Hogsmeade was cold but*

brilliant! Lana, it was absolutely snitch to see you, really! It was so unexpected. But I'm glad you had a chance to see how well we're doing, despite the Dementors and all. And you can see I've been thinking a lot about how much you've helped me with your advice and how I want to make you proud of all of us in Ravenclaw Corner.



 **alt\_padma**


Lav got a load of her shopping done and Parvati and I picked up a few things, too. Thanks so much, Finnigan, Hooper, and of course Page, for being such gallant escorts! We all had a lovely time.

It was a little disappointing that we had to come back so early, what with the patrols starting at dark. But on the other hand, it was really quite cold, even with silk under the layers. And it's good to know that the Ministry are increasing all their attention to finding enemies and traitors. I mean, it's always important, but if they can catch Macnair and Snape and stop those horrid people who say Black's alive even though his body's on display in New London, well - it'd be nice if we didn't have Dementors for the whole year!

I'm not at all sure I've got the patience for another week of lessons before we go home for hols. I know we'll get through them and it's good to learn, of course. But this weekend sort of gave me the taste for being home and doing real shopping and all. At least this week Karoline will have the scripts ready for people to read! And we get to try out for the play when we get back. I know she's been working hard on it and it's going to be nift.

Marvolo, it's too bad you couldn't come out, but I hope you had another jolly tea or something to keep your spirits up.




 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-12-12 01:28:40**  
(no subject)

Thanks again for helping my mum out. She's going to be so pleased!






 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-12 01:43:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, cheers, Parkinson. Sorry I couldn't arrange more. Maybe if your mum had said something a couple weeks ago. But I'll tell mine anyway so when your mum comes in they can at least give her some minor modifications.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-12 01:32:45](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

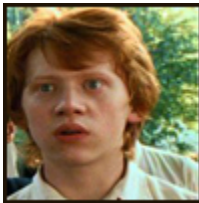
Now, not a word teasing her about Page until after she's spoken to her mum! Ron, Sally-Anne, especially you two.


I had to stop myself about half a dozen times from commenting on it, but I'll never hear the end of it if mum doesn't get her dress.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-12 02:02:57](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

My lips are sealed.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-12 03:52:57](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oi!

For you, all right.

But by the time you let us take the mickey, Page'll have dumped her long since.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-12 04:53:55](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well, you can tease her about being dumped, then!

**2010-12-12 09:28:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey*




Will's taken a turn for the worse.

We couldn't have a fire all yesterday of course, because of MLE all over the village. I cast warming charms on the room but they had to be refreshed every so often. And last night especially with the Dementors patrolling, it got really cold.

 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I changed form and Frank and me put Will under the blankets with us to keep him warm, but this morning his cough is worse. I know you probably can't come down but - what should we do?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2010-12-12 15:14:11**  
(no subject)

Oh, Sirius.

No, you're quite right. I can't come: I've a ward full of children here with post-Hogsmeade symptoms. Most of it's not serious at all, of course, but there are a few who are suffering very low spirits, who really mustn't be left.

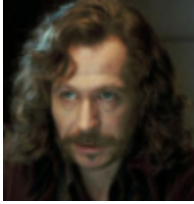
And Carrow is still here, though I intend to discharge him today to be free of him. Not that he's in a stable frame of mind. At all. And his aches will no doubt aggravate his disposition. But I've done everything I'm willing to do and then some. He's his own trouble from here out.

But this all means that I've a great many witnesses should I suddenly disappear for several hours. I simply can't do it this morning. I hope that I could come tonight after lights out, but I dislike leaving you to the weather.

I suppose it's not safe yet to light a fire, is it? MLE may well have lingered here and there, if they do truly think Snape and Macnair are about.

I do have some things that might help you, though. I could bundle them up and place them in one of the tunnel heads if one of you

could come get them. I'm not sure it's at all wise for one of us to trundle out to the willow in full daylight. There are far too many eyes in this castle to make that a safe choice. What do you recommend?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-12 15:27:39](#)


*(no subject)*

The shops are open. I could Polyjuice myself long enough to get into Honeyduke's.

Leave the bundle at the tunnel behind the one-eyed witch, all right? And I'll come get it from there. Detailed notes, please - I've no gift for Healing!

Does it - I mean, I know he's contagious, but would it make sense for Frank to take him back to Moddey Dhoo right off, and quarantine him there? At least he'd be more comfortable.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-12 15:36:36](#)

*(no subject)*

Are the symptoms truly worsening? Sometimes things seem terrifying at night that are not so severe after breakfast.

I'm torn, honestly. I think there's a risk in Apparating with a sick infant. It's an undoubted strain on the heart, which is already compromised, and with his pneumonia, I just distrust it.

On the other hand, it may honestly be your only hope if you cannot keep your lodgings warm enough. And with my hands tied as they are, he'd certainly get more attentive care from Stephen.

It's your call, Sirius, and I trust you and Frank to make it.

I will go ahead and place this care package in the tunnel for you. If you are staying behind, you may find its contents helpful for your own use.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-12-12 15:41:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll see what Frank thinks. I haven't said anything to him because I don't want to influence his opinion about Will's condition.

Merlin. I dunno. But at least getting the supplies will give us options. I'll just tell Frank and then I'm on my way.

**[2010-12-12 11:37:00](#)**

*Family*

It's been a good term this year, but I'm looking forward to going home for hols. It's weird having Pip here. I've spent much more time making sure he's okay, especially at first when it was all new and he didn't know where the classrooms were or which staircases moved when and stuff like that, but he's more settled in now.



 [alt\\_ernie](#)

I got some stuff for Christmas at Hogsmeade. Pip couldn't go, as he's only a firstie, so he gave me some of his pocket money and I bought some stuff for him when I was there. But getting stuff for mum and dad and Laurie and the babies made me want to go home and see them all. Mum and dad have been sending photos of Seb and Vivi, and they've got so big already! But it's not the same as really getting to meet them properly.

And there's the new house too. Christmas will be really snitch if we can spend it investigating the new place, searching for secret passages and that!

School's great and all, but I can't wait to go home.



---


 [alt\\_hannah](#) at **[2010-12-12 19:14:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm glad we had the Hogsmeade trip yesterday, but since we had to come back a little earlier than usual, I didn't get all of my shopping done. I'll have to do another trip when we are let out of school for the holiday.


I know how you feel about not being able to wait until we get home. I've set up a calendar pages that are charmed to rip off another page each day. Not long now!



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-12 20:00:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe we could go shopping together in New London in the holidays. If you wanted.



 **[alt\\_hannah](#)** at **[2010-12-13 02:00:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh, I'd like that. Let's plan on doing so.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-12-12 19:48:55](#)**  
(no subject)

It's wicked snitch you're going to live in a castle, mate.

What d'you reckon your parents would let you have a house party over hols? That'd be well classic.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-12 20:04:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Definitely, yeah, that'd be wizard. Maybe on New Years Eve? I reckon I'll send an owl now to ask.

**2010-12-12 13:21:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

okay

sirius is back



 [alt\\_frank](#)

at this point we're thinking we wait to see if he gets better before attempting an apparation, so we're going to get all the chinks in the living room sealed up and get it nice and really properly warm in here and with my patronus going and sirius as a big shaggy fur blanket and your batch we'll see if we can't bring down his fever

might end up pulling the mattress in here too for tonight

there are charms for a smokeless fire but I don't remember it off the top of my head do any of you know what it is? moody'd have my head for forgetting but keeping this patronus going makes it harder to think on other spells

poppy if you could make it down after lights out to see how he's doing and if he's getting better or not that'd be good. he sounds the same to me, but sirius has that sharp hearing when he's a dog so that might be part of it




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2010-12-12 18:47:55**  
(no subject)

The command would be "incendio sine fumus." And I should have your head for forgetting, too, except I'm a bit too worried about both of you to insist. I don't know, though. I worry that if there were any MLE about, maybe a contingent Bellatrix Lestrange left behind, they'd have trip charms for detecting any fire-related spell, which they might, if they have any reason to think Snape or Macnair might still be hanging about.

Which they might, considering your stunt with Carrow.

If you have blankets for young Will, it may be safer to simply put warming charms on those.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-12 18:50:27](#)  
(no subject)

Be careful not to make the charms TOO warm though, Frank. You don't need burns on top of everything, and I'm sure you know how delicate a baby's skin can be.

Even if he has a blanket to warm him up, breathing cold air might be a problem, if Sirius and Frank don't make a fire. It could aggravate the cough.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-12 18:53:47](#)  
(no subject)

maybe we could set up the tent in the middle of the room if the ceiling is high enough

might be easier to heat the air in that



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-12 19:00:19](#)  
(no subject)


Good idea!

At the very least, we could stretch the canvas and make a fort.

The mattress is a bit mouldy but I've got the bedroll over the top of it and a warming blanket over that.

Come down and get this broth before it loses strength. There's HotWot for the two of us, too - and for Will's nose and ears.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-12 19:02:36](#)  
(no subject)

good I'm starved

and we'll set up the tent after





 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-12 19:00:47](#)  
(no subject)


True. Try "Aero tepidus," an air-warming charm. That would avoid that fire detection spells.



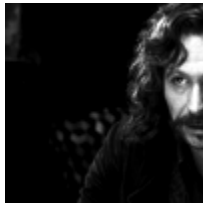
 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-12 19:04:01](#)  
(no subject)


that might do after the tent is up. and the patronus wouldn't be quite so draining if it only had to protect that small a space either.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-12 19:10:16](#)  
(no subject)

A shield spell around the tent will also help keep the warmed air in.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-12 19:09:57](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Kingsley.

I didn't see too many people left in the village. The shops were all closing up as well when I got back, but I managed to liberate some woolen socks.


An air-warming charm won't cook the sausage I got, though. But if MLE have pulled back - that is, if they were only about in force due to the students being in Hogsmeade yesterday - well. Maybe we could chance a fire to fry up the sausage and if no one comes running, we might put another one on a little later, when it gets really biting cold, if we need it.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-12 18:50:59](#)  
(no subject)


Another one that they might not be looking for would be "dimtannwg" -- it's Welsh, so it might not be on their radar.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-12 18:52:49](#)  
(no subject)

that's the one I meant, yeah




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-12 18:53:38](#)  
(no subject)

We've got blankets with warming charms - fresh ones, too, thanks to Poppy.

I've got the warming draughts she sent, too. Poppy, do you think two drops are enough of that to start? He's still really small - hasn't been getting enough to eat, I think, with all the spitting it back up.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-12 19:35:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, two drops every fourth hour. Use the dropper.

Of course, you know that.


Did you find the little blue vial of tummy tonic? One drop in his bottle each feeding should ease the regurgitation.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-13 00:50:20](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, we found it. And it's doing a wonder, Poppy. I just gave him a bottle and he barely coughed up any of it. That alone has to be a good sign, right: If he can keep his feed down, he'll have more strength to fight off the infection.



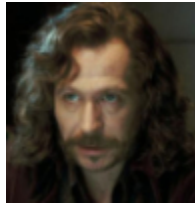
 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-13 00:53:24](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, a very good sign, indeed!

I shall be along as soon as I've put the ward to bed. Just a bit after 10:00, I'd say.

I hope to find our wee lad peacefully sleeping.

Unless that's time for a feeding? What schedule have you settled into?

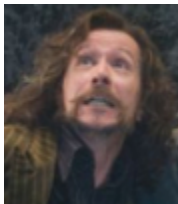



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-13 01:10:59](#)  
(no subject)

What time is it now? Sorry, we've no clocks here.

We're trying to get him on about a four-hour schedule but it's hard to judge perfectly. He took his bottle about half an hour ago? Something like that. And as I said, he barely spit up afterward. I'm hoping to get him back to sleep in the next few minutes. He'll need a change about ... an hour after that? Sometimes less. And sometimes after that he takes a little while to settle back down.

Anyway, I'll still be up when you get here. Frank's grabbing a bit of a kip so he can take the next shift and I'm in dog form during the coldest part of the night.



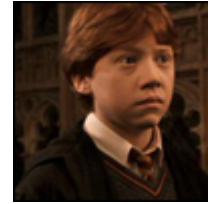
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-13 00:51:03](#)  
*Private message to Frank Longbottom*

Don't forget to refresh the warming charm in the bathroom next time you need to use it.

**2010-12-12 18:58:00**

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

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good--that's no lie. I totally do not understand this Runes stuff, and my parchment is complete rubbish from the start, and I've only got four inches.




 [alt\\_ron](#)

Someone tell me the term's over and this is just a nightmare that I've still got to write this rotten essay.

Please?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-12-13 01:23:33**  
(no subject)

Well, what do you have done so far? I've been writing on the difference between Ehwaz and Mannaz, and how if you get them mixed up in a standard runic incantation, it can really make things messy. Like give people horse's feet by accident.


I'd pinch you so you'd know it's not a nightmare, but I'm not in your room. Neville, would you do the honours?



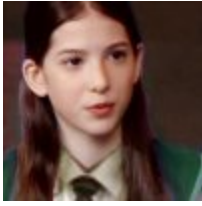
 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-12-13 01:29:56**  
(no subject)

I did. He whapped me on the head for it!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-12-13 01:36:06**  
(no subject)

Sorry! Well, at least he knows he's not dreaming.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 01:30:39](#)  
(no subject)

You know, that's a good idea, Ron. Write about everything that could go HORRIBLY wrong if you muck up your runes. Professor Babbling likes it when we take her dire warnings seriously, she'd probably give you extra points just for that.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 01:32:06](#)  
(no subject)

Oh and I'll tell you what NOT to write about.

DO NOT write about how to use runes to cause lice and bedbugs and every horrid crawly creature you can think of to descend on Ravenclaw!


Because that might make her suspicious.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 01:36:55](#)  
(no subject)

But you CAN write about how sometimes runes get out of hand and are very difficult to stop, because you've had some experience on that count!



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-13 01:28:05](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, I'm not taking Runes, so I can't help.

I bet Percy would help you, but I also bet you don't really like to ask him.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 01:33:21](#)  
(no subject)

You should definitely ask Percy.

1. He'd know the answer.
2. He could probably explain it to you.
3. He'd be SO CHUFFED that you actually ASKED HIM FOR HELP

(and thanked him properly after) that he'd probably be nice to you for the rest of term.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-13 01:36:30](#)  
(no subject)

He really IS helpful when you ask him for revising help. I've had him look over a couple of my potions essays. And yeah, he's nice about it.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-13 01:58:48](#)  
(no subject)


1. True
2. Maybe. Depends on whether he's hacked off with Ron about anything at the moment.
3. Also probably true. But the disadvantage is that he'd probably be even more an insufferably Big Head Boy about it than ever.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 02:10:46](#)  
(no subject)


He will be insufferable regardless. It's just a matter of him being insufferably nice to you, or insufferably nasty!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 03:34:10](#)  
(no subject)

Any progress, Ron?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-13 04:22:27](#)  
(no subject)

I'll have you know that while you lot were going on about what I should write and what I shouldn't write and whether I should ask Percy and otherwise taking the piss, I've written sixteen inches on how Charlie and all the dragon handlers have the Tiwaz rune branded on all their kit, because it's the victory rune that the Valkyrie, Sigrdrífa, gave Sigurd to use after he'd killed the dragon. She gave him the

secret of the runes because he set her free from captivity. And they use it, too, because it's the rune of Tyr, the god who sacrificed his hand to Fenrir in order to bind him, so the god's could capture him. So the handlers use the rune of the one-armed god to show the dragons that they're fearless. And whenever a dragon handler loses an arm--or, y'know, part of one--they call him Tyr and say he's dragon's-leavings, and if he survives the wound, they think he'll be impossible for any dragon to kill after that. And I guess there's never been a Tyr that's been killed by a dragon. That's what they say, anywiz.

When I first saw that rune it was on Charlie's gloves, and I thought it was funny that they'd put an arrow on them like you couldn't figure out which way to stick your hand in if they didn't! But that's why, really: because it's a protection rune that's special to them.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 05:56:47](#)  
(no subject)

Well, that's excellent!

D'you mind if I read it at breakfast before you turn it in? Because that actually sounds pretty nift.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-13 14:26:28](#)  
(no subject)

D'you really think she'll mind that I wrote so big? I wasn't sure I had enough to say.

Now you've gone and got me worried.

Thanks loads, fisheye.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 16:25:24](#)  
(no subject)

I was just teasing you! I'm sure it's fine.

**2010-12-12 21:01:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*

Addition to to-morrow's agenda: 2:00 with Scrimgeour, Hopkirk, Truncheon, Lestrangle, Travers and Davies (Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures).



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Also when you arrive in the morning, kindly provide Miss Johnson at Sainsbury's with the copy of the menu for the holiday party next week. Promised Mrs Malfoy I would give it to the catering office on Friday last and left it on my desk.

Oh - and arrange for two seats at Wednesday's Christmas Concert with my compliments for Rowena Robins and Cassius Cameron. Anywhere in the Mezzanine is fine.

I shall need half an hour's time with Allenham prior to Muggleborn Labour, as well. See to that, please.



**[2010-12-13 11:45:00](#)**

*Order Only: Daylight*

Well, that may have been the strangest night Frank or I have passed recently, but we seem to have all got through it.



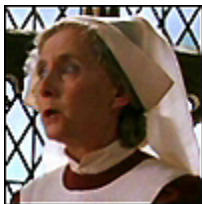
 **[alt\\_sirius](#)**

Frank's going to go kip now. I've fed Will and I'm about to change him again. He seems better. Still a bit too warm to the touch, but the tent was definitely warmer than the room outside of it, and I think his breathing sounds better. He's still quite fussy, but I'm taking that as a sign that he's fighting.

The draughts you gave us are really helping, Poppy. His feeding after you left went very well and Frank said that he wasn't sick hardly at all after his early morning bottle.

Keep your wands crossed, everyone, but we're hanging in there.

Minerva, any idea whether the Dementors will patrol the village again tonight? Frank said it was colder than a witch's like being in the Arctic circle without the Patronus.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:39:23](#)**


*(no subject)*

I was hoping Minerva would have a chance to answer your question. But I think she may have had other concerns today. There's been some back and forth with the centaurs going on, and I think she's been caught up.

It seems to me that if this afternoon has not brought any setbacks for our wee charge that it might be better for Frank to go ahead and take him to Moddey Dhoo. If his lungs are clearing and his strength is building, then on balance, I think it might be better to risk Apparition than to subject him to another night's exposure to those horror-mongers and the bone-piercing chill they create.

Are you planning to go with them this time, Sirius? I don't like to think of you there in the shack by yourself and surrounded by Dementors, either. Let me know if there's anything you need.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-13 22:52:29](#)  
(no subject)

It's definitely not as cold as was yesterday. But if it's better for him to go, then, yeah. Though I don't mind saying I've just about got used to the little titch. Tell you one good thing, it'll spare me that tuneless twaddle Frank claims is singing.

As for the Dementors.... It's hard to say why, but as Padfoot I don't seem to be all that bothered by them. Provided they don't swarm the village again, I think I'll stay on. It's still far more dangerous in the long run for me to have any concrete information about Moddey Dhoo - just in case.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-13 23:12:49](#)  
(no subject)

oi

he seemed to like it fine


not as much as your singing though



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-13 23:15:14](#)  
(no subject)


Never did. I have enough sense to know I'm rubbish.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-13 23:34:02](#)  
(no subject)

at least you have notes



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-13 23:11:35](#)  
(no subject)

heading out, poppy

thanks for all your help

al's been keeping steve in the know so he'll be ready

I'll let you know how things go with the apparation




 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at [2010-12-13 23:43:26](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed.

The centaurs do *not* like to be accused of crimes they did not commit. For your future reference.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-13 23:33:49](#)  
(no subject)

back safe and sound steve's checking out his heart rate now seems to think he's okay though

started crying like anything once we landed




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-14 02:53:10](#)  
(no subject)

Wonderful news.

Salutations to Stephen. And best love to Alice.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-14 03:44:05](#)  
(no subject)

That's a relief.

Why's he crying? You 'sang' to him again, didn't you?

**[2010-12-13 12:47:00](#)**

*Private Message to Ernie MacMillan  
and Seamus Finnigan*



Have you lot seen that paper going round?


What d'you reckon they mean by 'Most Mature Girl' - does that mean they're wearing bras or that they've got their - you know, their thing every month? Or do they mean things like snogging, because Greengrass has definitely snogged a bloke.

 [alt\\_zacharias](#)

I'm not sure what we did to be heroic, Ern. Slain any basilisks lately and not told me about it?

Anywiz, it's a lark, isn't it?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **[2010-12-13 19:19:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Haha! Only a couple. I didn't want to brag!

I reckon it's the bras for that mature girls one. Greengrass definitely needs one, and probably Brocklehurst. I don't know about Padma Patil though, she doesn't look like she's got much to put in a bra.

Who do you think wrote it? I'd say a Ravenclaw or a Slytherin, but I don't know which one.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at **[2010-12-13 19:25:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I dunno. Greengrass is in a bunch of the good ones and so's Malfoy but I suppose that's expected. But then, Greengrass wouldn't call Zabini stuck-up even though he is (and did you see he's in that one twice?

Whoever it is doesn't fancy him much, do they?), so I don't think it was her.

I don't reckon it was Perks, either. She'd never call Parkinson porky!

Actually I rather think it might have been Brown and Patil - the Gryffindor one, that is. It was definitely girls, though. We'd never waste that kind of time!

Summers said in Muggle Studies that he reckons the less anyone's in the bad things the more the girls fancy you.



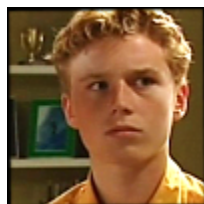
 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 19:38:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Perks wouldn't say she was strangest either, I don't reckon. She is strange, but I bet she doesn't think so.

What about Dunstan? She's only in Most Fit, and she's a Ravenclaw, so she might be the type to make lists of everything like this. If Brown and Parvati had done it, it'd be covered in little pictures of rainbows and unicorns and stuff.

I bet John's right. Whoever wrote this thing definitely fancies Malfoy. And maybe you and all, Most Fit!



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 19:52:06](#)

*(no subject)*

Good point about Dunstan. She could be behind it.

And yeah, it's a wonder the I's aren't dotted with little hearts, innit?

Compared to Crabbe, Goyle and Longbottom, everyone's Most Fit!

Who'd you pick for worst spots? Of the girls, I mean. Obviously your spots are the worst of the boys. Only joking! It's clearly Moon, poor chap.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 19:57:21](#)

*(no subject)*


Midgen, definitely. She looks like she fell in the lake and the Giant Squid tried to suck her face off!



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 19:59:12](#)  
(no subject)


Midgen looks like she has something contagious and horrid. I don't know why she doesn't go to Madam Pomfrey, surely she has SOMETHING to help with it.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 20:05:05](#)  
(no subject)


My dad says soap and water's just fine, but I reckon it's just been a really long time since my dad was our age and they have better potions and stuff now.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 20:16:22](#)  
(no subject)

They do have better potions now, you should talk to Madam Pomfrey if your spots bother you. I mean not that yours are the worst, but if they bother you at all. Even if your Dad's a healer I don't reckon spots are his specialty, right?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 20:42:21](#)  
(no subject)


It doesn't bother me that much. My dad says spots are just a sign that you're growing up. But I suppose I will go and see Madam Pomfrey, if the girls are talking about it now.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 19:31:29](#)  
(no subject)

Hey how long d'you think it'll take for Corner to whinge that he's not a big girls' blouse?



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-13 19:41:06](#)**  
(no subject)


I bet he's already crying on Capper's shoulder about it.



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-12-13 19:48:46](#)**  
(no subject)


Too right, Hufflepuff Hero!



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-13 19:58:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Who'd you pick for 'swottiest boy,' Macmillan?



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:02:58](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a fair cop, I reckon. I do probably work too much. But I'd pick Thomas. I think he tries a bit too hard because of having a disadvantaged background or whatever.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:17:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Definitely Thomas. Malfoy's always near the top in his lessons but I reckon that's because he's Malfoy, innit, and because he's matey with Marvolo.

And Marvolo never seems to revise at all, except that he's always saying how busy he is this term. I heard Zabini say he's signed up for about every optional class there is!






 **alt\_ernie** at [2010-12-13 20:34:05](#)  
(no subject)

How would he manage that? Some of them are at the same times, aren't they? I know he does Dark Arts and Ancient Runes, I've seen him there. I suppose he'd have to take classes with the wrong House if there was a clash. That'd be rotten luck.


Marvolo's not swotty though, and I don't think Malfoy is either. They do alright in class, but they don't work like mad. Thomas, though, he's always trying to prove he's best at stuff.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-12-13 20:21:30](#)  
(no subject)

I picked Moon but Thomas is a fair choice. I think he works as hard as he does because that way he doesn't have to take sides between me and Weasley.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2010-12-13 19:56:08](#)  
(no subject)

I reckon you're right about bras. You can tell by looking with bras, how would anyone know about the other thing? Do the girls TELL each other? Who'd want to know THAT?



 **alt\_zacharias** at [2010-12-13 20:01:49](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno. I don't want to hear about it, though!

You're matey with Patil, what does she say about what makes a girl mature? Don't they all go to the loo together and all? That means they'd know, wouldn't they?






 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:22:28](#)**  
(no subject)

We don't really talk about that!



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:35:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Glad to hear it, that'd be gross!!




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:43:05](#)**  
(no subject)

So, is she your girlfriend now, then? Or is it Page, still?

Or is it Lavvy that you luvvy?



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:47:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't love anybody!

I did go on sort of a date with Lavender to Hogsmeade, but that was a favour to Padma.


Who's still seeing Page.



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2010-12-13 20:49:40](#)**  
(no subject)


Merlin, you didn't have to stick about while they snogged, did you?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 21:37:32](#)  
(no subject)

They ~~actually don't~~ No, they didn't snog in Hogsmeade. I reckon if they'd wanted to snog they'd have asked the rest of us to make ourselves scarce, but it's not as if there's much of anywhere to GO in Hogsmeade that's at all private. Not when it's cold enough to give a Dementor frostbite, anyway.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 20:59:55](#)  
(no subject)


HAH! I thought for a second there you meant Page was Finnegan's girlfriend!!



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 21:08:38](#)  
(no subject)


Hah - that would make Finnigan a girls' blouse, all right! Make him a right poufter and all!



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 21:17:43](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe it was Padma Patil who wrote it, in revenge for Finnegan stealing her boyfriend! Haha!



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 19:57:48](#)  
(no subject)

I don't mind being 'most fit' but I'd just as soon have not been on the 'biggest girls blouse' list. Fortunately I think Corner has that one sewn up, he's nearly always whinging about something or other.

Good on you for being heroic, Macmillan! Whatever it was you did.

And I think it was probably Lavender and Parvati.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 20:07:41](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I reckon they had to put some people in who didn't fit. Like - who'd think Nott's talented? At what? Cutting open animals? Ycch.

And Summers isn't really Squibbish at all, is he?




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 20:25:25](#)  
(no subject)

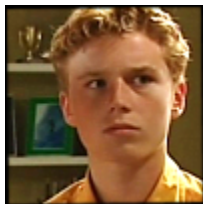
I don't know what Nott's talent is supposed to be. Melting cauldrons, maybe, whose cauldron was it they destroyed by accident first year?

And yeah the fact that some people just don't fit is part of why I think it was more likely Lav than Padma. Why'd they put Parkinson on the 'Most Popular' list, who's she popular with other than Perks? And I don't know why they put Macmillan on for stuck up, they should've just put Zabini on there a third time!



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2010-12-13 20:35:44](#)  
(no subject)

Haha! Cheers mate.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 20:48:44](#)  
(no subject)

Parkinson's popular with a certain class of people - ones we would never include in our set. She does have a way of collecting strays, so I suppose that makes her popular. And there are those music parties and revising sessions and things - I guess someone thinks those make her popular.

But yeah, I reckon being on there with Zabini's a fair cop, only up against him I'm positively humble!



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-13 21:39:45](#)  
(no subject)

They could've made that a whole other category, 'most popular with losers.' And the only person who doesn't look humble next to Zabini would be Lockhart, I reckon.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-13 22:38:41](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I reckon they'll know anyone who votes for Parkinson as Popular is either daft or is trying to crawl up her skirt as high as Perks does.

**2010-12-13 14:27:00**

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



Ugh, that stupid list. I don't mind being called a swot but where do they get off calling Pansy fat? Especially since Milli's not on the list.


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

And mousiest, REALLY? How'd I get on the 'mousiest' list and not Megan Jones or Katrina Bundy? I voted for Katrina anyway, I just wrote her in.

And don't even get me started on what they said about Ron and Nev.


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 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-13 20:38:27](#)  
(no subject)

What in Merlin's name are you talking about?!



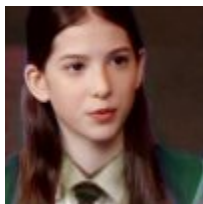
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:40:51](#)  
(no subject)

Something that cow Patil and her crew came up with.

It's a list where you vote for people -- "Most popular" "Prettiest" all that rot.

It's rich that they put themselves as options under "Most mature." Because that list? Is the farthest thing from mature ever.

I'm refusing to vote.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 20:43:22](#)  
(no subject)

I think they mean bra size.

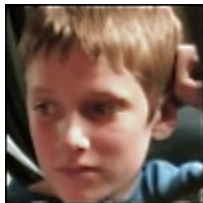
Or whether you've started getting your monthly visitor.


Because why else would Brocklehurst be on there? She's got the biggest



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:44:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well that explains why I Well, it's still possibly the most vapid thing to ever be put on parchment.




 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2010-12-13 20:47:06](#)  
(no subject)

???

Monthly visitor?




 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2010-12-13 20:47:27](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Never mind.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:48:45](#)  
(no subject)


Thought you'd sort it out.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 20:49:34](#)  
(no subject)

Oh thank goodness for a minute I thought I was going to have to explain that to you.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-13 20:48:05](#)  
(no subject)

Well, what a rotten thing to do.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 20:49:52](#)  
(no subject)

Well it was probably Lavender who did it, what else would you expect?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 20:42:12](#)  
(no subject)

There's this paper going around, with 'how well do you know your classmates?' at the top. You're supposed to vote for who's the swottiest, who has the worst spots, which boy is 'least fanciable,' all that.


Some of them are funny, I mean for 'most stuck up' the choices are Ernie Macmillan, Draco Malfoy, Zacharias Smith, and then Blaise Zabini twice. But they went out of their way to be extra nasty to some people.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:54:29](#)  
(no subject)

And of course we all know who is *supposed* to be in each, and who is *going* to be based on who votes for who, and which categories they made up *just* so they could put people into them. Honestly.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-13 20:40:07](#)  
(no subject)

So why vote for anybody? Why even turn it in?

I don't see the point in giving whoever made up that stupid list a single moment of your attention.





 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:41:17](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Neville.

I agree completely.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-13 20:43:53](#)  
(no subject)

You're probably right.


But I didn't want Pansy to get the most votes for Perki



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 20:56:26](#)  
(no subject)

And for the record, you are not mousy.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-13 22:23:46](#)  
(no subject)

Least it wasn't rattiest. Or most likely to rat somebody out.

Ohhh

We could do our own!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 22:32:08](#)  
(no subject)

It's harder to stay superiour that way, though.





 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-13 22:40:56](#)  
(no subject)


Superiour schmeerious.

Fine.

We'll think of something else, then.

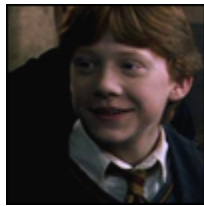
Anyone up for some Rune revenge?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 22:42:58](#)  
(no subject)

Now *that's* thinking originally.


What'd you have in mind?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-13 22:44:27](#)  
(no subject)


Well. We seem to be ace at bringing down plagues of lice...



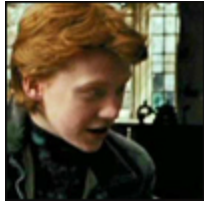
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 22:44:56](#)  
(no subject)


Oh! Oh! Is there a way to show what people voted for? Like something showing up on their robes?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 22:46:11](#)  
(no subject)

I'd love to have Padma advertising exactly *who* she thought was the spottiest or the most fit.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:48:09](#)**  
(no subject)

It'd be pretty funny if we could get her to say who she thinks is most fit.


Since Page isn't even on the list!



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:47:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I think we might've needed to put a curse on the lists before people voted on them to make that work. D'you think?




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:49:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh. Right. Darn.

Perhaps we wait til the results come out, and then we make them funny for just a few people that we don't like that come out on top...


"ACTUALLY NOT VERY MATURE AT ALL, THANKS"



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:54:04](#)**  
(no subject)


"I PAID PEOPLE TO VOTE ME MOST FIT"



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-13 22:59:35](#)**  
(no subject)


"SHOULD HAVE BEEN DIMMEST"



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 23:01:57](#)  
(no subject)


"I CAME UP WITH THE STUPID LIST  
BECAUSE I'M A HATEFUL COW WHO LIKES  
TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE"



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-14 02:42:53](#)  
(no subject)


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-13 23:08:34](#)  
(no subject)


I could do this all day.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-14 02:43:25](#)  
(no subject)

You totally could!!!



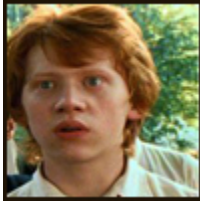
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-14 16:12:03](#)  
(no subject)


Whoa. Did you see Percy's post?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-14 16:13:29](#)  
(no subject)

We'll give him points for trying...which we very rarely do, especially since we aren't Bighead Prefects ourselves, but it probably won't do much good.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-14 16:48:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, but the bigger thing is what Mrs Malfoy's saying to him now.

She wants to know what categories people got put in so she can judge them for those societies of hers. Daughters of the Protectorate and Sisters in Whatsits. Shows what that's all about, doesn't it?


D'you think she'll decide Midgen shouldn't be included cause people make fun of her spots?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-14 16:54:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I went and looked again and I don't know why they'd kick out anyone for being on the 'worst spots' list but they might for 'biggest crybaby' or 'strangest.' Or 'biggest mudblood-lover' but she's not in charge of the Brotherhood is she? and that was just boys.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-14 17:16:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I never wanted to be in that stupid group anyway.

Except I know I should look like I want to be.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-14 17:18:31](#)**  
(no subject)

No! It's for halfbloods, you numpty!

The ones for purebloods don't select until later. And you never had a chance at those, anyway.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-14 17:37:32](#)  
(no subject)

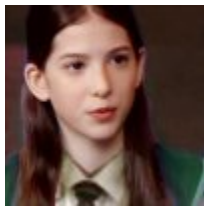
I didn't mean I didn't want to be in it because it's for half-bloods. Because I think my blood's better than yours or anything. You know I think that's nonsense, don't you?

No, I just don't want to be in it because...because it seems like it's trying to make people to want something. Like it's trying to convince them that they're on the outside looking in, you know? Like they've got their nose pressed up against the glass of a shop in Diagon Alley. And if you're very, very good and suck up an awful lot, maybe they'll let you in.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-14 17:42:04](#)  
(no subject)

No, what I was saying was, you shouldn't WANT to be in it. Because it's for halfbloods. If you acted like you wanted to be in the Brothers in Wizardry people would think it was odd, like you wished you weren't a pureblood. And even if you really don't think your blood makes you better, wishing you were a halfblood would just be weird.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-14 17:45:45](#)  
(no subject)

And I think you're not quite right, with the shop windows. Because you're a pureblood, you're supposed to already be on the inside. The Brothers in Wizardry and the Sisters in Witchcraft is like a special entryway that's not QUITE the outside and not QUITE the inside and they're saying, if you stand here long enough and do everything we tell you then MAYBE we'll let you all the way in!

Except even if they do, it will still turn out that there are places in the shop that you're still not allowed to go. But at least you'll be inside and not out in the cold.

Of course you're not really in the shop either, because of your

parents. In some ways it would probably be easier for you if you were a halfblood. There are rules, you know, they write them down and you can read them and you know what you're supposed to do. They gave Luna pamphlets when she got declared a halfblood and the other halfbloods in her year in Ravenclaw told her what some of the rules were. There's no pamphlet for what to do if you're a pureblood, but your parents are enemies of the Protectorate.




 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2010-12-14 17:19:11](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. You're in a tough spot Nev because of your parents. Even if you make clear you've got nothing to do with them.



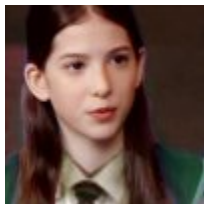
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-14 17:23:05](#)

*(no subject)*

Whoever made that list expects the worst of me. Obviously. And I wouldn't mind so much if were just me, maybe. But there's Evelyn, and this sort of stuff hits her real hard.

I don't know what to do, really. I mean, I try to participate in the YPL stuff and all, but no one's going to believe it if I start being a suck up to Patil and Malfoy the rest. Even if I could stand to do it.

I don't know how to turn things around.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-14 17:24:57](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, seriously. Right now anyone who wants can be in the YPL. They keep talking about how they're going to make it more selective but they haven't yet.

You should stay in the YPL as long as you can, because that makes you look good and loyal, like you're TRYING even if you know you'll never really be accepted because of your parents.

You'll never be invited to join the Brothers of Purity even though there's nothing wrong with your bloodline. Your family even has some magical records, don't they? Not a tapestry but a book or something? I mean everyone knows that the Longbottoms are PUREBLOODS GONE WRONG, not people who just never cared in the first place. Anyway, that's such an elite organisation I don't think you even need to worry about it.

**2010-12-13 20:27:00**

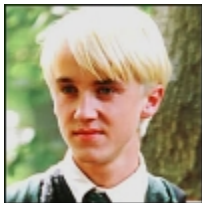
*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*


Did you SEE that rubbish that's being passed round? It's Patil, isn't it, who came up with it? Or someone like that anyway. Well I think we should show them what we think of it.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

I voted for Zabini on 'most stuck up.' cause it's true. You arent stuck up.



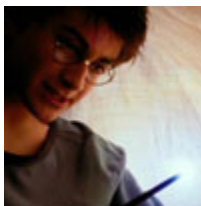
 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-12-14 01:55:42**  
(no subject)


You have to admit that some of it is true, though. That Midgen bird's face is a right mess, and so is Vince's. Longbottom's a thick tosser, Su Li's a complete brown-noser, that sort of thing.

A lot of it was odd, though. Pansy's not porky, and how exactly is Macmillan heroic? And "most graceful?" In what universe, exactly? Someone sure does think Slytherins are stuck-up, yeah? I doubt Blaise will care, though, and I don't much, either.

You didn't end up in any of the bad categories, at least. Come to think of it, neither did Padma, Parvati, or Lavender. Unless you count "swottiest" as bad, and you know Padma wouldn't.

That probably tells you who wrote it right there.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2010-12-14 01:59:21**  
(no subject)

Well that's true, I suppose. And you're right about who wrote it. Only of course they wouldn't put me in any of the bad categories. They're all such complete brown-nosers!!! That's who should be on that part of the list you know.

I don't feel bad for everyone though. Midgen - I mean she had to know it was coming, I'm amazed nobody's given her more of a hard time so far, she looks like she's got the measles all the time.






 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-14 02:10:12](#)  
(no subject)

Sometimes I want to get really good at legilimency so I can see what people really think of me, and if I can really trust them or if they just fancy my Mother or want to impress my Father. I know you feel that way even more than I do, though.

So who do you think's most fit? Daffs, Padma, Parvati, Lavender, or Dunstan? Padma and Parvati should really be down as one person, I think.

What exactly does "mousey" mean, anyway? I get the idea it means "plain and boring," or something.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-14 04:13:21](#)  
(no subject)

Okay, I've finished my answers. In my head, I mean - I haven't decided if I'm going to write them down or not yet.

#### Boys List

Swottiest - Moon.

Least Fanciabable - How am I to know? But going by what girls say, I'd put Vince.

Most Fit - The obvious answer is ME, hah.

Worst Spots - Vince again, urgh.

Thickest - Longbottom.

Most Talented - I'm going with me again because honestly, what the sod are Thomas, Moon, Teddy, or Corner really talented at?

Biggest Mudblood-Lover - Longbottom and Weasley, dead even.

Best on a Broom - You, hands down.

Biggest Girls' Blouse - Tempting to put Corner, but I have to go with Longbottom yet again.

Most Heroic - You.

Most Squibbish - Longbottom.

Biggest Kiss-arse - Hopkins, I guess, though they all have their moments.

#### Girls List

Swottiest - Padma, for sheer effort, at least.

Porkiest - Millie.

Most Fit - Lavender, I reckon, on looks alone. Daffs if you consider personality, too.

Worst Spots - Midgen, urgh.

Most Popular - Pansy.

Dimmest - Bundy.

Most Talented - It's got to be Pansy, she's my songwriting partner.

Daffs is well snitch at dancing, though. Why is Jones even an option?

Strangest - Bones. Have you seen her eyes?

Mousiest - Abbott, if it means what I think it means.

Most Mature - Daffs.

Most Graceful - This is such an idiotic category.

Biggest Kiss-Arse - Su Li.

**2010-12-13 22:34:00**

*Private Message to Su Li and Morag  
MacDougal*



So who do *you* think is the most fit boy in our year?

 **alt\_lavender**

Come on, you can tell me!

You two were being *awfully* secretive about filling out your papers.

I bet I know who Morag fancies, anyway--can I say a certain dark-haired Slytherin?

And I don't mean Blaise!


**2010-12-13 22:55:00**

*Private Message to Edward Bones*

Ed,

*Please* for the love of Merlin stop running around saying you're going to hex whoever wrote that paper!



 [alt\\_susan](#)

It's rather sweet of you (and I understand it's your way of saying you aren't still mad about the Hogsmeade thing), but I do not need my honour defended by my *younger* brother.

And you don't need to get any more detentions this term.

Besides, I'm not that cross about it. It was sort of funny, really.

**[2010-12-13 23:09:00](#)**

*Private Message to Hannah Abbott*

I feel really bad for Eloise.

I don't blame her for avoiding us; I hate people to see me when I've been crying too.



 [alt\\_susan](#)



 [alt\\_hannah](#) at [2010-12-14 15:34:47](#)

*(no subject)*

It's horrible. I don't even know what to say to her. Of course I see her spots, everyone does, but everyone has spots our age, and it isn't HER fault that hers are a bit worse than usual. Of course I've never minded that she has them; why should I? But I don't think she'd believe me.

The only thing I can think to say to her is that her spots will probably clear up in a few years. But whoever made those lists will always be spiteful cows.



 [alt\\_hannah](#) at [2010-12-14 20:10:21](#)

*(no subject)*

I convinced her to go to lunch with me, so hopefully she won't be hiding any more.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-14 21:49:46](#)

*(no subject)*

Good on you, Han.

Yeah, that lot was just piling it on, putting her in every bad category just because they could.

I don't mind it so much when it's people like Crabbe & Goyle & Bultstrode, because they're horrid, but Eloise never does anything mean.

**2010-12-14 09:02:00**

*Attention students*

It has come to the Prefects' attention that certain 'lists' with names of third year students are circulating for which 'votes' for various attributes are solicited.




 [altermity](#)  
 [alt\\_percy](#)

Prefects have been notified to confiscate immediately all such lists that they see. Such shenanigans are not in keeping with the dignity expected from Hogwarts students, and this cattiness and back-biting is contrary to the values that our Lord Protector is attempting to inculcate in His subjects.


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 [alt\\_hannah](#) at [2010-12-14 15:18:56](#)  
(no subject)


Well, thanks, I think, but It's probably too late. Most everyone has seen the lists anyway.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-14 15:20:56](#)  
(no subject)


Perhaps, but at least students will be in no doubt that such behaviour will not be tolerated.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 15:26:29](#)  
(no subject)

Were they accurate, Mr Weasley? The lists, that is, in assigning such attributes to various students?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-14 15:40:44](#)  
(no subject)

With all respect, I hardly know how to reply, ma'am.

I think, that between students who are truly friends, many of the characteristics on the lists are such cruel distinctions that they are not and should never be noticed.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 16:37:30](#)  
(no subject)

Diplomatic, Mr Weasley, especially for what sounds like a little end-of-term jape. It could be argued that running about in such a way magnifies the issue and gives such labelling more weight than it would to simply let the classmates adjudge each other.

But I ask for a specific reason, not idle curiosity. As the DoP mentor to the Sisters in Witchcraft, I believe it would be prudent for me to know what is being said about whom. Often it is peer groups who are the best moderators of each other's behaviour - and if they have detected something amiss, then often they are also the most effective messengers to the transgressors, even if their revelations are harsh.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-14 16:42:43](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps, ma'am, if the list was an attempt to bring faults to people's attention that could be corrected. But it doesn't: it is mostly an obvious attempt to embarrass people--children--for aspects of themselves over which they have no control: their weight, their complexion, their appeal to the opposite sex ('most 'fanciable'), even their intelligence.

And for the aspects which DO address behaviour....perhaps if faults must be brought to someone's attention, it would be more effective if they are mentioned to the person privately, in a kind way, rather than in a public way obviously attempting to mock.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-14 16:43:34](#)  
*Order Only*

Well. That was rather brave.



 **[alt\\_frank](#) at 2010-12-14 18:11:56**

*Re: Order Only*

embarrass, huh?

I take it ron's mixed up in it seeing all the chatter with molly and percy. what about neville?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#) at 2010-12-14 18:14:23**

*Re: Order Only*

I'm afraid that some rather cruel things have been said about Neville, too, Frank, from what Percy told Molly.

As you can see, the Prefects are doing their best to deal with it.



 **[alt\\_frank](#) at 2010-12-14 18:20:15**

*Re: Order Only*

can't say I'm that surprised

he's had a target on his chest from the start of term and kids can get real mean when they have the chance

what sort of things? do you know?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#) at 2010-12-14 18:33:03**

*Re: Order Only*

Well, if you're not surprised, let's just say they're the sorts of things you expect.





 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 18:38:28](#)

*Re: Order Only*

well, how bad a damage are we talking about?  
they single him out especially?

if you know what they've been saying, spill,

man




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-14 18:41:38](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, maybe there's a little reluctance to say  
since we don't want to put Poppy in the  
position of having to patch people up again.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-14 18:42:41](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yeah. Especially since the people here are just  
kids.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 19:18:29](#)

*Re: Order Only*

bloody hell, man. I'm not going to fly off the  
handle and beat up a load of kids because  
they're making fun of mine or saying bad  
things about him.

that's a good sight different than what carrow did and I'm  
not such a hothead I can't tell the difference. who do you  
think I am any road? merlin.

If they're calling him a traitor or some shite, though, I'd like  
to know, because it'll let me know what he's up against this  
time around so we can work it out. if you haven't noticed, my  
kid has gone through hell this term.

and by work it out, I mean write him a letter in case you lot  
were wondering.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-14 19:37:28](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, of course you have the right to know. You're still Neville's parent, no matter what. Although I was quite upset when Percy told me, and I'm afraid you and Alice will be too.

Apparently, Neville received about the worst of the spite of anyone, I'm afraid. Both Ron and Neville are under 'Thickest,' 'Biggest Muggle Lover,' and, er, "Biggest Girls Blouse.' And the other categories that Neville was put in...well, it all seems to boil down to the idea that his magic isn't exactly up to snuff, and he won't capture the interest of young ladies, I suppose.

(Bill and Kingsley, *really*.)



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-14 19:38:55](#)

*Re: Order Only*

And I'm sorry, Frank and Alice, really. I know it's awful.

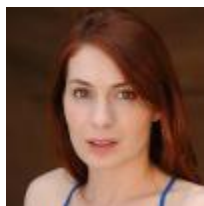


 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 19:40:43](#)

*Re: Order Only*

good to know molly

and thanks



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-14 19:45:41](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, dear.

Well.

It could be a good sight worse, even though it isn't the sort of thing one wants to hear. They didn't out and out call him a blood traitor, and they didn't single him out for it either.

I'm sorry your Ron got wrapped up in the whole thing too, though, Molly.

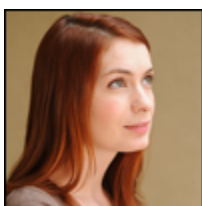


 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2010-12-14 20:03:50**

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, well...

It's difficult of course, but I think it must be more difficult for Neville. Ron can turn to his brothers at least, and he knows he can talk to us whenever he likes, whereas Neville is rather a bit more out there on his own. Perhaps that makes him a more tempting target, too. Unfortunately.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2010-12-14 20:14:34**

*Re: Order Only*

I know it rather lumps them in the same cauldron, but I am glad he's friends with your Ron. I do think that helps a good deal. He places a good deal of stock in his friends -- you could tell how much they meant to him when he talked about them during our summer hols.

And he's got us, of course. And he knows we are there for him.

He's a strong person, Molly. Stronger and braver than most of his schoolmates could imagine.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2010-12-14 20:21:01**

*Re: Order Only*

Well, for my part, I'm glad that Ron's close to Neville, too.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-14 19:53:06](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yeah. All right, Mum.

Sorry, Frank. You know I'm not wishing trouble on Neville, and I know how family ties can lead to the itch for fists to fly sometimes.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 20:15:56](#)


*Re: Order Only*

yeah well for the last twelve years I've done my job and kept in line

so don't think I don't know how to keep my fists to myself because nine times out of ten I do

and the one time I don't, you'd better believe there's a good reason for it.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-14 20:27:45](#)

*Re: Order Only*

We're not disputing that if there is anyone who was absolutely begging for a thumping, it's Carrow, Frank. Especially since it's your own kid involved.

And it's not that we don't trust you. But we need not to be blind-sided by one of our own. Understand? You've been an auror and a trainer, one of our best, so you know the importance of discipline within the ranks. Surely you can see that.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-14 20:32:30](#)

*Re: Order Only*


Oh, now, wait a moment, Kingsley.

I think you'll find that we did everything we could to give Carrow what he deserved without exposing anyone in the Order to suspicion.

We talked about letting anyone else know - figured it would be better if Minerva and Poppy and Pomona had complete ignorance of the whole thing, just in case.

It's not surprising I suppose, but I'm with Frank on this. What we did to Carrow was for the good of the whole school not just Evelyn and Neville. And it doesn't mean he's going to Apparate back up here to give out a second dose for no good reason. They're kids. Kids are cruel. It's nothing new - but it's not at all the kind of hazing Carrow was on about.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-14 20:58:04](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Well, I'll have to let Minerva and Poppy answer the question of whether they appreciate being left in the dark before you went on your little mission.

But what good did it do in the long run, though, realistically? (Aside from the thrill of revenge, which I'll admit has its own satisfactions.) How is it going to convince him treat the students better if you've managed to convince him he's been beaten up by the ghost of Sirius Black? What if they suffer even worse because you've made him angry and paranoid?

It would be just easier if he could be put down like a rabid dog.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 20:47:10](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

fine.

point taken.

believe me, I've gotten it from all sides on this one.


but I'm not going to wipe the floor with a bunch of kids and you know it.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-14 20:59:19](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Fair enough, Frank.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-14 21:06:56](#)  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to Frank*

I'd do it again, mate.

Any day.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2010-12-14 21:15:40](#)  
*Re: Order Only Private Message to Frank*

thanks man

I appreciate it



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 17:07:39](#)  
*(no subject)*


We'll have to disagree, Mr Weasley, that questions of appearance, ablutions and grooming are beyond one's control.

As for the values of Our Lord Protector's society, I believe they include requiring every one of His citizens to do his or her utmost to bring glory and honour to the Protectorate. Surely, particularly at the age the third-years are now, it is useful to them all to know just where they stand in the rankings as they gaze into their futures (whether or not they are studying the art of Divination)?

But I do agree with you on one point, as I said before: One may well do better to deal with such questions privately. Thus, calling public attention to the existence of the list, and especially attempting to preempt its discussion, rather reminds one of the Wizard Suliman Al-Adin. His efforts to put an ifreeti back inside its bottle were sadly unsuccessful, were they not?


Never mind, Mr Weasley. I shall discuss any pertinent observations with Professor Sinistra, since I'm sure she will be happy to accommodate the programme's ability to assess its participants.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-14 17:59:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, Mrs Malfoy. And I'm sure Professor Sinistra's assessments would be very valuable to you--probably more valuable than mine, as a mere student.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-14 15:43:39](#)**  
*Order Only*

Merlin. 'the values that our Lord Protector is attempting to inculcate in His subjects' ?


Reading this makes me feel so...old. It's times like this that I think that whatever Percy's problems, he is at heart still such an innocent, really.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-14 15:48:31](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*


Perhaps. But it gives me hope, too, that there's still a core of decency in there somewhere that your Mum and I can use to help guide him.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-14 16:23:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Sounds like you're having one of those situations I don't miss in the least about being Head Boy.



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-14 16:24:28](#)**  
*Private Message to Bill Weasley*

And yet if it weren't so challenging, being Head Boy would not be such an honour, would it?





 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2010-12-14 16:45:06**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Frankly, the honour of the position wasn't what was foremost on my mind when dealing with stuff like this.

My sympathies, bro.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at 2010-12-14 18:08:42**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Thanks. I rather think I deserve it today.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2010-12-14 17:25:28**

*Private message to Percy Weasley*

Percy, please tell me. Does the list include Ron or any of his close friends?



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at 2010-12-14 17:26:05**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Afraid so, Mum. And not in a good way.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2010-12-14 17:26:40**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Well, your Dad and I do want to know, no matter what it is.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at 2010-12-14 19:41:37**

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

Well, each category names five students. One of the categories that Ron got was 'Best on a Broom.' But on the whole, I'm afraid I can't sugarcoat it much, Mum.



Ron's name appears in the group for "Thickest." More serious is that he also is in the "Biggest Muggle Lover" group. Neville Longbottom's also in both of those groups. And both of them is under, er, 'Biggest Girls Blouse.' Neville's also under 'Most Squibbish' and 'Least Fanciab.' Whoever made the list obviously really has it in for him.

Sally-Anne Perks is under 'Swottiest.' Oh, and Pansy Parkinson is under 'Most Talented,' but also 'Porkiest.' Both girls are under 'Strangest.'

Dean Thomas is listed under 'Swottiest,' but he's listed as a muggle lover, too.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-14 18:01:27](#)

*Private message to Percy Weasley*

I just received a rather teary Floo call from your Mum, son. Is there anything else the Prefects are doing about this?




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-14 18:02:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

I'm sorry Mum's upset. I was afraid she would be.

No, I'm afraid not. As Mrs Malfoy points out, it might make things worse anyway.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-14 18:02:39](#)

*Re: Private message to Percy Weasley*

True, unfortunately.




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-14 18:41:01](#)

*(no subject)*

Really subtle, Weasley.

A bit late to try covering up for him, though.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-14 19:43:06](#)  
*(no subject)*

Im certainly not the one who should be covering up for anything.

The persons who did those lists should be ashamed of themselves.

**2010-12-14 12:36:00**

*(no subject)*

It is one of those weeks when I fear I shall never get everything accomplished unless I resort to a mass message.



 **alt\_narcissa**

I'm just leaving St Mungo's now. Aleta, I should be at the restaurant shortly.

Bella, dear, you never got back to me about your supper on Thursday. Mother isn't sure Rigel's ready to dine out but I think it might be fun for him to try it. Lucius has offered to secure a private room at *Il Barchello* if you like - or we can descend on Blackmoor Park.


Oh, and before I forget, did you receive any deliveries for Hydra there? I was expecting one closer to Christmas, but given what arrived yesterday at the Manor for Draco, I suspect Rodolphus may have been inundated as well. (Which reminds me - anyone who has been putting off getting Sing-Amis for the young people in your lives, don't wait much longer!)

Professor Sinistra, if you would not mind, we really should speak prior to the end of the year regarding next term's Sisters in Witchcraft programme.

Lucius, don't forget please that you're to meet me and the Scrimgeours at White's *before* we go on to the Ministry party this evening. Oh, and have you talked to Clarriker about the caviar? Ms Johnson seems to have some concerns and asked if I could speak with her today or tomorrow; I want to be sure I know Clarriker's answer about the shipment before I get back to her. With Draco home on Saturday I want all in readiness at the Manor no later than Friday night.

Goodness, I've got to dash.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2010-12-14 20:31:09**  
*(no subject)*

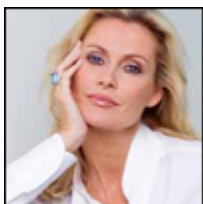
Mrs Malfoy -


I'm always glad to meet with you. I'm quite heavily booked through the end of this week, but once

students are off home, I'd be available at your convenience.

I'd actually planned to be in New London Sunday evening through Tuesday (to finish my holiday shopping and attend to some minor details at the Ministry for ongoing YPL plans) but my schedule is quite flexible. If neither Monday or Tuesday are convenient, please let me know what you'd prefer, as my calendar is quite open other than a few days with my family over Christmas.

By the end of the week, I'll also have had a chance to confer with the prefects about other topics of recent interest, as I saw you and Mr Weasley discussing.




 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-12-14 20:38:34](#)**  
(no subject)

That's quite all right: I couldn't possibly add anything else to this week's agenda myself.

Monday is very difficult but Tuesday ought to do nicely. Around 1:30? I'll have Mariposa book a table.




 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2010-12-14 20:52:30](#)**  
(no subject)

1:30 would be excellent, thank you. I'll look for your note on where, of course.

I'll plan to bring my notes about the YPL plans and the students I know you've been interested in, but if there's anything else, do let me know.

I'll look forward to Tuesday.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-12-14 20:46:03](#)**  
*Private Message to Narcissa*

I'll not forget.

I detect a certain peevishness, my dear. Is it perhaps because young Weasley cheeked you?



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 20:56:17](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

He ought to have left well enough alone; it was obviously a harmless exercise. No one outside the school had any inkling until his bullish announcement.

But I did find his reply jejune, didn't you? It would be refreshing were it not also so laced with superciliousness.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-12-14 21:01:12](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Oh, agreed on all counts, love. His impulse to discretion, at least, shows promise. Still, there is only so far a Gryffindor - and a Weasley, at that - can go towards true finesse.

What amused me were the comments about Our Lord's ideals ... as if he had ever been near enough to know what ideals Our Lord espouses.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 21:03:40](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Discretion? I think that's putting it generously, husband. I will grant that he seemed truculent to spread gossip. It's not clear to me that the people he chose to protect from that gossip truly deserve

their shelter.

But then I was not a Prefect. Perhaps you see it differently.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-12-14 21:12:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

It was one of the drawbacks to the job that occasionally one had to provide the appearance of equipoise.

He is a Gryffindor, you know. And a Weasley. But perhaps not entirely without merits. The ability to politely decline to gossip is

a valuable trait - depending, as you say, on who commands such loyalty. I still say you are simply put off because you did not procure the list to suit your 'idle curiosity,' which you so flatly denied.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-12-14 21:18:23](#)**


*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Of course I'm curious! Aren't you? It's a perfect window on what the children really think of their classmates.

And I can't pretend other than to wonder where Draco stands in the eyes of his peers. Tall, one presumes - but the affirmation is gratifying.

Think: You could discover whether Miss Parkinson has washed herself clean of her misdeeds at last, or whether she still requires self-correction.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-12-14 21:23:21](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Narcissa*

Curious? Not remotely.

I haven't time to be curious, love. Certainly not about something like that. If it's really that important we'll hear from other sources. Otherwise, as you said to Weasley, it's just a case of the children blowing steam at end-of-term.

Ah, there's Fudge. I'll see you at White's.

**2010-12-14 12:57:00**

*Private Message to Ned Pennifold:  
Half-Dozen.*



1. I'm heading back now. Need all the relevant parchmentwork laid out for my signatures. Will have a narrow window when I arrive.

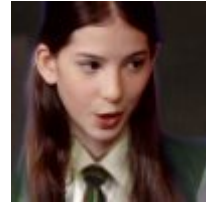
 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Also need you to

2. Confirm with Fairchild that her deliveries to Snowdonia are on schedule. It's a half-dozen Sangfroid roses at noon and midnight daily through Saturday unless I specify a change.
3. Get me in at Hastings's. Tell them I want to see cloak clasps. Something extraordinary. Garnets or sapphires. Or emeralds.
4. Double check reservations for tonight. Drinks at Galliard's before; White's for supper after. Confirm that the table will be in the middle of the dining room. Nothing private.
5. Confirm Miss Crofts' house number. She should expect me at half-five.
6. Confirm Miss Hewett's address (for tomorrow). Ask what time she'd prefer to leave.

**2010-12-14 13:15:00**

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



My own list, no voting needed:

Most utterly stuck on himself: Blaise Zabini  
Biggest Head: Percy Weasley  
Most utterly pathetic halfblood who thinks if he just kisses enough arses he'll somehow get promoted to pureblood: Seamus Finnigan  
Most vapid: Lavender Brown  
Most two-faced: Padma Patil  
Person I'd least like to be trapped in a room with alone for any length of time: Teddy Nott  
Most likely to wind up in Azkaban: Gregory Goyle  
Most self-satisfied: Zacharias Smith

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

You know Percy just made everyone ten times MORE interested in those lists by saying the prefects were going to confiscate the. Now everyone's made a copy.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2010-12-14 20:08:35**

*(no subject)*

Yeah. I've even heard some of the Prefects laughing about it.

I wish the whole thing would just go away.

Saw Eloise Midgen crying in a corner of the library today. I'll bet she isn't the only one.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-12-14 20:22:32**


*(no subject)*

Are you doing all right?

I mean, I know you're not the girl's blouse type, even if they did stick you there, and it really is a load of nonsense, but no-one deserves that.






 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-14 21:20:40](#)  
(no subject)

I'm doing all right, I suppose.

I guess I'd rather it happened to me than Evelyn. I mean, I've heard just about all of it before, but I try to keep her from hearing it.

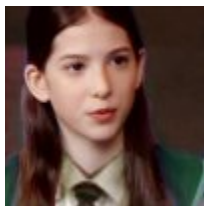
How has it been in your dorm? It's been right awkward in the Gryffindor boys' dorm for our year. Seamus didn't say a thing about it, which Ron takes to mean that he agrees with all of it, so Ron made a crack about Seamus being the fittest meant he was the best at fitting through when it came to slithering through cracks and under doors, which didn't go over very well. I tried saying something to Dean, but he shut me down right quick. Guess he doesn't want to talk about it, either.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-14 21:38:47](#)  
(no subject)

Harry seemed a bit peevy and Draco says it's rubbish.

Vince and Greg and Milli aren't really happy either, which you'd expect. I'd imagine Patil and her lot didn't make many new friends on this one.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 03:36:52](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's really true. It's part of why I think it was Lavender and Parvati rather than Padma and whomever. Padma's got the sense to realise that she might not want to infuriate Teddy Nott, Blaise Zabini, even Millie. Lav and Parvati are Gryffindors, though, and no offense to the Gryffindors reading this, but

1. realising that something is a bad idea
2. because it will make people really cross with you
3. and then not doing it
4. even though you think it would be hilarious and clever

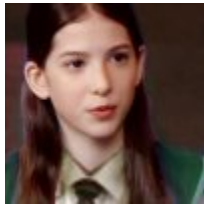
...this is not a typical Gryffindor course of actual, exactly.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-15 03:54:55](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm still blaming Padma all the way. Even if it doesn't seem like the smartest idea, it still reeks of her.

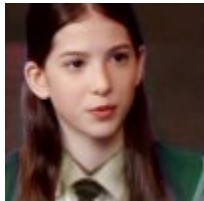
You're right, though, she probably had a shot or two of Gryffindor boldness first.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 04:05:49](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe she gave them some ideas for categories. Then backed off and let them put their own necks in the noose. That would be Padma too, don't you think? Letting her sister


take the risk and the blame.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 03:39:15](#)  
(no subject)

And I think Milli was really hurt. They called her fat, spotty, dim, strange, and a kiss-arse.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 03:51:16](#)  
(no subject)

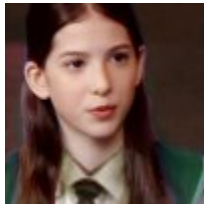
How could you tell?

I mean I've only ever seen her look one way. Mean. Does she growl differently when she's got her feelings hurt?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-15 03:53:11](#)  
(no subject)

Hah hah hah.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 03:55:40](#)  
(no subject)

She's extra surly when her feelings are hurt.

Well also I noticed she didn't take any pudding at dinner and when she passed it on down the table she looked like she was trying not to cry.

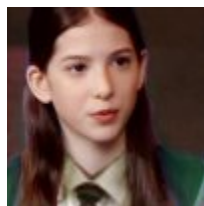


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 03:58:09](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. Well.

Why do girls cry so much? That's something I'd like to know.


But if it's got anything to do with, y'know, that other stuff, it's okay if you don't tell me.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 04:04:02](#)  
(no subject)

I hardly ever cry. Ask a girl who does.

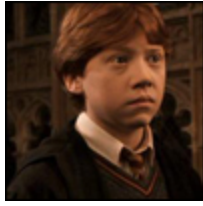



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 04:08:52](#)  
(no subject)

What, like Lav?

No thanks.

I guess I'm good with not knowing.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-14 23:42:51](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it's not like it's loads worse now than it's been all year. You can't really get worse.

Well, you could, but only if we stop talking to each other, too.


And you won't, will you? Stop talking to me?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-15 01:58:59](#)  
(no subject)

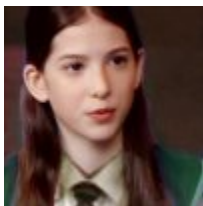
Of course I won't. That'll never happen!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 03:52:05](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Nev.


I won't either.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-14 20:42:30](#)  
(no subject)


What on earth do they mean by 'biggest girls' blouse' anyway, do they mean whingers? because neither of you are whingers. And you aren't thick or any of the rest -- except ~~mudb~~ muggleborn-lovers, that's fair, not that you want them saying it about you.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-14 20:53:02](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe they just figured that'd be something boys would really not want to be called.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 00:30:52](#)  
(no subject)

You don't know what a big girl's blouse is? It's what we call Percy whenever he stomps off to tell Mum and Dad something we've done to him. I used to think Charlie'd made it up just for something to call Percy that'd make him extra cross, but then I went to school and found out it's just what you say when blokes are wet and go moaning about how no one's fair to them.

It's what Marvolo is when he whinges over people saying anything about how he's always getting special treatment from teachers, or when he moans about not liking how so many people send him presents or look at him when he's out somewhere. Because. First off, he does get treated differently. Better. And then he whinges about it? Right.


Honestly.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-15 00:52:48](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. I thought it was that they were... you know. poofers.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 00:59:02](#)  
(no subject)

Ha!

No.


Then you just call them girls.

Calling some bloke a girl's blouse just means he's being wet.

I mean, sure, it means he's not acting enough like a bloke ought to, but it doesn't mean anything like that!

Or. Oh. Maybe you're thinking about shirt-lifter? I think they sometimes call them that. Girly blokes.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-15 01:03:05](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I guess I got my clothing-related insults crossed!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 03:40:17](#)  
(no subject)

Shirt lifter?

Why?

Never mind. This is probably like Terry asking about a girl's monthly and I don't think I want you trying to explain it to me.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-15 03:54:37](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I don't really know.

And I think if I did, I wouldn't want to explain it.

And, just so you know, I wouldn't want you to explain the other thing, either. Okay?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-15 04:06:30](#)  
(no subject)

I'll try to remember to make it a private message if I ever need to explain it to someone.

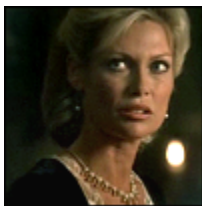
**2010-12-14 13:24:00**

*Narcissa (or anyone else who knows about these things)*


Chloe instructed me a week or two back to track down some toy for Arista for Christmas. It might have been the Sing-Ami thing you mentioned. I think she asked particularly for the dragon, except there seem to be an entire menagerie of possible dragons. Where are these things procured from? I should probably send my assistant out this afternoon, I suppose.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)



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 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-12-14 20:14:49**  
(no subject)

Oh, dear, Dominic - leaving it a bit late, aren't you?

Bear in mind that I'm really far from the expert on these things. I think that title belongs to Lucy Baddock. But yes, there are several dragons. The Welsh Green is the most common, I think. Arista probably wants that or the Swedish Shortsnout, perhaps the Chinese Fireball. I'm told the Horntails are nearly impossible to get these days, as are the Ridgebacks. They only made five or six of those, I understand.


As for where to get them, well - you might try Gambol and Japes but I'm positive they've nearly sold out. Unless they got more in earlier this week, I couldn't say. And there's Tottering's near Fleet Street, they might have them. Or Cherubim. It might be a long shot, but perhaps Measure for Measure - it's a pokey little music shop near Picadilly? They sell all sorts of novelty musical instruments as well as the classic ones. I had them spruce up Lucius' guitar for Draco last summer. It's a possibility, at any rate.

If nothing else - I understand from a reliable anonymous source that there are a few of the very rare ones being held for auction at the St Mungo's Charity Ball next week. So you may yet be able to save the day.

Good luck. We'll see you and Chloe at the party tonight, yes?






 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-12-14 20:22:25](#)  
(no subject)

I rather thought I was getting an early start, it's over ten days till Christmas!

And for Merlin's sake, Chloe tells me it's the Horntail she wants. I'll see about finding her a Shortsnout in the meantime, I suppose, and then see what I can do at the Charity Ball.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-14 20:26:27](#)  
(no subject)

Ten days is ... not early, Dominic. Not when every wizard child in Britain wants the same toy. Do you recall how recently Chloe asked you to arrange for it, may one ask?

Happy hunting. I rather think it might be easier to arrange to have a real one named Arista's pet and keep it in residence at Stornoway.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2010-12-14 20:36:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh come now, it's not as if I went out Christmas Eve to do my shopping. She probably asked me ... well, I was thinking just a week ago but I see from the dates in my notes it was November 23rd.

That's a brilliant idea about having a real one named her pet. She might want to visit it occasionally, however, and Stornoway is hardly Chloe's idea of a pleasant, relaxing trip.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-12-14 20:44:29](#)  
(no subject)

Word to the wise, then, Dominic: When one's wife makes a request it's best to get it done or delegated right away. Particularly if it has to do with Christmas gifts, anniversaries, birthdays ....

You perceive a pattern, I hope?



**2010-12-14 15:05:00**

*Private message to Arca Sinistra*



Mum -

Two favours to ask...

 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

I'm to have lunch with Mrs Malfoy on Tuesday, and I haven't a clue what to wear, and my wardrobe does desperately need a bit of updating. Do you have any suggestions on where to shop on Monday? (I'd planned to stop in somewhere while I'm in New London, but this obviously puts a bit of urgency into the choice...)

I've got a bit in savings from the YPL work, so for once money isn't the first thing (though I'd prefer a couple of unexciting but usable robes to one that I could only wear a couple of times before people noticed.) What would you suggest that would be suitable for a nice lunch or dinner somewhere, but not need too much attention during the school year?

(Dear Merlin, please don't tell Diana, or I'll be deluged with fashion magazines and advice from her and all of her friends. And you know that they've all got such odd ideas of colour.)

Second, related to the first favour: could you send that copy of that etiquette guide you like by owl this week, so I can review it? I can't imagine Mrs Malfoy lunching anywhere that isn't quite public, and I'd obviously like to make a good impression. I feel tremendously out of practice, especially since I've been eating most of my meals in my room due to the observation schedule.

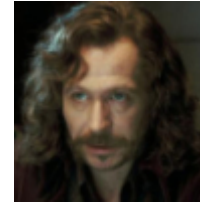
(And avoiding that certain someone, too, yes. Not that he's made a lot of effort to try and catch me thus far. I did pick up a small gift for him, but I'm still not sure if I'll actually give it to him or not. We'll see.)

Dad said in his latest owl that the connection I'd put him onto for the Sing Amis came through - not any of the rarer ones, but several of the dragons. I'm glad to have helped, and far better than my trying to track them down from here. I've got your previous list of things for the stockings and such, but let me know if you've any additions before Sunday.

Love,  
A

**2010-12-14 18:17:00**

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




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Don't mind Kingsley, Frank. He's jealous. I think that little bit of action was aces for morale - for both of us. And you'll see; they'll never prove anything. Even his own colleagues think Carrow's mad. My bet is that in another couple of days they'll leave it and put it all down to his raving.

As for Neville, you never know if a thing like that might backfire on the people who devised it and actually garner the boy some sympathy.

How's Will today?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2010-12-14 23:35:26**

*(no subject)*

yeah well here's hoping min and poppy don't catch any more flak for it.

will's doing fine. steve's got him well in hand. we're keeping him in isolation until we're sure he's not contagious, but his breathing has gotten loads better and he's been eating for two. steve's already written to poppy to ask after things he can give him for his heart.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-12-15 02:46:43**

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

Good.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-12-15 02:48:53**


*(no subject)*

I mean to say, obviously Moddey Dhoo was going to be a better place for him. To make a recovery.

It's very quiet here, now.

Though in the case of what you call singing, that's a mercy.




 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-15 03:30:52](#)  
(no subject)

Im sure he misses you too mate

one of these days we might have to arrange a visit,  
yeah?




 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-14 23:36:03](#)  
(no subject)

and thanks again man.

good to know there's one person who doesn't think  
I'm a nutter.




 **alt\_alice** at [2010-12-14 23:37:29](#)  
(no subject)

They don't think you're a nutter, love.

They're just giving you a hard time.




 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-14 23:38:25](#)  
(no subject)

it's not like we don't trust you?

want to beat up some kids, frank?

what is that shit?



 **alt\_sirius** at [2010-12-14 23:44:51](#)  
(no subject)

Oi, you're just not used to people being  
disappointed in you, Frank.


I'm telling you, it's because they wanted to do it  
themselves.



 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-14 23:59:42](#)  
(no subject)

right.




 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-15 00:18:25](#)  
*private message to sirius*

if it weren't for the hell they'd put min through

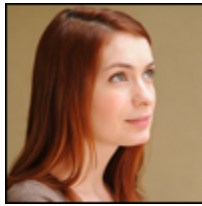
kingsley had a point. the world would be a better place, that's for damn sure.


still. it'd be too high profile. they brought out lestrange for some bruises, his mightiness would come himself if carrow'd taken one punch too many.



 **alt\_frank** at [2010-12-14 23:39:16](#)  
(no subject)

you'd think after all these years they'd know me better than that



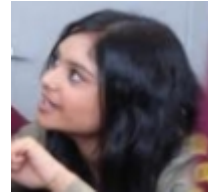
 **alt\_alice** at [2010-12-14 23:40:45](#)  
(no subject)

It's not like that at all, my darling.

They're just coming down hard so you know how displeased they are.

**2010-12-14 21:53:00**

*Private Message to Headmistress  
McGonagall and Madam Pomfrey*



 **alt\_padma**

Please, Professor, I know you said that Professor Carrow would be marking our essays even though he's not back in lessons, but I had a question about variations in temperature when transfiguring liquids.


So I went to his office tonight to ask him and I don't think he's at all well. I'm not sure where Miss Professor Carrow was, and I didn't see his mudblood about, either, but I suppose he's not really assigned to the Professor anymore, is he?

Anyway, Professor Carrow answered the door but he seemed very confused. He kept calling me Miss Pencil. And he seemed to think there were flies in the room, but there weren't. The fire was roaring, though, and he was sweaty but saying it was too cold.

Well, I tried to ask my question and he listened at first but then he started shaking. He reached for his flask, you know, the one he always has with him? And he started to bring it up to drink out of it and then he stopped. It was still shaking in his hand. And then he threw it at me and told me to 'Bugger off'. So, er, I did. But I thought someone ought to know.

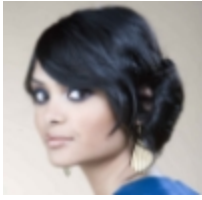
And I still have that question, but maybe if you don't have time to answer it, Professor, someone in Ravenclaw Corner will know.




 **alt\_poppy** at **2010-12-15 03:32:10**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Miss Patil.


I think it may be best, for now, if you leave Professor Carrow to recover and rest.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-15 03:35:15](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, I have done, Matron. I just didn't know if he needed, er, mediwitch attention.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-15 03:43:42](#)**  
*(no subject)*

You have done your part.

Thank you, Miss Patil.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-15 03:42:35](#)**  
*Order Only*

Minerva?

I'd be surprised if that hex is really still affecting him, but I gather it was powerfully laid, so it's possible.

One way or the other, it's clearly made a strong impression on him.

He's having withdrawals, of course. And that's making him desperately unpredictable. I think Miss Patil may have been fortunate to have left his rooms with no more than an unsettling view of his condition.

Is there not some way you could ward his rooms against intrusion? Some age-restrictive barrier, perhaps? I wouldn't begin to know how to lay such a thing, myself, but Lestrangle or Acton could surely manage it if you'd rather not be the one to do it.

**[2010-12-15 08:35:00](#)**

*Private message to Susan Bones and Megan Jones*



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


Sue and Megan, after you left for breakfast, I found Eloise crying in the loo. She'd tried a potion for her spots, but she must have done the formula wrong somehow, and oh, her face is such a mess! It's sloughed her skin off entirely in polka dots and it's oozing this icky purple--well, take my word for it. It's awful. She's crying so hard but she's afraid to be seen, and it's going to take awhile to calm her down and get her to the hospital wing.

Megan, could you please put wrap some toast and maybe some sausage in a napkin and sneak it into your bookbag for me and bring it to me before Divination?

We'll all have to be especially nice to her tonight.

I could just hex whoever did those lists.




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-12-15 15:01:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, no!

If she really doesn't want to be seen, you might try that narrow corridor by the statue of Ethelberga the Fierce; it's a roundabout way and hardly anyone uses it, but you'll end up near the hospital wing.

I hope Madame Pomfrey can help her out--if nothing else a day in the hospital wing away from everyone might be good.




 **[alt\\_hannah](#)** at **[2010-12-15 15:07:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I thought of that, so we only passed a couple of people. And she kept her face turned toward me and held up a folder and we hurried, so maybe nobody saw.



Madam Pomfrey clucked a lot, but she was as nice as always. I think you're right, and it'll do her some good to have a day away from people.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-16 02:52:28](#)  
(no subject)

And I can understand wanting to hex someone--I was more than tempted to ask Bundy to keep her ears open, because if Brown and the Gryffindor Patil were involved at all, I can't *believe* that they'd be able to keep from giggling about it forever.

But I wouldn't want to put her in a bad spot, and I'd feel a bit, I dunno, fake-ish, since I did just tell Ed to stop threatening to hex people over it.

That was more not wanting him to get *caught* though, and also, well, people think it's bit naff if your younger siblings have to defend you.

**[2010-12-15 11:36:00](#)**

*Private message to Professor Lestrangle*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Dear Uncle Raz,

Do you know about the lists that were passed around this week?

They were made by someone in the third year and the Head Boy wrote about them yesterday.

The lists have different categories, like "Most Fit" and "Most Talented" and "Mousiest" and "Biggest Mudblood Lover," and under every category there are five people listed and you're supposed to vote for one of them.

I asked Draco about the lists yesterday because I was curious, but he said if I just waited until third year I would probably see them because they would surface again, like a new tradition.

So because of that didn't see the lists until this morning, because Jeremy had a copy at breakfast.

He's good at getting his hands on stuff like that.

Now I'm worried, though, that someone in the second year might decide to copy the lists and pass them around for the second years.

And even if that doesn't happen, I'm worried about it happening next year, when I'm a third.

I just don't know what I'll do if my name is under "Most Squibbish," or "Biggest Crybaby."

Or what if there are whole new categories by then, like "Most Disloyal," or "Weakest Character"?

I just don't know what I would do, and I know that Mummy would be so angry and disappointed.

Can we make it a new school rule that lists aren't allowed anymore?

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-15 18:52:34](#)


*(no subject)*

Ducks, you're going to make yourself sick if you keep worrying about things before they happen. No one but a plonker would put you down as "most squibbish" or "most disloyal," and in fact they'd be far more likely to

list you as "most caring" or "most delightful." You can throw "favourite niece" in there too, while you're at it.

I wish I could stop the lists, but we professors have a pretty limited range when it comes to predicting and snuffing out the sort of inventive nastiness that blossoms in the minds of thirteen and fourteen-year-olds.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-15 18:53:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm you're only niece, though.  
If they say nice things about me it will probably only be because of Mummy.  
The same way that they said nice things about Harry because of his Father.

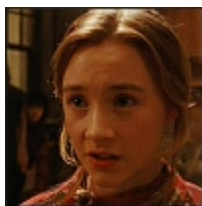
From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-15 18:57:44](#)  
(no subject)

And you're very good at counting. But even if I had a hundred of them, who all fancied the colour pink and loved rabbits and snorted when they giggled, you'd still be my favourite.

People will treat you differently your whole life because of your Mother, just as they'll treat Harry differently because of his Father. There's nothing to be done about that. Remember that you are your own person, though, and that the people who really matter will judge you on your own merits. And you'll know them when you see them - trust me on that.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-15 18:59:33](#)  
(no subject)

I don't snort when I giggle!  
How do you know when they're judging you on your own merits, though?  
I don't know if some people would like it very much if I were my own person.

From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-15 19:06:47](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, but you do. So see, you're already on your way to becoming your own person, even if it someone who snorts when they giggle.

It takes time to suss out who's being real with you, though. Over time, you get a sense for it. Folks who are quick to smile for you, but no one else...that's something to watch out for. If they give you gifts that say more about them than they say about you. If they speak with their voice a shade higher than usual, or if they always want to talk about politics and other official, so-called "important" matters. After a while you just hone an instinct for the whole sorry thing.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-15 19:09:06](#)  
(no subject)

I guess you had to learn all of that when you became a Hero of the Protectorate.

Do you tell Harry the same things, about honing an instinct for people who are real and who aren't?

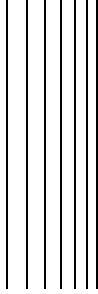
From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-15 19:11:12](#)  
(no subject)

True. The name "Lestrangle" was notorious before I was, though.

It's come up with Harry, yes. He worries about it too.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-12-15 19:12:24](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'm glad I'm not the only one, then.

From,  
Hydra

**2010-12-15 12:08:00**

*Order Only: Notes from last night's Ministry holiday party*



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Dad, Mum and I all made our appearances at the Ministry festivities last night. Dad and I met this morning over breakfast to compare notes and wanted to pass along our observations.

Mum picked up on something I hadn't particularly noticed: lots of new pregnancies. She ended up chatting for awhile with Dominic Selwyn's wife Chloe, who is just starting, as Mum says, 'to show'--and who casually imparted a story about crucioing her mudblood for leaving the Selwyn's young daughter unattended for ten minutes. Apparently, mudblood nannies are so careless. Mum managed to just smile and exchange pleasantries with her about her daughter's artwork and tips about handling morning sickness. Ursula Avery is also pregnant, and nervous about it. Their only other child is seventeen, and Mum guesses that there have been several miscarriages along the way. Mum said the other big topic among the women is the initiative moving through the Ministry to require village school attendance (similar to Hogwarts attendance) for all the pre-Hogwarts-age children. There are vouchers one can get for qualified tutors at home, of course (if you're really high up), but the word is that starting next autumn everyone will have to send their kids to the village schools. I guess that it's been figured out that indoctrination is best begun early.

I noticed that Bellatrix Lestrange arrived with her husband, but they spent the entire evening apart and didn't even glance at one another. Bellatrix looked a little tense and distracted, I thought, staring off into space at a couple of points before being buttonholed by synchophants.

Narcissa and Lucius Malfoy held court--there's no other term for it--in the center of the party, obviously much in demand. They arrived with the Scrimgeours and they left with Fudge, Thickness and others partway through, for a private dinner with upper Ministry eschelon--I believe that Dunstan and Warrington were headed there, too. Lucius chatted with many people, mostly department heads, but he concentrated a good deal of time with MLE and with the International Wizardry folks and a couple of the Department of Mystery Unspeakables (notably Rookwood).

Dad noticed Barty Crouch, Senior hovering on the outskirts of one circle, trying to catch Fudge's ear. Fudge looked less than pleased


about it. Dad also noticed Crouch's son, Barty Jr, watching his father balefully as a basilisk through the entire party, although he did go over and greet his mother reasonably pleasantly enough. Dad thinks that the Senior Crouch is rather an embarrassment to his son. Certainly his position in the department is wretched enough: he was the lead Interrogator for the Wizengamot before Voldemort's rise, but now he has the lowest standing of anyone in the department (new hires come in above his rank). He is only ever assigned as a Defender and only ever gets hopeless cases. His biggest assignments are show trials that inevitably lead to catastrophic sentences against his clients. One of my analysts gave me a tip that apparently he's hoping to participate in the trials of Snape and Macnair once they're caught, this time with the prosecution. I suppose he hopes he can sidle his way back in with the new powers that be. Judging from the look on Fudge's face, I'd say his odds are slim.

Let's see, what else. Lana Sandoval arrived with Ned Pennifold and the two of them spoke to quite a few people. I suppose their family connections serve them well. I ambled up to her and spoke with her for a few moments, playing the former Head Boy speaking to former Head Girl angle. I suspect she wasn't quite sure who I was at the beginning of the conversation, but she was reasonably polite.

Dad, do you remember anything else?


---



 **alt\_arthur** at [2010-12-15 18:54:45](#)  
(no subject)


Your mum reported that as she was chatting with Selwyn about where to buy those seng-ami whatzzits, the man was distracted by the sight of Aloysius Wright talking loudly and weaving a bit, and Selwyn resorted to a quick 'Imperio' to deflect him from taking another hit of fortified eggnog. Selwyn turned back to the conversation with a smile, saying something about the occasional necessity of having to save underlings from their own worst instincts.



 **alt\_molly** at [2010-12-15 18:56:37](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa Malfoy didn't talk to me but sneered ever so slightly at my jingle bell earrings. I could tell.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-15 18:57:22](#)  
(no subject)


Then the woman has no taste. You were the loveliest woman there, Molly.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-15 19:06:47](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and Arthur, it isn't quite a report, but since Bill mentioned pregnancies and I just met Nymphadora last night, there's Remus and Dora....?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-15 19:09:09](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin, yes, Molly. Bill, you probably didn't realise it since you didn't speak to her last night, and I forgot to mention it, but...congratulations, you two! I had no idea, but we are quite thrilled at the news. Molly and I hope that things go swimmingly. When are you due?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-15 20:33:46](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, thank you again, Arthur. I feel like a naughty schoolgirl, running around with a secret like this. Slightly more serious than sneaking cakes and snogging in empty classrooms after hours at Hogwarts, though.

We didn't want to say anything until we were sure things would be okay. You know what it's like, I'm sure. We're due in May.



**[2010-12-15 15:59:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Oh. I do wish the Prophet would find something else to cover than the crowds viewing Sirius's supposed corpse.



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

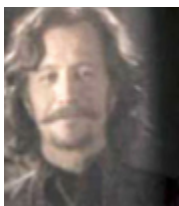
Have you seen any of it, Sirius? I hope not. It's truly disturbing. And I say that as someone accustomed to viewing bodies in various discombobulated states. But honestly, between the photographs and the lurid, bloodthirsty, evil-minded things they've quoted people saying.


Even knowing that you are perfectly well and safe, it makes my gorge rise to see it there. Day after blessed day.

It's enough to make me wish someone would blow a hole in London Bridge or transfigure the Ministry of Magic into a giant turnip. Anything that would give them something else to write about!

Even Narcissa Malfoy's choice of robes, if that would do the trick.

---




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-15 22:37:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if you really think it would help ....

I've seen a bit of it, yeah, when the villagers have thrown away their newspapers.

All I can say is that he doesn't look a thing like me.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-15 23:12:31](#)  
(no subject)

He doesn't. But no one seems to have noticed. Then again, given the state he's in, I suppose it's easy to explain away the discrepancy.

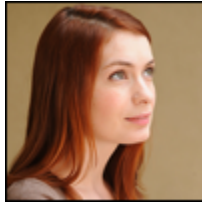
It's perfectly appalling that the photographers are so bent on cropping their pictures to highlight the most gruesome bits. And the things people say about what they've seen!


Meanwhile, the children here are equally savage to one another. It's heartbreaking the effect that wretched ranking paper has had on the vulnerable ones.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-12-15 23:19:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, there I haven't much advice to offer. I can't say we were the most, er, *charitable* toward anyone who couldn't assert a certain self-confidence. Or who stood on the outskirts of school society.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-15 23:34:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I remember some rather nasty pranks you lot got up to while in school. And Frank has his horror stories too, from when he was Head Boy.

I hope the children at Moddey Dhoo have a bit more kindness towards one another as they get to be that age, though.

**2010-12-15 19:43:00**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Hey, Harry.

I just wanted to say thanks for doing that.

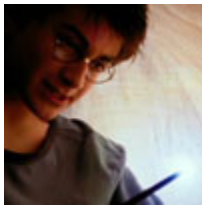
I mean, it's one thing to be *glad* that he's dead and another altogether to


After last term and all I just can't

It was just a bit much is all.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 01:17:52](#)  
(no subject)

Well.

I mean, we're supposed to be better than that.

If we aren't better than that what's the point.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 01:35:27](#)  
(no subject)

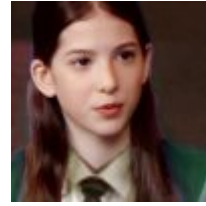
You're right.

I don't think I could have put it any better myself.

And I'm sorry you'll be staying here over hols. That just blows chunks.

**2010-12-15 20:13:00**

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



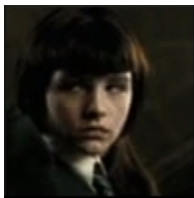
Pansy, are you okay?


Teddy's gone, one of the prefects took him off to see Madam Pomfrey. So if you come back down from the dorm you won't have to see him, at least not at the moment.

 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I didn't even realise how much it was upsetting you until Harry cast that hex. He was really steamed. Harry, I mean.

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 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-12-16 02:31:22**  
(no subject)

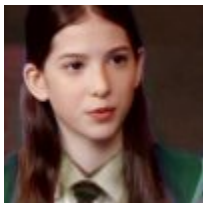
I thought I could sit there and not let it show, and I tried really really hard, but he just kept talking and talking and wouldn't stop.

Who thinks like that?

Who is happy about seeing something that horrible?

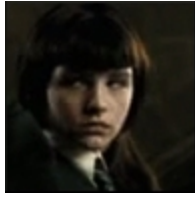
And even if it isn't really him, it's somebody else who also really died, and it's just awful and sad


I'm sorry. I'm not being very smart about the whole thing. If I was being smart, I'd be crowing about it like everybody else, but I just *can't*.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2010-12-16 02:33:38**  
(no subject)

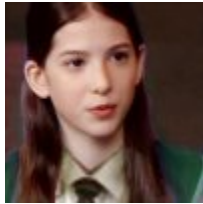
Everyone will just think you were feeling squeamish, anyway. Girls are allowed to be squeamish, and Teddy was being DISGUSTING.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 02:40:30](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.


I'm just glad he didn't start during dinner. As it is, I don't feel like I'm ever going to want to eat anything ever again.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 02:44:05](#)  
(no subject)

If he'd started during dinner I think Harry would've had to stand in line to hex him.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 02:54:32](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think so?

I mean, he was being awful, but he's supposed to be pleased about it. Not *that* pleased, but...

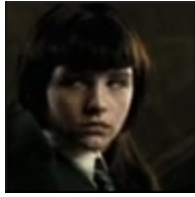
Is everybody pretending to be happy about it? Or *actually* happy? I just don't know. I caught a little of the Prophet that was being passed around at breakfast, and everyone in it was *saying* how wonderful it was, and it's hard to tell if that's what they're expected to do, or if they really truly feel that way.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:02:59](#)  
(no subject)

Well during dinner everyone would have been disgusted -- or at least Daphne for sure and then Blaise would have told Teddy to knock it off and hexed him when he didn't shut it (it would've been WHEN not IF, I think). Or Milli. Or even Draco. Not because they're secretly unhappy about Sirius Black, but because he'd be putting them off their food.


I'm sure some of the people are just pretending. Probably some of the people being loudest.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:18:33](#)  
(no subject)

You're probably right.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 16:28:31](#)  
(no subject)


Some boys are squeamish about some things, too.  
Trust me.

I wonder if Gran is going to take me to see it. I wonder if that's what she was hinting at in her last letter. She might, you know, because she thinks we have to put on a show, because of my parents, but I'm sure she wouldn't insist on Evelyn coming along.

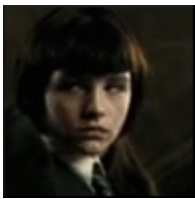
But if she did, I bet she'd tell me we'd go through the line but that doesn't mean she expects me to exactly look at it.


Anyway...I'm sorry, Pansy.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 03:07:30](#)  
(no subject)

What did he say that got you that upset?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:17:55](#)  
(no subject)

He just kept talking about Si the body. What the papers were showing and what they should do to it after and

ugh.


honestly, I really don't want to rehash it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:22:17](#)  
(no subject)


And then Harry put a hex on him that made his face and tongue sprout these things that were like a cross between fur and tentacles. It stopped him talking because his tongue wasn't working properly. The prefect couldn't undo it so he took him to Madam Pomfrey.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:23:55](#)  
(no subject)

It was rather brilliant. I wonder if Professor Rabastan taught it to him.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 03:26:04](#)  
(no subject)

I bet she won't be in a hurry to heal him.

Maybe she'll make him drink something really, really horrible tasting to put it right.

Or, oh! Maybe she'll have to cut all the tentacles off one by one. And shave the fur off his tongue! I bet it'll hurt a lot!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:35:34](#)  
(no subject)

Unfortunately she'll probably heal him right away because I think it might have been making it a little hard for him to breathe.

HOWEVER it might involve a horrid and disgusting tasting potion. That would be excellent.

And maybe he'll be stuck in the hospital wing until end of term and that would also be brilliant.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:37:33](#)  
(no subject)

I'll be happy if he keeps his stupid gross mouth shut until then.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:42:28](#)  
(no subject)

Clearly we need to learn more hexes so we can shut it for him next time.

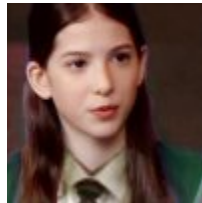
You would THINK we would learn things like this in Dark Arts but no luck so far.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 04:32:23](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think you really want to get into a Dark duel with Nott, do you? I mean, he probably knows a bunch of curses that make people's guts fall out.

He's not just your average berk.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 04:36:13](#)  
(no subject)

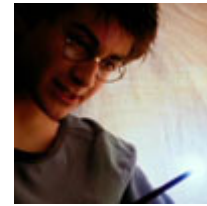
That's a good point.



**2010-12-15 20:17:00**

*For what it's worth*

I don't think anybody should be gloating over the Body. It's a dead person.

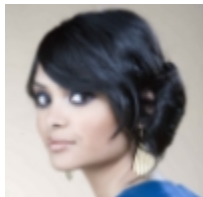


 **alt\_harry**

Father had to put it out there so that people could see it, I suppose. So people would stop using Sirius Black as a symbol. But that doesn't mean everybody has to laugh at it and things. If you missed me saying so, I'll write it: Parkinson was right to be angry about certain people being horrible.

We're supposed to be civilized!!

Also, the next person who tells me about how lucky I am to go home to Buckingham in the winter is going to get HEXED. Im not going to Buckingham. Except once. To go see the Body with Father. And then I'm coming right back here. So you all can go listen to a fwooper.



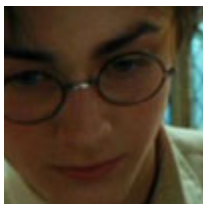
 **alt\_padma** at **2010-12-16 01:44:21**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

What happened?

And I completely agree with you about the body. I'm really hoping our parents don't make us go see it. I can't imagine how you must feel knowing you're going to have to go look. I mean, I'm sure your Father wants you to see it for some good reason, but honestly. I don't think you should have to if you don't want to do.

Sorry.



 **alt\_harry** at **2010-12-16 03:15:13**

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Teddy was making an arse of himself as usual.

I know Father thinks it's a good reason and I cant argue with him. I just wish people didn't rub things

in.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 03:17:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Who on earth is rubbing it in? Nott? I mean, I can believe he'd be well daft enough to take the mick out of you, but that seems unusually thick even for Nott.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 03:23:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Just everybody. And then Weasley was being a horrid snot. I don't know. People saying things not meaning to rub it in. Like "Will you send me some clementines, real ones." Well no. I mean I won't get any either, unless Father sends them. And Father doesn't ever send things like that. And people don't send things like that either to me for Christmas. Just stupid old books and jewellery and things like that.

I don't know, reading in the Prophet about people dancing to see the body and things. It seems like no better than mudbloods. I mean you read about horrible things mudbloods did, all the time in Muggle Studies. And then you think we don't do that. But we do, or some people do anyway.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 03:41:53](#)

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Oh. How expensive are clementines? Because I bet I could get Mum to send some. If you wanted. Who sent you jewellery? That's kind of funny. You're a boy. What do you want with jewels?

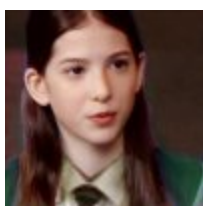
And yeah. I mean, he was a horrid person and a traitor and I'm glad they finally proved that Auror LeStrange really killed him. He needed to be stopped. But I guess that's why people are so relieved that he's gone. Maybe it helps to not think of him as a real person. But I keep thinking about Sanji, you know? And every time I see a picture or think about a dead person I see him and not the person I'm supposed to see. If that makes sense.

I mean, I don't even like saying 'dead' anymore. You know - like

how Summers says he's dead tired or something is dead wicked. It just seems backward to me.

Maybe it's not just that muggles did all sorts of gruesome things to their criminals. It's that they did all those sorts of things to each other. And you're right, we shouldn't be doing that to each other, too. But I don't really think Black was a proper wizard, either, if he loved muggles so much.

I dunno.

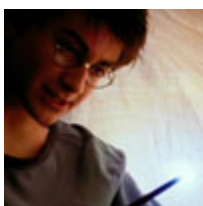


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 02:17:27](#)

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

That list was rot except for the bit about you being heroic (well, and good on a broom). Thanks for sticking up for Pansy.

I'm sorry you're going to be stuck here. I'm looking forward to getting away and I'm just going to the Strettons. Is it because of security? I mean, will they let you visit friends at all or are you really truly stuck here the whole holiday?

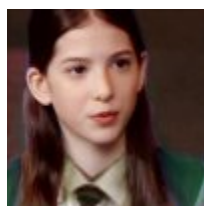


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 03:16:22](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

No, its cause of my marks. I suppose Father must have talked to the Headmistress or something. I have to revise the whole time.

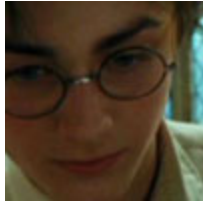
I mean maybe security too, but he wouldnt tell me then.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:24:23](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

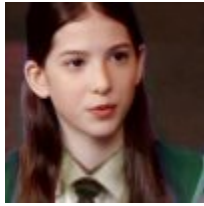
Oh how miserable. I'm sorry.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:26:46](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Well I suppose it isn't as bad as it could be. I mean at home I have to do all kinds of stupid things like go to state occasions. So it would be a waste of time. It's not like storybook Christmas no matter how it looks in the Daily Prophet when Father gives his speech.

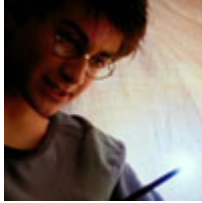


 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:32:17](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

No, state occasions don't sound fun either.

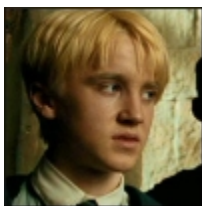
Would owls over the holiday cheer you up? Well private journal messages, I suppose. The Strettons always need to use their owls when it's almost Christmas. (If you wanted real owls you could send ME an owl and then I'd have an owl to send back, but that seems a bit naff, 'I'll send you an owl but you have to send me one first!')



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:37:33](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Of course I'll send you an owl, or private journal messages are fine too, only I'm sure the school owls won't have much to do and I have my own owl anyway!

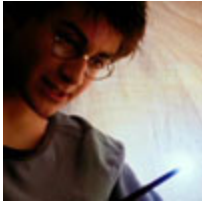



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:01:05](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think it's rubbish that you can't even come to our Christmas Party. It won't be the same without you.

The Raz told me he'll be sticking around here for a lot of the hols, too, because that's where you are, of course. So at least you'll get to work on snitch things with him. Like the you-know-what.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:17:27](#)**  
(no subject)


Yeah, that'll be all right. I suppose I'll see more of the Raz than if I were at Buckingham. So that's fine. But I'll miss you. Maybe you can come back to Hogwarts early.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:23:06](#)**  
(no subject)


I'll ask Father and Mother when I see them. Mother probably won't like the idea, but maybe she'll like my present so much that she'll say yes.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:24:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I hope so!!!



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:05:46](#)**  
*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

I wish I didn't have to see it.  
I didn't want to see anything dead ever again.  
Sorry to make this Private, but I don't want Mummy to know how much I don't want to see it.

Harry, do you want me to ask Mummy if I can stay at the castle for the hols?

If I said it was to keep you company and to assist you, she might say yes.

I suppose that's what you have Granger for, though, but maybe she needs a rest?

I don't know if mudbloods get tired, do you?

From,  
Hydra



**alt\_harry at 2010-12-16 03:20:48**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Yes mudbloods get tired. But I would like it if you could ask your mum to stay. It wouldn't be nearly so lonely. Maybe you could get to talk to Hermione and learn more about mudbloods. You shouldn't tell your mum that though.



**alt\_hydra at 2010-12-16 03:26:13**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

I wouldn't tell her, but sometimes she knows things anyway, like your Father.  
I can't decide if it would be a better idea to have you ask, because she'd probably say yes for certain if it was you asking, or if I should do it myself because it would make her proud of me for volunteering to do a nice thing for you.

From,  
Hydra



**alt\_harry at 2010-12-16 03:28:02**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Why don't you ask, and then I'll ask right after? We could send owls instead of journal writing. I could send my owl just after you send yours. I could say I hadn't asked you. So she'll think you thought of it on your own. I bet she'd like that.

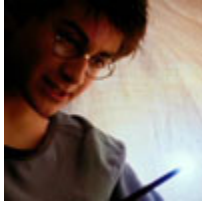


**alt\_hydra at 2010-12-16 03:32:16**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Ooh, that's a good idea.  
I'll write to her first thing tomorrow, and I'll send her birthday gift along with it and hopefully she'll like that and it will put her in a good mood.  
Uncle Rizzer helped me to make her gift, it's a holster to wear under her sleeve but instead of being for her wand it's for her favourite knife.

From,  
Hydra

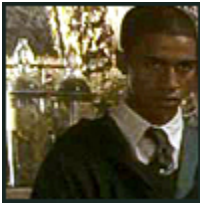



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 03:36:35](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

I'm sure she'll like it.

I'll owl her tomorrow teatime then.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-16 03:21:50](#)

*(no subject)*

Shame you have to stay here all hols.

You're right that things are running off the rails here. It seems as though there's an epidemic of really childish idiocy going round.

At least you won't have to put up with everyone's nonsense once they've all gone. Should be pretty nice, actually.

Not that I'm not looking forward to being home, mind you, just I can see how we might all need to be away from each other for awhile before certain people get completely out of hand.

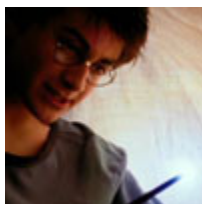


 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:36:42](#)

*(no subject)*

Whomever wrote that silly questionnaire forgot an important category, didn't they?

*Most immature.*



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 03:38:21](#)

*Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

YOU didn't write it, did you Daff?

Only, you're in bunches of the good things.

If you did you should've thought of it earlier!!





 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:44:51](#)


*Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

You're in bunches, too, but YOU didn't write it, did you?

Only teasing! I know that you didn't write it anymore than I did. There were unkind things in there about a lot of Slytherins, and I wouldn't write such things about my house-mates. Especially not Millie and Blaise and Draco.

I admit that it's a little flattering to know that some people think I'm mature and fit and talented and graceful, but not if people think I wrote it all about myself! That really would be stuck up.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:38:47](#)

*(no subject)*

I wonder who would be in *that* category.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-16 03:45:28](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm far too polite to say. That said: use your imagination.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 03:57:16](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, of course you are!

And besides, it wouldn't do any good at all to let everybody know *exactly* how you thought of them, would it? It'd be like playing Snap with all your cards showing.






 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-16 04:01:18](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, it's always better to keep everyone wondering about *most* things.

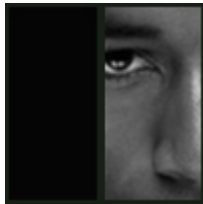
I don't know where you're at, but I put a cup of my nicest tea by your bed. It's charmed to stay warm for a few hours, so no hurry.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-16 04:20:01](#)  
(no subject)

Oh! How very sweet of you, Daphs.

Thanks.



 [alt\\_blaize](#) at [2010-12-16 04:42:01](#)  
(no subject)

I know, right?

You'd just think certain people would want to be thought more mature.

The problem is *that sort* lack subtlety.

**[2010-12-15 21:58:00](#)**

*Private Message to Padma Patil and  
Belinda Dunstan*



Argh!

Mummy is being an absolute nutter! I don't understand it.

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

So, she mentioned in her last private message to me that Lovegood had asked to stay on at Hogwarts over the hols, and I was thinking, hurrah! That's the most *sensible* idea the girl has had in, oh, ever.

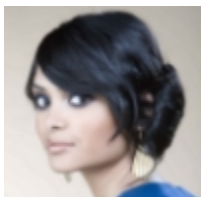
She gets to stay and muck stalls with Professor Brutka, and I don't have to look at her blank expression across the breakfast table every morning and worry that she'll say something mortifying at our holiday party. Everyone's happy!


So I said as much to Mummy and she said no, Lovegood has to come back because leaving her at Hogwarts would 'give the wrong impression.'

And, she said we all *have* to go to the viewing of Black's corpse-- apparently it would, you guessed it, 'give the wrong impression' if we weren't there.

I don't see why, as everyone knows we're loyal, but there's no reasoning with her. Mothers!

Oh, and I thought you two would want to know that people have been asking Parvati and me all day if we did the quiz and we haven't given away a thing! So there, Belinda!



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:31:11](#)**  
(no subject)

It must be because it's so close to the end of term but everyone seems to be having trouble today!

Marvolo's all upset with Nott because he's being frightfully morbid and crass about going to see Black's body. He doesn't want to go see it any more than we do - Marvolo, I mean - but he's being made to do it just the same. I suppose if he can be stoic

and stand having to look, so can we.

But for Lakshmi's sake, keep not giving anything away about the quiz! I mean, I think most everyone thought it was at least a little bit funny, but really it would have been much better if it hadn't fallen out of Dunstan's bag in the first place. And for the record, Dunstan, next time you do anything like this, put a charm on the thing so that you can't lose it! It was never meant to go out to the whole class, just people who'd get a laugh out of it!

I suppose we're lucky Weasley made such a cake out of the whole thing, because the moment he said it was awful and that the Prefects were taking them away, then it became a little more snitch to lark about with it. But honestly! It's so obvious who wrote it if you really look. You could've got us all in trouble if things had gone differently.

Anyway, Lav, don't worry about the Loon. She's lucky we stuck to third-years, or she'd have been the only entry in 'Strangest.' We'll ask Mum if you can come stay for part of the hols. Oh! I know! Maybe if you come stay with us, you can tell your mum that we went to see Black while you were staying. And then if we stay with you, we can tell our parents we went to see the body with you! And then none of us needs to go!



**[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-12-16 03:42:51](#)**  
(no subject)

It does seem to be being that sort of day!

Well, nobody can prove anything if we don't admit to anything! I've been saying that I think it was Zach or maybe Daphne.

...and kind of fluttering my lashes and letting people think Parvati and I aren't really clever enough to have thought of it.

I mean, just because I like pretty clothes and things doesn't mean I'm an *idiot* but some people think so and just this once I don't mind letting them.


I don't know, Padma, there are some pretty odd ducks amongst the year 2 girls---Ginny Weasley for one!

I like your idea about the viewing though! Do you thing they'd really

believe it?

It's times like this I wish we were old enough to do really good spells, like *Obliviate*!



 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-16 03:54:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we could try Obliviating each other afterward, but we might do it wrong and forget all sorts of important things. We should practise first, at least.


Daphne just called the whole quiz thing immature - but I'm sure that's just because we put Blaise in twice for stuck-up and because Millie was in too many bad categories. She's very keen on Millie, I should have thought of that and we could've spread things out a little more. Ugh, but I wish people hadn't seen it before we'd finished it properly!

Though I suppose Parkinson was bound to whinge about it, even though we were fair about things like talent and popularity (well. With losers). She just can't stand her little pets to get slagged.

I still can't believe she actually asked for help with Mum's collection! I finally decided it's much better to be really sweet about it and help as much as I can get Mum to help, but oh, it was so tempting to tell her to get stuffed. She's so ... UGH. I can't even explain it. I mean, she should be someone we all get on with perfectly well, but instead she's gone and made herself a little court of misfits. And I know Draco's grown up with her and they'll always be close, but Rama, I don't understand why he sticks up for her. It's so frustrating!!!

You're right. I think it's one of those days. I think it's the Dementors. Everyone seems to want a good shout.




 **alt\_padma** at [2010-12-16 04:13:12](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and I think it certainly can't hurt to try to tell your parents we went with ours and our parents we went with yours. I mean, Mum's going to be busy right through hols and Dad - well, he'll never even notice, really, I don't think. He's at the WWN more and more all

the time.

And by the way, I told Belinda and Su Li but you and Parvati should know too: I think it's better if you let people think maybe Capper and Bundy and some of the others made it all up - because it makes a sort of sense they'd kiss up to everyone who's in the good choices and they'd want to make themselves look better than the dregs. But don't go out of your way about it. Just don't suggest it's Daphne because that gives Parkinson even more cause to lord it over the rest and make everyone think she's sooo above it all.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-16 04:35:30](#)  
(no subject)

Let's try it then! I mean, our mums do talk to each other sometimes, but you're right, they'll both be frightfully busy so hopefully they won't think to mention it.

I can't believe Nott was crass enough to start describing it in detail--no wait, I can, because he's always been like that. I'm *sooooo* glad I'm not in his House.

Good idea about Capper and Bundy! But wait, if we *all* say it was Capper and Bundy, won't people notice? Maybe we ought to mention MacDougal as well. Or Fawcett.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-16 04:49:03](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and I wasn't so much thinking of Obliviating ourselves so we'd forget we'd seen it, so much as Obliviating our parents so they'd forget they'd asked us to go!

But you're right, the other way would be easier--well, if we actually knew Obliviation at all that is!

Sometimes it seems like people who are older than us know *all* the interesting things! I so wish I could Apparate too.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 14:13:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well, Obliviating them would be better, so we don't have to go at all, but I guess seeing it so people know we've seen it and then Obliviating it would be more prudent.

If Looney's coming home then we could practise on her. Or - have your parents decided to keep mudbloods in the house? I bet we could practise on one of them, just for little things like whether they'd made the beds or whatever, and they wouldn't get in horrible trouble for forgetting and we'd get our practice in.




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-16 18:05:10](#)  
(no subject)

Mummy doesn't particularly care for mudblood servants in the house; she feels we can get on well enough with our elves and a few muggles to do the real drudge work.

Daddy has a few in the stables, but I'm not sure we should meddle with them--you know how cross he gets when anything to do with the stables is disturbed. And he's almost *never* cross otherwise.


The Loon may be our best opportunity, actually. Nobody'd notice, since she's always doing something daft.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:10:22](#)  
(no subject)

The Loon, then. Or the muggles. It does work on muggles, so that's possible. I don't think it'll work on an elf.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 14:10:32](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, that's just what I meant: spread it round so we're not pointing our wands at just one or two people.

And now Weasley's gone and done Nott one better! Did you see? What an idiot.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-16 18:01:43](#)  
(no subject)


He's such a berk, really. Although that, was...kind of restrained, for him.

Maybe he's finally learned what the word 'discretion' means. *Maybe.*

Sometimes I feel like I ought to start looking out for something brave and heroic to do, so that people will start seeing Gryffindor in a better light.

As in, not the House of hotheaded idiots.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:09:07](#)  
(no subject)

I just asked Finnigan if maybe Weasley's been possessed, ha-ha.

But anyway. Finnigan's okay for a Gryffindor, you have to admit. I'm kind of sorry I let Page convince me to put him in the girls' blouse category.

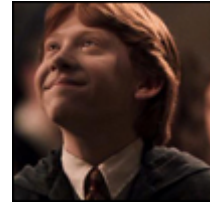
And Thomas. I'm still not sure I believe him when he says he hates muggles. But at least he's not quite so uptight as he used to be. I dunno. We'll see him here and there at hols and maybe he'll be less prone to fly off the handle. Like a hotheaded idiot Gryffindor. :)

**2010-12-15 22:42:00**

*I can't wait to get home*

For Christmas!

And Mum's cooking. I mean, here at school you don't ever wake up because you're smelling breakfast cooking, do you? Or know it's time to come in for lunch because you can hear Mum banging pots about in the kitchen. And you don't start thinking about supper at half-four because you can already smell the roast cooking.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

And none of it will be transfigured!

It's been a while since I've been home for Christmas, too. So I can't wait to see all the decorations: the garland and the candles, and Mum sticks cloves into apples--and oranges, too, if she can get any--and that makes everything smell great!

I hope they haven't brought in the pine boughs yet for over the doors. I remember going with Bill and Charlie when I was still pretty small and helping them pull the branches back home.


And Mum'll be humming carols all the time. And there'll be sweets for tea time.

I don't know how much snow there's been at home, but one year we got great gobs of it over the hols, and when Charlie came home from school, we made a giant snow fortress, and the twins made a cannon and shot snow balls at Percy and Ginny when they came out to see what we were up to!!!

And there'll be pie. And Mum's jam. And toast soldiers with our eggs.

So, yeah. I can't even wait!




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2010-12-16 05:30:42**

(no subject)

Nice way to rub it in for some people, Weasley.






 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-16 11:16:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Huh?

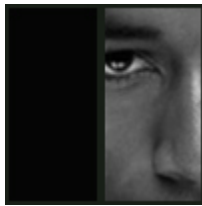



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-16 11:18:38](#)**  
(no subject)

What?

You jealous because your Mum doesn't cook for you?  
Or 'cause you don't have any brothers to do stuff

with?

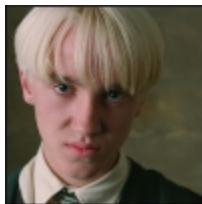



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2010-12-16 15:28:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, look at you, trying to make out that your  
mother isn't a common drudge.

Some of us have elves and servants who do that  
sort of thing, so our mothers are free to be proper witches and  
leaders of society.

But carry on, Weasley, making juice out of rotten pumpkins. I  
wouldn't want to drink it, but I suppose you have to make do.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-16 15:59:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I think we all know who's really jealous. Ever since  
Harry told you to bugger off on the Hogwarts  
Express, you've gone out of your way to shadow his  
every move like some love-spurned girl. First the  
Dementors, then his broom, and now this. Harry admits that he  
isn't going to Buckingham for the hols and you shove his nose in  
the fact that you get to go home to your cosy hovel.

You're starting to look really pathetic, and that's saying something,  
considering how pathetic you were before.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 16:45:42](#)  
(no subject)


Who is the pathetic one? Are you saying Marvolo thinks this is about him? You mean he's such a giant girl's blouse he can't stand it if anyone else is happy about anything?

Nice.

News flash. Not everything's about him.


Or you.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-16 17:06:20](#)  
(no subject)

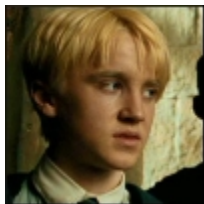
You haven't written more than a few lines here and there in your journal for most of the term, and then you just happen to write a long, celebratory post about your Christmas plans *right after* Harry's written about his. That's fine if you're happy about it or whatnot, but have some class for once. I realise that's asking a lot, but surely you can muster it from somewhere.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:20:09](#)  
(no subject)

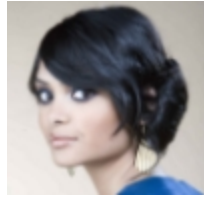
You're absolutely right, Malfoy.

I'm really sorry.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2010-12-16 17:38:06](#)  
(no subject)

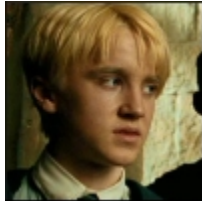
Oh, hilarious.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:58:38](#)**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

What's he playing at?




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-16 22:00:45](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Haven't got a clue, have I? Being an arse as usual, most likely.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-16 23:34:01](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

I dunno. Do you reckon he's just taking the mickey or what? Finnigan thinks Bighead Boy finally frightened him into politeness.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-17 01:32:04](#)**


*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Weasley's not scared of his brother, though. At all.

Wonder if elder Weasley did something

drastic.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-16 14:01:12](#)**

*(no subject)*

Honestly, Weasley, you're such a clod.

Has it not occurred to you that *some* people already said they didn't want to hear about people going home and being lucky? How can you be so insensitive?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-16 15:20:46](#)**  
(no subject)

...

Guess I am lucky to have such a great family. Hadn't really thought about it that way, but now you mention it, it's really true.

Why shouldn't I be happy about that?



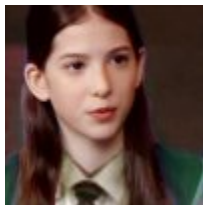
 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-16 16:08:46](#)**  
(no subject)

You've got a great family? Excuse me? That's a laugh.

I've seen your mum, Weasley. I bet she was on someone's list of the porkiest witches when she was our age and she certainly hasn't got any better since. And who in the world would admire a couple of delinquents like Fred and George Weasley? One day they'll be in Azkaban where they belong. And let's not even start talking about your other brother or that sister of yours. And like Zabini says, your dad may as well work for the ghost relations office for all that he'll ever amount to anything at the Ministry.

Besides, it's really quite mad to be crowing about going home for Christmas now, when last year you were so miserable because of them you made certain to stay, even before everyone had to stay in the castle for our own protection from Black's Paralysis!

If you were any kind of proper wizard you'd be well ashamed of having a family like that.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-16 16:21:44](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh, do talk about the Head Boy, Patil, I'm sure he's dying to know what you think of him.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 16:49:43](#)  
(no subject)


Nobody asked you, Perks.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:23:10](#)  
(no subject)

Patil, while I disagree completely with what you said about my parents, you were right that I was insensitive. I will try to be more careful of what I say in the future.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 17:26:10](#)  
(no subject)

.....

Is that really you, Weasley? Or has someone nicked your journal and is writing it for you?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:27:54](#)  
(no subject)

...

I was thinking, does that even work? And then I remembered Director Selwyn's daughter.

It's really me.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 17:31:43](#)  
(no subject)

Right. How come you don't sound like you then, at all?

Well.

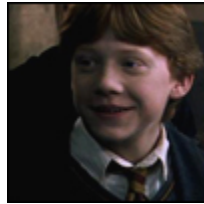
It's good that you've finally realised what you did to Marvolo, so. Yeah. All right, then.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:44:44](#)

*Private message to Ronald Weasley*

Um....now that you've sort of smoothed things over, maybe you put the journal away for now, Ron? You said you wanted to look over that Care of Magical Creatures essay again before you turned it in. And look, there's pudding for dessert!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:46:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Ronald Weasley*

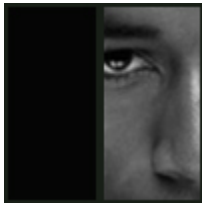
That's a really good idea, Neville, thank you for reminding me about the homework.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:52:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Ronald Weasley*

Uh, anytime.



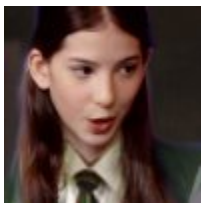
 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-16 15:34:27](#)

*(no subject)*

None of it will be transfigured?

I doubt that. For the whole pack of you? On your father's salary? I mean, he's just an underhack under the undersecretary to the subsecretary to the assistant's assistant, isn't he?

Or has he taken up embezzling from the Ministry to pay the grocer's bills?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 16:27:24](#)

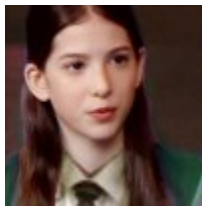
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh I'm itching to answer this one even though I know it would be a bad idea.

Blaise ought to have been on the 'thickest' list, he

seriously has no IDEA how most of the people in the Protectorate live their lives. I think he honestly thinks it's a serious hardship to occasionally have to make your own breakfast, and he can't even begin to imagine life without oranges and other things that don't grow here.

BLAISE IT IS NOT THAT HARD TO MAKE A MEAL OF FOOD THAT'S NOT TRANSFIGURED. YOU JUST CHOOSE YOUR RECIPES CAREFULLY SO THEY ONLY USE INGREDIENTS THAT ARE GROWN HERE. A 'recipe' is a set of instructions for one of those dishes that appears on your table, so you know, and 'ingredients' are the bits that go in to them, and when I say 'grown here' I mean they come from FARMS like the ones on the Stretton's estates and muggles work in the fields and eventually we get apples and carrots and turnips and even mutton and beef and chicken. It's like magic! Except not really.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 16:28:36](#)

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

I mean for Merlin's sake my father used to refuse to transfigure anything when he was cross. So mum and I ate turnips. We got bloody tired of turnips but you can live on them for a good long time, actually.

I hadn't thought about that in ages.

I hope



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:24:37](#)

*(no subject)*

As a matter of fact, it is possible to have an entire transfigured meal without a lot of cost if you choose recipes carefully.

Which we do, because we are a family that is careful with our resources.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 16:19:35](#)

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

Bloody hell, what's up with the pack of them? It's entirely possible to have an entire meal of non-transfigured food if you choose your menu carefully (or don't mind eating loads of turnips).

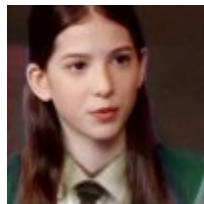
It's no use answering, Ron. Just ignore them.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-16 16:35:10](#)

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

They don't really think about it, I mean they would never even imagine it, they always eat things that are high-class tasting, because it's a way to show how much better they are than other people. And they wouldn't ever think to not do that even if it meant they had to eat transfigured food, because if they didn't have things like oranges and raspberries in winter and so on then it would mean they weren't really so rich and important.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 16:45:23](#)

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

Too bloody right.

Oranges aren't really any tastier than apples and strawberries and other things that do grow here.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 16:31:52](#)


*(no subject)*

Well.

Bugger off Weasley.





 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 16:37:17](#)  
(no subject)

Nice.


Obviously the point is I'm looking forward to it. Or did you want me to go somewhere else than home?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-16 16:44:36](#)  
(no subject)


SHUT UP.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 16:48:02](#)  
(no subject)

Why don't you?




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-16 16:48:51](#)  
*Private message to Ronald Weasley*

DO NOT ANSWER HIM Ron. At least not yet.


Please, I'm begging you. Come see me at lunch before saying ANYTHING to him further.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:26:52](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ronald Weasley*


Thank you for your concern, Percy.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-16 17:34:03](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ronald Weasley*

Er...don't mention it. I'm glad we've got that sorted.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:26:25](#)  
(no subject)

I thought about this and I wanted to say, I'm really sorry, Marvolo. I didn't think about your earlier post when I put up mine.


I didn't mean to make you feel bad. I'll try to be more careful in the future.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-16 17:40:56](#)  
(no subject)

Turning over a new leaf, bro? Hmm....




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-16 21:25:24](#)  
*Order Only*

A very new leaf...only who's the one who's really turning it over? Ron--or Percy?


(Dad? Remember what I told you I thought I might have seen last summer?)



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-16 21:27:32](#)  
*Re: Order Only*


Oh, my.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-16 21:28:00](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Oh, Arthur!




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-16 21:29:05](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Let's...let's not jump to any conclusions, Molly. It's a good thing both boys are about to come home. I'll be able to sit down with them, have a chat. Hopefully, I'll be able to get to the bottom

of this.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-16 17:36:36](#)  
*(no subject)*

I'm so glad you're looking forward to coming home, as much as I'm looking forward to your all being here!

I did manage to get some cloves this year, although no oranges. But I also have some cardomen, so I'll be sure to make the spice biscuits I haven't been able to make for the past few years.

**2010-12-15 22:55:00**

*Private Message to Mr Peakes*



 [alt\\_dean](#)

I'm not sure if you have been reading the student journal entries about whats been going on here at Hogwarts, but there have been somethings on my mind. Earlier this week a quiz list went out, and a lot of people made a big deal about it. It was mostly stupid, and even my name appeared there a few times. It wasn't that big of a deal to me with the exception of one category. I just need your advice on how to handle this.

My name appeared under the category of Biggest Mudblood Lover. I'm not sure if people really think that or if my name was placed there to keep the numbers pretty even in all categories. Anyway, how do I show people that I don't like mudbloods, and that I detest the filth that I used to live with, and that if I could...I would cut out all traces of muggle in me? Its bad enough that Seamus and I are forced to share a dorm with the type of students we do. By the way their names actually were listed in that section as well, and I actually think they are some of the biggest mudblood lovers in the school. If they had the chance they probably would end up being blood traitors. I don't want my name mixed in with that sort, especially when all ties with them have been severed since last summer. I will be glad to get away from here for the winter break.

Your advice is appreciated, and I can understand if you don't talk about it until I get home.

Oh, and you were right, I really do like my Dark Arts class.

Dean

**2010-12-16 09:00:00**

*Private message to Aurora Sinistra*

Rory -

You up for a chat?

- Raz



 [alt\\_rabastan](#)

Soz, I was going to leave it like that, but it's hardly inviting, is it? Neither of us have seen much of each other lately, and, well, I know that there's a lot of reasons that *I'm* lying low. That Word Has It list of bachelors was printed and the avalanche of attention that followed had me scurrying for cover. Then there was the row with Gwe Professor Acton, her walking off the Duelling Club...

None of it has a thing to do with you, but then again I reckon it does, because, ah, I've been a bit worried that your opinion of me, meagre as it may have been before, might have further suffered. I asked you for advice on how to avoid Gwen's attentions, when I wasn't being completely forthright and truthful about what had happened with her. Now I wouldn't blame you if you think me some heart-stomping lothario who enjoys giving some poor spinster a little bit of hope before snatching it away. The truth is more complicated than that, but I'm not exactly proud of myself, either.

When you can have anything you want, at any time, it can become very difficult to say No. Or to make the right choice. I'm usually much better about doing so, but even in the past there was always an easy escape route, a whole New London to disappear into, like my stall at Borough Market, or Hampstead Heath (good for flying). I'm not even just talking about women, but escaping other things, too. But I'm probably not making much sense, am I? Blast, I should have written this out and practised first.

Anyway, I hope we can have that chat. I'd like to. I hope you are doing well.

---



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2010-12-16 19:22:56](#)  
(no subject)

Raz -

Well.

Yes, we should talk, shouldn't we?

Oh, Merlin. I've drafted a couple of versions of this on scrap paper, and I think I'm just going to be blunt. I don't have designs on you, nor do I have any right to expect your attentions - I know perfectly well I'm not nearly in your league in any number of ways. So I'm scarcely going to be jealous of your sharing your time with someone else.

What I do resent, though, is being asked to cover for you, when that changes my relationships with friends: Poppy and Pomona in particular. It comes just too close to too many unpleasant moments in my own school days (and the rounds of that list this week haven't helped with that. Too many raw edges in my memories.)

And, in general, I think it's better if both parties agree on what the limits of the relationship are. Whatever else happened with Acton, it's pretty clear that your idea and her idea didn't meet in the middle, as it were. I'd have thought you'd a better eye for tactics than that, somehow. But that's all I'm going to say about that, unless you ask me. You're an adult, and you get to make your own decisions, and all that.

So. What do we do now?

I do enjoy your company, and I've missed our conversations and a chance for a drink in Hogsmeade, and like so many of my house, I deeply value loyalty and friendship once given. And yes, that includes you. Though I'm not quite sure when that happened.

So, yes, let's chat, and see what we can sort out.

But at the same time, I'd be ... foolish to damage my friendships here, especially since, well, who knows what you'll be doing in a year, or five years, while this is likely the place I'll be for a good time to come. And while it's possible to avoid Acton, the prospect of ducking her in the hallway and at meals for decades is not precisely

appealing. So if we are going to continue to do things like go for a drink together, it seems like figuring out a way to smooth things over a bit might be worth the time.

I'm here through Sunday morning but mostly taken up with this observation project (unless you really want to climb the Astronomy tower and stand out in the cold while I make notes), then will be up in New London through Tuesday, and then back here, except for Christmas with my family. (Out of self-preservation, I plan to show up on Christmas eve, and depart Boxing Day morning. I love my family, but they're a bit much all together.)

Rory



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2010-12-17 00:47:43](#)**

*(no subject)*

I apologise for using you to hide from Gwen, especially that it meant you had to involve your friends. I can honestly say that it wasn't my intent to cause harm, but if you feel or felt resentment then I honestly am sorry. I hope that the situation didn't affect your friendships with either of them.


Everyone always expects me to have brilliant tactics, but I'm as human as they come, I'm afraid. And I was straight with Gwen but I think that she thought I would...change my mind about her. If I'd taken time to get to know her better, first, I would have figured out she isn't the sort of woman who does anything casually. That said, I don't think you have to worry about experiencing any trouble from her end. She's stopped whirling around and marching in the opposite direction when she sees me, at least.

(I'm pretty sure that Dawlish fancies Gwen, too - he kept asking me about her. Now that'll be a change, eh? Someone chasing her for once...she'll love it. I even gave him some tips. A new found romance might put her in better spirits, you think?)

Bloody Erebus, I'm so glad you're still speaking to me that I'm not even offended to learn you've got absolutely no designs on me! Don't talk that rubbish about being "out of my league," though, because on my end it's quite the reverse. You're an exceptional person, Rory, and I'm glad that you consider me a friend.

As for what we do now, a drink sounds good.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2010-12-17 01:10:34](#)  
(no subject)

Raz -

Fortunately, both of them are old enough that there's a certain amount of tolerance at the follies of youth. (Especially, as in this case, when the follies do not require them to patch one up, mend broken objects, or spend absurd amount of times dealing with cleaning unpleasant things.) But I'd prefer not to repeat that process.

Putting Dawlish onto her might solve a great many problems. I'm glad to hear she's no longer storming in the opposite direction pointedly as soon as she sees you. Perhaps she will stop glaring at me over my plate next time I'm actually down for a meal when she is.

As to the rest of it - well, part of it's nerves. I am, as you might have seen, apparently having lunch, somewhere in public, with your sister-in-law on Tuesday, and part of me is currently quite convinced that nothing I own is suitable, I will make some stupid comment that will reflect badly on me and my family, and that I will use not only the wrong fork, but the wrong knife, spoon, and door to the restaurant. And again, that foolish list raised some memories I'd rather have had left alone.

The more rational part of me is quite aware that none of these things are likely, that I have perfectly good manners, and that one can buy new robes (which I intend to do while in town), but there you have it. We are not fully rational beings. You now, perhaps, understand why I am fond of stars, which are largely predictable, and a long way away even when they are not.

I need to be back Saturday evening for some measurements for this project, but a drink and a chat before that might do. If not, sometime next week, once I'm back?





 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-17 16:31:46](#)  
(no subject)

Understood. I'll make sure that you don't have to repeat it.

As to your lunch with Narcissa, the door to the restaurant that everyone else is using is probably the one you want to use, too, I'd think! For cutlery you always start from the outside and work your way in. Order something to eat that isn't too heavy. Fresh and healthy would do better - something similar to but not exactly the same as what Narcissa orders.


Let Narcissa take the lead in the conversation - just be yourself and answer naturally. Compliment her robes or hair if you are honestly moved to do so, but don't try to force one out of nowhere. Same thing if Draco comes up - if you've got something true and kind to say about him, pass it along. You probably don't need to be told any of this, though; I myself have found you to be an extremely thoughtful conversationalist.

If you turn out in something smart, tailored, and not too flashy, that should do nicely. Well-groomed too, of course, but you don't need to look as if you're swanning off to the opera.

And now let's hope I haven't gone and overwhelmed you. People are pretty predictable, too, once you've known them a while, and I've known Narcissa for yonks.

I'll be here on Saturday. If you get a chance, let's meet up. If not, I'm sure to be around when you're back.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2010-12-17 20:27:52](#)  
(no subject)


Much thanks for the confidence. As I said, the rational part of me knows I'm reasonably presentable.

My family's much more the 'everyone crowd round the kitchen table' type, if you know what I mean. Mum made sure we had good manners, and all that, and that we know how to dress and what topics to avoid or touch on, and all that. But in practice, at home, it all sort of goes out the window.

And here, well, it's such an usual setting. There are the formalities between teachers and students, but as you've seen yourself, most of the rest of it is making do with what you can. It does leave some skills rusty.

I've been amusing myself today in my free blocks finishing up my shopping lists. Mostly books, I think, this year, with a few other bits and pieces for my younger nieces and nephews.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2010-12-17 22:41:32](#)  
*(no subject)*

Yeah...everything was always pretty proper in my family, but then I got into pro quidditch and life with the Falcons made me all rough around the edges. Now I get to be the amusing and uncouth life of the gentry gatherings. Mind, I still know how to get my robes properly fitted and how to waltz and all, when I need to.

You're ahead of me. I haven't gotten any shopping done, and haven't even started thinking about lists. My usual method is to show up at the shops and play it by ear, risky as that may be. Sometimes I make gifts, too. This year, I might just turn round and wrap up some of these packages that were sent to me when that article came out. Tacky, but I'd only do it in the case of people I don't know very well, and then at least I'd know some of this stuff was going to use.

**2010-12-16 10:27:00**

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

Now I can't stop thinking about Christmas at my house, my REAL house I mean. With my parents, not the Strettons.



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

I'd managed not to think about my parents for a while, actually, because you really can't. ~~I mean~~

Anyway. We didn't always have enough to eat but my parents made sure there was enough food at Christmas. My father would hunt, usually, and get some rabbits or something. Once he got a goose, that was brilliant. We didn't transfigure for Christmas either, actually. My father isn't all that good at transfiguration (Mum was a lot better, when she had her wand) and things never tasted quite right, so for Christmas, they'd do what they could to get food that tasted good the way it was grown.

We usually had roast potatoes, as well. And Mum made these biscuits with honey and jam. In the summer there were strawberries that grew, and we'd pick whatever we could find and Mum put some of it up just so we'd have jam at Christmas. Honey -- I don't know if I've ever told you this, but the way I first showed my magic was being able to steal honey without getting stung. If I could find a hive, anyway.

We always gave presents but mostly they were things we needed, like mittens and shoes. And then we'd sing Christmas carols. Muggle ones, because that's what Mum learned as a girl and she taught those to my father, and then wizard ones.


~~I want to go~~

Well anyway. I'm going to Pansy's for Christmas and that will be lovely. And the Strettons have been treating me alright, it's gotten a bit better every time.

I can't believe I got so maudlin. I'm going to go do some homework now.

---



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:15:29](#)  
(no subject)

I think it's normal to be thinking about them now. The holidays are supposed to be a time for family, aren't they?

I wonder if I ever had a Christmas like that with my parents. You know, back when I was a baby and all. I suppose I might have, but I was too young to know about it.

At least you have some memories to hold onto. Sorry, I don't mean to say you shouldn't miss them. That's not it at all. And my Gran has always made sure that Evelyn and me have nice Christmases, with her and my great-aunts and uncles.

But, you know, I really do envy you for the memories you have.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 17:17:33](#)  
(no subject)

I think it would be easier if I didn't remember.

And at least your Gran is family who loves you, Neville.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:29:42](#)  
(no subject)

You won't always have to be with the Strettons, surely. I mean when you grow up and all, you'll have your own family, and you can spend Christmas however you like. And visit people you know and want to spend time with, like Pansy.

Will they let you do some visiting during the holidays? Maybe we could have another all Quidditch day at the Burrow, or maybe a day sightseeing in New London or something? You ARE going to be getting together with Parkinson already, right?

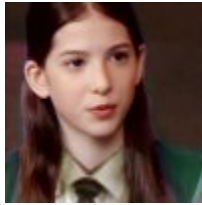


 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-17 04:08:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Oooh. That sounds like it would be brilliant, Nev. I mean, really, really fun.

Sally-Anne's going to be with me through Wednesday morning, because the wedding is on Tuesday. I'm not sure how busy we'd be with family obligations to be able to get away. Tuesday is right out, obviously, and on Monday, guests are arriving and we've got the rehearsal.

Sally-Anne, do you think you'd be able to get away at all after Christmas? I know the Strettons are awful busy during the holidays, but perhaps after Christmas things will slow down a bit and they'd be able to let you go for an afternoon?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-17 04:18:56](#)**  
(no subject)

I have no idea if they'll let me go after Christmas. I didn't want to push my luck by asking beforehand. They wanted me back on Boxing Day but that's another day that's a lot of work for them. They MIGHT let me go visiting again -- they have ~~mudbl~~ muggleborns again this year so it's not as if they need me to keep house and watch Gemma.

Honestly? It probably depends on Jeremy. If he's driving them mad they'll make me stay. If he behaves himself they'll let me go.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-17 04:43:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, here's hoping he doesn't try and live up to his reputation.

And honestly, I don't understand that at all. It's not like he particularly cares what happens to *you*. Nor do they, for that matter. And you'd think by *rewarding* you over their own son, they'd embarrass him properly into behaving, instead of punishing you both. No wonder he turned out rotten.

I've decided that most of the time, parents have absolutely no idea what they're doing.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 04:57:42](#)  
(no subject)

Too right.


Jeremy's managed to keep his head down at school this year -- I thought surely he'd have got into trouble before now, but he hasn't, so who knows.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 04:17:05](#)  
(no subject)


When I grow up I'm going to live in Pansy's flat. She said I could and I'm taking her up on it. I might invite Gemma for visits but Mr and Mrs Stretton can bloody well get bent!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-17 04:34:59](#)  
(no subject)

We are going to make the best flatmates *ever*.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-17 04:14:35](#)  
(no subject)

Family isn't always the people you happen to be born to, though. It's the people that matter to you, and who really care about you, and you about them.

I'm sorry you can't be with your mum and dad during Christmas, Sally-Anne. And I know it'll never quite be the same without them. But I do love spending Christmas with you. And we can make some Christmas memories too, you and me.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-17 04:15:21](#)  
(no subject)

You're getting maudlin, I'm getting sappy, I suppose it really is time for Christmas.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 04:19:36](#)  
(no subject)

I love spending Christmas with you, too.

And you make me smile when you're sappy.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-16 17:23:16](#)  
(no subject)

I do, too.

Never knew my family. I don't even know if there any others, if they are still alive. Master sometimes taunted me by saying he knew, but he wasn't going to tell me. Sometimes he'd say they were alive and didn't want me, but other times he'd say they were all dead and better for it.

I didn't know exactly what Christmas was before coming here. In the camps, it meant a day with no work, and usually better food. We might get some meat, or some fruit. That's one of the times they'd bring out the oranges they'd give us once in awhile to ward off scurvy, you know. Sometimes they'd give us our allotment of winter clothing on that day, so you might get a jacket or a warm hat. And sometimes there were people who would sing special songs around those times, but I never learned the words. I don't sing so good.

Master never said what Christmas was about. He'd talk about gifts, and he and his sister would exchange them, but I didn't get what the gifts thing was all about, since Master didn't like for me to own anything.

It wasn't until I came here to Hogwarts that I learned about all the other parts of Christmas that people think of when they think of the holidays. Decorated trees, and greenery hung up over the doorways, and crackers, and flaming pudding, and all the special food. It was just so amazing to me the first time I saw the Great Hall all decorated for the Christmas feast. I'd never seen anything like that before. And I never gave gifts until I came here, either. That makes you feel like you're part of it, too.






 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-16 17:25:13](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we're glad you're having proper Christmases now, Professor. And we intend to see to it that you go on having them.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-16 17:25:37](#)  
(no subject)


Thanks. I'm really looking forward to it this year.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 04:24:18](#)  
(no subject)

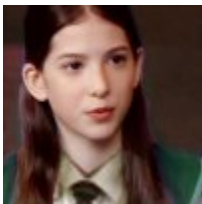
If Carrow said that your parents were alive and didn't want you, and other times he said they were dead, that probably means they're alive somewhere. And of course they wanted you.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-16 17:30:53](#)  
(no subject)

I'm really, really sorry I made you feel bad, Sally-Anne.

I'm glad the Strettons are treating you better. But I wish you could go home to your family. I mean I don't know what to say. I guess just I'm sorry. I'm sorry.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-16 17:34:14](#)  
(no subject)

RON. TELL ME RIGHT THIS INSTANT WHAT THE CODE FOR 'MEET ME' WAS FIRST YEAR.





 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:35:19](#)**  
(no subject)

It was either red or black or some colour, why, do you need to meet?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:36:03](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I just wanted to be sure it was really you.


Neville can you see him? Are you SURE it's Ron writing? ABSOLUTELY SURE?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:50:58](#)**  
(no subject)

It's him. He talked with Percy, and I dunno, maybe Percy said something that made him see sense. And I convinced him to put away his journal for now again.

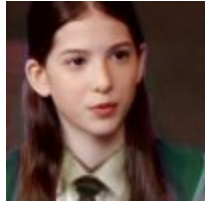


 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-17 03:53:46](#)**  
(no subject)

If you weren't watching, I'd say Percy was writing everything for him.

Honestly, as soon as I saw him and Draco start in on it, I just put up my journal, because I just wasn't in a mood at all to see them sniping at one another *again*, but he really didn't sound like himself at all.

And for what it's worth, Ron, if you get to this tomorrow, even though you can step in it rather spectacularly from time to time, I do like you far better just the way you are than what Percy would have you be like.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 04:26:38](#)  
(no subject)

I agree completely.

I've never seen Ron apologise to someone like Draco without being bullied into it. Maybe Percy threatened cruciatus? He's the Head Boy, he's allowed, even though he hasn't. (Neither had Siobhan until tonight!)

**[2010-12-16 10:41:00](#)**

*Private message to Neville Longbottom*




 [alt\\_percy](#)

URGENT


Neville, could you please find a way to confiscate Ron's journal and have him see me BEFORE he replies to Marvolo? I realise I'm asking a lot, but I don't want Ron to land in a cauldron of hot water right before the holidays.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 16:51:34](#)  
(no subject)

Sorry, but I think it's too late.




 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2010-12-16 16:52:49](#)  
(no subject)

Argh. When will he ever learn.

Well, distract him if you can, do anything possible to keep him from replying any further. I'll grab his elbow at lunch. Make sure he comes to the Great Hall.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:00:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I did, and it sort of worked. I'm afraid the Transfiguration classroom is sort of a mess now, and I have detention tonight, but his journal got kicked underfoot in all the shuffle, and it's so covered with feathers that he didn't see it right away, so I shoved it into my own book bag when he wasn't looking. I'll get him to see you at lunch.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:01:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, that sounds...drastic. But efficient. Many thanks, Neville.


And, um, I'm sorry about the detention.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:45:46](#)**  
(no subject)


What did you DO to him? It doesn't sound like him at all now. People might get suspicious.....



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:47:19](#)**  
(no subject)


Perhaps I used a trifle too much power on--well, if you can convince him to put his journal away again, things will settle down and people will move on to other things.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:47:38](#)**  
(no subject)

All right. I'll try.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-16 17:47:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I hope he never finds out I was helping you on this.

**[2010-12-16 11:12:00](#)**

*Thanks loads, Longbottom*

I'm going to be picking feathers out of my robes for the weeks, I think.




 [alt\\_seamus](#)

What on earth did you DO that caused that? It could actually come in useful if I ever want it to rain feathers for some reason.

---




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 17:23:01](#)  
(no subject)

What is **WRONG** with everyone this week? It's mad.

I don't think we've ever had castle fever this bad. But everyone's shouty crackers at one another all over the place. Weasley's being completely daft, now Longbottom's performing his usual acts of menace, poor Marvolo is about at the end of his tether, I think, and it's just all mad.

I don't know if we'll all make it through the next 48 hours to get home on the train, I just don't.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 17:32:19](#)  
(no subject)

I'm really sorry. I was trying to do the substantiation part of the spell at the same time I was trying to increase the pillow's size. I shouldn't have tried to do them at the same time. And...I dunno. I got distracted.

And, um, I guess 'expand' got turned into 'explode.'


I'm really sorry.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2010-12-16 17:47:09](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin, whoever did up that paper was completely wrong about you, Thickbottom. You're not Squibbish; you're a bloody menace with a wand, you are.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 18:23:14](#)

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

I think that it's the fact that you lot can't keep your insults straight that helps me not to listen to 'em.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-16 21:36:35](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, well, then I'm sure you're delighted to hear I've got detention tonight.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-16 21:42:13](#)

*Order Only*

Oh, Merlin. No way.

Minerva, you've got to keep him well away from Carrow. Poppy? If he's still this unstable there's no way you can let anyone near him. What was he doing back in lessons? I thought Minerva was still taking them for the rest of the week.

I think that suggestion you had about a way to ward off his office is a good one, Poppy. And no time like the present to start.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-16 21:46:25](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Perhaps Minerva could take the detention, if Poppy could say that all this upset has obviously dealt Carrow a setback?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-16 21:49:00](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Let's find a way to send the nasty bugger to a vacation spa getaway and keep him there.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-16 21:49:39](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Permanently.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-17 04:29:00](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, looking at Poppy's post, it looks like it sorted itself out for the time being, thank goodness. But it certainly is only a temporary fix at best.

I swear, Molly, I'm going to go completely grey before this term is done.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-16 17:49:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, I think they look rather nice, really. The white feathers contrast so well with your black robes.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 18:11:24](#)

*Private message to Padma Patil*

It's really a shame that list didn't include second-years, you know? Loony's stranger than Perks, Parkinson, Bones, Brocklehurst, and Bulstrode combined.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:17:59](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

I know but we

Maybe the second-years will do their own.

I'm really sorry you got called a girls' blouse. You're not at all, you know.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 18:24:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

Thanks. It's the opinion of my friends that I actually care about. Well, unless someone's saying I'm Most Fit, I'll take that from whoever's offering.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:31:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

Even if it was Lav?

Not that I'm saying it was, mind.

But if it were?




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 20:22:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

Are you saying Lav (maybe) said I was most fit, a kiss arse, or a girls blouse?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 20:49:34](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

No, I said I wasn't saying she said it.

You said you didn't care who said you were fit. But you spent a load of time worrying before the weekend whether Lav was going to want you to kiss her. So what I want to know is: IF she were the one saying you're fit, would you still want her to say it?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 22:51:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

That wouldn't be so bad.





 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:00:16](#)

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

What on earth is Weasley playing at? He's apologising to everyone like he's possessed.

He's not possessed. Is he?

IS HE POSSESSED?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 18:09:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

I talk to him as little as possible, so I'm really not sure. I doubt he's possessed, have you ever heard of a possession that made the person behave PROPERLY for once? It's more likely someone convinced him he was about to get in horrid trouble otherwise.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-16 18:19:26](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

I thought maybe Percy's nicked his journal and was writing for him. But I don't think that's it.

Oh! Do you reckon maybe Percy grew a spine and forced his brother to apologise to everyone?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-16 18:25:43](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

I saw Weasley writing in it so it wasn't that Percy nicked it. He probably did grow a spine and scared his stupid brother into behaving himself.

**[2010-12-16 11:54:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

feathers all over the bleeding classroom  
like a pigeon exploded and how could it if the  
bloody blood is missing



 [alt\\_amycus](#)

should be a cascade of rubies but there stolen  
should detonate them all, mark the purple and smoke and  
shadwowwws cant get lost in them  
and sshe shades swooping and sliding right thorough the pure heart  
through the climbing FILTH on the walls  
wand shakes so shivers

TIDBIT! GET YOUR FILTHY MUDARSE DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW  
AND CLEAN THIS MUCK UP!

,sgut burning so bad,

---



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-16 18:35:34](#)


*Order Only*

Good heavens, he sounds positively deranged.

Minerva, I certainly hope you won't let the boy obey  
the order. It sounds as though it isn't even safe to go

near him.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-16 19:54:28](#)

*Order Only*

Frank, just how bad did you make that hex? Is he still  
withdrawing from alcohol?

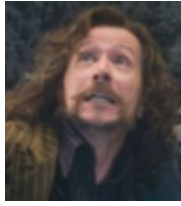
Circe.



 [alt\\_frunk](#) at [2010-12-17 04:31:14](#)

*Re: Order Only*

looks like he's got the shakes still, so yeah



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2010-12-17 15:05:24](#)**

*Re: Order Only: Private Message to Frank Longbottom*

Bloody Erebus, Frank. It was a week ago.

I mean to say, I know we were both well lathered by then. But I figured it'd be a couple days, three at the most. Enough to keep him good and miserable while his wounds hurt the worst. I figured he'd be able to back on a bender before now.

Not that it's any more than he deserves, mind. I'm still not sorry about any of that.

Just remind me never to get you that hexed off at *me*.




 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-12-16 20:48:03](#)**

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

We assume you won't be thick enough to obey, Professor.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2010-12-16 20:51:33](#)**

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

No way. I didn't live this long by being that stupid.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-12-16 20:52:05](#)**

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

Good. Better stick close to the Headmistress for now and keep an eye on what we gave you.




 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-16 20:53:26](#)**

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

And I've got detention with him tonight.

Any advice, Terry?




 **alt\_terry at 2010-12-16 21:07:49**

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

Do whatever he tells you immediately with no backtalk. Better not ask any questions if you can help it. If you start doing something and he doesn't like it, he'll tell you--maybe--and like it better than if you just wait for an explanation. Try not to make too much noise, whatever he gives you to do.

And don't try to look him in the eye. He'd take it better from you than from me 'cause you're a pureblood, but when he's tetchy like this, smarter still to keep your head down entirely.

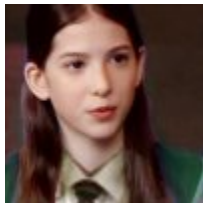


 **alt\_terry at 2010-12-16 21:08:15**

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

And whatever you do, don't turn your back on him.

Ever.



 **alt\_sally\_anne at 2010-12-16 21:16:20**

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

Ugh.

**2010-12-16 16:39:00**

*Order Only*

I've got Carrow back in my care. He came quietly, which was a surprise after the ruckus that happened in his classroom--that was a sight, to be sure! I was prepared to petrify him if necessary, but he was suffering so when I reached him that he simply handed me his wand when I requested it and allowed me to help him up the stairs.




 [alt\\_poppy](#)

He's sleeping now. And will continue to do, if I've anything to say about it, until the children have all left the castle safely.

Minerva, I'm afraid this leaves you to cope with Mr Longbottom's detention, and raises a question about Carrow's schedule for tomorrow.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2010-12-17 04:26:48**

*(no subject)*

Goodness.

Well, it's a relief to hear that's sorted. Thank you, Poppy. More than anything.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2010-12-17 15:07:34**

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Poppy.

And sorry, again, that you have to keep care of the bugger.

**2010-12-16 20:19:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*



 **alt\_lucius**

Son,

Ordinarily I would entrust this sort of message only to Valerian, but depending on your answer I may need to act more quickly than his wings can convey. We must trust therefore that the privacy of this message will be respected by the Ministry.

At supper this evening, your Aunt Bellatrix shared with us the news that Hydra has written requesting permission to remain at Hogwarts over the holiday. She seems to have already indicated her wish to Harry, for he also wrote to your Aunt imploring her indulgence for Hydra's company.

It will not surprise you to learn your Aunt was amenable - indeed, enthusiastic - regarding the suggestion. Your Uncle and Mother were somewhat less favourable toward the notion that Hydra would miss her whole holiday out of what seems an obvious attempt to curry her mother's approval, or at least, to avoid making herself the subject of any further disappointment. The discussion resulted in a compromise. Your Uncle Raz will bring Hydra home with him for the holiday party and Christmas, thereby allowing her to remain at school and cheer Harry while spending at least a few hours with her family for key celebrations.

This bargain having been struck, it occurred to me that you may think yourself obligated to make the same offer of sacrifice. (Indeed, your aunt expressed some curiosity as to whether we would volunteer your services to Harry in like manner to your cousin - a suggestion which your mother did not deign to answer.) Rest assured that neither your mother nor I would decide unilaterally without consulting you, not when it is entirely optional, as it is this year. Should you wish to stay out of sincere preference, we would make the arrangements as necessary and your Uncle could as easily conduct the two of you as Hydra alone. Though I do not need to tell you it would greatly dismay us both, particularly your mother, since last year's misunderstandings kept you away. Nonetheless, the choice is yours to make.

Lest you interpret this letter as exerting pressure to remain, let me assure you that is not the case. We have both been looking forward to your return and made many plans contingent on your society. In

addition, there is your appointment with Pansy and Mr Tenebridge to consider - though again, I am sure we could prevail upon the Headmistress to fetch you there and back if you so chose. Finally, we have spoken before of your decisions with regard to Harry and his esteemed Father's expectations. In this wise, I do not think you need concern yourself with His preferences for your disposition. Provided Harry makes use of his time in the manner his Father has prescribed, your presence or absence ought not affect His pleasure.


Obviously, if you decide to stay you must inform me immediately so that we can notify the Headmistress and Professor Slughorn of your lodging over the holiday. If you do not wish to remain, then we need take no action, and we will see you Saturday.

I await your word and meanwhile remain your devoted,

Father

---



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2010-12-17 04:01:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm looking forward to being home, actually, both to see you and Mother and also to meet with Mr Tenebridge. But maybe I could return a few days early, before term starts, so I can spend some time with Hydra and Harry before everyone else floods the castle.

**[2010-12-16 20:59:00](#)**

*the library sounds like such a nice peaceful place to revise*



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

except when a fight breaks out and then people get cruciated by the Head Girl!

Padma you must have been there, what happened? Why did people want that one book SO badly??? It's not actually true Orion Sandoval hexed Siobhan Calderwood, is it?

---

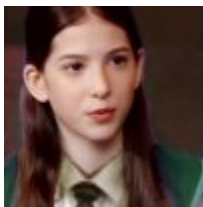


**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-17 03:14:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

No, it was the other way 'round! Actually, Cassandra Calderwood hexed Orion, when his back was turned, too, and then he defended himself and a whole load of 5th-year Slytherin girls were aiming their wands at him and then Siobhan Calderwood came over because of the commotion and she Cruciated Sandoval and Gamp and Archer, just for good measure. But not her sister!

And then it was time for the library to close anyway, but Madam Pince made a show of tossing everyone out then and there.



**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 03:24:26](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm not defending whichever one of the fifth years hexed Sandoval -- I heard it was Cassandra but I also heard it was Winnifred Gamp and I didn't actually see who did it -- but it's not like he was just standing there, he summoned the book right out of Aurelia's hands.



**[alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-17 03:26:57](#)**

*(no subject)*

He did summon it - but only because they'd had it forever and weren't sharing it through the queue. Well, you were waiting for a long time, weren't you? I don't think they planned to let anyone else have it, really.



And it was Cassandra, definitely. From where I was sitting I could see her whip out her wand and point it right at Sandoval's back. Gamp summoned the book back, though, I think.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-17 03:32:02**


*Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

Yeah, I waited a long time and never got it, either.

When I saw who had it I thought I'd probably ask Aurelia later but that's not going to work now. She's not in any shape to teach anything. And she'll be lucky if she even remembers what she read, later.

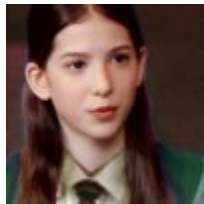
I think Siobhan was cross because Cassandra was looking it up at all, you know? Ugh.



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2010-12-17 03:34:44**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

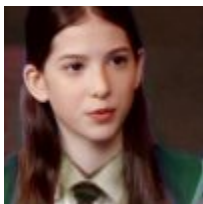
Well, for a House that's supposed to be really clever about these things, they certainly made what they were doing obvious.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-17 03:47:31**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

They weren't going to earn any points tonight for Slytherin subtlety, that's for sure.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-17 03:25:02**

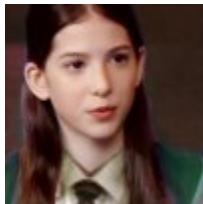
*Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

Finnigan, I'm including you on this because it's rude not to, really my question is just for Patil.

Did you get a look at the book? Because I never did. And it's not that I mind seeing Black's miserable corpse on my own account but I'm afraid the Strettons will think it's a good idea for EVERYONE to

go, including Philip and Gemma and I think it's going to give Gemma nightmares for weeks and probably Philip too.

I'm going to try again tomorrow and I'll promise to tell you the incantation and instructions if you'll promise to tell me. I mean, if either of us get our hands on it.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-17 03:25:19**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

And just between us, I completely agree Siobhan was blatantly favouring her sister. Even if Cassandra didn't throw the first hex, she was right in the thick of things.

She's crying more than Winnifred or Aurelia now, though. (Cassie is, I mean.) I think she'd have rather Siobhan cruciated her.



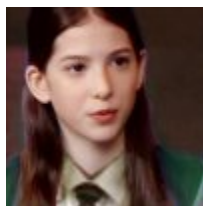
 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2010-12-17 03:33:00**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

I dunno if Siobhan could have done. I mean, Cassie's her sister. So she could have figured it wouldn't work right and she'd lose face.

Anyway. Who says I was waiting for that spell? There's also a spell in the same book that makes an enemy mute, which is what I was looking for for my Dark Arts parchment.

I think Madam Pince is probably going to have to make it so you can only have that book for a few minutes at a time, tomorrow. Ten-minute reserve or something. Because otherwise I've a feeling there'll be more hexes over it. But if she does, then it's more likely you'll get your spell.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-17 03:43:37**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

Oh, if you only want the muteness spell that's also in Dark Arts: Body, Mind and Soul. That one

even has a sidebar on the advantages and disadvantages of attacking your enemy's tongue, throat, voice, mouth, or will to speak. I suppose it's too late now unless someone in Ravenclaw has a copy.

And that's a good point about losing face if she couldn't make it work.

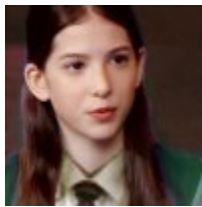
I'm thinking I might go to the library right away before breakfast tomorrow, and see if anyone's using it then.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-17 03:48:44](#)**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

I know, but it's been checked out every time I've looked for it all term. The other book is reference, so it's always there. It's just that they were all poring over it and not letting it go to anyone not in Slytherin.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-17 03:52:43](#)**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil*

Oh! There are loads of people in Slytherin who have their own copies. I think I actually borrowed it from Vince the last time I wanted to look at it. Teddy has a copy, too.

Not that this is any use to you, but I hadn't realised it was checked out all the time.

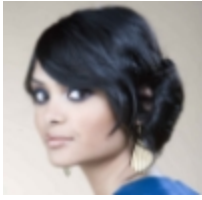



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-17 03:15:06](#)**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

And the reason everyone wanted the book was that there's a spell in it that will make someone's vision all blurry and vague, like cataracts or something. And so people wanted to learn it. Before they went home. If

you get me.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-17 03:20:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

But the Slytherin girls were passing it round and not letting it go through the queue. And Chambers was one of the ones wanting the book and not getting it. And I guess Sandoval still fancies her, even with all the trouble earlier this year. Because she came and whinged to him that the Slytherin girls were hogging the book and not sharing. And he got all exasperated and then when Madam Pince came along he just looked at Chambers and said, 'Oh, for the love of - "Accio Book"!' and the book went flying out of Cassie Calderwood's hands and into his and he handed it off to Chambers.

But then about a second later the Slytherin girls summoned it back to their table. And then Calderwood hexed Sandoval.

It could have been really funny if her sister hadn't Cruciated them all for creating a ruckus.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-17 03:35:09](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

That does sound funny, right up until the crucio part.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-17 03:51:16](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

Of course, that means that Calderwood's used the Cruciatu*s* now. And Weasley hasn't.

Though if he really *did* control his brother this afternoon.... Though. I suppose he could have cast some kind of variant of the hex we used on Weasley's birthday. Remember? The one that compelled him to reply to anyone who wrote that whole day? He could have just planted an order to apologise.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-17 03:58:45](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

Well.

What you said to Perks about Calderwood maybe not being able to crucio her sister, that kind of goes quadruple for Percy doesn't it? He's got three brothers and a sister and his brothers are some of the worst troublemakers at the school.

I don't know if he'd be able to cast cruciatus on his brothers, no matter how badly they deserved. It's probably better he doesn't try and fail. And if he casts it on anyone who ISN'T one of his brothers people might criticise him the way they're criticising Siobhan now, yeah?

And I reckon you're right about Percy hexing him today. We made him feel like he had to reply to everyone all day. Maybe Percy made him feel like he had to apologise to anyone who was cross with him. It certainly seems more likely than Ron suddenly deciding to grow a brain. I can't very well ask him, though, he went to bed hours ago. Maybe Percy also hexed him so he'd do his homework and then want to go to bed before he could get into MORE trouble.

**2010-12-16 21:52:00**

*Private message to Siobhan Calderwood*

I wonder if I might meet with you over breakfast. We should go over last minute preparations for the students leaving for holiday, and, of course, I would be interested in discussing with you the incident in the library.



 [alt\\_percy](#)

**2010-12-16 22:01:00**

*For those in the library tonight*

Ginger tea helps with the stomach upset afterward. The sore muscles don't last very long at all, just an hour or two.

And horehound lozenges are very good if you've strained your throat from screaming, I've heard. I managed to avoid that, the time it happened to me.

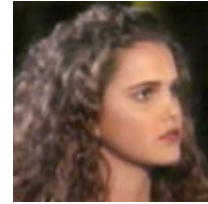


 [alt\\_luna](#)

**2010-12-16 22:04:00**

*(no subject)*

I like that! I had just found the ritual I wanted to include in my Arithmancy essay when Madam Pince told everyone we had five minutes left.



 **alt\_penelope**

And then -

Well. I'm just glad certain people aren't prefects, that's all. Though I have to say I'd have been a sight happier if Calderwood had punished the right people - the ones who were causing all the fracas. I'm sure we'll be talking about it on the train home but honestly! It's not like Calderwood's shown no restraint so far. I probably would have used it on Donovan and Whitacre long ago if I'd been her. Still. It seemed pretty clear to everyone there that her own sister had thrown the hex that started all the unpleasantness.

And with all the excitement I never got a chance to copy out that ritual! Weasley, you don't have a copy of Lunar Calendars and Solar Flair?



 **alt\_percy** at **2010-12-17 03:50:19**

*(no subject)*

I don't, but I think one of my roommates does. I saw it on his trunk earlier this week. I think he's done with it, so I can bring it to breakfast tomorrow.

I've gotten an earful from a number of people about the fracas in the library. I'm sure I'll be hearing more. I hope to talk with Siobhan tomorrow.



**2010-12-17 07:15:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*



 **alt\_lucius**

Our son has elected to return to school in advance of the Hogwarts Express - likely on the 30th - so first item this morning is to change any appointment involving him to earlier in the holiday - but after Christmas, as some of them are related to his gifts.

Should you need to move earlier engagements later, go ahead. I can think of nothing pressing that cannot wait.

I shall need the reports on yesterday's visitors' logs for Buckingham as soon as they have been copied.

Next, confirm with Anderson and Bellingham - I'd like to inspect the facility before deciding.

Next, I wonder if you might find some time in early January for Campbell, but not too soon after he returns from the honeymoon. Oh, check with Miss Poddington about the wedding gift. Cannot recall at present whether Mrs Malfoy remembered to enclose the envelope I gave her for Campbell alone. Blast. When is that bachelor party? See if it would be appropriate to include Draco and let me know.

Last, kindly make sure this afternoon's calendar is cleared from half-twelve. Suggest you use the time while alone to straighten your office; noticed yesterday that the piles are overflowing your desk.

Leaving shortly; expect me in ten minutes or so.

**2010-12-17 08:45:00**

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

Just so you know.


I told Percy that if he ever messes with me again, I'll make him wish he'd never held a wand.



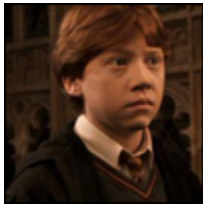
 [alt\\_ron](#)


Going to Defence now, though I don't know why. What good is it if the things you really need to defend yourself against, you can't? What a laugh that I'm turning in ten inches on shielding spells.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-17 15:00:44](#)  
(no subject)

I thought he did *something*. What was it, then?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 16:18:21](#)  
(no subject)

Some compulsion hex.

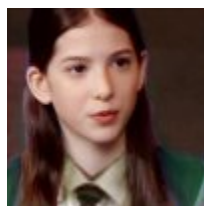
It was obvious, wasn't it?

To everyone but me, that is.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-17 16:20:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you were *under* it at the time.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 17:09:45](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, exactly. The whole point of spells like this is you don't notice (well, you noticed with the hex that made you spend all day answering everyone

who wrote anything in their journal. But even there you didn't notice right away.)



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-17 17:21:48](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

But this time's different. I mean, then it was someone who hates me that did it.

But Percy? Doing a spell like that to ~~try to keep me~~

a spell that made me do stuff I wouldn't ever?

He wanted to make me do what he wanted

they both did--Nev and him

cause they thought they knew better than I do what I should do

or who I shouldn't talk to

And, y'know, I'm not Marvolo's friend anymore, but

he'll never have real friends if the people who

if people can't say what they think to him

if people can't even get hacked off when he acts like a berk

nothing was going to happen from my answering him back

did you even see what I said?

Percy didn't wait to see

neither did Nev


they just decided for me what I could do

I mean, maybe it was worth it to me to get a detention if that's what would've happened.

Just to tell him

whatever




 **alt\_neville** at [2010-12-17 17:44:48](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't decide anything for you. I had no idea Percy was going to do...whatever he did.

And I didn't do what I did because I thought I knew better than you. Maybe Percy did, but not me.

I did it because I was scared for you. Can't you see that?

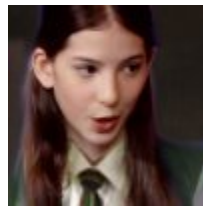


 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-17 17:55:50](#)  
(no subject)

Why were you scared, Nev?

Did you think I was going to threaten to kill him? Get myself arrested?

The most that was going to happen was I was going to get dumped on some more by Zabini and Malfoy and Patil. Or y'know, maybe they'd've decided to jump me in the corridor later like they did to Pansy and Sally Anne that time last year, but honestly? You were worried I'd say something daft in my journal to Marvolo? So you exploded feathers all over Transfiguration so I'd quit writing. And that's not thinking you know better than me what I should do?




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-12-17 18:04:24](#)  
(no subject)

You know what I really can't believe is that BOTH of you were reading and writing in your journals during CARROW'S class. For Merlin's sake. Never mind what Patil and Zabini and Malfoy were going to do to you. Remember how Carrow cruciated Wayne Hopkins that time? You're both purebloods but he hates you both, he'd might have grabbed the

opportunity to cruciate you for the pure fun of it if he'd noticed you had your journals out.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-17 18:08:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well.

He was not really paying attention yesterday. Didn't seem like he was going to notice.

'Course, I've got Muggle Studies now, and she would notice, so, yeah.




 **alt\_neville** at [2010-12-17 19:52:48](#)  
(no subject)

I...I dunno. I'm not sure if I can explain it. It wasn't like I had all the time in the world to reason it out.

Maybe it's just that I've been flinching at everything lately. Since the news came out last summer, and with what happened to Evelyn's cat. And I expect you'll say that means I did what I did because I was thinking more of me than of you, but maybe I wasn't thinking at all. I just reacted.

Anyway, I already apologised. Don't know what else I can do. Sometimes friends just muck it up even when they're trying to help, all right? Anyone who knows me expects that of me anyway.

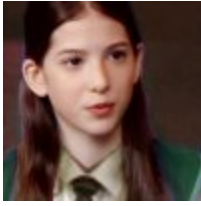


 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-17 23:25:41](#)  
(no subject)

It's all right, Nev. Really.

I shouldn't have got so hacked off at you.

It's Percy and that spell I'm angry about. I keep feeling like someone's made my hair run the wrong way. All over. Even now. Ugh.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 17:14:57](#)  
(no subject)

Did he cast Imperius on you?

Because he could get in HUGE trouble for that. Since he's the Head Boy he could have cruciated you with no consequence if he'd had the stomach for it (well, except possibly for your Mum disowning him and then skinning him alive, muggle-style with a knife, when he got home for Christmas) but students are not allowed to use Imperius. Miss Professor Carrow went over the laws on it in class. There's licensing, sort of like with Cruciatius, though honestly what it boils down to is that if you're an important pureblood you can use it if you want and if you're not, you'll get in enormous trouble if you get caught and can't come up with a really, really good excuse.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 17:29:30](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno.

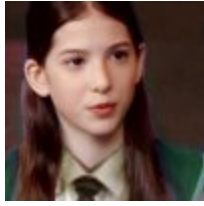
I mean, how can you tell? I didn't even hear the spell.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-17 17:50:17](#)  
(no subject)

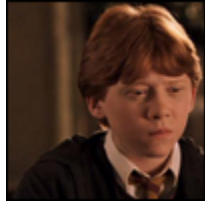
Mmm. We've been thinking about it and talking it over. We bet it was something just short of Imperious. A compulsion hex, yeah. But our Big Head Boy is a big one for rules, ain't he? And he wants nothing better than to get some important suck up job at the Ministry after he leaves school. Probably wouldn't risk jeopardising that.


That doesn't mean Mum won't still make him into mincemeat.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 17:52:56](#)  
(no subject)

Well, apparently Imperius makes you feel really good, so if you don't remember feeling really HAPPY while you were apologising to everyone for everything, it probably wasn't.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 18:00:23](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know. The thing is, it's all really fuzzy now.

Like yesterday was six years ago. I don't know if I slept last night or was just unconscious. Like blacked out.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-17 15:23:23](#)  
(no subject)

I'm real sorry, Ron.


What happened exactly, do you know?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 16:17:27](#)  
(no subject)

Like you don't know.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-17 16:21:54](#)  
(no subject)

I don't! All I know is he asked me to get you to come speak with him. And, well, I thought it would be a good idea to, um, distract you from writing in your journal right then. And I got a detention for it.


Remember?



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:22:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Neville! Are you saying you wrecked the Transfiguration classroom on purpose?!



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:24:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't wreck it! It just had feathers all over it.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:25:32](#)**  
(no subject)

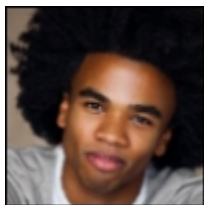
There's potential in you yet, Neville.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-17 17:01:41](#)**  
(no subject)

You know, it takes a lot more skill than most people realise to make a spell go wrong on purpose. In precisely the way required to make the biggest mess possible.

So clearly you are a LOT better at Transfiguration than you think, Neville! LOADS better. I fully expect you to at least get an 'A' on that OWL.




 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2010-12-17 17:11:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Now I'm imagining the OWL examiners all covered with feathers....






 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:28:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you so much for your 'help'.

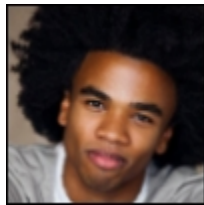
Next time wait til I ask for some, yeah?




 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:35:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not going to defend your brother. I've had spells like that put on me before and I didn't like it, not one little bit.


But it seems to me that Neville acted like a right Gryffindor. It takes a lot of nerve to deliberately cause mayhem in Master's classroom, just to try to head off a friend from getting himself into trouble by sniping with the Lord Protector's son (and I say that though I don't like him any better than you. Marvolo, I mean.)



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:36:43](#)**  
(no subject)

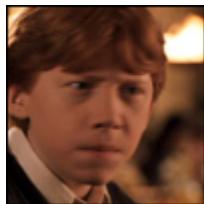
What'd Marvolo ever do to you Terry?




 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:38:08](#)**  
(no subject)

Nothing. I doubt he even knows I'm alive.

But he's HIS son. And Hermio




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:42:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Look.

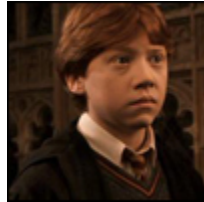
It wasn't Neville's call what I should say in my own book or who I should say it to. Anymore than it was Percy's. That's mine to decide.


Who I talk to is my decision. And who I don't.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-17 16:46:36](#)  
(no subject)

I'm really sorry, Ron.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 16:52:26](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I know.

I just--

yeah




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 16:56:35](#)  
(no subject)

And that was pretty impressive in Transfiguration.


Did you see Finnigan when it exploded? I think he wet himself!



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-17 17:00:35](#)  
(no subject)


I had too many feathers in my eyes to notice!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 17:01:38](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-17 16:50:25](#)  
(no subject)

It's a really good thing you're not a mudblood, you know, Ron?


Because I don't think you would have lived until your tenth birthday.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-17 16:51:10](#)  
(no subject)

Whoa. That's...that's a mite harsh, Professor.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-17 16:52:50](#)  
(no subject)

It's the bloody truth. If I had a friend who had saved my neck from dragonfire the way Neville saved Ron, I would have gotten down on my knees and kissed his feet. Once I'd come to my senses.

But then kissing feet---that's what mudbloods do.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-17 16:54:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, well, you're not a mudblood, remember?

Maybe we should have YOU wreck our revenge on Percy. Because he won't expect it coming from you.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-17 16:55:12](#)  
(no subject)

I'll let you and Ron worry about revenge. It's a luxury people like me can't afford.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-17 17:07:23](#)  
(no subject)

He might have. But he'd be a different person.  
Really, really, really different.

I don't think I want to think too hard about what Ron would be like if he'd had to learn to survive with someone like Carrow as his master. Or with someone like Mr Peakes as a foster father, even.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-17 16:42:03](#)  
(no subject)

Percy's a right prat, no doubt about it. Don't blame you a bit for wanting to hex him. Reckon that Dad will do worse than that.

We went and sat on him for awhile in the Common Room last night, trying to get him to admit what he did, but he's denying everything, smug as can be. And with those Dark Arts textbooks from Alecto Carrow sitting on the table next to him.


Mum's gonna make him into mincemeat filling for one of her pies.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-17 16:43:07](#)  
(no subject)

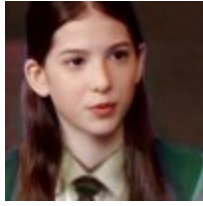
We'll be happy to try to help you come up with some appropriate revenge. Big Head Boy is getting a bit too full of himself.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-17 16:46:07](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe I'll feel like it by the time we get home.

Right now I just can't even think about having to be stuck at home with him until January.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-17 17:08:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't think of it that way.

Think about how Percy's going to be stuck at home with you. And Fred. And George. For weeks.

Where's HE got to escape to?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-17 16:44:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Thanks for that.

**2010-12-17 09:32:00**

*Private message to Hydra Lestrange*



**alt\_bellatrix**

Hydra,

It has been decided that you will, per your and Harry's suggestion, be spending a good portion of your Christmas holiday at the castle. You will leave on the Hogwarts Express tomorrow so that you can spend time with your Father and brother in New London. On Sunday evening we will all attend the Christmas Party together. On Monday morning, you will return to Hogwarts with your Uncle Rabastan, who will again bring you back home for Christmas Day, returning to the castle with you when celebrations are over. Of course, we will all be viewing the corpse on the same day that our Lord and Harry view it.

I compliment you in sacrificing the amusements and comforts of your home in favour of assisting Harry while he studies. From his letter, it seems that Harry has come to think of you as an indispensable friend and confident, which is of course key in securing a future alongside him. In truth, I had no idea that he held you in such esteem, and I was pleased to learn it.

Mind that you do not make a great show of your privileged position, or use it to earn extra gifts, sympathy, or other niceties from those who would be inclined to feel sorry for you, up there in cold Scotland instead of playing with your cousins and mates in New London. I think you know exactly who I speak of, hmm?

I will see you in a few days, child.



**alt\_hydra at 2010-12-17 16:47:27**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Mummy.

Even though I wanted very much to go home and spend time with you again, it seemed much more important to let Harry know that there's someone in

the school who he can count on.

I promise I won't use it for extra gifts.


From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-12-17 16:53:30](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. You know, Lucius extended the same offer to Draco, and to my knowledge Draco has decided he would rather be with his family than be by Harry's side. In time, you may surpass Draco as the more loyal, steadfast friend.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-17 16:56:00](#)  
(no subject)

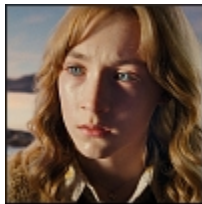
I don't know, Draco's been Harry's best friend for so long, and he's a boy, too.  
I would just be happy to be one of Harry's other close friends.  
I think he's lonely.


From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-12-17 16:58:45](#)  
(no subject)

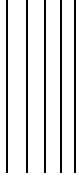
Silly child. He isn't lonely, he's preparing to one day lead at his Father's side. Do drop that nonsense about not being as good as a boy - girls can be just as good as, and even better than, boys.  
Must you always set your sights and aspirations so low?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-17 16:59:31](#)  
(no subject)

Well.  
I will set them higher, now.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2010-12-17 16:59:55](#)  
(no subject)

We shall see, hmm?



**2010-12-17 10:01:00**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Harry!

Mummy says that I can stay at the castle with you!  
I have to go home on the train and stay until Aunt  
Narcissa's party, but then Uncle Raz will bring me  
back to school with him on Monday.

And then I have to go home for Christmas, too, but  
I'll be coming straight back afterward.

I don't know what you wrote to Mummy but it really worked, she was  
even proud of me!

I told her that it would be hard to give up spending time with her in  
New London, but that I would somehow manage it, heh!

We'll have such a jolly time, I just know it.

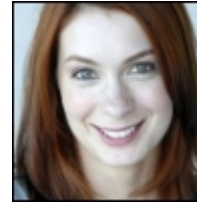
From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

**2010-12-17 11:12:00**

*ORDER ONLY*



 [alt\\_alice](#)

Frank and I wanted to make a special announcement in time for the holidays. And for Sirius's birthday, too, of course! I meant to put this down yesterday, but we've been so busy with planning I just didn't have the time, so it's a bit belated. I sent along a little something for you a few days ago, though, I hope it arrived when it ought to have!

We usually have the Players over this time of year, and of course, we are expecting a repeat visit! And Remus and Tonks, of course, always have a place set for them during the holidays. But this year, I thought it might be nice to have everybody together because for the first time in a long time, we're all in the country, so we're planning a holiday party for the 23rd.

Now Sirius, love, I know you are most adamant about not going to Moddey Dhoo, and so we've scouted out an alternative location that would make it so you could come and see all of us, and get your Christmas cheer, and keep our Moddey safe. So there will be Portkeys sent out, and we've been working on the security now that Frank is back to lend a wand to make sure everything will be absolutely safe.

I really very much would like everyone that's able to stop by - Molly, Arthur, and Bill, I know you have family obligations, but we'd love to see you, even if it's only for an hour or two. And Poppy, Minerva, and Pomona would also be much-appreciated additions as well. I know it may not be entirely possible, but I would also dearly love it if our Hermione could come along too, and it would make my heart so glad to see her.

I've invited John and Lucinda, and Victor and Arabella will be there too, and Jacinda will get a chance to see her Benjy, and Stephen is looking forward to seeing you especially, Poppy. Laura, Danny, and Judith have kindly volunteered to keep watch over the children while we're away (and we'll be popping in and out to check on things, of course!). There will be a spread, and punch, and some music, and any gifts people want to exchange.

What time would suit everyone best? I thought we might start at six o'clock, so as to give some of you time to get back early enough in the evening to not raise too much suspicion, and the rest of us can linger

as late as we wish. And Kinglsey, dear, I hope the Players will be staying for more than just the evening, as we are prepared to have you over Christmas proper and a week after that at the very least!

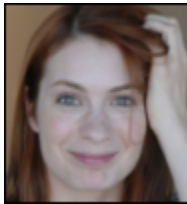
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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-17 19:31:42](#)  
(no subject)

I did get them, thanks. (And just because I asked about him doesn't mean I've gone all soppy, you know. But thanks.) Thirty-five. Morgana, I'm old.

As for Christmas - well, pre-Christmas ... I hardly know what to say. Yes, of course I'll come. Don't worry about Christmas proper, love. It's just a day. I haven't heard quite what the plans are for Harry; I'll shadow along to wherever he goes. Poppy left me some rather thoughtful ginger biscuits and tea, so I'll be able to Apparate a little more easily. Which is good, because even as Padfoot, it's a long way to London in this weather!



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-17 22:29:51](#)  
(no subject)


Well, you didn't think you could get through Christmas without seeing me, did you?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-17 20:53:56](#)  
(no subject)


Sounds perfect, Alice. We'll be there. Thank you.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-17 22:26:37](#)  
(no subject)


Wonderful! I look very much forward to seeing you both.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-17 23:19:38](#)**  
(no subject)


Pomona and I will certainly come. We're looking forward to seeing you all!



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-18 03:29:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Looking forward to seeing you, Poppy, and Pomona too. I know Minerva must be careful, but I very much hope she can come as well.

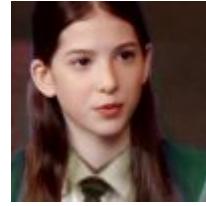


 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2010-12-18 20:57:10](#)**  
(no subject)

What a wonderful idea! And actually, the 23rd will work very well for us. There's a meeting for exchanges of the barter network that late afternoon, and I can simply fib a bit to the children about the hours we'll be meeting for that. Arthur and I will definitely come. Thank you!

**2010-12-17 15:17:00**

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




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

So, with Ron asleep so early and Neville in detention I'm not sure whether you heard about all the excitement last night in the library. But, there's a book in the library that has a spell that blurs someone's vision. It's actually a hex and the idea is you cast it on someone else, but it's painless and you CAN cast it on yourself, and there's a counterjinx you can use afterward to fix it. I never got the book last night (Patil wasn't completely wrong about Cassie and that lot hogging it) but I got up early this morning and went round the library when Madam Pince was JUST opening it and got a chance to look at it.

It's got a really odd wand movement, I think it would be easier to show than explain. So anyone who's likely to be taken to visit Sirius's corpse over holidays who wants to know it, let me know and we can meet.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-12-17 22:27:12**  
(no subject)

Blurs someone's vision?

I might want to know it just for that. I can definitely think of someone to hex with it. At the right sort of moment.

I kind of doubt Mum and Dad are planning to take us to New London at all, but I guess you never know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-12-18 01:10:49**  
(no subject)

We should have taught it to the firsties at study group yesterday.

Would have done, only the older students were all hogging the book.

Maybe we can tell one or two of them how to do it and they can pass it along to their housemates on the train?

**2010-12-17 17:46:00**

*Parkinson, Perks, Brocklehurst, & Bultstrode*



So, I have a notion! All of us have been declared 'strange' or at least potentially 'strange' by a certain list we've all heard about.

 [alt\\_susan](#)


And, I'm sure we could all stand a break from packing--I certainly could!

Therefore, I propose a Tea-Time of the Strange--us, some biccies, and a particularly odd room in the castle. Maybe that one by the Charms corridor that has that big stuffed Abraxan in a case?

Nobody has to come who doesn't want to, but I think it would be a bit of a lark. After all, I'm sure loads of people thought Magenta Comstock was strange when she was at school, and look how famous her art is now!


Who's in?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2010-12-17 23:56:01**  
(no subject)

Hah. That's really an excellent plan, Bones. Could we all wear funny hats? I'm wearing a funny hat. And a monocle.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2010-12-18 00:02:28**  
(no subject)

Funny hats are encouraged. Monocles too, for that matter!


I think I'll bring Valkyrie down from the Owlery.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-18 00:46:42](#)  
(no subject)

Pye can come too!



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-18 02:01:59](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure they'll get on famously.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-18 01:02:45](#)  
(no subject)

I'll be there.


I even have a funny hat. I learned to knit this autumn and my first hat attempt came out seriously funny.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-18 01:04:10](#)  
(no subject)

Ooh, I remember that one, it's *perfect*.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2010-12-18 02:01:16](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers! See you there (hat and all!)




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2010-12-18 02:28:40](#)  
(no subject)

What a grand idea, Bones. It's refreshing to see someone having a sense of humour about the whole thing.






 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-12-18 16:34:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I try!


It's more fun that way, and there are quite enough  
dramatics going on around this castle as it is.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-19 00:22:01](#)**  
(no subject)

That was loads of fun, Bones. Maybe we can have  
another Tea of the Strange when we get back from  
hols? I'm so glad Milli came along.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2010-12-20 01:50:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, we should do. Maybe we could think up a  
suitably strange name for them, too?

Oh, and Perks, thanks for sharing!

**2010-12-17 19:20:00**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*



 **alt\_padma**

There's something I've been wanting to tell you. But I had to get permission from Lav and Parvati and Belinda and Su before I did. And I was going to tell you in person on the train tomorrow, but Page asked if I'd sit with him and I said I would - most of the way, anyway.

But - well, you may have already figured this out, but we all worked on that quiz. It wasn't finished yet. It fell out of Dunstan's bag and she didn't notice. I was going to tell you about it before we shared it round, see, and we were only going to share it with people who would have found it amusing. I mean, at least parts of it.

And it was Page's idea to put you in the girls' blouse box. He said you and Hooper would think it was funny, I dunno why. Anyway. And that's why the other one - we were putting some things in to try to keep people from knowing who wrote it, right, and like I said we weren't done. But I would have told you ahead of time.

Anyway. It didn't go over as well as it was supposed to do - because it wasn't done right, mostly - but it didn't feel right not telling you the truth. Especially since, we talked about it last night, me and Lav and Parvati and we want to see if the six of us can meet up in New London or somewhere over the hols.

Parvati and I are going to stay with Lav for a few days after Christmas, and we thought that'd be a good time to get out and away ~~from Loony~~ and because her parents aren't as strict as ours about going out, you know. And that way I could give you and Page your Christmas presents (which I haven't got yet but I will once we're home). What do you think? Are you and Hooper up for it? Would Mr Rosier let you go? I think we could really reasonably split off this time, not like in Hogsmeade, if you liked, because no one will know any different.

Well, let me know. That is, if you're not going to tell me to get stuffed because of the other thing.

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 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-18 02:35:00](#)  
(no subject)

That was Page's idea? Hm.

Well, I'm not going to tell you to get stuffed, mostly it WAS funny, and it makes sense you weren't done with it when it fell out of Dunstan's bag.

I'm sure Mr Rosier would let me meet you lot in New London, no problem. Also, he said I could invite my friends round for a little get together some afternoon during hols, probably not until after Christmas though. Do you think your parents would let you come over?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-18 02:41:08](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I'm sure they wouldn't mind if it's mates, and it's at Mr Rosier's house!

I'm so relieved you thought it was more funny than not funny. That was really the idea. It's difficult to be completely funny, though, have you noticed? I mean, intentionally.

By the way, have you seen that lot all starting a new club? They should call themselves the Strangers, ha!




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-18 02:37:32](#)  
(no subject)

Also...

Since we're talking about Page.

There's been something I've been wanting to tell you, too, mostly because I think I'd want to know if it was me. Hooper and Page aren't exactly mates but they do talk a bit, and Hooper talks to me, so I know a bit about how Page is thinking and I was wondering if you want to hear it or if I should keep my gob shut?




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-18 02:42:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Hm. I dunno. Is it something good? I told him he doesn't have to get me a Christmas present as we don't celebrate, but he said if I'm getting him something he'd get me something, you know?


It's not what he's getting me, is it?



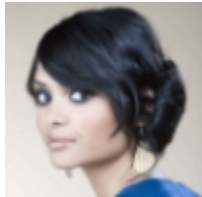
 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-18 02:52:41](#)**  
(no subject)


No, I have no idea what he's getting you for Christmas.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-18 03:03:49](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-18 03:04:23](#)**  
(no subject)


Is it anything about what he wants for Christmas?



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-18 03:10:28](#)**  
(no subject)

No.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-18 03:12:46](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh, dear.


Well, let's have it then. Is it really awful?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-18 04:26:53](#)  
(no subject)


Well it's not AWFUL awful. It's just, Page is worried you don't much like him. Because you don't seem to like kissing him? I don't want you to think he shared a lot of details with Hooper, or anything. He's wondering if you don't want to date him, or if maybe the two of you should try again in a year or two.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-18 04:31:38](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2010-12-18 04:29:03](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway I thought you should know.

It's not that he wants to convince you to do anything you don't want to do, that's why he's wondering if maybe you're just too young it would be better to date in another year or two.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-18 04:32:08](#)  
(no subject)

Um.

Yeah.

||||| Cheers.

**2010-12-17 21:59:00**

*Private Message to Orion Sandoval*

I hope you are feeling much better tonight, Orion. I'm seriously appalled that Siobhan lacked sufficient discretion to discern where her curse was merited and where it should have been withheld.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

It makes me wonder whether you've made a target of yourself for people's disapproval. I hope you will give this some serious thought; there's plenty of time to correct the situation if that should be the case, but it will require concerted action on your part.

I will be happy to help you think through the matter once you're home.

Oh. And I think if I were you, I would give some thought (if you've not already) to what you will say to Mama and Papa when they ask you for an explanation of the events that passed early in the term. I believe they will each speak with you separately, and I'm not certain which interview will be most difficult. I suspect that's different for you than it is for me, having to face them over something that's displeased them. But the thing you should know is that Papa has been brooding today, and I could be wrong, but I've rather imagined that he's been anticipating what he'll have to say to you once you are home.

I thought you should know. So you can be prepared for it all.

I am looking forward to seeing you. Tomorrow!

**2010-12-17 22:13:00**

*Private Message to Isobel Sandoval*

Thank you, Mama. I can't tell you how much it means to me--how much good it may do me--much more than another of those things could really mean to Honoria.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

And I'm certain she will find it at least as wonderful a gift to have new robes.

Te quiero, Mama.



**2010-12-18 10:07:00**

*Private Message to Maebh Drumgoole*

Received your note. If the roses conveyed their message, they were well worth the effort. Pleased you've enjoyed them.



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

Are you really coming in this afternoon, then?

I'll clear the calendar if you'll agree to dine with me. (There was nothing important, in any case.)

There's a place I've been meaning to try--Monteith. It's one of the little places tucked up into the old Liberty's building: live-apparated salmon and strictly fresh accompaniments. I'll arrange a table for half-eight.

What time may I arrive for you at the Horse Guards?

**2010-12-18 10:34:00**

*Private Message to Mordant Travers*

Need to reschedule the afternoon.

Could we make it noon instead of four? Same place.



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

**2010-12-18 10:38:00**

*Private Message to Nigella Flummock*

Nigella.

I'm afraid tonight is not going to be possible after all. I regret missing your broadcast; I'm certain your peppered monkfish demonstration would have been most instructive. And, of course, I regret that I will not be able to attend your dinner following the show.



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

Perhaps we could reschedule when the show resumes in the new year?

Sincerest apologies.

**[2010-12-19 11:25:00](#)**

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*




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

Lucius, I know you only just got settled back at home with Draco but I just don't know what else to do, because I got into a row with mum, and it's all just so *frustrating* because she won't give me any money at all for Christmas shopping. Sally-Anne and me were going to go to New London this morning before the party, because I hadn't gotten any pocket money for Hogsmeade even though I'd reminded her about it so I haven't gotten *anything* yet, so when I told her we were going to go shopping today, and could I have some spending money, she said no, and told me that I was going to get plenty of her money soon enough and she was terribly busy with the wedding and I was being a brat, and it's so *embarrassing* to not be able to send any presents at all to anybody, and I just don't know what to do.

Sally-Anne says I ought to see if I can extend a line of credit at one of the shops, but I don't know if they would do that for me without some sort of note from Mr Baddock, and I don't want to bother him on the holidays any more than I already will, or which shops even *have* that as an option, and I suppose I can just wait until after the wedding when she signs the papers, but I just can't *imagine* that she's pulling this right now especially since I've got Sally-Anne here as my *guest* and I just can't reason with mum at all and Prospero isn't here either so I can't ask him to talk to her or give me any of *his* money and

I thought you'd know what to do.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2010-12-19 16:35:41](#)**  
(no subject)

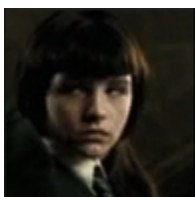
First of all, Pansy, kindly calm yourself.


We can discuss it when you arrive this afternoon.

Recall that Mr Baddock will also be present and that if a line of credit becomes necessary, nothing could be done before Gringott's opens to-morrow in any event.

I am not insensitive, Little Bit, but our guests are already arriving. We'll talk when you're here.

You do plan to attend? Or has your mother prohibited that for the time being as well?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-19 16:42:40](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

I'm sorry.

Yes, I'm going to the party. As soon as she said the bit about my being a brat I backed off because there just wasn't any point in making her angrier. We'll be there around two, at least that's what we discussed yesterday.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-20 00:01:14](#)  
(no subject)

I just wanted to let you know that the party was absolutely lovely. The ice-skating was quite a lot of fun, and Sally-Anne really enjoyed herself, as did I. And it was very kind of Mr Baddock to come over and talk to me during the party, and he had good advice. I'll be sure to send him a note thanking him.

And thank you for talking with mum. I hate that I had to bring you my own problems on a day that's already stressful and busy to begin with, and I really do appreciate that you spent time listening to me and helping me.

Your Little Bit.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2010-12-20 00:08:52](#)  
(no subject)

It would never do for any guest to be upset at our party, would it?

I rather wish you had informed me sooner but I do understand your reluctance to do so. I thought, when last we spoke of it, that your mother had decided to behave in a manner more commensurate with her years. However, as is so often the case, she chooses to conduct herself as more child than parent.

I've told her to come see me to-morrow to settle the matter more fully. You may be forced to complete the whole of your list after the wedding but you'll get the necessary funds.

You must tell me, however, if she is at all improper with you now that you've returned.

**2010-12-19 14:55:00**

*Private Message to Rosalind Parkinson*



 **alt\_lucius**

Rosa,

I should like to know what game you think you are playing. I have just had several minutes' conversation with your daughter - she *is*, I believe, still your daughter - in which she imparted to me certain particulars concerning your attitude regarding her inheritance.

I cannot countenance why you should choose this time of year to grow obstinate. And why you should create such a commotion on the day we are expecting several hundred guests is quite beyond me. It is not to be borne.

One surmises that this childish behaviour and disregard for your own future is not what Campbell envisioned when he extended his offer. Nonetheless, you were acquainted with the consequences of remarriage when you first set your cap for him; if you have come to regret your course, then you have within your hands the means to remedy the situation. However, if you are, as I suspect, committed to your relationship, then you must also accept the transfer of the Parkinson estate as set forth by your late husband's will for the protection and welfare of his only heir.

This peevishness is most unseemly - not to mention damaging to Pansy's well-being and continued health. Having only just learned the extent of your extortionist tactics, I am surprised her condition has not flared in response. As it is, she has been reduced to sobs of frustration in my office - not at all the sort of turn one would imagine for a holiday party.

I have not the time nor the inclination to converse further on the subject at present. I shall expect you to-morrow morning at half-nine to explain yourself and to make provision for Pansy to allow her to complete her shopping.

I hope I need not remind you of the repercussions should you fail to comply.

L.S. Malfoy

**2010-12-19 14:57:00**

*Private Message to Horatio Hooper*

Add in twenty minutes at half-nine to-morrow for Rosalind Parkinson.

Find out her schedule as well and make sure that any appointment she may have at that time has been cleared.



 **alt\_lucius**



**2010-12-20 12:06:00**

*Order Only: Visit to Fareham*



 **alt\_arthur**


I stopped by the new maternity ward in the Fareham camp in Hampshire. This is one of Norma Brownmiller's pet projects; she is trying to demonstrate that the maternal death rate can be lowered with better training of the midwives, proper sterilisation procedures, etcetera. She even browbeat the camp administrator to set aside a portion of the infirmary at this camp specifically for new mothers, particularly with children born with low birthrates.

The results are highly encouraging. The midwives at this camp are absolutely fearless, agitating for proper beds, longer recovery times for mothers, and so forth. They are also training several new assistants--despite Griderson's stance that such coddling of the animals is useless. The birthrate is up and yet the number of deaths has definitely declined, which makes the camp administration look good, so they are embracing the implemented changes.

I lingered for an hour or two chatting with some of the new mothers. Of course, since I'm a Ministry representative, they are wary, but I find that a heartfelt compliment about the new offspring can thaw out the most hesitant. Their lives are hard and I so wish we could do more, no question about it, but there is something so intrinsically hopeful about the sight of a mother, even the most careworn, cradling a new babe. I even held one of the young mites myself myself for a few minutes and found myself wishing--oh, all manner of things. That she could grow up in a different world than the one we have right now. We are working toward it, I know. It can't come soon enough for me.

You are right, Molly. Babies are innately cheering.



 **alt\_molly** at **2010-12-20 18:43:03**  
(no subject)

Nothing cheers me up like holding a baby. It seems only yesterday since I was holding my own, and it's hard to believe it sometimes when I look at Bill and Charlie towering over me.

**2010-12-20 15:42:00**

*XLII.*

Thanks to all who came together today as new and continuing members of the St Mungo's Junior Auxiliary. It was heartening to see how many loyal and enthusiastic young citizens of Our Lord's realm are moved to charity and service for the good of the Protectorate.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Mama and the rest of the Board will be so pleased to see how beautifully you've transformed the hall for tonight's Auction. Well done, all!

I look forward to seeing each of you there--and bidding against you for all the best items!

**2010-12-20 18:20:00**

*Private Message to Maebh Drumgoole*

Maebh.

I'm sorry. It's not going to be a matter of an hour, or even two, here. I will certainly not make it back to the auction. (You shouldn't feel any obligation to pay court to Mother. She'll cling if you allow it, but there's no need--especially with Father there tonight.)

I wish I could tell you more, and I'm unlikely to be able to update you once I leave the Ministry.

Do you really have to be back in Wales first thing tomorrow?



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

**2010-12-20 18:22:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Dearest,

Unable to accompany you tonight. Perhaps Draco would like to stand in for his father so that you don't need to face the St Mungo's Auxiliary alone.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

I trust you shan't overbid on anything, despite the validity of the cause. But do, if you feel it warranted, find yourself something to make up for my absence.

I anticipate being home late. Don't feel you need wait up for me; it may be very late indeed.

**2010-12-20 20:21:00**

*(no subject)*

Bad luck, Dominic.


Perhaps you could convince the young lady to offer a private sale.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)



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 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at **2010-12-21 01:34:17**

*(no subject)*

At least my ill luck came early in the evening; I need to get back to the office. Hopefully Arista (not to mention Chloe) will forgive me by next December.

**2010-12-20 23:33:00**

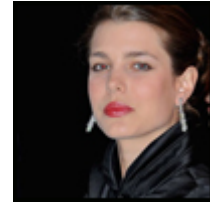
*Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*

Sir, I have done a further bit of checking, and I believe I've found just the item you wished to obtain.

It was very gallant of you to cede the auction tonight to the other party. Clearly, she wanted that little dragon very badly.

In any case, I wanted you to know that you can leave off searching. I'll bring it by your office tomorrow morning.

All the best,  
Lana Sandoval



 [alt\\_lana](#)

**2010-12-21 08:17:00**

*Order Only: Emergency Floo call in the middle of the night*



 **alt\_arthur**

Something's happening at Taunton Deane. I was roused out of bed at 3:00 a.m. by Griderson, telling me to get into the office as soon as I can. He wanted to know anything I could tell him about the security arrangements of the camp, given that I had just visited it recently. Details are sketchy, but it appears there was a disturbance timed to coincide with the performance of a Christmas programme. Griderson is being tight-lipped, but I think some administrators are being held hostage. I wonder if one of them is Charles Chicory.

Bill, get me any information you can glean.



 **alt\_sirius** at **2010-12-21 16:02:27**

*(no subject)*

Have you heard anything more? Were any of Davidson's people involved?




 **alt\_bill** at **2010-12-21 16:38:15**

*(no subject)*

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, Dad. There's a lot of activity at MLE headquarters this morning, along with a great deal of confusion. I do know the Regional Administrator was at the concert and is one of the hostages. What they want isn't clear yet--they aren't bothering to negotiate with anyone outside. I heard one rumour that the gates were opened shortly after the alarm went up--not security forces going in, but someone, or several someones going out. So maybe they were taking one or more hostages somewhere else? No idea yet, although enforcers are combing the countryside. Otherwise, it looks as though we might be in for a siege.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-21 16:42:26](#)**  
(no subject)

One extremely odd thing: someone in my network has been ordered to prepare a report on an urgent basis, to pass up to line to the MLE on--get this--the wizarding antecedents of J.S. Bach.

???

I have absolutely no idea what that is about.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2010-12-21 16:56:38](#)**  
(no subject)

All right. I'm getting the news with a bit of a lag, but there's another report now. It was a group that had the Regional Director in tow. They've been apprehended and the man has been rescued, albeit badly hexed.


They were heading to the regional warehouse of the Sleepers. Apparently they tried to Imperius him to get him to awaken them, but he couldn't. Didn't have the power to do so.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-21 16:56:56](#)**  
(no subject)

The MLE has broken through the resistance at Taunton Deane and regained control of the hostages. A few were hexed, but all of the hostages lived. Can't say the same for the attackers. At least seventeen dead, but there's word of a few prisoners.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-21 16:59:25](#)**  
(no subject)

That's extremely peculiar.






 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-21 17:02:25](#)  
(no subject)


I'll say. J.S. Bach wasn't a wizard at all, was he?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-21 17:03:06](#)  
(no subject)


No, but you know how the Ministry likes to rewrite history to claim the most important as one of our own, Mum.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2010-12-21 17:03:42](#)  
(no subject)

But why now? I would think the MLE would certainly have other things on their minds today.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-21 17:04:02](#)  
(no subject)

Good question.



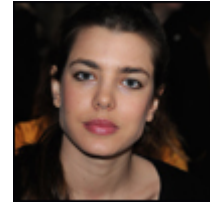
 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2010-12-21 16:54:21](#)  
(no subject)

I've sent Davidson a patronus and heard back from him. He had nothing to do with this and is just as surprised as us.

**2010-12-21 11:02:00**

*Private Message to Director Selwyn*


Sir, I'm so sorry I wasn't able to come in this morning as I led you to expect.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

I do have the item we discussed, and I will bring it to you as soon as I am able. I know you will have heard of this morning's unexpected business, and I am merely on a break from my duties here, but I did want to let you know that I've not forgotten.




 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at **2010-12-21 20:15:11**  
(no subject)

Miss Sandoval, I've been so swamped this morning myself (related to the same unexpected business, no doubt) that I only just now even had the opportunity to take a look at my journal, so don't concern yourself.

You are a lifesaver, and I look forward to seeing you whenever you have time to come by.



 [alt\\_lana](#) at **2010-12-22 15:39:57**  
(no subject)


One Hungarian Horntail Sing-Ami at your disposal, Sir.

I've left it in your assistant's care, caged and wrapped, but you should know that it does rather give itself away every now and then by roaring and rocking its parcel as if it might erupt through the bars and ribbons.

That sounds far more menacing than is really the case: the thing itself is as darling as a Horntail can be. It thumps its tail cheerfully when it sees someone looking its way, and it has an endearingly wicked curl to its lip just before it begins singing the Protector's anthem.

I hope it makes Arista very happy when she opens it.



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#)** at **[2010-12-22 18:03:01](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Miss Sandoval, you are a miracle worker! I am eternally grateful.

**[2010-12-22 16:29:00](#)**

*Holiday moments*

The timing this year feels quite odd to me - it feels like it's been years since I've had this much time between classes ending and going off to my family for a few days for Christmas. I've made good use of it this year, though - wrapped up the last of my shopping in the last two days, along with a number of other tasks in New London.



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

(Mrs Malfoy - thank you again for making the time in what I know is an incredibly busy week for you. As always, please let me know if there's any additional information that would be helpful to you.)

I've distributed several of the presents for folks here, and wrapped most of the ones that are coming back for the family celebrations. (Pomona - I haven't managed to catch you anywhere today, it seems! If I don't find you tonight, I'll leave it by your door. It doesn't need tending.)

And for today and tomorrow, I've got evening plans with a telescope, no need to reset it for classes, and a number of things I'm looking forward to checking out. (One of my finds in New London was an older title comparing the varying ways to measure and predict various astronomical events. While I'm quite familiar with most of the methods, there are a couple of variations discussed (some Mesopotamian, some Greek) that I've not seen put that way before, and I'm looking forward to testing them out.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2010-12-22 22:39:31](#)**

*Private message to Arca Sinistra*

Mum -

Thanks again for the advice, and the etiquette book. It all went quite as well as one could hope, and we mostly focused on the business of the conversation, which is much easier for me.

I did manage to find several shops that still had some decent citrus fruits, though I fear they're rather a mix: some oranges, some clementines. Also some excellent mixed nuts. I found some rather clever little charmed bookmarks that drape themselves into your

books. (They were quite cheap: the maker's discovered an even more effective combination of materials, so was clearing out old stock.) And, of course, a few things for you and Dad.

I plan on apparating in Friday morning, probably around 11. If that's not good, just let me know when.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2010-12-22 22:47:45**

*Private message for Rabastan Lestrangle*

Raz -

I'm back from New London. Much thanks for the confidence, and everything did go smoothly. (And, of course, I had pleasant things to say about Draco, though I am quite certain I am not his favorite subject.) I think I struck the right note on the clothing: certainly, as you said, Mrs Malfoy would be unlike to be so rude as to comment, but I did manage to find some nice things shopping on Monday, which does help.

I'm sure you're busy yourself with final plans, but if you do want a drink before we head off to various other engagements, I'm here through Friday morning. (And back Sunday afternoon, or maybe Monday.) I did leave a small package for you by your door: I hope it'll give you much enjoyable exploration in the coming months.

Cheers!  
Rory



 **alt\_rabastan** at **2010-12-23 03:15:39**

*Re: Private message for Rabastan Lestrangle*

I'm less busy than you might think, and I'd fancy that drink, definitely. Think I'll wait to open this package until I can give you the one I got for you, if you don't mind?

Glad to hear that everything went well with Narcissa, too.




 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2010-12-23 05:35:39**

*Re: Private message for Rabastan Lestrangle*

Tomorrow afternoon, then? (By which I mean Thursday, of course.) Name your time - I just need to be back by 9pm or so for the night's observing.

Assuming, of course, it clears up enough. I just gave up for tonight, as I really don't think it's going to improve enough to make standing out in the wind worthwhile.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#) at 2010-12-23 14:33:20**

*Re: Private message for Rabastan Lestrangle*

How does four o'clock sound? I'm going to be showing Harry and Hydra a few duelling tricks in my classroom today, but we should be done by three or so.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2010-12-23 15:10:10**

*Re: Private message for Rabastan Lestrangle*

Four o'clock would be lovely. I'll look forward to it. Meet you in the usual place.

That sounds like a pleasant afternoon, as well.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-12-22 23:19:56**

*(no subject)*

It was lovely to see you, Professor. Your insight is most appreciated. I'm sure Aleta will be more than happy to take your comments and suggestions into account as we plan for the spring sessions.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2010-12-22 23:22:02**

*(no subject)*

Just wanted to say again how much I look forward to working my way through the book you've given me. I have long known that my botanical notes would be ever so much more useful if I could only improve the

accuracy of my drawings. I hope to put the sketch book and pencils to good use.

You are a perceptive friend to have thought of this gift. Thank you.

I trust you will have a lovely time with your family. Come for tea when you're back and tell me stories of your yule festivities.




 **alt\_sinistra** at **2010-12-22 23:31:38**  
(no subject)

I'm so glad you enjoy it! (And please don't take it as a comment on your current skill: I love looking at the drawings you've done in the past, but I know from my own experience with charts how frustrating it can be to want to do something I don't know how to do properly. I loved that book as much for the artwork as the advice, too.)


I would very much enjoy a good lengthy tea and chat next week: Monday perhaps? If not, name your day.



 **alt\_poppy** at **2010-12-23 02:49:12**  
(no subject)

Monday would be lovely.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2010-12-23 15:10:48**  
(no subject)

I'll look forward to it, and make sure I have good stories to tell you, as well.

**2010-12-22 18:20:00**

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.*

Lucius, Draco and I are preparing to attend Athena's final concert. Lucius said that we mustn't cancel, that MLE had managed to arrive at a compromise with Maestro Gilhooly and the rest of the performers to substitute another number lest the Bach be used as a signal for another unwelcome event such as Monday's.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Ought we to give Athena any particular message from you, separate from MLE's official word?

I do hope you'll be bringing Maebh round again, dear. She was delightful. Not that I regret our seaside holiday, but I do feel a wince of guilt that I rejected her preserve out of hand. Next time, I shall not waste energy in searching high and low for a suitable location. Besides by next year the boys will be more than old enough to truly get the full measure of benefit from her property.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2010-12-22 23:30:56**  
(no subject)

I rather doubt Athena will be in any mood for a message from me.

But do, if you are able, assure her this imposition was not my design. Not some plan to undermine her national broadcast.

I'll speak to her myself tomorrow if she'll allow it.

I suppose you could remind her that I thoroughly enjoyed the programme last week. Or not. She seemed less than pleased about my being there.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2010-12-22 23:37:58**  
(no subject)

I don't think she could doubt that there was more at stake than her cantata. Don't worry, though - it seems to me that you've no need to be looking backward.



I hope we enjoy it half so much, with or without the offending piece. I suspect Lucius may be asleep in our box before the first interval, given the hours he's had lately. Between the all-night session at the camp, returning to the Ministry for the interrogations, reporting to Our Lord - he has barely been able to enjoy any of our social engagements this week.

At least all the wands were recovered. I can only imagine the effrontery! I was at St Mungo's, you'll recall, when they brought in the curse victims.



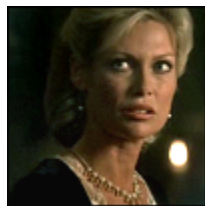
 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-23 00:02:52](#)  
(no subject)


That's very true. On both counts.

I must say I'm glad to have attended last week. Tonight I would no doubt compound Athena's ill opinion by falling asleep myself. It's been a long week already.

I guarantee that effrontery will be robustly punished. Has already been in many cases, as Lucius could attest. It's outrageous that any of us should need to learn all over again what such filth are capable of. St Mungo's will have their work cut out for them to restore the damage of their corrupted curses, though it might be well to leave the camp's idiot administrator to heal himself if he's able. Perhaps then he'd remember why vigilance must never be relaxed.

I've tuned in to the WWN and plan to listen as I finish a last batch of parchmentwork. Perhaps I'll catch your voice amongst the calls of 'Encore!' at the end.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-23 03:09:25](#)  
(no subject)

Why, Barty. Music? While you work? You must be feeling guilty indeed. That or you're simply waiting for something else to go wrong?

But so far, so good. Second interval, as you must know if you're still listening. And I think if our Athena is still perturbed by the upset to the programme, she is pouring that passion into her


performance. To be honest, I've always found Cantata 140 at its best when instrumental - but now, of course, Lucius tells me it's likely to be placed on a ban list. At least for a while.

He has told me the tiniest bit in addition to what I've already seen at St Mungo's and heard through the talk at Rosa's wedding last night, and of course here tonight. But you are both always most conscientious not to say anything beyond what the public may know, so I only have the rumours and the few reports to guide my understanding of the full story.

But I know that Lorimer was called out to the scene, so I can only guess that you all thought you had found your quarry at last. And I know that Lonsdale was asked to see several of the victims when they came in - though no one is quite saying who was injured by the rabble, who was caught when you broke through the resistance to retake the camp, and who sustained damage later still. Though I have my theories, of course.

They're dimming the lights. I really ought to have sent Lucius home but he insists it wouldn't look well and refuses to go quite yet, even though Draco is here to see me home. I understand there's a lot of brass in the final selections, so I don't know if he'll manage quite the catnap he thinks he'll get!



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-23 03:16:37](#)  
(no subject)

Enjoy.

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

*Private Message to Penelope Clearwater*

I am hoping that you can still get together with me tomorrow at Diagon Alley as we planned. I've only been home a few days but I desperately need to escape from the Burrow, if only for a few hours. Won't bore you with my complaints, but trust me when I say that Ronald and the twins are being their usual selves. Hot chocolates at Fortescue's at 10:00 am, and then perhaps we can amble through the shops for a bit. And I have a wrapped package for you to take home with you.




 [alt\\_percy](#)

Looking forward to tomorrow.

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 [alt\\_penelope](#) at **2010-12-23 04:13:16**  
(no subject)

Oh, cheers, yes! I'm sure I can break away and I could certainly use some time off as well.

I've a little something for you, too. I'll bring it along, shall I?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2010-12-23 04:42:43**  
(no subject)

That will be fine. See you then!

**2010-12-23 10:42:00**

*Order Only*

I've a few small pieces of information about what happened at Taunton Deane. My regular post-term consultation with St Mungo's was yesterday morning. Amongst other things, I had a host of questions I wished to direct to one of their experts about the results of sustained exposure to Dementors, but I was told that would be impossible. Both Lonsdale, the one I'd hoped to question, and Lorimer, whose specialty is the long-term care of those who've been Dementor-kissed, had been sent for by MLE. As, I was told, had a whole team of curse damage specialists.



 [alt\\_poppy](#)

When I expressed the sort of vague concern this news demanded--the sort one hopes will provoke further comment--one of them shared that the severity of the curse injuries on both sides was notable. And, he said, amongst those who'd been admitted there were several Cruciatus victims who are unlikely ever to recover.

You know they've not admitted any of the injured Muggleborns at St Mungo's--they'd have been treated in situ or transported to an interrogation cell somewhere--so that suggests some of the camp administrators or enforcers, does it not? Or MLE. And begs the question who was casting Unforgivables. MLE or the rebel inmates?

**2010-12-23 15:19:00**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Well the first bit of my holiday was brilliant, I got to go to Pansy's house for her mum's wedding. Everyone was rushing around, mad with preparations, so they didn't take much notice of us, and we explored and ate things we probably weren't supposed to and watched all the things they were bringing in for the wedding, like the ice sculptures.

The day of the wedding someone came and did both Pansy's hair and mine, it was actually CURLY if you can imagine. (Mine, and also Pansy's.) Only it didn't look like I'd been hexed by someone to look like a poodle, the way it does when I've tried curl charms on myself. The house and grounds were beautiful, all white snow and red roses.

At the wedding itself I got to sit with Pansy. Mr Campbell wore a kilt, only I'd never seen one before and didn't know until I got there that meant he'd be wearing a SKIRT. Did you know Scottish men do that? Wear skirts, I mean. And someone played bagpipes, which were interesting to listen to, I hadn't heard that sort of music before.

During the reception Pansy and I went for a walk in the garden and sat behind one of the ice sculptures and watched the grownups. Some of them got really, really drunk. And Ptolemy Baddock was flirting with one of Mr Campbell's young female cousins. Ptolemy was about the closest thing there to another kid, except for someone three-year-old who got to go to the wedding but then was sent off to go to bed in some upstairs bedroom super early.

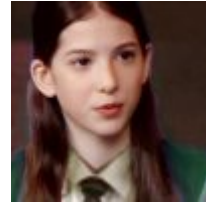
On Wednesday morning I had to go back to the Strettons and since then they've had me delivering gift baskets by floo. All. Day. They're giving me a break right now because I told them I was going to vomit all over the next basket if they didn't let me sit down and put my feet up for at least an hour (and I meant it, too, have you ever tried to take the floo over and over and over for hours on end? ugh.)

Anyway I'll be back at Pansy's for Christmas, which will be brilliant.

I hope your holiday is going well and you and Hydra are good company for each other.

**2010-12-23 15:34:00**

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




 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Pansy, I'm sorry I haven't written since I left, pretty much as soon as I walked in the Strettons handed me a gift basket of jam to deliver and that's what I've been doing since. Delivering jam by floo. I told Mrs Stretton that if I didn't get to sit down with my feet up for at least an hour I thought I was going to vom all over the next gift basket, so I'm having a break at the moment but ugh. Anyway I expect they'll have me rushing around with parcels until sometime late Christmas Eve but I will come to your house as soon as I'm done. Did you ever manage to do your shopping? The Strettons are still taking orders if you're desperate!

Have you heard anything more about the thing we heard people talking about in the garden? Tonton Dean? I made a delivery today to someone at St Mungo's and I heard someone say that people had gone to St Mungo's with spell damage. I think whatever happened must have involved muggleborn wizards.




 **alt\_pansy** at **2010-12-23 23:44:56**  
(no subject)

No, not really. When Lucius took me over to sign the papers and things, he was dead tired looking though. I mean, he didn't look his usual self at all. I figure he was helping with the whole mess, but he's not the sort of person to just up and talk about it, you know? And of course mum and Prospero are too wrapped up in one another to even bother about any gossip.

I'm sorry Mrs Stretton has kept you so busy. It sounds like an awful drag, and not much of a break at all. We will spend all Christmas day in our pyjamas and will even sleep in ridiculously late if you are tired.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-24 02:57:45](#)**  
(no subject)

So is it better at all now they're married?

At least your Mum won't be planning it any more.




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-24 04:22:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know.

I mean, yeah, the wedding's done, and there's no more fussing and planning and dresses to bug Patil about. But now she's a Campbell and she's not a Parkinson any more. And since she's signed all the paperwork and all, it's like well, in a weird sort of way it's like she's not my mum anymore.

I don't know. This is her house now, hers and Prospero's, and I'm just visiting. I miss my flat in London. And it's not like it's ever going to be the way it used to be. But I miss that too.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-24 04:37:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. That sounds

well

not brilliant, that's for dead sure.

Yeah.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-24 03:23:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Christmas will be brilliant!


Anyway I'm off for the day. They don't want me making deliveries past a certain hour for fear I'll be mistaken for a burglar and hexed.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-24 04:23:39](#)  
(no subject)

That would be no good at all! Although you would be an awfully short burglar.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-24 03:46:42](#)  
(no subject)

Hey.

Sorry the Strettons are being so crap to you. I guess I wouldn't want to have to Floo all over taking stuff to people, but I kind of wish I had an excuse to get away from here for a while. Things are, well, not great.

When we first got home, Mum and Dad asked me loads of questions about what happened that day I got crossways with Malfoy and Marvolo in my journal and Percy hexed me. They didn't much like what I told them. And then they had sort of a row with Percy, I think. I mean, they went in the lounge and closed the door, but no one was really saying much after, and Percy's been shirty with everyone. Except when Mum's around, and then he just glares at us and goes to his room.

And if that's not enough, Dad got called to work in the middle of the night Monday. Or Tuesday morning. Whatever. And it has to do with that camp business. I don't know much, but Mum was really worried about it. Not sure why, really. I mean it's not like Dad had to go to the camp himself or anything. But she's been really upset about it. And when he's home, Dad spends loads of time talking to her about it off where we won't hear what they're saying.

The twins have been working on spells that would let us listen in, but they haven't found any that really work yet. I mean, they said all they could hear was Percy muttering to himself in his room, and we could kind of hear that without any kind of spell.

Anywiz. I'm not sure whether Dad's going to get to be home much, or whether Bill will even be able to come at all, and that's pretty rotten. So we're playing gobstones and chess and trying to keep out of Mum's way.




Yeah.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-24 05:31:12](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I guess I'm not surprised your parents had a row with Percy over what he did.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-24 13:54:18](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Too right.

**2010-12-24 07:35:00**

*Order Only: Thanks, Alice*

Thanks again, Allie, and everyone. Despite the conditions and the secrecy and the shadow of this continued madness we're all fighting, I've not had such a jolly Christmas in a long time.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I'm sorry I didn't have many of your gifts there to give. I've been a little creative with owl-ordering, though, and Arthur, Bill, Remus and Dora, everyone at Hogwarts - you ought to be receiving the deliveries soon if not already. (I felt quite a beggar, receiving with nothing to give in return.) Frank, we discussed how you can claim yours from the manufacturer. It'll cost a little polyjuice but I think it'll be worth it. I must say, Christmas was certainly less bother when I was outside the wards and couldn't get much through to you all! It's a good spot of bother to have to have, though.

Poppy, I've been thinking more about our conversations last evening, about the Taunton Deane incident - well, uprising, I suppose, is the only proper term for it. I wasn't entirely convinced by the conclusions we came to last night. From what Bill and Arthur said, the whole goal of the rebel leaders was to wake the Sleepers. That's why they chose the poetic justice of timing the attack to *Sleepers Wake* and why they kidnapped that regional director, right? And Bill said they'd put the director under the Imperius but he still couldn't wake them.

Thing is, I think they may well be on to something. Waking all those muggles - not just waking them but getting them to work together - that could be the key to Voldemort's overthrow, if it were prepared right. I don't think this lot had anything like a plan for once they got their reinforcements - maybe they figured they'd have no trouble persuading a few thousand disorientated muggles to fight against their captors. That's why I think that the ones in the camp who devised this scheme really could have done some of that damage. If they figured they could throw all those newly-wakened muggles at the wizards as cannon fodder, on top of using the Imperius curse to force their hostage into cooperation ... well, it's possible they were casting other Unforgivables, too, yes.

Though I do think Bill's right and the majority of that curse-damage was not-so-friendly fire from the Death Eaters. I'm sure Lucius Malfoy was none too happy about being called away from Narcissa's side to go put down a rebellion. He wouldn't have scrupled to torture a few of

their own people. And Barty Crouch, Jr is a butcher, for all that he presents a civilised face to the world. I never liked him hanging about with Reg. The Nott boy reminds me of Barty when he was younger, in fact. Gives me the shudders just to think about him defiling the office of Auror.

Arthur, Molly: I hope things are a bit calmer with your Percy now. I know all this talk of the Imperius isn't helping your mood but Arthur, it sounds like he's trying to do the right thing and keep Ron out of trouble. He's just a little muddled about personal boundaries, and it's no wonder when the stakes could rise higher than even he knows. Still, wouldn't hurt to inquire in a curious and, if you can manage it, appreciative way, about his lessons with Alecto Carrow.

Right, well. This post has become far too grave for such a happy holiday. It was wonderful to see you all and share the best meal I've eaten in ages. Allie: From the bottom of my heart, love. Thanks.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-24 13:15:17](#)

*Private Message to Remus and Dora*

It's tomorrow, right?

I'll be there, Remus. I've got enough polyjuice to use for something like that.

I know I probably didn't come over enthusiastic enough when you first told me everything and I'm sorry, mate. It was a lot to take in.

Anyway, consider the gift equal parts Christmas, shower, apology and - well, congratulations.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-24 14:02:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Dora*

It's TODAY. 3 o'clock.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-24 16:13:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Dora*

I knew that - only testing you, Moony.

What? If you won't let your best man throw you a bachelor party then the least you can do is endure a little joking at your expense. You're too clever to have given me the ring to hold, and all. Have to do my part to make you properly nervous, haven't I?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-24 16:49:48](#)

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Dora*

~~I don't need any help feeling nervous.~~ Do your worst. As long as we see you at 3 o'clock.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-24 15:10:07](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, thank you Alice. It was lovely.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-24 15:49:36](#)

*(no subject)*

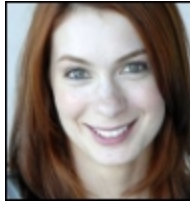
It was so good to see you and Remus, sweet heart. And Kevin took such a shine to you last night! You'll make a wonderful mum.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-24 15:55:20](#)

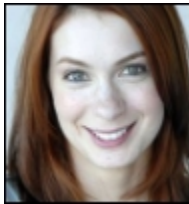
*(no subject)*


I hope you're right. I was a bit worried I'd drop him on his head, I can admit it now. But we both survived unscathed, so maybe there's hope for me after all!



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-24 15:59:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, and there's always wandless cushioning charms!




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-24 15:56:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I can't tell you how happy I was to see you for Christmas, love.

It was the best present I could have.

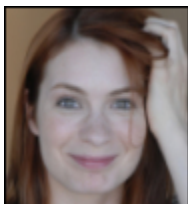



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2010-12-24 21:57:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Alice,

I've sent an owl to thank young Mr Creevey for his beautiful drawing of Rafe and Rue's tree in the memorial garden. That means the world to me.

And. I've already put the royal jelly to use: Pomona helped me put up a quantity of salve today, so it's ready should anyone need it. Oh, and speaking of salves, but of another sort: she wants me to be sure to tell you that she's thrilled to have the sting and rash salve you and Stephen prepared for her.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2010-12-25 18:48:10](#)**  
(no subject)

And aren't *you* cheeky! Happy ChrIstmas, my love.

**[2010-12-24 21:37:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Christmas Eve*

Every Christmas Eve for as long as I can remember, my Gran's put a lit candle in the window. She says 'it's to light the way home for the traveler.'



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

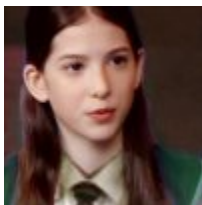
After the news came out last summer, I guess it's clear why she was doing it.

I wonder about them all the time, my mum and dad. And my little brother now, too. Where do they spend Christmas Eve? Are they reading 'A Christmas Carol' aloud to him each night this week like my Gran is reading it to Evelyn and me? Well, he wouldn't understand it much, I guess. He's a year and a half old, and he's probably walking now. I don't have any idea how or where they're living.

I'm sure they must be thinking of me and Evelyn and Gran tonight, too.

It never occurred to me until this year: if Gran keeps putting that candle in the window, and it means what she says it means, that must mean she's thinking that this is my mum and dad's home. And she expects, or at least she hopes that they will come back some day.

Even if she never says a thing.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2010-12-25 04:35:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Your little brother is a year and a half old already?

I wish

Happy Christmas, Neville.




 **alt\_neville** at [2010-12-25 18:34:54](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas to you, too, Sally-Anne.

Wish everybody's family could be together.




 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-25 14:01:46](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Nev.

I'm sorry your family can't be together, but at least you know your Gran wishes you could be, too, right?



 **alt\_neville** at [2010-12-25 19:02:31](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. Happy Christmas, Ron.

**2010-12-25 08:40:00**

*Happy Christmas, Everyone!*

Well, everyone who celebrates, anyway!

I hope you all got the things you wanted and maybe a few nice surprises too.



 **alt\_padma**


I know I did!

Dad says with all the presents we sent and all the owls bringing parcels since we got home and this morning, you'd never know it's just a plain old day for us.

Anyway though, thanks for those who remembered us and Finnigan, Page, Hooper, Lav, we'll see you soon, yeah?

Lav, mum says to ask yours when it's okay for us to Floo over - Monday, right?



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-12-25 14:09:03**

*Private Message to Lana Sandoval*

Oh, Lana! Thank you! You remembered how much I liked them. It's a beautiful tin, too, and there's enough to share!

Did I tell you that once I'd eaten the Turkish Delights you'd sent last year, I used the tin for some of my jewellery? This one's big enough to hold something else. Maybe my hair ornaments or some other keepsakes. Anyway it'll look splendid on the dressing table in my room.

Thank you so much for thinking of me!

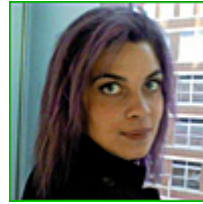


**2010-12-26 06:45:00**

*Merry Christmas*

Time to make it official, then.

Mr Ponds, that is, Junius and I, we got married. On Christmas Eve. It's a bit sudden, I know, but we thought it best, as, well, we're expecting. Due in May.



 **alt\_nymphadora**

We didn't want to make a fuss, so it was a nice, quiet, private ceremony. It was rather lovely, actually.

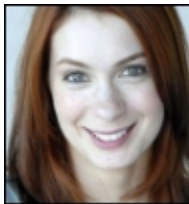
So, my first Christmas as someone's wife and my last before becoming someone's mum. This year's brought a lot of surprises, but I suspect next year may be even more eventful.

I hope you're all having a good Christmas, and that you're as happy as we are.

Yours

Nymphadora Ponds (Mrs)

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 **alt\_alice** at **2010-12-26 14:03:36**

*ORDER ONLY*

Many happy returns, sweet heart! I'm so happy to know you, and I hope all the best for you and our Remus.

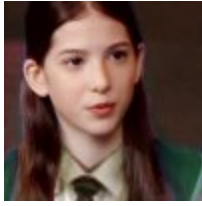


 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2010-12-26 22:00:21**

*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Thank you so much, Alice. One of the best things about this year has been getting to know you.

I'm sorry we didn't say anything about the wedding. It would have been lovely to have all our friends there, but we had to keep things low key so no one at the Ministry would take too much notice and start asking questions, you know. I am glad we saw you the day before, though. It felt like a wedding party, even if it wasn't really.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-26 18:46:18](#)  
(no subject)

Congratulations, Mrs Ponds. I hope he makes you very happy.

~~It makes you seem so much old~~



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-26 22:01:12](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you. I'm lucky to have found such a good man.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-27 04:03:10](#)  
(no subject)

Quite.

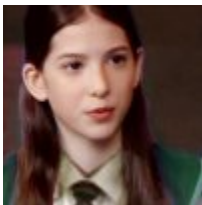



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-27 04:15:08](#)  
(no subject)

As accident-prone as ever, I see.

When she spoke with me this morning, Mother was considering whether to send you tea towels or nappies. I shouldn't hold my breath, though, if I were you, as the whole business has worked her into an unpleasant state.

You really are utterly shameless, aren't you?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 05:16:30](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Her foster family really makes me appreciate the Strettons.

Can you imagine having Mr Crouch as your foster brother? UGH.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 14:26:15](#)

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

Ooh, yeah. That'd be dead awful.

But honestly? Mum'd go spare if one of us got a baby first before getting married. I mean, that's

just

It's not right.

You know, my dad knows her, and I think he must think she's done the wrong thing, too, since he's not said anything to her here. I mean, he used to be friendly when she'd say something in her journal before.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:10:37](#)

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

Well now he's said something, though he sounds a little like he's trying to be polite and say something nice about a situation he doesn't approve of.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 15:29:04](#)

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

You think?

It's hard to tell with Dad. I mean, I think he always is sort of careful when he talks to her, anyway, because people at the Ministry wouldn't like him talking to a hal to someone who's a cleaner. But I know he likes her and isn't fussed about what her job is. So I don't know. Maybe he's all right with it. I just didn't think he would be, y'know?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 10:43:24](#)

*(no subject)*

I am sorry to have let you down, brother. I realise it's far more decorous to wait until one is well into ones thirties before selecting a partner and settling down, but I've never been very good at following the

excellent example you have always worked so hard to set for me.

Being far less eligible than yourself, I also had far, far fewer possibilities to examine. Indeed, I've been lucky to find any half-way respectable man who'll take me, I'm sure Mrs Crouch would agree.

I hope you'll be able to forgive me in time.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-27 13:49:43](#)  
(no subject)

Shame for Mr Ponds that you find him so mediocre a catch.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:27:49](#)  
(no subject)

Mediocre in comparison with the young ladies of your acquaintance, brother. He's a good, decent man, and we've already been blessed with a chance to start contributing to the next generation of the Protectorate, but I realise, compared to your famous singers, fashion models and so on, we are quite traditional and unexciting. We can't all be as eligible as you, after all.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-27 14:32:22](#)  
(no subject)

I hope for your sake he's as decent and upstanding--and unexciting--as he claims. I'll have a look into his background for you. Consider it my wedding gift.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:36:48](#)  
(no subject)


I already know he's a decent man - he married me, after all, rather than dallying with my affections before moving on to another, more interesting girl. But thank you for your kind offer. I'll look forward to hearing the outcome.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:38:15](#)  
*Order Only*

Oh bugger it! Bugger bugger bugger! I knew I should've put this stupid book away before I went too far with him. Damn damn damn!



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 14:40:50](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

Well done, dear.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:43:45](#)  
*Re: Order Only*


Oh shut up.

We probably should work on the emergency escape plan, though. Just in case.

Bugger it.

I'm sorry.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-27 14:46:44](#)  
*Re: Order Only*

No need for heartburn. All of the proper parchment work for his identity has been very carefully inserted in with all the census and government records, trust me. It's as airtight as my forgers can possibly make it. And that's my wedding gift to you two.

Congratulations.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:51:26](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Thanks so much, Bill. It's a relief to know we've got such reliable backup, but I wish I'd just kept my stupid mouth shut in the first place.

Thanks though.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2010-12-27 15:01:33](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Nah, don't worry about it. He's just needling you, but he won't find anything, trust me.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-27 17:59:55](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Don't worry, Dora. First off, Crotch has that effect on people.

Second, Bill's right. We made Junius fairly airtight when we decided to use him for Moony's cover, and Bill's improved on it no end. It'll be fine.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 14:46:49](#)

*Re: Order Only*

It's all right. Junius Ponds has survived a few Ministry inspections before, and was good enough to get the shop approved and open. I imagine this will be much the same.

And if not, there's always a portkey to Moddey Dhoo.

Tea?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:53:08](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I don't think I could manage to keep it down right now.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 14:59:04](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Peppermint tea?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 15:00:31](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, go on then. Ta.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-27 15:02:34](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Ginger tea's the thing if your stomach is at all upset.

Well, I think your news is wonderful!  
Congratulations to both of you.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 15:03:48](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh yes, ginger tea sounds wonderful. Do we have any, Remus?

Thank you, Molly.





 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 15:04:51](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, dear. I'll bring some up for you. Please try not to enrage any more family members before I get there, hm?




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 15:05:47](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Am I allowed to enrage family members under your supervision, then?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 15:19:32](#)

*Re: Order Only*

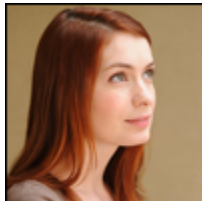
It seems you can hardly be stopped. I think I understand now why you don't see them very often.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-27 17:57:50](#)

*Re: Order Only*

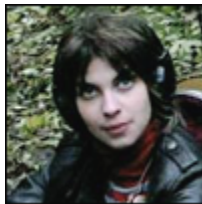
That scum is not family, Moony, no matter what the tapestry says.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-27 14:48:08](#)

*Re: Order Only*

if it wasn't Crouch, I can guarantee the Malfoys would nose around. He'll hold up just fine, Tonks. Bill worked to make his paperwork airtight.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 14:53:45](#)

*Re: Order Only*

I hope you're right. Otherwise you might have a couple of extended house guests!





 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2010-12-27 15:07:08](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well, if that does come about, Merlin forbid, you both shall be more than welcome.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-27 14:54:15](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Goodness. I hope you're right, Alice.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2010-12-27 14:55:20](#)

*(no subject)*

You are certainly right about that. I'm truly very pleased for both of you.

Congratulations, dear.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 15:01:23](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Madam Pomfrey. It's very kind of you to take an interest.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-27 17:55:27](#)

*Order Only*

Wonder if he'd care to be attacked by a Grimm while he's taking one of his walks through Green Park?




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 17:59:03](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Feel free to bite his face off, should the mood strike.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:42:35](#)**

*Order Only*

My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you both. I sincerely hope you find the joy and happiness in your marriage that Molly and I have had. I know you will both be wonderful parents.




 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:52:37](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Thanks, Arthur. And thank you for introducing us in the first place. It's sort of all your fault, really. But in a good way.




 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:59:35](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Thank you Arthur.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:53:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, my goodness, there was never a hint when we saw the two of you together at the Ministry party. I quite liked the gentlemen, though, and you both struck me as being very happy. Best to you from both

Molly and myself.

How funny, though, since I'm quite accustomed to calling you 'Tonks.' 'Ponds' doesn't have quite the same ring, I don't think.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:57:34](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Mr Weasley. Please pass our thanks to Mrs Weasley as well.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2010-12-27 14:59:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, it sounds as if congratulations are in order. You've certainly been very busy, it seems. May, you say? Gracious, your Mr Ponds takes his time doing the right thing.

Whereas I could say it took you hardly any time at all, did it?

But then I suppose the sickbed seems a very romantic place for a young girl to ensnare a husband.

Now, I do hope the child is developing normally, Dora, with no after-effects from your illness? Are you enrolled at St Gerard's? or St Mungo's? Please tell me you've not entrusted the infant's care to one of those shopfront hags down along Blackfriar's. Given your judgement in everything from profession to ... Well, it would be understandable if you thought to keep your condition secret longer, or save your sickles to support yourself, if your Mr Ponds had not admitted his duty. But believe me, Nymphadora, dear, it would be a mistake.

Do let me see if St Gerard's would accept you already so far along.

I wish you had said something before this. Before trying to resolve the situation in so drastic a manner. But Lucius and I have spoken about it and if you realise you are, well, over your head, dear, then we should be willing to provide assistance to rectify things.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2010-12-27 15:18:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, aunt. You're quite right, of course, one of the reasons we waited was to ensure there were no complications from my illness. We wouldn't want to misstep if something terrible had happened as a result of Black's illness, after all. The child might've turned out to be a squib or something, and then where would we be if we'd already married and told everyone we were expecting.


I've seen the healers at St Mungo's who oversaw the ward I was on when I was ill, and others of course, and they all agree there should be no effects from my illness. I'm certainly willing to be guided by

your advice on going to St Gerard's instead, though. You know so much more about these things than I do.

I know Mr Ponds, that is Junius, may not be quite as important or respectable as Mr Malfoy or aunt Bellatrix's husband Mr Lestrangle, but he's a good man and a pureblood, so I know, being just a halfblood, that I'm very fortunate to have found someone who understands that we're all citizens under the Protectorate, who stood by me through my recovery from my illness, and who has done the right thing in marrying me so we can raise our child together, now that we know it's healthy and whole.

So, thank you for your kindness, aunt, but I believe we will be fine.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2010-12-27 15:20:40](#)

*Order Only*

I think I might cry.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2010-12-27 15:21:46](#)

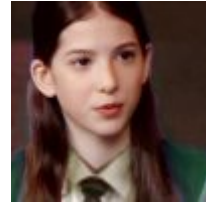
*Re: Order Only*

You will when I'm finished punching you in the head.

**2010-12-26 23:16:00**

*Boxing Day*

I had a very pleasant Christmas with Pansy. I came back to the Strettons' this morning very early because Boxing Day is very busy here. Mr and Mrs Stretton, and their staff, and also me and Jeremy go around to the different estates to give the muggles new clothes, new shoes, and some bonus scrip. I think I've explained this before but in case I didn't, the Strettons give their muggles this pretend money they call 'scrip' when they work hard and do a good job. The muggles use their scrip at a 'store' where they can buy luxuries like whiskey or nicer clothes. None of the muggles can earn scrip unless the whole estate they're on is behaving itself, and on some of the estates this year they got clothes and shoes but no scrip because they hadn't behaved well.



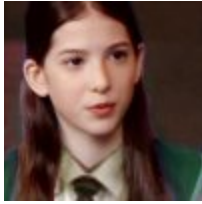
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

The muggles are also allowed to ask for favours when they come up to get their clothes and shoes. Mostly they want very simple things, like a tooth fixed, or a crooked arm put right. Mrs Stretton said that if it wasn't something I could do but it seemed like a sensible enough request, to make a note of it and she'd try to have someone take care of it in the next week or two. Most of the healing I rather thought I shouldn't try. I was afraid I would make their problem worse instead of better.

However, there was one lady who said that she'd heard a rumour that her sister was working over on one of the other estates. They were even both working in wool mills, but the Strettons have several of those. She asked if she could please, please have her sister come to her wool mill, so they could see each other every day. It had been a long time since they'd seen each other. And there was another woman who was willing to trade, so I said okay and I swapped the muggles. They were doing basically the same job so I didn't see why not. Also Mr and Mrs Stretton like keeping families together when they can, so long as people behave themselves. Anyway, they were very happy and cried when they saw each other.

It was a long day but I rather like Boxing Day here. It's always interesting.

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 05:43:02](#)

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

Do you lot remember how I saw Jeremy buying jewelry on that last Hogsmeade weekend?

You're not going to believe who was wearing it, today.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 14:13:08](#)

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

Huh?

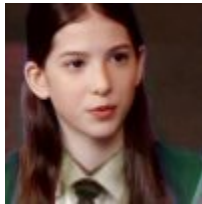
Who?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 14:41:51](#)

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

He didn't give it to one of his sisters, did he?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:05:01](#)

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

No. No, he didn't.

He gave it to Maureen, the muggleborn nanny.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 15:20:02](#)

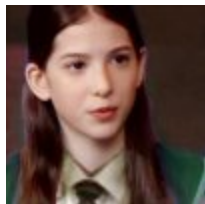
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Really?

*Really?*

That's...

Wow.

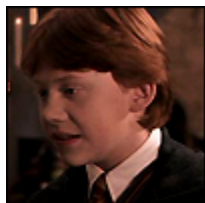


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:32:01](#)

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

Yes. It's a bracelet, I saw it when I gave her her new shoes and clothes (she gets them too on Boxing Day).

She doesn't know I saw it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 15:44:42](#)

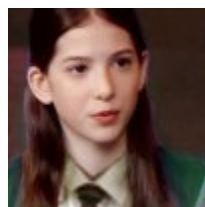
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He what?

She's a muggleborn?

Are you sure? I mean about the bracelet. Maybe she just had one like the one he bought? Or I dunno.

But Stretton? Really?

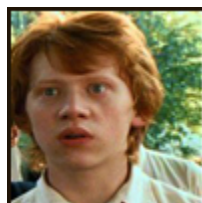


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:47:29](#)

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

Yes, she's a muggleborn and I'm pretty certain.

It doesn't surprise me as much as it should because I rather suspected he was mooning after her over the summer. He was spending a lot of extra time with his younger siblings but mostly he seemed to be looking at Maureen.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 15:54:14](#)

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

D'you think he's going to try to run off with her?

Or

I mean people just don't do that. What would his parents do if they found out?





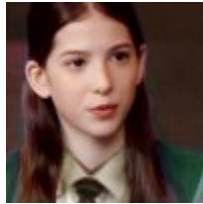
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 16:07:40](#)

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

Well, they'd disown him for sure. I mean, he's pureblooded. That just isn't on. I mean, it's not like people don't

You know

But it's not like it could ever really go anywhere. He'd never be able to marry her for one.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 16:33:43](#)

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

I expect if his parents found out they'd send Maureen back to the camp and say they wanted an uglier nanny, to start with.

I can't imagine he plans to run away with her. Where would they run to? Pansy's right, it's not as if they can get married.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 17:03:08](#)

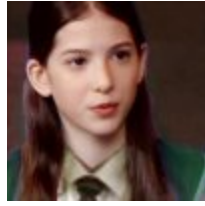
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh.

Well what d'you think he wants with her then? I mean, he could get them both in a load of trouble, and

Are you saying he really likes her or that he doesn't care and he's just wanting to make his parents cross? 'Cause he could do that loads of ways without, well, getting her involved.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 17:11:52](#)

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

I don't know.

Giving her the bracelet could get her in trouble but it could get him in trouble, too. If he just wanted - well, I don't know what he's thinking, I guess.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 18:55:15](#)

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

He clearly wasn't thinking at all.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 14:15:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, I guess that's a good way to do things. Gives them a reason to work hard and be good, right?



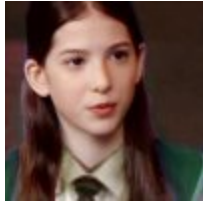
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 14:20:02](#)

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

Actually it sounds horrible. Can you imagine having your reward depend on everyone else behaving right? I mean, if we could only get scrip or whatever if Patil didn't get up anyone's nose or Bulstrode didn't hex anyone or if Professor Carrow didn't ever get hacked off at any of the halfbloods. Or Nev.

It'd never happen.

And we'd all be at each other all the time about people being eejits and getting the rest of us in trouble.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:06:19](#)

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

I know. Though I still think I'd rather be one of the Strettons' muggles than in one of the camps like the one Neville visits sometimes to serve soup.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:05:43](#)

*(no subject)*

That's what the Strettons say, that you get much more work out of muggles if you use both a carrot and a stick.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 14:41:06](#)

*(no subject)*

I remember last year you fixed that lady's eye. You always have the most interesting stories from the Strettons. How's Gemma?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:07:52](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, she's very well. Her parents gave her a Sing-Ami for Christmas. It's one of the cat ones and she thinks it's brilliant. Philip and the babies got Sing-Amis too, they all do their thing together (they toys I mean) and I can't decide if it's lovely or if it's really getting irritating.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 15:21:36](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, if you haven't decided yet, I suppose that's better than making up your mind that you hate them!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 15:24:37](#)

*I solemnly swear that I am up to no good*

Did you ask them yet about taking a day off? If you need me to do something to convince them, let me know, but it would be utterly brill if you could.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:33:46](#)

*Re: I solemnly swear that I am up to no good*

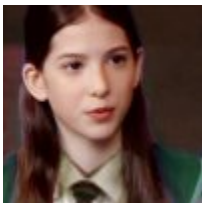
I did, they said I've already had quite a bit of time with you but they'd think it over. I think they'll let me but they're going to take a long time to make up their minds (not to mention pick a day).



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-27 15:40:49](#)

*(no subject)*

We spent Boxing Day in the soup kitchen at Wyre. They had a load of mittens they were handing out, too, and Evelyn got to do that.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-27 15:42:31](#)

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

Wyre! That's its name.

I'd rather be one of the Strettons' muggles than one of the muggles at Wyre.

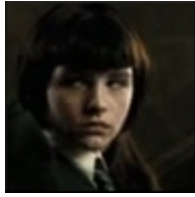


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 15:51:49](#)

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

Or at that place where they put down the uprising.

I heard Dad talking to Mum about it. Really dire, it sounds like. He said the Death Eaters came--not just the ones who are Aurors--and loads of people got really badly hurt. They were talking about Mr Crouch and Mr Malfoy. Said they were using Crucio. And spells that blasted people's arms off or bits of them to make them scream and scream but not, y'know, die.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 16:16:14](#)

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

Your dad can't

You don't really believe

yeah, well, I bet there's all sorts of rumours that are going round so that they won't try to do anything like that again. You'd think after all this time they'd know better.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-27 16:34:03](#)

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

Yeah, I don't know what really happened. I mean, my dad wasn't there, but he, y'know, works in the department that oversees what goes on at the camps, so I expect he heard a lot of what

happened and read the reports and all. And I'm not sure if he's been there to inspect or whatever since.

And I only heard a little of what they were saying, and that was mostly 'Oh, Arthur, no!' and 'Well, Molly, you have to know-'

And, yeah, that's pretty much what my parents were saying--that you'd think they'd know better in the camps than to do stuff that'd get them in such trouble, though I think

Yeah.

**[2010-12-27 12:07:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, once I managed to get all my shopping done, Christmas was lovely! Sally-Anne came over, and mum made her glass star for the top of the tree, and we had a lovely breakfast in our pyjamas. I've been picking away at my guitar for the last few days, and will have to get some lessons this summer for certain! It's utterly brill, Draco, thank you. And I can't wait to go to Presto with you.



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

And my other presents were also very thoughtful, and much appreciated! I'm writing thank-you owls today, because there's not much to do what with Rosa and Prospero going on their honeymoon to Bath, and Sally-Anne back at the Strettons. But it is nice to just relax, and later this afternoon, I'm planning on riding Onions if the sun comes out.

Aunt Narcissa, I know I'll be spending time with Lucius and Draco before the end of hols, but I was wondering if we could have tea sometime now that I've got all my paperwork sorted. Mr Baddock and Lucius have been an enormous help, of course, but I'd really appreciate your advice.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-27 19:28:37](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'd be happy to have tea, dear, but - I'm not quite sure what advice you're expecting. I should think you know better than to follow Ms Tenks Mrs Ponds' examples for life-planning.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-27 19:34:22](#)**

*(no subject)*

Hah! naturally. No, I didn't have questions like that. I was just wondering about things like the proper amount to give to charities, and which ones were appropriate, and if there's anything I should start subscribing to that you'd suggest, because I really have no idea at all.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-12-27 19:36:19**

*Private message to Narcissa*

I would ask mum, but she's been no help at all, and has really let that sort of thing fall by the wayside the last couple of years, and it's just that I very much want to do what's proper. That's all. And you're the best person I know to ask.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2010-12-27 19:51:42**

*Re: Private message to Narcissa*

Ah, well. Somehow I am not surprised that your mother has had limited experience but never fear, we'll sort it out.

I'll have Lucius arrange lunch for the three of us after we send Draco back to Hogwarts, Thursday. That should be more than enough time to discuss the appropriate donations for next calendar year.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2010-12-27 21:46:44**

*Re: Private message to Narcissa*

Thank you! That sounds just perfect.

**2010-12-27 21:11:00**

*A Very Pleasant Day*



 **alt\_dean**

Thank you all for coming out today. I am glad we could get together and really explore New London. I think it made Mr Peakes very happy to know we all had such a great time. It was nice to meet Hooper and Page.

What shops did you all check out when we split up just before lunch? Speaking of lunch, I was pleasantly surprised by the restaurant Mr Peakes picked for us. The food at Il Monello was fabulous. The ambiance was great, and I was suprised to see some of the patrons we saw there. Over all I think it was a great day.


Padma, Mr Peakes said that he really enjoyed the brief conversation he had with you when we had desert back at the house. He, as a school governor, doesn't interact with the students very much, but he told me to tell you that you are a lovely young lady and he sees great things happening for you. He does try to follow the student journals from time to time, and is impressed to see a student who does so much, especially for someone in our year. Also just before you Flooded back to Lavender's, I dropped something into your pocket, did you get it?

Lavender and Pavarti, it was nice getting to know you two a little better.

Seamus, hopefully we will get together again before the start of the next term? I would like to just revise and discuss some Dark Arts things with you. Do let me know.



---

 **alt\_padma** at **2010-12-28 03:44:53**  
(no subject)

Oh. Yes, I did find what you gave me. Thanks. And tell Mr Peakes it was nice to talk to him, too, and thank you for the compliments.






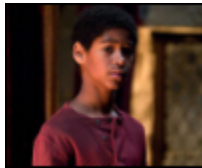
 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-28 05:10:58](#)**  
(no subject)


Thanks for inviting me, Dean. I had a good time.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-28 05:22:38](#)**  
(no subject)

And do you want to just floo over tomorrow? Mr Rosier said it would be fine.




 **[alt\\_dean](#)** at **[2010-12-28 07:18:30](#)**  
(no subject)

That would be great. Mr Peakes said I could leave anytime after noon. It saddens me to think that this time last year I was resisting certain things and

people.

Anyway, I think Mr Peakes really wants the best for me. He is mentoring me in his profession. So I spend most of my mornings shadowing him. So shall we say half-one? I can't believe I am up so late. I will look forward to seeing you then. Do let me know if that time presents a problem for your schedule.




 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2010-12-28 22:16:08](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

I got the book you left for me in the cracker. But I guess it's too late, because I reckon you've made your choice now.

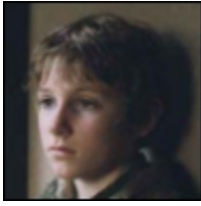
You won't be hearing from me again.




 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2010-12-28 22:19:45](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

All right there, Professor?





 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2010-12-28 22:20:35](#)

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

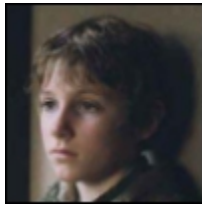
Not particularly, right now. But I suppose I will be again.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2010-12-28 22:21:58](#)

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

His loss, really. Just think of what he gets for sucking up: Patil and Finnegan and Brown the rest of that lot for his friends.



 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2010-12-28 22:22:34](#)

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

Yeah. Guess so.

**2010-12-27 22:44:00**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan and  
Lavender Brown*



 [alt\\_padma](#)

I can never figure out whether Thomas is being cheeky or trying to kiss up.


Oh, Lakshmi. He doesn't fancy me, does he? I hope not.

He put this box in my pocket. It's carved with Indian designs. And inside there's a carved figurine of a little puppy. The collar has SP on it.

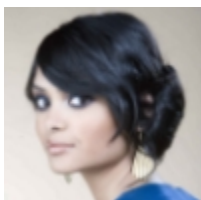
I mean, I don't think he'd go to that sort of trouble just to take the mick, do you? Still. It's sort of...weird, innit?


I dunno. Mr Peakes is nice, and most of the time lately Thomas seems to be sincere. I just hope he doesn't think I'd fancy him back.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2010-12-28 05:09:22**  
(no subject)

I don't know if he fancies you or not, he hasn't said. It does seem a little odd. SP for Sanji Patil? I'm sure he's not taking the mick, no one would do that with something relating to Sanji.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2010-12-28 23:56:22**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's what I figured, that he'd have to be completely mental to mean it as a joke. Besides, the box is really pretty. I dunno, though. I mean, he already gave me those Dark Arts books we were looking for at the start of the year, for History Club you know, and now this.

Well. I reckon maybe he heard Malfoy's idea that I get a puppy Sing-Ami for Sanji's shrine and he wanted to contribute.

I don't suppose you'd find out if he fancies me? And if he does - I dunno, put him off it?

At least this time we were able to split off for that little bit of time right before lunch. I had a talk with Page. I'd owed him at the beginning of hols but I wanted to talk in person, you know? About what you said Hooper said.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2010-12-28 05:10:29](#)**  
(no subject)

At any rate it was nice to see you lot today. I had a very nice Christmas. Thanks for the album, I've listened to it loads already.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-28 23:52:41](#)**  
(no subject)

And you. And the bracelets are nift. Lav can't stop playing with hers! I think she misses you.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2010-12-29 03:41:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I think he's just trying to be nice, but you're right it's a bit, I don't know, *much* considering you aren't close mates.

**2010-12-28 23:00:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Pansy Parkinson*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

I hope you are both getting a good night's rest before to-morrow. I've just had to send Draco up to his rooms since he was still, er, 'tweaking,' I think you called it, son?

Everything will be fine, I am sure. ~~Mr Tenebridge doesn't~~ You'll neither of you perform to your best abilities if you're so nervous if you spend the whole night pacing.

By the way, Little Bit - ~~your mother didn't~~ I take it from your earlier entry that your shopping went well? No further ... ~~arguments~~ confrontations?


(Draco this quill truly is excellent but does take some ~~getting used~~ practice. Luckily I find it is learning as it goes. I rather thought it might be longer before I could risk using it in the journals - and indeed, I am not nearly satisfied enough to use it for open posts yet at all. In fact I may well decide to use it more for other correspondence ~~than the journals~~. It has a habit of anticipating incorrectly ~~requiring~~ much ~~scratching out~~ before the draft is ~~perfected~~ ready. Since it was intended to ~~make journal-writing easier~~ as a time-saver, I hope its learning curve increases in accuracy with continued employment.)

In any event, Pansy, you may Floo direct to Presto if you wish, only remember to instruct your elf to be sure to transfer your trunk to the St James' house so that you shall not need to return to Campbell's estate before spending the remainder of the holiday in London. If you prefer, you may Floo to St James' and we may go all together.

But for now, I hope you are already asleep, and if not, you will be soon.

---



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2010-12-29 04:46:20](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Don't worry! I'm going to bed right now. I did most of my shopping by floo through Harrods, because it was more direct, and the owls were tied up with mum's correspondence, and the clerk was very patient even though it took ages. I did manage to get everyone on my list a little something, and, well, next year I'll have more time so things will be more personal and thoughtful.

I can't wait to see you tomorrow! I'll instruct Hitty about my trunk, and will go direct to Presto.

**2010-12-29 08:44:00**

*London today*

It was quite a nice Christmas at the Brown's. Mrs Brown hosted dinner on Christmas Eve, and I don't think I've ever been anywhere so crowded on the holiday. ~~Usually Daddy and I~~ I almost wanted to escape into the kitchen for awhile to help with the serving, but Mrs Brown said of course that sort of thing was only for mudblood servants and I mustn't shame her by doing such a thing. So I tucked myself in a corner with my punch glass and simply watched everybody until dinner was served.



 [alt\\_luna](#)

I never knew that egg nog could turn some people's noses so red, or make their voices so loud.

I received some lovely gifts on Christmas morning. Mrs Brown got me some robes, a very nice blueish grey that she said she picked because they should bring out the colour of my eyes. I thought it was ever so nice of her to notice a detail like that. I think that on the whole that Mr and Mrs Brown liked the watercolour of their house I painted for their Christmas gift, although I heard Mrs Brown say she'd never seen such strange colours.

Today, Mrs Brown is taking me to London. We are going to spend the morning standing in line to see the traitor's body, because it's important that everyone see what happens to enemies of the Protectorate, but she thinks we'll probably be done by about noon or so. Ginny, I know it's late notice, but do you think you could get away to meet up with me in Diagon Alley? Mrs Brown plans to stop in at several of the after-Christmas sales and said she can spare me for an hour if I would like to meet up with a friend. I suppose it wouldn't be enough time to do something like go to the ballet, like Lavender and Padma did last Thursday afternoon, but we could meet at Fortescue's for hot chocolate or ice cream.




---

 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2010-12-29 15:19:31**

*(no subject)*

That would be great Luna, I'm sure Mum will let me go.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2010-12-29 15:22:42](#)  
(no subject)

Of course I will! Ginny, come see me, and I can give you some pocket money to buy the ice cream. You can treat Luna.


Luna, I just wanted to thank you for the lovely beads you gave me for Christmas. That was quite a clever glimmer charm on them; did you do it yourself?



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-29 15:23:02](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, I did. I'm so glad you liked them.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-29 15:24:16](#)  
(no subject)


And thank you for the knitted jumper. I'm wearing it now.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2010-12-29 15:36:59](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks Mum, I will come see you as soon as I have finished with my chores.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-29 15:23:39](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, good! I'll meet you there sometime after 12:30 or so.



 **alt\_ginny** at [2010-12-29 15:34:40](#)

*Private Message to Luna Lovegood*

You message came at a very good time. It has been ever so tense around the house. When we got back from school, Dad pulled Percy aside to talk. It's been unpleasant here ever since. I feel like we are walking on egg shells trying not to upset Dad and Percy any further.

I think they wanted to ask him what happened to Ron that day he was apologising to people, because it's such an odd thing for him to do. Especially when he feels he is in the right. If Percy did cast something on him to make him apologise, I am not sure it was such a bad thing to do.

I mean, I know that no one should have something forced upon them, but Ron can be so stubborn at times, and the big mouth he has on him would have caused a lot of trouble just before hols. I really don't think he needs to step into that kind of trouble. Too bad he doesn't know when enough is enough. Boy's! You never know whats going on inside their thick little skulls until it much, much too late. At least Percy was able to correct the situation before it blew up into something much worse- that is, if he actually did put a spell on Ron. All I saw at lunch was that they were having an intense conversation on the day in question.

Any way I will definitely be there. Mum answered, so I am sure we shall have a good time.



 **alt\_luna** at [2010-12-29 15:42:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood*

I'm so sorry it's been tense. It'll be a relief for me to escape from the Browns for an hour or two, too. Not that Mrs or Mr Brown are unkind, because they're really not. But Lavender really doesn't like me, and Mrs Brown keeps wanting to turn me into something I'm not.

Oh, she's calling for me because it's time to go. I'll see you this afternoon!






 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-29 16:22:14](#)

*Private Message to Luna*

Honestly, Loony, couldn't you just keep your mouth *shut* for once in your life?




 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-29 16:53:39](#)

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

??

About what?




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-29 17:01:02](#)

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

The ballet! Did you *have* to mention that we'd been?

Now Padma and Parvati and I are in such a load of trouble and it's all your fault!



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2010-12-29 17:03:50](#)

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

But why? I wouldn't think your mum would object to you going to the ballet.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2010-12-29 17:10:27](#)


*Re: Private Message to Luna*

Well, she was asking me about and I was telling her all about *Coppelia* and how utterly wiz-nift it was, and then she said "Wait a moment! How on earth did you have time to go to Fortescue's and Scrivenshaft's and then to the ballet when you spent the afternoon at the viewing of the traitor's body?"

And I said...well, never mind what I said, the point of it all is that she firecalled Mrs. Patil and found out we'd never gone at all!

So now she's making all of us go with *you* and then packing Padma and Parvati off home!




 **alt\_luna** at **[2010-12-29 17:11:52](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

Oh. Oh, I didn't know.

I'm sorry. I'm just not very accustomed to knowing how to lie to a parent, I suppose.



 **alt\_luna** at **[2010-12-29 17:13:01](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Luna*

You're so much better at that sort of thing than I am.

**2010-12-29 18:26:00**

*(no subject)*

It always astonishes me when a holiday season draws to a close and we have managed yet again to avoid incident. I think we put the quaffle through the goal on several gifts this year, in fact, though it was decidedly gloomy not to have our Harry with us for most of the holiday. (I understand that his visit, while brief, was very memorable for all concerned.)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

And now our Draco returns to school early, so the two of them can spend some time together before the rest of their schoolmates join them for the winter term. All told, while it's difficult to release him before necessary, his father and I could not be happier at the diplomatic solution which he himself proposed. I daresay our young man is growing into quite the devoted servant to the Protectorate.

Our jolly party continued through this evening's supper, where Draco and Pansy both went over in minute detail Mr Tenebridge's every word, gesture and eyebrow twitch during their interview at Presto Records this morning. I even offered to let them revisit the episode in the pensieve, but they declined. Presumably one would prefer the memories when coloured by the excitement and emotion of the moment. Still, it was good to hear that Nolan's comments were largely encouraging.

Tomorrow of course we'll see Draco back to school and then Lucius and I are taking Pansy to lunch to celebrate her inheritance. (I was going to suggest Monteith to her, but then it occurs she has probably had more than enough Scots food.) I do believe our conversation will give me a perfect topic for a column. There are always worthy causes which are frequently overlooked by philanthropists.

And Friday - New Year's Eve at Buckingham, of course. Can it really be the end of the year so soon? Impossible.

---



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-30 03:36:57](#)  
(no subject)

You really should try Monteith sometime, though it might not particularly suit a youngster--even one so eager to be thought precocious as Miss Parkinson evidently is.

I hate to ask, but have you heard from Athena? She sent an owl that took until late Christmas night to track me down in Snowdonia (and was none too jovial by the time it arrived). When she wrote--which must have been Friday noon or the bird would have found me in town--she was still in a state about the disruption of her concert and about what she termed the 'brutish insensibility of Ministry ideocrats who wouldn't know fine music from an erumpent's mating call if the latter were stampeding in their direction down a narrow alley'.

I resisted the temptation to return her owl with the suggestion that if all her repertoire should eventually be banned, she might apply to *Whirl* for a reporting position. And, in point of fact, I haven't answered her at all, though I should have done.

Do you know whether she's begun to see the matter more clearly? Surely she can understand that a piece of music may, as easily as a phrase or slogan or symbol, be co-opted for subversive uses. The musical merits of the piece in question are as much beside the point as the debate over its composer's origins. Does she honestly think this is a matter of some Ministry conspiracy against her musical sensibilities?

Sorry. I'm ranting, again, I know.

At any rate, there's Friday to look forward to. And a new year. I'll be glad to welcome its arrival.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-30 14:14:24](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I've been looking for a chance to try the place, particularly as yours is not the only positive recommendation I've heard.

But dear me, why, when I spoke to Athena after the final concert on Wednesday she was disappointed still, as one might expect, but

allowed that the arrangements were all beautiful and made no difference to the audience. Believe me, she spoke not a word about any lingering -- Well, anyway, surely she is not the only artist who contributed to the programme? I'm so sorry, Barty. When I introduced you I never dreamed dear Athena would stoop to such pettiness. I'll talk with her, shall I? Don't give it another thought.

Certainly don't let her wild accusations ruin your time with Maebh. (Though one must say you've moved quickly there, Barty: In fact, Nigella Flummock was at the WI yesterday and in passing wondered when she might get the opportunity to invite you to her show again. I've told her not to hold her breath, poor thing.)



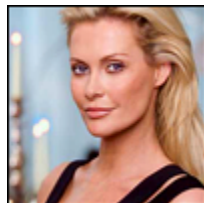
 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-30 16:42:15](#)  
(no subject)

Re. Athena. I rather think she's convinced that I've been prosecuting some petty agenda against her-- that I had something to do with the decision regarding 'Wachat Auf', which I quite emphatically did not. Of course, I can't say it was in anyway a wrong decision or one I would have hesitated to take had it been my duty.

Or perhaps you're right and she feels I've stepped too quickly into something serious again. She's only herself to blame if she regrets ending our association.

And it's not as though I've only just met Maebh. That was bound to happen sooner or later, if you want my view of it. I'll admit I've been waiting to snatch any opening she might ever give me, and the fact it's come now suits me entirely. My apologies to Athena if it doesn't suit her as well.

(As for the other, well, it's regrettable. I'm sorry she was disappointed, but it's not as though I'm a great loss.)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2010-12-30 17:07:12](#)  
(no subject)

Goodness. It's rare to see someone like you so thoroughly set back on his heels. Maebh has sisters, doesn't she? I wonder if her charms are replicated; if so, one of them might well do for the Razzer and then we should solve a multitude of problems.

Except perhaps the problem of who should top the 'Most Eligible Bachelor' list next year.

Don't trouble over the others, particularly Athena. I'm sure she'll listen to reason when I remind her of a few facts she seems to have set aside in favour of nursing her grudge.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2010-12-30 18:45:05](#)**  
*(no subject)*

There are gobs of Drumgoole sisters and cousins.

One of the Quidditchers might be just Raz's sort.  
However. I've no intention of being entangled in anyone's matchmaking schemes. Even yours.

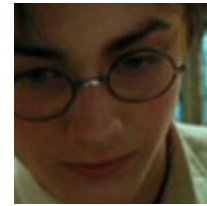
Re. the rest: thank you.

**2010-12-30 20:07:00**

*Christmas*

I had an alright Christmas.

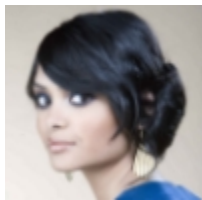
I saw Black's corpse. Everybody probably saw it in the Prophet. That was my Christmas present. I understand why I had to see it. People need to know about how my Father keeps me safe. He keeps the rest of the Protectorate safe too just the same way.




 **alt\_harry**

I was glad that Hydra was to stay. We're having a fine time. I think Granger is enjoying getting to serve not just me but her too.

I don't know. I suppose it didn't really feel like Christmas. I was away from Buckingham so much and I had to study. It didn't seem like much to talk about really.



 **alt\_padma** at **2010-12-31 01:56:21**

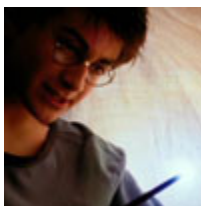
*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Well, Draco's come to be with you, too, right, today? So you'll have him to keep you company as well.

Did you get the clementines?

Mum and Dad took us to see Black, too. Twice. On account of how we had a clever plan to not have to go, but Loony Lovegood ruined it. I'm sorry you had to go see it when you didn't want to do.

I wish I were better at memory charms.



 **alt\_harry** at **2010-12-31 01:57:13**

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Yes, he did and he's here now so that's better.

I did get the clementines. Thank you Padma and Parvati too and the rest of your family I suppose.

I wish I was too. I'm sorry you had to go twice. I only had to once but it was bad enough.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-31 02:02:02](#)


*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Oh, I told Mum and Dad that's what I wanted to give you, because you'd said about presents, and they wanted to give you something really flash. But I told them that's not what you wanted. And they listened to me! I dunno if they would have done after finding out that we didn't go with Lav to see Black, though.

I mean, I understand why everyone's glad about it. But I dunno, it doesn't seem like we should have to have nightmares just to be able to prove that he's dead.

Anyway. Did you get any really good presents? Not silly things like jewellery, I mean.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2010-12-31 02:15:24](#)


*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

I appreciated it really.

I did get some good ones. The Malfoys sent me some wizard things, honestly, like a signed programme from the Holyhead Harpies. And Draco gave me a sneakoscope type thing, which I don't know if it's really working or not but it's snitch anyway. And some other people sent me little things. But if they couldn't afford much it was as good as something big.

I guess it makes up for it. But you know. I dreamed about him after.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-31 02:34:12](#)

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Yeah. I did, too. He and his brother were





 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 01:56:22](#)

*I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Oh he is SUCH a liar.

He isn't talking about ANYTHING.

So we went and he could barely stand to look at Sirius' body, he was going to hurl all over everybody, but he had to make it through. His Father said horrible things about him being so weak. And then we got back and there was a BRAND NEW FIREBOLT waiting for him - well you know his Father didn't get him anything at all, except Sirius' body. So he was excited only then they took it away from him in case it was jinxed or something even though I'm sure it was fine!

So now he's utterly dejected and I can't get through to him and Hydra is just a little pest, I mean, she doesn't know anything about anything and sometimes it's sweet like she's trying to get to know me but then she says the most perfectly awful things and I just want to slap her!! Only of course I can't, and I can't talk to Harry really either because *she's* there.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 02:16:13](#)

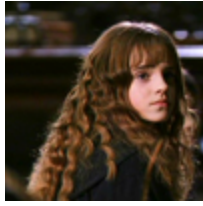
*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

It sounds really awful, actually.

And I know you probably think I'm glad about that, but

nobody should have a father like that who thinks killing people and putting their bodies on display is a fine thing to do and then makes people go look at it.

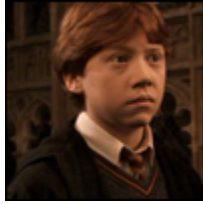
And everybody thinks it horrible, but they still all think the Lord Protector is wonderful and everyone should be pleased he's lord over everything? Honestly, what?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 02:17:47](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

No, I don't. I mean - well I think Harry doesn't think he should have a father like that either. I mean I don't know what he thinks, but he's - I don't know.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 02:20:51](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Yeah.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-31 21:26:48](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

And to tell him that it's his Christmas present?!

That's just...just sick. Merlin.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 21:55:30](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Well, exactly.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 02:16:54](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

And I'm sorry you have to be there with Hydra and Malfoy.

But it's better than having to spend the whole time at Buckingham, isn't it?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 02:18:06](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Yes, it is. Only I had my hopes up.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 02:20:12](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

For what?

Oh.

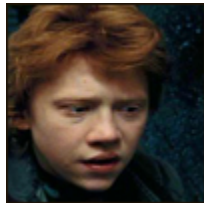
For being alone just with him?




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 02:34:05](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

He's nicer.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 02:36:15](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Yeah, I'd noticed.

Not that it matters now.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-31 18:36:25](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

I'll just bet he is.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 06:39:33](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Someone gave Harry a Firebolt and he didn't get to keep it? Ugh, I'm surprised he's talking to anyone at all.

Did it say who sent it? Why did they think it might be jinxed?

Hydra's -- she's sweet, really, she doesn't mean any of the awful things she comes out with sometimes. It's just she's had to live with Bellatrix LeStrange her whole life, before she came to Hogwarts, so how would she know the truth about anything at all? But that wouldn't make it better for you, having to listen and not say anything. I'm sorry.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 06:40:52](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

And the Strettons are taking us to see the body tomorrow. I'd been hoping they'd go after we went back to school but no. I think they put it off as long as they could, though, so I don't think they'll care if none of us really look at it properly.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 01:58:40](#)

*Order Only*

Just so you know, Harry is lying. I imagine Professor McGonagall already Owled someone about the Firebolt and how it had to be taken away to be checked for jinxes. But it was perfectly horrible, Sirius, he didn't want to see the body *at all* and they practically had to drag him there, and he's terribly miserable, and at least Draco's here now but that just means I have to spend all my time with Hydra.

So nobody's having a very good Christmas.



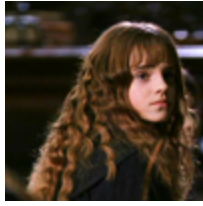
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-31 02:05:27](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yeah. I'm not surprised they had to take the Firebolt away and test it.

I mean to say, I'm surprised he's not complaining that someone had the bad taste to give him a broom when he's not playing at the present.

What's Hydra like, then? She seems so ... different to her mother.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2010-12-31 02:15:29](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Well I think he was too excited by the FIREBOLT to say anything.

She's very quiet. She says things that are mean sometimes but she doesn't mean them. At least not when she says them to me. I suppose she could probably be mean to someone else but I think she wouldn't do it to somebody who didn't hurt her. She's nothing like her mother at all. But she's very smart, you can tell, just she's so timid she never lets it out. And sometimes she's sly, well, you'd expect that.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2010-12-31 02:32:43](#)

*Re: Order Only*

So ... he liked it, then? The broom?

I've a feeling that Bellatrix has abused Hydra as much in her way as some wizards abuse their Muggle servants. Alice said something to me once about how the child has every chance to turn out normal despite the depravities of the parents - I'm not sure that's really possible, but from what little I've seen of the girl's posts, she has nothing like her mother's bloodthirstiness. It's a shame she can't know our Dora a little better. It's odd, though, isn't it, to feel sorry for someone whose mother has as much power as she has?

Well, anyway, kiddo. I'm sorry you're stuck entertaining her. Too bad you can't trust her not to tell her mother anything. She's almost too innocent, if you take my meaning. You can't take the chance that she'd not think anything wrong with telling her mother something she'd heard you say or seen you do.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-31 06:40:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Well I had a nice time.

Staying at the school, I mean.

I know there was a lot of moments you had to just study and read, but at least you had a friend there,

and Granger, too.

I almost decided to stay home after Christmas when I saw my horse! She's the most beautiful creature I ever did see (though don't tell Tevis I said so), and I still don't know how I will ever properly thank Aunt Narcissa and Uncle Lucius.


But then if I had stayed I probably wouldn't have had much time to ride her, anyhow, because there would have been so many family-type things to do.

Did you know I once saw a mudblood at Gloss House who knew how to take care of horses, though?

I wonder if Granger knows anything about them.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-31 14:18:42](#)

*(no subject)*

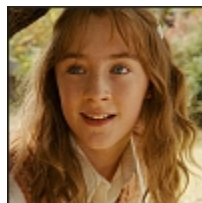
You got a horse? Wow.


I've never been up very close to a horse. I've seen them, though, in New London and in photographs.

Are they really as big as they look? Can you ride already or will you learn over the summer?

You're not thinking of bringing it to school, are you? Because even if you had a mudblood to take care of it, I don't think you'd have much time to ride while we're at school, either.

What's its name?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2010-12-31 17:00:41](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, she's a Westphalian warmblood-Saxony Maerh mix, chestnut colour, and she's quite large but not any bigger than most horses.

I've ridden a bit here and there but never as much as I'd like to, so I probably still have some things to learn.

The name she came with is Lady Primrose, but Aunt Narcissa said that I can change it if I want to.


I haven't decided whether I should or not, though.

I won't bring her to school, no.

I don't want anything to happen to her, and you're right, there won't really be time anyway.

From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2010-12-31 19:12:47](#)  
(no subject)

I think Lady Primrose is a very nice name for a horse, actually. And it's a sort of pink, which suits you.

Oh, but I don't think anything would happen to her if you brought her, it's only that a horse isn't exactly like a pet, is it? I mean, it's not like you can keep it in the Slytherin dormitories or have a cuddle with it at night.

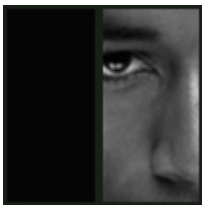
I hope you're having a jolly time with the castle all to yourselves. Parvati and I aren't being allowed out, right now, but we've only our house and there's not much to do at all.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2010-12-31 20:00:14](#)  
(no subject)

That's just brill, Hydra!

I cannot wait to see her. She sounds absolutely gorgeous. I'm glad I have use of Onions whenever I'm at Gloss House, but having a horse of your own is just wiz! Perhaps we can have a riding party sometime this summer.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2010-12-31 22:02:58](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Hydra!

That's grand about your horse. Perhaps you'll come ride with us this summer. Either in the parks here in town or at one of the country places. Mother loves to get up riding parties. Hunting, too, but she rarely has me along for that. Says it's adults only those weekends.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 22:24:34](#)  
(no subject)

A HORSE? that's BRILLIANT.

It's too bad you can't bring her to school but it's true there isn't anywhere good to keep a horse at Hogwarts. Though maybe if you did bring her there'd suddenly be a stable?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2011-01-01 00:58:29](#)  
(no subject)

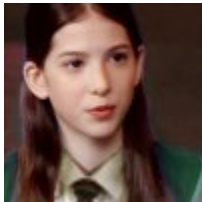
Yes, but I don't know if I should have brought it up in the journals.

I don't want it to seem as if I am boasting.

I'm just very lucky, and Aunt Narcissa is much too

nice.

From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 06:46:18](#)  
*Private message to Harry*

I'm sorry you were stuck at school but I'm glad you had company. Hydra and Draco and Granger.

I know it's a good thing Black's dead, but going to see a body has got to be one of the worst most miserable Christmas presents ever. At least you got to jump the queue, though. We're going tomorrow and they warned us we'll probably have to stand for hours, waiting. Gemma's going to drive us all spare, she's going to be so bored. If they bring her. Mrs Stretton hadn't decided -- mostly I think she thinks Maureen (that's the mudblood nanny) should see it, and if she comes then there's no one at home to watch the little ones. (Unless they left me behind, but she definitely thinks I should see it.)





 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2010-12-31 23:12:49**

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Well good luck. I hope you don't have to look at it too much. The queue would have been awful. If I were at Buckingham I would come down and jump you you know. Even if it meant having to see it again, I can't imagine much worse than having to wait for it as though you WANTED to.

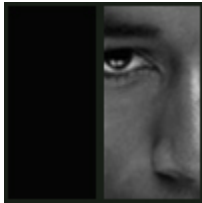



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2010-12-31 23:18:16**

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Oh, that would have been brilliant! We had to stand out in the sleet for hours, it was pretty wretched.

Seeing the body went fast. I took a look, I signed the book, we were on our way. I'm just glad to have it over with.



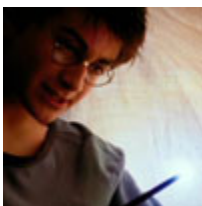
 **[alt\\_blaize](#) at 2010-12-31 22:13:28**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

I did see the thing about your visit in the Prophet. You looked a bit like you'd had it with the whole circus, and I don't blame you. Must be awful having reporters follow you around like that all the time when you're out in town.

I suppose you're going to top the standings this year--and you deserve to with all the work you've put in.

So. Has the place aired out yet with Crabbe and Goyle gone? Don't get used to having the dormitory all to yourself, though! You're not letting Snake sleep in my bed, are you? Just kidding. But tell him he can't sleep there when I get back!

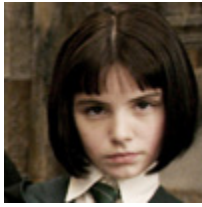


 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2010-12-31 23:05:41**

*Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Yeah It's ok. Snake doesn't want to sleep in your bed. I had had it with the circus. You're right about reporters.

Snake is sleeping by the fire or on the mantel all the time now that the bigger kids aren't here hogging it.



 **alt\_pansy at 2011-01-02 04:57:13**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Did you get my present?

I'm sorry it doesn't feel much like Christmas. have you gotten in all the revising you needed to ? I'd bet it's a lot easier to revise when there aren't loads of other people around.

Would it

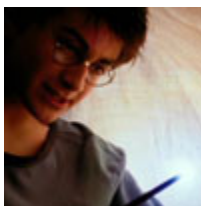
Would it be okay if I didn't go?

That didn't come out quite right. I'm not, well, it's not like I'm asking for permission or anything. And I'd understand if you'd think I ought. I just wouldn't want you to think

You know.

that I thought it didn't matter or wasn't important, because it is.

I'm really excited about the potions thing. have you heard any more from Slughorn about it? I think it will be just brilliant, and we'll have ever so much fun.




 **alt\_harry at 2011-01-04 18:13:09**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

You don't have to go.



 **alt\_pansy at 2011-01-04 21:51:53**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

I could just care less what everyone else will say, honestly, but I know that you

Well

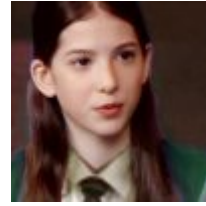
That you would understand.

|| Thanks, Harry.

**2010-12-31 00:58:00**

*Going to London tomorrow*

Mrs Stretton says we're going to London tomorrow to see Black's body. Is anyone else going? Maybe I'll see you in the queue.



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



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-12-31 07:01:37**

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

Mr and Mrs Stretton have been quarreling about whether or not to bring Philip and Gemma. Mr Stretton thinks they'll have nightmares. Mrs Stretton thinks it might look bad to leave them behind.

They're not even hiding the fact that we're only going because it would look bad not to.

I hope they leave them here. Totally aside from nightmares, I don't want to have to entertain Gemma while we stand in a queue for hours and hours.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2010-12-31 19:25:22**

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


I'm pretty sure Mum's been stalling and trying to find reasons not to go, but it's hard to tell. And I don't want to ask her.

Percy keeps after it, though.

Surprised he and Clearwater didn't go by themselves the other day when he went up to New London to meet her. But I don't think they did.

I mean, I think he'd have been talking all about it if he had done.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-31 19:28:00](#)**

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

Aren't they going to take whatshername, the nanny, along? Then it wouldn't be just you keeping Philip and Gemma happy all day.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2010-12-31 13:47:58](#)**

*(no subject)*

We went last week. We had to queue for ages and ages, and when we saw it it was really gross. My little brother Laurie was sick all over his shoes after he saw it.

You should take a book to read in the queue, and probably tissues and stuff in case you're sick too. It's important though. The Lord Protector wants us to see it, so we should.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2010-12-31 14:13:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

Parvati and I wound up ~~having to~~ seeing it twice.

I saw in the papers that they're closing the viewing as of seven o'clock, though, and not letting anyone join the queue after about five. So maybe the queues won't be as bad as they were when we went.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2010-12-31 19:22:36](#)**

*(no subject)*


We're going sometime, but Mum wants us all to go together, and Dad's had loads of year-end stuff to do at work. So we haven't got there yet. I think Percy's going to go spare if we don't get there this week. I dunno. Mum doesn't want him to just go by himself, I guess. Says it's something a family should do together.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-31 21:34:06](#)  
(no subject)

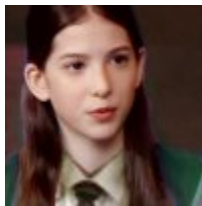
We could go tomorrow. I'll ask Gran if we could meet you there.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-31 21:34:46](#)

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

Gran left it up to me whether we should go. She said she isn't going to make Evelyn do it, that she's young enough that she can get off with the excuse that it would give her nightmares, but I think in that case, I have to make even more of a point of going myself. I don't like it, but I reckon I have to do things every once in a while to keep the 'blood traitor' talk down.

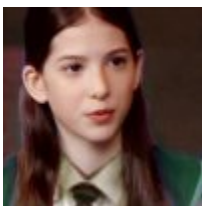


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 22:06:11](#)

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

That's a good idea.

Don't forget to sign in, you know there's a big guest book near the entrance. It's how they know who came and who didn't.



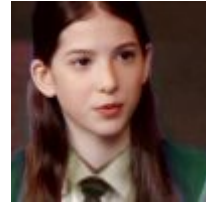
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 22:05:33](#)  
(no subject)

Oh -- I wrote this late last night. We went today. We just got back, actually.

**2010-12-31 16:06:00**

*Viewing Black's body*

Well, the weather was perfectly horrid, unfortunately. If it had been horrid right away, that would have been better because we'd have just turned around and come another day, but we'd already been in the queue for an hour when it started sleeting. I was wearing my lovely new coat (thank you again, Pansy!) so that helped. After a bit Mr and Mrs Stretton left me and Jeremy to hold our place in line and they took Gemma and Philip and the little ones, and Maureen to help them with the little ones, and went somewhere warmer until we were closer to getting inside.



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

Anyway.

Seeing Black was a bit grim but also brilliant. I thought about all the awful things he'd done to all of us, and how he would never get to do them again, and someday ALL the enemies of Our Lord will end up like this, and after that I didn't feel sick, I felt warm all over. And we all signed the book, even Gemma, and went home to get dry clothes and hot tea. The Strettons are going off to some New Year's Eve party in a little while.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-12-31 22:16:07**

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

I SAW MY MUM.

MY PARENTS CAME TO THE VIEWING AND STOOD RIGHT BEHIND US IN THE QUEUE.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2010-12-31 22:22:25**

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

They must have seen my journal entry yesterday.

I'm not allowed to visit or write them and they're not allowed to write to me and I couldn't say hello to them but there's no rule saying we can't both just happen to be standing in the same queue to see the body of the traitor AND THEY CAME and they must have come early and hoped we would

to, we got in line and a minute later someone got in line behind us and when I looked IT WAS MY PARENTS.

And I couldn't talk to them, but --

Well, I talked to Gemma a little extra loud so they could hear. I thought I was being discreet but Jeremy noticed and after everyone else went off and left us to hold their spots, Jeremy talked to them for me. He had guessed who they were, and when he introduced himself and they introduced themselves back I saw him glance at me and I knew he knew for sure, and then he didn't try to make me talk to them but he told them all about me, it was dead strange but one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me. Although he'll probably want something later but I don't care.

When we got inside Buckingham they dropped back a little in line and let someone go ahead of them because that way we wouldn't sign the guest book right by each other and have it look suspicious. But we were standing there for at least an hour, it was wonderful.



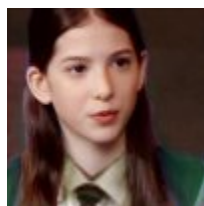
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 22:49:35](#)

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

Whoa.

Did Mr and Mrs Stretton realise?

I remember you said once that Gemma asked them if they knew your parents at school and they did. D'you think they recognised each other today?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 22:53:50](#)

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

No.

Well, my parents knew who the Strettons were but I don't think the Strettons looked twice at my parents. They were really shabby, first of all, and the Strettons were looking for influential people they might have a chance to chat with. Also, they were distracted by the rain and by Gemma and Philip and then they took off to get tea while Jeremy and I held their spots.





 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 23:00:36](#)

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

That's really-

I dunno.

It means they really wanted to see you, yeah? That they miss you and

I'm glad Stretton was decent about it. But, I mean, that must have been really

well

You all right, then?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 23:02:28](#)

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

Yes.

I think that's part of why it made me so happy, that they came even knowing we wouldn't be able to talk, just so they could see me.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2011-01-01 17:31:45](#)

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

I'm glad you got to see them, Sally-Anne. I know how much that meant to you.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2011-01-01 17:32:49](#)

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

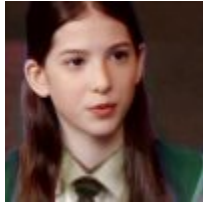
And that was decent of Stretton.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-31 23:04:57](#)

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

So. Was it really terrible? The body, I mean?



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-12-31 23:07:08](#)

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

Oh, the body itself?

Let me see if I can remember. I looked straight at it, a good long look, so you'd think I'd be able to

say.

It was

Messy, I guess. Kind of messy.



 **alt\_ron** at [2010-12-31 23:09:25](#)

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

Did you use the hex on yourself, then? How was that?

Or did you have to go without since there were so many people around?



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2010-12-31 23:15:32](#)

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

I didn't use it on myself but I did tell the Strettons before we left so they could use it on Gemma and Philip, but actually they used something else, it was sort of a distraction hex so right when we got to the front they suddenly looked somewhere else. I think they were afraid Gemma would ask why her vision was suddenly all blurry.

I don't know if Jeremy used it on himself or not.

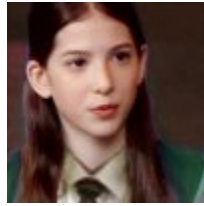


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2010-12-31 23:19:04](#)

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

Well, could he walk straight afterwards or not?

Actually, I wonder if anyone's used it and then tumbled over towards the case? Or were you kept pretty far back from it?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 23:43:23](#)

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

They don't let you get right up next to it but you're pretty close. I didn't see Stretton stumble but I did try the hex on myself this week to see how it worked and I can walk alright as long as I don't try to go down stairs.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2010-12-31 23:35:44](#)

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

Cor, that's brilliant! I'm so glad for you.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2010-12-31 23:40:29](#)

*(no subject)*

'A bit grim.' Good joke, Perks.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2010-12-31 23:42:32](#)

*(no subject)*

Why thank you.