

2011-02-01 09:22:00

Order Only: I'm Off

Minerva, Poppy, I don't know what to tell you about your Mr Boot. I suppose every silver lining has a cloud, or whatever the muggles say. If there's a way to keep him without naming your spell, I'm sure we'll come up with it. That is, if you get good news about the Carrows this week. Hang in there, Hermione. We'll hex



 [alt_sirius](#)

Meanwhile I've got some news that takes me south. I was making the rounds early this morning and came upon a couple of the enforcers working the Dementors. They were griping, as one might expect. But then one of them said something curious. He said that he needed a respite - that he'd rather transfer to the Catterick Garrison since it was such an easy assignment.

Then his companion said: 'It wouldn't be easy right about now, haven't you heard? Macnair was seen. Plain as day. Northwest edge of the Yorkshire Dales.'

I'm heading down to see what I can find out.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-02-01 16:30:23**

Order Only

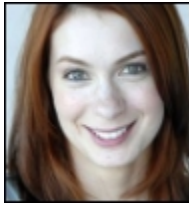
I'm sure I don't know what Muggles say, but Mr Boot's security is a matter of grave concern.


Do take care. If Macnair's been seen and it's being talked of by a pair of unlucky enforcers up our way, then you may be sure, it's being investigated by MLE.

But you know that. Just don't give them another fugitive to add to their posters.

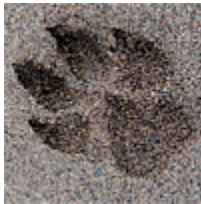
To tell truth, though, I'd far rather look at your face than that lunatic Snape's or Macnair's--either one--two blacker souls I've rarely seen, and of course I see them now whenever I enter Hogsmeade. We did get Dawlish to remove the ones he'd put up around the castle. Honestly, no one could have a decent cup of tea in the staff lounge with those evil faces glaring down from the wall. As bad as turning a


corner and finding Salazar Slytherin hanging there, scowling at one and all.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-02-01 17:51:15](#)**
(no subject)

You'd better believe that Yorkshire will be crawling with MLE, so watch your back, my love.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-01 17:58:36](#)**
(no subject)

Yup. Crotch is here with a team of them.

Don't worry, I'll be careful. Foe glasses only register intent to harm, that's what Moody says, right? So as long as I'm just a friendly pup, it'll be fine. And maybe I can stick close enough to overhear something.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-02-01 19:43:32](#)**
(no subject)

Be careful.

I'm really not the one who needs to hang in there most, you know.

2011-02-01 10:16:00

*Catchlove, Evan, Montague, Sandoval,
Singh, Willett*




My office now. Full kit.

You're all for Ipswich.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-01 17:52:27](#)

Order Only: Bugger


Ipswich, my eye. They're here. Northallerton.

Bill, Arthur, what's important about this area? Bugger.
I can't risk going in as a human, even with polyjuice.

I'm going to reconnoitre as Padfoot. Maybe I can learn something.

They've got a good bit of equipment with them. But if I recall what Moody said about foe glasses, as long as I'm a lovable stray and don't do anything threatening, the glasses won't register that I'm in disguise, right?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-01 18:00:40](#)

Re: Order Only: Bugger

Thought they might pull something like that.

The foe glass recognizes people that've been polyjuiced, but I'm honestly not sure about what it'd do with an animagus. My best guess is that it throws it off so that even if it registers something, it probably can't point directly to you. I'd still be careful, though.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-01 18:03:07](#)

Re: Order Only: Bugger

Okay. Well, they're splitting up. Maybe one of these pairs likes dogs particularly.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-01 18:15:49](#)

Re: Order Only: Bigger

Oh, dear. I hope that's true.

Medically speaking, you are fully a dog when you are Padfoot, so I don't see why it would recognise you as a foe if you are not posing a threat.

But then, I know cod's all about protective magic.

I suppose, though, if I had a foe glass and saw a dog turn up in it, I'd suppose that every dog represents some potential threat just by virtue of being carnivorous.

Be careful, you.

2011-02-01 13:46:00

THE GRIM TRUTH RETURNS

Greetings to the Protectorate! It is I, Sirius Black, speaking to you this time from a borrowed diary. The Lord Pretender's minions may bark and howl but they cannot reach the Dog Star to stop me!



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_charlotte](#)

I speak to you today about serious matters. Our ruler styles himself our 'Protector,' and surely if anyone has a right to protection from him and from ALL of us, it is the children of our nation. Our wizarding children, our precious next generation! Listen, and you will hear their cries for succor, their demands for justice!

The Headmistress of Hogwarts School has shown callous disregard for the well-being -- nay, the VERY LIVES of our precious children! So-called professors AMYCUS AND ALECTO CARROW are notorious for their cruelty both in the classroom and anywhere they might be found, and yet MINERVA MCGONAGALL offers them both shelter and continued employment! I submit to you the following known incidents:

AMYCUS CARROW has routinely cast the cruciatus curse on defenseless first year students. In one case this was punishment for the 'crime' of expressing curiosity about the spell.

AMYCUS CARROW is a habitual drunkard and is known by all to be violent and dangerous when intoxicated, even threatening students on occasion with both wand and makeshift weapons. His drunkenness has repeatedly caused him to fail in his classroom duties. Not that he is any use as a teacher even when present. Since HEADMISTRESS MCGONAGALL is also a notorious and wayward drunk, perhaps it is the sort of friendship found at the bottom of a bottle of firewhiskey that has given CARROW his secure position?

AMYCUS CARROW has made cruel and malicious attacks on a student who arrived at Hogwarts after mistakenly being consigned for years to the mudblood camps. On one occasion he set the boy ablaze, causing both injury to multiple students and serious damage to Hogwarts Castle. As punishment for this wanton behaviour his own servant was reassigned -- AND YET HE CONTINUES TO TEACH. How much more, one wonders, will HEADMISTRESS MCGONAGALL accept?

BOTH CARROWS routinely use the cruciatus curse as a disciplinary measure for trivial misbehaviour.

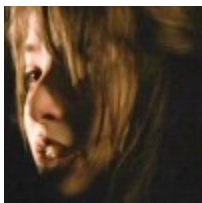
BOTH CARROWS instruct students in the darkest of Dark Arts and encourage them to act on their basest and most PERVERSE instincts in dealing with their peers.

BOTH CARROWS are known to have used the Imperius Curse to force others into dark and horrifying acts -- some merely humiliating, others that would shock the conscience of all who knew.

BOTH CARROWS are known to have devoured the roast flesh of murdered muggle infants, after cutting out their hearts and kidneys to use in Dark potions.

AND FINALLY, ALECTO CARROW attacked one of the school governors with the cruciatus curse, doing him grievous injury to the point that he was seen requiring a cane for support days after the incident.

AMYCUS AND ALECTO CARROW are cruel and unstable maniacs and a COLLECTIVE MENACE to the Hogwarts students. If MINERVA MCGONAGALL will not act, we call on the school governors, even the so-called LORD PROTECTOR HIMSELF to immediately remove them both from Hogwarts so that they will no longer have any contact with children!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-02-01 20:24:40**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Terry, do the Carrows really eat babies?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-02-01 20:31:48**

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

Wot?!!

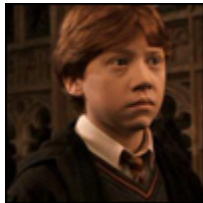


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-01 20:53:30](#)

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

Didn't you read it? This person -- Charlotte or Sirius Black or whoever it is -- says the Carrows eat muggle babies.

Also that they're vicious awful people who cruciate students for no reason and who drink themselves senseless and who attacked Mr Malfoy but I knew all that already.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-01 21:06:34](#)

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

Well, obviously all that. But eating babies? That's just-

Although. Actually.

You remember when the Protector came to hunt a unicorn in the Forest? HarMarvolo was dead sure they served the Protector and everyone at the head table some of the unicorn for supper at the feast after. His father tried to make him eat some, and he wouldn't and all the Deat Council members who were there laughed at him and made him feel like an eejit, but he didn't eat it. There were loads of them there, too. Mrs Lestrangle, for sure. I remember her laughing that night and how it gave me shivers.

But you don't really believe they eat babies, right? I mean, unicorn, sure. And that's really bad, but come on.

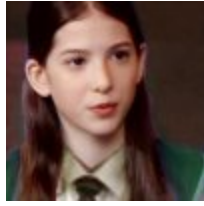


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-01 22:10:45](#)

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

I don't.

And if that's Sirius Black, I'll eat my shoe.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-01 22:17:09](#)

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

It doesn't sound anything like Sirius Black, does it?

I wouldn't put it past the Carrows to eat people, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-01 22:17:48](#)

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

Wait, they ATE the unicorn? ATE IT?

I thought the hunt was just for show. Patil definitely thought they let it go after.

Ugh. Poor thing.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-02-02 14:39:43](#)

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

Not that I've ever seen them do so.

But there was a time, when I was with Master, that they joked about it all the time, trying to get a rise out of me. I was pretty young, and it took me a while to work out that they were joking. But I was really scared until I did.

I finally figured out that they'd rather have ~~m~~ people work for them and be bullied by them than have them for food.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-01 20:29:44](#)

Order Only

Must say, Sirius, your style's really suffered since your untimely death. Red suits you though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-01 20:43:44](#)

Re: Order Only

Hahahahahahaha!

I've always wondered about being ginger.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-01 21:59:06](#)

Re: Order Only

Oh, dear. That's an awful abuse of capital letters.

It isn't right of whoever it is to lump Minerva in with those awful people, though.

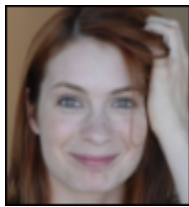



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-01 22:24:26](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom

To be honest, I'm quite worried about Minerva. I know she's under a great deal of strain, but lately it does seem like she's hitting the bottle rather more than she ought.

So, is it true that gingers are better in bed?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-01 23:00:05](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom

Yes, I have noticed. We all have our ways of coping with things, and I've seen first-hand how people sometimes look to a bottle to release stress. I can see how you'd be worried. It's just asking for trouble. But she's got Poppy and Pomona to keep an eye on her, and Frank's got me, so there's that.

And wouldn't you like to know?

Seeing as how I've never been with one, I'm not the best judge. You'll just have to ask Frank.



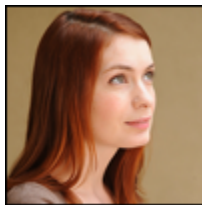
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-01 23:31:43](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom

Frank needs action about as badly as I do, or he starts to get cabin fever. When do you think he'll be able to go after the remaining muggleborns?

And as much as I'd love to find out first-hand, love, you're flattering yourself. I meant me. If I'm now a redhead I want to know if I can expect to have an even better time of it.

But in all honesty, I hope this woman's merely had her journal taken and can prove she was well away from it when this was posted.



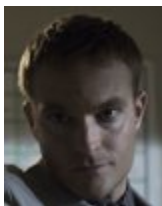
 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-02 15:22:38](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom

Soon as Bill has it ready, he'll be off like a shot.

The polyjuice mistake did him a turn, though. I hope it doesn't make him second-guess himself too much. Caution is one thing, but when you walk into the camps, you've got to look like you know what you're doing.

And I hope so too. And that whoever took it is smart enough to keep his or her head down -- although I doubt that much.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-04 02:39:44](#)

Private message to Charlotte Smythe and Barty Crouch Jr

The 'grim truth' of the matter is as follows.

Magical Law Enforcement arrested Margaret Wynn within hours of her ill-advised use of Charlotte Smythe's diary.

What happens to her now depends on you. If you return the journal to my office within two days, she will be sent to Azkaban. If you fail to return the journal, she will be handed over to Auror Bellatrix Lestrange. Auror Lestrange is perhaps the world's foremost expert

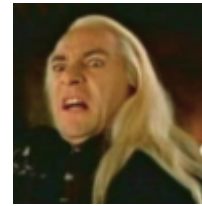
on the cruciatus curse, and has personally developed a number of alternative spells and techniques that, while somewhat less excruciating, can be used for longer periods without causing permanent damage. That said, we have no further use for Meg -- so permanent damage is no longer something any of us are particularly concerned about.

You have two days, but the sooner you get us the diary the more quickly your Meg will be in Azkaban, rather than the MLE's interrogation dungeons. Her stay so far has not been particularly comfortable.

2011-02-01 14:53:00

Private Message to Dominic Selwyn


Who or what is Madam Charlotte Smythe and why is she pretending to post as that traitor? I thought your people had discovered intelligence leading to the arrests of the authors of these patently specious posts.



 **alt_lucius**

I'm sure I do not have to point out that this sort of claim - *now*, when we await Our Lord's verdict on the very matter - may well be used as a reason not to discharge them.




 **alt_selwyn** at **2011-02-01 20:15:54**
(no subject)

We're looking back through logged entries by Smythe and there's been absolutely nothing prior to alert anyone to seditious thoughts. She seems to have rarely used her journal, and mostly to place owl orders, all with legitimate shops.

And you do not need to remind me, no. I'm all too aware.



 **alt_selwyn** at **2011-02-01 21:19:16**
(no subject)

Lucius, I just got an owl from St Mungo's. Apparently Charlotte Smythe is a patient there -- they say she came in last night after blowing up a cauldron in her kitchen. They seem quite convinced she's the victim of theft, rather than the perpetrator of sedition.

I'm sure MLE will be checking this claim. I'm going to drop a note to Barty to make sure he got the same owl.




 **alt_lucius** at **2011-02-01 21:23:38**
(no subject)

Barty's in the field to-day, and anyway it should go to Mordant Travers. Anything to do with the Grim Truth entries are his case.


Good to see Communications is moving so quickly toward successful identification. Or at least elimination of the possible suspects.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-02-01 21:28:50](#)**
(no subject)


I had my clerk deliver a note to Travers, I thought that less likely to be lost in the shuffle than a journal entry.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-02-01 21:40:56](#)**
(no subject)


We spent the last two hours trying to track down Higgs. It's not as if he informs us of his movements now that he no longer works in the office.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-02-01 22:25:51](#)**
(no subject)

Higgs? Is he connected to this Smythe woman?



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-02-01 22:31:21](#)**
(no subject)

Evidently not. But we thought it best to make sure, considering, so we brought him in to question him. He's still clearly a bit resentful of having been sacked, but we don't think he had anything to do with this affair.

2011-02-01 16:27:00

Order Only: That was Close



 [alt_sirius](#)

First off, I doubt anyone really thinks that Grim Truth was me, but it wasn't. Just in case anyone's wondering. I mean to say, I hope mine were better than that - and if that's the best these people can do, perhaps I'd best drop them an owl asking them to just stop helping, thanks.

Second, don't worry. No one suspected that the dog in Catterick Village was me. Though one of the Auror trainees got a bit hexed for his trouble. Apparently Crotch doesn't care for his people to give an innocent dog a bit of a cuddle when he's supposed to be looking for fugitives.

Third, I think I know why the area is both important and yet supposedly a cushy assignment. Place is full of Sleepers.

Barty had a couple Aurors and all the trainees with him.... They split into groups. I followed one and got lucky; one of the blokes took to Padfoot right off. He tried throwing a stick out into the street to distract me. I simply fetched it back. Well, then he gave me a good scratch and started looking for my collar to decide if I belonged to anyone in Catterick. 'We're meant to be looking for Macnair,' said his companion. 'Mr Crouch thinks he's trying to learn about the Sleepers.'

I trotted along behind, for all the world a friendly dog who's found a potential master. The young man didn't mind, though his partner complained. We headed toward the old army barracks. Merlin, if every one of those buildings is filled with Sleepers....

Well, anyway. They fiddled about with some of their equipment - can't tell whether it did them much good - and after a while they decided that the place hadn't been infiltrated. Just before they left they set up a snare cantrip. Looked like they were just going to do the same to the other buildings, so I ran off as we came out and wandered through the base to the village beyond it. There was another pair - both witches - canvassing that area. Neither of them seemed much impressed with me (I know, I know) but I tried approaching them anyway.

'Just because Willett's a pushover for canines, don't think we're going to feed you,' says one of them. I made a show of domestication. They shoed me off, more's the pity, so I had to keep my distance. But I

didn't want to leave: They were questioning the villagers. Yes, they'd seen Macnair but he was alone, no sign of Snape. No, they'd been afraid to engage him themselves. It was around dusk yesterday and he was coming out of the Vales toward the barracks.

So. If he's been working with Snape, they've separated again. And if Snape was really stealing polyjuice potion ingredients, sounds like they've run out. Or perhaps he didn't want to share with his fellow playmate.

Anyway, I listened to another few minutes of statements before they wrapped things up and said they were going back to Northallerton to help search there on the theory that he'd've chosen the Muggle town, as it's deserted, for a hiding place. Well, I couldn't very well pop up ten miles down the road as soon as they did, so I let them go and headed out at the trot. By the time I'd got there, the whole bunch of them were combing the town, including the two I'd left at the barracks.

Well, Willett - that's the one who gave me a skritch - he recognises me and thinks I've come following his scent. Not that I'm going to disabuse him, mind, but he clearly thinks more highly of a dog's tracking ability than one might expect, considering that he'd Apparated. I don't think much of his chances with deductive powers like that!

And apparently neither does Crotch, does he, because he saw Willett giving me a friendly pat and without even so much as a warning he aimed a curse at me. I danced out of the way but it grazed Willett's hand. Poor chap. Anyway, after that, I pretty much had to run away or they'd have suspected I wasn't any sort of real dog.

I don't know if they're coming back from the village tonight or they'll stay over. I'm heading up to Darlington, myself, see if I can find out any information the people there didn't want to tell the Aurors. Yes, I'll be careful!



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-02 13:48:46](#)
(no subject)

I certainly knew it wasn't you, Sirius. And I'm extremely glad you're careful. I don't think I'd dare to get so close, even in cat-form.

I've well decided that it would be ridiculous to respond. It would only fuel the fire.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-02-02 14:53:47](#)**
(no subject)

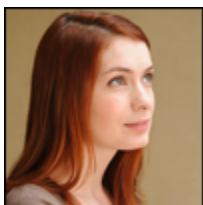
A 'show of domestication'? That must have been a sight worth seeing, my friend. Maybe even blackmail-worthy.


All kidding aside, that's a mighty interesting report. Bill, have you been compiling a map or a list of locations that have been confirmed as sites where Sleepers are stored?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-02 14:55:57](#)**
(no subject)

That's a good idea, Kingsley. I have someone in mind I might put on that project; he's good at cartography, and he's also extra good at uncovering patterns.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-02-02 15:17:40](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't know they'd moved them. It makes sense, putting them out of sight, and it explains why we don't ever see very many while we're out and about getting supplies.

It makes me go shuddery just thinking about it.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-02 20:51:54](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it's not as if it's hard to make a dog look friendly. The non-threatening part was a little difficult, especially whenever Farty showed his sour face.

There was no sign of Snape anywhere, by the way. And MLE were still skulking about today. It's been interesting to overhear them, though I can't say it's anything very helpful. If anyone has theories about why he was here, they're not saying.

2011-02-02 09:30:00

*Private Message to Mordant Travers
and Marlogosia Starling*



Success here all in terms of training, so far.
Quite useful night sessions.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Leaving Desai and Forney with trainees to
collect data and carry out sweep of
surrounding countryside. MLE sending field investigation unit to
assist.

Means I'm finishing here. Do you have any leads that need following?
Will go wherever needed.

Any interesting fruit from your analysis of the document?

I'll be ready to leave here in thirty minutes or so. If I've not heard
from you, I'll see you in the office in forty-five.

2011-02-02 09:44:00

*Private Message to Mafalda Hopkirk
and Bellatrix Lestrange*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

No strong leads on Macnair. (No sign at all of Snape.) If he's is still in the area, he's out on the moors.

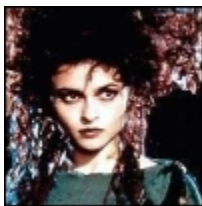
Target was clearly Catterick Barracks. Did not penetrate secured area. Working theory: sighting was not accidental. He wanted to be seen. Not a diversion for anything immediate. (Nothing in yesterday's Smythe/Black farce to suggest a link, is there?)

A calling card, then.

Effort to convince us he and Snape are not collaborating?

Leaving Desai and Forney with trainees to participate in field sweep of the moors and dales. Strong work yesterday and overnight. Few concerns. Full report later.

Have told Travers and Starling I'm available if they need me to chase leads. Otherwise, I'll be back within the half-hour.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2011-02-03 05:18:41**

(no subject)

Effort to achieve any number of things - to see who arrived at the scene, what procedure was followed, who was in charge and who was not. This was deliberate baiting.

Hopkirk, I would advise that you not spend too many resources on further sweeps. Macnair knows how to cover his tracks and lay false ones far better than most of ours.

2011-02-02 15:56:00

*Private Message to Dominic Selwyn
and Maximus Truncheon*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

We've got a suspect. Will hold at your convenience. Interrogation Dungeon 4.

Female, 20, tea-trolley witch.

Continuing to interview persons of interest at St Mungo's, but near certainty this is our Black impersonator.

Had opportunity to access records for patient, Charlotte Smythe.

Gap in time accounted for on-shift. Sufficient for theft of journal, if Apparation used.


(Has license. Known to use regularly to/from work.)

Weak attempt to falsify handwriting sample. Likely match on preliminary eval.

Shouldn't take you half an hour, M.

Selwyn. We can hold her for you, if you wish. Or Massopust, perhaps? RSVP.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at **2011-02-02 22:51:23**
(no subject)

I'm on my way.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-02 23:08:24**
(no subject)

Perfect timing.

2011-02-02 16:12:00

*Private Message to Delia Forney and
Nisha Desai*

Need Montague and Evan. Direct to MLE
Apparition-point.

ID4. ASAP.

Any progress on your end?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2011-02-02 16:56:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Have you heard more about the Professor Carrows? From your father or anything?



Or are we going to have substitute teachers for the rest of the year?

 **alt_zacharias**

Between me and you, mate, I wouldn't mind if they sacked them.



 **alt_draco** at **2011-02-03 05:11:20**
(no subject)

Sorry, Smith, but even if my Father had told me anything, it doesn't mean that I would be free to just pass it along. That's the sort of thing the governors would want to announce officially.


You think you...well, let's just say that I don't look forward to the day I go to DA and Miss Professor mistakes me for someone else.

2011-02-02 17:18:00

Private message to Lucius Malfoy and Barty Crouch Jr



Lucius, good news and bad news.


The good news is, we've definitely found our girl.  [alt_selwyn](#)
Margaret Wynn, age twenty, worked as a trolley witch at St Mungo's, which is how she knew Charlotte Smythe had been brought in. She apparated to Smythe's house and broke in specifically to get the journal -- we think she'd probably planned on this for a while, and had been watching for a patient who met certain criteria (Smythe lived alone, had no close neighbors, would be laid up for at least two days, and didn't use her journal much).

Miss Wynn was quite forthcoming under interrogation -- but she'd been careful to avoid learning anything of true use to us. She says she's part of an organised group but doesn't actually know any names because they always used code names. Moreover, they always kept their faces partly covered so she can't give us any detailed descriptions though she did give us a lengthy description of the scar on the hand of one of the men she met with, so we have that much. I believe some of Barty's people are continuing to question her but no one really believes she's holding out on us, not at this point. For the last hour or two she's been throwing out every scrap of detail she can think of in the hopes it will satisfy the interrogators.

The worst of it -- the truly unfortunate news -- is that as soon as she made that entry, she left the journal at a drop site. She told us the location, and it's clearly a spot that could be used to conceal something like a journal, but of course it's not there now. Barty's arranged surveillance but any group paranoid enough to use code names is unlikely to send people back to a compromised drop site. So they still have the journal. There's no way to switch them off, or Black's babblings would have been rather less of a problem.

Which reminds me, I hesitate to mention this but she insists -- insists - - that Sirius Black is alive. That he was seen in-country, no less, and that 'everyone' knows the body displayed was a fake. She doesn't claim to have seen him herself, and she's now gone back on the claim and says that she's sure we're right, she'd believed lies, etc, but then that's to be expected under the circumstances. I wonder if perhaps there's an individual with a close enough resemblance to be impersonating him?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-03 02:45:31](#)
(no subject)


Indeed.

So forthcoming? I don't doubt Truncheon's skills but I wonder if she broke so easily because she was meant to do. Particularly given her conviction about Black. (There could be at least one candidate to impersonate him, of course - except that we are confident he is gone as well.) Might it be that she was given information to feed to us?

Barty, I assume you are looking into her affiliations? Relations? School friends? Corroboration of her sympathies or a reason for her to have co-operated on this ... suicide mission ... may be needed.

Dominic, your thoughts about the sort of statement to issue? I can put this first on my agenda with Fudge to-morrow morning.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-03 03:10:49](#)
(no subject)

Mmm, you think she was a plant? If she was, I doubt she realised it, and I would have thought they'd have fed her some false information for her to spill.

She's a recent Hogwarts graduate. Ravenclaw House, I think. Barty's got someone on it. She's the same class as Barty's foster sister, Narcissa's niece, but I believe that young lady was in Hufflepuff, wasn't she? Anyway Barty's got someone checking on her friends and acquaintances.


As far as statements go, probably best at this point to say we caught the person who made the statement and she's made a full confession, and leave it at that. It would be nice to say she was working alone, but we'll look like fools if someone else writes in Charlotte's diary an hour later.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-03 03:23:45](#)
(no subject)

I think if they were certain she'd be caught so quickly - and break so quickly and thoroughly - that they may have used her simply to test our efficiency. I'm sure she believes her information to be genuine. Legilimency confirms that her memories have not suffered tampering?



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-03 03:33:42](#)
(no subject)

Truncheon doesn't think she's been tampered with. What do you think, Barty? Should we call in Mrs Lestrange before Miss Wynn is sent to Azkaban?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-03 03:48:45](#)
(no subject)

I agree that she's not been altered, but I see no hurry to shift her, either.

Let her rest the night, and then let's see what Bellatrix makes of her. It's amazing the water she can wring from even the driest stones, and the wet ones like this always have something left to yield Bellatrix for her trouble.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-03 03:13:48](#)
(no subject)

If you think there's an advantage to having Miss Wynn make a public statement, incidentally, I'm confident she'd be willing. I'm not sure what it would be best to have her say -- perhaps that she was misled by an older man? It could be the two of them, working together, and further posts could be blamed on him. She was young and naive and he used her, etc.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-03 03:32:23](#)
(no subject)

That might be useful. An older accomplice also gives the opportunity to describe that scar you mention. Perhaps someone will recognise it.

I'm not sure that her statement would gain anything - there are merits, of course, but flaws as well. We wouldn't want anyone to gain sympathy for her.

May be simpler to have her sign something we can issue out. That would expedite her transfer to Azkaban, if we've learned all we're likely to learn.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-03 03:37:07](#)
(no subject)

That's a good point about the scar, though despite her, hmm, extensive and highly motivated detail, it didn't actually sound all that distinctive.

She'll sign whatever we put in front of her, and you're likely correct. A weeping twenty-year-old lass is a rather pitiful sight, no matter how misguided she started out.



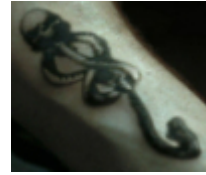
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-03 03:41:33](#)
(no subject)

As it happens, two of the trainees were her year in school. They've been immensely helpful, both in our questioning of her and in our efforts to trace her connections.

I imagine we'll spend several days interviewing persons of interest to this investigation. That has its uses even where it produces no new information.

[2011-02-02 20:06:00](#)

Private message to Alecto Carrow



The arsewipes will insist on parting us, Justine, so must resort to this. Beneath us both, but needs must be our stern taskmaster. I railed and I ranted, all argle bargle, but to no avail. They even dared lock me in! The deaf needn't even bother to stop their ears but perhaps that serves His purposes when He squelches scum underfoot.

 [alt_amycus](#)

But us? Didn't expect it. He's changed, ain't He, since the silver hunt? (Actually quite more to your tastes, m'dear!) Cruel, yes, cruel and cold, sharper like your very favourite knives, twisty and tricky and maybe doesn't mind anymore who sees it. Purified, yes. That must be it. I was impressed.

You'd think it would endear Him to us, the pure. Lodestone to lodestone. Surely as the dross has burned away, He should see your pure fire with clearer eyes. This fog is puzzling. All the chattering apes, the peacock, and others of that ilk, have drawn their trails of slime between His foot and our obeisances. Maybe even the bat, although I would have wagered sixty galleons He would have swatted her out of the air.

This waiting is tiresome. Hope the bed they've given you is better than the one they've given me (and mighty bloody cold it is without you to warm it).

And what they call whiskey I swear is no more than dragon piss.

Ah well. Draw aside your steel and leather petals for me, my silver one. I'll try to warm myself by imagining you dropping them.

One by one by one.

[2011-02-03 12:15:00](#)


Private message to Barty Crouch Jr and Bellatrix Lestrange

Any new progress this morning with the miscreant? I apologise for my absence from the interrogation dungeons today but there were matters in the office that really couldn't wait any longer.



 [alt_selwyn](#)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-03 21:42:43](#)
(no subject)

Yes. Here as well.

Full report later.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-02-03 23:48:49](#)
(no subject)

The office - of course. Pity, as there's always something very edifying about seeing progress as it happens rather than hearing about it second-hand, after the fact.

In brief, then. They have a legilimens recruiting for them. Skilled, I'd say, to be able to probe loyalties on demand in such a manner. Recruited her when she was in line to sniff the traitor's body (and more where she came from, no doubt).

I got the name and the eyes: calls himself Procyon (of course). This Procyon also shows his recruits a memory of the traitor giving a rousing speech as way of convincing them that he's still alive. The memory shown is authentic; the traitor, of course, is not.

Procyon isn't the master mind, though. There's someone else, higher up, but being a mere tea-trolley wench, our little Meg hasn't met him. Or her.

As Barty says, the full report is being processed.

[2011-02-03 19:01:00](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy and Barty Crouch Jr



I've been pondering the issue of retrieving Charlotte Smythe's journal, and it occurred to me that since presumably the traitors are reading the responses, we could use the journal to communicate with them via private message. Perhaps we might offer young Meg's fellow traitors a bargain of sorts: if the journal is returned to us promptly, Meg will be transferred to Azkaban but will remain alive. If not, or if they write in it again ... well, I'm sure Auror Lestrage could think of a suitable response.

 [alt_selwyn](#)

Their response would be instructive, if nothing else. Give us some sense of what they're made of.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-04 01:34:29](#)
(no subject)

Quite.

And, yes, I'm sure Bellatrix has a number of suitable responses to hand should they be necessary.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-04 02:41:19](#)
(no subject)

I left a reply to yesterday's message, private. You're copied on it, on the off-chance they reply with something you might find useful.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-04 03:13:51](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, yes.


I trust they will find your message sobering.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-02-04 02:13:48](#)**
(no subject)

Don't know that I share your confidence that they are reading the responses, Dominic. But it does no harm to offer them an ultimatum, if you wish. Will leave it to your discretion.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-02-04 02:42:37](#)**
(no subject)

I think they're likely reading them. If they're clever they won't reply, of course.

2011-02-03 20:50:00

(no subject)

Goodness, I had such a lot of errands to run today. I always look forward to my monthly day of primping, but it does put me behind on my rushing about the next day. Worse yet, it's meant I'm only now getting to some replies I meant to send off this morning.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

To start off: Norah, I know we had sent regrets for this week-end's event, but I was talking with Lucius last night and we would like to join in, after all. Celia's still sending Mrs Inderwick to cover the fundraiser, but if you've space for two more, we'd very much appreciate the tickets. (Barty, I'm not sure your mother reads the journals closely, so if you hear from her first, do ask, will you?)

Second: I was quite pleased with the progress the Sisters in Witchcraft showed at their spells on Saturday. No, I've not forgot my promise to answer questions about running a household, though I don't want any of you to think that's the only acceptable career for a witch. Nonetheless, if you've any questions we couldn't address for lack of time, do go ahead and ask.

Third: Ursula, think nothing of it, darling. Of course I'll come along. Tuesday, you say? I'll put it in my diary. I'm sure everything will be fine, boy or girl. We're still on for cards on Wednesday, yes?

Moving on to less specific topics, I was quite perturbed to see that Ardenia has added on a whole line of reduction treatments. In fact I saw several witches I would not have expected there for appointments. I must say I can't think any sort of treatment worthwhile could possibly take so little time! Not to mention that I'm also quite dubious as to their effects. It's no good to say one can eat as many cakes and sweets as one likes just because there are available 'easy' solutions. I've always felt the best policy is temperance and diligent exercise. Once one begins to neglect one's health, no amount of 'quick-fix' methods are going to work for long. But to each her own, I suppose.

It's no wonder everyone is searching for a cure, though, with all the Valentine's sweets one sees on sale in New London. Every window and shopfront, it seems, is hawking some box of chocolates - all of them advertising that new flavour enhancer. 'Brassicrose' I think they're

calling it. (Some Potioneer has clearly made a watershed product!) Personally, I find the stuff to have an odd texture, but perhaps it's an acquired taste. If so, I don't intend to acquire it!



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-04 03:58:42](#)

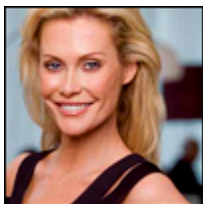
Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

I'm sure Mother will be more than pleased by your message.

To be honest, I've not been following the arrangements very closely, except to know that she insisted I buy a table in addition to hers. Not certain who has agreed to 'join' me.

My duties for the committee (for Mother) are only to see that all legalities are observed with respect to the drawings. Be prepared for Mother to pressure you to purchase chances. I'm assured it's a worthy cause. Treatment for childhood heart ailments of some sort.

On your other subject. What in Merlin's wisdom is behind this craze for reducing clinics? There's one around every corner now it seems. I sent Ned for takeaway this noon, and he brought back word that Madam Etheldreda's closed her lunch room by the Monument and replaced it with a spa. Ned will miss her bacon butties more than I'll miss her courgette loaf, but it's ridiculous.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-04 04:15:43](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

I'm sure she will - but don't let her go to any trouble over it. Certainly don't let her run away with the notion that there will be a rush to attend simply because we've said we're coming. We really weren't planning to attend but with the chatter *persisting* that Lucius was injured, he thought we ought to show in the peak of health somewhere with a modicum of press coverage. But neither of us wishes to make a splash, you understand. Two seats at your table will do nicely. That is, if we won't throw your numbers into confusion.

The lottery all depends on the prizes, naturally. Oh, that reminds me: Have you and Maebh made plans for the Frost Faire? I presume she can't break away at the weekend but there are several items during the week on our agenda. And I've a feeling Lucius may cry

off one or two. If you need help with your fancy dress for the ball, dear, do let me know. I've had ours laid by for weeks.

And I can't see the logic behind these places at all, nor the point of closing perfectly amiable luncheonettes for these so-called clinics. Do they imagine that no one will need to eat after using their services? We'll have quite a trim population for a few weeks and then no population at all!



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-04 15:53:48**

Re: Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

You'll be amused to know that Mother caught me by Floo first thing this morning to say she'd had eighteen requests for tickets before bed last night and fully expects to be showered with owl post

today.

She's put you at my table.

I asked about the prizes for the lottery--it gave me something to deflect her from other topics--two reducing spas offering a plethora of treatment options; one holiday in Snowdonia (Mother had not told me she'd corned Maebh for this); one full-service tea at Katyenka; and two pairs of tickets for the Frost Faire ball. Amongst other items.


Re. the ball. I confess I'd rather thought I'd avoid it.

In favour of merely going along for some of the public entertainments, of course. Maebh has said she could pop in Wednesday for the Freshers' Feast and the Shakespearean Shenanigans business that's meant to celebrate the start of excavations on those Bankside archaeological sites. I hadn't realised she had such a strong historical interest, but this is certainly the festival to bring that out in people, it would seem.

But today Hopkirk and Scrimgeour have put up a notice for volunteers to be there on hand should anything untoward occur.

If I were to go, what would you suggest I do about the fancy dress?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-04 17:10:31](#)

Private Message to Barty

Don't do it ... I understand it's all Elizabethan robes. You haven't the legs for the style.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-04 18:43:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

Elizabethan robes?

You mean hose and doublets and ruffs?

What could possibly lure anyone to attend?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-04 21:45:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

If you must ask, Barty, then you are clearly not ready to marry.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-04 22:00:03](#)

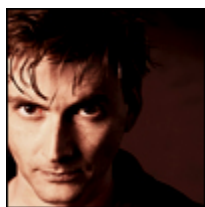
Re: Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

Is that all she has for prizes? Dear. I hope we're not made to regret the decision to join you. Then again, it's enough to fund the tickets; it will be refreshing to feel disobliged to go further in our support.

But I think the Burdett-Couttses are wise to theme their Faire so completely. It gives the festival a richer context. Besides, one needn't be an historical aficionado to find resonance with the period. Certainly there is romance to it as well as drama.

In fact, your appearance at the ball might just induce your Maebh to break away for one evening to join you. Think of the possibilities: Corsets. Busks. Petticoats. Hoops and hats and *lacings*. Velvet and pearls. Definitely a romantic era. One of the best for glorifying the human form - male as well as female.

Are you offering to let me take care of the costuming details, if you decide to cover the event?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-04 22:13:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

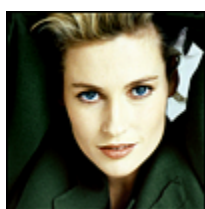
You will not disoblige me in any way should you find nothing compelling in the lottery's offerings. Don't take my list as complete, though. Those were the things I remembered--likely because those were things I found most irritating in Mother's list.

I'm sure the BCs know what they're about. Merlin knows they've made a mint staging their events.

I confess I don't share your enthusiasm for that sort of costuming, but I have now allowed Mafalda to strong-arm me into service. And I'll speak to Maebh; perhaps you're right.

And, yes, if you're inclined, I could certainly use your help. I wouldn't have the faintest idea what's needed.

One stipulation, though: nothing effeminate. In colour or fashion.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-05 03:42:34](#)


Re: Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

Well, for your mother's sake I hope she has more on offer than those items. But I'm sure she has worked hard to acquire the best options possible.

In turn, I'll see what I can do about your garb. Though you may be surprised once you see yourself bedecked. Or rather what it does to those around you.

If you had your way, Barty, you'd be in unrelenting black. But I promise I shall provide you with robes that would not have been effeminate for a dapper Elizabethan Neanderthal.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-02-05 22:29:17](#)
(no subject)

I really enjoyed last week's meeting, and I think I learned a lot! Thanks, Mrs. Malfoy.

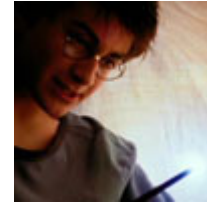
I do have a question, though, actually:

Would you consider doing a meeting of the Sisters on some of those other careers you mentioned, perhaps ones that we don't hear about as much here at school? Like, maybe music and the arts, or running a shop or other careers that use magic in different ways that what we focus on in lessons?

[2011-02-04 20:13:00](#)

SO

Does anybody think that Grim Truth was really Sirius Black??



 [alt_harry](#)

I heard Milly say she thought it was and that he was really alive and that's why the Muggles have all been so restless. Because he's insiting them. Well she didn't say insiting but that's what she meant. But we all saw his body. Father wouldn't be wrong about a thing like that I don't think.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-05 02:14:46](#)

(no subject)

Of course it wasn't him. He never WROTE like THIS from WHAT I REMEMBER.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-05 02:27:32](#)

(no subject)

I guess so. That makes way more sense. Only you know Milly.

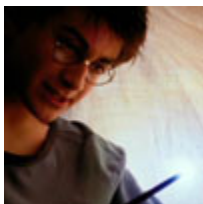


 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-05 03:34:20](#)

(no subject)

The mere suggestion is laughable, dear. Black is dead. This miserable wretch is merely an impersonator - and a dreadfully incompetent one, at that.

Pay it no mind.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-05 03:50:39](#)

(no subject)

Well that's what I thought. I just wanted to make sure.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-05 04:14:16](#)**

Order Only

No, kiddo. That wasn't me.

But that doesn't mean I'm dead. I'm still here.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-05 04:52:28](#)**

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Be careful, Hydra's mum gets REALLY CROSS when people talk like they think Sirius Black might still be alive. You don't want to get Milli in trouble (unless you're cross with her, are you?)

I can't believe she thought this Charlotte person might really be Sirius. I mean, she doesn't even sound like him.

Did you hear Siobhan and Cassie talking earlier? Meg Wynn went here pretty recently. She wasn't in Slytherin, though, she was in Ravenclaw.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-02-05 20:51:43](#)**

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

I know. I'm trying to fix it.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-02-05 06:49:47](#)**

(no subject)

Harry, dear - who is this "Milly" person?

Your Father wouldn't be wrong at all, and neither would I. You needn't worry about a thing: the traitor


is long gone.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-05 06:52:29](#)
(no subject)

She's an idiot, Mrs Auror LeStrange, and I say that with a great deal of regret. You can trust that she'll be set straight in short order.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-02-05 06:53:11](#)
(no subject)


I wasn't asking you. Small one.



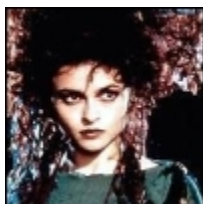
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-05 06:53:32](#)
(no subject)


No, of course not. My apologies, Ma'am.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-05 20:52:15](#)
(no subject)

She's a student in my year, but she told me I misunderstood her. It makes sense because she's pretty thick but even she isn't so thick as to think he could be alive.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-02-05 21:09:51](#)
(no subject)

It sounds as if she's quite an embarrassment to those in your year. I hope that you don't count her amongst your close friends, Harry. There are others who you can count on to tell you the truth and to not make light of such matters. Hydra, for instance.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-05 21:15:27](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ugh, this is wretched.

She's actually making me feel sorry for Milli.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-05 21:25:57](#)

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

I heard Finnigan talking about this. That Mrs Lestrage was asking Marvolo about what Bulstrode said.

Gosh.

It was rotten of Marvolo to write about it, like that. Unless he didn't mean to get Bulstrode in such a mess. Then it was just stupid.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-05 21:30:31](#)

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

I KNOW. How thick must he be, to not know that it's different if HE makes a joke about things like that, as opposed to when MILLI does?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-05 21:32:47](#)

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

He didn't mean to. But he wasn't thinking. He won't get in trouble no matter what he says and he doesn't realise how much the rest of us could.

The really odd thing is that I think he kind of wishes Sirius were still alive. The look on his face after Milli made the joke -- maybe that's why he didn't realise she wasn't serious?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-05 21:35:18](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh I know he does.

He used to write to Sirius you know. He said to me that he was the only person who ever told him the truth. I don't know what truth though. I don't think Harry's really a revolutionary. I mean not that he could be. He wouldn't be safe for us of course, or anyone else. But still.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-05 21:40:06](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

He used to write to Sirius?

And Sirius --


Wait, was he getting owls? From Sirius? And no one ever noticed? That's -- wow.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-05 21:42:19](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It was a secret. A BIG BIG secret. I don't know what was in them. He keeps them hidden. But I know he was because we talked about it a little bit. You know. Just enough for me to know what he meant.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-05 21:46:59](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I won't tell anyone.

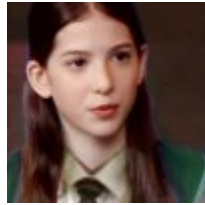
So the owls stopped? After they said they killed him, I mean.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-06 15:11:18](#)

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

I don't know. I think that maybe Harry stopped writing.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-06 15:15:04](#)

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

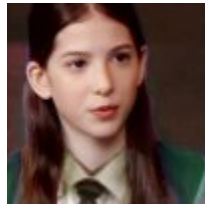
You could tell him -- well, maybe, if you wanted, you could tell him that if he wasn't sure he could send an owl and see if it came back undelivered or what happened.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-06 15:20:13](#)

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

I don't think I could, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-06 15:27:40](#)

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

Well you certainly shouldn't if he might blab it where Mrs Lestrangle would see.

He can be such an idiot.




 [alt_millicent](#) at [2011-02-05 20:51:18](#)

(no subject)

it was a JOKE



 [alt_hydra at 2011-02-05 21:15:59](#)

Private message to Harry

It's so odd when she says nice things about me, but not to me.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_harry at 2011-02-05 21:29:06](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

I wish she would say them to you more.



 [alt_hydra at 2011-02-05 22:24:42](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Does your Father say nice things to you?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_harry at 2011-02-06 15:11:55](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

No.

But other people do all the time. And nobody does for you really.



 [alt_hydra at 2011-02-06 15:42:14](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Oh that's fine, I don't really want other people to say nice things.

From,

Hydra

2011-02-04 22:13:00

Journal Theft

We had intended to delay this statement until morning, but events make it rather more urgent to communicate the facts of the matter.



MLE swiftly determined that Charlotte Smythe's journal was stolen by a young woman named Margaret Wynn. They quickly determined that she had not acted of her own volition, but was under some sort of coercion -- possibly the Imperius curse, but in this case the curse appeared to be doing additional damage. The message left in the Charlotte journal was not a threat against her safety, as they claim. In fact, what I wrote was an urgent plea to give us information on the spell used on her, so that we could undo it. Tragically (though not surprisingly) they refused, and the damage to young Meg Wynn may now prove irreversible.

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

We do have some information on the culprit. We believe him to be a male with a scar on his right hand across the knuckles; it is a large, distinctive scar and looks as though he was splashed with a potion and the burn failed to heal properly. It is possible he has additional people working for him -- but it's also possible they may not be doing so willingly, so PLEASE, if you suspect that a friend or relative may have fallen under this dangerous criminal's power, consider coming forward.

This should go without saying: we do not torture innocents. We have many methods at our disposal to allow us to be quite sure that the innocent are swiftly released, the victims given our utmost protection, and the guilty punished. Auror Lestrangle, whom they also slandered, is a professional whom I have never known to act with anything other than grace and restraint.

As further information is confirmed, we will share it, in the hopes that this individual is identified. We are offering a substantial reward for information that helps us to bring him to justice.

[2011-02-04 22:32:00](#)

Private message to Barty Crouch Jr and Bellatrix Lestrange



 [alt_selwyn](#)

Meg's all yours, Auror Lestrange. I'm confident you can ensure some 'permanent damage.' She might be useful later as an object lesson but it's probably not worth the trouble to keep her alive. (It largely depends on whether we care if word gets around that the damage was from MLE, not from some mysterious curse cast by the Dogstar traitors. St Mungo's will certainly know the difference. Do we have a secure ward of trustworthy Healers? They leaked like a sieve during the epidemic.)

Barty -- we've established they are at least reading the journal, but they're more than willing to turn their backs on members who get captured, at least low-level members. We should talk about whether we want to share the code name Auror Lestrange learned -- someone might have heard it used, but on the other hand, it might give them a certain glamour we'd rather avoid.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-05 05:35:12](#)
(no subject)

If there's anything left when Bella's finished, I'd send it to Azkaban. Bury it there. You're too right about St Mungo's permeability.

I suggest we keep the code name Procyon to ourselves. It will tell us more when we do run across it, and in the meantime, we'll avoid spawning imitators and admirers. Besides, the recruitment system we've discovered is sophisticated and subtle enough that I doubt publishing the name would lure any informants. I'm not convinced that many of Procyon's conquests know that they know his name. We know to probe for it now, however, and that may pay rich benefits one day.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-02-05 05:39:05](#)
(no subject)

Excellent point.

I've been trying to think of avenues to investigate

that might turn up a rogue legilimens. It's not a particularly common skill. Are there tutors that MLE uses? Do any take private clients? Perhaps the booksellers might be able to provide names of individuals who've bought books, though plenty of people try to learn the trick and fail.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-05 05:49:43](#)
(no subject)


It's not common at all. You're quite right.

We don't attempt to teach the skill to those who have no pre-existing aptitude. Occlumency, yes, for defensive purposes. Legilimency, however, is a waste of training time in people with no predisposition.

Bellatrix seems certain that this Procyon is a natural talent. That does not, of course, mean he is untrained nor that he has gone undetected all his life.

Bellatrix may have thoughts on ways to trace him.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-02-05 16:35:49](#)
(no subject)

His training was not thorough, if he had it. He let the girl get a lasting impression of his face.

Were the body still on display, I'd suggest staking out the lines to watch for recruitment activity, but as that's no longer possible I currently have one of the assistants combing the calender, looking for events where feelings about the Protectorate, be they good or ill, are most likely to be roused.

2011-02-04 22:43:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Ugh. Did you see what Charlotte said Director Selwyn told her? I wouldn't wish being given to Hydra's mum on anyone. Except the Carrows. Maybe.

Ugh.

I heard Siobhan talking to Cassie and they know who Meg Wynn is. She's only a few years ahead of the 7th years -- she left Hogwarts right before we got here. So she's a grownup but she's a really young grownup. She was in Ravenclaw so some of their older students would have known her.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-02-05 05:42:53**
(no subject)

D'you think Director Selwyn really wrote that to her. Or him? Who do you think is really writing in that journal? They say it isn't Charlotte Whatshername, but it's surely not Sirius Black, either.

But do you think Director Selwyn really said what she says he said? Or what he says he said? I mean, the person who's writing those Grim Truths is so

so sort of rude about it, I guess, especially about what she calls Director Selwyn that it's almost like it's a joke and they don't expect you to believe it. Did you see what they called him? Death Eater of Protectorate Oppression?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-02-05 05:45:57**
(no subject)

I'm just going to say 'she.' I know it's not really Charlotte Smythe, but it's hard not to think of the person as female as long as they're writing under her name.

I don't know what I think. Only I expect they really want that

journal back, more than they wanted to help Meg Wynn if she'd really been cursed.




 **alt_sally_anne** at [2011-02-05 16:26:31](#)
(no subject)

I read both messages again this morning and did you notice Director Selwyn said Bellatrix Lestrange acts with -- what was it? -- 'grace and restraint.' That's a laugh. And here's the thing. You know what I think, is that he knows everyone will know he's lying. He wants everyone to know that if you get mixed up with these people, even if it's by accident, they'll give you to Bellatrix Lestrange to torture until you go mad. But he wants everyone to have to pretend that they think MLE is a bunch of nice blokes who just want to help you.

The 'Death Eater of Protectorate Oppression' title sounded a little like something Fred and George would say if they had a stolen journal and could say it without people knowing it was them. Except, I can't imagine them just saying 'fine, then, she got caught and we don't care about her anymore' if someone they knew were -- yeah.

Ugh.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-02-05 23:24:03](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you're right about that. They're all dead awful, aren't they? Director Selwyn's as bad as Mrs Lestrange and that Mr Crouch.

I thought he was sort of a normal bloke, you know. Director Selwyn, I mean. And I know you told me I was wrong about thinking he was nice to me when I had to talk to him on my birthday last year, but I guess

I mean, if he'd do this to some girl who's just a couple years past school-

She's younger than my brother Charlie, y'know.

And, yeah. You're right about Fred and George, too. They wouldn't ever. None of us would.

2011-02-04 22:44:00

Grim Truth 4/2/94

Greetings, Fellow Prisoners!

Surely you're waiting for the next jinx in the duel. You won't hear the Grim Truth from your gaolers! It is left to me, Sirius Black, to expose their infamy.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_charlotte](#)

You'll all be interested to know that your so-called 'Protectors' were quick to assign blame to a scapegoat. Usually it's me, Sirius Black, they blame for actions they have perpetrated. But this time they've descended to new depths. An innocent twenty-year-old, Meg Wynn, was apprehended in connection with my message from earlier this week.

Last night, the journal of Charlotte Smythe received this note from Death Eater of Protectorate Oppression Dominic Selwyn:

What happens to [Meg] now depends on you. If you return the journal to my office within two days, she will be sent to Azkaban. If you fail to return the journal, she will be handed over to Auror Bellatrix Lestrangle. Auror Lestrangle is perhaps the world's foremost expert on the cruciatus curse, and has personally developed a number of alternative spells and techniques that, while somewhat less excruciating, can be used for longer periods without causing permanent damage. That said, we have no further use for Meg -- so permanent damage is no longer something any of us are particularly concerned about.

See how quickly their benevolence turns to threat! In the face of any freedom of speech, they hide behind the iron grip of censorship, violence and destruction!

I don't know who this young woman is or why she was chosen to stand in for me - probably because they are so incompetent that they have not yet managed to stop me, despite all their professions to the contrary. But I do know that it will take more than one innocent life to bring down the wards. and free us all from this fascist regime.

It's not enough that they subject our children to the likes of the Carrows - they have to torture and imprison our young patriots to make themselves feel secure in their positions of dominance.

I call upon all citizens to demand that the wards be lifted, that we trade freely again with the world. Look around you at the excess of the rich and the squalor of the poor! Look at the atrocious lack of concern in the ruling classes for their oppressed underlings! That is the crime deserving of justice!

I will not stop alerting you all - reminding you all - of the call to arms. I will not be demonised for their cruelty! We must all stand NOW before worse fates are doled out to the masses. Meg Wynn, whether she knows it or not, is a freedom fighter - a warrior, warring against the oppressive dictators who are setting themselves on high while the rest of us live in chains.

Stand Up and Be Counted! Do not let Meg Wynn pay for your complicity! Tell the Ministry you are appalled, as I am, by this heinous act of cowardice!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 04:10:41](#)

Order Only

Well, at least this one sounds more like me.

Only it also sounds like they don't give a shrivelfig for Meg Wynn, does it?

I wonder how she's connected to this - and if she knew what sorts of risks she was taking.

Dora? Did you, er, know her? Was she sympathetic? Or is she truly an innocent?

Either way. Poor girl.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 09:29:37](#)

Re: Order Only

I'd recognise her in a line up, but that's about it. I don't believe that imperius nonsense, just because I don't believe anyone could describe my aunt as acting with grace and restraint and not be talking total cobblers.

So I'd guess she was sympathetic, probably actively involved with

whoever's writing these things.

I feel terrible for her. There but for the grace of god, you know?

2011-02-05 06:16:00

Order Only

Meg Wynn was in my year at school.

I didn't see all this last night, I had an early one. Meg.. I didn't really know her, to be honest. She was a Ravenclaw, you know. Nothing against Ravenclaws. We just didn't really mix. We probably had a few lessons together over the years, but we weren't ever friends. I'd recognise her to say hello if I saw her now, though.



 **alt_nymphadora**

Well, maybe not now the Aurors have finished with her.

I can't believe they've taken her in. I don't believe this Imperius stuff for a minute. The idea of my aunt Bellatrix acting with, what was it? Grace and restraint? That's ridiculous enough on its own to make the whole statement look phoney.

I guess Meg must have got mixed up with some resistance group. That's kind of ironic. Maybe we would've been friends after all, if we'd ever talked. I never thought of her as being an idealistic sort, but maybe we were all hiding ourselves by then. It wasn't exactly a good time for trusting people and taking chances.

Is there anything we can do to help her? Remus says it's probably too late, but I don't want to just abandon her. She's one of us, even if she doesn't know it. Even if we didn't know it.

Maybe all we can do is remember her. Remember the truth. Keep fighting.



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-02-05 13:03:03**

(no subject)

Oh, dear.

I'm sorry to say I don't remember her at all. And she left here such a short while ago if she was indeed in your year. I suppose she was one of the robustly healthy children who never cross my threshold, and perhaps she was never in the sort of trouble that brings certain pupils to one's attention.

I'm afraid Remus has the right of it. I can't see what we could do to help Miss Wynn now. If they haven't murdered her, I imagine that they'll either pack her off to Azkaban or send her to the special facility they've opened for the perpetual care of those with irreparable curse damage.

They ran out of room on the old ward in St Mungo's, you know, so now they move those patients out to a sanatorium at Hampstead. They call it 'the Vale of Health', I've heard. I've not seen it, but I rather imagine that's an ironic name for a very sad place.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 14:58:38](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Madam P. I've been trying to think of glorious plans to sneak into St Mungo's and, I don't know, do something to help her. But if she's not even there, if she's at some horrible asylum in Hampstead, there's no chance, is there. Even if we could find the place, we'd never be able to get in undetected.

Poor Meg.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-05 15:11:27](#)
(no subject)


I'm very sorry for this girl, of course, but I'm relieved to hear that you've seen sense about this sneaking in to save her business.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:13:56](#)
(no subject)

I haven't so much seen sense as been thwarted in my efforts. I'd still go if I could think of a way of getting in.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-05 15:16:40](#)
(no subject)

Putting yourself, our baby and the whole of the Order in danger, were you apprehended?

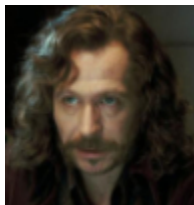



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:20:33](#)
(no subject)

Well the aim is to not be apprehended, but yes.
Yes.

It could've been me in there, you know? It wasn't so long ago that the Ministry were investigating me, after that incident with the records room. If they'd had more evidence, or decided I was in league with Sirius, or if they'd just wanted to make an example of me, it could've been me driven mad by curses and dumped in some loony bin, out of sight and out of my mind.


I suppose you would've just left me there to rot like Meg will?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 15:25:51](#)
(no subject)


Not if we could help it, and that's the difference between the Order and this lot.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:26:53](#)
(no subject)

With all due respect Sirius, I wasn't asking you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 15:34:31](#)
(no subject)

Then have your domestic privately, or off-journal.


Remus is right. It's bollocky bugging bleeding awful, but it's probably too late even if we had the means.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:27:19](#)
(no subject)

Well?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-05 15:30:27](#)
(no subject)

Dora.

As Sirius said, we would've tried, of course.
But you said yourself, we can't get to her. It's
just not possible.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:35:50](#)
(no subject)

So we just give up on her? Because it's a bit
too difficult?

You utter bastard. Where are you? I want to
shout at you in person.

No, actually I'm going for a walk. Don't even speak to me
until I come back.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-05 15:39:23](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'm afraid we must give up any rash ideas of
freeing her. I don't know what on earth we'd do to
help her if we were to end up with her in our care.
There are some things it is simply impossible to
cure, and your aunt is very well aware of how to inflict just such
damage.

Now that's not to say that we shouldn't look into what the Ministry
and St Mungo's are doing at this sanatorium at Hampstead. The
numbers being kept there and the conditions they're subjected
to... those facts might be very powerful tools to use against the
Ministry should we find the right moment to reopen our own

propaganda campaign.

Given their response to the Director's ultimatum, I rather doubt this shabby group of would-be Grim Truth-tellers have the compassion to think of telling that story.



 **alt_sirius** at [2011-02-05 14:23:22](#)
(no subject)

I've been feeling sick over all this since last night. Wish I had a decent spliff.

I believe what 'Charlotte' copied out was Selwyn's real message. The Imperius business is rubbish, obviously, and you're right, anyone who's met Bella knows that what he said about *her* being conscientious is complete bollocks.

On the other hand, it's certainly plausible that Meg's role in this escapade was innocent - or at least, unwitting. We don't have much information, Dora. What if her part in this whole mess was simply to hand over Ms Smythe's journal to someone claiming to be her son or daughter - or brother or sister? What if she simply thought she was helping one of the patients and hasn't ever had a second thought about the Protectorate? She may not have written that entry herself. Or she may have been coerced to write it for some other reason. I'd not put it past Bella or Selwyn, for that matter, to blame the whole thing on her out of expediency and then try to force the real culprit's hand through blackmail, ultimatum and an appeal to his or her guilt for getting Meg involved.

Mind you, either way, I don't think much of 'Charlotte's' willingness to sign Meg over to them. If that quote really is from Selwyn, then this response is calculated to tell him and Bella to get stuffed. It certainly means Meg's been thrown to the crups by now. If she were really a recruit in some organised group like ours, they've just given up on her without even trying. Not only does it waste an asset, it may well make others think twice about joining them. Certainly it makes me a bit ill they're using my name so freely.

I rather want to take up my journal again to remind them what a real Grim Truth sounds like. But I know, I know. Can't reveal to MLE that I'm alive.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:09:13](#)
(no subject)

If she was an unwitting or unwilling participant in all this, she would've turned over every detail she knew immediately. The Aurors aren't searching the streets for a person or group that she's described as having duped or coerced her. They're trying to contact these people via the only link they have, the journal, and if that message really is what Selwyn said, they're trying to use Meg as a bargaining chip to draw these people out.

That definitely suggests to me that the Aurors believed, perhaps wrongly, that Meg was worth something to them. And if they believed that, she can't possibly have told them that she was an innocent bystander who got duped by a stranger.

No, I'm quite sure she was in on it. Naively, perhaps, but willingly.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 15:31:22](#)
(no subject)

I agree that that's the most likely explanation, Dora. But you're discounting the notion that she *did* tell them everything she knew, immediately or as near as. Here's another scenario for you: The person who tricked, convinced or seduced her into getting that journal was a bloke getting into her robes. Her instinct was to try to protect him, which is why the Death Eaters became convinced she did have something to do with it all. By the time they satisfied themselves she'd told them everything she knew, she was no good to be released already. So they totted up this false story and used her as a bargaining chip, as you say, hoping that the chap she told them about - or whatever she told them - will be so filled with remorse at the fact that she became his patsy that he'll reveal himself somehow - or be bullied into silence, at least.

Decent people are easy to manipulate. It's fairly sure they'll try to do the right thing.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-05 15:41:02](#)
(no subject)


Why are you so convinced she was a naive innocent? A woman can't make a choice to get involved in revolution - it has to be because some bloke made her do it while trying to get in her robes? Or because she was duped by some man into doing something she didn't understand the consequences of?

Maybe she made a choice. Maybe she believed in what she was doing.

What the hell difference does it make now, though, since we're just going to leave her to rot in that god awful place anyway.

Bugger it all. I don't want to talk about this any more.



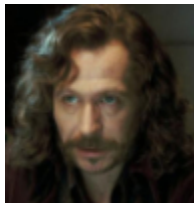
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-05 15:43:26](#)
(no subject)


That's wretched.

Stop it.

I'm not disagreeing as to the hopelessness of Miss Wynn's situation, but there's no need to speculate lewdly about her. We don't and perhaps can't know the facts of her involvement, but

There's simply no need for this, that's all.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 15:48:09](#)
(no subject)


Look, I'm not speculating lewdly. Or making excuses.

I'm saying we don't know. At all.

And given this ersatz-Sirius Black or Charlotte Smythe's response to that ultimatum, I'm sorry, I'm not sure which group is worse - his or theirs.


Even if she went willingly on a suicide mission, I don't care at all for the callous way my namesake is throwing her life away. And it's in MY NAME, Poppy, so I think I've a right to be just as upset as anyone over the whole business. I hope her family, if she has any, can forgive us all.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 15:52:38](#)
(no subject)

And furthermore, I don't want Dora underestimating the depths to which Death Eaters will sink to get what they want.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-05 15:58:40](#)
(no subject)

I beg your pardon!

Do you mean to suggest you think her in need of a warning against seduction?

Think several moments before you answer me, Sirius Black.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-05 16:19:15](#)
(no subject)

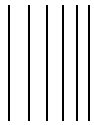
No.

I'm suggesting that we all need to be very realistic about our enemies.

I'm suggesting that this new Sirius-impersonator may not be altruistic in method or motive.

I'm suggesting that Dora's enough like me that I know she wants to simply charge in when she perceives an injustice and that *none* of us have a complete picture of what happened or why.

I'm suggesting that Death Eaters like Selwyn are thoroughly duplicitous and untrustworthy. If he told me the sun were rising over Picadilly I'd have to check the clock to make sure it were morning.



I'm suggesting that we're all distraught and it's a fucking nasty piece of business. All right?

2011-02-05 10:42:00

Order Only: Private Message to R J Lupin

Er.


Pregnancy hormones?

Having a rough time of it, are you?



 [alt_sirius](#)




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-02-05 16:02:22**
(no subject)

It's been a challenging day, I don't deny it.

I don't know that it's the hormones so much as the frustration of feeling restricted. She's a bit paranoid about being super careful not to trip and fall or some such, in case the baby gets hurt. It's putting a bit of a strain on her, I think. Then all this business with this girl Meg. Well, you know Dora, she's never liked sitting on the sidelines. And I keep telling her to rest and take it easy, focus on her own health and the baby's wellbeing. Not what she wants to hear at all.

If this is being an adult, I'm not sure I'm at all ready for it. Can't we just go back to school and throw dungbombs at Snape for a few more years?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-02-05 16:24:20**
(no subject)


Sounds good to me.

I hear Canada's lovely. Perhaps not this time of year, though.

Maybe you ought to ease off on treating her like Dresden china? I know it's hard with the cold weather, but that back garden project really gave her something to channel her energy, and only a bit of risk. Have you considered weather charms on the area so it's warm? That might give her an outlet.

And now Poppy's going off as well. Merlin.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-05 16:33:52](#)
(no subject)

I'm telling her to take a break now and then and not to worry so much, not chaining her up in the cellar. It doesn't seem to matter what I say or do, though. She's putting all this pressure on herself.

She has been working on the beergarden, chatting to everyone who comes through, gathering intelligence as well as just getting to know everyone. But she does get tired out, whether she likes to admit it or not.

All this stuff today, it's prompted a very emotional reaction. But it's just the one day. I understand from those who are much wiser than I that marriage consists of ups and downs. Today's just a tough one. We'll sort it out when she gets back, never fear.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-06 00:46:19](#)
(no subject)

Well, if you need a bolt-hole, remember there's a bed in the shack. Such as it is.


You needn't worry about me; I've got the dog bed Allie gave me.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-06 12:48:14](#)
(no subject)

Thank you. But I left her to deal with this one her own once, I shan't do so again.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-06 13:39:44](#)
(no subject)

So she gets to stretch her legs and you don't, is that how it is?

It's not abandoning her if you just need to get away for a short break, mate. Sounds like she's not the only one under a strain.

You don't have to agree about everything, either. James and Lily were proof enough of that.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-02-06 18:09:23](#)**
(no subject)

It wouldn't help anything for me to leave her here to deal with the shop and everything on her own, not in her condition.

Doesn't matter now anyway, she's gone. Taking a few days to "think about things", although apparently it's not me and she's going to come back.

I have a whole new respect for James if he ever went through feeling as bad as this.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-06 18:15:54](#)**
(no subject)

You've done nothing wrong, Remus.


Want me to pop down for a bit?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-02-06 18:18:26](#)**
(no subject)

If you've nothing more important on, you'd certainly be welcome.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-06 19:07:14](#)**
(no subject)

Ta, because Hogsmeade is so stimulating.

2011-02-05 10:44:00

Private message to Millicent Bulstrode

Millie,

Since you loomed over me at breakfast, waiting for Elizabeth and Antigone to budge over for you, I gather that you've failed to realise that I am, once again, no longer speaking to you.



 [alt_daphne](#)

Daphne



 [alt_millicent](#) at **2011-02-05 20:43:35**

(no subject)

it was a joke

how should i know marvollo would take it that way???



 [alt_daphne](#) at **2011-02-05 21:04:43**

(no subject)

How exactly is anything about Black meant to be funny? And now you've got Auror Lestrage asking about you, too! You ought to have a better sense of self-preservation than that. You are a Slytherin, after

all.



 [alt_millicent](#) at **2011-02-05 21:17:51**

(no subject)

well everybody knows it cant be true

so

it was suposed to be funny like that


but anyhow i know. im going to be very polite.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-05 21:22:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh Millie, I'm sorry. I'm just worried about you, you see. I'm cross, too, but also worried. It is always better to be polite, you know. Rather like I am. You should just try to pretend that you're me when you talk, and then maybe things like this wouldn't happen.



 [alt_millicent](#) at [2011-02-05 21:32:34](#)
(no subject)

i know i oughtto. just sometimes things come out anyhow you wouldnt like there to be two of you



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-05 22:57:37](#)
(no subject)

Ha, well you're right, I wouldn't much like, and really you'll always be you. It wouldn't be the same if you weren't. But if you try to think before you speak, it would help. I'm also cross with Marvolo for even posting about what you said, but I can't tell him I'm cross. Or maybe I should. He ought to think before he speaks or writes, too!

[2011-02-05 23:07:00](#)

Private Message to Hannah Abbott

I never thought I'd feel any sympathy for Bultstrode (even though she was surprisingly decent at Teatime of the Strange) but now I do.



 **[alt_susan](#)**

Anybody can open their mouth and say something a bit stupid, but not really mean it. Which goes for Marvolo, too, really.



 **[alt_hannah](#)** at **[2011-02-06 22:16:42](#)**
(no subject)

I know what you mean. She can be cutting, but I expect everyone just knows that she grumbles a lot and shrugs it off as 'that's just Bulstrode.' But the Slytherins have usually stuck up for her, up until now.

I don't think that Harry Marvolo exactly thinks all the time before he opens his mouth and says things! I mean, he's the Lord Protector's son, but it's as if he sometimes almost forgets that, and so he gets surprised when people all fall over themselves because of something he's said.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-02-06 23:12:58](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I think Marvolo just wants to be treated like everyone else, but he simply *isn't* everyone else.

I'm sure he realises that now--at least, I hope he does.

2011-02-06 09:32:00

*Order Only: Private Message to
Nymphadora Tonks*



 **alt_lupin**

Are you absolutely sure this is necessary? You can't take some time and think about things at home? Or I can go, you can have the place to yourself if that's what you want.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-02-06 16:50:22**
(no subject)

I'm going to come back. Don't worry. I just need a few days to think. It's not you, not really. I just.. have to be elsewhere for a bit.

[2011-02-06 17:48:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Why can't it be a Hogsmeade weekend already? This was the worst weekend ever. And I can't believe they'll be back to teaching tomorrow, can you?



 [alt_padma](#)

McGonagall looked ready to spit nails, didn't she, when she announced it.

At least rehearsal went well. And Page isn't in the play, thank Rama.


If Hooper still wants to come revise with us, he can. I just want to make sure you know that. It's not his fault.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-02-06 23:06:39](#)
(no subject)

Wait, what happened? I mean I heard about the Carrows, UGH. But what -- did you and Page have a fight?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-06 23:14:35](#)
(no subject)

You don't

I thought Lav might have said. Or Parvati.

Page told me yesterday that he

He thinks I'm not taking him very seriously. And that I'm too worried about people thinking the wrong thing. And that if they're going to think that then we might as well go ahead, which I don't think people do think that. I mean, they know we like each other, but I think I've made it clear that we weren't snogging, and so I'm hardly going to start just so they can confirm it.

Well, anyway. He said that he thought maybe I should wait a little longer, or else not go out with anyone if I'm not going to act like I'm going out with someone. So we broke up. Or. Well, we broke up.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-02-06 23:15:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

And right before Valen

Wow. I'm sorry.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-06 23:57:13](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.


And yes, I know it's a week before Valentine's.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-02-07 01:13:05](#)
(no subject)

I can't believe we'll still have to sit class with the Carrows. Either of them. I don't have Dark Arts or Transfiguration until Wednesday, at least.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-07 01:20:23](#)
(no subject)

We've got Transfiguration tomorrow. A double period, too.

Did I say this was the worst weekend ever? It's going to be a horrid week, too.

Maybe the Carrows being back in class will distract certain people too much to take the mick if they hear about Page.

Then again, we're not supposed to have been going out in the first place, as far as anyone knew. So I guess I could just act as if nothing's wrong.

That's not very easy, though.

2011-02-06 19:33:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So.

The Carrows are back starting tomorrow. Nev and I don't have to worry til Wednesday, but you lot've got Transfig tomorrow, yeah, Perks?



 [alt_ron](#)

Have you thought what you're going to do if he goes mental?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-02-07 03:26:41**
(no subject)

Transfiguration in the morning.

Dark Arts in the afternoon.

Duck behind Vince? He's enormous, he should hide me. Pansy can use Greg.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-02-07 03:37:59**
(no subject)

Ha!

Well that's as good an idea as any I've had.

Do it.

Just don't partner with Bulstrode tomorrow, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-02-07 04:33:09**
(no subject)

No worries there.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 03:52:19](#)
(no subject)

Lucius will have his arse on a platter if he lifts a finger against me.

And he knows it.

So Sally-Anne, if you've got to use anyone as a human shield, use me.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 04:38:23](#)
(no subject)

Well that might work in Transfiguration but what about Dark Arts?

1. You're not in Dark Arts with me.
2. Alecto Carrow attacked Mr Malfoy so I'm not sure she's worried about him putting her arse on a platter.
3. Draco's too skinny PLUS he'd be busy diving in front of Harry. If only we had Dark Arts with Gryffindor instead of Hufflepuff I would duck behind Finnigan; what else are Gryffindors FOR but to defend hapless Slytherin girls from lunatic professors? Well, and dragons.

Defend us from dragons, I mean, I would think a dragon could hold its own against either Carrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 17:25:00](#)
(no subject)

I think it's the other way round: the Carrows--even just one of them--could hold their own against a dragon.

Though I'd kind of like to see who'd get the best of it if it was a Horntail!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 17:38:14](#)
(no subject)

I'd pay money to see that!

I think the whole school would be rooting for the Horntail.

Everyone made it out of Transfiguration in one piece. Professor Carrow seemed quieter than usual, if anything.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 18:29:03](#)
(no subject)

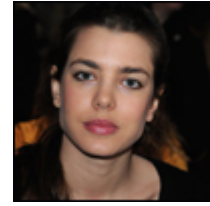
No joke!

Good quieter? Or really freakin' scary quieter?

[2011-02-06 20:00:00](#)

XLIV.

This week has been so full I haven't had time to write about it, but I have to write now and tell you all that you must go see Sarah Yaxley's exhibit in the Furnage Gallery at County Hall.



 [alt_lana](#)


It is sobering, staggering, and astonishingly honest.

I was there on Thursday, and I went again this afternoon for a special reception, and both times I've found myself profoundly unsettled by the raw bestiality of her Muggle subjects. When you look into the eyes of that young Muggle mother or confront the feral gleam in the eyes of a clutch of their young or stare into the grim, flat glaze of the slave's eyes, you see the truth of it, the unbridgeable gulf between us.

Sarah: you deserve every accolade that will come your way.

The rest of you: please, do not miss this remarkable new exhibit. It will open your eyes to the truth of our world.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-07 15:39:41](#)
(no subject)

I wish Hogwarts were closer to New London! It would be snitch to come there instead of Hogsmeade for a weekend, so we could come view the exhibit and see all the sights. Mum says the Frost Faire's already well

beautiful.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-02-07 18:17:35](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes. It is beautiful!


I've been walking along the Thames during lunch breaks for the past fortnight (save for several days when I've had assignments out of town). It's been well interesting to see them preparing the river and then laying in the ice spells that will hold it fast throughout the Faire.

They promise that even if we have unseasonable temperatures, the

ice, which they claim is between three and four feet deep, will hold firm.


It has to be that thick in order to hold the weight of all they've built on top of it. You'd be amazed if you could see it! It's like a whole new city's been built out there, and it's just marvellous!!



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-07 15:48:48](#)**
(no subject)

How very interesting. How long with the exhibit be open, Miss Sandoval, and what are the hours of the gallery? I heard some commentary about it this morning from several of my coworkers at the Department of Muggle Domestication at the Ministry--apparently the gallery thoughtfully sent over a pamphlet--and there is some interest in organising a group expedition to see it.




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-02-07 15:52:57](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure that will be very interesting, Father. If you do go see it, I'd be curious to get your impressions of the exhibit.


(Congratulations to Yaxley, Sandoval.)



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-07 15:53:09](#)**
(no subject)


I'll make a point of doing so, my boy.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-07 15:53:32](#)**
Order Only


Ugh.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-07 20:01:02](#)**
(no subject)

Let me know when your department sets a date, Dad, and I'll come along, too.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-07 20:03:29](#)**
Order Only

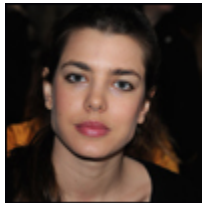
I might as well get suck up points for attending, too. Misery loves company, after all. We can stick to each other so you won't have to make polite answers to any coworker's 'enlightened'


commentary.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-07 20:04:27](#)**
Re: Order Only


That would be a great kindness, son.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2011-02-07 18:24:29](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Weasley.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2011-02-07 18:23:33](#)**
(no subject)

I'm very glad you will be going, Mr Weasley. It's definitely worth your time; Yaxley's photography is simply breathtaking--almost violently so in some cases. I don't believe anyone who views it will leave

unmoved.

I've checked for you: the gallery opens at 10:00 am and throughout the Faire it will be staying open until 9:00 pm--all the Thameside galleries have agreed to special hours to attract Faire-goers. After that the gallery will return to its customary closing at 6:00 pm.

The show closes the last day of February, so you have all month to see it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 16:00:29](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You'd look feral too if you never had enough to eat.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-02-07 19:59:31](#)

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

know what you mean.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-02-07 16:56:00](#)

(no subject)

I'm not usually one for art, but this is quite a recommendation.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-07 17:51:06](#)

(no subject)

Miss Sandoval is correct: It's quite an exhibition.

We were at the reception yesterday very briefly. Claudius is understandably quite proud.

Have you any plans to attend the games at the Frost Faire this week? I'm trying to decide what we can still attend. There was a little...surprise waiting for us when we arrived home yesterday.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-02-07 20:54:17](#)

(no subject)

I'm sure we'll put in an appearance. Does that qualify as "attending?"

I don't know if I should take that to mean it was a

good surprise, or a bad surprise, so I'll just take it to be a surprise, full stop.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-07 21:18:59](#)
(no subject)

You might come with us. We're planning to spend some time tomorrow at the carnival pavilions. We were going to go to the wine tasting on Thursday, but I'm not sure that's in the best of taste.

Our surprise is in the way of a houseguest, you see. I don't wish to leave her at the Manor to mope over her situation, so I'm working out which events will be appropriate and I can tempt her to come along. If Bella's not interested, could I prevail upon you to squire your niece about?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-07 23:32:35](#)
Order Only

No.

No way.

I'm staying with Moony for a couple of days, but I think I'd best make sure he doesn't read this.

Bloody Erebus.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-02-08 03:38:08](#)
(no subject)

Everyone still thinks that I'm the one with the blissfully open schedule, it seems. Though it is true that I prefer to work late at night in my lair than toil during the day in an office.

Why is she moping, then? I suppose I could ask in person, if it more appropriate. Maybe she'll want to see the baby.




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-02-08 03:51:36](#)**
(no subject)

Not at all, Rodolphus, though you do have the luxury of making your own hours. I just know that you do tend to get highly focused and forget to leave your workshop. I shouldn't want you to miss out on the Faire when it's got such a lot to offer.

Well, you know I never object to seeing my nephew, but I'm not sure if it would help or harm.

You could always bring Mrs Baylock and then if it turns out a bad idea, she can take him to the nursery.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2011-02-07 18:26:42](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I think you'd find this show compelling. If you go, I'd really like to hear what you think of it.

2011-02-07 09:53:00

Busy weekend



 [alt_arthur](#)

Molly and I were suffering a bit with colds and so didn't open our journals all weekend. She cooked me lovely steak and kidney pie in celebration of my birthday last night, but neither of us had much of an appetite, and I'm afraid I didn't do it justice. We tried the usual potions, but the ingredients we had at home had gone a bit off, so they were ineffective. Molly popped out to the village apothecary, only to discover they were out of pepper up potion, too. Hard to believe in February! But a new batch had been brewed and delivered by early this morning, and so I'm feeling much better and back at my desk. The steam still coming out of my ears is a nuisance, though.


Of course, despite the fact that we were feeling under the weather, we still had chores to do. The goat shed still needed to be mucked out, and the chickens fed and the straw turned, never mind that we were sneezing our heads off. I had brought some reports home over the weekend and dozed off over the spreadsheets late last night and woke up with ink on my cheek--I had knocked over the ink well when eyes drifted shut and my noggin drifted toward the surface of the kitchen table. I was glad I did bring the reports, home, as I'm quite caught up now. The Muggleborn Labour Committee is meeting tomorrow, and it had to be finished for that.

We've had rather a lull in the shuffling of subject placements (both muggleborns and newly awakened Sleepers). I think the labour market has finally settled down enough in the aftermath of Black's Paralysis, that we're able to make good predictions of what manpower will be needed where. There are always shortages in the coal mines, but that's an ongoing problem that I think we'll just have to live with. The bosses prefer them young, as small bodies do a better job of getting into the narrower tunnels. The accident rate remains unfortunately high, however, which necessitates a constant turnover of labour.

February's a slog, even if it's short. I must admit I'm weary of this cold, grey weather.

Fortunately, I have leftover steak and kidney pie for lunch today to help cheer me up.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-07 16:28:02](#)

Order Only: Minerva?

Do you have a more complete name yet for that 'Baby Lee' you mentioned seeing in the Book? Frank and I still need to track down the remaining muggleborns you mentioned.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-07 17:29:25](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva?

The name is very curious. It seems to be flickering - between 'Francis' and 'James.'



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-07 18:44:07](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva?

That is curious. You would think the parents would have made up their minds on what to call it by now.

Hmm...I'll see if I can figure out what's going on by looking over the birth records for the past few months.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-02-07 16:30:26](#)

(no subject)

Now I'm craving steak and kidney pie.

I'm sorry you weren't feeling quite the thing for your birthday, Dad. I was thinking of you yesterday.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-07 16:31:42](#)

(no subject)


Thank you, my boy. Fortunately, I'm feeling quite a bit better today. I did receive your owl, and thank you for remembering me. The tie is most appreciated, and it goes very well with my new pinstripe robes.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-07 16:34:08](#)**
(no subject)


Now I'm feeling like a total berk, Dad. I should have Floo'd mum and asked if I could have joined you for dinner last night.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-07 16:35:00](#)**
(no subject)

Well, we wouldn't have been good company, my boy, so it's probably just as well.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-02-07 16:38:29](#)**
(no subject)

Why don't you come over tonight, dear.

I do still have some pie left.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-02-07 16:39:22](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Dad, belated.

(Mmm, pie.)



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-07 17:21:21](#)**
(no subject)

Hope you got our letters, Dad. ~~Percy made~~ Sorry you had the drearies. It'd be great if Mum would make meat pies again when we're all home for hols.

Did you get the ink off your face, then?



 **alt_arthur** at **2011-02-07 18:47:56**
(no subject)

Yes, I did get your letters, thank you, son. They were definitely the brightest spot on a rather dreary day.

(And, yes, your mum's old standby, Mrs. Skower's All-Purpose Magical Mess Remover came through again!)

2011-02-07 12:29:00

Private Message to Shivani Johns

Sarah's show is dead amazing. You won't believe!



I saw the Rowles there yesterday at the reception, and they made a point of saying they had arranged a child-minder for Saturday because of the ball, so I guess you cleared it with them. Are they letting you come for the concert on the final night, too? I've got your ticket, if you can get there.

 [alt_lana](#)

You're not going to believe it when you see it. All these gorgeous pavilions have gone up out there on the ice. I walked through the western bit of it yesterday after Sarah's reception, and they've created lanes along which hundreds of shops and pubs and carnival booths have sprung up. When you enter, they give you a map of it all that tells you where you are, and shows you a route to travel in order to find the places you want to see! It's like a new city's sprung up on top of the river. It's not even just shops and eateries, either: it's got squares and monuments and sport rings and a great amphitheatre made of ice.

You'd have been amazed to see how they created the ice: it took hundreds of charm-casters, working full days for a fortnight. And stasis specialists to hold it over night until the next layer could be cast each following day. They say it's nearly four feet thick.

I wondered about the fish and the tides, but they tell me the ice mostly sits atop the water (and the level is higher than usual now) so the fish are fine down below and the tides have been stopped above London bridge. The ice goes all the way to Westminster bridge, which is the western boundary for the Faire.

That means it's enormous!

Tonight, Ned and I are going to go down for supper after work. There's a Fresher's feast in a different place each night, but tonight it's going to be right up underneath London bridge, which will be utterly nift all enchanted and decked in fairy lights.

Anywiz, let me know what the Rowles have said, so we can make our plans together. (Oh, and I want to know what they told you about Sarah's photographs. They didn't seem in a hurry to leave at all, and I

thought I heard Mr Rowle say to Mr Truncheon that he found some of them inspiring, but you never know what people really think when they're still in the room where the artist might hear them.)

2011-02-07 14:16:00

*Private Message to Narcissa and
Lucius Malfoy*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Mother has asked that I deliver the crystal piece to you, which I could do at any time you'd find convenient this afternoon or tonight. It would be more complicated to schedule tomorrow, but not impossible.

She could, of course, send the domestic, but I believe she dislikes having the girl leave the house. Or perhaps she simply distrusts that your item would arrive unbroken.

In any case, Mother asks if you could, perhaps, spare a dose of whatever potion the two of you discussed. Apparently she wishes to try it, after all.

Let me know what would be most convenient for you.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-02-07 20:41:43**

(no subject)

I thought the crystal went to Mrs Chadwick, dear.

But I'll be happy to bottle a bit of that potion for your mother. I shall be back at home within the hour;

Lucius a little later, of course.

Do stay to supper if you can - we've someone there you may be amused to see. A family reunion, one might call it.



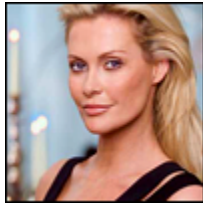
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-07 21:02:05**

(no subject)

Ah, no. Well. Yes, but no. Apparently Mrs Chadwick decided that your desire for the crystal centrepiece outweighed her own. (Or had second thoughts about how it would look in her doubtless very small dining room.)

In any case, it is yours unless you want to decline.

Supper is fine, though I'm not sure I like the sound of your invitation. Who do you have visiting?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-07 21:13:38](#)
(no subject)


Oh, well, I hope she accepted the certificates instead? I did tell Norah to give them as she saw fit.

Yes, do bring it along. I've just the use for it, as it happens.

As for our houseguest, that's rather an interesting tale. I'm not sure how long she'll be staying. From the sound of it, life with a shopkeep is not the pinnacle of happiness. Who would have guessed?

I suppose I really ought to warn you if you're going to help me convince her she's made the right move. If you can't work it out from that I promise I'll relieve the suspense.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-07 21:30:37](#)
(no subject)


What?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-07 21:33:03](#)
(no subject)

Well, one step at a time. First I think she ought to come with me and Ursula to St Gerard's on Tuesday. Then we'll see.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-07 21:34:24](#)
Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

If you'll take my advice, you'll draw the line firmly now.

You'll never be rid of her otherwise.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-07 21:38:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

I have no intention of turning my home into a halfway house, Barty, thank you, but I think I know best how to manage my wife.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-07 21:32:28](#)

(no subject)

She's left him? Well, that's a surprise.

But does she imagine you are keeping a home for pregnant runaways? The imposition is outrageous! She didn't give any warning even?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-07 21:36:17](#)

(no subject)

My understanding was that it is a tiff and no more.

Certainly we are not going to provide more than a temporary respite.

She did not even ascertain whether we were home, but talked her way in via the elves. An action for which they have paid, incidentally.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-07 21:48:14](#)

(no subject)

No, Lucius is right, she's said nothing for certain. But really, it's clearly more of a challenge than she anticipated.

As for imposing - well, I agree her arrival was ... irregular, but I'd rather she come to me than take a room in some halfblood district of New London, at least while she's distraught.

Nor am I suggesting she take up residence. Only that I think you'll find it's much better to make sure this episode remains under our control than somehow find its way into the gossip

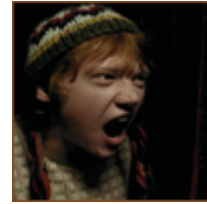
pages - again.

And you two can both stop muttering to each other. I'm not completely mad.

[2011-02-07 15:06:00](#)

No

NO!



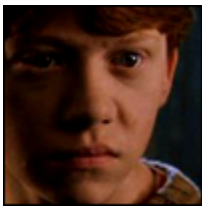
 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:10:14](#)

(no subject)

ron im
on my
way to the infirmary right now
writing and running is hard



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 21:21:10](#)

(no subject)

Yeah. On my way now.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:23:12](#)

(no subject)

That's hardly necessary, Ronald. I'm sure your friend is in good hands with Madam Pomfrey, and she doesn't need other students hovering right now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 21:46:02](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Pity I "won't see" this until much later.

Berk.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-07 21:50:43](#)

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

No kidding, but what else do you expect from Big Head Boy?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 21:55:37](#)

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

True. Very totally true.

Pansy's going spare. Madam Pomfrey's keeping us out until she's finished with Miss Professor Carrow, and I don't know if she'll let us in then. I think she will, but Pansy's worried she won't.

Terry's inside, but I think she shoed him into her office when MPC turned up.

Actually, she didn't turn up, she stormed in. And you should've seen the look she gave Pansy.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:35:29](#)

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

she *smiled*.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:44:07](#)

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

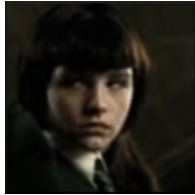
!!!

Other students hovering was exactly what I needed. I felt so much better once Madam Pomfrey let you and Pansy in.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-07 21:26:00](#)
(no subject)

Let us know as soon as you learn something.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:37:47](#)
(no subject)

its her arm


Her arm was broken.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:48:44](#)
(no subject)

A most unfortunate accident, Parks, but I'm sure she'll be all right. Fortunately, that's quite easy for Madam Pomfrey to put right in a trice.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 23:09:52](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

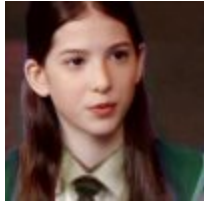
Don't you call her 'Parks', you


you brown-nosed Carrow kisser.

You don't want her getting sacked, do you?

Bloody buggers!

That's it, isn't it? You don't want to have to stop taking your special private unforgivables lessons with her. 'Cause whoever would take over Dark Arts from her probably wouldn't give you lessons anymore.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:47:32](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh ugh, Ron. I wonder if you're right?

You know how I talk sometimes about how useful it is to be a good liar and to KNOW you're a liar? Because if you KNOW you're lying and you can just lie shamelessly then you're less likely to believe your own lies?

I think Percy is the opposite. He can't bear to lie, so he needs to convince himself that everything he says is true, no matter how awful it is. No matter how awful it makes him.

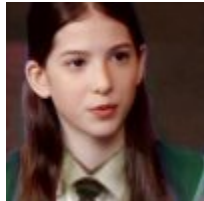


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-02-08 03:34:57](#)
(no subject)

Oh, that hurts a lot, even if it is an easy fix. She'll be all right otherwise, though?

From,

Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:51:36](#)
(no subject)

It did hurt a lot but I'm feeling much better now. Madam Pomfrey says I can leave the infirmary tomorrow.

Have you had a broken arm? I'd never broken a bone before today.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-02-08 03:56:42](#)
(no subject)

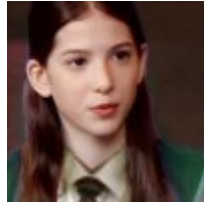
Oh I'm glad, you should feel much better by then, but it might itch for a while. I've broken my wrist before, not my arm.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-08 04:35:16](#)
(no subject)


Glad to hear you're mended, Perks.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 04:37:19](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Patil.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-02-07 21:15:41](#)
I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Oh, no! In Master's sister's class?

I'll slip away and be there soon, too. The Headmistress won't mind.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:37:06](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

I didnt want to write it out the solemn solemn swear because Id mess it up something awful because my hands are all shakey and i cant spell wortht anything but I HATE HER SO MUCH I JUST CANT EVEN

its all my fault too it just is because if we werent friends she wouldnt have done it and she totally did it on purpose too and lucius already tried to get her out and SHE HURT MY SALLY ANNE



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:39:39](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

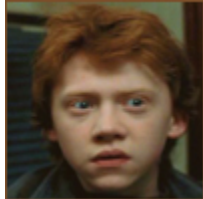
she hurt my sally anne and she will pay I swear on my fathers grave



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-07 21:49:50](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

We'll help.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 21:56:36](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Too right.

What are we going to do?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-07 22:08:43](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

May be time for another trip to the Restricted Section to get some ideas....

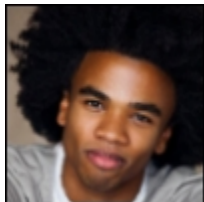



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 22:31:07](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

It's a pity none of us are taking Dark Arts.

Never thought I'd say that, but then at least we could be sure the next 'accident' in her classroom falls the other direction. Know what I mean?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-02-08 00:50:13](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

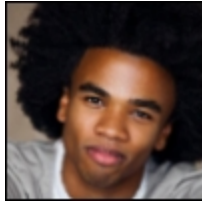
Percy does but fat lot of good that'll do us.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-08 00:50:41](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Huh. That's a thought, Lee.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-02-08 00:51:02](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

What?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-08 00:52:42](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Well, we don't go into Miss Alecto Carrow's Dark Arts classroom, but our Big Head Boy does.

Who says he has to KNOW we're giving him to carry in there?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-02-08 00:53:06](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

I like the way you two think.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-08 00:53:24](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

We do, too.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:42:25](#)


Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

whatever you need I'll buy it.

long as we're smart about it so it wouldn't be tracked

I'm not that thick.

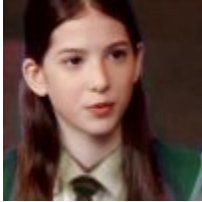



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-08 00:48:23](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

We aren't either.

Thanks, Parkinson. We'll see what we can come

up with.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 22:40:36](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Found my ink finally.


I'm okay. Madam Pomfrey won't let me leave yet but at least maybe she'll let everyone in soon?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:41:52](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

we'll wait.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-07 23:14:15](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Is she going to let us in, do you think?


Are you really all right? I mean, really?

You're not just saying 'cause you don't want us worrying?

Yeah. That's it, isn't it?

We're going to wait here until she at least lets Pansy in.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-08 00:56:18](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

Good to hear it, Perks.

If we were there, we'd charm some bedpans to give

you a serenade. You'll just have to settle on our promise to get back at Miss Alecoto Carrow to cheer you up.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-02-08 00:58:39**

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

It doesn't cheer me up. It makes me more worried. She'll guess it's you, unless you come up with someone to take the blame, and I wouldn't wish that on anyone. Or if she doesn't guess it's you she'll think it's Pansy. Or Ron. Or Nev. I just -- I don't want anyone else getting hurt.



 **alt_gredforge** at **2011-02-08 03:11:34**

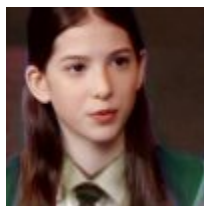
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

You're not giving us credit for being pretty sly at setting up pranks, but we see your point.

This is beyond the prank level, and so we'll make you a promise: we won't try anything without running it by you first. By everyone on the lock, really. You can use that Slytherin twistiness to let us know if there's anything we've failed to take into account. And since it's a risk, we won't do it unless we get everyone's okay. You're right: messing with the Carrows is dead serious, and we want to avoid any fall out, especially for you, Ron, Nev, Hermione and the Professor.

We promise we won't go risking anybody.

But it's high time both those two are gonna pay.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-02-08 04:01:51**

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I Am Up to No Good

We were pretty sly with the rune last year when we set the lice on Ravenclaw but they certainly suspected who'd done it. Even when things ARE pure bad luck the Carrows want to blame someone for it.

Now if you could work out a way to get them to blame EACH

|||| OTHER then perfect. But otherwise they'll blame someone you probably don't hate as much as all that.

2011-02-07 15:08:00

Professor Alecto Carrow


I'm treating yet another gross injury to a student caused by negligence in your classroom. This must stop! More than that, I need to know exactly what took place to cause this: the child in question is in no state to provide clear answers.



 **alt_poppy**


I shall expect to hear from you directly.



 **alt_terry** at **2011-02-07 21:16:47**
(no subject)


does Madam Pomfrey need any help from boot? boot is happy to be there if Madam pomfrey needs any errands run for her.



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-02-07 21:19:50**
(no subject)

If the Headmistress could spare you this afternoon, I do indeed have several tasks you might spare me.



 **alt_terry** at **2011-02-07 21:21:19**
(no subject)

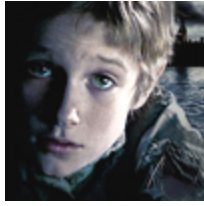
boot will be there right away, madam pomfrey



 **alt_neville** at **2011-02-07 21:40:46**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Is she all right, Terry? Is she going to be all right?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-02-07 21:43:30](#)

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

I think so. There are blood on her robes, but that's not a reason for panicking. Madam Pomfrey always says that scalp cuts bleed a lot, and so sometimes they look a lot worse than they actually are.

Her arm is broken, though. But that's an easy fix.

Ugh, Master's sister is here. She just arrived.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-07 21:44:12](#)

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

Keep your distance from her, Professor.

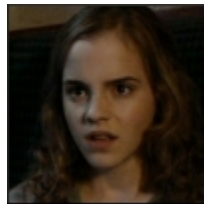


 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-02-07 21:45:15](#)

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

Don't worry, I will. She's too busy glaring at Madam Pomfrey anyway.

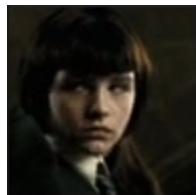
Madam Pomfrey's really angry.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-07 22:23:44](#)

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

So's Harry. He went right out and wrote to his Father, and then he looked really upset. He said 'Father used to say he'd give Draco to the Carrows if I was bad, but he never said he'd just let them hurt my friends anyway.'



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:49:37](#)

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

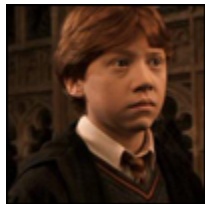
DID YOU SEE WHAT HE WROTE

just like he said about my dad

and they made something fall on her just like they did to him

and

I cant even tell what she really did to my dad cause its not like I could just say oh someone I knew overheard and its not like anybody would believe him anyways

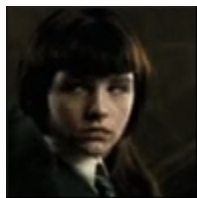


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-07 22:52:13](#)**

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

I know it, Pans. That's why we're going to get her back.

And we're going to find a way to do it that she'll never suspect it was us.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-07 22:54:32](#)**

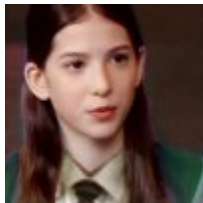
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

yeah

yeah

you're right

and it's not like anyone else is going to do anything about it



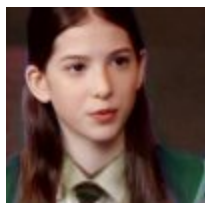
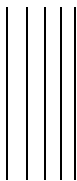
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-08 03:42:08](#)**

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

Harry wrote to his Father? Really?

I hope that doesn't make things worse.

Do you think that's really why she did it? ~~Why didn't~~



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:40:58](#)

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

I was really glad to see you, Terry.



[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:17:38](#)

Order Only: Minerva

Honestly, I'd far prefer she NOT come here to answer my query, but I could think of no other politic way to communicate broadly that this outrage has been allowed to occur.

The children in question, Sally Anne Perks and Draco Malfoy (both of Slytherin House, of course) will survive, but both are shaken, and the girl has suffered not only a shattered arm but also a severe blow to the head.

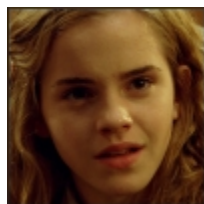
I cannot think what possessed Him to allow those monsters to return to teaching--if one may even call it that--but the situation is clearly escalating. When will something be done?



[alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-07 22:21:08](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

I have wondered and wondered and wondered. I was certain that this time they would be gone for good. I fear that it may take a death for him to pull them out. I truly do. Even that - if it could be adequately hushed up - I am not certain about.




[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-07 22:24:37](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

Harry thinks that his Father's done it. He thinks that he displeased him and his Father set them on Draco and Sally-Anne. I told him I didn't think so, I really don't know what it could be, he's studying all the time and everything. But he won't mind.



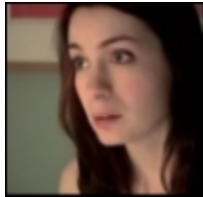
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:47:34](#)


Re: Order Only: Minerva

Hm. I'm not one to discount what You Know Who might do.

I think it's much more likely, however, that it is Lucius Malfoy that has 'caused' this outrage, if one may even speak of a cause external to the Carrows themselves. (You see that I am not paying the brother the attention he is courting below.)

Alecto Carrow made little secret of her animus towards young Mr Malfoy and Miss Parkinson, both of whom were present when she arrived. And both of whom have made it quite clear that they view themselves as her deliberate targets. Miss Perks it seems is merely a pawn or marker, used because injuring her would upset her friend.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-07 22:52:20](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

Merlin help us.

Minerva, do you really think so?

Do you think

Are Neville and Evelyn in danger?

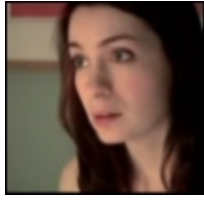
Should we withdraw them from classes?




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-07 22:57:27](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

I think that that would be - premature.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-07 23:01:23](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

I know they've shifted their focus these last few weeks, but he's always had it in for our boy, and after what he did to our Evelyn's cat...

Don't take your eyes off him for an instant.

I know you've got so much on your plate right now, Minerva, but this is no idle worry on my part.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-07 23:28:55](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

Steady on, Allie. Sounds to me like they're turning on their own, first.

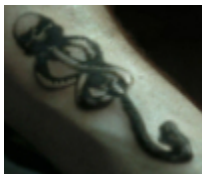
Minerva, did you get any permission to curtail them, even if you can't fire them outright?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-02-08 04:25:41](#)

Re: Order Only: Minerva

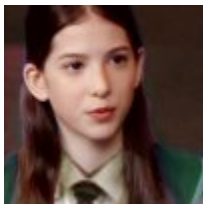
At this point, I don't think any of those children are safe. And that includes mine.



 [alt_amycus](#) at [2011-02-07 22:03:48](#)

(no subject)

Negligence? More likely it was stupidity on the half-blood's part.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:43:25](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Eat dung, you evil git.

You're just trying to bait Pansy but she's too clever to take it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:51:45](#)

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

He's a boil picking skrewt loving bum sniffing wanker.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:59:15](#)

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

A scab eating flea ridden drunken sod who probably rolls in guano whenever he finds it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 04:11:34](#)

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

Hah! I'd bet his puke smells so much like alcohol that he just eats it up after he vomts. And the fleas are his only friends, so he names them and then squishes them between his fingers and snorts the flea bits like snuff.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 04:24:53](#)

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

He'd eat or drink ANYTHING if that's what it took to get drunk, then eat the fleas for pudding.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 04:30:59](#)

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

With nail clippings and bogeys for the sauce!

2011-02-07 15:43:00

(no subject)

Now, *that* was an exciting lesson! Could have been worse though, I guess.



 **alt_zacharias**

D'you reckon we'll all have to take it in turns to be distracted like that? If so, I hope Matron has plenty of beds at the ready.



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-02-07 20:54:25**

(no subject)

Was this Dark Arts?

What happened?



 **alt_zacharias** at **2011-02-07 20:59:59**

(no subject)

Yeah, it was Dark Arts.


Miss Professor Carrow was talking about the importance of focus when casting spells. Not getting distracted, you know? So she called up Malfoy and Perks and told them to duel a bit. And while they were doing that, she cast some other spells to break their concentration.

Well, it was okay, although it looked like Perks was getting more distracted than Malfoy. But then something happened, I dunno just what, only the next thing we knew Perks had fallen into a bookcase and it fell over on her.

Miss Professor Carrow cleared away the books and all and told Malfoy to take Perks to the hospital wing.


She didn't have anyone else do the exercise. But I reckon if we do have to do it we'll have to be more careful about the stuff in the classroom.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 21:04:20](#)
(no subject)

WHAT?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-07 21:19:42](#)
(no subject)

Is Perks all right?

Obviously not if she's on the way to the Hospital wing.

But she's going to be okay? Isn't she?




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-02-07 21:22:53](#)
(no subject)

Matron can fix almost anything, Longbottom.
Relax,

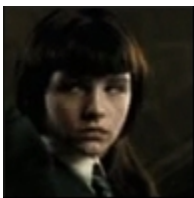
It looked like her arm was broken, maybe, and her head was bleeding a bit. Well, a lot. But she was able to walk with Malfoy helping her.

I think she'll be okay.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-02-07 21:52:32](#)
(no subject)

It was pretty nift, but I'm glad that bookcase didn't fall on me. It really proved Miss Professor Carrow's point about not letting yourself get distracted though.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:39:52](#)
(no subject)

It was *nift*?

Honestly.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-02-07 22:44:16](#)
(no subject)

Wot?

It was really a good lesson, It's just bad luck Perks lost her balance or whatever.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-02-08 03:58:04](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Ernie, I'm with Parkinson on this one. Bookshelves falling on people is not at all nift!




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-02-08 04:01:31](#)
(no subject)

Oh, come off it, if it had been a boy you'd've thought it was dead cool.

And yeah, it was startling when it happened, but she's going to be okay.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-02-08 04:08:48](#)
(no subject)

Only if it was a really horrid boy!

And even then, blood on the floor is nasty.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 04:07:29](#)
(no subject)

Ta, Bones.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-02-08 04:09:50](#)
(no subject)


I dunno about you, but I think I'm just as glad I didn't go in for Dark Arts. Dueling Club is quite enough for me, thanks!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 04:42:13](#)
(no subject)

At least with Duelling, you just have to watch for other people, and not furniture too!




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-08 04:59:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, yes, but that's because it's what Professor Raz calls 'controlled conditions,' isn't it?

I mean, in real life you never know what sorts of things might be in the way. Isn't that why all the good clubs have courses with obstacles in them. But you're right, we shouldn't have to contend with that sort of thing while we're trying to learn technique.


Anyway, I'm glad Perks is okay.



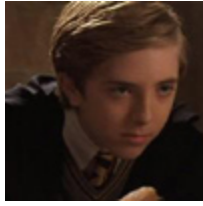
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 12:45:48](#)
(no subject)


I am too.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-02-08 18:29:26](#)
(no subject)

I never said it was! I said the lesson was nift. Which it was. Until Perks got squashed by a bookcase.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-02-08 18:27:48](#)
(no subject)

was nift.

Well it was! Not the bookcase falling on Perks, obviously, but before that when she and Malfoy were duelling even though Miss Professor Carrow was firing off hexes and stuff at them both! That



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 04:28:07](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

NIFT.

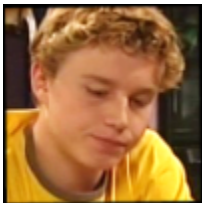
Macmillan, you really do your house credit sometimes.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:50:15](#)
(no subject)

The Matron wouldn't need more beds if the furniture was kept in place with a stabilising spell, as we now know. And Sally Anne *will* be fine; thanks ever so much for asking, Smith.

I suppose it was exciting, in a way. Rather tension filled, but then one comes to expect it when dealing with the Dark Arts.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-02-08 04:04:24](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I thought she would be. She was moving on her own, even if she was a bit wobbly. And it's not like we were laughing or anything, Greengrass. But you have to admit that if we'd seen Professor Raz bring off a spell like that we'd've all cheered.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-08 04:19:11](#)
(no subject)

I know you weren't laughing, Smith, but it would have been thoughtful to ask after Sally Anne.

Professor Raz is... well, it's just not the same thing, that's all. Draco really did look surprised though, didn't he? I don't think he expected the whole bookcase to fall over, but just wanted to shake loose a book or two.

2011-02-07 16:04:00

Private Message to Draco and Sally-Anne

Sally-Anne are you okay because Zach said something about a bookshelf falling and if you can't write anything Draco can you write and tell me what's happened?



 [alt_pansy](#)

I'm on my way to the infirmary

I'm coming right now

Draco, if she can't read this please tell her I'm on my way

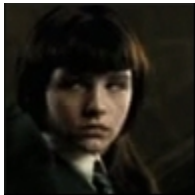



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-02-07 21:16:57**

(no subject)

She's fine, or will be; her arm's fractured but that's easy to fix.

Miss Professor Carrow was having "fun" at our expense, I think.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-02-07 21:34:14**

(no subject)

okay

okay

that's okay

well it's not, but you know what I mean.

I just KNEW. I just knew something bad would happen and I even told her to watch out and I could just

I could just

There's nothing we can do about it anyways, is there?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-07 21:59:00](#)
(no subject)

I think she's upset more than anything.

I don't know, it's all about context, isn't it? This sort of accident could easily happen in defence, or in quidditch practise, or even duelling club, only the Raz always thinks to put a cushioning charm all over the furniture and the floors, and quidditchers know what they're getting into when they try out for the team. But you could just tell that she chose Sally Anne and me intentionally, and that she wanted something to happen.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:30:07](#)
(no subject)

That's the difference.

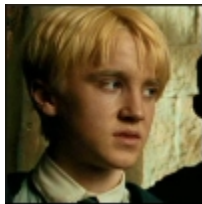
They actually care about keeping us safe.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 00:56:16](#)
(no subject)

Draco, it looked like she hexed you right before the bookcase collapsed. Did she?

I kind of think maybe she was trying to make you miss. And hit the bookcase. To make it fall.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 03:02:15](#)
(no subject)

My elbow suddenly went funny, like I'd whacked it, which is why I missed.


You heard me apologise, right? On the way to the hospital wing? I told the Matron that it was a classroom mishap, but that it seemed like SOMEONE made me miss on purpose. I think she got what I was hinting at, because she got really angry after

Look, I know you're both upset, and with good reason, but try

not to make too big of a fuss of it. She's after my Father now, and Pansy for being the source of the quarrel between my Father and her brother, and me for being, well, his son. And you because you're her friend. If Pansy was in Dark Arts, she would have probably chosen her to go up against me, not you.

Anyway, she's just going to say it was a classroom mishap, because that's exactly what it looked like. You saw what Smith and Macmillan wrote? They had no idea something else was going on, and there's no proof otherwise.

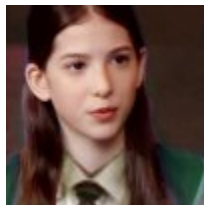


 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-02-08 03:07:16**
(no subject)

You're right. Of course you're right.

It wouldn't be smart to go mouthing off.

But we should all keep an extra eye out for one another at the very least. So that no more 'accidents' have a chance.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-02-08 03:07:22**
(no subject)

I heard you apologise, but really you didn't have anything to apologise for. I saw her looking at you, she hexed you to make you miss.

I'm not going to make a fuss. We can't prove anything so if I do I'll just look like a whinger, and I'm not going to let Miss Professor Carrow make me look like a whinger on top of being so clumsy I got hurt in class.

I know what really happened, though. And why.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-02-08 03:13:10**
(no subject)

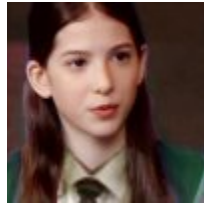
Yeah, well, everyone else probably thought I was attacking you, in the same fashion as my mad, dangerous father.

I've been thinking since it happened, and even though it's crap

that you had to get hurt, the fact that Miss Carrow did it all so covertly might actually be a good thing, because it means that she's afraid. Afraid of what will happen if she gets caught out right.

I almost feel like she needs to get caught doing something awful. I mean, no one really even saw what went on between her and my Father, and no one is telling, either. But if she did something in front of a massive group of people, something that she couldn't explain away? Then we just might be rid of her and the other one for good.

I don't know who would volunteer to be that target, though. I certainly wouldn't.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-08 03:25:04](#)**
(no subject)

There are people who think your father is mad and dangerous? I thought everyone figured Miss Professor Carrow deserved what she got.

I wouldn't volunteer to be that target for two reasons.

1. I'm not sure it would work.
2. I'm afraid she'd do something to me Madam Pomfrey couldn't fix.

That's a comforting thought, that she feels like she can't afford to get caught. I'll try to bear that in mind on Friday when we have our next Dark Arts class.

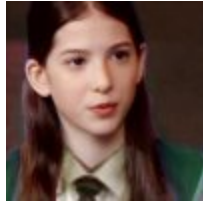


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-08 03:29:14](#)**
(no subject)

What would be mad and dangerous would be to even think about trying to get her to explode.

I'd rather not poke the dragon with a giant stick. Let the Gryffindors do that.

But it is something to think that she's actually frightened.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:32:51](#)
(no subject)

No, I agree. And really I wouldn't want the Gryffindors poking her either. For one thing, she explodes in unpredictable ways.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:59:10](#)
(no subject)

That's true. Even though it is a joke, I wouldn't wish her on anyone.

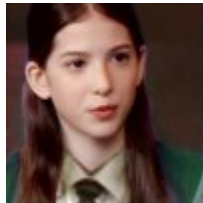


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 03:29:45](#)
(no subject)

No, I think she wants people to think he's mad and dangerous, which is a real laugh, yeah?

Like I said, I can't think of anyone who would volunteer. It seems backward to keep hoping they'll both become more unhinged, too.


I'll be bearing it in mind, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:36:59](#)
(no subject)

It IS backward to keep hoping they'll get so unhinged they have to leave. But hoping they'll get start acting like normal teachers seems kind of like hoping for warm, sunny, lovely weather in January.

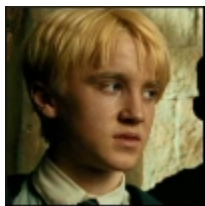


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:10:21](#)
Private Message to Draco

Do you think we ought to tell Lucius?

I know he might not be able to do anything with it, but I think he'd be particularly

well, I mean, I think he'd want to know about knocking the bookcase over like that, because it's so like what happened to dad.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 03:15:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

I don't know. I really don't want to put him a position where he might almost kill her again.

He probably would want to know, though. I guess the question is which of us should tell him.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:25:12](#)

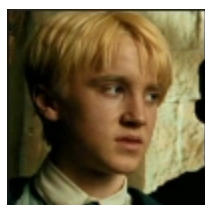
Re: Private Message to Draco

I know.

That'd be awful.

But I do think that he should know. You would be able to say it better than I would, without coming off as over-emotional or overreacting, so he might listen to you more. And, you know, it happened to you, so it'd be better than me saying what happened second-hand.

I can write him too if you want, though.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 03:30:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

No, I'll talk to him. Come morning, if it's all right with you. He'll be tired right now.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:57:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

That'd be best, yes.

Thank you, Draco.

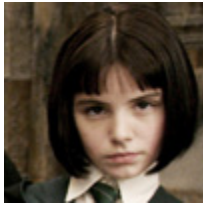



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 22:35:13](#)
(no subject)

I'm OK

My arm is a lot better now.

Madam Pomfrey won't let me leave. She's really cross. I'm trying not to make her crosser.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:40:53](#)
(no subject)

I'm not going anywhere.


I'll sit out in the hall if I have to.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 22:42:25](#)
(no subject)


I hope she'll let you in soon?
I did everything she told me to do. Held still and drank the thing she wanted me to drink.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-07 22:43:15](#)
(no subject)

I know how much you hate being there.

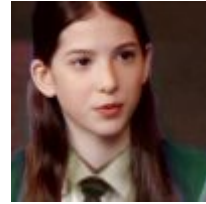


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-07 22:44:58](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.
At least Miss Professor Carrow is gone now.

2011-02-07 18:35:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)


I'm okay, really. I mean I got a broken arm and a knock on the head but I'm okay now, I'm feeling a lot better. Madam Pomfrey said I have to spend the night in the hospital wing because she wants to keep an eye on me, I don't know why, I'd be fine in Slytherin and I'd rather be in my own dorm but whatever.

I've been going over the accident in my head. Miss Professor Carrow said we were going to practice this thing we've been learning, only she wanted to see how we could do while being distracted, and then she made me and Draco come up (I never raise my hands in her class. Most people don't.) Supposedly she was going to distract both of us but mostly she just hexed me, I think, she was using stinging hexes or something. I backed across the classroom defending myself -- well I don't want you to think it was Draco's fault, it WASN'T. He was following the same instructions I was.

Anyway when I got into the far corner she'd had her eyes on me but I saw her turn to Draco and I saw Draco flinch, I think she hexed him right then to make his spell go wild. So yeah, I DO think she made it happen on purpose. There's no use saying so, though. I'm not going to let her make me sound like a whinger, lots of people get hurt in classes and it wasn't anything Madam Pomfrey couldn't fix.

I don't know if she went after me because it would upset Pansy, or if it had something to do with Draco or Harry (Harry looked utterly horrified, that was one of the things I noticed when people were helping me up), or if it was just because I'm a half-blood. I'm one of the only half-bloods in Dark Arts and Finnigan has a powerful foster-father so she's not likely to pick on him. I saw the other Professor Carrow's comment, maybe they think half-bloods shouldn't be in Dark Arts and she was trying to make me look like I don't know what I'm doing? Only I wasn't the one who mis-aimed the hex. I suppose my mistake was thinking the bookcase wasn't like to fall over. Also, she's the one who put me in the class. I tried for it because Professor Slughorn thought it would be valuable but if she didn't want me in the class no one was going to MAKE her let me in.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:17:29](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad you're feeling better.

I can be back first thing in the morning so we can walk back to the common room. I was so *worried*. I

thought

Well, it could have been loads worse than a bump on the head.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:29:54](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I napped earlier and now I'm awake and not tired and I can't sleep and it's after curfew and what I really want to do is have some toast and a cup of tea in the common room and hear about your day and maybe listen to some music or read one of Teddy's comics.

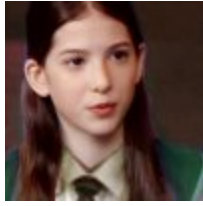
Instead I'm stuck here. and I feel FINE.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 03:45:00](#)
(no subject)

Well, after double potions I started work on my Arithmancy homework, because I've got to write ten inches about significant dates in wizarding history and use this formula to see if it turns out to mean anything. And I've only got a few, because my notes from Binn's history classes are really, really bad and full of doodles. And I do want something other than the whole Goblin War thing anyways, and everyone else is going to do The Day the Ministry Fell or something like that, so I ended up picking the day the Bloody Baron died, and guess what? Nothing came up at all except for "death." And it came up twice. So that's sort of painfully obvious, but I figured, at least it sort of worked.

And Daphs and Milli are sitting on the couch in front of the fire, so that means they made up at least a little, which is good because Merlin, no-one can pout like Milli can.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 03:55:55](#)
(no subject)

TOO TRUE about Milli.

Someone brought my books while I was napping earlier and I really ought to do my homework while I'm sitting here awake. I'm just glad I'd finished Charms and Ancient Runes already.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 04:03:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, and if you get poor marks, you can just look up with those enormous eyes you can make, and say, 'Oh, I'm so sorry, I guess my head injury made it hard for me to concentrate.'

Not that you'd get poor marks in *anything*. But it'd be a fantastic excuse.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 04:23:11](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if it would fly with Professor Acton.

It wouldn't fly with Binns but I don't much care about my History marks.

Professor Babbling would practically run get me a pillow, I think. She doesn't like the Carrows at all. But I've already done her homework. I think Professor Brutka would let me get away with it, though, so that's decided: I will skive off on Professor Brutka's homework unless I'm still awake after everyone else has gone to sleep and do his homework out of sheer boredom.

2011-02-07 23:13:00

Private Message to Padma Patil

I'm so sorry about Page. Ugh, what a berk!

I hope it doesn't make things in Ravenclaw Corner too awkward; I know how much you enjoy it.




 [alt_lavender](#)

You and Parvati and I should do something really wiz-nift soon; I feel like we've got so many activities this term that we've hardly been able to just hang about together and look at magazines and design new fashions and things like we used to do.

I'm glad we have the play though--and thank Circe Page isn't in it!



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-02-08 04:31:00**
(no subject)

Well, Hogsmeade is this Saturday, so I hope we'll all stay together, yeah? Unless you want to go with Finnigan and Hooper, ha-ha.

Did you see Sandoval's post about the Frost Faire? It sounds utterly beautiful. I wish we could go down to New London instead of just Hogsmeade.

We should make some ice sculptures if the weather's not too horrid. And get hot chocolate from the elves when we come back in.

What I can't believe was how Page told me that maybe we could go out again in a year or two. As if I'd give him a second chance! And he hasn't come to Ravenclaw Corner since Friday, so I hope maybe he'll stay away for a while.

I guess if I'm completely honest I can't blame him. I mean, we only snogged once, and that wasn't even a proper snog. And he was really upset that I wouldn't tell anyone we were more than friends. But how could I?

Maybe Sandoval's right and it's just not worth it to even try dating. Not unless Mum and Dad are going to be more reasonable about things.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-02-08 04:40:29](#)
(no subject)

I so wish we could go to the Frost Faire too! It sounds utterly snitch.

Is your mum designing anything for it?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-08 04:54:03](#)
(no subject)

I don't think so, no. The ball and everything are all Shakespearean theme this year, so it's not really mum's style. But I think she's rented one of the pavilions to put up a sneak preview of her spring line. A few of the designers do that.

You heard what happened to Perks? Tamblyn says he thinks Miss Professor Carrow probably chose Malfoy and Perks deliberately so that she could make something happen. In revenge against Mr Malfoy, you know? Because it was Draco, and because something happening to Perks would bother Parkinson.

He says everyone ought to look extra sharp during any of the Carrows' lessons.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-02-11 02:15:20](#)
(no subject)

He really has gone round the twist, hasn't he?

I feel a bit sorry for Perks, honestly; I mean, I don't like her, but it isn't her fault her best friends are in the Carrows bad books.

[2011-02-08 06:34:00](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Father,

I know you're busy and likely weary of hearing more about either Professor Carrow, but I wanted to make you aware of a situation, particularly as it affects my standing both in class and amongst my peers.



 [alt_draco](#)

Miss Professor Carrow called up myself and Sally-Anne Perks, Pansy's friend, to do a demonstration yesterday. We were to engage in some fairly uncomplicated duelling while she "distracted" us. I was wary of the situation straight away, because she seemed very excited for it, in an unsettling way, as if she had planned it out well in advance. Sally Anne and I did as instructed, though, until it got to the point where I had backed her into a corner, near a bookcase. At that moment, it felt like I had been hit in the elbow with a curse, and my arm jerked upwards and the hex I was casting hit the bookcase, which then toppled over, right on top of Sally Anne. She had a head injury and a fractured arm. She should recover well, but it looked quite bad in the moment it happened, lots of blood. Pansy was, as you can imagine, well upset when she heard what happened. Beside herself, actually--especially when she heard that something had fallen on Sally Anne and trapped her there while she was helpless and bleeding.

I know that you would caution me against jumping to conclusions when it comes to any adult's motivations, particularly a professor's. I also know that Miss Professor Carrow did warn us that she would be distracting us, and that I should have been prepared for anything. Still, I am convinced that the situation was designed to make me look incompetent and reckless, and to make Pansy feel helpless about the safety of her friends.

Advice would be appreciated. Staying out of their way and trying not to attract their attention is something I've always been mindful of, however, and it doesn't seem to make a difference.

You son,
Draco



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-08 15:11:33](#)
(no subject)

Son,

I do appreciate the awkwardness of your situation, and Pansy's. I wish I could tell you that you need not concern yourself with either Carrow - indeed, I was hopeful that we had finally convinced Our Lord that their idiosyncrasies had crossed irrevocably into the realm of menace and that their days of tenure were numbered.

Unfortunately, that pronouncement has been postponed. I assume you followed the episode with the stolen journal last week - you could hardly be unaware of it, even if you had not read it in detail. You cannot know, however, that the incident did more than reignite the irrepressible and absurd rumour that Black still lives. By targetting the Carrows' cruelty, Miss Wynn's ill-timed post directly swayed Our Lord to reinstate them until the end of the term. He felt, perhaps rightly, that to remove them immediately would be tantamount to acceding to the wishes of a terrorist.

As a result, my hands are tied. I certainly cannot intervene in what was cleverly made to look like a classroom mishap. You understand that it would be a mistake for all of us to respond thus. I have it on good authority that Our Lord expressly reminded them both of the consequences of unacceptable conduct but it seems that Miss Carrow's response, at least, is to try to provoke an outburst, rather than to attack directly. It would be disastrous to allow her strategy to succeed. I must also point out that as attacks go, it could have been much worse.

My best advice, son, is that you find ways to protect yourself from unwarranted interference. There are ways you and your friends can work together to shield yourselves when you are in her presence or when you anticipate you may be at a disadvantage. You need only endure another few weeks until Easter holidays and then a short two months until they are discharged.

As for your marks, there I can assure you that your mother and I will not judge too harshly, given the circumstances. I shall also speak to Professor McGonagall, if necessary, to ensure that your standing in the class shall not be jeopardised.

I am confident that you, Pansy and any of your adherents can withstand this adversity. Above all, keep your heads. She wants you to lose your temper, as I'm sure you realise. Do not play into her hands in such a way. Take comfort in the fact that it is only temporary.

Believe me, I have had occasion to use similar consolation myself as recently as yesterday. Your mother can be nearly as headstrong as Pansy.


In any event Look after yourself, son. Keep me informed, as well, should you perceive any further malice on either of their parts. I do not promise I can take any direct action, but there are ... other ways we may be able to mitigate your difficulty.

And tell Pansy not to worry herself over her friend. If Miss Carrow had intended serious harm, the damage - and the method - would have been more overt. Convey to her my best wishes and keep for yourself the remembrances of

Your loving,

Father



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 18:27:29](#)
(no subject)

I would think there might be a way to remove the professors without making it seem like it was anything to do with their treatment of students. Like they could both fall really ill, for example. Just a thought--I'm not trying to counter our Lord's decision, of course.

I know that it could have been worse. Pansy nearly went spare, though, and I'm fairly sure that Miss Professor knows it.

I'm...not quite sure what you mean by working together, though I think I might have an idea of it. It's something I've been giving a lot of thought, anyway. It did occur to me that if Miss Professor is trying to provoke something, then she must be afraid of doing anything too direct, right? And afraid of the consequences she might face if she did? I hope that she's afraid, anyway.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-08 18:58:47](#)
(no subject)

There are any number of ways to remove them, each one tempting in its way. As it is we must simply count down to the end of term and hope that their actions from this point are merely ineffectual temper-tantrums.

In terms of working together, I believe if you considered the precautions taken last year to protect the students from attack and some of the tactics employed by experienced duellists, you may devise similar solutions. Has your uncle gone over blocking spells? *Protego?*

I believe you are entirely correct regarding Miss Carrow's motivations - and for the manner of her actions.

2011-02-08 09:33:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and
Pansy Parkinson*



 [alt_ron](#)

Hey.


I hope you're feeling better today. Both of you, really.

Couldn't really say it yesterday, I guess, but today's different, so just remember:

DGAW&W

right?




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-02-08 19:22:01**
(no subject)

We should tell that to the bookshelf!

And yeah, I did go a little W&W yesterday, didn't I?
But today is better. And seeing her at breakfast was awful, but I expected that, so it's not a huge surprise. And when she walked past our table, all she could really do was sort of smirk and make occasional comments that you could tell she thought were dead clever but really weren't.

I'm glad you were there to wait with me outside the infirmary yesterday. Thanks tunalips. I'll see you at Care of Magical Creatures.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-02-08 19:22:20**
(no subject)

And it's a good thing Sally-Anne didn't have to spend any more time in the infirmary! Talk about ugh.

I'm so glad she's feeling better.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-08 21:27:55](#)**
(no subject)

Well, that was some lesson!


My jarvey tried to bite me when I checked its temperature. Mind, I don't really blame it. Nobody wants a wand up there.

And then we had to check out its dental health. I think Nev read the instructions backwards.

So I made him count the teeth!

Did you see Bulstrode's laughing at Malfoy for what his jarvey was shouting at Marvolo? Does she have any sense at all?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:19:19](#)**
(no subject)

...Not much, no.

Daphne should just start writing everything for her, honestly, she puts her foot in it so often these days.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-08 23:40:56](#)**
(no subject)

Today was loads better than yesterday even before the jarveys.

I'm looking forward to duelling club. Do you think Professor Lestrangle will let me duel or do you think he'll make me sit and watch since I got hurt yesterday? I feel FINE today.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-08 23:56:30](#)**
(no subject)

I think he'll be more likely to like that you're not asking for special favours, and want to get back on the broom.

2011-02-08 12:06:00

*Order Only: Private Message to
Nymphadora Tonks*

I'm not pressuring you or hassling you to come home, but.. are you all right? Are you somewhere safe?



 [alt_lupin](#)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-08 20:08:41](#)

(no subject)

Hello. I'm fine. Going to St Gerard's this afternoon!
It's not for me though, don't panic. It's someone else.

Oops she's coming back. Got to go.

I miss you.

[2011-02-08 15:01:00](#)

Order Only: A puzzle in Hampshire


I took note of Minerva's curious assertion that the Hogwarts Book seems to be unable to make up its mind between two names (Francis Lee and James Lee) for the muggleborn baby which has recently been born in Hampshire. I spent yesterday afternoon combing the district's birth records, and in the census of the camp in Winchester I found what might be a clue: the birth of twin boys three months ago: Francis Xiang Lee and James Xiabo Lee. I am perplexed as to what the wavering between the two names might mean. Could one be muggleborn and the other a muggle? I suppose such a thing must be possible. Yet why is it that the book cannot pinpoint which boy has the magical ability?



 [alt_arthur](#)


Frank, I think we should check it out, but I am entirely uncertain as to which new boy will be coming home to Moddey Dhoo, assuming we can persuade the parents. Bill has the identification ready for us. When can you make the run with me to go speak with them? I am open for the rest of the week.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-08 21:18:11](#)
(no subject)


The thought of separating twins is really rather horrible to me.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-08 21:18:51](#)
(no subject)


I must admit I don't quite like the idea myself. The thought of Fred without George or vice versa is almost unfathomable.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-08 21:19:43](#)
(no subject)


Must it really be done?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-08 21:20:42](#)
(no subject)


Well, we have no idea what this means, Molly. The more I think on it, the stranger it seems. But perhaps things will become clear once we've spoken with the parents.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-08 21:27:01](#)
(no subject)


Perhaps it might be easier, in a way. Less painful for the parents, if they still have a child, even though one leaves for Moddey Dhoo.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-08 21:27:45](#)
(no subject)


Well! It's obvious you're not a mother, Bill. I can't see why having one twin would make giving up the other any less painful.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-08 21:28:08](#)
(no subject)

I bow to your greater experience, Mum.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-08 22:06:03](#)
(no subject)

that's a bit of a mess. is there a spell to figure that sort of thing out once we get there?

let's go any road, see what we can find out. I'm free tomorrow, the sooner we get it sorted the better.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:16:53](#)**
(no subject)

I'll meet you at 8:00 at the rendezvous point. We'll just have to play it by ear.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:22:17](#)**
(no subject)

right, man. see you then.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:17:36](#)**
(no subject)

It's the very fact that there isn't a spell to determine whether someone's magical or not that makes the Book so important in the first place.


Very strange. Good luck figuring out whatever the problem is.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:21:58](#)**
(no subject)

we could always let them gum one of our wands until it shoots sparks but that could take a while.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:20:35](#)**
(no subject)

Assuming you two straighten this out, how many does that leave? Two more? Honour and Bellatrix, right?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:33:45](#)**
(no subject)

Honour and Bellatrix!


Now there's a pair of words not generally put together in one sentence.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:36:16](#)**
(no subject)

Too right. Arthur's got a point that little Bella's parents may not be amenable to our solution, depending on their reasons for naming her that.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-09 03:27:26](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe the parents are rabid astronomers, and the similarity of the name to Bellatrix Lestrange is a sheer coincidence.

But somehow I doubt it.

2011-02-08 16:02:00

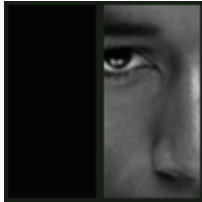
malfoy

how are your parents doing

dont let them here about the jarveys!!!!



 **alt_millicent**



 **alt_blaise** at **2011-02-08 21:11:53**

(no subject)

It's not like any of them were exactly polite.

Did you hear what Goyle's said to him?

Now that was some biting commentary! (Heh.)

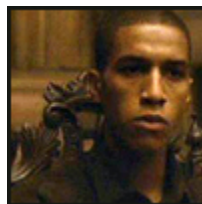


 **alt_millicent** at **2011-02-08 21:25:39**

(no subject)

goyle didnt even under stand half of it

i cant spel but goyles dumber than a jarvy



 **alt_blaise** at **2011-02-08 21:38:01**

(no subject)


They're not even in the same category, Mil.

I think he got the point in the end, though. Or the hand, anywiz.

At least he wasn't stupid enough to turn his back on the thing. Did you see Bundy beating herself with her book, trying to get hers to let go the back of her hair?


I've been telling Goyle he needs to go have Madam Pomfrey look at his hand. But I think he's afraid it would make him late to dinner.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 22:15:33](#)
(no subject)


Well, *that's* awfully hygienic. Eww.



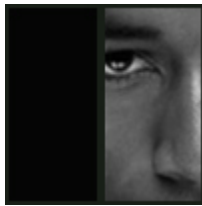
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-08 22:18:54](#)
(no subject)


You're not planning to eat off his plate, are you?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 22:20:22](#)
(no subject)

...I'm certainly not going to use any of the serving spoons he's touched.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-08 22:26:55](#)
(no subject)

Point.

I think I'll see if he'll let me scourgify it if he still won't go up to the hospital wing.

Of course, it was safer treating jarveys than it will be trying to cast a spell on Goyle.

Speaking of which. Are you and Perks going to Duelling Club tonight? Or is she out after yesterday?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 22:31:45](#)
(no subject)

We'll be there. I think at the very least, we've both learned how very important it is to be prepared for anything, and Professor Lestrange is an excellent teacher.




 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-02-08 22:36:17](#)**
(no subject)

Agreed.

On both points.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-08 21:20:36](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

She's one to talk. Hers found out her name's Millicent and went off on a tear about how she smells bad!

Muley-scent! Hahahaha!!!



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-02-08 21:30:19](#)**

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

Wish we knew what they'd say to the Carrows!
That'd be a sight to see.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-02-08 21:32:06](#)**

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

It'd probably end badly for the jarveys. But yeah, that'd be funny to see.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-08 21:42:36](#)**

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

Ha!

Wish we'd thought of that. It would've been a lot funnier if we'd pretended everything ours was saying was meant for the Carrows!

'Were you always that daft, or did your mum drop you on your head when you were a prog?'

'Never seen anyone ugly as you, bet your mum was a hag!'



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-08 21:39:36](#)

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

Did yours ever come up with a better insult than 'ginger'? Like maybe you'd never noticed you had red hair?

Mine said I had bad breath, greasy hair, and spots, plus also I smelled bad and I probably ate my bogeys. I didn't let it bite me though so I WIN.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-08 21:44:29](#)

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

Yeah, ours was kind of obsessed with bogeys, too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-08 21:47:07](#)

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

Actually, it got loads meaner after we told it it was lame to call me ginger.

That's when it started in our mums.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 22:16:55](#)

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

Not terribly original, were they?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-08 22:20:49](#)

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

No, but they made up for it with extra meanness.

Vicious little things, innit?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-08 22:25:56](#)

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

Well, that explains why Patil is such a shrew. She must have been a jarvey in her former life.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-08 22:29:20](#)

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

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-08 23:41:32](#)

(no subject)

My parents are well, thanks. How's your face? A little jarvey told me that it would make the Hogwart's Express take a dirt road.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-08 23:53:36](#)

(no subject)

Millie honestly! It was a laugh in class but there's no reason to keep carrying on.

Though I must say I thought the jarveys were rather fetching, even if they were uncouth. Do you suppose there are any shops in New London that sell them as pets?



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-09 00:21:48](#)

(no subject)

Because your parents would be so amused by a jarvey's vocabulary!

2011-02-08 21:47:00

Really well done

Harry and Hydra! That was well snitch the way you took down the Professor like that. I can tell you were practising over the holidays.

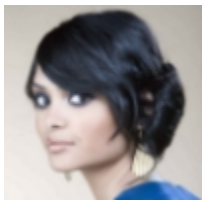


 **alt_padma**

Professor Hooch looked surprised, too, didn't she?

It's not easy to work in pairs, either. I mean, Parvati and I have a sort of advantage being twins, but we still have to practise if we're going to do something in coordination, like the movement for Nagini and that.

Anyway, it was really well done, especially you, Hydra. You make a nift team.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-02-09 03:01:09**

Private Message to Hydra

I hope that helps.

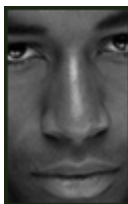


 **alt_hydra** at **2011-02-09 15:27:29**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Well, thank you.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_blaise** at **2011-02-09 03:29:50**

(no subject)

You know, I thought at first that he was letting them take him down, and maybe he was in the beginning, but that first time they didn't have an effective combination, he really took advantage, didn't he?


I thought the blinding spell in combination with a leg-locker was smart, but that vertiginous hex together with the one that made his

wrists unhinge was more thorough. Harder to pull off, though.

Teddy's made that vortex hex his signature move, so we stuck with that and I added *Petrificus Totalis*. Did you see us set Crabbe spinning like a top?

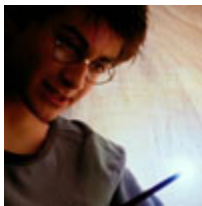
What did you come up with?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-02-09 03:59:48](#)**
(no subject)

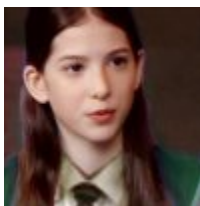
Well, I think our most elegant combination was a tongue-tying hex paired with a butterfinger jinx. But Parvati had a good turn when she cast the Jelly-Legs just at the same time that I tried the knee-reversal. I think hers hit just before mine did because mine seemed to just miss, probably because Finnigan's knees were all wobbly.


Of course, having good aim helps. It doesn't do any good to cast a really nift spell and have it hit the window sashes! I think that was Dunstan's problem. She's got good technique but I doubt she could hit the broad side of the Great Hall!



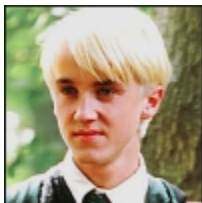
 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-02-09 14:51:50](#)**
(no subject)


Thank you Padma.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-10 01:21:12](#)**
(no subject)

You two really did look brilliant. It was very interesting to watch.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-02-09 15:30:45](#)**
(no subject)

Working in pairs is tricky, but did you hear Professor Raz say that when he used to do field work during the war, they would sometimes have four or five people using combination combatives, all together in unison?

That would really take a lot of practise, but I bet it would look so wicked.

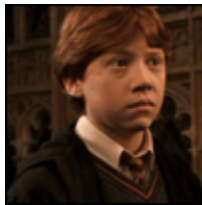


 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-09 18:06:46](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You know, I thought there was something that felt sort of wrong about what we were doing last night, and I've just realised. It didn't feel like duelling at all. More like attacking or

or maybe it should really be called Ambush Club now, if this is what we're going to work on.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-09 18:08:28](#)

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

I mean, I know it would be good to be able to work together to defend ourselves, but the way we were doing it, it seemed like it was all about outnumbering someone you want to attack.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-09 19:12:15](#)

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

And what if we're learning what we ought to do if one of the Carrows goes spare?

I'd be helpless against either of them by myself. But with you, and Sally-Anne, and Neville, and everyone else that uses this really working together smartly, and not just popping off whatever comes to mind? Working in teams?

We might have a chance.

And I don't think they would fight fair. I don't think anybody would fight fair if it was for real. I know that I certainly wouldn't.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 00:33:20](#)

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

No, you're right about that. It was just the way it was set up last night. Like he was teaching us to jump each other.

But you're dead right we need to have a plan for times somebody attacks us. But that would be a different thing if it's a teacher than if it's students.

And if it's students, it won't be just one.

We should talk about it and practice, too, if we could figure out where we could do it in secret. Before it happens again.

I mean not just in duelling club. Because MPC keeps turning up to that. I wish they'd tell her to go away.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-02-09 15:32:08](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad you lot enjoyed it. Hope you learned something, too.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-02-10 03:34:33](#)

(no subject)

They really were brilliant! And the pairs work after was a lot of fun.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-02-10 03:43:17](#)

Private message to Padma Patil

Did Malfoy talk to you this evening? He caught me after dinner to say he'd been thinking about that demonstration and the pairs duelling we did, and how he thought it would be a good idea to keep on with it.

Because of the Carrows -- well, he didn't quite say that, but you know. To make sure there aren't any more accidents.


I sent a private message to Weasley and Longbottom suggesting we

do some practising together -- the two of them, and me and Dean. Because even if I wouldn't choose them for house mates, they ARE my house mates which means they're in my Transfiguration classes. Parvati and Lav, too (and Bundy). The thing is, I think we all have to be prepared.

Since Dark Arts is just a few people from Gryffindor I was hoping maybe we could practise with the Ravenclaws in Dark Arts. Because if it's me and Dean she decided to have fun with next, it would be good to know people had our back.

I don't know when we're going to find TIME to do this, mind you, especially with the play AND homework AND ... well, whatever. This is important. And even just an hour or two of planning would go a long way. I mean, if Slytherin had planned and practised they probably could have kept the bookcase from falling on Perks, and there'd be nothing Miss Professor Carrow even could have said to that, right? Not without admitting she WANTED an accident.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-02-10 04:13:47](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Yes, he spoke to me at lunch, as well, and I think it's a brilliant idea. I bet some of the Ravenclaw Corner fellows would help if we asked them. Su Li, Brocklehurst, Moon and MacDougal all want to work on it. Corner, too, even though he's not in Dark Arts, he reckons Professor Carrow might come after him in Transfig if he's not careful.

When is a really good question, though, because you're right we've got loads going on. I've Future Interrogators on Mondays, we've rehearsal on Tuesdays and Duelling Club every other, History Club on Wednesdays and we've got to have some time for homework! But I think we're going to work on it on Thursdays after supper. If you and the others want to come then, that'll work out fairly well. We're also planning to clear a little space in our common room where people can drill their aim (for Dunstan, mostly!).

2011-02-09 09:57:00

ORDER ONLY




 **alt_frank**

arthur and me tracked down the lees. the lee-wilsons. they have twins like we thought, and they got the two mixed up in hospital and haven't sorted out yet which one is francis and which one is james which is why the names kept switching. didn't seem to bother them over much, though. they're a bit different like that from what I can tell. both dead smart, I mean they make me look like a drooling idiot. worked as professors at muggle university, cambridge or something, and as soon as we told them about the book and the names flipping back and forth like they've been doing they started talking about german cats and just completely lost me there, but they got it all right away, knew what we were trying to do, they thought it was a great idea. and coming from them, well, I guess that really means something.

here's the thing though. they want to come with. and that's what we've been talking over for the past hour. and it's not just because they want to be with their kids, because they saw right away that we'd have to take both just to be safe, but because they want to help. and I really think they could. Regina, she's the mum, she was a... well, she said it a couple of times, but it was pretty complicated - but it was something like botany and she was really good with plants. like she'd spent years learning about how to grow things more effectively and have bigger crop yields. and fu, he's the dad, he was a historian, but his speciality was in weaponry. and he knows his way around a gun - all sorts. used to have a ball and shot musket collection, and would restore them for fun and knows how to weld and everything. I know John and Davidson would be all about that. they also have all these books they've kept secret so that they wouldn't get destroyed or grow all mouldy, they dug out a dirt cellar just to keep them safe. must be hundreds down there easy. they aren't afraid to get their hands dirty or help out in the nursery either, and we needed an extra hand any road, and they were teachers, so that'd help us out too. and that way they could be with their kids and not have to give them both up. but I told them we'd have to talk it over first of course. they really want to help, and I think they could. Arthur's still talking to em because they have a ton of ideas that he's real excited about.

I know we were planning on getting someone from sherwood to give us a hand, but these folks could help us both out.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-09 15:15:41](#)
(no subject)


German...cats?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-09 15:17:04](#)
(no subject)


A German name, Shrodinger or something. They called it a thought paradox, apparently a famous reference to Muggles. I didn't quite follow it either, but it meant something to them.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-09 15:18:00](#)
(no subject)

Do you think this is a good idea, Dad? Bringing them in?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-09 15:26:33](#)
(no subject)

I think it's a fantastic stroke of luck, and we'd be lucky to get them. Fu has spent the last ten years doing research on his own on the history of weaponry and guerrilla warfare. Regina's a plant...jenetists? A technical muggle term, but she's studied plant yields, crop yields. They're both brilliant, that's clear from an hour's conversation, if a trifle odd. Fu apparently likes tinkering with all sorts of stuff. Frank was discussing the setup of Moddey Dhoo, and when he mentioned the water pump they've set up, using the children's merry-go-round, he asked us right away how much electricity we generated from it. Well, such a thing had never even occurred to us, of course. And the library that they've secreted away, that Frank mentioned, it's amazing. It'll bring tears to Davidson's eyes, some of those books on juryrigging weaponry.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-09 15:29:06](#)
(no subject)


It sounds extremely promising.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-09 15:47:35](#)
(no subject)

Will any of their knowledge work, though? Ekeltricity won't be of much help around much magic. Have we even tried it at Moddey Dhoo before?




 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-09 16:03:27](#)
(no subject)

we hook up to electrick generators to run the movie projector thingy that danny sets up, and victor needs it sometimes for running his tools for fixing engines and cutting wood and things.


I don't guess he thinks about how we don't need it for lights and heat like he wouldve because weve got all that covered.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-09 16:04:38](#)
(no subject)

john's been talking for ages on experimenting with muggle weaponry, and I know he'd definitely want to talk to fu.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-09 15:22:25](#)
(no subject)

Hundreds of books?


Remus is salivating at the very thought but.... That sounds like something that will require a little more preparation than a typical baby-snatch.

You might have to leave them today and come back again with more

resources. An extensible charm on a suitcase at the least, to hold all the books.

Take your potion, by the way, Wanted Man.




 **alt_frank** at [2011-02-09 15:24:33](#)
(no subject)

you'd better believe I have been.

I set a timing charm on my wand so that it glows when I've got ten minutes left on the potion, and pulses when it's five.


and yeah, we'd have to come back -- the books are one thing, but four people don't just up and disappear without a little creative paperwork that we just don't have.



 **alt_frank** at [2011-02-09 15:25:32](#)
(no subject)

not to mention we've got to talk it through with Arabella.




 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-09 18:02:15](#)
(no subject)

There are only the four, then? They haven't any older children?

Well, so long as you have a reasonable scheme for covering their disappearance, then I can't think of a reason not to take them. Since you seem so taken with the notion.

I suppose the question then becomes how you refuse any other parent who wishes to be taken along with a child.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-09 18:10:22](#)**
(no subject)

We've had that conversation many times before, trust me. What was different this time was that instead of saying, 'Let us come along with our baby,' they said, 'here's why you need us.'

And looking at what they have to offer, I do think they're right.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-09 15:32:37](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, we're going to have to come back again, with parchmentwork that'll cover the disappearance of all four of them. Bill, why don't you come for dinner, and we can talk ways and means that your forgers

can help.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-09 15:33:05](#)**
(no subject)


Right-o, Dad.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-02-09 15:33:57](#)**
(no subject)

Well, though we've never seen the book do that before, that's no reason why it's strange - I do believe that Muggle hospitals were extremely good at keeping babies straight.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-09 15:49:29](#)**
(no subject)

Muggle hospitals, maybe, but not these Muggle parents. As I said, they're a bit odd. Molly and I were fanatical about keeping George and Fred straight.

Molly even tied charms on their wrists for awhile so we wouldn't mix them up. But Regina and Fu aren't particularly fussed about which baby is which. Fu even joked that 'we usually

call the one on the left 'Jimmy.'" And that's why the book is doing that. The other boy they call 'Frankie,' so we'll have two Franks.


They named the boys after some scientists by the way, Regina said, a pair of blokes she idolised, called Watson and Crik.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-09 15:53:34](#)
(no subject)

Haven't they thought to tie a string around the wrist of one of the babies? That should at least keep them distinct.

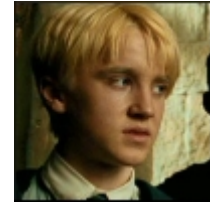


 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-09 17:59:37](#)
(no subject)

I suspect even this couple will see the need of such a strategy once the babies become more mobile. It only takes one instance of not knowing which child you've already dosed with tummy tonic before you realise that being able to distinguish them is imperative.

[2011-02-09 12:27:00](#)

Private message to Pansy and Harry

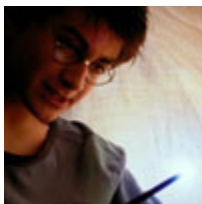


 **[alt_draco](#)**

I've been thinking since duelling club, and even though Raz taught that stuff to you, Harry, so you'd feel more prepared if some mad person ever tried to hurt you, he must have shown it to the whole club for a reason, yeah? When he said it was especially effective against someone unpredictable, who can't be reasoned with by any other means--well, I immediately thought of the Carrows. And in his message to me my Father also said that we should be prepared to defend ourselves, against the Carrows, you know. He mentioned shield spells and the like, which are good, but they can only do so much, can't they?

I think we should keep practising combination combatives on our own time. Us three especially, because the Carrows have decided that they hate us, for some reason. I'm sure Sally Anne would want to learn more, too, and almost all the rest of the Slytherins in our year are interested enough in it that they'd want to join in, even if they don't feel personally threatened. I might tell Padma and Finnigan, too, cos they might want to organise something similar within their own houses. I'm not sure whether I should bother with Smith or Macmillan, though. They didn't seem to think anything was amiss on Monday, did they? Who ever thought we'd see the day when Hufflepuff would be the least put-upon house.

Anyway, let me know what you think.



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-09 22:27:35](#)**

(no subject)

I think so, too. And lets have Sally-Anne and other people in Slytherin for sure. We should probably include Milly.

Smith and Macmillan can go bother a banshee.



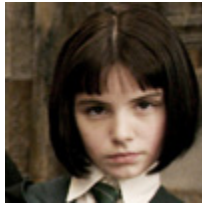
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-09 23:01:01](#)
(no subject)


Hah! Right!

And I think it's a really, really good idea, Draco. I keep saying that I'm pants at duelling, because it's just easy to shrug and laugh it off, but this is important, and the worst thing I could do would be to not try or to make excuses instead of actually learning something that could keep me safe.

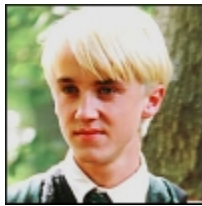
And I also think it could be really good for us to learn how to work together better. We all get along pretty well as it is, but this could make us even closer as a class.


And if we're all going to be in a room with either of those people, I already know that you lot have my back, but this way, we'll actually have an idea of what on earth we could do. Because *wanting* to defend yourself and being able to are two different things.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-10 00:38:35](#)
(no subject)

And Smith and MacMillan were well idiots the other day, but Bones is okay. She might see some sense in it. And she seems to have a bit of pull with the rest of her class.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-10 02:27:47](#)
(no subject)

How about you talk to Bones, if you think she'd be interested? I barely know her. I can't imagine anyone having pull with Smith or Macmillan, though--they really go their own way, those two.


I'm glad you like the idea. This won't just be dead useful, it'll be snitch, too.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-10 14:52:46](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, I meant more with the girls. And Hopkins. Megan Jones isn't half bad with duelling to begin with, either, so I'd bet she'd be for it.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-02-10 02:24:02](#)**
(no subject)

Hydra, too, even though she's not in our year. She's already been practising, after all.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-10 14:48:52](#)**
(no subject)

Yes! Of course. I think she'd really enjoy teaching us for a change.

2011-02-09 16:50:00

(no subject)

We had a lovely visit with the girls this afternoon. My niece came to visit for a few days - just spending some time and a little relaxation - and she's taking a little rest before we head back to New London for tonight's Frost Faire activities.



 **alt_narcissa**

Despite my urging, however, Nymphadora is determined to maintain her care at St Mungo's. I would have thought seeing the way the healers are looking after Ursula she would change her mind. I suppose the Black stubborn streak must win through somewhere!

Now, Norah, don't worry, she's perfectly well. And I'll be starting a new batch of the potion Friday so if you want more, don't hesitate to ask.

Rodolphus, it was lovely to have you and Rigel last night, as well. I think it's only fitting that Nymphadora get a taster of life with a toddler. Such a shame Bella had other commitments or we could have had the whole family.

As for the rest of the week, Barty, I found something I think you'll tolerate. It's on hold for you at Madam dePartands' shop on the Essex Road in Islington. Has Maebh decided to free herself up, as well? They've not a lot of selection left at this point, but there are a few ensembles that would do for her, if she needs a last-minute frock.

Well, I think I'd best see that Nymphadora's ready to dress if we're to meet Lucius for supper in Town. We thought we'd sample some light refreshment at Brewster's before going on to the festival, since there's liable to be more than enough to tempt us there!



 **alt_narcissa** at **2011-02-09 22:23:57**

Private message to Lucius and Barty

She's told me she wants to go home tomorrow and patch things with him; so you can both stop fussing.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-10 00:26:04](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius and Barty

Yes, well. Much as I'm glad she will no longer be imposing on you, I can't say that returning like a dog to her sick is a happily ever after.

Still, I am pleased for you.

Maebh has worked some magic on her schedule--actually, she's invited one of her brothers to come and play master of the preserve--so she's agreed she can make it Saturday. I have, accordingly, passed off my official duties to others.

While I'm grateful for your help with my dress (truly), costume is not a problem for Maebh. She has a wardrobe full for special events she hosts, and I think she's settled on something she wore for one of her boar's head feasts. I'm sure whatever she wears will be suitable, striking even, and that's truly not a matter I would meddle in.

Enjoy the Faire this evening. I'll be there on duty, but I'd be most surprised if we cross paths given the warren of lanes and alleys they've laid out and the throngs that have rushed to fill them each evening.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-10 02:59:35](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius and Barty

Oh, it wasn't quite the imposition you imagine, Barty. Your mother did a credible job, considering that horrid man had nearly ten years to fill her head with nonsense.

For someone who advocated for your parents to take her in, no one could accuse you of fraternal affection. Was it really so awful? You'll have to tell me all the war stories.

We had a marvellous time, actually, but you're right, it was ever so crowded. Nymphadora tried her aim in the arcade alleys. I must say it played to her natural strengths - breaking things - but it was Lucius who won the giant stuffed Horntail. Of course, we'll give it to Rigel.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-10 03:24:59](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius and Barty

You are charitable beyond merit.

It was my parents' duty to set an example. It was, to be frank, one of the terms of my father's freedom. Too small a price for his infraction, but Our Lord wished to be gracious and chose to extend mercy where it was little deserved.

And, as you know, it was my task to see that all duties were observed in the arrangement.

If the fosterling found it a cold situation, I assure you it was not a personal slight: the Crouches could offer no better. Father is austere at his best, and Mother cannot have been expected to have energy or enthusiasm for the task.

In my case, these limitations (if limitations they are) were not detrimental. I chose my own course and turned out undamaged.

I understand that Nymphadora--Mrs Ponds, as she styles herself now--feels she was not adequately cultivated or encouraged in my parents' care, so I am pleased that you, at least, feel she has amounted to something more than an abject disappointment.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-10 03:58:34](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius and Barty

Well. Let us not run away with the notion that she is not any sort of disappointment. She could hardly be otherwise, even if your parents had taken her to their bosom - which would have been extreme given the circumstances. I'm not sure what she expected, nor do I care to hear any excuses or ingratitude on her part. Still. Bella and Mother would no doubt be horrified, but family is family. And you at least instilled in her the proper deference to her betters.

I don't pretend it doesn't pain me to think she could have been so much more, had Andi made different choices. There are times when Nymphadora cocks her head just so or gestures or turns a phrase and - there is my sister back again. But it's only a

moment here or there. The rest of the time she's frightfully common. Choosing to return to that dingy little shop and that shabby excuse for a pureblood is proof enough of that. I'm entirely of two minds about it, you know.

But in the end I think it's best she go back to her world where it's doubtless more comfortable for all concerned. I only hope when things go wrong again - and inevitably they shall - she thinks to bring the child here. Particularly if it's a boy.

2011-02-09 21:24:00

Private message to Ron Weasley and Neville Longbottom




 **alt_seamus**

Right. So, Malfoy talked to me today because he had an idea, after Duelling Club last night. We saw how two students could work together to take down an adult, even a teacher. He said he and Parkinson and Marvolo are going to practice this stuff in case -- well. To try to make sure there aren't any more 'accidents' in the Carrow classes. He suggested I might try organising students in Gryffindor to do the same.

I talked to Dean already, and I'll talk to Lavender and Parvati and Katrina tomorrow. But we're going to have to work together on this. None of us could ever take on Carrow (either of them) individually.

Are you with me?



 **alt_ron** at **2011-02-10 03:42:58**
(no subject)

Yeah, all right.

Bundy'll be in--we were talking about this earlier. And Nev probably will. I think he's upstairs already.

We need a plan for what to do if things go pear shaped with Carrow again.

We did all right that time he attacked Dean last year, but we can do better now. Especially if we're working together, yeah?



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-02-10 03:45:17**
(no subject)

Yeah. A plan. Exactly.

I was thinking, if the Slytherins had had a plan, and if they'd been expecting things to go wrong, they probably could have kept the bookcase from falling -- and Mrs Professor Carrow couldn't have even complained.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 03:49:36](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah. As long as your idea of a plan isn't 'push Neville into the hex' so he takes it for you.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-10 21:25:04](#)

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

No kidding.

I don't want to let on to him that I've been reading my parents' auror books. The less I say about my parents the better, you know? So maybe I won't let on about all the things I know. But it'd be good to get some practical experience.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 21:37:44](#)

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

Yeah, it's probably best if everybody goes on thinking you're a bit wet.


I mean, Malfoy thinks you're playing a game and you're really secretly some kind of threat to Marvolo. And that's just daft, but you really, really don't want either of them to get the idea you know more than they thought.

And Finnigan will totally tell Malfoy anything you do that surprises him.

But still. He's right about one thing: we stand a better chance against the Carrows, if we plan what to do if either of them does something.

We have to make sure, though, that we've got a plan for what happens whether it's you they attack or Thomas or Bundy or me or Finnigan or whoever. I mean, maybe he just wants us to have a plan for what happens if he needs us.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-10 03:47:12](#)**


I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I don't know, Nev. But it doesn't do any good to say no.

At least we can find out how he thinks, right? And if he ever tries to attack either of us, we'll have a better idea what he might do. Thomas, too.

So. I didn't want to answer for you, and you can say whatever you want, but Carrow's something we can all agree on at least.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-02-10 21:25:55](#)**

(no subject)

Yeah, I'm in. I think it's a good idea.

2011-02-09 21:52:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Look. I know that some of you lot are throwing in with Malfoy, and, all right, I see how it makes sense for people in the same House to work together since we have lessons alone more than not.



 [alt_ron](#)


But.

I think we could work together, too. Especially if Fred and George and Lee would help, we could figure out some stuff that would get us out of tight spots that might not be so tight for Malfoy or Marvolo, if you see what I mean.

But you couldn't share stuff we figure out with them. All right?

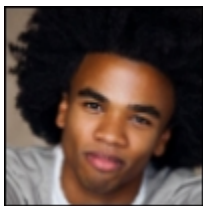
What do you say?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-10 15:09:29](#)
(no subject)

I'm in.


I haven't ever told you, but...see, there are some books at home. From my parents, cause they were aurors. I read a lot of them over the summer. So I know some stuff that I think could help. Cause to tell the truth, I've been worried about Professor Carrow.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-02-10 15:10:33](#)
(no subject)

Are you serious Nev? You've been reading auror textbooks??



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-10 15:10:57](#)
(no subject)


Well, a lot of it is beyond me, of course. But yeah.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-02-10 15:11:26](#)
(no subject)

There are obviously hidden depths to you, Neville.
Wicked.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 17:05:03](#)
(no subject)

Did you bring them to school?


I bet Fred and George could make more of them than we could, and then they could teach us.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-02-10 17:41:27](#)
(no subject)

They're at home. But I can bring some back after Easter break.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 17:45:37](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you should do.

Especially any that talk about spells they don't teach us here. Or ways to make protection spells more powerful or whatever.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-10 15:26:34](#)
(no subject)

Are you going to work on things in Gryffindor, too? I know Thomas and Finnegan can be annoying, but it does make sense to learn how to work together just for safety alone.

And yeah, we should definitely practice. And I'm sure Fred and George and Lee would have lots of advanced stuff they could show us that would be totally ace, if they'd be willing. And Sally-Anne and I will be the BEST EVER at this if we get to practise twice as much!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-10 15:26:51](#)
(no subject)


And yeah, I wouldn't show them anything special we'd sorted out. It'd be tonnes better to just take everyone by surprise.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-10 15:34:16](#)
(no subject)


I think the more practice we get at this the better.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 17:13:27](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah. Although you two are going to end up being better than any of the rest of us. So I guess we'll figure that in our plan, right?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 17:11:39](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Did you see Finnigan's private message? He wants us all to get together. And that's all right, but I'm a little worried that his real plan is to set us up, Nev and me and maybe Bundy, too, so we're the ones that get hurt if anything happens.

But it's smarter to go along and see what he's talking about, and then make plans of our own of what to do if we have to just take care of ourselves.

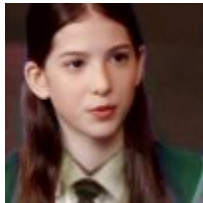
I mean, with you lot, we know that the Slytherin plan is 'duck behind a Gryffindor', but at least I'm pretty sure that you won't hex me in the back once you're behind me. You and Sally Anne, anywiz. No way I'm letting Malfoy behind me or any of the rest of them. Just so we're clear.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-10 17:32:02](#)
(no subject)

You Gryffindors are supposed to be chivalrous, right? Isn't that what the Hat said? It's not so much 'ducking behind you' as 'letting you dive heroically in front of us.'

It's only chivalry if you're doing it for a Witch, though, yeah? So you're off the hook for Draco!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-10 17:36:20](#)
(no subject)

But seriously, if we do some practising we could turn that into a real strategy.

Stupid people expect girls to scream and go all useless. If Pansy and I PLAN to scream, whoever it is will expect we're too scared to do anything and will focus on other people and won't be paying any attention to what we're doing.

Also, if we scream loud enough it'll drown out your hexes so the other person won't know what you're casting. Silent spellcasting is a NEWT-level technique, I think. We could TRY but I wouldn't expect to get very far. (I suppose with some opponents we'd be drowning their spells out, too, but the Carrows already know how to do silent spellcasting, in fact Miss Professor Carrow was using it on me and Draco which I think is why some of the Hufflepuffs still think Draco just messed up when the bookcase fell on me.)



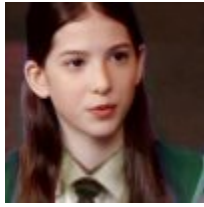
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 17:51:05](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

I think we'll need to plan on you doing more than just screaming, yeah?

But I see your point. People sort of expect Nev to knock into stuff or get himself hexed, so if he fell down right away, they'd probably all pay attention to me and whoever's throwing hexes instead of Nev. And then he could roll under a table and start

hexing their shoelaces into knots or do a knee-reversal or a flipper-foot or just hex their feet off.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-10 17:54:47](#)
(no subject)

The point is to make them THINK we're useless. Not to actually BE useless.

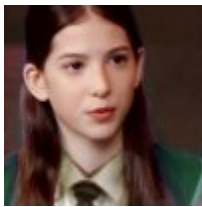
And yeah, that's a good point about Neville. He probably shouldn't scream, though, people would say he was being girly.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-10 18:15:40](#)
(no subject)

I don't know about all this screaming.

We don't have to practise it, do we? Cause that'd be really annoying.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-10 18:05:29](#)
(no subject)

Hermione, do you know if Harry's planning to bring you to the practice sessions?

I was thinking I would send him a message to try to be sure he does. Because we should plan ways to protect you. Let me know if you DON'T want me to do this, if you have a reason that you'd rather not come I won't push it.

2011-02-09 23:19:00

Private Message to Horatio Hooper

Kindly make sure that the draft of the Minister's address is on my desk first-thing in the morning. I shall want to read it over again before meeting with him. Also, compare the numbers from the MBL committee report to the pertinent section in his speech and note any disagreement.



 **alt_lucius**

Also confirm Monday's arrangements - the flowers, the table at *Portico* and of course the concert. Make sure Hatton Garden have set the bracelet properly and know to deliver to the *Witch Weekly* office.

Third, guest list for the 26th. Hold off on sending that; Mrs Malfoy is up to something, I think. She hasn't told me what. Continue to have the Wolsley hold their function room until further notice.

Next I still need the galleys from Charles, so follow-up on that if you would.

Next I have several records which may be filed - some of them require a duplication spell and the copy owed to the appropriate office at the Ministry. I left them on the corner of the desk this evening.

Also, if you please, obtain a copy of the progress report on the Macnair sighting of last week.

Finally, the diary shows a fitting for Saturday's fancy dress ball on Friday morning. I shall need to move that to after-noon. Switch Clarriker to mid-week next week. Under no circumstances tell him why.

I should be in no later than half-eight to-morrow.

2011-02-10 10:01:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnegan



Hey mate,

I've been thinking about this defense group. While its a brilliant idea, we might want to be careful about what things we pratcise in front of the others. Its wiz that we are working together now, but that will not last for long, and we don't want them knowing every thing we can do. Therefore, I suggest that we stick with things that all know for the most part. Maybe introducing a couple of new hexes to them, but for the most part we want to keep all the really good hexes to ourselves. We don't want them to be able to use our skills and knowledge against us, when things return to normal between ourselves and them. That's if they agree to joining the group that is.

 **alt_dean**

Just something to think about.



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-02-10 15:32:03**
(no subject)

No worries, mate. I'm thinking the point of this group won't be to learn new hexes but to plan and practise things we already know. So that we can react in a coordinated way if we have to.

They agreed to join.

They're not in Dark Arts, though. Padma agrees that the two of us should meet with her and some of the other Ravenclaws in Dark Arts to talk through some plans in case things go wrong there.

2011-02-10 12:21:00


Private Message to Susan Bones

Bones -- You haven't met my new owl, Pip, have you! What're you doing after dinner? I was thinking we could take a walk to the owlry and we could let Pip and Valkyrie get properly acquainted. And we could toss around ideas for another Tea of the Strange, cause that was dead fun last term.



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_susan](#) at **2011-02-11 02:18:29**
(no subject)

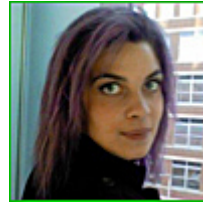
No, I haven't seen him yet, and I'd really like to! We should definitely do that.

I might have to have words with Valkyrie about behaving herself, otherwise she's likely to try to boss him about. She's quite shocking that way--I think she must have been the biggest of her nest-mates!

2011-02-10 15:02:00

Back home

Well, you may have already gathered, Junius and I had a few cross words last weekend, and I went off for a few days to clear my head.



 **alt_nymphadora**

I'm really lucky to have such decent, charitable relatives about who agreed to take me in. I didn't want to trouble Mr and Mrs Crouch when we parted on rather difficult terms, you see. So thank you again, aunt Narcissa. I don't know what I would've done if you hadn't been there. I know I probably stayed longer than I ought, but you were so kind and welcoming, you just made me feel so much better about everything.

Anyway, I'm back home now. I didn't need to get so worked up about it all, really. We made up the moment I walked back through the door, and Junius says it's all forgotten.

I'm so lucky to have such good people in my life.



 **alt_lupin** at **2011-02-10 22:05:24**

ORDER ONLY

IT IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT FORGOTTEN

I CAN'T BELIEVE EVEN YOU WOULD DO
SOMETHING THIS RECKLESS AND DANGEROUS
AND WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ANYONE FIRST EVEN ME

WE ARE NOT DONE TALKING ABOUT THIS



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-02-10 22:09:08**

Re: ORDER ONLY

Look, I get that you're angry, still, and that's fine. I do get it. But I'm not coming back downstairs to be shouted at more. I told you why I did it. It's a good plan, and I think it was worth it. And I didn't get caught, so what does it matter?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-02-10 22:15:55](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

IT MATTERS BECAUSE IF THEY HAD REALISED WHAT YOU WERE DOING THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU AND OUR BABY AND PROBABLY ALL OF US TOO

I CAN'T BELIEVE

YOU CAN'T THINK

THIS WAS THE WORST BLOODY PLAN I'VE EVER HEARD IN ALL MY LIFE, AND I SPENT SEVEN YEARS AT HOGWARTS WITH SIRIUS BLACK AND JAMES POTTER! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU EVEN CONSIDERED IT, AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STILL THINK IT WAS GOOD!

YOU CANNOT EVER EVER EVER DO ANYTHING THIS RECKLESS EVER AGAIN!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-10 22:18:40](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Good grief.

Come upstairs and we'll talk about it sensibly like adults, or stay downstairs and stomp around the shop while Sirius pretends he's gone temporarily deaf and blind. But please stop shouting. It's really embarrassing.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-11 01:04:26](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

What on earth?

What did you do?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-11 01:08:14](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Deep breaths, Remus.

Er, surely it's not as bad as all that? Her relatives don't seem fussed, at any rate.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-11 01:36:54](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Well

From what I understand, her main reason, apart from getting a change of scene, was to recover some, er, personal material from the Malfoys. To use in polyjuice. To try to rescue that Meg Wynn.

But, I er, could have misunderstood.

Maybe.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-11 21:07:53](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

No, that's about the size of it.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-12 00:17:06](#)


Order Only: Private Message to Dora

Look, it's not that I don't understand the impulse, or even disagree with seizing the moment.

Only, you should have run it by someone first. Me, if you didn't think you could tell Remus. That way if something had gone wrong, we'd at least have known where you were. I mean to say, I worked it out from one of Cissy's comments but you're dead lucky Remus didn't see it. And you're welcome, by the way.

But that kind of a prize ... we'll have to consider very carefully the best way to use them. It's the kind of thing that requires precise planning. He's right about that: If any of us are caught impersonating one of them, that person's dead, first off, and second we could all be in great danger as a result.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-11 02:51:25](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Really? The 'worst bloody plan' you've ever heard?

I find that very difficult to believe.

I remember your school days, which in itself is a sign that you and Mr Potter and the incorrigible Mr Black were responsible for some lamentable--not to mention downright reprehensible--plans in your time.

Some of them quite heroic in the final analysis.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at [2011-02-10 22:55:09](#)

(no subject)

I wish you a quieter marriage in future, Mrs Ponds.




 **alt_nymphadora** at [2011-02-11 21:07:01](#)

(no subject)

And I wish you and Maebh all the happiness you deserve, brother.



 **alt_lucius** at [2011-02-12 04:02:10](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Would that be this marriage, Barty, or her next one?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-12 15:06:09](#)


Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

One wonders.

However.

We've so far kept the tabloids to heel. I wish I thought she'd provide them no further temptation.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-12 15:44:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

If you expect astuteness or subtlety from that one then you will be sorely disappointed. One can only conjecture whether your parents might have instilled such lessons better or whether she is too simple to have learned them. Perhaps if you had paid more mind to the product in addition to overseeing the duties, she might have acquired a modicum of guile.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-12 16:36:45](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Frankly, I don't believe that any of the Black family's better traits were passed down to this one.

All the guile her mother possessed must have been exhausted in her elopement.

The daughter has all the subtlety of a fishwife and half as much sense.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-10 22:59:02](#)

(no subject)

Not at all, dear. Every couple quarrels from time to time - and especially during such a stressful period as this.

I'm glad you thought to come.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-02-12 04:08:28](#)**
(no subject)

Glad to hear that your return was met with such a welcome.

You are indeed fortunate that your aunt values her obligations to family above other concerns.

2011-02-11 09:05:00

ORDER ONLY: Private message to Nymphadora



 [alt_alice](#)

Tonks, sweetheart, I didn't want to speak up earlier and put my nose where it wasn't wanted, but is everything quite all right? I read what Sirius wrote about you going to the Malfoys to get hair that could be used for Polyjuice, and I must admit, when you'd had your tiff with Remus, I wondered why you didn't come straight here, but it does make a good deal more sense now. And of all of us, you are the one with the most access to Malfoy, his wife, and Barty Crouch. Did you get hair from all three? Because that would be quite a prize.

And more importantly, how are you doing? My heart went out to you when you wrote about Meg, and how it might have been you in her place. The thought of what they did to that girl, well, it makes me shudder. Do you really think that they're keeping her at that ward that Poppy mentioned? I fear that if they've taken her there instead of Azkaban that she may be past the point where any of us can help her, but I keep thinking of Sturgis, forgotten by the people that he'd sacrificed his life for, forgotten by *me*, left for dead, and I know how you feel.

And, well, having a baby can change your perspective in life. everything becomes more... I don't quite know how to put it, but the stakes are higher. And men don't always quite understand, do they? When I was pregnant with Neville, Frank tried his best to be supportive, but he never fully understood why I wouldn't just hang up my auror robes and decorate the nursery. I got my arm broken rather nastily in a fight when I was six months along, and I think it was the first time he was ever truly angry with me - angry for risking my life and my baby's life too. To be sure, I didn't seek out duels for the sake of picking a fight, but the fight that broke my arm saved the lives of a family of Muggles that were being terrorised, and that was a risk I was willing to take. I couldn't sit idly by and watch while my country fell apart.

I hope you are able to sort things out with our Remus, and keep in mind that you are always welcome with us if you need another bit of a break.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-02-11 21:41:14](#)
(no subject)

Somehow I knew you'd understand, Alice.

I do get why Remus is so angry, but he'll get over it. It was such a good opportunity to really do something, something that might even help Meg, and it wasn't like anyone else would ever be able to go into their house and wander around unsupervised.


Well, relatively unsupervised.

I was hoping my aunt Bellatrix would come by, but she didn't turn up. It was quite fortunate to see dear old Barty though - and that's something I never thought I'd write! I managed to slip a hair from his robe, and it does look like it's his, not from one of his floozies. Aunt Narcissa was easiest, as I spent the most time with her, and I finally managed to get one from Mr Malfoy the night before I left. So yes, all three. There's not much - each lot won't do more than one potion, I'd say. And I do wish I'd got one from Bellatrix. But still a worthwhile haul, I think.

I hope Remus will come to agree. I'm feeling much better now that I've done something. I know we probably won't be able to help Meg, not really, but I had to try. I just wish I could take the polyjuice myself and go in to see her and find out how she is, whether she's comfortable, what they're doing in that place to her and all the other curse victims. But I can't right now, obviously, with the baby and everything. I've done something though, unlike those useless men!

Remus is still stomping around the shop scaring the customers off, but he's stopped shouting at me, and Sirius has stopped looking like he's on the verge of making an excuse and running away, so I think we're making progress. I know he's only angry because he was worried, and I do understand why he was worried, but if he thinks I'll just sit here and do nothing because it's safer, he doesn't know me at all!



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-02-11 23:30:29](#)**
(no subject)

An hour as Barty Crouch... or Lucius Malfoy...

If one of us ever got caught, Merlin forbid, this could be our key to freeing them. It could open doors that have never been opened before.

It really is priceless, Tonks.

In terms of Meg, well, I wonder if it might be worth our while to see the Spell-damage ward that Poppy mentioned, and see if we can't determine whether Meg is past any hope or not. After all, Narcissa Malfoy is no stranger to St Mungo's, and while you can't take the polyjuice, I certainly can.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-02-12 13:30:54](#)**
(no subject)

You.. yes, of course.

Narcissa visits St Mungo's all the time, but I don't know if this other place even takes visitors. Maybe Madam Pomfrey knows? Otherwise we'd have to do some reconnaissance before, check the place out so we know what's there, what the security's like, who gets in and out and when, all that stuff.


Even if we could, though, the boys would never go for it. Now that Remus has calmed down a bit, Sirius has decided to stick his oar in and tell me off too. Honestly, you'd think they'd never so much as blown their noses without prior approval from a committee signed in triplicate, the way they're going on at me over this.

2011-02-11 20:47:00

Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

Thanks for inviting me up to meet Pip! He and Valkyrie seem to get on, which is nice since she isn't always so tolerant of other owls.



 [alt_susan](#)

And sometimes it's so great to be able to just talk without a million other people around, so thanks for that too.

Maybe Hannah and I'll see you and Perks in Hogsmeade tomorrow?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-02-12 02:39:03**
(no subject)

That would be nice, yeah. Maybe we can catch a butterbeer or something.

Have you had a chance to talk to Abbot and Jones about the Duelling club thing yet? I figure it's just practical, really.

2011-02-12 10:58:00

Private Message to Shivani Johns and Sarah Yaxley



 [alt_lana](#)

If you're here by half-four, we'll have loads of time to dress and do ourselves up. Madam Chalfont has promised to arrive by five with her helpers. She's done something different with my hair each night this week--it's really amazing how much volume she can create and what fine details. And there are so many beautiful styles from the period to choose from!

It's been an awesome week, too. So much fun to see it all with Ned. And to see him in doublet and hose. Well.

We started at the bear-baiting arena yesterday and then went on to the New Paris Gardens, but that was a bit much with all the brothel bait. There was a play in the forecourt of one of the ale-houses, the Three Mackerels, so we watched Hansel and Gretel help the forest sprite foil their father's plan to clear all the trees and make a bowling green for his new wife. Everyone cheered when the evil stepmother got pushed in the oven. It was really well done by the children and staff of the Richmond village school.

And it made me think, Vani: you'd be so good, teaching in a primary. I really hope you're still considering it.

Anyway, we had supper last night at this gorgeous Moorish restaurant at the edge of the Protector's Square called Sala de los Abencerrajes. The hangings of the pavilion depicted Boabdil's infamous banquet. So beautiful and so tragic! The food was as ravishing as the setting, and I hear that the chef is gathering financing to open a restaurant. I've told Papa he should absolutely see it done.

I've worked two nights and one day shift in the Faire, and what a different view of things that gives one! We've caught seventeen pickpockets--only two of them clever enough to claim they were hired to act the part by the Faire's organising committee. The committee have, admittedly, taken verisimilitude to a high level for this event, but they did draw the line at hiring actual thieves and ruffians.

My most interesting assignment was to have an appointment at Mr Maule's Sironaeon Emporium. I spent all of Thursday being pampered and evaluated for the advanced range of their services--imagine

having that count as work! You'll be amused to know they did not recommend that I try their reducing programme.

Oh, Sarah. Criada's just come up to say that your robes have been delivered. I've got Vani's, too, so everything's ready whenever you arrive.

There's loads more to tell you both, but I can do that this evening, can't I?

2011-02-12 12:48:00

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan and
Lavender Brown*



Katie Bell?


KATIE BELL?!

 **alt_padma**

I suppose I should have known given how he went on and on about her chasing in the match last month.

Boys are so stupid! No offence, Finnigan.



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-02-13 05:24:25**
(no subject)

He's an eejit. Katie Bell isn't even pretty.

2011-02-12 20:49:00

Hogsmeade

At least the weather was decent.

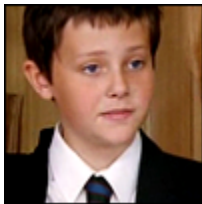
And it was nice to be able to buy some things at Honeydukes and look at stuff in Zonko's and have a butterbeer at the Broomsticks, but honestly?



 [alt_ron](#)

I don't know about having a Hogsmeade day so close to Valentines. I mean, it's just not on how many people were making gooey eyes with girls and, y'know, doing other stuff.

That's just not quidditch.




 [alt_michael](#) at **2011-02-13 02:57:51**
(no subject)

Too right - everywhere you looked people were giving each other chocs in those little heart-shaped boxes.

And try to get a seat in the Three Broomsticks this afternoon! Every booth had couples, seemed like.

On the other hand, I thought the sidewalk sales were nift. Would have been better if there hadn't been all those signs reminding everyone about patrols looking for that Snape bloke.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-02-13 03:20:54**
(no subject)

I'm surprised people are still wanting chocolate. I mean, would you think it was romantic or whatever? Just reminds me of those Dementors now.

And yeah, we left early because we definitely didn't want to be around when those things came into town for the evening sweep. Ugh.

I thought the buskers were kind of nift. Were they there because of the festival or whatever it was? Or are they always around when the weather's decent? I mean, you wouldn't catch me wearing those puffy trousers, but they looked just like in those old portraits we

saw in New London. In that museum. Anywiz, I thought the sword juggler was dead amazing.

Did you buy anything snitch?



 [alt_michael](#) at [2011-02-13 03:40:49](#)
(no subject)


I think so. I heard someone in Zonko's saying that it's because of the big Frost Faire in New London and how people couldn't get away, so they wanted to do something similar. Only I guess the stuff in Hogsmeade wasn't as organised, was it? No giant skating rinks or big pavilions with concerts in!

I didn't buy a whole lot. There was this one dead cool toy. It spins like a top but you point your wand at it and it flies where you want it to go. Takes a little practice to get it right. Capper nearly sent it into the Ravenclaw common room fireplace before he got the hang of it!

The sword juggler was wizard. Did you see the stilt-walking troupe? One of them sent charmed birds right down the high street.

How about you? What did you get?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-13 03:48:40](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I guess if that was meant to be like the big festival in New London, then they kind of fell short.

I missed the stilt walkers, I guess. Heard people talking about the birds, though.

Did you see that whole thing with all the skeletons? That was creepy. I mean, do we need to be reminded about dying all the time?

Oh, I didn't buy much. Some diva delights and ice mice and stuff at Honeydukes. That's all.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2011-02-13 03:54:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yeah, that with the skeletons was dead weird, wasn't it? Someone's bad idea of a joke.
Brocklehurst actually squealed when she saw it.

(And she's not the only one in a bad mood, with or without the Dementors. Did you hear about Patil? She saw Page and Bell snogging in some tea shop and she's been looking curses at everyone all day.

I'm not even sure why. I mean, I know she and Page were friends but why should she care who he snogs? Girls are weird.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-13 17:37:26](#)
(no subject)

Goodness, Corner, one would think you were an old lady with a pile of knitting, gossiping like that. Why do you care if a girl's upset over something that doesn't concern you in the least?


I'm sure Padma will be ever so eager to help you with your essays in the future, with solidarity like that!



 [alt_michael](#) at [2011-02-13 19:40:51](#)
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

You'd care if you had to spend any time in the common room with her this weekend. I haven't any idea why she's acting funny but I wish she'd stop. So what is it to you if I say so?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-13 19:44:42](#)
Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

It only occurs to you now to make this subject private, does it? If you wish she would stop then maybe you ought to ask her if she's all right and show some concern, instead of complaining about it for all to read.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2011-02-13 19:47:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

As if Padma reads Weasley's journal!

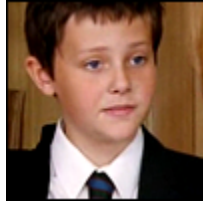
Anyway, you do things your way, Greengrass and I'll do them mine.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-13 20:05:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

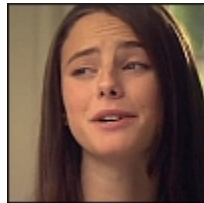
They might claim otherwise, but everybody reads the journal of everybody else, Corner. That's rather the beauty of them.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2011-02-13 20:08:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Oh, so I suppose that means you used to read Sirius Black's journal, then? And all those other Grim Truth things?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-02-13 22:54:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

And why not? It was a lesson in seeing derangement at its finest, anyway.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-02-14 02:37:30](#)

(no subject)

You'll understand the point of Valentine's Day when you're a little older, Ronald.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-14 03:16:19](#)

(no subject)

Maybe I'll understand the point of you then, too?

[2011-02-13 15:04:00](#)

XLV.

I wish there were more occasions like last night's Ball. I do love a night of dancing, and it was such good fun to see everyone in fancy dress. Especially the men with their short robes and silk stockings and heeled shoes! It must be said, though, that the women were more uniformly flattered by the styles of their robes: not every man looks well in great hose.

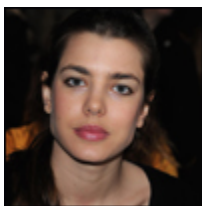



 [alt_lana](#)

I was glad that Ned and I had gone twice during the week for dancing lessons. I wouldn't have dared attempt a galliard if we hadn't, but it was so exhilarating! I wonder if we could get up a club once a month or so for Renaissance dancing?

There was so much that I can't begin to do it justice--so much that was beautiful, spectacular, unique, intriguing, and a few things that were downright shocking. But we all agreed that the funniest thing was something we'd have missed if we hadn't gone out to take the air at just the moment we did: if you missed the dancing minstrels, you really missed a show! And if you saw it, I bet you agree!

Orion. Thank you so much for the tickets. Ned and I enjoyed it all week, and last night was truly special. I only wish you could have been with us.



 [alt_lana](#) at **[2011-02-13 21:26:23](#)**


Private Message to Shivani Johns

Vani?

Are things all right at the Rowles' today?

If you need a place to get away to, you know you're welcome at ours. Whenever you need to come.



 **alt_padma** at [2011-02-14 00:43:56](#)
(no subject)


The way some of the boys around here make a fuss over wearing anything the least bit 'girly' it's a wonder any grown bloke would wear tights! Who did you go as? I saw the papers had a photograph of Mrs Malfoy as - what did they call it? The Gloriana Regina. Glorious is right. The gold on her robes was magnificent! And Mr Malfoy was ever so dashing dressed as Lord Dudley.

Is it true that people were floating above a break in the ice?

Oh - I dunno if you saw but Hogsmeade had a sort of a festival too, yesterday. It wasn't anything to compare with New London, but the shops on the high street had tables outdoors and there were some buskers in the streets. Only it was a little difficult to really enjoy the snowball tossing and all that when there were warnings everywhere about that Snape fellow and telling us there would be patrols at night.

You probably can't say, but don't the Aurors have any hope of catching him soon? Or Macnair? It's been so dreary having the Azkaban guards nearby all year.



 **alt_lana** at [2011-02-14 03:02:59](#)
(no subject)


I went as Lady Penelope Rich. Madam Chalfont did my hair up golden, which, as you can imagine, was quite a departure from my usual look. But she was said to have dark eyes, so I believe I was able to pull off the effect rather well. And the robes were gorgeous. I had a standing ruff of the most extraordinary lace you've ever seen, and my robes were maroon velvet with cutwork sleeves that showed through to undersleeves made of tissue of cloth of gold. I needed a cooling charm once we began dancing, but it was such a fantastic thing, being kitted up like that!

I suppose there weren't any duels in Hogsmeade yesterday. Or I hope there weren't, anyway. Did you have a good time? Anything special for Valentine's Day?

And, no. Of course, I can't say a thing on your final subject, though

I'm sure it is difficult having the Azkaban guards posted so near the castle. Orion tells me it's been nearly as bad as it was before Christmas. I do hope very much that there will be a break in the case before long.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-02-14 03:13:14**

Private Message to Lana Sandoval


That sounds lovely, although it's hard to imagine you blonde.

No, there weren't any duels. I read all about the one Mr Rowle had. Johns works for them, doesn't she? Did she have any inkling that the baby wasn't his? I hope her job's not in danger, although the papers sounded like Mr Rowle wasn't looking to dissolve the marriage.

We had fun in Hogsmeade for a while. But as far as I'm concerned, Valentine's is a simply horrid holiday. I hate it!

You were right about boys, too. All of it.



 **[alt_lana](#) at 2011-02-14 03:25:38**

Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval

Yes, Shivani does work for the Rowles, but she's never said anything about any unpleasantness between Mr and Mrs Rowles.

I mean, she's not very happy working for them, but I think it's more to do with how much they expect her to do (nearly everything to do with the children--they don't seem very interested in being parents).


And Mr Rowle is, well, he's a bit harsh. With everyone. But surely Mrs Rowle knew that when she fell in love with him. Or maybe she didn't. Fall in love, I mean. I suppose there are lots of reasons she might have married him that have little to do with love.

It's just that one does hope to find someone suitable and lovable, too. I suppose it's not always possible, though, and it's true that men (more than boys even) can be disappointing. That's why I said you shouldn't risk the things you care about--your marks,

your connections, your family's approval, and your reputation--on boys while you're still in school.

I'm sorry, though, if you've had a disappointment in that area.



 **alt_padma at 2011-02-14 03:34:41**

Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval

Well, I wasn't risking them - I mean, I took your advice and I made sure that Page and I were always in groups and no one could say anything improper. Only Page didn't much care for that.


He said he thought I didn't fancy him or I'd have found ways to be alone with him and snog and stuff.

But I think he really just wanted to ask Bell out, because it's been barely a week since he told me he didn't want to see me anymore - like that, anyway - and he was in Madam Puddifoot's with Bell today. Snogging each other's faces off, practically.

It's so unfair. I explained why we couldn't do anything and he took it all wrong anyway. I dunno. I just think they're more trouble than they're worth. Boys, I mean.

Anyway, I probably won't get to marry because of something like love. I guess I'll just have to do what Zabini's mum's done and take lovers once I'm married. Only I shan't get caught like Mrs Rowle!



 **alt_lana at 2011-02-14 23:04:51**


Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval

I'm sorry about Page, but you see that's just the reason why you shouldn't place too much trust in boys. I can't think who Bell is even. A nothing, I'm sure.

I wouldn't recommend taking Mrs Lindorm (she hasn't married again, has she?) as a model. If you can't think why, I'd rather not explain. But you're quite right: if you are going to take a lover, you ought to be considerably more cautious than Mrs Rowle seems to have been.

||||| I still can't imagine it's true. Hewett's lucky to be alive today:
Rowle is not a man I'd wish to cross.



 **alt_lana** at **2011-02-14 03:12:32**

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley

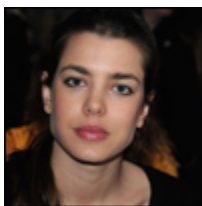
Have you heard from Vani at all today?


Only I'm a bit worried, you know. After all the to do with Mr Hewett.

Can you imagine? What on earth could Mrs Rowle have been thinking to get mixed up with a Quidditcher? I heard they were introduced by Mrs Hewett! At a house party she was having for girlfriends, only he came home when he was expected to be on the road with the team through the weekend.

I don't know what to believe. I mean, I know Vani hasn't been very happy there, but she's never said anything about them rowing. I suppose she wouldn't. She's really the most discreet person I know. I hope they appreciate it properly. I mean, honestly, if this is all true, then it's a tribute to their staff that it didn't come out in the papers first.

And really, I think that's the thing that makes me wonder if it could possibly be true. How can it possibly have been kept quiet all this time? What do you think?



 **alt_lana** at **2011-02-15 00:01:39**

Private Message to Orion Sandoval

Got your owl, you tit.

I wasn't going to answer at all, but I do think you'll find the story about the minstrels funny, so.

We went out to get some air and came round the Protector's statue into the square just in time to see this whole group of wizards--all of them on the Council--having a bit of fun at the expense of a troupe of musicians. They were hexing them to make them dance, and leap, and squeak, and sing in odd voices. It was, really, the funniest thing. And at the end, the lead minstrel bowed and put out his cap. Well, he was risking a serious hex for being saucy, but they seemed to like his gumption! And they all chipped in.

Then they all went off to dangle skaters over top of a hole they melted in the ice. I guess that was a bit less funny to the people on the other end of their charms. There were letters in the *Prophet* yesterday grousing about people being victimised and so forth. Did you see them? Whingers.

To answer your main question. Not that it deserves an answer, mind. Ned and I didn't 'get up to anything'--or at least not anything like you have in mind. We did walk out onto London Bridge and watch the sunrise--together with Shivani and Thom Evan and Sarah and Damion Gladwell.

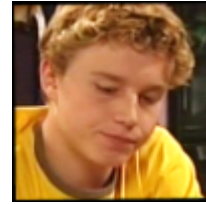
It's true, though: I am thinking of asking Papa if I could have the old gardener's cottage. My hours worry Mama, and that's just unnecessary aggravation for her: I can't change my shifts, so it would be best if she were less aware of it when I'm not home early. It has nothing at all to do with Ned, and I'll thank you NOT to put that idea in anyone's head. Really. Please.

I'm off now for the concert. We're going to have supper first so we can miss Celestina Warbeck and the boring people she brings out, but the rest of the programme is fabulous. You are still my favourite brother of all time for buying our Faire passes. Even if you are a prat.

[2011-02-13 16:52:00](#)

(no subject)


Does anyone know what happened to Hewett? They said on the wireless he was injured and unable to play. Blimey, the Pride are bloody useless without him! That reserve chaser they put on is rubbish!



 **[alt_zacharias](#)**

Course, it's good news for my fantasy Quidditch side. Mullet already had the lead by 200 points before the 90-minute mark. I think the best thing Singh could do for the Pride was to catch the Snitch as quickly as he could and end their misery. (And that helps my Quidditch side, too, since I've got him! 150 points to me!)



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-02-14 00:45:45](#)**
(no subject)

Don't you read the papers, Smith? The Society pages?




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-02-14 00:46:47](#)**
(no subject)

You mean, who's dating who and who's getting married and who's had babies?

Nope. Course not. That's girl stuff.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-02-14 02:02:33](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, honestly, Smith.

Well, if you read the society columns, you'd have known that your Mendick Hewett was in a duel. He and this Mr Rowle from the Ministry had a big row over Mr Rowle's wife. And now everyone's wondering whether Mrs Hewett will denounce Mr Hewett, as well - and that could hurt Hewett's play for the rest of the season.

See? Maybe if you could stand some 'girl stuff' now and then you'd be better informed.

2011-02-14 16:22:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley

I just had an owl from Vani and thought you'd want to know.



 [alt_lana](#)

Things aren't at all right with the Rowles, and Vani says she and Mrs Rowles have taken the children to the country for a week's 'holiday'. Vani says she's not sure whether the quotation marks ought to go around 'week' as well.

Apparently, this morning's post contained 'courtesy' copies of all the gossip sheets. Well, I'm sure you saw them, too. Vani says Mrs Rowle went pale as a ghost while Mr Rowle went plum-coloured. She thought he might have committed an outrage right there in front of them all, but instead he went dead calm, stood up, collected his cloak and left the house.

Soon as he'd left, Mrs Rowle ordered the elves to make the country house ready, had the Mudbloods pack everything up, and they were through the Floo and gone before noon.

Vani's always so matter of fact, but it sounds awful.

Sarah. You know Mr Rowle better than I do, but from what I've seen, Thorfinn Rowle is not a man to cross. Do you think they're in danger?

[2011-02-14 18:32:00](#)

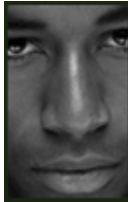
Thank you

for not sending me lots of valentines everybody.

Much better than last year.



 **[alt_harry](#)**



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-02-15 00:38:33](#)**

(no subject)

You still have more admirers than the rest of us.

Did you know any of them, at all?

I can't think what goes through a witch's head to make her send someone a Valentine when she hasn't even been introduced to him. It's mad.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-02-15 02:18:18](#)**

(no subject)

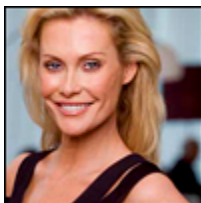
Not one. But its better this way. Nobody who knows me sent me any so that means they actually know me pretty well.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-02-15 02:39:02](#)**

(no subject)

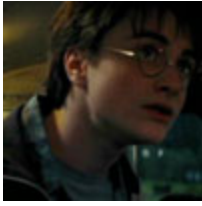
Ha, too right! The only bloke in the protectorate who's chuffed that he got twenty admirers this time instead of the usual two hundred. And all from strangers. Really is more than a little creepy when you think on it that way. It's like Professor Raz with those "most eligible bachelor" articles.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-02-15 02:24:08](#)**

Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Were any of them promising, dear?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-15 02:25:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Promising?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-02-15 02:25:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo

I'm not going to go take any of them to Madam Puddifoots if that's what you mean. I don't even know them at all.

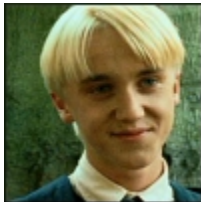


 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-02-15 02:40:30](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Well, you know if any of them are troubling, you should give them to your Uncle Razzler.

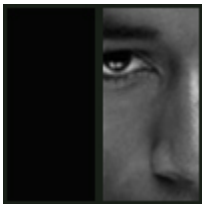
If he doesn't insist on following up on them himself, he can pass them on to the Aurors to make sure they don't represent a threat.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-15 02:43:03](#)

(no subject)

What the blazes was that thing Hydra got in the Owl post this morning? It sounded like a howler reciting poetry.



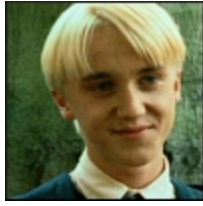
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-15 03:37:16](#)

(no subject)

Too right.

I nearly upended my tea into my lap.

Do you suppose someone meant to make a favourable impression?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-15 03:48:27](#)
(no subject)

She looked embarrassed, so if so, I'd say it didn't work.

I do think I caught a few complimentary lines.
"YOU ARE PRETTY NIFT, AND PRETTY TOO, SOMEDAY I HOPE TO TRAVEL TO FRANCE WITH YOU." Really rubbishy. I mean, usually it's the thought that counts, but not when it comes out all shouty.




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-02-15 03:48:29](#)
(no subject)

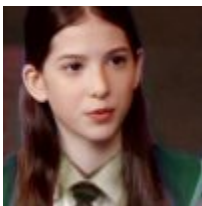
It was utterly bonkers, whatever it was.

Did you get many valentines, Malfoy?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-02-15 03:51:19](#)
(no subject)

Half dozen or so. None of them signed, mind. What's the point then, I'd like to know? I'm not going to notice someone who's off sighing in a corner.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-15 04:44:28](#)
(no subject)

I'm pretty sure it actually WAS a howler reciting poetry.

I mean, it looked exactly like every other howler I've seen and it used pretty close to the same tone of voice. And you can have a howler say whatever you'd like so why not poetry? Other than the fact that it's mad, and Valentines are supposed to be for people you like, and who likes to be shouted at even if the shouting is things like, 'YOU ARE VERY PRETTY'?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-02-15 13:54:01](#)
(no subject)

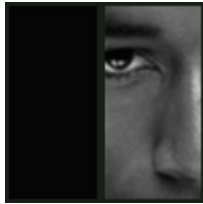
Jeremy said it was a howler, too, he said it was a howlatine.


The person who sent it doesn't know me very well or they might know I don't much like shouting.

Jeremy said maybe they meant it to sing instead of shout, but the charm went bad.

I think he was just trying to make me feel better about it, though.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-15 14:27:35](#)
(no subject)

Jugson seems to know a lot about it.

Don't you think?

For someone who wasn't involved at all, I mean.

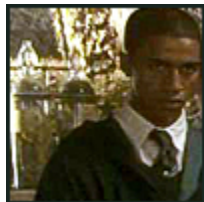



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-02-15 14:44:30](#)
(no subject)

I don't think he knows who sent it, if that's what you mean.

I think he was just trying to make me feel better, because when it started shouting he was so startled he tipped his glass of juice.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-02-15 15:47:23](#)
(no subject)

Ah, well then.

Pity about the juice. I came close with my cup of tea. Whomever your admirer is, he casts a powerful Howler charm.

||||| At least we'll know to be prepared next year.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-15 03:48:34](#)**
(no subject)

I was thinking of sending you an un-valentine, like
Harry, you smell like cheese,

You really don't make me weak in the knees,

I want to ask you, please, oh please,

Please don't be my Valentine!


But I figured it'd add to the stack of cards and fluttery singing things like you had last year, so I didn't bother. Still, the sentiment is the important thing, isn't it?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-15 15:39:51](#)**
(no subject)

It's a shame you didn't. I hear you can turn a howler into a REALLY MEMORABLE Valentine.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-15 15:50:12](#)**
(no subject)

Hah! That's an understatement. And I thought the cupids were bad!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-15 04:45:32](#)**
(no subject)

I'm so glad your Valentine's Day was satisfactory!

2011-02-15 10:31:00

Private Message to Maebh Drumgoole

'Friday will come quickly'? Not quickly enough.

I'm holding you to your promise, Maebh, that you will have an answer for me when I arrive.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2011-02-15 17:41:00

Private Message to Norah Crouch



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Mother.

I've signed off on all of the parchmentwork for your fundraiser. You needn't worry any further about it. That's why I agreed to serve on your committee--so you wouldn't worry about legalities and fine print. If you persist, I will regret having gone to the trouble.

As to your other questions:

Yes. It is true that Maebh was here for the Ball.

Yes. It was an entertaining evening.

Yes. There was some 'high-spirited' and 'unrestrained' behaviour on some parts. And, yes, you likely do know some of those involved.

Yes. Maebh was beautiful. Very.

Yes. She went costumed as Grace O'Malley. *The Prophet* was correct. And, yes, she looked suitably formidable.

No. We did not give any of the other publications permission to photograph us.

No. I wouldn't call the event 'glorious', but I'm sure others have done. Why didn't you come, if you were so keen?

No. We did not, in fact, have time to visit you. I'm sorry you were disappointed. Perhaps next time Maebh's in town.

I am pleased you like her, Mother.

I have several questions for you, and I do wish you'd answer here. It's much more direct than waiting on owls to carry and return messages.

Have you sorted out the new girl or will she need to be replaced?

Have you reconsidered having at least one servant live in?

Shall I file your requests with the placement service?

Have you considered that it would be well to set an example in this regard?

What is the source of your reluctance?

It's unlike you to ignore your duty as a social leader. You have the rooms available to house full-time staff. We can see to any security concerns you might have.

Really, Mother, a properly trained Muggleborn girl can help with things an elf cannot. I'm only thinking that if you were ill at night, an

elf would be inadequate. (And, of course, father is worse than useless for that sort of thing.)

I'm very busy this week, Mother, so you shouldn't count on seeing me. If you wish me to address your staffing needs, however, I'll be pleased to file the necessary requests. Do let me know.

2011-02-16 10:58:00

Order Only: Parchment is ready

Dad, my forgers have returned the parchmentwork we discussed to extract the Lee-Wilsons from the camp so that you and Frank can whisk them and the kids to Moddey Dhoo. I'll bring them to you at lunch today.



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2011-02-16 17:01:34**
(no subject)

Excellent work, Bill, and thank them for me.

Frank, will tomorrow morning work for you? Let me know. Say half past eight at the rendezvous point?




 [alt_frank](#) at **2011-02-16 18:01:48**
(no subject)

shall do.

what's the plan? are we walking right out the front gate with them and the babies?



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2011-02-16 18:13:23**
(no subject)

It's rather brilliant, really. The putative excuse is that the twins are required to be made available for methodological study, i.e., twin research. The parchmentwork demanding their release purports to come from one of Amycus Carrow's more bloodthirsty fellow researchers. No one will be the least bit surprised when they don't return. The parents are being reassigned to a labour group at the same camp.

Bring extra polyjuice, Frank. We'll need enough time to shrink and bring the entire library in one of their valises.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-02-16 18:15:24](#)**
(no subject)

right.

that does sound like it'd do the job. I'll see you at eight.

and nice work, bill.

2011-02-17 00:06:00

ORDER ONLY: Another child

I know. It seems unfair to have so many at once!



Her name's Sara Cullinane. She's in Hampshire - so, Ampfield or Fareham.

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-17 05:32:56](#)
(no subject)

Circe, we still have Honour and Bellatrix to extract. Have we any sense of the parents? Lately they seem to be surprising us; we might do well to get a bit more information so we know what we're walking into, even if it does mean risking their places in the camps a while longer.

Look, I'm staying in London through the full moon (which I think may be the only reason Dora and Remus aren't still gnashing at one another), but after that I'm able to go along if we need to be in three camps at once.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-17 18:20:47](#)
(no subject)

I think you and al might have to step in and give a hand, yeah.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-02-18 01:02:32](#)
(no subject)

You're going to force me to partner with your wife?
Twist my arm.

2011-02-17 00:23:00

State of the Protectorate

The Minister's address went relatively well, though as usual there was a bit too much emphasis on budget and not enough on the intended uses of the funds. Also surprised to find that the section on muggleborn population was shorter than expected, though pleased it met with approval from the assembly.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Less surprised by the comments regarding international relations. The French government have been taking great strides forward in terms of policy but their progress is deliberate and slower than a flobberworm at times. Confident that continued efforts and contact will yield further results. The inevitable queries regarding free trade garnered the necessary response: Trade shall be opened if and when other nations can guarantee that their exports adhere to the standards we have set.

In other regions, of course, the progress is either less marked or has always been ripe for plucking. Expect that eastern blocs shall be readily convinced to take more ... direct action to establish dominance.

Also intrigued by Fudge's position on the introduction of enhanced transfiguratives to supplement the general fare. Suspect additional research is warranted to determine whether the nutritive value is truly equivalent to more traditional substances.

On an unrelated topic, have been intrigued to see another increase in the popularity of reduction clinics. Another three opened this month so far. Mind you, there are an increasing number of people who seem to need their services. The Frost Faire's ball provided an excellent opportunity to judge that; fortunately it seems modern robe designs are more forgiving to the figure compared to Elizabethan robes. (And incidentally, Barty, well done. Perhaps you have the, er, legs after all.) Certainly, and not unexpectedly, those more conscious of maintaining their physical health were the centrepiece of the ballroom tents, as well as those who put in the effort to prepare for the dancing. One cannot understate Narcissa's effect in her robes, of course: the Gloriana Regina indeed, and deserving every accolade and token she received.

Not sure, however, what some thought they were about, upsetting the refreshment stalls outside the tent. Nor the impromptu footrace through the midway. Heard from Scrimgeour that MLE are still processing several fines for disorderly conduct, including an attempted break-in to a closed patisserie. I suppose someone simply couldn't wait until morning for buns!

Draco, received your last and yes, I do believe that you are following a prudent course.

Oh, and Hooper: For to-morrow, kindly make sure that you have the front parlour cleared for the Committee. Realise is it unconventional to host in the St James' house and not in the Elysian but there are topics to discuss for which the house offers more privacy. Messrs Nott, Rookwood and Bode should arrive by half-eleven so also arrange for luncheon.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-02-17 05:24:59](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr and Nicodemus Broome

Barty, we missed you at Monday's concert but understand the reason for your absence.

Spoke to Broome this afternoon to ensure he creates space in the docket at your convenience. When do you and Maebh plan to petition?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-17 21:11:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr and Nicodemus Broome

Sorry. Am just seeing this. Ipswich today.

I hear the concert was passably entertaining. Not sorry we were otherwise engaged, however.

And I will let Broome know as soon as there's a reason to schedule us. Thank you.

[2011-02-17 12:54:00](#)

ORDER ONLY




 **[alt_frank](#)**

the lees are all safely here. it took a good two hours to pack up all their books properly, and there was a bit of dodginess when we tried to leave with them -- the man processing their paperwork saw what the papers said, that the twins were headed off to get experimented on by that rookwood bloke, and he turned pale as a sheet -- asked to talk to the lees alone. regina told us that he'd tried his best to stop them from going -- he told them that if one of the babies was all of a sudden ill, the transfer could wait. and then when we came back in, he tried to hold it up by claiming there was an error in the paperwork and that we'd have to come back later. there wasn't, of course, but merlin we were sweating there for a bit. if he'd dug too deeply, or insisted on floo calling the other camp to confirm things, it could have gotten rough all round.

but as it was, we got out just fine, and he seemed to be a good sort of bloke to keep in mind as someone that might just be more on our side than not. what was his name again, arthur? nick somebody.

they've just finished on their tour of the place, and haven't stopped asking questions since they got here. fu liked the water-pump and the boat engine, and grilled danny about both for ages, and gina liked the garden and greenhouses, and she and steve really hit it off. they're both meeting with arabella right now.




 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-17 18:21:23](#)**

(no subject)

Nick Blish, it was. Nice to see a parchment-pushing bureaucrat trying to help someone in the camps for once, although it did put us in a terrible spot for a while there.

I think we'd better cover our tracks in the other direction, Bill. Can any of your people plant documents on the other end with the instructions for the transfer, in case Blish follows up?



 **alt_bill** at [2011-02-17 18:21:46](#)
(no subject)

I'll get on it.

2011-02-17 15:26:00

Order Only


Well, after the excitement of this morning and an afternoon of combing through camp census records, I believe I have pinpointed the whereabouts of the new names in the Hogwarts book. Honour Miliband hails from Swale, in Kent, and Bellatrix Peplow from Maldon, in Essex. I've also found Sara Cullinane, who is at Ampfield.



 [alt_arthur](#)

Bill, can your people get you the false documents sometime this weekend? Then we can plan to extract them early next week.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-02-17 21:32:01**

(no subject)

I think so. I can probably bring them to you when I come to dinner on Sunday.



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2011-02-17 21:32:06**

(no subject)

Thanks.

2011-02-17 15:26:00

*Private Message to Maximus
Truncheon and G. A. Penderyn*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Dispose of the subject however you wish.
Nothing but rubbish in what you shook out of
him.

Aside from 'Procyon', of course, but we knew
that much already.

Have you got anything of use out of the others?

2011-02-17 15:57:00

*Private Message to Mafalda Hopkirk
and Bellatrix Lestrange*



Procyon is clever. And efficient.

Of the half-dozen Penderyn picked up at the Faire, all bore unmistakable signs of mental incursion, but only one was left with any discernible memory of his interaction with the Legilimens. And not one shred of identifying detail.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

I've traced the subject's connections and followed up the information Penderyn and Truncheon extracted, but there was nothing. No hint of any previous connection with DogStar. Not a whiff of subversive activity. Unless one counts an aunt who once brought charges against a warlock of the Wizengamot for hexing her familiar whilst in her shop. Nine years ago.

Confirms what we observed in the first case.

So far as can be discerned these were all first contacts. If Procyon deemed any of the subjects useful, there was no sign of it.

It might be worth releasing the five under watch. The sixth may not be salvageable.

A consideration for next time, perhaps.

2011-02-18 09:52:00

YPL reminder

Good morning, everyone. Just a quick reminder about the upcoming YPL and play events.



Saturday's YPL session will welcome guests from the Cobblestone Creatives, a theatrical troupe with a particular interest in and reputation for amazing stage effects. A number of their troupe (both actors and stage crew) will be joining us for our YPL event to demonstrate a range of charms and other magical approaches to the stage. (Please be prompt. Students involved in the play, but not in the YPL are encouraged to attend for this session.)

 [alt_sinistra](#)

Following the YPL discussion, most of the Cobblestone Creatives members will return to New London, but several of their crew have graciously agreed to spend the night, in order to offer ideas about the play.

Saturday evening, the members of the play crew are invited to a gathering with our guests in order to walk through the script and identify suitable effects. (If you should attend, you should have received a message this morning.) Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday's rehearsal will again welcome our guests, with a focus on trying out a few of the new ideas at appropriate points. They will also make some other suggestions about acting technique, stagecraft, and other related topics. Again, it is very important that you arrive promptly and are ready for your role. Please double check the schedule, as we've rearranged slightly to make the most of this opportunity.



 [alt_penelope](#) at **2011-02-20 13:50:50**
(no subject)

Thanks again, Professor, for arranging this. I'm sure rehearsal today is going to be a significant point in the process. I can't wait to hear the suggestions that ~~Connor~~ Mr O'Shaughnessy and Ms Harrison will make.

They certainly had some colourful stories to tell last evening!

2011-02-20 08:51:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Well?



 [alt_narcissa](#)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-20 15:29:06**

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

May I see you tomorrow?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-02-20 17:48:29**

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Certainly. Luncheon, tea or do you care to come see me at the office?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-21 00:37:00**

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Certainly not the office.

A dozen to one your reporters would skin me for the story.

Bijoux at Pall Mall. Have you tried it?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-02-21 01:01:25**

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Yes, I've been, but not too recently.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-02-21 02:15:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Good.

About time, then.

2011-02-20 09:11:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

It's all agreed.

See to the things we discussed. In the order I specified.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Contact Broome first.

Then the three orders with the florist. Be certain she uses the enclosures I wrote. Make absolutely certain she understands not to send the third until I authorise it. I don't want those turning up here until after I've left.

But the others must absolutely go out today. And make certain she sends the Talisker along with the correct order. I have no intention of gifting my father with that.

If the parcel from Lenoir has not already arrived, stop in there. I'll want that first thing tomorrow. I intend to deliver that myself.

Anything further from Truncheon? Other business?

2011-02-20 20:28:00

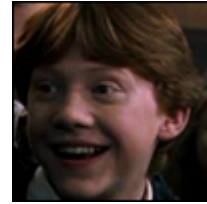
(no subject)

Wizard wizard wizard.

Those charms that make the cat costume's tail swish? Dead wizard.

Too bad they don't have the head made yet. The charms to make the whiskers twitch are going to be amazing.

I think I might want to go into play acting. They have loads of fun, don't they?



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_gredforge](#) at **2011-02-22 22:09:47**

(no subject)

If you're really taken with the tail, we can probably find a way to make it permanent.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-02-23 01:31:20**

(no subject)

Ha. Bloody. Ha.

2011-02-21 14:26:00

*Private Message to Mafalda Hopkirk
and Bellatrix Lestrange*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Our Lord requires that I set aside present duties to collect certain items He requires. Avery has received the same orders.

We're for Boreray first. Then the Dingle peninsula. Two days? Three? Not certain.

I've briefed Braithewaite. If there are developments on the Dogstar front, he'll cover.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2011-02-22 02:19:44**
(no subject)

Does He. In that case, I do hope it will be no longer than three days. For the sake of His needs.

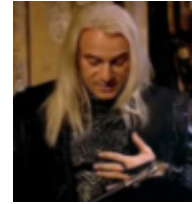


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-02-22 19:00:29**
(no subject)

I confess I've more skill tracking insurgents than eviscerating sheep. Or toads, which are next. Not that we're finished here yet. By any means.

2011-02-21 14:42:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.



Barty,

I've only just had a moment to pen this to you: Learned this morning that Our Lord has elected to spend the week in private retreat. He feels His research is at a critical juncture and cannot be interrupted with affairs of state. Thus we have spent a good deal of the morning determining which items of the docket for the rest of the week may be addressed without His personal audience and which must be rescheduled for His return and verdict. Your petition, of course, falls in the latter category. Broome offered to owl you but I thought it more appropriate I tell you directly. Nonetheless, it has taken most of the day since it was already a rather busier one than usual.

 [alt_lucius](#)

Also, wanted to tell you that both from the reports at Magical Commerce and Crispin's report at our luncheon together, Maule is, as suspected, grabbing up additional vacant property around Bankside and Blackfriar's. Thought you would wish to know. No requests for permits as of yet but expect they will come soon enough.

Unfortunately, you shan't have too much time to look into it for the next few days. Our Lord also requested that you and Avery pursue another task for Him: Look for His owl with instruction; He made it clear He wishes no disturbances, even acknowledgements in response, until He summons you. I sincerely hope you can have accomplished His errand by then and are prepared to deliver when He requires it.

I'm sorry that we could not take care of your business this week, truly. Received the bottle and Narcissa was thoroughly charmed by the roses as well; you need not have gone to such lengths, but thank you all the same. We are only too happy to see you choosing someone who, I am sure, will suit you as perfectly as Narcissa and I do one another, and to hear of her willingness to accept your proposal.

Next week, once Our Lord's attention can be diverted from His private work, am confident He shall look on your choice with favour as well.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2011-02-21 20:24:54](#)**
(no subject)


Lucius.

Thank you. Yes, His owl found me at lunch. I've collected Avery and am setting things in order here.

I appreciate your sentiments, but betrothals are of small import beside His affairs. In all things, I wait upon His pleasure and act upon His commands.

I expect the present assignment may take several days.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-02-22 06:18:44](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, exactly - knew you would see it that way and agree. But I also understand that one would like to be able to make such arrangements official as soon as possible after making the offer. No doubt you and Maebh are prepared to wait as necessary for His answer; I rather expect your family will find the delay less acceptable (as might hers, come to that).

Of course, Our Lord in His generous way has given you something else to occupy you in the interim. How fortunate that you have this opportunity to once again prove your devotion, right when you desire His approval.

2011-02-23 09:32:00

Order Only: We have a situation here

Frank and I arrived at Maldon to speak with Bellatrix Peplow's parents, and I'm afraid things went downhill quite rapidly. As in, Frank has both parents in a *petrificus totalus* and is continuing to plead with them while I'm writing this.



 [alt_arthur](#)

I think it's quite safe to say they didn't pick the name 'Bellatrix' because they're interested in astronomy.


They support the regime 1000%. We've seen all sorts of reactions when telling parents that their child has magic, but this one we've never witnessed before. When informed that Bellatrix was a witch, the father astounded us by immediately attacking his wife. In fact, he tried to choke the life out of her, all the while yelling that she must have been the one to 'steal the magic.' We were so surprised that we fumbled with our wands for a moment before blasting them apart, but fortunately we stopped him before he managed to crush her larynx.

Our usual script, of course, is completely out the window at this point. They aren't going to give us permission to take her. In fact, I'm afraid that unless we separate the father and the mother (by which I mean I'll have to arrange to have them assigned to different work camps), he'll just attack her again once we're out of sight--unless we memory charm them to forget our visit altogether. But if we leave the baby with them, little Bellatrix is doomed to be outed as a mudblood eventually. If I send off the mother by herself with the baby, what's to prevent her from hurting the child, once Bellatrix's magic manifests? And if we don't bring her to Moddey Dhoo, what do we do about the Book?

Frank is arguing privately to me that we have to take the baby and memory charm the parents so they think she has died.


Can anyone come up with a better idea?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-23 15:36:37](#)
(no subject)


Bloody hell, Dad.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 15:36:43](#)
(no subject)


Exactly.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-23 15:39:54](#)
(no subject)


This has never happened before, I take it?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 15:42:07](#)
(no subject)


Well, we failed to snatch Dennis Creevey, remember. And there has been a time or two that a parent has turned us down, because they were afraid. But to turn us down because they believe the regime, believe that muck about muggleborns are made because someone has stolen magic, no, that's never happened before.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-23 15:44:28](#)
(no subject)


But Arthur, if we take the child without the parents' permission, that's kidnapping. And think of their anguish, because they will think their child died! And they'll never see her again, never know what happened to her!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 15:45:20](#)
(no subject)

Well, I know that, Molly. Obviously.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-23 15:47:47](#)
(no subject)

Do you think it's better to have her taken away from them in four years or so and made into a slave?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-02-23 15:48:24](#)
(no subject)

Of course not, but...


Oh, this is dreadful!



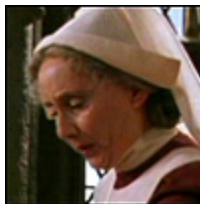
 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 15:49:09](#)
(no subject)

Yes it is, but we don't have the luxury of a lot of time to figure it out. We only have so much polyjuice.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-02-23 15:49:51](#)
(no subject)

Is Frank making any headway in arguing with them, Dad?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 15:56:37](#)
(no subject)

A great deal could happen in those four years, Kingsley. None of us can see the future. In the present, however, you are encouraging Frank and Arthur to play a part not far removed from the worst abuses this regime commits. And to act that part against a

couple who are already victims many times over of abuse by wizards.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-23 16:00:44](#)
(no subject)

Well, of course a great deal could happen in four years. The kid could die of typhoid or cholera, along with both of her parents. The camps could be liberated by an army sent from France, Morocco and Brazil. A dragon could escape and flame them all into cinders. Lucius Malfoy could get bored one night and personally butcher every one of them.

What Frank and Arthur have to decide is right here, right now.

I think the ethical thing to do is to take her.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 16:09:59](#)
(no subject)

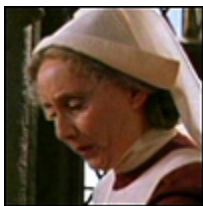
Yes, and the child could die of typhoid or cholera at Moddey Dhoo.

You are telling us to play gods with the lives of these people. I still say that if you cannot persuade the parents to give permission, you've no right to force your will upon them.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 16:11:42](#)
(no subject)

Hermione's made the decision for us, Poppy. We're not going to leave her with the risk of being killed by her own parents, and if she survives that, a life as a slave.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 16:00:42](#)
(no subject)

I quite agree, Molly.

On top of that, it's no small matter to memory charm two people to selectively forget or re-remember


several months of their lived experience. That sort of obliviation is not merely a matter of a quick swish and flick, is it?



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:09:51](#)**
(no subject)


Well, then you'd better hope for all of us that we do a bloody good job.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-02-23 18:34:27](#)**
(no subject)

I have some Firewhiskey at my flat, Dad, if you want to stop by after work.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 18:34:57](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, son. Although I will have to go home and face your mother eventually.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-02-23 15:53:11](#)**
(no subject)


Arthur.

I don't know quite what to say, but I do urge you not to do anything rash.

You say the husband attacked his wife, suspecting her of having stolen magic for the child. (Of course, he knows he's not done it.) What has the wife said for herself? Does she suspect him in turn? Can you not use that to help them see neither of them has done any such thing?

Have either of them threatened the child at all? You say you're worried the mother would harm the child, but is there really reason to fear that? Do either of them show any sign of blaming the child for its magic?




 **alt_arthur** at [2011-02-23 15:56:50](#)
(no subject)

She suspects the husband. He was just quicker to act. And both of them are looking at the baby now as if she were a basilisk about to turn around and strike them dead.

It's heartbreaking.




 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 16:03:57](#)
(no subject)

If you are really talking obliviation, the simplest thing, surely, would be to remove their memory of your visit and leave them to make their own decisions over time.


And in the meantime, we may all redouble our efforts to see that the future that child will face is not today's situation.



 **alt_arthur** at [2011-02-23 16:07:48](#)
(no subject)

I really do think they might kill the girl, once her magic manifests, Poppy. Could you live with that decision?



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 16:11:59](#)
(no subject)

You are guessing at future decisions of two people you do not know, Arthur.

Yes. I will live with their decision. It is theirs to make.




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:18:51](#)**
(no subject)

well I cant
and I wont.


they gave up that decision when they put her life on the line.



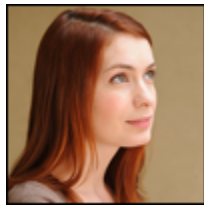
 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:20:33](#)**
(no subject)


And besides, YOU wouldn't be the one living with the decision, Poppy. Or, morely likely, dying for it. Bellatrix would.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:28:28](#)**
(no subject)

And I'm sorry to be brusque about it, Poppy. I have to admit that being called a blood traitor doesn't do anything for my temper, either.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:30:30](#)**
(no subject)

I hate this too, Poppy.

I do think that it is important that Arthur asked in the first place -- that he didn't assume automatically that the parents didn't have any rights or choices.

It's also important that we you here, to provide a voice for people that don't have one, and to make sure we are fully aware of the implications of what we do.

I believe that Muggles ought to have rights, that they ought to be able to make decisions about their lives and their children. Bellatrix? She has a right to live. And that's more important right now.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 16:39:53](#)
(no subject)

It seems to me you are saying that Muggles have a right to make decisions as long as they make a decision you approve.

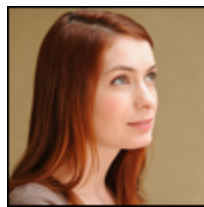
And we've no idea what those parents would do if they'd not been surprised by a pair of ham-fisted baby snatchers who popped a piece of information on them out of the blue.


By the time the child's magic would have manifested the parents' reactions and the parents' situation would be different from today. We don't know what they'd do, no. We don't. And now they will never have the chance to make those choices for themselves. No chance to live those months with their child. And the child with them.

We've made their choices for them. Abruptly. Because we wouldn't want to put Frank or Arthur in danger by taking time to educate or persuade or even to consider what to bloody do in a case we didn't anticipate.

So in our panic, what did we do? We swished our wands and hexed a Muggle couple, used force on them, plundered their brains and stole their child.

In the name of the child's interest, yes, but it needn't have been accomplished this way at all.



 **alt_alice** at [2011-02-23 17:03:41](#)
(no subject)

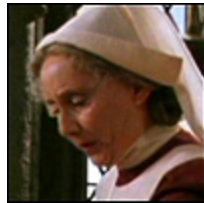
Things always do tend to clarify from a distance.


Frank and Arthur have ten years of face-to-face experience working with parents. So I don't think it's a matter of their abilities to approach the situation with understanding, but we must recognize that this was a very unique circumstance. They had to make a quick decision, and the decision they made was for the immediate safety of the child.

But now that we know about this new possibility -- even

though it might be rare, Muggles have been fed propoganda for so many years that it might crop up again -- we can certainly come up with a plan for the future that would respect the parents' rights and work in multiple contacts to give them as much opportunity as possible to fully understand what we're asking of them (and sort out fully whether the child would be safe). We're living in a poor substitute for an ideal world, and the important thing is to make sure this doesn't become the standard to which we hold ourselves, but an exception that we can learn from and handle more evenly in the future.

And we've respected parents' rights before, Poppy. The Creevys for one. The Swithins, too. They chose to keep their children. This is different.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 18:26:23](#)
(no subject)

Alice, I apologise for speaking intemperately before. And I quite agree with you that this is a miserable substitute for an ideal world. And you are right, Alice, that what's done is done save for the lessons we may draw from it.

I don't entirely agree that this situation was different from the others in theory, but I was not present, so I cannot judge the pressures Arthur and Frank faced in the moment, nor can I evaluate, except from their description (which was offered for our advice), the danger posed by the father to the mother and perhaps to the child.

I do think this episode shows that we need to re-evaluate our methods for springing this information on unsuspecting parents. I don't believe we've any right to assume that the father would have reacted violently in other circumstances, at least not without giving him the opportunity to show himself responsive to a better-gauged approach.

Perhaps it wasn't possible today to have handled things differently, but I agree with you that we now have an opportunity to learn and prepare and to respond better ourselves to nasty shocks when they spring up against us.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-23 16:00:37](#)
(no subject)

Book be damned. If we begin to destroy their choice -

Well, I wouldn't want to be no better than a Death Eater. We can't. Even if we memory charm them, we must abide by their decision. Isn't it that, exactly, which the Lord Protector takes away from Muggles and Muggle-borns, which is so objectionable?

The thought of baby Bellatrix growing up as a Mudblood, though. *That* makes me shudder. Hermione, what would you have them do?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 16:02:01](#)
(no subject)

That's a very good point. I think Hermione's voice should be weighed more than any of ours.

Hermione, what would you have wanted us to decide? If these had been your parents, and we had to decide to take you without their permission?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-23 16:03:09](#)
(no subject)

Take her.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-02-23 16:03:15](#)
(no subject)

I don't care if it means you're worse than Death Eaters, I don't care at all, it doesn't matter in the least little bit, because otherwise she'll end up like Dennis Creevey or she won't have a master who's so nice or anybody to prevent her from being hurt or - and if she was a boy it might be different but not like this.

I think my dad would have said the same thing if he were still alive.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:08:18](#)**
(no subject)

Right, my dear. Thank you. We shall take her then.


And....I'm so very sorry we weren't able to do the same for you.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:15:06](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Arthur!



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:10:56](#)**
(no subject)

choice and safety are two different things min.

and this girl isnt safe in this home.


itd be different if they just didnt want her to come along and wanted to try their chances knowing what would happen. Id disagree with them but Id respect that choice. but she wouldnt be safe if we left her here and her magic came out. not with parents like these.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:23:49](#)**
(no subject)

'No better than a Death Eater? Minerva, you are a Death Eater. That mark on your arm reminds you of that every single day.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:24:22](#)**
(no subject)

Kingsley! That's...that's a horrid thing to say.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-23 16:26:32](#)
(no subject)

The difference is, she's a Deatheater with a conscience.

This regime has made all of us do dreadful things. But sometimes you have to choose between two dreadful things, and you are forced to decide on the one that is just a little less dreadful. That's what Minerva did for us, taking the Mark. It was the right thing to do, and I'll always be grateful to her that she was brave enough to do it. I mean that, Minerva.

And that's why I think taking this kid to Moddey Dhoo is the right thing to do, too.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-02-23 17:22:23](#)
(no subject)


Thank you, Kingsley. It had somehow slipped my mind.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-02-23 18:32:24](#)
(no subject)

I meant what I said, Minerva. I do honour you for that sacrifice.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-23 16:05:44](#)
(no subject)


theyre not budging man

the woman called me a blood traitor. bloody hell.

at the very least we've got to put memory charms on them so they wont spill the whole story so that parts a given

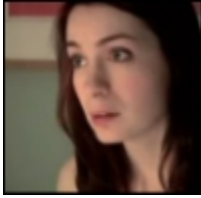
and there is no way in hell I am leaving this child with them. thats all there is to it.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:09:15](#)**
(no subject)

I think Hermione has made our decision for us.

Alice, stand by. We'll do the memory charms, and we'll be bringing Bellatrix to you shortly.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-02-23 16:12:52](#)**
(no subject)

Right.

Be careful, both of you.

I'm sorry it came to this. How awful. But I agree with Frank -- she just wouldn't be safe.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-02-23 21:57:19](#)**
(no subject)

Goodness, managed to miss all this today.

For what it's worth, Arthur, I think you did the right thing. As a parent to be, if I one day found myself making a decision that would condemn my child to a life of misery and suffering, I damn well hope someone would be there to stop me ~~the way someone~~.

[2011-02-23 10:16:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Frank Longbottom and Arthur Weasley



Well.

The two of you have just made your tasks far simpler in future, haven't you? No need to fuss with the parents after this. You can just pop in and snatch babies from their mothers' arms and justify it as 'best for the babies'.

 **[alt_poppy](#)**


Because a fourteen year old has told you that's what she'd do.

Very ethical of you.

Congratulations.

What, may I ask, did you do to the parents? Did you wipe their minds clean of any remembrance of the child and of their lives for the past several months? Perhaps that's a pattern for future missions: you could make the camp population feel much better by wiping their minds of any recollection of what they've suffered. Because Merlin knows you know better than they what's good for them.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 16:37:12](#)**

(no subject)

Meaning that a fourteen year old isn't capable of making that decision, Poppy? No one had any greater right than she did.

Kingsley's right. All our alternatives were terrible. This one was the least.



 **[alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 16:38:19](#)**

(no subject)

And if it's any consolation, I'm sure Molly's going to take my head off when I get home. And probably make me sleep on the sofa for the next month or so.




 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 16:56:00](#)
(no subject)

Meaning that two grown men shouldn't turn over their decision making to a child whose investment in the question made it unlikely she'd reason beyond identifying herself with the child and projecting onto the child's situation a false equation with her own past experiences.

She said to you that she was sure her father, were he still alive, would have done the same. Perhaps he would. The problem you faced today, however, was a father who did not see the matter as you and Miss Granger wished him to.

My point here is that you've made a choice now that negates our supposed commitment to take into account the parents' wishes. As of today, you've made it clear that you will disregard any parent who disagrees with your desire to take their child away. Lucky for you, this set of parents had appalling views of the regime, so you can cushion your decision by saying they were mad or dangerous. They weren't a present danger to that child until you got there.



 **alt_arthur** at [2011-02-23 16:40:16](#)
(no subject)

Your ethical guidelines are easy in comparison to mine, Poppy: 'First, do no harm.' You have no idea how much I envy you. You seem to forget that I continue for one of the most evil governments of all time, and I am forced to make soul-sickening decisions every single day.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 17:10:25](#)
(no subject)

Arthur.

I'm not under any illusions that your decision was easy, and I know that you very much want in these missions to do something positive, something good for the Muggles and Muggleborns who suffer under the oppression of the Ministry. I'm sure you feel sick about what happened in Maldon this morning.

But we do need to reconsider what we're doing and how we're going about it before you find yourself in another situation at all like today's.


I'm the last to underestimate how ticklish it can be to do no harm. However. Petrifying parents and forcing your will upon them is not in the guidelines.



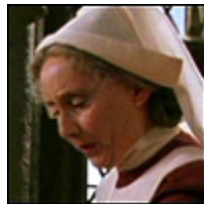
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 17:24:25](#)
(no subject)


What did you resolve to do with the parents, Arthur?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 18:20:37](#)
(no subject)

We obliterated them to take away the last hour's memories of us discussing Moddey Dhoo. Then we put a sleeping charm on Bellatrix and stashed her out of sight, put a confundus charm on the parents as we presented them with the death certificate, and we left with Bella. Firing another confundus charm over our shoulders on the way out, to muddle their memories of our visit even more.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 18:36:45](#)
(no subject)

But then, oh, Arthur. Doesn't that negate the magic of the portraits you give those children. If the parents believe the child dead, the binding magic couldn't work, could it? Besides, it requires the parents' participation to make the imagine in the first place, doesn't it?

How very sad.

But I suppose, really, it's a small thing. And yet, such a nice small thing, I've always thought, in the midst of all the sadness.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-02-23 18:54:07](#)
(no subject)

You're correct, confound it, and that's another reason to feel sick about the whole thing. Bellatrix won't have the portrait of her parents, and she won't have the ring that binds her to them. The ring that every other child at the sanctuary has, that we hope could reunite the children with families if all our hopes are fulfilled and all this cruelty is over.

And that will be our punishment, I suppose: that one day we'll have to face her and tell her why.

Bloody hell. Don't you dare make the mistake of thinking this was somehow easy for us to do, or that we made this decision in some sort of cavalier fashion. I am sure Frank and I will agonise over this for a long, long time.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-02-23 18:58:44](#)
(no subject)

I'd forgotten the ring.

No, Arthur. I know you're agonised about it. I owe you the same apology I've made Frank: I let my anger get away from me and spoke to you in ways I shouldn't have. I am sorry.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-02-23 17:25:01](#)
(no subject)

if you think that she was the only reason we did what we did

that she was the deciding factor in all of this

merlin poppy.


first off, you dont think shed have anything of value to contribute?
second, if we thought that baby would have been safe in that home

we would have left her there regardless of what hermione thought. Ive done it before. it ripped my heart out to do it but Ive done it.

if you think that we depended on her, that shes giving us a clean conscience because she said we could, you couldnt be more wrong. you must think arthur and me are right idiots that cant think for ourselves or make informed decisions. oh, wait, were also hamfisted too. after all its not like we have any experience or training.

and you know what? yeah, I feel right shitty about what I had to do today. made me feel sick. I hate that she will never have parents who will love her or care about her or get her christmas cards. Im the one thats there with them every day. Im the one that will have to answer to her about what we did and why, and one day when this shit is all over and done I will answer to her parents about it too.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 17:47:30](#)
(no subject)

She quite patently was the deciding voice, Frank. As soon as the child spoke, you and Arthur cut off all debate.

I have not, you will note, said that Miss Granger ought not to have been included or listened to or even agreed with, but as it happened you did not so much allow hers to be a participating voice as used her contribution as a trump card.

It's done, Frank. But the larger issue has only begun to be debated. I wish we had time to set it aside until we could bring cooler, more dispassionate heads to the conversation, but there are other visits waiting to be made to parents with children we wish to remove to Moddey Dhoo.

So we must decide what to do when parents refuse for reasons we do not approve of. Not here, however. That conversation is for the whole of the Order.




 **alt_frank** at [2011-02-23 18:07:57](#)
(no subject)

thats from your end.

and if she had her way we'd take all the kids
whether the parents wanted or no and that's not
what I'm about to do.

so if you dont want to use this conversation to come to any real
decisions or work out real issues what was the fucking point? to
get into a screaming match? to turn us into punching bags? see if
you could get us to feel just a little bit shittier than we already
are?



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-02-23 18:40:56](#)
(no subject)

Frank.

I'm very sorry I've offended you. I was angry, and
I've made you angry. I'm not sorry I brought that
part of it over here where no one else has to see us fussing at one
another.

It doesn't help anything to keep at this, so I won't except to
apologise for the intemperate parts of what I've said to you. I
shouldn't have spoken harshly to you when I do know you do your
best and in good faith in the face of ugly situations.

2011-02-23 14:25:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

This parchment for Divination is driving me mad. I mean to say, Palmistry? Complete bollocks.



 [alt_ron](#)

For the first project after hols, we had to use palmistry to read our own futures in the short term, and she made us come up with three things we were going to follow between then and the end of February. So I decided to look into how much I'd grow, and whether I'd end up in the hospital wing at all, and whether my fantasy Quidditch side would improve its win-loss percentage. And my readings came out that I wouldn't grow at all, that I'd have to see Madam Pomfrey three times, and that my Quidditch side was going to have nothing but wins for the whole two months.

Obviously palmistry's bollocks. I've grown at least four inches, haven't got hurt at all, and my Hogsmeade Harriers lost both matches they've played since Hewett got hexed in that duel. If he's not back on his broom for next week's matches, I'm done for. We'll be bottom of the league for sure.

I don't know what I'm supposed to write about it now. Professor Carpenter'll just say I did the readings wrong in the first place and give me low marks for the whole project.

Potions was rubbish today, too. In case you were wondering. I mixed up when I was supposed to add the newt tails, and I had to throw the whole thing out. Another zero for me. Hoo-bloody-ray.

And I heard somebody say it's supposed to rain tonight--that'll make Astronomy just so much fun.

At least we've got Creatures tomorrow. It was dead hilarious yesterday when the Niffler went for Parvati's necklace. And after all the times he's told us not to wear anything shiny! So what does she say to Brown? 'I thought he just meant rings.' How daft can you be?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-24 01:36:23](#)**
(no subject)

This is why I didn't sign up for Divination.

And you've really grown that much? I was wondering why the cuffs on your sleeves were getting so short! I thought it'd shrunk in the laundry, or you'd gotten a batch of Finnegan's shirts by mistake or something.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-24 01:58:10](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, everything in Divination sounds like a bunch of rubbish AND Lavender Brown and Parvati Patil both signed up for it. Count me out.

Professor Carpenter should have you do weather reports. Maybe she could tell me whether we'll see the sun again before April.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-02-24 02:17:01](#)**
(no subject)


Haha, maybe we should just count on the weather being the opposite of what Ron comes up with.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-02-24 02:29:46](#)**
(no subject)

Good thought. Do you think we can convince him to predict really wretched weather?




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-24 02:45:32](#)**
(no subject)

Actually, that might be worth a try.

And my marks couldn't really get a lot worse than they're going to be when she reads this


parchment.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-24 02:44:44](#)
(no subject)

Nice.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-24 03:04:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, maybe if your predictions are... I don't know... general enough, they'll be true no matter what.

Like you know you'll get prezzies for Christmas, and you know you'll get into a fight with Percy about something or another, and that sort of thing.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-24 03:13:11](#)
(no subject)

I should have asked you before I started.

Figures Divination is a Slytherin thing. Another Slytherin thing.

Tell me again why you aren't taking it? Creatures is definitely a Gryffindor thing, though. And see, I do fine in that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-02-24 03:29:12](#)
(no subject)

Well, next time you need help, let me know.

"I'm going to really enjoy my pudding next week."

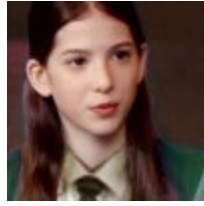
"My hair is going to get longer."

"Errol is going to lose some of his feathers."

"It's going to rain sometime next month."

"I'm going to get a letter soon."

See? Easy.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 03:44:10](#)
(no subject)

Or 'we will get disturbing news.' There's always SOMETHING, you know? If you'd said that in the last month you could say that the person who posted a Grim Truth was the disturbing news but even if she hadn't it could have been that Quidditch player getting hexed or anything, really.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 03:47:55](#)
(no subject)

Or 'Carrow will act insane in his journal.'

'Percy will be a bigheaded git.'


'There will be a fight in the corridors this week and someone will lose points for Gryffindor.'



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 03:45:08](#)
(no subject)

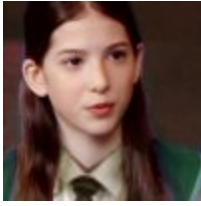
And we're not taking Divination because it's a load of rubbish! Ancient Runes are actually useful. I kind of agree that Creatures is a Gryffindor subject but I like it anyway!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-24 02:44:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know how much I've really grown. Since I haven't had to go see Madam Pomfrey at all. So I'm just guessing, but yeah, it looks about that much that my cuffs and the bottom of my robes have shifted upwards.


And I can always tell my robes from Finnickies'. On mine the cuffs and collars are always frayed 'cause somebody else wore them first. George or Fred. Or Percy and George and Fred.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 03:46:12](#)
(no subject)

I was wondering why you hadn't used a lengthening charm but if it's worn it might not take to it. I lengthened my sleeves last week but I made them a little too long and I keep getting the sleeve of my robe in my porridge at breakfast.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-02-24 04:09:46](#)
(no subject)

Er. Why haven't I lengthened them?

Well, mostly because I didn't want to fuss with it, I guess. I'd probably just put holes in it if I tried.

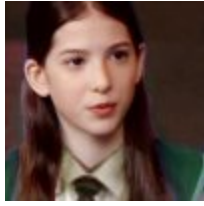
You could do it for me, I guess, if you know the charms to use. Is that something they taught you in those Sisters of Watsit meetings?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 04:29:16](#)
(no subject)

No, actually, I learned from your mum. Not directly, but she sent me a book last winter when the Strettons were having me do all the cooking. It's called Mrs Blandifoote's Essential Household Spells Every Bride Should Know -- I think your grandparents gave her a copy when your parents first got married? It's simple household charms. The main reason she sent it was for the cooking section, it's full of really easy things you'd almost have to try to mess up, but it's got other useful spells and one of them is a lengthening charm for clothes.

I could try it but the book warns that if the clothes are nearly worn out, the lengthening charm might not take (or it might weaken the fabric so it wears holes faster).



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-02-24 04:31:22](#)
(no subject)

And she knew I wasn't a BRIDE of course but it's spells for housekeeping, and that's what the Strettons were having me do.

It's a really useful book. They probably SHOULD be using it at the Sisters in Witchcraft meetings, at least when they're teaching us household things. Mrs Catchlove's spells aren't nearly so practical, she's more about How to Set a Really Pretty Table. I couldn't have cared less about setting a pretty table last winter, all I cared about was getting dinner made so I would have something to eat and the Strettons wouldn't be cross with me.

2011-02-24 21:00:00

Private Message to Maebh Drumgoole and Barty Crouch, Jr.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

I do hope Barty's business doesn't keep him from all the plans this weekend, and Maebh, again, please join us for as much of the activities as your managerial duties will allow. From everything we've discussed I'm sure it will be a most memorable party. Thank you for all your suggestions and of course for making it possible. I've spoken to Theo Nott and he's quite pleased to come as one of our number instead of with his own group. In fact, *he* apologised to *me* for making plans that would have conflicted with ours!

There is one rather delicate matter to discuss. I've received all the replies and learned that Stephen Rosier's guest for the weekend will be Amara Lindorm. Given that Thorfinn has elected to attend despite the recent unpleasant circumstances leading to his separation from Mrs Rowle, I think we had best make sure that Mrs Lindorm is partnered elsewhere for dinner on Saturday. We should also keep an eye out to avoid her spending significant time with Cadmus or Enid, obviously. As for Mr Rowle's supper partner, Aurelia or Ygraine would be suitable and would not mind in the slightest entertaining him. All the other arrangements will be perfect, I'm certain.

Now, as to the surprise itself: I've had the elves pack us for the weekend and they'll send everything along after Lucius has left tomorrow. I'll arrive myself around two to greet most of the guests after they check in; Cadmus has agreed to lure him out after Court and present to him the card telling him to come to the preserve lodge to meet me for drinks - where of course, we shall all be waiting to celebrate with cocktails and supper.

Then the hunt and birthday feast on Saturday, and brunch before checking out Sunday. I am prepared to be as thoroughly impressed by the game as by the surroundings.

2011-02-25 21:17:00

Order Only: Wednesday

There was a boy Reg and I knew when we were little, Marius Fenton. He was a bit younger than Reg but we'd see him from time to time at large parties and so on. When I was about ten, he was declared a Squib. I remember that Reg and I heard about it on the day before I was to go get my wand. My birthright, as I'd been taught.



 [alt_sirius](#)

When I asked what would happen to Marius, my mother told me that the kindest thing for him would be if his parents gave him up to a Muggle family, so he would forget about ever being around magic. The funny thing is, I think my mother actually believed it *would* be less cruel to rip a boy out of his home and leaving him at an orphanage, obliterating his memories of his family. And I could tell without her saying it, even though I was young at the time, that she would not have agonised very much about the choice had it been one of us.


Just the thought of it gave me nightmares for a week.

I trust Frank and Arthur's judgement that Bellatrix was potentially in danger, of being given over to their captors or of being killed by her parents, but I don't know if I can condone the way in which she was removed. If we start taking the decisions for them then we make the mistake of assuming we know better than the muggles how to serve them. I think it might have been better to obliterate their memory of the encounter and think of some other way, even if it meant forging her name back into the book.

I wish I'd seen your question when you wrote it, Arthur. We might have come up with some alternatives. Unfortunately, I had a little ... situation of my own to be getting on with.

It's done now and no help for it. I guess there's consolation in knowing that you lot at Moddey Dhoo will give Bellatrix a life she couldn't have had - and maybe for the best. Still.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-02-26 21:15:06](#)**
(no subject)

What sort of 'little ... situation', Sirius?

I dislike the sound of that.

Then again, I've had a small situation here myself that has distracted me from reading for several days. Mine has involved children suffering a vigorous bi-directional alimentary flux. Not pleasant, but not dire, either.

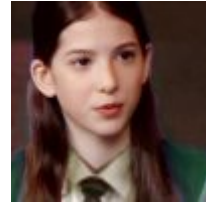


 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-02-26 21:39:52](#)**
(no subject)

My distraction was nearly as displeasing but in an entirely different direction. I was, er, adopted, I suppose one might say, by a wizarding family outside of Reading. It took me a few days to 'run away' and get back on target, as it were.

[2011-02-25 23:11:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




I've been thinking about those self-defence practices we've been doing and I had two thoughts.

 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

One is, I was practicing a lengthening charm for clothes and I was thinking about all the charms that could be used as jinxes, either by themselves or in combination with something else and how this could be a brilliant way to take someone by surprise. For instance, a lengthening charm from one person and an entangling jinx from another could get someone all tangled in their robes. There's a charm that's supposed to make you more relaxed, if you're all tense, and it's actually very pleasant but if someone cast expelliarmus on you at the same time it might not just take your wand but completely knock you over. There's probably even a way to use a cheering charm offensively. (Well, maybe the cheering charm would just put the other person in such a good mood they wouldn't want to hex you anymore anyway? that wouldn't be so bad.)

The other thing I was wondering is whether it would make sense to work out some hand signals for some of the combinations we've practised. Like, three fingers in the air mean, 'I'm going to cast the jelly-legs jinx, you cast expelliarmus,' or whatever. Only I'm not sure if it would be any use, because I don't know if I'd remember them in the middle of a fight plus once I'm in a fight I'm going to be looking at my opponent to see where they're aiming hexes, not at my allies so much. But it might be worth trying. What do other people think?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-02-26 06:13:47](#)**
(no subject)

I think yelling a code word would be better than hand signals in a fight.


I think it should be 'tunafish'!!

Could mean 'expelliarmus', if we decided that.

Or that hex that turns someone's ears into gills so they can't breath if

they're not in water. That would probably stop them hexing you back for a while!



 **alt_pansy** at [2011-02-28 16:51:45](#)
(no subject)


I think that the more we drill, the better we'll be at making really quick decisions like that. We need to work in things like hand signals or words right from the start so we can make that part of the drilling.

And if it's a word that isn't a spell, or a word people usually say, it'll be easy enough to pick it out if lots of other people are shouting things -- but the tricky part is remembering what word goes with what strategy, which is why we'll just need to work on it a lot.

And yeah, if the word is part of the strategy or a clue about what it'll involve -- like one person makes them have gills, and another person shoots ice at their feet so they slip, that makes sense and makes it easier to sort out what you're trying to get the other person to do.

In other words, good on you, Ron, I think that's really a great idea.




 **alt_ron** at [2011-02-27 19:41:15](#)
(no subject)

So, right. Are we meeting this afternoon?

I don't have to be at rehearsal today after all. Not my scenes, I guess.



 **alt_pansy** at [2011-02-28 18:34:31](#)
(no subject)

Let's meet tonight. I might be a little late, because I have to be at *all* the rehearsals (lucky me), but it's worth it and, well, it's dead fun. I mean, sorting out who is doing what and all.

2011-02-28 18:51:00

Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Lucius. The intel from Magical Commerce re. Maule served us well: we've been watching for permit requests, Bankside and in Blackfriars. You'll be interested to hear that a veritable avalanche of parchment hit in various offices today: requests to level, gut, alter, and redesign existing structures; requests for permission to build on vacant properties; requests for reissuance of deeds and for recertification to allow alterations in the approved use of existing structures; petitions for blanket writs disallowing any complaints by owners or tenants of adjoining properties; requests for blanket approval of all magical enhancements--external or internal--of buildings, soil, surface, and clearance above the properties for no less than ninety-nine years regardless of any subsequent transfer of ownership; a petition for unlimited permission for any and all magical transactions that might be used in the pursuit of commerce conducted in premises--existing or subsequently constructed--at any of the properties; and, finally, a request to MLE for a security sweep and certification at several, but not all, of the properties owned by the petitioner, Sebastian Maule of Austin Friars, New London.

All that in one morning. It must have taken a platoon of owls to deliver all that parchment.

Needless to say, he has our attention.

Brilliant weekend, by the way. I was only sorry to have missed the moment of your surprise.

I heard Mulciber tell Maebh that he thought it the most challenging hunt he'd attempted since the war. It certainly pleased her to hear he thought so.

Jugson no doubt thought so, too. He's lucky he rallied in time to save himself--from humiliation if not from death. I wasn't on the scene when it began, but from my vantage as I entered the clearing, it appeared that he had a very close brush with disaster.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-03-01 18:13:42](#)
(no subject)

Indeed, my sincerest compliments to Maebh for her excellent preparations. Narcissa has already decided that we must return over the summer holidays with Draco - and Harry, of course, if he is allowed to leave his Father.

Considering Mulciber's portfolio during the war and since, that is high praise. Given what happened to Jugson, I'm sorry you missed the opportunity to profit from his over-confidence. Perhaps next time he'll remember that a graphorn is a far cry from a common aurochs. Suspect that the extra round of drinks he bought were partly responsible for Monty's ... playfulness with Aurelia (in itself its own form of entertainment!).

Is Yaxley recovered yet? Seemed to me that he really ought to have known better, turning his back on that mudblood. Must remember to contact Nott, as well, and make sure he is suffering no further ill effects. Unfortunate that if anyone had to turn back it was him, since I understand we caused him to put off his own plans for a hunting party.

But regarding Maule: Seems entirely too convenient that this raft of permit applications should arrive just after the Magical Commerce meeting for the month. Has Mafalda made any progress on infiltrating his existing salons? Should like to know more before he gains additional licences.

Croaker is preparing a report on the properties of this brassicrose stuff as well. Should be enlightening.

In any event, you must be looking forward to to-morrow. As are we all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-03-01 19:52:54](#)
(no subject)

I'm certain Maebh could design a memorable holiday of wilderness experiences the boys would particularly enjoy.

Re. Monty and Aurelia's antics. Inspiring, I thought.

Re. Yaxley. He's merely playing for attention and working it as an excuse.

Re. Maule. Yes, Mafalda's assigned several people who see too little action--all of them soft from sitting too long behind a desk, doing little more than pushing parchment.

Re. Croaker. Good. I look forward to his report.

MLE had another bizarre vandal-burglary at a bakery over the weekend. Didn't catch the perpetrator, but said that whoever it was had placed trays of cream pastries on the floor and rolled in them. Nothing else had been disturbed.

Zuckerman's floated the theory that these incidents might be related to this brassicose substance. Can't test her hypothesis until we make an arrest, of course.

No one seems to know anything about the stuff. Wouldn't be the first time a quack substance turned out to have chaotic side effects.

Re. tomorrow. It can't come soon enough.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-03-01 22:06:46](#)
(no subject)

Absolutely. She could not have hoped for a better introduction to the lot of us.

And I don't think we need worry about Theo Nott, dearest. From what I understand Amara Lindorm made sure he was quite comfortable for the rest of the weekend.

Hm. Perhaps we *ought* to worry about him, after all.

I've my own appointment at Ardenia's tomorrow, but I should be properly smartened up by the end of Court. Lucius, do let me know if celebration is in order and I can meet the three of you for drinks afterward.

Unless Barty and Maebh would rather jubilate in private.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-03-01 23:30:19](#)
(no subject)

I rather think Nott can look out for himself. Even if Mrs Lindorm is as dangerous as slander and rumour would have us think.

Of course, we'd be pleased to meet you for drinks tomorrow. We've promised Mother we'll dine there, but I believe we've settled on seven o'clock for that.

And there's time enough for jubilating later.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-03-01 23:48:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, I will say that if Amara has truly ensnared him, I expect the tabloids to make more than a meal of it. (Still, I'd rather she match up with him than Stephen, on the whole.)

I'll reserve our table at White's, then.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-03-02 00:06:12](#)
(no subject)

I did think Rosier looked rather relieved for a man whose plus-one has taken up with someone else at a party. (I agree that he's well out of it.)

Thank you. Maebh's pleased it will be White's. She says she's not been there for ages.

(Probably seven or eight years--since she broke off with Runge.)

(Oh. No, then. I stand corrected. She says she was there three years ago for a business meeting. But, she says, it will be altogether a pleasure to meet at White's for a true celebration with friends.)

||| (And if she wishes to tell you more, she'll have to message you in
||| her own book. Later.)

2011-02-28 20:12:00

(no subject)

Just a reminder to everyone that we hope to finish blocking Act II Scene 3 tomorrow - that means everyone is expected to be there.




 **alt_penelope**

We appreciate your patience on these big scenes. I know they're complicated but they'll really look amazing once it's all done.

If everyone remembers their parts, that is. And please respect each other and don't upstage when it's not your action.

And the sooner you can all memorise your lines, the better.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-03-01 03:52:12**

(no subject)

Does that mean we'll get to Scene 4 on Thursday? Or do you think we'll still be blocking Scene 3?

We're looking forward to killing the cat.



 **alt_ron** at **2011-03-01 13:02:09**

(no subject)

Nice.

At least I know all my lines.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-03-01 18:27:02**

(no subject)

I just meant all the spells that the Cobblstones taught us are going to be ace. Honestly, you'd think you weren't looking forward to your head popping off just a few days ago.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-03-01 23:54:34](#)
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Weasley! And thanks, Patil,
for pointing it out to me at rehearsal.