

2011-10-01 09:12:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Re. your most recent: recalculate the figures in second paragraph.



Coordinates needed for Ipswich 47. (By noon today.)

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Will be in tomorrow by 4pm. Need maps, reports, relevant parchment trail for Ips 153.

Cross-check with Braithewaite.

2011-10-01 09:18:00

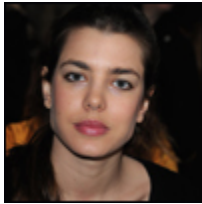
Private Message to Auror Trainee Sandoval




Have received your messages.

If you're still keen to impress, be in-office tomorrow, 5pm. With your reports on Ipswich 153 & 7.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-10-02 01:20:13**
(no subject)

Oh. Yes, sir.

I'm sorry I didn't see this until now.

I'll be there and will have the reports ready for you.

I trust you won't be disappointed.

2011-10-01 14:54:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

I believe that most of the communities in Our Lord's land were simply waiting for the page of the calendar to turn to October: It seems there are almost as many Harvest Festivals this month as there are settlements. Perhaps more. And it seems each of them has some sort of pageant or competition with need of judges. Now, I couldn't possibly preside over them all, so I'm looking to the WI to help meet the demand. Please contact Miss Poddington if you have an interest.

Selma, thank you again. The evening was most entertaining. I don't think Lucius or I shall ever see conifers in quite the same way after viewing your guest's exhibit.

For the remainder of the weekend, my husband and I shall be seeing his sister settled in her home of the next several months. (Mr Munroe, our thanks again for accommodating her simple request so graciously.) Of course, the Munroes removed several of their favourite pieces for their own comfort, as is only right, so we shall be providing Mme Froissart with the necessary items to ensure that she may entertain as she wishes. I daresay she shall feel quite at home in no time. It's been such a pleasure having her for an extended visit but I quite understand her desire to live closer to Hogwarts once her husband brings his charges there.

And speaking of which, congratulations are due, I understand, to the delegations themselves, for having been selected to vie for the Championship. I'm sure we are all just as excited as the students by the prospect of this tradition being revived, and on Our Lord's own soil. I hope that the Young Protectors' League activities will make every effort to include our visitors. I'm sure that the Sisters in Witchcraft, of which there are a few new members this year, would be happy to invite any qualified young ladies, and I don't doubt that Master Gibbon feels the same regarding the Brothers in Wizardry.

Diana, I've not forgotten our engagement tomorrow. I shall be there, darling, never fear.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-02 16:41:45](#)

Private Message to Narcissa

Dearest,

You're likely with Diana by now but Amanda wondered if you'd mind lending her the large ginger jar from the east wing? I sent the elves for sitting room chairs - thought perhaps the wingbacks at the St James' house - but she'd prefer a love settle before the fire. She's already looked under all the dust covers in the attics at home. Would you be able to make a stop or two on Bond Street and see what you like?

Ought to pay another visit to Munroe myself. Not a stick of furniture in the place! After making it clear that the price was for the house *as furnished*.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-02 16:54:30](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Well. It's not terribly convenient, my love. We did have rather specific plans.

Could she wait a day or two? I'd be happy to take her shopping Tuesday after I've done my dance for St Mungo's.

Otherwise just use some chairs from the west attic for now. They ought to be perfectly fine; if they've run to moths or anything similar, Heddy will hear about it from us both!



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-02 17:00:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

And yes, the ginger jar is fine. The full-size one, I assume she means?

I think there's a small statue in the corner of the green salon that will do nicely enough in that spot, if Amanda borrows the other.

Don't fret about Munroe, husband. Let me drop a well-placed word or two in several ears. You know how ... prominent our last few


months have been. I'd rather we not reach the headlines again so distinctly and so soon. And so would you do.



 **alt_draco** at **2011-10-03 03:30:15**
(no subject)

Well, I can't see why Aunt Amanda shouldn't just stay at Hogwarts. There's plenty of room here at the castle. Though I suppose she might like something more private and personal.

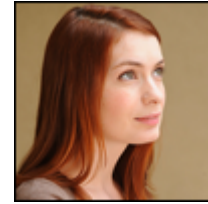


 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-03 21:12:56**
(no subject)

She might tolerate her favourite nephew for an undetermined length of time but that is no reason your Aunt ought to surround herself constantly by large numbers of students, Son.

2011-10-01 21:43:00

ORDER ONLY: An update about our latest arrivals.



 [alt_alice](#)

We've managed to settle into some sort of routine now that it's been a few weeks since we've taken in our new people. Naturally, it's been quite an adjustment for all of us - we're used to children, for a start, and some of these new people are late teenagers or young men and women, who are completely different sorts of people altogether, as Molly and Arthur can no doubt attest! That, and our children for the most part have been with us since they were very young, whereas these young people have spent years working and in the camps, and some of them under terrible conditions. It's rather like getting eight John Turners at once, and he was quite the handful when he first got to Moddey Dhoo if you'll all recall.

Everyone is recovering fairly well physically, but all of them bear some rather significant internal scars that will take a good while to disappear. The youngest one, I believe her name is Portia, she's around twelve but doesn't know for sure. She's the one that worries me the most. She insisted when she first arrived that her name was Porca, because her parents were pigs, and she wore this awful stained dress that looked like sackcloth that she wouldn't take off. Laura McGivern was endlessly patient about it, and after talking it over with her, sorted out that she was massively uncomfortable parting with the only thing that was really hers, so they came to a compromise where Laura made the dress into handkerchiefs so that Portia could always carry around a bit of it with her. I suspect she's the one that's been treated the worst of the lot - and will take the most care to bring round. But Laura has become her champion - she and Stephen came from the camps, you know, along with their daughter Katherine, so I think she's able to identify a good deal with what they've all been through.

The next eldest is Lisa Turpin, who's fourteen. She's very quiet, and I don't think she's quite come to trust any one of us yet. She'll talk to the others that she came with, though. She tends to steal food, just like Alec did when he first came here. She can't read or write very well, and tends to give us blank looks whenever we ask her any questions. Judith has been assessing all of their academic strengths - they've got these enormous gaps in basic skills, of course, but some are far worse off when it comes to ability to learn new things, and Lisa

looks like she falls into that group. If only she'd speak up, perhaps, we'd learn more about what she's going through.

The next two are identical twins, boys around the age of sixteen. They call themselves Dexter and Sinister, though I know those aren't their real names. They are terrified of being apart from one another, because they were trained to do everything in perfect coordination with one another as their mistress preferred it that way. They can't even be in separate rooms without being absolutely beside themselves. I fear she trained them through excessive use of *Imperius*.

Tim Clark and Patricia Stimpson are both around the same age, around seventeen. Tim has quite a good head on his shoulders, as does Tricia, and both of them have become the most vocal members of the group, so they often will come to Arabella or Frank or myself with specific concerns that they all have, or their own opinions as to how it would be best to approach certain issues that some of their group are going through. Tim was treated very kindly by his master and mistress, and although he downplays it to the rest of them, he has a genuine sort of wistfulness when he talks of them. I gather that his master died two years back, and his mistress perished at the Cup. Tricia is also in mourning as well - a fellow servant she was quite sweet on was killed in the blast, and she misses him terribly.

Our two eldest are Finbar Quigley and Richard Weyman, two young men. Finbar is slightly younger than Richard, but he's a good deal bigger - and the two are as different as night and day. Finbar is nothing but anger. He reminds me a good deal of John when he first arrived at Moddey, only John had his younger brother to temper him somewhat. Finn just has himself, and he's flown off the handle on more than one occasion over little things. I don't blame him. He's got a lot to be angry about. Frank has started working with him regularly to burn off all that energy he's got bottled up inside of him, and I hope that he'll learn focus and purpose to direct his anger. Richard is very quiet, and quite calm about everything - but he puts up quite a wall when it comes to what he's thinking and feeling. I can imagine that having to learn basic magic skills is very frustrating for someone his age - but he certainly doesn't show any of it. He has been spending a lot of time lately with our Danny, who is a steady sort and tends to be quiet as well. They're around the same age too, which helps a good deal.

The rest of the children have of course been endlessly fascinated by our new additions - I've had to tell them not to be too much of a

bother, otherwise they'd have crowds following them everywhere they go. I have also had extensive conversations with our five students who already have wands about how they oughtn't make a show of what they can do - not until the older ones have had a chance to catch up. Alec certainly understands what that is like, so he's taken the others well in hand.

These young people have been through so very much, and although it can sometimes be difficult to sort out how it might be best to help them, I know in my heart of hearts that if there was a place and people who could, we would be it, and we will all be there for them all as best as we can. I've been so proud with how all of the adults at Moddey Dhoo have taken these new additions in with open arms, and have all been working tirelessly with them to show them they are welcomed here. I would expect nothing less from them, but it still does my heart good to see. Even though we're taking small steps forward, that still means we're moving in the right direction, and we'll get where we need to in time.

Minerva, if you would do me a favour, I would very much like you to look up information about our Portia and the twins. I'd like to know their full names for a start, and any information you can give me about their parents would also be greatly appreciated.

Oh, and before I forget, I wanted to check with Poppy and Hermione -- has there been any progress on obtaining unicorn hairs? Melissandra has mentioned that mermaid scales and kneazle whiskers might also be worth a try if we can get our hands on any. I don't know how Crookshanks would feel about donating one, but perhaps if he sheds one any time soon, you could keep ahold of it, Hermione?




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-02 03:05:43](#)

(no subject)

Has she any thoughts on whether a werewolf whisker would work? I'd be happy to donate as many as she'd like, next full moon. (If Sirius can manage to pull them out. I expect he could. I keep my mind, with the

Wolfsbane, so I could cooperate.)




 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-10-02 04:10:41](#)
(no subject)

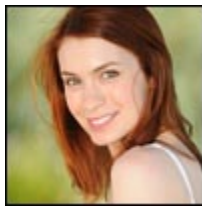
That's certainly a thought. If you could give it a try, only if it's safe for the both of you. I've talked to her about it, and she said she'd have to look into magical creatures who transform to see if it makes a difference or not.


But it's certainly worth a try.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-02 16:09:29](#)
(no subject)


Still say it would probably only work once a month. But yeah, we can give it a go, next full moon.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-10-02 16:45:59](#)
(no subject)


Her thought was similar -- that the wand might have very different properties at different phases of the moon. What those properties would be, she wouldn't know for certain unless she did some significant testing -- but she did think that wands with werewolf cores might be especially potent for Transfiguration spells, for obvious reasons.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-10-02 03:26:00](#)
(no subject)

I will also find and duplicate their Ministry files and send them to you. The parchmentwork will have a record of their work history and any health information. And there may be information about their families. Even if muggleborns are separated from their parents, the records are kept. I'll see what I can find.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-02 04:14:52](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Arthur, that would be incredibly helpful. The others know so very little about their parents too, if it wouldn't attract too much attention for you, I'm sure anything you find about the rest would be

appreciated.



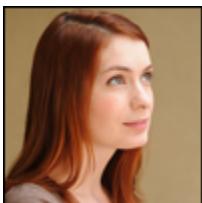
 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-10-02 03:32:13](#)**
(no subject)


Thank you for your account, Alice. Oh, I know they're in the best possible place!

I wonder...Alice, thinking about the twins in particular, and you may consider this is a mad idea, but do you think it might be helpful if I came and stayed for a bit, so I could talk to them? Not too long, perhaps only a night or two since I know you're crowded. But if I came and told them that I'm the mother of twins myself, I might be able to help? If there's anything I know, it's twin issues! Especially twin issues in the midst of a big and boisterous family!

I don't know. They might think I'm simply another unfamiliar face poking my nose in their business. What do you think?

You might even ask them if they might like the idea?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-02 04:21:34](#)**
(no subject)

I shall. You would be much appreciated. Any way these young people can feel connected to others is a good thing, and I must admit, I don't know quite how to handle the difficulties these two boys are facing right now. I don't want to make them do something that makes them uncomfortable, and I know they are depending on one another for support and don't want to take that away, but it breaks my heart to see them without identities of their own and so incredibly afraid to be apart.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-02 15:30:21](#)**
(no subject)

She Imperiated them into synchronising their movement? That's ... that's sick.

Tell Frank good on him for working with your Finbar. If anyone can handle someone who's outraged at the world, it's Frank.

But Allie, you mentioned Wil a while back and then you were inundated with the new arrivals and I never had an answer. How is he?




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-02 15:51:07](#)**
(no subject)

He caught a cold last week that had Jacinda staying up nights to keep an eye on him, and he's still underweight compared to other children his age, but he pulled through the cold without anything lasting. We're going to watch him like a hawk this winter, you can be sure.


He's quite the crawler, and Jacinda seems to think he'll be walking in a few months.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-02 15:51:42](#)**
(no subject)

If you'd like, love, I can get you a bracelet so you can keep an eye on him.



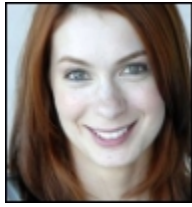
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-02 15:55:57](#)**
Private Message to Alice

... Yeah.

Does it have to be a bracelet? Maybe something a little less ... er, well, more uh ...

Well. I'd like something, in any case. Yeah.

Only don't tell the others, right? Don't want them to think I've gone all sippy.



 **[alt_alice at 2011-10-02 16:03:22](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

I'm sure I can sort out something.

And don't you worry, love. Your secret sippy side is safe with me.

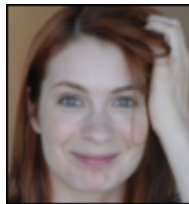
Besides, I can hardly tease you about being softhearted when Frank insists on feeding him every afternoon, and keeps a chart of how much he's grown.




 **[alt_sirius at 2011-10-02 16:05:46](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

It's not my fault you married a big girls' blouse.



 **[alt_alice at 2011-10-02 16:13:50](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

Sentimentality has its charms, love.



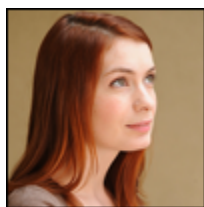
 **[alt_sirius at 2011-10-02 16:18:57](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

Speaking of secrets, something else I wanted to ask you. I'm not certain and the last thing I want to do is get accused of being self-centred, but - that last post of Snivellus's, did you see the bit about being 'oathbound' to tell the truth? Is it possible he's taken the wrong end of the wand regarding my Grim Truth promises?

It was just such an odd comment to make. I hardly noticed at first but since then, it's been sticking in my mind.

Even if it's not meant to try a dig at me, I can't work out why he thinks *telling the truth* would be such a defect. Can you?



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2011-10-02 16:29:13](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

Well, love, I can't say that I completely understand where he's coming from either, but my best guess is that he was addressing your and Walden's ideas about how best to undermine the upper level Death Eaters. That might involve some potential deceptions, yes? Perhaps he means to say that you've painted yourself into a bit of a corner in regards to what you can and cannot say on the Grim Truth, unless you're willing to break a few promises.

The best way you can find out, of course, would be to ask him. Then again, you do have a way of asking him questions that tend to ruffle his feathers a bit.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-03 02:29:46](#)**

(no subject)


I'm sorry to have to report that Pomona and I have been frustrated in our attempts to enter the forest: last Saturday we'd intended to make a first 'collecting' trip, but we were delayed by the new caretaker's decision that it was necessary to make an inspection of all the supporting structures in each of the greenhouses. He couldn't under any circumstances defer the matter for another day, and it goes without saying that Pomona was of no mind to leave him poking about her domain in her absence.

Today we packed off early with our nets and cases and pruning shears, but we'd scarcely made it beyond the eaves of the forest when we were met by the centaur called Ronan, who said our visit had been foreseen and was not welcome.

He escorted us a short distance to a clearing where we found ourselves in a circle of his kind, who then spent an intolerable while debating what to do about us. In the end, when it was entirely too late to begin our day's work, they agreed we might return next Saturday morning if we consented to come at dawn and to bring tokens of our goodwill.

We're at a loss what they meant by the latter. Walden: can you suggest anything at all we might take that they'd appreciate? Do any of the rest of you have experience of centaurs? I confess mine is rather limited. Pomona's had some, but she says they were not so forbidding in the past. She was rather taken aback by the degree of hostility they displayed.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-03 02:47:02](#)**
(no subject)

I hope Walden can be of use. I'm sure Albus would know, but he isn't terribly talkative these days, isn't he?

I think it's a good sign that they agreed to let you come back, as you will most certainly need their cooperation to continue. They might've refused outright.

Thank you for trying, Poppy. I know it took a good deal of bravery for both you and Pomona.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-03 02:55:18](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I've been in ticklish spots in the course of my travels, but I confess that I'm not as at home with creatures as I ought to be. I'm ashamed to admit it, but I've quite honestly avoided such dealings whenever I could.

Pomona is giving me rather a stiff bit of ribbing for being provincial.

[2011-10-02 13:44:00](#)

Order Only: Word from Terry Boot



 [alt_arthur](#)

Ron sent me a letter telling me that he has received a letter from Terry Boot. I am pleased to learn that the boys have been in owl contact with him--which must mean the twins are in touch with him, too--so the lad doesn't feel entirely cut off from the world.

However, what Ron asked me to pass along does more than just hint that his situation is a precarious one. Specifically, Terry reported that Carrow has killed a prisoner who has come back as a ghost, and the ghost asked Terry, if he could, to get word to his family of his fate. A very sad commission, and very worrying, of course, as it means that Carrow has no hesitation to continue to commit murder.

The man's name was Donaghan Tremlett, and he was a muggleborn. I went into the office today, both to look up those files for Alice, and to check his records. Very sad; the man was only in his early twenties, but he had a handfasted spouse and a couple of adopted children. I will make a point of visiting the woman this week in West Lindley.

There's one point that gives me (some very small) satisfaction in Ron's letter: apparently, the ghost is intent on getting what revenge he can on Carrow by making his life as miserable as possible, haunting him night and day. I can only hope, however, that if the ghost raises that monster's stress level, he won't take it out on the boy.

I had another thought, too: does the Fidelius charm also bind ghosts? In other words, could the ghost slip in and out of the castle and meet with any of us? It would have to be willing to help us, of course, and follows Terry's directions if we can get word to him, and ghosts, of course, can be notoriously whimsical and unreliable. I wonder, though. If it were explained to it that doing so would vex or baffle Carrow, perhaps it might be willing? At any rate, it sounds though it means that Terry Boot may have another, rather unlikely ally. I hope that some good may come from such a tragic situation.

I do not look forward to having to break the news to the poor man's spouse.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-10-03 15:36:15](#)
(no subject)

That's an interesting idea, the thought that a ghost might not be bound by the Fidelius. I don't know for sure, and neither do the rest of the players. It might depend on when the man was brought into the castle.

Was it before or after the Fidelius spell was cast? If it was after, I suppose he must have been told the secret in order to enter (unless someone who was told the secret brought him in via side along apparition, perhaps; I don't know how that works with Fidelius, either), but if it was before, then if he leaves, even as ghost, he might not be able to get back in.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-03 15:54:15](#)
(no subject)

Such a terrible thing. I'm sure that the family will benefit from knowing what's happened to this man, but that makes the task no less wretched for you.

As for the ghost, I've no idea. I did try asking one or two of the ghosts here, but I found them singularly uninterested in speculating about magical theory. To be honest, though, I've a rather sorry crowd here in my wing--most of them are little more than chilling wisps or late-night wailers.

I would hate to separate Tremlett's ghost from his quarry: I can think of no one who deserves a relentless haunting more than Amycus Carrow. I suppose, though, it wouldn't hurt if Mr Boot were to ask the ghost to consider carrying messages for him.

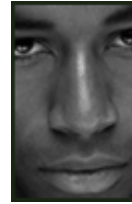
What I find most interesting in all this is that your son has not only been exchanging owls with Mr Boot but was willing to trust you with that secret. Even that he thought you might be willing and in a position to help with this sort of matter is interesting. I can't decide, though, whether it is encouraging or troubling. Given what you told us of his interaction with Selwyn, that is. There's no chance the boy is testing you with this somehow? But surely he's not made up the business of corresponding with Mr Boot, and if he's engaged in that, then he's not in Selwyn's pocket, surely.

2011-10-02 20:52:00

Many Happy Returns

Really, Daphs? Fifteen?

That used seem positively unattainable, but here you are already. I do wish you'd stop reaching birthdays so many months before I do. That's rather poor form, don't you think, to always be rushing on ahead?



 [alt_blaise](#)

Kidding.

I hope you enjoyed yourself today. We were all sincere in wishing you only good things for the year ahead. (Even Teds, though I admit he had a unique approach to gift giving.)

Here's to the year to come!



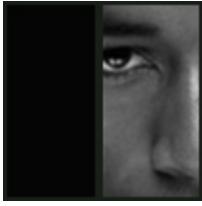
 [alt_daphne](#) at **2011-10-03 03:28:32**

(no subject)

Thank you, Blaise, for planning such a wonderful gathering, and yet again! I positively loved those albums you borrowed from your Mother. They were so...what's the word? *Retro*, I think. And *chic*, too. I can just picture her dancing to tunes like that all night, back in those 1970s dance clubs, all while bedecked in gold-spangled robes! And the French music was perfectly timely and appropriate, too. I dare say that those special *Linguista* chocolates you ordered will be traded back and forth under tables in the great hall in the coming weeks. I managed to snag a good-sized handful for myself, thankfully!

And I'm sorry that I must insist in being older than everyone, but I think we can safely say that it works out in your favour, in the end!

(And thank you for the bracelet. If I didn't make it perfectly clear - I love it.)




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-10-03 13:55:41](#)
(no subject)

I knew you'd like the bracelet as soon as I saw it in Mr Hasting's case. It looks much more beautiful on your arm than it did on the velvet display cushion, though.

I agree about the chocolates. It was fairly hilarious to hear Milli speaking French; she just doesn't carry herself in a French fashion. Greg and Vince, though: I thought it a bit disturbing when they started barking orders at the elves, because, honestly, German suits the two of them almost too well.

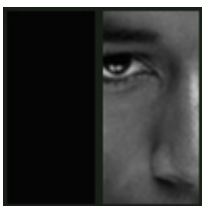
I'm not really cross about your having such an early birthday. It's an awfully good excuse for a party just when we need a break from all the homework.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-03 19:47:40](#)
(no subject)

Well, well done, Zabini, it must be said. If we keep on going as we've been doing, we'll have quite the most sophisticated social set at Hogwarts, I think.

And Daphne, Happy Birthday, again, and thanks for inviting us all.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-10-03 23:39:58](#)
(no subject)

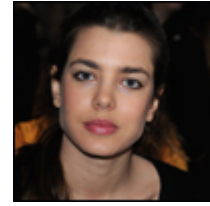
Cheers, Patil.

It's a shame, really, that we don't have more competition for that honour. It would make our accomplishment more significant, if you take my point.

2011-10-04 17:16:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Thanks for letting me know he needed that arithmantic data. I was able to weave it into the two reports I agreed to work up for him Sunday. And I just had an owl from him asking for more.



 [alt_lana](#)

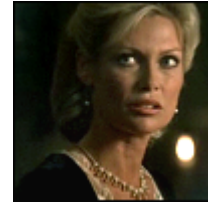
He doesn't ever really praise a good job, does he? But it was obvious from the sort of things he asked for in this next round that he thinks I can provide solid data analysis as well as information service.

I really think I have a chance this time. Don't you?

2011-10-04 22:15:00

Private Message to Lucius and Barty

You both ought to know that I've been with Norah since approximately five o'clock this afternoon. She went so far as to track me down while I was looking for Amanda's loveseat, if you can believe it, and implored me to come through the Floo to see her.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Barty, she's absolutely beside herself that you've not sent her any word. She showed me the owl you sent two weeks ago - the same, in substance, that you sent me - informing of your mission in the country. I explained that you'd made it clear you could not be sending any further post, at least in the short-term, but she's utterly convinced it means you've met with foul play. I even pointed out that you made journal entries as recently as Saturday as proof that you were perfectly well - and somehow that fact only served to further convince her that you are in fact in extreme danger.

She had a deal to say about your father's work on Hooper's trial, as well, to the effect that she could not understand why he would log such 'extraordinary' hours when he is representing someone so nefarious, whose fate merely requires observing a few formalities. While I can't fault her assessment of the unfortunate Mr Hooper, I gather she was particularly upset because she believed Mr Crouch's diligence due more to avoiding *her* than to any true sense of duty. Of course, I did my best to assure her that his motives were not likely to be so callous - but then, your mother being your mother, and your father being your father Well.

Lucius, I know we'd planned to dine at The Rookery this evening (and yes, I got your owl asking where I was) but I've been quite occupied with what happened next. Norah grew so distraught - and so *resistant* to my ministrations - that I had to summon a Healer to see to her. She refused to go to St Mungo's despite Healer Strangeweale's advice (Otto's son, this is - he was the first to respond on the Urgent Floo line. Really, Barty, it would have been easier had Norah's girl shown more sense, or had you given her back one of the elves - but this is far from the right time for *that* discussion, I know!) - at any rate, she simply would not be budged, insisting that she had to remain at home in case she received some message from her son.

Well, Marston agreed so far as to fetch additional help to soothe her.

He asked me to stay so that she had a qualified witch with her in case anything should happen whilst he gathered ... reinforcements (his word, not mine). While he was gone, Norah worked herself into - well, I suppose I would call it an 'episode' of some kind. I daresay she was running a fever and her colour looked a fright - and she was racked with pain, the poor thing. I had the girl make more tea but even that did not calm her. Finally I had to cast a tranquilising cantrip to achieve a little peace for us both.

Now, Barty, don't be cross with her for putting me to the trouble. Healer Strangeweale returned (after half an age) with her regular Healer, who put her to the full exam. The news is not good, I'm afraid. He is fairly certain that the disease has worked its way into her brain and - well, he does not think it will be long. Perhaps a matter of weeks, maybe even days. He wanted to send you an owl but I knew that could be potentially very troublesome for you at present so I offered to write here instead. He knows we correspond and thought perhaps you'd be more disposed to reply to me than to an unknown petitioner.

And forgive me, both of you, for airing this private matter in front of Lucius, but I did want to explain why I missed our engagement. I hope you'll understand and forgive the prerogative of a wife in disclosing such sensitive information.

But Barty, if you can remove yourself, I think you'd better come home very soon. And if you cannot - well, I think you'd best find a way to let your father know that you're unavoidably delayed.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-05 03:30:54](#)

Private Message to Narcissa

Dearest -

Well, I am still not certain how you came to be put in such a position by the Crouch family but at least there *is* a good explanation for leaving me to myself in a private dining room. Shall you be coming home this evening or am I to expect your vigil to continue?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-05 03:35:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

I know, my love, and I *am* sorry. You were most kind to suggest it. And I'd been so looking forward to the outing. I trust they'll reschedule for us in a week or two?

I should be home in about an hour. If you're tired you need not wait up.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-05 03:38:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Oh, I am certain I can find some work to occupy me for another hour. Merlin knows there's enough of it piling up; our social obligations have been far too demanding of late.

As for suggesting the supper, it's not kindness at all, love. You deserve the treat after playing hostess to Amanda so long - not to mention putting up with my damnable convalescence.

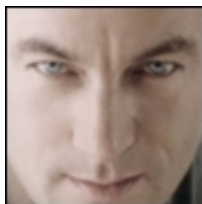


 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-05 03:45:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

You're allowed.

Besides, you've been worse, in the past. I rather expected more protests over the last two weeks. I know you've not suddenly developed an interest in still life, novelists or prize apple fritters so I must assume it's simply that you have new vigour after your close call.

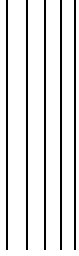


 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-05 03:48:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Been worse, have I? No doubt that explains your tolerance of Norah's antics.

No, I should not make jokes at her expense, if your tale is correct. I hope Barty has the leisure to heed your warning, my dear.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-05 03:49:07](#)

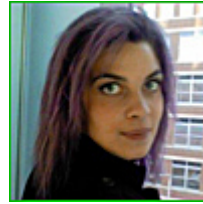
Re: Private Message to Narcissa

So do I, husband.

Home soon.

2011-10-04 22:32:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin



Ugh. Well, he's gone.

Sirius, I hope Bea's quieter now, too, though I don't recommend using Beth's technique on her. She confunded him. At least, I think she must have done. She'd sent me in for a strong cuppa to give him as a sober-up, and when I came back, she had him pretty well in hand. 'I'm sure none of us want to attract the attention of the Ministry,' she said, and gave me a look.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)

It was lucky she stepped in. To be honest, I'd reached wits end with him. I was a tick away from stepping inside and coming back out as Junius. Except that it would have been an implausibly quick clean up, given the amount of beer he'd just tipped over your head.

Anywiz, when you've changed into dry things, Remus, I could use a hand getting last rounds and mopping up.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-10-05 03:51:46**

(no subject)

Beth -- that's the woman who left the parcel?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-10-05 03:55:56**

(no subject)

Yes, that one.

Talk to me on your own page. I can't be flipping back and forth in my book to see what you're saying in two places. And mopping. Any time you'd like to come out here with that tray of last drinks would be fine. People are looking around for you.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-05 04:07:07](#)**
(no subject)

She's settling down; for a while there I think she wanted to go head-to-head against that chap.

I heard at least one mention of Dominic Selwyn but couldn't really make out exactly what he was saying about him. Something about a predilection for young boys? Anyway, it was exactly the kind of thing Macnair wants people saying about the Death Eaters - only we don't necessarily want them shouting invectives in our back garden!

But you say Beth was the one who stepped in to stop it? Hm. I'd've thought the other one would have been the one keeping things getting out of hand. He was there tonight, wasn't he?

Anyway, I'll be down in a tick. I've got Bea back down but she's not quite out yet.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-05 04:16:59](#)**
(no subject)

We're hashing it all out on Remus's page. Come talk to us over there.

And do come down. There are a few stragglers still here, but they don't want anything except a last quiet drink.

2011-10-04 22:36:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sirius and Dora

Was that drunk causing more trouble while I was upstairs? I rather wondered if that 'spill' was an accident or deliberate, and then I heard shouting.



 [alt_lupin](#)

Everyone seems to be sort of quietly focused on their drinks, now. Do I need to chuck anyone out?




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 03:46:56](#)
(no subject)

It's fine. Now at any rate.

He got more worked up after you left. Started railing at the Ministry, naming names and departments and making wild claims. Could you really not hear what he said? That's good if you couldn't. I rather thought the whole neighbourhood might be having an earful. Beth did, too, I think. And she was the one to step in at the end. Well done on her part, too.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 03:50:28](#)
(no subject)

I could hear that someone was shouting but not what he was saying. Bloody hell, names? Just what we need.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 03:52:48](#)
(no subject)

Exactly.

Who was he? Do you have any notion?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:02:22](#)
(no subject)

His name's Martin Barney; I've heard some of the younger lot call him 'Barmey Barney.' I don't know what he does for a living but he had a child taken away on account of being a squib, and his wife blamed him for it and left him.

He's certainly got reasons for his hatred of the Ministry but shouting about it in our beer garden's only going to invite trouble.

Do you reckon we should ban him from coming back?




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:04:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I hate to ban anyone. But honestly, after tonight, I don't know.

Of course, if everyone thinks he's barmey, then maybe it's not as bad as all that. No one would take anything he says seriously.

Still. Everyone was on edge tonight while it was going on. I wonder how many will stay away tomorrow.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:06:00](#)
(no subject)

What was it Beth did, exactly? Did you see?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:12:08](#)
(no subject)


I said

I didn't see, exactly. When she came over and started talking him down, she sent me for tea: 'Grim as you can brew it,' she said, 'And if you've got a drop of

Sleep Easy, that might stand him well'.

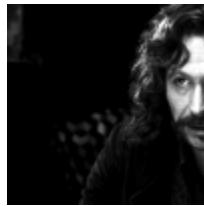
When I came back he was tame as a kitten and a bit unfocused. I'd say she confunded him. No one else seemed the wiser. Of course, everyone had moved away by then and were trying to pretend they couldn't hear any of it.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-10-05 04:14:49](#)**
(no subject)

She might have used Imperius.

Not that I particularly mind if she did, except that he might realise later he was cursed and file a complaint (and I doubt she has a license -- unless she IS in MLE and spying on us. And I doubt she'd have been quite so eager to help you shut him up, if that's what she were up to.)



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-05 04:16:46](#)**
(no subject)

She said 'Grim,' eh?

Think she's trying to signal you?

Hope she's not DogStar. I rather like her and that would well ruin my opinion after a fashion.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-05 04:23:45](#)**
(no subject)


She did say that, but I think it's just an expression now. You've heard it used that way, haven't you? Stiff drinks? Strong tea? Dark nights? That sort of thing.

I don't see what you're both so suspicious of with Beth. She's a local, she knows everyone, she's got a bit of a prefect's personality, If you see what I mean. But she's not MLE. And I can't see her as Dogstar, either.

And honestly? If she is, I shouldn't like to be Mr Barney: I

imagine Dogstar might take care he never spouts off again.
Isn't that your impression of them?




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:27:37](#)
(no subject)

Oh, surely they'd find a use for him.


It might not be the sort of use that would leave him spouting off later on, mind.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:34:22](#)
(no subject)

Exactly.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:30:42](#)
(no subject)

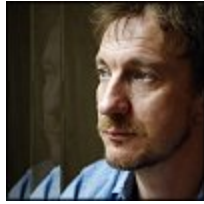
My impression of the DogStar is that they don't care who shouts loud or long, so long as there's shouting. They might have had the right idea when they first decided to use their journals after my lead but they've long since gone a bit mad with their methods.

I'm not sure but someone like Barney wouldn't be just the type they'd try to take on. Convince him the protectorate would come to an end if he'd only strap himself with a dozen self-igniting grenades and absail right through the windows of Buckingham Palace.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:37:20](#)
(no subject)

Well, yes. If they could get him to do it. Otherwise, it seems they cut off anyone who drags them down.



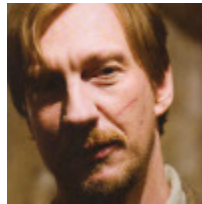
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:09:05](#)
(no subject)


And perhaps we should allow him to come for the company, but not for the beer, at least for a few weeks.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:13:07](#)
(no subject)


There's a thought.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:15:57](#)
(no subject)

He arrived pissed tonight. If I'd realised, I'd have cut him off earlier than I did.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:21:32](#)
(no subject)

Yes, Moony, because it's obviously all your fault that his child was taken away and his wife blamed him for it.

Perhaps we ought to encourage him to voice his opinions a little less loudly but a little more conscientiously.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:26:24](#)
(no subject)


Well, it's partly my fault he wound up utterly blitzed instead of merely tipsy!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:35:27](#)
(no subject)

Speaking of getting bleary-eyed You did send word to Arthur, Kingsley and the others? About Minerva's birthday? And what we're not giving her this year?




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:37:25](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

Nice job sticking ME with the blame. Not that she can't buy it for herself if she's a mind to.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:03:36](#)
(no subject)


And I took care of the drinks and I'll be there with the mop in a tick.



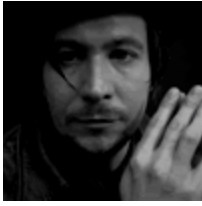
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:06:12](#)
(no subject)

It's all right. I've got the mop going. Just have to keep an eye out to see it doesn't start trying to wash anyone's feet.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:06:59](#)
(no subject)

I'll be there with the bucket for the dishes, then.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:25:57](#)
(no subject)

But Dora, I did see right, didn't I, earlier this evening. That other bloke - what's his name? Curtius? - he was there tonight as well, wasn't he?

Mordred. She's fussing *again*. Are we sure she's not getting a bit colicky?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:28:18](#)
(no subject)

She might be teething.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-05 04:32:32](#)
(no subject)

I'll go. I've got to take myself off to bed, anywiz. Early shift and all.


And, yes, Sirius. You're right what's his name was here. Is it Curtius? He only talked to me the once, really. I didn't see how long he stayed tonight, though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:33:27](#)
(no subject)

Good - I was just saying I think it's you she wants, anyway.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-05 04:32:42](#)
(no subject)

Well, she's certainly trying to suck on my fingers.

Send Dora up, will you, I think she wants feeding.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-05 04:35:31](#)
(no subject)

She's on her way up.

Our customers have all headed out. If you'd like to come keep me company while I do the washing

up, feel free.

2011-10-05 09:36:00

Thank-yous


Thank you to every one who made yesterday a particularly pleasant one.



I am quite disappointed, however: not a single bottle of the Bruichladdich! Have the pre-Protectorate stores finally run dry? I fear the worst...

 **alt_mcgonagall**




 **alt_poppy** at **2011-10-05 15:07:07**
(no subject)

I'm glad it was an enjoyable day. I thought the staff tea in your honour especially pleasant this year: the elves outdid themselves with the marzipan. I suppose they're trying new things in anticipation of our guests.

I do wish you much felicity in the months ahead.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-06 13:50:50**
(no subject)

Had no idea others had left you similarly bereft, Minerva; should have thought you have amassed cases of the stuff over the years, since so many know it your particular favourite.

Consider the remedy on its way, provided you'll share a drop or two when opportunity arises.

2011-10-05 10:08:00

We'd just like to make it clear

We were NOWHERE near the charms corridor at the crucial moment.



 [alt_gredforge](#)

But we must say that the new decoration looks spiffin'.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at **2011-10-05 15:13:17**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

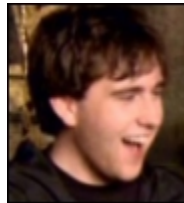
Nice work, Lee.



 [alt_lee](#) at **2011-10-05 15:19:46**

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

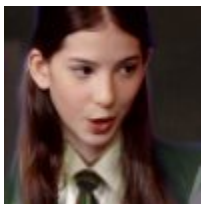
Thanks. Couldn't have done it without you.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2011-10-05 15:23:25**

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

Brilliant!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-05 19:31:14**

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

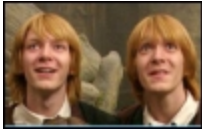
What did he do?



 [alt_luna](#) at **2011-10-05 15:16:17**

(no subject)


I think all the sparkles help brighten things. But some of the portraits are rather upset.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-05 15:16:55](#)
(no subject)

What, they don't like party hats?!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-05 15:17:40](#)
(no subject)


Well, the gentleman with the ruff seems to think it upsets his dignity or something.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-05 15:21:22](#)
(no subject)

Nonsense. It just makes him look more approachable. Which he should appreciate, considering the way he's always flirting with the woman in the portrait next to him. She'll like him better if he shows he isn't a stick in the mud.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-05 15:22:22](#)
(no subject)

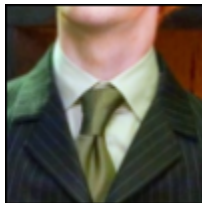
You know, denying it so quickly only makes you look more guilty.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-05 15:43:47](#)
(no subject)

We're aware that we have a certain reputation.


However, in this case, we also have an iron-clad alibi. We were serving detention for something else.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-05 15:46:18](#)
(no subject)

How typical for the two of you, that the fact that you were serving detention is *good news* for your reputation.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-05 17:32:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes and of course *that* obviously means you had *nothing* to do with it.

Honestly.

Mr Milland was already disagreeable this morning. Now he's grumbling about portrait restorations into the bargain.

I'd steer well clear if I were you two.

2011-10-06 08:56:00

Private message to Daddy

Daddy -

You know how I'm always meant to owl Mummy every week with copies of my homework and essays and other school progress?



 [alt_hydra](#)

Well, last week, I forgot to send the owl.

But I remembered yesterday, so I just put last week's work in the bundle that had this week's work. Mummy hasn't said anything, so do you think she noticed that I forgot to owl her last week?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-06 15:10:44**
(no subject)

It's possible that your Mother didn't notice. She's been thoroughly absorbed in unraveling a nasty snarl of a problem these last months, and that on top of the ongoing Dogstar investigations leaves her with little time for anything domestic.

But you're probably best off doing what I and everyone else do, Duckie - assume that your Mother notices everything, and is simply biding her time until it best suits her to make her feelings on the matter known



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-10-06 15:11:50**
(no subject)

Yes, I thought she had probably noticed. I'll just assume that she did, then.

Thank you, Daddy.


From,
Hydra



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-06 15:13:29](#)**
(no subject)

How are your subjects going, Ducks? Is the harpy who teaches Dark Arts giving you any trouble?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-10-06 15:20:51](#)**
(no subject)

No, no trouble, but I can tell that she doesn't like me. She never calls on me even though I know all of the material we've covered so far. Maybe it's because she knows who taught me first.

Except she did call on me once, during the lecture on animal sacrifice.

Last year the other Professor Carrow tried to upset me with that sort of talk, and it used to work. But I suppose I might've got used to it, or maybe it just seemed a bit unimpressive of her to use the same sort of taunting as he did. It did bother me, but not the same way. I didn't let it show.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-06 15:26:33](#)**
(no subject)

She might be content to taunt for now, but never forget that Miss Professor Carrow is her brother's mirror in butchery and sadism - so much so that I think he should actually be capable of mourning, should that mirror crack.

Wouldn't that be a thing to see.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-10-06 15:27:52](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Oh, I won't forget.

What are you going to do?

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-06 15:29:01](#)**
(no subject)

Daddy's not doing anything, Duckie. Just entertaining the muse.

You'd best get on to your classes.

2011-10-06 12:54:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Oh, no. Ned, tell me it's not true.



 **alt_lana**

I'm in the archives for Mustinal today, but Reethi just

She says they've brought him

She can't be

Ned?

2011-10-06 14:22:00

Private Message to Selwyn and Yaxley

Mulciber, Rookwood and Gibbon have each contacted me in the last twenty minutes.

Is it true you saw it happen?


And right outside the Ouroboros?!

Rookwood thinks we ought to call a meet. Not sure it's wise if - if He has no cause to summon us.



 [alt_lucius](#)



 [alt_selwyn](#) at **2011-10-06 18:37:58**

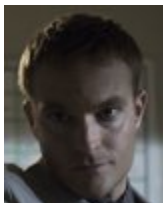
(no subject)

Yes.

And yes.

I was coming out of the Ouroboros as he apparated in. The assassin must have been waiting behind the shrubbery, probably with an invisibility cloak given that none of us saw him. He used a portkey to remove himself the instant the deed was done.

I've been waiting for a summons from Him but so far it's just been a lot of people from MLE. Yaxley was just inside the Ouroboros, he came when he heard me call out. I think I've repeated what I saw to at least a dozen people by now, even though what I saw wasn't much.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at **2011-10-06 18:42:23**

(no subject)

As for a meet, I'm at His disposal first, then MLE's, at present.

I've been wondering for the last half hour if Glendower might have been in on it. Yaxley, I do hope when you take evidence from him you'll have one of the Aurors trained in Legilimency close by -- that, or veritaserum. The assassin must have been waiting for a good long time without being discovered.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-06 18:54:14](#)
(no subject)

My-G Mordred.


So Yaxley thinks they were after Barty, specifically, then? Not any of us who happened along?

Narcissa mentioned he's been out of town on business - has Claudius given you any clue what sort of mission?

If he's been involved in something putting him at greater risk that would at least give us something to put Gibbon and the others at rest.

And you've made sure Glendower shan't breathe a word to his father - or Cuffe, I trust? Full lid, for the moment.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-10-06 18:58:56](#)
(no subject)

Yaxley does think they were after Barty, because the assassin seems to have lurked there for a while, and if he merely wanted to slay Council Members he (or she, I suppose, I didn't get much of a look at the murderer) wouldn't have had to wait so long.

I've no idea what Barty was up to, but surely Yaxley does?

I'd have no fear about Glendower springing a leak to the press. I'm not sure how long they'll be able to keep this hushed up, though. Everyone who was at the Ouroboros knows.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-06 19:02:34](#)
(no subject)

Have you started working with him on a statement, then?

And you're quite right about containment; owls and Floo are already significantly increased here.

Bella ought to know, as well, if he had any particular enemy at

the moment.

Merlin. Do not wish to cancel existing appointments for appearance but




 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-10-06 19:11:31](#)**
(no subject)

I should add, based on when people arrived the assassin could have taken down either Pummel or Goyle, had he merely wanted to slay Council Members.

If it was Dogstar -- which I'm not saying it was, I have no idea -- they did suggest some months back that they considered Barty and 'Lestrangle' (they didn't say which Lestrangle they meant; I'd rather guess your sister-in-law, personally) among their top targets. So perhaps they were there for the first sufficiently big fish to come along. I've no idea if they'd have settled for me, if I'd come out a half minute earlier than I did. It's ...unsettling. To say the least.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-06 19:38:55](#)**
(no subject)

Trust me, need no reminders that others of us may be in danger. Recall that *I* was on their list as well (nothing new but suddenly they seem to be ... effective).

There's no possibility that it wasn't him? He had his wand? His other affects?

~~Mordred, Narcissa~~




 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-10-06 20:04:18](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't get a look at his wand. He was killed just as he arrived, no chance to draw his wand or defend himself in any way. I assume Yaxley's taken a look at it, you might owl him since he's probably a bit too distracted to reply by journal.

I saw the body, after. He was -- come to think of it, I didn't see his wand-holster. Perhaps he dressed in rather a hurry.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-06 20:48:04](#)**
(no subject)

Possibly. It's also possible he set aside some of his more distinctive accoutrements depending on his current mission.

I've been contacted by Hopkirk for a departmental meeting at MLE. Apparently for the moment they've decided to treat the threat as a general one.




 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2011-10-06 19:13:02](#)**
(no subject)

As far as statements go, I've got nothing to work with until MLE finishes at least their preliminary work.

There's nothing quite as awkward as officially telling people one thing, only to have to un-tell them a day later. We don't want to suggest it was Dogstar only to have it turn out to be those miserable lunatics from Ireland.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-06 19:24:33](#)**
(no subject)

No, certainly. Not suggesting jumping to conclusions but as you say, the word is already beginning to spread. We'll need a credible statement soon, even if it's simply that MLE are deep into investigation.

Calm yourself, Dominic. Grant that it's unsettling but it's more likely that the killer was specifically lying in wait for Barty.

And at any rate, you've less to worry about than certain others.

2011-10-06 15:03:00

Private message to Weasley and Broome

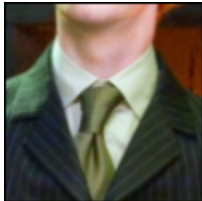
Weasley - all these owls and Floo calls. Simply take messages - do not confirm anything at this time - tell them I shall return their inquiries by this evening. Make no change to the agenda for the day, but do contact Sainsbury's to bring in supper and best cancel any plans you may have for the evening.




 **alt_lucius**

Mr Broome, if you please: Kindly tell me if Our Lord has been in audience this afternoon with Bellatrix, or will be before day's end. Or if He has had any other unusual meetings with His Councilmembers in MLE. Suspect Auror Yaxley shall request to see Him to-day as well. At your next available opportunity, pray remind Him that His council are at His disposal, should He have need to ... consult with us regarding any threat to His peace.


If He has seen Bella, then kindly tell her I should like to see her as well.



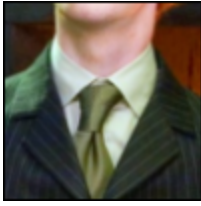
 **alt_percy** at **2011-10-07 00:46:08**
(no subject)

Noted, and all owls and Floo calls have been logged. I am staying late, to stand by if you need anything further, sir. If there is anything you need, please let me know.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-07 00:50:03**
(no subject)


Bring them up, if you would, Weasley. I may be able to return a few before ... before going back to the Manor.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-07 01:25:49](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, sir.



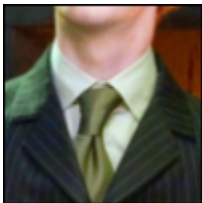
 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 02:10:27](#)**
Private message to Weasley


Send word to the following:

Avery
Baddock

Crabbe
Drumgoole
Gibbon
Goyle
Lestrangle (Rabastan)
McGonagall
Mulciber
Nott
Rookwood
Rosier
Rowle
Runge
Strangeweale
both Travers
Truncheon
Yaxley

Meet at half-twelve to-night in the ballroom at St James' Palace. If desired.

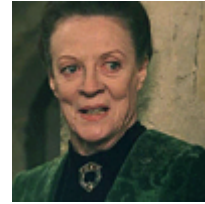


 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-07 02:19:30](#)**
Re: Private message to Weasley

Right away, sir.

2011-10-06 17:33:00

Private message to Lucius Malfoy and Bellatrix Lestrange




Lucius, Bellatrix -

I have received several incoherent owls from various and sundry, but you are the most likely to be sensible.

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

What in Merlin's name has happened? In truth, not rumor?



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-10-06 21:41:28**
(no subject)

Still sorting out the truth from the rumour myself, Minerva.

Also still awaiting explanations from Bella; we shall see if she is more able to answer you than she was earlier this afternoon; spoke to her very briefly at MLE and she indicated that it might be another hour or two before she would be prepared to state anything with certainty.

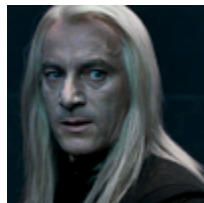



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at **2011-10-06 21:56:47**
(no subject)

It seems - well, not being physically present (or able to get away) it seems an utter madhouse.

Have you spoken with Our Lord today?

Whatever has truly occurred, his reaction - well, I find it hard to imagine that it will be good.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-10-06 22:20:50**
(no subject)

We've had the coroner's update: Identification is positive.

It was undoubtedly Barty.

Someone was waiting outside the Ouroboros with a good vantage of the Apparation point. As soon as he arrived, he was hit. Killing Curse, I think, from the description Selwyn gave, though that has not been confirmed by anyone yet.

Have heard from Broome only that Our Lord has no intention of calling a Council session. Make of that what you will; others are already doing so.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-06 22:23:09](#)

(no subject)

Merlin and Nimuë!

I suppose that there's only one thing to make of it, isn't there - though I hate to act like a carrion crow, picking over the dead.

Better forewarned and forearmed, however; thank you for telling me. And thank you for the Scotch - it is most needed tonight, I think. If you would like a nip, you are certainly welcome, though I suppose you'll be busy.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-06 22:30:09](#)

(no subject)

You would not be the only one; Runge, old Glendower, even young Ollivander have already made moves to step into the void left in our inner circles.

As for the Scotch, thank you. Sure that more than a nip shall be welcome, to-night, but you are correct; there is far too much to do for me to hare off to the north.

I've still Narcissa to tell. At least for the moment, we are assured of continued secrecy; young Glendower himself made sure that no one from WWN or the *Prophet* has any idea - or will have until we're ready for them to know.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-06 22:45:25](#)
(no subject)

Well. Glendower surely won't succeed; Ollivander is a clever one... in any case, best to close ranks, I think, lest we find ourselves with a dangerous upstart in our midst.

Narcissa will not be pleased, will she.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-06 23:08:41](#)
(no subject)

That is the view held by Rookwood, Nott and Rosier. They have been through this sort of upset before, of course (as have a number of us).

We are not even certain at present that the attack was cast by an outsider. Dominic is as close to a witness as MLE have and his account was that the assassin may have had an invisibility cloak.

Bearing these unpleasant facts in mind, I am less inclined to allow our membership to assemble - particularly when *He* has not deemed it necessary or appropriate.

And ... Yes. Narcissa. 'Displeased' is an understatement. Confess I have been avoiding contacting her ... until I have a clearer picture of what, exactly, one may tell her.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-06 23:37:43](#)
(no subject)

I hate to admit it, but my mind turned to that possibility; perhaps I am becoming more Slytherin in my old age, or by association with you. Part of why I pressed you on the matter is that one of the owls was from Glendower, asking to see me - which could be about his great-niece, but then again it could not, and at the moment I am not inclined to take the risk.

I shall certainly not mention it to Narcissa then - not that we

run in similar circles. (I believe she does not even classify me as a witch, but some eerie neuter being.)



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 02:46:44](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure Narcissa thinks nothing of the kind, Minerva.

But if you and Raz are - in *condition* - to come to London, we shall be gathering at St James Palace in a little less than two hours.


Sadly, Glendower is not on the invitation list.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-10-07 03:32:34](#)**
(no subject)

I imagine we shall be.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:57:10](#)**
(no subject)

Minerva,

Rodolphus may want to come to the castle tonight to pass the news along to Rabastan in person. I would be grateful if you could accommodate his entrance.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-10-07 02:23:38](#)**
(no subject)

He is here and I have done soo.

2011-10-06 18:19:00

Private message to Lucius and Rodolphus



 **alt_bellatrix**

I gave word that you both be notified: the body has been positively identified by a trusted source. Presumably you know as much by now. Cause of death has been verified as Killing Curse.


Now we must think carefully of how to make the unhappy announcement to Raz and Narcissa - before other tongues get there first.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-07 00:33:18**
(no subject)

Have Bartemius and Norah been informed? Suppose Crouch will want his son's wand back.



 **alt_bellatrix** at **2011-10-07 00:38:46**
(no subject)

Sr. has, yes - Hopkirk just got through an hour or so ago. Apparently, his reaction was not noteworthy, because Hopkirk still hasn't relayed it back. No one answered the floo on the Mother's end.

Barty's wand still hasn't been found, so if he wants it, he shall have to wait.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-07 00:40:42**
(no subject)

It wasn't recovered on the scene?




 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:50:21](#)**
(no subject)

Not his own wand, no, but supply records show he checked out one of our spares not to long ago. No personal effects were found at the scene, in fact. Hopkirk and I had to spend a good deal of time explaining (and yet not explaining, not entirely) that Barty was on deep cover assignment.

He never was one to throw himself into anything by halves.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:53:49](#)**
(no subject)

I see.

If he had been so immersed, though, why should he arrive so boldly at the Ouroboros?

Unless his appearance there was part of his operation?

Forgive me for prying into classified affairs; I am, at most, hoping for some shreds of information to give your sister later.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-07 01:02:39](#)**
(no subject)

One cannot immerse himself in an operation and yet leave a gaping hole behind in his real life. When it is most opportune, he must be seen going about as usual - which would of course include making the occasional appearance at the Ouroboros.

Unfortunately, it seems that attending to his usual routine led to....this.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:36:35](#)**
(no subject)

I have been ... hesitant ... to break the news to Narcissa. She must be told, of course, but

After the distress she has already suffered over the past months, she shall surely react poorly.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:41:23](#)**
(no subject)

Perhaps we can tell Raz, and then tell him that *he* must pass it along to Narcissa.

But Barty... Why is it always the young and most promising? All the more reason it will leave Raz gutted. Narcissa, too.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:46:11](#)**
(no subject)

Dominic claimed the lad did not even have time to draw his wand - if he had the outcome might have been quite different.

I shudder to think how Raz would impart the news to Narcissa. No. Best to have it done with a strong cup of tea at the ready.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-07 00:53:48](#)**
(no subject)

Quite different indeed.

I suppose that leaves me to tell Raz through these books. Though perhaps I can make a special trip the castle. Minerva must know by now, after all.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-07 00:55:11](#)
(no subject)

She does. Suspect she is more than halfway into the Scotch I sent up only this after-noon.


Which leaves her in no condition to tell him, more's the pity.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-07 01:04:30](#)
(no subject)

That leaves it to me, then. But I do think I will go to the castle, if only to make sure that he doesn't drown in scotch himself.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-07 01:09:21](#)
(no subject)

Have not heard reply from Broome; have you seen Our Lord on this matter?

What think you of the lack of an assembly to discuss the threat Barty's murder represents?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-07 01:26:59](#)
(no subject)


I was called, yes. Only for a brief counsel.

He is, as you know, well aware that certain quarters have been calling for the death His closest confidantes - you, I, and Barty included. He only asked if this might not be a MLE-executed plan to make the public believe that Barty had met his demise. I assured Him that this was not the case, at which point He asked if Barty would have any personal, undisclosed reason for disappearing in such a permanent fashion.

I...confess that I could not answer to this with confidence. I assured Him only that I have no good course to believe that Barty would do such a thing. There's nothing that happens in MLE that I don't have

a hand in, but Barty's personal affairs? I cannot speak for those.



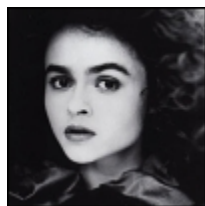
 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 01:35:14](#)**
(no subject)

Presumably if he had decided that he needed to create such a diversion for his mission, he would have consulted you and Mafalda at the least.

For his personal affairs ... I have already instructed Ned to protect his office for the time being. Perhaps there is some clue there.

I suppose it's to be expected that even Our Lord may wish to rule out any other explanation than to accept that Barty was killed so ... ignominiously.

Rookwood, Crabbe, Pummel, Runge, even Nott - all wish to convene. Think the affair nonsense, personally, particularly if He has not summoned us for a general Council. Still. Might be instructive to see who congregates with whom.

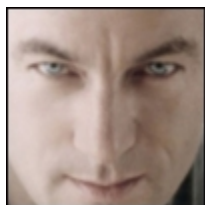



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-07 01:38:42](#)**
(no subject)

No, he would never have wanted Narcissa to believe him dead.

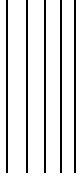
Which means that he is.

I still have business to finish up, but can meet late. Better that than be peppered with owls and floo calls.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-07 01:59:54](#)**
(no subject)

St James, then? Half-twelve? I've a dozen owls and calls to answer and you're right; it will be easier to manage all at once. But not here - and not at Kensington.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-07 02:06:38](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I shall make arrangements.

2011-10-06 19:22:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Ned,

Sure that you are seeing to all manner of items at present but surprised that you had left your station in such disarray. Think you had best get back to Barty's office and make sure no one other than Bella, Claudius or myself can access anything he was working on.



 **alt_lucius**

Have already encountered Croaker and Massopust nosing about your desk; have taken liberty of locking his door with a spell to ensure nothing is disturbed pending our further inquiry.

If you know of anything causing particular threat, you might wish to volunteer that information to me at your first opportunity. Or anything else of potential importance, especially with any impact to Our Lord.

2011-10-06 20:09:00

Private message to Rory

Rory -

Are you observing tonight? I forgot to look and see if it was cloudy. I should have remembered-



 **alt_rabastan**

Well, I know it's not Saturday but if you want to have a drink I wouldn't say no.

Rod was just here, you see.

Well. I've already had a few.




 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-07 02:17:21**
(no subject)

Raz -

No, quite cloudy. I've got a student here for another minute or three finishing working through a puzzle, but I can be right down after that.

What's the matter? And should I bring anything down with me?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-07 02:24:15**
(no subject)

Ah, alright. That shouldn't take too long, should it.

Rod brought scotch, so I think there won't be need for anything else.

Barty's dead. I know you didn't know him too well, but he was a friend. A good friend. And now he's dead, so. That's why Rod was here.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 02:26:48](#)
(no subject)

Oh.


Oh, *Merlin*.

I had some idea what he meant to you.

I am so very sorry.

I'll be down soonest.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 02:31:52](#)
(no subject)

You know, I prefer to drink when I'm having a laugh, not like this. But it's here, so.

Barty was a good mate. So was Reg, and so was Evan.

What I really don't get is why *I* keep getting to live, you know?




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 02:41:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh, my dear Raz.

I haven't faced the losses you have, but ... I keep wondering the same thing. Why do some people get the luck, the being in the safer place at the right time, the opportunity, and why do some people not?

And if Miles Bletchley does not get out of here in the next three minutes, I swear, I'm going to be tempted to do something quite unpleasant to him.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 02:52:12](#)
(no subject)

Well you know some losses are worth fighting for, or some rubbish like that. Except Barty would have rather gone out fighting and it sounds like he didn't.

Fuck, just got an owl. Meeting of the important parties at St. James tonight. *Optional*. Think I will option out, thank you very much.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 03:00:22](#)
(no subject)

Sensible of you, optioning out.

He is *finally* done asking me really quite silly questions. And no, I do **not** care to discuss the intricacies of charting comet orbits further tonight.

Let me just shoo him the rest of the way out the door, and I'll be right down. (You might understand my fondness for you by the fact I do not feel remotely guilty about getting him to shut up and go away.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 03:03:28](#)
(no subject)

Don't feel guilty.

Except you said you don't - so, I'm glad you're on your way. Good.

2011-10-06 20:45:00

Order Only: Arthur and Bill

Something's going on at Lucius Malfoy's office.

Percy Floo called me, saying he wouldn't be home for dinner. When I asked whether I should put his dinner aside, he told me not to bother, because he didn't know when he'd be home, *'if at all.'*




 [alt_molly](#)

It's not unusual, but...there was something in his manner. He seemed unusually tense. Upset.

Have you heard anything?




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 01:58:32](#)
(no subject)

Saw Selwyn striding through the office at a good clip after lunch. He looked grim. I didn't think anything of it, but then Massopust headed out for an unexpected meeting this afternoon, and someone said it was with personnel in MLE.

THEN we were told to fob off all inquiries from the *Prophet* if they contacted anyone in the department.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 02:00:37](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry, I should have said something earlier, but I'm still trying to learn what's going on.


Bloody hell, I *wish* I had a source somewhere within MLE.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-07 02:01:48](#)
(no subject)


Your father just arrived home for dinner at his usual time. Whatever it is, it doesn't involve his department, or Muggle Domestication, either.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-10-07 02:02:53](#)
(no subject)


No, nor had I caught any rumours before apparating home. Unusually slow day at the office today in fact.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-07 02:20:31](#)
(no subject)


Well, downstairs in the back the talk tonight has been speculation that someone important's been assassinated. Popular opinion is Carrow - but I'm not sure how that could be possible, if we can't even get in to get to Terry.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-07 02:30:28](#)
(no subject)


Oh. Oh, my! Oh, if only it could be true.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-07 02:31:13](#)
(no subject)

But no, it can't be. Because Percy would be pleased if that were the case. He hated Carrow, too.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-07 02:37:03](#)
(no subject)

Are you sure Percy knows what's going on?

I mean to say, Malfoy kept him for something but that doesn't mean he's on the inside of whatever's happening.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 02:43:16](#)

(no subject)

If it were Carrow, I doubt that would have meant the look I saw on Selwyn.

Something's up, though. The lights are all burning over at MLE.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-07 02:37:33](#)

(no subject)

Well, at the least, we'd owe whomever it was who did for him a stiff drink. Possibly a medal.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 02:44:01](#)

(no subject)

At the very least.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-07 03:48:48](#)

(no subject)

Well. Someone is having a stiff drink tonight.

Did you see that Lucius Malfoy made up for our collective deficiency with respect to Minerva's birthday? I took the cue to pop up and check on her just now, and I believe she may have consumed three-fourths of his bottle herself tonight. Unless she's been entertaining--or is working towards the end of a previous bottle. But I rather think it's the first.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-07 04:04:57](#)

(no subject)

You don't think *she* killed Carrow and didn't tell us anything?



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-10-07 04:11:06**
(no subject)

I think she'd have shared her bottle if that had been the case.

No.

I really don't know what has set her off tonight. Mind you, I think she tried to tell me, only I couldn't understand four words in six.

It is something Death Eater related, though, that's certain. She showed me her Mark, which is not something she ever does. I take it that she expects to be summoned before the night is through.

2011-10-07 08:48:00

Private Message to Professor Sinistra



 [alt_ron](#)

So Bundy and I've been thinking about ways we could keep up some of our orienteering training from CCF and have fun, too. And we thought maybe we could get up a sort of scavenger hunt where you get coordinates and have to find places around the castle and grounds and all and then get clues to the next place. And we wondered if you thought it would be okay. I mean, the weather's still so good and we could either do it as kind of a small thing, just us and just for friends, or we could do it as a YPL thing and invite the younger years, too. And ask Prefects if they'd help manage it, maybe.

Anywiz, we thought maybe we should ask you if you think the idea's a good one.

We've got some totally grim ideas about the places we could use and ways to write the clues and all.

And, oh. Our other thought was we could put it off just a bit and use it as a way to welcome the visitors--y'know, so they could get to know the place. Because the spots we'd use are places students don't go much, anywiz, and the clues will be really tough, so it's not like it will be really easier for people who've been at school here for years.

So, er. What do you think?



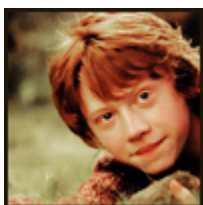
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 14:07:23](#)
(no subject)


I think that's quite an interesting idea. We're finalising the YPL plans for the year (as you can imagine, the announcement of the Tri-Wizard cup changed a great deal of our original arrangements one way or another). I agree with you that something of the kind would be an enjoyable way for our guests to get familiar with the grounds.

Since you've obviously thought a bit about this proposal, I know that one of the first questions that will come up (if we include our guests) will be how to ensure they do not stray into dangerous areas of the grounds by chance. If you and Miss Bundy had suggestions I could

include in a proposal by, say, Monday, on how to resolve that (where you might, for example, station Prefects or senior students, where you'd locate clues to avoid those areas, etc.)

I'd be glad to recommend your ideas to the committee. Having that come from you, as students, would be more powerful than from faculty, I believe.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-07 14:18:19](#)**
(no subject)

Aw. That's really wizard, Professor.

I'll tell Bundy and ~~get her to~~ we'll write something up for you over the weekend.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-07 14:37:15](#)**
(no subject)

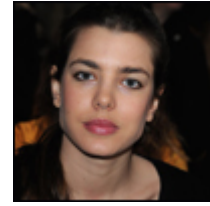
Excellent. I'll look forward to seeing what you both come up with. Five points for Gryffindor for each of you for taking the initiative.

2011-10-07 09:46:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Did you stay here all night?

I was just coming by to see you and say that we've all been pulled in to do what's needed while senior staff take point on the investigation. But then I saw that Yaxley was in with you.



 [alt_lana](#)

You look so drawn and terrible, Ned. Is there anything I could bring you?

I couldn't help but hear that he was giving you a long list of things to manage. I wasn't trying to listen in, you know, only I was right there and heard. At any rate, I wanted to say that I don't have any specific duty at the moment, so if you wanted, I could take some of those items he wanted you to deliver--down to the laboratories or out to Lucius Malfoy or Rodolphus LeStrange. I know the way there, after all, and I know you need to stay close to your desk.

Let me know when I won't be interrupting, and I'll pop back up to check on you.

2011-10-07 12:04:00

Private message to Raz


Any more news this morning? I heard you cancelled classes (much the topic of discussion in my last class this morning), so I hope it's just a need for sleep and solitude, and not something worse.



 **alt_sinistra**

I've got a class up here now, but in about an hour, I'd be free, if there's anything you'd like me to bring down to you. (They're working on charts, which doesn't leave much for me to do but answer the occasional question. Which is leaving me a lot of time for thinking.) If not, of course, don't feel obliged.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-07 16:16:31**
(no subject)

Not news, really. Just a floo call from Rod about increased security, which I was expecting. They're certain that Barty was assassinated, and anyone with the last name Lestrangle is probably on the same list he was. There might be more calls coming in, though, so I thought it best to stay here for the day. Can't imagine the kids would complain about having class canceled on a Friday, and they'll know the reason for it soon enough, I imagine.

If I need anything, the elves can bring it. But I wouldn't say no to your company.

Thanks for staying last night, by the way.




 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-07 16:22:57**
(no subject)

On the security - I can see that logic, much as I dislike it. Does it change anything here for you or Hydra, given the existing security precautions for Harry? Or does that need more thought?

I'll come down then, when we're through here. As to last night ... honestly, while I hate the reason, I'm glad I could help.

I .. oh, I'll just come right out and be blunt. We should probably talk about the implications. Or if there are any. Or whatever. Like I said last night, you're a dear friend, and I don't want that to change.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 16:42:51](#)
(no subject)

No real changes here, no - more about goings-on in New London.

Heh, I'm smiling now because you sound nervous, even in writing. Don't worry, Rory, you're still my dear friend, too. The deary-est. I wish we would have done that before, when I wasn't feeling grim and hopeless. But it helped, it did. And I'm not even bothered by the fact that the students' gossip will now be rooted in truth. Oh well, right?

But if you're asking about what happens now, ah... I don't know. I've never slept with a female friend before, probably because they're mostly quidditchers which means they prefer action on the pitch, if you know what I mean, or they're just full-out mental. Then there's the fact that I happen to like you a lot more than I like them.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 16:50:25](#)
(no subject)

You smiling is an excellent thing.


And of *course* I'm nervous. Which is part of why I think we haven't come to this place before now.

But I like you quite a great deal, if that weren't entirely obvious. And more than that, I've been delighted by how much more I like you the more I get to know you, which is not the case for most people.

So.

I guess what I'm trying to say here is (before I start entirely blushing and grinning foolishly at my journal, and wouldn't that up the gossip) that I'd like to see where we go from here. Whatever that looks like. As long as we keep being friends too.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 17:04:41](#)
(no subject)

You blushing would set the tongues tripping.
"What on earth can have turned our celestially cool, star-gazing professor such a shade of crimson? And while reading her journal, no less!"

Quick, batten down and think of England!

There might be things about me you might be less than pleased to learn, you know. Things I did in the war, when I was young and angry and...yeah, you might not like that. Can't say I do. I then there's the bloody press to contend with...

Not trying to talk you out of anything, mind. Just a fair warning.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 17:11:59](#)
(no subject)

Or think of the most tedious staff meeting I can imagine?

On your history, well. We should talk, yes and you know I don't like being blindsided, so knowing what's there would be good.


But really, I'm more interested in who you are now, and who you want to be in the future than who you were, if that makes sense. (And from some things you've said, there's more than a few changes there in the recent past.)

I also figure we've got a little time to have that kind of chat. I'm not going to go writing to my mother, or even talk to Poppy or Pomona (though, Merlin knows, they might have a guess at it) for a bit. Certainly not until we've had plenty of time to talk through whatever things ourselves.

On the press - well, can't say dealing with them is a hobby I'd have picked up on my own. But people do seem to manage the problem, and I'm sure I can learn to do so too, if it comes to that.

It looks like it'll continue cloudy tonight - and possibly tomorrow, too. I've some YPL details to finish scheduling that must happen this weekend, and some of the ever-present marking. Other than that, I'm free to talk whenever you are. Or enjoyably do other things, too. And I will be down soon as this class is done.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 17:22:47](#)
(no subject)

Who I am now. That's a good question. The last ten years have been a sort of limbo where I was defined by what I had been in the past - Falcons' Keeper, then Hero of the Protectorate who bravely stopped an assassination attempt against the Lord Protector, &ct. But there seems to be this new definition of me emerging where I'm some kind of teacher. Imagine that.

So on that note, talking sounds good. You know, when we get to it. Meanwhile I shall be here, waiting somewhat but not really at all patiently.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-07 17:40:27](#)
(no subject)

You've come to teaching rather well, really. (And that's not just my bias: how many DADA teachers have I heard about over my time here? Students actually learn - and enjoy it, mostly - with you.)

Almost done - the last few are finally wrapping up. And of course, while I'm also impatient, shooing them out would be suspicious.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-07 17:42:16](#)
(no subject)

That's all right. By the time I've written [this](#), you will surely be done and on your way. Brilliant.

2011-10-07 14:56:00

Order Only: Private message to Severus Snape



When one is a houseguest, it is customary to not play loud music while one's hostess is sleeping. I'll thank you to remember it.

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)



 [alt_severus](#) at **2011-10-07 20:04:22**

(no subject)

I'll have you know that the gramophone was set at mezzo piano. Three rooms away. Houseguest or no, I distinguish between 'sleeping' and 'sleeping it off.'

Next time I'll bypass the Stravinsky for ... what is this you have buried way in the back of the bin? "Abba"?

2011-10-07 15:17:00

Order Only: Crouch


Merlin.

I finally pried the confirmation out that it was Barty Crouch, Jr. He's dead. Assassinated. It'll be out in tonight's *Prophet*.




 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-07 20:23:26](#)
(no subject)

My goodness. Really?




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-10-07 20:25:25](#)
(no subject)

Damn.


Well, pardon me if I gloat a little bit. Couldn't happen to a nastier fellow.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-07 20:26:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, except for Carrow.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 20:27:09](#)
(no subject)


Or the Lord Protector, to pick another less-than-random example.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-10-07 20:27:34](#)
(no subject)


True.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 20:29:04](#)
(no subject)

What I'd like to know is, why didn't Minerva tell us this last night? According to my source, she was one of the cadre that got the word then.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-07 20:34:44](#)
Private Message to Bill Weasley

Bill, Minerva was very deep in her cups last night. I couldn't discover why, as she was making very little sense by the time I popped in to check on her. (Did you see Lucius Malfoy's belated birthday conversation with her yesterday? He sent along a bottle to make up for our lapse. I dare say she finished it off last evening.)

Now we know what set her off. Though, honestly, I can't imagine she was mourning Crouch's loss.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-07 20:42:00](#)
Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley

Hell.

Is this getting serious enough that it should be a concern for the Order, Poppy? I know Mum and Dad have made a comment or two that's made me suspect they're starting to worry about her drinking. Does it seem to be getting worse? I mean, I know, patient confidentiality and all that...but really, is it putting the organisation in jeopardy?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-07 20:58:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley

Ah, Bill. Minerva has been a serious drinker for a great many years, and as I suppose you would know, heavy drinkers develop a tolerance for the stuff, so it does not affect them in the way it does other people.

What I mean to say is that Minerva is capable of consuming quite a lot of liquor without showing much impairment. That, of course, is why she has come to drink such quantities: it takes more to produce the results she wishes.

Without straining patient confidentiality, I can assure you that Minerva is strong and in quite good general health. That is not to negate your concerns, however. Her drinking *is* troubling, and it *is* our business to worry--to care, at least.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-07 21:26:42](#)

(no subject)

I was indisposed, Primus.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-08 02:01:27](#)

(no subject)

I trust you're better now.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-10-07 20:26:41](#)

(no subject)

Good riddance, then.

If it's Dogstar, they've recruited some talent.

2011-10-07 16:16:00

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Rod, things here in the department are still just so tense and terrible. Everyone's snapping at everyone else. And I'm walking around in a bubble that feels so unreal, I'm afraid I'll make some awful gaffe and bring the wrath of Yaxley on my own head. (Oh, dear, he is really a proper tyrant. And people thought Scrimgeour was prickly.)



 [alt_lana](#)

But really I can't think about any of that because I keep thinking back to this morning. And wondering

You don't think I'm horrible, do you?

I mean, I'm afraid I behaved very badly, and I don't want you to

I think I'd like to talk about what happened.

Unless you're angry about it. And I think maybe you'd be right if you were. Or, I don't know. I need to know if it's all right. Because I'm not really sure what to think.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-07 23:40:57](#)
(no subject)

- Lana, don't concern yourself about Yaxley and

Whyever do you think I'm angry? I could- no, I don't know why or how you could conclude that.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-08 00:55:38](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Well, I suppose I just, I know it was my fault. I was the one who

I was worried you'd think about it and wish we hadn't

I really can't write about this. I have no idea what to say or how to put it into words.

Only I don't want you to think I'm shameless.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-08 01:02:10](#)
(no subject)

No. I shouldn't have- the gifts and the long chats, I saw how they made you feel. It was my responsibility. I'm old enough ~~to be your~~ to know better.

So you see I'm only angry at myself. Not because of what happened, but because I can see that you're out of sorts now.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-08 01:15:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, no!

You shouldn't feel badly. At all. I'm old enough to know how to behave myself, Rod. Only I get a little dizzy when I talk to you, I suppose, because you're

I'm being an idiot again. I really can't write these things. Could we just talk? I'm sure it will all be alright if we can just sort through it a bit.

And, well

I'd just feel better if I could see what faces you're making when I say these things. I suppose I'd just feel better if I could see you. Full stop.

There. I said it.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-08 01:19:22](#)
(no subject)

Bloody Erebus

- Lana, are you sure?

Are they going to need you tonight?



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2011-10-08 01:28:52](#)**
(no subject)

No. They've sent us home--the trainees--and told us to report tomorrow morning.

I'm sitting in a tea shop because I don't really want to go home.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-08 01:32:00](#)**
(no subject)


I see.

As it turns out, I have some supplies and personal effects that I should retrieve from L'Estrange Hill.

I could use some assistance, should you like to accompany me there.

And then we can talk.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2011-10-08 02:04:34](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes. I'll be there right away.

2011-10-07 19:30:00

No, no!

At supper everyone was gawping around the *Prophet's* evening edition. I just managed to get a look at a copy in our common room...




 **alt_daphne**

Someone... it can't be true, surely! There has to be some kind of mistake!

Oh, Merlin, I don't want it to be true.




 **alt_hydra** at **2011-10-08 01:58:34**
(no subject)

I think it must be.

I'm sure you noticed that Professor Rabastan's classes were canceled today. There wasn't even a substitute. And he and Barty Crouch Jr., were friends, so that's probably why.

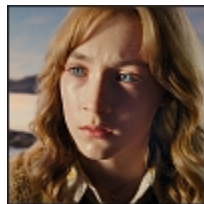
From,
Hydra




 **alt_lavender** at **2011-10-08 02:05:40**
(no subject)

Something's happened to Mr. Crouch? That is upsetting!

What have you heard?

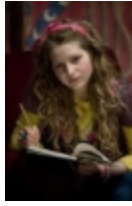


 **alt_hydra** at **2011-10-08 02:09:14**
(no subject)

I didn't hear, I read it in the paper. Mr. Crouch is dead, he was assassinated last night.

From,

Hydra




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-10-08 02:40:19](#)
(no subject)

That's dreadful!

And shocking too since he was such an important Auror--not at all the sort of person one can imagine being killed.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-08 02:52:45](#)
(no subject)


Yes, I know.

I saw him a lot at events and things, I suppose, but we didn't talk all that much. Actually, though, I think he liked that.

Mostly I feel bad for my Aunts and Uncles and parents. He meant a lot to them.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-10-08 03:02:46](#)
(no subject)

He doe didn't seem someone who would have a lot to say to eh people our age.

Although he was quite a gentleman to Daphne, which was nice.

How sad for Professor Raz--to lose a friend that way.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-10-08 02:08:00](#)
(no subject)

Daphs, I'm sorry. It's awful, and I know you had a bit of a special connection to him. You worked so hard to play him well last year.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-08 02:41:36](#)**
(no subject)

So you do think it's true, then?




 **[alt_blaize](#)** at **[2011-10-08 02:47:15](#)**
(no subject)

The Prophet says there was a statement from Minister Fudge's office and another from Mr Yaxley, and he's head of MLE now.

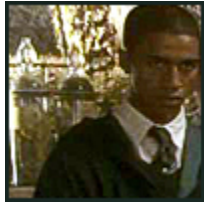
I think it really must be true. It's not as if they'd fool about something as serious as that.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-08 02:48:21](#)**
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh.




 **[alt_blaize](#)** at **[2011-10-08 02:51:07](#)**
(no subject)

Didn't you press one of the roses he sent you?

I guess that will mean even more now.

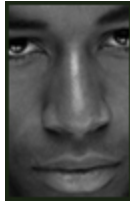
I really am sorry, Daphs. Know that doesn't help much, though.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-08 03:00:09](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I know it was silly, but...

Oh, I think I need to be alone now. Forgive me, Blaise.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-10-08 03:02:08](#)**
(no subject)

Hey. Remember when Moon thought he'd asked you to marry him?

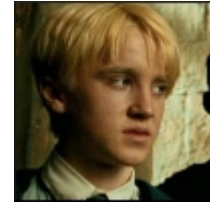
That's something to smile about. When you think of him.

Of course, you should.

Let me know if you need anything. Otherwise I'll see you tomorrow.

2011-10-07 20:59:00

Private message to Lucius Malfoy



Father,

A lot of people have seen the *Prophet's* evening edition tonight, and so have I.

 [alt_draco](#)

I wanted to write to Mother straight away, but then I thought I should ask you, first. Tell me the truth: how is she faring?

Your son,
Draco



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-10-08 04:10:19**
(no subject)

She

Your mother has been quite a puzzle to-day. I confess it was hardly in me to break the news to her but as you know Mr Crouch was a dear friend and she had to know before it came to her as mere gossip.

She quite surprised me by utterly refusing to hear any of it. Flatly denies that he could be gone.

Fear that it means when the truth does hit her, she shall feel the loss all the more keenly. Not sure what might cause such a realisation but - I would venture to say that she is in quite a *fragile* state of mind, at present.

Had thought several times of writing to you to-day, Son, entreating you to cheer her in some way. But since she has chosen to put a blank face on the matter - to the length of going about her day with no acknowledgement whatsoever of this tragic event - I am at a loss as so what you or I or anyone could say that would penetrate her veneer of denial.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-08 04:18:48](#)
(no subject)

She's *denying* it? But why?

Is she...does she need to see some special kind of healer? Because that doesn't sound normal.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-08 04:34:38](#)
(no subject)

No, Son, she needs no Healer. She has simply suffered too many losses and too many close calls over the past several months. Her nerves may be a bit - strained - but her response is merely a willful dismissal of facts. She shall have to face the disappointment, sooner or later.

That does not mean we ought not be concerned for her welfare, of course. Only that the truth, when she finally confronts it, will most likely hit her twice as hard as it might have done otherwise. And we must be patient and understanding with her when it does.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-08 04:37:52](#)
(no subject)

Poor Mother. I don't know what to do to help. It doesn't sound as if I should write her and say "ever so sorry to hear about Mr Crouch's passing." Right?

I suppose I could just write and ask how she's feeling in general, and tell her an amusing story about the French tea-times.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-08 04:45:04](#)
(no subject)

Yes, you see why I had difficulty setting quill to parchment to give you any advice.

But I think your second tactic the better. Though it would not do to give in to her delusion, either. Nonetheless, she is always gladdened to hear from you, and to read whatever droll anecdotes you wish to impart.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-08 04:48:17](#)**
(no subject)

Then I will write to her first thing come morning.

Thank you, Father, and do let me know if her state of mind changes in any way.

2011-10-07 22:02:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So. What the paper said?

That's a really big thing.

What d'you lot make of it?



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-08 03:42:18**
(no subject)

I don't know what I think about it.

Crouch. But

I didn't like Mr Crouch. At least whoever did this didn't kill loads of other people, trying to get at Mr

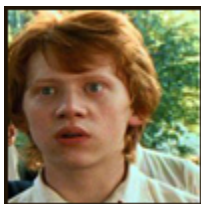
I don't know, I still don't like it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-08 03:44:52**
(no subject)

And did you see what Hydra said, about how Mr Crouch hardly ever spoke to her and she thought perhaps he didn't like children?

He once posted in my journal when I was at the Stretton's, replying to me when I was writing about Gemma. Just to be creepy. So it's not that he doesn't like to talk to children; it's just that he only likes to talk to us when he's trying to scare us. Having any sort of NORMAL interaction with people he's not allowed to intimidate -- that's what he didn't care for.

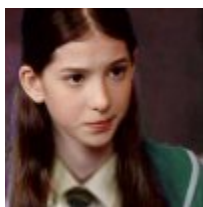


 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-10-08 03:50:50**
(no subject)

Yeah. He was bad news, that's no lie.

And I think we're all probably safer now he's gone. I guess. Only he was a really important Auror and without them, who knows how much crime there'd be. Everything's backwards in this country. I mean, when the people meant to keep

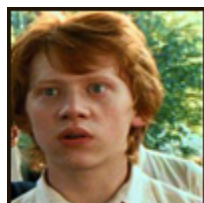
everyone safe are the scariest people of all, that's just twisted wrongside right.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-08 04:03:25](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

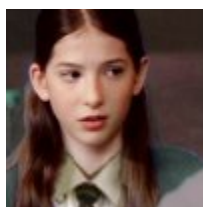
I'd be happier if whoever it was had gotten Mrs Lestrangle. (Or Amycus Carrow, wouldn't THAT have been fantastic? I don't know if he ever leaves the castle where he's got Terry, though.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-08 14:14:56](#)
(no subject)

Um. Wow.

Did you see this morning's Prophet? Yeah. Pretty dire about his mum.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-08 14:33:33](#)
(no subject)


Yeah.

Although I don't understand, if people saw her throwing herself into the river, why no one stopped her? Did they not have their wands with them? Did they forget how to cast a summoning spell? Were they ALL just far away enough that they couldn't use it but just close enough that they could still see her?

Or -- OK, I'm looking at the article again and it's not clear anyone DID see her throw herself into the river, they just saw her heading that way and filling her pockets with stones and so on but no one said 'are you all right, dear, would you like to come sit down and have a cuppa?' or anything like that. And it makes it sound like she's been going quietly mad for months but no one took her to St Mungo's or anything.


I'll tell you one thing, I'm glad I'm not related to ANY of those people.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-09 19:47:23](#)**
(no subject)


Makes you think, doesn't it? So many of those old families with all the money and important positions and whatever--they're not any of them happy, are they? I mean, they get in such giant messes. Like the Blacks and the Urquharts and the Rowles and now the Crouches.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-09 22:19:08](#)**
(no subject)

Well, goodness knows the Prophet isn't always right about people being mad.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-08 23:39:08](#)**
(no subject)

think it's awful that someone can just walk up to someone else, an Auror, and just kill him, just like that, in front of his mum. Or set off a bomb in the middle of a crowd. And then be proud of it, like it's something good.

I think that with all the important people coming to Hogwarts for the Triwizard cup, they might try to do something here.

Every time I think about what happened to Auror Crouch I think about what happened at the Cup and I just feel sick to my stomach.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-09 19:43:28](#)**
(no subject)

In front of his mum?


Is that what happened?

I mean, I didn't read that in the papers. Or if it said that somewhere, I missed it. Which, y'know, could be, except I read those parts pretty much all the way through because, y'know, it's a big thing, someone murdering Barty Crouch, Jr.

Mind you, I've heard people saying loads of stuff about it that didn't come from the Prophet, but then who knows what's really true? And loads of people here, especially in your House, know people who knew him or are related to Aurors and MLE and people high up in the Ministry or on the Council or whatever. So stuff could be true even if it's not in the papers. Well, maybe it's more likely true if it's not what the papers say, right?

Anywiz, I heard people saying today at lunch that MLE think Mrs Crouch killed him herself. And now she's in hiding or someone's hiding her.



 **alt_pansy** at [2011-10-09 22:18:24](#)
(no subject)

Those Dog Star people made it seem like it was them, but I guess they could just want to take credit even if it wasn't.

Why would Auror Crouch's mum kill him?

I mean... that's awful to think about.

I thought she jumped into the river and offed herself after he was killed.

Or maybe it was before.

Or maybe she was pushed.

Or maybe she's hiding like you said, only it's because she doesn't want to get killed too.

Ugh.

Ugh ugh ugh.

I'm not sure I want to think too much more on it. Because it's just so incredibly depressing either way.

2011-10-08 00:19:00

The DOGSTAR is TRIUMPHANT!

One death has been paid, many more to come!
We have struck down Lord Pestilence's
bloodhound and caught the scent of his pack.



SHAKE IN FEAR, YOU TYRANTS! The
DogStar will HAVE YOU!

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

Let Barty Crouch Jr's death be a lesson to ANY who condone the
atrocities perpetrated on English soil. Let his murder stand as a
warning to those who think to gape at our twisted, evil society!

LET HIS CORPSE BE THE FIRST OF MANY and may it ROT the earth
in which it is buried!!

The DogStar has claimed a new victim.

The DogStar will never fall.

The DogStar will TRIUMPH!!!

2011-10-08 09:34:00

Order Only

So. This morning's paper. If you haven't seen it -- it's not just Barty Crouch they think is dead, but Norah Crouch as well.




 **alt_lupin**

There's a lot that's rather grimly suspicious about the story, starting with the hysterical tone. Dora's having a lie-in (Bea surpassed herself in fussiness overnight) so she hasn't seen the article yet. What she's said about her foster-mother doesn't much match what I saw in the article, but I'll show it to her when she wakes and she can add her own thoughts.

At any rate, I expect we'll need to go to the funeral. Funerals. Worse, I have to wonder -- what if this was not an assassination from outside the Council chambers, but from within? If the Lord Protector ordered both Barty Crouch and Norah Crouch assassinated, are they going to come for Dora next?



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-10-08 21:13:28**
(no subject)

Well. Suicide by jumping of London Bridge doesn't much match with a double assassination attempt, either.

Unless someone Imperiated her into jumping. I suppose that could have been what made Barty let his guard drop.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-10-09 19:08:20**
(no subject)

I couldn't think what to say to this yesterday at all. It's not as if I've given much thought to the Crouches since I moved out.


I can't even really guess whether Mrs Crouch would have jumped from the bridge or drowned herself. If someone thought they saw her, well, maybe it's true, but then people think they see things all the time, especially when someone's in the news--or when they think they might make the papers by having seen the right sort of 'something'.

I suppose that means I'm waiting until they find her before I'll believe she's dead.

I expect we will have to go to the service and act suitably sober. I don't want to dance on anyone's grave, but I really can't say I'm sorry for him.

As for the other thing, you're just being silly, Remus. If the Protector wanted to do something to me that would poke a stick in Mr Crouch's eye, he'd give me a medal and make me Minister for Magic.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-10-10 01:18:29](#)**
(no subject)

Good point.

That makes me feel ever so much better.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:14:09](#)**
(no subject)

Judging from what I've seen of the Crouches at Ministry functions, I can hardly blame you a bit for feeling not exactly grief-stricken at this news. They always seems like a very cold family to me. And that's aside from Barty Crouch Jr's less savoury predilections, from the snippets I've gleaned from Arthur and Bill's conversations.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-10 03:49:52](#)**
(no subject)

Cold. That's a good way to describe them, I think. To be fair, I'm not sure Mrs Crouch was always so stiff. Mr Crouch, though: he's distant and very stern, and I think he must always have been that way. His father was a military man, you know, in India. Last days of the Raj and all that. Very stiff upper lip, those men. I've seen photographs and a portrait of him. It wasn't hard to guess where Mr Crouch learned to act the way he does.

It rubbed off on Barty, too. That and the fact that Mr Crouch was the head interrogator for the Wizengamot when they were trying

DEs during the war. I've heard it said there was no one fiercer. And, of course, they took opposite sides, and when Voldemort took the Ministry, they arrested Mr Crouch. I suppose you know more about all that than I do. They certainly never talked about it when I was there.

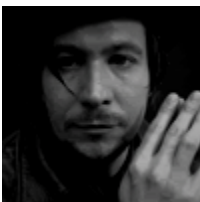
But I can tell you that Mrs Crouch begged Barty to protect Mr Crouch. And he did. I heard him remind his father of that once when they didn't know I was about.

They hate each other: Mr Crouch and Barty, but she'd never admit that. And he kept them locked up for years: didn't call it house arrest, but that's really what it was. Made them earn every little luxury or privilege. And Mr Crouch lost his standing in the Wizengamot: went from being the top interrogator to being the lowest defender, and he's never gained rank since. Everyone they hire in comes in above him. He only gets the hopeless cases. The ones no one else can afford to take because they're all trying to build their records.

But Mrs Crouch doesn't let herself know any of that. She was really ill back when the war ended, so I think she wasn't very aware of what happened or what part Barty played in it all. And I suppose I don't know all of it, either, but it was only Mrs Crouch who couldn't see that Barty was keeping them completely under his thumb, controlling everything to punish his father as much as he could.

I finally realised that she blamed all the horrible things about their situation on me when it was really Barty who caused all of it. Funny I didn't realise it sooner.

And now maybe she's dead.



 **alt_sirius** at [2011-10-09 22:29:53](#)

(no subject)

You know, it also occurs to me that you might be on the right track - only that it wasn't Voldemort who ordered Crouch killed, but one of his rivals within their circle.

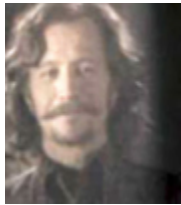



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-10 00:38:55](#)
(no subject)

You may be right. I'd easily believe he was killed by another of those vultures.

If so, that's even less chance anyone would come after me.


Would you tell Remus he's wrong about that part?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-10 00:40:44](#)
(no subject)

I did tell him at tea but - well, I'll just tell him again.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-10 01:21:27](#)
(no subject)

You're right. I think it's only Dora's closest friends that even remember she was EVER connected to the wretched Crouches.

Did any owls turn up with information about the funeral? It will be awkward if they hold it on Wednesday evening. Although we can always blame Bea for my absence, and let Narcissa Malfoy cluck her tongue over Dora's socially neglectful spouse.

2011-10-08 12:19:00

Wil's Got Answers!



Got a question in the post today and thought I oughta answer this one.

I'm sort of small and don't weigh as much as most, so all my life people've been shoving me about. Only now there's this one bloke I have to see everyday and he's always following me about and twirling his wand like, and looking at me so I know he's planning something. And as soon as I have to go somewhere off away from other people, then he's there and hexing me. It's happened seven or eight times in a month, even though I try never to go off by myself anymore. Sometimes you just have to. Anywiz, I'm hoping you'll know something I can do to keep safe from him. Do I have to give my name? Maybe you could just call me Small? (If you write about me, I mean.)

 [alt_wagstaff](#)

First off, Small, that's some owl yeh've got! Tried to take my fingers off, she did! In fact, come to think of it, that could be yer answer right there: just send that bird after the blighter an see if he bovers yeh again!

2011-10-08 20:13:00

YPL schedule for the coming year



 [alt_sinistra](#)

First, my condolences to the surviving family and friends of Mr Crouch, Jr. and his mother. As some of you may be aware, Mr Crouch, Jr. was instrumental in consulting on a number of security considerations around YPL event and trip planning, and his devotion and dedication to his duty, the Protectorate, and the Lord Protector were clear in every moment of that work.

Regrettably, time continues to march forward, and we are already behind schedule in making final arrangements for this year due to the exciting recent announcement of the Tri-Wizard Tournament. We've arranged the events at Hogwarts this year to include our visiting students as much as feasible, to better demonstrate the skills, learning, and experience that our students gain through participation in the YPL programme. Further details about each activity will be forthcoming, but I wanted to make the dates available as soon as possible for all those who may need to make relevant plans.

(It is possible that one or two dates may shift over the course of the year, based on various other needs, but we believe these dates are now fairly firm.)

We have had several other interesting proposals for activities this year, and space and time allowing may make optional participation in several activities possible over breaks in classes.

October

On October 22nd, the YPL will welcome our guests with an exercise to introduce them to the grounds and other spaces of Hogwarts, giving everyone a chance to learn more about our richly historic location, and meet a variety of students. CCF students and YPL counselors should be alert for announcements about planning meetings, and will be expected to assist in the practical details of the day, all others are welcome to participate.

December

In late November and through December, YPL students in years three and up should plan on some meetings and tutorial sessions so that they may provide support at an event related to the Tri-Wizard Tournament. We anticipate these sessions will be about 2 hours in

length, and happen every two or three weeks, depending on your focus.

On Saturday, December 3rd, we will welcome several medwizards for an extended lecture and training session. A general workshop will be available to all YPL members and our foreign guests, while our CCF students (who have already learned some basic material) will also attend an additional workshop with greater detail and expectations.

January

On January 28th, we will have an excursion for all YPL members that will test orienteering, strategy, and leadership skills. Students should dress warmly, and practice a variety of warming charms. Again, our foreign guests will be welcome to join us, provided they attend the preparatory meeting.

March

On March 3rd, we will welcome a visiting artist, Melete Pencarrow, who will lead YPL participants in creating a wizarding mural depicting an event in Hogwarts history. Students will do much of the background design and painting of the mural, and she will assist with details. Students will also learn about mixing pigments for wizarding paintings, the rich language of symbol in artwork, and lectures on notable painting and portrait technique illustrated by the Hogwarts portraits and other pieces. Mrs. Pencarrow will be residing in Hogsmeade for the duration to assist, with a formal presentation of the finished artwork following the spring holidays.

YPL students should allow two to three hours in their schedule each week (for the duration of the project) for a combination of small group lectures and work on the mural, though of course students wishing to contribute additional time will be welcome. Our visitors are welcome to attend the lectures on request.

May

Finally, on May 26th, we will welcome a panel of distinguished witches and wizards with great experience in international wizarding relations, including those teachers guiding our visiting guests. They will discuss and explore where the new horizons in Protectorate diplomacy made possible through the Tri-Wizard Tournament events, and what opportunities in the field might be open for students in the coming years.

Final notes

As always, all students in years one through three are welcome and encouraged to participate in the YPL and explore the opportunities available to them as future productive members of our Lord Protector's realm. Continuing beyond year three requires a greater commitment and success in a variety of skills. Students who expressed a wish to continue (via application to the CCF) last year, but who did not attend the summer training are welcome to attend general YPL activities, but will not be able to participate in the extra training and opportunities of the CCF courses.

Should you have any questions, I have a number of tasks taking my time this weekend, but you may leave a note here (a private message, if you prefer), or can find me in my office during my usual open office hours this week.




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:06:51](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Professor Sinistra!

All of the programs sound snitch, but especially the artist residency.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:18:31](#)**
(no subject)

I'm glad you're pleased, Miss Bones. I think we've got a particularly nicely balanced schedule this year, given the various schedule challenges, and the desire to include our guests as much as possible.

Mrs Pencarrow's been kind enough to send along copies of prints of past projects she's worked on, and they'll be available in my office when I'm there for students to look at, and some additional reference books about materials. (Some of which looks quite fascinating: I had no idea the number of substances used to make paints.)



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:24:45](#)**
(no subject)

Having all the guests ought to make YPL even more interesting!

If you don't mind, I'd love to come up and look at the prints--I've been more focused on writing recently but I'd love to do more art again and learn more about the magical aspect.

I think sometimes people don't think of art as being important, compared to some of the other things we do, but I'm glad you do.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:30:38](#)**
(no subject)

Come by any of my open hours this week, and you'll be welcome to take a look. I know Madam Pince has a few older titles on the topic in the library, as well.

On art - honestly, there's a great deal I don't know about it. One of the things I've particularly enjoyed about the YPL planning work is getting exposed to so many new topics and ideas. I'd meant to work on other things tonight, but found myself turning to the art books, and really being quite intrigued. I do agree with you that the arts are a powerful way to shape how we - the school, the Protectorate - see ourselves, too, of course.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:43:34](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I really believe art can change people.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:42:05](#)**
Private Message to Professor Sinistra

We're all looking forward to the YPL as always, Professor.

But I was wondering...I don't see anything on your

schedule about codes. Was there a problem with it? I mean, I thought it was rather a good idea, it sort of goes with that whole Ministry campaign about saying something if you see something suspicious. Doesn't it?

I mean, I can understand if the Ministry thinks we want to learn how to speak in codes. But I want to learn how to decipher them, is all.

Or is it still being considered?

Thanks very much for everything you do for the YPL, though, Professor.

-Padma Patil



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-10 02:57:44](#)

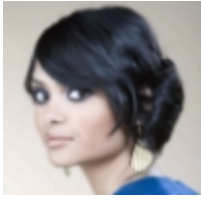
Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra


Thank you for asking, Miss Patil - you were on my list to write to as soon as I got a chance. (This weekend has not gone the way I'd originally planned, and I wanted to make sure to get the general announcement up first, along with other time-sensitive commitments.)

I did bring your suggestion forward to the Ministry committee that provides direction for YPL activities. We spent quite some time talking about it, and a number of the people on the committee thought it was a particularly clear and thoughtful proposal.

However, with the addition of the TriWizard Tournament and our guests, other members of the committee felt that it would pose two complications. First, it does not highlight the glories of the Protectorate or the YPL programme as clearly as we might wish, and second, that there are some security and practical aspects that would need to be addressed. Solving the latter problem simply weren't possible given the vastly increased demands on a number of Ministry departments due to the Tournament.

It is possible there may be a CCF-only session during this school year, once the initial flurry of planning settles. If not, it will certainly be part of the CCF activities next summer. Your initiative was definitely noted, and several members noted that you are a credit to your house, and to the YPL programme.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-10 12:37:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Yes, Professor. I think I understand.

Thank you for thinking about it, anyway. And I hope we do get to work on something over the summer.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-10 12:44:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I appreciate your understanding, Miss Patil. I do believe we'll be able to sort out the strong opinions of the various committee members given some additional time, and arrange something for

the summer.

2011-10-08 22:58:00

(no subject)

Daphne, are you feeling any better?



We've been talking at Ravenclaw Corner about those horrible claims that DogStar group made. I hope no one at Beauxbatons or Durmstrang thinks because they write that stuff that it's unsafe to come for the Tournament. Because that would just let them win and that would really be terrible, much more terrible than anything they could think of.

 **alt_padma**

Anyway, it seems like only cowards would plan something like that. If it'd been a fair fight they'd never have succeeded.

Still, I'm sure that's not much of a comfort to poor Mr Crouch. And Ned Pennifold and the Malfoys - and Professor Raz, of course. Anyone who knew Auror Crouch, really. It's just so sad.

I'm glad YPL's continuing, though. Since we shan't have a Quidditch season this year, it's good there will be things to look forward to besides just Hogsmeade weekends and that.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-09 03:09:48**

Private Message to Seamus

Did you *see* the way Professor Sinistra looked at Professor Raz this morning??

I knew they were in love! I just feel so bad for him losing his friend like that.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-09 03:12:08**

Private Message to Lana Sandoval

Lana, are you all right? I'm so sorry - I know you were really hoping to work with Auror Crouch soon.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-09 03:32:08](#)**
(no subject)

I've been weepy off and on all day.

It's so silly, I know, because it's not as if I really *knew* him, but I studied him so closely for the play, and I really did respect him a terrible lot...and now what they're saying about his poor Mother, too... But it's not as if he ever ~~noticed~~ really knew me.

It's just such a grave loss to the Protectorate, isn't it?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-09 03:39:24](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think it's silly at all. Of course he was well admirable - he was really a hero, and he was really young.

And he was well dashing, on top of all that!

It's hard not to be sad, especially when other people are feeling the loss. I try to remember that it's a bad omen to be *too* sad, though, because that's the kind of thing that makes people into ghosts and keeps them from joining Shiva and all.

But it's still terrible to lose someone who did so much good for us all. And to see that horrid DogStar crowing about it is beyond intolerable.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-09 03:46:35](#)**
(no subject)

Those Dogstar people definitely made it worse. I don't think anyone should be happy when *anyone* dies, really. Unless maybe they did something really horrid to you personally, or horrible to the country as a whole, but even then it seems rather coarse and common to be having a celebration where everyone can see.

Well I talked to Draco today and he just kept talking about he needed to write to his Mother, and Hydra wanted to see how her Uncle was doing but she never could track him down because he

disappeared after breakfast, so people are sad but they're still carrying on so I don't think Shiva will reject him, do you?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-09 03:53:45](#)**
(no subject)

I know what you mean about people celebrating when other people die. I mean, even after--well, after we found out what had happened to Sanji--it just wasn't possible to be hateful to people who cared about Regulus Black. You know?

And as for the other, I don't know as it matters about Shiva, since Mr Crouch wasn't Kshatriyan. I don't think he's a ghost though, because surely someone would have seen him already if he were.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-09 04:20:05](#)**
(no subject)

That's because you're a *good* person, Padma, and not some horrid monster. Ugh, they must be the ugliest-looking people, to have so much hate.

I'm sure he would hate being a ghost and simply wouldn't allow it. So...we'll just never see him again and that's that. *oh*



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-09 03:56:54](#)**
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

I'm pretty sure Professor Raz 'disappeared' so people wouldn't see the way he and Professor Sinistra were watching each other at breakfast. Did you notice? It was really sweet, actually, the way he'd look away when she looked at him and she'd try not to let him see she was staring a bit and trying not to smile.

I knew she was in love with him! It's so romantic, don't you think?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-09 04:22:07](#)**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

No, I'm afraid I didn't notice. Only I thought they were supposed to have been in love for ages (though I never really saw proof of it myself - I've seen him hug her and pat her on the shoulder before, but he's done that to Professor Slughorn and even the Headmistress, too!). Did they look at each other differently than usual?

[2011-10-09 12:42:00](#)

I would like to...

thank the many people - both students and citizens of the Protectorate alike - for all of the condolences that have been sent my way this weekend, both through the journals and through Owl Post. It is heartening to know that so many people are concerned for my well-being, and are feeling the loss of Auror Crouch, though at this time I do feel that the flowers and cards would be best appreciated by Mr Crouch's immediate family, especially in light of recent news.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)**

I would also like to make it clear that I must regrettably turn down all requests for interviews or official comment at this time.

Thank you again, though, for your concern and caring. Know that it is appreciated.

Students: classes will be held as scheduled this week, though some may be attended to by professors other than myself. Cheers.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-10-09 18:56:52](#)**

Private message to Roddy

So is it going to be tomorrow, or not? The sooner you can let me know, the better, so I can make my way to Spencer House with minimal fuss and fanfare.

And any news on what happened his Mum?



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-09 19:04:44](#)**

Re: Private message to Roddy

Tomorrow: undisclosed place and time (security). Apologies for the delay, but it seems that old man Crouch has refused any kind of involvement, claiming he's too gutted about the wife. He's been hounding Holcomb nonstop, asking if the body's been recovered, demanding to see witness statements and such. Bella is thisclose to

dumping him headlong into the river himself.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 19:07:24](#)

Re: Private message to Roddy

Can he really be expected to be cooperative, given the circumstances? Bloody Erebus...he's lost his son and (probably) his wife in one go.

So what kind of case has Holcomb pieced together? Was she so distraught over her son's death that she offed herself, or something?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-09 19:12:44](#)

Re: Private message to Roddy

I'm not sure that he has anything pieced together, just the pieces themselves. Witness statements are in a bit of conflict as to where and when Mrs Crouch was last seen, and it's also been reported that she was in quite ill-health. Right now, I suspect the primary goal is to determine what the connection is between Barty's death and his mother's disappearance.

Off course, it's possible she's just wandered off somewhere, like a barmy old bird, and there's no connection at all.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 19:16:07](#)

Re: Private message to Roddy

If that's really the case, then it's dead strange they can find her. Barmy old birds tend to stand out a bit.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-09 19:16:37](#)

Re: Private message to Roddy

They do at that. So she's probably just dead somewhere.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 19:17:26](#)

Re: Private message to Roddy

Put a cheerful spin on it, why don't you.

I'll give you a fire call when I'm settled in at Spence.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 18:59:22](#)

Private message to Rory

It's been excruciatingly slow, getting confirmation on this, but I think the services will take place some time tomorrow. Hooch agreed to cover my classes - it's all mostly agility drills so that's right up her pitch anyway. If that's the case, I'll probably be leaving for New London later tonight. Though I'd like to see you first, if we can manage.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-09 19:21:13](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

That's nice of Hooch, and you're right that it seems like a good fit for them.

I'm up in my office at the moment - had someone ask if I'd help with a chart due tomorrow while I was walking back after lunch - but I should be down in my rooms inside the next hour.

Anything else I can do to help you out? Have a drink ready when you get back from New London?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 19:30:34](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Even though I'll probably want a drink, requesting that you be ready with one is a bit demeaning and house-elfish, isn't it? Though it rather depends on what you're wearing...

Soz, Roddy responded and says that it will definitely be happening tomorrow, so that means I will definitely be leaving tonight.

You know, I've been thinking a bit about our "traversing the castle" problem and might've hit on a solution. I think it might well be possible to connect our fireplaces for floo-travel. I could do it myself in a snap if this were a regular house, but since it's Hogwarts Castle I wouldn't want to mess about with it myself and risk rousing some ancient, angry magic. But I could ask Minerva about it. Only she'll want to know why I'm making the request, of course...

And then I suppose the new caretaker, that Milland bloke, will be given the job. Not sure I fancy him setting foot in my quarters - or yours, for that matter.

So yeah, forget that solution. Not sure it'll work. We'll just have to be extra-sneaky.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-09 19:36:38](#)


Re: Private message to Rory

Is it house-elfish if I offer first? Anyway, I was thinking along the lines of presentation, as well as alcohol. (We really should discuss fantasies you would like to be surprised with at some point, though it's the sort of thing I should not be writing about within line of sight of any student, thank you. I can feel myself going a bit pink already.)

On the floo: honestly, with everything I've heard about the design of this place, I'm not sure I'd trust it anyway. And certainly not to a new caretaker who's barely gotten to know the place (I haven't seen much of him, which I gather is fortunate. What makes you wary of him? Though I'm certainly not inclined to let strange men in my quarters anyway.)

As far as the actual problem, at least my rooms are in a less populated area than yours. You may just have to develop a reputation for stalking the hallways at odd hours of the day and night - heightened security measures and all - and ducking into mine when there's no one around. Or, of course, I can swing down by yours after observing hours, but before then's a bit trickier.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-09 20:08:25](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

That discussion should be easy: I like pretty much everything...school-girl, stern-librarian, healer-nurse...though not the posh society lady, thanks. Alright, enough of that, I'm in bloody mourning, I'll have you know, madam.

Fair point on the design matter, I'm just so enchanted by how easy it could be, if only.

The caretaker seems to have gotten to know the place well rather quickly, given how well-maintained everything is. Normally that would be all well and good, but his body language strikes me as off. A lot of evasive signals and the like, but at the same time very watchful. So, nothing utterly out of line, but I'm keeping an eye on him, just the same.

Actually, keeping an eye on the new caretaker would be a good reason for making extra security rounds all the way to the seventh floor. At which point I will find myself far too exhausted to tramp all the way back down to the second.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-09 20:16:44](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Distractions have their uses - and besides, it's quite handy to have the information for other points later, you know. One never knows when that kind of thing might come in handy, and you know I'm nothing but diligent in my research.

I do, of course, trust your instincts, though I've nothing like your eye for the details of how people behave. Glad you're watching, anyway. It does seem odd I haven't heard much about him - normally, there's more, well, gossip about someone new on the grounds, whether or not people like him. But now you mention it, I've heard less of that, too, which is curious.

I approve of your plan to make extra, especially thorough security rounds. And of course, if I were to find you at my door, I'd have to make sure you could rest and recuperate.

Though, that reminds me: I should show you the counters to the various protections on my various doors, or rather the ones you don't already know about. (A woman has to keep a couple of tricks up her sleeve, after all.)

Anyway, we're almost done here - you could let yourself in, if you didn't mind purple eyebrows for half an hour - or I'll be down shortly.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-10-09 20:32:10**

Re: Private message to Rory

Purple eyebrows wouldn't be quite the look I'm going for, no, so I shall bide my time until I know you're safely ensconced in your quarters.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-09 20:37:55**

Re: Private message to Rory


Oh, it's a short-term hex on purpose, wears off in under thirty minutes - on the door handle, in case anyone tries coming in when I'm not there. (I've got a stone charmed to vibrate if anyone actually manages to get the door open, and a few other such things, of course.)

I'd say it would make you look fetching, but then I'd start laughing, so perhaps not.

Anyway, done here now, and as a bonus, I've done all my set up for tomorrow night, so I just need to pop up right before observing and lay everything out. (Assuming the weather improves. Normally I'd be complaining about it, as you know, but this weekend, I find I really don't care if it stays cloudy for days)

Will be down in 5, and ready to let you sneak in whenever you appear.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-10 00:02:31](#)

Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Raz, understand that you've come down for tomorrow's solemnities. May need to prevail upon you to speak to Narcissa. Have been trying most of the day to bring her to Kensington so that we are similarly close by - and so that I may monitor the situation at Court more closely as well. As your brother can attest it has been a ... trying last few days. Know that you are bored by politics but under the circumstances it might behoove you to pay them some attention; there has been a great deal of consternation, as you may imagine, and not all of it as complimentary of Barty's career as we might wish.

But the tasks associated with the Council, as well as the sad necessity of arrangements and of course, our sister-in-law's investigations, have been made much more difficult for me to maintain, owing to Narcissa's failure to accept the evidence. The news of Norah's disappearance and likely death came as another blow, of course - but one that has merely caused her to withdraw into herself. She cannot continue in the delusion that there is more to the tale; I confess I have run out of ways to implore her to see reason without seeming heartless as well as cruel - which pain I think you know I would never willingly cause her.

Amanda has been with us most of the day, with no more success than I. I would not loose Bella on her at present - by comparison to her brusqueness, my ministrations would seem to be coddling! - but I cannot think of any way to breach the walls she has erected to protect herself from hard reality.

I would not ask were I not at a loss otherwise. Rizzer, you have always been able to cajole her. I do not wish to intrude on your own grief but -

~~She's everything to me~~ Her health is all that matters at the moment.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 00:57:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus


That's right, Lucius, I just got to Spence a bit ago.

Politics, well, I thank you for the warning, and shall take your advice to heart. That is part of my reason

for coming down tonight instead of waiting for tomorrow.

As for Narcissa, I...well, of course I will try. Anything for our girl. Just say when and where.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-10 01:06:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

The sooner the better, I think. Rod, if you'd like to come as well, perhaps the obligation of a hostess will convince her to quit her apartments, if nothing else.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-10 01:09:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Certainly.

Raz, I'll leave for Spencer shortly and we can depart together.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 01:10:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Get here fast, I might need your help.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-10 01:11:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Whatever with?

Nevermind, I'm leaving.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 01:16:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Lucius

Lucius you won't believe this.

All right. Yes.

BLOODY BARTY CROUCH IS STANDING IN ONE OF MY MANY DRAWING ROOMS RIGHT NOW, and it's definitely him because he's just told me everything I got up to at Pseudonymity this summer, right down to the last detail.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-10 01:21:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

WHAT?!

~~And are you sure you remember~~



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-10 01:25:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

It's him.

He remembers some of my...specialties. The kind very few have been witness to.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-10 01:28:48](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus


But

Then

Who was

What has he to say for himself?



 **alt_lucius** at [2011-10-10 01:31:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

He must go to Buckingham immediately.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2011-10-10 01:37:44](#)


Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

He was in Ipswich doing his job, says he, when Bella and Braithewaite showed up and nearly fell over dead at the sight of him, alive as ever.

They were tracing back to see where he was and what he was doing before he'd apparated in and died (or not died, as it turned out), all part of the investigation to pin down the assassin.

And then they took him straight to Buckingham. That's where they've been this evening, all three of them.



 **alt_lucius** at [2011-10-10 01:50:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

And as Narcissa has insisted on pointing out, he left his journal which conveniently kept him from answering anyone before now, including her summons to him of a few days ago.

Does he have any explanation for the Barty Crouch, Jr whom Dominic saw murdered before his own eyes?



 **alt_lucius** at [2011-10-10 02:04:45](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan and Rodolphus

Well?

Oh, nevermind, blast it, I'm coming through.

2011-10-09 13:44:00

th'ol grim n gory

Wotcher!

Well that's mud in th'eye of Me ol' Lady's Knee,
innit?



 **alt_wagstaff**

Don' know who did it, but just wanta say, 'Good
on you, mate!' whoever yeh are.

Barty Crouch? That's a big fish yeh caught, an no lie.

Well done, that.

[[via Alternity](#)]

2011-10-09 13:44:00

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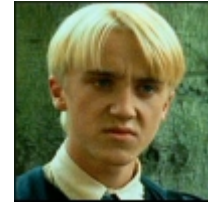
 [alternity](#)

 [alt_wagstaff](#)

[2011-10-09 18:57:00](#)

Private message to Barty Crouch Jr.

I can't say that I much cared for you. It's not that I disliked you, but you never had much to say to me, despite the fact you were *always around*.



 [alt_draco](#)

But I wish you hadn't been murdered. It's put Mother off the deep end. I guess it's just too much after Regulus, after Father almost dying twice, and then the attack on her, too...

But you're dead anyway, so, that's just how it will be now.

FU

This is pointless.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **[2011-10-10 05:43:15](#)**

(no subject)

Not as dead as you supposed.

Was there something more you wanted to say to me?



 [alt_draco](#) at **[2011-10-10 13:38:11](#)**

(no subject)

WHAT

I
no, nothing.

2011-10-09 20:37:00

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

(Narcissa, it's me, but I'm taking dictation from Barty. He doesn't have his journal. Oh, and he's alive. Save the gloating for later.)



 **alt_rabastan**

'Narcissa. Want you to know as directly as possible that you are right: I'm not dead. Glad to hear you didn't fall in with the rest, but very sorry for the circumstances. Apologies for the indirection here. Don't have my journal. Would like to explain in person asap. For now, believe that I wasn't doing anything risky. Or not particularly so. Not so much as sparring.'



 **alt_narcissa** at **2011-10-10 02:44:40**
(no subject)

Razzer



 **alt_narcissa** at **2011-10-10 02:47:55**
(no subject)

Razzer.


Tell him -

Of course I knew he was not dead.

But tell him I am very concerned about his mother's disappearance.

Tell him he may see me at Kensington tomorrow for tea.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-10 02:56:39**
(no subject)

He says he'll see you at tea, and will see to it that his schedule doesn't overturn that commitment. And he looks like he means it, so.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 03:07:49](#)
(no subject)

Good.

Ask him - does he mean to remain dead? Or may I tell Lucius, at least, to stop him 'going spare,' as my son calls it.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 03:40:00](#)
(no subject)

Not for much longer, let's hope, but MLE will have to handle it to make it official.

Lucius has come round to mine, love. He and Barty and Rod are discussing Maule. And his fate.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 03:41:53](#)
(no subject)

Lucius is ...?

Oh, very well. I shall deal with him later, then.

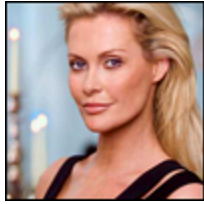
Tell him I'm having the household moved to Kensington and he may return there to find me, if he does not go direct to St James' Square.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 03:45:49](#)
(no subject)

And now Bella's here, too. I don't think I've had so much company since my 32nd birthday party ended up here.


But yes, I'll let him know.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 03:49:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, you might as well open a bottle to celebrate, then - only I hope not as heartily as you made merry on that occasion.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 03:56:21](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't let there be a celebration without you. Will you be joining us?

I'm not sure celebration is exactly what's being worked up to here, but a few glasses of scotch probably wouldn't go amiss.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 03:59:50](#)
(no subject)


Oh, Raz.

Sweet of you, dear, but no thank you. No, I've already got the elves packing us and I really ought to tell Amanda we'll be in New London for the next few days.

Besides, I'm sure if Bella's there you all have sensitive topics to discuss.

Do raise a toast for me, though, and remind the others that I never doubted him. Unlike *some*.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-10 04:04:40](#)
(no subject)

Ah, probably best that I don't remind them of that, if it's all right.

2011-10-09 20:50:00

Private message to Ned Pennifold

(This is Rabastan Lestrangle taking dictation for Auror Crouch, who is currently alive but sans journal. Nope, not taking the piss.)



 [alt_rabastan](#)

Pennifold. Hope you've not accepted other employment already. Need several things done prior to start of business tomorrow.

** Contact V. Runge. Cancel planned service and recall body to morgue.*

** Note: first appointment 6:00 with Yaxley, Hopkirk, Lestrangle. Already arranged. Want to see you before that. Make it half-five.*

** Contact Pelton. Tell her I'll be waiting at half-seven to review her examination of the body. Tell her to block off two hours at least.*

** Note: I have it on authority that you allowed my office to be searched. Am not holding you accountable, but will pay significant bonus if you manage to recover all of it by noon tomorrow. Presume you have an inventory of what was removed to cross check*

[2011-10-09 21:11:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Hello.

How are you getting on, then?



 [alt_pansy](#)




 [alt_draco](#) at **[2011-10-10 01:20:00](#)**

(no subject)

I'm all right. Getting bored with French, actually.

What about you?



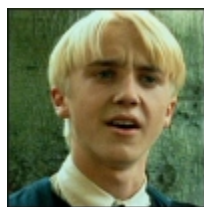
 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2011-10-10 01:28:56](#)**

(no subject)

pas de pot!

If you're bored now, just wait until we're surrounded by it. At least we'll have Durmstrang in our Common Room, which will be a nice change.

I've given up on making my Charms essay any longer or smarter than it already is. I've been trying for twenty minutes now, and it refuses to grow, or to all of a sudden sound better. So I've decided that what I have will have to do.



 [alt_draco](#) at **[2011-10-10 01:31:40](#)**


(no subject)

Yeah, Durmstrang...

I...did something really idiotic just now. I wasn't even thinking, I was just feeling frustrated because I'd had a fire talk with Father about Mother's health and did you see who I PMed?

Now I've really made a mess of things.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 01:42:37](#)
(no subject)

I wrote Regulus after he died, you know.


And Susan Bones wrote Hannah.

I think it's sort of... I don't know... comforting to write to someone who can't write back. Like you can say things that would sound stupid if you just wrote them to yourself.

~~How angry~~

I'm sure it's not as bad as you think.

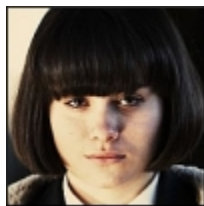



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 01:45:39](#)
(no subject)

I very stupidly forgot that Mother would be able to see who I'd written to, and now she's very concerned and asking why I would do that.

Because she's been denying that he's dead, you know. She won't even hear a word of it, and Father has no idea what to do.

I think I've just made things worse...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 01:54:39](#)
(no subject)

Well.

That is tricky.

I can see why she'd want to keep believing that he isn't.

But it's not your responsibility to tell her that he is.

That's for her to sort out in her own time. And if she wants to keep on for a bit longer than everyone else, then she's got every right to, seeing as how close they were.

Maybe...

Maybe what she needs right now is for you to let her do things her way?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 01:58:29](#)
(no subject)

There were other people who were close to him, too, and they're not denying the truth of what happened.

It's just...what if she never accepts it.

You should have seen how Father looked. I mean, it was hard to tell through the flames, but he was *really* upset. Moreso than I can remember seeing him in a long time.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 02:06:40](#)
(no subject)


Well, Sirius Black was supposed to be dead, and he sort of maybe isn't. And Regulus disappeared for years and years before coming back, and they never did find his body.

So maybe that's where she gets it from.

I think it's that your mum is always so sensible. And she's been under a terrible lot of stress lately.

I'm sure she'll come round, though.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 02:08:17](#)
(no subject)

Pansy...

If I tell you something.



 **alt_pansy** at [2011-10-10 02:15:36](#)
(no subject)

Yes?



 **alt_draco** at [2011-10-10 02:20:37](#)
(no subject)


You know a good Imperturbable charm?

Nevermind, mine's pretty good. Harry and I have always gotten by with it, anyway.

Let's meet in the common room in twenty minutes, if you can? You can walk with me to the potions storeroom. That should be a good place.


And then maybe afterwards we can have that game of portkey.



 **alt_pansy** at [2011-10-10 02:22:13](#)
(no subject)

I'll be there.




 **alt_draco** at [2011-10-10 01:52:08](#)
(no subject)

And now she just wrote to me "he's on an important mission, he had to leave all of his belongings behind, including his wand and his journal, but he'll be coming back when his mission is over..."

So you're telling me he left his WHOLE BODY behind, too? Must be some deadly important mission indeed.

Sorry, I was really trying not to just unload, I really was.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 01:58:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Draco, don't worry about that. Honestly. It seems like we've been taking turns keeping one another's heads above water lately, hasn't it? This is just your turn, is all. It'll be mine again

soon.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 02:07:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, now Mother and I are practically having a row. Good way to spend a Sunday night, yeah?

How are things with Rosa these days, anyway?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 02:14:36](#)
(no subject)

You know. Baby this, baby that, baby, baby, baby. I think she's really hoping for a son, because the Campbell clan and everything.

It's tiresome, but it's expected.

I can certainly think of more enjoyable things to do. You could see how much better at portkey you are than me, if you'd rather.

2011-10-09 21:11:00

Private Message to Draco

Draco, dearest -

Mother's been watching the journals more closely than your father may realise




 [alt_narcissa](#)

Have you

I can't believe

I don't wish to pry, darling, but it's vitally important that I know. What made you write to Auror Crouch?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-10-10 01:18:56**
(no subject)

Oh, nothing, Mother.

I was just making sure that no one stole his journal, like they did with Gregory's.

You know, since he doesn't have it anymore.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-10-10 01:34:34**
(no subject)

That's not funny, Son.

Not at all.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-10-10 01:39:03**
(no subject)

It's not meant to be funny. Because it's terribly sad, isn't it.

I know how sad you must be, Mother. I'm so, so

sorry.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 01:44:21](#)
(no subject)

I don't wish to hear any such nonsense, Draco. If he doesn't have his journal, it's the same reason he doesn't have his own wand or anything else. He left on important work for Our Lord and had to leave his personal effects behind. He explained that before he went. He could not have items that might identify him to anyone. He had hidden his journal where he could check it from time to time; we have only to wait until he is able to read for himself and then he'll clear up this whole misunderstanding.


I grow tired of everyone telling me otherwise.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 01:48:55](#)
(no subject)

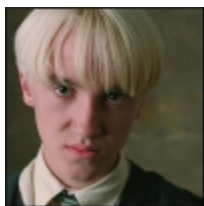
Yes Mother, I realise that, and I'm fairly certain that everyone else does, too. But even if he was on an important mission, they found his body, didn't they? And whose body could it be but his?




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 01:56:19](#)
(no subject)

Now, Draco. That's quite enough. I have said I have no wish to hear such things and if you persist I shall grow cross. Which I also do not wish to do.

I've no idea why someone made it look like Mr Crouch died. Or how it's connected to his poor mother's disappearance - but I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation. I only hope your Aunt Bella will uncover it soon.

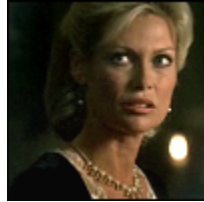


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 02:03:49](#)
(no subject)

Well maybe you're not the only one growing cross.

I'm sorry, Mother, but you're making everyone

worry over you and it's all because you refuse to listen to the truth of things. Father's about to go spare, you know. Have you noticed? ~~Or do you only care about~~ Do you care?



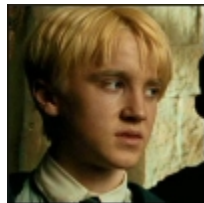
 **[alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 02:19:18](#)**

(no subject)

~~How dare you~~

What a thing to say! Of course I care. Your father means well but he's wrong. I don't blame him - this - incident - has caused rather a stir among the Council. But the fact that he has been distracted by the machinations of a few opportunistic vultures and is therefore not using his head is

You know, I don't think I care to discuss it with you at present, Draco. Surely you have homework to do.

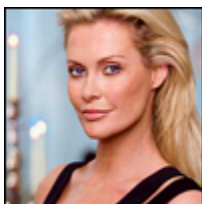


 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 02:23:12](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, I suppose I do have things to do.

Goodnight, Mother. I really do hope you feel more yourself soon. I love you.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 02:51:43](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, Draco. Dearest.

Mother's very sorry, of course. I didn't mean to treat you so hatefully.

But it might interest you to know that he's very much alive, as I have been saying all along. He's with your Uncle Rizzer right now. And yes, we know it's him.

Oh, but do not tell anyone, dearest, until I know whether he wants it spread about that he's not dead.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-10 02:59:29](#)

(no subject)

Oh, Mother. You're seeing things now? Does Father know?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 03:06:13](#)

(no subject)

Oh, for Merlin's sake.

I'm *not* seeing things.

You'll see.

2011-10-09 22:11:00

Private Message to Padma

So Padma, it looked like Roger Davies was giving you Looks across the table this morning.




And they were definitely capital-L looks.

 [alt_lavender](#)

Anything you care to share?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-10 02:26:56](#)
(no subject)

I think he's going to ask me to go to Hogsmeade!

I mean, I'm not sure, but maybe.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-10-10 02:34:26](#)
(no subject)

Ooh exciting!

You need to tell me these things, you know!



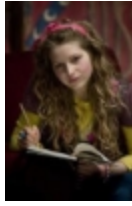
 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-10 02:36:44](#)
(no subject)

I didn't want to say anything until I was sure!

And I'm still not. I mean, he smiles a lot. But I know Chang likes him and she's older. And he's mates with Page because of Quidditch so I dunno what Page has told him.

It's


I dunno.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-10-10 02:39:37](#)**
(no subject)

I was about to say, you might want to look out for Chang--she probably thinks she's got a claim on him since they play Quidditch together.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-10 03:45:58](#)**
(no subject)

I know - Chang can really be quite vicious when she sets her mind to it! And most people think she's just so *precious*. Hmph.

Oh, and Professor Sinistra said they've rejected the idea Finnigan and I had for cryptography. Probably not until something in the summer. She said it didn't present the Protectorate in the proper light - whatever *that* means.

Have you noticed that loads of people are up awfully late tonight? Wonder what's going on.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-10-10 03:50:30](#)**
(no subject)

I know just what you mean--and after all, it isn't as if Davies is a Snitch, she can't simply reach out and snatch him.

You will simply have to tell me if he does ask you to Hogsmeade--I want details!

Maybe everyone's casting about for something to distract them from late-night revising--that's what I'm doing, after all!

[2011-10-09 23:08:00](#)

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Come in as soon as you see this, if you please.
Much to do.



 **[alt_lucius](#)**

Funeral is cancelled; kindly restore as many appointments as you can manage. Contact Mr Crispin if you would and have him meet me for breakfast - half-six ought to do. Tell him to be prepared to go with me to Court as well.

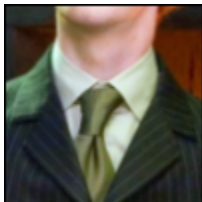
Should speak to Yaxley and Selwyn at their first available as well.


In addition, arrange visit to Azkaban: c.f. Smethley. Will need file on his and Maule's reduction clinics - the ones MLE shut down in July. Cross-check with Crispin re: properties subsequently re-assigned to Maule in the last two months.

Also bring in following:

Glendower
Ollivander
Runge (younger)
Mackrell (Mrs not Mr)

Need to speak to Crouch, Sr regarding Hooper's trial - that is lower priority. But should be before end of week.

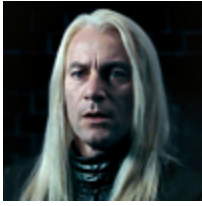


 **[alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-10 13:40:35](#)**
(no subject)

The funeral is cancelled? Why

You should have met with Mr Crispin by now. Mr Selwyn is available at 10:00 and Mr Yaxley at 11:30. I should have a list of most of the other appointments by the time you have finished with Mr Yaxley.

Azkaban can receive you by Wednesday morning. Please let me know if you need me to move it sooner.

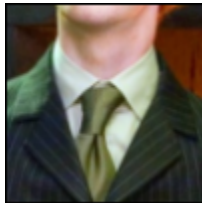



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-10 13:56:31](#)**
(no subject)

Cancelled. Body being recalled to the morgue for further investigation. Auror Crouch is very much alive, Weasley - which means MLE finds themselves in a curious position with a corpse either transfigured or otherwise made to look like him. Down to the last detail.

Wednesday? No, it shan't do. To-morrow at absolute latest. Could go this evening if it can be done.

Oh - and flowers, to Mrs Malfoy. Eglantine, yellow and white roses, delivered this after-noon. Card is on my blotter.

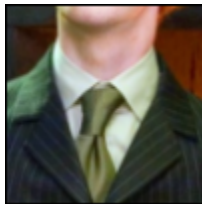



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:05:46](#)**
(no subject)

That's excellent news, sir! Uh, I assume that for some reason this is to be secret for now, though? An undercover operation?

I will check again with Azkaban. If you are flexible enough to do an evening visit, that may help.

Will do on the flowers.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-10 17:05:16](#)**
(no subject)


Azkaban can receive you at 8:00 pm tonight.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-10-10 17:06:48](#)**
(no subject)

Good.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-10-10 17:38:00**
(no subject)

One other thing: Kindly inform Delia Forney at MLE that she should feel free to conduct her own interview on Wednesday.

2011-10-09 23:33:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Sally-Anne



Are you asleep yet?

I have some interesting news.

 [alt_pansy](#)

Lots of it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-10 03:55:11**
(no subject)

I'm never asleep this early.

Does it have something to do with Mr Crouch?

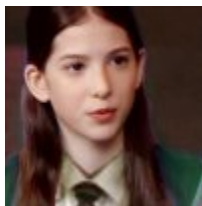


 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-10-10 03:56:56**
(no subject)

Some of it, yeah.

And some of it is about what Draco knows about what happened at the end of last term.

For starters.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-10 04:01:44**
(no subject)

Oh, really.

What DOES Draco know about what happened?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-10-10 04:08:36**
(no subject)

Pretty much everything.

Except for the fact that I knew too.

Thank Merlin for that.

I was surprised enough that he knew, and that he was telling me that he knew, that I was able to look the part.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:11:10](#)
(no subject)

He gave me this *enormous* hug after he told.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:12:19](#)
(no subject)

I mean, it was all very sweet. And I can't believe that he knew all that, this whole time!

I wonder if Granger knows that he knows.

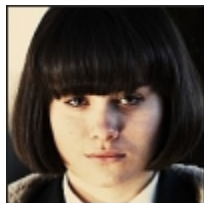


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:13:05](#)
(no subject)

Wait.

When you say he knew everything, does that include Sirius being alive? He knows?

Why hasn't he told anyone? Is he too afraid of his aunt?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:18:04](#)
(no subject)

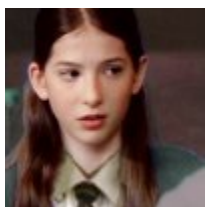
Yes, he knows about Sirius too.

I don't think it's that.

I think Harry's asked him not to tell. Not to tell anyone *important*, I mean. And because they swore not to hurt Harry, well... there we go?

Although he talked to me about that too. That he wasn't entirely convinced they all had Harry's best interests at heart. And I

know Sirius does, but I'm still not convinced about Snape (even though Hermione likes him enough, I guess) or Macnair.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:27:46](#)
(no subject)

If Harry asked him not to tell that would explain it.

I don't know what I think about Snape or Macnair, so I don't blame Draco for having some reservations.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:30:06](#)
(no subject)

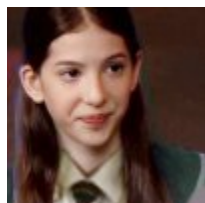
No kidding.

I mean, Vow or no Vow, Macnair did try and kill Harry before.

But it shows that he can keep secrets. Big ones.

I mean, yeah, he told *me*, but that's different. Than you know. Telling his father.

Not that I'm going to tell him *anything* mind, but still.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:34:23](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. He tried to kill Harry WHILE HE WAS A TEACHER AT HOGWARTS which honestly makes it worse.

I mean, think how we all felt about Carrow. And Hannah. Hannah was a half-blood in fostering, not the Lord Protector's Adopted Child, but that doesn't mean it would have been any BETTER to have a teacher murder Harry.

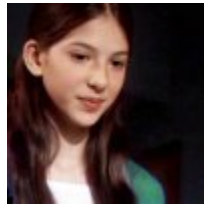


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:36:27](#)
(no subject)

Well, at least he'll drop over dead if he tries again.

Theoretically.

But yeah, I wouldn't trust him to not hurt Draco. Or any one of the rest of us.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:36:35](#)
(no subject)

And I know what you mean, about keeping secrets.

I like Draco. And I like how he is with you -- I mean, he makes you happy, in a way that no one else can, because you've known each other for so long.

I wish we could trust him with everything (although can you IMAGINE how he and Ron would fight? we'd have to either kill them both, or sell tickets.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:39:52](#)
(no subject)

You're telling me.

And yeah, now I sort of know how you and Ron felt. About me.

I like him too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:14:37](#)
(no subject)

And that Harry rescued Snape and Macnair?

~~Does he know about Hermione's~~ He SURELY doesn't know about Hermione's wand. I suppose she didn't use it in front of anyone, did she?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:19:51](#)
(no subject)

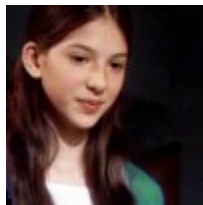
No! Of course not. She never took it out, not even when we were fighting Mrs Professor Carrow.

I don't think Harry even knows she has it.

I'm not sure, though.

You know, I don't know if he knows about Harry rescuing them. But if he did, Harry left out the bit where I was there too.

It's rather confusing, sorting out who knows what, isn't it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:29:43](#)
(no subject)

It REALLY is.

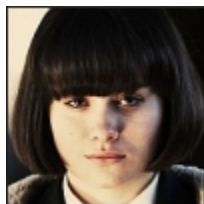
So wait, do you think Draco DOESN'T know that Harry went back in time with you and Hermione? Or that he knows, but he doesn't know --
my head hurts.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:31:18](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Mine too.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:26:58](#)
(no subject)

And I don't suppose I can *ask* him about either, not without letting him know that I know.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 04:31:00](#)
(no subject)

No! or letting him know about something Harry didn't mean to tell him (which would stir up trouble because Draco expects Harry to tell him everything).

And you can't ask Harry about it because he might be cross with Draco for telling you things Harry told him not to tell anyone.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-10 04:34:15](#)
(no subject)

Exactly.

But he did tell me.

Which is *something*. I think.

[2011-10-10 07:37:00](#)

Private message to Barty Crouch, Jr

As the subject did not come under discussion directly last night, I write here to say that your dedication to your pursuits under the service of our Lord is a credit to you. Do not let the heaps of flowers, the pearl-clutching, and the weepy letters to the *Prophet* allow you to doubt that.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)**

Also. Good to have you back.



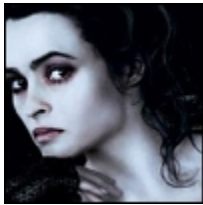
 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2011-10-10 15:43:09](#)**

(no subject)

Was never gone.

Confess that examining the body was disturbing. It's undoubtedly mine. Can't fault any of you for mistaking that.

However. Cannot understand why no one dug further into Selwyn's account: clearly 'my' behaviour upon Apparating was anomalous. Did you really think I'd be taken in so humiliating a way? Wand not drawn?



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-10 15:50:23](#)**

(no subject)

You were arriving at a club where your friends are known to gather and welcome you with open arms. It is typically considered ill-mannered and hyper-vigilant to arrive on such a scene with wand drawn out in preparation for unfriendly fire.

Certainly the sort of thing I'm known to do, however. And now you, too.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:04:29](#)
(no subject)

I never Apparate anywhere without being prepared for surprise at the other end.

Would expect nothing less of you.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:11:06](#)
(no subject)

Ah, even in the face of my very dead body?

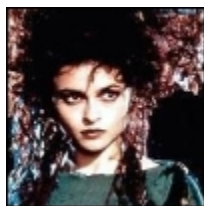


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:23:42](#)
(no subject)

If it were your body and the wand not drawn, I'd certainly question the eyewitness more thoroughly. Did no one ask Selwyn to drop that memory in a Pensieve?

Clearly I need to sharpen my reputation.

I'll take it as a performance incentive.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:33:57](#)
(no subject)

Our first priority was to set our sights on the assassin, and not to idle over Selwyn's trauma.

But yes, I think that's the best way to take it.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:05:36](#)
(no subject)

Since when were hugs and kisses customary reception at Ouroboros?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:12:38](#)
(no subject)

They never seem to have any for me. You can't imagine how I mourn.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:55:08](#)
(no subject)

Have briefed Forney re. Maule as none of us can take lead on that.

Must say it was more amusing to watch Him play with Rowle and Hewett last winter than to be battle stag of the moment myself. Have no intention of losing this fight to Maule.

Nor of allowing this to descend into a battle royal amongst us. We will prove worthy of His continued trust. And remove the upstart in the bargain.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 17:36:46](#)
(no subject)

We will at that.

Beneath your steadiness, I imagine that you are at least a wee bit excited.

Our kind always does enjoy a challenge.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 18:00:19](#)
(no subject)

Quite.

Did you see Maule's expression when I entered? Would have made the whole mess worthwhile. If he hadn't been sitting at Our Lord's elbow at the time, whispering in his ear.

Mordred.

No. I'm not going to challenge him directly. I'll stick to our agreement. But I've no intention of swallowing the insult. Sebastian Maule will beg me to finish him before this is over.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-10 18:01:17](#)**
(no subject)


Our Lord knows you absolute.

And you know as well as I do that devotion is not demonstrated through talk alone.

And certainly not through botched, half-done actions.

So stoke the fires of reprisal, so long as they do not threaten to burn away your vision of that which matters most.



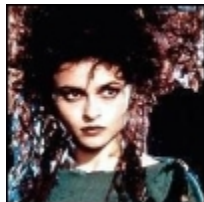
 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2011-10-10 18:49:24](#)**
(no subject)

No. Indeed.

The worst of this business is that I've more important things to attend to.

Proving that it's mother, lying down there in the morgue shouldn't be a priority, and yet aspects of it are crucial. If she was able to get hold of polyjuice, who else has it? And how could we not know?

We know exactly how Destin gets his for Pseudonymity, and we know there's no leakage there. Suppose I could recheck that point if necessary. Will have Parker go back over the audits. Will have him redo all the internal PJP accounting, as well.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-10-10 20:22:35](#)**
(no subject)

All questions solved in due time - let us hope.

"More important things to attend to." That feeling I do know well. I do ~~so often~~ occasionally

|||| wish that I had the sort of freedom to pursue deep cover assignments myself.

2011-10-10 09:09:00

Order Only: What the hell?


Did you see? Bellatrix Lestrange just made a private post to Barty Crouch, Jr.



She doesn't strike me as the type to make a sappy sentimental post to the dead.

 [alt_bill](#)




 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2011-10-10 14:14:51**
(no subject)

That is odd.


There's been a lot of private message rumblings on the journals from the Death eaters. But that one strikes me as the strangest of all.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2011-10-10 14:15:34**
(no subject)

What are you saying? That he could actually be alive?



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-10-10 14:16:14**
(no subject)

Oh, that'd be a right disappointment.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2011-10-10 14:21:10**
(no subject)

Percy saw a private message in the journals from Lucius Malfoy very late last night. He borrowed Errol to send out a message at midnight, and he apparated out of here wickedly early. He wouldn't say what it was about, though.

2011-10-10 09:24:00

Order Only: Apparently our rejoicings were premature

MLE has just announced that Barty Crouch, Jr is alive.



 [alt_arthur](#)




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-10 14:27:07](#)

(no subject)

What?!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-10-10 14:27:31](#)

(no subject)

Their office just confirmed it.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-10 14:28:16](#)

(no subject)

But...the body!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-10-10 14:28:49](#)

(no subject)

My dear boy, surely you know that bodies don't mean everything?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-10 14:30:10](#)

(no subject)


What else did they say?



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:31:56](#)**
(no subject)


No press conference or anything, from what I've heard. Just a written statement, consisting of the bald assertion that he's alive.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:32:14](#)**
(no subject)


So they're not explaining the body.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:32:44](#)**
(no subject)

Since when does MLE explain anything?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:39:41](#)**
(no subject)

Interesting.


Did you happen to see the Society column that made a fuss about Narcissa Malfoy's behaviour the last few days? She apparently refused to change a single item on her schedule, even after the official announcement that Barty was dead. I wonder if she somehow had a warning from him that something like this might happen.

Perhaps it was a ruse to flush out one of his enemies. Or something. Though it seems awfully disorganised if it was planned.

And there's still Norah Crouch to be explained, but I expect he never thought of warning *her* that she might hear about him turning up dead.

Unless ... Merlin, what if he killed her himself?




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:53:51](#)**
(no subject)

Seems like an awful lot of fuss in order to commit matricide.

Added to that, why on earth would he want to in the first place? From what Tonks has passed along to me, I get the impression that Nora Crouch is quite the doormat.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-10 14:59:59](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, indeed.

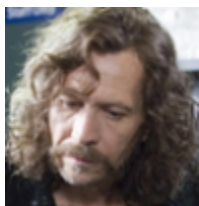
Did you see what Dora said about her foster mother yesterday? Answering something Molly said, I believe, about the Crouches seeming very cold. It was the most I've ever heard her share about them.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-10 15:05:15](#)**
(no subject)

She's had a deal to say on occasion but mostly when she's in a black foul mood to begin with. Can't blame her; I shouldn't like to dwell on any time spent in that household, if I were her.

We've compared notes from time to time, though. Mainly by way of reassuring her that life with her grandmother or great-aunt wouldn't have been any better. And possibly a good deal worse.



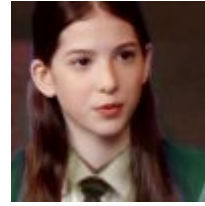
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-10 15:07:34](#)**
(no subject)

It's most likely she heard about Barty and offed herself. Dora says the one constant in Mrs Crouch's life was her devotion to her son. Disconsolate, I reckon. If the stories about her jumping were true, anyway.

Or maybe the old man did it to be rid of an albatross.

2011-10-10 11:13:00

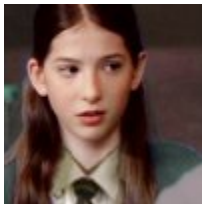
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Everyone's talking about Crouch. Whether he's really dead, or if he's alive. Because Draco sent him a message last night, and his Mum sent one today AND so did Bellatrix Lestrange.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Draco looks like he ate something that gave him a stomach ache. One of the older boys asked him about his message to Crouch and he said it was between him and his family, which could mean absolutely anything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-10 16:33:05**

Private message to Pansy

If Crouch IS alive and Draco knows, he surely didn't know last night or he'd have told you.

I assumed he was writing to Crouch the way Susan wrote to Hannah, to say things he couldn't say or didn't say when Crouch was alive. And I could imagine Mrs Malfoy doing something like that but not if she was ALSO going to send a message to Mrs LeStrange and I really CANNOT imagine Bellatrix LeStrange writing out a eulogy in the diaries!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-10-11 00:48:02**

Re: Private message to Pansy


Yes, most likely.

He said he was really hacked off because it was making his mum act so off, so he wrote without thinking.

Which means that it was probably not very nice to Mr Crouch.

I hope it wasn't too bad.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-10 16:46:24](#)
(no subject)

Bellatrix Lestrange?! Huh.


That would tend to make me think he must be alive.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 17:01:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, either that, or they think his journal is in someone else's hands.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 17:02:33](#)
(no subject)

Because exactly. I can't imagine Bellatrix Lestrange writing out a message to a person she cared about who'd died, in the journals.

I can't even imagine her doing it if it were Hydra or Rigel. Let alone Mr Crouch.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-10 17:00:50](#)
(no subject)

Malfoy always looks like that.


Or is that only around me?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-10 17:01:34](#)
(no subject)

That's just around you.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-10 17:08:21](#)**
(no subject)

Nice.

2011-10-10 11:37:00

Private Message to Bella and Barty

Sister, dear, I am sure you are quite occupied with the implications of resurrecting Barty, so I'll be brief.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

The body. I'll lay odds it's Norah. Barty, do you think that could be the case? She was so hysterical that day, about your safety. Oh, I don't suppose you've read my entry, not with all this going on.

It's just a thought. I'm sure you've already considered it. But if it's correct - Barty, I'm so sorry, if I'm right.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-10-10 15:55:49**
(no subject)

Agreed. (No, haven't read back, but not necessary on this matter.)

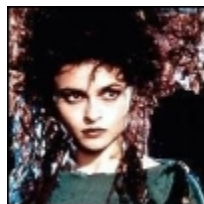
Only question is how she managed it. Aside from incompetently.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-10-10 16:11:24**
(no subject)

Well, I think you might wish to find the time, dear, particularly before you speak to your father. If you haven't already done, that is.

Speaking of conversations to be had ... Have you answered my son yet? I'm not sure what he might have said to you but - well, I'm certain your reply would be welcome as an assurance that his mother has not gone right round the twist.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2011-10-10 16:16:28**
(no subject)

What in blazes was Draco doing, anyway?

I can't imagine that he penned up a eulogy, or wrote a funeral dirge on guitar.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:19:12](#)
(no subject)

Ah. Well, he tried to tell me that he was making sure no one had stolen Barty's journal and was using it.

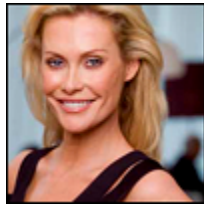
Somehow I suspect the tone of his actual message was not nearly so ... helpful ... as he would like his mother to believe.


We had rather a row about it, in fact. I'm quite surprised at him.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:28:52](#)
(no subject)

I've answered him, yes.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:31:29](#)
(no subject)

I hope he was polite. Shocked, I daresay. But polite?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:51:30](#)
(no subject)

Shocked when I answered him. Certainly.

Not so polite as a mother might wish in the initial address.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:55:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh, dear.


I feared as much. As I said, we quarrelled, rather.

Then again, he did think you dead - and the cause, therefore,

of my 'distress' - but I'll speak to him.

When I saw that he wrote you, I confess I thought he might have reason to know something I didn't. Silly, I know, but. It was tiresome, having to constantly defend my conviction.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 17:17:22](#)
(no subject)

Discipline is for you to decide, of course. No need to defend my honour or redress my wounded feelings. Those matters are settled.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:37:40](#)
(no subject)

That sounds like a lie if I've ever heard one.

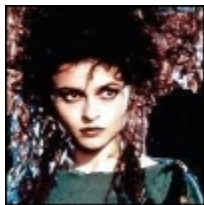
Maybe you should punish him. Or let Barty do it.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:46:23](#)
(no subject)

He was distraught, poor thing. That's all.

I know I gave him and Lucius a fright. Though entirely of their own imagining. Particularly as it turns out I was one of the only sensible ones through this whole ordeal.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 17:32:16](#)
(no subject)

Cissy, should you have reason to doubt or be sceptical of MLE's conclusions, you are always encouraged to voice those doubts to me in confidence.

However, making them known in public is quite another matter. While you may not have said anything incriminating, your behaviour did not escape notice, and it did cause a stir. Some even held it up as evidence that MLE was orchestrating events from the outset.

||||| I would not call that sensible.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 15:59:57](#)
(no subject)

Transfiguration has been assuredly ruled out, as there are no trace flaws whatsoever.

There is no way to determine if the body is Norah, as it's a match to Barty in every way. The coroner is re-running the toxicology spells to see if there's a positive for polyjuice, which I suspect there will be.


In which case I suppose we shall have to make scans for polyjuice a matter of course for all autopsies now, to avoid such embarrassments in the future.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:09:22](#)
(no subject)

I hadn't considered polyjuice. How on earth would she get it?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:14:08](#)
(no subject)

We can begin to unravel that particular mystery when and if the scans come back positive.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:26:18](#)
(no subject)

More to the point, Yaxley insists on investigating all other disappearances to rule out the theory that someone else might have planned a murder, tricked their victim into drinking polyjuice keyed to me, and staged the assassination for maximum effect in front of Ouroboros to misdirect the investigation. Or to humiliate MLE.

Useless waste of resources. Another thing to charge to Mother's folly.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:30:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, now, you're the ones to sniff out that sort of thing, not me, dears, but forgive me for asking: If it's hard enough for someone like your mother to lay hands on actual polyjuice potion, then how on earth could a random assassin do so?

And just exactly whom do you suspect, dear? I thought Dogstar were just so much rabble; it seems entirely too successful for them. Besides anything they claim these days is bound to be a lie.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:44:51](#)
(no subject)


Don't underestimate Dogstar, Narcissa.

That said, you're quite right: polyjuice is nearly impossible to come by or brew, and quite by design. The Department of Mysteries have made an extremely efficient job of eradicating Fluxweed across the countryside, and we've been very careful to control the import of other ingredients. DoM cultivates its own fw and supplies us, of course.

Mother could have stolen it from me, but she did not. My allocation is accounted for. Beyond question. Of course, she did rifle my post. We found several of the challenges in her room, so there's no mystery how she was drawn to the spot.

As for the assassin. It was Maule.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:48:48](#)
(no subject)

Maule?

Sebastian Maule? As in Eosphorous?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:52:50](#)
(no subject)


The same.



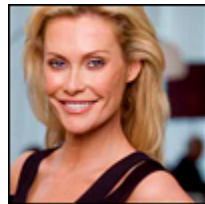
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:57:07](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry, dear, but - how do you know? I mean, how can you be so sure of that?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 17:03:58](#)
(no subject)

Ah. There you are crossing into the realm of restricted information.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 17:05:22](#)
(no subject)

Spoilsport.

Hire me as a consultant, then, and you may divulge to your heart's content.

Or is that to mine?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 17:12:46](#)
(no subject)

Sorry to disappoint.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 17:22:12](#)
(no subject)

Why, Barty. Are you saying I've not got what it takes to serve MLE?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 17:44:17](#)
(no subject)


No, indeed.

Not trying to frustrate your heart's desire, either. For that.

In fact, it's not merely MLE matters that limit me.

If you take my meaning.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:35:49](#)
(no subject)

Just a thought, while we're waiting for the scans - there's no possibility of your mother having been a metamorphmagus, is there?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-10 16:43:36](#)
(no subject)

No.

But it's a reasonable question.

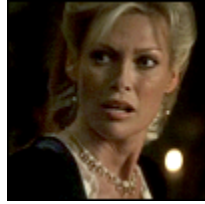
Believe there would surely be a telltale flaw in such an impersonation, though, just as with glamours or other transfigurative magics.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 16:48:21](#)
(no subject)

Reasonable point.


Have had reason to ponder metamorphmagi a bit lately. No matter.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-10 16:58:37](#)
(no subject)

Oh? Planning to visit Nymphadora? That's unlike you.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-10 17:33:45](#)
(no subject)

I know. Which is why I am so loathe to do it.

Did you know that the list of the Protectorate's registered metamorphmagi is very short?

Exceedingly so, in fact.

2011-10-10 14:20:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

It's arranged; eight o'clock this evening. Crispin's keen to go along. Shouldn't be a problem to keep records in his name and have impressed upon him the opportunity to prove his worth on such a task.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Discussed with him the primary importance of inducing Smethley to speak under his own power. Have the records of properties which Maule has appropriated, which ought to serve as its own incentive. Have the list we jotted down last night (or this morning if you prefer); have you thought of any other questions you'd like answered?

He may have wormed his way in quickly but he can be ousted with just as much haste. Particularly when compared to long and loyal service.

Oh - also heard from Yaxley. He's spoken directly with Cuffe so the explanation will appear in to-night's *Prophet*. Still no official word on the identity of the body but understand from him and Pelton that you have a ... theory? He's wise to keep that quiet for now.

You'll brief Forney before she goes out?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-10-10 18:58:05**
(no subject)

Good.

No further questions come to mind.

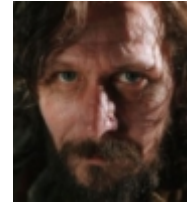
Indeed. There will be nothing official on the business re. mother.

Will brief Forney.

Trust it will be worth your trouble tonight.

2011-10-10 16:08:00

Not-So-Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr



Looks like you're actually not dead, either. (What happened? Did Bella miss her aim at you, as well?)

 [alt_sirius](#)

Felicitations, I suppose.

Copycat.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-10-10 22:00:57**

Order Only

Sirius Black!

Honestly.

I don't know whether to laugh or to shout at you.

I choked on my tea when I saw this. And may I say? Hot tea does not do the sinuses any favours.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-10-11 00:41:54**

Re: Order Only

Sounds like you're doing a bit of both, then.

My work is well done.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-10-11 01:48:12**

Re: Order Only

Well, I laughed! Bloody hard, too.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-10-10 23:25:45](#)

Order Only

I'm not sure what you're playing at.

Are you trying to make him think that Bella had something to do with the assassination?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-11 00:41:15](#)

Re: Order Only

Me? I just like to see Barty lose his temper. If I can cast doubt as to whether it's really him, as well, so much the better.

And sure, if he starts to think perhaps Bella or Malfoy or any of the others had a hand in making him out to be dead, better still.

Mostly it's just a distraction. Two days before the full moon and Remus can be - tetchy. (Especially as he's a bit worried about Dora being next on the hit list behind Barty and his mum.)



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-10-11 00:56:59](#)

Re: Order Only

If you like to see him lose his temper then I guess you've never really seen him lose his temper. He's no Carrow, but -

You really must not know what they do to let off steam, sometimes.

Just so long as you're not expecting much to come of planting that pestilence in his ear. Group in-fighting isn't too uncommon, but Lestrangle, Malfoy, Crouch...they're bonded in ways that would be difficult to untether. Guess that's just what happens when you take on whole institutions and manage to topple them together. They trust each other because they had to, back when it was just us them against reason.

The Dark Lord is the one who's shaky there. Got a whole arsenal of

tricks and tools to root out the truth, but it's not enough to make him fully trust a single one of them.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-11 04:07:29](#)

Re: Order Only

Oh, I know what they get up to. But it helps to remind people that it's all right to laugh at someone like him, even if he's nothing but a monster inside a barely civilised body. Don't underestimate the power of mockery to take the core out of his wand.

As for Voldemort, well, I admit it didn't occur to me my innocent comment might worm its way into his mind, but if it makes him look at his own differently, can't see how that hurts, either.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-10-11 18:44:40](#)

Re: Order Only

Made him sound more nervous than I meant to, though. He gives out incremental amounts of trust. Has to, in order to make his vision come to life. But he never lets anyone see that vision. Not completely, at least.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-11 01:35:56](#)

Order Only

Idiot.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-11 04:08:19](#)

Re: Order Only

Wot?

Oh, come along, Dora. You laughed.

[2011-10-10 19:57:00](#)

The evening owl ...

.. has brought some cheerful news, for once, in the form of the evening Prophet. It appears that reports of Mr Crouch Jr's death were inaccurate, though at the moment, the details of why that is are rather slim.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

If students would like to take a look at the article, I'm in my office at the moment, and would be glad to have you stop by until curfew.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-11 00:02:16](#)

(no subject)

Oh really, Professor Sinistra? Oh, thank you so much for passing that along. I've been wondering all day if the rumours were true, so much so that I spilled ink all over my bookbag.

I can probably borrow a copy of the paper from someone in my House, but thank you again!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-11 00:04:07](#)

(no subject)

You're welcome, Miss Greengrass. I know many students only get the morning paper, so it seemed worth passing along the news.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-11 00:04:42](#)

Private message to Rory

Thank Merlin the *Prophet* is out. Now I can finally tell you that yes:

Barty's alive. He walked into Spence last night and I almost killed him a second time, thinking he was some mad inferius! (Though he didn't look that bad.) The body we all reckoned was his is most likely his Mum's (keep that to yourself), polyjuiced up to look like him. Haven't got a bloody clue what she was doing, walking around with Barty's face, but that's not my job to figure out.

I'm staying tonight, just in case I'm called needed by family. But I'll be back at the castle for breakfast.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-11 00:11:13](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Good to hear from you. I figured as soon as I saw the paper come in that you'd likely not be back tonight. (Which is why I am not in my rooms with your drink.)

But what wonderful news, except for giving you that kind of start (which must have been quite disturbing, until you figured it all out.) And for that to be his mother, you think (and of course I won't tell.)

Do let me know if you need anything. And don't be afraid of waking me up, if you want company when you get in, and don't want to face breakfast in the Hall. I can nap later.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-11 00:17:54](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

It's possible I've got first grey hair. But at least I didn't lose any.

There's still the matter of someone having tried to kill him, and possibly trying again. He was damned insulted that we'd thought he'd go as easily as that, though. It's a mistake I'll not make again, certainly.

Well, seeing as I haven't announced that I'm going to be at breakfast (to anyone but you), then I reckon there's no need to actually show up, is there?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-11 00:24:06](#)

Re: Private message to Rory


If you're only getting your first now, you're luckier than a lot of people. (They don't show well on blondes, fortunately.)

I do see the worrisome implications. (And given his reputation,

well, I can see why he'd be insulted at the assumption it'd be easy to get him.)

As to breakfast, well, then, I'll make sure I'm up. And I'll have a word with the elves tonight about a tray.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-11 00:27:20](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

I know. Roddy's got at least twenty or thirty, but that's not bad, considering how ancient he is.

Sounds brilliant- see you at the crack of dawn,

then!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-11 00:28:35](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

You watch it, or I'm going to start teasing you about your age.

Looking forward to seeing you, though. And very glad for the good news.

2011-10-10 21:16:00

Private Message to Percy Weasley

All right, there, Perce?

Sounds like you've already had a week of it.
And it's only Monday!

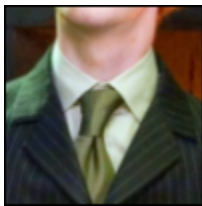


 **alt_penelope**

Mr Crouch was killed and then he wasn't. All those messages in the dead of the night! You'd better have some incredible stories come Hogsmeade weekend or I'll be disappointed.

I've some interesting news for you as well, concerning Professors Lestrangle and Sinistra.

And some more disturbing facts about Professor McGonagall but that's hardly a welcome topic.



 **alt_percy** at **2011-10-11 01:44:29**
(no subject)

Yes, it has been quite a week indeed. I heard the news about Mr Crouch this morning. Really wonderful news, isn't it?

I'm not sure about having incredible stories...I have to be exceedingly careful about what I say about what goes on in Mr Malfoy's office, you know. But there's no doubt it's all been a wonderful opportunity for me. But there's no doubt it's a challenge. He's charming when he's pleased with what I've done, but he's very...exacting.

I hope things have settled down for you, with the first years at least? And yes, I'm eager to hear whatever gossip you can pass on to me. And to see you, of course!



 **alt_penelope** at **2011-10-11 03:58:16**
(no subject)

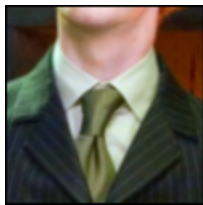
It's wonderful news about Auror Crouch, yes. Though we're still wondering what's happened to his mother (and why on earth someone looking like him tried to get in to Ouroborous in the first place).


I don't want you to betray any confidences, of course! But you can tell me about the people you've met and the part you've been playing in all the excitement, can't you? And besides by the time we meet some of it will be public, surely, so you'll be able to talk more freely?

The first years. Well. Fellsworthy and Whitby have certainly eased off but that Symmons girl is a terror. And Drumgoole, Hedigan, Featherstone and Mackrell are still thick as thieves. I rather think Hedigan thinks detentions are as much a lark as your brothers do. Wish I'd known to include her in that first meeting, that's for sure. But they've a week to get it out of their systems before Durmstrang arrives and Beauxbatons. Avery's promised that if the Slytherin cousins persist he'll have another word. Wouldn't do to show the wrong face to our visitors, after all.

Anyway, you ought to know I don't gossip! I only pass along confirmations. Though you may have already heard through your own sources, seeing as one of the parties is your employer's brother-in-law. Or is that brother-in-law-in-law? Well, whatever.

Oh. Look, I know you've got a million more important things on your plate but could you send me your copy of Advanced Arithmantic Calculation? I've checked at F&B twice and it's still back-ordered.



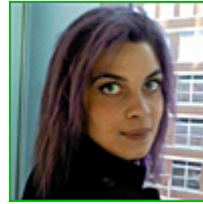
 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-11 14:42:23](#)
(no subject)

Advanced Arithmantic Calculation is on its way to you. Keep your chin up. You're Hogwarts Head Girl-you can do anything!

2011-10-10 21:31:00

Order Only

Sirius, I think some of your mood's rubbed off on me.



 **alt_nymphadora**

I just sent Mr Crouch a sympathy owl. Went up to check on Bea, saw the stationery, and the notion took me.

Just a nice little note saying how sorry I am for his loss, that I'm sure he's very worried for Mrs Crouch, and that I hope she'll turn up very soon. Didn't let on I was writing after I'd read the news.

And I didn't overdo it at all. Didn't say how grateful I've been for all they taught me about family and parenting. Or how I'd miss all the help Barty's given me whenever I've needed anything.

I only offered him a sympathetic ear and a cuppa if he ever wanted to stop by our friendly little cafe here.

Which I'm sure he'll do at his earliest opportunity.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-10-11 03:12:51**

(no subject)

I'll want to be certain I don't stumble into him at the Ministry tomorrow morning. Expect he'd be even less pleased to see me than usual.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-10-11 03:40:44**

Private Message to Dora

Probably.

Though it strikes me you've really Mr Fuzzy-Face to worry about, this close to the full moon.

Still, that's the spirit. Keep him near the end of his tether and remind the people who don't see him every day that he's both fallible - and *vulnerable*. And definitely not to be admired.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-11 11:11:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

Do you think I don't worry about Remus and the moon? What are you saying?

Is there something particularly wrong, do you think?

And. Did you think I wrote Barty? Not bleedin likely. I wrote my dearly beloved foster father. To rub a little salt in his wounds. Consoling him on Barty's death when they never got on--and when Barty's turned up again just as Mr C thought he might finally be free? It wasn't nice, but I'm sure he won't fail to see that was rather the point.

The good news is they've sent me to the other end of the building today. I'm up in the the Upper Reaches this morning.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-12 02:44:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

No, not at all. I'm saying that he worries about you in the best of times and you don't seem to like it awfully. And he gets edgier this time of the month.

As for something being particularly wrong - no. You've got to remember that he has better months and worse. And for some reason he's always been a bit more antsy as the season turns colder. Something about the longer nights, I think, though I've never seen any research to indicate whether that's a common problem or just something about Moony.

(He's actually curled up, napping away, at present. I just can't get over that, honestly, after so many years when the wolf would run us ragged. Too bad he won't hear of you coming in even when he's safe. It's an impressive sight, his wolf-form.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-10-12 14:51:31**

Re: Private Message to Dora

Well.

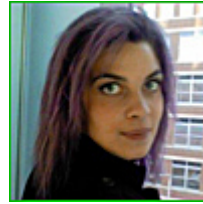
How is he? And Bea? Did she fuss after I left? I know it's inconvenient to have to listen for both of them.

And tiring. I suppose you may be asleep now. Hope you haven't charmed your journal to jangle loudly when someone writes you. Sorry if you have.

Home soon. Anything I should stop for along the way?

2011-10-12 19:30:00

*Order Only: Private Message to
Remus Lupin*



Hey, you.

How are you feeling? Need more
headache powder? A cuppa?

 **alt_nymphadora**

Bea and I are having a fine time pouring drinks and entertaining the crowd. She's charmed Edgar into singing for her, and Nancy's been saying rhymes while counting Bea's toes.

I'm not sure where her socks went. Silly baby, always losing her socks.

2011-10-12 19:38:00

Private Message to Delia Forney

Damn it, Forney. I'm being patient. But you know it's Maule as well as I do. I want him in the dungeons with Truncheon tightening the thumbscrews.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

But you have to have a case to warrant it.

You haven't had orders to desist, have you? Tell me if you hear anything of the sort. I'll triple check it.

Erebus.

2011-10-13 08:20:00

A common cause



 [alt_daphne](#)

Ever since we of Slytherin House learnt that we shall be hosting the students from Durmstrang, I and a few other girls (Elsie, Samantha) have been discussing ways that we might make our guests feel as welcome and comfortable as possible. Aside from being as polite and as sociable as we already are, I think that a good starting place would be to reassess the comforts of the Slytherin common room.

Though the common room is used for a variety of activities, from studying to sleeping, I'm sure we can all agree that it's best suited for relaxing and socialising. It's the one place where students, regardless of what year they are in, can share some "common" time together. That said, perhaps those of you who are currently using the common room for other reasons might consider more appropriate locations for your pursuits? The group of second years who have been practising levitation charms, for instance. Why not secure an empty classroom for your charms work? There will be more room for all of you, and you won't risk accidentally bopping the heads of our guests with a vase. After all, those NEWT-level students do their work in empty classrooms for good reason! And those of you with heavy-duty reading will assuredly find uninterrupted silence in a dark corner of the library. The same, I suppose, for those of you who would like to indulge in some heavy-duty napping.

As for socialising, the common room is just the place for it. However, those of you who regularly gather round the fireplace might consider that you don't, in fact, actually own it. Other people, our guests in particular, would like to enjoy the flames, too. Those of you who enjoy more boisterous games, such as exploding snap, might mute your play with the appropriate charm. Also, I think it goes without saying that we should avoid setting the tapestries on fire *Gregory*

Now, while our common room is certainly comfortable and roomy, I do think that it might benefit from a little sprucing up. Firstly, whoever is doing it should *stop* stuffing toffee wrappers beneath the sofa cushions. Secondly, Samantha has volunteered to speak to the elves about that strange stain on the rug by the clock, as well as the chocolate smears on the chesterfield. Once that's taken care of, if everyone else can pitch in and try to keep things tidy, I think we should present very well.


Let's consider a few rearrangements, too. That almost-empty bookcase by the fire would make for the perfect lending library. Would anyone like to donate some books? Particularly books that are about British wizarding history, or that represent most currently popular reading material in the Protectorate? You know, *Wand Society* and such. I'm sure our guests would enjoy seeing what we read in our free time, and not just for classes.

That little alcove on the south end of the common room - the one that never gets used because the chairs are so straight-backed and uncomfortable? I thought it might be good to move the chairs off to the side and fill the floor space with big, soft cushions and poufs (like the ones you lounged about on at your Birthday, Blaise). We can put the wireless over there, too, and then it's the perfect area for listening to music. And if someone feels like dancing, simply move the cushions aside and *viola!* - instant dance floor!

Over by the tables we can stock a chest full of all sorts of games: moving picture puzzles, portkey cards, gobstones, chess. In fact, we might go ahead and set out a chess board or two, so that people feel free to just plop down and start playing with someone. And of course, I'll leave out a dish of *linguista* chocolates, so that people will find speaking German easier.

If anyone else has suggestions for making our common room a more welcoming and cosy spot, please speak with either myself, Elsie, or Samantha!



 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2011-10-13 15:41:42](#)**
(no subject)

Well done, Miss Greengrass. Are you perhaps interested in the prefecture for next year? Or counseling in YPL? Either take the same sort of initiative you've shown here.

Luckily, the Ravenclaw common room is already quite cosy and organised. I'm sure our guests from Beauxbatons will be quite comfortable.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-13 19:11:58](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I'm just doing what I always do. If the powers the be deem me an appropriate candidate for either prefecture or counseling based on that, then I would of course do my very best to rise to the occasion.

As much as our common room might be just a bit in sixes and sevens at the moment, we Slytherin do like to make sure that we make good showing! Even moreso when we are representing the Lord Protector's house to those who are visiting the Protectorate.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-10-13 16:16:08](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Daphs.

I think it's a brilliant idea about filling the alcove with cushions.

You may need to break whatever charm is on those chairs, though. We took one into our dormitory one time, and, do you know, by morning it had returned itself to its spot. It wasn't the elves, either: I heard it shifting itself out the door in the middle of the night. Went right back to its exact spot, which is why I think you may have to break the charm: they seem to have particular notions about where they belong.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-13 19:36:00](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, really? That's quite a bother, then. Though if no one can break the charms then I suppose we can always recruit Professor Acton's assistance. Still, we should all try to band together to solve the problem ourselves, first.

I think it really will be just perfect when it's filled with cushions.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-13 23:08:16](#)
(no subject)

Excellent ideas, Miss Greengrass - I must echo Miss Clearwater's comments on your initiative and thoughtfulness. You are an excellent representative of the aims of the YPL.

If you find you have space for some additional light reading, I have a few volumes I can lend you: mostly recent history titles, but a few fiction. (The same offer is, of course, open to Ravenclaw's common room, but I suspect they have quite a number of titles of their own.)

I've started reading a range of magazines due to some of the YPL planning considerations, and I've got a number of back issues handy at the moment, if any of them would be of interest, as well. (Both more serious and lighter fare.)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-14 01:01:20](#)
(no subject)

Thank you ever so much, Professor Sinistra! A lot of students have already brought me books and magazines, but I'm sure it would be ideal to include reading that comes recommended by a Professor.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 01:06:04](#)
(no subject)

You are quite welcome. I'll bring some down to dinner, if someone from your house will take them from there.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-14 01:22:37](#)
(no subject)

I should be able to manage them myself, thank you!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-14 01:04:45](#)**
(no subject)

I've an idea, Daffs. We ought to post a large, visible calender in the common room, something charmed to re-schedule itself each month, and perhaps written in German as well as English.

The calendar can indicate the time and place that all of our various clubs and study groups meet, like the History Club, the Duelling Club, the Potioneers' Group, and so on. That way we're not just meeting our guests' social needs, but their academic needs, too.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-14 01:26:04](#)**
(no subject)

Draco, that's a positively brilliant idea!

Shall I take that to mean you'll be in charge of creating the calendar?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-14 01:26:24](#)**
(no subject)

That's right, count me in.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-14 01:26:55](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Draco.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-14 01:41:16](#)**
Private message to Astoria Greengrass

I saw that look you gave me in the Great Hall today! You'd best be careful how you twist up your face, or it'll be liable to stick that way.

And you know that the levitation was a bother to everyone, so just do

the mature thing and band together to find an empty classroom you can practise in, please? This castle is full of them.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-14 03:58:14](#)

Private Message to Daphne

You're certainly earning points there, Daphs!

(Oh, and don't pay any attention to Clearwater saying our common room's perfect as-is. She's had the prefects telling us all to tidy up after ourselves all evening!)

Have they put up the notice about when in the day the students are arriving? Only I think we might not all have time to clean up after our girls' workout if they're coming before supper. I think we might want to move it a bit earlier. What about you?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-14 04:15:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne

Heh, too funny about Clearwater! You know who really doesn't seem to care for her much? Draco. I only realised because I overheard him say to Blaise that it was too bad they didn't have head girls like Sandoval anymore. Not that I think Clearwater's doing a poor job, but she really does seem very different from Sandoval, doesn't she?

I don't know when they're arriving but we should probably move it up to be safe. I want to make sure to look presentable for everyone.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-14 04:18:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne

Really? Huh. That's interesting. I wonder why? Unless it's to do with her boyfriend being his father's clerk and all. Probably she took some liberty or something. Sounds like the kind of thing she'd do, doesn't it?

And yes, exactly. I want to make sure that we've enough time that the only glistening we'll be doing is from the glitter on our eyelashes. Parvati and I have new hair ornaments, too, we've been saving since they announced the tournament.

Oh, and Mum's written to say she's got a new accessory planned for this Christmas. It's going to be utterly nift!



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-14 04:30:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne


I've never heard him make any comments about Weasley, not that one, anyway. But yes, maybe Draco's worried she'll try to get gossip from Weasley, or maybe she already did something

along those lines.

Do you think the boys have even noticed that we're busy running and sprinting and doing push-ups while they're off in some tucked away corner, looking at dirty playing cards? Blaise said my arms looked "sculpted" when he put the bracelet on me at my birthday party, but other than that I really don't know. Have the boys said anything to you?

Oh, good on your Mum! I remember when robe pets were such a hit. I'm not sure that they'd really be suitable for us at this age, but they were so dear when we were twelve.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-14 04:39:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne

The boys in our year? Hardly! But - well, I think some of the older boys might be throwing more than a casual glance in a few people's directions, if you know what I mean. And anyway, we'll be able to tell if it's really had an impact when those Durmstrang and Beauxbatons boys arrive. Why, has Auror Crouch sent you anything to reassure you now that he's still alive? (Kidding, of course!)

Can you believe Ronald - and Bundy? - coming up with some orienteering suggestion and getting all the credit like that? Oh, I know the scavenger hunt can't possibly have been all their own idea, really, it's far too creative and thoughtful. But Finnigan and I had a suggestion too, only Professor S thinks it'll have to be during the summer when it's just CCF. Still, I suppose that's better, anyway, since what we want to do I guess we shouldn't teach just anyone.

I know what you mean about robe pets! She still does sell them to the younger kids. I saw Maega Featherstone with a little unicorn on her robes earlier this week. But Mum certainly has a way of keeping up with us as we get older. This is something that older people will like, too, though. I think. It should be very popular, actually.



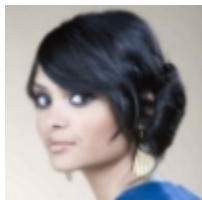
 **alt_daphne** at **2011-10-14 04:53:55**

Re: Private Message to Daphne

We probably needn't really do much to get the attention of the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons boys. We shall be new and different and novel, and for any male person with a pulse that will likely be enough. That Justin Finch-Fletchley seems awfully polite and friendly to just about everybody, though, doesn't he?

Well, now you have me curious about yours and Finnigan's idea. The hunt should be a diverting way to get to know newcomers, at least, but you're giving he and Bundy far too much credit for being creative! We did scavenger-hunt type activities in CCF, after all, so it's not as if they had to think very far back.

Good - if it's something older people will like, then I can get one for my Father. He's so hard to buy gifts for. All he ever asks for is gloves, socks, and peppermint humbugs. Dull!



 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-14 05:09:55**

Re: Private Message to Daphne

Well, I dunno. I mean, they've got continental girls all the time. We *might* seem exotic but then again we might seem dull as dry toast, too.

Finch-Fletchley. Yeah, he's quite friendly. Even when he doesn't need to be, I think. I get that he doesn't want to offend anyone, especially when he was coming for so short a time, but - well, I suppose we'll find out when he's here longer. I'm just not sure. There's a line between being polite to everyone and just not having any discerning sort of taste in friends.

And yes! This will be good for men as well as women. Mum's trying to come up with something *universal* and I really think

||| she's hit the hex perfectly this time. I think she's sending some
samples up next week. They might even have an early
production shipment in time for our Hogsmeade trip.

2011-10-13 08:40:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Cannot read your handwriting on this parchment. Was it Bode or Bale from DoM wanting to see me? Did he say he wants the body or did you guess that? Call down there and say I could see him now. Or not at all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Schedule me with Pelton any time after that. Know she wants it out of her lockers. Ask her if the scan reports are back. Want that info asap.

Don't need to speak to Case directly. Handle that yourself. Ask him if they found anything in the river over night. Aside from old Muggle detritus. I don't care if they have someone keep watch downriver; it's their budget. Tell him they've done more than enough in my view, but it's Yaxley's call.

Want to see Painter's full report re. missing persons. Before it goes to Yaxley. Don't want him sealing it.

If Victarus Runge calls (re. arrangements), I'll take it. Otherwise, will need to go there. Not highest priority but must be done.

And father. Blast. Make that lunch. Tell him to meet me at The Firebrand. Twelve sharp. Not optional.

Meant to say. Will be with Forney if Bode? wants me.

[2011-10-13 08:57:00](#)

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Fudge is running late. In future I expect to be told ahead to avoid wasting time in waiting.



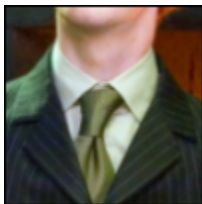
 **[alt_lucius](#)**

However, under circumstances, cornered Bartemius regarding yesterday's decision at the Executive Session. Not sure why he's in a lather about it. He's had plenty of time to prepare. Understand from him that Barty has arranged a very private service for his mother (Sr seemed a bit perturbed that she'd been declared dead so quickly but otherwise too bewildered by the oncoming trial to give the matter much other thought); sure Narcissa will wish to attend so find out from Ned, if you please, when the ceremony is to be scheduled. Believe Crouch said Friday.

Meanwhile, those camp inspections: Have they been placed on the books yet? Preferably before the weather grows inhospitable.

Also, need to know immediately if Maule returns to Court. Talk to Mr Broome and make sure that you are on his short list for notifications. Without making a nuisance of yourself, naturally.

Finally: This afternoon's fire chat with Dideron and Froissart. Be sure that the reports of last month's arrests are handy as well as current roster of Dogstar suspects. Cannot at present recall name of MLE enforcer in charge of Cup security - get that and double-check the itinerary for the Cup's transport on Sunday. Have that ready for the call, if you would.



 **[alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-13 14:39:00](#)**

(no subject)

My apologies re: Fudge. ~~Ms Rowens told me~~ I will endeavour to make sure you avoid such annoyances in the future.

Friday's service will be held at 2:00 pm, according to the most recent information I've obtained.


I have set appointments for camp inspections through mid-November; the dates have been added to your appointment book.

Will touch base with Mr Broome.

When you mention the 'Cup' you are referring to the Goblet of Fire, I presume. The enforcer assigned to the roster for Goblet security is Marcus Covington. Will check on the itinerary in time for the Floo call and have that for you, along with the arrest reports.

Mr Harper has been back haunting the waiting room again, and has been most resistant to suggestions that you don't wish to invest. It took quite a bit of ingenuity to be rid of him. Some people simply have difficulty taking a hint, even when it hexes them right in the middle of the forehead.

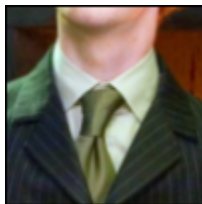



 **alt_lucius** at [2011-10-13 15:02:16](#)
(no subject)

Cup - Goblet - both. Whatever.

Re: Harper, if he returns again, suggest you ensure that he has other more important things on his mind, such as suddenly 'remembering' an appointment in Carlyle. Trust I make my meaning plain.

What were you told regarding a meeting with Dolores and Pius? I've just learned of it; why are there no parchments for the topic?



 **alt_percy** at [2011-10-13 18:33:12](#)
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

A meeting with Madam Umbridge and Mr Thicknesse? I am sorry, sir, I was not made aware of it. I will check with their assistants.

2011-10-13 19:08:00

Looking ahead to our first YPL event



 [alt_sinistra](#)

First YPL event

As you all know, our first YPL event of the year will be on October 22nd, and we will welcome both our foreign guests with an orienteering scavenger hunt of the Hogwarts buildings and grounds that will test your navigation skills, charms, puzzle solving abilities, and more. There will be small prizes for the winning team on each path (there are four), and small tokens for everyone who makes a sincere attempt to complete the course.

I want to first thank Mr Ronald Weasley and Miss Katrina Bundy for a proposal that has been most helpful in planning this event - well done, and good initiative!

Everyone else is welcome to sign up to participate, and should expect to form groups of 3-5 students, including our foreign guests in your groups. You might want to think now about how to arrange that.

For those who participate, all the puzzles and challenges of the course can be solved with magic no more complicated than our students learn at the end of 3rd year. However, in many cases, multiple solutions are possible, and any method that does not damage other students, property, or beings is permitted. CCF and YPL counsellors will be available if you have any concerns.

CCF members and YPL counsellors

You will be needed to help staff the various positions, and of course set up elements of the hunt in advance.

Please sign up on my office door for a prep shift (either Friday night, the 21st, or Saturday, the 22nd), and plan to be available from 2pm to 5pm for the actual event. (A special tea will follow for participants). I may also be adding one more addition to your Saturday morning (a pleasant one, if the scheduling works out) so plan your study time accordingly.

Other notes

Tuesday evening class: I will be in New London for last minute planning with the YPL committee on Tuesday afternoon, and it is likely the meeting will stretch into the evening. Therefore, I am cancelling Tuesday observing classes, but have asked a couple of my

NEWT students to be available from full dark until curfew if you need to get caught up on any assignments.

I will also not be available for questions during that time, obviously, so if you have questions for assignments due Wednesday, ask them by Monday.

Poppy: I'd love a chance to consult with you about a few specific considerations. Are you free tomorrow afternoon, or perhaps Monday afternoon? If not, can we chat in private message here?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-13 23:30:52**

Private message to Raz

I expect the meeting's going to be quite tedious - we've apparently got a new committee member I know nothing about, replacing the St. Mungo's representative.

I'm hoping everyone will cooperate in getting things done, but if not, I suspect I'm going to be in a foul mood, and may need to stay overnight in New London as well. (There's a small inn they get a room for me in right across the way when that happens.)

I'll let you know either way Tuesday, but if I'm not back by, oh, 7pm, would you mind dreadfully checking upstairs to see how the NEWT students are doing, or letting them know they can reach you by journal if there's a problem? Of course, if it's cloudy, no worries. I can give you the names as soon as they figure out which of them most want the extra credit points for doing it. (They're all so busy already, the dears.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-10-14 00:51:28**

Re: Private message to Raz

Small Inn, really? You know you're welcome to go to Spence. But if you feel odd about being there when I'm not, then Small, Ministry-approved Inn it is. Check the drapery for doxies.

If you're not back I shall certainly check on your newts.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 00:53:16](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

You're a dear.

And it'd better be the Inn - people walk me back, and so on, and it'd be hard to explain Spence.

(Even if it'd be far more comfortable, and don't I know it.)

I'm hoping to be back here at some point in the evening, but my conversation with Poppy does suggest it's going to be a more difficult meeting than I'd hoped.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 00:58:12](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

If you *do* find some doxies in the draperies, see if you can bring me a few? I could freshen up my stock for the first years' lessons.

What's going to be difficult about it? Anything I can do?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 01:03:17](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

That's the oddest request for a travelling gift I've ever heard, but certainly, if I do find doxies, I'll bring them back with me. (Note to self: pack small folding cage, apparently.)

On the meeting - well, first, we've got to finalise all the clues and such. I've mostly got that settled, I just need everyone's approval. (Which is the tricky part, of course. Half of them hare off on all sorts of tangents that are not in fact necessary.)

The bit I'm not sure of is that new committee member: apparently he's quite influential at St. Mungo's (Healer Stint, if you know the name). So, how much I'm going to be able to nudge him in productive directions is an open question.

But at least knowing that going in will make things easier - and if you see me buried in the society rags and such between now and then, you may know I am swotting for conversational

gambits to distract him and get him (and various of the others) back on topic.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 01:20:46](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Merlin, don't pack a cage! I'm only teasing, love. Pack your doxycide, instead (though if you do find some of their eggs, they actually would be useful).

Oh, Faci Stint! I know him. Not overly well, but he was one of those from St. Mungos who was brought in after Carrow got one over on me. Did a good job, too, since I'm still alive and all. The headaches are still a bother now and again, but could definitely be worse. He seems a fairly amiable fellow - not the type to be a bent broomstick. I'd be surprised to hear if he was, leastways.

You can swot with the best of them, don't you worry.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 01:27:14](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I do approve of having you in one piece, love. (That was not a particularly pleasant few weeks on my end, either, and on the whole, I would prefer not to repeat them.)

Knowing that he was good to you helps - and I suppose at least means that he won't be pressing me for an introduction to you, like Gimlet has.

At the same time, bringing anyone new into an existing committee's a bit tricky, and I wish we weren't having to do it on such short notice and with such tight timing. And there are times that being young and blonde are not the advantage some people think - it's sometimes dreadfully hard to be taken seriously.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 01:37:35](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I've no illusions that it was probably harder on everyone else than it was on me. I was blissfully comatose, after all. (though being in stasis isn't actually blissful, it's just a big

blank.)

And no, I've already met Stint a few times, so you should be safe there. You could always tell Gimlet I'm still in stasis and can't possibly be troubled. Though the best thing to do is probably to say "I'll certainly let him know you're interested" - that way it's not you who's snubbing him, it's me. And that's to be expected, of course, from we high society types.

(I told you that you'd be in for this. I take comfort in that fact that it would probably happen anyway, seeing as we work in the same castle.)

As for being taken seriously... just think of them as a bunch of unruly students. You've got no trouble there, after all. You'll do just brilliantly.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 01:42:57](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Well, that's some comfort.

On Gimlet: that's more or less what I've told him (And he started doing it last year, before any of the gossip at all, so it's definitely that we share a castle. But I'm sure he'll be worse this time, what with the world cup and all.)

On treating them like students - ah, but you forget I've got more tools at my disposal with students. You cannot take house points from departments (I wish: it'd make for far more exciting meetings), nor can you grade them down.

I can, if I wish to invoke powerful names, sometimes get agreement (Pointing out that Auror LeStrange proposed me for the position has been handy, I admit.) And there's a clause in our charter that says that if I - as the chair of the

committee, and the only one independently vetted and appointed - feel that an appointed representative from a department is not acting in the best interest of the programme, I can request their removal and the appointment of someone who is better suited.

But really, that's the sort of thing you can only use in the more dire situation - anything else looks like being a doormat, which is anything but helpful.

(And most of them expect me to be a doormat. Why people forget that Hufflepuff's represented by a badger, and badgers are stubborn and have sharp pointy teeth, I have never understood.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-10-14 01:55:22**

Re: Private message to Raz

You could always channel Bella Auror Lestranger and her demeanour, but since that would be something of an insurmountable task for anyone, maybe not.

They know you have power, and there are subtle ways that you can let them know that you know you have power, too. Without using words or taking points or anything else. Wear your hair back to make the colour less noticeable, if it concerns you. Somber clothing choices. Speak slowly, with measured tones and pauses - it makes them keep listening. Keep your body relaxed, so they know you're not intimidated. Always, always make eye contact.

But you're good with people. You have good instincts. I think it will go better than you think.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-10-14 02:00:19**

Re: Private message to Raz

Channelling your sister-in-law is something I think I will not attempt to aspire to, dear.

The rest: thank you for that. I've been reading more about that kind of thing over the summer, and you're quite right. But it's also reassuring to hear you think I'll be

fine. I think it may just be a matter of finding my own style, and being able to hold it when pressed.

I just worry and dither a lot beforehand, and it generally works out anyway.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 02:03:53](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I am perfectly comfortable with you never, ever attempting that sort of channeling.

It will work out. And you can tell me all about it when you're back.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 02:06:50](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Oh, *good*.

And yes. Looking forward to telling you about it will help a great deal. (I may actually use the journal during, so I remember to tell you the funny parts later. We'll see.)

And I really do like several of the committee members, which does help.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 02:11:04](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I bet they like you, too. I know I do.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 02:12:47](#)


Re: Private message to Raz

I suspect not entirely in the same way, though.

(I like you too. And if I didn't have to go teach

shortly, I'd show you. Tomorrow, between dinner and observing?)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-14 02:16:27](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I think - nay, know! - that I should be able to quill you in.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 02:18:23](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Excellent. I shall count the seconds.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-13 23:38:34](#)

Private message to Poppy

I do have a couple of small things about the orienteering to ask you about, but really, they're trivial - there's brooms and some scrambling in the rocks down the cliff, but nothing that's a particularly dangerous risk beyond that. (And we've got some precautions in both cases.)

What I really want to ask you about is the new representative for the YPL committee from St. Mungo's. Healer Deverill, you may remember, I quite liked, and I'm not sure why he's been replaced. (Of course, I get very little say in that sort of thing.)

The new one is apparently a Healer Stint - I don't have his first name yet. Do you know anything of him?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-13 23:55:45](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Ah. I missed this before.

Possibly it was a reflexive avoidance, since you've mentioned one of my least favourite people.

Facinorous Stint.

Awf

I should say straight off that I'm biased. I fear he's one of those who'd like to see me sacked, and the dislike is mutual.

Deverill was replaced, though? It wasn't simply that his term ended?

If that's the case, I've a suspicion Stint has politicked to get himself appointed to your committee. Who makes those appointments?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 00:02:34](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Facinorous? Who on earth names a child that?

That said, I'm glad to go in forwarned: I had a suspicion some sort of politics was involved, and it's so much easier to deal with it when I know it's coming. (We had one of those last year: did I ever tell you about that?)


In terms of the committee - other than me (and I had to go through that massive vetting process with all sorts of people), and other than the clerk from the Wizarding Examinations Authority who assists with the paperwork, basically, the departments appoint whoever they see fit.

When we started, it was, I think, not seen as a particularly interesting or prestigious post (and it can be quite a lot of work, though Ministry members get a stipend for time outside their normal work hours, and so forth).

But I've been wondering - after last year, and particularly now - if it isn't starting to attract the interest of those who are seeking status, rather than those who at least somewhat want to be of service. I had a couple of other owl inquiries over the summer about how to become a member, though they thankfully disappeared when I mentioned that it was done by department.

We've a core group, you know, and then usually one or two consulting people year to year - it was the theatre group last year, the artist this year, and we've also got someone from International Magical Cooperation, I believe.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-14 00:10:32](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Healer Stint's parents have a good deal more to answer for than merely his naming.

It is certainly true that Stint has a good deal of pull within St Mungo's. I doubt you'd know many of the personalities involved, so I shan't bother you with the details unless you believe it would help you to know.

And I don't believe you did tell me about politicking behind your committee last year. Do share!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 00:19:44](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

I'm torn between asking you now, so I'm prepared, and waiting, so I can give my own unvarnished opinions after the meeting, and compare notes. But I am forewarned to be careful, which is a great plus.

(And warn my clerk, which has come in handy, as you'll see. Do you remember Felix Green? Younger Hufflepuff, was a firstie in my last year, and a seventh year the first year I taught? Halfblood, so as thorough as he is, he doesn't have much hope for advancement, but I couldn't make everything work without him.)

Last year's challenge - and probably this year's, too - is a rather persistent fellow named Edgar Gimlet. He took over Magical Transportation from the previous woman (who I'd liked), and I think for similar political reasons. He's asked me out after meetings several times, but there's something about him that's entirely distasteful. Perhaps the fact he's so clearly disinterested in me, and very interested in who I know, and could introduce him to.

Felix has been quite creative in inventing interruptions, for which I'm very grateful, but it's made meetings more tedious than I would like.

Gimlet's also one of those people who thinks he knows

everything about everyone else's job, and is often dead wrong - but convincing him of that takes an age. Which of course, doesn't endear him to me either.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-14 00:27:45](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Oh, dear. Those are such terribly awkward situations when they arise. You are fortunate that young Mr Green is adept at his job and sensible about yours.

I do remember him, though I didn't know him especially well.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 00:33:53](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Young Mr Green is quite excellent at his job, and I make a point of writing a letter for his file after every meeting saying so.

But yes. Quite awkward. Fortunately, it's not all dire - I quite like a couple of the women on the committee, and between us, we can more or less force things the directions we want to go. Or we could last year, and I hope that's still true.

You might actually have advice on that one, actually. One of the problems I'm clearly hitting (and my age certainly doesn't help) is that I think they assume that I'll do what they want.

Obviously, I don't, and I back it up with documentation and our charter and all of that. (And the fact Auror Lestrage was the one who nominated me for the position and supported my appointment has been useful a few more times than I like to think about.)

But if you had any other tips for convincing men who think they know everything that you are not in fact a doormat, I would love to hear them.

(Someone did send me a copy of that *The Rules of Play: The Successful Witch in Boardroom and Bed*, but it's really only good for making me howl with laughter after I get home from the meetings.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-14 02:19:46](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

The Rules of Play. Really?

Sorry to have disappeared from the conversation so abruptly. Something disagreed with rather a number of tummies tonight. I trust it came from the kitchens and is not something we'll all be passing around for several weeks.

Also. Did you realise there's a game they're playing this year with Bertie Botts beans? I think it's the sort of thing older adolescents play with intoxicants, something to do with having to repeat tongue twisting rhymes without error, where the penalty for failure is eating great handfuls of the things. I've just had a third case of a child presenting with simply horrifying ulcers in her mouth from indulging in this way.

I'm not sure I've any very good advice to offer for ways of managing men in professional situations, except to be confident (project it whether it's truly felt or not), to remain unflappable, and to be absolutely in top form at every moment. Without, of course, ever appearing to upstage any of them.

It's a bit like tightrope walking in a high wind, I imagine.

I do value the fact that in my daily work I don't have to spend much time in the company of such creatures.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 02:27:37](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Distressing book, isn't it? (Though, as I said, deeply funny afterwards.)


No worries - I always assume something else might require your attention (which is why I ask you things well in advance.)

And I am somehow failing to be surprised that students have found yet new and exciting ways to use ordinary items to cause difficulties. Though I admit, that's a new one on me.

On the rest - well, that is one of the reasons I love working here. The astronomy research I did before I started teaching had some of the same problems (fewer women go into astronomy as seriously, for reasons I've never understood.)

I did have an interesting chat with Raz, who reminded me that Healer Stint was one of the ones overseeing his care last summer. So, at least I won't be pressed for an introduction to Raz, which is a small virtue.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-14 02:59:38](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy

It's quite true that Stint came in to consult when Rabastan was injured. One cannot say that he does not know his craft. He's earned quite a strong reputation, treating curse damage. In fact, I've heard that the Ouroboros Club have a special arrangement whereby it's Stint they call first whenever there's an injury on their sparring courses. He can boast that he's treated many of the most highly placed people in the Protectorate.

And he does.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-14 03:05:23](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy

Hmm. That does give me quite an idea of his personality, at least. And his competence.

Ah, well, I suppose it's better this year than last: this summer made me a little less nervous around that level of social status, too. (Not that I'm not still nervous, mind you: just a little less terrified of immediately putting a foot wrong.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-14 03:11:58](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Though I realise it does little good to say, I will say it nonetheless: you are going to handle this meeting successfully. You'll manage all the personalities with a firm hand and a pleasant demeanor. You have the gifts for this; I've seen them.

Truly.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 03:14:16](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Thank you: that does help.

And you know me, I do fret beforehand, and then it's fine. Though I wonder if the fretting (and the preparing) are part of why.

I should have a few more society and gossip magazines by Monday that I'm done with, if you could use more reading material for your patients, too. Me, I would like to get back to my other reading, but knowing the gossip has turned out to be useful in these meetings so often it'd be foolish to stop.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-14 03:21:30](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

I can scarcely imagine you reading those things, but I'm sure you're quite right about the usefulness of the strategy.

And they will be appreciated here when you are done with them. The copies here at present are looking a bit sad.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 03:24:26](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Really, they are. They've saved me putting my foot in my mouth dozens of times already. Or running out of interesting social conversation.

I've got a lovely new history book, and there's that fiction one, *Charmless* that looks like a romp.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-13 23:41:42](#)

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

We could do both, if you like. I could plan tea for either afternoon, though you know that occasionally emergencies arise that overturn such engagements. I would like very much to see you, though, if you've the

time.

As for consulting, let's take care of that here so it's not left up to chance.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-13 23:44:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Tomorrow, please, then. It seems like it's been ages since we've had a chance to sit down, and I always enjoy it.

But yes, the consulting here would be tidy (I've asked, in fact, already above.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-14 01:36:11](#)

Private message to Ron Weasley and Katrina Bundy

Mr Weasley and Miss Bundy -

Again, thanks for an excellent suggestion and the work you put into your proposal. For various reasons, we've had to adapt several of your ideas, but it saved the YPL committee a great deal of effort to have a starting place.

I wanted to thank you in public - but I'd also like to extend a private thank you. For any one Astronomy assignment this year, you may have a two week extension, on request (at any point before it's due) without penalty to your grade. Since you helped me manage my time and get everything done that needed doing, I thought it would be fair to help you do the same.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-10-14 02:26:13**

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Katrina Bundy

Oh, wicked!

Thank you, Professor!



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-10-14 03:53:46**

(no subject)

It sounds brilliant, Professor! And it will be a lovely way to introduce the visiting students to Hogwarts.

But - you did say that the CCF are being asked to help set up? That means we shan't be able to actually go on the scavenger hunt, right?

Only I think some people may not realise that they won't be eligible for any prizes if they're part of the crew, is all.



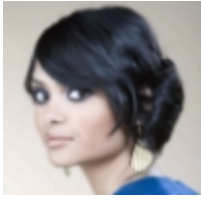
 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-14 03:58:30**


(no subject)

That is one of the regrettable costs of helping make things happen, Miss Patil.

Don't worry, though - we will do our best to make things fun for our CCF students as well, have a token of appreciation. (We're also not talking about anything substantial, of course, for prizes - just little treats to encourage everyone to do their best.)

Honestly, having seen the plan, I'm envious I don't get to try and work it all out as well. I think everyone will be challenged, but have a good time sorting through all the puzzles.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-14 04:00:59**
(no subject)

Oh, I'm not complaining, Professor! Truly. I'll admit that my first thought was who to team up with, but that wasn't why I asked. I heard one of the other CCF students talking and thought we'd better make sure we understood it right.

I'm sure it'll be just as much fun helping to set the puzzles as watching who's able to figure them out fastest.




 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-14 13:43:53**
(no subject)

I think you'll also have some fun figuring out ways to set them up - and honestly, some of that will be as challenging as solving them. And it can be quite intriguing to watch how different people try to solve the same challenge - that's part of why we've left method relatively open-ended.

Also, did you get the note I sent this morning about the plans for the morning? It will be a smaller group, not the entire CCF class.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-14 15:30:03**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, I did get the note, thank you! Su Li and I are really looking forward to it! Thank you, Professor, ever so much.

2011-10-13 23:25:00

Order Only: A day at Moddey Dhoo



 [alt_molly](#)

I arrived very early this morning, and Alice introduced me shortly after breakfast to the new children. Of course, the old timers swarmed around me as eagerly as ever, and that helped the new ones to warm up to me a bit. The ostensible purpose was to hand out new winter quilts, but my real purpose was to do a little quiet motherly assessment of the new arrivals, and in particular to spend the day mostly with Nicholas and Zachary. The photo album I brought along of Fred and George was a tremendous icebreaker (Judith said that the time they spent paging through it together was the first time she has ever heard them laugh), and they lost their shyness as they peppered me with eager questions about my boys. I think as the mother of twin boys I was quite an object of fascination for them. I have a hunch they do remember their own mother, but the subject is a painful one, and I did not press.

Alice, I think your initial impression is correct: they should NOT be forceably split up. It would make them too anxious, which I think should be avoided for now. It's a matter of trust: they've had their wills forced so badly that I think part of their healing will be learning that they can do what they like. Yet, I think much can be done to help them learn to tolerate developing some of their own individuality. They were mindlessly coerced into that mirror-type movement, and so it will be difficult to unlearn, but I have some ideas on that.

Since they don't like to be apart, I would suggest pairing them on chore duties, as you've been doing, but to try to find ways to put them to work so that their actions can't mimic one another. One thought that I had was that they could join the children who do shore scavaging, if you can persuade one of them to stay in the water, perhaps checking the lobster traps, while the other roams along the shore, looking for mussels. Since one would be in the water and one is on land, it would be more difficult for them to exactly mirror each other's movements. Or put them to work in the garden or greenhouse, but doing different tasks that require different movements: one can weed while the other waters or repots seedlings. Or have one feed the chickens while the other milks the goats. This would work best if you find a task that genuinely interests them, so they are concentrating on the tasks rather than each other. It would be helpful, if you can do it without being obvious about it, to position them so their backs are to one another, perhaps by engaging one or both of them in

conversation.

Another thought is that you can have one of them work at learning how to repair the nets on shore as you take the other one out in the little boat with Frank and Danny. Just tell them casually that there is only room for one of them in the boat. Don't go out too far, and allow the other twin to stay within sight. Keep very close to shore at first, and only increase the distance very gradually, and ONLY if you can see they are both comfortable.

It's actually useful that their names are so different. I know that (now that they've dropped 'Dexter' and 'Sinister,' ugh) they like 'Nick' and 'Zack'--it sounds more 'twinnish,' but you might alternate that with calling them 'Nicholas' and 'Zachary,' which are more individually distinctive. Do try to encourage everybody (out of their earshot) to use their names, rather than lumping them together descriptively as 'the twins.'


I forgot to mention, Lisa Turpin crept forward and looked over their shoulders at the pictures when I mentioned that Ron was fourteen. I told her that Ron would have been in her year at Hogwarts and she might have been in the same House with him. She was rather dumbfounded at the idea, but then said quite firmly that she was happy where she was. A good sign, I think.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-14 16:34:27](#)
(no subject)

Nick and Zack, huh? So Arthur found out a little something about them? Or did they admit they have real names?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-10-14 17:02:50](#)
(no subject)

A font of wonderful advice, as always, Molly darling. Everyone loves it when you come -- Rebecca Kint (the one with blonde curls) calls you "Molly-lady," and every time you visit, she talks of you for days and days

after.

And that does sound like it would be just the thing -- to get them working together without doing the same exact thing -- and it has been such a relief to call them by their given names, too. I think

that'll make a good deal of differences as well; Dexter and Sinister have to do everything together. Nicholas and Zachary don't have to follow the same rules.

It's good to hear that Lisa said something to you -- she's such a quiet thing, it's hard to tell how she's settling in here, but I'm glad she told you she's happy.

2011-10-14 09:05:00

Private message to Lana Sandoval

- Lana, how are you? It has been a memorable week.




 [alt_rodolphus](#)

The delight of having Barty back, after committing ourselves to the full devastation of his death, is rather a shock to the system. One can hardly tell head from feet in such turmoil.

I hope that you are sufficiently recovered, and not suffering any lingering distress. Or doubt.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-10-14 15:37:10**
(no subject)


Oh-



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-14 15:43:00**
(no subject)

That doesn't look like recovery.

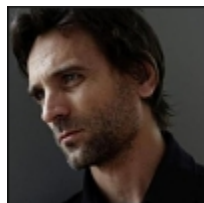


 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-10-14 16:03:49**
(no subject)

Sorry.

I don't know why I

I'm so glad you wrote.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-14 16:06:17**
(no subject)

Yes, you often cross my mind.

How goes your training?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-14 16:15:31](#)
(no subject)

I'm fine really.

You're right, though, there's been so much upheaval--well, everywhere but in Mustinal's offices.

I've been thinking, too--about too much, really--but I've been trying to settle and concentrate on something productive.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-14 16:19:55](#)
(no subject)

Mustinal, the island unto himself.

I've been doing much the same. Making my trinkets; studying others.

What have you settled on?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-14 16:23:03](#)
(no subject)

I've been writing up my notes about one of your pieces: the wrought gem from that breastplate (cat#84-746).

I thought there might be something publishable about the spellcraft that made it a passable hex deflector. It would make an excellent NEWT-level project if it were to come out in one of the Charms journals. I remember poring over those for anything practical we could work up to impress Acton.

Would you mind if I wrote it? You'd have lead authorship, of course.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-14 16:49:08](#)
(no subject)

Quite the initiative. Of course I wouldn't mind. If you have anything drafted yet, I'd be interesting to read it.

I'm free over lunch.

Though if you prefer to send it by owl, I would understand.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-14 16:52:24](#)
(no subject)

Oh!

I've got a solid draft now. And I was really hoping you'd agree to have a look.

Should I come there or-


Tell me and I'll meet you.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-14 16:58:05](#)
(no subject)

I'll be at L'Estrange Hill this afternoon. I'd like to see you your paper, so please, meet me there in an hour, if it suits your schedule.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-14 17:06:31](#)
(no subject)

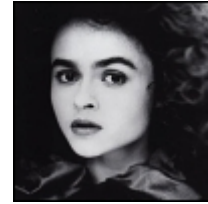
Oh, yes.

I'll be there.

2011-10-14 10:13:00

XXIV

As harvest grows nearer, it seems an appropriate time to look forward - in gratitude - to the coming bounty.



 **alt_bellatrix**

Our fields have had time ripen and flower in the sun. In His light, our pastures grow greener and more verdant still. Meanwhile, the world peaks in through the gates, eyes wide to all our marvels. Soon, we shall invite them to cut a waltz in the meadows, to drink from the pure fountains of our visionary cities, and to feel, if only for a moment, that golden touch of light.

Please, join me and grasp their hands in welcome.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-10-14 16:47:14**

Order Only

Well, that sounds like code if there ever was one. That or Bella's suddenly been possessed by the soul of a poet.

Nah, probably code.

What do you lot think? Something to do with the schools' delegations arriving?

Though it's well hilarious to think of Bella waltzing through the wheatfields. That'll give me a grin all day, that will.



 **alt_alice** at **2011-10-14 17:24:00**

Re: Order Only

My first thought is she's gloating over springing some sort of trap.

She gives me the shudders.

Especially when she's cheerful.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 16:52:23](#)

Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Hydra,

In August I noted that you spoke with your cousin Nymphadora through the journals, about both your brother and your horse. Do you admit to this?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-14 17:07:51](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Yes, but I didn't write very much. She wanted to know about my horse and I never even answered, so I'm sure that she thinks I'm rude now. That's probably for the best.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:15:46](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Do not assume it is for the best. She's the daughter of a blood traitor and a mudblood, but neutral relations are ideal, at least until one gets a sense of where the smoke drifts.

And she's a relation, as well. Some Black blood to boast of, even if it's been tainted beyond measure. I would like you to strike up a correspondence with her. Tell her about your horse and all those other fuzzy things that you keep.

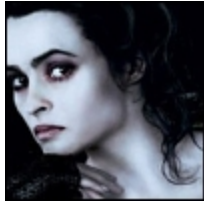


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-14 17:17:00](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

But why?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:20:43](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Because Mummy did the courtesy of asking you, first.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-14 17:23:26](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

I see. I'll do it, then.

But, I don't have a lot of fuzzy things, just a horse and a rabbit.

Is there anything else I'm to talk with her about?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:26:17](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Just talk to her about all those light, childish things you like to talk about. With your Auntie Narcissa and your Father and such. I'm sure she'll enjoy that a great deal, and you'll be doing Mummy proud in the process.

And then everyone is happy.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-14 17:31:14](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

All right, Mummy. I'll try.

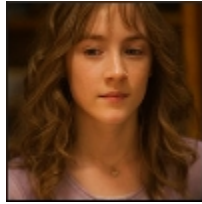
From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:32:05](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Don't say *try*. You know how I detest that.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-14 17:33:02](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

I know Of course. I'll do just what you ask.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:02:50](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

It's so diverting to make them wonder where and what the glow comes from.

How is Cissy? Still gloating?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-14 17:32:21](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Indeed. Not just them. Breakthrough in your work down on level 13?

Narcissa is well. She's currently playing agony aunt to your subordinate. Apart from the occasional glint in her eye, believe her gloating has passed. Discovering that the 'Barty' Dominic saw murdered was really Norah sobered her considerably.

Expect she is still brooding over her quarrel with Draco as well. Have told her not to fret over it; he's moved on to the prospect of French girls by now.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 17:38:18](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Wouldn't call it a breakthrough, but we've at least got momentum again. A little creative thinking was in order.

I've gathered that Draco attempted to throw a bucket of cold water on her, as it were, and that it was not quite appreciated. There's something admirable in such a direct approach, even if Cissy is not the one to welcome it.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-14 17:50:06](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Indeed, well, should be interested to hear what you and Braithwaite learn on that front. Due for a visit down to DoM myself, at some point soon, to see what Augustus has been up to. Should like to find the time for more basic theoretical research of my own, but - as you know, we all have our specific tasks and duties where we may best serve Him.

Regarding my son's actions: Yes, that's my understanding as well. Suspect he saw me stymied by her obdurate attitude and decided he had to take action. Suppose it did not occur to him that the direct approach had been tested already - and failed.

Still, yes, it was gallant of him to try. Flatter myself that generally, the lad has a good head on his shoulders.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 18:11:14](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Indeed.

Draco represents you well. Perhaps he got carried away in his words to Barty's corpse, but I trust that Barty suffered no lasting sting.

Haven't seen Maule in some days, but that's to be expected down in level 13.



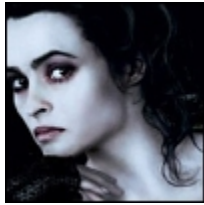
 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-10-14 18:38:48](#)


Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Not surprised if he was churlish to Barty, even if only posthumously; he has been jealous of Narcissa's attentions to our friend for some time. Over a year, in fact. Cannot fault him for feeling possessive of his mother's affections, though he could have shown more restraint. Confident Barty can also forgive the temporary breach of protocol.

You mean you've not seen Maule in Court? That is welcome news, presuming you have been often enough to gain a true sense of his imposition on dealings there.

Had not realised how swiftly he had moved following the Cup.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 19:05:50](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Yesterday I did not see him, but I've not yet been to Court today.

Maule's manoeuvres never escaped notice; it was but a matter of discerning who they were directed at.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-14 18:17:55](#)

Private message to Braithewaite and Hopkirk

Variable 4, Step 1: executed.

2011-10-14 16:34:00

Private Message to Barty and Lucius

Well, that's done. I know it was a chore, Barty dear, but I do hope you feel more settled about things now. I hate to think of her bearing your form forever, though. It's as well you chose to cremate.




 [alt_narcissa](#)

Do either of you know who that wizard was, standing in the back of the queue to view the plaque? He didn't look like anyone we would know - and I don't think he was from MLE, was he, dears?

Barty, your father saw him too, did you notice? I wonder if we ought to tell Mordant in case it's yet another someone sniffing about looking for mischief.

I've just realised: Did either of you think to tell Nymphadora?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-10-14 22:49:50**
(no subject)

Glad to have it done, yes.

It was Bale. Department of Mysteries. He'd had lots of questions about the polyjuice. Part of his research area: identity and its distortions or some such. Don't see why he felt the need to turn up at the ashing. Waste of effort if he meant it to be ingratiating. Can't imagine what he'd want from me, in any case.

Did I think to tell Nymphadora? About the ceremony? She'd no business there. If you mean about mother's dying, she'll have read the papers and drawn her own conclusions.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-10-15 13:26:07**
(no subject)

Was not aware Bale and your father were at all acquainted.

Afraid Narcissa was serious about inviting you to that country faire. We depart after morning tea. Could put in an hour's time at the camp but two villages over if sport is more to your liking

at this time. Have received invitation from the Chief Enforcer for the place, 'since we hear you shall be in the vicinity.' Might do to work off some frustration with whatever this last week's escapade disrupted?

Well. Join us if you are inclined. Or see if Razzler will come down for the night. Surely he's relieved that he's no longer the only bachelor remaining in the country.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-15 13:42:43](#)

(no subject)

Would be surprised if father did know Bale at all. I took it that he felt some obligation after I gave him access to the corpse. Ridiculous impulse, but then he's an odd fish. Can't say I know him well, either.

Would be happy to lend a wand in the camps today. Thanks. Even at the price of viewing prize peonies.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-14 22:55:05](#)

Private Message to Narcissa

I'm sorry. I know you don't relish these things, either. And you've had too many of them. Far too many.

I'm going for a run. Need to shake this off so I can get something done this weekend.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-15 03:48:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

No, it's perfectly understandable, darling. I know you've been under a strain of your own recently.

And losing one's mother is still losing one's mother, no matter what the circumstances.

Unfortunately, I've very little in the way of solace to offer, at present. Unless you'd care to accompany us to the Ilmington Harvest Faire? I'm told that the Fox & Goose has a prize-winning small beer and that the village competition for best peony is not to be missed.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-15 13:35:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Harvest fair? You can't complain your calendar has no variety, at least.

Thank you for the invitation. I confess that even peonies would be an improvement over pacing the corridors at Marlborough.

2011-10-14 16:43:00


Serious Thinking

Since the new crop of firsties came in, I have been doing some serious thinking. It has prompted me to research my pure blooded family. I do have some minor information about them from when I checked the old school rosters a couple of years ago when I first arrived. But my concern now is to try to get to know what kind of people they are, and to see if they will overlook my father's major flaws enough to talk to me.




 [alt_dean](#)



 [alt_penelope](#) at **2011-10-15 05:16:26**
(no subject)

Good on you, Thomas. Have you talked to the other Thomas at all? I've seen him in the Ravenclaw common room; he's quite approachable.



 [alt_dean](#) at **2011-10-15 05:49:52**
(no subject)

No, not yet. I thought I would try to research whatever public information there is about the Thomas family. As far as I have learned, my grandparents are still living. And I have a few cousins, based on birth announcements. I have been slowly working my nerve up to approach the other Thomas. I'm not sure what they know about me, and I am not confident about how I will be received.

2011-10-14 20:51:00

Last Minute Photo Shoot Call

I know some of you saw me leave earlier after classes today. I received an owl shortly after lunch saying that *Purest Sparkle* needed me quickly for their Halloween Issue. This is a huge opportunity. Also the Christmas shoot will take place the first weekend in November.



 [alt_ginny](#)

There was an issue with the original witch scheduled for the shoot. This should be fun.

Mum, Dad. Don't worry. I am being well cared for. All my work is done, and that which is due on past Monday, I had time to work on it for a bit after supper. I shall be back at Hogwarts around lunch time on Sunday.



 [alt_daphne](#) at **2011-10-15 06:17:26**

(no subject)

It must be terribly exciting, being whisked off to New London for photoshoots and things. I remember when I used to see Leticia Calderwood leaving on weekends for her assignments, and then sometimes when she returned she would be showing off some amazing new dress robes or necklace to her friends, because a lot of times they would let her keep whatever it was she modeled. Maybe they'll let you keep some of the things you model, too.

Only I hope your schedule doesn't mean that you'll miss some of the really outstanding events that will no doubt take place once the Tri-Wizard Tournament starts. That would be a shame.

[2011-10-15 10:24:00](#)

Private message to Nymphadora Tonks

Hello,

You haven't written about your baby in a while, and I was wondering if she's doing well. Is she still keeping you awake at 3 in the morning?



 **[alt_hydra](#)**

Also you asked about my horse's name and I never said, but it's Lady Primrose. Only I just call her Rose.

I'm sorry about what happened to your Foster Mother, Mrs Crouch.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-15 19:44:52](#)**
(no subject)

Hello to you, too.

I suppose I haven't written anything in a bit, have I? Ought to do something about that, then. It gets busy with a baby. More than I ever thought before we had her.

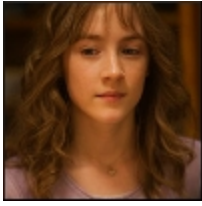
Bea's four and a half months old, and she is still waking us in the night, only now she doesn't just wake us to say she's hungry, but because she's teething and I think it wakes her up hurting.


Tell me more about Rose. What sort of horse is she? Do you miss her when you're at school?

How is this term coming along?

And thank you. I wasn't very close to Mrs Crouch, but I'm sorry about it, too.

Nice to hear from you, by the way. Cheers.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-15 20:06:01](#)
(no subject)

Does your husband take care of the baby too, or does he work all day? When Rigel was teething he put everything in his mouth, including people's hair and fingers. It was very messy.

Rose is part Westphalian warmblood and part Saxony Maerh. She chestnut, which basically means she's a brown colour.

I might miss her if I got to see her every day when I wasn't in school, or if she was boarded at St. James Palace. But she isn't so I only see her once a week, maybe, at most.

I don't feel that I know her very well yet, actually.

This term is going well. There aren't any dementors, or other unpleasant things, so that makes it better. And the guests from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang are arriving very soon, so everyone is excited.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-15 20:39:28](#)
(no subject)

Junius does a lot with the baby, though he only feeds her when I go off to work. (I'm back to work at the Ministry, keeping the building.) Feeding her is really something that's easiest if I do it. Making up bottles for her is a bit of a fuss. Anywiz, he holds her and makes faces at her. He totes her about when she's awake and wants to be moving. And he watches her when we put her down to play on a mat or in her pen. We share doing all that.

So Rose is a magical horse, then? What can she do that normal horses don't?

As for school, to say a term is going well because there aren't dementors seems like putting a really low bar for calling it good! Are you studying anything you enjoy? What are you best at?

And you've got guests coming from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang-- I guess I did read about there being a tournament, but I'd forgotten it. How many are coming, then?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-15 23:01:19](#)
(no subject)

That sounds like an awful lot of work. My parents would bring Rigel out and do those things when we had company, or when they felt like seeing him for an hour or two, but otherwise it's Mrs Baylock's job. I suppose it was the same when I was a baby, only the woman who took care of me was named Mrs Padgitt.

Rose is part magical, yes. She can't fly or anything, but I've read that Saxony Maerhs are good for taking into duels, and they're not afraid of hexes firing close by, whereas a regular horse might spook.

There aren't any dementors, and the nastiest Professor is gone, so it makes a bigger difference than one might think. Having new classes is difficult, though. I like runes a lot, and dark arts is easy. Arithmancy makes my head swim. What was your best subject at school?

I don't know the numbers exactly, but it seems like it's going to be loads of them. I think 25 from each school, so that will be 50 total, plus some of their professors.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-15 23:03:25](#)
(no subject)

I suppose my best was Defence. I was good at Charms and Dark Arts, too. The one I liked best, though, was Creatures.

That's why I'm interested in your Rose, I guess. I'd have loved to have had a horse. Now I wouldn't have any place to keep one, though. And Bea takes more time than six horses!



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-10-16 02:05:03**
(no subject)

Oh, I wanted to take Creatures, but there wasn't room for it in my schedule.

Do you have any other animals? You could get something small and easy to care for, and it probably wouldn't take up too much time or be that much work.

Oh! I just realised that I called you Nymphadora Tonks instead of Ponds. I'm sorry, I wasn't thinking.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_nymphadora](#) at 2011-10-16 02:34:53**
(no subject)

Well, we live in a part of New London that has loads of strays. Mostly cats, but some dogs.

And you know, we run a shop and a cafe--did you know that? Anywiz, we sometimes feed them because we rather like having the company. Bea will like having animals, too, I'm sure. When she's old enough to know.

No worries. It's funny. I hadn't really noticed. When I was at school people called me Tonks all the time, of course. But Junius calls me Dora, so our customers do, too. And other people we know. It's funny sometimes how people decide what to call us.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-10-16 02:39:44**
(no subject)

I've never seen strays where I live in New London. Ducks and geese, but I don't think those count.

I don't think I knew that, no, but it sounds fun. What kind of food do you serve? Do you have anything without meat?

You can't really shorted Hydra to anything, so I'm Hydra no matter what. Dora sounds nice though.

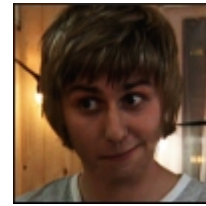
From,
Hydra

[2011-10-15 12:21:00](#)

Demain!

Hello, everyone!

I can't believe we're coming to Hogwarts tomorrow! We've been all a-bustle here, I can tell you, what. Packing and saying good-byes and so on.



 **[alt_justin](#)**

It's well exciting, rather!

We've got the most impressive transport I've ever seen, as well. Only we're supposed to leave it a surprise for all of you.

I suppose everyone's quite relieved that there've been several arrests this month. P Froissart told all of us who are coming last night that he had a meeting with our Minister and some people at your Ministry and he wanted everyone to know especially that Hogwarts is about as protected as one can get, plus there'll be a few people round about all year. I've heard a couple older students saying that they weren't sure it was all that wonderful, getting to come, when that Dogstar group and some of the others have been making things so difficult. But it sounds as if your Ministry has things well in hand. And they didn't really kill Auror Crouch. I say, it seems awfully clever to have sent one of their own back to them looking like him, so the traitor would be killed in his place, what?

At any rate, I've still some packing to do and - can you believe this? - they're making us turn in all sorts of assignments before we leave, so I ought to finish up a few essays this afternoon. And then JP and I felt like taking a ramble about the bally old place, but I shall keep my book with me, just in case!

I say, I'm not sure I shall sleep tonight, what!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-15 16:52:55](#)**

(no subject)

All right, mate. Too bad about having to do a load of assignments before you set off, but I know there's going to be a good bit of fun once you've arrived.

Also too bad you won't be housed in Slytherin. A whole lot of us have

pitched in and made the common room brilliant. There's a gaming area, a music alcove, a reading nook, and all other manner of comforts.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-16 04:30:23](#)

(no subject)

Hallo, Draco.

Do you ever invite others into your common room, then? Well, perhaps it shan't matter if what your Professor says is true and there will be other places we can all use together, what?

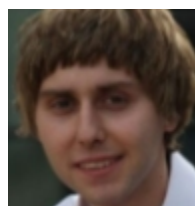


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-16 04:33:53](#)

(no subject)

The castle's enormous, so there's plenty of places to meet outside the common rooms.

But we do invite people to the Slytherin common room on occasion, for parties or other events. There's sure to be at least a few of those this year.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-16 04:36:50](#)

(no subject)

Brilliant.

Well. I'm sure I ought to be sleeping but I'm just too excited. I'll sleep in the carriage. Only each time I think I'll be able to sleep I think of something else to put in my trunk, or to check and make sure I've packed it, heh.

Oh, bother.

Ignore that I said that, would you, mate? The bit about the carriage, that is, what?




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-15 18:21:18](#)
(no subject)

Hogwarts is abuzz looking to welcome our guests, as well!


Related to Mr Malfoy's comments: we are considering some ways to create some more comfortable spaces for visiting, since obviously students from all houses are looking forward to getting to know our guests. We'll obviously want to consult with your own professors, so it may take a week or two to set up.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-16 04:32:45](#)
(no subject)

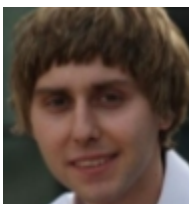
Thank you very much, Professor. I'm sure we all appreciate everything being done to make us welcome. Professor Froissart says that we'll have access to our transport, too, which should be quite comfortable, so if it takes a short while I'm sure we'll be well taken care of, rather.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-15 19:47:41](#)
(no subject)

Safe travels.

It's well exciting that you'll all be here tomorrow!




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-16 04:38:48](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Ron!

Yes, it's hard to believe it's already here, what? I'm well looking forward to it. See you in a few hours,

what!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-16 02:55:12](#)
(no subject)


Demain is "tomorrow," right?

The book is helping, but I've been working on speaking more than writing, since I'm assuming that being able to speak the language will be more useful than being able to write it.

You don't think all your classmates will get journals too, do you?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-16 04:34:31](#)
(no subject)


Hullo, Hydra.

Yes, '*Demain*' means tomorrow. I'm not sure about whether you'll need to write anything, what? No one's mentioned journals to us, at least not as a regular part of our visit. I expect we'll find out if it happens, what?

(I told you I didn't think I'd be able to sleep!)

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-16 04:40:53](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I expect that we will.

I'm still reading for Arithmancy, but I think it's earlier here than it is in France, isn't it? I have a feeling that there won't be much time for homework tomorrow, though. There's already an awful lot of things planned.

From,
Hydra

2011-10-15 17:38:00

Private Message to Athena Belby

Athena.

This is awkward, I know. But would you be free for a drink or supper? Anywhere you'd prefer, really. Tonight if possible.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2011-10-15 21:36:00

(no subject)

Ilmington turns out to be quite a charming corner of the Cotswolds. Barty, it's too bad you decided not to return after you and Lucius jaunted off to inspect the camp; later in the afternoon we wandered down to the Guildhall in Warwick and found quite an excellent museum of Renaissance sculpture. And we discovered that there's a lovely restaurant just south of Warwick Castle: *Vinefera*. I could have sworn we knew all the quality establishments for three counties but we were quite pleasantly surprised.



 **alt_narcissa**

Congratulations again to Ilmington's gardeners, farmers and industrialists. It's clear that Warwickshire has its priorities straight with regard to bringing wealth and plenty to the Protectorate. It was a pleasant diversion and a lovely day. And Mr Malfoy and I also wish to publicly thank Mr and Mrs Sewell, who were so kind as to play host and hostess in Mr Sewell's capacity as the Head Administrator of the Hatten camp. I understand the inspection of Hatten that Mr Malfoy and Auror Crouch conducted was highly successful.

Amanda, you'll be going up to Hogwarts tomorrow to meet Étienne, I assume? Lucius was trying to decide if he'd accompany Minister Fudge or not. I suppose it depends on whether we get back from the Symmons' reception at a reasonable hour. The delegations are due in at 6:00, isn't that right? Perhaps he'll see you there. If not, surely we could come and get supper in Hogsmeade one evening. Or you could show us all the things you've discovered about Kelso - if there is anything there to be seen!



 **alt_draco at 2011-10-16 02:40:51**

(no subject)

Father might be at the school tomorrow?




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-16 02:45:49](#)
(no subject)

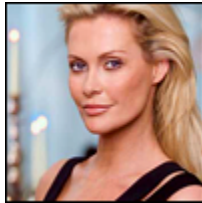
Yes.

Why, did you wish to see him, dear?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-16 02:51:25](#)
(no subject)

It's always a pleasure to see Father. I was just wondering if I ought to expect him, is all, or if he will be preoccupied with duties and such.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-16 03:04:01](#)
(no subject)

He'll undoubtedly be preoccupied but he is likewise always pleased to see you, as well, son.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-16 07:04:16](#)
(no subject)

As it happens, I'm sure I would have enjoyed the Renaissance sculpture more than I did my afternoon at home. However. There was work here, and you had plenty to do without dragging me around to greet all of Warwickshire.

And, yes, the camp inspection was entirely to our satisfaction. Sewell accommodated us in every way.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-16 13:03:12](#)
(no subject)

And your evening? Was that enjoyable as well?

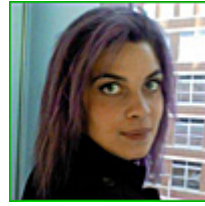


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-16 14:05:29](#)
(no subject)

...

2011-10-15 22:08:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black



Would you mind coming down for a bit?

There's a group in the corner over here that are up to something. I can't tell what, but Mary, who's the only one who's been here before, is usually easy to chat with and tonight she's brushed me off twice. And she was- well, not quite snappish, but firm about sending me packing just now when I went over to see if they'd like anything.

 **alt_nymphadora**

Come sniff them out, will you? I'm sure Bea will be fine.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-10-16 03:17:29**
(no subject)

Do you think they mean trouble, then?




 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-10-16 03:18:25**
(no subject)

Don't know, do I?

They just seem a faint bit dodgy.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-10-16 03:25:57**
(no subject)

Oh, all right, then. I'll come in a moment, soon as I get Bea a fresh sleeper and blanket.

By the way, what did Bella's spawn want?




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-16 03:27:56](#)
(no subject)

Is she awake? That's a nuisance. Her timing is not what it could be: we'll have to discuss that at her next performance evaluation.

Hydra? She just wanted someone to talk with. I think she's lonely at school.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-16 03:31:20](#)
(no subject)

I think she's coming down with something, actually. That or she gobbled too much last feeding. Sick *everywhere* but nothing a quick spell or two couldn't help. Still, her sleeper's all

wet now.

Hm. What was she asking about, then? 'Hydra,' Merlin, what a name. If you ask me, that group in the corner isn't the only dodgy thing going on.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-16 03:35:15](#)
(no subject)

Poor Boo. Do you need me to come?

She wanted to know about Bea, actually. I think she's curious about babies. I told her how much work they are.

Forgot to mention spit up and wetting everything.

When you say she's sick everywhere and wet... She's just wet?
Not the other?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-16 03:39:46](#)
(no subject)

Hm. Bet you didn't tell her you've got a dangerous fugitive for an au pair. That makes it less work, at least.

She's fine, Dora. The wet's from the sicking up, that's all. Could use Mum to settle down, though. I'll switch with you.

And just be careful what you say to Bella's little spy, yeah?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-16 03:42:04](#)
(no subject)

Look. Remus is on his way.

Then you can bring your bushy tail and your scruffy rump down here to listen to this group of shifty schemers.

Or whatever they are.

Hydra is not a spy. She's a little girl who likes horses and other animals.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-16 03:42:43](#)
(no subject)

I'm coming, I'm coming.

(Dunno about that. Remus'll probably sing to her again, or bounce her on her head and then she'll be up all night complaining.)

2011-10-16 20:38:00

Awesome Feast

Even better than the one at the start of term, yeah?

But what I want to know is were those some kind of magical prawns in that soup or what? I tell you, the ones in my bowl were doing flips and spinners in the broth. And they were sorta wiggly going down.



 [alt_ron](#)

Pretty nift to see so many people in the great hall all together. I mean, that was a serious lot of people. And loud! Sounds different to have people talking loads of different languages all at once.

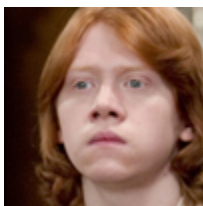
Anywiz, welcome to all the visitors, and, um, I guess we'll see tomorrow what it's like to have new people in lessons.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-17 02:11:13](#)
(no subject)

Are you sure someone didn't turn your bouillabaise into a prank? There were no swimming prawns in the bowl at Slytherin table, and it's just as well, I don't fancy the idea of wiggly food.

It was a wonderful feast, though.

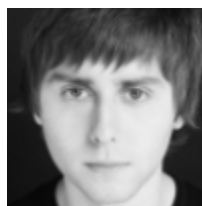



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-17 02:23:27](#)
(no subject)

Really?

Er. Are you sure?

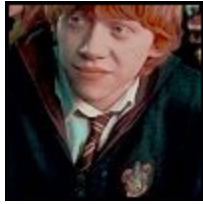
Bother.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-17 02:26:33](#)
(no subject)

Er, yes. Ours were certainly not swimming, either.

Sorry. Hope you feel better soon, mate!




 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-17 15:38:05](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm better today.

Had to visit Madam Pomfrey, though, last night.
She's the Matron, y'know.

So. What d'you think of lessons here so far?




 **alt_justin** at [2011-10-18 03:49:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I say, I'm glad you're on the mend, old chap.

Lessons? Well. I'll say this much. It's a good job my first magical tutor was English-born, as I've some experience in the way your professors teach it. Well, I should say a smidgen of it, rather, but at least I'm accustomed to thinking 'magic' and 'English' all at once, what? Otherwise it should be jolly difficult going.

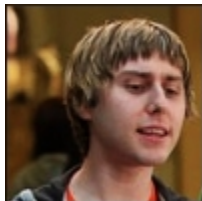
I say, I rather liked the Defence lesson, however. Your Professor Lestrangle is well skilled!




 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-18 04:00:14](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. He's nift, isn't he? We all call him Professor Raz, mostly. Did you notice?

He doesn't seem to mind.




 **alt_justin** at [2011-10-18 04:16:41](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I did rather and I've seen his friends call him Raz or Rizzer (Draco does as well but he's also Draco's uncle, isn't he?). I say, it's all rather cosy in the Protectorate, isn't it? It seems like almost everyone's related to someone ~~important~~ **impressive** in civil service, government or some such.

I just can't quite imagine calling one's Professor a nickname, what? I mean to say, even when one of my tutors encouraged it I found it--well awkward. It's odd he doesn't mind, isn't it, especially ~~when his sister-in~~ compared to our professors.



 **alt_ron** at **2011-10-18 04:37:12**
(no subject)

Well, Professor Raz is the only one we do that with. Can't imagine shortening anyone else's name. Yeah. It wouldn't go over well with any of the rest. Professor Acton, for instance. Or Professor Brutka even, and he's fairly easy going.

2011-10-17 09:01:00

It's well exciting

to have all the visitors here!

That Goblet is well amazing, isn't it? I know at least three people who got up extra early this morning to go down and put their names in before anyone saw them.



 [alt_padma](#)

Also, we've been getting to know the Beauxbatons students a bit. Everyone's talking about Delacour, she's the utterly gorgeous one (and don't pretend you haven't noticed, Smith!) and how everyone knew she'd be in from the first. Only then someone--sorry, I don't know everyone's name yet--but someone said she'd heard Delacour wasn't going to be allowed, on account of she's part-Veela and all. But anyway, I reckon she's one of Beauxbatons' Headmistress' favourite students so it was hard not to prove she had the proper qualifications.

Justin, it was great to finally meet you face-to-face last night. Your mate JP is well nice, too.

Malfoy, you were sitting next to Krum last night, weren't you? That was a huge surprise, when he walked off the ramp from the ship! Our whole Quidditch side are talking about it. Did anyone even know he was still at school? I dunno if we'd ever have a Quidditch star who's still at school here. It seems like it would be too distracting, doesn't it?

Anyway, after hearing them all talk about the Tournament, I guess there's less chance than ever that one of us 4th-years will make it (and with Krum, obviously, that's going to be hard to beat!) but I still think I'm going to put my name in. No harm, right?

I've been talking with some of the Ravenclaw Corner lot about possible charms to help set up that orienteering course this weekend. Not that I've decided what we'll do! (Since I think some of the older Ravenclaws are thinking of teaming up with older Beauxbatons students to help.) But it's given me some ideas. I suppose we'll learn more after Professor Sinistra gets back from her meeting.

Also, I reckon that some of us better sign up for setup shifts on Friday night, because Saturday morning we'll be busy. Su Li and I are working together, definitely, and--Moon, Finnigan, want to help on our

setup?

Oh, and Lav, still no news about you-know-what. I'll keep you posted!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-17 13:36:35](#)**

(no subject)

Putting their names in the Goblet in secret? Now what's that about, I wonder. Unless they don't want people to know so that they're not embarrassed when the cup doesn't pick them... But there's nothing to be embarrassed about, really. It's not as if the Goblet will spit out a list of rankings with someone's name at the bottom.

(Though that'd be interesting, actually. I'd like to see where I rank amongst all of those who put their name in, wouldn't you?)

You're right about Krum being a shoe-in, though. Not just because he's an athlete, either - from what I can tell he's plenty clever, too, though not at all a show off about it. He had some old Falcons merchandise that he wants Razzler to sign. That's quite something, eh? *Viktor Krum* asking for someone else's autograph.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-17 13:53:11](#)**

(no subject)

That's mad cool, Draco! As if Professor Raz wasn't enough of a hero!

Well, I think the people who wanted to put their names in secretly just didn't want anyone to take the mickey they did it at all. Which is sort of silly, but I suppose if people are shy it's not their fault.


I dunno if I'd want the whole school ranked, really. I mean, there's enough pressure to be in the top of the year as it is. Imagine what would happen if someone wanted to compare you to a 6th-year?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-17 13:58:46](#)
(no subject)

It's really more that I'm curious about how the Goblet itself works. How does it know who's the most appropriate champion? What's its criteria? I mean, I reckon the whole reason we use a Goblet and not a team of teachers or judges is because humans can't really be objective, no matter how they try. I guess that's what I'm interested in: an objective assessment.



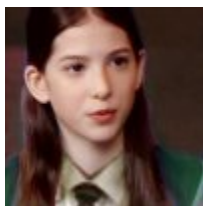
 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-17 15:10:55](#)
(no subject)

~~But what if that assessment's not~~

Yeah, some of us were looking up the history of the Goblet, back when Clearwater said it would do the choosing. We thought perhaps it's like the Sorting Hat.

Turns out it's well complicated, which isn't a surprise really, but there was more to it than we thought. There's all sorts of protections on it to keep it being tampered with, and the Goblet's decisions are considered final, as well.

There's one story that took place long before the Goblet was perfected, about a girl who was chosen and she died of the shock - right then and there! That's when they decided that they'd better make sure the champions are all healthy, sturdy, level-headed and that. So they created the Goblet to account for all those things.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-17 21:07:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm really curious, too. Having all the entries ranked -- well, it might be humiliating but it definitely would be interesting.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-17 14:53:18](#)

Private message to Padma Patil

Although now that you mention it, it's pretty amusing that the Weasley twins just announced that they put their names in. They're definitely champions at creating havoc, but that's about it.

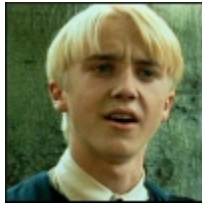


 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-17 14:55:21](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Too right! Besides, you'd think they expect to *BOTH* be chosen as a team!

I mean, Parvati and I are twins but it's not like we have to do everything together, for Lakshmi's sake! There's only going to be ONE champion, they should know that, if they're so clever.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-17 14:58:56](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

You and Parvati are individuals even if you're twins, and those two are just creepy. I mean, why do they share a journal and all? Do you think they share Angelina Johnson, too?



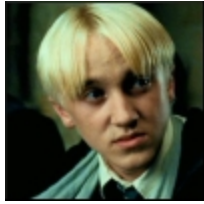
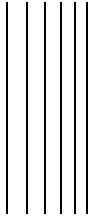
 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-17 15:11:58](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Well, she's the only Gryffindor girl in their year. But the thought of -

Ugh.

Ooh, Draco Malfoy, I hate you for that mental image!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-17 15:12:51](#)**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

I rather hate myself, too, if it makes you feel any better.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-17 15:02:23](#)**

(no subject)

Cheers on your initiative, Miss Patil, and I do expect to have some further details on the set-up after Tuesday's meeting. (There's one location in particular where a variety of charms might be handy, in subtle application.)

If you've the time later this week, I'll also be working on charming the actual clue words for various of the activities (since the whole thing leads to a larger clue for the final location). Several of the counsellors are lending a hand, but more wands make faster magic.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-10-18 11:45:07](#)**

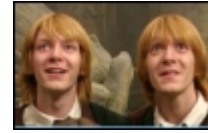
(no subject)

Well, here's wishing wishing you luck!

[2011-10-17 09:02:00](#)


Our names are in!

Wish us luck! Go, go, Gryffindor!




 [alt_gredforge](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-17 15:07:45](#)
(no subject)

Good show!



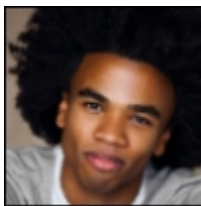
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-17 15:11:48](#)


I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I think I'm going to put mine in, too. Not that it'll do any good, right?

But. It'd be well nift to be the Champion if it turned out that way.

And I reckon it's a good thing to do because it shows we're proud of being in the Protectorate or whatever. D'you think that matters? I mean, no one's said it yet, but d'you think they're going to start saying people are disloyal if they don't put their names in?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-10-17 15:36:03](#)

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

What I'M hearing is that it's a waste of time for anyone but the Marvolo kid to put their name in. The game's rigged for him.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-17 15:42:52](#)

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

Yeah. That's what everyone reckons.

And it makes sense. To me, anywiz. Sally Anne says it doesn't, because we're just 4th years and even if Harry's had a lot of tutoring, which I think he has done, especially

in Dark Arts, well. It'd be tough for him going up against the champions from the other two schools, since they'll definitely be older.

I mean, VICTOR KRUM! Hardly seems fair for them to say he's a student even. He's a professional, after all.

And everyone says Beauxbatons' will be that Veela girl. Now she's something to look at, yeah? And Towler was saying she's got a huge advantage if the other two champions are blokes. For obvious reasons, right?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-17 21:05:25](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So did you write your names on one piece of paper, or two? How's the goblet going to decide between the two of you?

2011-10-17 15:42:00

Private message to Mummy and Daddy

I did what you asked. I don't know if I did it right, but I told her about my horse and asked about the baby. We also talked about my classes, and she told me what she studied at Hogwarts.



 [alt_hydra](#)

Am I supposed to keep talking to her? What do I do now?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2011-10-17 21:59:33**

(no subject)

Talk to her when it feels appropriate and natural. Do not force the matter.

Your arithmancy homework is rather weakly done, by the way. I suggest you increase your efforts.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-10-17 22:00:51**

(no subject)

I'm already reading

Yes, Mummy.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-17 22:02:00**

(no subject)

Talk to who, exactly?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:03:11](#)
(no subject)

Why does it matter who? It was at her Mummy's request.



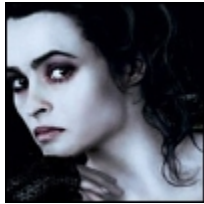
 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-17 22:04:41](#)
(no subject)

- Wait,

Nymphadora? That's the only person she's written to in her journal lately.

Why would you request that Hydra

Has this something to do with Level 13?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:05:44](#)
(no subject)

And again, why does it matter?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-17 22:07:45](#)
(no subject)

It matters because I dislike the notion of your using our daughter to further your investigation, that's why.

Particularly without my knowledge.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:08:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh, dislike it all you want.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-17 22:09:21](#)
(no subject)

We'll discuss this later.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:12:37](#)
(no subject)

Don't be a fool - of course we won't.

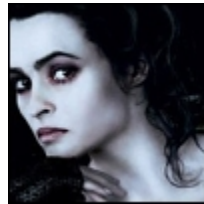
The only authority I answer to is His, and He feels that this must be done, by any and all means necessary.


Now quit over-reacting. I but asked Hydra to write a friendly message to a cousin. That is the end of her involvement.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-17 22:13:30](#)
(no subject)


It had fucking well better be.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:14:02](#)
(no subject)

Stop trying to make a fight happen. It won't.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-17 22:15:25](#)
(no subject)

What's Level 13?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-17 22:21:55](#)

Privates message to Hydra Lestrangle

Hydra

Put the quill down. Now.

Do you think your Mummy is an idiot? You must. You must think that all of her years and years of experience and training has left her thick and dull-headed. Perhaps you've concluded that all those occasions on which she out-witted some of the most traitorous criminals of our time were happy, blundering accidents.

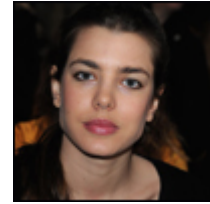
You added your Father to the private message when there was absolutely no cause to, and I will not have you invoking him as a way to avoid dealing with me directly.

Do it again and you will regret it.

Now, be a good girl and get some extra help with your arithmancy.

2011-10-17 21:13:00

*Private Message to Auror Crouch and
Rodolphus Lestrangle*



Auror Crouch, sir.

I've tried to catch you in the office, but our schedules haven't allowed it. I've wanted to ask, though, if there's any chance you would be willing to supervise an intensive in this upcoming session. The deadline is approaching for submitting our requests, and if there's any chance you would consider me, I would absolutely rank surveillance with you as my first choice.

 **alt_lana**

I realise, however, that you might not be at leisure to accept a trainee into your current work. I'm sorry to ask in this way, and I'm not asking you to tell me privately whether you would select me--only whether you are open to taking on any of us for the next session.

I am including Mr Lestrangle in this message because he is able to speak to my abilities and has given permission for me to include him as a reference for future intensives.


Thank you, sir. Very sincerely.



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2011-10-18 03:29:09**
(no subject)

Indeed, and Mr Crouch knows that he is always welcome to contact me on the matter.



 **alt_lana** at **2011-10-18 03:30:44**
(no subject)

Thank you, sir.




 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2011-10-18 03:36:25**

Private message to Lana Sandoval

- Lana, I've been thinking about your paper. How is it coming along? I hope that you found my assistance of use.



 **[alt_lana](#) at 2011-10-18 03:50:14**

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Your suggestions were really helpful, actually. I sat down with it yesterday afternoon. Oh, and I've had a further thought about the placement and situating spells.

I'd really love to show you. If you've time.

It wou




 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2011-10-18 03:54:55**

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

I have time if you do.



 **[alt_lana](#) at 2011-10-18 03:57:54**

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Definitely. Yes.

Please.




 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2011-10-18 04:03:23**

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

I have time tonight, if you don't mind working late.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-18 04:10:53](#)
Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Oh! Oh, yes.

Where?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-18 04:20:23](#)
Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

I can be at L'Estrange Hill with the floo open in a half-hours time.

Your family won't wonder at it, will they? Ned?

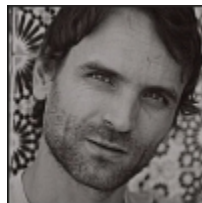



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-18 04:31:05](#)
Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

No, it's fine. Orion's out, and now we're off in the carriage house, the others don't keep such close account. It was the best thing I've done. It's better for Mama, too, really. She worried

too much.

I'm ready now, so whenever you've got there, I'll come through.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-18 04:35:49](#)
Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Good.

There. Ready for you.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 12:36:37](#)
(no subject)

Don't pin your hopes on me, Sandoval.

Not at liberty to discuss.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2011-10-18 12:39:45](#)**

Private Message to Rod

Apologies. Advise her to look elsewhere.

You seem to have influence.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-10-18 19:39:18](#)**

Re: Private Message to Rod

Understood.

2011-10-17 21:28:00

Private Message to Self



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Friday.

AM

Travers. SpD3. 2 hours.

Yaxley. SpD3. 1 hour.

PM

Marlborough to Epsom. 18 miles. Pulse 186

Return via Apparition.

Saturday.

AM

PM

Avery. SpD1. 1 hour. waste

Marlborough to Portman Sq. 2.5 miles.

Sunday.

AM

Mb to Waltham Cross. 16 miles. Ret via A

PM

N.

Monday.

AM

Travers. SpD4. 1.5 hours.

Noon

Montague. SpD2 45-min

PM

Mb to Greenwich park. 8 miles

Tuesday

AM

Travers. SpD3. 1.5 hours

Travers. SpD3. 1 hours

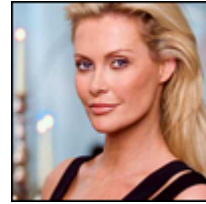
Yaxley, Hk, B rm 642 find Frny

perfectly useless this Damn Hk

[2011-10-18 12:41:00](#)

(no subject)

Cressida, wanted to mention again how good it is to hear that Hieronymous is enjoying his retirement from the *Prophet*. It's always lovely to know, when one leaves a successful career to spend time with family, that the family are, in fact, spending time together and finding the arrangement satisfactory.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)**

As always, ladies, our card party was most agreeable. I'm glad we've added Amanda, Chloe, Daisy and a few others to our numbers, as additional partnering always makes for a more interesting afternoon. Mariah, dear, thank you for playing hostess this time - it should have been an utter disaster otherwise, given all the events of the last week. Oh, and Ursula, the pictures were adorable! No doubt he'll be a heartbreaker just like his Papa. I cannot wait to see him at play with Rigel and the other little ones. Soon enough, to be sure!

Now, for lunch tomorrow, are we quite settled on *Alhambra*? Amanda, are you joining us? I know that Mariah has an appointment at 2 so we shall be sure to be done before then.

I must say I look forward to returning to more routine diversions. These last weeks' excitement have been most unwelcome.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 18:51:08](#)**

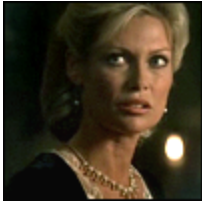
(no subject)

If moderate busyness is a fine distraction, then severe over-scheduling must be infinitely better? Sure you're not overdoing it?

Yes, yes. I know. I'm a hypocrite. And more misanthropic than ever. At the best of times, I dislike social gatherings, and at the moment even three together seem a crowd.

Sorry. I don't mean to be disagreeable.

I'll stop now.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-18 20:18:16](#)

Private Message to Barty

Are you ... quite all right?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 20:26:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

Not entirely, no.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-18 20:32:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

What's wrong?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 20:39:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

Look. Scratch that.

I'm fine. Busy. And not busy enough. Furious that Forney's found nothing she can pin squarely to Maule. Frustrated that several trails went cold while I've been tied down here. That sums it more or less.

That and I gave the elf clothes for having allowed Mother in at Marlborough that last time. Should have allowed it to go on punishing itself only it was too ~~da~~ disruptive.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-18 20:58:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

You *released* your elf?

Oh, Barty. Was that - entirely wise, dear? After all, you might simply have disposed of her instead.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 21:02:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

It was putting all the elves off. And the ruckus. Honestly.

It would rather I'd disposed of it, certainly. But it didn't deserve mercy.

Of course, the remaining elves are all off their feed, wailing at the slightest glance. I'm close to exterminating the lot.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-18 21:09:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

No, I'm not advocating on its behalf, not that way, at least.

But. Dear. With security at such a premium, do you truly think you've not done something rather *too* rash?

Look. Do you need to see me sooner? Lucius is still at tea with Ari; by now I expect they've decided to go out or back to Pandora for supper. If you'd like to talk things through a bit?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-18 21:54:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty

Need. Want. Yes.

I want to see you, yes.

But on a scale of rashness, that outranks sacking an elf. By far. And by tomorrow I'll surely be in a better frame of mind.

[2011-10-18 13:02:00](#)

Thoughts from New London

Good afternoon from a pleasant little cafe near the Ministry. I came in straight after my morning class, to catch up on a few errands before my meeting.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

I had a pleasant wander through Flourish and Blotts and picked up Magdalena Wright's new *Equinox* (I loved what she did in *Goblin Market*.) I saw a number of other intriguing titles, though I didn't indulge (not nearly enough time to read in the near future, I'm sure...) One can always order later.

I also had a look at a new telescope line focused on amplifying brightness (at some cost to clarity) only to discover it also has a completely new approach to aperture adjustment charms, far better than what's been on the market. Apparently the theory of the process is discussed in the next issue of *Visionary Charms*. My current project does better with clarity, so not the best use of my galleons at the moment, but it's quite a nice piece of work, and there's a new model coming out nearer January that's expected to solve some of the issues with focus.

My other errands went more quickly than I'd expected, though one will require a followup trip, so I found myself with plenty of time to spare before the meeting starts at half two. It's been quite pleasant to sit here reviewing my notes on the agenda in the late fall sunshine, and watching people go by. I'm enjoying the treat before what promises to be a long meeting (we've quite a lot to cover.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **[2011-10-18 17:51:26](#)**

Private message to Felix Green

Felix:

Suspect we'll need to order out for supper, so please plan accordingly. I've galleons for the payment ready. Here are my agenda notes, eyes only, as usual. I'll see

you about 2:10. My goal is to sleep at Hogwarts tonight, rather than in town.

- Call to order: we have a lot to cover, appreciate efficiency, etc. etc.
- Introduction of our new members - 5 minutes. [Stint's sterling work at St. Mungo's, Helpmann's coordination of the recent foreign visits,

etc. etc.]

- Quick review of roles, meeting process, etc. - 10 minutes

Old business:

- accept minutes of previous meeting? [please, yes, without argument]

- budget reports sent, writeup sent to the Council August 28. Currently no questions. CCF generally seen as very successful by representative parents. [Two extant receipts (Gimlet: portkey materials and Stint: ingredients for medwizardry course) must be in by end of the month for payment.]

- confirm need for 2 days in December: [Are Stint and Helpmann really that unavailable over the holidays? If so, we'll have to look at a Friday/Saturday or Sunday/Monday earlier in December (I'd prefer the latter). Must have two days, several of the consultants can only do mornings, so two Tuesdays won't work.]

- December focus on:

... planning for spring events

... coordinating CCF and YPL counselling activities so students have adequate holiday and family time (have already had a question about that.)

... how to handle 2 years of CCF: separate years, combine, or both? Committee to review relevant trainer proposals and be prepared to discuss, but we need to decide before spring.

- Medwizardry workshop for December largely arranged [Stint invited to attend if he wishes, but certainly not required, busy man, etc. etc.]

- need to continue discussion of code recognition training: would like to work something into the spring if time allows, but if not, must resolve content and instructor issues before the CCF sessions. Proposals for December, please. [And is Featherstone still inclined to be difficult? Gimlet might be satisfied with the modified proposal rcvd 9/28 by owl.]

New business

- Any updates from departments other than Saturday's project? [Campanella had a followup on that botched attempt at the end of the CCF, didn't she?]

- Suggestions on optimal distribution of students and guests in

orienteering tasks.

- Working draft of clues and needed staffing distributed by owl last week. Any queries or edits? Work through clue by clue after addressing other issues. (I have additional notes here).

- Materials all sorted, charms for final chests and clues in progress, students signed up for set-up shifts.

- tea plans reviewed: supplementing ingredients from our budget, Hogwarts house-elves delighted to help.

- reminder that I won't be available during brunch: will be available for final arrangements before 10am or after noon: exercise begins at 2.

- any final questions, issues, etc.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-18 23:00:23**

Re: Private message to Felix Green

Felix -

Am I being oversensitive, or did Stint just try to explain my own subject to me? (Badly, of course?)
Good grief. Can you see if you can get him to get off it, by asking some other question?

I'd nudge Campanella, but that might not come off as smoothly, and she's not looking at the note I just slipped her. Ask Helena something, maybe?



 **alt_narcissa** at **2011-10-18 18:27:47**

(no subject)

I had no idea you were a fan of Ms Wright's mysteries, Professor. My own reading tends toward non-fiction but I admit I like a good story now and then.

Tell me, have you read *The Witch Queen's Sister*? Diana and Mariah were both raving about it last week. I can't decide whether to pick it up or no.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-18 18:34:12](#)**
(no subject)

Always wonderful to compare books with a fellow reader! I enjoy a good mystery when I'm relaxing, but I read a fair bit of non-fiction as well.

As to the *Witch Queen's Sister*: I have read it - just finished it over the weekend, in fact. I quite liked it, though I admit I wonder how accurate some of the historical details are. (I thought the approach digging deeper into the Boleyn family quite intriguing, though.) I did thumb through *Golden Tongue* today, that new one about Eleanor of Aquitaine, and I think that may be next on my list when I've a bit of time to enjoy it properly.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-18 19:33:26](#)**
Private message to Poppy


Thanks for the advance info on Healer Stint - it's been quite helpful in managing things so far.

(He does like to hear himself go on, though, doesn't he? Our introductions took better than twice the time I'd hoped. I can also see that his schedule is going to make things tedious - he's apparently so busy over the holidays that I'm going to have to arrange to miss classes to do some of the conversations we simply must do in December. And when he's not busy, Helpmann (from the IMC) is.)

I should warn you he's likely be at Hogwarts for the YPL Medwizardry lecture on December third. It's become traditional to invite the committee representative for an area to attend related YPL presentations as an observer, so I can't refuse him, and I couldn't manage to put him off.

I'll do my best to keep him busy and out of your way, though.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-18 22:12:34](#)**
Re: Private message to Poppy

I'm sorry you have to be subjected to him, Aurora. So full of himself.

I suppose the best that we can do is keep one another forewarned where he's concerned. I do appreciate you're letting me know about the December visit. Preparation is the best defence, of course.

I hope you're free of them all by now. Go have a lovely New London dinner and a proper rest. Or do you plan to dash back straightaway?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-18 22:15:52](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Not nearly done yet, I fear - we've likely got another two hours or more to go. We are at our dinner break, though it has been less restful than I'd hoped...

Is it true his wife died suddenly a few years ago? He made quite the proposition to me during our meal break, claiming he had been devoting himself to his work, but .. what was it, "recognised a fellow loyal subject of the Protectorate who deserved an enjoyable nightcap after diligent service." In his mouth, it sounded entirely unappealing, anyway. Particularly since it had an air of "distracting you would make my life easier" about it.

I put him off, insisting that if we finish early enough, I have grading left over from the excitement of the arrivals on Sunday. (True enough, though if I make it back tonight, I'll be stargazing first, thank you.) He seems to have made plans to go off with Gimlet for something else now, after they did a whole round of name-dropping "do you know"s.

Perhaps now, with plans, they'll both manage to be *helpful* about getting on with decisions, rather than difficult.

I did have a lovely bit of afternoon before the meeting, though, even the bit I was rather nervous about.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-18 22:27:21](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

I'm glad the afternoon held some satisfactions. Sounds as though the meeting is falling a good deal short of that.

I've no idea about Stint's wife. Though, now mention it, I suppose it would make some sense in respect of timing. His rise at St M's has been what some call 'meteoric'--appalling to think that Stint fancies himself the sort of star you might enjoy gazing at after hours, by the way--and it began with a stunning promotion four or perhaps five years ago.

Possibly he was pouring himself into work out of grief. Possibly the wife died of loneliness while he romanced his career. I'm sure I don't know.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-18 22:38:02**

Re: Private message to Poppy

Ugh. What a distressing use of a lovely word, yes. (Though, perhaps, he'll be as fleeting as a meteor is? One can but live in hope.)

In that case, should I acquire more ~~gossip~~ information, I will let you know, for amusement's sake if nothing else.

On the afternoon - really quite lovely, even the part involving dress shopping, which is generally not a favorite hobby of mine. And I've some nice new reading, and a new telescope to be wistful over (it's quite out of my budget at the moment, though maybe not by spring.)

And if I can get the rest of the committee moving, I may make it home in time for several hours uninterrupted on the tower, a true luxury in term time. They're coming back in from washing up after our meal, but leaving comments in here is quite entertaining (I have a new understanding for our students during class time, honestly.)



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-18 21:06:55**

Private message to Raz

Oh, by Hypatia's charmed astrolabe.

Raz, love, did you know the staircases in Hogwarts rearrange themselves from time to time? It must be quite a shocking revelation to you, I know.

~~Healer~~One of the committee members expressed concern that the

staircases might confuse our guests (despite the fact they'll be grouped with Hogwarts students who should know how to manage by now, and that they're living in the castle and need to learn to cope anyway.)

It took me pointing out that I've lived there twice as long as anyone else at the table (and far more recently), and that I'd cross-checked the most likely routes three times (including that one that only rotates on every fifth Tuesday near the library) before they'd let the topic drop, though. And then as soon as I'd convinced the first two, of course, Featherstone had to have the whole thing explained to him again.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-19 00:53:21](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Oh, goodness.

We're nearly done, though I'm in a predictably foul mood. My plan is to wrap up here, then spend a few minutes hashing things out with my clerk, and then head back home. (No doxy eggs for you, but comfy bed for me.)

It occurs to me that for once during term-time, I have the chance at whole hours up on the tower without interruption (since I should be back after curfew). I plan to set up there, and look at some nice soothing stars. For a very long time. (And woe betide anyone who thinks of sneaking up there to snog tonight.)

Your advice did help - and honestly, it went a good deal better than I was afraid it might. Just not as well as I'd hoped it could.

You free after dinner tomorrow?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-19 01:38:04](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Astrolabe? Isn't that something that healers use to diagnose problems with private parts, according to one of your students?

Hmm, star gazing sounds like a plan indeed. I suppose that I had better not sneak up there for a snog either, yeah? (Not that I don't have a million things I should be doing, or thereabouts)

Your handwriting looks a little tense. Residual stress? Or is there more to things not going as well as you'd hoped?

You can tell me after dinner tomorrow, if it's easier?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-19 01:43:08**

Re: Private message to Raz

Ah, but how often students are mistaken...

I appreciate the offer, dear, but no, really, I'd be awful company right now. (And, as you say, it's not like both of us don't have a million things to be doing. I'm trying to ignore that for the moment, but there's no reason both of us should.) A few hours with nice peaceful stars will do me a lot of good, and let me get my frustrations out without dumping them on anyone else.

As to my handwriting - well yes. Long meeting, I've got a headache from keeping everything moving, and it looks like I've got a scheduling nightmare on my hands. (And what Minerva's going to say about that, I've no idea: I see no way around missing a day of classes sometime in December.) It's enough to make one want to go be a hermit on top of a mountain somewhere.

More details after dinner, though, definitely. And that gives me something nice to look forward to, which is even better. (Pity I can't let you ply me with drink, but I do have to teach tomorrow night.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-10-19 01:56:51**

Re: Private message to Raz

So what you're more or less saying is that you need to go for a fly? (that's what I do when I want to be alone, for future reference)

Got it. Get back in one piece and we can talk tomorrow after dinner.

And now I'd better go watch your newts. (don't know about there, but it's not cloudy here. your stars will be waiting for you)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:01:12](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

That is *exactly* it, yes. Thank Merlin you understand that sort of thing. Not everyone does, as I'm sure you know.

Thanks for keeping an eye on the newts: they're a good lot, this year. Probably be another hour or two 'til I'm done: since I'm here, and it's late anyway, Felix and I might as well roll through a bunch of paperwork that'd be even more tedious by owl. (Be very grateful no one makes you go near a Ministry budget planning form, is all I can say.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-19 02:06:03](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Ah, there's a reason I didn't put too much fuss up about moving to rural Scotland.

'Night and see you tomorrow, then. And mind you don't get any parchment cuts.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-19 00:22:09](#)

Private message to Helena Provim

Helena -

Thanks for helping keep us on track - much appreciated, especially tonight.

I am a little concerned about what you mentioned re: another push for patriotic songs/flags/uniforms coming up again in your department. Do you think it's likely to gain any ground? (If so, can we consult by owl this week?)

You know my position's long been that the carrot is a better guide than the stick, and while I've been glad to support goals like the play last year, I also want to be careful that we don't push too far. I think the CCF programme - as much as I worried about some of the details

- has been an extremely persuasive offering, not only for the students, but for some of their parents who might have been less certain.

[2011-10-18 19:55:00](#)

Private message to Sally Anne

Sally Anne,

This is probably a peculiar question. Have you ever spoken (or written) to Nymphadora Tonks before? Only now she's called Nymphadora Ponds. She's my cousin.



 [alt_hydra](#)

I feel like you've talked with her before on the journals, but I can't remember for certain.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2011-10-19 02:05:33](#)**
(no subject)

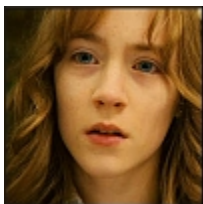
Yes, I talked to her a bit first year because she's a half-blood who had just finished school, you see.


And more recently I sent her congratulations when she had her baby. I haven't ever met her in person, though, only on the journals.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2011-10-19 02:07:13](#)**
(no subject)

Have you ever met her in person? Can she really change her hair colour just by thinking about it?



 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2011-10-19 02:11:16](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, you have talked to her, then. Oh.

I haven't met her in person that many times, either. But she can change her hair colour. She can even make it pink.

I have something important to tell her, and I don't know what to do. I don't know if an owl is a good idea or not. I can't have Mummy find out, and I was just remembering how I once had you pass along a message to Luna Lovegood.

Do you remember? She was things about Sirius Black and Mummy was getting so angry, and I thought something bad might happen to Lovegood, but I didn't think I could tell her myself, not even in a private message.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:15:03](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see.

Do you think

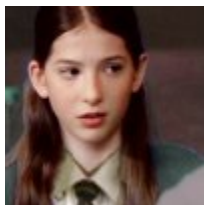
I do remember when you wrote to me about Luna. That was far too urgent for an owl -- is this message urgent?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:20:06](#)
(no subject)

It might be. I really don't know. I don't know much of anything, that's the trouble. She just tells me what to do and I have to do it.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:21:48](#)
(no subject)

Do you want me to write to your cousin for you?
What do you want her to know?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:33:47](#)
(no subject)

You don't have to if you don't want to. I could figure something else out. Only I know you don't really like to see people get into trouble if you can help it, and I'm the same way.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:38:05](#)
(no subject)

I really don't mind, Hydra. Just tell me whatever it is you wanted to tell her, no one will think twice about me sending her a private message because I've written to her before.


And I know you don't like seeing people get in trouble. You're one of the kindest people I know. It's one of the reasons I like you so much.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:35:34](#)
(no subject)

I like your cousin. I'd hate for her to ~~fall into a trap~~ get in trouble.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:40:27](#)
(no subject)

Right, that's what I thought.

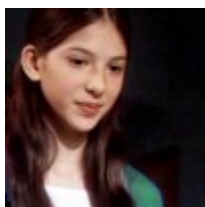
I think my cousin is clever. All you would probably have to tell her is that I told you to pass along that my mother is investigating her for something.

I don't have any details, though. Mummy asked me to write to Dora and be friendly, but she wouldn't say why. But I know she doesn't want us to be friends, she never has, so I thought it was strange, but since I have always wanted to talk to my cousin, I

wrote to her like Mummy asked.

But then Daddy was really cross when he found out. He said she was using me to further her investigation.

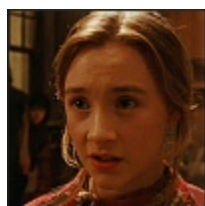
From,
Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:43:00](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for telling me, Hydra.

And I think you're right that she's clever. I'll let her know what you said.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:45:42](#)
(no subject)

No, thank you. Thank you so much.

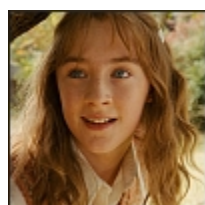
Am I really one of the kindest people you know? That's terrible news. I've got to get better at pretending to be not nice or I don't know what will happen.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 02:48:03](#)
(no subject)

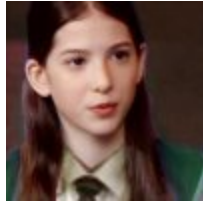
Well -- one of the kindest in Slytherin? Because that does set the bar a little bit lower, you know.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 02:51:16](#)
(no subject)

Yes, that's better.

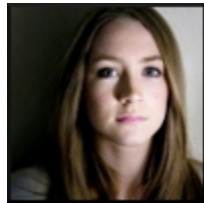
From,
Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 03:42:37](#)
(no subject)

Just so you know, Mrs Ponds said she quite enjoyed hearing from you and hopes you'll write to her again sometime.

And she doesn't think your mum will find out anything interesting if she investigates her, but she'll be careful all the same.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-19 03:48:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh, good, I'm glad she'll be careful.

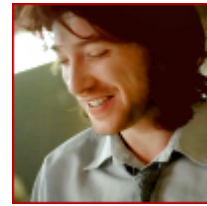
And maybe I will write to her again. I have permission to now, after all.

From,
Hydra

2011-10-18 20:13:00

Dinner with Percy

Had my brother Percy come over for dinner at my flat the other night. I should do this more often, both to give me practise cooking and to remind me to pick my shorts up off the sofa more often. (Sorry, Mum. But it's true. And take heart! Having guests means the place looks a bit less disreputable for at least a week afterward).



 [alt_bill](#)

It's brilliant to see Perce knocking about New London now. Well, he's not actually living here yet, although I have a hunch he's putting his galleons away in hopes that he can move out and get his own place within the next year or two. But anyway, I do like seeing him more often. We've taken to getting together for lunch once a week or so, too. Now that we're both out in the world outside Hogwarts we have more to talk about besides squabbling over whose turn it is do to the chores at the Burrow. I quite like having things on a more adult, even footing.

Of course there's still that endless ribbing that goes on whenever we Weasleys get together (as well as the latest round of that private joke between the two of us, I-am-ever-so-much-more-Head-Boy-than-you). But Percy was always perhaps more serious than the rest of us, and it's clear that the responsibilities of his new job have steadied him. We talked about his new position as Mr Lucius Malfoy's clerk. It's clear he thinks the world of his employer, and although the work certainly keeps him on his toes, he's enjoying himself hugely. Lots of opportunities to make important contacts, too. I'm very pleased for him. Percy is certainly one who deserves to land on his feet.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-10-19 01:53:00**

Order Only

I invited him over for supper to cover for Mum, the day she spent at Moddey Dhoo. Worked like a charm; he had no clue.

Ugh. He really REALLY is a down right sycophant on the subject of Lucius Malfoy. The man obviously dribbles diamonds out his arse as far as Percy's concerned. It was all I could do to keep smiling as he sung that sonofabitch's praises. But I think I managed it well enough.

He's worried about speaking out of turn about what goes on at work. The fate of Lucius Malfoy's last clerk was touched on once, and it sounds as though Percy thinks at least one of the reasons the man was sacked was because he blabbed about Malfoy's private business (aside from being sheer incompetent). So don't expect him to be easy for me to pump for any information for the Order. But I do think he'll open up to me more than he will to Mum or Dad. I think he's always been a bit more at ease with me than anyone else in the family. If I couch it in terms of big brother mentoring, it'll go down easier. I won't be able to extract much in specifics, at least at first. But if I cultivate him carefully, I should be able to glean a better idea of what, exactly, slips through Malfoy's oily fingers.

Makes me feel more than a touch rotten, trading on Percy's trust that way.

But no doubt there will things I'll do in the years to come that will be worse.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-10-19 15:03:38**

Re: Order Only

Only just seeing this now, Bill. Right knackered last night; missed everything, it seems.


Can't blame Percy for being cautious, though - I mean to say, his predecessor's trial is ongoing this week, isn't it? Paper had something about it only this morning, how there was a rumour that Crouch, Sr meant to hang his case on the abuse his client had suffered in Malfoy's employ. Even went so far as to suggest that he might try to question Malfoy but that it was believed it would not be allowed as immaterial.

Has Percy...indicated that Malfoy pulls anything like that on him? Cruciating and so on?

All I can say is, keep talking to him. I'm sure it feels more than vaguely slimy to pump him for information, Bill. Think of it as making sure he knows he's got somewhere else to go, if he wants sheltering. At the least, you can provide the perspective that it's not normal for one's boss to hurl curses at one's head.

Well, it never used to be normal, anyway. From what we hear at Laszlo's Unlimited every night, it's getting more and more typical.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2011-10-21 03:30:41**

Re: Order Only

Just getting back to this now, sorry. No, actually, the trial's of the brother of Percy's predecessor. The clerk himself was killed. And the body was dumped at Narcissa Malfoy's garden party. Yech. That's a cautionary tale in and of itself.

Right, I'll take pains to make it clear he can talk to me. And yes, it feels slimy, but I know I have to do it.

I don't know for certain whether Malfoy has Cruciated him, but I assume he has.




 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2011-10-19 01:54:43**

(no subject)

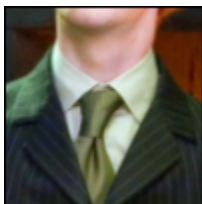
Well, we wouldn't mind a pair of shorts or two decorating the furniture if we're ever invited over.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2011-10-19 01:55:22**

(no subject)

No doubt you'd bring additional offerings to add to the decor.




 **[alt_percy](#) at 2011-10-19 02:12:49**

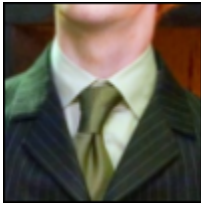
(no subject)

Thanks for having me over. It's always good to see you.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-19 02:14:58](#)**
(no subject)


It gives me a chance to show off my steak and kidney pie. Not as good as Mum's of course, but no one's ever is.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-19 02:15:41](#)**
(no subject)


We can always go out, too. There are so many good restaurants in your neighbourhood.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-19 02:20:03](#)**
Order Only

I don't think it's even occurred to him that a salary like mine doesn't stretch too far when one has to pay rent, so I don't make much of a habit of faffing about at high end restaurants.



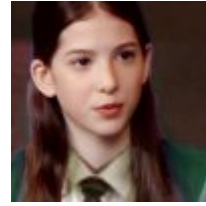
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:04:09](#)**
Re: Order Only

Make him pay for it, then.

2011-10-18 21:43:00

Private message to Mrs Ponds

I was thinking about you tonight and I realised it's been ages since your baby was born and they grow very fast. You did announce a name for her and I'm embarrassed to say I missed where you said it. Does she change her hair colour like you do? That's so brilliant, I wish I could do that. Can you do your hair in patterns or does it have to be all brown or all pink or whatever?



 **alt_sally_anne**

Anyway, I just thought I'd say hullo.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-10-19 02:50:15**
(no subject)


Mrs Ponds, the first bit is in case anyone asks what the message was about.

Hydra Lestrage told me to let you know she thinks her mum is investigating you for something. She said that it was her mum who told her to write to you and be friendly and she wouldn't say why (her mum wouldn't tell Hydra why, I mean) and this was odd because she'd never wanted the two of you to be friends. But Hydra's always wanted to talk to you, so she wrote.

But, Hydra's father was cross when he found out and said Auror Lestrage was using Hydra to 'further her investigation.'

And Hydra wants you to know. But she couldn't write you herself (because her mum would know) so she asked me to do it.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-10-19 03:18:41**
(no subject)

Oh, thank you. You're the second person this week who's told me I haven't written about Bea very recently. I suppose I should do something about that, shouldn't I?

She's growing very fast, which means she's hungry all the time. And she's starting to teeth, so that means she's fussy and hungry all the

time. And, you're right! She can change her hair and she's beginning to change other bits of her head, too. At least I think. Sometimes it can be hard to tell whether the terrible faces she pulls are because she's shifting her eyes and mouth and nose or just because she needs changing!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-19 03:25:51](#)
(no subject)

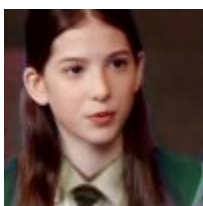
Oh, I see.

I missed the second bit of your message.

Well. I'm sorry that's why Cousin Hydra wrote me, but tell her she could write me again if she wanted just on her own. It's not her fault her mother only ever thinks of business or asked her to talk to me. You could tell her I enjoyed hearing from her.

And thank her for letting me know that there might be an investigation. Tell her not to worry. There's nothing that would make anyone bother with me much. Possibly it's just something in my neighborhood that they're investigating or just, well, on general principles. I'm sure they do look into people now and then, just to keep everyone safe.

And thank you for passing along her message. That was very nice of you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 03:36:27](#)
(no subject)

That's good to know. Thank you.

2011-10-18 22:26:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin




Where've you bugged off to?

There's something I need to tell you, and I rather think I'd like to have you right here with me when I do.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-19 03:39:37](#)
(no subject)

I was just carrying rubbish out to the bin. I'm back now. What's going on?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-19 03:42:12](#)
(no subject)

Come here please. Bring tea.


I'm in with Bea.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-19 03:43:28](#)
(no subject)

Brewing tea now.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-19 03:49:04](#)
(no subject)

Do you need Padfoot, too? He's asleep on the kitchen floor at present. I could nudge him if you want.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-19 03:56:16](#)
(no subject)

Actually, no.

Leave him there for now, if you don't mind.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-10-19 04:00:09](#)
(no subject)

...This sounds serious.

On my way with the tea now.

2011-10-18 22:57:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Well.

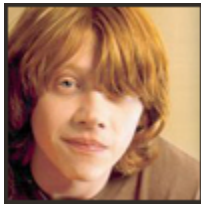
That was interesting.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Did you see Hydra sent me a private message? Apparently her mum told her to write to Mrs Ponds. Mrs Ponds -- her name used to be Tonks, she finished school right before we started and I write to her sometimes. Her real mum was Bellatrix Lestrangle's sister, but she died during the war. And her real dad was a muggleborn. And she was fostered by Mr Crouch's parents. ANYWAY. She's Hydra's cousin but of course Hydra isn't normally allowed to talk to her.

Hydra wanted to tell me to tell Mrs Ponds that her mum is investigating her -- or something related to her -- and that's why she had Hydra write to her. She wanted me to warn her so she doesn't get in trouble.

I don't know. It surprised me. That she'd go against her mum, so deliberately. Because if Mrs Ponds is a spy or a Dogstar sympathiser or who knows what she's just had me tip all of them off.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-10-19 04:02:06**

(no subject)

Um, wow.

Do you know everything about everybody? I mean, you always seem to know who's related to whom and which of their uncles went mad or got murdered or whatever.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-10-19 04:03:21**

(no subject)

I only know everything about everybody in Slytherin.

Mrs Tonks wasn't in Slytherin but she's related to lots of the Slytherins.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-19 04:10:04](#)**
(no subject)

But, so, anywiz. Hydra. Whoa.

And I wouldn't want to be Mrs Ponds, being investigated by Aurors.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-10-19 04:12:27](#)**
(no subject)

No.

She said she wasn't worried and that if Auror Lestrage investigated her she wouldn't find anything interesting. And it's probably just something completely routine.

I hope she's right. I mean, even if she's actually secretly the HEAD of Dogstar or the Wand Smugglers or some other illegal group she'd say that, wouldn't she?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-19 04:15:48](#)**
(no subject)

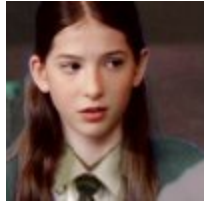
I dunno. Is it what you'd say if someone told you Aurors were investigating you? If anyone told me that, I'd

I don't know, I'd probably wet myself.

And then I guess I'd say pretty much exactly what you're saying.

Huh.

D'you think that means she is up to something like working for Dogstar?

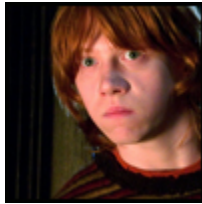



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-10-19 04:18:34](#)**
(no subject)

No, not really. It's the sort of thing an innocent person would say too.

And I mean, given who her aunts are, I can't imagine any of these organisations recruiting her. It would seem so risky.

I don't know what I'd do. I mean what if I got questioned by one of the people who can read minds?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-19 04:36:33](#)**
(no subject)


That'd be bad.

I don't know what any of us would do if we got questioned with truth serum or mind charms.

Yeah. That'd be bad.

Thanks for bring this up before bed. That's really helpful.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:55:05](#)**
(no subject)

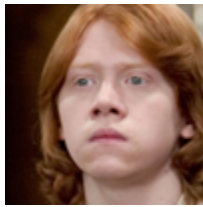
She might be in a difficult place if she isn't involved but Madam Lestrangle is investigating her anyway. I mean, my Gran always says you can't prove a negative. And if it gets out that she's being investigated, people will start looking at her like she's fishy or something. Especially since she's a half-blood, right? They're always chuntering on about how half-bloods have to be above suspicion.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 04:06:37](#)
(no subject)

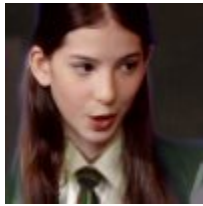
Admittedly since all the purebloods are basically cousins of one sort or another (except for recent immigrant families like the Sandovals) I know a lot about a fair number of Gryffindors, Hufflepuffs, and Ravenclaws, too.

Would you like me to explain to you exactly how you're related to Gregory Goyle?



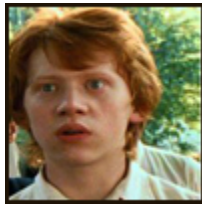
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-19 04:12:27](#)
(no subject)


Thanks. I'd rather eat hexed shrimp in my soup.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-19 04:14:16](#)
Private message to Ron

Do you know who hexed your shrimp? It seems like the sort of thing your brothers might do.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-19 04:34:26](#)
Re: Private message to Ron

No idea, actually. Could've been loads of people.

And yeah, it could've been the twins, but they usually make sure you know they did it. Same with Finnigan and Thomas. If they'd done it, they'd've been sure I knew it was them and that they'd scored a hit. Only they haven't acted like they did it.

Queer thing is, the person who thought it was most hilarious was Bundy. She's been taking the mickey ever since she found out I went to Madam Pomfrey about it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-19 14:01:50](#)

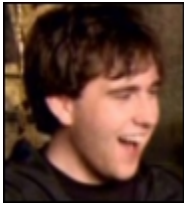
(no subject)


She's quiet and all, but she's fought with her mum before.

Not like yelling fighting, but going against her.

And yeah, she's gotten in trouble for it, and her mum makes her do things

but she doesn't stop.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-19 15:47:12](#)

(no subject)

Evelyn's talked with her a time or two. Hydra Lestrage, I mean. And she's told me the girl's actually rather nice. She doesn't hold her nose up in the air because of our family or anything. Which is what we expect from most Slytherins.

('Most,' you'll note I said. Not 'all.')



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-19 16:46:09](#)

(no subject)

Duly noted.

2011-10-19 08:45:00

*Private Message to Mordant Travers
and Nisha Desai*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Sitting in this blasted Hooper trial. So far nothing from father today, but am determined to hear first-hand what the grumbling's about--heard from Malfoy and several others last night. Father can't harbour any expectation of carrying the case. No idea what he thinks he's about.

Re. Mother and polyjuice. Still no idea where she got it. My inventory cleared audit. Again. (For what it's worth: the whole department came through clean.) Know you're both turning over all the usual stones, but it's unlikely Mother wandered down to Knockturn. Or sent her mudbloods there. But that's obv strongest idea: the mudbloods could have supplied her. The one she Obliviated, at any rate. Damned nuisance she was so adept with memory charms. Figure out where they could have got it.

Also. Gleaned this from my elf: Mother used pj to get access at Marlborough. Day or two before Ouroboros. [Had enough for more than one use.] The elf thought it was me, obviously, until Mother spoke. Didn't take my usual tone or issued a different sort of order. The elf reacted badly, possibly because I'd told it I'd cut off its ears the next time it let Mother in the house. Gather she tried obliterating the elf when it recognised her, but fumbled that. Maybe Obliviation doesn't stick with elves. Of course the elf didn't reveal any of this until Sunday. And by then it had worked itself into such a state it was nearly impossible to parse what it did admit.

Hang on. Father's standi-

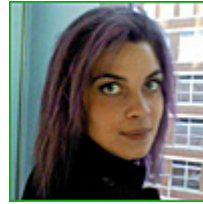
Never mind. Procedural nonsense.

Either of you available at noon? Not in the conference rooms. Sparring D#2. If anyone's booked it, we'll pull rank.

2011-10-19 09:13:00

Order Only

So. It seems I was wrong about why Hydra Lestrangle was writing me.



Sirius was right.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)

(See, I told you I'd admit it.)

Seems that Cousin Bellatrix has some sort of investigation going that involves me. We've been talking about what that means day to day here at Laszlo.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-10-19 14:56:19**

(no subject)

Well, look, I'm not saying the kid wasn't necessarily genuine in her curiosity, only that it's wise not to forget that she's Bella's spy. Even if she didn't want to do it; Bella's a Legilimens. She'll have whatever she wants out of her.

As for the other part, well. I mean to say, things like that bunch on Saturday. I don't wish to make a conversation like that unwelcome. That's part of the point of this place, isn't it? Giving people a safe environment to plan their plans?



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-10-19 15:06:31**

(no subject)

I agree. That's cause for caution. On the other hand, there are reasons to encourage young Miss Lestrangle if she's genuinely interested in knowing more about her cousin. In fact, I believe there's interesting potential in her that we might leverage against her mother. Not to put too fine a point on the matter.

I beg your pardon, but what sort of business are people getting up to around the tables in your cafe?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-19 15:10:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh. The other night Dora asked me to eavesdrop on a small crew she thought seemed on the furtive side. Turns out they were planning to attempt an escape, that's all.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-19 15:17:15](#)
(no subject)

Pity we couldn't have helped them.

I mean, it's not easy for muggleborns to make those sorts of arrangements. Easy to dream of being free. Tricky but not unmanageable to plan how to do a runner from your owners.

But then what? How do they know what they'll find when they get away? Where will they go? How will they hide? What will they eat? That's where we could help. If we'd commit ourselves to it.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-19 15:52:09](#)
(no subject)

I agree with you, Dora.

And perhaps it's time the Order takes a more committed step in this people smuggling business. So far, we've done no more than seize chance opportunities where they've fallen in our laps.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-10-19 16:08:40](#)
(no subject)

Where to, though? I know I've not seen it and probably never will, but I imagine that Moddey Dhoo sanctuary can only sustain so many people.



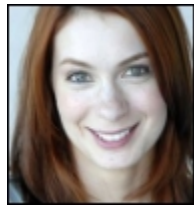
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-10-19 16:14:23](#)
(no subject)


Quite right.

And in any case I've always maintained that we need to be extremely careful about taking adults there. The lives of the children in that sanctuary are our very most precious asset. They are, in very real measure, the reason for all that we are working to accomplish.

I agree completely that we shall need to find somewhere else to take people if we are to smuggle them out of service or out of the camps in any numbers.

I recognise, too, that Sherwood is not necessarily an answer. Or not in all cases. What is your view of that, Walden. Since you are one of the people we did take to Sherwood?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-10-19 16:53:07](#)
(no subject)

I know the people at the Vale got caught -- but if we thoroughly warded everything, what's to say we can't have pockets of people living here and there right under the Protectorate's nose?

Farming to eat is a rough go, but it's different if you're doing it for yourself rather than someone else, and if we can get them wands, that's something the Muggleborn at the Vale didn't have.

I think one of the things that got them noticed was that they were trying to make it look like everything was normal. If we just hid them outright, made them disappear, then the risk would go down significantly, wouldn't it? No witches and wizards trying to cover for their house staff and also trying to live their lives out in the open. I think we could make it work.

That, and we could get them out of the country at solstice if they so chose. We've got two working boats, one quite large, and could get a third in working order in a year -- that'd be a sizable number of people.



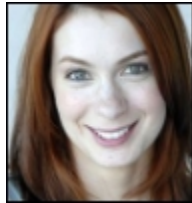
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-19 17:05:13](#)**
(no subject)


I still say it's better to get them out altogether, if that's what they want to do. We could make a run for Norway easy enough, next equinox.

Which is really not that far away, come to think of it. The bigger problem is hiding them somewhere until that time.

But - yeah. I guess for me it comes down to what they want. Do they want to go into hiding someplace warded within the wards? Scramble for their food and sneak out periodically to forage? Or would they prefer to just go somewhere completely different where they can start over?

Maybe I should trot up to see how Lucinda and John are making out with that underground group, see if we can't start connecting to stops down this way. And perhaps they've got another few who could create some safehouses along the coast of the North Sea, as well.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-19 17:28:54](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, exactly. We could set it up to protect and shield those that want to stick it out here, and provide a place to temporarily house people that want to leave at the same time.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:12:38](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't say anything that wasn't perfectly safe to Hydra. Bellatrix can have the lot and make of it what she will.

The most dangerous thing she asked me was about pets. I told her we get lots of strays. Cats and dogs, both. Mangy things, but sweet. And we sometimes feed them because we think Bea will enjoy having animals about as she gets bigger.

See? I was careful.

As for the other part, right. We want them to feel safe here. And I think we made a good job of shifting other people away from their quiet little corner. Without being obvious about it.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:01:52](#)**
(no subject)

They don't suspect you somehow in that business with Mrs Crouch, do they?

There seem still to be so many rumours running about it that it makes me wonder whether it's not all a cover for something else altogether. Something MLE don't want anyone to follow. All the reports and statements have been so much poppycock.

My worry is that if they wanted to sweep you up for some reason, it would be a simple matter to spin some story of your having taken revenge on your foster family. It wouldn't matter that the details are impossible: none of the facts are known and the ones that have been put about don't match.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:08:35](#)**
(no subject)

It's possible. But if that were her game, why hasn't she acted already? They seem quick to select their scapegoats.

Besides it sounds as if Crouch is doing his own nut lately. Did you see that article in today's *Prophet* about how it's 'highly anticipated' that Crouch is going to pin his client's defence on having been routinely cursed and abused at work? It's a good job the reporter backs off speculating that he'll put Malfoy on the stand; I'd imagine they'd haul Crouch himself on charges of treason, next.

Though, perhaps that's their game? Make it seem like he's unbalanced, just to push the trial even more into the realm of sensational and ridiculous?




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-19 15:45:26](#)**
(no subject)

I confess I only glanced at that article. Interesting idea that it's all publicity.

I rather pity Crouch, having to cooperate in his own humiliation.

Merlin know, his life must be a miserable one.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-19 19:16:05](#)**
(no subject)

That's not good news to hear, no matter what she's investigating.

Please be careful, love.

I wonder what on earth she thought she could accomplish by getting her daughter to write you.

How awful.

2011-10-19 23:52:00

A Reminder to ALL Students

Bullying at Hogwarts will NOT be tolerated.

The recent spate of hexing and other incidents has not gone outside the Prefects' notice. At tonight's meeting we discussed several students who have already lost their Houses points and in at least two cases, earned detention for malicious and flagrant jinxes cast upon others in their cohorts.



Bullying is unacceptable under all circumstances, but especially so when the victim is a year or even two years younger, making any attempt at defence virtually impossible.

We are particularly shocked that this rash of behaviour comes just when we welcome our foreign guests. It's barely half a week since they've arrived and while some of you seem to be getting to know the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students already, and I'm pleased to say getting on well, others seem to think that your best opportunity to 'show off' your abilities is through these boorish and cowardly acts of harassment.

Effective immediately, anyone caught engaging in such practice will serve detention and bring a penalty of 100 House Points to his or her House. Furthermore, if any such person is a member of the YPL, CCF, or similar team, society or school-sanctioned club, then that person's privilege to participate may be suspended or even revoked, in consultation with that group's teacher-advisor. The same goes for anyone reported to be engaged in bullying, if it is found that the reports have merit. The Head Boy and I have agreed that the use of the Cruciatus Curse will be employed as we deem appropriate, within our rights as Prefect-leaders.

Anyone who is the victim of bullying is hereby strongly encouraged to report the names of your tormentors to your Prefects.

This includes our student-visitors. I need not remind our students that the rules of hospitality most certainly apply to our guests.

Oh, and on a somewhat-related note: Please do stop requesting Mr

Krum's autograph! He has especially asked that the young ladies who have taken to escorting him to his lessons desist, as they have made him tardy on more than one occasion this week. At the very least, kindly let him visit the boys' bathrooms without being followed!



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-20 13:49:07**

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Miss Clearwater -

Thank you for your leadership, as always.

Should you have concerns - even if there is insufficient evidence to take action - about any of the older YPL students (especially those in the CCF), I would appreciate knowing as soon as possible. Bullying among the younger students is, of course, a problem that must be dealt with promptly as well, but we expect only the best behavior of our older students in the programme, as you know.

While I'm writing - the rosters for shifts are posted now. I believe we've enough people to finish the prep work tonight, but if you happened across another person or two good at charms, we could still use them. I believe Saturday morning should run smoothly, but if you've a need, I'll have my journal handy.



 **alt_penelope** at **2011-10-20 19:41:39**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Thank you, Professor.

Yes, we've been having some fun coming up with the challenges. I have the sign-up parchments I passed round last night. I can certainly come this afternoon if you need additional help and Tamblyn said he'd be happy to make himself available as well.

As for the identities of the bullies, I haven't heard anything specific about the CCF students, but I've heard some rumours about Warrington and Montague, in third year. I know Donovan's been having a particularly bad time of it, though I suspect that's more due to that crop of Irish purebloods we have starting this year. He's in third, so I hadn't thought he'd be troubled by them.

I'm not sure about the wisdom of claiming 100 points, either but -

well, to be honest, I supposed we're hoping that the threat of that large a deficit is more of a deterrent than anything. It's not that we want students to grass on each other, of course, but--well, as you know, Professor, we can't see everything that goes on in this place!

And...I don't know if I should say anything yet, because we have no proof, but I think one or two of ours may have targetted the British-born student from Beauxbatons, Finch-whatever. I can't prove anything, as I said, but I did pass him and his friend as they were leaving their dormitories near the Ravenclaw common room and it looked as if he was recovering from some kind of hazing. I hate to think anyone at Hogwarts would do such a thing, of course, but given that our previous attempts to discipline them have gone mostly unheeded, well. I can't rule it out as a possibility.

Do you know their Professor Froissart at all? I wonder if it's better to ask him how he would like to proceed when matters involve his charges?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 19:53:34](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Excellent work - and as I said, I have some extensive notes from Tuesday's meeting. I think it'll be quite a good day. (I've also got all the details sorted for an extra nice tea; I delivered some dried lemon and orange peel and spices to the house elves yesterday, and I believe they have some delicious ideas for scones and biscuits in mind.)

Thanks for giving me some idea where to keep an eye out (and I'll certainly pass it along, as needed, to other professors.) As to Professor Froissart: I've had a couple of very brief conversations with him. I'll have a word with either him or the Headmistress and see if we can find out how he'd prefer to handle such things.

I do have some ideas on the groupings for Saturday, as well: I'm assuming the students will largely pick their own groups, but if you see any patterns that will be troublesome, do let me know, and we'll find some excuse to rearrange them. I do want to do our best to ensure that each group has at least one and better two guests in it, of course.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-20 20:01:28](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Yes, of course, Professor.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 20:20:59](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Miss Clearwater -

I've been chatting with the headmistress about some other matters, and she's let me know she'll have a quiet word with Professor Froissart. If you do have any direct evidence at a later point, feel free to let her know directly (though do take some care with confidences: we'd hate for there to be international difficulties, and things of this kind can be so touchy.)



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-20 20:25:17](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh--yes, I hadn't--Oh--

Yes. If you think she'll really Yes, that would probably be best. Thank you, Professor, for bringing it up with her.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 20:27:17](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I don't think she plans to suggest any course of action - at least not at this point. Just sound him out on how to handle it if anything does turn up in our investigation of matters with our own students.




 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-20 15:30:25](#)
(no subject)

Gracious, Clearwater. It sounds as if things are quite out of control at Hogwarts this year.

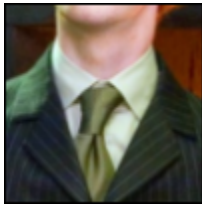
Such indiscipline is disgraceful; it brings shame upon all of us in the Protectorate.




 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-20 19:43:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Sandoval, you've no idea.

It's ridiculous, is what it is. And infuriating. But we'll put a stopper in it one way or another.

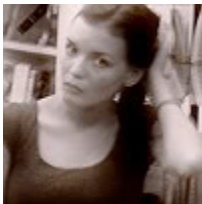



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-21 00:23:52](#)
Private message to Penelope Clearwater

If I were at Hogwarts right now, I'd take you for a walk. Someplace outside, so we could look up at the stars. And maybe where the air is brisk and a little cold, to let the steam coming out of your ears waft away on the breeze.

Has it been so very awful? I'm so sorry.

Thinking of you.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-21 03:44:44](#)
Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh, Perce -

Thank you. I haven't wanted to pester you; I know it's got to be a fantastically busy time for you, with Mr Malfoy at the Wizengamot and all.

But - yes, I just can't see letting this sort of thing get out of hand, especially not with foreign dignitaries roaming the school. Only where before, they were all grumbling about being harassed, now they're complaining that we're asking them to grass on each other.

Can't win, I suppose.

And then *Sandoval*, if you please. Ohhh, she just sets my teeth on edge. She thinks she's so perfect. What a laugh! You remember how the other prefects used to talk about her behind her back when she was Head Girl?

Of course, I think about that and I wonder what in Merlin's name they're saying about *me*. Probably that I'm just all talk. But we had to do something, we couldn't just let it go on without any sort of consequences!

And you should SEE the way people around here are treating that Viktor Krum! I'm serious, Perce, the poor bloke couldn't use the bloody loo without getting mobbed by these girls. Some of them were Beauxbatons, I know, but most were ours. It was dead embarrassing! And having him come to me, privately, to ask if I'd tell them to leave him alone? I thought I'd die, honestly.

Not because he's a star, of course. Just from the shame of the whole episode.

Is it too late to give the badge to Kathryn Pyle and have done with it?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-21 00:27:36](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

'Report the names of your tormentors to your Prefects'?

Oh, that'll go over real well. Getting a reputation of being a snitch. On top of all the other problems.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-10-21 00:29:14](#)

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

All right there then, Neville?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-21 00:30:20](#)

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

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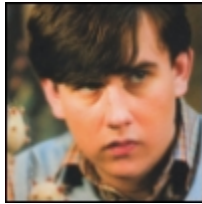
It's not as easy. As she's making it out to be. To report someone.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-21 00:31:28](#)

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

Something you need to tell us, Nev?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-21 00:32:09](#)

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

Well, if I needed to tell someone, I would have done so, wouldn't I?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-21 00:34:30](#)

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

Maybe.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-10-21 00:37:28](#)

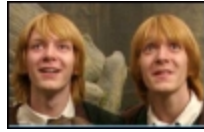
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Fred and George Weasley*

Or maybe not.

Didn't think anything of it before, but...you know, I sort of half-noticed yesterday that Neville had a shadow along his jaw line.

Maybe a bruise?

Come to think of it, he's been sitting with his sister Evelyn at meals. Like every meal. Just started this week.




 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2011-10-21 00:38:25**

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Really? Bugger.

Thanks for the tip, Lee. We'll start keeping a closer eye on him. On both of them.



 **[alt_terry](#) at 2011-10-21 02:05:13**

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

True.

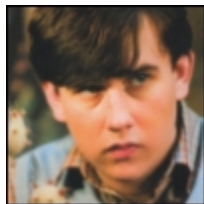
But you can have your friends watch your back. If you let them know what they should be watching for.



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2011-10-21 02:06:13**

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

You'd better listen to him, Nev. The professor gives good advice.



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2011-10-21 02:06:40**

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

I'll think about it.

2011-10-20 09:15:00

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

I sent it off!

Do you have any time today? I've been thinking about starting another paper, and I'd really like to have your thoughts on it.



 [alt_lana](#)




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-20 14:42:49**
(no subject)

- Lana, another paper, already?

Though there are such a great number of fascinating subjects to write about.

I regret that I will not be free until late afternoon. Possibly not until evening. Hooper will meet his fate today, and I'm to be among the witnesses.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-10-20 14:47:39**
(no subject)

Oh.

I understand. Am I asking more than I-

I know you have so many responsibilities. I'm sorry, it was silly of me to think-



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-10-20 15:12:16**
(no subject)


I'm in a bit of a strange mood. I think it must be the Dementors.

I'm reminded of...business that I've put aside for too long. And it's not something I can involve you in, I'm afraid.

I'm far too fond of you to involve you in something potentially dangerous.

Once the melancholia wears off, I will want to see you.



 **alt_lana** at **[2011-10-20 15:21:13](#)**
(no subject)

I'll want to see you, too.

Be safe. Whatever it is-




 **alt_rodolphus** at **[2011-10-20 15:26:32](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, it won't be dangerous today. But perhaps later.

8 o'clock this evening - L'Estrange. I'll be there.
Come when you can.



 **alt_lana** at **[2011-10-20 15:29:01](#)**
(no subject)

Yes.

[2011-10-20 09:24:00](#)

Order Only

Did you see the article in today's Prophet about the Hooper trial?



Sirius, you may have been right to suspect that it's all been a gruesomely overplayed theatre of cruelty to showcase the regime's power. And whatever else he may be, Auror Crouch seems to fall short as an actor. Shouting down his father's summation? Really.

 **[alt_poppy](#)**

In any other world than the carnival we live in, he'd have been hauled off to an asylum. Instead, I suppose he'll receive a commendation for eloquence and loyalty.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-20 21:14:43](#)**

(no subject)

It's been a hectic day here (new shipment arrived through Dover) so I've only just now had a chance to read the paper, while Bea's napping.

Did he really threaten to have his own father Kissed by Dementors, do you think?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-10-20 21:15:44](#)**

(no subject)

Such a model family.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-20 21:38:54](#)**


(no subject)

Yes. Always have been, that lot.

I've been thinking, though, what you said about Sr's life being a misery. And how Macnair thought it was he who sent him and Snape their own journals back.

Maybe Farty's not actually fooling? Ought to ask Dora, though as she says, it's not like she was around either of them all that often.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-10-20 22:06:51](#)
(no subject)

Well, she did say that Mr Crouch and his son are antagonists.

And she said what I suppose we must have known at the time, though I confess I'd forgotten: Barty Crouch arranged his father's release after the Ministry fell only to keep him under virtual house arrest for years. Let him out to work, but in a place so reduced from his former status it must have been a bitter punishment.

Certainly this trial was a hopeless task.

Perhaps he was mounting a significant rebellion, presenting evidence they meant to have quashed. (The business about Malfoy's abusive treatment of the brother.)

If so, it really is a wonder Mr Crouch hasn't been arrested himself.

2011-10-20 15:25:00

Private message to Headmistress McGonagall



Minerva:

You know I hate to have YPL matters intrude on teaching, but I'm afraid I'm a bit stuck.

 [alt_sinistra](#)

We absolutely must meet for two days, sometime in December (the TriWizard Tournament did havoc to our original plans, and we've been scrambling to rearrange ever since.) To make things worse, both of the new committee members have significant plans over our Christmas break, when I'd normally schedule our meetings. The committee has (grudgingly) agreed to meet on a weekend day, but we need at least one day during the workweek for conversations with various Ministry staff.

Would it be all right with you if I planned to miss either the 2nd or 3rd Monday in December? (3 classes: the Gryffindor and Ravenclaw 3rd years, and the 2nd year class and observing time, since I doubt I'll be up for a midnight class after two days of meetings.) The other option would be either of those Fridays. But that would mean the 5th years missing both class and observing, and the 7th years missing observing and I hate to lose any class time for students in OWL and NEWT years.

Whichever day, I'm glad to either assign them something to work on, or arrange alternate time to make up. Any other ideas most welcome, of course.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at **2011-10-20 19:28:02**
(no subject)

H'm. Is there any possibility of another teacher filling in for you, with extensive lesson plans, of course? It seems that observation, at least, requires more 'ability to supervise squirmy young children' than actual deep knowledge of the stars, at least after the first year when students are learning to use the equipment.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-20 19:31:36](#)**
(no subject)

The classes themselves, it might be possible, though I'd have to check and see who's free each hour. The observing is a bit more complicated - I hate to ask anyone to have to be up at for a midnight class and then teach first thing in the morning (I barely manage some days, and as you know, my classes are scheduled so I don't teach before 10.)

My NEWT students would likely be glad to do what I did this past Tuesday: offer some supervision between full dark and curfew to anyone who needs to catch up on assignments, or perhaps Raz might be willing to supervise behavior. (He did check on them on Tuesday, but everything was fine.)



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-10-20 19:33:48](#)**
(no subject)

Ah. Well, you do have a point.

Our Lord's plans must come first, of course, however inconvenient they may be to our teaching schedules, so I trust that you will do what is best for your students - and I shall continue to consider whether there might be any other professors who would consider a very late night.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-20 19:36:29](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for understanding. (And yes, if there were any other way around this, I'd take it - I hate missing a week with them as well, and it's always harder to get them going the next class, even without the missed content.) I have been assured by the committee that it won't be a problem this spring, though.


I've been mired in the YPL work for the past week, but once we're past Saturday's events, my time should ease up. Is there anything I can do to help you out with our visitors?



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-20 19:41:25](#)
(no subject)

Only try to keep the students on an even keel: 'restive' is hardly the word for it. The claws appear to have come out across the board, and the younger and less popular students are the ones getting scratched, as you might imagine.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 19:46:16](#)
(no subject)

So I understand from Miss Clearwater this morning. We gave some significant thought on Tuesday to how to group students for the activities on Saturday.

I've been wondering what's making it so much worse this year - and it was, even before our guests arrived, so I don't think it's all status plays to look good in front of them.

I do plan to have a word with the CCF and older YPL students about setting a good example, of course, especially as the 4th years are starting to be old enough to have some real influence in their own houses. (If, of course, they use it for good, and not their own pettiness.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 20:14:06](#)
(no subject)

Actually - something just came up in a comment from Miss Clearwater.

She let me know a few more details about who appears to be bullying, and who may be involved, but she wondered if I - or someone - might have a word with Professor Froissart.

Apparently, she passed two of them - Justin Finch-Fletchley and his friend - and wondered if Justin might have been bullied. She's not sure, though, who was doing it - if it was Beauxbatons students, or worse, some of ours. I've had a few brief conversations with him (must say, I liked some of his

comments about the recent charms research in France), but perhaps you'd be better able to handle it delicately? I'm glad to have a word, though, if you think it would be less formal coming from me.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-10-20 20:16:05](#)
(no subject)

In this case, I had better handle it. I hate to take autonomy away from you, because I do feel that it's best to let you and the other teachers do as they see fit with students who come to them - but in this particular instance - let us say, if there were any kind of incident arising from this, it would be by far better for me to have caused an international incident than you. I have more resources to fall back on.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-20 20:18:22](#)
(no subject)

Not offended in the slightest (and having been doing my own share of balancing this kind of thing in miniature, quite happy to leave it in your capable hands. This week's YPL meeting had more than enough politics to sate me for months.)

I think Miss Clearwater simply wanted to know the best way to go about it - I'll reassure her you'll have a quiet word.

2011-10-21 08:43:00

Private message to Raz

- Raz, when you have a moment today:

How are the headaches? Remember to chart frequency and duration, so healers can provide best course of treatment.




 **alt_rodolphus**

Been sipping a brew of cacao infused with cardamom and ginger, myself. Close vicinity Dementor exposure yesterday; more of an impact than expected.

And thus why I must talk to you about a project.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-21 17:23:17**
(no subject)

Just now getting to this. Had boggarts with the third year Slytherins and Ravenclaws this morning. Always leaves them a bit shook up, though not so much when those Dementors were around last year.

Doing my best to chart the headaches, but it isn't exactly what I'm most in the mood for when I get hit with a blinder. Can't really pinpoint any particular triggers yet.

What project?




 **alt_rodolphus** at **2011-10-21 17:25:06**
(no subject)

Boggarts were September last year, weren't they?
Why October this year?

Let the Matron know about the headaches; she can probably do a better job tracking them than you can.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 17:28:11](#)
(no subject)

No particular reason, other than I happened to begin the year with grindylows and kappas already in stock, but had to wait to find a boggart. Hooch found this one, hiding out in a cupboard in the quidditch broom shed.


Yes, well, I'll get to that eventually. Really.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 17:29:58](#)
(no subject)

What was Hydra's boggart? Did you see it? I suppose I might hazard a guess.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 17:37:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes. I've changed the set up a bit so that the other students can't actually see the boggart (not very clearly, at least) while the student is facing it. The most difficult thing about this lesson is having other people discover what you're most afraid of, after all. But I'm always behind the student when they open the wardrobe, just in case they freeze up in fear entirely.

Hydra's wasn't what I would have guessed. I think she might have been surprised by it, too.

Young, dark-haired man in Slytherin robes. When he opened his mouth a snake slithered out.

When she saw the snake - that's when she went white. It puffed up and grew and transformed into a basilisk. Pretty sure the other students got a glimpse of that much.

She wasn't quite able to cast *Riddikulus*, but that's all right. Very few students pull that off the first try.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 17:39:32](#)
(no subject)

Young, dark-haired man. Interesting.

You know, I don't think Bella will ever forgive her for having gotten close to Him. In a way that she never will.

Might want to see if you can get Alecko Carrow to open that wardrobe door one of these days. See what it is that she fears most.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 17:42:32](#)
(no subject)

You're probably right about Bella.

And good night, what a suggestion. I'm not inviting that cow round to tea anytime soon, am

I.

Her boggart'd probably be a mirror, anyway. I'd be afraid to see what I really looked like too, if I had that face.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 17:45:25](#)
(no subject)

No interest in executing a little justice, then? For yourself - for what happened to Lucius. For what almost happened to Hydra. An eye for an eye.

Or it doesn't have to be eyes.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 17:51:48](#)
(no subject)

I don't li

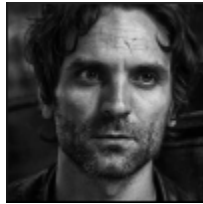
No, not really.

Don't get me wrong. I despise that bitch and her bitch-loving

brother. If something horrible were to befall either of them I'd sleep like a newborn babe.

But I have a gimpy leg, some nasty scars on my chest, and a wee bit of a problem with headaches.

Pretty sure I don't actually have nine lives, either. So I'd like to live out the rest of this one in relative peace, if I can do.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 17:54:30](#)

(no subject)

I should think you'd have more relative peace if she were drooling onto her pillow in the Vale of Health.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 17:56:28](#)

(no subject)

I think I feel my arm being twisted.

Look, I won't stop you from starting up one of your games, but I'd rather not be a major player this time. Just... keep me on the bench.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 18:03:10](#)

(no subject)

So be it, bench-warmer. Since we're brothers, I'll still consider inviting you to the celebration after the final.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 18:10:55](#)

(no subject)

A party without me is not a party indeed!

Will Bella help? With the game, I mean - not the celebration.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 18:11:57](#)
(no subject)

Doubtful.

The Missus has her own projects. And now...so do I.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-21 18:12:28](#)
(no subject)

Talk to Narcissa. She'd be keen to join in, I'm sure of it.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-21 18:12:49](#)
(no subject)

Now there's a thought.

Good day, brother. Keep the boggarts at bay.

2011-10-21 09:11:00

Various notes



 [alt_draco](#)

I was surprised to read the Head Girl's announcement about bullying, as I haven't noticed any behaviour that's more out of line from what we usually see at Hogwarts. But apparently others have noticed, which is unfortunate, given that we currently have guests whose impression of Hogwarts matters a great deal to some of us. Now that such a bright ~~glaring~~ light has been shined on the matter, we can only hope that it will soon die down.

If there are any first-year or visiting students who want to test out their spellcasting skills in an approved environment, they ought to consider attending duelling club on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Also, the NEWT students have duelling club on the first and third Tuesday, and they don't usually mind having an audience. Some of them have developed some dead impressive wand-work, too, which means it can be quite a show some nights.

So yeah, haven't seen this so-called bullying, but I have seen what Krum's been enduring. Last night I was on my way show him and some of the other Durmstrang students our quidditch trophies, when Marjoram Montague and Effie Stevens literally leapt out of the Armour Gallery while waving Bulgarian pennants and shouting the Bulgarian fight song. They had also charmed their hair to be white blond for some reason...to look like Veela? That's all I can figure, though they were just a bit far off on the resemblance.

It was possibly the most hideous spectacle I have ever witnessed. We all had our wands out in an instant - that's just what you do when someone jumps out from behind a suit of armour - and their faces went utterly white. And then when they saw Krum's expression - well, they figured out right quick that not a single one of us was amused. Stevens burst into tears and went wailing in the other direction, and Montague muttered an apology before scurrying off the same way. And then I had to apologise to Krum for their antics.

If people would stop ~~being~~ idiots being so ridiculous in the first place, we'd all be better off. Hopefully there won't be any incidents like that this weekend.

And speaking of - Harry and I will probably help with the set up after supper. Anyone else from CCF interesting in joining?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-21 16:03:45](#)

Private message to Malcolm Baddock

It's one thing to maintain the social order of things, but to get caught? That's utterly not on - especially for a Slytherin. I'm guessing Avery told you the same thing.

Do us a favour and tone it down, yeah? Same goes for your mates. That way we can be spared having to watch Clearwater lay down the law in the most harpy-like, screeching way possible.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-21 16:10:16](#)

(no subject)

Marjoram did what?

Oh, for Holda's sake..



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-21 16:10:47](#)

(no subject)

That's right. Is she one of your cousins?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-21 16:14:48](#)

(no subject)

I'm afraid so. And Alfred's too, of course. (And Astoria's as well, obviously.)

One of us should speak with her, I suppose.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-22 00:29:57](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Draco, Su Li and I are at Location Four working on the Aqua trail. Are you working on the third location?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-22 01:24:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yes, but we should almost be done, I think. Just re-arranging the books on the reference table. Ha, think it'd be too unkind to jam one underneath one of the table legs?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-22 01:59:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Won't it get wet overnight? I suppose you could cast an Impervius charm on it.

We've been having some difficulties. The Squid's not nearly as pleased about providing ink as it is about having stones chucked at it (and considering how much it likes that...).

So. Is Clearwater just completely naff, or what? What does Avery really say?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-22 02:05:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

You're not all covered in ink, are you?

Clearwater drew far more attention to it than she ought to have, that's what. Far as I know, Avery told the Slytherins involved to be more subtle and quit getting caught.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-22 02:27:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

No, we're not covered in ink. Now But he (is the Squid a he?) made some waves before going deep under the water. I'm not sure if anyone will be able to coax him up tomorrow.

I think Clearwater's just lazy. She took the shortest possible route to try to browbeat people into submission. When she could have just had a couple conversations with the *right* people--or even left well enough alone.

Anyway. Are you going to the special whatever-it-is tomorrow?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-22 02:44:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Oh, you're not in Creatures - last year Corner asked Brutka that very thing, and he said he had never studied the squid so he didn't know its sex, but that if we wanted to find out we needed to look for a hectocotylus, which is this long arm/tentacle that a male squid uses for procreation.

Yeah, I reckon that's what Avery wanted to do. Pity he couldn't get her to put a stopper in it, first.

As far as I know, yes. 10 o'clock, right?

2011-10-22 09:45:00

Looking ahead

Of course, I'm quite excited by today's planned activities: I hope that everyone will enjoy the search and exploration of the grounds. (And much thanks to everyone who's helped with set-up and planning.) I know that all of our Hogwarts students will of course make our guests feel welcome as everyone shares in the activities. See you all at 2!



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Please feel free to use this entry in case there are any questions or concerns during the event. I'll be keeping a close eye on student journals in general as I circulate about the grounds, but particularly here. You can also look for the CCF members and YPL counsellors in many places around the grounds.

The briskness in the air also reminds me of another seasonal note: anyone who would like a refresher on the best warming charms for our Astronomy work this winter, I'll be available in my office Tuesday and Thursday between supper and curfew. I also always have a bin of warm hats, gloves, and scarves, for people who also like to bundle up a bit more. (Though, as always, no promises that any of the colors will be particularly desirable.)

[2011-10-22 13:59:00](#)

(no subject)

That really was a wonderful brunch. Thanks again, Director Selwyn! It was rather lovely, especially the... oh... what do you call what we had to drink? I didn't catch it, but it was nice. As were the pastries.



 [alt_pansy](#)

It was so kind of you to go out of your way to recognise all the people in our year who helped at the World Cup because I know you must have just such a busy schedule, and I know that the only reason I was there was because Sally-Anne was so wonderfully brave, and learning about mediwizardry too, that helped. I don't want to go into it for a living, of course, but you know, it really is very useful to learn, and I'm glad we'll be learning more about it this term, and I'm ever so glad that your Arista had Ron taking care of her during all the chaos because she really is wonderfully sweet, and I remember how much fun we had together at the Easter party last spring. It's a pity I'll have left Hogwarts by the time she gets old enough to come here, but I'm just sure she'll do marvellously.

I really enjoyed our chat, and that you took the time to get to know each one of us a little better, and I hope all of us didn't bore you too terribly with our goings-on here at Hogwarts. It was very kind of you.

I ought to get back to waiting for people to come by my orienting station in case anyone needs help, but I just wanted to write you and let you know how much I appreciated your well-wishes.

And Daphne! I absolutely adore the dress robes you wore to brunch. I didn't get a chance to tell you as we were all chatting away about one thing or another and you know how that sort of thing goes, but I wanted to let you know that those colours looked particularly wonderful on you.



 [alt_neville](#) at **[2011-10-22 18:30:18](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I must say that was a decent thing for him to do. You all do deserve some recognition.

What's he like, really? The Director?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 18:35:34](#)

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

He was actually very kind. I mean, in the journals when he's writing, he usually seems so stern and serious, but he was very warm and smiled a lot, and in a nice way. And he didn't mind at all when we were chatty, but I think that's because he has children of his own, you know.

And he said the most wonderful things about Ron. Who completely earned every bit of it, but you know how sometimes people don't give people credit even though they ought, and I'm glad Ron got his credit. And Sally-Anne, too. Especially from someone as highly placed as Director Selwyn.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 19:29:59](#)

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

Thanks, Fisheye.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 19:33:51](#)

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

You deserve it, tuna brain.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 19:36:31](#)


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

Yeah, well, Director Selwyn's mostly nice enough. Today he was really great.

He's good at talking to people like us. I dunno, he's not like loads of grownups who don't seem to ever know what to say to kids. So today he was asking us all about the visitors and what we're learning from them. How we're doing with the different languages and all.

He seemed pretty interested about that really amazing French girl, Delacourt or whatever her name is and how everyone thinks she's part-Veela on account of how good-looking she is. And everyone told him about Viktor Krum and how all the girls are mad for him, poor bloke.

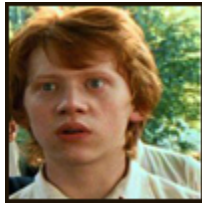


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 19:39:38](#)

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

I really do feel sorry for him.

I mean, Sally-Anne and me don't bother him, of course, and other Slytherin girls have been mostly decent, because otherwise he'd never get any time alone or to be with his friends and just be himself while in our Common Room. But he gets all these letters every day -- it's like Harry was at Valentine's Day during first year, except for it's like that all the time.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 19:45:38](#)

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

I mean, honestly. He's a great Quidditch player, but it's not like he's really amazing to look at.

Oh, hang on. I've got another group coming up for the chess. It took Davies' group forever to figure it out. Oi. You should've heard him arguing with that Durmstrang girl with the really, really long black hair. What's her name? She was right, too, but he wouldn't listen to her.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-22 18:42:21](#)


(no subject)

Oh, thank you! They're from a little shop in Chelsea called Hex-Kiss. I have their catalogue, if you'd like to have a look at their Winter collection.

The drink was "sunrise cordial." Mother often serves it when she has her friends over for Sunday tea, but there's never been any left over for me to taste, so I never knew how very nice it was until now. It was ever so thoughtful of Director Selwyn to invite us out, wasn't it?

Oh, but I'm still reeling from what he revealed about my mother and Professor Lestrangle. I never had the slightest idea!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 18:50:12](#)

(no subject)

I know! Isn't it odd? I mean, and sort of brilliant too.

And I'd love to look at the catalogue after we get done today. Oooh, I almost forgot, we get tea when we're done! Thank goodness for that, because it certainly is brisk outside. I'm glad the sun is out, though. I'm sure the people running all over the grounds are getting plenty of exercise and aren't feeling that wind at all.

We shall have to make that sunrise cordial again sometime, I think. It would be lovely at a picnic, wouldn't it?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-22 19:10:31](#)

(no subject)

I'm just itching to write to Mother and scold her for having kept such a secret. I always knew that her youth was far more exciting than Father's, but really...who could imagine!

Oh, you poor dear. Do you think we're allowed to trade stations? I'm in the... well, maybe I shouldn't say, in case someone participating is reading... but I'm indoors, anyway.

I agree about the cordial, but won't be picnic-weather for a while, I fear!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 19:12:18](#)

(no subject)

Oh! I don't mind terribly. Just be sure to save some sandwiches for me at tea. It'll only be for another hour or so anyways.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-22 19:12:28](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, think about it: you could be Professor Raz's daughter! Only he doesn't seem much like anyone's father, does he?!

They're called sunrise cordials? I didn't hear what they were. But you're right, they were nice.




 **alt_daphne** at [2011-10-22 19:14:23](#)
(no subject)

Ooooooh. I'm so cross with Mother right now!

Only it would be terribly awkward to find your own father fanciable, so perhaps I shouldn't be.

Sunrise cordials. They sort of matched your hair...

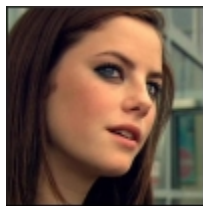


 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-22 19:28:00](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

Um, yeah. That'd be awkward. And also sorta, yeah. Not good.

Yeah, it's a great colour, don't you think?




 **alt_daphne** at [2011-10-22 19:40:39](#)
(no subject)

Despite the public's tendency to disparage gingers, I do think it can be a great hair colour, depending on whom it's bestowed.

It is definitely a great colour for a drink. Brighter and sunnier than pumpkin juice, which has that thick, muddy tone to it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 19:46:33](#)
(no subject)


Cheers, Greengrass!



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-22 19:15:36](#)
(no subject)

Who could what now?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-22 19:23:27](#)
(no subject)

Oh, it's nothing, sir.

Director Selwyn was just telling us stories and all, and he mentioned that Daphne's mum and you were sweethearts for a little. That's all.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 19:24:09](#)
(no subject)

Oh, hello, sir!

I was just saying how you could've been Daphne's dad if you'd married her mother. Director Selwyn said that you and Mrs Greengrass dated each other a longtime ago. Before she was Mrs Greengrass, I guess. Anywiz, that's all.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-22 19:26:40](#)
(no subject)

Oh he shared that, did he.


Dominic I will



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-22 19:32:01](#)
(no subject)

I mean, I understand entirely why you didn't, of course. You wanted to be a quidditch star, and my mother wanted to marry and start having babies right away. Only it might've been more interesting had it been you she married and not my father. Even though Father's very well respected, he's just a bit boring. And he has that awful moustache that I know even Mother doesn't like. And he was a Hufflepuff, besides! Even Grandmother agrees that he's not like a Greengrass at all!



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-10-22 19:33:47](#)
(no subject)

Hey, hufflepuffs are cool.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-10-22 19:35:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh, that's true, sir. Some of them are very cool, and a few are even quite fetching.

Only Father's not really one of them. He's a lovely man, but definitely NOT cool.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 18:59:43](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it was wizard, wasn't it.


Thank you again, sir, if you're reading this. I've never been to such a nice place as that, and I hope we used the right forks and all. I was glad there weren't as many to keep straight as there were at the World Cup.



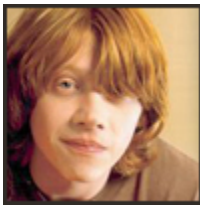
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:00:09](#)**
(no subject)


Hey, Pans. Did you try the pastries with the porphyry fruit filling? Director Selwyn told me what was in them, and the serving witch said it's really, really special. I'd never tasted any before, but it was the most delicious stuff ever!



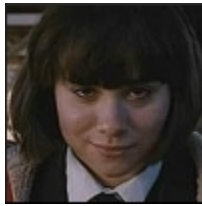
 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:08:31](#)**
(no subject)

Oooh! I think I did -- was it the ones that were purple, or the ones that were orange? Because both of them were really excellent.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:13:40](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, the purple ones!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:16:10](#)**
(no subject)


I remember those! That's such an odd name. You'll have to say it out loud next time we see one another so I'll know how to pronounce it properly.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:22:12](#)**
(no subject)


Heh. Yeah. Porphyry are in one of the Brotherhood of the Bat stories. Somebody gets poisoned with them because they eat way too many and can't stop since they taste so good. I think maybe that's not really true that you could get poisoned to death by them, but I can sure see how you might want to keep eating those pastries!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:24:06](#)**
(no subject)


Death by porphyry. Well, at least it would be a delicious way to go, right?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:25:21](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, it'd be sort of awesome, I think. As much as anything killing you would be.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:46:01](#)**
(no subject)

Sally Anne's well brave, but I'm not so bad, either. I utterly rescued Mrs Zabini from a massive pile of burning rubble, you know.

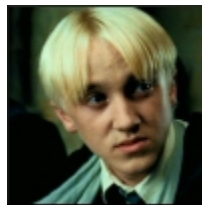
That was a brill morning, though. Good to know you can get reasonably nice food in Hogsmeade, too. Paramount service, as well.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:49:33](#)**
(no subject)

Malfoy. What you said about Professor Brutka's teaching? That's really true. Hadn't thought about it before, but you're right.

And that was a snitch lesson when he told us about the squid! Makes a brilliant story, too, the way you told it.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-22 19:55:14](#)**
(no subject)

Well I still stand by my assertion that the squid is female. If it had one of those hectocotyluses, someone would have seen it by now.

To give credit where it's due, I quite agree with what you said

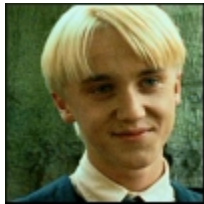
about Acton. Underneath all that syrup she definitely knows charms.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 20:04:26](#)
(no subject)

Can't argue there: I mean, I don't fancy getting that personal with the squid, so I'm not going to try to find out!

Yeah, well, it may be like Li said. Acton's not sweet on us Gryffindors! Not like she is with you and Harry, y'know?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-22 20:17:26](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it's either gobs of syrup or loads of salt with Acton. And too much of either can absolutely ruin a meal.

Speaking of, for some reason Li dumped at least 6 cubes of sugar into my tea when I asked her to pass the bowl over. Nice of her to be helpful, but it ruined my cuppa. Good thing those pitchers of sunrise cordial kept refilling.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 20:37:08](#)
(no subject)

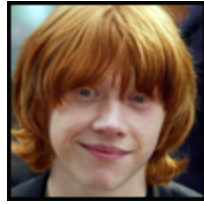
Yeah, y'know the really great thing about that stuff was that it wasn't too sweet. It was, well, a grown up thing, wasn't it?


That's the thing about Director Selwyn. He treats us like we're worth spending time with and listening to. Not like grown ups, exactly, but like we we're on our way to that.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-22 21:16:59](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

You maybe better be careful with him, Ron. The Director, I mean.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 21:21:26](#)

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

Yeah, that's what I was saying before. He's nice enough, mostly. But I know to watch out.

I told you about my meeting with him this summer. Not going to tell Malfoy about that, though, am I?

Actually. Not sure how I got talking to Malfoy, at all.

Huh.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-22 21:29:25](#)

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

Weird, yeah. I noticed that: people who went to that brunch came back awfully chatty. Guess everyone had a good time.

But I'm glad you realise the danger. Guess if he wants to find out stuff about our families, he knows he's more likely to get the information out of a kid who he thinks wouldn't know any better.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 21:58:43](#)

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

Yeah, I think that's sorta true.

Anywiz, all we talked about today was the pastries, which were amazing, and about that French Veela girl, and Krum, and, oh! Someone told him about Professor Raz and Professor Sinistra, how, er. Um. Yeah, I can't believe anyone actually said it. Oh, well.


Y'know. I think there might've been something in the stuff they gave us to drink! I mean, people said some kind of-interesting stuff.

Nothing bad, though. Just, y'know, stuff you wouldn't

normally say. Like, um. I sang him some of the songs Arista and I sang when I went to find her that night at the World Cup.

I can't believe I did that. Oh, well.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-22 22:11:00](#)

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

Oh and, heh. Greengrass asked him about Auror Crouch. She was all sort of googly about it, too.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-23 03:03:13](#)

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

She *did*, didn't she? I mean, she practically started crying at the table while she was talking about how glad she was that he wasn't really dead.

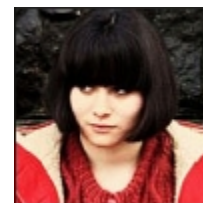



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 03:22:53](#)

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

Yeah, well, and then she told me she likes ginger hair. Did you see that?

I think she was pretty embarrassed later that she'd said it!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-23 03:38:51](#)


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

Ooooh. I didn't do anything too embarrassing, did I?

I mean, I guess I did go on a bit much about you and Sally-Anne and all, and I probably shouldn't have said anything when he started talking about the Professor Carrows, but

practically everyone else said things too, so it wasn't like I was the only one.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-23 13:57:20](#)


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

Nah, I didn't hear you say anything mad. But I didn't hear what you or Sally Anne said to him when you were talking over by the

windows.

That was a really nice restaurant, wasn't it? I've never heard anyone talk about it. Though I reckon none of us go any place like that on Hogsmeade days!



 **alt_padma** at [2011-10-23 03:43:04](#)

(no subject)

Modest, too.

[2011-10-22 16:22:00](#)

Good Show

So that was good fun, yeah?

There were two groups that were really quick to sort the chess. Cheers, Paskle. Nice to meet you, mate. (Bundy says that's not how you spell your name. Sorry if it's not.) Would like to play you for reals sometime. Your approach was different from anyone else's, but definitely sound.



 **[alt_ron](#)**

No surprise, really, but Towler's was the other top team. Did you hear what the Queen said about you, mate? Made me blush!

How'd it go at the other spots? I heard about one close call with the Whomping Willow. Hope no one got thrashed!

And tea was great. Glad I didn't miss the cinnamon biscuits.

Is it time for supper yet?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-22 22:39:29](#)**


(no subject)

Some of the younger groups who came to the owlery were very silly and tried to disturb the owls, and then they ended up getting pecked. At least at first. After a while the owls had been given so many treats that they were too lazy to be bothered.

Just so you know, when I said that Professor Raz is fanciable I didn't mean that I fancy him, only that he's generally considered as such. He's always topping those most eligible bachelor polls, you know.

And when I said that ginger can be a great colour of hair on some people I was specifically talking about your sister. After all, she does a little modeling now.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-23 01:47:24](#)
(no subject)

Bet none of the owls want to carry letters tomorrow!
They'll all have got fat and lazy.

And, yeah. I figured.



 **alt_hydra** at [2011-10-22 23:42:59](#)
(no subject)

I was hoping our group would be fast with the chess,
but it didn't go very well.

Maybe you noticed, but Remy and I were with two of
the Dumstrang third-years, Freja Janecek and Gunther Thiess.
They're both only average at English, and Remy and I are a lot less
than average at German.


They also kept arguing with each other in German, about how to
follow the clues I think. And Remy thought their arguments were
amusing so he didn't really try to settle them down.

It made things difficult.

But it was still fun. I felt bad that the CCF students didn't get to
participate, but it sounds as if you all had ever such a nice time out
at Hogsmeade.

From,
Hydra




 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-23 01:45:47](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Remy had a pretty fair idea how to go after the
chess set up from the beginning. It was a shame you
couldn't all agree on it, but you weren't the worst
group at all. O'Flaherty and Rigg were with Megan
Jones, and they were all being so polite with the Beauxbatons girl in
their group they couldn't make any decisions at all. Of course, it
didn't help that none of them seemed to really know anything about
chess.

You don't have to feel bad for us. It was loads of fun to set things up. I was out last night, charming the stones that run up the steps from the lake entrance--y'know, the numeracy clues? That was really nift. I hadn't really been down there since we came in that way as firsties. Had you? It was pretty amazing to see it at night again, too. The way the lights from the castle reflect off the lake. You can really see it from there.

And it was sort of great to watch it all happen today. Did you know some groups tried to skip the clues and coordinates and location charms, and thought they could just go places where they could see helpers standing. Like we wouldn't've figured on somebody trying that! Anywiz, for a while, there were a couple of groups wandering around and then shouting at each other when that was no good.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-23 02:10:42](#)
(no subject)

No, I hadn't been that way since my first day at Hogwarts. Not that I remember, at least. I could see how it would be peaceful, though, especially at night. I wonder if it's normally considered out of bounds.

That's right, you're very good at chess. I remember you beat me, that time we played in my first year.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 02:22:15](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if it's out of bounds or whether no one goes that way because it just goes down to that little dock, and there aren't ever any boats there. But I think it might be a good place to go if you ever wanted to be let alone. Maybe Krum will figure that out!

Did I beat you? That wasn't very nice of me. No wonder you didn't want to play me again! I just remember you were sort of quiet, and I thought maybe you hadn't spent much time before

with anyone you didn't already know well. I thought you were nice, though.



 **alt_hydra at 2011-10-23 02:45:44**
(no subject)


People will probably let him alone eventually, its only been a week after all. But you're right it would be a good place for solitude. Except now that we've written about it people might try to look for him there.

I wouldn't have minded playing again. It's fair if the best player wins.

That's what people usually remember about me, the quiet. And the niceness, only I didn't learn about that until recently.

From,
Hydra




 **alt_ron at 2011-10-23 03:07:55**
(no subject)

Oh. Well we could play again sometime if you wanted. I bet there'll be loads of days when the weather's foul, and we'll want to do indoor things. I'm only good because I play a lot, and that's partly because we live in Scotland and most of the year is nasty!

I think quiet can be nice. I mean, I'm not really quiet myself, but I don't mind when other people are.



 **alt_hydra at 2011-10-23 03:21:58**
(no subject)

Well, why not?


It's true about the weather, and so long as my homework is finished.

All right, then.

There are better things to be known for. But probably worse things, too


From,
Hydra



 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-23 03:25:35](#)
(no subject)

It's settled, then. Next rainy afternoon you have your homework finished, we'll play chess.




 **alt_padma** at [2011-10-23 03:51:57](#)
(no subject)

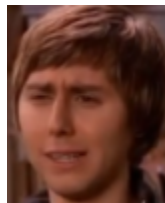
Do you do anything other than eat, Ronald? You had tonnes of food at brunch, then gobbled up biscuits by the handful at tea and then all you could think of was supper?

I could barely touch anything at the table after all that food earlier!



 **alt_ron** at [2011-10-23 13:34:44](#)
(no subject)

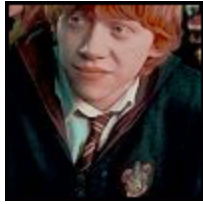
Yes, well. You're always too busy talking to eat, aren't you?




 **alt_justin** at [2011-10-23 15:02:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I say, Ron!

I suppose whatever was in those drinks you lot had has well worn off, what?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 18:12:28](#)
(no subject)

I reckon it has, yeah. Now we're back to normal.

How are you finding it here? Apart from seeing that we don't all get along all the time. They have you staying in Ravenclaw tower? Don't let them tell you have to spend all your time doing homework. There are loads of other things to get up to at Hogwarts.

Do you play chess? Or cards, at all? Snap or Knave's Gambit or Conneycatcher or Portkey or anything?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 18:45:41](#)
(no subject)

Well. I know some of the chaps think Hogwarts is a touch on the Gothic side but--I guess I don't mind that so much, what? The Ravenclaws don't spend all their time at homework, not that I've seen so far. Though it's fair to say there's quite a bit to do, isn't there? I say, I'm not sure how you lot can juggle so many subjects all at once. Nine or ten? It's difficult to imagine being able to focus on them with so much competition for time and attention.

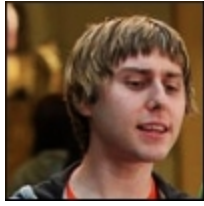
Anyway, yesterday was loads of fun and an excellent way for JP and I to learn our way round. Certainly no homework done yesterday, if you follow me! As for games...I can play chess, yes, though I'm no expert, for certain. ~~I'm not sure I've heard~~ I think we have Snap in France but call it something else? Well, at any rate, we do have some jolly well complicated card games.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 18:54:01](#)
(no subject)

We should get together and teach each other the card games we like best. Maybe get some others to come along, too.

And we should try chess sometime, too. You don't have to be ace at it for it to be fun.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 19:01:22](#)
(no subject)

Quite.

I'm sure JP would be willing, what. He has a set of cards that--well. They're amusing, if you follow me.

Have you mates in Gryffindor who'd want to come along, as well?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 19:22:16](#)
Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Heh. I know some tricks you can play with cards like that. My brother Charlie taught us some really clever spells for it.

Neville might want to come, yeah. I'll ask him.

Did you just want it to be a bloke's thing, then? I mean, we could open it to anyone who wanted to come. Or just to fourth year wizards. Or just set up in the Great Hall and see who turns up.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 19:41:06](#)
Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

You're asking me who might like to come?

I...wonder if you spend any time with people from other Houses, what? I mean to say, I don't know whether a Gryffindor would get on well with anyone in Slytherin, without the benefit of that punch making everyone affable and loquacious, that is to say.

But if you were.... Before I came back to England, Sally-Anne offered to speak to me privately about something. But I haven't had any opportunity to talk to her yet--that is, we've not been in any lessons together and yesterday I was with others, of course, and so was she.

Would it look terribly out of place if she and the others were to come along to whatever sort of card party you'd plan? I shouldn't like to cause any comment, what, if it's not the done thing.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 20:19:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

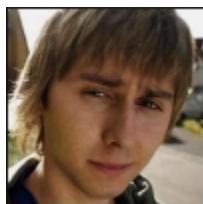
I wasn't asking you who you'd want to come. I was just trying to find out if you only wanted it to be wizards. I do spend time with people from other Houses, sometimes more from outside Gryffindor than in, but you're right that it's complicated. And the whole thing about whether we should ask witches-

Only if we have witches we won't want to have any of that kind of cards, is all. That's really why I was asking.

See, if it were me deciding who I'd want to ask, I'd ask Nev, and Pansy Parkinson and Sally Anne Perks and maybe some others. We could ask Luna if you were wanting to get to know her a bit better. But then we wouldn't ask Patil. For instance.

Or, if we wanted more people, we could say it's for everyone, and then it would be all right whoever turned up, and in that case Patil probably would stay away because it was me setting it up. Unless Malfoy and Marvolo came, in which case she might. It's complicated.

If it's a bloke's thing, then we'd probably just ask all the fourth year wizards, including the ones from Durmstrang and Beauxbatons, and we'd see who turns up. Smith and Macmillan and Moon and some others might come. And, depending on how the wind's blowing, maybe the Slytherins would turn out.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 20:52:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, I see. Well, no, I shouldn't think the girls would appreciate any sort of cards--or card tricks--that exploit femininity, what?

But, yes, I rather think that something where Perks would feel welcome would kill two birds with one stone, as it were, if you follow me. I say, I'm sorry I didn't realise you and Parkinson or Perks were at all acquainted.

Do you not get on with Marvolo and Malfoy, then? Odd, since they're really rather pleasant, I thought. And as for Patil, she's all right. She just...well, there are some girls like her at Beauxbatons, as well. One just has to know how to get round them, what? She's quite good friends with Moon, though, isn't she? And Finnigan? And Finnigan's in your House, isn't he? It's all so very confusing, these Houses and who can speak to whom and such. Much simpler at Beauxbatons, I can tell you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 23:25:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Right.

Well, then. I tell you what. I'll just see if Sally Anne and Pansy and maybe Neville could come sometime and we could get to know you better. I think it's easier in a small group, and we all get on. You'll see.

And that would let you talk to Sally Anne, too. See what she wanted to tell you. She's really clever, you know. And good at, well- good at understanding how to explain other people. Actually, she'd be loads better than I am at explaining who gets on with which other people and why.

Um, about Marvolo and Malfoy. See, the thing is, I got on really well with Marvolo for a while our first couple of years, but Malfoy didn't like that. So then for a while Marvolo was a right pr- anywiz, we don't talk much now, but it's not like I don't like him. I just think he needs to have a think about who he picks as friends. And, yeah, you would think Malfoy's really pleasant when he hosted you back in the summer when you came over. He's all about being polite and being a model of high society or whatever, but that's it. He doesn't like my family, so- yeah, that's really it, pretty much. Weasleys aren't good enough for Malfoys and that's that.

So, anywiz, now you know. And I guess you'll have to decide

if you want to get to know me better or would rather stick with Malfoy and his lot. He won't like it very much if you get to know me.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 23:57:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, I shouldn't think Malfoy will be well fussed, one way or another. I'm only here a short while, after all, if you follow me.

Besides, our job as visitors is to get to know all sorts of students, not just the ones at the top rung, what? I mean to say, my mother's done a fair bit of adjusting since I started school, as the usual lines of class aren't quite divided the way she'd expected.

But, yes, I think I should like a chance to speak with Sally-Anne in a way that shan't raise eyebrows.

When do you think you'd hold the card party, then? We've got an outing next weekend, haven't we?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-23 17:16:32](#)

(no subject)

It was fun, yeah. (Although I'm glad I know the *scourgify* spell for scraping stuff off my shoes from the Owlry! And I'm still pants at flying.)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 18:14:44](#)

(no subject)


Heh. Yeah, I was glad I didn't have to work up there. It was nice being out behind the groundskeeper's place. I'd never really gone out there much. Except when we were looking for badger setts in Creatures.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-23 17:18:19](#)
(no subject)


I think our team would have finished sooner if someone hadn't nicked one of the Herbology texts that were out that you needed to solve one of the clues. But yes, it was fun!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 18:16:07](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's not on, somebody nicking one of the books like that. Sorry that happened. Which part did you like best?




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-23 19:00:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I liked working out the clues, because I like word puzzles. But it was fun to visit bits of the castle that we don't see most of the time, too.

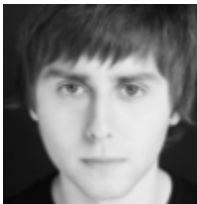
We had one of the girls from Beauxbatons in our group, and she especially had fun with the clues that involved the portraits, and we had quite a nice conversation about magical art in France as opposed to here in the Protectorate.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-23 19:24:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, that was really the main thing, wasn't it?

Getting to know the visiting kids. And letting them see we're a nice enough lot.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 18:46:46](#)
(no subject)


Hallo, Luna,

I'm sorry someone took one of the books. I agree with Weasley, here: that's not on at all.

How did your group get on, otherwise?

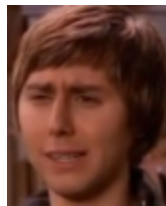
-Justin




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-23 19:02:16](#)
(no subject)

Well, we weren't one of the winning teams, but even the consolation prizes were rather nice. I can always use another magical bookmark.


Oh, and one of the prefects told us afterward that the Herbology book hadn't been taken. It was still there on the table, but someone had put a strong Do Not Notice Me charm on it. Which was really rather sneaky! One of the Slytherins, probably.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-23 19:42:57](#)
(no subject)

Are they prone to that sort of...deception? Slytherins, I mean.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-23 20:10:57](#)
(no subject)

Maybe. Sometimes it's important to know how to be deceptive. Not just when you're playing games, either.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-23 23:44:35](#)
Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

My uncle, Professor Rizzer, that is, he says that every house's strength is also its weakness.

So, Gryffindors are brave and stick up for people, but they can also be rash and judgmental.

Hufflepuffs and loyal and fair and hard-working, but they can be

passive and very set in their ways.

Ravenclaws are intelligent and clever, but they can be closed-off and only ever consider themselves.

Slytherins are ambitious and resourceful, but being resourceful can sometimes mean being deceptive, or even ruthless.

But, just so you know, the Lord Protector was a Slytherin, so in Hogwarts it's rather unofficially considered the best house, even if there really isn't supposed to be a best house.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2011-10-23 23:49:08**

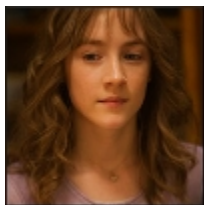
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Well, thank you for the lesson, Hydra.

Or are you just being deceptive?

I say, it doesn't seem like you're all that deceitful, though perhaps given what you've just told me about Slytherin, perhaps you'll not take that for a compliment.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-10-23 23:54:09**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Everyone says that I'm quiet. I don't think that's the same thing.

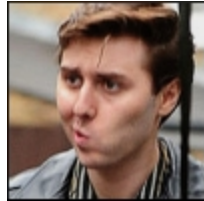
I've been deceptive before but I don't really enjoy it.

No, that's not true because sometimes I do enjoy it, but, I wouldn't enjoy being deceitful to a friend.

Now you're probably more confused than before.

What house do you think you would have been sorted into if you went to Hogwarts?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-24 00:05:07](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

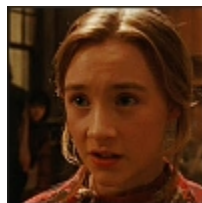
I prefer to be quiet, actually, especially when I'm with people I don't know well. I find I have to force myself to be very outgoing in order to make new friends. Do you ever feel that way?


And I rather know what you mean, I think, about deceiving friends and not enjoying it. Sometimes it's necessary, though, because otherwise things might be far, far worse. There, now I've probably been cryptic enough for both of us.

I'm not sure about my House. I don't think Slytherin, sorry. And I doubt Gryffindor because I'm not really very brave. And I'm not really a natural scholar, either. So I suppose that leaves Hufflepuff. Which is rather strange, what, because I'm not acquainted with any of the Hufflepuffs at all. Though they seem well nice enough.

Have you any friends in Hufflepuff?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-24 00:10:38](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Yes, that's it exactly, and just what I meant when I said that being deceptive is sometimes important and not just for winning games.

Hufflepuffs are nice, and they are more easy-going than some of the other houses. I think you would fit in well there if you went to Hogwarts.

I almost had a friend in Hufflepuff, but she's dead now. Hannah, the girl who was killed at the end of last term.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2011-10-24 00:28:20**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, I say.

I say--that's--gracious. I'm so sorry, then.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-10-24 00:32:36**

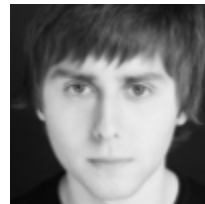
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley


There are other people who knew her a lot better.

I was just trying to help her and

Well, it's not such a happy story, and I think people already told you a bit about it so I won't go over it again.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2011-10-24 00:36:01**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

No, I can understand you not wanting to revisit that episode. Quite right.

I lost a friend once, too.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-10-24 00:56:07**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Then I'm sorry.

Was it very long ago?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-24 01:06:54](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley


Thank you. No, it wasn't so very long ago. But I think we'd better leave things there. I recall being told it's impolite to carry on private conversations in someone else's journal,

what?

Perhaps if you'd like to practise French we could meet after lessons sometime? Don't worry about answering here; just let me know if you'd like to do. And no hard feelings if you don't.

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-24 00:50:28](#)

(no subject)

Well, not deception, necessarily. But cunning. And of course, I don't know whether it was a Slytherin who did the spell. It just seems the most likely possibility.

[2011-10-22 20:57:00](#)

Private Message to Director Selwyn



 [alt_padma](#)

Dear Sir,

Thank you again for the lovely brunch today. It was very kind of you to treat us.

I hope I didn't take up too much of your time talking; I know you wanted to spend a little time with each of us. I really didn't realise how long it was until we finished and it was nearly time to go. But you did seem interested in hearing about things.

Of course, I should say that what I told you about the prefects and the Headmistress - that's just some stuff that the older kids in Ravenclaw Corner said. I mean, a few of them are Prefects so they see Professor McGonagall more often but I know that both Tamblyns and Dames have mentioned that it comes up in Prefects' meetings.

Oh, and of course, I don't really speak any French myself, so I can only go off what Dunstan and Laverty could tell us. But Laverty was well upset when that Archambault chap called Hogwarts mouldy and feudal. And he was complaining about the library, quite a bit, because loads of the references he said were 'everywhere' in France aren't here. I'm not sure which titles, though, sir.

I know you said I should feel free to write if I thought of other things. I dunno if I should say or not, but I suppose as a school Governor you would want to know that I think so far the foreign students aren't very pleased with--well, with Professor Carrow. (Miss Professor Carrow, obviously, they've never met Mr Professor Carrow!) I know for one thing, from what I understand from Justin Finch-Fletchley, none of their fourth-years have taken any Dark Arts lessons yet, so I think some of them are a bit behind. But they want to make it seem like they've just got no *use* for the subject! Though it *could* be that they're jealous, I suppose, that we've got a leg up. Didier did say that her father's been asking for it to be added to their curriculum since he was a student himself, I guess.

But they really didn't have much good to say about Professor Carrow--personally, I mean. And well, I suppose it's not so bad for those of us who've had her for Muggle Studies those first couple years and now Dark Arts for over a year, as well, but it is rather disconcerting, sometimes, the way she has of looking at one really closely. Not that

I'd talk out of turn about a professor, of course.

Anyway, I really only wanted to say that it was a wonderful breakfast and I know you're frightfully busy so it was especially kind of you to arrange it for all of us.

2011-10-23 14:09:00

Private message to Nymphadora Ponds

Mrs Ponds,

It came to my attention some time ago, right around the time of your daughter's birth, that Hydra has an interest in becoming better acquainted with you. She asked for permission to write to you, and after assurances from my sister and my husband, I reluctantly agreed to the exchange.



 **alt_bellatrix**

Since then, Hydra has expressed further interest in meeting your infant and your husband, and seeing the cafe and shop where you make your living. Naturally, such a visit not be possible until she is on holiday from school - Christmas, perhaps.

Still, I have some concerns about such a visit. I do not know what kind of household you and your husband keep, and I shouldn't want my daughter to be exposed to any paraphernalia or practices which may cause her to become upset or confused. Before I can agree to such a visit, I think it necessary that I assess for myself whether this is an acceptable environment for Hydra.

As such, you may expect me for tea tomorrow afternoon. I shall bring Rigel along, as I don't believe you've seen him since he was an infant. He's well past two years old now, and walking and climbing into everything. I am quite amenable to become acquainted with your own little growing family, while at the same time determining whether or not it is in Hydra's best interests to become acquainted with it, too.

Expect me at 4 o'clock.

Sincerely,
Mrs Lestrangle



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-10-24 02:22:04**

(no subject)

Hello, Aunt!

It's a bit of a surprise to hear from you, but we'd be most pleased to have you come for tea. And, yes, do come tomorrow.

I enjoyed hearing from Hydra. It was kind of you to allow her to write me. She seems to have grown into a very polite young lady, and it would be lovely to have her visit during the holidays. She did seem especially interested in Albia, and by Christmas, Bea will be nearly seven months old. People say that's a nice age because babies are interested in everything by then.

I look forward to seeing how Rigel has grown. You're right, he was only a tiny baby the time I saw him. At Auntie Prewett's memorial.

We'll look for the two of you at 4 o'clock, then!

2011-10-23 18:17:00

ORDER ONLY

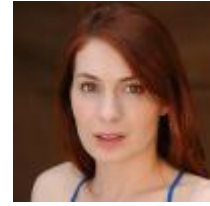
Tonks, love, what has she said to you?

Is it about the beer garden?

You know that if you and Remus need to come to Moddey Dhoo, you are welcome.

Remus, I know your disguise has stood for a while now, but can it pass if Bellatrix Lestrange herself is doing the digging?

I don't like this, not one bit.



 [alt_alice](#)




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-24 02:22:51](#)
(no subject)

You won't believe it. She wrote to invite herself to tea.

Tomorrow.

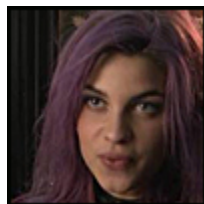


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-24 02:52:32](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm still not certain why she bothered. Why not just show up, if she wanted to get a real sense of what you're up to?

'Assessing whether yours is an acceptable environment for Hydra' - and what is Hydra supposed to do when *she* visits, if she does?

I don't like it. I don't see how you could have refused, though.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-24 03:01:31](#)
(no subject)

Well. I think it's a bit of cat and mouse, isn't it? She's playing with us today; she'll pounce tomorrow.

The question is what she really wants.

I sincerely doubt it's anything to do with Hydra visiting.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:04:46](#)**
(no subject)

Unless she wants to clear the way for her little spy to come in behind her and really get the dirt.

Think about it. If she lets Hydra come, she can always legitimise her afterward. Or force her to replay the visit in a pensieve. Then she might pick up on things you're not even aware you're doing.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:08:48](#)**
(no subject)

Well, but that assumes she won't get all she wants to know tomorrow. Do you really think she'd send a child to do investigating for her?




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:16:07](#)**
(no subject)

Besides, once she sees the place, there's no way she'll let Hydra come here. Whatever happens, we're going to be too lowly and unpolished.

I partly think this is nothing more than a chance to scare me to death and then snub me.

Except I don't really think we're that lucky. Certainly we can't count on it.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:18:41](#)**
(no subject)

That's a lot of effort for her for no good reason. If it's something like that, then it's more likely she's coming just to put the fear of Erebus into you and scare you off encouraging Hydra to talk

to you.

But. To your other point: Yes, I do think she'd use her child if it suited her purpose.

Whatever that purpose is.

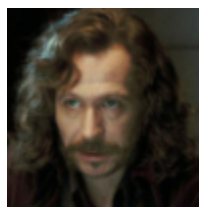



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-24 03:22:46](#)
(no subject)

I just doubt she'd go to this length to set it all up. A visit from Hydra, I mean.

Why legitimise Hydra when she can just do for me herself while she's here tomorrow?

But whichever it is, we're no closer to figuring what she wants to know.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-10-24 03:28:07](#)
(no subject)

Well, she knows you'll be on your guard tomorrow (which is another reason I'm confused she bothered to notify you). But the whole point of sending a child is that she's supposedly innocent.

You're right. We've got no way to know what her game is until she gets here. Maybe not even then.

And you've convinced me it's best if I stay hidden but - well, I don't like leaving Remus and Remus without backup. I think I should stick pretty close by, just in case. And keep that portkey handy, yeah?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-24 03:42:54](#)
(no subject)

You can keep just out of sight. In the kitchens or, well, maybe the storeroom. I mean, she's got perfect cover for demanding a tour of the place. You can't be any of the places she could claim Hydra might want to have a look at.

I don't know. It would really be safest if you were just well away tomorrow afternoon.

But I know you'll do what you ~~wan~~ think's best. And, yes, we've got the portkeys, but let's not panic. If we go that route, there's no going back. And if one of us goes, the others have to go, too. It's not much of a plan. Just a last resort.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:44:10](#)**
(no subject)

No way, kiddo. If you did have to activate your 'key or Apparate away, someone should be left behind to cover your exit. And find out what she does next.

And yeah, I was thinking about that room across the courtyard. The one that isn't supposed to exist. I'm not a completely reckless idiot, you know.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:49:31](#)**
(no subject)

Well, you can count on our not doing that then.

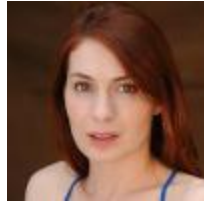
And, no. I think you're just a bit of an idiot, not a complete one. You've a ways to grow yet.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-10-24 19:38:42](#)**
(no subject)

If it comes to that, me and a few others of the Players can be around as backup, suitably disguised, of course. If you like. I suppose you'll probably close the beer garden while she's there (I'd advise it), but we can be within easy earshot. Just say the word.

What time is this happening tomorrow?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:45:58](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose we'll come closer to finding out tomorrow, but I honestly shudder to think what she might be up to.

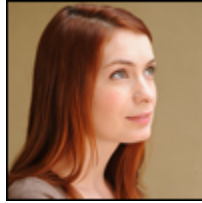
If she were planning on an outright raid, or to arrest Remus, I don't suppose she'd give a warning, but it seems like she's far too interested and taking far too much trouble for it to be anything benign.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:51:28](#)**
(no subject)

That's it, exactly.

And thanks, Alice. If we need to come there, we will. It's just a very last option. I know you understand.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:56:22](#)**
(no subject)

I know that you'll take the proper precautions, especially with Bea there.


Here's hoping that we're jumping at shadows.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-24 19:35:46](#)**
(no subject)

I don't like it either.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-10-24 03:46:47](#)**
(no subject)

How... odd?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-24 19:34:35](#)
(no subject)

How extremely odd.

2011-10-24 11:11:00

Entry



 [alt_rodolphus](#)

- Interesting range of notifications in the owl post today. Invitation to a private auction in Grimsby this Friday. Historians have long debated the existence of a Grimsby Castle (or Grimesbi, as it is noted on 12th century maps), some claiming that one was planned but never actually built, others holding that the castle was built but promptly destroyed by rampaging muggle armies. Neither party was correct. The castle was in fact hidden for all these long centuries, first using a series of Fidelius charms. As the secret-keepers apparently thinned out, or failed to keep the secret, the castle stewards switched over to using disillusionment charms. In these last five years, the castle's last remaining steward, a man by the name of Bradley, either became forgetful or incompetent at charm-casting. On moon-lit nights the castle would appear on the hillside as an ominous, craggy hulk, then be vanished by morning. The superstitious Grimbarians began to suspect that the castle was itself a type of Grim, a ghostly ill-omen from Odin himself.* Rather than venturing closer to the castle to explore, they kept their distance. At least until this weekend, when Mr Bradley succumbed to death at the age of 154, leaving the castle exposed for all to see. The property title reverted to the town, who foolishly want nothing to do with it. Thus, an auction for the castle itself, as well as all the treasures contained within.

- Mrs Baylock on leave to visit her sister in Cumbria, which leaves Rigel in the company of elves and myself. Mrs Baylock always visits her sister at her birthday, but appeared loathe to take leave of her small charge last night. It is heartening to know that she and Rigel are so thoroughly bonded, but had to become rather insistent that the woman take her holiday as planned. Rigel fussed a great deal but has since forgotten, attention back on his toys.

- Speaking of. - Narcissa, it's been some time since you saw your young nephew. Can I tempt you over for supper tonight at St. James?

* I should note here that the Grimbarians are of Danish descent, and that in Norse mythology the word "Grim," meaning *mask*, is a name adopted by the deity Odin [Woden].



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-24 18:02:33](#)

(no subject)

Do not plan on an early supper with my sister. I will be taking Rigel to tea at Mrs Ponds' today.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-24 18:04:46](#)

Private message to Bellatrix

Mrs Ponds?

Now you involve our son in your investigation, as well?

This will not become a habit.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-24 18:06:10](#)

Re: Private message to Bellatrix

Rigel is going to tea.

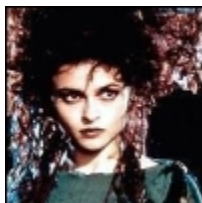
If you disapprove of the investigation, then you ought to make it known to He who ordered it.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-24 18:07:07](#)

Re: Private message to Bellatrix

You know that it's not the investigation I disapprove of. It is your methods.




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-24 18:08:21](#)

Re: Private message to Bellatrix

You have your methods, and I have mine. Let us keep in that way, shall we?

All my methods need do is work.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-10-24 18:09:13](#)
(no subject)

You're going to Mrs Ponds' house today? With Rigel?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-24 18:10:12](#)
(no subject)

That's what I wrote, is it not?


Do not mind the business of grown-adults, Hydra. I believe you should be at lunch right now.



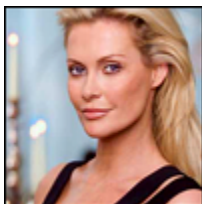
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-24 18:50:08](#)
Private Message to Bella


First questions, now tea? Whatever are you up to, sister?



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-10-24 20:09:14](#)
Re: Private Message to Bella

I am not at liberty to discuss the particulars, Cissy. But Nymphadora's not ~~entir~~ in trouble, if that is your concern.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-24 19:17:34](#)
(no subject)

Supper sounds lovely, Rod. Any particular occasion?

It's interesting you should mention Grimsby and its castle. You know we took the boys there on holiday for their tenth birthdays, the year before they started Hogwarts. I recall we got Mr Bradley to show us the castle during our visit. It took rather a deal of arm-twisting, even to be granted that much courtesy.

There was a lovely piece in the entrance hall, if I remember correctly. A Louis XIV display case. And in the case was a peculiar sort of foe-

glass, much more ornate than one usually observes.

Shall you be bidding, then? or merely watching to see whom *else* bids?



 **alt_rodolphus** at [2011-10-24 21:29:15](#)
(no subject)

Bradley was reportedly very select on whom he even conversed with, let alone verified the existence of the castle to. The Malfoys must have made quite an impression, to rate a tour of the place.

Bidding, observing, yes, I shall be doing a bit of it all.

And supper - in fact the occasion is rather special. As you will soon see.




 **alt_rodolphus** at [2011-10-24 23:37:52](#)
Private message to Lana Sandoval

- Lana, sent off an owl to Mustinal this aff. Figured him not the type to read his journal often.

Have requested that he excuse you on Friday so that we can attend the auction together. Explained that you would be traveling as my assistant.

I hope that you're available.



 **alt_lana** at [2011-10-25 02:05:23](#)
Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Oh, I can't imagine he'd say no. He hardly knows I exist. Unless your reminding him makes him contrary.

I'll be horribly disappointed if he says no.

And not just because the chance to go to Grimsby would be fantastic.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-25 02:22:55](#)


Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

I think my message makes clear how very much I value your assistance. If he says no, there are other ways that he might be convinced.

We will be attending the auction not just for my personal collection, but for anything of worth or interest to MLE or DoM. Money is no object. Weather should be brisk up north by the water, and from what I'm told the castle itself is no pleasure palace. Dress accordingly, both for business and for warmth, but bring at least one set of dress robes in case we find ourselves in a situation which requires them.

The auction may stretch on rather late, so it might be wise to tell your parents not to expect you back until Saturday. I will see to it that we you have proper lodging for the evening if that is the case.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-25 02:37:45](#)

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Do you expect there to be many other serious bidders? It sounds perfectly wonderful to be authorised with such an elastic budget at such a sale!

I'll do whatever's necessary to see that Musty lets me go. And I'll manage things with my family.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-10-25 02:47:37](#)

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

It could well be. No doubt Borgin will have been invited. I would also expect R. Lorcan, though perhaps solely for research purposes. Amycus Carrow was probably bestowed an invitation as well, though I would be very surprised if he showed up, considering.

I have very rarely have trouble bidding on and obtaining whatever catches my eye, however. Others in attendance will be

||| fully aware of who I am there to speak for.
||| Good and good.

2011-10-24 22:52:00

Order Only



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

Sorry to keep you all wondering. I'm completely knackered, and we've had a busy night of it since we opened the place up again. Maybe we should boot everyone out at 3 every afternoon so they can go home and gather up their friends and relations to come back for the evening!

Anywiz. She arrived at 4 o'clock sharp with Rigel in tow. Not that she seemed particularly interested in seeing to him. Fortunately, he was curious about Bea and her toys. He had them spinning around over her head, and that made her laugh and laugh. It's wonderful to hear that; she really only began giggling a few weeks ago, but then today Rigel's antics really brought it out.

It wasn't a one way entertainment, either. We noticed a bit later that Bea was making faces for him. I'd never talked with Aunt Bella about being a metamorphmagus, but she was interested and the children were having such a happy time with it. Anywiz, she says she's never heard that anyone else in the family ever manifested it, which I've wondered about, but I almost never have a chance to hear about family history. I suppose I could have asked Aunt Narcissa, but I never have. Family is an awkward topic, obviously, with either of them.

And don't get me wrong: spending time with Aunt Bellatrix was plenty awkward. She doesn't take sugar in her tea, for one thing, and of course I offered it and she let me know how much I'd insulted her by expecting such a thing of her. Not that she said anything about it, but she doesn't need to talk to get a message across. Then I offered the biscuits, and she refused them outright. Well, she let Rigel have one to gnaw on, but she wouldn't condescend to having one herself.

And she didn't think much of Junius, did she? Commented on how 'busy' he seemed, when he couldn't help that Mondays are delivery days and he kept having to run off and sign for flats and cartons and crates of this and that. And she remarked on his age, and didn't seem to think he looked 'very robust'. Not that she seemed actually worried about his health. In fact, I think she meant to set me thinking about what I'd do if I were left a young widow. Ugh.

I was as nervous as a mouse in an owl's cage, of course, so I'm sure


everything seemed worse than it really was. And naturally, I dropped the forks and one of the plates as I was carrying things out so that Remus had to come and save me from going to pieces right at the start of everything. He really is a wonderful, calm fellow in those sorts of situations.

I wished he'd been there when she started in on how lucky Bea is to have a mum who shares her *peculiarity*--because I'll be able to help her learn to *manage* it. I came close to saying something unfortunate, but then she went off a totally different way and said how useful it would be for enforcers if they could change their faces like I can. I still don't know if she was taking the mickey and rubbing my nose in the fact I'll never amount to anything like that. Remus thinks she could have been serious. He thinks Auntie Bella might even be a bit envious of our peculiar talent. Not sure when he got to be the optimist in our bunch!

Though, Auntie's right, it does seem to be pretty rare. I've only ever met one other metamorphmagus, and that was someone my dad hired to entertain for my fifth or sixth birthday. Sort of a clown, I suppose. All I remember is that he could give himself gigantic elephant ears and a big pelican beak and hairy bear paws all at once. Pudge, I think he was called. I hadn't thought about that in years. It was sweet of them, Mum and Dad, to find a metamorph so I could know I wasn't the only only one ever.


So that was most of it. She let Rigel play with Bea, but I'll be awfully surprised if anything comes of the notion of Hydra's visiting us. When you come down to it then, it was nothing more than an excruciating play date with my least favourite relative. And now that it's over, I'm done in. If you've questions for me, I'll have to answer you tomorrow, I'm afraid. Wouldn't want to fall asleep with my head down a toilet tomorrow morning.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-26 00:38:27](#)
(no subject)

Very strange.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-26 00:40:24](#)
(no subject)

I'll say. I have a hunch you may be right, that she's thinking of the applications of the metamorphmagus skills to her department.

Although I doubt she'd consider you as a recruit.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-26 00:43:02](#)
(no subject)

Or possibly....I wonder at her bringing Rigel along.

Bea manifested the talent right away, didn't she? I wonder if she's possibly seen Rigel do things that has made her suspect he might have the ability? Does it ever develop later in children?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-26 00:46:21](#)
(no subject)

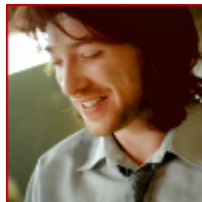
Wow. Hadn't considered that.


Of course, knowing her, if her offspring has a skill she thinks might be useful to her, it'd be hard for her to snub Tonks for doing the same thing.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-10-26 00:47:29](#)
(no subject)

You speak as if cognitive dissonance is unknown to her, my friend, but I don't think that is the case.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-26 00:48:01](#)
(no subject)


Ha. Good point.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-26 03:27:52](#)**
(no subject)

She doesn't need to reach for excuses to snub me, Bill. Those start with my father and mother, extend to my apparently inadequate choice in a partner, my lackluster accomplishments, my lowbrow neighbourhood, and are capped with my personal inadequacies (clumsiness, freakishness, and lack of manners).



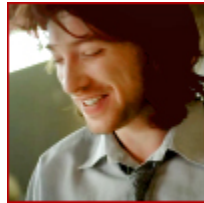
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-26 04:10:09](#)**
(no subject)


She really is insufferable, isn't she? Sorry that you had to feel snubbed in your own home. From your own guest, no less.



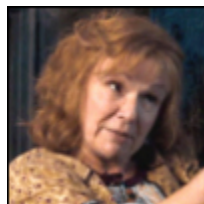
 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-10-26 13:47:58](#)**
(no subject)


Is guest the right word when somebody invites herself over and uses her position as an Auror to make you feel you can't turn her away?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-10-26 23:49:13](#)**
(no subject)


The words you're looking for are 'insufferable bitch.'



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-10-26 23:49:58](#)**
(no subject)

Now, Bill!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-10-26 23:50:27](#)
(no subject)

Impolite, I'll admit.

But accurate.



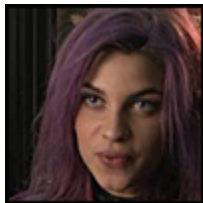
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-27 02:25:08](#)
(no subject)


Ha!

I nearly spilled a tray of beers just now.
(Possibly I should learn not to read this while
I'm trying to get drinks out.)

Still. You're exactly right.

Made my evening.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-10-26 03:32:23](#)
(no subject)

Now that would be a laugh.

I don't think so. If Rigel's a metamorphmagus, he didn't show it. He does have rather strong magic, I think, though I suppose I haven't much to compare him to. But he does seem able to make things do what he wants. I suppose that may be a developmental thing? He seemed strong willed, but he would do, wouldn't he, at two years?

2011-10-25 07:37:00

Private message to Braithewaite and Hopkirk



Variable 4, Step 3: executed and complete.

Have initiated Step 4: Starling's on it.
Searching all records for a subject who goes by the name of "Hodge" or "Pudge." Likely a performance name/alias.

 **alt_bellatrix**

Hopkirk: instruct recovery team to prepare for V4-S5. Aiming for execution in a week's time. If it's a wash we move on to V5.

Braithewaite: Lunch at En Plein Air, noon. Sparring after. Bring a third, Travers or Barty.

[2011-10-25 21:17:00](#)

Helpful things for our guests to know

The pumpkin juice is reliably quite good. On the other hand, there are prunes hidden in the cock-a-leekie soup. Just so you know.



 **[alt_luna](#)**

Chocolate caramel ice cream always runs out before any other flavour, whenever it is served at the feasts.


The soldier with the golden ruff in the portrait just to the left of the charms classroom will often offer to help you if you look lost, but he delights in sending people in the wrong direction.

Peeves will usually give you much less trouble if you don't seem to be in a hurry but instead act as if you are happy to stop to chat with him. The conversations you might have with him, however, are usually rather bewildering and often repetitive. And they involve rude noises.

The view from the steps of the owlry at sunset is really worth seeing. And at sunrise, too, if there's hoarfrost.


No matter what the Slytherins have told you, the squid hasn't ever been known to snatch anyone off the shore and drag them under the surface of the lake.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-26 02:51:58](#)**
(no subject)

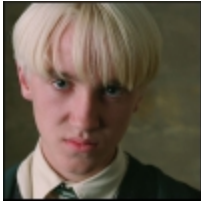
So what it is you've got against Slytherins, Lovegood?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-10-26 03:11:16](#)**
(no subject)

Me? Nothing in particular. But I've heard what some of the visitors have said that Slytherins have told them. About the squid.

I suppose that they might not have known they were being teased. Or perhaps in some cases it might be a translation problem?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 03:18:53](#)
(no subject)

Only this is the second time in as many days that you've implied that Slytherins are lying and deceitful.

Just so you know, not all Slytherins are liars, and if it turns out that they do have to lie for some reason, they might not enjoy it at all.

And I can't think of a single person in Slytherin who would say such ridiculous things about the squid, except maybe a firstie, and everyone knows better than to listen to them, I should hope.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-26 03:40:15](#)
(no subject)

In the case of the Herbology textbook, I believe the word I was used was 'sneaky.' I meant it rather admiringly, almost, because it was quite a clever thing to do, really, wasn't it? Of course, perhaps it was a Ravenclaw who thought up that trick.

I certainly agree with you that people who think they have to lie might not enjoy it.

I am rather curious: what do you think is the difference between being cunning and being deceitful? I suppose it might be like the distinction between being courageous and being reckless for a Gryffindor, or being loyal or being insular for a Hufflepuff. (Or being witty or being coldly cutting for a Ravenclaw, for that matter.) Do you think there is any point to making generalisations about the Houses? Or are we doomed to turn the generalisations into weapons we use to badger and condemn each other?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 03:49:20](#)
(no subject)

It's just a matter of connotation, isn't it?

Generalisations are all well and good when they suit, but it seemed as if you were going rather farther than necessary bring those generalisations associated

with Slytherin to light. I wouldn't say that "sneaky" has a particularly positive connotation.

I've never noticed you do anything like that before, but some of the girls are trying quite hard to get the attention of visiting students, and in quite inventive ways.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-26 04:07:37](#)

Private message to Draco Malfoy

Connotations can be tricky, certainly. But I might also point out that you seem to be highly suspicious of my motivations. Can't you see that what I wrote tonight was an attempt to help other people? I certainly can't help it if the person who told me about the rumour about the squid said that a Slytherin told her that. Perhaps she is gullible...but there is no point in getting angry at me for saying the person who told it to her wasn't telling her the truth. I suppose it might have been different if she had said 'a left-handed person told me this' or 'a person with curly hair told me this.' But we tend to lump people in groups in our minds using the Houses, rather than other characteristics, and the Houses seem more personal, somehow.

I do think using the journals sometimes makes some conversations difficult, too, because you can't see tone of voice or facial expression in the written word, and so things may sound more hurtful or sarcastic in a way the person truly didn't mean.

I think I know what you mean, about some people trying to get the visitors' attention. I am not sure whether their attempts are working very well, however.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 04:17:48](#)

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy


If I'm suspicious it is because, like I said, I've never noticed you saying anything about Slytherins before now. It just seems rather sudden and ill-timed, doesn't it? Given that we're all trying to present our best selves to our visitors.

I don't think it would have been so much trouble to have said

"Despite what you may have been told about the squid" instead of "No matter what *the Slytherins* told you" - as if we're all sitting round, cackling at the thought of French and Eastern European people being drowned in the lake.

I mean, I suppose that you didn't mean it like that exactly, but like you yourself said, things in the journals can be mis-read, if one isn't careful about how they write.



 **alt_luna** at **2011-10-26 04:45:30**

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy

I suppose we've both had that conversation with our fathers, haven't we? About the power of the written word. Since they were both involved with the press.

If it helps any, I will try to be mindful about not being sloppy about making blanket statements. And I think we should both try to be mindful about not imputing suspicious or malignant intent to other people.

Most people mean to be good, I think. If they are given the choice, and the opportunity.

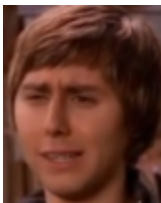


 **alt_padma** at **2011-10-26 14:13:10**

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Are you surprised?

Honestly. Loony's as big a disgrace to Ravenclaw as Clearwater.



 **alt_justin** at **2011-10-26 17:20:26**

(no subject)

Come along, Malfoy, Luna's all right. I'm sure she didn't mean anything insulting, what?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 17:52:33](#)
(no subject)


I'd say it's a matter between Hogwarts students, and as she and I already sorted it out through private message, there's really no need to drag it on.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-26 03:14:08](#)
(no subject)

Prunes? Really? Ugh. You can't tell.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-26 14:16:13](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Luna, that's quite helpful, indeed!

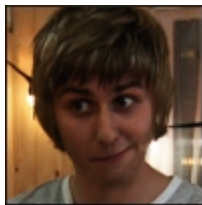
I say, are you going down to the lake for the event Patil just mentioned? It sounds like a jolly time. I've never seen a Hindu festival before. In fact, I'm not sure I've ever had a proper curry, what!


-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-26 16:39:20](#)
(no subject)

I think I will. It does sound lovely.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-10-26 17:21:18](#)
(no subject)

Brilliant. Perhaps I'll see you, then.


Everything *else* all right?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-26 22:30:44](#)
(no subject)


Oh, well enough, thank you. See you at the gathering.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-10-27 03:13:36](#)
Private Message to Luna Lovegood


Could you just *stop talking*??



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-27 03:22:53](#)
Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood


Why?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-27 03:23:20](#)
Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood


Do you have a headache? I could bring you some of my special tea.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-10-27 03:28:44](#)
Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood


Because you're embarrassing yourself, is why!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-27 03:49:34](#)
Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood

How odd. Thank you for your concern, but I am really quite unembarrassed myself. I think the person who is embarrassed is actually you.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-27 03:50:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Luna Lovegood

And I cannot think why.

The festival was quite nice, wasn't it? It was really lovely of Padma and Pavarti to share it with us.

2011-10-26 00:07:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr



Barty?

You've not gone to Ipswich already, have you?

Do come for supper, if not. Thursday evening?
Or--really any evening if that suits you better.

 [alt_narcissa](#)

One hopes you'll make more sense in table conversation than my sister, of late.

Oh, you'll be pleased to know I had an owl from Athena. She's quite reversed herself again and remembers all the reasons you and she called it quits in the first place. But I'm relieved to say she shows little of her previous rancour. I think we can expect much greater civility toward you in future, dear.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-10-26 14:45:09**
(no subject)

No. Not entirely gone, at any rate. Need to discuss that with you at any rate. Will need your help with certain logistics. If you're willing.

Thursday suits.

Athena, yes. Did myself no favours there, nor her. Her parting words were that she chooses to think she may have kept me from doing something far stupider than stumbling back into a failed relationship. She's more right than she knows, and yet, I'm certain, has no idea what she really kept me from.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-10-26 15:28:56**
(no subject)


Logistics? Between you and Rod, I fear I shall have quite a deal of tasks to juggle in the coming weeks. Nonetheless, happy to assist in whatever way I can.

As for Athena, regardless of her feelings toward you, I'm sure not even she would have wished you to do yourself a mischief. You must

also understand the artistic temperament: She is peaks and valleys, naturally, with little warning before her mood takes a change. It wasn't difficult to remind her that nothing about your habits or acquaintances were much altered since your liaison met its end. (You're welcome, of course.)

Tomorrow, then. Lucius has meetings lasting from 2:00 to half-six or thereabouts (*Prophet* and Hogwarts' Board of Governors) so supper will be around half-seven.

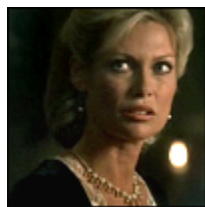


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-10-26 17:02:59](#)
(no subject)

Logistics. I'm going to need to appear to be here in New London, carrying on more or less usual work and other routines. You could help in that regard.

You didn't think I would do myself 'a mischief', did you? I'm sure that's what she believes. I assure you the target of my violence would have been elsewhere.

However, as it appears Our Lord has uses not only for Maule but also for father's continuing in his ridiculous position, I shall have to direct my energies elsewhere. He has expressed His preference, and I aim to satisfy.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-10-26 17:17:49](#)
(no subject)

I see. Yes, certainly. Whatever you need.

Dearest Barty, I confess I had no end of ideas *what* you might or might not do. You realise you've been frightfully - well, one might call it 'disturbing' of late. Besides, even if you'd taken your frustrations out on other parties (more on that in a moment), I think you'll agree that had you moved in such a way as to cause permanent consequences, the result could, indeed, have been as damaging to yourself as to the object of your action. Or nearly. Let us say that Athena was not the only one worrying about your well-being as a primary concern.

For those other parties in question: Yes, Lucius has mentioned similar restrictions placed on him by Our Lord, with a similar level of vexation, I am sure. At least Ari's job was done well and

your father's performance was immaterial, in the case of Hooper's trial, and the business is done and over. It would be bliss, I think, to spend a month at a stretch without some event pushing our names into the leading paragraph of the *Prophet's* headline story. (In fact I should not be surprised if Lucius brings that up to Cuffe tomorrow.)

You and he are alike, though, in your efforts to please Our Lord in all your dealings. When we see His will triumph again and again, it would be foolish to run counter, even in the most tempting or seemingly inconsequential of circumstances. He has His reasons, I am certain.

2011-10-26 08:59:00

Happy Diwali!

It's Badi Diwali, one of our important holidays. We've been working on little clay pots for a while now, and we--that is, me and Parvati and Cousin Darshana, and of course Rohani, Goshal, Desai and Gupta--all thought that our visitors might like to see the festival as well.



 **alt_padma**

So, tonight after lessons, right around dusk, please join us down by the lake. (I'm sure the squid's forgiven us for Saturday by now!) We'll light the candles and Goshal has fireworks to set off. Then we've got some other celebrations for everyone back inside - crackers and the elves have made us a special meal, too. (Darshana's got quite a way with them, or else they're really interested in showing off for our guests. They've never made us a traditional meal on Diwali before!)



 **alt_draco at 2011-10-26 14:36:40**

Private message to Padma Patil

I reckon you haven't been listening to enough sneaky Slytherins, Padma. Otherwise you'd know that the squid is fond of grabbing people and dragging them under the lake.

So, Happy Diwali to you. What's the special meal going to be?



 **alt_padma at 2011-10-26 14:57:41**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

So long as we can choose who it grabs!

You know how elves are when it comes to coherent details. But Darshana says she's pretty sure they're doing a full spread: naan and roti, and curry and vindaloo and rogosh and biryani and everything. Oh, and chai and lassi to drink, as well.

If they do as well with it as they've been doing lately, it should be memorable.

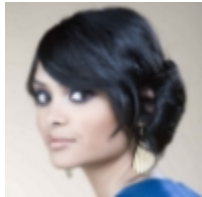


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 15:39:25](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Well, unless they've made enough for everyone you'd best watch out. Lamb curry is Professor Razzler's absolute favourite. I doubt I would have ever tried it until I was much older if it hadn't been for him.

You know, when you think about it, British muggles were really some of the most horrid muggles in history, the way they marched all over the world conquering everyone they could get their hands on, including the people in India.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-26 17:27:05](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Oh, they've made enough. At least I think so. Darshana thinks that that's what's for supper tonight.

I suppose they'll make a small amount of the usual turnips and things. But she came away with the idea that they're having fun putting together a full-on Indian meal for the whole school. I reckon they rarely get a chance to stretch themselves like that.

I suppose it's true, British muggles are really the reason that so many Indian families live in the Protectorate (and other types, too). But I don't think I'd have it any other way. I mean, if they hadn't, then Parvati and I might have grown up in India and we'd never be in YPL or CCF or anything.

But I guess it's sort of a lesson, about what muggles can do if you let them take charge of things. And why they can't be trusted to run anything.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 18:07:56](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil


Cool. That ought to make for a tasty change.

British muggles invading Indian are also the reason we like to eat curry, so there is that.

Otherwise it'd be all turnips, all the time.

And speaking of trust, you know who's really starting to wear out his welcome? Finch-Fletchley. It's like he's out to befriend every single person in the school, the more awkward the better (not that Hydra is awkward... well, she is, but at least she comes from a noteworthy family that's helped build up the Protectorate).



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-26 18:53:25](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

I told you, he doesn't seem to have any sense of *taste*. I mean, he seems to like you well enough but then he'll go and chat with Ron Weasley-- seriously, who does that? ~~Apart from P~~

It's hard to imagine someone he *wouldn't* like.

Well, I suppose he could spend a day with Professor Carrow and then we'd see if he still finds something pleasant to say.

Can't you--I dunno, talk to him about it? It's well strange.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-10-26 19:37:09](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

I'll tell you something else: I don't think his French schoolmates think much of him, either.

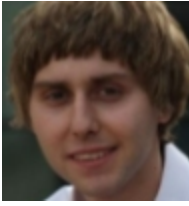


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-26 21:30:11](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

I suppose it's understandable that he doesn't want to come off as rude or unfriendly, especially given that the French sometimes can come off that way without even trying to, but his trying to set me right regarding Lovegood just wasn't on.


I could say something but maybe it would be better if I spoke with his P. Froissart. He's supposed to be my Uncle, after all, and I've a feeling he'd share our concerns.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-10-26 14:54:44](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks very much for the invitation, Patil.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-10-27 03:18:11](#)**
(no subject)

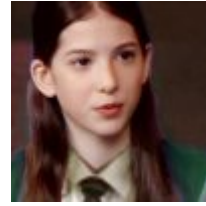
It was all absolutely snitch! Especially the fireworks--
where'd Goshal find them?

Thanks again for letting all of us share it.

[2011-10-26 20:59:00](#)

Badi Diwali

Dinner was well brilliant. I've decided I quite like curry. And that bread! I wish we could have nahn every day, or at least every week.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

The lassie didn't taste anything like I remembered, though. Maybe because they used transfigured mango? But also I thought lassies were smooth, at least the time I had it before it was smooth. Not with bits in it.

Pansy and I went down to the lake after supper and watched the candles and the fireworks. It was quite interesting. Thank you for inviting everyone, Padma.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-27 02:06:41](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I just about gagged on the lassie.

It was like someone tried to make a frozen drink out of the Strettons' mango jam, and beef suet. It was transfigured so maybe they DID try to make a frozen drink out of the Strettons' mango jam and beef suet?

The one I had last spring (when Padma's brother wound up taking me and Gemma to dinner along with everyone else) was SO GOOD. And this was SO BAD.

The bread, though. Think we could talk the elves into making it a weekly thing? I wouldn't mind eating it every week. And the curry was not half bad. It wasn't as good as what I had at that restaurant but it was tasty. I think everyone liked it except Hydra and I think even Hydra liked the bread.

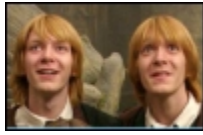


 **[alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-27 03:15:11](#)**

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

The curry was all right. But urgh, you're right. The lassi was awful!!!

I'm afraid it's gonna keep me up tonight. I don't feel so good.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-27 03:16:34](#)

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

You gonna spew? Brilliant! Can we come watch?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-27 03:17:03](#)

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

What? No!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-10-27 03:18:25](#)

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

Why do you want to watch that, for Merlin's sake?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-27 03:19:03](#)

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

We're working on an idea for that business we have in mind. We want to take notes.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-10-27 03:19:50](#)

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

You two are mental. You know that, right?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-27 03:20:21](#)

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

Course we are. But you love us anyway.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-27 05:33:11](#)**

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

The curries were good. I liked the yellow one better than the brown. Not sure what meat was in it, though. Oh, and I really liked the rice dish. Towler says it's called burr yawny. I'd never had that before.

Funny name. Sounds like mullegatawny or whatever that soup's called. Dunno. Mum teases Dad about it and always says she's going to make it because it has such a funny name--and sometimes she does and it's not half bad. Anywiz, doesn't matter. And yeah, the bread was well nift.

We got the firsties to try that lassey stuff. It looked nasty, and I guess it tasted it, too. From the way everyone who tried it screwed up their faces while they were gagging it down.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-10-27 02:14:27](#)**

(no subject)

Weren't Padma and Parvati's sari-robos beautiful? Their mother sends new ones every Diwali and I always look forward to seeing them. And even though I know it has religious meaning, the bindi is just so

cute.

The lassi wasn't quite right, but the elves did try, at least.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-10-27 04:06:46](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, the sari-robos were lovely. The charmed embroidery on the edges that looked like dancing flames was particularly nift.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-10-27 18:32:39](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks, Perks. It's too bad the lassies were really horrible. I guess they had to transfigure the mango and it didn't work well at all.

But I thought they did well enough with the rest, mostly.

2011-10-27 10:08:00

Private Message to Draco



Draco!

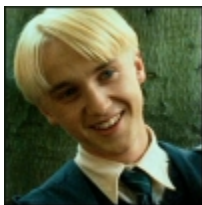
Did you just get an owl from Nolan Tennebridge?

With a contract?

 [alt_pansy](#)

For Hey Hey Merlin?

Because your name is on my contract too and I figured he'd send one to you only he might've sent it to Lucius instead but if you didn't get one yet he wants to buy the rights to the song and we'll be listed as the writers and isn't it exciting?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-10-27 14:14:46**

(no subject)

I know! The owl had to find me up in the library because I left breakfast early.

I thought for sure he'd forgotten all about us and our song. I can't believe it, can you? Wonder what made him decide he was interested after so many months?

It's brilliant, though! I wonder who's going to perform it?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-10-27 14:27:48**

(no subject)

I have no idea! Maybe it's a new group or something.

But it is SO utterly brilliant.

We are going to hear our song on the radio.

And we can get our song on a record.


It's just! So! Ooooooh!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-27 14:48:04](#)**
(no subject)

I just hope it's someone cool, and that they won't sing it in a rubbishy way. But pretty much all of the bands on Presto are decent, and some are flat-out amazing, so!



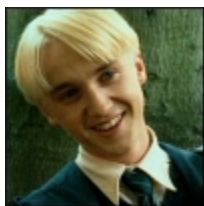
 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-27 14:58:18](#)**
(no subject)


Oooh, I bet we're going to get to meet them!

I honestly thought when he first heard it

I mean he was very encouraging and nice and all, but I thought that was it, you know? That he'd say, "Oh, nicely done, but no thanks," and maybe, if I was super lucky, I could get a song in that he'd actually like in the next couple of years, and this is just so unexpected and I honestly can't stop smiling!

And I love that it's a song that we worked on together, you know? That we're going to have both our names on it and everything, which is perfect and lovely. It's just... I'm trying to think of words other than brilliant, but I can't, because it is so utterly wonderfully fantastically brilliant!




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-27 15:06:00](#)**
(no subject)

I wasn't sure what to think back then. Because he hears songs all the time and I'm sure he has NO problem telling people when it's no good or when he isn't interested. But then it did cross my mind that he might be being polite because of his connection to Father.

But it turns out he really DID like it and he was waiting for the right time and possibly the right group and you're right, it really is perfect and brilliant.

We need to write more songs together.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-27 14:27:57](#)
(no subject)


I bet it's the Triwizard Cup happening and everything, because it's written by people from Hogwarts, and there'll be tonnes of people paying attention to us and all.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-27 14:46:42](#)
(no subject)


I suppose that could be. The song is sort of about how wizard New London is and all



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-27 14:43:17](#)
(no subject)

We ought to celebrate tonight, I think. Have you told anyone yet? We can break the news in the Common Room after dinner and throw a party.

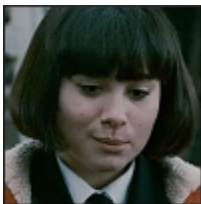



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-27 14:50:55](#)
(no subject)

I haven't, no, though Teds has been asking because he saw my reaction when I got the owl.

That's a brilliant idea, though. I'll see if the elves can sort out some food and treats. Oh, and we should bring out guitars!

Should we invite any of the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students, you think?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-27 14:53:04](#)
(no subject)

Definitely. I mean, the Durmstrang people are already going to be there and all, so we wouldn't want Beauxbatons to feel left out!

We could make it a music party, yeah? Have people bring their

favourite records, and once things really get going, we could make our announcement.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-10-27 14:56:33](#)**
(no subject)

All right, then.

Whoa, our common room will be more crowded than ever. I'll get Daphs to move the furniture around for a music party, she's good at that sort of thing. She might be able to get some better food, too, even though it's short notice.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-27 14:59:23](#)**
(no subject)

No mangos, though!

2011-10-27 12:00:00

A new tool

Students: I'm delighted to announce a new resource.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

As some of you know (particularly my N.E.W.T students who've been giving me feedback on some samples), I've been working for the past two and a half years on a way to project a portion of the night sky and hold it for study and teaching (steadily, without ongoing need for concentration). I'm delighted to say I've reached a point where I believe the work is ready for regular classroom use.

Now, this does not replace our observation time (since you will still need to learn how to use your own telescopes and make your own observations). And, of course, no matter how good or how detailed my created images of the night sky are, they do not contain everything: only what I myself knew at the time I made the image. (And thus, it does not include ongoing or emerging stellar events, comets or meteors, or other things of that kind.)

However, I do think it will be an excellent resource in a number of situations:

- to illustrate a point in class, so you can make more effective use of your observation time.
- to illustrate more clearly things that cannot readily be seen with student telescopes.
- to make it easier to study or review before tests (both my own exams, and for O.W.L. and N.E.W.T. exams).

And of course, it will give us some additional options on cloudy nights without completely losing class time.


This option has limits: it takes me at least half an hour to link a combination of charms and create an image for each area, and it can be much longer for a more complicated or detailed piece of the sky. I plan to add another couple each week, until we have a well-stocked library of examples (focusing first on materials of use for O.W.L. and N.E.W.T. students, and then moving on to items covered regularly in the rest of the curriculum.)

Projections can be checked out by permission during hours I'm in my office, and an updated list of projections will be posted by my door

each week. My classroom is available for their use, and I've also had the house-elves clean out a space on the floor directly below, as the projections are best viewed without distracting items behind them. (You'll notice a large white sheet hung in a corner of my classroom for this purpose as well.)

If anyone is interested in the theory behind the project, I have an article in the next issue of the *Journal of Modern Magical Theory and Experiment* that explains some of the details, and I'd be glad to share my copy of the submitted version. Just stop by my office!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-10-27 17:08:19](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, Professor. Good show!

How exciting to think that Hogwarts will benefit from such an important pedagogical advance, and how wonderful that you are able to share it with our visitors! They cannot help but be impressed with how richly Our Lord's peaceful reign cultivates a climate in which magic can thrive and in which its practitioners find bountiful support for new research that will benefit us all.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-10-27 17:14:20](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.

And yes, I'm quite excited that the timing has worked out so well. I began working on the project over two years ago, when a combination of weather and other considerations made direct observation more limited than I prefer. It's taken quite trial and error (and quite some time, given my other commitments), so I'm delighted to finally have a solution that's truly useful.

I'm very hopeful it will be of great help in a number of areas (and I'm sure there are applications I haven't even considered yet.)


I hope that your own training is continuing to go well, as well. (And as we discussed late this summer, if your schedule does allow a visit on a YPL weekend to talk about your training, we'd love to have you.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-10-27 20:08:52](#)**
(no subject)

Careful there. You'll make the rest of us feel as if we ought to be writing theoretical papers or, I don't know, re-inventing the night sky.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-27 20:23:19](#)**
(no subject)


I hope not! Re-inventing the night sky would create a huge amount more work for me, after all.

I've had observation-based papers in the journals before (really, it's the way astronomers tell each other formally what snitch stuff they've found, as students might say). But this is the first project with a great deal of theory and experimentation I've done.

Really, though, it's all about having been frustrated by the weather and other circumstances, and wanting to find some better way than "Now, everyone turn to your third chart, and squint at the labels so we can see that very faint star..." to talk about what we do.

I'm sure you'd do the same if you had the same kind of frustration in your teaching that went on for months.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-10-28 02:57:20](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, teaching frustrations! I'm still trying to sort out what to do with the 5th years when they've got to tackle Dementors. Was easy enough last year, but what about now? Could call in a favour from Marx and have him bring one in, but I'm not sure the rest of the school would ever forgive me.

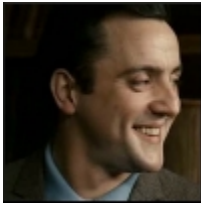
Field trips to Azkaban for everyone!



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-28 08:16:01**
(no subject)

I shiver just thinking about it, honestly. Last year was quite dire, with them so close all the time, as necessary as it was.

I'm sure there's some creative solution, though.




 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-10-28 02:58:02**
Private message to Rory

Can't wait to read your article.

Will I understand any of it?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-28 08:20:06**
Re: Private message to Rory


Oh, love. It's formal language, sure, but not that hard. More a matter of combining charms than anything. (Though did you see the look Acton gave me tonight. Nice change to get it for my own sake, not just on account of you, really.)

If you'd prefer, I can demonstrate - you've seen the results up in my rooms.

Of course, what I didn't say in public is that part of my incentive was so *I* can watch the stars and relax even when the weather's bad. For some reason, am having a lousy time getting to sleep tonight even with that.

(At least it's Friday, and once I make it through tonight, there could be napping, or sleeping in.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-10-28 14:45:30**

Re: Private message to Rory

All those meetings aren't still weighing on you, are they? I know all too well what it's like to have to go to meetings and have responsibilities that you don't necessarily want, you know.

Maybe you just need someone to sing you a lullaby.

I do an excellent Celestina Warbeck impersonation. I even have a wig.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-10-28 15:19:49**

Re: Private message to Rory

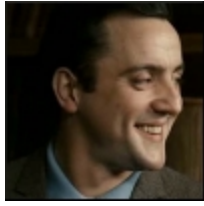
I am both delighted and horrified by the idea of you doing a Celestina Warbeck impersonation, just not sure it'd make me sleep better. (Or at least, I can think of other things that would be much more enjoyable in private.)

On meetings weighing on one: perhaps, but we're thankfully in a lull now until early December. (Though I am not looking forward to two days of meetings in December, or having to miss classes to do so, though at least Minerva's been reasonable about it.)

I have trouble getting to sleep sometimes - not all the time, just a night or sometimes two a week. It was a whole lot of work getting last Saturday's project together, and I've noticed it sometimes hits me particularly hard a few days after that kind of big project. Not so much any one particular thing, as much as not being able to relax in general.

And maybe I'm just getting older. The split teaching schedule feels like it's been harder this year at both ends - falling asleep and getting up in the morning. (It was last year, but I thought that was at least largely the Dementors.)

Mum suggested a good shot of something densely alcoholic when I'm done for the evening, but I sort of don't want to have to rely on it, you know?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-28 15:29:14**

Re: Private message to Rory

It's possible that it would give you nightmares after, yes.

Sounds like you get too revved up to wind down, and my Celestina Warbeck impression isn't really so very relaxing. But I think I have another skill or two that have more somnolent effects- eventually, at least.

Glad to hear it's not those meetings still gnawing at you, though.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-10-28 16:12:46**

Re: Private message to Rory

I look forward to exploring your other skills, yes.

I'm assuming you have other obligations during the Hogsmeade trip, especially given the various security concerns - but tomorrow night?

As to the meetings... well, no promises for December, though it'll be easier to prepare for. Mostly once I'm past them by a few days, it's easier. (Is it just me, or do other people have that desperate fear they forgot something urgent just as they're falling asleep after important meetings?) I think better bedtime reading would help, too, *Equinox* is not being as relaxing as I'd like.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-10-29 04:30:06**

Re: Private message to Rory

Equinox is that one about the posh investigators, yeah? Too edge-of-the-seat?

Hogsmeade shouldn't be too much trouble. Not so much as last year, I don't think.

See you tomorrow night, indeed. I'll be practising that lullaby!



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-10-29 13:43:23](#)**

Re: Private message to Rory

Well, first, it has astrology splashed all over the plot, which is not really my favorite thing.

But it's also got this thing that's looking like a romance, and that ~~is a little too close to other things I'm worrying about~~ wasn't really what I was in the mood for in my reading.

Tonight, though, I am. In the mood for, that is.

(And I promise to be less whiny. My life is really very good, and I'd rather spend time with you doing other things than complain.)

2011-10-27 20:40:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Dudley



 [alt_tery](#)

That kid, Dudders, has been watching me. I couldn't quite tell how old he was, because he ducked out of sight whenever I came anywhere near him. And his hair is long and tangled and filthy, so it was hard to see his face.

But last night I was taking the chamber pot down to empty because the git had sicked up in it again (the liquor shipment had just come in). And on my way round a corner, I suddenly came face to face with him unexpectedly, back behind the rubbish bins. I froze, and he flattened down warily like a cat at first, and then slowly straightened up a bit when he realised I'd spotted him.

We stared at each other for a long moment. 'You're the Master's tidbit,' he said finally, and I finally figured it out: he must be close to my age. His voice sounded creaky, like he doesn't use it much.

I frowned. 'You can call him the Master if you like. But I'm Terry.'

He straightened up more. 'Is that right? What do you call him?'

'I call him 'Master' to his face. And 'the git' behind his back.'

He liked that, I could tell, though he was trying not to smile, sort of. 'Yeah, he is a git.'

'I heard you're called Dudders.'


Now it was his turn to frown. 'Dudley.'

I'd wondered if he was a muggleborn, too, but he's a muggle. We sat down in the dirt, cautiously, and traded little bits of information about ourselves. He grew up in a town called Little Whinging, in Surrey, but he got separated from his parents in the panics when they were fleeing the fall of London. They'd been heading north, because they'd heard a rumour that there might be a hole in the wards past York. He thinks his dad got either killed or taken for a sleeper. He has no idea where his mum is. They put him in the camp at Lincoln and he just happened to be up on the duty roster when Master arrived and they got the order to staff the castle. And then he got stuck here when the fidelius charm went up.

I heard the git bellowing for me then so I had to leave. But I hope the next time I see him he won't be quite so quick to duck out of sight.

It's nice to have someone around who might become a friend.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-28 03:31:29](#)**
(no subject)

Huh. That's well awful what happened to him.

So how many people are there in the castle with you?
And they're all stuck there? I mean, the magic's
keeping them in? Or are there other wizards besides Carrow?

How big is Lincoln castle? Is it like Hogwarts?




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-10-28 16:37:15](#)**
(no subject)

It's pretty big, although it's nothing like Hogwarts. It's mostly a huge medieval castle wall on two hills (they're called mottes), with a couple of towers. One of them, the Lucy tower, doesn't have a roof anymore. The other is the Cobb Hall, which is built into the wall. That stuff was built in the eleventh and twelfth century, some of it by William the Conqueror. Then there are some more modern buildings in the interior, built in the nineteenth century: the Crown Court, the Victorian Prison, and the Georgian Prison.

It was used as a prison and court for a long time. But there are only about a dozen people here to run things, all muggles, aside from the git and me. And the prisoners. The number of those fluctuates, but some of those have been here since we came. A mix of muggles and muggleborns. The git experiments on them. And ew, that part I don't want to talk about.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-10-28 18:49:09](#)**
(no subject)

So if it's just Carrow, why do those muggles like that Dudders kid stay there and do stuff for Carrow? I mean, couldn't they just run away when he gets drunk? Has he put some sort of charm on them to keep them there? Or has he Imperiused them? Seems like they'd find a way to run away if there aren't any guards or enforcers or anything.

And, um. When you say the number fluctuates, you mean it's going down? Like he's killing them off? Has he killed any more since that one who came back as a ghost? He still there?



 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2011-10-30 18:44:56](#)**
(no subject)

He hasn't killed any since he made that one a ghost. But new prisoners arrive occasionally. I think that they must use notes from the secret keeper, to enable new ones to arrive even though there is a fidelius spell in place.

There IS a castle wall here. With two gates that are guarded all the time. It isn't possible to just walk away.

2011-10-27 22:14:00

Hogwarts Visit

Found the castle bearing the strain of the extra students well enough. Though Minerva, wish to stress again the importance of not inducing the elves to expend half the years' supply of spices and other supplies on unauthorised menus. Quite agree with Peakes that there is no provision in the budget to replenish the stores when they have been used precipitously.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Igor, I do see your concern but seems that you have the matter well in hand. If you should need to speak further, suggest you come down at a week-end and present your evidence - and your intention - where it will have a greater impact. Or you might simply bring it up on Monday when we return for the triple celebrations of Our Lord's birthday, Halloween and the naming of the Champions.

Draco, Pansy: Good to see you both and to hear your reaction to Nolan's news. You'll be pleased to know Ari has seen copies of the contracts and finds them satisfactory, as do I. Now, take care you don't concentrate so hard on writing songs that you neglect your studies! (Also, I would caution you not to expect too much from the offer.)

And son, about that other matter: Yes, I think you've the right idea. Shame. Suppose the effect of isolation had something to do with a lack of proper understanding; entirely appropriate to set the matter straight. Just mind that you go about it carefully, though from what you have said, you are doing so. Do keep me informed, particularly about any of the signs we discussed.

Harry, surprised to hear you say you had not yet made your move. You understand your Father's wishes, do you not? You are running out of time.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-10-28 15:48:35](#)**
(no subject)

I shan't!

And I'm glad to hear that Mr Baddock has had a chance to look through things already, because I was going to send him an owl today to ask him to do just that.

I'm not worried about how much of the proceeds we're ever going to see. I'm just so happy he made an offer at all. I can be picky about that sort of thing next time!

[2011-10-27 22:57:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Cheers about the song and all. And to Pansy too.
And the music party was fun.

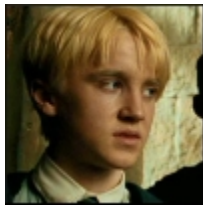
I saw what your father wrote.


I'm still not putting my name in.

I don't get it. Everyone thinks it's going to be me no matter what. I think if they wanted me to be champion so bad they should've waited until I was in sixth year. Then it would be more fair. Anyways. Father would be angry if I put my name in and it didn't pick me. Or if I got picked but lost the cup. So he'll just get angry at me now instead of later.



 **[alt_harry](#)**




 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-28 14:40:54](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, but if the goblet didn't pick you it wouldn't be your fault and he'd have to be angry with the goblet. And if you got picked and lost, well, I suppose he might be angry, yeah, but he might blame the Rizzer and our other teachers more than he blames anyone else.

Not that I want that.

Point is, if you don't put your name in at all there's only one person he can blame and be angry at, and that's you.



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2011-10-28 15:26:18](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, that makes sense. But. It's not just that he'll be angry.

Its

I don't want it to be me. Because it's me every other time. And I'm tired of it. It sounds stupid. I know. But it doesn't have to be me all the time.

And you remember what happened with the sorting hat.

Not that

you know

that ended up alright. I'm glad we were in the same house. Okay. But whose to say this won't be fixed too? This way is more fair. For everyone else.

Everyone's talking like it's a done deal. It's not.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-10-28 15:29:15](#)

(no subject)

And its like

not doing anything is my choice. Putting my name in means I don't have a choice. because it's up to the cup. And that means it's up to Father. I'd rather make my decisions about what I want than someone else.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-28 15:33:02](#)

(no subject)

If he's angry enough to punish you then it might be Granger who has to take it. Or ~~me~~ someone else.

Hey, I've an idea. All he has to do is get word back that you put your name in, right?

Why don't you just march up to the goblet at supper, so everyone can see, and put a slip of paper in it.

It doesn't have to actually have your name on it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-10-28 15:41:37](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. You're right. That would not be on.


Okay.

Ill do that.

Who should I write?

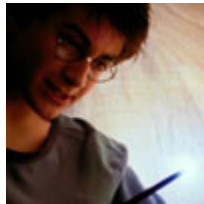
Someone who won't get picked no matter what.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-28 15:44:44](#)
(no subject)

Um...

Millie?

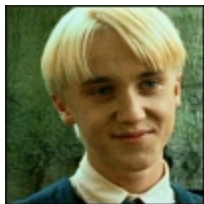



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-10-28 15:49:44](#)
(no subject)

hah

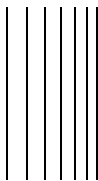
Good one.


Yeah. Okay.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-10-28 15:53:00](#)
(no subject)

Slytherin deceit can be pretty useful at times.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-10-28 16:55:30](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

[2011-10-28 14:45:00](#)

Private Message to Luna Lovegood

Hey, Lovegood--

I was thinking about what Clearwater wrote a while back, about bullying and whatnot?



 [alt_susan](#)

And I just want are you I guess what I mean to say is, are you having a bad time right now?


I know some of the Ravenclaw girls in your year can be dead catty--I suppose because they want to be noticed by Patil and Li and the Ravenclaw Corner lot.

And, well, I can't honestly say I know Brocklehurst well enough to say whether she'd take up for you--I get the impression she doesn't like people much in general, except maybe Fawcett.

But I don't think she'd side with the people who are actively trying to wind you up. See, all of us in TToTS, we may not be best mates outside of Tea, but we at least try to observe truce.

Even Bulstrode does, if you can believe. She still gives me a shove in the corridor once in awhile, but I can tell her heart's not really in it.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-29 14:18:30](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Bones. Well, no one is bullying me, exactly. But I've never been popular, of course, and I think I'm even a bit less popular than usual. Something I said about Slytherins made Draco Malfoy angry. Maybe he did have a point, and I was more careless with my words than I should have been. The thing is, if someone like Draco Malfoy or Padma Patil is unhappy with you, then lots of other people go out of their way to make it clear that they're unhappy with you, too. Like my roommates, and Lavender Brown--I live with the Browns, you remember.

Usually, people ignore me. They're not ignoring me so much now as they are actively upset with me. That's a bit more uncomfortable.

2011-10-29 09:51:00

Hogsmeade!

As this is the first Hogsmeade trip of the year, third-years, please remember to have your permission forms to turn in to Mr Milland on your way out of the castle. No form, no visiting the village.



 **alt_penelope**

(And to answer a few people's question: Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students are already granted permission to go to the village as it was included in their release to come to the school at all.)

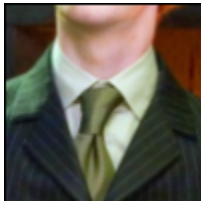
Please remember that you must be back by six. Have fun!



 **alt_penelope** at **2011-10-29 14:03:34**

Private Message to Percy

Protector's Circle - 12:00 exactly. Don't be late.



 **alt_percy** at **2011-10-29 15:12:18**

Re: Private Message to Percy

Oh, I won't be. How can I possibly be late for something I'm looking forward to so much?

[2011-10-29 21:17:00](#)

Private message to Penelope Clearwater


It was wonderful to see you, and I did enjoy myself, truly, but as for the things said before I left--please don't be angry. I didn't make any of those suggestions because I thought you weren't doing a bang up job as Head Girl. Certainly you are. I made my own mistakes as Head Boy (as you well know!), but Bill always told me that it sometimes helps to examine your own reasoning by talking things through with someone you can trust.



 **[alt_percy](#)**

We didn't say anything about it, but I assume we can meet again the next Hogsmeade weekend?



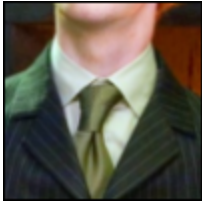
 **[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-10-30 14:53:44](#)**
(no subject)

What Mr Malfoy thinks I should or shouldn't be saying in public is--well, it's just none of his business, anyway.

It's bad enough that Avery said all I've done is shine a light on something that should have been kept in the dark. Do you honestly *agree* that we should have kept quiet if we suspected Hogwarts' students were antagonising the foreign ones? Or that there are certain circumstances when it's okay for the likes of a Bobolis or a Fleet--or a Baddock--to lord it over the others out of some misplaced sense of--of superiority?

I mean, there have been times I've wanted to knock that Delacour girl's head clean off. But do I ambush her and do it? No, of course not.

And it doesn't help when you turn what was supposed to be a--romantic--afternoon into a lesson on what your boss says I've done wrong.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-10-30 17:38:49](#)**
(no subject)

Well, let's leave Mr Malfoy out of things. It is worrisome that Avery isn't backing you up, although perhaps he might listen if you point out that you both will have an easier time of it if the Head Boy and Head Girl present a united front.

It was a romantic afternoon, and a bit of a tiff at the end doesn't change that in the least.

2011-10-30 12:33:00

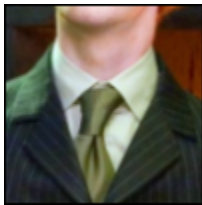
An important day in the Weasley calendar


I had a mad idea that I would get up early to make scones for Molly for her birthday breakfast. Well, my intentions were good, at least, and I'm sure the scorch marks will come off the pan eventually. Molly has resumed kitchen responsibilities, to everyone's relief, I'm sure. (I suggested that I could take her out for supper to one of the restaurants you mentioned, Bill, but she scoffed at the very idea, so dinner will be here at *Chez Weasley* tonight as usual. We'll expect you at about 6:00.)



 [alt_arthur](#)


Happy birthday, Molly, dear. You continue to turn my head as much as you ever did when I was a callow lad back in our school days. Can't wait to see what you get up to this year. Every day is a delight.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-10-30 17:39:38](#)
(no subject)


Happy birthday to Mum. I trust my owl arrived in time?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-10-30 17:40:34](#)
(no subject)

Indeed it did, and thank you, dear. The scarf is absolutely lovely!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-10-30 19:24:10](#)
(no subject)

Happy Birthday, Mum.

Hope the owl I sent made it. I had to do the charm over a bunch of times to make it sing instead of shout, so, uh- I hope it hadn't gone back to being a Howler by the time it got there. Only we're supposed to be adapting Charms this term and I thought that could be nift. And it will be, too, when I get the wonky parts worked out better.

Yeah, so many happy returns!

Ron



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-10-30 21:26:28](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, your owl did arrive, and I was quite impressed with the charm! You've gotten so much better at them in the past year, and I'm quite proud of you!



 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2011-10-30 21:24:49](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Birthday, Mrs Weasley.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-10-30 21:26:44](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you so very much, dear. It has been a lovely birthday so far.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-10-30 21:27:18](#)**
(no subject)

Hip hip hurrah for Mum!

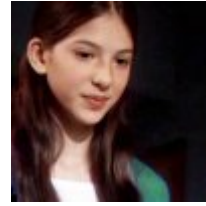
2011-10-31 09:27:00

Private message to Pansy

Well, I put my name in. I went down early, though, so no one would see me.


I know it's not very LIKELY -- surely it'll choose a NEWT student, or Harry if it's someone from our year -- but I wanted to at least try.

Did you put yours in?



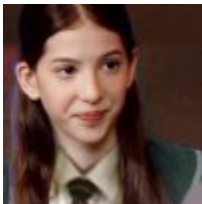
 **alt_sally_anne**



 **alt_pansy** at **2011-10-31 14:46:17**
(no subject)

I didn't. I've been reading up on previous Triwizard championships, and it just looked far too dangerous and difficult. I figured I wasn't really Championship material anyways, so it's not like it'd pick me, but just in case it would've, I didn't want to put myself in the running. This is something I'd definitely prefer to watch from a safe distance.

Do you really think it might be Harry?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-10-31 15:04:02**
(no subject)

No. Unless -- well, people are still talking like they think it will be. But Harry's not that good a student, unless he's hiding his skills (which I suppose he might be).

Honestly if it were going to be anyone in our year I would expect Draco. Did he put his name in? I know there are people paying lots of attention to who puts their names in but I haven't.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-10-31 15:05:54](#)
(no subject)

And you're right about the dangers. I fretted about that for a while but then I decided that if the Cup actually chose me that would mean clearly I could handle it.

And possibly I may have been blinded by ambition for a minute there. The tragic flaw of us Snakes...

It's okay, because it totally will NOT choose me.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-10-31 15:53:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, you're right though -- if it does, it'll be because it thinks you've got what it takes.

You know, I don't know for certain if Draco put his name in. I ought to ask him.

2011-10-31 17:42:00

Ceremonies

The ceremonies shall start soon.

I would like to remind all Hogwarts students that you are, tonight, the ambassadors of the Protectorate to the world. Please strive to be polite, kind, proud, proper Protectorate citizens and do us proud.

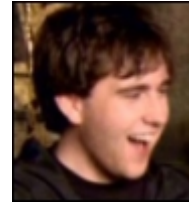


 [alternity](#)
 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

[2011-10-31 18:42:00](#)

The feast!

It's surely one of the best ones yet, isn't it? The Great Hall looks amazing with all the carved pumpkins. And there are all sorts of foods I've only heard of but have never even seen before! Some of them must be stuff they serve in the visitors' schools, yeah?



 [alt_neville](#)


Good luck, everyone who put their name into the Goblet!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-31 23:47:04](#)
(no subject)


Stupendous raw talent and amazing charm will win the day.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-10-31 23:48:30](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


That should put you out of the running then.



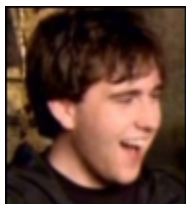
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-10-31 23:48:55](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


Bite your tongue, oh ye of little faith.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-10-31 23:50:07](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Wish I could be there. Good luck, Fred and George! (Did any of the rest of you put your names in?)



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-10-31 23:51:35](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I didn't. Didn't think I wanted that kind of attention. I'm not sure about Ron. Did you put your name in, Lee?




 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-10-31 23:53:09](#)

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

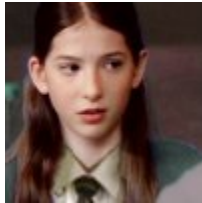
Naah, I didn't. But I'll cheer plenty loud if Fred or George's names come up.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 00:11:34](#)

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

I didn't either.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 02:34:43](#)

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

I did.

I'm awfully glad I didn't get picked, though.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 02:37:12](#)

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

Yeah.

Me too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 02:42:31](#)

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


I did. But, well, it was obvious it was going to be Harry all along, and if the Goblet picked Diggory, it was because it really thought he was champion, right?

Sort of awkward, that.

I just wrote them and said good show. What's wizard about it is that we're sure to win the tournament, aren't we? And that'll be brilliant.


||||| Mum's going to be chuffed when she hears about Diggory.
She's friends with his mum, and she'll be over the moon, I bet.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-10-31 23:53:57](#)
(no subject)

It's really beautiful!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 01:25:22](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Did you see the look on His *face* when the Cup chose Diggory first? I've never seen Him that *furious* before.

I wonder what they'll decide.


I mean, who'll be the Hogwarts champion.



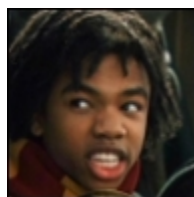
 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-11-01 01:45:49](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


I'll say! Nobody expected THAT to happen!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-01 01:46:35](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


What? What happened? I saw someone else post about Cedric Diggory?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-11-01 01:48:14](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

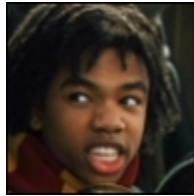
Yeah. The Goblet spit out both his name AND Harry Marvolo's.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-01 01:50:30](#)

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

What?! How could that happen? I thought from what Fred and George said only one champion from Hogwarts could be picked.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-11-01 01:52:39](#)

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

Yeah. And from the look on everybody's face--well, except the Hufflepuffs--it was SUPPOSED to be Harry Marvolo.

Crikey, I don't envy Cedric Diggory right now. Did you see the way the LP glared at him before they all went to talk in the back?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 01:57:30](#)

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

And Harry didn't look very happy either.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 02:06:38](#)

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

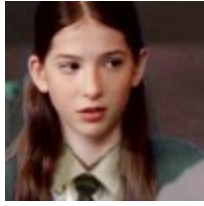
He didn't, did he?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 02:10:02](#)

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

He looked like he'd chugged down one of those mango lassies when that paper came out with his name on it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 02:22:38](#)

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

I would NOT want the Lord Protector looking at me like that.

Ever.



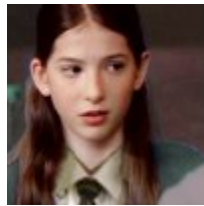
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-01 02:29:52](#)

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

You're telling me.

If I was Diggory, I would've run out of the room as fast as I could and not looked back.

I guess that's why the Goblet chose him, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 02:33:49](#)

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

...yeah.

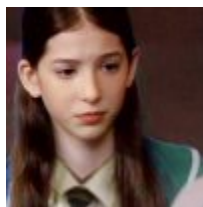
It kind of shows, not all the brave ones wind up in Gryffindor, you know?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 02:44:13](#)

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

Well, playing by the rules and sticking with your side, that's a Hufflepuff thing, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 02:48:59](#)

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

Yeah.

What are the Gryffindors (the others, I mean, not just you lot) saying they think happened? Teddy is saying he thinks one of the Hufflepuffs tricked the Goblet somehow,

only he can't decide if it was Diggory, or Professor Sinistra. Which is UTTERLY DAFT but that's Teddy for you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 02:54:59](#)

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

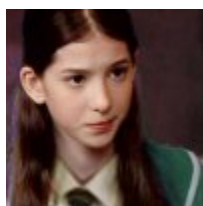
Ha.

Um, yeah. Gryffindors aren't saying Hufflepuffs rigged it.

I mean tricky spells? Not really a Hufflepuff thing, is it? Anywiz, I guess we mostly figured the reason all the Ministry people looked all surprised was they figured they'd got the Goblet sorted ahead of time, and then they didn't.

Dunno. I mean, I guess I can see they'd've looked surprised if someone'd rigged it for Diggory. I guess it doesn't really prove anything either way.

What d'you think?



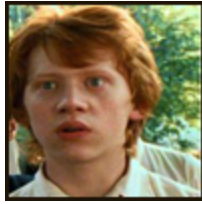
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 03:26:12](#)

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

What I think is that no student could have rigged the Cup. It was used for centuries and if it were that easy to cheat to be the champion they'd have noticed at some point.

And I can't think of a single reason why any adult at this school, or at the Ministry, would have rigged it to make Cedric the Champion.

You won't catch me arguing about it with Teddy, though. Or Avery.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 03:49:48](#)

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

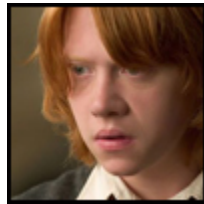
Yeah. What's with Avery, anywiz? He hasn't done much as Head Boy, yet, only I can't tell if that's because he's a lazy git or because he's really bloody cagey and we all ought to be watching out.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 03:51:57](#)

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

I've never thought of him as lazy. I'd be careful, I guess, although he's not vicious like Sandoval.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-02 02:57:51](#)

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

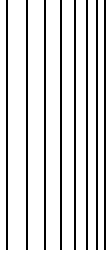
D'you know, I had really awful dreams about him last night. The Lord Protector, I mean.

It was the way he looked, like you said. And not just at Diggory but at Harry, too. I mean, it's like all of it was in his eyes and his face didn't move at all or it was just a blank. It was not right, somehow. I don't know how to put it, but it was really freaking horrible in my dream when he was looking at me.

It was like I could hear him casting Avada Kedav only he wasn't saying it out loud at all. It was in my head. And he was just about to finish-

Ugh.

I really don't want to go to sleep tonight.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-02 03:38:49](#)

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

You could ask Madam Pomfrey for some dreamless sleep potion.

2011-10-31 20:54:00

HUFFLEPUFF!

GO, CEDRIC!!!!




Excellent.

 [alt_zacharias](#)

Well done, Diggory! Hufflepuff for the Championship!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-01 01:00:37**

(no subject)

That "H" should be "Hogwarts," you know. But yes, well done Diggory.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-01 01:09:15**

(no subject)

Woah.

I thought we were done with three, but I suppose not?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2011-11-01 01:30:06**

(no subject)

Well, that was unexpected.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-01 01:32:06**

(no subject)

Well, from the looks of it, no one saw that one coming.

2011-10-31 21:11:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger



I knew it.

I knew they would rig it.

 [alt_harry](#)


It didn't make any difference whether I put my name in or not.

Father is pacing back and forth, I think he's really angry. But he's not angry at me, he's angry because it picked Diggory too. I don't think it was supposed to do that. Choose two of us.

and that one French professor, he's really angry. Like almost as angry as Father. He's speaking in French really fast. And shaking his head.

Diggory offered to step down but I told him no. The Cup picked him. Everyone saw it. And someone said something about it not being legal. His stepping down, I mean. Because it's like a contract. So that means I can't step down either. Not like Father would let me.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-01 01:35:30](#)
(no subject)

Who do you reckon did it? The goblet is supposed to be really powerful magic.

Though I suppose that wouldn't stop your father.

You did the right thing, telling Diggory not to step down.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 01:36:37](#)
(no subject)

He should be here.

Not me.

He's the one the cup picked. I'm sure of that.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-01 01:39:46](#)**
(no subject)


But yeah. It was important he knew what I thought about it. Diggory, I mean.

So he wouldn't feel

you know.

Like he didn't belong.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-01 01:43:45](#)**
(no subject)

You know, I didn't about it until just now, but Professor Acton had a strange look on her face, during the ceremony. Do you suppose she had anything to do with the goblet?

And Raz looked surprised. I mean, I know he made you put your name in even though you didn't want to, but I don't think he was expecting that to happen.

So... I guess this makes you one of the Champions.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-01 01:49:03](#)**
(no subject)

Acton.

Figures.



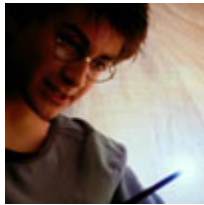
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 01:51:11](#)
(no subject)


I guess I should've expected. Even if I tried not to.

But I really

really

don't want this.



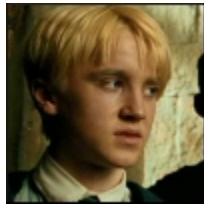
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 01:52:11](#)
(no subject)


And the worst part is I have to act all happy.

Or at least proud.

Even though it's a giant set up.

And you know how bad I am at acting.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-01 04:44:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you're rubbish at that.

I suppose if you were grave and serious then people might think that you were just focusing on the competition, or something?

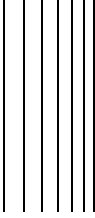
So. Are you going to try to win at all?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 13:32:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I am.

I mean, it's important. It'd be disrespectful otherwise.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-01 14:01:40](#)**
(no subject)


I agree. And you know I'll help you prepare anyway I can. As much as it's allowed, anyway.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-01 04:36:26](#)**
(no subject)

Look, I know I said this before, but you just have to support Cedric. It will be OK.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-01 13:35:58](#)**
(no subject)

I'm trying.

I cant do too much though. Otherwise he might take offence.

Krum and Delacour are being decent about it at least.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-01 17:58:04](#)**
(no subject)

People are being idiots.

They're making like Diggory was the one that fixed it.

Which is stupid. Because it'd make more sense to be rigged for me than him. Even I can tell that.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-01 20:18:50](#)**
(no subject)

It is just daft, isn't it, and worst of all -- I mean, you know it might be bad for him and his family and everything, he might be in trouble, even though everyone knows that's can't be his fault.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 20:44:01](#)
(no subject)

If he gets in trouble, serious trouble, I'll just refuse to do any of the Championship. Or I could tell the Daily Prophet it was rigged for me. And that I know it for a fact.

Which would get us in trouble instead.

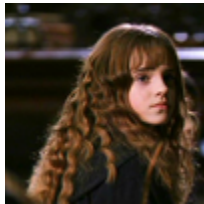
And would probably still get him in trouble too.

I hope he doesn't.

Get in trouble, I mean.

But it might be hard to know if he has.

If you hear anything, either of you, you've got to let me know. Okay?



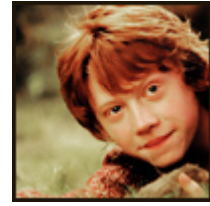
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-02 03:29:07](#)
(no subject)

I will.

Of course I will.

2011-10-31 21:15:00

Private Message to Harry Marvolo and Cedric Diggory



If it's not bad luck to wish good luck for something like this, then good luck to both of you.

 [alt_ron](#)

I guess it was sorta history being made tonight, yeah? It was well odd, but nift that nothing like this has ever happened before. ~~Even if~~

Anywiz, I hope the other lot know *Draco dormiens* and all, because we're totally going to win this tournament.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-01 02:45:59**

Private Message to Ron Weasley

Yeah.

Well.

I didn't put my name in there.

Besides. There can only be one winner.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-01 02:46:24**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Only don't tell anyone.

That I didn't put my name in.

But I didn't.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 02:48:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

You didn't?

I thought

I mean, Towler said he saw you

You didn't?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 02:50:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

It was someone else's name.

I was pretending.

Because

never mind.

Doesn't matter much now, does it?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-01 03:04:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Er. It kind of does, though, doesn't it?

I mean. You really didn't want to get chosen? I guess I can see that.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 03:06:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Yeah.

2011-10-31 21:46:00

Has anyone heard any more

about what's happening? Are they going to let Hogwarts have two champions?



The Beauxbatons students are all in a state. (Well, apart from you, Finch-Fletchley, of course.)

 [alt_padma](#)

Draco, has Harry told you what they're talking about in there?



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-01 02:08:12**

(no subject)

Sort of.

But yeah.

We're both competing.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-11-01 02:10:19**

Private Message to Harry

Oh. That's good!

Isn't it?

I mean, I'm sure you're excited about being named Champion, right? And Hogwarts has twice as many chances to win.

It's no wonder the others are a bit upset, though.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-01 02:13:18**

Re: Private Message to Harry

Yeah.

I mean, it's an honour and everything.

Not everyone was happy about it. But they have all these rules. And what the Cup says goes.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-11-01 02:13:51](#)
(no subject)


Good luck Marvolo! I'll be wishing you the best.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 02:15:18](#)
(no subject)


Thanks.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-01 02:26:00](#)
(no subject)


Good luck, Marvolo!



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-01 02:27:00](#)
Private message to Padma Patil

What do you reckon happened? Someone must have meddled with the Cup, surely, to make it spit out TWO Champions from Hogwarts.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-01 02:44:14](#)
Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Well, of *course* someone meddled with the Cup!

The question is which one of the Hufflepuffs managed it?

2011-10-31 23:00:00

For what it's worth

Cheers, Diggory.

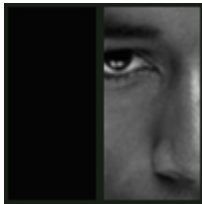
Krum and Delacour too.

I don't know what happened with the Goblet. Or why it put out four names instead of three. But it doesn't matter. We're all Champions now.

And let the best ma person win.



 [alt_harry](#)



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2011-11-01 03:20:21**

Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Good show, mate. That was really sporting of you. Especially when you're going to sweep the pitch with all the rest of them.

I mean to say, Diggory? He's a fair broomsman and all, but school champion? A bit milquetoast for that.

And that French girl. Unless you let her turn your head, you've got her coming and going.

Krum, now. He'll be competition, but really, apart from Quidditch, what can he really do? And he's got to be worried he'll break something and lose his career. That's something to think about. How committed can he really be to this tournament?



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-01 15:15:23**

Re: Private Message to Harry Marvolo

Thanks.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-01 17:03:26](#)

Private message to Harry Marvolo

What do you think happened, Harry? Why do you think you and Diggory were both chosen?

You didn't look happy last night. You looked shocked. And not in a good way. Was it because Diggory was picked first? That's what some people were saying in the Common Room last night.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-01 17:54:08](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

No. It isn't that.

After it chose him, I just didn't think it would choose me too. So it took me by surprise. That's all.

Diggory is alright, you know. I'm sure it chose him for a good reason.

I don't know what happened with the Goblet. But it makes more sense that it'd be rigged to pick me. Not him. If it was rigged. Just saying. Because I really don't know what happened.