

2011-11-01 18:53:00

Private message to Hopkirk and Braithewaite



Starling's reports were correct.

V4-S5 execute.

 [alt_bellatrix](#)

Subject brought in to level 13 this morning.

Earl "Hodge Podge" Astley, former alias "Batty Merryman." Resident of Broadwater Farm Estate. Unemployed. (*note to B* - ill-gotten gains, perhaps? Certainly wouldn't be difficult, given that peculiar abnormality)

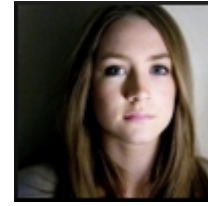
Have already verified variable 4. B.C. applied at 18:00 on today's date. H1 and H2 on standby with intensives; will contact me to report anything, however minor, that might suggest recovery.

Braithewaite and I will need preliminary reports on V5 by morning.

2011-11-01 19:27:00

Tidings

I have several people to send well-wishes to.



Congratulations to the two Hogwarts Champions for the Tri-Wizard Cup Tournament: Harry Marvolo and Cedric Diggory. Well done and good luck to you both.


 [alt_hydra](#)

Happy Birthday to my Aunt Narcissa. I made a special card and sent it by Owl so I hope that you got it, and I hope that you had a wonderful day.

And thank you to Teddy, who saved me the last roll ~~and plum tart~~ at the feast last night.

That's all.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-11-02 01:41:56**

Private message to Harry


Did you really put your name in the goblet? I suppose you must have but

I thought you might not have done?

I was a little surprised that you did.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-02 02:46:27](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

You're right. I didn't. I'm not sure who did. Draco thinks it might've been Acton.

Only don't go spreading around that I didn't. Okay?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-02 02:58:21](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Who would I tell?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-02 14:07:26](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Okay.

But yeah. I put in Mili's name instead.

I figure she'd never get chosen. It was Draco's idea.



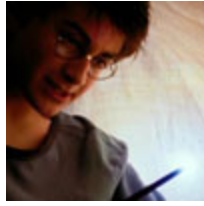
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-02 14:41:42](#)


Re: Private message to Harry

That was a clever idea. You're right I don't think she would have been chosen.

Diggory was good about it, though. He didn't seem too upset. I think he was just happy about being a champion.

Is your Father cross that Diggory's name came out, though?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-02 14:49:02](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Yeah. He was. It's not Diggory's fault though. And if the goblet picked him, then he deserves to be there. And you're right, he's being decent about the whole thing. Diggory, I mean.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-02 13:13:58](#)

(no subject)

Thank you, sweetheart. You know your Aunt generally dislikes her birthday but yesterday was a marvellous day. I did get your card and it's most appreciated. As were all the generous gifts I received.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-02 14:37:33](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad you had a marvellous day, Aunt Narcissa. I know it's just a card but I did want to send along something.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-02 14:51:19](#)

(no subject)

I'm very glad to have it, dear.

2011-11-01 19:48:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black



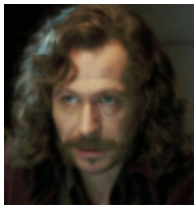
 **alt_nymphadora**


Remus, love. I can see you're busy, so I'm just going to put this here and know you'll see it when you've got a moment. I just want to let you know so you won't worry. Either of you. Sirius, if you see this first, make sure he reads it, would you?

Anywiz, I'm just popping out for a bit. Everything's fine. It's just something needs doing.

I'll explain when I get back, which shouldn't be more than a tick. Or an hour, at any rate.

Before time to close down for certain.



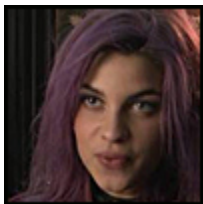
 **alt_sirius** at **2011-11-02 03:36:57**
(no subject)

Hey, kiddo, Remus sent me upstairs to write and ask if you think you'll be much longer.

Not that we're worried, either of us. Per instruction.

Only it's the first of the month and it seems like a bunch of half-bloods have their pay to spend. It's quite the night.

Oh and your 'admirer' is back - the one with the boy's name. She was telling her friend as she didn't care for kids, being around them all day, but she'd not mind if you'd bring Bea down at feeding time. Didn't sound half fussed about the fact that you're married and all.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-11-02 03:52:43**
(no subject)

Oh, yes. I'm almost done here.

I'm sorry if it's got that busy. I thought everything seemed under control when I left. But. Couldn't be

helped.

Oh, please. I know you think she's sweet on me, but really you shouldn't tease. She's a good sort, Agapanthus. Only don't call her Aggie, whatever you do. Felicity told me she took terrible teasing about her name when she was younger. I know a thing or two about that, myself.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 03:58:33](#)

Private Message to Dora

Well, all right. But ... *what* couldn't be helped? If you don't want him to fuss at you I don't have to tell him what you were about all this time.

And I'm not teasing. I saw her last time she was in. Every time you passed by her eyes were fixed decidedly below your face, love. I've done my share of ogling in my time, you know. I can well recognise it in someone else.



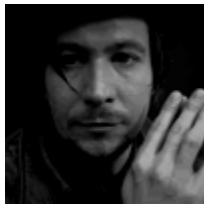
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-02 04:05:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

I was giving some help where it was needed.

All right. It's actually to do with them. Agapanthus and Felicity and Rachel, y'know. And that Tamora, who was with them a week or so ago when we thought they were planning something.

Well, too right, they were. Are.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 04:10:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

Nothing that'll get traced back to us, I assume?

Any idea how soon they'll make a break for it? Rachel and Tamora, I mean.

Unless they all mean to do a runner?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-02 04:20:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

Well, no. And I don't want to know, either. Cuts down the likelihood of our being tied in or left knowing anything awkward.

It's Rachel and Tamora going, you're right. But also Tamora's little brother. I think he's in service in the same family with her, but I could be wrong. I didn't ask anything they weren't wanting to tell me. Anywiz, she won't go without him, and really it's to do with him that they can't just go one day when she gets sent to the grocers or chandlers or to Laszlo's for a few things and just not come back. They don't ever get sent off together, or hardly ever.

But like I said, I told them I don't want to know how they're going or when. Well. How is simple. -ish. Rachel can Apparate, and she's going to take them. But I don't know anything about how they'll get away or how they'll cover themselves to have time before there's a search or anything. I think the other two are planning something to cover for them somehow. For a while. Possibly.

But I was only moving some things for them to a place they'll go whenever they do get away.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 04:26:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

Seems reasonable to me.

So, are you going to tell him?




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-02 04:31:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora

Of course I will.

Soon as we get things put up for the night.
Before bed, for certain.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-02 04:05:09](#)
(no subject)


It's been a bit hectic but nothing we couldn't manage.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-02 04:06:52](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, you. Knew you'd manage.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-02 04:04:00](#)
Private message to Padfoot

Agapanthus may be overestimating the view she'd get.

Did you read the students' diary entries from yesterday? What do you suppose is going on? Surely whomever made Harry's name come out was supposed to ensure no other names came with it. (With all due respect to your godson, he's a mere fourth year student. I think it's likely the other boy, Diggory, was the real champion.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 04:13:25](#)
Re: Private message to Padfoot

Oi, that's your wife, there, and I don't want to know!

As for Harry, I can't imagine why anyone would want him to be the Champion but it can't possibly be for a good reason. I've been debating whether to risk owling him just to make sure he's really all right.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 04:14:56](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

You know, it occurs to me ... you realise that if you ever want me to clear out for a bit so you and Dora can enjoy some privacy, just tell me, yeah?

I owe John and Lucinda a visit, anyway. And from the sound of it, maybe Harry, too.

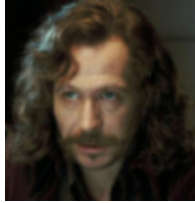


 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-02 04:21:54](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Don't you go using 'oh, they need privacy!' as an excuse for running yourself into danger. Hogwarts is closely guarded and Rabastan Lestrange is still Harry's bodyguard, isn't he?

Owling Harry is one thing. Paying him a visit is another matter entirely.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-02 04:25:16](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

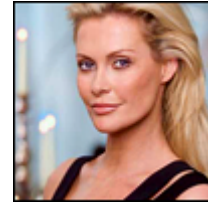
I'm only saying that it wouldn't be an imposition if you told me to go on holiday for a few days.

As for visiting Harry Well, Raz Lestrange doesn't know to look for a dog, does he? But Harry could do. And he gets to go to Hogsmeade now and then, even if getting into Hogwarts is ~~impractical~~ impossible.

2011-11-02 09:30:00

(no subject)

Rodolphus, I've time for tea tomorrow, if you're still looking for a chance to show off Rigel's new trick.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

I've had to re-arrange things a bit for today, though, as it's one of the rare times when our third-weekly card party conflicts with my usual self-pamper at the start of the month. Amanda, you'll have to represent the family without me, I'm afraid. (And tell me everything you heard, later - omit no detail!)

Now that the furor has subsided a bit, I think we may all look forward to the healthy competition of four Champions, though I understand it has required some adjustment on the part of the organisers. Still, I cannot imagine anyone questioning either of Hogwarts' young heroes' eligibility, if as is clearly the case, the Cup could not choose between them. To Mr Diggory: Well done and best of luck, young man. It's not often Hufflepuff has an opportunity to show its mettle. You can be very proud to have been named worthy of such distinction.

Harry, dear, I'm sure you'll perform admirably. You do always seem to find your way out of tight situations and to everyone's benefit, in the bargain. Why, I for one still remember that our poor Hydra might have died had you and Draco not saved her. Anyone who can effect such a rescue at twelve years of age certainly stands an even chance of success in the challenges ahead, even only two years later. More importantly, your illustrious Father deems it proper and right that you represent your House and school in this contest. And that alone ought to be enough reason for anyone to proceed.

Barty: Yes, I am going to Portsmouth tomorrow morning. I've got to start the annual search for suitable dishes for our party, after all. Did you still wish for me to pick up more fish paste for your larder, if they have it? I'll have them send it round to your elves.

Oh, and Rosa, again, the shower was too precious. I cannot believe that in your condition you managed all those mobiles over the tables. Now, I trust that St Gerard's is taking proper care of you? After all, forgive me, but... older expecting mothers are one of their specialties. Do be sure to ask for Healer Moritz by name if you're not getting the full treatment. And again, we're so proud of Draco and Pansy, of


course. By the time her little brother arrives, she'll be quite the known name in the Protectorate!



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-02 14:36:34](#)
(no subject)


Certainly. I can also describe to you what I procured at the auction in Grimsby.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-02 14:53:17](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'm most interested in that as well!



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-11-02 15:23:23](#)
(no subject)

If they have it, yes, that would be appreciated.
Thanks.

Interesting business at Hogwarts. Proves again that magical objects work in mysterious ways.

Trust you enjoyed yourself yesterday on that occasion of which we do not speak.

[2011-11-02 15:26:00](#)

Order Only: Harry

Well, for those of you who've been wondering about Harry, he's sent me an owl. (Hermione, did you have anything to do with that? Or did he decide to do it on his own? Just wondering.)



 [alt_sirius](#)

He sounds fairly depressed about being chosen, in point of fact. He swears that he didn't put his own name in - says *Draco Malfoy* of all people suggested that he write down another student's name instead of his own - but he thinks the whole thing might have been rigged from the start to make sure he could be named Champion. Says he thinks the other lad, Diggory, is a much better choice.

He says he's not too keen to look naff in front of three schools, up against competitors who are two or three years ahead of him. He doesn't say it right out but I think he's worried about failing at the tasks and getting himself hurt. Either way, sounds like he's planning to lose and rather badly at that. I'd be depressed too, with those prospects.

And yes, Moony, he's telling me point-blank he doesn't need me to come running up there and putting myself at risk. Just wanted to talk to someone, I think. Someone who can advise but who isn't going to scold him or tell Voldemort.

That's another thing. I've never quite heard or seen him so vocally opposed to Voldemort before. Hermione, is that ... I mean to say, have you and he been talking a lot more lately? About things? Does he say this kind of stuff in front of anyone who might betray him? What's Malfoy's part in all this?

I don't want the rest of you thinking that he's suddenly off to join the revolution. But he goes on about how Voldemort tends to push him right in the spotlight when that's the last thing he wants. And how the bastard's changed (which we've all heard before, Minerva's reported that much) - but here's the thing, Harry seems to perceive a shift of sorts in Voldemort's attitude toward him, as well as all the physical differences. Harry calls it being less interested in him, not listening. Sounds to me like he's simply stopped feigning whatever interest he pretended to have in the first place. That is, if there's anything to it besides the usual teenage angst!

Anyway. Unless Minerva can give us that blow-by-blow of the discussion Monday night, and what she may or may not know about who really *did* put his name in, I continue to think that whomever did it does not wish him any cash prize or the glory of Hogwarts. But now that he's in it, I think we'd best help him however we can, if only so the poor kid *doesn't* get handed his own wand-arm in a sling.




 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2011-11-03 01:10:29](#)**
(no subject)

It's all part of Voldemort's plans, I'd wager. Don't imagine his Lordship would put the lad in a position where he might get too mangled, and aside from being convinced that he's the key to immortality, having a son makes him more relatable to his people.

He'd probably put his own name into that goblet, if he could, but figures this is the next best thing. Cos isn't it all a part of the same rabble, the Tri-wizard tournament and the Quidditch Cup? Voldemort's rolling out the red carpet to show off his creation.

Don't know what to say about the Malfoy lad. Always seemed he was raised up to be something of the prince's whipping boy, getting punished in Harry's place and such, the sort of thing a posh Malfoy ought to deeply resent. But suppose there could be a real bond there, too.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-03 02:18:43](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know what to make of any of it, but you can guess there's no end of speculation here--from a French or East-European plot to humiliate the Protector (or kill his heir, though if anyone wanted to do that, there are surely simpler ways) to the opposite, a complete set up top to bottom engineered by Himself so that the boy will waltz to victory and all the world will envy our prowess.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-03 14:00:20](#)
(no subject)

He did it on his own. He didn't say *anything* to me about it.

He doesn't like his Father, though. I mean -- he doesn't think his Father is right about a lot of things, and he thinks he's gotten meaner, and he doesn't know any more I think whether he was always that mean or whether he just changed, he says. His Father I mean. He really didn't -- I mean, he doesn't want to do any of the things that they're making him do and I know that some people have said things like 'oh teenage rebellion' and all that but I don't think that's true, I mean, I don't think it is, I think it's just that after last year when he was trying so hard to live up to everything and studying all the time and it was never enough, I think maybe he's decided that he gives up.

But I think that he has changed, when I've seen him, because before he would think about Harry it's true, I mean, at least enough to talk with him and so on, and keep tabs on how he was doing other than how his marks were. But now he doesn't do any of that, it's just Harry's marks and how he looks to other people, there's nothing below that at all, but I think there used to be before, I really do, I mean, he was always nasty (Harry's Father) but not like that. Oh I don't know how to put it!!

[2011-11-02 20:57:00](#)

Private message to Bill Weasley

Can you meet for lunch tomorrow instead of Friday?



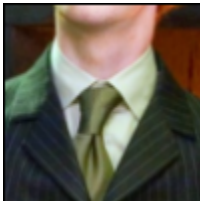
 [alt_percy](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at **[2011-11-03 01:59:31](#)**

(no subject)

Sure, that'd be no problem. Working around Lucius' schedule, I presume?



 [alt_percy](#) at **[2011-11-03 02:02:24](#)**

(no subject)

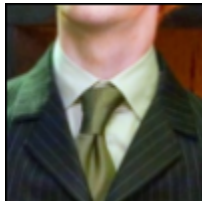
No, that's not it. I mean, I could meet Friday, if that works better for you. It's just that...I've got something weighing on my mind, that's all. And I could use the big bro talk sooner rather than later.



 [alt_bill](#) at **[2011-11-03 02:03:29](#)**

(no subject)

Oh? What's up, Perce? Do you need me to come see you at the Burrow tonight?




 [alt_percy](#) at **[2011-11-03 02:05:45](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, no. No, nothing like that. It's just, well--

Penny and I exchanged some hard words when I saw her in Hogsmeade this Saturday. I've been brooding about it a bit, I guess.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-03 02:06:00](#)**
(no subject)


Ah. I see.



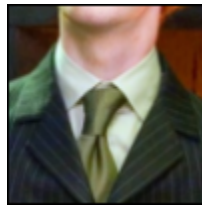
 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-11-03 02:07:28](#)**
(no subject)


I was trying to help her, but she took it the wrong way. Which may not be entirely her fault, because perhaps I was tactless. Anyway. Yeah.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-03 02:08:15](#)**
(no subject)

No need to say anymore. I'll see you tomorrow, at our usual place and time.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-11-03 02:08:45](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Bill.

2011-11-03 18:58:00

Private message to Raz



 [alt_sinistra](#)

I know you've been horribly busy this week, dear, so no need to reply if you're still buried. I thought the following amusing moments from my mail might give you a chuckle, though. (Has the fuss over the champions died down on your end any? Gossip has still been running high in the staff room when I poke my head in.)

Anyway:

1 letter accusing me of fixing the Cup, because of course I'd favor my own house. (Well, I do, but not to the extent of fiddling with the charms on ancient magical artifacts. I have rather more sense.) That rumor seems to be more prevalent at school than in the general populace, anyway, and thankfully people seem to have moved on to other candidates.

2 letters from parents of children under the age of 11, worrying that the challenges of the YPL are not going to adequately prepare their children for life in the Protectorate as adults, and what do I propose to do about that?

Favorite sentences: "Our children should not fall backwards when they leave the excellent new village school programme recently established. There, they sing songs, flourish flags, propose projects contributing to their community, all to praise the Protectorate! Surely the YPL programme could do more, with weekly meetings, and far more extensive expectations, rewards, and incentives."

They then go on to propose a yearly play, a student newspaper to highlight essays, events, and profiles of the YPL's shining stars, and the creation of challenges between different groups of students to "ensure that students excell in all areas of the mind, magic, and devoted heart."

I have written back to say that I appreciate their ideas, and am certain the programme will continue to develop, but that at present, we are unable to add any additional formal activities to the schedule.

4 letters from parents of children currently in the YPL programme, two of whom are concerned that the activities are too easy and

simplistic, and two of whom argue that they are far too challenging for developing minds and bodies. One of these seems to have gone through the journals to highlight every dangerous event that has happened to students involved in the YPL programme since its inception. (Thankfully, she only knows about the half of it, though on the whole our record is quite good.)

Favorite sentences: "These are our children, the future leaders of the Protectorate. How can we risk their lives and hearts in dangerous pursuits before they are trained?" (I resisted the temptation to ask if she had examined the Hogwarts curriculum in any detail.)

Also in my mail:

- A message from Healer Stint, about some details about the Medwizardry lectures on December 3rd (did I mention to you that he's planning to be here or just to Poppy?)


- A followup from one of my recent errands: I suspect you will be quite pleased by the results.

- 2 letters requesting advice on ways recent halfblood graduates might find it easier to find work, and whether any of the YPL connections might be willing to offer assistance of any kind, no matter how small. (I've started getting a couple of these every month, and they always break my heart: I think I want to add it to the agenda in December if I possibly can. Even a list of employers willing to give halfbloods of good character a chance would be a start.)

- 3 letters accusing me of being a corrupting influence on you. (None of them worrisome, just deluded. One of them may be that woman you were telling me about who persists in pink parchment, purple ink, and charmed glitter all over everything, with Capitals in Every other Word.)

- And the usual range of billing and accounting issues, which are entirely boring.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-11-04 02:47:06**
(no subject)

Buried? Oh, yes, I was indisposed last night, I'm afraid. Very busy with various fire chats and the like.

I'm not certain I find your mail as amusing as you do.

Well, not all of it, leastways. I've not been so much "accused" of having fixed the goblet (in Harry's favour, not Cedric's, of course) as much as I've had very knowing looks flashed in my direction. Flattering as it may be, I definitely do not have the skills to manipulate an object like that. Now my brother, on the other hand, that's right up his pitch. All I was told to do was make sure Harry put his name in the goblet- but I already told you that. Now, what I can't figure is why he looked so damned surprised when his name came out. I saw him put the parchment in, so...

Though come to think on it, I don't know what it said. It definitely wasn't a blank slip of parchment, though.

Cedric was definitely an unwelcome surprise from all quarters, not that anything can be done now. I feel for him, though. He's one of my best newts and he deserves to be there, really. And even with all the extra lessons I've given Harry, I'm pretty sure there's no way he can measure up.

Anyway, back to your mail.

-For the parents of the pre-Hogwartians (and the current Hogwartians, actually), why not tell them that you're just following the YPL plan as approved by Auror Lestrangle? That ought to shut their gobs right up, in addition to being the truth.

-No, you didn't tell me about Stint doing a stint. Haha. Good to know! Maybe there'll be time to take him out for a round in Hogsmeade.


-Errands? I am certifiably intrigued.

-That's rough. I don't know what you can say, though. I know there are a lot of factories are employing halfbloods, but it's not exactly the most well-paying or otherwise rewarding work. And there's all those stalls in Borough Market, but then that can be rough, too. It's always getting raided on suspicion of black market trading.

-Wot's that? Because I'm pretty sure the pink-parchment woman is a student, you know. I thought we were being discrete in front of them, too. Am I doing something not-discrete that I don't know about? Because I've been known to do that. You need to give me some kind of signal if I start to stare at your chest at dinner.

A shove might work, for starters.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-04 03:41:27](#)
(no subject)

Very intriguing. (Mostly) in order...

- On the goblet, I quite agree - he did look immensely surprised. And I do feel for him. Harry's certainly had some of the best teaching available, in any number of ways, but he's at an age where a year or two of experience makes a great deal of difference, and he's smart enough to know that.

I wasn't paying as close attention as I might to some of the explanations: what was supposed to happen if someone put someone else's name in the goblet? Should it just refuse it, or change it, or what? Or do we even know?

- On Cedric: I've been hearing some quiet comments from my Hufflepuff newts that there's been a some nastiness: mostly comments about how Cedric should drop out if he knows what's good for him, that kind of thing, but it's overflowing onto the rest of the house, as well. Nothing directly too dangerous, and yet, so miserable, especially poor Hannah last spring. Cedric himself seems to be handling it as well as anyone can, but that's still not easy.

I'm not sure any adult could solve some of it, but if you do spot a way, I'd love to know (or Pomona: we had our heads together over it tonight for a bit after dinner, though without much progress.)

- On the YPL: pretty much what I was going to say, yes. Felix has worked up a nice formal explanation that he makes copies of for me, of how we decide things, and who has the final say on our plans and so on. It's pretty dreary stuff: usually people don't make it more than six inches in. I still have to read their letters though, just in case they ask something that isn't covered in there.

- Taking Stint to Hogsmeade for part of the time would actually be a great favour: I know he's trying to get a feel for the YPL, but I suspect that some of our invited speakers (and the CCF student session, for that matter) might feel a bit intimidated by him, if you see what I mean.

- That's a good thought on the Borough Market. You're right that it's not easy, but for some of them, it's better than what they've got right now. Which, really, is the whole thing. So many of the options are so awful that even a small improvement looks huge.

- On the pink parchment woman - honestly, we should compare them. I've kept it, as both you and the MLE advised with odd mail. (Did I ever tell you about the really odd one I got in the first year of the YPL? They investigated, nothing to it, but it was weird.)


I think my pink parchment lady might be an adult, because most of what she goes on about is that bit in the Prophet from the QWC, that piece about who was in the top box, and that I send you private messages periodically. (Though, honestly, I think I send Felix two or three times as many: they're just on his entries.) I think if it were a student, it'd talk about other things as well, you know.

I do think there's been a little more gossip, mind you - I overheard a bit walking the CCF honorees back from Hogsmeade, though they mostly shut up about it before I heard any detail. But I don't think there's any particular cause beyond perfectly reasonable public events.

I will, however, remind you where my eyes are if needed at dinner and other occasions, though a shove might draw just as much attention. (If you feel you have inadequate time to admire my chest, we can certainly arrange more opportunities to do so in private.)

- I enjoy leaving you in suspense about my errands, and look forward to showing you the end result. (And I find I like teasing you about this. Do you mind terribly?)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-04 13:55:04](#)
(no subject)

The Headmistress did seem to intone that Bad Things would happen if anyone tried to niffle about with the goblet or the things they put into it, but that might've just been to keep people off the idea.

The more I think on it, the more I suspect Harry put someone else's name in. I'd ask directly, but he's been pretty quiet about things. I suppose it doesn't really matter, anyway. The goblet's made it's decision and there's no arguing about it. I'd like to get

him in for tea and a chat, though, to see how he's taking it all.

And then Cedric! Well, after this week's duelling club (which is for newts only), he pulled me aside and asked very earnestly if I would be able to give him a "little preparation" for the first task, when the time comes. It was obvious he thought he might be crossing a line by asking for my help- he thinks I'll be meant to get Harry prepared. Which I am. But Cedric's my student, too, and the goblet did choose him. Bloody Erebus. I'll do what I can for the lad, but I'm not sure how much it can be.

I don't think you ever told me about your odd YPL mail, no. What was it? (I see I'm late in welcoming you to the world of odd mail, by the way)

The reason I think pink parchment is a student (there are a few letter-writers who use pink parchment, but I'm thinking of one in particular) is that she(?) seems to know about my daily goings-about around the castle. I mean, I've gotten a few random things from students here and there, especially around holidays and the like, but this one is definitely a regular writer by now.

But yeah, it sounds as if we might need to compare pink parchments.

It's so outrageous. I'm not ever that particularly handsome, I'm just very, very rich and utterly charming. (Don't you agree?)

I do believe that after this busy week, I could benefit from some extra time to admire your chest, as well as the rest of you. And I fear I like being teased about mysterious errands a bit too much, as well.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-11-04 14:22:33**
(no subject)

On the goblet - it is hard to tell the "You should not do this" from the "This can't be done" instructions sometimes, isn't it?

I think having Harry in for tea seems like a very sensible idea, and at least get a sense of how he's doing with all of it, and if there's anything one can do to help. The bits I've been overhearing, it seems like everyone's been telling him he'll just

be fantastic. Having a friendly ear who knows him well, but who's realistic about what he can do - and how challenging the tasks might be - seems like it might actually make him feel better. (I don't know about Harry, but I know I'd much rather have someone be honest with me, and then help me figure out suggestions - as you've done so well for me - than just be told I'll be great.)

On Cedric: if there's anything I can do along that line, do let me know. Maybe filtering information through me would be easier? (Your Defense work is obviously better than mine by a long shot, but I'd be glad to pass on some of what you've shown me this past year, and I don't think it'd surprise Cedric that you've been working with me on that: it came up briefly at the end of last year in their Common Room: I was a bit frank that I was none too comfortable with either of the Carrows.)

On the odd YPL mail: I have been getting my own odd mail for a while, yes. Though not in the quantity you do. The odd ones, the first year of the YPL, were a series of letters that started off with a piece of doggerel (really abominable poetry) that seemed to have hidden messages. A couple of them might have been threats (to several students, not just Harry) though it was all sort of incoherent.

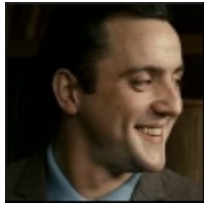
Of course, I ran them all by the MLE. Turned out to be an ancient old witch living on the south coast with about twenty cats, whose mind was starting to go, and who was browsing through the journals looking for distraction, poor thing. Given that, the bad poetry is sort of endearing.


On pink parchments: sounds like we should definitely compare. Two heads are better than one, and advance warning is good defense and all that.

You are asking the wrong person about your charms, though. I do agree that you are utterly charming (and it is undeniable that you are very rich), but you are also, in my opinion, quite the looker. Also funny, caring, and very good with your hands.

On that note, I am glad to provide all manner of amusing distraction, opportunity, and so forth this weekend, and additional teasing about errands (about which much shall be revealed in December!) My plans are fairly open, other than that I'd like a few hours on the tower either Saturday or Sunday: not

sure which day the weather'll be better, so whenever works for you.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2011-11-04 23:42:24](#)
(no subject)

I try to be honest with Harry as much as I can, cos you're right he ends up kept in the dark quite a lot, with one thing or another, and he's at an age where he's become well aware of it, too.

Giving tips to Cedric through you might be a well good idea. Though you know that it might just fuel those rumours that you jiggered the goblet in his favour, if anyone happens to notice. We'll just have to make sure that they don't, yeah?

Oh, I've had my share of correspondence from elderly, cat-owning ladies, too. It's some of the best I get, if you want the truth- very endearing indeed, and always a bit furry, at that.

I believe I came off as a girl fishing for a compliment there, didn't I? But you're actually correct that I'm "quite the looker." As in I quite like to look at certain people with blonde hair who totter around the Astronomy tower while carrying two-times their own weight in star charts and yet still manage to look graceful in the process.

Will I see you tonight, then? I have no intriguing errands to tempt you with, but I've still got both my hands, as it so happens.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-11-05 01:20:27](#)
(no subject)

Tonight, yes, please. I'll be up the tower another hour or so, then done for the night.

I look forward to you, your hands, and perhaps a bit of plotting of how to help Cedric and Harry. I shall also bring my accumulated pink parchment.

Soonest.

Yours, tottering with charts.

||||-R

2011-11-03 20:45:00

Private message to Hopkirk

Note in finalised records: V4-S5 complete.

Subject expired at 18:00 on yesterday's date.

C.O.D confirmed by Pelton at 13:24 on today's date (report to follow).

No change from previous variables.

Remains prepared for Bale at D.O.M; delivered at 15:36 on today's date.



 **alt_bellatrix**

2011-11-04 22:36:00

Private message to Padma Patil

Did you hear what happened to Diggory? It's hilarious. Someone hexed him, I guess, or maybe slipped him a potion? and now his pee is the most amazing shade of violet.




 [alt_seamus](#)

Someone saw, in the loo. Diggory seemed ... more than a little disturbed, I guess? Anyway he's off to Madam Pomfrey (although it's not like he was HURTING, I guess. Just very purple).

I wonder who pulled off that prank? I'd normally suspect the Weasley twins but I don't think they'd target Diggory.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-11-05 03:47:46**
(no subject)

You're not having me on, are you?

Purple??

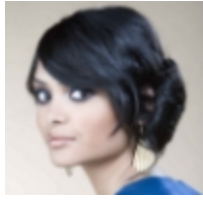
And no, I don't think the Weasleys would do that; it's more likely *they* hexed the Goblet to make his name come out, just to mess about and try to ruin the Tournament for everyone. Lucky for them the Lord Protector's cleverer than they are.


Do you really reckon Cedric's got a chance? Or that Delacour girl? I figure Harry's only real competition is Krum.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-11-05 03:55:05**
(no subject)

I reckon it depends on what they have the Champions do. Are Hufflepuffs particularly good at anything?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-05 04:04:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, Diggory's good at Quidditch, anyway. Or good enough.

I asked Tamblyn and he said it's true; Diggory was in the loo. He thinks someone's been slipping porphyry juice into his drinks. But that would mean more than once, wouldn't it? I can't imagine Hufflepuffs doing it to him, but who else would be able to dose him, if that's what it was.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-05 04:17:14](#)
(no subject)

I looked up porphyry juice and you're right, that's probably what it was. Unless someone worked out a hex.

It wouldn't be a Puff, though. It might have been a Ravenclaw. Maybe one of the prefects did it? He'd never suspect a fellow prefect.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-05 04:21:34](#)
(no subject)

I dunno. Tamblyn thinks it *might* have been another Puff after all. Because everyone's giving the whole house dirty looks since Cedric was named champion. So maybe they're trying to be Slytherins about it and they're taking the mickey themselves to make it clear that they don't support him either?


We should ask Smith. He'll know.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-05 04:22:25](#)
(no subject)

I could almost see Smith doing it. Though he was right proud when Diggory's name came out of the Goblet.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-05 04:27:08](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, but then everyone told him what a punter he was being.

You know who else might know? Zabini. But no way am I asking him.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-05 04:34:04](#)
(no subject)


Me either. Zabini is probably my least favourite Slytherin. Or possibly it's a tie with Nott.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-05 03:57:05](#)
(no subject)

As for Fleur, she looks like a Veela. She's got a bit of an advantage simply because ALL the other Champions are boys. She'll be right distracting, I would think.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-05 04:05:50](#)
(no subject)

Hah, that's one area where you actually have an advantage!

Although...I dunno, did the Veela at the Cup affect you at all?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-05 04:15:45](#)
(no subject)

I would have an advantage!

The Veelas at the Cup, uh. No. I think I had the same reaction as the girls. They looked pretty (at least at first) but they didn't make me want to tear off my shamrock or anything.



 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-05 04:18:53](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's good to know. I mean if you want to keep it a secret. Maybe you'd better drop a well-placed comment or two about how gorgeous she is, or something.

(Even if she's just a dreadful person. You'd think Hogwarts is blanketed in dust the way she goes on! When really Mr Milland's got the place scrubbed clean as Professor Slughorn's best brass cauldron. She's really disagreeable, I must say. And--)



 **alt_seamus** at [2011-11-05 04:21:05](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, I've yet to hear her say anything nice about Hogwarts. Not just that it's dirty, she also thinks it's too cold, she can't stand our food, we don't brew tea the way she likes it, we don't learn things in the proper order... dunno why she came, really.



 **alt_seamus** at [2011-11-05 04:21:32](#)
(no subject)

As far as my secret goes, I think mostly the people at the Cup reckoned I was too loyal to Ireland to be swayed by the Veela!



 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-05 04:25:33](#)
(no subject)

No, but most of the boys in school are falling over themselves trying to get her to notice. Especially Davies.

He actually *invited* her to sit in Ravenclaw Corner tonight! I wanted to just get up and leave but that would have given her the satisfaction. But ugh, it was so *infuriating* to watch them all want to know her opinions about everything!

Have you met any of the others? The Durmstrang students, I


mean. There are a few our age and you've got more lessons with them, I think (we've only got a couple).



 **alt_seamus** at [2011-11-05 04:26:42](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I played Exploding Snap with one of the Durmstrang students. He didn't seem so bad. A little quiet but that might have been because he didn't speak that much English.



 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-05 04:29:37](#)
(no subject)

Ooh, is he cute? Did you need to talk all that much?

Hooper's not jealous, is he?



 **alt_seamus** at [2011-11-05 04:33:10](#)
(no subject)

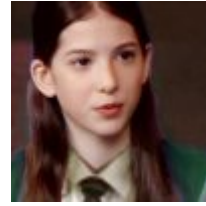
He is cute, as a matter of fact. And he didn't seem super interested in Delacour. But that doesn't mean he's interested in me. So we just played Exploding Snap.

Hooper, yeah, we've been seeing a lot less of each other. We both agreed it would probably be best.

[2011-11-05 10:19:00](#)

Private message to Pansy

Harry just asked me to spread a rumour that he didn't put his own name in, and that's why he was so surprised that his name came out. So clearly it was fixed for him, and not for Cedric (like the Ravenclaws are saying it was).



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

He wants me to get you to help and he doesn't want anyone to know who originated the rumour (I'm pretty sure he doesn't want people to know it was us), which will call for some ingenuity. But every rumour has to have a source even if it's not the REAL source. Maybe we can say that Peeves was watching when he wrote his name? Because Peeves probably won't bother to deny it. On the other hand, will anyone believe it if Peeves is the source?

Actually, hold on, maybe we could get Peeves to repeat the rumour and then no one will know where it came from. We'd need to make it rhyme, though. I expect the twins would be the best ones to get it to Peeves.

Maybe I should ask 'everyone,' and see if they have any ideas.

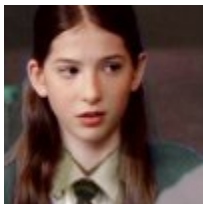


 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-05 20:31:06](#)**

(no subject)

I think the Peeves idea is a good one.

Or we could pass it along to Morag, and she'll tell Padma, and then it'll be all over the school.

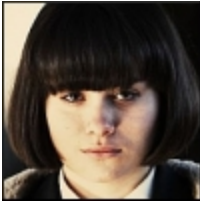


 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-06 03:24:28](#)**

(no subject)

The problem is, Morag will tell Padma she heard it from us, and they'll repeat it but it'll have our names attached.

Harry doesn't want people to know where the rumour originated and I DEFINITELY don't want people (especially Padma) knowing it was us who started it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-05 20:33:35](#)
(no subject)

And yeah, we'd better tell the lot. The twins will help, and Ron might sulk because you never know how he's currently getting on with Harry, but even he has to see the logic in taking attention away from Cedric.

Especially after today.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-06 03:24:56](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I agree. OK.

2011-11-05 10:21:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Hey.

Have you lot heard what happened to Diggory? I hear someone hexed his willy and turned it into a plum. He had to go to Madam Pomfrey to get it turned back.



 [alt_ron](#)

I mean to say, that's just

that's right dangerous, messing about with somebody's bits like that.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-05 15:27:43**

(no subject)

There's a hex that turns someone's willy into a plum? What is it? It would be good to know, you know, for people like Letchley.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-05 15:33:51**

(no subject)

Uh. No idea.

I mean, really, that's going a bit too far, don't you think?

Seriously. It could really do some damage, y'know.

I mean

uh

yeah, I can't even think about it without going all queer

it's just


no



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-05 15:36:48](#)
(no subject)

Well it's dreadful someone doing that to Diggory. He's never done anything to deserve it (that I've heard about).



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-05 15:41:29](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Can you imagine having to go to Madam Pomfrey for that?

Poor bloke.

But you couldn't just let it stay that way, either. At all.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-05 15:50:43](#)
(no subject)

Do you suppose it was an actual plum or just LOOKED like a plum but still worked like a willy?

(Not that either is good.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-05 16:03:53](#)
(no subject)

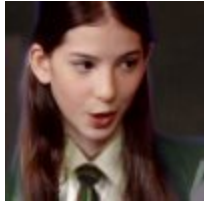
Um.

This is kind of sick, but Towler and some of the rest have been saying it probably looked more like a prune.

And, uh. I think it worked, cause he was weeing in the Prefects' loo when someone saw him. That's how it got out that it happened.

If you mean other stuff, though. I've no idea. And, um. Yeah.


Heh.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-05 16:13:18](#)
(no subject)

So who was it who saw, anyway? I thought boys weren't supposed to go staring at each other's bits in the loo.



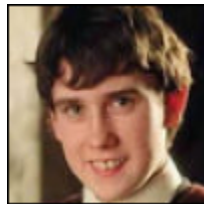
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-05 16:25:40](#)
(no subject)


Well, some of the other Prefects, wasn't it? One of the Tamblyns, I think. Or maybe it was both of them. But there were probably loads of them in there.

And obviously Diggory was upset about it. Would've been hard not to notice.

But, yeah, mostly we don't go round looking at each other. Except, y'know, if you hear someone's got something odd

yeah, never mind



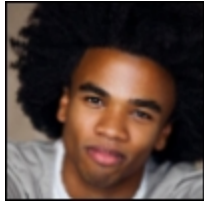
 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-06 01:19:46](#)
(no subject)


Don't blame him a bit for getting upset. I wonder if it's going to get really ugly for him. You know, if people are going to go on about how he shouldn't be a champion.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-06 01:13:25](#)
(no subject)

Ugh. We agree, that's just not on. Not to Diggory. He's a right decent bloke.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-11-06 01:14:36](#)
(no subject)

Wonder if he knows who did it to him? Maybe he'd be open to some assistance from you lot in getting revenge?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-06 01:17:43](#)
(no subject)

Mmm. He'll probably be rather sore. About the whole subject. So to speak.

Still, we could put the word out we'd be willing to lend some assistance.



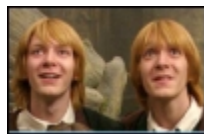
 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-06 01:21:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, I wouldn't wish that sort of thing on Diggory--he never was nasty to me. But I sort of wish one of you could find out how to do that spell. Because I know someone I'd like to try it on. Since he doesn't know I have a wand, he couldn't blame me.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-06 01:22:56](#)
(no subject)

Merlin, Professor. You just made George snort pumpkin juice up his nose. He's still laughing.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-06 01:25:23](#)
(no subject)

Awesome idea, Professor--but no, really, you'd better not. Think about it: it's not the sort of thing a man can ignore. Especially a mean snake of a man like the git. And once it dawns on him that someone has hexed him inside the castle--much less a castle protected by the Fidelius charm--he won't rest until he finds out who did it.

Still...we can't blame you for toying with the idea. The mental picture is just delightful.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-06 01:45:37](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Don't you think Carrow'd just figure it was wild magic you'd done without a wand?

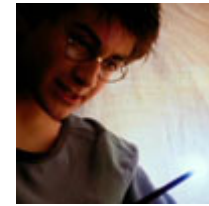
Remember when Malfoy's muggleborn got his magic? And it seems it'd be loads easier for Carrow to figure it's you, since you say there's really no one else there in the castle that it could be. And even if some of the prisoners are muggleborn, you wouldn't want him deciding it was someone else that did it, right?

2011-11-05 10:41:00

Private Message to Sally Anne

Sally Anne. I know you and Pansy know lots of people. People from other houses.

I want you both to spread a rumour. You know. Without letting people know you are.



 **alt_harry**

I want you to tell people that you heard that I didn't put my own name in the goblet. That I put in a fake name. That's why I was so surprised when my name came out. So that means that the goblet was rigged for my name, not Diggory's. He's the one the goblet really chose for Hogwarts.

That's the rumour I want you to tell people. Okay?

And you can tell Pansy what I told you.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-05 15:19:26**
(no subject)

You didn't put your name in?

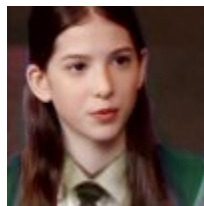
Harry, I don't know if

I'll see what I can do.



 **alt_harry** at **2011-11-05 20:29:07**
(no subject)

That's what I want the rumour to be.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-06 03:29:45**
(no subject)


This might be an easier rumour to spread if we have a name we said you put in instead, do you care who it is? It doesn't necessarily have to have even been the name of a student at the school; you might have written down Owain Pritchard or Moaning Myrtle. Or

Hannah Abbot.

Or we could say you put in some name like Vincent Crabbe, even he'd admit he was never going to be chosen.

But if you don't anyone know you started the rumour, I'm thinking that it will work best if we say someone saw that you wrote down a different name. And that means they have to have seen what you wrote.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-06 20:33:54](#)
(no subject)

Any of those names works just fine. You can pick whatever.

2011-11-05 20:26:00

Order Only: Bonfire night trouble

There have been outbursts in a couple of camps tonight. I went in late this afternoon when I got a flocall. Molly, I won't be home until late. I don't think it's serious enough that MLE will be called out, but I want to stay here for the time being, simply to monitor the situation from the office.



 [alt_arthur](#)




 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-11-06 13:43:09**
(no subject)

What news this morning, Arthur?

Bonfire night has its echoes even here at the school. Last evening I saw two youngsters whose ailments turned out in the end to be caused by worry for fathers who work in the camps. One administrator's daughter with a terrible case of hives, and one enforcer's son with collywobbles.

Every year there's something--sometimes only hex injuries from unauthorised duelling--but when you dig down it turns out that the children with family employed in the camps suffer deep anxiety about fifth of November troubles.




 [alt_arthur](#) at **2011-11-06 14:44:49**
(no subject)

It wasn't a bad year. A warehouse got fired in Cornwall, and a small riot in Manchester, quickly put down without a call being put out for outside help.

But there has been a significant increase in written evidence in rebellion. There may be a covert press somewhere, because quite a few flyers have been found circulating.

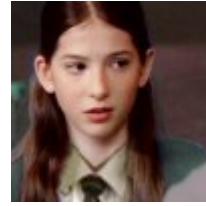


 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-07 00:45:57](#)
(no subject)

Obviously, I spoke too soon. Reports were late in trickling in. Very grim and sad stories.

2011-11-05 22:30:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

So, Harry asked me and Pansy to start a rumour about him. He wants us to spread it around the school that he did NOT put his own name in the Goblet and that it was definitely fixed to spit his name out, not Cedric Diggory's. I think he thinks it might make people harass Cedric less -- I'm not sure he's right, but it's worth a try?

But he doesn't want anyone know this originated with him (or with us), he wants it to be one of those stories everyone just repeats without knowing quite where it came from. Which is harder than he thinks it is, everyone pays attention to what they heard from whom and if it's sufficiently startling they'll work their way back up the chain. ESPECIALLY in Slytherin. And of course for something like this, there's the question of how someone KNOWS -- and if Harry doesn't want people knowing it came from him, the only other way someone would know would be if they saw what he wrote down. Who could've seen it? Peeves, or one of the other ghosts, or an elf.

That got me thinking that if we could arrange for Peeves to overhear it, he might take care of it for us. Especially if we thought up a funny rhyme about it. No one can do anything about Peeves or they would have done years ago. Of course, there's no guarantee he wouldn't spread who he heard it from, but he doesn't usually.

Does anyone else have other ideas? We could just tell Morag and let her tell Padma but we'd definitely need to have a made-up trail to point back to. Also, Padma loves to spread gossip but she'll twist anything about Harry, anyway, and she's already decided it was Cedric who fixed the Goblet somehow. (Never mind that if a student at the school COULD figure out how to jiggle the Goblet he'd DESERVE to be the Champion given that this is a powerful and ancient artifact that was specifically designed to resist tampering!)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-06 04:18:31](#)
(no subject)

Fred and George, I think if it came from someone older, people might be more likely to buy it. Could you start talking it up?

Maybe... I don't know... someone could claim to have been there when Harry wrote the name on the piece of paper, or saw it before he dropped it in?

Or we could claim to have overheard one of the visiting Professors talking about it? They'd deny it of course, but they would even if they did talk about it for real.

I do like the Peeves idea, too. We'd have to make it sort of mean for it to work though.


"Marvolo is a scaredy-cat
He put a false name in the hat
So when it spat his real name out
You should have seen Marvolo shout!"

Would people get that by "hat" I meant "goblet?"

"Harry Marvolo got a fright
When the Goblet picked him Halloween night
The reason is because, you know,
He really didn't want to go.
So when he had to put in a name
He put in a fake one, what a shame!
But the Goblet picked him anyways, boo hoo
Now what's Harry Marvolo going to do?"

...I may have to work on this some more.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-11-06 13:28:02](#)
(no subject)

Y'know, I think we could just tell Towler, and it'd get out pretty quick.

Oooh. I could complain about having to partner Bullstrode in Defence this week and say all she wanted to do was grumble about how Marvolo put, um-


ooh! what if we say Bullstrode says he put Peeves name in the Goblet!

And then she went on about how Marvolo hadn't taken any of it seriously at all and then he got to be Champion anyway and he shouldn't've done because there were people like her who should def's have been chosen instead.

How about that?

And if Peeves hears it, he might be put out and take off with it, too.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-11-06 13:34:25](#)
(no subject)

Cause, y'know, I did have to partner Bullstrode, and it's not a lark, that.

Not that she grumbled about Marvolo being Champion, mind. But she really is well random. With her hexes, too. And basically a nasty piece o work. I seriously don't know what that witch's problem is!

2011-11-05 23:18:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Also, I meant to tell all of you about this conversation I had with Justin, the English boy from Beauxbatons. Ron got up a little card party on Monday, before the Feast, and Justin wanted to play Spite and Malice with me, so we were off in a corner and could talk without being overheard.

He wanted to talk about Sirius Black. We'd discussed him in the journals, privately, just a little, but this made both of us nervous so we'd put it off until he got here and we could talk in person. He wanted to know if Sirius was dead -- only he didn't expect me to know, precisely, so he wanted to know if people BELIEVED he was dead or if, after seeing the picture in the press and that journal entry they thought he was actually alive. I told him as clearly as I thought I could get away with that anyone clever knew perfectly well Black was alive but would never say so publicly.

And then he talked about how he thought Black was rather dashing. I mean, he was clever about it because he didn't precisely SAY this but he talked about how he was like some character from a book (a muggle book) about the French Revolution.


Anyway. Here's the thing. Justin has a secret. And it's not that he's sympathetic to Sirius Black, he was quite willing to tell me that (in a very careful sort of way -- he's clever, I don't think he'll get himself in trouble). I don't know what it is, he wouldn't tell me but he is HIDING SOMETHING.

And it's been driving me just a little bit batty trying to work out what it is. I thought maybe it was that he was a half-blood and the other Frenchies thought he was pure, and MAYBE that's it but we talked a little about blood purity and I did my best to lay down an engraved invitation to tell me if that's all it was and he didn't.

He's very chatty but he's also very good at talking about nothing at all. Which is probably just as well, actually, because whatever his secret is there are quite a few people here he'd best not share it with.

Anyway I'd meant to write about this on Monday night but after what happened with the Goblet I was a little distracted.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-06 14:35:22](#)**
(no subject)

He seems nice enough, Justin. A bit, I dunno, too interested in wanting to know everybody, but maybe he's just really wanting to find some friends, yeah?

I dunno about talking to you about Black, though. I mean, what did they really know about him in France? I know he was caught there. Or was supposed to've been because now he's here and maybe he was all along.

You don't think there's something not right about Justin wanting to know what you think of Sirius Black?

Odd.

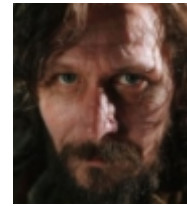
Anywiz, I think he's a laugh. Justin is, I mean. And I'm going to see if he wants to go flying some afternoon the weather's good. No point letting Malfoy lock him up and tell him he shouldn't spend time with the likes of us. Sorry, Pans. It's true, though, innit?

2011-11-06 07:52:00

Order Only: Rough Night Here

Arthur, did you make it home all right?

It was rather intense round here as well. Heard more than a few fireworks and saw some fires several streets over. Then we did have someone come knocking last night, very late, asking if Dora or Junius wanted to come out and play. Luckily Bea started squalling at that moment (sorry, Dora, for waking you up with that) and Remus was able to tell them to bugger off, couldn't they tell he had more pressing problems right at home?



 [alt_sirius](#)

But even with the midnight militia knocking at our door, we had nothing like the trouble we're reading about in this morning's *Prophet*. All over the country, it seems. Pockets of it here and there.

Did they send you out to Porlock? It sounds like that was one of the worst situations. At least 20 buildings destroyed by fire and over 200 muggles killed? According to the paper they nearly set Exmoor Forest itself ablaze.

Only by the immense, heroic efforts of Camp Administrator Invictus Clavey and his dedicated staff was the fire abated before it consumed the homes of local wizardry. However, the nightmare of Bonfire Night was not yet over. Clavey is also the leader of Porlock's local Protectorate Citizens for Purity garrison. While his staff proceeded in their duty to restore the community to order, Clavey wisely activated the dozens of loyal wizards and witches in northern Somerset and authorised them to assist the camp's employees. As part of their thorough evacuation, the Citizens for Purity, led by Clavey's deputy and son-in-law Malagantius Peppin, separated one in twenty muggles for immediate and decisive reprisals in exchange for the vandalism. At least 30 juveniles, 70 females and over 100 males were made examples to the rest.

Goes on to talk about the clean-up efforts and how they're disposing of the dead. There's a sidebar with Peppin where he talks about how important it is, especially in their little neck of the woods, to take care

of things themselves and make sure no undesirable element even gets started. Seems to think no one from the Ministry really cares about Porlock (which is probably true) and that it gives them licence to run rampant over their region. Also sounds like Peppin's not the type of warlock who takes 'No' for an answer when recruiting his neighbours. (Dunno what we'd have done if that bloke last night had been a Peppin instead of a common garden Smith.)

Merlin, what a mess. Kingsley, if I were you I'd see if this man Invictus Clavey would like to follow his community's stick with a nice, juicy carrot of a performance by the Players. I'll bet there are plenty of disgruntled and angry muggles looking for a way out; you might gain a good bit of information they might otherwise be too frightened to reveal. Plus it's right on a coast - good place to run from, if we've got a boat nearby. Which we have. We could run them across to Barry or even risk Swansea and then they'd be in Wales with little to stop them - and much greater sympathy, I should think?

We've really got to start planning properly for a more sizable escape when those wards come down. We've got a month to plan for this one, probably not enough time, but for June? Surely we can arrange something.

Oh, speaking of that, Alice and Frank, I've had an owl from Aleks and he's got a partner who's made the trip before. Not with him; we're not the only smuggling operation there is, of course, though he won't tell Aleks about this other group, for obvious reasons. But he says he can put together a good shipment and he's got ten more wands as well. Wants to know how many people we'll be sending through. I'll send you the information about the coordinates and timing. Is the *Tide Turner* ready for a run?



 **alt_frank** at **2011-11-06 20:48:21**
(no subject)

good. any raw wand ingredients he can get us would also be appreciated.

and yeah, we could be ready -- tide turner and the hopeful could both go out if need be. tide'll hold about thirty full grown folks tightly packed, and the hopeful can fit another ten. that's without any baggage, mind.


now in terms of where we're getting them from, I know there are

some sherwood folk who are more than ready to get out of the country -- not all of them are fighters. Tonks and remus and you got your eyes on anyone in london?

we would need a place for them to stay while we wait for december to roll around. John and davidson could help us with that, I'd imagine. it'd just be a matter of getting them there, which could be hard.

so I guess the answer to your question about how many would be depends on davidson and you, but no more than forty. and yeah, we'd be ready to sail on our end.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-11-07 00:47:59](#)**
(no subject)

Obviously, my reply to Poppy was premature, but the reports detailing the full extent of the trouble trickled in late. I did go home, but I got called back around dawn, and I have been on the hop since then.

2011-11-07 20:25:00

Order Only - finally, my report

The chills have finally subsided, and so I am back on the journals. It has not been an easy week.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

As you may have presumed, my Lord was not very well pleased with me. Perhaps you have heard that he summoned those of us within his entourage to conference before allowing the Beauxbatons and Durmstrang factions in. He was extremely wroth, and no, I do not think it ridiculous or over-emphatic to use the ridiculous term "wroth." His anger took the form of the Cruciatus curse. After expending his energy on me, he moved on to Lucius, with considerably less verve. I am only thankful that he Cruciated me first: I had some time to gather myself before the foreign representatives were summoned.

I was instructed to pass the punishment on to Professor Acton, whose 'incapability of following simple orders has proven that she is unworthy to receive chastisement from the wand of our Lord.'

The French were most diplomatic, though I could not blame them if they had not been. Froissart in particular seemed to look to Lucius for guidance, which is no surprise; the rest were sweet as shortbread. Well -- I do not suppose that they believe the story that Diggory or his people rigged the Goblet, but they kept up the polite fiction and behaved as though the Lord Protector's meddling could never possibly cross their minds.

The Durmstrang party were not nearly so polite. Oh, Karkaroff -- a former Death Eater, you realise -- made some half-hearted attempts to restrain them, but overall they were posturing. Some war hawks in that party, I imagine -- though what they hope to gain by it, I have no idea. 'How do we know the whole tournament won't be rigged,' one of them asked straight out. 'Looks good for the Lord Protector's boy to win, doesn't it?'

I have not the faintest idea how the Dark Lord restrained himself when he heard that, but he did, somehow; I suppose he had exercised himself enough by punishing me. He allowed someone else to respond, someone I don't know from the Department of Magical Games and Sports: 'How do we know you didn't rig it to spit out young Marvolo's name? Quite a dangerous thing for him to do, to compete.'


That shut them up immediately. Now we know how far their posturing goes: not far.

I managed to pull myself through the meeting, which the Dark Lord expected me to preside over, to the Great Hall for announcements, and back to my chamber before I fell apart. Since I have been nursing myself and sleeping. I emerged once to chastise Acton. It was not pleasant.

Even less pleasant, however, is the other news I have. I fear that Mr Milland, the new caretaker, is spying on me. I have caught him about several times with his nose where he isn't wanted, and then he was summoned to the conference along with the Ministry and Death Eaters -- at first I believed it was to give his testimony about whether the Goblet had been tampered with, but he was conferring quite closely with someone in the aftermath of my punishment. I could not see well enough to say who, or what they were saying, but I have encountered him in conference with a Ministry official (I presume) before; I have never seen his face. (Cats' vision is not nearly as good as some say.)

Unfortunately, I have no idea how to best proceed with Milland -- only worries.



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-11-06 22:38:02**
Order Only

Very glad to see you're up to writing, Minerva. Your hand is reasonably sound to my eye--only a slight quaver at the joins and crossings.

I'll stop back up before supper. Is there anything I could bring besides this evening's tonic? If you want company, I could ask the elves to add an extra plate to your supper.

A few hands of cards and a conversation about Mr Milland? Of course, we could skip the cards. Or make it darts if you prefer. They're especially good for re-tuning one's fine motor skills.




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-11-08 02:47:29](#)**
(no subject)

Oh my, Minerva. Oh, I am so dreadfully sorry. I hope you continue to recover--my goodness, I hardly know what to even say. How I wish you didn't have to endure such terrible things! Yet we need you so badly in that position. And we owe you so much.

The news about the caretaker is very worrying. What do you know about him?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-08 02:48:30](#)**
(no subject)


I can see what I can dig up on him. What's his complete name?



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-11-08 04:45:57](#)**
(no subject)

Of course there's the question of whether Minerva knows his real name. If he's there to spy on her.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-08 04:46:21](#)**
(no subject)


Huh. Point.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-11-08 04:46:13](#)**
(no subject)


Carolus Milland.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-08 04:46:41](#)**
(no subject)

All right. I'll see what I can find out.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-08 04:47:00](#)**
(no subject)


And Minerva. What Mum said. I'm sorry.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-11-08 16:32:13](#)**
(no subject)

Minerva, if you have someone sniffing about, I wonder--what type of security do you have over the Book? I mean the real Hogwarts Book. I assume you have it protected so it won't be discovered by someone simply running across it. But what would happen if, Merlin forbid, you were replaced as Headmistress?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-09 14:36:54](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Minerva - and I'm sorry you have to go through that sort of thing.

As for Milland ... is there someone else on-staff you could use against him? Acton, maybe? Can she be convinced that it's in her interest to keep track of him and report back anything she learns? Can you trust her not to blab about it, though, if someone asks what she's doing?



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-11-10 14:33:39](#)**
(no subject)

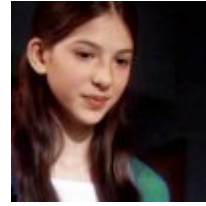
Acton -- she may be too stupid to fulfill her role.

I have been thinking. I hope to have better thoughts soon. So far, however, there is nothing.

2011-11-08 23:36:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo

So rumour has it you didn't put your name in the Goblet. I've heard it from both Hufflepuffs and Ravenclaws so I'd say it's officially all over the school.



 **alt_sally_anne**

It's not clear whether you wrote Greg's name down and this was spotted by Moaning Myrtle, or if you wrote Myrtle's name down and this was spotted by Peeves, but you definitely had someone who looked over your shoulder at a key moment and it might have been a ghost.

The important thing is that no one has any idea where the rumour started but everyone seems to know the key point, that you put someone else's name in!



 **alt_harry** at **2011-11-09 19:23:09**

(no subject)

Okay.

Thanks.

2011-11-11 07:23:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black



All well there, then?

It was quiet when I left this morning.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-11 16:10:02**

(no subject)

Everything's fine, yeah. Just fine.

Moony's upstairs sleeping and Bea's in her cot alongside. He'll be okay to look after her if she wakes up before you get back.

I'll not be there when you get home, all right? I'm off to see John and Lucinda.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-11-11 23:53:28**

(no subject)

Hang on, you.

What's the sudden reason to run off visiting elsewhere?

Your timing reeks, you know. Remus is having a terrible day after.

Not that you could do anything but be here. But you could be here. He's always better when you are, you know.

Honestly, I'm beginning to think Snape might have gone and added glumbumble bits into the wolfsbane formula this time.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-12 01:56:37**

(no subject)

Wot, Saint Severus?

Maybe.

But the timing can't be helped, luv. If we want to get Laszlo really operating on another level, that is. Got to go where the connections are.

And he ought to be feeling better by now. Especially Just let Bea pull on his nose; that'll cheer him.

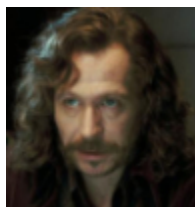



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-12 04:19:57](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I think he's recovering about as usual. He's just low.

That's why I think it might have been something different in the potion this time. I know they're tinkering with it, trying to work for better results.

Maybe you know more about the details of what they're trying than I do, but this month's formula isn't as good as the last. That's my view, at any rate.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-12 04:48:24](#)
(no subject)

Well.

You're not going to get an argument from *me* about whether Snape's the type who'd muck about just to get some of his own back.

But. As for whether that's what happened, or if it's something ... unrelated Let's let Remus be the judge of that.

I, er Well, I mean to say, you and he don't have -- much *time*, nowadays, do you? Or privacy. I mean, with Bea and me always underfoot one way or another. That might be what's eating him.

Don't you think?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-12 19:41:36](#)
(no subject)

Well. He doesn't think it's anything to do with the Potion, and I never meant to say that Snape was mucking about.

I know you don't care for that one, but it's a bit dire and dramatic to think he'd try and poison Remus. To get some of his own back? What's that about? Is it some nonsense from when you were in school--or something more recent I don't know about?

As for the rest, don't be a tit. Even if things are a bit less private than they used to be, we wouldn't change it. And in any case, it's not as if we can send Bea off to visit John and Lucinda just to have a bit of sleep and time to ourselves. That's silly.

We're a family now, and that means things are different in a good way from when we were just two lonely people knocking about the shop. We love having people about.


Which means you.

So it's fine if you want to go off and arrange things for the Solstice, though you might have said first. We'll want to help however we can.

And. It would even be all right if you just wanted to go off for a bit of a holiday. ~~Only I don't thin~~

Only. We don't want you to feel we're putting all of Bea's care off on you. Is that it? Are we taking advantage? Because we really want you here. You're family as much as Bea or any of us. Or that's how we want it. A better kind of family than the kind any of us had as kids, right? One we choose for ourselves.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-12 23:18:18](#)
(no subject)

No, I didn't think it was the potion, either. And I never said Snivellus would *poison* Remus. Not really. Still, he's definitely the type to hold a grudge - yes, even after fifteen years or longer!

It's not that I'm - I mean to say, I don't mind looking after Bea. Far from it. Bea's fantastic. I doubt I could care for her more if she were my own daughter. ~~That's not~~

And even when I'm there, you've other options. With Bea, that is. I'm sure some of the regulars would be happy to watch her for an afternoon or an evening and that's easier when I'm not about, as well. She's getting big enough for that sort of thing to be a simpler prospect, too.

As for running off The good thing about not being tied down is that I *can* run off whenever Davidson or John or whomever else needs me to shift myself.

Now don't act like I'm never coming back, will you? Or I shall have to tell Moony that perhaps you're not as used to my comings and goings as he thinks.

2011-11-11 11:46:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony



 [alt_sirius](#)

Er.

Look, I ... think we'll be better off if you and Dora have some of that 'alone time' we talked about, yeah?

Besides, if we're going to get anyone out at the Solstice, someone's got to be running the countryside and helping out. The Players can only do so much.

So.

I'm checking in on John and Lucinda, all right?

And I'm not cross. If you're not. I just You and Dora just need me to not be cramping you so much, that's all.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-11 18:29:55**

(no subject)

I'm sorry, Sirius.

I don't blame you for doing a runner.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-11 18:31:38**

(no subject)

~~I don't know what I was thinking. I wish I could blame it on being a wolf, but the wolfsbane really has let me remain who I am during the transformations, and at any rate I was back in human form when I~~

~~You're probably right about~~

~~yeah.~~




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-11 18:32:32](#)
(no subject)

No need to apologise to me. I'm the one who should
Not like it's not happened before. Just

What d Do you remember anything, then?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-11 18:36:27](#)
(no subject)

I remember the feel of your fur
Yeah, a bit.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-11 18:45:11](#)
(no subject)

...

Oh.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-11 18:47:00](#)
(no subject)


Well

...

Look, it happens, right? That sort of thing. A growing wolf and all.

I know it didn't mean anything.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-11 19:46:25](#)
(no subject)

...

right.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-11 18:35:24](#)
(no subject)

And I wouldn't call it doing a *runner*.

For Merlin's sakes, don't say that to Dora, anyway.

It's just

yeah.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-11 18:37:49](#)
(no subject)

No worries there.

You told her you'd gone to check in on John and Lucinda, yeah?

We're both used to you coming and going.



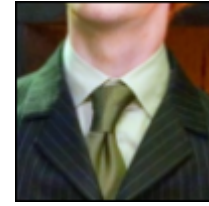
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-11 18:41:04](#)
(no subject)

Yes, and I will do, so it's not just *buggering* *scarpering* off.

2011-11-11 13:56:00

Private message to Mavis Sewell

I'm sure it was merely some kind of minor oversight, but could you please make sure that a copy of the weekly minutes are sent over from Mr Fudge's office each week to the undersigned, as well as the regular Court report. We are supposed to be regular recipients, but for some reason, these materials have mysteriously been going missing lately. Well, for the past several weeks.



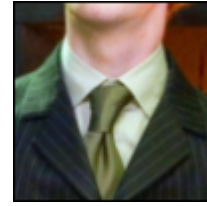
 [alt_percy](#)

In addition, I have not yet received a copy of the Terwilliger contracts, which I have requested twice. I know that Miss Re Thank you for your personal assistance on this matter.

2011-11-11 14:09:00

Private message to Virgil Crispin

Would you be available to take lunch sometime this week? My treat. I'm most interested in hearing how your position is going. And, I confess, I would welcome a bit of friendly advice on handling a rather perplexing matter. I know you are quite the expert at navigating tricky Ministry politics, so I would really appreciate your perspective. Would Thursday work for you?



 [alt_percy](#)

2011-11-11 14:20:00

Order Only: Private message to Arthur Weasley



Arthur, dear, I wondered if you had a chance to talk to Bill privately after dinner last night?

 [alt_molly](#)



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:27:24](#)
(no subject)


We did talk, yes. But mostly about Percy. Why?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:27:50](#)
(no subject)


Oh? What about Percy?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:30:01](#)
(no subject)


Oh, it seems that Percy had a bit of a tiff with Penny and wanted a little brotherly advice. Nothing too serious, from the sounds of it.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:31:29](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:32:14](#)
(no subject)

But you're worried about Bill? Why?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:32:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I don't know. Just a mother's intuition that something's a little off. He seemed so subdued when he left.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:35:01](#)
(no subject)

Although come to think of it, if he's been counselling Percy about his love life....

Maybe that's it, actually. Arthur, do you think he could be lonely?




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:35:51](#)
(no subject)

What, Bill?


Hmm. Well, I don't know, actually.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:37:24](#)
(no subject)

I'm a little ashamed to say, such a thing had never occurred to me.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:37:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh, dear.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:39:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, think about it, dear. He's a handsome and charming young man, and of course he's interested in the ladies! But with his work for the Order, who could he date, after all?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:43:37](#)
(no subject)


That's a very good question.

Hmm. There really isn't anyone, is there?

Well, unless he took up with someone in the Sherwood Band. Or...I don't know everyone in his network. But I don't think there are many prospects there.


I see. Well.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-11 20:44:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh dear.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-11 20:44:12](#)
(no subject)

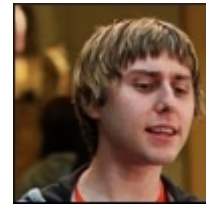
Exactly.

[2011-11-12 20:46:00](#)

Cracking!

I say, snowball fights are jolly good fun, what?

Harry, old chap, have they given you any sort of clue yet what the first challenge is to be? I can't believe it's only in a week. Delacour's been reading up on all sorts of technique but I've not seen you about the library much. (Then again, one doesn't see you about the library much, what?)




 **[alt_justin](#)**

Hydra, Draco: thanks for the advice, the other day. Most appreciated.

Oh, and Luna, I think I found one of your missing shoes. Someone had stuffed it into a trophy in the trophy room, can you imagine? I saw the toe peeking out when we were being shown some of the school's prizes.

Sally-Anne, I've been meaning to tell you I had great fun playing cards with you last week. Thanks, again, Ron, for organising the get-together. It does become quite difficult, doesn't it, to find time for fun outside of lessons and homework. I say, today's outing was nearly the first time I've lifted my head out of books in the last two weeks!



 **[alt_luna](#) at [2011-11-14 00:55:03](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you for telling me about the shoe. I always find it rather amusing to consider the adventures my things must have before I get them back. If you bring it with you to dinner, I'd appreciate it.

2011-11-13 20:03:00

Well, Clearwater certainly

showed everyone what sort of stuff *she* has, didn't she?



Honestly, I'm surprised. I didn't think she had it in her.

 [alt_padma](#)

Does anyone know if Slytherin can earn points if Harry wins the first challenge? I mean, they're ahead anyway but losing 100 in one go like that would be hard even if they were ahead by a thousand. It's a lot to make up.

Still, it does rather put Ravenclaw within fifty points of overtaking you lot. Which I'm sure was the furthest thing from Clearwater's mind but it doesn't hurt our standing at any rate.



 [alt_penelope](#) at **2011-11-14 01:08:49**

(no subject)

I'm glad my actions meet with your approval, Patil. It's such a relief to know that you've cause to revise your opinion of what I am and am not capable of doing.

I assure you had the offender been a Ravenclaw I should have done the same, under the circumstances. Remember that, won't you?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-11-14 01:12:18**

(no subject)

Oh. Well. I'm sure that no one in Ravenclaw would ever make you have to Cruciate us to prove a point, Clearwater.


Anyway. I meant it as a compliment. Well done.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2011-11-14 02:27:35](#)**
(no subject)

Who was it? I've been revising in my common room all evening, and no one up here ever has the gossip right away.

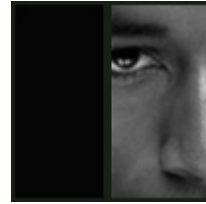


 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-11-14 02:32:33](#)**
(no subject)

Malcolm Baddock, at least that's what Tamblyn said. He and Clearwater were leaving a Prefects' meeting and came across a couple of Slytherins, including Baddock, and they were tossing another firstie's books back and forth, you know, having a laugh. Clearwater told them to give over and Baddock got shirty with her. She took the points for bullying and told him he was heading for a detention. Then Baddock said she couldn't give detentions, she's not a professor, right? And Clearwater let him have it.

[2011-11-13 21:55:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Teddy Nott




 **[alt_blaise](#)**

Honestly. What was Baddock thinking? Only a complete tit gets caught by the Head Girl doing something obvious like that. And then he smarted off?

I hope he learned something.

If he loses us more points for stupid stunts, he'll find himself on the hot end of Crucio from people who can cast it better than Clearwater.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-15 00:58:07](#)**
(no subject)

And I'd already had a word with him, too - first on the journals and then in person. What a tit. I mentioned what happened with Clearwater in my letter to Father. I don't know if he'll say something to Mr Baddock or

not...

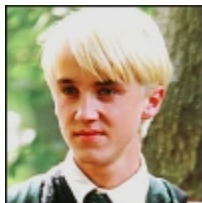



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-11-15 02:45:24](#)**
(no subject)

Speaking of idiot firsties: I just heard Montrose telling one of those Hufflepuff girls that Harry absolutely, positively put Diggory's name in the Goblet, and so that name came out because the

Goblet meant to choose Harry all along.

He was all over excuses when I told him to keep his mouth shut about things he's no right to say. To a Hufflepuff. Honestly.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-15 03:08:45](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I can't count the number of times that people from any and all of the houses have asked if it was me who put Harry's name in the goblet - either because I thought he was too modest to do it himself or because I was ordered to do it, or for who knows what

other reason. When I told Montague (Marjoram) that it was actually my OWN name I'd put in the goblet, she looked as if she'd swallowed too many ice mice, or something.

People do love their insipid chatter. Honestly, the goblet said what it said and that's that. I feel like I've said this 'til I'm blue in the face, though.

2011-11-13 23:10:00

Brief notes

Minerva, meant to remind you to include in your report next week the performance of the new groundskeeper as well as Mr Milland in his duties as caretaker. Particularly with the tournament at the week-end, there are parties who will wish to know if you made the right choice, splitting the two positions again.



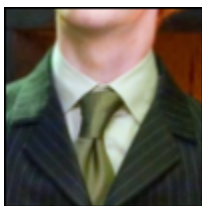
 [alt_lucius](#)


Barty, Narcissa asks me to invite you to supper to-morrow at the Manor. Something about wanting to try a few new dishes she's considering for our holiday party. Trust you'll be available.

Weasley, before I forget: The minutes from Wednesday's Executive Session still had not arrived as of this morning. See to it. And the last month's industry report, as well.

Draco, received your owl. Thank you.


Ari, to-morrow? Yes. Make it ten o'clock. Have Rookwood at half-eleven so must be back to the Ministry by then.



 [alt_percy](#) at **2011-11-14 15:05:18**
(no subject)

Yes, sir. I should have the minutes and report for you by noon, and I will follow up with Fudge's office to ensure they are received in a timely manner from now on.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-11-14 23:18:00**
Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Appreciate the cover.

Am experimenting with a new charm that should make this comment visible later than I'm writing it--to

keep from always only writing in these books when I'm not being watched here.

Would you note when it appears in your book?

(14 November 1994. 1:00am.)



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-11-15 03:13:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Happy to oblige. We thought it better if Narcissa were not the only participant in your fiction.

Is that Beckinsale's work in MLE or one of Bode's projects in DoM? Should have been useful to employ in reply, as the notice appeared while we were meant to be dining with you (quarter-past seven this evening).

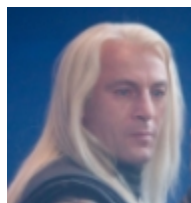


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-11-15 03:21:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Yes, blast it. The spell needs tuning. I've tried it twice today and both times it went through late.

And it's Beckinsale, not that performance so far is much of a testament to her skills. Trust she'll troubleshoot quickly.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-11-15 03:44:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Ought to refer her to Bode, then. No sense duplicating effort when the goals are so similar.

Delayed commentary aside, it goes well?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-11-15 03:52:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Believe they've consulted, but Bode's project is more complex. Definitely DoM matter.

Am engaged. Would not yet say ensconced.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-15 03:25:07](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

I appreciate the discretion, Father. I'm not out to tell up on Baddock, mind, but thought it worth passing along that I've had a word with him - several, in fact - and they don't appear to be making an impression.

They seem like they're making an impression at the time, but obviously something's not sticking somewhere.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-11-15 03:41:02](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Indeed - it was one of the reasons I accepted his father's invitation for a round of sparring. Rather timely, in point of fact.

Turned out he wished to speak to me about the same incident and how to resolve the problem. Of course Malcolm's version was markedly different to your account but that's not terribly surprising, is it?

In any event, Mr Baddock intends to take the matter up with his son. He seemed to think the majority of the blame lay with the others in Malcolm's cohort and not the lad himself. Tell me, is that your assessment as well?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-15 04:08:03](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Truth? I'd say it's beside the point. He's the one in the position to set the tone of things.

Ranalfus smartened up because Remy ~~hexed~~ talked to him, but Strangeweale and Symmons keep on following Hedigan's lead, and the whole lot of them have made great show of laughing in the face of detention and getting caught. Hedigan doesn't prize subtlety, is the thing, though maybe seeing her mate get Cruciated by someone as naff as Clearwater finally got her attention.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-11-15 04:23:58](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Have not yet found Miss Clearwater 'naff,' but then must admit she has not made much impression, either, the few times your mother and I have made her acquaintance.

Your answer would seem to indicate that it *is* his compatriots who are influencing him. If so, then the question is what has caused him to follow rather than to lead. Should you wish to curb his impulses and bend him to your will, you might discover the reason for his hesitation. Then you would know how to control him.

Speaking of people who hesitate to take their rightful lead ... is Harry prepared for his first test of skill?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-15 04:30:05](#)

Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Oh, she is naff. No doubt of that. But you'll see for yourself.

Then I suppose the question is, whose fault is it that he's being influenced? His own, or his mates? I've got bigger things to focus on, but I'll do what I can to make room for him in my schedule on a more regular basis, and not just at those times when he mucks up.

Speaking of bigger things - Harry's definitely concerned about making sure he's prepared, in any case.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-15 13:25:24](#)

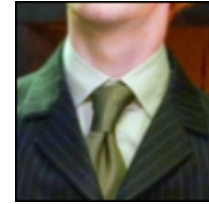
(no subject)

I shall do so, of course, Lucius.

Apologies for taking so long to respond; you are quite dutiful -- and I am overworked dreadfully with the Challenges looming.

2011-11-14 10:40:00

Private message to Penelope Clearwater




 [alt_percy](#)

I saw from the journals that you were forced to assert the Head Girl's authority. I have no doubt it was regrettable (or perhaps even unpleasant) that you had to take that step, but applaud you for doing what must be done. I trust you are well?

None of the aftereffects that Miss Professor Carrow mentioned might occur to those who use that curse? But no, I know I needn't even ask; I trust your character is resolute enough to withstand the trial.

I have no doubt that Professor McGonagall is entirely satisfied with her choice of you as Head Girl, as you have demonstrated that you are more than equal to the challenge.



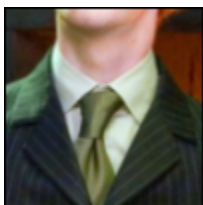
 [alt_penelope](#) at **2011-11-14 17:43:28**
(no subject)


It was pretty horrid, actually. But the worst part was during, when I was thinking how long to let it go on, whether I'd made the point, whether I ought to stop or if I did, whether that would make me look weak. I guess, like you said at Hogsmeade, it's not just about what you do but how.

And of course, today I'm wondering if everyone thinks I overstepped the mark. I suspect Avery does, anyway, and thinks I should have sent Baddock to him for it.

Only then I wouldn't have been sure Only then the lesson really wouldn't have mattered anymore.

How are you getting on?




 [alt_percy](#) at **2011-11-14 19:45:37**
(no subject)

No, I think you made the right decision, to administer the punishment yourself. Punting it to the Head Boy might have simply made you look week.

Work has been going all right, although I am having trouble with an individual in another department who holds a ridiculous and totally unmerited grudge. And she is continually finding inventive ways to try to make me look incompetent to Mr Malfoy. I've had to step lively a time or two to counteract her sabotage.

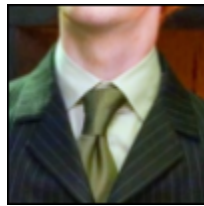
That's not something we talk about much at Hogwarts.




 **alt_penelope** at **2011-11-14 19:50:06**
(no subject)

You mean 'weak,' not 'week,' silly. You must be having a time of it - ordinarily you'd never make that sort of mistake!

I can't believe someone's trying to sabotage you! Who? Why? I mean, what does she *think* you did? (And should I be jealous? Ha-ha, only kidding of course!)




 **alt_percy** at **2011-11-14 21:49:11**
(no subject)

That was a silly mistake. My apologies.

Never mind who it is, since the reason for her irk is entirely unreasonable. As best as I can tell, she is sulking over the fact that I fulfilled my duties as the gatekeeper for Mr Malfoy's attention.

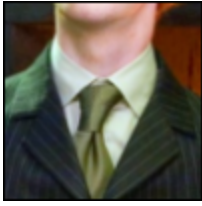
As for the matter of jealousy, the very idea made me laugh right out loud. Trust me, you have no need to be the slightest bit jealous of such a...termagant.



 **alt_penelope** at **2011-11-14 17:44:23**
(no subject)

Thank you again, by the way, for the note. And the new charm. You did get my owl from when you sent it?

Hogsmeade is weekend after next, if you want to get together.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-11-14 19:46:20](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, indeed, I did get the owl, and I've certainly blocked off the Hogsmeade visit on my calendar. Glad that you liked the charm.

2011-11-14 11:37:00

Order Only: Up North



 [alt_sirius](#)

I've settled in with John and Lucinda and their group, for a visit. Lucinda has had a number of meetings with Mrs Langworthy since I was here last and they've been working out other safehouses along their route. Right now, their part of the route goes from Nottingham to Peterborough and there's another effort to find rest points all the way to Norwich. John went and scouted last month and he thinks he's found a suitably abandoned stretch of village outside of Great Yarmouth. The hope is to gather people there and make a run for Amsterdam over the summer.

Our assumption is that the people Davidson's assisting can't Apparate, so the safe-houses have to be close enough together that one can get there in a night or two. That's the difficult part, as we always knew it would be. But turns out Mrs Langworthy's got a few friends who are also more sympathetic and, as she puts it, 'Are too old to care what anyone thinks.' A laudable attitude, I think, but nonetheless one that they probably ought to curb at least for the sake of appearances.

Well, anyway, they're training up some guides (Paul's one) and figuring out the best routes between one house and the next. They need links to the southern cities and camps. And of course, if we can get our little branch going, we could also send some of the refugees south, to Hastings or Eastbourne - provided we could find anything along the southern coast that's remotely uninhabited.

Kingsley, I was wondering if Benjy or Dorcas might want to help with some of that - especially acting as a guide or helping to figure out safe places to sleep during the days and whom else we could recruit. They're both gregarious enough, seems to me, they could do some good making inquiries of an innocent bent, which could help us figure out who's sympathetic and where we might look for outposts. What do you think, mate?

Not sure how long I'll stay. At least a week or so, so I'm in one place when Harry undergoes the first task. Hermione, be sure to have him ask for help if he needs it, all right?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-11-14 19:49:19](#)
(no subject)


Benjy and Dorcas could certainly help, and we have a free spot in the schedule for the next week and a half-no performances scheduled. Send a patronus, and they can come meet you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-14 19:57:00](#)
(no subject)

On its way.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-14 21:28:35](#)
Private Message to Moony

So.

How are things going, now I'm not in the way?




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-14 21:31:27](#)
Re: Private Message to Moony

You don't need to nag me, Padfoot.

Honestly. It's not a matter of privacy, I'm just tired most nights, what with the beer garden closing so late. And Bea. And everything.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-14 21:33:49](#)
Re: Private Message to Moony

I'm not *nagging*, Moony, I --

Right.

None of my business, then. Nosing out.

~~You're tired but you're not *dead*, you berk.~~

2011-11-14 19:42:00

Choosing our roles

I find that it's a terrible shame that one of my own house has been so publicly reprimanded, especially in front of our guests! I would like to express to the students of Beauxbatons and Durmstrang that it's not at all common for Slytherin to make such trouble - in fact, it's not all that common for students of any one particular house to make such trouble. But unfortunate events do happen from time to time; I for one hope that the individual in question will learn from his mistakes and do his best to remedy the impression he's made.



 **alt_daphne**

Cards certainly are popular this year, aren't they? I enjoy portkey or snap as much as anyone, but the trouble is that it only really works for smaller groups, doesn't it? Now a game like charades, for instance, can have as many people playing as you like. And no matter what you might think, there *is* quite a bit of bluffing involved. You just have to look at it the right way. Almost all of life is a performance, isn't it? Think of the way you speak to your professors, and the way you speak to your closest friend, and you'll soon see what I mean.

~~Oh, I don't know what I'm on abo~~

Christmas! I know it's still over a month off, but the smell of it's already in the air, don't you agree?

And it's hard to believe that the First Task is almost upon us! Go, Harry! I just know you'll do our house proud!



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-11-15 03:14:26**

Private message to Astoria Greengrass

If I EVER catch you trying to peek at my private mail again, or lurking behind me in an attempt to read my journal over my shoulder, I will LITERALLY HEX YOUR FACE OFF.

THAT'S RIGHT. WHERE YOUR FACE ONCE WAS THERE WILL BE NOTHING BUT A GREAT QUIVERING PALE BLOB UTTERLY ABSENT OF ANY DISTINGUISHABLE FEATURES! YOU WILL BE LIKE A PUDDING WITH LEGS.

I MEAN IT!!

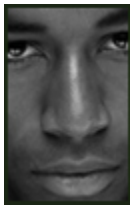


 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-11-15 03:20:33**

Private message to Blaise

Blaise,

I know you're off studying right now and I should be too, but I just can't concentrate on anything. Mother finally, finally answered my letters and oh, you won't believe it, but she finally admitted everything! Only it wasn't just that she admitted to it, she fully *confessed*. It.. it didn't even sound like her! If it hadn't been for her penmanship, I might have thought it all an elaborate joke. And the things that she wrote, well...I thought she might quickly admit things and then go on about flower arrangements and shop openings, but she didn't. She told me much, much more than I ever expected.



 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2011-11-15 03:43:35**

Re: Private message to Blaise

You all right there?

That doesn't sound like your mother, at all, I agree. Over-sharing is rather more my mother's specialty. When she's not wanting me to clear out, that is.

I'm just finishing in the library, so I could meet you in the common room if you wanted to talk. Shame it's so crowded in there all the time now. It's almost easier to write about it, since no one can overhear anything you put here.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-11-15 04:04:10**

Re: Private message to Blaise

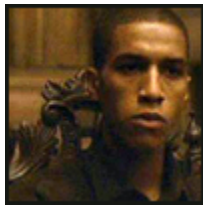
Oh, not the common room. I'm avoiding Astoria - she's been nosy, per usual.


But Mother...she over-shared. *Very* over-shared. And she seemed very panicked that I might say something to Father, too. Well, here's just a sample (I'll show you the rest later):

Even when he left for the Falcons, we kept getting drawn back to each other. I'd see him at parties and other events, and as soon as our eyes met there would be an undeniable pull, as if I were a helpless moon being towed toward her home planet, the tides of my heart inevitable rushing toward a shore it had been too long estranged from....

Helpless moon! Home planet! **Tides of the heart!** I am... sputtering!

It - it sounds like she still fancies him. More than everyone else, even. It's as if she loves him.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-11-15 04:12:41](#)

Re: Private message to Blaise

Oh, ah-

I agree about the language. I mean to say, it's been years.

Hasn't it?

And to still go on like that. Well. Yes.

And she's worried you'd tell any of that to your father?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-15 04:16:59](#)

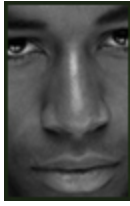
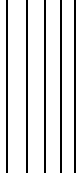
Re: Private message to Blaise


Well you know how when I brought it up to Professor Raz, just that once after class, he acted like it had been ever so long ago, and more or less sort of a teenage lark.

But Mother calls him "the first love of my life."

That's the part she doesn't want me to tell to Father.

Can you meet me by our statue in an hour? I'll let you read it for yourself.



 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2011-11-15 04:27:18**

Re: Private message to Blaise

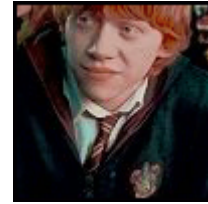
Of course, I can. See you there.

[2011-11-14 21:57:00](#)

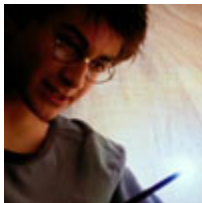
Private Message to Harry Marvolo


Say.

Know you're busy and all with the task coming up, but I've just found out something, and I think it might be important for you to hear. So, um. Maybe tomorrow we could get together between lessons or after lunch or something, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_harry](#) at **[2011-11-15 14:27:31](#)**
(no subject)

You're right about the busy part.

We've got interviews today. And other stuff.

Maybe after this first thing is done, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#) at **[2011-11-15 19:26:16](#)**
(no subject)

Er.

Actually, it's really about the task. Kind of needs to be before it, if you see what I mean.

2011-11-15 08:28:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo


You forgot your quills this morning.

I'll bring them to you in your first class.



 [alt_hermione](#)



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-15 14:20:23**

(no subject)

Okay.

Yeah.

Thanks,



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-15 15:13:43**

(no subject)

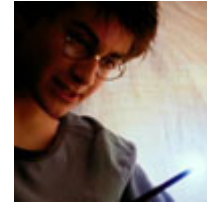
I'm supposed to go to the Forest.

Raz told me to, and that it'll help with the task.

2011-11-15 09:21:00

Private Message to Professor Raz


I don't know anything. Everyone else looks like they know what's going on and Delacour has been reading things. Should I be reading things? What things? Does she know something I don't?



 [alt_harry](#)

I want to do more drill things today.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-11-15 14:55:54**
(no subject)

I don't know what Delecour is reading or why, or what she knows for that matter.

I think you'll feel more prepared if you go for a bit of a wander, maybe in the north-easterly section of the Forbidden Forest or thereabouts. But be careful, and don't go alone.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-15 15:09:39**
(no subject)


Oh.

Okay.

Thanks.

Can we still do drill things?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-11-15 15:18:04**
(no subject)

'Course we can.

If it makes you feel better, I don't think that the age of the other champions will give them any sort of an edge for the First Task. You'll all be, ah, equally inexperienced, so to speak. In fact, you might be the one with the edge, if you look about it the right way.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-15 15:24:35](#)**
(no subject)

That will probably make more sense once I take my walk.


And maybe after I do we can talk about how I ought to look about it.

I just

really need to not be last.

Or, you know, die.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-11-15 15:35:26](#)**
(no subject)

You know I'll do what I can for you. Come see me later and we'll talk it out and do some drills.

[2011-11-15 13:26:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Um. Hermione?

Can you do anything to get Harry to talk to me today? Only I've got something I need to tell him that's about the first task that he really needs to know, and, well-



 [alt_ron](#)

I can't really say it here, either, cause I promised I'd only tell him.

Uh.

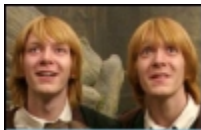
But Fred and George can tell you it's important. They heard it, too.

Just, could you tell him it's kind of really important? That we talk today.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-15 20:03:46](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Tell him he'll be glad if he does.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-15 20:04:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, not glad exactly. But we bet he'll agree that knowing is better than not knowing.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-15 21:27:12](#)
(no subject)

Now I'm all curious!

Pansy and I could probably corral him for you if Hermione can't.

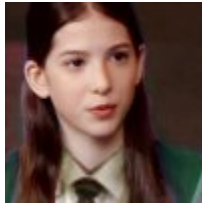


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-15 21:49:09](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, sorry about that.

We really did promise, though.

I'd've written Hermione PM but the whole thing about having to include Harry and all. That just seems wrong. And, I dunno. Since it's about him, what if that broke down the magic of the lock or, yeah. Anywiz. Maybe I should've done it that way. Only you'd still've wondered what I was talking to Hermione about.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-15 22:41:58](#)**
(no subject)

I'm pretty sure it wouldn't break the lock but I know what you mean about it feeling weird.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-16 05:13:09](#)**
(no subject)

I hope that counted as getting him to talk to you.

2011-11-15 18:31:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Testing this again. 15 November 1994.
1:15am.

If this doesn't display at 10:15am, tell Beckinsale I want to know why. And when it will be reliable.

Also need all you can find on C.M.94.

Pull resources for Ipswich 716. Need anything we've got that lists tenancy/domiciles: rate-payer listings, rubbish collection, other services or delivery lists we've obtained, subscription lists for the Prophet, Floo permits, elf/domestic/creature registrations, various licensure records, criminal domicile reg, etc. Cross check; table by date where occupancy has changed or is inconsistent; map and index. Deliver to safe drop by Saturday noon.

Digests from Sport and International acceptable. Continue daily. But. Also want complete transcriptions with Saturday delivery. Need all details. Not daily, but regularly.

Add Wizengamot dailies to your morning PMs. And anything that stands out in the dailies from Fudge's office. Travers mentioned a meeting re. Fenton case. Wasn't in your departmental digest. Why? Were you not briefed or did you overlook it?

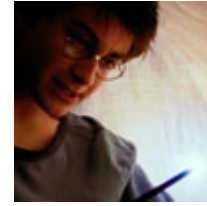
All for now. Inform as soon as you receive.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

[2011-11-15 20:14:00](#)

Private Message to Ron Weasley



 [alt_harry](#)

Right.


You know that thing we talked about after dinner?

Draco ~~and Hermione~~ and me are going on a walk.

If you want to come.

Meet you by the front hall in twenty minutes.




 [alt_ron](#) at **[2011-11-16 03:44:36](#)**
(no subject)

Whoa.

Those were seriously BIG.

I mean to say, it took five trained handlers to manage that one, and they still got singed. Did you hear that one bloke yelling?



 [alt_harry](#) at **[2011-11-16 04:13:47](#)**
(no subject)

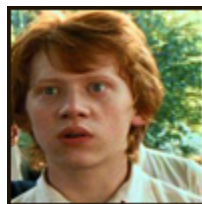
Yeah.


Your brother does that for his job? Every day?

I mean

That's sort of snitch.

But it's mad they're making us go against them.



 [alt_ron](#) at **[2011-11-16 04:33:30](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. But they don't usually have four of them all in one enclosure like that. Especially nesting females. I guess it makes sense they're so testy.


And they don't put breeds together like that, either. Not at Stornoway. Even if they were warded to keep them separate. I don't think they liked being so close to the others as that.

Anywiz, yeah. It's nift and mad, both, what Charlie does.

And I'm well glad it's not me has to go up against them.

D'you have any ideas what you'll do?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-16 04:39:01](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know what they're going to make us do with them yet.


I'm going to talk to The Professor Raz about it tomorrow. Maybe he'll have some ideas.

But yeah.

Thanks again.

For telling me about your brother and all.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-16 17:54:04](#)**
(no subject)

No probs. I couldn't see keeping it a secret from you.

Have you decided whether to tell Diggory? I mean, you heard them say Froissart'd been out there, and we pretty much know Karkaroff knows about them, too, unless bumping into us scared him off. Didn't look like it did, though. And they were making enough racket, I bet he found them.

So you can bet Krum knows, and Delacour, too. That just leaves Diggory.

It's up to you, though, mate. You're the one has to compete against him.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-16 18:09:32](#)
(no subject)

I don't know.

It'd be fair, wouldn't it?

I'll bet someone else has already let him know. But yeah. Just in case they haven't, I guess we I ought to.

It's sort of stupid, you know. Why keep it secret if everyone's going to find out anyways?

2011-11-15 22:12:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

15 November 1994. 1:19am. Delay calc.: 9 hours.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Also.

Need topographical and architectural schema for Ips 716H.
Particularly want all available documentation re. renovations.
Subterranean structures. Hidden features. Wards/security.

2011-11-16 13:45:00

Order Only: Carolus Milland



 [alt_bill](#)

Minerva, I've assembled a report on your caretaker, Carolus Milland. His birth name was Charles Milland. A check of the records shows he changed it a couple of years into the new regime, perhaps an attempt to hint at a purebred lineage that he doesn't actually have (he's a registered half-blood). A Slytherin, as you presumably know, with one younger sister, also a half-blood, and two parents, all deceased, with no other issue. Maybe died in the first turmoil after the LP's rise.

When Mr Milland left Hogwarts he started out as a Charms researcher with a private consortium, but he lost that job when the half-blood ordinances went into effect. (The consortium that had employed him, operating under the trademark imprint 'Mystical Magic,' went belly-up a year later.) While he was employed, he had been travelling back and forth from the continent a lot, going to professional Charms symposia, but that, of course, ended when the travel restrictions were put in place and the ward went up. It looks like he had a dry period where he wasn't able to find much work, until he popped up for awhile in a scut-type job at the Ministry, filing parchment work. Worked there for a couple years, got sacked again, and then he apparently hung out his own shingle. My best guess after reviewing the documents is that he might have been operating as some sort of investigator. 'Consultant' was the job title on his business card, and the documentation is very vague as to what precisely the business was, but I found a handwritten notation in his file, just the single word 'Inquiry.' (Don't know who wrote it).

Maybe the market wasn't good for half-blood investigators, because he failed to pay the assessments on that business a couple of years later and was cited and fined. The business registration lapsed a year later.

His census file now lists his employer as Hogwarts. The last employer listed is an entity I've never heard of, 'Ouroborus Igneous.' I'm still trying to chase down who's behind it, but I found one parchment with a name: Josiah Peakes.

Can't remember: is he the Peakes who's been on the Hogwarts Board of Governors?

What Carolus Milland did for them I have no idea, as there is no job title listed.

That's what I've gleaned so far.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-17 17:56:55](#)
(no subject)

Yes -- yes, he is -- and he has not been a friend to me. I shall have to bring this to Lucius, if I can think of any way I could have discovered it apart from your sleuthing. If the Lord Protector is moving through him, it will not hurt for him to know I'm onto the game -- and if he is not, well, I feel moderately secure that Lucius finds me useful.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-17 17:57:38](#)
(no subject)

There is another possibility that would solve several problems. I have a store of Polyjuice Potion prepared. It lacks only hairs.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-17 17:58:17](#)
(no subject)

Severus! That sounds like Mr. Black -- not you.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-17 17:59:26](#)
(no subject)

Your shock surprises me. Were I not cooped up in your gilded cage of a house, perhaps I would be more like myself.

[2011-11-16 14:53:00](#)

ORDER ONLY - successful rendezvous




 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)**

We have had a successful handoff. Secundus -- Charlie Weasley, that is -- brought dragon heartstrings to me in addition to the Ministry-sanctioned dragon's blood he was to deliver. He also had a cheering little visit with Quartus, Quintus, Sextus and Septima. It was an excellent excuse to have him come all the way to the castle, rather than sending for me and risking an unsecured chat.

Most significantly, he delivered to me the given names of several key figures who have come to the Sanctuary at the solstices. I have done a little research on my own, and I *believe* them to be members of the Department of Mysteries, though there is no proof. They are Yvaine and Philo. Assuming their names are still the ones they attended Hogwarts under, Philo must be Philo Marsh, a few years younger than I; he was a Ravenclaw. Yvaine I have not been able to find in the Book, and is perhaps a pseudonym -- or a middle name, which is not always listed.

I shall, of course, keep my eyes open for them in any Ministry records I come across -- but I think Secundus may be our best hope, as he may convince their tongues to slip next Solstice.




 **[alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-17 04:42:51](#)**
(no subject)

My goodness, he did it? He got you dragon heartstrings!? That's absolutely wonderful.

I wish I could have been there. It's been far too long since I've seen him. I hope one of the children will write to tell me about the visit.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-11-17 04:45:29](#)
(no subject)

Far less likely to happen, I'm afraid, since Percy's left school. He can be a prat sometimes, but at least he's a faithful correspondent.

Good on Charlie. How many dragon heartstrings did he manage to scrounge for you? How many wands do you think can be made with them?




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-17 14:13:04](#)
(no subject)

Only two -- but dragons are big. I understand, however, that most of the outer casing is unusable. I would be shocked if four wands weren't possible; I don't know how much further they may be made

to stretch.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-17 04:58:27](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's a mercy but - Minerva, *dragons*? Really?

Harry's sent me an owl about it. Seems like he's more than a little concerned.

Don't worry; I'll help him along. Hermione, can he use the Slytherin common room fire if he waits up late enough?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-17 14:15:11](#)
(no subject)

I must also register my dismay, as much as I loathe agreeing with the hound. He cannot *possibly* be prepared for such a task. What, may I ask, are our plans to aid him?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-17 14:34:29](#)
(no subject)

Dogs *bite*, Snape. Watch it.

But dragons we can handle.

He'll be prepared.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-17 14:16:00](#)
(no subject)

I do not suppose that any dragon's blood will find its way to my workshop.



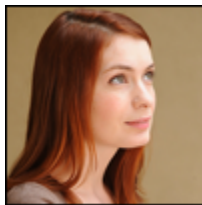
 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-17 14:17:24](#)
(no subject)


I suppose a small amount might be diverted -- but it was legally brought for legal uses, Severus, and it is quite difficult to divert such ingredients. Poppy may have some better ideas, of course; she is its custodian for now, given that it was intended for medical use.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-17 14:18:01](#)
(no subject)

A dragon heartstring, of course, is extremely easy to divert.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-17 14:32:27](#)
(no subject)

Severus, keep in mind that we all know the uses towards which the dragon heartstring will be put.

If you were a bit more open about how you would use the dragon blood, how it would help us all, I'm sure it would make an excellent case as to why you need more.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-17 17:07:31](#)**
(no subject)

Point being that Minerva can't just hand off supplies that need to be in Poppy's inventory, and especially not with those inspectors coming.

We could perhaps get some fresh blood and harvest the cinnabaris but I don't think they're planning on harming the dragons, Allie.

Harming the champions may be another matter.

The other obvious challenge he doesn't mention being how to get him the stuff within hours of obtaining it. Cinnabaris doesn't have a long shelf life, just ask Poppy.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2011-11-17 17:43:50](#)**
(no subject)

Do not speak of me as though I were not reading these entries.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2011-11-17 17:49:29](#)**
(no subject)

I am hesitant to raise hopes.

We have a problem with widespread somnolence.

My research leads me to believe that dragon's blood shall be a key component of any Potions-based solution to this problem. Perhaps in a tincture.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-17 18:13:47](#)**
(no subject)

Do you think it might be tied to the wards as well? Or is it just a coincidence that dragons are a key part of both?

I wonder.

Perhaps they'd be more likely to waken during a solstice?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-17 14:43:41](#)
(no subject)

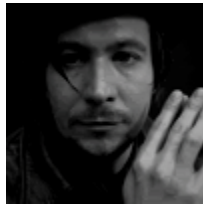
Is Charlie staying to look after the dragons during the challenge, then? If one of the champions actually manages to draw blood, d'you suppose you might warn him to try to capture some?

Doesn't answer how he'd pass it along but, maybe Poppy knows how to process the blood from there?



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-17 17:44:29](#)
(no subject)

He is staying -- but I hardly know whether I will have a moment to meet him between, as I am not in charge of the creation of challenges themselves.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-17 18:42:06](#)
(no subject)

But you wouldn't need to meet him. He'd just have to get anything he acquires to Poppy. I think. Maybe.

Pomona's still Head of Hufflepuff House and the other champion, Diggory, he's a Hufflepuff, right? So she'd have a reason to be nearby. Circe, Poppy herself, for that matter, though it's more likely she'd be occupied taking care of whomever gets scorched or clawed (which shan't be Harry, don't worry, I'll see to that!).

That's always assuming that there'll be some free-flowing dragon's blood available and that Poppy can prepare it for proper use.

Still. It's a thought.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-17 18:43:25](#)**
(no subject)

You know who else could be convinced to partake in a little opportunistic potions-ingredient acquisition?

Sluggo.



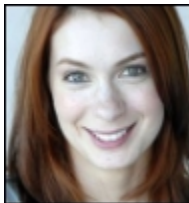
 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-18 05:33:26](#)**
(no subject)


Just reading this now, sorry.

But you are right. About Horace. That's a quite a brilliant suggestion, actually.

I'll have a chat with him about seeing if he can obtain some for the school's use, because it is true that there are ways of preparing it to extend its shelf life. Not for the Cinnabaris Vitalis potion, which requires an extremely fresh draw, but if it were quickly and correctly processed, it would retain its usefulness for a number of purposes. Including one or two I might mention to Horace as reasons for my wishing to have a bit more than I've been provided so far, and I suspect he will be able to think of several uses of his own.

I suppose, then, that it depends what, exactly, Severus proposes to do with it and whether he needs it warm from the beast or whether he could make use of a preserved sample.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-17 14:29:59](#)**
(no subject)

That is fantastic news, Minerva. Mellisandra will be thrilled.

2011-11-17 10:29:00

Private message to Raz

Is it morning already? Ugh. But I have parchments calling my name at the moment, to finalise the schedule for the 3rd, and Felix really wants them before noon so he can smooth ruffled feathers.



 **alt_sinistra**


Wanted to check in, since we've both been busy, and it doesn't look like the weekend will be much better. (Not that I don't want to see you, because I do, but I'm assuming Harry may want to find you at odd times with questions until Saturday. At least potentially. And who knows how Saturday will go.)

On Cedric: I did pass along our agreed cryptic message and when I saw him in the hall yesterday, he was heading for the library, looking determined. It does seem like the interviews on Tuesday stirred up some nastiness again, from what I heard in class yesterday morning from the 3rd years (that class is Slytherins and Hufflepuffs, and it's becoming my barometer for mood) and last night from my 6th year NEWTs.

(Speaking of which. I feel sorry for all four of the champions, really: those interviews looked rather miserable.)

How're things with you?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-11-17 16:05:04**
(no subject)

Thanks for that. I wanted to say something to Cedric on Tuesday night after the newts duelled, but there were a bit too many people about for my liking.

Harry is rather panicked, requiring lots of attention and reassurance. He feels it is absolutely essential that he not come in last (and he's probably right to feel that way. I can think of several people, one in particular, who will be very displeased if he puts in a poor showing). I tried to drop a hint that his flying skills might be ideal for the first task (if it is in fact what I think it is - I'm only guessing at this point), but I'm not sure he picked up on it.

I'll be honest- it's a bit difficult to pin-point the line between helping

him out and helping him cheat. I know that Karakoff will do just about anything to give Krum the edge, however, so I'm trying to counter that at least a little.

Oh, and the interviews- I saw that Rita Skeeter was in tow with the other reporters. Didn't hear her actually speak, though, which was a bloody bit of a relief. She crossed wands (figuratively) with Lucius a few years back, but it looks like the folks at the *Prophet* still keeping a tight lid on her. Small favours, that.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-17 16:17:54](#)
(no subject)

On Harry: honestly, I don't blame any of them for being worried and wanting reassurance. It's certainly no easy task. And you're quite right that Karkaroff seems to be willing to do anything to give Krum an edge, and the Beauxbatons folks seem to be doing the same for Delacour.

In some ways, that simplifies the Cedric problem, though: the few words I had with him, he was very caught up in wanting to be fair. I had to be quite clear that I knew other champions were getting pointers, and I wasn't giving him an unfair advantage (as if I could, since I don't know much of the actual plans), just giving him the same chance to do some advance planning.

I vaguely remember that bit about Skeeter, though I wasn't paying as close attention to that sort of thing at the time. I gather she's got a reputation for being particularly difficult, though, from what I've overheard at YPL meetings.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-17 16:32:57](#)
(no subject)

Skeeter used to be pretty effective at mining out vicious rumours and gossip back when they were actually letting her work as a reporter. At least until Lucius saw to it that her quill was snapped, so to speak. The fact that she even dared to land in his line of hexing tells you how far she used to go for a story. I used to be one of her favourite subjects as well, but since it was all just speculation on my love life, I wasn't too fussed.

You know, speaking of gossip, I've had a few peculiar encounters with Milland lately that I meant to tell you about. He's caught me in the hallway late at night a few times. Usually has a flask in hand and asks if I want to share a drink. That's a bit odd in itself, but last night he joined me on my rounds and I got the distinct impression that he was trying to get me to say...something. I think he wanted me to reveal who in the castle I might suspect of being disloyal- of the staff, I mean, not the children. Of course, he didn't come out and ask directly, but that's where the conversation seemed to be going. "*You ever seen anything fishy when you're out doing your security checks?*" "*Anyone you think we ought to be keeping an eye on?*" That sort of thing.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-17 16:40:20](#)
(no subject)

On Skeeter: that does say rather a lot, yes - though it doesn't say much for her sense of self-preservation, does it?

On Milland: Curious, indeed. He hasn't approached me directly - but then, I'm less around in public than you, most of the time. Do you think he's angling specifically at someone, or just fishing in more general terms?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-17 22:13:48](#)
(no subject)

I don't think it's a matter of me being around more, it's that he knows where I stand. Or thinks he knows.

He was clever enough to not names, was trying to get me to take the lead, I reckon.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-17 22:24:26](#)
(no subject)


Mmmm. I suppose. (People do assume the oddest things.)

I was thinking, today, in the quiet bits of classes... do you think Minerva knows he's nosing around? I

assume that if she had someone nosing for her, it'd be a bit more focused, y'know? And I know she'd rather get Alecto out, if she could, before doing anything else.

There's also a part of me that now wants to go do suspicious looking but entirely innocent things late at night after astronomy classes finish. I've more sense, of course, but I'm tempted.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-11-18 03:53:01](#)**
(no subject)

He has the air of an opportunist more than someone with a specific agenda- though who knows, maybe that's just what he wanted me to think. Perhaps I'll lead him in dear Alecto's direction next time, though. I could tell him that people are saying that she's having it off with a muggleborn servant and a house-elf. At the same time, no less!

And please don't do anything suspicious. I know you won't, but...these days, even suspicion can make you guilty in the court of public opinion.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-11-18 16:24:45](#)**
(no subject)

Sending him in Alecto's direction seems like it might be a public service all round, really.

And no, love. Don't worry. I'll continue to be entirely lacking in suspicious behavior to the best of my ability.

I now return to trying to remember why anyone thought it was a good idea to have the 5th and 7th year classes all on Friday. They're usually a buzz of nervous energy as it is, and I'm sure today will be worse than usual, and tonight more so.

2011-11-17 20:44:00

Order Only: Private Message to Minerva McGonagall and Bill Weasley




 [alt_lupin](#)

I'm keeping this private because I don't want to worry Hermione. You can feel free to mention it to anyone else, if you need to.

I got an owl this morning from my friend at the Smythstone enclave. Some days ago (I'm not quite sure when he sent the owl; it may have taken a while to find me), every werewolf was lined up for inspection. They weren't told why, but word got round anyway: Bellatrix Lestrange has requested two werewolves. He wanted to warn me to keep my head down.

Bill, is there any way we can be absolutely sure that Mrs Granger is NOT given to Bellatrix Lestrange?




 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-11-18 15:59:40**
(no subject)

Merlin.

We may not have much leverage, especially since she's been marked as a prisoner who received the bite at the LP's behest. But I'll query my contact at Smythson, to see what I can find out.

And Remus, what's your friend's name? We owe him, big time. If there are any strings I can pull on his behalf, I'll try to do so.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-19 04:28:04**
(no subject)

His name's Simon Russell. He knows nothing about the Order, of course. We were friends, years ago, and kept in touch when I was working at Hogwarts. He just wanted to warn me, wherever I was, to make myself scarce.

[2011-11-17 20:50:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom



 **[alt_lupin](#)**

I got an owl today from my friend at Smythstone. Seems Bellatrix Lestrange wants a werewolf -- no one's sure why, but no one seems to think it's to improve the security of L'Estrange Hill on full moon nights.


And

If we couldn't protect Hermione's mother from being bitten in the first place, and her father from dying, I'm damned if I know how we're going to keep her mother from being taken off to God knows where by Bellatrix Lestrange, if that's what she decides to do. And even if we manage to protect her, I don't know how we'll protect my friend.

And I've made a mess of things at home. An utter mess. I can't protect the people I care about and I'm an utter failure as a husband. (Not quite so much a failure as a father, but I've only had a few months! I'm sure I'll manage to cock that up, too, given time.)

Sorry. I just meant to tell you about the message from my friend. I've told Minerva and Bill, as well, but I'm hoping to keep it from Hermione. There's no sense worrying her until we know she has something to worry about.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-18 03:33:13](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Oh dear.

Remus, love, I'm so very sorry. I know that when I've got a lot going on, everything can seem so overwhelming, and like nothing is going right. It seems like you're going through a bit of that right now. And babies, well, they tend to bring out all of our fears. I know that when Neville was born, I hardly slept for the first year. I was just so terrified that if I didn't keep my eyes on him every moment, something would go wrong and I'd lose him. And I was an utter mess of hormones and tired and touchy, and

goodness knows what Frank thought of me.

The news about the werewolves is disheartening, there's no doubt about that. My first thought, though, is that Hermione's mother is most likely safe from any singling out -- it sounds awful to think about, but I believe that of all of the werewolves at Smythstone, she is possibly the safest unless Hermione does something wrong. Your friend is probably in greater danger than she is. But people might also not notice as much if he were to disappear for a couple of days. How hard would it be to get him out of the camp?


My second thought is that we promised Hermione that we'd do right by her mum. And we have yet to follow through on that promise. I'd rather we do something now than wait for something bad to happen and mourn it later. It's a hard thing, no mistake.

We'll see what Minerva and Bill say, but it's important that you know that you don't have to worry about this alone, and that we'll all do what we can. You've stayed here before, and we have the wolfsbane as an added safeguard, so we have the ability to keep your friend and Hermione's mum here with us if we can get them out.

And Remus, my dear, I know that you're going through a stressful time right now, and I know it might not feel like it right this very moment, but I want you to know that you are very much loved.


If you'd like to come up tomorrow for a spot of tea, I'd love to have you. And if you aren't able to tomorrow, we'll have a rain check for some time in the very near future.



 **alt_lupin** at **2011-11-19 04:27:02**
(no subject)

Thank you for the invitation but I don't know when I'll be able to make it, between the shop, the beer garden, and Bea. And with Sirius gone -- and I don't know if when he'll be back here.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:36:04](#)**
(no subject)

I can always come there, if I wouldn't be in the way. You know how much I love seeing Bea. And I can give a spare hand if you need it.

If you've got plenty going on, and I'd just add to it all, I understand completely.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:41:15](#)**
(no subject)

~~If you're going to go to the trouble and risk of leaving the sanctuary, it ought to be to see your children, not for something as dull and useless as tea and sympathy with~~

I barely have time to sit, most evenings. And we could hardly put a wanted criminal to work in the beer garden, although I suppose we could set you to work on the dishes...




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:50:33](#)**
(no subject)

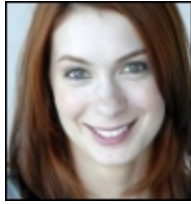
Pish and tush. You know that I would do anything if it'd help you feel a little less at loose ends. Even if it meant doing dishes. It would do my heart good if I could see you.


And I've got polyjuice -- I could be your cousin for a little while again.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:57:15](#)**
(no subject)

Do we really have enough polyjuice to waste use on something like this?




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:59:59](#)**
(no subject)

For you?

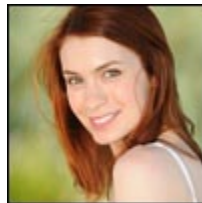
Yes.


I'd be keeping out of sight most of the time anyways.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-11-19 05:01:13](#)**
(no subject)


Well, I won't say it wouldn't be lovely to see you.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-19 05:08:37](#)**
(no subject)

Well. I'll pop down for the weekend then, shall I?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-11-19 05:09:53](#)**
(no subject)

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

2011-11-17 22:30:00

Daphne, you have to



 [alt_padma](#)

read *Dish!* - it's new, just started in September. Have you seen it yet? This issue's quite nift: there's a really wonderful piece about Athena Belby and this year's season at the New London Opera. (Dad's been playing with them a little on the side, did I tell you?) There's also an article about all the New London restaurants that are re-opening now with 'brassicose-free' food and Harrod's new line of 'pure food' (meaning it's not transfigured, of course, which it never was anyway but it's much better to make it sound like it's ever so much more chic than anything with brassicose in!) and some of the other trends this winter.


And there's a quiz in the back that we ought to bring to our Sunday sessions. I'll show you if you don't have a copy. Lav and Parvati and I took it a couple days ago and had a right laugh at the results.

Was anyone else in the library tonight when Emile Joubert asked Anya Geistler out? It was adorable! He turned all red and his mates were utter nits about the whole thing. He just asked if she'd sit with him in the stands for the first task. They acted like he was proposing marriage! Honestly.

Oh, and anyone who's wondering, Mum says yes, the ad in the *Prophet* was her new accessory item for the holidays and they're really doing well! It's amazing how a simple idea like that can lead to so much variation. She's doing all sorts of custom designs and she's coming out with new patterns every day. She said Scrivenshaft's is going to carry them in Hogsmeade, and they should have loads in stock by our next Hogsmeade weekend. If anyone wants them for Christmas or anything.

Harry, good luck on Saturday! Ravenclaw are all rooting for you. You'll be brilliant, I'm sure.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-11-18 03:49:22**

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Have you met Evgeni Uloshenko yet? Because I think you and he might...hit it off, if you know what I mean.

At least, I think so. It's not that he's said anything specific but...he just seems like one of yours.



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-11-18 04:38:02**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Yeah, I think you're right.

I haven't managed to spend much time with him yet, though.



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-11-18 04:05:30**

(no subject)


Oh, I know, it's all anyone is talking about in Slytherin! Elsie has a copy and she promised to let me read it next. Hopefully she'll be done with it tonight (*hint, hint, Elsie! Just in case you're reading*).

Samantha tried to say it was just another "gossip rag" but after looking it over at lunch even she had to admit that it's much more than just that, and much better, too!

Athena Belby and I still correspond a little, did you know? ~~Her assist~~ She sent me a card on my birthday, and then of course I sent her one when Auror Crouch was supposedly murdered. You hadn't told me about your father, though. How exciting, playing with New London Opera!

I must say, when you said your mother was designing something new for the Christmas season I was thinking it would be a hair or robe accessory. This is ever so much more stylish and clever, though.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-18 04:48:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, Mum's always got clips or other little things, too, but really, it's amazing no one's thought of this before. It's such a perfect way to personalise one's journal, don't you think?

That's well snitch about you and Miss Belby! I bet she's got loads of advice for you to consider about life on the stage. But then you've got it in the family, so maybe it's not as necessary for you as someone like ~~Weaslette~~ Ginevra who hasn't had any exposure to it.

And yes, *Dish!* seems to be much more mature than so many of those others, like *Teen Witch* or *Pure Girl*. But it's not as lurid as *Whirl*, is it? Or as mean-spirited as *In the Soup*. Bobolis says her cousin thinks it's got a good future, as well. And he's been doing *Londinarium* for a while, now so he should know.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-18 05:01:29](#)
(no subject)

I just love the idea. I'm trying to come up with my own custom design, but there's just so many to choose from...I really don't know how I'll ever manage to decide.

Grandmother's been advising me for years, but Athena's different because she's living the stage life *now*, and Merlin knows how much has changed since Grandmother was performing, pre-New London.

You know, on the subject of gossip magazines, they definitely had them say, fifteen years ago, yes? Even if there weren't as many to choose from? I wonder if there's a way to have a look at any of them. I suppose I could ask Madam Pince, but I don't think she'd approve of doing research using old gossip magazines, even if it was for something important.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-11-19 04:11:04](#)**
(no subject)

You're looking for old gossip? Well, *Whirl* been around since then, hasn't it? And *Night Owl* - I remember Mum saying she read that when she was in her NEWT classes. Oh, *Cut Above*, I think, as well as *Posh* and *Tribea*, they go back for ages.

I'm not sure Madam Pince keeps them in the library, though. Probably you'd have to write to the publishers to get back issues. And it would help if you knew when the story ran, of course.

Were you looking for something particular?




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-11-19 17:52:41](#)**
(no subject)

It seems so frivolous to be thinking and writing about it now, when the First Task will be starting soon...but yes, I am looking for something particular, in a manner of speaking.

I'm looking for stories from a particular time period that are about two particular people. But that's about as much as I can narrow it down for the publishers.

But ONE of these two people is very, very well-known. I should think it wouldn't be difficult to find the stories that were written about him in 1978/79.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-11-19 17:55:42](#)**
private message to Daphne

It's not Auror Crouch, is it?




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-11-19 17:57:49](#)**

Re: private message to Daphne

No!



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-11-19 18:02:26](#)**

Re: private message to Daphne

Well, then, who in the.... Wait, two people?

Lav would say you must be looking into a Tragic Romance.

Wait. 1978? Ooh, is it about Zabini? His parents?



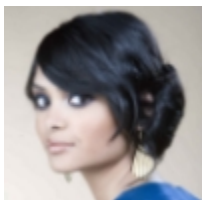
 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-11-19 18:07:03](#)**

Re: private message to Daphne

No, it's nothing about Blaise.

I suppose I might as well tell you since I asked for your advice.

I want to see what they were writing about Professor Raz back then. I suppose I ought to rightly look into everything written between 1975 or so to 1979-ish, just to be safe. I don't want to miss anything.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-11-18 04:28:07](#)**

Private Message to Lana Sandoval

Lana,

That line of gifts at Harrod's really is nift. Good on your family for thinking of it.

How is everything else in Auror training? I heard Moon and Pyle saying that they thought there would be some extra-special events at the holidays this year. Moon's hoping that Baddock will come for a visit, of course.

And did you hear that Clearwater cast the Cruciatus? And that she and Weasley have been spending Hogsmeade weekends in an inn together?

Tell me everything you're doing!

[2011-11-18 11:24:00](#)

Private message to Poppy



Poppy, a few quick things.

First, I think we've actually got a more or less final schedule for December 3rd. I plan to drop a copy off for you when I get a chance. It looks like there will be some interesting discussions, and some particularly useful material for the CCF group. (I'm also hopeful Raz will take Healer Stint off for a friendly drink somewhere in the midst of the afternoon, and make your life easier. And mine.)

 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

Also, quick question for you, if you have a minute - have you had any odd encounters with Milland? Nothing urgent, but if you have time on Monday, tea perhaps, and a chat? (I'm sure you're busy today with preparations we all hope you won't need for tomorrow...)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-18 22:52:02](#)**
(no subject)

Bless me, I'd be most grateful if Rabastan were able to take Stint off our hands for a few hours' time. Extra points, tell him, if he can get him deep enough in his cups that he sleeps away the rest of his time here.

Well. Perhaps you shouldn't pass that wish along.

Now about Milland, I haven't had any particularly odd encounters myself--apart from the unpleasantness one wet afternoon last month when we set up our bowling green in one of the disused classrooms; you'd have thought we'd done permanent harm, transfiguring the floor into turf; Dawlish never minded, but I digress. Your asking makes me think, though: I did have a conversation with Horace a week or so ago, and he started to say something about Milland, but we were interrupted and never came back to it.

Why? Have you had some awkwardness with the man?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-19 02:51:38](#)
(no subject)

I'm not sure he can manage drunk enough to fall asleep - but "sitting around for hours talking" should be well within the scope of possibility. Raz is most willing to do so, thankfully, and I'm hoping I can keep him busy enough before that.

On Milland - he's been friendly enough toward me in passing. But my schedule's so different from most people's, I don't tend to run into him as much, or at least not at times when talking's convenient.

But something about his manner makes me wonder, and a conversation ~~with Raz~~ earlier made me wonder again. (And since I trust your judgement, thought I'd ask - and you've certainly seen any number of staff come and go in your time here.)

Maybe it's just that I'm out of practice with someone quite so persistently outgoing here. (Raz is certainly friendly, but not as, well, insistent about it as Milland has struck me, and most of the staff are far more inclined to keep to themselves or a few closer friends.)

2011-11-18 15:52:00

Order Only: Hermione and Charlie

My fire-chat with Harry was interrupted last night, before I could tell him what I wanted to say about the dragons.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Hermione, remind him that he's allowed his wand - which'll get him his broom - and he'll be more manoeuvrable if he's flying. And tell him that a dragon's eyes are its weakest area. Tell him to get some sleep tonight, if he can.

Charlie. I know you can't interfere, mate, but - look out for him, will you?

Circe, I wish I could get up there.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-18 21:08:55**

(no subject)

How'd you manage a fire chat from a camp fire?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-18 21:15:54**

(no subject)

Didn't.

Broke into a wizarding home in the village. Used their Floo.

2011-11-18 23:15:00

Private Message to Hermione Granger

I think I've finally got it down.

But I want you to get me up early tomorrow so we can practice some more.



 [alt_harry](#)

It'll be from far enough away so I want to make sure. How close does it have to be for it to work? I guess we'll find out. Or we could test it. Like from more than just across the room?

Maybe you could hold it for me just outside the stadium so it won't be so far away.

What do you think?

Will it work?

Raz and... everyone seems to think so. I'm just not sure if I do too.

I wonder what everyone else has planned.

~~I'm going to die, aren't I.~~

[2011-11-19 10:05:00](#)

(no subject)

Well, I don't care, I'll say it:



Go, Cedric!

 **[alt_zacharias](#)**

And Harry, too. Hogwarts for the win!

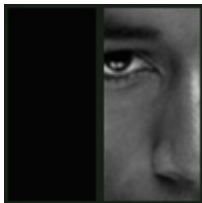



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-19 17:11:46](#)**

(no subject)

Yeah, between them we've got a brilliant chance.

Go, Hogwarts!



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-11-19 17:19:35](#)**

(no subject)

You've got that backwards, Smith.

Diggory'd best watch out. I suppose we'll see today what he's made of, but being second choice out of the Goblet and all, you've got to wonder what his chances are. It'd be a shame if something happened to him today to knock him out of the tournament.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-11-19 20:18:52](#)**

(no subject)

Ced did fine.

Harry, though...whoa.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-11-19 17:24:43](#)
(no subject)

'Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus.'


Hope the visiting champions know it will take their best to compete with ours.

2011-11-19 10:31:00

Banner day

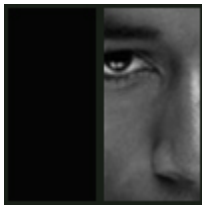
I and some of the others stayed up late last night to make banners and flags for our champions. *Most* of them are for Harry, seeing as he's from our house, but a few are more general in theme, with the Hogwarts crest and such.




 [alt_draco](#)

So if you want one, come see me, Pansy, or Sally Anne to see if we have any extra.

GO HARRY! GO SLYTHERIN!
GO HOGWARTS!




 [alt_blaise](#) at **2011-11-19 18:11:13**
(no subject)

Good show, mate. They look amazing.

Harry. We'll be waving our banners for you, mate!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-19 18:23:16**
(no subject)

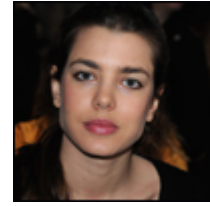
They are brilliant, aren't they!

I'll bet he won't even see them, because he'll be so focused on the task. We'll have to show him after.

2011-11-19 11:03:00

Private Message to Padma Patil

Sorry I haven't had time to answer your message from Thursday. I'm early days in a new Intensive, which is wonderful because my last was a wretched waste (not that I let it completely waste my time, mind, I looked out other projects to complete, but Mustinal was horrible and neglectful, and it was such a disappointment!).



 [alt_lana](#)

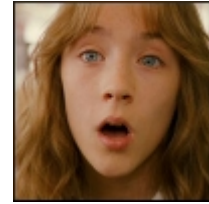
In any case, though, I'm working very hard just now to prove myself to my new instructor, Ms Wright. You might remember her, actually. She was one of the Aurors who came to make a presentation to the YPL my last year at school, and now she's advising on the YPL committee. She's still climbing in the department and is quite career-minded, which will make her a very good mentor, I hope.

We're on our way to the school today, in fact, so I might see you. Look me out in the crowd if you're coming out to watch the task. I'll be well, I suppose I can't tell you too much, but I'll be there, helping with security. I hope the weather's fairer in Scotland than it is here in New London. It's been foggy and spitting rain down here this morning.

2011-11-19 12:05:00

Ever


The dragons are the most beautiful things I've ever seen. Ever.



 [alt_hydra](#)

I don't know if I would want to be that close, though.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2011-11-19 19:12:08**

(no subject)

I quite agree.

Simply spectacular.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 19:21:09**

(no subject)

They are beautiful.

When Charlie Weasley came and spoke to the YPL I almost thought I might like to work with dragons someday but looking at them right now I don't think I'm cut out for it.



 [alt_luna](#) at **2011-11-19 23:06:21**

(no subject)

They are amazing!

Perhaps mama dragons are particularly testy, though.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-11-20 00:30:46**

(no subject)

I suppose that someone who's soft might go and say that it's rather cruel to torment mama dragons by threatening to steal their eggs.

From,
Hydra

2011-11-19 12:33:00

Sortin' Yeh

From Rufus in Fluxside:

Wags, m'man,

What sort of opening charm do you recommend for gettin in quick n' quiet to places that are well-locked?

Look at it this way, Rufus: yeh can stand about all night long, tryin this charm 'n' that on a door. An' then if M'Lady's Knee take yeh in, what'll they find on yer wand? A whole load o' useless unlockin charms, and that won't half do fer yeh wiv the Wizengamot.

I say, it's better to be quick than quiet: use a blastin' hex on the door or a bashin' charm on a window. Better yet, just use a fast Accio on whatever it is yer wantin from inside, yeh? An' then 'ave it away on yer toes!



 [alt_wagstaff](#)

2011-11-19 12:53:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

That one's a Swedish Short-Snout. I think Cedric's lucky to've got this one. I mean, the Fireball and the Horntail are loads nastier, and the Welsh Green they brought was in a can be really tetchy when they're protecting their eggs. Least that's what Charlie says.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 18:58:57](#)
(no subject)

I can't believe they are actually MAKING THEM FIGHT DRAGONS.


I hope no one gets badly hurt.



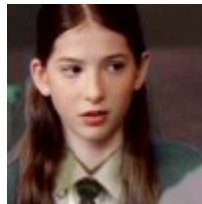
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:01:17](#)
(no subject)

And not just dragons, but nesting females. I mean, they'll be lucky if none of them gets killed.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 19:02:53](#)
(no subject)


I don't want to see anyone get killed.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 19:07:12](#)
(no subject)

They wouldn't actually let them get killed, would they? I mean there are loads of adult wizards here. Surely if someone was going to DIE the adults would do something and then that person would be disqualified, don't you think?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:09:17](#)
(no subject)

I don't know that they could do anything in time to stop it. Did you see that flame shoot all the way across the enclosure? And those claws!


I mean, Champions've died in the past, y'know.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 19:21:37](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you might be right.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:23:09](#)
(no subject)

Urgh.

See what I mean about that Welsh Green? I mean, Delacour's got the right idea, but she's just abou-

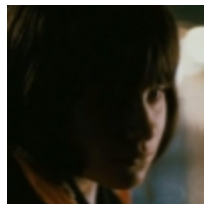
Oi. That was too close!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 19:26:05](#)
(no subject)

UGH I can't watch.

Maybe I'll go make fun of Sandoval some more instead of watching.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 19:27:44](#)
(no subject)

I'm just going to sort of hide behind my banner.

Or you.

Oh.

Oh.


That was far too close.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 19:30:02](#)
(no subject)

WAY too close.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:31:10](#)
(no subject)

Hey, Fisheye!

Did you hear the one about the dragon, the
manticore, and the fwooper that went into a pub?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 19:45:39](#)
(no subject)

No.

Tell me.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 20:11:03](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't know either, but it sounds like it
should be funny.

Ha.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 20:14:41](#)
(no subject)

Hah!

Well, at least it got me thinking.


Silly.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:28:33](#)
(no subject)

Ha! I just saw what you said on Sandoval's post!

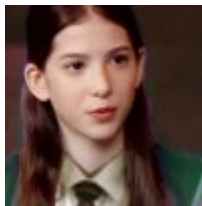


 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:44:07](#)
(no subject)

Huh.

If I were Harry, I'd be dying, shut up in that tent, having to wait for all the rest of them to go first. It's got to be hardest to have to wait, don't you think?


Do you reckon he can see what's happening out here?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:05:09](#)
(no subject)

No, it'd give the later ones too much of an advantage.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-19 22:52:25](#)
(no subject)

That was STUPENDOUS flying!

[2011-11-19 13:02:00](#)

You can do it, Harry!!!

Now I can't be with Harry any more because the Task is starting, but he told me that if I wanted to cheer for him, I also needed to cheer for Cedric, so



 [alt_hermione](#)

Harry & Cedric for Hogwarts!!!!



 [alt_hermione](#) at **[2011-11-19 18:05:26](#)**

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Harry is really, really, really nervous. He woke up this morning to practise for ever and ever and ever.

I think Cedric is going to do it, and I hope ever so much he doesn't get in trouble, I mean, he would only be doing what he's supposed to which is trying.

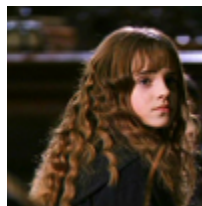


 [alt_ron](#) at **[2011-11-19 18:15:48](#)**

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

Well, he's right to be nervous. You saw how seriously dangerous those things are up close. I mean, I've seen dragons before, and I nearly wet myself when that Horntail was whipping its tail around. And the Fireball? Whoa. Whoever gets that one'll be lucky if he's not roasted.

I heard Professor Sprout and the Headmistress had some serious conversations with Diggory's parents. I imagine they're dead worried about him today, his parents.




 [alt_hermione](#) at **[2011-11-19 18:26:59](#)**

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

I didn't want to even think it, but do you think an accident might happen to Cedric? Not a real accident, I mean, but an accident someone set up, so he's hurt too bad to keep being in the competition??



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-11-19 18:31:39**

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

Well.

Did you see what Zabini wrote to Smith this morning about how it would a shame if something happened to Cedric?

I don't think we're the only one's who're thinking it might. And, I mean, would anyone stop it happening? Any of the people in charge, I mean?

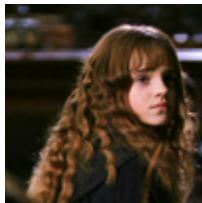


 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-11-19 18:35:59**

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

They'd probably be the ones who would do it.

Not the Headmistress. But, you know. The others.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2011-11-19 18:36:05**

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

No I didn't. I don't think that any of the people in charge could stop it happening if they wanted to, I mean I think that some of the people in charge would run right over the others, because if you're in the minority you have to just say 'okay,' you know what I mean?



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-19 18:39:01**

Private message to Harry and Granger

Hermione, I can't write to you without writing to Harry, but maybe it's important for him to read this as well, when he's able to.

Do you think it might be a bad idea to call him "Harry" where everyone can see it?

Because I thought you were supposed to call him "Master Harry."

I just thought someone might notice.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2011-11-19 18:42:29**

Re: Private message to Harry and Granger

Oh -- drat drat drat -- I suppose it's too late to change -- but maybe I can apologise, because someone will notice, and then Harry will be in trouble, I mean I don't mind so much but it isn't his fault if I forget --

Thank you, Hydra, for telling me, I mean ~~I wouldn't have thought you would~~ you didn't have to and I really appreciate it and maybe it will help.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-19 18:49:08**

Re: Private message to Harry and Granger

Maybe you can just say you were ever so worried for your Master, and so you forgot your station? That might sound acceptable.

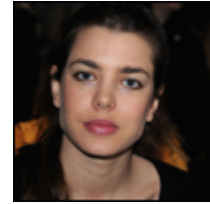
Oh, they're about to start! I'm putting my book away. Goodbye.

From,
Hydra

2011-11-19 13:13:00

Bravo!

Good show, Diggory! That was quite a clever bit of bait and switch you pulled off there, though it looked as if you relied on improvising and hadn't much real strategy.



 [alt_lana](#)

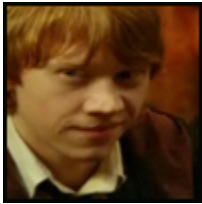



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 19:20:14**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

'Good show, you fetid, pathetic loser! Let me dribble my compliments on you like half-chewed crumpets!'

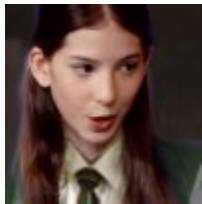
Sandoval is such a WANKER.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-19 19:36:44**

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

Shame she's not having to fight dragons today. It'd be a laugh to see her out there, wetting herself.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 20:05:33**

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

I'd be rooting for the dragon.

[2011-11-19 13:42:00](#)

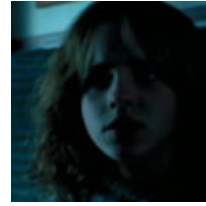
I AM SORRY

I wanted to post a retraction, and an apology, for the last thing I wrote in the journals.

I am supposed to call my Master 'Master Harry' all the time, and I should have at least called the other Champion 'Mr. Diggory.'

I lost my head with all of the commotion and I just wrote the same things that everybody around me was saying.

But I am not like everybody around me. I am a Mudblood and I do not have permission to call my betters by their first names without 'Master.'



 **[alt_hermione](#)**



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 18:51:44](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Uh.

I didn't even notice you did anything wrong.

Are you going to be in really awful trouble for it? I mean. Should you have pointed it out to everyone like this? Or do you have to do that? Will it make it better, saying sorry?



 **[alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-19 18:53:39](#)**

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

I don't know if it will make it better, only I'm sure it was going to be seen, I mean, someone pointed it out to me already, and if one person did then someone else would. I don't know how bad the trouble will be, I hope not so bad, but if it is then at least they will see that I'm trying, maybe, even though it makes me sound just like Terry used to and I swore I would never do that (sorry Terry) but -- what else can I do?




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-19 23:01:26](#)

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

You don't have to apologise to me, ever, for doing whatever you have to do to keep yourself safe. Or for deciding to do something different than I do.

Merlin, I hope she's all right. Can anyone else who's on this lock let us know if-- if there's gonna be any punishment?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-19 23:04:28](#)

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

We haven't heard a thing here in Gryffindor, but we probably wouldn't. Best bet would be if Pansy or Sally-Anne hear anything.

Let us all know if you do, yeah?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 23:17:46](#)

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

They're all back.

Hermione doesn't look very well.

Like she'd been

Well, like someone performed *crucio* on her.

Harry hasn't said what happened. Sally-Anne asked him about it, but he got a bit short with her. But he doesn't look terrifically happy about it, and neither does Draco.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-20 00:13:51](#)

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

...

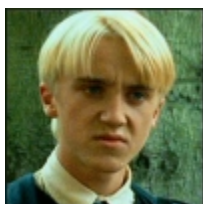
Hermione

Hermione, just...

just let us know you're going to be all right.

was Marvolo the one who did it?

If I could just get my hands

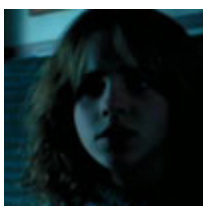


 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-11-19 18:55:09**

(no subject)

I guess we can't expect an idiot muddblood to keep straight the most basic rules of protocol.

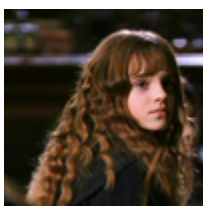
You'd just better start bracing yourself for the hexing that Harry will have to give you when all this is over.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2011-11-19 18:56:01**

(no subject)

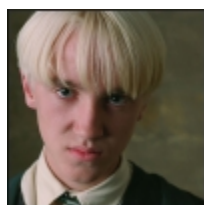
Yes sir.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2011-11-19 18:57:21**

Private message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo

I know that it was ever so stupid, I do, are you very angry with me? Because I know also that you're going to get in trouble for my mistake Harry, and I hope that doesn't mean you will too Draco, and I'm just -- I'm not sorry that I call you by your first names usually, but I am sorry that I did something so careless as to make it obvious and make life harder for you.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-11-19 19:03:47**

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo

You two are ~~too close~~ both starting to slip, and it's only by luck that someone hasn't noticed yet. It really was an idiot thing to do, especially for you.

You're just fortunate that most people aren't looking at their journals right now.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-19 21:01:02](#)

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo

Mr Malfoy saw.

So we're all in trouble now.

It's because we have to set such a good example, because of all the people from other places. So yeah, that wasn't good. At all. You really ought to be more careful.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-19 21:24:22](#)

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo

Don't put it all on her.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-19 21:39:20](#)

Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo


I know. Don't think I don't know.

She's my responsibility.

So this is my fault too.

Don't make it worse. You've already done a good enough job of that.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 19:04:54](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oi! It's just like him to kick somebody when they're down. Especially someone who can't fight back.

Like she doesn't feel awful enough already.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-11-19 21:05:48**

Order Only

Bloody Erebus, Hermione, I've just seen this.

Are you all right?

2011-11-19 14:08:00

Chinese Fireball?

Is that what people are saying this one is?

It's big and nasty. Not that any of them were friendly. But this one looks particularly nasty.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 20:12:55**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I saw a Fireball Sing-Ami last year and it was all smiley and cute.

Had the person who designed that Sing-Ami ever actually seen one of these in person?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-19 20:25:35**

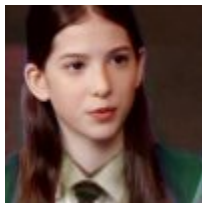
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah.

They're wicked mean, Fireballs. This is the first one I've seen, either. I don't think they have one at Stornoway. Don't know where they got this one from, actually. I mean, with the wards and all. D'you think they brought them in from outside the Protectorate?

I'll have to ask Charlie.

Maybe they keep one at one of the Welsh preserves, though. Only, I dunno if the climate's right for them here.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 20:30:52**

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

Maybe it's from the Lord Protector's menagerie? They didn't show us all of it, when we were in London.

2011-11-19 14:33:00

GO HARRY GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

GO GO GO!!!!!!!

Bloody hell that's one nasty looking dragon.



 [alt_seamus](#)




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-19 20:37:18](#)

Order Only

Someone give us an update!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-19 20:37:58](#)

(no subject)

That looked like it hurt.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:38:10](#)

(no subject)

BLOODY HELL.

I hope he can still fly with his arm hurt.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 20:39:05](#)

(no subject)

I was hiding. Is it bad?


He's flown with a broken arm before, but oh, I just can't watch.



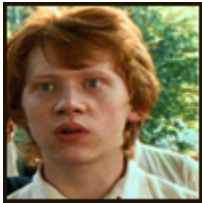
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:39:43](#)
(no subject)


Don't start watching now.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-19 20:42:22](#)
(no subject)

I'm not! I'm not!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 20:39:50](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that's gotta hurt.

But look at what he's doing! He's totally going to get her to chase him!

Hope that's a good plan...



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:40:44](#)
(no subject)

Playing 'catch-me-who-can' with a dragon?

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG???



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:41:05](#)
(no subject)


An enormous angry dragon WITH A SPIKED TAIL.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:43:54](#)
(no subject)

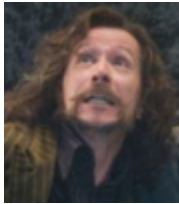
Mind you, using his broom was utterly brilliant.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-19 20:45:38](#)
Order Only

YES, it's the plan ... he can move faster on the broom than she can in flight.

Come on, Harry ...




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-19 20:40:56](#)
Order Only

WHAT? What happened to his arm?


Hermione? Minerva?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 20:39:26](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

If they were going to rig things to get Harry in the competition then why didn't they rig things to give him one of the other dragons????



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-19 20:41:56](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah. I don't think they rigged which dragon he got. Charlie says Horntails are totally the meanest of the mean ones.

I mean, you can tell just by the way she's glaring at him. She's measuring how to make him pay for messing with her nest!




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-19 20:45:32](#)**
(no subject)

HE GOT IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GO HARRY!!!!!!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-19 20:46:09](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

AND he's still basically in one piece. I mean his arm's hurt but it's still attached, so surely Madam Pomfrey will have it healed up really quickly.

WHEW.

You can look now, Pansy!

[2011-11-19 14:47:00](#)

Private Message to Harry Marvolo

That was totally awesome, mate! Just brilliant with your broom and all. And you were the best one by far.



 [alt_ron](#)

I mean, Diggory was just sort of darting around this way and that, and then he got an idea. Kind of a weird one, cause she knocked this great rock at him that almost hit him, but then he Transfigured it into a dog, and he was trying to distract her, I guess, and anywiz, it pretty much worked and he got the egg, but the dragon must've cottoned on to what he was about cause she swung round and nearly roasted him. We all thought he was done for, and really he only just got away. And then that Delacour tried bewitching hers, I guess. She used some sort of charm I'd never seen before that shot violet mist at the dragon and it went all sort of sleepy and then dropped off completely. So that was sort of brilliant, only then it snored and totally set her robes on fire! I mean, she put them out right away and I don't think she even got hurt, only she looked totally petrified. And then Krum came out. He was the best yet, though you were totally better. I mean Krum didn't even think about calling his broom. That was bloody brilliant, mate! Anywiz, he did this thing where he hexed his dragon's eyes with some sort of goopy stuff that made it blind. Only it also made it seriously cross! And it was tromping this way and that way, and it smashed a bunch of its own eggs. And, y'know, that wasn't supposed to happen so they docked him points.

But you were amazing! Totally.

And, yeah. I don't think anybody thinks the tournament's rigged to make you win now. That took really serious skill, what you did. And you were the best of all of them.

Good show!




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-20 06:26:37](#)

(no subject)

Thanks for the replay.

I wish I could've seen the others.

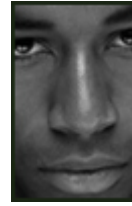


 **alt_ron** at [2011-11-20 14:45:36](#)
(no subject)

So was Madam Pomfrey able to heal up that gash you got? It looked really nasty.


[2011-11-19 15:41:00](#)

Private Message to Harry Marvolo and Draco Malfoy



Congratulations, Harry. That was ace!


You didn't get hurt too badly, did you? What's taking so long in the Healing tent?

 **[alt_blaise](#)**

Or are you being swarmed by reporters? Daphne thinks that's it.


Anywiz. We're getting up the celebration back in the common room. Get here as soon as you can! We all want to toast you!



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-19 22:41:24](#)**
(no subject)


We're coming up now.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-11-19 22:55:18](#)**
(no subject)

Great! Hope you don't mind we started without you!




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-19 23:13:54](#)**
(no subject)

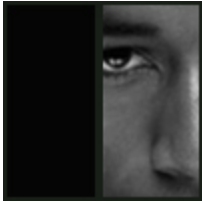
Nah, don't worry about it.


It was ace of you and Daffs to throw a party and all.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-20 02:49:06](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry I didn't stay for much of the celebration. It was brilliant of you and Daffs to put it together last minute. Only it turns out I have an essay to write, so, I've decided I'd best start working on it straight away.




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-11-20 03:32:48](#)
(no subject)

That's all right. Is there anything I can bring you when I come up for the night?

Things have settled down here, anyway. It felt odd celebrating too much with Krum and his mates here, too. We've actually been talking about creatures they have in Eastern Europe that we don't have here unless they're in one of the Protector's reserves. Interesting. Stoyanov's seen a Lethifold--I believe him, too, the way he described how it moved and how he could see it without really *seeing* it--anywiz, he told us how his uncle saved him from it.

Shame about the essay, mate. Which one is it? I thought we'd got everything done for next week.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-20 03:51:58](#)
(no subject)

Krum made a good showing. He'd almost have nothing to be embarrassed about, except he's a national quidditch player who didn't think to use his broom for the task, and someone three years younger than him did.

I guess you could say the essay is sort of a side project. Anyway, it's important so I had better get back to it.

Oh, and I don't need anything. Cheers for the offer, though.

2011-11-19 15:46:00

Congratulations, Harry!

Admirably done.

We are all quite impressed with your ingenuity under pressure.



 **alt_lucius**

We shall see you shortly.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-11-19 20:55:46**

Private Message to Harry and Draco

Harry, after you have received mediwizard's attention for your injury, we must speak about your mudblood's gaffe. Really it cannot be ignored, much as you may wish to indulge her.

One may only assume that she has not been accustomed to address you properly for some time or she should never have had the effrontery to forget herself.

It is high time you took full responsibility for your actions which have led to this unfortunate breach.

Draco. Saw your attempt to cover up for Harry - don't deny it, son. See me in the medical tent, if you please.



 **alt_harry** at **2011-11-19 21:03:22**

Re: Private Message to Harry and Draco

Yes sir.

And I'll be sure to see to her so that she knows exactly how important that sort of thing is. In addition to whatever you decide.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-19 21:22:43](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry and Draco

Maybe I was covering, but isn't it better if people think he's going to punish her?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-11-19 21:26:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry and Draco

Think? Do you mean to suggest he would not actually punish her on his own?

Medical tent. Now.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-19 21:39:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry and Draco

Well of course he would. But it doesn't typically involve hexing in particular.

Alright Father, no need to get wound up. I'm on my way.



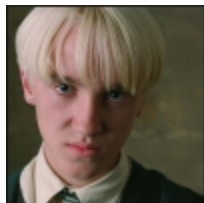
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-19 21:43:54](#)

Private Message to Draco

Look. Shut it.

You're making it worse.

He's really angry. Once you get here, you'll see. I don't think I've seen him angrier, and he's going to make me cruciate her, so just shut it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-19 21:46:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Oh good, maybe you'll get to cruciate me, too. That ought to be fun for you.

And I'M COMING.

2011-11-19 15:46:00

(no subject)

Well done, Harry!

Not many people can do what you did.

I hope your arm isn't too badly hurt! I couldn't even watch during your part, I was so scared.




 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-19 20:54:20**
(no subject)

You were brilliant, Harry!




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-19 20:58:07**
(no subject)

And you really ought to have got a far higher score from Bulgaria. They must be horribly jealous, or angry that Krum didn't think to use a broom.

But tied for first place! That's really ace.




 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-11-19 20:59:37**
(no subject)

Excellent work, Harry! You really showed them! Hogwarts is going to win!

Did you hear Mr Bagman call out Krum for not thinking of flying? I nearly split my sides laughing, only then we all had our hearts in our throats because the Horntail scratched you.

Oh, this was so exciting! I'm going to so see if I can catch Sandoval before she leaves.



 **alt_draco** at [2011-11-19 21:19:35](#)
(no subject)

You should have watched! It was amazing. Luckily, my omnioculars can re-play it for you, if you want to have a look later, when things have calmed down.

2011-11-19 16:03:00

Well

I didn't die. So that's something.


Madame Pomfrey fixed up my arm. So that's going to be fine.



 [alt_harry](#)

Thanks for all the well-wishes.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-11-19 21:17:32**
(no subject)

I proud of you, young sir. You played to your strengths and gave everyone a brilliant show in the process (though I realise that wasn't your intent, it still bears pointing out).


Well done all round.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-11-19 21:19:12**
(no subject)

Very nicely done, Mr Marvolo, and many congratulations.

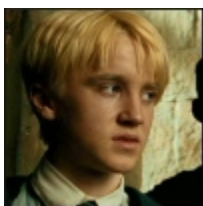



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-11-19 21:20:50**
(no subject)

We've got to have some kind of celebration!

Let me see what Daphne can put together...

You were BRILLIANT, by the way!



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-11-19 21:44:13**
private message to Harry

Or maybe not.

Shite.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-19 22:04:10**

Private message to Harry

Everyone's wondering where you are, and Draco, too.
And I've noticed Hermione isn't anywhere.

Are you all in trouble?

If I can help, let me know.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2011-11-19 22:14:12**

Re: Private message to Harry

We are.

We're sorting it out.

Don't worry.

Thanks, though.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-19 22:16:10**

Re: Private message to Harry

No matter what happens you were really good
today.

From,

Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2011-11-19 22:18:40**

Re: Private message to Harry

Yeah?

Doesn't feel like it.

Thanks for that.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 22:12:41](#)

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Are you alright?

We were all expecting you back ages ago.



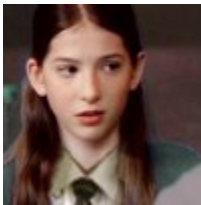
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-19 22:14:52](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

We'll just be a few more minutes.

I think.

Depending.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 22:16:41](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Are you in trouble?

Is this because of Granger losing her mind and getting all familiar with you?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-19 22:19:31](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

I'd really rather not talk about it, Perks.

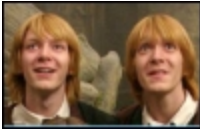


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-19 22:21:08](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

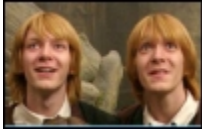
Okay.


Good show today. You were brilliant, you know.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-11-19 22:39:49](#)**
(no subject)


That was REALLY ace flying.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-11-19 22:47:26](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

We're still hacked off that he's not on the Gryffindor Quidditch team. He would have been our Seeker, if it hadn't been for His Ponciness.




 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-11-19 22:49:40](#)**
(no subject)

If you have a scar, it'll make a really interesting story, won't it?

Congratulations. That was quite amazing.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-11-20 03:17:24](#)**
(no subject)

Well done, Marvolo!

I suppose you can guess that Fleur's not well pleased with her own performance. We thought she did rather well, in all honesty, but then you rather put her to shame. Krum, too, what? Imagine a Quidditcher like Krum not thinking of summoning his broom!

I say, it's brilliant to think that someone our age might actually win the Tri-Wizard Cup! I'm sure I shouldn't have been able to face a dragon like that. It's easy to see why you were chosen along with the others, what!

2011-11-19 16:12:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




Hermione, are you alright?

I'm back in Slytherin and the only people missing now are Harry, Draco, and you.

 **alt_sally_anne**

Are you in horrible trouble?




 **alt_terry** at **2011-11-19 22:38:28**
(no subject)

Yeah, Hermione, please check in. Okay?

I think doing the apology was smart. Anyway, I hope it worked.



 **alt_ron** at **2011-11-19 22:46:38**
(no subject)

They still not there?

I mean, Harry didn't get seriously hurt, did he? He looked all right when he got off his broom, but maybe he was just so chuffed about getting the egg that he didn't notice it was bad until he got to Madam Pomfrey.

2011-11-19 19:46:00

Private message to Pansy

I told Blaise that I have an essay to write, and that's why I'm not down in the common room celebrating. I've gone to the library, instead. So if anyone else asks, could you just tell them that I spent so much time working on the banners and flags that I got behind in my homework?




 [alt_draco](#)

Father's furious with me. Harry, too. He almost seemed as angry as he was when we freed that stupid hippogriff. I suppose in that case I'm lucky that all he did was order me to write an essay on the inferiority of mudbloods. Normally that would be easy enough, but he says if it's not thorough or convincing that he's going to talk to Mr Tenebridge about taking my name off the credits for "Hey, Hey Merlin." He also said I have to. Anyway, hopefully that won't happen.

Harry's been punished too, by the way. But I wouldn't ask him about it, if I were you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-20 03:01:25**

(no subject)

Oh, Draco. I'm sorry to hear that.

I'll be sure to tell people if they ask.

It's unfair that you should

Are you all right? I can't imagine that was at all pleasant. Especially since by all rights, you ought to be celebrating. Do you want any company? If you'd rather be alone, I understand.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-11-20 03:07:29**

(no subject)


I really need to make this essay a stunner, I reckon, so I'd best spend a little more time on it. Alone, I mean.

No, it wasn't pleasant. And I can't help but be hacked off at Harry, even if it isn't entirely fair to feel that way. Only I can't even tell you

how many times I've told him that he's way too familiar with Granger, and how it's only going to hurt HER in the long run. You'd think that having seen her Cruciated after the hippogriff would have made that sink in, but it didn't. He can be so bloody thick. And he grew up at Buckingham and saw the things that happened there, too...there's just no excuse for being that thick.

Well, now he's really done it. Because while his own father might be too busy to care about how he treats his mudblood, mine is really, really angry and he's not going to forget about this anytime soon.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-20 03:29:01](#)
(no subject)

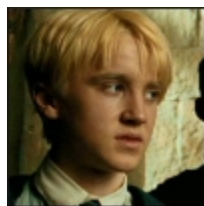
Well, if you must work on it this weekend, we can do something special next weekend at Hogsmeade to make up for it a bit.


It's all right to be hacked off, you know.

I mean, I understand why you would be.

And you're right. It is thick of him. It's sort of... well... it's obvious that if he doesn't want her to get punished, or you to get punished, then of course he shouldn't let her call him that like that. It's not ~~safe~~ proper. And people pay attention to what he says and does, and what she says and does too because she's his, so they have to be even more proper than anyone else would be.

But then again, I'd imagine that he wouldn't care nearly so much about her not getting punished if they weren't familiar, would he?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-20 03:48:01](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that sounds good. I guess he forgot we had Hogsmeade coming up, or else he probably would have told me I wasn't allowed to go.

I don't think it's that Harry doesn't regularly punish Granger, it's more that he doesn't maintain any sort of boundaries between them at all. He wants to believe she's his friend, but no matter how much he wants to believe that, she can't be. You can't make someone you own be your friend.

You know, I didn't even notice when she started calling him "Harry" and he started calling her "Hermione." I should have spoken up more then, but I reckon he would have said "you're right" and then gone on doing as he pleases, anyway, because it makes him feel better about owning her if he can call her by her given name and act like she's a normal person.



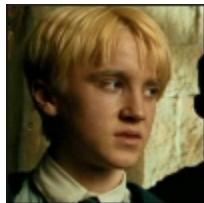
 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-11-20 06:23:16**
(no subject)

I think you're right about that last part. That he's trying to feel better about it.

And I could see how it might be confusing sometimes to be around someone who is supposed to be nice to you and look out for you and help you and all, and think that they're doing it because they want to instead of because they have to.

Do you think she is just pretending for all of it?

It's hard to tell sometimes. I mean, I don't really talk to her at all, but she seems to be quite devoted.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-11-20 06:42:30**
(no subject)

She doesn't really have to pretend with Harry, though, if you see how it is. She does menial things like fetch his belongings because it's the bare minimum of what everyone else would expect, and those menial things are also what I think he's comfortable having her do, because he's always had *someone* around to do them for him, hasn't he?

So she's not that devoted. On the surface, sure, but not deep down. Not like Dennis, say, who didn't have any idea who he was beyond being a mudblood.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-20 15:26:52](#)
(no subject)

Well, maybe you could talk to her about it?

I mean, she's not an entire idiot, you know? I'm sure she'd be able to reason out that it's in her own best interest to keep some proper boundaries, even if Harry doesn't see it that way. And if she's proper, then no matter what he did, she'd be much more likely to stay out of trouble.

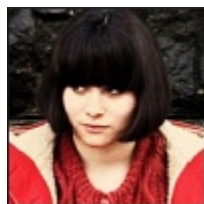



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-20 16:13:32](#)
(no subject)

~~I know she's not~~ She's less of an idiot than Harry, at least. I don't know if you saw, but the summer before last, she and Harry had a row in the journals. She was calling him "sire" and Harry was telling her to "come off it," and it was pretty obvious (to me, anyway) that she was trying to at least keep up the facade of being a groveling slave, but Harry didn't seem to get what she was doing at all. And I know that she's told him to call her Granger, not Hermione, but he never remembers and she probably doesn't push it because he's Harry Marvolo and if he says it's okay, then maybe it is, right?

Except it's not. It's him who's got to learn to set the boundaries, because...well, he's the one with all the power. Even though he likes to sit back and pretend he hasn't got any, he does.

But he doesn't listen to me, even though I feel like all I do is follow him around trying to get him to not do something to get either me or Granger cruciated. I'm not sure who he listens to, if anyone.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-21 01:32:49](#)
(no subject)

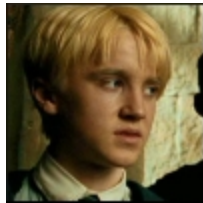
That's just it, isn't it? That he doesn't want to be responsible, or recognise that he does have power even if he does? I mean, for someone


who is the most important student at the school, he certainly doesn't seem to like attention, and he gets angry when people try and treat him like he's someone special even though he is.

I mean, that's why he didn't want to do the tournament, right?

So I think it's more than just Granger and how he treats her. Or. Maybe that's how he shows he's unhappy with it all. Like... treating her all familiar is one of the only things he can do to sort of be contrary, even though it's going to hurt her, and hurt you. Which is utterly backwards and I don't know if it makes any sense, but it sort of did when I started writing it.

And you're right, if she has to tell *him* what to do, that would not be on.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-21 01:39:59](#)**
(no subject)


Sooner or later, he's going to have to start dealing with the fact that he's the most important teenager in the Protectorate; pretending doesn't change anything. What is,

is.

I wonder what he would say if I told him that, though.

There's definitely a part of him that likes to tempt trouble, but in a brainless way instead of a crafty way, you know? I think he's trying to figure out a way to make his father realise that he can't REALLY control Harry. Which, yeah, that's not going to happen. Ever.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-11-21 02:17:24](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

I can see how that would be frustrating for you.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-21 03:17:52](#)
(no subject)


Sorry, I'm whinging again.

I'm working on the essay now that supper's over. Father wants it by tomorrow or else "Hey, Hey Merlin" is all yours. There could be worse things, I suppose?

It's a good thing I can write for inches and inches about how inferior mudbloods are. Those first few years of muggle studies were good for something, at least.

Speaking of, I might have to have a talk with Granger about all of this - next week, when she's allowed to talk again. I think I can get her on my side and if we approach Harry together, well, maybe we'll get somewhere.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-21 03:48:12](#)
(no subject)

Who knew the Carrows would be useful for something?

Talking to her does sound like a start.

And I'll have you know that even if your name isn't on there properly, it's still yours and mine. At least that's how I'll always think about it.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-21 03:57:34](#)
(no subject)

I've a feeling that part of the reason father threatened to take my name off it is because he doesn't *approve* of my playing guitar in the first place.

I guess that's just my way of being contrary, heh.

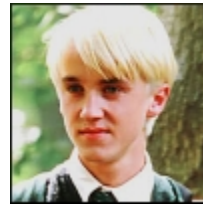


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-21 03:53:59](#)
(no subject)

And don't be silly.

I'd much rather think of it as "confiding" rather than "whinging." You can confide in me whenever you want. I don't mind one bit.

I'm just glad you find me worth confiding in.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-21 03:59:48](#)
(no subject)

Likewise, I hope you know.

So. Next time we go to Hogsmeade, let me buy you a butterbeer, yeah? ~~And maybe we could go~~



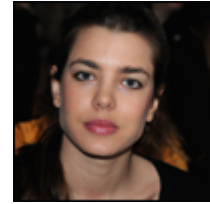
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-21 04:13:46](#)
(no subject)

I'd like that.

2011-11-20 08:48:00

Good Show!

Congratulations to all the champions. And to the supporters who came from around the world to see the First Task of the Tri-Wizard Tournament. The atmosphere of the event was charged with excitement, but also with respect for the capabilities of the contestants.




 [alt_lana](#)

Of course, we all thrilled with vicarious terror as each of the champions faced death in the hide of a massive dragon, particularly as each of the beasts had such cause to turn her full maternal wrath on the interlopers. The contest could not have been more real!

Congratulations, above all, to Harry Marvolo for his courage and cleverness. I feel sure that the Quidditch managers all took note of your broomwork! I know a number of them were in the stands yesterday, and I feel sure none of them expected the show you gave them. The show you gave all of us! I trust that your injury was quickly healed. You were terribly brave to fly through it, and your final manoeuvre was so masterfully executed, it was difficult to remember that you were suffering such a fierce slashing as we all saw you take just minutes before.

Well done, all! It was a great privilege to have been able to attend.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-11-20 16:17:29**
(no subject)

It was marvellous to see you, too!

I'm so glad that everything's going well for you--of course, that's not surprising but you really seem much better than last time we talked. Happier, I guess.

How exciting to look forward to all those parties, too! Mrs Lindorm doesn't often have a holiday party, does she? I mean, I don't recall whether she's had one since Zabini started school. Maybe she has had. Still, getting invited to that must be well gratifying.

I can't believe you've submitted a couple papers already. You'll have to tell me if they get published and where; you can imagine we don't necessarily read all the professional journals, and Madam Pince

doesn't tell us, obviously. But maybe Professor Vector would tell us if one of our own had an important article published so soon after leaving school? I'll ask her to keep an eye out. Which ones did you submit them to, again?

And don't worry that you didn't have a whole load of time to spend, I know you were there officially as well as just to see us all and watch the Task. And you think you might be back over the holidays? Now, that's an interesting hint! I can't wait to find out what you're going to be doing and why...

Well, we've got homework to catch up on since so much of yesterday was spent watching the Tournament. And I'm sure you've loads to do, too.

I just wanted to say we're all so proud of you in Ravenclaw and we think and talk about you often. And it was lovely to see you!



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-11-20 17:43:04**
(no subject)

It was lovely to see you, however briefly, yesterday. Your training certainly does seem to be agreeing with you!

I do agree yesterday was most exciting, and it was wonderful to see all the care and detail that went into the planning, and then the cleverness of the champions in how they faced the challenge.



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2011-11-20 22:48:16**
(no subject)

A lively assessment, Ms Sandoval, and a benefit to those of us who were not in attendance.

I hope you're finding your post with Ms Wright all that you had hoped. If she isn't working you too hard, I hope that someday soon there will be time to show you a few of the items from the Grimsby Auction that I've been working on.

2011-11-20 09:01:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Hermione?

We all want to know if you're all right. I mean, Pansy said last night that you didn't look well when you came back to their common room. Is there anything you need that we could get you?



 [alt_ron](#)

What did they do to you?

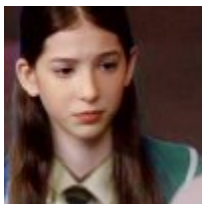
What can we do?

We just

We've been talking about it, Nev and the twins and Lee, y'know, and we want to know how to help. Because it's not right. And it's not okay that this sort of thing happens. And it'll just keep happening, and probably get worse. And we can't just go on pretending we don't notice.

I mean, we couldn't help Terry before he left, but we're not just going to let awful things happen to you.

Have either of you others seen her today yet? Is she okay?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-20 18:57:16**
(no subject)


They came back and I really haven't seen her since. She's been in her cubby, and I'm a bit worried Harry took away her diary again.

Fred and George, did you ever get your extra diary from home? If you pass it to me I could get it to her, and then she'd have something to write in.

She was definitely cruciated, she had the signs. I got her some of the potion Madam Pomfrey gives students, but I'm not sure when she had a chance to get it, people were in the common room until really late. It empties out at dinner and she might have had a chance to get

it then, unless she didn't see my note, or was sleeping. I checked in the morning and it was gone, so I think she did find it at some point.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-20 19:14:00](#)
(no subject)

Thanks so much for giving her the potion, Sally-Anne. It does definitely help. Well, nothing can help you when you're going through it. But it does help with the muscle aches afterward.


Do you know who did it to her? Was it Marvolo?



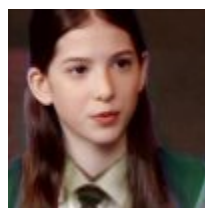
 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-20 19:16:10](#)
(no subject)

Is there anything else that any of us could that could help, Terry?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-20 19:18:26](#)
(no subject)

The only thing I can think of is, it would be good if you could find a way to make sure she stays extra warm. Like giving her an extra blanket or two. That helps, too. Sometimes people shiver a lot after getting hexed with that curse, and the shivers make the muscle aches worse.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-20 19:23:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, good thought, and easier than the potion or the diary, because I think the elves take care of her bedding with everyone else's, and they don't have to wait until the common room's empty to get into her cubby.

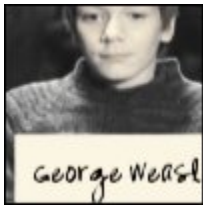


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-20 19:33:24](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what exactly happened. Neither Harry nor Draco wanted to talk about it.

If I were going to guess -- I would guess that Harry cruciated her, but because someone else said he had to, or because he thought if he did, that would be the end of it and nothing worse would happen. Because he looked like someone who'd done Dark Arts, but absolutely not like someone who'd enjoyed it. He looked like he hated himself, and not like he had succeeded in convincing himself that she deserved it. Does that make sense?

Draco was trying really hard to be pleasant at the party but he looked furious at the whole world, when he let it slip.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-20 19:19:25](#)
(no subject)

We'll pass on mine. At dinner, since I missed you at lunch.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-20 19:21:27](#)
(no subject)

That's fine. I won't be able to hide it for her until the common room's empty, anyway.

[2011-11-20 11:19:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus and Lav

Did you see what Marvolo's mudblood did yesterday? I barely noticed it at the time and then everyone was celebrating and then this morning I opened up my journal and looked back to see what people were saying during the challenge and I saw!



 **[alt_padma](#)**

If I were Harry, I'd be well cross, wouldn't you? I can't imagine a servant getting above herself like that! What do you think he'll do to her?

And Lana Sandoval looked just radiant yesterday, didn't she? I think Auror training is honestly the best thing ever for her. She's so happy. And last time she wasn't, did I tell you about that? I'm sure I must have done. She didn't get her intensive with Auror Crouch and she had to work under some crusty old fossil at MLE and she hated every moment. But she spent her time writing papers and she's actually submitted them for publication! Pretty inspiring, I think, as a way to make the best of a bad situation. And now she's got a different intensive with Ms Wright and that must be very agreeable because she really looks amazing.

Plus? She hinted that she might be back over the holidays. It's got to have something to do with the Tri-Wizard Tournament, of course, but what?

Oh, and Lav, Daphs wants help with a project to look through old magazines for articles on someone, you'll never guess, but I can't tell you! It'll just be really interesting to find out what she's trying to learn!



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2011-11-20 22:05:50](#)**
(no subject)

It really makes you wonder what exactly she thinks she's about? The mudblood, I mean. She goes to all of Marvolo's classes, and I can understand why he likes having her there (she runs errands sometimes when he's forgotten something) but it's precisely the sort of thing that might persuade something like her that she ought to be a student.

It would have been safe enough to bring Dennis, you know? But Granger is another matter. I reckon she likes to pretend that she IS a student, and I reckon when she has her little fantasy she thinks about how she'd call Marvolo 'Harry' and Diggory 'Cedric' and who knows what else.

I imagine Harry could request an entirely different mudblood and have her sent permanently back to the camps. Why do you suppose he doesn't? He's a bit softhearted so perhaps it's pity?

2011-11-20 14:39:00

Order Only - Miss Granger's punishment



As you may imagine, Miss Granger is not doing particularly well.

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

She has been punished with the Cruciatus curse; her ability to speak has been taken away for a week; and, furthermore, her journal is in Mr. Marvolo's care for that same week.


I am to ensure that he practises the Cruciatus on her regularly. I do not believe that I will be able to make him, though I must put on a show. He was quite clearly upset to have to punish her at all. Draco, too, is supposed to practise the Imperius curse on her -- although he is instructed merely to force her to write 'master' after every sentence, nothing more brutal.

I cannot believe that I find that to not be brutal. There are some days when I feel a thousand years old.

This morning I received a message from the Lord Protector: 'have you straightened him out yet?' 'No,' I wrote back, 'but I am endeavoring to do so.' He responded: 'do not fail.'

How can I straighten Harry Marvolo out? Miss Granger, forgive me. I don't know what I will be forced to order him to do.



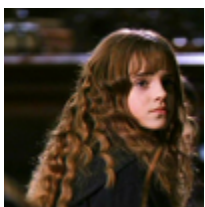
 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-11-20 21:29:00**
(no subject)

I take it that she was suffering rather badly last evening. Enough that it inspired one of the Marvolo's classmates to feign a need to see me in order to procure a palliative to ease the after effects of

Cruciatus.

I don't know whether it has anything to do with Miss Granger's presence there or, for that matter, with Mr Marvolo's idiosyncrasies and peculiar rebellions, but I have seen some hopeful signs in that unlikeliest of Houses. Prime amongst the outliers there is Miss Perks,

who has on more than one occasion risked my piecing together her connection not only with Miss Granger but also with Mr Boot.



 **alt_hermione** at [2011-11-21 01:04:01](#)

(no subject)

I'm all right, I mean Harry snuck my journal back to me, he doesn't know I can use it. But I can in an emergency.



 **alt_sirius** at [2011-11-21 14:37:50](#)

(no subject)

I think we should consider whether it'd be safe to let Harry know that you're not the Death Eater he thinks you are.

And if not, then Minerva, perhaps your lessons should be more about hiding one's true sentiments and behaving one way in public and another privately.

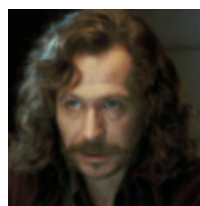
What about occlumency? It can be learned, can't it? Perhaps it's time someone starts teaching him that?



 **alt_mcgonagall** at [2011-11-21 15:38:50](#)

(no subject)

We haven't an Occlumens who knows what they're doing on staff, Sirius -- and in any case I don't think I dare tell him. Perhaps Hermione would know better; but still, even if we can trust him to not wish to sell us out (which I do not know if we can) he is so close to the Lord Protector and a single slip --!



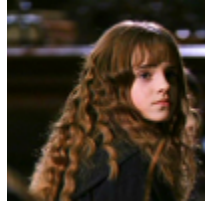
 **alt_sirius** at [2011-11-21 15:43:45](#)

(no subject)

Well, he's not told anyone about his part in things last June. Or that he's been in contact with me.

I think you're underestimating him but you're right that we can't afford for him to slip.

Could you strongly hint that there are ways to protect himself from anyone trying to pry into his thoughts? And perhaps Hermione could take it from there?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-21 15:45:50](#)
(no subject)

I can't until this hex is off of me.

But I will tell him.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-21 17:32:21](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, kiddo.

Hang in there, okay?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-21 15:47:23](#)
(no subject)

Ah.

A way in which I might be able to help.

Minerva, you are being extremely frustrating. I am more than capable of brewing enough Polyjuice Potion to safely infiltrate Hogwarts.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-21 15:48:36](#)
(no subject)

But have we enough ingredients? and have you any capability whatsoever to impersonate someone? To be quite honest, Severus, I have never taken you for an actor -- could you be gregarious? Polite? Kind and friendly to small animals?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-21 15:49:35](#)
(no subject)

I have enough for the year.

I find small animals better companions than humans, generally speaking, so I should not have any problem being kind to them.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-21 15:50:05](#)
(no subject)


No, Severus, and that is an order!



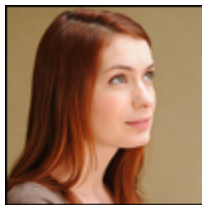
 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-21 15:51:03](#)
(no subject)


What a pity that you are in no position to give me orders.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-11-21 17:15:56](#)
(no subject)

Actually, she does. She's the head of the Order. And if you want to be part of the Order, you have to do what she says.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-21 19:36:31](#)
(no subject)

I think that Severus does make for a valid point, Minerva.

It's at least worth considering.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-21 16:28:42](#)**
(no subject)

What do you mean infiltrate Hogwarts?

And I'm not sure how you think you can teach Harry without telling him you're in disguise or how that's any less dangerous than Minerva telling him she's not really loyal.

It's a colossally bad idea.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-21 17:12:44](#)**
(no subject)

Infiltrate Hogwarts?!



 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2011-11-21 17:48:50](#)**
(no subject)

I haven't kept the closest eye on goings-on at Hogwarts, but I've gathered that Raz Lestrage is still there, over-seeing the Marvolo kid's personal security.

He's not a mate or even acquaintance of Milland's, is he?

He's a friendly sort, always was, but not someone easily fooled.

2011-11-20 20:01:00

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good -- alright.

I am alright -- Harry gave me my journal back but of course I can't write much as I'm not supposed to be writing at all, and I can't let him know because, well, he thinks I'm just keeping it and not writing.



 **alt_hermione**

I can't speak to anyone; I've been hexed, so I can just pass notes to Harry -- anyhow that is what is happening and I am going to be laying low for the next few days until he's done with this.

I'm not looking forward to one thing which is that Draco's father says he has to hex me to write 'Master' after every sentence, and that is going to stink, because imagine referring to women as 'Master'! It will drive me up a wall.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-21 02:46:27**
(no subject)

I'm glad he gave you your journal back, because you can write under the lock anytime you're in your cubby and Harry won't know.


How long are you going to be hexed?



 **alt_hermione** at **2011-11-21 15:37:37**
(no subject)

I don't know. I think a week. But if I'm not good it will stay on longer I suppose.



 **alt_terry** at **2011-11-21 15:31:08**
(no subject)

Bloody hell.

First of all, I'm glad you're all right.

Secondly, what you wrote here made me think of something. I'm thinking that if


they're going to play a mind game on you, then you just play one right back at them.

Everytime they make you write Master, you do that. But just add another word: 'stinks.'

so it'll read 'Master stinks.'

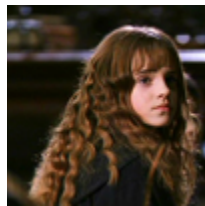
Write the 'stinks' part on a separate piece of paper, of course. But if they're going to make you say something, you just keep defying them by adding your editorial comment, even if you have to do it in secret.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-11-21 15:36:06](#)**
(no subject)

Another thing: I hate like poison being grateful to Marvolo for anything. Especially if he was the one who But I am grateful that he gave you back your journal. And that you have this lock, so we can write to you, and you won't feel all alone.

My journal's sometimes the only thing that keeps me going.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-21 15:40:06](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know if I could do that for people who don't stink, though. I know you don't like Harry at all but he isn't -- I mean he still does terrible things and I don't like it and I am not, I can't be his friend, but I can't hate him either, not all the way, not like I can hate the Carrows or Lucius Malfoy or Lana Sandoval.

But I can do that -- when it's someone I do hate.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-11-21 16:41:27](#)**
(no subject)

But that's even better in a way, see? You get to choose. They're trying to take choice away from you, so this is a way to grab it back.

You're right. I don't like Marvolo. But I guess I would hate anyone who's your master, just like I hate having the git lording it over me. We're wizards, and we

shouldn't have masters at all. But, well, I'll admit he's done things that shows he treats you decent. It's good of him to make sure you have food, and to give you your journal back. And I'll take your word for it that he doesn't want to hurt you.


I just hate it that he still does.



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-21 15:36:59](#)**
(no subject)

We're ever so proud, Professor. Obviously, our sneakiness is rubbing off on you. Brilliant.




 **[alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-21 15:38:50](#)**
(no subject)

They're more important than you can possibly imagine sometimes. Mind games, I mean. When it just gets to be too awful, sometimes they're the only thing that keeps you sane.

And yeah. I learned a lot from you. About how to stay free in your own mind, even if everyone around you is convinced you're a slave.



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-21 15:40:54](#)**
(no subject)

Glad you're all right, Hermione. Will you let us know if there is anything else any of us can do?



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-21 15:42:02](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. They're not starving you or anything, are they? Because we can always nick stuff from the kitchens and pass it along to Sally-Anne or Pansy to leave out for you.

Hang tough, Hermione.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-21 15:45:04](#)**
(no subject)

No, it's fine. Harry's told the elves to bring me food so I don't have to go to the Great Hall.

2011-11-21 10:31:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Hey you,

From some of the looks flying between you and Draco (or not flying, since you both seem to be avoiding eye contact) and the absence of Granger, I gather there was a bit of fall-out after the task. Lucius filled me in a bit, too.




 [alt_rabastan](#)

I'm sorry that had to happen.

I know a thing or two about wanting to do one thing, but being told you should do another. So if you ever want to have a good whinge some time, I'll put in an ear. Or we could just start preparing for Task 2, if that'd be a better distraction. I don't know how much advise I can give you when it comes to the things your Father demands of you, but I'm always willing to give it a go, just the same.

That's it. Keep your chin up.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-21 19:55:28**
(no subject)

Hi back.

Thanks.

I think I'd like to prepare for Task 2. Yeah.

I understand why Mr Malfoy reacted the way he did. It was something everyone would look at and talk about. And yeah. We're trying to make a good impression and all. And it's my responsibility.

But it's sort of

I don't know.

I guess it's sort of that even though I did the best I could, it still wasn't good enough. I can be in the middle of fighting a dragon and all they pay attention to is that my mudblood wasn't proper. And that everyone can be all happy about what I did except for me. And Draco. ~~And~~ And it's hard sometimes. Like you said. To do something for

someone else, and not for me.

I was supposed to crucio her.

I couldn't. Not the way he wanted. Because I didn't feel what we're supposed to feel, like they talk about in Dark Arts. I mean, when it's just rats and all, it's fine. But not someone that I'm

supposed to be responsible for.

And he wants me to practice.

Did you ever have to do something even if


you know

you really didn't want to?

And you knew you were supposed to want to? Sort of. I don't know.

It's all my fault.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2011-11-21 21:35:56](#)
(no subject)

I think you know that it's not about Granger getting out of line while you were busy fighting dragons, it's that Lucius has come to see that you don't really treat her as a servant. I know she fetches your things like a servant would, but there's a familiarity there that he finds troubling. Now, I've always thought it was a bit wrong-headed to give you and Draco mudbloods that were so close to your own age ~~and a girl, at that~~. Bound to be pretty confusing, I expect.

But then it goes beyond the matter of being familiar, and turns into territory of station and propriety. Much as you don't like it, you're an emblem of the Lord to your peers, and if you behave as if, well, your servant is actually your friend, then it's going to send a certain message, if you see what I mean. And it's a message that's not at all in line with what your Father stands for.

I know that the expectations that come with being our Lord's son can be a burden sometimes. Same goes for those who are born into royalty, or into distinguished lineage of any kind. I'm sure there's


plenty of times when you wish you were someone else, part of some respectable but otherwise un-noteworthy family, so that you could just ~~play quidditch~~ keep your nose more or less clean and have that be enough to make everyone happy.

But wishing won't change things as they are. Your Granger probably wishes she weren't born to her station, either, but wishing's no good there, either. You both have to make the best of the situation you are in, and it will go much better for you if you can assure Lucius (and, by proxy, your Father) that you are comfortable disciplining her; because otherwise, they'll discipline her for you, and I know you don't want that to happen.

You'd be surprised at how far you can go if others simply have confidence in you. And if you can prove yourself to them in ways that matter, they tend to let you on your way, confident that you will continue to act in ways that meet with their approval.

And to answer your question: Yes, I've done things that I didn't want to, while fully knowing that they were things I was *supposed* to want to do. Then later, I actually did want to do those things. For a while.



 **alt_harry** at **2011-11-21 22:59:04**
(no subject)

~~So do you think I'm supposed to want~~

Whate


Okay.

I know what I have to do.

And I know what I did wrong.

Let's just practise for the second task.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 01:18:18](#)
(no subject)

I wish you didn't have to do it. I really do. If I could see a way around it, I'd tell you, but I can't. I'm sorry that I can't do that for you.

I've been where you've been. Not in exactly the same way or under the same circumstances, but... if you can get through it just this once, we can work on avoiding it happening again in the future.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-22 01:25:41](#)
(no subject)


Okay.

Yeah.

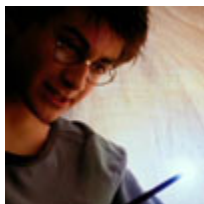
Okay.


That would be good.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 01:51:40](#)
(no subject)

We probably should get cracking on that second task though, eh? Now that egg...I don't think it was meant to be a prize of any sort, so we should probably have a good look at it and see what's what. Bring it along to our next session?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-22 01:54:04](#)
(no subject)

Sure.

I opened it up, but it started screeching loud, so I closed it.

2011-11-21 14:07:00

Order Only: Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Remus Lupin



 **alt_bill**

I've touched base with my contact at Smythstone.

Hermione's mother at least, thank goodness, is entirely safe. For now, at least. I've learned that the requisition request was quite specific: they want male werewolves, and they had to be within a certain age range: 33-37 years in age. Remus, I think it all depends upon your friend's age. Does he fall within that range? I didn't dare ask after him directly by name, nor did I want to push my informant's willingness to give me information too far by asking too many pointed questions about inmates of the camp.

If his age does fall within that range, let me know, and let's see if we can come up with any bright ideas that will help him dodge this particular hex. I'll talk with Dad, and we can consult with Kingsley, Frank, Sirius and the rest by patronus if need be. Or maybe even Macnair or Snape might have ideas.



 **alt_lupin** at **2011-11-22 01:49:47**

(no subject)

Simon is in his early 40s, so he should be safe. At least from this.

It's lucky I'm not there, though; I'm right in there.



 **alt_lupin** at **2011-11-22 01:52:23**

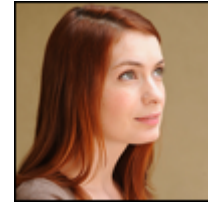
(no subject)

And thank you very much for checking.

Hermione's week has been bad enough without something happening to her mother, as well. Is there any chance we could get her mother out, somewhere safe? Hermione has made great sacrifices for the Order. The rest of us have had the opportunity to do what we can to keep our families safe.

2011-11-21 15:01:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank Longbottom



 [alt_alice](#)

Love, I'll be back within the hour. I'm sorry to have kept you waiting, but I wanted to help with the afternoon crowd before I left, and I had a very late night last night.

I don't think we managed to come any closer to a solution in regards to Hermione's mother, or Simon, Remus's friend, but I do think we were able to sort out some other things.


As much as they can be sorted out.

He very much needed someone to talk to, I know that much. So I was glad to be able to do that for him.

I'm still worried, goodness knows how I can get, but at least now he knows that he can talk to me again if he needs it.

I feel all wrung out. I cannot wait to come home. I just wanted to let you know when to expect me.

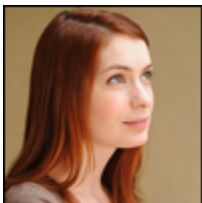



 [alt_frank](#) at **2011-11-21 20:05:50**
(no subject)

I was wondering why you've been so quiet this weekend.

was it what you thought?

with the new baby and all?



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-11-21 20:14:43**
(no subject)

That and more.


He's had to try for such a long time to sort out what other people want from him that I think it's hard for him to know what he truly wants. He spent ten years trying to stay one step ahead of Him, separated from all the people he thought

were his friends, and its taken a toll. He wants so badly to please, to do what he ought, like it's all going to be taken away from him if he doesn't, that his own happiness doesn't even enter into the picture. It took nearly a half a bottle of wine for him to admit to that much.

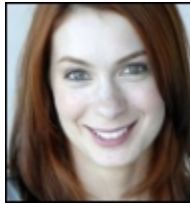
I don't know what I would have done if I had to go through what he went through alone. We faced some rough patches, yes, but they were on our own terms, and we faced them together.


I'm so very glad I have you, love. Glad and grateful and incredibly lucky.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-11-21 20:16:16](#)
(no subject)


you know I got the better end of the bargain, Al.
by far.



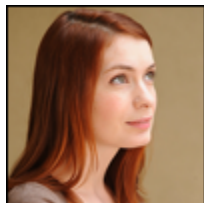
 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-21 20:16:54](#)
(no subject)


Silly man.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-11-21 20:17:29](#)
(no subject)

see you soon.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-21 20:18:22](#)
(no subject)

I love you, you know.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-11-21 20:22:32](#)**
(no subject)

I do.

and the same goes for you.

you're going to have to put down the quill to apparate, you know.

[2011-11-21 15:18:00](#)

Order Only - I am here.

Minerva,

If you would like to preserve your cover, it would be best for you to meet me in the caretaker's quarters immediately.



 [alt_severus](#)

Bring Milland's personnel file. Assuming that you are not entirely incompetent and he *has* a personnel file, of course.

All others,

I certainly swore an oath to Minerva McGonagall. The contents of the oath were that I would obey the head of the Order of the Phoenix. Unless there has been a coup, I believe the head of the Order of the Phoenix remains -- and always will remain -- Albus Dumbledore. He may order me out of Hogwarts at any time he cares to present himself.

I will be quite busy for the rest of the evening. No need to leave me irritating notes.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-21 20:30:27](#)
(no subject)

WHAT?

You had best prepare yourself, Severus Snape, because I am indeed "meeting you," as you put it. I remember when you were a snotty-nosed, knock-kneed child and I will have your respect and your obedience!


I shall see you very soon.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-21 20:31:39](#)
(no subject)

Really.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-21 20:38:25](#)**
(no subject)

Boy, are you in for a surprise.

Let him have it, Minerva.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-11-21 20:49:32](#)**
(no subject)

And how.

You had no right, Severus. Hogwarts is Minerva's territory. You don't disobey her orders on her

ground.




 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-11-21 20:41:32](#)**
(no subject)

What on earth have you done?!

Where's Milland?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-21 22:57:33](#)**
Private Message to Severus Snape

Severus.

Honestly.

For someone who doesn't get along with Sirius, I can't think of two people who are more alike.

I know you're not about to read this right now, but I'm going to say it regardless.

You know that the only time Dumbledore has decided to grace us with his presence in nearly five years was to institute you into the Order, so your parsing out of your oath to Minerva isn't just childish, it deliberately sets you up to interpret said oath in your favour. After all, you could just as precisely state that because he hasn't given you direct orders, your only course of action is to do nothing.

Yes. You are technically correct. Minerva is not the head of the Order. And yes, she is not always right, and she does not always get her way.

But Severus, there must be due process.

You can see that you and Walden are most at risk in this group, and I know how tiresome it's been for you to get approval for your actions, but can't you also see that there's a reason for it?

I love my son and daughter.

And if they were in immediate danger, I can't say truthfully that I would follow every instruction to the letter from people who have made decisions for our group in the past. I know what it's like to want to take enormous risks for someone. To feel that your love for someone can outweigh your responsibility for the safety and well being of others.

But.

Harry is not in immediate danger. This could have waited. Merlin knows with holidays approaching, the castle is in chaos -- a sudden change-over would be easier. And more importantly, you would have had the time to explain your position and get the support of enough people to make a decent case for your actions. As it is, all you have are people who are terrified of breaches in security, concerned about resources, rightfully worried that you've jumped the gun without support, putting yourself in danger and potentially exposing us all rather than going forward with a plan, and they are completely and utterly in the dark about your reasons for going there. All they know is that you do not have approval from Minerva and that what you've done is risky without having had time to think through the benefits, and if that is their starting point, they will be against it.

We walk a delicate line, Severus.

I know you've been on your own, and are used to doing what was needed by yourself. But one of the challenges of being with a group is that you have the support and additional safety they can provide, but must pay the cost of taking into account their opinions and concerns. It is not a perfect system. None of us are right all the time. But heavens, Severus, unless you at least pay lip service to us and give us the courtesy of asking, of addressing our concerns before acting when action can wait so we at least know you've thought

about contingencies, you risk losing your support altogether.

And yes, your ability to act without asking is dependent on trust. Trust that is still on rather thin ice at the moment with many in our group. Trust that must be cultivated, regardless of how much you may dislike it.

I'm not sure how you can mend what bridges you're currently burning, but I suggest you start to try. At least a little.

You could be a real force for change within our group. Up until this point, I respected your contributions, and have trusted Dumbledore's judgement as well as your motives. I have tried to show my support for you and your plans.

Please don't make me re-think things.

You know full well what you are doing. You are an intelligent person, and an adult capable of thought. And I doubt you'll listen too much to any lectures on how cooperation is necessary from the likes of me, as the benefits should be obvious to anyone.

But please. Please consider what you're doing and why, and think about the impact it could have on all of us. On your ability to help Harry in the future.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-22 00:17:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Severus Snape

I shouldn't have called you childish. That was unfair of me, and it was spoken out of anger and frustration rather than what I intended.

You'll get plenty of grief from everyone, I've no doubt, but I hope that my intended message doesn't get buried in the cauldron, as it were.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-22 00:21:01](#)

(no subject)

What have you done?

Minerva? What has he done to Milland?

Is he injured?

Tell me it's not beyond that!



 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2011-11-22 01:27:30](#)**
(no subject)

So her library and tea were that lacking, were they?

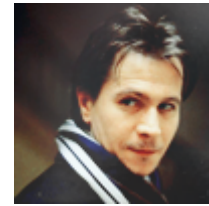
Meant what I said, though: watch yourself. This Milland might be reporting to anyone, Raz Lestrangle or worse. Hope your legilimency is strong enough to suss out any patterns he's established thus far. And that he's not an occulmens.

[2011-11-21 22:54:00](#)

Order Only


Merlin, Mordred and Morgana.

And you lot call me reckless.



 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-22 04:01:17](#)

(no subject)

Sirius Black.

Don't you even conclude that you ought to compete on this score. You have been reckless enough for any six of us.

Speaking of which. Where are you at the moment and what risks are you taking?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 04:13:36](#)

(no subject)

Relax, Poppy. I'm not suggesting any sort of competition with that greaseball; I only believe in fair fights.

Anyway. I'm fine. I've been with Paul John and Lucinda for the past few days. We've worked out the best part of a route from Mrs Langworthy's to Mr Franks' house in Nether Broughton - one that's unlikely to attract any attention.

Oh, well, we did see a work detail from one of the camps two days ago but they didn't see us. John's got a plan to make contact tomorrow and see if we can spirit one or two of the muggleborns away while they're on their water break.

So it's perfectly safe. Unlike replacing someone we don't even know in direct contradiction to orders.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-22 04:18:39](#)
(no subject)

Safe as houses. Indeed.

You're right, at least, that you have been entirely beaten out in the rashness sweepstakes by our esteemed new friend 'Mr Milland'.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 04:28:22](#)
(no subject)


Well, yeah, that's the idea. Safehouses. Get it?

And Mrs L's rather a cracking cook. She's been force-feeding us pies and cream buns. Practising, she says, for when starving muggleborns arrive on her doorstep. I've told her that over-sugaring them is probably not the best idea.

Anyway, far as Milland is concerned, if he's anything like as outgoing as you lot have already described, Snively will be caught out within a week. Specially as he's meant to be hale and hearty and able to go dancing down the corridors with his dustbin and mop.

Though come to that, I'd like to see old Snipe mopping up the classrooms and taking all manner of grief from students. Probably do him a world of good to have his ego punctured on a daily basis.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-22 04:32:06](#)
(no subject)

One doubts it will improve his disposition.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-22 04:37:58](#)

Private Message to Sirius Black

Listen. If you've finished stuffing yourself, would you pack it in and come home, please?

The time away's served its purpose, and now we'd really like to have you back. No more excuses.

Unless this Mrs L's food is just that much better than what we can offer.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 04:42:44](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Are you sure? Look, you can have him to yourself a while longer, I don't mind.

I know sometimes it seems like he and I just talk about 'the old days' and that's bound to get boring.

I don't need to come back if he'd you'd rather have some more time alone.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-22 04:53:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Do I have to promise pies?

Get your cream buns back here, Mr Black, and stop fishing for testimonials of how much we miss you.

Take my word for it: you are missed and moped after and- if I could think of another m, I'd make it a clever list, but I can't, and you're being an idiot, so stop that and come home.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-22 04:56:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Also. I've something to tell you. But I won't until you're here.

So there.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 05:03:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Don't tell me he's got you up the duff again?
Why didn't you say so?!

That's excellent, cousin.

I'll tell John and Lu I'm heading back in the morning.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-22 05:07:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

You're impossible, you are.

We'll expect you here tomorrow by supertime. If you're late, we'll have fed your scraps to the other strays.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-22 04:08:57](#)

Private Message to Sirius Black

I seem to remember a certain someone leaping into a boat without asking anyone first.

And I think if you'll look at his reasons, they're very similar to why you did what you did.

Not that I'm condoning either of you, mind.

And Sirius, love, I think you ought to talk to our Remus.

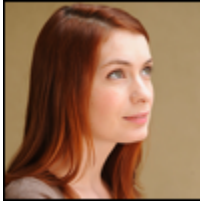


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 04:15:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

I did talk to Remus; that's why I've cleared off for the time being.

Besides, no one told me *not* to come aboard.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-22 04:30:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

My point exactly.

I know your version of helping is to keep your distance, but have you asked Remus what he would prefer? What would help him?

I went to New London this weekend to see him, and he seemed so

I just think that he needs

You really ought to talk to him.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-22 04:38:53](#)

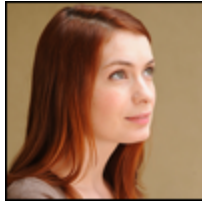
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black


Allie, I dunno what you're on about, but you ask Frank if a man wants to make love to his own wife with an audience around - whether on two legs or four.

Between Bea and me and the business they never get any peace and quiet. I'd've taken her with me and all, if I could've done, just to let them have their privacy.

He's been moping, sure. But that's what Moony *does*. He'll get over it once he remembers ~~what he got married for~~ what to do with a girl.

And we know he's succeeded there, at least once.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2011-11-22 04:51:27**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

What if he doesn't want

I know you're keeping his best interests at heart. And you very much want to see him happy, and give him what he needs, like I do. I only wonder if you're on the same page as he is about what all that may entail. That's all.

I'm just asking you to talk with him.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2011-11-22 06:14:15**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Well, love, seems you'll get your wish. Dora's summoned me home.

Think he's finally done his duty by that girl, from the sound of it. (Merlin, that's my cousin I'm talking about like that!)

But anyway, if I'm to arrive there by supper tomorrow, best get some sleep tonight.

2011-11-22 09:11:00

Private message to Rory

I don't suppose you could spare an hour or two tonight? It doesn't matter the hour.



 [alt_rabastan](#)

Had myself a lot of tossing and turning last night. Even opened the firewhisky, but that didn't seem to help. Harry asked me a question but I'm not sure the answer I gave was the right one. Not a "what's the best strategy for defending yourself against a dragon?" type of question, either. Or even a "what do these wet sheets in the morning mean?" question. A real question.

Being a role-model and shaping the minds of future generations is harder than it looks. And my supposedly "well-honed" instincts are shoddier than I thought (a good deal shoddier than anyone suspects, that much is for certain). When I volunteered for head of Harry's personal security, I reckoned it would be a fairly straight-forward task-keep the kid clear of anyone or thing that might hurt him, and that's that. Cos anyone who'd try to hurt a kid, no matter their cause, would have it coming, yeah. But he's being hurt now, even if it's not in a life-threatening way, and the one doing the hurting isn't a person but a complex web of different elements that I suspect also includes me.

Not sure there's anything I can do about it, though.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-11-22 17:43:53**
(no subject)

For you? I'll always find the time. Better than that, Tuesday's my light day: I've the 4th years at midnight, but nothing between now and setting up for them. Name your time and place.

On your problem: I've gotten my share of questions - from the YPL counsellors, from the newts, and it's their questions that keep me up. Though answering Harry is .. all kinds of extra-complicated, isn't it?

I think you're right that hurt comes in lots of forms. And isn't that part of growing up, and learning to make our own choices? I think there's times it's easier - a child following in their parent's footsteps, or those of an older sibling. But I wasn't like that, and I don't think that Harry is, either - except that he's going to have responsibilities


and expectations, like it or not, where I got to make my own road.

What I appreciated was having one of my teachers be honest with me, and tell me what skills would make my life easier later, and why. Took him a long time, mind you - years - and I'm sure he despaired of me many times. In the end, though, it worked, and I've been grateful ever since. I've tried to do the same, since, when students ask, but it's so hard to tell what helps and what just makes things worse.

You want to do right by Harry. And you see things from lots of angles. And you're here and willing to talk. That's a huge help right there, if you let him set the pace.

The only other thought I have is ... is there someone you could talk to whose children are a bit older? Ari Baddock, maybe? Not about specifics, but about how to navigate deep waters?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 18:00:22](#)
(no subject)

He has more responsibilities and expectations than he knows what to do with, and all he really wants is to make his own road, as you say.

Now, I had expectations, too. And even though I tried to take my own road it didn't work out that way.

I think what he wants is for me to tell him there's a way for him to take his own road. But I can't see that ever happening.

So the most honest advice I could give him was to tell him that if he can get others to have confidence in him, in his readiness to do the "right thing," then he might be able to find a little wiggle room in the face of those expectations.

Speaking of myself there, of course. Though I didn't tell him that it required almost getting killed a few times, so I guess it might have been one of those lies of omission. Not that honest, after all.

Eh, I'd rather not ask anyone for advice on this one. They'll know I'm talking about Harry, and they'll immediately start politicking in light of who his father is and what impression they're trying to make there.

Plus, I don't think there are many parents out there who have children who are expected to practise and master the cruciatius curse on their mudblood servant while at the same time preparing for Task 2 of the tri-wizard tournament.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-22 18:16:48](#)
(no subject)

I... That bad? How - horrible's not the right word, not strong enough. Your last paragraph, I mean. And you're right that people would guess who you're asking about, of course.


On your advice - honestly, I think it's a good start. You can expand, and talk about the risks and the costs over time. Do you know if he's staying over the holidays or not? Might give you lots more time for conversation.

It may also be that it needs some sort of trigger for him to see the benefits of creating the space so he has the wiggle room.

Maybe this weekend was that for him - for me, it was getting a crowd of social issues, all at once, that made me sit up and figure out how to manage social niceties better. (Before that, I was pretty much always up the astronomy tower when I didn't have to be somewhere else.)

Whatever I can do to help, let me know, even if it's just an ear who won't judge. Don't envy you one bit, but, y'know, I'm glad he has you. You care about doing it right.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 18:33:37](#)
(no subject)

I'm not certain, but to wager a guess I'd say he's staying in the castle over the hols, yeah.

You know, when we were kids Evan and I used to try to cruciate each other. It was still forbidden back then, so it was a bit of a thrill to be breaking the rules and all. That and we reckoned it made us stronger, ha. What idiots- we weren't doing it right at all, of course. Anyway, I don't think I'll be telling him that bit of background.

Well, I've been a fourteen year old boy, and at that age you just want to get what you want, and you mope if you don't get it, and weighing risks and costs and being logical is sort of the furthest thing from your mind.

Anyway, I'm not expecting you to sort this out for me. I wouldn't mind your company tonight, though. Would after supper work?




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-22 18:45:27](#)
(no subject)

Ah, see. And I only learned - well, the beginning of the YPL. With one of the more foreboding Aurors I've met. They talked about teaching it my last year here, but nothing came of it, at least in regular classes.

And yes. I don't think fourteen year old girls are that different, either. I wasn't good at the longterm until quite a bit later.

As to tonight, after supper would be lovely. Your place? Mine? There'll likely be students up the tower catching up on assignments a bit.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 18:54:46](#)
(no subject)

Have I put you off? ~~Because there's wor~~ Anyway, it's not something I really ever got a thrill out of using once I'd had proper training, but as Harry is now learning, sometimes it's expected of you.

My place is good, if it's good with you. Don't think there'll be too many students about at that time of evening. 8 or 9 o'clock, say?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-22 19:03:13](#)
(no subject)


Love - I know you've done things you regret. If you still thought that it was a lovely thing to be doing for larks, that would put me off.

But you clearly don't. And haven't for a bit. Or you wouldn't have talked about it above like you did, or had other conversations we've had. Like I said after that first night together: I'm more interested in what you do now than what you did then.

(And there's a bit of me that knows I had a sheltered life, and ... maybe I just missed things that are far more common now? I don't know. It's so hard to tell.)

Your place, 8, then. I look forward to it. (Always do.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-22 19:13:09](#)
(no subject)

It's all quite common amongst the people that matter. Or are collectively thought to matter—which is the same thing, really. The only reason I know any different is because I actually have a far wider social circle than any of them, consisting of former (and current) quidditch players, fry-cooks, cauldron-makers, wand-polishers (not actually a euphemism, in this case), and, lest we forget, one completely gorgeous astronomy professor.

See you at 8.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-25 13:39:53](#)
(no subject)

Burying this in an older reply because.. well, you'll see.

You seen this week's Dish! yet? I didn't get a chance till late last night.

There's a story about us, from an unnamed author who obviously overheard us, that few minutes we had in the hall a week last Tuesday, when the press was here for the champion interviews. Except, I could have sworn there wasn't anyone around just then.

Thank Merlin, it wasn't too revealing, but bad enough. Certainly explains the looks and giggles I've been hearing around the edges for the past two days, though no one's said anything directly. At least


yet.

Blast.

I've been nose deep in work and I've got a complicated set of class preps today. I don't expect to be down for either lunch or dinner, but it's not you, promise.

~~It's everyone else.~~



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-11-26 04:43:01](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I've seen it. I was hoping you wouldn't have done until tomorrow, when we'd have a chance to talk about it in person.

This isn't near as bad as what I've seen (pains me to say), and as much as it sounds condemning and accurate to us, remember that for all anyone else knows, this "anonymous" reporter is just making up what they saw.

We'll sort it out. See you tomorrow, yeah?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-26 04:50:13](#)
(no subject)

Tomorrow, yes.

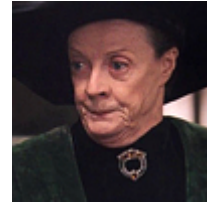
And you're right, that it could be much worse, and there are plenty of people who know how gossip rags work, and how little to trust them.

I think not noticing for nearly two days (because, of all things, I was busy working) is almost worse than having spotted it immediately. Knowing people were talking about it, from the snippets I overheard and didn't make much of at the time.

No one's asked direct, at least yet, though. And I have practiced "We're good friends." in the mirror more times than I care to think of, so it sounds natural.

2011-11-22 10:10:00

Order Only -- The situation.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

Severus will be making his home here, in the castle, for the foreseeable future. He has body-bound Milland, and we have locked him up in the caretaker's old dungeons -- no one uses them anymore. He will be quite happy there: while Severus feels that anything less than Azkaban is luxury, I insisted that he be provided with amusements and creature comforts, and that Severus visit him regularly. (Of course, I doubt those visits will be terribly pleasant for either of them, but that is neither here nor there. Solitary confinement is inappropriate.)

Poppy, you needn't have worried. The object of Polyjuice must be alive for the potion to remain effective. Milland will be safe as houses for the rest of the year, even if Severus grows angry with him.

As for the Polyjuice situation. Severus had brewed a small supply of his own, but not nearly enough for an entire year. We shall have to help him obtain the ingredients, now that the deed is done. Fortunately, the caretaker's rooms are like warrens. I had known that discipline was once stricter at Hogwarts, but I had no idea of the extent of it -- it makes the Lord Protector appear moderate. Once we have cleared out some of the rooms, they will serve perfectly well as Potions laboratories, and I doubt anyone knows that they exist.

Milland's rooms were surprisingly devoid of clues. He is the sort to keep a date-book -- a stroke of luck. Severus was not pleased to discover that he will be expected to entertain both Gwendolyn Acton and Cordelia Carpenter for alternating teas nearly every day of the week. When Milland awakes, I suppose we (Severus) shall know more, assuming he is not an occlumens.


As for Severus' insubordination, we need say no more about it. He and I have worked it out between us and there shall be no more nasty surprises.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-22 15:20:47](#)
Order Only - Private message to Severus Snape

I shall send Poppy down with analgesics, if you like -- I imagine that, sober, you are in quite a state.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-22 17:03:54](#)
Private Message to Minerva McGonagall

Thank you for the update, Minerva. It is good that you sorted things out between the two of you.

I know you have a lot on your plate at the moment, and that you've stated your preferences to not speak of this again, but I must respectfully submit that if Severus is to have a place within this group, a place where more than just Dumbledore and you support him and trust him and his ideas are accepted by others, we will need to think ahead about how best to move forward in a way that will reassure Order members of his worthwhile intentions in this endeavour, and that he is not taking undue risk. He is not the sort to offer apology, but explanation and a bit more transparency are not too much to ask for. I know he's talked to you extensively, but I would suggest that he at least inform the rest of us of his plans as he goes -- and addresses concerns. Some will never come around to him, or will only do so grudgingly, but he's potentially severely damaged his reputation with those that would otherwise be more likely to be accepting, and I'm concerned. I know his actions have taken me aback, and I've been more likely to give him the benefit of the doubt than not since Frank and Kingsley and Sirius first got hold of him.

It would certainly smooth the way a bit with Poppy when it comes to those polyjuice ingredients. She is often better able to see the sense in something once she's aired her grievances and had them properly discussed.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-22 21:55:18](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but what will be done with the man longterm? Can you simply let him go at the end of the? I don't quite see how. That would take one hell of a memory charm.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-22 21:56:22](#)**

Private message to Arthur Weasley

So...do you think she cruciated him? Severus, I mean.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2011-11-22 21:57:17](#)**

Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

I suspect she did. Probably. Unfortunately. I'm not going to ask.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-22 21:57:51](#)**

Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley

Not that he didn't deserve it, the pillock.

Damn. I can't believe I just wrote that. We're supposed to be the good guys.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-11-22 21:55:46](#)**

(no subject)

If you say you're satisfied, Minerva, guess we have to be, too.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-22 23:17:27](#)**

(no subject)

I still cannot believe that he came here intending to ambush Milland and ensconce himself longterm using polyjuice! Exactly how much boomslang and bicorn horn does he imagine we have?! Even the fluxweed is little more than we need for current projects.

And that ignores the issue of holding Milland captive indefinitely.

I know you suspected Milland, but if he was that much a threat and if you're willing to hold him prisoner, why could we not have done that ourselves without Snape's being any part of the bad bargain?

And. A year?! Why should he be here so long? Or if we keep him here that long, why would he consent to leave then? What are his motives? Why does he wish to be here? Did he not have a perfectly serviceable laboratory set up in your house?

I sincerely doubt it's that he was lonely and wished the company of a school full of students and their well harried teachers and staff. He wants my stores and Pomona's crops.

Have either of you given actual thought to this scheme?

Merlin, Mordred, and Morgana, indeed.

2011-11-22 11:13:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

It took him three months. Three months since I stepped down from NRBC and he's created a vacancy - and wormed his way into it.



 [alt_lucius](#)

From the broom trade he gets to Quidditch and from Quidditch it's a short hop to labour and all manner of commerce.

Blast.

~~Feared this would happen when Our Lord insisted~~

To make matters worse, this business with young Pott Marvolo has Our Lord on a tear. Luckily His anger remains directed more toward Minerva than to me but with that conniving, wheedling dog drawing nearer and nearer His throne, shall require careful steps to ensure he cannot contrive a reason to keep me from Court.

There's already talk of some initiative to bring camp administration under one larger umbrella, centralise the lot. Have heard my name mentioned more than once and deflected unofficial nomination, claiming matters of importance to the state.

But. Fudge has been acting oddly lately. Will get to the bottom of that this week.

Still - hope your project is going better than mine at the moment. Trust you realise that much of the deterioration began when you undertook your current task; suggestions on how to maintain your connexions and strengthen the old guard welcome, particularly if, as suspected, you cannot intervene directly to maintain the alliances already formed over this matter.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-11-23 15:20:35**

(no subject)

Lucius.

My project is wrapping me up.

Blast. What I need is a back-dating spell rather than this time-delay

charm. Apologise to have kept you waiting for response.

Installed himself on the Nimbus Board? Dammit. Agree about the trajectory. Need to find a way to block that. NRBC isn't significant in itself. Wonder if Cuthbert couldn't be useful. You have influence there, and his independence from the Court is an advantage in this. Couldn't he find a way to undermine M? Or remove him entirely? (That might be cleanly done, too, by someone as unlikely to be suspected as C.)


Disturbed by what you say about the boy. Where's Rabastan in that? Surely He sees that your influence has lessened since the boy's been at school. It's not the school's Head I'd look to if things are going pear-shaped. Not sure what your experience was, but I can't say I was much influenced by the Headmaster in my day. But I suppose it's well for Raz if He's decided to lay blame above him. Still. I wouldn't trade places with Raz just now.

Now. What's this with Fudge? Haven't seen anything out of the ordinary in Pennifold's dailies.

Re. your last: wonder now whether it's coincidence that Bella has Travers so wrapped up in her project? Always know where her allegiance is, but that may be a our queering point in this case since His purposes are so difficult to read. You need Mordant. Malvasius is no good except as an info conduit through Mord.

As for my project: successful as far as I can measure it, though it's too early to be certain. Not safe by any means.



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-11-23 16:10:41**
(no subject)

Ah, you've not been receiving your post, then?

The Razzer is embroiled in what appears to be a passionate and altogether consuming affair with the Astronomy professor, no less. Presume this has affected his willingness to exert discipline over the boy - if, indeed, Raz ever had any sense of self-discipline to pass on, which I doubt.

Have maintained ties with Cuthbert as you may imagine, as well as all the others. Unofficially. One-to-one meetings prior to and just after each Board meeting. Have had to reverse a couple decisions

just last month (though that was Charles, much easier to accomplish). In honesty it would have been easier to remain on the rolls - but no use whinging. M is not without friends, however. And my hands are somewhat tied as far as how much intervention I may exert without it being detected.

Re: Fudge. No, it's nothing Ned would have detected. Lately he has been less ... convivial, let us say. Not that one cares to spend more time than necessary in his company, though compared to Dolores Still. Between his cooled attitude and a troubling mis-direction of certain documents originating from his office it has made our meetings - challenging. As I said, will correct at least one of the two issues to-morrow. My clerk knows the other is his to remedy.

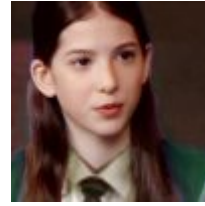
Mordant. Difficult to pry him from Level 13 these days. Gather Bella's latest is of paramount importance and requires constant monitoring. Also difficult to make casual contact without raising notice from undesirable sources. But. Yes. Good.

Any thoughts about covering appearances into the holiday season? How can we assist? Imagine it would not do to create a farce of strategy consisting of multiple comments to the effect that 'You've just missed him' and 'He must be in the other room.'

2011-11-22 14:40:00

This autumn so far

I realised the other day I've hardly written in my journal this year. It's because I've been so busy, of course. But I thought I should set down what I've been up to, because I quite like looking back at old entries.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I'm taking all my required courses this year plus Ancient Runes, Dark Arts, and Care of Magical Creatures. There've been a number of changes, though, because the teachers got a bit moved around after Mr Professor Carrow left. Miss Professor Carrow still teaches Dark Arts, of course, but Professor Brutka (who used to teach Creatures) is teaching Transfiguration, and Professor Grubbly-Plank (who is Susan Bones' aunt, I think!) is teaching Care of Magical Creatures.

I already liked Professor Brutka. He's a foreigner who moved here a few years ago -- I think Draco met him on his trip to France. His English is quite good, though (thank goodness, I had no idea until all the Durmstrang and Beauxbatons students came here just how difficult it could be to understand a heavy accent!) Anyway, I thought I'd miss having him teaching Creatures but I quite like having him teaching Transfiguration and I like Professor Grubbly-Plank quite a lot and she's also an excellent teacher.

I like Ancient Runes in part because we've gotten into quite a bit of historical information. And history really is interesting, when it's not Binns teaching it. Learning about how ancient wizards lived and the earliest developments in magic is really quite interesting, and runes sometimes come in handy even now. (For instance, there's a rune against losing things that I tried inscribing on my book bag and I don't think it's just my imagination that I've had an easier time keeping track of my quills.)

Getting to know students from the other wizarding schools has also been quite interesting. The Durmstrang students are staying in Slytherin, so our common room has been quite full in the evenings. I played some cards with one of the young men from Beauxbatons, Justin Finch-Fletchley -- no language barrier there, fortunately!

The First Task for the Triwizard Tournament was over the weekend. Each of the challengers had to steal an egg out of a dragon's nest. I knew the tasks would be difficult but I didn't know they would be

quite so dangerous. Harry was brilliant! The others, well, everyone got their egg but I thought Harry's way was the most impressive (he used his broom. BRILLIANTLY.) I can't wait to see the second task! (Though I imagine the challengers are glad enough for the gap between tasks, to prepare.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-22 21:04:27](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

My parents can read these. I really ought to write in my diary more often -- publicly, I mean -- but it really has been busy. And my parents can read these, but so can all sorts of people I can't stand (or who scare me

to pieces).



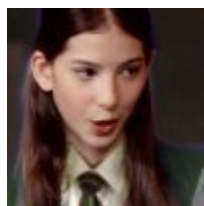
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-22 21:59:35](#)

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

Yeah. You're loads better at writing stuff like this that's safe for anyone to read.

Grubbly-Plank is good, isn't she? I thought it was going to be naff to have a witch teaching Creatures because I figured we wouldn't get to study anything very big or interesting, but Fire-crabs are wizznift and dangerous, too! And it was great how she talked about the difference between crabs' fire and dragons'. Awesome, yeah?

Gotta say, though, I'm thinking I should have dropped Runes. I mean, it's all right, but I don't really see why I need to know this stuff. I thought there'd be more useful ones for protection or for getting back at people or whatever. I mean, after we used that insect Rune on Patil, I thought Runes would be ace. Guess I'm not as interested in that sort of history: how they used Runes for planting and harvesting and attracting mammoths and whatever. Doesn't seem very, I dunno, connected to stuff that's useful to me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 03:17:07](#)


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

You figured a witch teaching Creatures wouldn't want to study anything big or interesting? There are witches who work at the Dragon Preserve with

Charlie, he mentioned that when he spoke to YPL!

I don't know why you don't like Runes. There are all sorts of interesting applications, even for the stuff like repelling mammoths. The most interesting part for me is thinking of ways people without wands could use them. I wonder if people in the mudblood camps pass information about runes around? I mean obviously you can't use a big obvious one but for simple things, I tried the healing one when I had a headache last week just by tracing it on my forehead and it worked. It wouldn't do much if you'd had a limb hacked off but it worked well for headache.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-23 03:32:05](#)

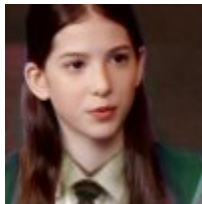
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, yeah. I dunno. I should've figured you'd get all cross if I told you that.

Was it for repelling mammoths? I thought it was attracting, so they could hunt them. Huh. Guess I got that wrong in my essay, then. Probably got most of it wrong.

I got really good marks on my essay for Brutka, though. And I didn't even ask Bundy to look it over. She's not better than me at Transfig, but she always tells me when I say stuff wrong.

So I heard the Durmstrang side were cross about something they said the dragon handlers did with Krum's Fireball. Have you heard them talking about it? Oh. And did you see their Headmaster up in the stands with the Malfoys and all the school governors and Ministry people? During the task. Looked like he was chatting up Mrs Malfoy. Wonder if that'll turn up in the gossip mags?



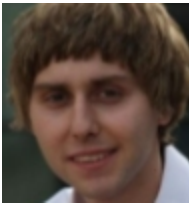
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:10:04](#)


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

I've probably heard them talking about it but I can't understand a word of German so I wouldn't know unless they were talking to the Slytherins about it and I don't think they have been, since they don't want people to be cross or think they were saying something bad about Harry.

I didn't notice their Headmaster during the tasks, I was much more interested in the dragons!

Oh and there were two charms, one for attracting animals you want to hunt, one for repelling animals that might cause problems, and mammoths would be both, wouldn't you think? I'm sure your essay was fine, at least if you remembered to mention the cave paintings, did you remember to mention the cave paintings? She went on about them for most of an entire class last week.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-23 04:05:29](#)
(no subject)

It was jolly fun to play cards, Perks. Thanks again for inviting me, Weasley.

I say, I rather think I've picked up more than a word or two of German, with all the Durmstang students but they do seem a rather serious lot, don't they, what?

Have you been working with Hydra on languages, then? Only I know she and her cousin got hold of a German book at the start of term and I believe you two get on, what?

Those dragons, though - now that I see what sorts of surprises they have in store for the champions, I'm well content to sit on the sidelines and watch, eh! I say, it's bally well for the older ones but I'm well impressed with Marvolo--well, everyone is, of course, coming up with his broom like that--and when Krum didn't even consider it.

Perks, have you someone to walk down to Hogsmeade at the weekend? Only I thought it might be jolly to go with someone who's been before. JP wants to come as well, so you needn't think I'm asking you out, or anything. Well, that is to say--not that one wouldn't. Ask you, I mean. If one wanted to do.

Oh, bother. I've muffed it, haven't I? Well. It's all right if you don't want a couple of foreigners tagging along, I quite understand.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:18:31](#)
(no subject)

Well normally I walk to Hogsmeade with Pansy but you'd certainly be welcome to join us. JP too. Hogsmeade is brilliant, you'll love it.

As far as languages go let me think, what have I learnt to say in German? 'Drachen,' I figured that one out over the weekend. Also 'besen.' Oh and 'hexenmeister,' I quite like that one, it sounds like 'master of hexes' which sounds pretty sorcerous.

I may just be bad at languages. Maybe I should see if Hydra would let me have a look at her book.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-23 05:57:32](#)
(no subject)

'Hexenmeister,' yes, that's 'warlock,' what?

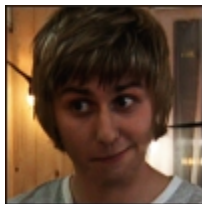
Right, well, perhaps Saturday then? We could meet in the entrance hall, I suppose. Does anyone else usually accompany you? Only that would be fine, I mean, we could all go in a group, do you see.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 06:02:17](#)
(no subject)

Of course it is, I just like that it sounds like what a warlock is, is a 'master of hexes.' It makes it sound like wizardry's all about the duelling.

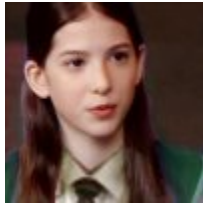
The entrance hall is probably easiest. It's usually just me and Pansy when we set out, though sometimes we fall in with others on the way, it all depends.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-23 13:44:44](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's the way with German, isn't it, what? They have a funny sort of way of compounding loads of words together to make one bally long word that means just what it says.

Saturday in the entrance hall sounds smashing, see you then!



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-23 06:08:41**

Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

I'll actually be at loose ends for part of the time in Hogsmeade, because Pansy and Draco are going for butterbeer and I think they might like to do that on their own, at least if Harry and I can take the hint and find somewhere else to be! They're meeting in Hogsmeade, though. I can show you and JP Zonko's -- Pansy doesn't much care for it (it's where all the jokes and tricks come from) and I don't usually spend my pocket money there, but you'll at least enjoy seeing it, I'm sure, and I don't mind taking you.



 **alt_hydra** at **2011-11-23 04:22:50**

(no subject)

I really like runes and dark arts, too. I'm trying to like arithmancy but it's hard to like something that keeps you up late at night.

I still think that some people might feel that it was a bit cruel to taunt the dragons by raiding their nests, but I suppose if the people who keep the dragons said it was okay, then it must be.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at **2011-11-23 04:39:08**

(no subject)


No, quite right, it's too bad that Krum's method caused the dragon to trample some of the eggs. Aside from the harm to the poor creatures, they're quite valuable, aren't they?

I don't think that was on, rather, since he lost points for it. Though one would think the handlers might have taken that possibility into account, what?

I say, have they told you about the holidays yet? What's planned for those of us who are staying? P Froissart said it was going to be bally marvellous but he wouldn't say just what's to happen.

-Justin

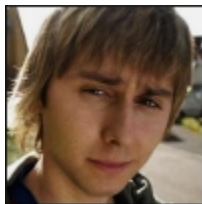


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 04:44:07](#)
(no subject)

Some of the eggs got trampled? I didn't see that. I ~~was trying not to look~~ They are worth a rather lot and yes, the handlers might have thought to put some kind of spell on them so that they would be protected. But maybe you can't do that with dragon's eggs.

I haven't been told much, but there will probably be a feast, because there was for those of us who stayed last year. It's nice to be in the castle at Christmas. I didn't mind it. Maybe I'll see if I can stay here instead of going home this year, too.

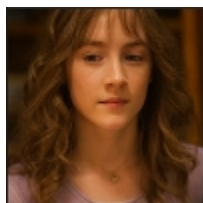
From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-23 04:54:43](#)
(no subject)

Oh, dash it--I haven't upset you or anything, have I? I know you're quite an animal lover.

What is Christmas like here? I've never stayed at school over holidays. My mother always wants me home. That's not possible this year, of course.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 05:00:48](#)
(no subject)


I do like animals, but I'm not upset.

The castle feels quieter, and larger, and you can really explore it if you want. And since it's Christmas it feels cheery and cosy because they put up decorations and play music, and all the fireplaces have great roaring fires. Sometimes you end up talking to people you

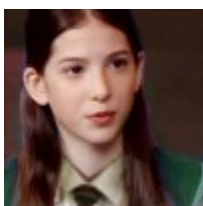
normally wouldn't, too, because there are much fewer people than usual.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-23 13:48:25](#)
(no subject)


Not this year, there won't be! I'll be surprised if *everyone* doesn't stay!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:41:53](#)
(no subject)

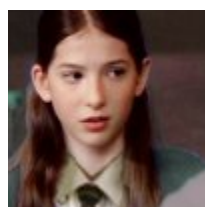
Arithmancy is hard. I looked at Jeremy Stretton's old arithmancy books over the summer, and I thought that with a lot of patience I could probably understand it but in general I'm happy with the classes I signed up for.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 04:45:41](#)
(no subject)

~~You're lucky~~ Yes, it's a very intellectual subject.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:50:31](#)
Private message to Hydra Lestrage

I wish you'd been able to take Creatures. You'd love that class.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 04:51:28](#)
Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrage

I know. Me too.

From,
Hydra



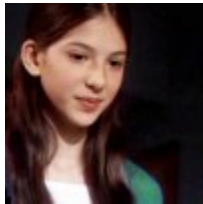
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 04:50:22](#)

private message to Sally Anne

Do you think that Justin might fancy you? He asked you to walk to Hogsmeade which seems something a boy would do if he fancied a girl. But then he said that you needn't think he was asking you out, which I guess means he wasn't.

What a strange way to act. Maybe he's trying to avoid some of those other Beauxbatons boys. I don't think they much like him.

From,
Hydra

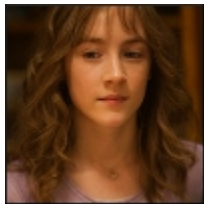


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:52:37](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

When he asked I wondered if maybe he did? I'm not sure if I fancy HIM mind you but it's rather nice to think maybe someone fancies me. At least if he's polite about it, asking me to walk to Hogsmeade with him and not ~~grabbing~~ being a rude git.

But he might just be trying to avoid some of his classmates. Or maybe he thinks if he DID ask me on a proper date people would tease and he doesn't like being teased.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 04:57:12](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

I don't know, if someone fancied you and you didn't fancy them back it might be awkward, too. How could you let them know without hurting their feelings?

I think JP is the only classmate he is friends with, that I've noticed, anyway. Anyway, I suppose you will find out if he meant it as a date or not when you walk to Hogsmeade with him.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 04:59:37](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

I suppose you're right. But maybe if they fancied me I would START fancying them?

I hadn't realised he had so few friends at his school. I wonder if they don't like him because he's English?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 05:05:12](#)

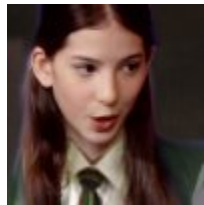
Re: private message to Sally Anne

Maybe? I don't know, no one's ever fancied me before, not that I've noticed.

I'm supposed to try to make Harry fancy me, which is hard to imagine. Him fancying anyone at all, I mean.

I don't know if it's because Justin is English or not. I've seen them with him and it mostly seems as if they just know he'll never fight back, and they get a laugh out of it.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 05:15:32](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

Well, surely he will eventually? Harry, I mean. He's ~~sort of like Ron~~ one of those boys who doesn't seem to really notice that some of his classmates are girls.

What are you even supposed to do? You can't MAKE someone fancy you.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 05:23:45](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

I'm supposed to see to his needs. Not THOSE kind of needs, but I'm supposed to listen to him. He doesn't talk all that much, but men are supposed to need a sympathetic ear at all

times.

Pretty daft, isn't it?

From,
Hydra



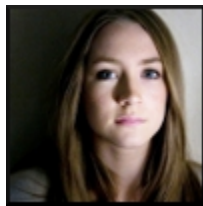
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 05:35:11](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

Everyone likes a sympathetic ear, but how are you supposed to make him talk to you instead of Draco?

I don't know if I'd call it DAFT but

If he doesn't eventually come round and decide to fancy you I hope you don't think it's YOUR fault!



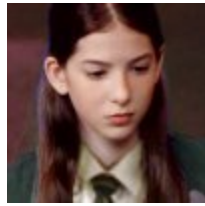
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-23 05:41:41](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

Oh, well, even if it's not my fault it will still be MY fault, if that makes sense. Other people will say that it is my fault.

I don't even know if I fancy him, which makes it hard to make myself try. I like him a lot as a friend, though.

From,
Hydra

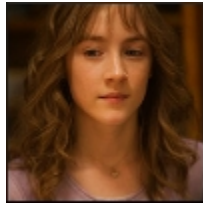


[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-11-23 05:50:59

Re: private message to Sally Anne

That would make it harder.

He is a very nice person and a good friend, at least. It would probably be worse if you were supposed to make someone horrid fancy you.



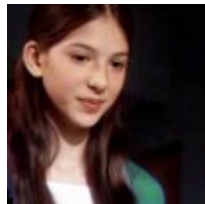
[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-23 05:56:12

Re: private message to Sally Anne

Yes, I know. I really wouldn't mind listening to him, too, if he wanted a sympathetic ear.

From,

Hydra



[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-11-23 05:58:39

Re: private message to Sally Anne

I know. I'm sure he knows that, too.

I wish he at least paid more attention to you. Maybe he will when he gets a little older.

Some boys are late bloomers, that's what they told us in the Sisters in Witchcraft.



[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-11-23 06:09:00

Re: private message to Sally Anne

He's quite busy, as well, especially now with the tournament.

I think all the boys my own age are definitely late bloomers. They're getting taller but can still be so embarrassing. I suppose that's what "late bloomer" means, that you act like a child for longer than you ought.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 06:12:39](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne

Yes, that's the essence of it. Boys take longer to grow (at least most of them do), they take longer to act like grownups instead of little kids, they take longer to get interested in girls than girls do in boys, all of it. And some boys take a LOT longer.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-23 05:59:26](#)

Re: private message to Sally Anne: I

SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I AM UP TO NO GOOD

I wish you could tell your wretched horrible mother to get lost.

I wish you could tell Harry he doesn't deserve you if he keeps ignoring how nice to him you are, and go find yourself a boy in Hufflepuff or Gryffindor who pays attention to you and makes you happy. Someone like Neville. Or Ernie. Or even Linus Moon.

I wish you could be on the lock.

[2011-11-22 21:34:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy



Hey.

I've been thinking the last few days. A lot.

I wanted to say I was sorry. For lots of things. But I wanted to say sorry first for what I said to you when I was angry. That was not on. And I'm sorry for your punishment. And that I didn't listen to you more.

 **[alt_harry](#)**

Because you were right. I messed up. Okay? I made a mistake. It's my fault.

I can't promise anything, but I'm going to try to be better. I'm going to try and make a better impression for other people. Because I don't want either of you punished because of me like that any more. Not if I can do something about it. And I hope you're going to help me.




 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 02:58:59](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks for apologising. The punishment wasn't too bad, though Father hasn't said yet if my essay passes muster.

You've said this sort of thing before. Thought usually only after I've been after you about it. So what makes this time different, if I can ask?



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:06:45](#)**

(no subject)

I don't know. Lots of things.


Being in the tournament for one.

It just seems more important now than it did. You know? And it's only going to get worse. The punishments. And I don't want that.

And yeah, I'd be lying if I didn't say that part of it was having to do it myself.

The crucio.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 03:16:59](#)
(no subject)

I can see that. If it's my father or your father doing it, it's probably easier to distance yourself from the whole thing.

I'll help you make a better impression, though. I suppose you think it will require being a massive prat to everyone, but it doesn't have to be like that, it can be subtle. Like letting people see you give orders to Granger more, both in public and in the journals.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:21:35](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I can see that.

And if we practise writing it and stuff, it'll be easier for her to talk to me the right way when it really matters.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 03:27:12](#)
(no subject)

Another thing you can do, which will probably be quite a bit more difficult, is start to act like the "Harry Marvolo" people expect you to be. Think of it as a role, you know? So that when you're in public you're THE Lord Protector's son, even if the truth is well... not that. I don't mean that you need to be like your father, either. More like, being what people expect.

Like when I have to talk to people who don't really know me all that well, I'm being my father. Sometimes with a dash of Mother thrown in, too, because let's face it, she's better at putting people at ease.



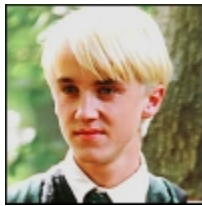
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:35:51](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. I'm not very good at that part.

And I don't know if I really know what people expect me to be.

And different people expect different things.

I guess I could sort out what I want people to expect. Because I don't want them to expect me to be a giant berk. Or someone they ought to be afraid of. Like really afraid of.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 03:38:42](#)
(no subject)

I think they expect you to be a little unknowable. You're above all of them, after all. So you can be kind of mysterious, and that's okay.

Does that sound easier?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:41:04](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. A bit.

And I liked sorting out things with Cedric too. So things would be fair. I wouldn't mind if people think I'm fair.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 03:45:54](#)
(no subject)

~~You should just check with me before you say any~~

Fair is alright. I don't see how people would object to that so long as if more or less falls in line with general attitudes about what fairness should be. And in Diggory's case, you would look like a berk if you ordered him

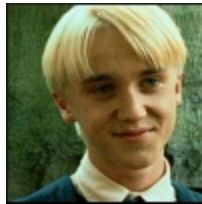
out of the tournament or something. Even my Mother congratulated Diggory and said he was worthy.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:51:39](#)
(no subject)

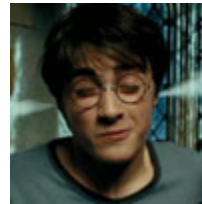
Yeah.


I mean, I'm not going to just up and let him win. But I'd prefer a fair fight.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 03:52:49](#)
(no subject)

Let him win? Hmm. You've got a lot more confident since the first task, haven't you?

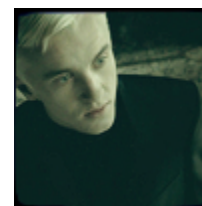



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 03:56:55](#)
(no subject)

Hah!

Maybe.

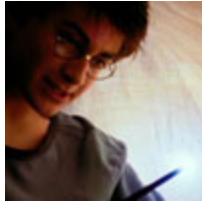
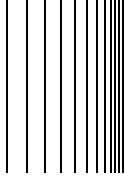
Last I checked, I wasn't doing half bad.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-23 04:09:00](#)
(no subject)

I reckon first place isn't too bad, yeah.

Anyway, I'm almost done in the library. How about a few rounds of portkey in the common room before curfew?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-11-23 04:11:18](#)
(no subject)

Sure.

[2011-11-23 08:48:00](#)

I wish they'd told us

that there was a **BALL** as part of the Tournament back at the start of term!!!



It's going to be amazing, I'm sure! I'm signing up to stay, of course. Anyone else?


 [alt_padma](#)

And **DAPHNE**, I've got this week's *Dish* and--well, you've got to come look at breakfast! You've just got to see it. I can help you with that other project we were discussing, maybe tomorrow evening?

Hogsmeade's this weekend, as well, and I just bet half the visitors will have ball dates by the end of the day Saturday.


This is positively the most exciting thing EVER to happen at Hogwarts! The Tournament's well fun, but really unless you're a champion it's not all that consuming is it? Especially with so much time between tasks. But a **BALL**, well--that's something everyone can enjoy!!



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-11-23 14:01:38](#)
(no subject)

Patil, how did you find out? It wasn't supposed to be announced until later today.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-23 14:03:00](#)
(no subject)

I have my methods, Clearwater. Besides, it's not top-secret or anything is it?

It's fun.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-11-23 14:05:15](#)
(no subject)

All the same, Patil, if someone is gossiping out of turn among the Prefects and telling students announcements before they're announced, that

represents a breach of confidentiality.

It doesn't matter if it's top-secret or not. The point is that it wasn't meant to be out there yet.




 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-23 14:06:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, really. It's not as if it's a big deal. It's a few hours before you were going to tell everyone.

Upset that someone else stole your thunder?




 **alt_penelope** at [2011-11-23 14:07:38](#)
(no subject)

That is not the point at all, Patil. Again.

It has nothing to do with my personal feelings on the matter. The Prefects were told to keep that information quiet for the time being.

Now how did you hear about it?




 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-23 14:10:04](#)
Private Message to Clearwater

There was discussion this morning in the girls' bathroom. And I heard it from one of the French girls almost as quickly as I heard it in Ravenclaw.

It's not a state secret, Clearwater. Give over. You're making a fuss over nothing.

Will Weasley be coming as your date?



 **alt_penelope** at [2011-11-23 14:12:27](#)
Re: Private Message to Clearwater

Well, I've ~~hardly had time to talk to~~

That's none of your business, Patil. And don't

||||| try to distract me from the central point. It does not matter
| what sort of secret it was. It was a secret.



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-11-23 16:27:23**
(no subject)

It is exciting, isn't it? We all suspected, but an eye-witness report certainly does change things!

Though it doesn't particularly help with my pursuit. I've sent owls to all those magazines, *Cut Above* and such, but they've not yet got back to me. Oh, it's so hard to be patient, sometimes!

And yes, I'll be staying. It's not every year we get a ball!

2011-11-23 09:14:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom



How long have you known?

I swear I always thought he didn't fancy blokes.

 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-11-23 19:29:59**

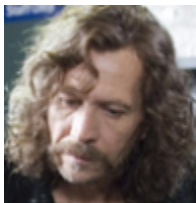
(no subject)

I'd suspected that Remus had a piece missing from him for a while now. He always seemed to be mourning for something, even when he was in school, and I'd hoped Tonks and Bea would give him what he was looking for.

I didn't imagine it was you until this weekend.

And then everything made a good deal more sense.

And now you know too.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-23 19:37:36**

(no subject)

I suppose I convinced myself he couldn't feel the way I did - well, the way I *thought* I did, back then - and then when it looked like he might have been the traitor I just - it made me hate him, ten times worse I reckon, than I might have done otherwise.

But now ... I wish we had that time back. All those years wasted. Can't be helped. We'll have to make up the loss, I suppose.

Do us a favour though and not a word yet? We're all good here, I



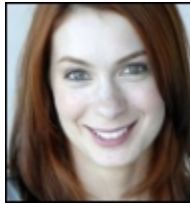
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-23 19:39:24](#)**
(no subject)


Whoops.

I was saying. Dora's fine, we're all working things out together. But I dunno how the others will take it.

We're just a different sort of family, I guess.

I hope.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-23 22:15:35](#)**
(no subject)

Mum's the word, my love.


And as long as you continue to work things out, you'll be fine by me.

It's never perfect in real life, no matter what the storybooks say, so we've all got to find out how we can carve our own way the best we can. And some ways are a bit more roundabout than others.

I hope things will end up better than they have been. For all of you. Because you all deserve happiness, and to be with someone who loves you.

And Sirius Orion Black, you do right by him. Promise me that.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-24 04:23:16](#)**
(no subject)

It'll take the rest of my life, Allie.

Which, really, is fine with me.

Though I don't think you've any idea how much it scares me, that sort of pressure.

2011-11-23 11:25:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

I had no idea that I could feel so happy.



 [alt_lupin](#)




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-23 17:31:42**
(no subject)

It'll wear off. Sooner or later you'll remember how much I irritate you.

You big girls' blouse. You'll start crying in your tea next.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-23 17:33:00**
(no subject)

I probably will.

I haven't felt like this since -- well, since I found the lot of you, really, and could talk again to you, and Alice, and the rest.

2011-11-23 11:26:00

Order Only: Private message to Dora

Are you sure?

I mean, are you sure you're all right with it?

We'll need to talk more and work out everything,
but I

I never wanted to hurt you. And yes. You were right, about everything.



 [alt_lupin](#)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-11-23 19:38:06**
(no subject)

Of course I'm sure. I wouldn't have done it if I weren't.

What. I can't want you to be happy? I do, you know. And you will be. Happier this way. It's actually hard for me to imagine you happy in a simple way, because it's not really how you are. But maybe it's just not how you were. Do you see?

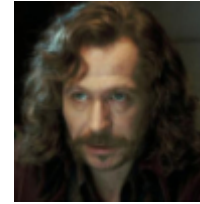
That's all. It's just best. And yes, we'll talk about it. Only maybe not just yet. Or not all of us? I'm not sure.

I'll be home soon. I've done the shopping and been round to see Mrs Filcher about her invoice. I've just stopped off in the square to think a bit, and then I'll be home. Bea's all right, I suppose?

[2011-11-23 12:42:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Dora

It's probably a bit late in asking, but: Are you sure? Because we've talked a bit (yes, there was time for talking) and neither of us wants you to feel uncomfortable with the arrangement.



 [alt_sirius](#)

And I hope you know I'd never have - I mean to say, I never thought I had a chance, anyway, but I never would have forgiven myself if I'd let my feelings come between you two.

I'd just said to him last night, I wish we could all be a proper family. Him and me and Harry and even Hermione and Terry and of course you and Bea, too.

But it's one thing to say you don't care about the bunking arrangements and another to actually live that way. We don't want you to leave but we don't want you to regret staying, either.

And there's another thing:

Thank you.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-23 19:42:43](#)
(no subject)

It's not just a bit late, it's a bit insulting.

I'm not running off, you know. Bea and I are staying right here. And we're going to keep working out how to be a family. That hasn't changed.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-25 03:27:30](#)
(no subject)

Bugger all. Yeah, I know; I've muffed it already, haven't I?

What was I trying to say. You. And Bea. You're important. You're ... *pack*. That probably makes no sense. It's easier being Padfoot sometimes. I know you think I make a better dog than ~~person~~ nanny, anyway.

But the thing is, Padfoot sometimes sees things much more clearly than I can when I'm completely human-formed. Less ambiguity, if that makes sense. That's why I was him most of the day. Clears my head.

And this place. No, it wouldn't be right without you and Bea here in it, making it work. I wasn't - I didn't mean it like you might do a runner or anything. I meant ... I meant that there was no question in my mind that you'd be a part of whatever happens next, whereas the others, I dunno if that's just a dream or not. But you're already here, and *of course* you'll continue to be, regardless of whether Harry or anyone else eventually moves in to join our family or not. Or I hope you *would* be, at least.

Only, like I said - no, forget what I said. I'm a prat.

[2011-11-23 16:56:00](#)

Private Message to Sally Anne

I've got something to show you after dinner.



 [alt_pansy](#)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2011-11-24 05:41:09](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you, Pansy, they're LOVELY. Those were the dress robes I tried on that day, weren't they?

My old robes got utterly ruined at the Quidditch World Cup. I probably could have gotten them clean and repaired them but I couldn't even stand to look at them after. I think I threw them away, and tried not to think about the fact that we were told to bring dress robes this year because we'd need them. I spent about three hours this afternoon wondering if there was ANY way to persuade Mrs Stretton to send me something (and thinking there was probably no way and I'd be better off seeing if Professor Sinistra could help me -- not that I'd want to bother her today, did you hear everyone talking about that article in the gossip magazine? how do you suppose they found out about her and the Razzer? Everyone suspected but they've been very careful not to ever say anything in front of students that would settle the matter.)

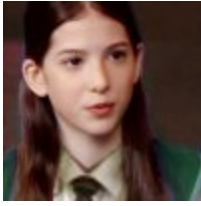


 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2011-11-24 06:15:02](#)**

(no subject)

Yes! The ones at Malkin's this summer. You just looked so pretty and happy in them, I couldn't not get them for you, could I? I've wanted to give them to you for ages and ages, and I'm so glad you like them.

And I did hear! I mean, I'd suspected for a while, what with all the PMs back and forth between them, and it really is quite sweet, and good on her, but I'm sorry it got spread around in a gossip rag like *Dish!* instead of having them tell people on their own terms.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-24 06:30:07](#)
(no subject)

They're two of my favourite teachers so I'm happy for them but I agree, it's too bad it got spread around in Dish. It's annoying enough being gossiped about by cows like Patil, never mind the whole Protectorate nosing in.

2011-11-23 20:47:00

Order Only -- Dear Order Members.

I have been told I must be more 'accessible.'



Therefore.

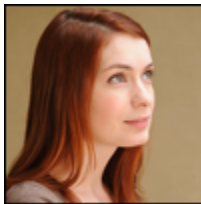
- No one is properly dealing with Harry. He requires closer mentorship. Be silent, Black; you do not count as a 'mentor.'
- I had no access to proper information, or proper ingredients, at Minerva's home.
- We require someone other than Minerva in contact with the highest echelons. Entirely too much pressure is upon her.

 [alt_severus](#)

Finally,

- I discovered to-day while having lunch with Ms. Acton that she has been sniffing around about 'anti-Protectorate Youths.' I was able to tell her that none of the Weasleys have, to my knowledge, been anti-social, though they *are* high-spirited.

I hope you shall see my purpose now.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-11-24 02:08:44**

Private Message to Severus Snape

Thank you, Severus.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-11-24 04:25:45**

(no subject)

The highest echelons of what, pray tell?

As for ingredients and other resources, when you asked to be supplied, you were supplied. Do not think that your being on site here will make it any easier to share limited supplies of the materials we have. Or that you will have higher priority than you had previously. If anything, being present and a present source of annoyance may make certain of us less inclined to magnanimity.

I trust your lunch with Gwen Acton was reward enough for making what was the obvious responsible reply to her malicious politicking. Did you wish a medal or a chest to pin it on for behaving with common decency?

As for Mr Marvolo, one wonders what you can hope to accomplish.

For starters, you've not chosen the most promising cover identity for establishing a connection with him. Unless you intend to dun him with endless detentions. And I have little hope that would be a strategy for winning his favourable attention.

Beyond that, I will confess to you, Severus, that you are very nearly the last person I would wish to see mentoring the boy. I cannot think of even one trait you've shown us that would recommend you for the task.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-24 04:29:39](#)**
(no subject)

Any other day, Snape, I'd tell you exactly what you could do with your sage commentary.

Lucky for you, it's today.

As for 'dealing with' Harry, there you're wrong. He'll go where he likes for 'mentorship' and advice, whether you've foisted yourself onto Hogwarts or not.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-11-24 17:48:44](#)**
(no subject)

I'm grateful to you for putting in that word for my children, Severus. Thank you.

2011-11-24 12:26:00

ORDER ONY: Private Message to Nymphadora Tonks



 [alt_alice](#)

Tonks;

I've been rather putting my oar in it recently, haven't I?

When I talked to Remus a few days ago I'd no idea what sort of Pandora's box we were opening up. All I knew was that he was feeling sad, and as if he was letting you and Bea down, and I wanted to help.

And now

Well, an awful lot has come out of it, hasn't it?

I'm still processing everything, and it's all from a distance, and Sirius is the only one I've really heard from and Merlin knows how he tends to muddle things when he's wrapped up in something, so I'm still unsure of all that's happened. But I wanted to check in with you and see how you're doing. And tell you that I know I've been a giant busy body, but that you are a dear friend, and I can't imagine what all this must be like for you, and that if you'd rather I left well enough alone, I'd understand, but I do hope you'll believe me when I say that I want the best for all of you.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-11-24 22:57:38**

(no subject)

Oh, Alice.

I got a little teary when I saw you'd written me, and it's silly- no, stupid, really. I just. Since you were here, and I knew you'd talked to Remus, and then you and Sirius were writing-

I'm all right, I think. I mean, I did all this myself didn't I? I can hardly blame anyone else if it's not coming out the way I think it should. And it is, really. I do think this is what's needed.

And the thing is it might never have happened if it was down to either of those two facing up to what's between them. Each of them's

been a bit of an idiot about it all. And then after Sirius went off and left, I realised I was going to have to do something about it or they'd both just go on being miserable and not seeing how to fix it.

Only that's not quite right, either. It's not as though I've realised all of it for very long, though when I did realise, I was thinking it was going to have to come down to me because of Bea and the marriage and all of those things that make it seem as if nothing could be done.

But then you did come, and I knew Remus had talked with you and guessed he might've realised some things himself, and then you and Sirius-

I- then I thought really I needed to be sure that I was the one who did something about it, because if they did come to it by themselves, where would that leave me?

That's not quite the right way to say it, maybe, but it's nearly it. Do you see?



 **alt_alice** at [2011-11-25 04:52:04](#)

(no subject)

I do.

I was wondering how much you knew and when you knew it, because really, he knew so very little about

himself.

And I very much understand wanting things to happen on your own terms. Darling, no one can fault you that.

It also explains why things ended up happening so blasted quickly. I thought it'd be ages before he'd make up his mind about what would be best, and, honestly, I didn't know what he'd end up deciding. But I was hoping he'd come round to talking to you in his own time, which is why I figured it was something you had the right to hear from him rather than me.

So it just seems as if you helped him make up his mind a bit. Gulping down the potion in one go, right?

I am so sorry, Tonks love. It's a hard thing to discover about someone you love, and harder still to be a grown-up about it and try to sort out

what would be best for everyone despite it all.

You've said things are turning out in the way you'd like. Are they? Really and truly?

One of the things I talked to Remus about was the balance between compromise and happiness, and how he was only concentrating on one rather than both. And I would hate for you to sacrifice your own happiness in turn.

There aren't any easy answers to this, bur I do know that Bea has a mum and dad who love her more than anything (as well as two rather devoted god parents), and that's a good place to start, isn't it?

Oh dear. I'm not sure if I'm being any help at all.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-11-25 13:56:52](#)**
(no subject)

I've known, well, more or less for a while. No. I'm not sure. Obviously I knew we weren't like you and Frank and haven't been, really, ever. I mean, there's Bea, and we did have a while there when it was lovely to be alone and together, but more because it felt so much then as if we were, really, alone together in the world.

Anywiz, I've known always, I think, that there's a place in him that's just empty and couldn't be filled up or made right. It's one of those things, you know, that I found sweet about him, but that's silly, too. It's the way women get into these things, isn't it? I should've known or, I don't know, at any rate, I shouldn't have made up reasons for it that weren't true.

But there it is. We made a family together, but we wanted more than that. Both of us do. And it was so obvious Sirius needed to be here, and it was, well, it was more complicated than I thought, but still, it was right. And, I don't know when I began to guess it. It was loads of things. The way Padfoot follows Remus around and asks him for scratches, sort of presses into him and looks up. The way he always finds where Remus is and curls up beside his chair in the office or behind him while he does the washing up or with his nose just beneath his chair if Remus has a sit to visit with a table of customers in the beer garden. There's this little sigh Pads gives when he settles right there, close by him.

And Remus. You should see his face when Sirius comes in. Or when he changes from Padfoot.

Here. Maybe I can describe it this way. There's been a group of young people who've come in the evenings sometimes, and we got to know that they were plotting how one of them could run away with her girlfriend because Tamora's a muggleborn, and that means she can't ever have a relationship or do anything at all unless her owners allow it, and they wouldn't have. For lots of reasons, I think. But the thing is, I was visiting with them and just the way Rachel looked at her stuck with me. It was- I don't know that I've ever looked at anyone that way. I mean, I look at Remus like some dear thing I need to be looking out for. Do you know?

And I didn't think about it, really. Until Sirius left us. Just after the moon. (And, yes, now I know why, but I didn't then. I don't think that matters, actually.) But see, then I saw it in Remus. How he looked just lost about his being gone. And one morning all of a sudden I realised that when Remus looks at him, he has that sort of look. The kind that shows he really sees the other person like no one else does and that the other person makes him feel right like no one else in the whole world can. I can't describe it any better than that, but I thought about Sirius and knew right away that it's the same for him and that I knew that much a long time ago, really. Not that he was in love with Remus exactly, but that Remus was sort of his anchor to the past and now, too. Sirius is so changeable, you know, so likely to run off if anything gets too much or if there's something else that catches his attention, but Remus is the one who keeps him tethered so he doesn't just fly off altogether. I think. And, you know, Remus can settle him just with a look.


Oh, I don't know.

Sirius is the one I'm worried I can't predict, and I really want to feel sure of them. Only- that night after I'd done it and there was no taking it back, I realised that I wasn't the one who could say, 'please come back, we want you here', anymore because that's not my place now, and I don't know that they'll want me to stay. I mean, they both feel they should say so right now, but really, I don't know. I wanted us all to be together, so I thought- no, see, that's what I didn't think through. I wanted us all to be a family because we weren't really a JUST-US kind of family anyway. We kind of need to gather other people in, but they won't need that in the same way.

And they might want to just be together and not have all these extra people about. Especially not have me about. Or a fussy baby.

But that's not fair. They're both really devoted to Bea, but still- I mean, they really just want to be together right now, and I understand. I do. But it scares me, too. Because I'm not sure I fit here anymore, and this--Laszlo and the Order and Remus and Bea and Sirius and the people we can help--all this is what I want so much, I can't think what I'll do if I lose it.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-11-25 15:59:10](#)**
(no subject)

I can see how they might be all wrapped up in each other right now. They've got a lot of lost time to make up for, and I suppose each one feels responsible for why it has been such a long time coming, and guilty about the hurt it has done to you as well.

Living at Moddey for as long as I have, I've come to really treasure what we have. Yes, it's a lot of work to make sure everyone gets along, and when people disagree, it's always a tad awkward because we all know they have to sort it out -- they can't just walk away. And what I have isn't quite the same, mind, but it is built on trust, and above all, communication. Our adults have a meeting every day after dinner, and over the years, we've all decided on the rules and the way we want things run. And the most important part of that is that everyone has a voice in that.

I think you and Remus and Sirius are still exploring what that will look like.

I can see how you might feel as though you're in danger of being pushed to the side, and how terrifying that might be. And how rather than letting Sirius come to stay because both you and Remus needed him, everything's changed up on you, only you're wondering if they need you like you needed him.

It's all so very new, but I have every faith that if you keep talking -- if you let them know what you're worried about, and make sure that when decisions are made about things that matter that you're a part of it, sort out some ground rules between the three of you, that'll be a good start.

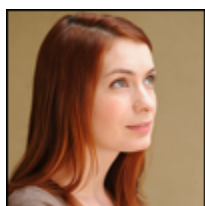
And you're not going to lose the Order. Or Bea. And although things are a bit up in the air with the rest of it all, I admire you so much for not throwing up your hands and walking away from it all. If it really truly does matter to you, then it is worth sticking around for. And if it comes from a place of love (and I have no doubts on that front, Tonks dear), then I have every hope in all of you.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-25 18:02:25](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Alice. This really helps. Only it's all so new, I don't think any of our heads have stopped spinning.

We're all being very, very polite to one another, too, which feels strangely wrong. No teasing, even, just so there can't be any misunderstandings or accidents where feelings get hurt. Because, of course, the first day, Sirius did rather step on my feelings and I didn't answer very well, and I think we've realised we should just talk and not write because it's so very hard to be sure someone will hear what you write the way you meant it.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-26 01:09:51](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear.

And I'm sure that will wear off in time. Merlin knows Sirius can't help himself when it comes to that sort of thing, and I'm sure once he's more comfortable, he'll be right back to his old self again. Also, colour me completely unsurprised that Sirius put his foot in his mouth. He gets so far ahead of his own thoughts sometimes.

And that's rather wise -- to talk in person. I know that when Neville writes me a letter, I just read so much into everything.

This is going to sound rather odd, but while we're in a sharing mood, I might as well...

I've noticed that both Remus and Sirius call you Dora. Just in our conversations and things, and in their messages to you as well. And I've been calling you Tonks this whole time, and I know you

haven't said anything to me about it, but it'd be rather hard to stop someone calling you something when they've been doing it for ages and ages without it getting downright embarrassing.

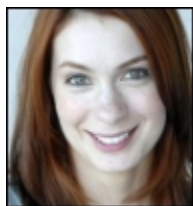
But if I've got it wrong, and you'd prefer Dora, you know all you have to do is say so. I'd truly rather feel briefly ridiculous for calling you something you'd rather not be called this whole time rather than keep doing it and wondering if I'm causing offence. Or if it's just a familiarity of sorts, one for just you three I understand completely.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-26 21:00:02](#)
(no subject)

Names are funny, aren't they? Except when they're awful, of course--I've always hated Nymphadora, you know. I took terrible teasing about it in school because someone thought it was clever to put it about that it meant I was a nymphomaniac. Ugh. Mind you, there was teasing about my surname, too, because of my father. But I never minded that as much. In fact, I've been thinking about names again--as you do when you're splitting up a marriage. Of course, Ponds isn't a real name, anyway, and I've never gone by Lupin.

I like that you call me Tonks, actually. And I rather wish the others would. Not my relatives, of course. They never would, but that's rather the point. It's a tie to my father and mother, isn't it? And it's really the only thing I have of theirs to remember them by. And now I'm back to being my own person, well. That's who I'd like to be.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-26 22:09:29](#)
(no subject)

Well, good. Tonks it is then. I'm glad that's settled, because it'd been bothering me, and I wasn't sure at all how to bring it up.

I saw that Hydra wrote you. Have you managed to sort out what that's all about yet?



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-11-27 02:17:06](#)**
(no subject)

We're really rather at sea about what Bellatrix wanted in coming, but whatever it was, she made out as though it was all about whether she could allow Hydra to visit and not be corrupted by our filthy hovel.

And, well. I'm calling her bluff. If she says Hydra can come, it will be lovely to have her visit. She seems a nice enough girl, and I'd like to see for myself. And, of course, if Auntie Bella won't let her come, then fine. She can tell Hydra whatever ridiculous thing she wants to about us and that will be that.

[2011-11-25 10:58:00](#)

Lav, Parvati, it's

incredible!

Davies asked me to go to Hogsmeade with him!

And I was right, loads of people are already lining up to ask one another about the ball.

Oh, but I've also got loads of homework to do over the weekend. Is anyone else really torn about their Charms essay? I can't decide between theories behind Warming charms or the charms to change objects' size (like making a bag bigger on its inside). But if everyone's doing the one, I don't want to do that, too.

Still. I suppose I can worry about that Sunday.



 **[alt_padma](#)**



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-11-25 16:11:12](#)**
(no subject)

Good for you on having Davies ask you, Padma! I'm sure you'll have the most smashing time.

Now, did you see I got four owls this morning, all laden with packages? It's the back issues I requested from all those magazines I wrote to. They made me pay for them, of course, but that's fine. Anyway, I know you'll need to work on charms, but if you and Lav want to spend some time helping me to go through these, I wouldn't say no to the assistance!

2011-11-25 11:11:00

Private message to Pansy

So did you see Padma has a date for the Yule Ball ALREADY? She certainly doesn't waste time.



 **alt_sally_anne**

Why do you suppose Daphne's suddenly obsessed with old gossip magazines? I thought maybe her parents had sent her a hamper of treats when those owls turned up this morning but it was all magazines.

Are you and Draco going to have your butterbeer at the Three Broomsticks tomorrow or are you going to Puddlifoot's or somewhere else? I was thinking I'd take Justin and JP to Zonko's for a bit, not that I'd waste my money on that rot but they're boys and they ought to at least have a look. Though if Justin buys stinkbombs he'll be walking by himself back to Hogwarts. We'll probably head to Three Broomsticks after, but we'll give you two a wide berth unless you wave us over. (So don't wave unless you WANT us, if that's where you end up.)



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-25 17:28:29**
(no subject)

(If you were meeting someone else I'd suggest a signal like, 'napkin out of sight means we're having a lovely time, don't bother us; napkin on the table means COME SAVE ME.' But it's Draco, you won't need extra company.)

Beware of Miles Bletchley, I swear he spent all of breakfast looking at you like he was thinking about trying his luck (asking you to the Ball, I mean). He won't have the nerve to ask you in front of a group so you can avoid letting him catch you alone if you don't want to have to turn him down flat. (Or maybe you'd enjoy just turning him down flat? If you were going to have to go to the Ball with him I could always lend you my rat to bite him if he started letting his hands wander. Although he might treat you with a bit more respect -- though when you're his DATE, who knows?)

The boys are SO FUNNY, I have to say, half of them are looking utterly poleaxed and looking at girls suddenly like they can't decide whether to ask us on a date or vomit at our feet.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-26 00:51:00](#)
(no subject)

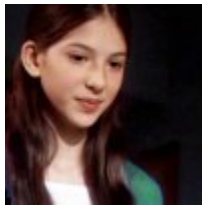
Ugh. Letchley. He is so *gross*. As if I'd give him the time of day.

I think if he did ask me out, I'd probably laugh right in his face. How stupid can boys be? Like he wouldn't know I hated him because of how awful he was with you. I would rather go alone than with him.

And it is awfully funny to watch them turn all red. Honestly.

Do you think Justin will ask you to the ball? I mean, he sort of went on and on about how Hogsmeade wouldn't be a date and all, but in a way that meant it might be, mightn't it?

Is there anyone you *want* to ask you? I wonder if Ron



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-26 05:19:17](#)
(no subject)

Letchley really is vile, isn't he?

As for Justin he went to SO much trouble to make it clear we were NOT going on a date to Hogsmeade he'd look a bit foolish if then WHILE we were in Hogsmeade not on a date he asked me to go to the Yule Ball. I'm not sure how much he minds looking foolish. But I don't think he actually fancies me, I think I'm just one of the people he feels comfortable with.

~~I wish~~ I almost don't mind who I go with, it would just be nice if someone asked me. (Who isn't Letchley. Not that he would. He would never want to go on a DATE with a half-blood.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-26 05:28:53](#)
(no subject)

Anyway I was thinking today about boys in our year and who might ask who. I can't imagine any of the boys in Slytherin asking me out. Even Greg isn't so dense he hasn't heard I'm a half-blood. He rather

fancies Milli, I think, but since she's also a half-blood I guess we'll have to wait and see what happens?

Teddy is one of those boys that really ought to be eligible but he's so creepy! He wasn't so bad when we were firsties and he seemed rather sweet but he just gets creepier every year. He's got the Best Sort of Family, with a father on the council and all, but. Anyway, I think he ought to ask Ginevra Weasley. She's so obsessed with being Not Like The Rest Of Them and with her modelling and all she's almost respectable. Teddy has the respectability she wants, and she's a pureblood who might not turn him down flat (can you imagine Belinda or Morag going anywhere with him? or Parvati? or LAV? Not a chance!)

Vince ought to ask Morag, she's clever enough for two and she's so clumsy she'd fall over her own feet and won't want to dance any more than he will. Don't you think they'd make a good couple? Not PERMANENTLY but for the dance.

Seamus Finnigan ought to have asked Patil, but since he didn't he ought to take Su Li. After all they've both done their best to crawl up Patil's arse, figuring that if they kiss up enough everyone will forget they're half-bloods.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-26 15:46:39](#)

(no subject)

I'm sure you're going to get to go even if you don't have anyone who's asked you.

But you ought to. I mean, you're sweet, and smart, and pretty, and you're not stuck up at all. Besides. We have plenty of friends who are boys, so we don't get all giggly and stupid around them like some of the girls in our class. I'm sure someone will ask you.

I think Teddy and Ginevra would certainly be an interesting pair - I wonder if he really likes anyone at all. I'd almost feel bad putting the idea in his head. We ought to put the idea of taking Milli in Greg's head, though, because he'd never think of it himself, and it'd be awful if no-one asked her.

And Vince is tall, and as long as he doesn't open up his mouth at all, I'd see how he'd fill out dress robes and look a lot older than

everyone else.

And Hah! Seamus is the biggest brown-noser I can imagine. Do you remember second year when she kept making fun of me for being friends with you and Ron and Neville, and now she's got this giant flock of half-bloods who just follow her around like sheep? It's hilarious. I'm not sure he'll ask Su Li -- I mean they are in the same crowd and all, but he's always trying to better himself. Maybe he'll ask Ginevra? I'd bet she'd turn him down so fast.

Who would you just *die* if they up and asked you? I mean, Cedric Diggory is quite fit, isn't he?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-26 16:04:57](#)
(no subject)

Well, we'll see if anyone asks me. I think most of the pureblood boys will want a pureblood girl and most of the halfblood boys will want a girl who isn't in Slytherin. (And then there are the boys who don't care about blood status OR girls.)

I'd mostly feel bad putting that idea in Teddy's head because of how cross it would make Ron. She is still his sister, even if she's even worse than Percy was. Though I'm not sure he'd be any happier to have her go to the Ball with Seamus! I bet she'd turn him down for being a half-blood though.

I think I'd just die if ANY Of the older boys asked me (who wasn't someone horrid, I mean) -- Cedric Diggory really is fit. He's barely said two words to me since that time first year when I organised AK, though, so if he fancies me he's hidden it really well.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-26 17:57:09](#)
(no subject)

Oooh, if Ptolemy Baddock were still around, I know he'd probably ask someone else, but he's just so distinguished, I think I would have honestly died if he up and asked me. And Victor Krum is quite intense too, isn't he? I mean, we haven't really

||| | been able to see him from the flocks and flocks of girls who are always around him. I wonder who he'll ask?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-11-26 00:45:21](#)**
(no subject)


I *know*! And then bragging about it where everyone can see. For someone who's a giant prude, she certainly doesn't have much discretion.

And I've no idea why she's got all those magazines. We ought to ask her. I bet she'd tell if we asked.

Yeah, we're headed to the Broomsticks. I'm fairly sure he knows me well enough to know I'd just vom if we went to Puddlifoote's.

Justin and JP ought to get a kick out of Zonko's. If they seem to really like it, we ought to introduce them to the twins, yeah? But yes, I'll wave you lot over if it seems like it'd be a good time for a crowd. He's been rather down lately because of that deal with Harry and all, and I'm not sure if he'd be up for a whole crowd. But you never know.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-26 05:09:30](#)**
(no subject)

I thought she was all worried last year what her parents would think? Maybe they won't mind if it's the YULE BALL. Will they even let us in if we don't have dates?

Anyway I won't bring them over if you don't wave. I'm not surprised Draco's feeling down. I think he likes Justin well enough but he's not someone he's known for years, either.

2011-11-25 11:14:00

Growing up

I can barely believe it, but Albia will be six months old next Wednesday. Six months! She surprised us yesterday: she was sitting up in her cot when we checked on her. We knew she could roll herself over--and doesn't that make changing her exciting!--but rolling and then sitting up is new.



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

Junius worries she'll be pulling up and then toppling out before we know it, and he might be right. She can pull up if you let her hold your fingers while she's sitting with you. And she likes standing up that way and going up and down on her toes. She thinks that's very clever, and laughs and laughs if someone comes and makes faces at her while she's doing it.

I worry I'll miss one of these new things while I'm working, but I suppose it's still new whenever I see it for the first time. And Bea really does seem so pleased with herself when she learns something new. It makes us all feel silly with happiness.


I guess that's what's so good about babies. They have a way of putting everything else in a better frame, so other things can't seem too serious or heavy. Really, just one laugh or nose wiggle from Bea can set everything else right.

I looked back in my book and was surprised to see how long it's been since I've written here. And now the holidays are nearly upon us. We're hoping that maybe cousin Hydra will be able to come for a visit during her school hols, though we've heard rumours the Tri-Wizard tournament might change the schedule for Christmas hols this year. We read in the Prophet about the first task and were amazed by the pictures of the dragons. Goodness, it must be ever so exciting at Hogwarts with all that going on.

Our shop is keeping us busy, and I imagine the holidays will have things buzzing soon. We've a good selection of baking supplies again this year and some nift new gadgets to help with kitchen work. Lots of clever gift items as well. So do stop in and see us at Laszlo's.

That's all I can think to say, except that I hope everyone we know is well and happy.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-26 16:52:14](#)
(no subject)

Hello,
I would like to come for a visit, if my family will allow me to. There is a ball this year and I don't think I have to stay at the castle, but it sounds like most other people are. Third years can't go to the ball unless someone older invites them, so I don't know if I'm going yet or not.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-26 19:02:01](#)
(no subject)

A ball sounds exciting. And terrifying at the same time.

As for your visiting, we'd love to have you come if you're able, and there's no need to make definite plans about it until all the other questions are sorted. I'll send an owl to your mum and dad, though, to let them know we'd enjoy having you if it's possible.

How is this term going? And what did you think of the first task? I expect it was amazing to see.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-27 02:21:43](#)
(no subject)

I've already been sent a lot of dress robes, so I think people might be expecting me to go, or to try to.

~~Are you certain~~ Oh, well, didn't Mummy come to see you for tea? Maybe she would want to have tea again, or, since Rigel was able to meet Bea, maybe it's only fair if I get to meet her, too.

It was very exciting, only it's too bad some of the dragon eggs were smashed. I can't help but feel that someone might have thought about that happening and tried to prevent it. Harry Marvolo did a very good job, though, and so did the rest of the champions.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-27 02:25:32](#)
(no subject)

I didn't realise you might need more than one set of dress robes for a single evening! Are you expected to change between dances, then? Is it the sort of ball where you dance all evening with a date or do you ~~have to try to~~ dance with all different people even if you come with someone? I suppose there will be a feast first? Hogwarts was always so beautiful at the holidays and the food was always better then, too. Or maybe I just remember it that way now. Memory's a funny thing. I'm sure I didn't like school as well then as I think I did now I look back at it.

Yes, your mum and Rigel came to visit us, and I know Rigel had a lovely time: he kept us amused all through tea watching him with Bea. Bea liked him much too much. When she gets older, I'm going to have to forbid her to run after him or she'll get her heart terribly broken!

That's a shame about the dragon eggs. The paper mentioned that, and I agree, something could surely have been done to safeguard against it. I suppose it's not surprising that Harry Marvolo did so well: he's obviously a terrific Quidditcher--youngest ever on a school team, wasn't he? And very clever to have thought to use his broom for the task!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-27 04:29:46](#)
(no subject)

I don't need more than one set, I think I'm supposed to choose the one that looks best on me. But I'll have to ask someone to help me decide, because I really don't know.

I hadn't thought much about the dancing, either. I suppose some people might want to dance with just one person, and others might want to dance with different people? There will surely be some kind of feast first, I should think. And the decorations might be more festive than ever.

I'm not surprised Bea liked Rigel. Almost Everyone does.

They all did very well. I'm not sure what I would have done, if I had to face the task and get around a mama dragon. Everyone did something little different, so there might be solutions that even the champions didn't think of.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-27 14:15:08](#)

Private Message to Hydra Lestrange

Are you hoping to go to the Ball? Only you sound a bit unsure. Is it just that you're expected to go?

I think you're right about the dragons. There probably are other solutions that none of the champions tried, but which could work for another person if they were facing down an angry mama dragon and had to get by. I expect you would find your own way to do it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:27:45](#)

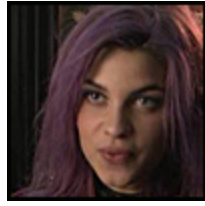
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrange

Hi. I'm sorry I didn't answer before, I was waiting for some time to pass.

Some people were expecting me to go with Harry Marvolo to the Ball, but he likes somebody else. So, he won't be asking me.

Another boy asked me instead, his name is Justin Finch-Fletchley and he is British, only he lives in France and attends Beauxbatons.

From,
Hydra



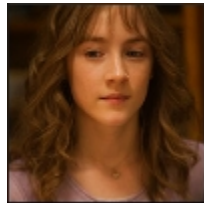
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-29 03:38:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Well. It's nice to be asked, I'd think. Is this Justin someone you'd want to go to the Ball with?

You don't sound as if you mind too terribly about not going with Harry Marvolo. Or do you?

You don't have to answer that if you'd rather not. Sometimes I just ask things that pop in my head when, really, it might be better to hold back, but then maybe you'd like someone to talk with who doesn't have any expectations you have to worry about at all.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:48:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

I'm happy to go with him, he's very well-mannered and is interesting to speak with. It feels like he takes time to carefully make sense of everything a person says, before he responds back. I think he might notice things. Be observant, I mean.

I don't really mind, and not because I don't like Harry, but because it wasn't really my idea for us to go together. It wasn't his idea, either.

Talking to someone without expectations is nice, yes. I used to have someone like that, but he's gone now.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-11-29 13:46:53](#)**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

That all makes good sense.

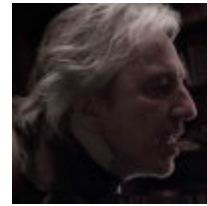
I'm sorry if you've lost a friend. I know how it is to really miss someone you could depend on and really talk to without worrying you'd be misunderstood. It's hard when things change.

Maybe this Justin will turn out to be a good, thoughtful friend. Or maybe he'll just be a fun person to go with to the Ball.

2011-11-26 09:22:00

Order Only -- Owls.

If most of you had given the matter even five minutes of thought, it would have occurred to you that my nose is no longer in any way distinguished. Owls addressed to the 'big-nosed berk,' therefore, will go unanswered. Continuing to send them will only frustrate the owls involved, and cause unpleasant scenes at the breakfast table.



 **alt_severus**

I am settling in.

Madam Pomfrey, if you require a brewer for Pepper-Up potion or any similar draught, you need only apply to me. I realise that Horace Slughorn undoubtedly finds the task beneath him, but I do not. Milland complains of lumbago in his journal, which should be excuse enough for you to visit.

Miss Granger. It occurs to me that since there has been some question of whether you should truly be observing all of Mr Marvolo's classes, a request that you aid another during those hours might be granted. If you would like to receive some tutelage in potions-making, I am led to believe that you are not as large an idiot as the average fourteen-year-old witch and therefore might benefit from it. I shall formally request your assignment to me on a part-time basis.

I have not yet met with Milland's superiours and do not know when I will be asked to do so.

Finally. I have put my notes in order at last. There has been no breakthrough in the case of the blood magic. The animagus transformation, thus far, appears to be the only method of successfully erasing the runes.



 **alt_severus** at **2011-11-26 14:33:48**

Order Only -- Private message to Alice Longbottom and Minerva McGonagall

He does have his mother's eyes.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-11-26 14:36:26](#)

Re: Order Only -- Private message to Alice Longbottom and Minerva McGonagall

Are you speaking to me again, Severus? I take it that the after-effects have worn off, then, with no further illness?

He does. At times I wonder if there is anything else of her in him at all, but Hermione seems to have a great deal of faith in him.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-11-26 17:30:33](#)

Re: Order Only -- Private message to Alice Longbottom and Minerva McGonagall

Have you given thought yet as to how you'll be able to spend some time with him?




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-26 16:14:42](#)

(no subject)

Thank you, Severus. Your offer is very kind, but I do my own brewing in most instances. You will not find it so easy to gain access to my stores.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-11-26 16:46:21](#)

(no subject)

Also. I can attest to Miss Granger's promise as a student and as a brewer. I had the pleasure of her help before Mr Marvolo began requiring her services full time.

I found her diligent, quick to master the skills I demonstrated, and well ahead of the reading level one would have expected for a child her age, let alone one deprived of formal education. In the intervening years, I and others have provided her with textbooks to read as her duties have allowed her time, but we have been unable to restore her regular hours with me. Perhaps you will have better success.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-29 14:49:44](#)
(no subject)

Is it truly so difficult to believe that I had intended to be a help to you?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-26 16:30:53](#)
(no subject)


Most of us? Really?



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-11-26 16:49:29](#)
(no subject)

I haven't sent him any owls.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-27 14:35:28](#)
(no subject)

Wasn't me. Maybe it was your mum trying to get back in touch.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-11-29 14:50:22](#)
(no subject)

Your presence is not wanted within the pages of my journal, Black.

[2011-11-26 10:54:00](#)

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Aurora,

I've just been tidying up my waiting area and have come across a copy of a gossip rag called *Dish!* It was folded open to an item about you and Professor Lestrage, I'm afraid. Nothing terribly specific, but boldly speculative, nonetheless.



 [alt_poppy](#)

How are you bearing up?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **[2011-11-26 17:09:56](#)**
(no subject)


Poppy,

Thank you for asking. I have seen it, yes - though not till Thursday after my evening class. It did rather explain the conversations I'd been hearing around the edges.

Mostly, I've been grateful I've had plenty to keep me busy - not only the usual YPL business, but some details for the Yule Ball. (Someone, in their wisdom, realised that it might be sensible for students to have a chance to learn both dancing and formal etiquette. Guess who got asked to coordinate that.)

But I admit I haven't much wanted to face people in the Great Hall, either.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **[2011-11-26 17:25:35](#)**
(no subject)

Dancing and formal etiquette?

Hm. I'm not surprised that the powers that be would wish our students to come off well before our guests, and it's certainly true that our lot could do with a bit of social polishing.

Do you have time to come for tea? I'd be most interested to hear what you are planning. Could you use a hand with it?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-11-26 17:32:53](#)**
(no subject)

I'm always glad to find time for tea with you. Today? Tomorrow? Monday? And I'd love your help - even another pair of eyes over it to make sure we're covering everything would be a great relief.

On the plan - well, I have to say, I agree with the basic idea. And after all, for a number of our students, it's a new kind of expectation. Some of them, of course, are old hands at it, but one does want to make a good show as a school.

Even for me, a lot of it is new - you know our family. It's not that we've been badly brought up, but we don't generally move in the kind of social circles where the intricacies of a formal ball are a common event.

(I am grateful I'd already made arrangements for what to wear, or I'm sure I'd be fretting about that.)




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-11-26 17:42:25](#)**
(no subject)

Today or tomorrow would suit me. Let's make it today if you've time.

My training was rather formal, I admit. Mother, especially, was a stickler for etiquette and saw to it that I knew rules even for situations one expects to go through life without ever encountering. How to greet the Muggle Queen, for instance.

(Have you received your new robes yet? I hope you'll show me when they arrive.)



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-11-26 17:50:09](#)**
(no subject)

Today would be lovely. I think I'm far enough ahead in my work to be able to take the late afternoon off. I'll bring the notes of what I've been asked to include.

Mum taught us a fair bit of it, but of course, the things you don't use you forget so easily. I've got several of the best etiquette guides to refresh my memory, of course, but it's not the same thing as having done it.

But I also know from talking to Raz how much can subtly change in fashion from year to year, and mark one as not quite up to date.

On the robes, I don't have them yet. I'm picking them up when I'm in New London for the YPL meetings, just in case there's a final detail to fit. (Rather a splurge for me, that, but I decided it really was time I had at least one really excellent set of dress robes. I hope it will be worth it.)



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-11-26 18:06:19**

(no subject)

It is certainly true that forms shift over time. I expect they differ from country to country, as well.

I would suggest that for our students at this juncture, a very basic grounding in the most important formalities might serve them best. The true value of etiquette is that, once mastered, one needn't consciously worry again about what to do at table or in greeting guests or in extending invitations or, indeed, in managing a dance card at a ball.

Learning to dance, however, requires a bit more time and agility. Not to mention maturity. I expect that tutorial will be equally challenging for instructor and students!



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-11-26 18:10:21**

(no subject)

That's quite true. In which case, we may be in for some interesting days, given the number of our visitors.

I do agree on where to focus, and in not trying to cover too many of the intricacies at once. (And perhaps a reminder that etiquette is in part about making others feeling comfortable, and that by following it, we incline people to want to spend

enjoyable time with us?)

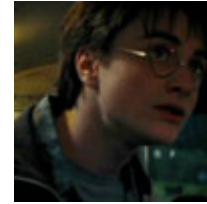
On the learning to dance, I share your view of the challenges there. I know there's been discussion of the champions and their partners opening the ball with a dance, but I am, it appears, not expected to deal with that specific issue. I think I will be satisfied if our charges avoid treading on each other's toes too often.

[2011-11-26 12:31:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I have to ask someone to the ball.

Professor Slughorn just told me that the champions have to take someone and they have a first dance, so I have to. I mean, I figured I would, but now I know I do for sure.



 [alt_harry](#)

Who are you asking?



 [alt_draco](#) at **[2011-11-26 18:17:02](#)**

(no subject)

Pansy. Hopefully today, at Hogsmeade.

What about you? I mean, do you fancy anyone?



 [alt_harry](#) at **[2011-11-26 22:03:50](#)**

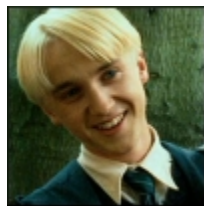
(no subject)

I guess that makes sense.

Are you going with her now, like she's your girlfriend, or is it just as friends?

And I don't know.

I guess Cho Chang is pretty.



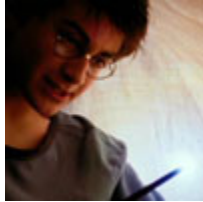
 [alt_draco](#) at **[2011-11-26 23:33:26](#)**


(no subject)

She said yes! I asked her when we were walking back from the village. The Three Broomsticks was just too crowded with people, we were already almost shouting just to hear each other. So on the walk back we stopped to look at a view of the lake and that's when I asked. She said yes ~~and she even~~. I'm not sure but I think we might be going as more than friends?

Anyroad... Cho Chang is quite fit. Decent seeker, too. Nowhere

near your level, but who is? I mean, you don't really know her at all, but I've heard lots of people talking about inviting someone they don't know very well yet.

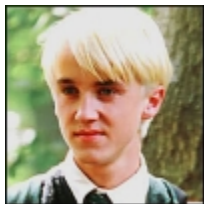



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-26 23:57:56](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, mate. Good on you. Really.

And yeah, I mean, that's when I started noticing her. Because she's a snitch flyer, and I think she'd look good in dance robes, and I don't know. She has nice hair.

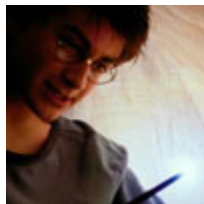
I'll just ask her, and see what she says. I guess. I mean, it's just yes or no, right? And I can ask other people if it's no.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-27 00:09:09](#)**
(no subject)

I thought she would probably say yes, but who knew? I'm glad she did, though.

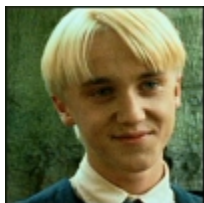
Maybe you should compliment Chang's flying before you ask. Talk about how we all miss quidditch this year, or something. If you're looking for a conversation starter, I mean.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-11-27 00:20:02](#)**
(no subject)

Good idea. Because then she'd know I noticed.

I think it'll be hard to get her on her own. Because she's got loads of girl friends. Friends who are girls. I think they go together in packs.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-27 00:29:02](#)**
(no subject)

Hmm, maybe you can catch her in the library alone. She's a Ravenclaw, after all. They like to study in groups, though...but maybe you could catch her as they're all getting ready to leave?

Or, ha, you could settle in near the girls loo by the Great Hall and wait to catch her coming out of it. I'm fairly certain that might be Gamp's plan for asking Dealcour. Not a bit creepy, that!



 **alt_harry** at [2011-11-27 00:53:45](#)
(no subject)


He hasn't got a chance.

And that'd be way creepy. Not to mention I'd be thinking about the fact that she'd just been to the loo. Not very romantic, right?

Is she in that corner thing with Padma?

I guess I ought to go to the library and see.



 **alt_draco** at [2011-11-27 01:27:59](#)
(no subject)

Eh, I can never keep straight who's in the Ravenclaw Corner group at any given time. But if there's anyone who'd be in the library on a Saturday night, it'd be a 'claw. Worth a look,

anyway.

2011-11-26 19:21:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, now we just have to get *you* a date to the ball, and everything will be perfect.



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-27 04:54:39**


(no subject)

You and Draco are going to look so nice together.

I don't know, I thought maybe Justin WOULD ask me but I think he meant it that he wanted to just to go Hogsmeade as friends.

How many boys do you think will ask Fleur Delacour? She IS part Veela, I heard. So she's not a pureblood either but I don't think ANY of them care.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-27 16:26:31**

(no subject)

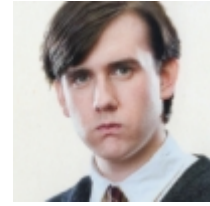
I was hoping he would. And he did it in such a lovely way. And Justin, well, maybe he was getting to know you better first?

As far as Fleur is concerned, I'm guessing all of them wished she'd go with them, except the shirt-lifters, of course, and there'll be at least a dozen who will get up the nerve to ask her to her face. I almost feel sorry for her.

Almost.

[2011-11-26 19:32:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Ron Weasley



 [alt_neville](#)

Who are you going to ask? To the Yule Ball, I mean. Have you thought about it?

The person I'd've liked to ask, well...yeah. Can't happen now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-27 01:56:51](#)

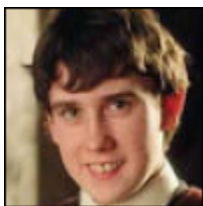
(no subject)

Wh Oh. Yeah.

Are you even thinking of going? I mean to say, it seems sort of naff, a ball, y'know.

Say, sorry about losing you in Honeydukes. Did you ever get to Zonko's? They had these totally fiercesome disorientator bombs that go off all flashing lights and twizzles and screaming sirens! I didn't buy any because, well, haven't got the dosh, but they let us go out the back alley to see a demonstration and they were dead awesome!

And there were some amazing trick chocs, too, that turn you all-over blue or green or yellow with purple spots! Too wicked for Westlington, those.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-27 02:29:11](#)

(no subject)

I was thinking about it. I mean, doesn't it sound like almost everyone's expecting to stay over for the holidays? It'd be even weirder to be here but just staying up in the common room alone, if everyone else is down in the Great Hall for the Ball.

No, I didn't even get to Zonko's. Evelyn had given me some galleons to get stuff for her and her mates at Honeydukes, and then I had to stop get some new quills at Scrivenshaft's. I thought I'd catch up with you at the Three Broomsticks, but we must have stopped there at different times. Those disorientator bombs sound wizard. Seamus was talking about them, too.

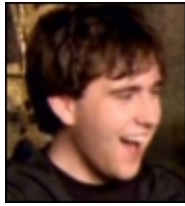


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-27 02:44:23](#)**

(no subject)

Nah, I bet you loads of people don't go to the ball. We'll play chess or snap and sit around and decide who looks best and who looks really ridiculous in their dress robes, playing like they're going to the opera or whatever in New London.

Ooh, I know, we could make up big score placards like the judges had for the task! And as people go down we can give them points! 'Lavender Brown, 5... no, 6 points... Shame about that 5th year judge: he seems a bit prejudiced against the pink sparkle charm!'



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-11-27 04:15:58](#)**

(no subject)

Well, we'll see. You may be right. On the other hand, if I were to guess from the way all the girls are talking about it, there may be more people going than you realise.

2011-11-26 21:28:00

Private message to Padma Patil

Padma, did you have a nice time in Hogsmeade with Davies? You probably weren't in any state to notice, but I didn't go to the village today. I was just so caught up in looking through back issues Cut Above and Posh that I utterly forgot to leave on time, and by the time I noticed, it wasn't worth it to walk all the way out.



 **alt_daphne**

There are loads of articles about Professor Razzar. A lot are about his quidditching days, and the things he got up to with his teammates and female fans, and the dates that he brought to important social events. None of it seemed like it might have been about my Mother. Well, none of it except for this:

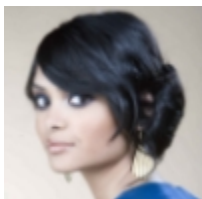
This Quidditch Star might be benched, but it hasn't kept him from stepping out with an old flame this Valentine's Day! But does her fiancé know that she's been blowing on her old lover's coals? Or that she'll soon be starting to show? This Lady Romeo had better decide who the Father is, or she'll be left in the cold with no ring at all.


It's dated from February 14, 1979.

You don't suppose...

Well, it might be about anyone, but you know how coded these "obscure items" can be. And Lady Romeo?

Mother's maiden name is Montague.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-11-27 06:21:27**
(no subject)

Oh, it was ever so nice. I'll tell you all about it tomorrow but - wow, that item you found is well suspicious, isn't it? It sounds as if whomever that was, she was two-timing on her fiance and I just can't imagine anyone as proper as your mum doing that sort of thing! Do you have a copy of your parents' engagement announcements? We could compare the dates.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-27 16:38:11](#)
(no subject)

No, I don't have a copy of that lying around. Their anniversary is the tenth of March, though.

I was born early ~~they always said~~

I'm sure you're right and I'm just getting carried away. They only dated while they were at school, but then she found my father and that was the end of that. It was just a silly teenage romance, probably.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-27 20:05:10](#)
(no subject)

It must have run in the *Prophet*, though, right?

I mean, sometimes people stop seeing each other and then go back again. Like Auror Crouch and Miss Belby. When something happens.

Do you think maybe Razzler looked her up even if they'd broken up a long time ago? Even that would be well interesting.

OOh. You could ask your mum what she thinks about Professor Raz and Professor Sinistra! Then you'd be able to tell if she has any deeper affection or not! Of course, that would work better in person. But you're staying for the ball, right? So it'd have to wait, I suppose.

Are you going with Zabini, then? Or have you decided to let some Durmstrang boy have the honour?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-28 00:53:08](#)
(no subject)

Hmm. Mother has never spoken of having taken "time off" in her courtship with Father, but then there seems to be a good number of things she's never told me.

Razzler's hex injury - you know, the one that gave him the limp? - I

think it happened right at the end of 1978 or so. Dark times can reunite people, sometimes. Can't they?

And yes, I do have plans to stay for the ball. I don't really know who I'll be attending with, though. It won't very likely be Blaise - dear as he is to me, the opportunity to branch out and meet new people is too good to pass over.

2011-11-27 12:16:00

December and the YPL



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Dear students and visiting guests,

Our upcoming lecture:

On December 3rd, we will welcome several medwizards, who have graciously offered their time on Saturday to share some tips on dealing with urgent injuries and crisis care. Our guests are welcome to join us for this. You will be divided into groups, spending forty-five minutes with each presenter. Please gather at 1pm in the Great Hall for the introduction, and we will split off to other spaces from there.

CCF students: you will be grouped together and cover topics in more depth, as you covered some of the basics last summer, and will also have an additional hour training session following the main presentations.

(Thanks to Miss Perks for suggesting that this would be an excellent topic.)

Preparing for the Yule Ball

CCF students and YPL counsellors are asked to assist with various small duties relating to hosting the Yule Ball. Planning sessions will take place on Thursday, December 8th or Saturday, December 10th. Please sign up on the lists by my office for one of these two times no later than this coming Thursday. Each session will last two hours and begins at 7pm.

A schedule conflict

Finally, due to YPL planning committee needs, I must be in New London on Sunday, December 11th and Monday the 12th. My classes are cancelled for that Monday, including the observing session that evening (though I will be giving you assignments to cover the missing session this week). I will obviously not be available for questions or my normal office hours during those two days. I am confident this will be the last such disruption for this school year, and appreciate your patience.

Miss Clearwater and Mister Avery, I have an additional note for you below.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-11-27 17:30:04](#)

Private message to Penelope Clearwater and Julius Avery:

I am hoping that you will assist me in a slightly delicate matter. I have been asked to help coordinate dancing and etiquette lessons for Hogwarts students, so that we may make the best possible impression at the Yule Ball. However, it would be impolitic to publically admit our students may need additional teaching in these areas.

I would appreciate your assistance in sharing the following information with Hogwarts students, and only with Hogwarts students. (For your own houses, we have prepared copies for each separate dorm room, as well as general copies for the Gryffindor and Hufflepuff common rooms. Please pick them up from outside my office before the end of the day on Monday: their envelopes are specifically charmed to you.)

Madame Pomfrey has agreed to help me with the session planning but we will also need assistance from our CCF students and YPL counsellors in providing instruction and practice. I will discuss that in detail with them during the scheduled planning sessions. Madame Pince has also gathered some reference materials and books for review.

As noted below, if you know of a student who feels they need help with suitable dress robes (particularly fostered halfbloods), please encourage them to speak to me as soon as possible so we can see if arrangements can be made. Likewise, if there are students you feel are particularly in need of this training so as not to embarrass the school, please let me know their names no later than the 12th.

For your reference, the announcement to be distributed reads:

Dear students,

In order to help you prepare for the Yule Ball, the YPL programme is coordinating etiquette and dance lessons for all students who are interested, so that you may feel more confident and at ease in a formal social setting.

All other students expecting to attend the Ball are encouraged to attend one of four two-hour sessions teaching dance and formal ball

etiquette. These will be held at 7pm on December 13th, 7pm on the 15th, and 2pm on the 17th or 18th. Please sign up by my door for the session of your choice. CCF students will assist with demonstrations by the instructor.

All students were instructed to bring dress robes suitable for a formal event with them this autumn. However, we do understand that you may have grown since returning to school, or may discover some other difficulty with your robes. If so, please stop by my office hours as soon as possible (but no later than the 18th) to discuss the difficulty, and I will see what can be arranged.

We all look forward to the splendours of the Yule Ball!



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-11-27 19:56:01](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater and Julius Avery:

Yes, of course, Professor. We shan't let you down.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-27 20:12:00](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater and Julius Avery:

Thank you both.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-27 17:34:41](#)

Private message to Padma Patil


Miss Patil -

I wanted to reassure that I have not forgotten your proposal of a journal code spotting workshop. I thought you would like to know that we have worked out some of the necessary details, and expect to resolve the remaining considerations at our December meeting. With luck, we will manage to schedule something this spring, but if not, certainly as part of your summer training (and I will, of course, ensure you get public credit, as I have done for others in the past.)

I am looking forward to seeing your mother on the trip to New

London - I think the new accessory line quite brilliant, and not simply because it's making my holiday shopping much easier this year.



 **alt_padma** at [2011-11-27 20:01:39](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Thank you, Professor! It's not about the credit, of course, it's about helping the CCF. You've always told us to come forward with suggestions. I really hope everything works out!

I didn't realise you were going back to Mum's for more robes. Well, I guess you'll want something new for the Yule Ball as well, won't you? Are there many other parties you'll be attending, Professor? I think it must be well exciting to suddenly get to go to all sorts of society occasions.

And thanks for saying you like Mum's accessory, too. Parvati and I are quite chuffed it's doing so well. Really, it's surprising no one's thought of journal covers before. They're so simple and everyone needs one. You could even have more than one, right, depending on the occasion. And what I think is brilliant is that even if you're buying a load of them for different people - family members or whatever - you can still individualise them with different colours or patterns. I honestly think it's one of her best ideas yet. And it's the kind of thing that could only happen here, in the Protector's land, which makes it even more special.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-11-27 20:34:22](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

I do think we've worked out most of the committee's practical concerns with the proposal (as you may discover for yourself, doing work by committee has both benefits and complications.)

And we've recently had someone volunteer as a presenter. I do appreciate your thoughts for CCF programme items, and I'm sure you'll have excellent suggestions at our meetings about the Yule Ball as well.

As to your mother - well, this is the fitting for my Yule Ball robes. (I had advance warning of the Ball, since I had to arrange the YPL schedule.) I'm quite looking forward to seeing what she's come up with, though of course we've discussed by owl since the original

consultation.

As to other parties, I have had several invites from people I know through YPL work, and of course, I want to have something appropriate to wear on hand as a matter of course.

The journal covers really are excellent. I come from a large family, and it's so hard to think of good gifts for more distant relatives, or the people who have most of what they need or want. Being able to get a journal cover, or some of the other accessories makes it much simpler, and yet, as you say, easy to personalise, without worrying they already have one just like it.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-11-27 18:02:14](#)

Private message to Felix Green

Felix -

Just wanted to confirm that you're on top of scheduling time for me at Revati Patil's on the Monday. She's said it will take 60 to 90 minutes, but she's glad to arrange it based on my schedule. I'd prefer a long lunch, if we can make that work with the code discussions in the morning, otherwise at 5pm.

If I've got all the changes, that means the schedule is:

Sunday:

10: Welcome, review of the last two events.

10:30: Review of spring plans (except for Melete)

11:30: lunch. (Can you arrange something that needs my attention so I cannot go out? And a sandwich?)

12:30: Review budget and staffing needs for spring.

1: Melete reviews her plans for the mural.

2: Coordinating CCF and YPL plans, timing, etc.

2:30: break

3: initial CCF planning. (Split sections, or everyone together?)

3:45: Code recognition committee resolution.

One favour:

The Wilton Consort are playing Sunday night - I'd very much like to go if you can get me a ticket. (But please make sure you don't let Stint or Gimlet know where I'll be.) Would you check if either Helena or Campanella might be interested?

And please book me at the usual inn, though could you confirm a top floor room so I don't get woken up at dawn again?

Monday:

9am: code recognition planning (assuming we have a solution)

10: summer schedule planning with list of needed specialists.

11:30: break (Revati's at 11:45?)

1:30: MLE and relevant protection details

2:15: Transportation

2:45: International Magical Cooperation

3:30: Final summary, full committee, end by 4:30.

And then you and I will finish any remaining business and paperwork, though I think we're largely caught up, yes?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-01 15:51:30**

Re: Private message to Felix Green

Felix -

Thanks for the confirmations. Owl and signed parchments on their way back to you for the payments.

On Monday: my parents asked if I'd join them for supper (they'd like 5:30), so if you have parchment work for me, and it'll take more than an hour, can we find another slot for some of it? Perhaps over lunch Sunday?

Also, reviewing my notes, I realised I'd forgotten I wanted to talk about some sort of resource list for halfbloods. Could we push that into 11 or so on Monday? If we get short on time, we can table it until March if we have to, though I'd really rather not.

Much appreciation, as always.

[2011-11-27 14:19:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Moony

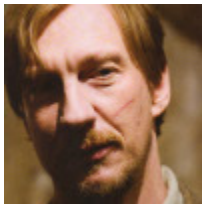
I'm over across the garden. That mouldy smell is back again. Guess we know why the building hasn't ever been let since you opened this place.




 [alt_sirius](#)

As for expanding the walls, I think it's worth a shot. Only not now; Bea and Dora are both having a snooze. Maybe while we're getting ready for her to come home tomorrow morning we could take a look together.

And you'd best be careful about where that hand goes tonight. If you don't want it licked under the table. Tease.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-27 19:44:46](#)
(no subject)

It would be suspicious if I didn't pat my dog when he was sitting right by my hand, don't you think?

Mouldy smell. That's not good. Let's try some expansion charms later.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-27 19:52:33](#)
(no subject)

Pat. Is that what you'd call it?

Merlin. Wasn't last full moon enough proof that it's hard to resist that sort of thing, even as Padfoot?

Yeah. Over in the little chamber Dora was going to use if we'd chucked her out. No way is it fit for more than a few hours' use. In fact I'm not even sure if it'll be all that perfect for muggleborns if we're smuggling them through, but at least we might be able to fix it up if we're expecting to hide someone there for a while. I'm not having Bea sleeping in there, that's for sure, nor Dora either.

And yes, I was thinking if we extended the front room we could perhaps get a second bedroom out of it.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-27 20:02:34](#)
(no subject)

Well, you didn't seem inclined to move AWAY last night.

I'd be wary of hiding muggleborns there if we can't find a way to deal with the mould. It's the sort of thing that makes people cough or sneeze (not exactly brilliant if anyone comes looking) and can make them sick (not ideal if they're on their way to Sherwood or some such).

Let's start with the front room. Maybe we can expand the area under the stairs as a hiding spot?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-27 20:12:50](#)
(no subject)

Yes, because I didn't think it would be a good idea to crawl off at that *precise moment*. Whomever said you're the kindly, innocent one doesn't know you well at all.


And don't think I don't know what you were trying to do. Pillock.

I agree about the mould making people sneeze. That's why I was thinking we'd have to refresh it just before using it. The cleansing spells did last a good week or two; it's just not a permanent solution.

Under the stairs is too close to your cellar. And besides the beauty of across the way is that it's not in the same building at all. If someone searches the place they'll never look on the other side of the garden.

Blast it. I wasn't thinking of needing three bedrooms when we asked Bill to help us find a place.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-27 20:48:42](#)
(no subject)

Well I've never tried to claim I was the kindly, innocent one. Minerva once concluded I was the 'responsible' one and handed me a Prefect badge, but that wasn't *my* fault.

There's a lot to be said for a third bedroom over across the way, for the two of us -- most importantly, I can hear Bea crying when she wakes at night. Privacy is nice, but not leaving Dora to get up with her every time is also nice. I just wish the place were a bit bigger. Even expansion spells won't really fix that.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-27 21:44:47](#)
(no subject)

I get Bea back to sleep just as often as you do, so yeah, agreed, we don't want to be all the way where we can't hear her.

But it's not fair to Dora to be right under her nose, either, silencing spells or no.

You know, we could

[2011-11-27 15:55:00](#)

Private message to Blaise

So Padma's asked me if we have plans to attend the Ball together. Before I answer her, I wanted to talk with you, and what I wanted to say was



 **[alt_daphne](#)**

I think we should go with other people.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-11-27 23:01:47](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sorry! I'm not usually so without grace and tact, only this is your chance to go with a French girl, and what teenage boy wouldn't want that?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-11-28 00:40:04](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sorry we didn't talk this over yesterday, but then you didn't come to Hogsmeade after all. And when I got back Teds was around and the others.

I didn't realise you were worrying about it, though, or I'd have made sure we had a chance to discuss it.

I mean to say, we've said it often enough: we're not at a stage of life to be thinking exclusively about one another. I actually assumed you knew it would be perfectly all right to think about going with one of the visiting wizards, after all, we've discussed what sort of opportunity this represents to gain experience of other people and other social networks.

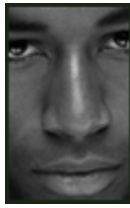
Has anyone asked? Or do you think someone's thinking of it?




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-28 00:47:38](#)
(no subject)

No, no one has asked. Based on Padma's question, I think they might be assuming that you've already asked me. That's the trouble with telling people that we're not *officially* dating - they never seem to believe it. I suppose none of them can quite imagine themselves doing the same.

I'm actually not in much of a mood for romance, I think. Is there some rule against girls asking boys? Because I have half a mind to just walk up and ask someone who might be a reasonable good dancer and leave it at that. Ha, now that might make quite the impression!



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-11-28 02:52:56](#)
(no subject)

Ah. Well, perhaps I should go ahead and ask someone myself, to clarify things. I enjoyed the bit of conversation we had with Margaux and Claudine after the task. I thought Margaux seemed especially well-spoken.

I shouldn't think romance should be a primary aim in this sort of thing, but if it were to blossom, that wouldn't be an unpleasant thing. Certainly, you shouldn't rule it out or attempt to keep it from happening.

Think what *Whirl* might write for you! Especially if you ask the boy, n'est-ce pas? (Teasing.)

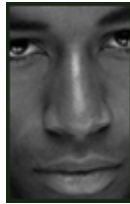
Did you want me to write *The Prophet* for you about the engagement announcement, by the way? That was an excellent suggestion Patil had. I could write and imply that I wanted that issue from the archives to make a present of it to someone. If you wanted to keep your name out of it, that is.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-28 03:02:16](#)
(no subject)

Margaux and Claudine are both pleasant in looks and temperament. (Though you know neither will be able to dance as well as I!) I'm sure that Margaux would very happily accept your invitation, should you extend it.

Oh, would you really do that? It would be just perfect! Millie asked me yesterday why I've been reading "a bunch of mouldy old magazines," so I would prefer not to draw any more attention to my little investigation. Certainly no more than I already have.



 [alt_blaize](#) at [2011-11-28 03:43:02](#)
(no subject)

Mm. No, you're right: it goes without saying that no one dances as well as you.

But not going together doesn't mean you can't save me a dance, of course. Say you will? And not a waltz, either: this is the sort of event where the floor will be cluttered with all the hopeless cases whenever there's a waltz.

Millie, honestly. That's so typical. Maybe we should see about finding some one of the Durmstrang lot to ask her. That would be a laugh!

And, of course, I'll take care of *The Prophet* for you. Glad to do it.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-28 04:19:26](#)
(no subject)

Of course I shall save you a dance.

I think Vince is keen on asking Millie. Or is it Greg? Maybe she ought to go with both of them. Together, they ought to say enough to equal one whole date!

Thank you, again. I'll make it up to you!



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-11-28 14:25:18](#)
(no subject)

Well. There's that, then. Margaux said a very pretty 'Ooooh, mais oui!' And then she asked if I would wear a tie or scarf the colour of her robes if she'd give me one.

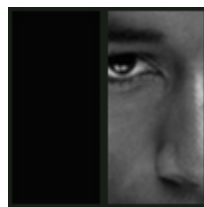
You weren't thinking of asking Krum, were you? Well, just in case: I heard him after breakfast, telling one of his mates that he's asked someone already, just to have it done so he can turn down any nonsense invitations from that herd that chases after him.

It's funny how many of those Durmstrang chaps assume none of us can understand them at all; they don't even try to speak quietly.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-11-28 15:30:37](#)
(no subject)

I hadn't thought of that, no, and it sounds as if it's too late now. While showing up on Krum's arm would make QUITE the impression, I have to say that I don't *personally* find him all that handsome. He has such a heavy brow line, don't you think?



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-11-28 15:39:09](#)
(no subject)

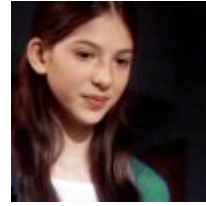
I suppose he'll have asked one of the older Durmstrang girls. In fact, I rather wonder if he isn't promised to someone back home. He seems so very reserved and disinclined to really mingle with any of us. Although, some of that impression *is* a result of how severe he *looks*. I expect he'll look very distinguished, in an Eastern European way, when he's seventy or eighty years old, but you're quite right that his looks are a bit unfortunate now.

2011-11-27 16:19:00

Private message to Pansy

Well, I have a date for the Ball.

You will NEVER GUESS.



 **alt_sally_anne**



 **alt_pansy** at **2011-11-28 04:20:04**

(no subject)

I *still* can't believe it!

I mean, of course, I know how wonderful you are, and how much you deserve it, but Padma will turn bright green when you walk in on his arm.

Oooh, it's making me tingly just thinking about it. We've got to start sorting out how we're going to fix your hair, so we can have plenty of time to get it right.

I'm so excited for you!



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-11-28 05:14:21**

(no subject)

I hadn't even thought about my hair, just how glad I am to have proper dress robes.

Don't tell anyone. Krum Viktor asked me to keep it quiet. He said he doesn't want me to have to worry about the gossip -- I thought he meant people like Padma but he meant the gossip MAGAZINES. Like the one that wrote that story about Professor Sinistra, he said I'd have to spend the next month looking over my shoulder if people knew. If they could find out about Professor Sinistra and Professor Lestrange who knows what they'd write about me.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-28 05:28:17](#)
(no subject)

Don't worry, I won't spread it around.

I know what it's like to read about yourself or your family in the papers and not like what it has to say.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-28 05:32:52](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I just had that one taste (when that stupid woman said I had tears streaming down my cheeks!) and that was enough, I wasn't going to argue!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-28 05:15:27](#)
(no subject)

And PADMA.

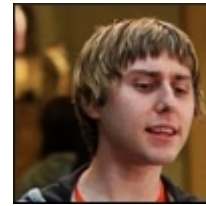
I won't be able to see her face, probably, but I WISH I could have a picture.

2011-11-27 18:15:00

Private Message to Miss Perks

Sally-Anne,

Thanks again, for taking me and JP round the village yesterday. It was jolly fun. And don't worry if JP seemed a little distracted. He had fun as well, he's just a bit shy.



 [alt_justin](#)

I wanted to ask

Well, that is, I hope you shan't be offended but, I think you're awfully clever about things. So I rather wanted to know if

if you thought it would be completely suicidal to ask Miss Lestrangle if she'd like to go to the Ball? With me, I mean to say.

Only, I've heard a couple people say Marvolo's meant to ask her. Only I heard a rumour that he doesn't plan to do. And I thought, well, perhaps it would be all right, then.

She's really nothing like her mother, after all, what? But if it would get her into trouble to go with anyone other than Marvolo, well. I bally well don't want that to happen, do I?

I hope you don't think that I'm being rude, asking your opinion about it. I reckon most girls would get upset if a boy asked them about asking someone else. I do quite like you--I mean I enjoy your company, you know. Dash it, that sounds utterly weak, what? I just...I think Hydra might like to go and if Marvolo's really not going to ask her.... Well.

What do you think?

-Justin

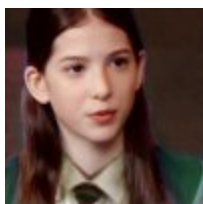


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-27 23:43:14**
(no subject)

Oh!

Well.

You're right that she's nothing like her mother. Let me do a little bit of checking and I'll let you know if you can ask without getting one or both of you in trouble. (Really, you can probably ask, it's just that if Harry hasn't asked anyone yet she might feel like she has to say no, to stay available in case he asks her.)



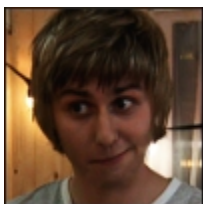
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-28 05:23:14](#)
(no subject)


Alright, so.

Harry's not planning to ask Hydra. He's got someone else in mind. If he were going to ask Hydra then Hydra would really HAVE to go with him, but since he's not, I think you should ask her feel free to ask her.

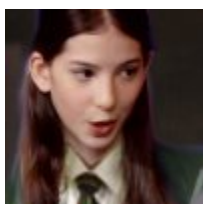
Honestly I think Harry's more likely to take an interest if he realises she's not going to sit around forever waiting and there are other boys out there who've noticed her. And I think she'd really like to go to the Ball and since she's a third year, she'll only get to go if someone asks her. And I think she'd have a very nice time with you.

If she looks like she wants to go but isn't sure she can say yes, you should say you've heard Harry's asking someone else but if he comes back and asks her later and she has to go with him you won't hold it against her.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-28 14:35:07](#)
(no subject)

Oh, cheers, thanks very much for finding out.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-28 05:24:22](#)
(no subject)

And you really shouldn't make it a habit of asking girls for advice about asking other girls on dates but it's alright in this case, I'm perfectly happy to just be your friend.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-28 14:39:53](#)
(no subject)

And yes, I know; I'm not an utter clod, at least I hope not, what?

I just thought you'd know, or if you didn't, you'd be able to go about finding out without making a scene of it, you know. As I said, I think you're awfully clever about that sort of thing. Political things.

And I rather suspected after Saturday that you'd not mind if I didn't ask you. I like being friends, as well, quite!

Besides, aren't you going with ~~Ron Weasley~~ ~~Pansy P~~ someone else? I mean to say, surely someone's already asked?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-29 02:44:28](#)
(no subject)

I do have a date already, as a matter of fact.

And Slytherins are supposed to be clever about this sort of thing though not all of us are!

Was that private message to Hydra and her father you asking? Very clever, asking her father. She gets on with him very well, he's much less intimidating than her mum, and that should keep you well out of trouble if she says yes.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 04:03:33](#)
(no subject)

Yes, that's what it was and it worked! Her father said she could go with whomever she wanted and she said yes.

I was well nervous about sending it, though, what? I mean to say, I had an inkling that he might be chuffed I thought to ask properly but there was still the possibility he'd take offence because of the arrangement with Marvolo.

Of course, I had to promise to stand aside if Marvolo changes his

mind but I offered that anyway, in the first place.

Though it was well strange, in point of fact, because at first, Mr Lestrangle didn't seem to realise that so many people here know Hydra's eventually meant to marry Marvolo. I mean to say, if there were a betrothal, even if it's unofficial, wouldn't her own father be privy to it? Mind you, I bally well choked when he asked whatever I meant by her long-term interests, I mean to say! It was the one moment I thought I'd gone and rumbled it for sure.

But it all worked out, what?

And I'm glad you've already got an escort. I thought you might have but well done, you.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-29 04:06:36](#)**
(no subject)

That unofficial betrothal business may be entirely her mum's idea. I'm not sure whether her parents exactly get on.

I'm glad it worked out! I think you and Hydra will have a very nice time together.

2011-11-27 23:28:00

Private Message to Hermione Granger

Granger.

Here's your journal back.

People are going to be paying a lot of attention to what I say to you. And what I write to you. And what you say and write back. And it's important that you know your place. So I'll be expecting for you to address me properly from now on. Lesson learned.

I'll talk to you more tomorrow. I'm too tired to right now.



 [alt_harry](#)

[2011-11-28 08:16:00](#)

Private message to Harry and Granger

Harry, since you've sent her a private message, I'm assuming that Granger has her journal back and can now speak, too.



 **[alt_draco](#)**

Granger, that means I'm supposed to Imperius you to say "Master" after every sentence you say or write.

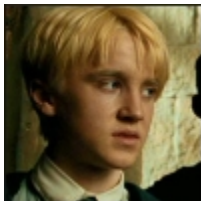
Sorry, but you know there's no choice about this. I figure that making the curse last a few days should be enough, and then it'll be over.


We can do it after breakfast, before our first lesson.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-29 01:45:26](#)**
(no subject)

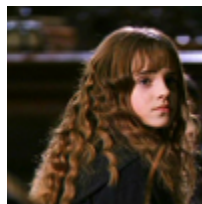
I just realized that I should probably write back to this so that you would know that it was working in writing too, and also so that you could have proof that you did it I suppose, so, here I am writing, master.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-11-29 02:39:18](#)**
(no subject)

That reminds me of Dennis.

Feels strange, seeing as I'm not actually the one who's your Master. But maybe if you just try to stick to speaking to Harry only for the next few days, unless absolutely necessary, then it won't be quite so odd.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-29 02:50:42](#)**
(no subject)

That's my idea, and also if I write a lot and just string it together with commas, then I only have to say it once at the very end, and it doesn't work that way with speaking because I tried, but it does work that way with writing since I've just proved it, master.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-29 02:55:47](#)
(no subject)

I can also think of more than a few people who would think it a lark to get a mudblood to call them "master" over and over again, so stick with Harry when you're out in the castle. He wouldn't like someone doing that sort of thing.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-29 03:05:43](#)
(no subject)

I will

master.

Ugh I tried not to but it was too hard, master.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-11-29 03:11:23](#)
(no subject)

~~Really?~~ Oh, well, yes. I don't really know why father thought I would need to practise Imperius, but I suppose he had a Point to prove.

Anyway, you don't have to answer that.

[2011-11-28 09:34:00](#)


Storm

We had a windstorm a couple of nights ago, and my goodness, what a mess. Most of the roof was torn off the goat shed. If it were summer this wouldn't be so much of a problem, but it's getting so cold that it must be repaired right away. Arthur climbed up on a ladder to take a look, thinking he could simply fix things with a few 'reparo' spells, but it quickly became clear that rot had set in under the eaves, and so we had to purchase new lumber and shingles and replace the roof entirely. Arthur and Bill are taking the day off to finish the job, and I certainly hope the nanny goats appreciate it, the ingrates. Oh dear, that certainly wasn't in the budget for this month!




 [alt_molly](#)



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-11-28 15:50:19](#)
(no subject)

None of the goats were hurt, at least. Things will work out, Molly, dear. They always do.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-11-28 15:53:58](#)
Order Only

I did need that extra money this month. For the children's dress robes, for the Yule Ball. Fred and George can wear Bill's and Charlie's old robes, and I was lucky enough to find a nice set for Ginny.

But, oh dear, I'm afraid that Ron will be upset when he opens the package I'm sending to him today. They were the best I could find, but I'm afraid they're rather hideous.

2011-11-28 11:53:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora



 [alt_sirius](#)


Well, I thought the breakfast itself was rather good, personally. And the conversation.

Could have stood not to be interrupted by that Ministry bloke. Everything all right, Remus? Thought I heard Bea fussing a few minutes ago. Did she and Dora get off to sleep okay?

More importantly, how much did the official want before he'd go away again?

Let me know if I should come back across as Padfoot or take some of the emergency polyjuice to pose as Mrs Dribb if Bea needs looking after and the coast isn't clear yet.




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-11-29 02:40:19**
(no subject)

The Ministry bloke spent a lot of time inspecting the area we'd enlarged and informed me there was a schedule of fees. For once it actually seemed to be about actual authorised fees, no less. I think we're going to have to dismiss the charm unless we can work out a way to make it undetectable -- it's going to cost far too much to keep it going.

Apparently we're supposed to decide it would be more affordable to renovate the mouldy buildings across the way, if we want more space.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-11-29 04:53:35**
(no subject)

Bugger.

2011-11-28 19:26:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sirius Black (and Remus Lupin)



 **alt_nymphadora**


You were brilliant this morning, Pads. I don't know what we'd have done if you hadn't sniffed out that Ministry bloke's intentions before he barged in on breakfast.

However.

If you're reading this now and aren't just curled up somewhere woofing and twitching your way through an after supper nap, would you mind padding down here and having a whiff of the couple of blokes off in the far corner. Could swear I saw some sort of little parcel change hands with a sort of weedy-looking youngster a few minutes ago, and now another one's come to chat them up.

I want to know what they're peddling under our noses.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-11-29 01:58:25**
(no subject)

My pleasure.

Is the youngster still about or am I just meant to guess which far corner?



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-11-29 02:23:48**
(no subject)

Different extra parties over there now. Corner farthest from the kitchen. Difficult for me to hover too close without being obvious about trying to inconvenience them.


And, of course, I don't want to pester them if they're up to something we'd like to encourage, but if it's the sort of thing that could get us fined (again) or worse, well. A nosy dog with a deep growl might be helpful.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-29 03:29:23](#)
(no subject)

Good show, you!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-29 03:51:22](#)
(no subject)

Good show, right. Sorry about not backing off right away; I know you were signalling but that big one looked like he was about to pull his wand. (Note to self: the collar needs padding. Or something. Ow.)

Circe, but Alihotsy has a dreadful smell when it's dried. I'll be sneezing all night.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-29 03:56:37](#)
(no subject)

Alihotsy? Well, I'm glad you did put a stop to it. We don't need that on the premises, especially if any of them were to go try it and come back here to have a bad reaction.

Sorry I tugged so hard. I didn't mean to overdo it.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-29 04:18:46](#)
(no subject)

Nah, it's all right. Just a minor bruise. Little salve and it'll be normal by morning.

As for the drug, yeah. Nasty stuff when it's prepared like that. Tried it once and that was more than enough.

Eaten it's just sort of like that moment when it's two o'clock in the morning and the word 'rutabaga' is inexplicably the funniest sound in the whole English language. Which can be hilarious if in the right company.

But smoked? Give me a decent spliff, ta-ra, and that'll do me far better.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-29 04:19:22](#)**
(no subject)

Anyway. Meant to say: I really thought he was about to hurt you.

Can't have that.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-11-29 04:23:25](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, you.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-11-29 04:05:15](#)**
(no subject)

Say. While you're indoors licking your wounds, you might want to know that Cousin Hydra is still writing me. Tonight she's told me that your young friend, Justin whatisname-withahyphenin, he's asked her to the Ball. Because Harry doesn't fancy her and wants to take someone else.

She seems all right with both things, especially because she's getting Harry stuffed down her throat by her evil bloody mum.

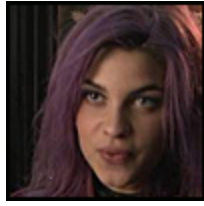


 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-11-29 04:21:14](#)**
(no subject)

Is that what that PM to Rod was about?

He's a clever one.

I still can't work out exactly why he's even risked coming to England. Or why in Mordred's name he'd try to get within hands-breadth of our psychotic cousin.

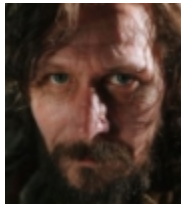



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-11-29 04:27:46](#)
(no subject)

Oi! Nice little Cousin Hydra's all right, I don't see why you have to be so harsh!

Kidding.

Do you think no one's warned him off Bellatrix? Surely someone will do now. Don't you think?

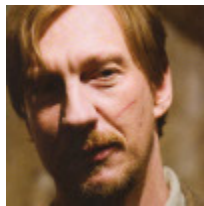



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-29 04:34:03](#)
(no subject)

I wasn't talking about the snakelet; I meant if he's cosyng up to her, the adder herself is bound to notice. And that's the last thing he needs.

I'm sure he's already heard about her by reputation if nothing else. And I'm quite sure that's why he wrote to Mrs Lestrangle - that is to say, Rodolphus - instead of the man of the family. Fair certain he had to be more indulgent than Hellatrix.


On second thought, maybe we'd better have those dealers back in. Surely they know where to get some quality leaf.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-29 05:49:44](#)
(no subject)

What was he like when you knew him? Did he like playing with fire? I've known teenage boys who liked running risks entirely for the fun of it.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-11-29 17:25:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you did, did you?

No, he's not like that. I had to coax him out of the house the first few times we went on outings. Laura had done a bang-up job convincing him his health was 'delicate.'

Could be he's feeling his oats a bit, now that he's not only out of his mother's grasp but the whole country.


I suppose it's possible he's playing his part to the hilt. He must have done something to convince them he's a loyal purist looking for exposure to his true homeland. That's what I'd've done to get here, if indeed he were *trying* to get here and not just got sucked in by the Protectorate's machine. Circe, even if he *did* get sucked in, what other tactic could he take? Something about being ignorant of his heritage or else longing to see his birthplace or some other rot. He'd have to do, to protect his mother, in any event.

But now that he's here, you'd think he'd just lie low and hope they forget about him. Instead he's putting the moves on Bella's daughter.

Maybe that's his way of spitting in her eye. But if so, that's as dangerous a pastime as dodging the Whomping Willow's branches. With a lower survival rate.

To say nothing of the fact that if Dora's right about Bella's spawn and she really is innocent (which I still doubt), he's being a git to her, and all. And that's not something I taught him. Must have got it from some of his French mates.

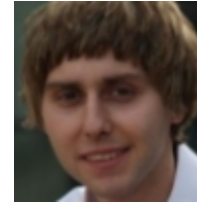


 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-11-29 05:48:38](#)
(no subject)

I'll add some padding. Sorry, I didn't even think about that. You needed a collar so you'd look like a proper pet, and they're not made for dogs who can grouse later if someone grabbed on a bit too hard.

2011-11-28 20:23:00

*Private Message to Mr Rodolphus
Lestrangle and Miss Hydra Lestrangle*



 [alt_justin](#)

I hope you don't object to my writing to you without a formal introduction but I wanted to ask your daughter something and I wanted to do it properly and get your permission first.

My name is Justin Finch-Fletchley and although I'm British-born, I am enrolled at Beauxbatons Academy, where I am currently a fourth-year. I have the honour of being one of the twenty-five students selected by Madame Maxime and Professor Froissart to attend Hogwarts this year for the Tri-Wizard Tournament.

Sir, I hope you understand that under ideal circumstances, I would send this note to Auror Lestrangle as well as to yourself and your daughter. It is the limitations of the Private Message spell that permit me to choose only two recipients. My own family are very traditional so I thought it best to address her father. But it would be wrong not to include Miss Lestrangle herself, as it's to do with her. So you see that's why I'm writing to you, sir, and to Hydra, and not as a slight against Mrs Lestrangle in any way. Should you think it appropriate to share this request with her, please do so with my compliments.

I'm sure you have heard that there's to be a dance over the Christmas holidays, held at Hogwarts as part of the Tri-Wizard programme. Fourth-years and above are allowed to attend openly but third-years require an invitation. Mr Lestrangle, with your permission, I should very much like to ask Miss Lestrangle if she would attend as my guest.

You need not fear any misunderstanding on my part: I've been told that Miss Lestrangle's long-term interests are committed elsewhere. However, I am given to understand that an offer of escort shan't be forthcoming from certain sources on this occasion. If I have been misinformed, I should be happy to step aside in his favour, since I am after all only a visitor. Meanwhile, though, if she were to consent, I should be glad to accompany her so that she may show herself to her best effect.

Of course, if Miss Lestrangle cannot or does not wish to accept, I shall not be offended in the slightest. She or you need only reply in any way


you see fit: below, by owl or at least in Hydra's case, in person if she prefers.

I shall leave my request in both your hands, then, and remain

Yours Sincerely,

-Justin Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 02:41:13](#)

(no subject)

You're asking ME to the ball?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:16:51](#)

(no subject)

Well. Why not?

Unless you don't want to go. With me, I mean.
Because that's all right, if you don't do.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:24:09](#)

(no subject)

I don't know why not. I just thought somebody might have told you that you should ask me because they felt sorry for me, maybe because they knew Harry was asking someone else. My feelings wouldn't be hurt if he did that, though.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:28:15](#)
(no subject)

No one told me to do anything, silly. If you want to know, I asked round whether he meant to invite you before I decided, but only because I thought he might do and I didn't want to ask if it were going to be pointless interfere in that case.

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:18:14](#)
(no subject)

And if he does ask you, that's all right, as well.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-29 02:44:48](#)
(no subject)

Mr Finch-Fletchley,

Pleasure to make your acquaintance. I must admit that I find myself slightly perplexed. I knew about this upcoming Yule Ball business, in somewhat limited capacity, but what's this about "long-term interests committed elsewhere?"



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:13:09](#)
(no subject)

I think he's talking about Harry, and how some people might be thinking that we would go to the Ball together. But it sounds like Harry is taking somebody else. Or has plans to ask someone else, at

least.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-29 03:14:04](#)
(no subject)

"Some people," is it, Ducks?

Who do you want to go to the ball with?




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:15:19](#)
(no subject)

I don't know. Either Justin or Harry would be nice. Mostly, I can only think of people I know I would not want to go with.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:14:55](#)
(no subject)

Mr Lestrangle,

Perhaps I've been misled. But Miss Lestrangle has the right of the rumours, at any rate.

-Justin

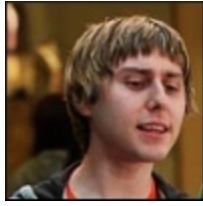



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-29 03:18:42](#)
(no subject)

Mr Finch-Fletchley,

You do the decent thing by inquiring with her Father. Duckie is free to go this ball with whomever she'd like to, including yourself.

Though I should point out that if Mr Marvolo has a change of heart and does end up asking her, it's only proper that she accept his invitation. I trust you won't protest, if that be the case.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:21:51](#)
(no subject)

Thank you very much, sir. No, I shouldn't have thought anything otherwise. If a more desirable invitation should come to Hydra, of course she must simply let me know and as I said, I'll willingly step aside.

If she's inclined to accept my offer, of course.

-Justin

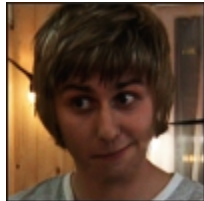



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:25:31](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I accept.

But I should tell you that I'm not a very good dancer.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 03:30:16](#)
(no subject)

Excellent!

Well, not about getting my feet trodden. Aren't they giving some extra lessons? We could go if you like. If you've time, that is.

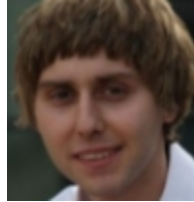
-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 03:39:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I've done it enough not to trod on your feet, but I don't know many of those elegant dances or moves that some of the older girls can do, like the courante or bal-musette. I know a few of the contradances, though.

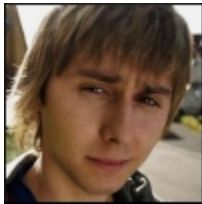
From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 04:25:57](#)
(no subject)

Well, we'll just muddle through together, what?

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-11-29 04:25:39](#)
Private Message to Hydra


Duckie?

Why Duckie?

Suits you, anyway.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-29 04:44:35](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I think it's a term of endearment in some parts of England, but Daddy says that he was surprised when I was born because I was all yellow, like a baby duck, and that's why he calls me it.

From,
Hydra

2011-11-28 22:36:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Er.

Hermione? What was that all about with calling me master today when I ran into you in the doorway after Potions? Was that some sort of sick joke Malfoy and Harry were pulling? Cause they were both laughing, weren't they? Or trying not to, but not doing much good at it. Gits.




 [alt_ron](#)

I can't believe you have to let them make you do stuff like that.

I dunno.

Nev'll probably say I shouldn't even ask you about it. Only it was so odd. And I just want you to know I think it stinks.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-29 17:41:41](#)
(no subject)

Sounds like imperius. And if they did that...yeah. It really stinks.

Hermione, I'll keep my journal close. If you want to write or anything.


You know that I know what it's like.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 17:43:04](#)
(no subject)

Does he do that to you a lot then?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-29 17:52:22](#)
(no subject)

He did it to me a lot more when I was younger. Once...only once, I told him 'no.' He beat me up, and hexed the crap out of me, and then he kept me under it for about a week. Once I proved to him I'd jump do whatever he said without question, he eased up.

Especially when I started acting more and more like crawling stupid boot all the time. I guess it convinced him his mind games had made a perfect mudblood out of me.

Except that every once in a while, he'll get in this weird sort of mood and he'll put me under it for about a day, even if I'm obeying him perfectly. And he'll make me do all sorts of bizarre things. Like one day I was only allowed to hop on one foot. And another time, I had to crawl everywhere. And another time I had to lick something before I picked it up, whatever it was. A book, or a spoon, or his shoe.


That's the sort of thing he thinks is funny.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-29 17:58:08](#)**
(no subject)

Look, it doesn't matter to me, I just am not going to write very much, but yes Ron he put Imperius on me so I have to write a word after every sentence, only I am very pleased to note that I can string all my sentences together so that I only have to do it at the very end, which looks odd and doesn't work when I'm speaking, but that's okay, and it does stink, but he says it'll wear off in a few days or else he'll take it off, and he doesn't really like it either, and the he in this case is Draco and not Harry, and his father ordered him to so I can't be very angry but I am actually, because he could have said 'no' or just made it so that I only said the word to Harry, not everyone, which is extra humiliating, only now that I think of it actually it's rather funny because I'll get to say it to Terry and other Muggleborns too, that is, the word, MASTER.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-11-29 19:47:00](#)**
(no subject)

You're handling it exactly right. Thinking around 'em.

Keep your chin up, Hermione.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-29 19:47:32](#)
(no subject)

You don't have to answer this.

But if anyone in Slytherin decides to have a laugh by cornering you and making you say 'master' over and over let me know in the journals and I'll pretend I saw it happen and tell a prefect. You shouldn't have to put up with that, and Harry wouldn't even have to intervene, I'm sure Melinda would put a stop to it if need be.

2011-11-29 10:19:00

Granger.

Fetch me an extra quill. And some green ink.



 [alt_harry](#)



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2011-11-29 17:39:46**

(no subject)

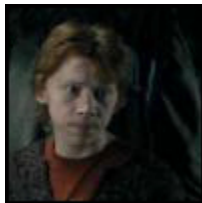
Yes, master. Of course, master.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-11-29 18:31:27**

(no subject)

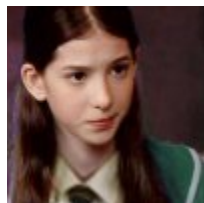
I meant the *other* green ink. In the bottle with the wax seal. This one's no good.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-29 19:14:14**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You rotten, stinking git!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-11-29 19:35:58**

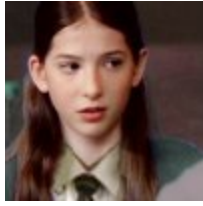
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ron.

When he's kind to her, SHE'S the one who gets in trouble.

The ruder he is to her in public, the less likely anyone's going to look too closely at how he treats her the rest of the time.

He's making a show of it. The biggest show possible. That's why this isn't even a private message. Because he's TRYING TO PROTECT HER SO SHE DOESN'T GET CRUCIATED AGAIN.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-29 19:43:36](#)

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

I mean HONESTLY Ron.

What would you do? If someone important gave you a servant and then, if you got caught treating her like a friend, they cruciated her and made you watch?

You'd want to be as nasty as possible in the ways that didn't matter, so that you could protect her in the ways that counted. If you were clever, anyway. You'd call her every nasty name you could think of if it kept her from being tortured or sent back to the camps or given to someone like Carrow. Just like Neville and I both pretend in public that we're ashamed of our parents. You know my parents read the diaries and probably Neville's do to and he has to say horrid things about his parents even knowing they might see them and not know, like we do, that he's only saying what he has to say.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 21:44:51](#)

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

Nice.

Always with the 'if you were clever, anyway'.

He could just keep his stupid gob shut. He doesn't have to do this at all. And if he'd say this sort of thing is WRONG, people would listen to HIM. Instead of thinking it's all right since he does it.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-11-29 20:28:33](#)

(no subject)

Yes, master.

2011-11-29 13:14:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

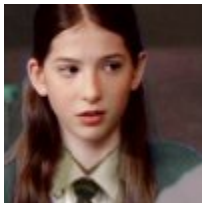
I'm going to get Seamus Bloody Finnigan if it's the last bleedin' thing I ever do.

I mean it.

He'd best not sleep in this dormitory again without casting every protection spell he knows.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-29 19:32:59](#)
(no subject)

Is this about what happened at breakfast?

I couldn't really see what was going on over at the Gryffindor table. What did he do?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 19:54:13](#)
(no subject)

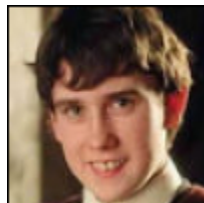
Ron got a package. From his mum.


Seamus saw and, um, he made fun of what was in the package. That's all.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-29 19:54:50](#)
(no subject)

Frankly, we don't blame Seamus a bit.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 19:55:36](#)
(no subject)

Look, you're not helping, okay? He's really hacked off.

I have to live with the two of them.

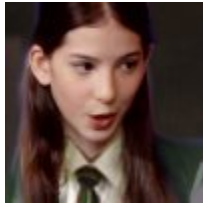


 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 19:56:33](#)
(no subject)

Not that I'm saying there's anything wrong with Ron--

oh, just


Ron. We'll figure something out. All right?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-29 19:55:43](#)
(no subject)

What was it?



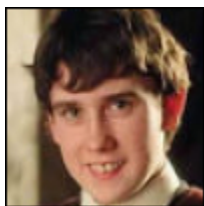
 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 19:57:03](#)
(no subject)


Dress robes. For the Yule Ball.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-29 19:57:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, and the styling was rather...unusual.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 20:00:11](#)
(no subject)


Well, instead of laughing at him, how about helping him? You two know lots of charms, don't you?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-29 20:01:56](#)
(no subject)

Maybe we will. But we plan to get lots of amusement out of him first.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 20:27:31](#)
(no subject)

You wouldn't be laughing if the ones she sent you looked like this!


Honestly. Why'd she bother sending them?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 20:17:27](#)
(no subject)

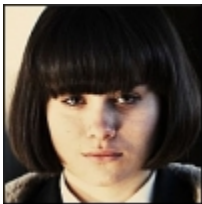
Oi!




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 19:49:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, don't make it easy for him by giving out how much it bothers you.

Maybe...maybe something can be done about them. I could ask Evelyn. She knows some clothing charms. Or maybe your sister might know some?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-29 20:08:12](#)
(no subject)

If it's dress robes for the ball,
I could

Sally Anne and me can fix them up.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 20:22:11](#)
(no subject)

Ron, why don't you have them take a look at them?
~~just don't laugh at them~~



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-29 20:24:32](#)

Private Message to Neville Longbottom

How bad are they?

I know his mum and dad don't have a lot of money.

I was going to just suggest that I buy him some new ones, but do you think he'd take offence? I mean, at least we can make the old ones look better than they were.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 20:57:19](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom

They're awful. Maybe they can be remade by someone brilliant at charms, but I dunno.

The thing is, they're second hand, and not in very good shape. Cuffs are frayed that sort of thing. So I dunno if much can be done with them.

Fred and George got some robes in packages, but they said they were handmedowns from their brothers, Bill and Charlie. Guess Mrs Weasley had to get something new for Ron.

Well, used.

They look like they were very stylish maybe forty years ago.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-29 21:52:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom


Well. I'll hold off sorting out what we can do until we get our hands on them.

But we ought to get them now instead of later, even if he isn't thinking of going now, just in case he changes his mind. Could you twist his arm and get him to pass them off to us?

Also. Do you think he'd get touchy if I bought him a new pair?

Maybe just a new shirt and tie?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-30 14:44:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom

I don't know if I can. He stuffed the robes into his trunk and locked it. Guess he didn't want Seamus to get a hold of them and mock him again. I think he's just hoping the whole thing will go away and everyone will forget about it. Or that they'll call off the Yule Ball entirely.

I'll give him a day to cool down and then ask.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 20:33:20](#)

(no subject)

Doesn't matter.

It's not like I'm going to go to the Ball, anywiz.

Only Seamus Bleedin Finningan had to go make a meal of Mum's sending me a frilly old witch's nightrobe as if I'd ever wear anything like that.

I'm going to hex him so hard it'll take Madam Pomfrey a month to heal him.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 20:19:47](#)

(no subject)

Don't be daft, Nev. He levitated them over the table and shouted about my mum's taste. Let's guess if it looked like it bothered me!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-29 20:20:58](#)

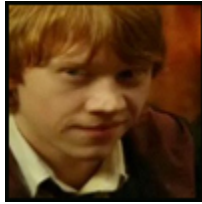
(no subject)


Look, I know all about people making fun because of my parents. All right?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-29 20:23:16](#)
(no subject)

Seamus is just being a berk. He's the one without taste. I'm sorry, Ron. That's not on.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-29 20:42:21](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Fisheye.


So what's the best payback hex you can think of? I was thinking either the boiling bunions jinx or the elasto-lips one, 'cause doesn't that make your lips get huger and huger until they're so gigantic they drag on the floor?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-11-29 21:50:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, if it's about taste, how about making his robes clash horribly with polka dots and stripes and awful colours like bright yellow and orange?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 00:49:00](#)
(no subject)

It's not his robes I want to turn yellow.

2011-11-29 13:26:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Barty, so glad you could join us last night. Really, a little quiet supper at home is just what is needed once in a while, especially with the holiday party season rushing upon us at broompace. Not that one does not eagerly anticipate all the festivities but they do wear on one's endurance. And one's wardrobe!

A few quick responses, if you'll all indulge me: Maisie, yes, certainly. Wouldn't dream of missing it. And Athena, you may be sure we already have our box reserved and look forward to your reception afterward. As for your kind invitation, Marisa, I regret I am not sure yet whether we shall be - involved - in activities at Hogwarts that night as part of my responsibility to the Sisters in Witchcraft. But if not, then I believe we may drop by for a time. Oh, and Mr Cooper: Yes, we received your note. It's kind of you to think of us. Of course, we shall do our best to attend.

Now, before I go further I need hardly mention that as always, Mr Malfoy and I cannot possibly respond to every invitation we receive. Nor are gifts necessary - please, we appreciate every gesture, truly, but of late we have been overflowing with the bounty of the Protectorate. Thus it is our wish this year that any token you might think to send to our little family go instead to the St Mungo's Auxiliary and the Vale of Health, in recognition of the continued suffering of those tragic victims of Black's Paralysis. We think it only fitting that the tireless efforts of the Healers, Junior Healers and Medi wizards who provide their care should be rewarded, at this time of year especially.

On a related note, I have been fortunate enough to be named to the Nominating Committee of the WI's 'Career Witch of the Year' award. Each year the WI chooses one recipient who exemplifies all those qualities of business acumen, diligence, dedication and effectiveness within the workplace, to which any witch may aspire. I've some ideas, of course, already about whom to include on the ballot. It's gratifying to know so many successful and ambitious women and to have a wealth of possible choices!

Oh, and Rod, I have been giving some thought to that project you

mentioned the other day. I've some possible solutions. Shall I find you at St James' Palace if I were to come through this afternoon?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-29 19:32:11](#)

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrange

Not here?

Perhaps L'Estrange Hill.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-29 20:26:58](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

These camouflaging notes aside, I hope you are well.

I was reminded rather pointedly this afternoon just how much I've missed you of late.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-11-30 00:46:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Am fine.

'Miss' is too small a word.

Hoping for a chance soon to use camouflage to advantage.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 04:11:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Hm. Aurors' 'fine' or really fine?

My only comfort is to think that whatever you're about is important, and that you're successful at it.

Igor keeps sending me owls, you know. Too much longer and I might become bored enough to answer them.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-29 21:55:34](#)

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

You know, Rodolphus, you really ought to close the Floo if you're indisposed toward visitors.

Or set a cantrip to alert you if anyone comes through to ... disturb your enterprise.

Come over for tea tomorrow morning. If you can tear yourself away.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-30 01:24:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

So the elf didn't close the Floo. Hm. Sounds as if it's holding a grudge. Clothes: so be it.

Well. Do I stand in scorn before you?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:05:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

A grudge? Hm. Ask yourself if the elf in question is one of yours or one of my sister's.

As for scorn ... not quite. For one thing I read from my niece that you've passed an important test as the father of a daughter, and that alone deserves some clemency. For another, let us say I ... sympathise on a number of levels.

You really should come tomorrow. So we can talk.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-30 03:14:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

The elves at Le'Strange all belong to me. However, they have long had little to do, and might slip up otherwise mundane tasks, or find themselves restless and resentful in the face of so few tasks to begin with.

She must be asking you about the Ball. I'm not surprised that it's you she turns to.

Very well. I will see you in the morning.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:22:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Yes, she's come to me about the ball. Worried our Bella will object to her attending with someone who is not Harry. But I gather you did not send the young suitor cowering in the shadows, either.

Somehow I always imagined you standing with wand in one hand, beater's bat in the other, threatening any and all who might dare sniff round your precious Duckie. Well done, for resisting the urge.

Morning.

But on another topic, I did have a thought regarding our other problem.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-30 03:25:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

I very much doubt that Duckie's escort poses a threat of any kind, in this case. And if I'm wrong - well, he shall be more wrong.

Ah, yes. Any developments?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:35:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Oh, I've no doubt you could make mincemeat of - I assume it was Mr Finch-Fletchley, late of France, who did the asking? - should he do anything untoward. I'm merely surprised you're even entertaining giving him an opportunity.

Developments. Yes. Did you happen to note my place on the nominating committee for 'Career Witch of the Year'? You might be interested to know that the WI has a number of categories for recognition. Career Witch, Mentor, Sorceress Care to wager whether she could resist - or whether she'd

have any idea how to conduct herself at such a ceremony? And it takes care of your delivery problem, in the bargain.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-30 03:47:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

I somehow doubt that my day to be eclipsed shall come so soon, and at the hands of a toothy teenager who will be out of the country at year's end, no less.

I do not know her well enough to wager with confidence that she wouldn't resist, but arrogance has a historical precedence for leading to the downfall of many a witch and wizard, great and small. I don't see why she should be immune to such stroking.

The ceremony comes with a token of appreciation, then. Plaque or trophy? A mere framed certificate?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 04:03:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

I expect we'd have some leeway. Would one be easier to curse than another?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-11-30 04:08:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Yes. A plaque or trophy would be made of materials better suited for artefact creation, whereas parchment is susceptible to a variety of destabilising elements. Dust, moisture, light. But if it is a parchment certificate, the frame is where I will focus my efforts.


What is most important is that there is no way to trace it back to myself. That is, after all, why we decided none of the items from the Grimsby auction would do.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-11-30 04:12:29](#)**
Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrange

I'm quite sure I could put it into someone's head to provide a plaque. And what on earth would you have to do with a Witches' Institute award?



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-11-30 04:48:54](#)**
Re: Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrange

I would have a great deal to do with one, as it appears to be turning out. But yes, I don't think it would occur to anyone else. Ever.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-11-30 01:37:34](#)**
(no subject)


Mrs Malfoy -

I always love reading the profiles on the Career Witch of the Year, but of course, one doesn't hear much about other candidates, who in some other other year might be recognised at the peak of their power.

Might I ask, if you or the committee come across witches in particularly interesting roles, that you might consider suggesting them as YPL presenters in the future? We're just now beginning the process of building this summer and next year's potential plans, and we do like to represent the grand variety that our Lord's Protectorate can develop. I wouldn't dream of taking up any of your time, but even a list of a few the committee thought particularly intriguing would be a wonderful assistance in planning future programmes.

Best wishes to you, and your family, for a wonderful holiday season.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-11-30 03:09:48](#)**
(no subject)

Professor,

Yes, of course. The YPL does so much good for our young people and you are clearly so busy between it

and your lessons and, from what I hear, an increasing number of social engagements with the season.

I understand we're to have the pleasure of your company this year, for example?

Well, I hope you haven't found your entry into the public eye too disagreeable. There is little help for it, however. One could wish on every star in the heavens and I fear it would not persuade the press to respect the boundaries of privacy, when it concerns Our Lord's near and dear.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-11-30 15:06:33](#)
(no subject)

Mrs Malfoy,


Thank you for your kindness, of course. And yes, an increasing number of invitations this year.

Fortunately, I've been teaching long enough that while I always continue to look for new ways to help students learn, I've plenty of lessons that work well without requiring too much planning time. (Marking is another matter entirely, of course.)

The TriWizard Cup events - as wonderful as they are - added quite a few challenges to this fall's plans, and that continues at least through the Yule Ball. And yet, a few moments here and there for personal enjoyment do make it easier to dive back into the work.

As to the public eye, I certainly have a renewed respect for those who've lived with that kind of scrutiny for years, especially those like yourself who do so with such grace and dignity.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-30 02:19:20](#)
Private message to Aunt Narcissa

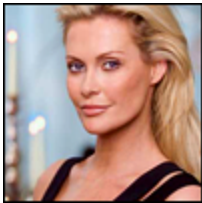
Hello Auntie,

I don't know if you and Daddy are discussing this right now in the private messages above, but someone asked me to the Yule Ball, and it wasn't Harry. Harry fancies someone else, and I think he's going to ask her. Daddy said I can go with who I would prefer to go with, so I said yes to the person who

asked first.

Well, I don't know if Mummy knows yet that I'm going with someone who's not-Harry. Do you think she'll be terribly upset? She already sent me three sets of robes to choose from, so I know she was expecting me to go to the Ball, and of course she was expecting that Harry would be my escort.

From,
Hydra



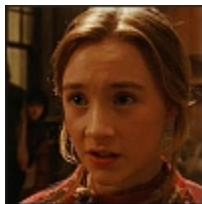
 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:16:59](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Hello, sweeting.

It so happens that your father and I are discussing something altogether different. But I'm glad to hear that you shan't have to miss the ball because Harry's attention lies elsewhere.

As for your mother - well, your father has the right of it and don't you worry about her. Why should you content yourself to play a wallflower just to suit her whim? I'll wager Harry might notice you more if you have the gayest time imaginable. And if he does not, then at least you haven't wasted your time, but enjoyed it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-30 03:21:35](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Oh, I hadn't thought of that. Do you suppose that, when Mummy learns I'm not going with Harry, I might tell her your reasoning, but present it as if it's my own idea, and tell her that I intend to go and have a gay time because it would be a good way to get Harry's notice? Not because I want him to notice, really, but because Mummy is probably going to be cross when she learns about my going with someone else. But she might be less cross if she thinks it's part of a plan to get Harry's attention.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:27:40](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Dear girl, if your mother raises the tiniest objection, you tell her anything you like.

Now. These robes she's sent you. Was there something about them that makes them difficult to wear if you're not going with Harry? They were meant to complement his eyes or call attention to the fact that your head comes just up to his shoulder, or something like that? They have a charm running round the hem saying 'Mrs Harry Marvolo-to-be' or a similar sentiment?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-30 03:34:27](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

No, the robes don't say anything about Harry or his eyes. They look like Mummy's kind of dress robes, all three sets are black and they were made by Kosette. One has some leather buckles around the waist and down the sides, and another has a long lace train, with a big, high lace collar, and the last one is made of heavy silk, with cut-outs in the back and on the sleeves, and the cut-outs have a kind of netting in them.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 03:38:13](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Ah. Oh, dear. I do see the problem, yes.

Well.

Shall your Auntie send you an early Christmas present, perhaps?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-30 03:50:22](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

I thought I might make some changes to these, but they're too well made. Kosette doesn't want anyone to meddle with her designs, I think.

It's not that I don't like them I don't. Only they look terribly odd on me.

I think you might have a better idea of what would look nice on me?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 04:15:22](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Kosette's designs are impeccable but, forgive me dear, they really are meant for someone who has, shall we say, filled out a little more than you had when I last saw you.

Speaking of which, have you grown any in recent months? Particularly at the bust or hip?

Don't you fret, dearest. Your Auntie shall get you something much more suitable.



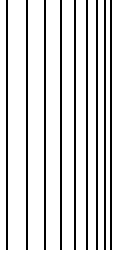
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-11-30 04:45:49](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

The school robes I got at the end of summer still fit fine. The might be just the tiniest smidgen shorter, but otherwise, they're the same.

Thank you, Aunt Narcissa. I'm sorry to be a bother.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-11-30 04:57:27](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Not at all, dear. You do get the strangest ideas. How you could imagine yourself a bother is beyond me.

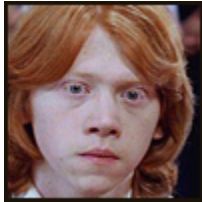
2011-11-29 18:41:00

Ronald Weasley!



I need something from you now!

 [alt_ginny](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-30 04:02:30**

(no subject)

Wot? I'm busy tonight, Gin.

Could you ask Fred or George for whatever it is you need?



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2011-11-30 05:54:05**

Private Message to Ron

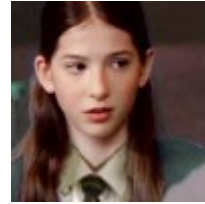
No I can't ask Fred or George. I didn't mean to come off rude. And I know the ball is not really your thing, but if you do decide to go, you cannot wear those horribly ancient dress robes.

I had Dean place a sealed envelope on your bedside table. I sealed it, and only you can open it. Inside it is a measuring tape that I had enchanted. The next time you are in the bath, let the measuring tape do its work, and then give it back to me. The magic on the tape will have recorded your measurements in highlighted numbers. I promise you will not have to wear the robes Mum sent you.

I'm sorry Seamus embarrassed you. But get me that tape measure back asap.

2011-11-29 19:26:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good: The Imperius Curse*



 **alt_sally_anne**

So it's past time I wrote about the third of the Cardinal Curses. The Imperius Curse. Of all the Cardinal Curses I think it's probably the one someone is MOST likely to cast, because frankly it's pretty useful and you don't have to be an utterly evil git like Carrow to be able to think of reasonable uses. For instance, one time when Draco was really little he'd climbed up somewhere that he was in danger of falling, and he froze. Mr Malfoy cast Imperius on him and then climbed him down as if he were a puppet. Draco wound up with some really bad bruises on his hands, because his father had him holding on so tightly at each hand-hold (because he was terrified Draco would fall and die), but those healed up quickly.

Anyway. One of the books we read for Dark Arts talks about the ethical question of whether the ends justifies the means. The book says yes, of course it does, because the ends are really what count. Only of course the real answer is 'sometimes' and 'it depends on what the ends are and the means are,' because while killing every student at Hogwarts would nicely solve the problem of mud getting tracked in I don't imagine anyone would consider that a justifiable solution. And although there are people who are morally opposed to the Cardinal Curses under all circumstances, saying that Percy shouldn't have used the Imperius Curse to stop Amycus Carrow from killing anyone else after Hannah is just ridiculous. It would have been far better if he could have used the Imperius EARLIER and then Hannah would still be alive.

So, alright. On to what I know about the curse. OF COURSE, it was developed by a Ravenclaw. This one was trying to turn the Cruciatus curse inside out. Cruciatus works by turning on the bit of your brain that feels pain. The woman who invented Imperius was trying to work out how to do the opposite, and turn on the part of your brain that feels good. She was a teacher and she wanted to try to tie it to getting a correct answer, to see if that helped students learn. It didn't quite work out the way she'd imagined it. But, a really strong Imperius will feel REALLY GOOD when it's cast on you. A less-strong version, it's more that you'll find yourself doing things without quite knowing why (unless you know it was cast on you, then you'll know WHY, at least).

It takes a much stronger spell to make someone do something that's really against their nature, like to make Ron hurt Neville. If someone did that sort of Imperius, probably Ron would barely even know what he was doing, he'd be up on a cloud of bliss. If someone just wanted to make Ron start a fight with Seamus that would be quite a bit easier, he might later not even realise he'd been cursed, he'd look back and say 'I don't know what I was thinking!' but he might not realise it wasn't really him at all.

There are two really important things to know. One is how to cast it, and the other is how to resist it.

To cast it, you point your wand at the person you're cursing and you say 'imperio' and you think intently about what it is you want them to do. The 'primaries' for Imperius are Contempt and Superiority. Strong secondaries include self-righteousness and the belief that your wishes are paramount (which is sort of like Superiority but a little more specific) and additional secondaries can include protectiveness (even 'paternalism' which is almost a parental feeling) and disgust, and tertiaries include both love and hate, which is sort of funny. Mostly you need the conviction that you know best. Which is not hard to summon up, or maybe it is for other people? but I find this one pretty easy, at least in class, where mostly we practise on animals.

With the weakest successful version you have to follow the person around telling them exactly what to do each moment and it'll wear off as soon as you're really distracted. With a stronger version you have to keep your wand on them and sort of direct them where to go, like a puppet. If you're really good at it you can just give them general directions and they'll keep following them for weeks.

If you want someone to do something small but irritating, like end every sentence with the word 'master,' and you want them to keep doing this for a while without you having to follow them around, you need at least a middling strength curse.

The fact that Draco had Hermione end EVERY sentence that way (and not just when she's talking to Harry) could mean he's not very good at it, because it lacks finesse. Or possibly he was being sloppy. But -- Hermione, it does mean that if you want you can practise resisting Imperius, because you shouldn't do that sort of practice with Harry but you could certainly do it on the lock, or with me, if you want to meet in person after the common room's cleared out.

It's possible to resist the curse. You focus really hard on NOT doing

whatever it is you're being forced to do, and if you work at it, and practise, you'll be able to throw off the curse entirely. It's really difficult, I've never been able to do it (we've worked a little with Imperius in Dark Arts class) although part of the problem is that while I'd like to be able to throw off Imperius, I'd really rather Miss Professor Carrow NOT know that I can (not to mention everyone else in Dark Arts). If people want to practise together, we could do that. You'll have to learn to cast it, too, though, or you'll just be practising resisting it and I'll just be practising casting it and honestly that would be sort of awful.

(The other thing about resisting it that's hard -- if you're practising in a class you KNOW it's been cast on you and you're paying attention to what it's making you do. In the real world you might not even notice, especially if the person isn't trying to get you to do something vile or shocking. Let's say you want some Ministry official who signs things all day and you want him to sign something without paying close attention to what he's signing, with Imperius you could PROBABLY have his name on your papers in two seconds and he'll never even know he was cursed, because you're just trying to get him to do something he does all day a little more efficiently. On the other hand, if you get caught at it you'll be in HUGE trouble. ANYWAY if you've learnt how to throw it off when you know it's been cast on you it's easier to resist when someone casts it on you and you're not expecting it.)

It's illegal to cast on a fellow wizard or witch without a licence, unless you're in a Dark Arts class or have special permission. Percy could have got in all sorts of trouble for casting it on Carrow. I heard they gave him a retroactive licence. Of course people with the licence can still get into trouble if they cast it on the wrong person or for the wrong reason (and get caught).



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:02:58](#)**
(no subject)

It's illegal to cast on a fellow wizard or witch without a licence...

We'll point out that this is perfect dragon dung, of course. Considering that people cast Imperius on Hermione and the Professor all the time.

News flash: they're wizards.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:39:40](#)
(no subject)

Point.

I was speaking legally, though. Legally they're not. So different rules apply. In fact it's completely illegal for you to cast Imperius on Hermione because she belongs to someone else and it would be incredibly dangerous if they just said she was fair game for whomever because someone could Imperius her to harm Harry. Or the Lord Protector, for that matter, since Hermione goes to Buckingham sometimes.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-30 17:20:56](#)
(no subject)

She doesn't belong to anybody.

Sorry. I know you don't mean it. But it still hacks me off. This is the lock. Let's not use it to repeat their lies.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-30 15:12:54](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for writing this up, Sally-Anne. Ugh, it's horrible to learn about it, but I think this is really important stuff to know. And yeah, I'd like to get together to try to practise resisting it.

One question: you said that to resist it you have to concentrate on not doing what the caster is trying to get you to do. What if you don't know what he's trying to get you to do? Is that possible? I mean, the caster doesn't necessarily have to say it aloud, does he? Like 'go and murder this person.' Do you always know what it is you're being ordered to do before you do it, when you're under Imperius? If you know what I mean? Like, maybe if you were ordered to suddenly push someone off a high ledge, would your own actions take you by surprise, if you were under an Imperius? Or do you always know what you're being asked to do, consciously I mean?

Oh, I guess another question, too: you said there are primary and secondary emotions you have to tap when casting it. What about

primary and secondary emotions needed to resist it?



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2011-11-30 15:34:34](#)
(no subject)

Alright, these are really interesting questions.

About not knowing what to resist doing -- that's the problem with the curse if someone casts it on you sneakily. Because you might not exactly be aware, and in part it depends on the instructions and how subtle they were. If the caster ordered you to murder Seamus Finnigan, you'd find yourself hunting murderously for Seamus and you would know you wanted to kill him but you might never question why. But you might, because it might take you a while to find him and it MIGHT occur to you to ask yourself why it was so important and you might, at that point, realise you'd been cursed.

On the other hand, the instruction might be, wait until Astronomy and when Seamus Finnigan steps near the ledge, push him off. You probably wouldn't notice anything until suddenly you'd pushed Seamus off the ledge. And yes, probably your own actions would take you by surprise in that case.

All this is precisely WHY it used to be Unforgiveable, and if you used it even once you'd get sent to Azkaban for the rest of your LIFE. Not that people didn't use it anyway and hope they didn't get caught, but. Especially since it wasn't taught, most people weren't very skilled with it. Now there's licences and everything.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2011-11-30 15:37:06](#)
(no subject)

And, primary and secondary emotions for resisting it, that is a BRILLIANT question and I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear they didn't talk about that in class AT ALL.

So I don't really know.

But probably anger would be a good primary. Defiance. Stubbornness. I guess maybe anger as the primary, stubbornness as the secondary.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-11-30 17:23:40](#)**
(no subject)

Isn't it interesting that those are exactly the emotions that muggleborns are never supposed to display toward their 'masters.'



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:27:53](#)**
(no subject)

His Father told him that he had to make it every sentence, not just to Harry, to humiliate me

master.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:29:50](#)**
(no subject)

Well.

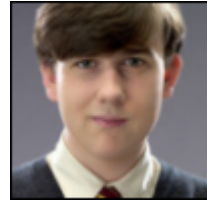
That was really foolish of him, because if you want to work on resisting it, you can, and even if you get to the point where you can throw it off, Harry won't have to know.

2011-11-30 08:53:00

Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Well, I asked her.

She said yes.



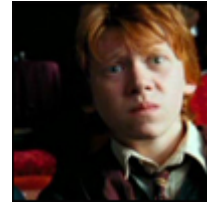
 **alt_neville**

2011-11-30 09:06:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I don't even want to talk about it.


Seriously.



 [alt_ron](#)

ugh




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-30 15:10:43**
(no subject)

Fair enough, tuna brain.

Want to go for a walk later?




 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-11-30 16:19:33**
(no subject)

Yeah.


How about during lunch.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-11-30 16:42:24**
(no subject)


I'll see you in a few.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2011-11-30 15:14:58**
(no subject)


Well, I'm glad you're not in detention for trying to thump on Seamus. So that's something.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-11-30 15:40:12](#)
(no subject)

And, um. You're clean.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:09:51](#)
(no subject)

Nice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:24:58](#)
(no subject)

The story that I heard at breakfast is probably better than the reality, anyway.

I'm sure your sister MEANT well.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-30 15:25:53](#)
(no subject)

No, it wasn't. Trust us, reality exceeded our wildest imagination.


And given our imagination, that's saying a lot!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 15:54:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh, ha. ha.

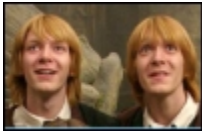


 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:34:08](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Ron. That tape measure looked downright amorous, mate.

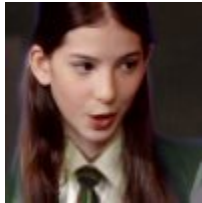
(Next time don't yell, and then maybe people won't come running.)



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:35:32](#)**

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

Well, at least there's something that wants to wrap itself lovingly around our ickle Ronnikins.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:41:02](#)**

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

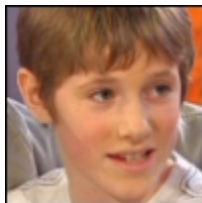
Do you two EVER stop?



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:43:31](#)**

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

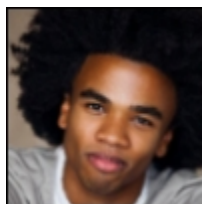
Why should we, with our own precious Ronnikins there to provide us with such an endless supply of merriment?



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:50:05](#)**

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

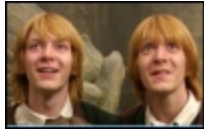
This is downright puzzling to read. What happened, exactly?



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-11-30 15:51:07](#)**

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

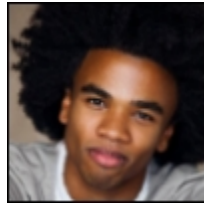
Well, guess Ron didn't much care for the dress robes his mum sent him for the Yule Ball.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-11-30 15:51:54](#)

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

Can't blame, him, to tell the truth. We love her, but it was sort of a lapse of taste on our dear old Mum's part.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-11-30 15:55:13](#)

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

Yeah. So from what I hear, his sister Ginny gave him a tape measure to take his measurements while he was in the bath.

And it got sort of...overexcited. He came flying out of the tub area covered in soap suds, yelling, with the tape flying after him, trying to measure all the pertinent bits.

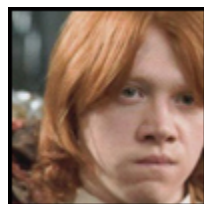


 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-30 15:58:02](#)

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

I just had to stuff my journal under my pallet, quick, and shove my face into my pillow, because I was laughing so hard.

Sorry, Ron. But thanks for the laugh.



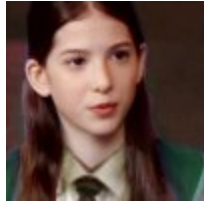
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:04:23](#)

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

Yeah. Glad I could help.

No, really.

...




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:54:29](#)

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

According to the gossip at the Slytherin breakfast table, someone transfigured a snake into a tape measure and sent it after Ron as a prank while he was in the bath and he came out screaming and stark naked because the thing was trying to crawl -- um.

Then I heard from Lavender Brown it wasn't actually a transfigured snake, just a tailor's tape measure, and Ginevra gave it to him but didn't warn him about ALL the measurements it might try to get. Lav thought Ginevra might have done it on purpose to be cruel, I think she just didn't think about it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:21:37](#)

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

...

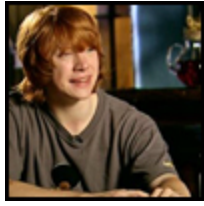


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:56:58](#)

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

And, right, this is all because we're ALL supposed to have dress robes for the Yule Ball in December. Mrs Weasley sent Ron some she found used and they're horrid, really horrid (I only caught a glimpse of them but the descriptions I've heard involved lavender lace and also they were the sort of thing that might have been fashionable in 1938? I'm not even sure.)

Ron, you know you could also go talk to Professor Sinistra if you don't want robes from your sister, she doesn't JUST mean half-bloods with stingy foster families can come for help with a decent set of dress robes.



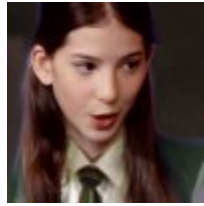
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:06:44](#)

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

Yeah.

I don't know.

I mean, everyone's just going mad over this whole Ball thing. I don't see the point, really.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 16:09:41](#)

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

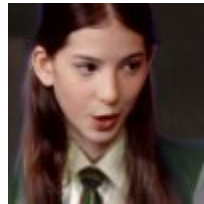
It's an excuse to go off and spend time with a girl you like (if you're a boy) or a boy you like (if you're a girl).



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:23:57](#)

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

...

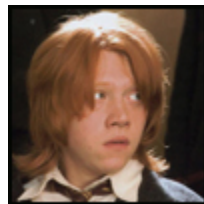


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 16:30:50](#)

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

WHY am I not surprised that you are TOTALLY BAFFLED by this idea, Ron Weasley?

It's just lucky for the school not every boy is as late a bloomer as some.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:33:24](#)

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

Wot?

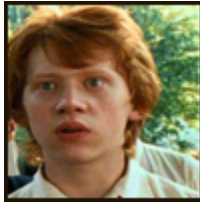
Don't tell me you want to go?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 16:34:54](#)

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

Of course I'm going!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:37:46](#)

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

Well, that's optimistic.

How do you know-

You didn't ask someone did you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 16:42:15](#)

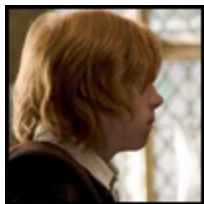
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


Oh...!

NO, I didn't ask ANYONE.

I GOT ASKED.

And I said yes.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 16:53:42](#)

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

...



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 15:53:26](#)

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

Oi!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:42:13](#)

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

So it really was a tape measure? I sort of wondered after I heard the story if it was actually some sort of cursed object?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-11-30 15:56:18](#)

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

Well. With Gin, I guess it could've been.

I think she's always fancied my room, so she might be trying to kill me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 15:57:44](#)

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

DEATH BY CURSED TAPE MEASURE.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-11-30 16:01:03](#)

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

Somebody should sic it on the git's sister. Maybe it'll strangle her.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-11-30 16:06:39](#)

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

We'd want to curse it properly first. I am confident that a tailor's tape measure would not ACTUALLY throttle a customer even if it might humiliate him utterly in front of his dorm mates.

Fred and George, you ever made a cursed object?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-11-30 16:08:44](#)**

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

Er.

I think if Miss P C turns up dead with a tailor's tape round her throat now, it wouldn't go real

well for me.

Just sayin.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-11-30 16:10:39](#)**

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

Good point!

We'd at least have to get another one so everyone knew it wasn't yours that killed her!

[2011-11-30 09:42:00](#)

Private message to Padma Patil

Did you hear what happened this morning in the Gryffindor boys' bathroom? I seriously thought I might die laughing.



 **[alt_seamus](#)**


Apparently Ginevra decided she'd solve her brother's embarrassing robe problem by having one of her fashion magazine friends get him something that was tailored this century, so she left him a tailor's tape measure and told him to take it into the bath with him this morning.

Turns out Weasley's never been measured before, since he ALWAYS had hand-me-downs. I'm not quite sure what he EXPECTED from a tailor's tape measure, but -- he came out of the bath, covered in soap suds, shrieking 'get it off me, get it off me' while it kept right on -- well, you know what tape measures are like! It was still trying to get his measurements and slithering after him as he ran. Except it was all mixed up, because you know you're supposed to HOLD STILL for the tape measure so it got wrapped around both his ankles at once...

Well.

I wish you could have seen it, except for the part where you'd have had to see Ron Weasley naked. It was the funniest thing I had ever seen IN MY LIFE. Even his mates thought it was hilarious. I think the only one who DIDN'T think it was funny was Weasley. I'm still grinning.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:13:11](#)**
(no subject)

Parvati and Lavender heard the shrieks all the way down in the common room, they said.

That may just be the most utterly fantastic thing Ginevra has ever done. It's almost too bad she's responsible although I guess it sort of counts because she *thought* she was being kind?

And yeah, the thought of Weasley running round with only soap suds is a bit sickening but luckily I don't generally eat much for breakfast.

Hey. Do you know that charm that puts a ruler across the top or the side of your parchment, so you can space out lines?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-30 16:15:45](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, what about it?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:17:44](#)

(no subject)

Well. I was just thinking that it might be helpful if someone arranged it so that all his parchments were ruled.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:36:49](#)

(no subject)

Maybe with a little box around 4".



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-30 16:38:21](#)

(no subject)

That DOES sound helpful.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:14:36](#)

(no subject)

I mean, I couldn't see what he'd got yesterday in the owl post but I could hear you howling over it.


But Parvati said the robes were truly hideous.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-30 16:15:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, they looked like something an old lady might have worn fifty years ago. They smelled funny, the lace (LACE!) was half-ripped off, the cuffs were fraying, really I don't know why his mum even bothered if that's all she could find, he'd look more respectable at the Ball in his school robes.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:19:16](#)
(no subject)

Molly Weasley wouldn't know good taste if it punched her in the eye. Have you ever seen her at King's Cross? Dumpy, she is. I hope I never get that fat.


Really, it's a mystery how Ginevra ever wound up in modelling.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-11-30 16:39:41](#)
(no subject)

These robes weren't just bad taste, they weren't suitable as anything but a rag to polish your silver with. I mean I know they're poor and all, but surely she could have come up with SOMETHING better or told him to go begging to Professor Sinistra, like Bundy did.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-11-30 16:57:34](#)
(no subject)

Oh, but if he does show up in those robes Professor Siz has, well. Su Li went to look at them and she said they're all the same. Might as well go in school robes, except that these are in house colours and just a smidgen more fashionable than these dull black things.

Honestly, I wish we could do away with uniforms altogether but then we might have to put up with people in rags - oh, wait. We already have the Weasleys doing that.




 **alt_seamus** at **2011-11-30 17:06:50**
(no subject)

I don't think Weasley would care if he was wearing the same robes as loads of other people, but even if he did mind that would still be better than what his mum sent.

Maybe his mum is horrified that people might look at him and see he's wearing the same robes as a bunch of fostered half-bloods, though. They're awfully poor but they ARE a very old pureblood family. They're like second or third cousins to the Malfoys, they all wound up at the same funeral a few years ago because some great-aunt died. Anyway I wouldn't be surprised if she'd rather he be seen in century-old moth-eaten robes than whatever it is Bundy's going to be in.

Is Su Li wearing them or is she trying to come up with something else? Mr Rosier actually bought me dress robes in August, like the list said to, I've had them in my trunk since I arrived. I need to work out who I'm asking to the Ball, though.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-11-30 21:29:52**
(no subject)

Apparently, Ginevra agrees with you about not wanting anyone of hers in some mouldy old nightdress or in Gryffindor-coloured robes.

Though don't you recall her saying she disliked being associated with her family? Isn't that why she objects when people call her 'Weasley'?

Well.

Su Li's wearing sort of a combination. She wanted to see what the YPL would provide in case it was better than what her foster-parents gave her, but it's not, not by much, anyway. So we're going to have a little tailoring session of our own, and I'm adding some charms Mum's taught us to make them a bit nicer. So they'll look more-or-less like the YPL robes, but have a better shape and loads more personality.

I guess it would be rather hard for you to ask the people you

want to ask. Can't you just ask a girl for now and then encourage her to dance with other boys too?



 **alt_seamus** at **[2011-12-01 01:24:53](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. I hadn't even thought about asking someone like Evgeni. I want to go to the Ball, because I think it'll be grand fun, and I just assumed I'd ask a girl. It's not as if most girls are really cross when a boy wants to be a gentleman and not snog her all the time, anyway.

I'm just not really sure who to ask. ~~I want someone who I'm sure will say yes, but~~

2011-11-30 19:18:00

A matter of choice



 [alt_daphne](#)

I would like to personally extend my gratitude to Gerard Chabat (*merci beaucoup!*), Erasmus Croaker, and ah Alfred Montague, who were all gracious enough to ask me to the Yule Ball in the last few days. I hope that none of you took personal offence to my disinclination. Any girl in this school would be more than lucky to be escorted by gentlemen of your calibre, and would, I'm sure, have a lovely and diverting evening.

Before I receive invitations from other male students, I would like to explain my position on the matter.

I have decided that I would like to ask someone to the Ball myself. I realise that this may go against tradition, but I don't really have much use for tradition - at least not in this particular instance. In fact, I find it terribly unfortunate that most girls feel that they must linger back patiently and wait for someone to take notice of them. What a helpless feeling that is, I'm sure. Why rob yourself of the same opportunity that boys are always confident of? That is, the right and privilege of seeking out someone whose company you desire. I have overheard many female students say that they felt they had no choice but to accept the first invitation to the ball they received, out of fear that should they dally, they would lose their chance. But what kind of way is this to live? To be grateful for any old chance, or to be in a position where you feel you have no choice. Well, I am convinced that there's *always* a choice.

In my case, I'm still trying to decide just whose company it is that I most desire. It will require careful thought and observation, certainly, and I suppose that if there are boys who are eager to make their case as to why I should consider them, then they're perfectly free to do so. I realise that options will run thin the longer I ponder this, but I'm content with taking such a risk. If I end up with no special individual to share the Ball with, then I shall share it with all of the students who are in attendance, instead!

I just know we'll all have the grandest time.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 02:54:28](#)

Private message to Alfred Montague

Alfred, WE ARE FIRST COUSINS!!! What were you thinking??? That sort of thing might fly in Wales, or maybe 100 years ago or something, but UGH. How repulsive!



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 02:56:35](#)

Private message to Astoria Greengrass

I saw you running down to the other end of the Slytherin table to whisper in Alfred's ear this morning.

I suppose you think yourself terribly funny.

I think you'll soon find yourself terribly dead, if you don't stop.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 03:57:36](#)

(no subject)

Good on you, Daphne! I'm sure that you'll have your pick. And we'll all have a grand time at the ball.

I was wondering if you have the latest issue of Tribeca? Sally-Anne and I were going to practise hair charms this weekend, and you're more than welcome to join in. We'll see if Milli is interested too.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 04:04:31](#)

(no subject)

We absolutely shall! Do you know the stage actress Maisie Crawford? She worked in the 1930s - one of my Grandmother's idols - and she always said *It's not the company you keep, it's the company you are.*

I think those are exceptional words to live by.

I hope you won't object if I save a dance for Draco, which he only need retrieve if he's so inclined, of course.

I do, as it so happens. I've been working on that upswept twist

style, but it's nearly impossible to do with only two hands, and that new "barrel curl" charm is quite a tricky thing, isn't it? That said, I would love to practise. And well, Millie can watch. She likes that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 04:11:55](#)

(no subject)

Oh, of course! After all, it's not like we're going to be stuck to each other all night.

And I can see how that style would be very fetching with your facial structure, and we can certainly give it a good try between the three of us. I usually like my hair short, but I've been tossing around the idea of lengthening it a bit just for the Ball. What do you think?

Milli can rate her favourites. She always makes the funniest faces when she doesn't like something.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 04:18:06](#)

(no subject)

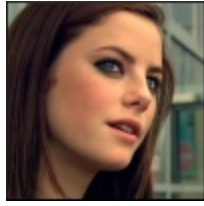
Well, I usually like your look because it's uniquely you, but it is true that one can only get so elaborate with shorter hair. In fact, it's hard for me to even imagine you with long hair and no fringe. For that reason alone I think we should experiment with it, just to see!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 04:24:06](#)

(no subject)

Definitely. Which is why I'd rather start fiddling around with it now instead of the day before. And Sally-Anne has such beautiful long hair, but she usually keeps it pin straight. I'd love to see what sort of things we could do with it.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 04:28:38](#)

Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Now, I *know* that Sally Anne has a date to the Ball, but she's being ever so secretive about it, and I can't fathom why! I don't think that she's the sort of girl who would say "yes" to someone she didn't care for, just for a chance to go to the Ball with a date, so surely she's not hiding his name out of embarrassment, is she?

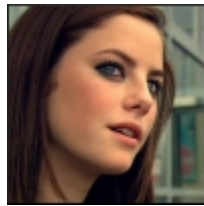


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 04:34:07](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Far from! From what I know, they're both quite happy to be going to the ball with one another, they've just decided to keep it quiet to avoid too much gossip. You know how she can be very private about some things. He feels the same, so they're just being discreet.

I did promise not to tell, but you'll find out soon enough.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-01 04:37:58](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

My mind is certainly running over with possibilities...or, not really. I can't think at ALL of who it would be. ~~Who would gossip about~~

Well, this certainly gives me one more thing to anticipate regarding the Ball, at least!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 04:47:19](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

You have NO id

Oh, believe me, it will be a lovely surprise! More than anything, I'm glad that she doesn't have to worry about a date, and that she's happy with the person who asked her.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-01 04:52:12**

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

If she's happy then that's what matters most.

Which is precisely why I'm choosing my own date. Gerard Chabat is quite fit, really, but he will only speak to me in French. I can keep up well enough, but I don't much fancy the thought of having to speak in French all evening long. And Erasmus can be frightfully clever, but he can also be so odd and obtuse. One can never really tell what his mood is, and I don't like the idea of having to wonder all night if he's enjoying himself or not.

And then there's Alfred, who's just an idiot.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-01 05:00:51**

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

You certainly don't have to spend all night talking.

I can see how Erasmus might be difficult to sort out -- perhaps once you get to know him better, it'd be easier to tell what he was thinking, and whether you liked it?

But yes, Alfred is an idiot. And who's to say that someone won't come along who will be better than all three?



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-01 05:07:59**

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson


Very true, but besides speaking only French, there's something a little clumsy in his movements. I expect he'd be a nightmare on the dance floor. And in other ways. Pity, as he is rather handsome otherwise.

Who's to say, indeed. That's why I bide my time in such a fashion!

I wonder who in the school is the best dancer? Perhaps I

ought to hold an audition, ha!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-01 05:10:04](#)
Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

If you need any impartial judges, just say the word. It sounds like it'd be incredibly amusing to watch!

2011-11-30 19:57:00

Private message to Raz



Raz -

I have another one to add to the pile of Pink Parchments.

 [alt_sinistra](#)

But, oh, it's nasty. Mean-spirited. And more than a hint of obsession. Apparently my eyes lingered on you for thirty seconds too long in the hallway on Tuesday, and I smile too much when I sit next to you at meals. (There are uglier things, too, but I shan't repeat them here.)

And this time, I'm sure it's a student - it was dropped into a pile of assignments sometime earlier today. Besides my classes, there've been hordes of students in and out all afternoon, so not much chance of narrowing it beyond that.

It also had a harsh little hex on it that would have left my fingers sore for a few days. (Have no worries: I spotted the hex before opening - I'm suspicious of all pink parchments these days. I opened it with tongs rather than disarming it, so you can look for yourself.) I do think it may be the same as one of your Pink Parchments - the hand looks familiar.

Any chance you'd be up to taking a look at some point? I've got double sessions tonight and marking I really need to get ahead on, so tomorrow's better for me.

(My other mail brought me another five invitations, and we should probably talk about two of them. Also - and far more welcome - a package from Mum, with a bottle of scotch she suggests you might like. I'm not sure what to make of that. I think she's trying to be friendly without being pushy. Or something.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-01 02:09:42**

(no subject)

Well bugger all. I'll have a look tomorrow- depending on what hex was used, it might tell me if the student is enrolled in newt-level Dark Arts (assuming that the student is newt-level, which is what I'd wager).

I know I warned you ages ago about the press, but I honestly didn't foresee something like this. Not really sure what the solution is, either. All I can say is that you ought not change your behaviour around me on account of an obsessed student's hateful notes. Unless you went so far as to hex me to my face, she'd probably always find your actions to be too familiar, or some other imaginary detail to critique.

Good of your Mum to send the scotch.

I'm sorry that you're becoming more visible than you probably ever expected to be, at least not for these sort of reasons. If you... Well, I hope you don't, but if you want to take a break from things, I would understand. Not like it much, but yeah, understand.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-01 03:01:01](#)**
(no subject)


Most important first: I do not want to take a break from you. I'm not that easily put off by a few notes. (And besides: I'd probably still get the nasty notes and then not have the good times with you. Which would not do at all.)

I don't particularly plan to change my behaviour either, except for being a little more watchful about who can get near my things. I'm careful with my rooms and office when I'm not in them but I've been less attentive to piles of assignments.

(And especially this week: I've had half the fostered halfbloods in the castle with any hope of going to the Ball in this week so far, and none of them are happy with the options.)

You did warn me, and I thought a lot about it before saying I wanted to give us a try. All of the reasons I love being with you are still true, and that doesn't change just because some people don't like it.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-01 03:06:48](#)
(no subject)

Really? Good then. Merlin, I was hoping you'd say that, but reckoned it was only fair to give you an easy out, should you want it.

You know, you could always plant a nasty little hex of your own amongst those assignments. Not your style, I know, but if you feel pushed to your limit, I think you'd be MORE than well within your rights. Or, you know, if not a hex, something like what you have on your door, with the purple. Then we might be able to suss out who it is..

But planting a hex in a pile of parchments that you yourself plan to be rifling through at odd hours of the night...yeah, maybe not such a good idea, now that I think on it.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-01 03:20:45](#)
(no subject)

Certain.

As to planting a hex of my own - you're right, too many ways it could go wrong. And too many students do such odd things when they're dropping off assignments, too, and I'd hate to do that to someone for no reason.

Is there a way, do you think, to keep track of who's near my desk without tipping them off? Or does that leave too many possibilities, given the course of a day? In some ways, I don't want to push whoever it is to be more subtle: if they're going to leave the nasty things in pink parchment that is obviously not a school assignment, it's much easier to avoid their attempt to hex, after all.

(All right, and there's part of me that thinks that as tedious as this is, if I can't outthink a schoolgirl, I should not, perhaps, be teaching.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-01 03:29:26](#)
(no subject)

No, you've the right idea there, really. More subtle would probably equal more unpleasant, which is not what we want.

(Ha, and don't I know it! "Defence Professor utterly unsure what to do in the face of girlfriend's stalker." NOT my finest hour. But then we want the whole thing to remain discrete. That's the real tangle here, innit?)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-01 03:37:21](#)
(no subject)

You're doing quite well so far, really.

You have made thoughtful suggestions. (I like those.)


You have restrained yourself from any impulses you might have about coming straight up here and making it all better. (I'd appreciate the sentiment, but that isn't the thing I either need or want.)

And I'm sure together we'll come up with some other ideas.

Besides it's hardly urgent we solve the problem tonight. It's a letter. A small-minded and hateful little letter with a nasty bite, mind you. But it's a piece of paper, and it's not going to do any harm sitting safely in my rooms until you can look at it properly.

That said, I do see your point. And it's not even like I can talk to Minerva about it, really, at least not without it happening more than once.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-01 03:49:20](#)
(no subject)

Well, on the impulses, you have double sessions tonight. So while I certainly have impulses (many of them), there's that whole discretion thing, and snogging you in front of your class

would rather put that all to shambles, I think.

And you're right it's not an urgent problem. I think the real matter (for both of us) is that it's coming from one of your students. Someone who is apparently smiling to your face and then dropping you nasty notes when you're unawares. It all feels quite a lot more personal than what the papers write.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-01 04:03:13**
(no subject)


Snogging me in front of my class would rather complicate things, yes. And I do have things to teach them, too.

You're right about the real matter, too. It is a lot more personal than the papers.

It's easier there to say "That's not someone who knows me, that's not someone I've tried to teach about what I love." and let it slide off my back. It is hard to think of someone smiling and smiling, and then turning around, and... ugh.

I don't think I like that train of thought anymore, really.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-01 04:08:46**
(no subject)

Oh-ho, we could teach them a LOT, though. Enough to make their eyeballs fall out.

(Leaving the other train at the station, then, since I'd rather make you laugh with my crass innuendo).



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-01 04:15:56**
(no subject)

I laugh, I laugh! (Actually, I almost snort my tisane.)


Thank you for that image, love.

Now how am I supposed to get up in front of them and talk

about Perseus and Andromeda, hmm?

(You know, I had not realised before this year quite how many of the myths built into our stars are things that might warp young minds. If they weren't already warped, anyway.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-01 04:22:18](#)
(no subject)

Whatever we think might warp them they're sure to find utterly wiz-nift-snitcheroo.

Point of fact, I often find those mind-warping things pretty snitch myself. The trick is to not let the students see that, if I can help it.

I shall leave you to Perseus and Andromeda then, love, and do try not to inhale too much tisane beforehand.

See you tomorrow.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-01 04:25:04](#)
(no subject)

I look forward to it. And your impulses. And mind-warping.

Sleep well, love.

2011-11-30 22:33:00

*Order Only - Private Message to
Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*



Miss Granger,

If you would be so kind, I would prefer to know that you are willing to spend time with 'Mr. Milland' before requesting your presence.

 [alt_severus](#)

If you are as intelligent as they say, I believe that you will jump at the opportunity. However, I would not add one more unpleasant duty to your long list.

S. Snape



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-01 03:39:36](#)
(no subject)

I would very much like that, master.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-01 03:39:49](#)
(no subject)

What?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-01 03:40:26](#)
(no subject)

Ah. I realise now.

You need not respond.

I shall see what I can teach you about resistance to such things. It may not be much.